WORLD TRADE

ORGANIZATION

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COMMUNICATION FROM CANADA

Transparency: Market and Regulatory Information of Interest to Service Providers

The following communication, dated 20 May 2005, from the delegation of Canada is being circulated to the Members of the Council for Trade in Services

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1.   One of the recurring themes of the current round of services negotiations has been the need for increased transparency. A number of Members have made proposals related to transparency. Common themes of these proposals include: the need to make legislative and regulatory information more publicly accessible; the need for greater transparency with respect to the domestic regulation-making process; and the need for greater transparency with respect to the administration of regulatory procedures.

2.   Some proposals have identified transparency essentially in government to government terms, recognizing the need for WTO Members to share more information on their regulatory regimes. Others recognize that steps should be taken to increase the availability of regulatory and market information to our service suppliers. A common feature of all proposals seems to be a recognition that small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) stand to benefit greatly from making this type of information more readily accessible.

3.   Canada looks forward to a continued discussion on ways to improve rules related to regulatory transparency in the context of the negotiating process. However, we also see significant and immediate advantages to making information available on the Canadian services market and regulatory framework. In this regard, Canada has developed a "contact point" website that provides a gateway to various information resources on Canada and services trade. The online contact point includes a wide variety of information related to the supply of services across all modes, Canadian services technology, and information at a sectoral level, including business opportunities.

4.   Canada hopes that this information will be of particular use to SMEs, and to service suppliers from developing countries. Article IV.2 of the GATS acknowledges the benefits of facilitating developing country service suppliers' access to market and regulatory information by calling on developed-country Members to establish contact points. In February 1997, in response to paragraph 4 of GATS Article III and paragraph 2 of Article IV, Canada presented a GATS contact point (communication S/ENQ/38). Canada's Online GATS Contact Point builds upon the objectives of Article IV paragraph 2 by creating an online portal through which developing and developed-country service suppliers can quickly access this information. The website is available on Canada's Department of International Trade website at the following url: www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/tna-nac/TS/contact-point-en.asp

5.   We are committed to continuing to refine this contact point and will take under consideration any suggestions that Members may have. As this information is likely to be of most benefit to Members' service providers, we would encourage all WTO Members to consider ways in which this website could be promoted within their respective service industries.

CANADA'S ONLINE GATS CONTACT POINT:

www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/tna-nac/TS/contact-point-en.asp

Canada's on-line General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) contact point is an initiative aimed at providing information on the Canadian services market that will help developing country service suppliers sell their services in Canada. A key objective of the GATS, and one that is strongly shared by Canada, is to increase the participation of developing countries in world services trade. Article IV of the GATS agreement calls on developed country WTO members to establish contact points to facilitate the access of developing country Members' service suppliers to information related to their respective markets concerning:

- commercial and technical aspects of the supply of services;

- registration, recognition and obtaining of professional qualifications, and;

- the availability of services technology.

Canada's online GATS contact point provides an avenue through which developing country service suppliers can obtain this information quickly and accurately.[1]

I. COMMERCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF THE SUPPLY OF SERVICES IN CANADA

1. All Modes of Service Supply

Canada International: http://canadainternational.gc.ca/ci/main_menu-en.aspx

Government of Canada Gateway providing information on:
- Going to Canada;
- Doing business with Canada, and;
- Canada and the world.

Canadian Business Map: http://commercecan.ic.gc.ca/scdt/bizmap/interface2.nsf/

Internet portal site accessing international, national, provincial, territorial and municipal business information.

Business Gateway: http://businessgateway.ca/

Main Government of Canada portal for Canadian businesses, featuring the ability to view integrated Federal, Provincial and Territorial information.

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[1] The sole purpose of this site is to facilitate the access of services suppliers, particularly developing country services suppliers, to information on the Canadian services market. It does not form part of Canada's trade in services obligations or commitments under any international agreement to which it is a party, nor does it have any legal value or status with respect to the interpretation of such obligations or commitments.

2.   **Mode 3 Commercial Presence**

Invest in Canada: http://www.investincanada.gc.ca/

Resources for exploring and planning foreign investment and new business in Canada.

3.   **Mode 4 Temporary Entry**

Working Temporarily in Canada: http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/work/index.html

Information on working temporarily in Canada

Temporary Entry for Business Persons:
http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/pub/you-asked/section-18.html

Information on the temporary worker provisions of Canada's trade agreements.

Foreign Worker Program:
http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/en/gateways/nav/top_nav/program/fw.shtml

The Foreign Worker Program seeks to improve the Canadian labour market by ensuring that qualified foreign workers are admitted to work in Canada for jobs or vacancies that cannot readily be filled by Canadians and only when reasonable efforts have been made by employers to hire or train Canadian residents or permanent residents.

4.   **Background on Canada's Services Regulatory Regime**

Regulatory Affairs and Orders in Council Secretariat: http://www.pco-bcp.gc.ca/raoics-srdc/

The Privy Council Office Regulatory Affairs and Orders in Council Secretariat website serves as a convenient on-line resource on Canada's regulatory regime.

-       Smart Regulation: http://www.regulation.gc.ca/

        Background on Canada's regulatory renewal initiatives.

Department of Justice Canada: http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/index.html

Search or browse Federal acts and regulations. Provides links to Provincial website resources.

Canada Gazette : http://canadagazette.gc.ca/index-e.html

The *Canada Gazette* contains all formal public notices and official appointments; proposed regulations; regulations; and public acts of Parliament from government departments and agencies. Miscellaneous public notices from private sector organizations, that are required by statute to publish the notices and disseminate the information to the public are also published in the *Canada Gazette*.

II.   REGISTRATION, RECOGNITION OF, AND OBTAINING PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Canadian Information Centre for International Credentials: http://www.cicic.ca/indexe.stm

The Canadian Information Centre for International Credentials (CICIC) collects, organizes, and distributes information, and acts as a national clearing house and referral service to support the recognition and portability of Canadian and international educational and occupational qualifications.

III.   AVAILABILITY OF SERVICES TECHNOLOGY

Innovation in Canada: http://innovation.gc.ca/

A growing inventory of research, public input and links to government and private sector resources.

Innovation, Science and Technology and Research: http://innovation.gc.ca/

Provides links related to innovation, science and technology, and research.

IV.   INFORMATION ON CANADA'S SERVICES SECTORS

Finance Canada Departmental Website: http://www.fin.gc.ca/

Information on Canada's financial services sector.

-    Financial Services: http://www.fin.gc.ca/access/fininste.html#Trade

    Information on Canada's financial services sector.

Industry Canada Departmental Website: http://www.ic.gc.ca/cmb/welcomeic.nsf/

-    Canadian Services Sectors: http://strategis.ic.gc.ca/epic/internet/inic-ic.nsf/en/h_dh00003e.html

    Background information on various Canadian services sectors.

-    Telecommunications Services: http://strategis.gc.ca/epic/internet/insmt-gst.nsf/en/h_sf05480e.html

    Regulations, policies and other information on Canada's telecommunication services sector.

Transport Canada Departmental Website: http://www.tc.gc.ca/

Information on Canada's Transport Services Sectors.

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