



# Canadian/American Border Trade Alliance

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## SECURITY AND PROSPERITY PARTNERSHIP OF NORTH AMERICA

RE: PRESIDENT BUSH, PRIME MINISTER MARTIN AND PRESIDENT FOX MEETING

I participated in a briefing by: Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez, Washington D.C.  
and U.S. leaders of the 9 specified Work Groups

Secretary Gutierrez outlined the need for Improving Productivity, Increasing Trade and Enhancing Prosperity in North America over the next 20 years to counter the increasing Global Economic Challenge of the European Union. He further discussed the agreement that the three countries must organize cooperation with the underlying initiative to outlive any political shift within any of the three countries that might occur in the future.

The initiative and process agreed to be undertaken is to be mostly regulatory (not to require legislation) and trade agreements are not to be reopened. The things to be done are those that make sense for business.

The U.S. preliminary report is due for Presidential review on June 23. Secretary Gutierrez requested input from stakeholders to the work groups by April 29.

A “mirror-approach” and timetable is occurring simultaneously in both Canada and Mexico. Thereafter, the three parties will convene to compare similarities and develop a combined action plan.

The 9 Work Groups, (who are to collect and determine specific priorities and needs to be dealt with within their specified focus area), are:

- E-Commerce
- Manufactured Goods
- Rules of Origin
- Transportation
- Food and Agriculture
- Business Facilitation
- Financial Services
- Environment
- Energy

Attached material: handouts distributed by Commerce Secretary Gutierrez.