

Minister of Industry,
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Ministre de l'Industrie, des
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WORK PROGRAM ESTABLISHED FOR REMAINING NEGOTIATIONS ON THE SIDE AGREEMENTS AMONG THE NAFTA PARTNERS

Washington -- The Deputy Chief Negotiators for Mexico, Canada and the United States met today to take stock of negotiations on the side agreements among the partners in the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and to review progress on the preparation of negotiating texts.

At their last meeting in Mexico City in mid-April, the three Chief Negotiators had agreed that the next step in the negotiations was to start the drafting exercise and directed their deputies to meet to put the process in motion.

The Deputy Chief Negotiators announced the following work program for the negotiations:

An extended Chief Negotiators' meeting will be held May 19 to 22 in Ottawa.

Following an opportunity for domestic consultations, a second Chief Negotiators' meeting will be held in Washington in early June.

These extended meetings of the negotiating teams are intended to establish sufficient progress so that the texts can be reviewed by Ministers for final decisions.

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