

The GATT talks are crucial to the fate of trading nations like Germany and Canada because the interests of our exporters lie primarily in a healthy multilateral trading system, not in regional or unilateral initiatives.

We must not allow this historic opportunity to slip out of our hands.

Briefly, we must:

improve market access for goods and services;

develop rules for agricultural trade;

develop better rules for subsidies and countervail, as well as for trade in services and trade-related intellectual property; and

improve measures for avoiding and resolving trade disputes under the GATT.

The key to success in the GATT talks may very well be agricultural trade. Both Canada and Germany are major agricultural producers. We both have a major stake in ensuring that our agricultural producers and exporters get not only a fair return on their work and investment, but also fair and secure access to external markets.

We face a number of other challenges.

For example, we must ensure that regional trading arrangements such as the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement, the integration of the European Community in 1992 and greater cooperation in Asia-Pacific markets all contribute to a freer and more orderly international trading system.

I will soon be attending a conference on Pacific economic cooperation. My goal will be to ensure that any initiatives to bring about closer economic relations among Asia-Pacific countries will liberalize and not restrain trade and investment flows with the rest of the world.

The fate we share and the challenges we face go beyond matters of trade and investment, dollars and cents, balance sheets and bottom lines.

We must work together to ensure that we improve the quality of life, as well.

That is why Canada is committed to achieving a balance between economic growth and a healthy environment.