

News Release

Minister for
International
Trade



Communiqué

Ministre du
Commerce
extérieur

No. 088

May 1, 1990.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE MINISTER CROSBIE TO PURSUE WORLD TRADE INITIATIVES AT QUADRILATERAL MEETING

International Trade Minister John C. Crosbie will attend the Quadrilateral Trade Ministers Meeting in San Francisco, May 2-4, where he will seek to build on the progress made on Multilateral Trade Negotiations (MTN) at the recent 30-country Informal Ministerial Meeting in Mexico.

The "Quad", composed of Ministers responsible for trade from Canada, Japan, the European Community (EC) and the United States, meets semi-annually. The current focus is the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, scheduled to conclude in December 1990.

"Coming out of the Mexico meeting, there is a sense of urgency and commitment to the successful final completion of the Uruguay Round. In Mexico, we agreed that by the end of July there should be clear profiles of the expected results of the Round in all areas under negotiation, including agriculture, access, trade rules and services. I will pursue this in greater detail with my Quad partners, to build on the momentum necessary to complete the negotiations," Mr. Crosbie said. "

"A large, successful conclusion on substantive issues in the Round should lead to the creation of a world trade organization," Mr. Crosbie said.

"In Geneva on April 11, I outlined a strategy which would lead to the establishment of such an organization. The following week, during the Informal Ministerial Meeting, I circulated Canada's proposal. I am pleased that many of my colleagues have responded positively to the need for a new world trade organization, to administer what could be a greatly expanded General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade," Mr. Crosbie said. "I will be discussing this initiative further at the San Francisco meeting."

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The proposed organization would feature an effective and more unified dispute settlement procedure for all multilateral trade agreements and stronger links with other international economic and financial institutions. Mr. Crosbie tabled a discussion paper on dispute settlement as part of the strategy for institutional reform.

In Mexico there was consensus to proceed on a Canadian proposal to intensify the negotiations on market access (tariffs and non-tariff barriers). Ministers agreed to Mr. Crosbie's proposal that senior market access negotiators engage in an intensive two-week negotiating session in Geneva in early June.

As part of the intensified pace of negotiations to improve market access, Canada has initiated bilateral meetings with key negotiating partners in the Round. The first such meeting took place in Mexico City last week, during a Ministerial trade mission. Mr. Crosbie has also dispatched a team of senior Canadian trade officials to Asia-Pacific countries to conduct similar negotiations.

"Without substantial progress in traditional GATT areas such as market access, and in the new areas, such as agriculture and services, and without a strong system to regulate world trade, we will inhibit the economic growth and prosperity that trade creates," Mr. Crosbie said.

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