

Minister for
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Trade



Ministre du
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MINISTER CROSBIE COMMENTS ON OUTCOME OF MTN TRADE NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

International Trade Minister John C. Crosbie commented on the outcome of the Trade Negotiations Committee (TNC), which concluded its meeting in Geneva earlier today. "The outcome builds on the achievements of the Houston Summit," said Mr. Crosbie. "The TNC has set the stage for intensive negotiations this autumn. It demonstrated a continued commitment to an ambitious result to the Uruguay Round."

The TNC is the senior body of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

"The time has come for all participants to adjust their positions in order to achieve a significant outcome at the concluding Ministerial Meeting in Brussels in December," Mr. Crosbie added.

In the area of market access, Mr. Crosbie was pleased to note that bilateral negotiations to reduce tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade would be intensified starting at the end of August. "We will continue to press for global free trade in such sectors as forest products, fisheries products, telecommunications and computer equipment, and a range of chemicals and petro-chemicals," Mr. Crosbie added.

The Minister also welcomed the decision by the TNC to have key market access groups hold joint meetings this autumn. "Such an integrated approach has been continually advocated by Canada," he said.

Mr. Crosbie stressed that the TNC outcome with respect to agriculture will allow Canadian negotiators to engage in the detailed bargaining required to pursue Canadian objectives, including the elimination of export subsidies and the strengthening and clarification of Article XI.

Canada will be hosting two Ministerial meetings this autumn which will focus on the MTN. The first is an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Ministerial Meeting in Vancouver on September 11-12. The second is a meeting of Trade Ministers from Canada, the U.S., EC and Japan, the so-called Quadrilateral group, in St. John's on October 12-13.

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