

The MTN result is good, but the degree of new market access achieved with respect to both goods and services in areas of priority interest to Canada still does not complete our agenda. Our overall access to western Europe and Japan will remain less than that with the U.S.. The same can be said about our protection from their arbitrary use of trade rules, whether these be anti-dump (the European Union's (EU) system is even more opaque in operation than the practices of the USITC or the Department of Commerce), or GATT Article XIX emergency action against import surges. There is no equivalent outside North America for the FTA/NAFTA Chapter 19 dispute settlement mechanism that has, on balance, served us well.

The MTN will also deliver improved and more secure access to important developing country markets, but will not provide the degree of comprehensive and preferential access achieved with Mexico through the NAFTA for exports of Canadian goods and services, nor the same level of security for Canadian companies investing abroad. The rules-based network now linking us to Mexico (including the related areas of the enforcement of environmental and labour standards) surpasses by a considerable degree the scope of the formal trade and economic relationship with Korea or Brazil (for example), even after full implementation of the MTN.

More generally, it is worth recalling that the scope of rule-making in the international trading system has expanded considerably over the past ten years. Issues such as cross-border trade in services, intellectual property rights, and non-discriminatory investment rules related to the right of establishment, the post-establishment conduct of business, performance requirements and dispute settlement have all moved beyond the hesitant, tentative beginnings of reform of the early 1980s. These issues now enjoy much broader international acceptance as legitimate items on the international negotiating agenda. Nonetheless, the actual negotiated rule-making remains incomplete, particularly outside the NAFTA context, while the rest of the 1990s appears poised to witness a further expansion of the trade agenda.

In fact, "trade" negotiations are quickly becoming "economic" negotiations with profound impact on an increasingly wider range of policies long considered essentially domestic. The new agenda includes trade and the environment, labour standards and their enforcement, competition (or "anti-trust") policy, and key issues related to industrial and innovation policies, including product and process standards and access by Canadian companies to foreign consortia engaged in pre-competitive research on cutting-edge technologies.