

Several other applicants will likely complete their accessions in 2001, such as China and Chinese Taipei (Taiwan), and many others are under active consideration, including Russia, Ukraine, Saudi Arabia and Vietnam.

Negotiations take place on two parallel tracks: multilateral and bilateral. During the *multilateral* negotiations, a WTO Working Party, comprising interested WTO Members, examines the acceding country's economic and trade regime to identify inconsistencies with WTO obligations and ascertain what changes are required to achieve conformity with WTO rules. Progress depends on the transparency, accuracy and detail provided by the applicant in response to hundreds of questions tabled by Working Party Members. By participating in Working Party deliberations, Canada satisfies itself that the accession will bring about more predictable and less discretionary trading conditions in the applicant's market.

In parallel with WP deliberations, WTO Members hold *bilateral* market access negotiations with the acceding country. During the bilateral negotiations, Canada focusses on obtaining the reduction or elimination of tariffs and non-tariff barriers affecting access for goods and services that are of current or future interest to Canadian companies. Canada expects applicants to bind their tariff commitments; to provide non-discriminatory access; and to join the various zero-for-zero tariff elimination agreements and tariff harmonization initiatives developed by the World Trade Organization.

Negotiating positions for accessions are developed interdepartmentally and in consultation with the private sector. Accession negotiations offer an important opportunity to resolve Canadian market access problems.