



This year, Minister Eggleton will chair a meeting of Trade Ministers in Montreal on May 9-10 to advance the trade and investment agenda. The need to press ahead with further liberalization and support of the global trading system will be foremost on the agenda. Concrete steps on trade facilitation actions that reduce the costs of doing business, especially for small businesses, will be discussed in conjunction with business leaders.

APEC builds in private-sector advice in other important areas of its work. For example, the Public-Private sector dialogue on infrastructure will meet for the second time in June 1997 in Mexico to discuss practical means of increasing the use of integrated planning techniques in infrastructure development. This is a key recommendation in the 1996 ABAC report for attracting private-sector investment in infrastructure.

Business delegations will also have opportunities to interact with Ministers responsible for issues such as environment (Toronto, June 9-11), transport (Victoria, June 22-24) and energy (Edmonton, August 26-27) throughout 1997. These occasions will feature private-sector events ranging from trade shows to technology showcases and business conferences, allowing connections to be made and joint ventures to be explored.