

Minister for
International
Trade



Ministre du
Commerce
extérieur

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INTERNATIONAL TRADE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

HOLDS QUARTERLY MEETING IN ST. JOHN'S

International Trade Minister John C. Crosbie joined the private sector-based International Trade Advisory Committee (ITAC) for a quarterly meeting today in St. John's, Newfoundland.

Mr. Crosbie discussed with ITAC members the current status of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). Mr. Crosbie, referring to the recent meetings of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the Quadrilateral Trade Ministers noted the strong commitment of GATT countries to the successful and timely completion of the Uruguay Round.

The meeting was also an opportunity to review Canada's Global Trade Strategy in the light of evolving trade patterns. The implementation of the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement (FTA) was another important topic of discussion.

The group considered ITAC task force reports which are in various stages of completion. Task Forces are working on reports covering Canada/Asia-Pacific Trade Relations, Canada/Europe Trade Relations, GATT Institutional Reform, Subsidies and Safeguards as well as Intellectual Property.

The ITAC is part of a trade advisory system which also includes 13 Sectoral Advisory Groups on International Trade (SAGITs). The ITAC and SAGITs were created in response to the wishes of the private sector to have a broadly based formal structure to provide confidential two-way flow of information and advice between the Government and the private sector on international trade matters.

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The ITAC has broad terms of reference on all international trade matters, including issues relating to trade policy, market access and trade development. The 50 members of the ITAC come from all regions of Canada and include the Chairpersons of the SAGITs and other prominent individuals from the business, labour, consumer, academic, research and cultural communities. The government has found it to be a valuable forum to ensure that Canada's trade policy is truly reflective of the needs and aspirations of the private sector.

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