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THE CANADIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
LA CHAMBRE DE COMMERCE DU CANADA

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Finding the Balance: Reducing Border Costs While Strengthening Security

On February 20, 2008, a coalition, co-chaired by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in collaboration with members and 43 partnering associations, released a report aimed at both the U.S. and Canadian governments on what action must be taken to reduce the costs of border crossings.

While some good progress has been made by the two governments, the report, *Finding the Balance: Reducing Border Costs While Strengthening Border Security*, calls for short-term measures to eliminate duplicative and burdensome border requirements and facilitate the movement of legitimate passenger and cargo traffic. A number of the seventeen recommendations in the report are aimed at increasing enrolment in trusted shipper and traveller programs which will reduce the costs and time associated with moving people and goods between Canada and the U.S. The more participants in these programs, the more border officials can focus on identifying illegitimate cargo and travellers – the aim of all the security measures.

For more information on this issue, contact Ryan Stein, Policy Analyst, (613) 238-4000 x250, rstein@chamber.ca.

Canadian Chamber Testifies Before International Trade Committee re Korea FTA

On February 6th, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, represented by Shirley-Ann George, Vice President, International, appeared before the House of Commons Standing Committee on International Trade to testify in regards to the proposed *Canada-South Korea Free Trade Agreement* (FTA). Ms. George emphasized the Canadian Chamber's position (as outlined in our 2006 policy resolution on the issue) that any Canada-Korea FTA must address issues, such as non-tariff barriers, which ensure that it is a fair and balanced agreement that provides a good deal for both Canada and Korea. Ms. George explained that it is still too early to determine whether a good deal has been reached. In her testimony, Ms. George also expressed a need for Canada to establish a mechanism that supports a transition for companies that are negatively affected by an agreement.

The hearing transcript can be found at <http://cmte.parl.gc.ca/cmte/CommitteePublication.aspx?SourceId=226868&Lang=1&PARLSES=392&JNT=0&COM=13181>.

Federal Budget Set for Next Week

Next week the federal government will bring down its budget in the House of Commons on February 26th at 4 p.m. Eastern.

As always, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce will provide a press release and timely analysis to our members during the late afternoon/early evening hours following the tabling of the budget in the House. Members should watch for the coordinates of a teleconference call to be held the morning of February 27th which will provide further analysis and/or reaction to the budget.

BIAC Comments on OECD Project on Trade, Innovation and Growth

The Business and Industry Advisory Committee (BIAC) to the OECD, the official voice of business to the OECD and of which the Canadian Chamber of Commerce is a member, recently issued a paper providing its input on the OECD's Project on Trade, Innovation and Growth. Overall, BIAC strongly supports the OECD project and recommends that greater emphasis be given to (in some cases, the OECD needs to consider) the continued liberalization of trade and investment through strengthening the global trading system (including ensuring that signatories of the WTO's *Information Technology Agreement* abide by the letter and spirit of the agreement); providing open markets for investment; seeking international standards; reforming regulation; strengthening intellectual property rights; coordinating competitive competition policies; and improving the overall business environment (in particular, tax and fiscal policy, labour mobility, access to financial and human capital).

For more information or to get a copy of the paper, contact Brian Zeiler-Kligman, Policy Analyst, International, 613-238-4000, x225, bzeiler-kligman@chamber.ca.

Calendar of Events

March 27, Ottawa - Cyber Security: Developing a Canadian Strategy

The Public Policy Forum, in conjunction with Symantec and the Information Technology Association of Canada (ITAC) will hold this day-long conference which will consider the many challenges facing senior policymakers who are developing a Canadian response. Conference presenters will recognize the impetus to create policy frameworks that touch many different aspects and audiences ranging from the need for government, industry and business to establish strategies for their own organizations, to the challenge of forging cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination. The conference will also consider the international dimension of the cyber security challenge, including overseas best practices and national security concerns.

Mike Murphy, the Canadian Chamber's Executive Vice President, Policy, will take part in a panel discussion focusing on the law and policymakers (and bringing the two together) vis-à-vis cyber security.

For more information on this conference, visit the Forum's Web site at <http://www.ppforum.ca/en/events/details.asp?id=231&theme=&year=>.

April 30- May 2 - Montreal, ICC Arbitration Workshop

ICC Events is organizing its first ICC Arbitration Workshop in Montreal on 30 April - 2 May 2008. The working language will be English.

The workshop seeks to provide participants with strategies and tactics in drafting arbitration documents under the ICC Rules. It will include drafting sessions and interactive discussions with renowned arbitrators and practitioners of ICC arbitration, aimed at providing a greater understanding of ICC arbitration practice.

Further information can be found at <http://www.iccwbo.org/events/display12/index.html?CodeICMS=S0817>.

Please note that the number of participants will be limited to ensure maximum participation.

Register on-line at <http://www.iccwbo.org/events> for a savings of 20 euros. In using the Canadian NC code, you will also be entitled to a further discount of 40 euros. The national committee codes for Canada is CAN -1680