

Canada's Bogor Goals Progress Report (as at 13 August 2012)*

Highlights of Achievements and Areas for Improvement**

- Progress has been made in reducing tariffs.
- Investment thresholds for review have increased.
- For certain agricultural products, Canada uses tariff quotas under the supply management system to maintain predictable levels of imports. Canada ensures that its policies are in compliance with its WTO obligations.
- New initiatives undertaken to expedite customs procedures.
- New cooperation arrangements in standards and conformance have been made to facilitate trade.
- Reviews of laws to strengthen intellectual property rights and competition policy.
- Access to Canada's government procurement market is expanding through multilateral and bilateral agreements.

Summary of Updates

Tariffs

Since 2009, the Canadian government has eliminated customs duties on more than 1,800 tariff lines. In particular, Canada is working unilaterally to eliminate tariffs in manufacturing inputs, machinery and equipment. By March 2010, the majority of the tariff lines in these sectors were eliminated and the remainder will be eliminated by 1 January 2015.

Further measures have been applied more recently. In October 2010, a new duty remission framework was instituted to reduce the cost of importing cargo vessels, tankers and large-sized ferry boats. Also, in November 2011, 70 tariffs on manufacturing items were eliminated.

Canada's existing policies in the supply managed sectors of dairy, poultry and eggs aim to provide consumers with a secure and stable supply of high-quality products. Canada ensures that its policies are in compliance with its WTO obligations. Canada maintains a transparent and predictable import regime for supply managed products through low with-access tariffs, administering its tariff rate quotas to maximize their fill rates.

Investment

New thresholds for review for WTO member investors or Canadian businesses controlled by a WTO member (other than Canadian) prior to its acquisition, must be determined and become effective on January 1 of each year. The calculation of the threshold is based on the growth of the Nominal Gross Domestic Product –published by Statistics Canada- and multiplied by the

* This brief report was prepared with information from Canada's submission of 2012 APEC Individual Action Plan (IAP) template and the minutes of the meeting of Canada's WTO Trade Policy Review from June 2011.

** Note by the Government of Canada: The Government of Canada has made significant progress during the past several years on meeting the Bogor Goals of free and open trade and investment in the Asia Pacific region. The government of Canada is undertaking a number of other initiatives as part of the largest pro-trade plan in the country's history and will continue to review policies and procedures that are barriers to trade and investment.

amount determined for the previous year. In this regard, the threshold for 2012 is CAD 330 million, an increase over the CAD 312 million threshold in 2011.

Standards and Conformance

Canada's goal is to continue increasing the harmonization between new Canadian standards and those adopted by international organizations such as the International Organization for Standardization and the International Electrotechnical Commission, whenever appropriate. Canada through the Standards Council of Canada (SCC) maintained strategic participation in ISO and IEC technical committees.

The SCC signed a cooperation arrangement with the Mongolian Agency for Standards and Technology (MASM) and renewed its cooperation arrangement with the Standardization Administration of China (SAC). Also, SCC has continued its active involvement in a number of multilateral accreditation arrangements, including the International Accreditation Forum, the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation, and the Asia-Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation.

Customs Procedures

In June 2010, the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) signed three Mutual Recognition Arrangements with customs organizations in Japan, Singapore and Korea, which allow customs administrations to work together and improve their capability to target high risk shipments while expediting legitimate cargo.

In 2011, the CBSA announced the introduction of the eManifest Portal to allow the trade community to electronically transmit pre-arrival information through the internet. The eManifest initiative is the third phase of the Advance Commercial Information (ACI) program. ACI phases 1 and 2 require air and marine carriers to submit pre-arrival cargo and conveyance information electronically, within advance time frames. When fully implemented, eManifest will require carriers, freight forwarders and importers in all modes of transportation (air, marine, highway and rail) to electronically transmit cargo, conveyance, house bill/supplementary cargo and importer data to the CBSA prior to loading in the marine mode and prior to arrival in the air, rail and highway modes. The eManifest Portal was developed primarily for small-to-medium sized enterprises to facilitate their compliance and ease the transition from paper reporting to pre-arrival electronic data transmission. The first version of the eManifest Portal is designed for highway carriers to submit pre-arrival cargo and conveyance data.

Intellectual Property Rights

The Government of Canada is working to amend its copyright law. Bill C-11 the *Copyright Modernization Act* was introduced in the Parliament of Canada on 29 September 2011. Bill C-11 implements the rights and protections of the World Intellectual Property Organization Internet Treaties, which brings Canada in line with international standards. The Bill also gives copyright owners the tools to combat piracy; clarifies the roles and responsibilities of Internet service providers and search engines; encourages businesses to innovate; and provides greater flexibility for educators and students to use copyrighted materials for the purpose of education.

Competition Policy

Between March 2009 and March 2010, amendments to the Competition Act entered into force. The changes in the Competition Act include reforms to the merger review process; amendments to the conspiracy provisions; introduction of financial penalties for abuse of dominance; higher penalties for deceptive marketing and for obstruction and non-compliance; and the repeal of various industry-specific and pricing practices provisions.

In addition, Canada has passed new anti-spam legislation which aims to deter spam and avoid other electronic threats. The new legislation includes a private right of action that will allow Canadian consumers and businesses to take civil action against those who violate the legislation. The legislation is expected to come into force sometime in 2013.

Government Procurement

In December 2011, Canada welcomed the successful conclusion of negotiations in Geneva to modernize WTO's Agreement on Government Procurement (GPA).

In February 2010, the Canada – United States Agreement on Government Procurement was concluded, which included commitments at the sub-federal level for the first time. Canada now includes entities from two territories and all 10 provinces under its GPA commitments with respect to goods, services and suppliers from the United States. This coverage is being extended to most other GPA parties with the conclusion of the GPA negotiations, pending eventual ratification.

Mobility of Business People

Canada's transitional membership for the APEC Business Travel Card (ABTC) has been extended until 2014. Canada facilitates border clearance of foreign ABTC holders through special service counters at eight major international airports. Canada is developing a plan to issue ABTCs to qualifying Canadian citizens in order to receive reciprocal border facilitated processing into the other APEC economies.

Currently, 55 economies are visa exempt to travel to Canada, including 10 APEC economies. Since 22 November 2010, holders of Chinese Taipei's ordinary passports that contain a personal identification number can qualify for visa exemption.

RTAs/FTAs

Canada currently has seven FTAs with 11 economies in force, and three more FTA negotiations concluded. Canada is also engaged in ten ongoing negotiations at various levels of progress, including the recent launch of negotiations with Japan. In addition, Canada has 24 Foreign Investment Promotion and Protection Agreements in force and 11 under negotiations.

Among Canada's future plans, several initiatives are underway, including recently launched exploratory discussions toward a potential FTA with Thailand. In addition, Canada is consulting with Trans-Pacific Partnership members with a view to joining these negotiations at the earliest opportunity.