

In order to provide Canadians with timely information, updates on Canada's trade policy agenda, including the FTAA, are available on the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade website at <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/tna-nac/>. Canadians are being encouraged to participate actively in the consultative process. Thousands of Canadians have already been heard at meetings, deliberated in focus groups, made submissions, or otherwise participated in the development of Canada's negotiating priorities.

Market Access

Recommendations 15 and 16

In the broad market access negotiations, the Government would negotiate modalities based on export interests while taking into account domestic sensitivities, including appropriate base years and base rates, consistent with those used in other FTAs. This would result in the elimination of tariffs on all non-agricultural products over a period not to exceed 10 years and would address non-tariff measures. The Government would push for clear and simple rules of origin that leave little room for administrative discretion and promote the economic interests of Canada and our hemispheric partners. The agreed rules would be supported by customs procedures designed to provide effective verification procedures together with transparent and predictable border systems.

Recommendation No. 15 advises the Government to establish a common base year upon which to commence reductions of all industrial tariffs for all participants. It has been the practice in previous free trade negotiations involving Canada to choose a specific base period from which all tariff reductions begin. The recommendation is also that this period should maximize Canadian interests. Thus far, all participants have agreed that there is a need to agree on a base period or base year from which to begin tariff reductions. Canada will work to get agreement on a base period that will reflect overall Canadian interests. However, this issue will only be resolved once the nature of the tariff elimination process is agreed by all FTAA participants.

Recommendation No. 16 calls for the Government to seek a 10-year time frame as the maximum period over which all industrial

