

the rules for investment, trade in services, and government procurement, among others, removing impediments to trade and achieving a greater degree of economic integration. There is still, however, some unfinished business in NAFTA, particularly in the area of trade remedy law. We began, last week, consultations with our NAFTA partners with a view to improving the application of trade remedy laws within our free trade area.

As we do this, we are moving to new measures to make it easier for you to do business across the border. During President Clinton's visit over the next two days, we will sign a new air agreement that establishes the world's largest, most flexible and most competitive aviation services market. We will also develop an action plan within six months to make cross-border travel, trade and tourism easier.

In the multilateral trade negotiations, the Uruguay Round, Canada met or surpassed its goals. While we must now ensure that the new World Trade Organization is up and running, our overriding goal must also be to maximize Canada's share of the projected \$1 trillion growth in worldwide trade that the agreement is expected to generate.

Having said this, I am somewhat puzzled by the results of a recent survey of Canadian business leaders which showed that the vast majority did not know whether the agreement creating the World Trade Organization would have any impact on their business.

Obviously, we must do a better job sharing with the business community what the opportunities are. With this in mind, we are developing information for use by exporters on how to transform our market access gains into tangible business opportunities, with special focus on smaller firms.

As we look into the future, the Americas, Europe and Asia hold out promise of greater gains in market access. We intend to build on our successes in NAFTA to meet the challenge identified by the Miami Summit of the Americas of constructing a Western Hemisphere free trade area by the year 2005. We are also following up the call the Prime Minister made to the French Senate last autumn to revitalize the North Atlantic link through closer trade and economic co-operation with Europe.

And we are working closely with our partners in the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation forum to meet the goal set last November to establish free trade by 2010 and 2020.

Cynics would argue that Canada's strong trade performance over the past year was essentially spurred by the position of the Canadian dollar relative to the U.S. dollar. Although this was certainly an important factor in tempting new exporters to enter global markets and in encouraging experienced exporters to seek