

**CANADIAN PROPOSAL FOR THE DERESTRICTION
OF SPS NOTIFICATIONS AND LISTS
OF ENQUIRY POINTS**

At the 21-22 March 1996 meeting of the SPS Committee, held in Geneva, the Chairman asked the Canadian delegation to put in writing their proposal for the derestriction of certain SPS documents.

The Canadian proposal is to derestrict the existing notifications and lists of Enquiry Points and, in the future, to circulate additions or deletions to the list of Enquiry Points and further notifications as UNRESTRICTED documents.

At the 1 March 1996 meeting of the TBT Committee, the Canadian delegation made a similar proposal for the derestriction of similar TBT documents. At that meeting it was agreed by the members of that Committee to proceed on the basis of the Canadian proposal.

This proposal would bring consistency to the way that lists of Enquiry Points and notifications were treated under the two Agreements. It would also provide for more timely and widespread transparency of the notifications that were sent by Member countries to the WTO Secretariat. This could greatly assist countries in their internal consultations on proposed changes to regulations notified by other Members. It could also facilitate more appropriate input into comments being prepared, within a 60-day timeframe, on a notified proposed change.