

April 2, 2008



THE CANADIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
LA CHAMBRE DE COMMERCE DU CANADA



Government is Seeking Input in the Proposed Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA)

In October of 2007, the Minister of International Trade David Emerson announced that Canada would participate in preliminary discussions with the United States, Mexico, the European Union, Switzerland, Japan, New Zealand and other countries on a proposed *Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement* (ACTA). Illicit trade in trademark counterfeit and copyright pirated products can cause negative effects on the national economy by decreasing incentive for creativity and innovation and threatening legitimate businesses. Such activities can also affect the health and safety of Canadian consumers and have been linked to organized crime. Trademark counterfeiting and copyright piracy have become global scale issues that require international solutions.

The proposed *Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement* (ACTA) aims to establish new global standards for the enforcement of intellectual property rights (IPR) to more effectively combat the increasingly prolific trade in counterfeit and pirated goods.

The ACTA would focus on 3 areas: a) increasing international cooperation, b) establishing best practices for enforcement, and c) providing a more effective legal framework to combat counterfeiting and piracy.

The government is seeking input from all Canadians on the development of this agreement and interested parties have until **April 30th, 2008** to do so.

More background information on the proposed agreement can be found at <http://www.international.gc.ca/trade-agreements-accords-commerciaux/fo/IP-factsheet-fiche.aspx?>

House Committee Launches Study on Science and Technology

In February, the House of Commons Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Technology adopted a motion to conduct a study into Canadian science and technology.

Within the framework that science, research and development underpin Canada's position in the knowledge economy, and where strength depends on capacity to innovate and stay ahead of the technological curve, Canadian government policies have aimed to foster world-class research programs in universities and research institutes and to encourage business investment in research and development. The 2007 science strategy "*Mobilizing Science and Technology to Canada's Advantage*", reiterated these goals.

The committee believes that it is important to hear from Canadians on this topic and wants to hear from witnesses representing a variety of sectors and regions in Canada.

The Committee welcomes briefs on the themes of:

- Science advice to government;
- Commercialization, venture capital and intellectual property;
- Federally funded research performed in government and higher education; and
- “Big science” projects and Canada’s position in global science and technology.

In order to present a brief to the committee on this topic, it must be submitted to the committee’s mailbox at INDU@parl.gc.ca no later than April 18th, 2008, and must be a maximum of 5 pages in length.

The committee will present a report to the House of Commons outlining its findings and recommendations.

BIAC Launches its Anti-Bribery Resource Guide on the Web

The Business and Industry Advisory Committee to the OECD (BIAC), of which the Canadian Chamber of Commerce is the Canadian representative, recently launched its *Anti-Bribery Resource Guide* on the Web.

In one document the *BIAC Anti-Bribery Resource Guide* presents the relevant instruments and initiatives in the field of anti-corruption which define legally binding obligations on states and companies, reflect a relevant commitment against bribery and/or offer guidance and assistance to companies in their fight against bribery and corruption.

The guide includes tools that have been developed by BIAC members and other business organizations. BIAC intends to periodically update this guide - they are very interested in receiving information on additional resources, particularly those that provide practical help to companies concerning the implementation of effective corporate procedures against bribery and corruption.

The *BIAC Anti-Bribery Resource Guide* can be found at: www.biac.org/pubs/anti-bribery_resource/guide.htm.

For more information, contact Brian Zeiler-Kligman, Policy Analyst, International, (613) 238-4000, x225, bzeiler-kligman@chamber.ca.

Legislative Review of Export Development Canada Now Underway

Export Development Canada (EDC), Canada's export credit agency, is currently undergoing its ten-year legislative review. EDC's mandate is to support and develop, directly or indirectly, Canada's export trade and Canadian capacity to engage in that trade and to respond to international business opportunities.

The review will assess how EDC is evolving, and should continue to evolve, to address the competitive dynamics and demands of international trade. Specifically, the legislative review of EDC will address four themes:

- the changing global and competitive environment;
- Canadian business needs and ensuring EDC's ability to meet these;
- Canadian private-sector financial capacity for trade and risk management and whether there is a role for EDC to play to increase that capacity; and
- EDC's place within government.

The Canadian Chamber strongly encourages members to go to www.edcreview2008.ca to become involved in this review and ensure their opinion is expressed.

In addition, the Canadian Chamber is putting together its submission for this review and would like to hear from members on this topic.

Contact Brian Zeiler-Kligman, Policy Analyst, International, (613) 238-4000, x225, bzeiler-kligman@chamber.ca to provide your input for this submission.

Chambers Participate in ICC World Chambers Federation Survey to determine 2009 Chamber Competition Categories

The World Chambers Competition has proven to be a successful mechanism for ICC World Chambers Federation (WCF) to provide international recognition to the most innovative projects recently undertaken by local, regional and national chambers of commerce from around the world.

Based upon the response from chambers to this initiative, including chambers from Canada, the competition will be a major feature of the 6th World Chambers Congress in Kuala Lumpur June, 3-5 June 2009.

Using the link <http://www.iccwbo.org/iccpolls.aspx?ekfrm=19564>, members can take part in the vote for the World Chambers Competition categories by completing the form online.

Calendar of Events

April 3-4, Buffalo, NY Binational Tourism Summit, SHIFT HAPPENS: Changing Tourism from Service Economy to Creative Economy Binationally. The Canadian Chamber will be participating in this event.

For registration information or an agenda, visit the Binational Tourism Alliance's Web site at www.btapartners.com.

April 10, Ottawa – Annual Tourism Policy Symposium this day-long event put on by the Tourism Industry Association of Canada, will feature some of the most knowledgeable and innovative minds in the Canadian tourism industry. These experts will address how new economic, social and political realities are impacting Canada's domestic tourism enterprises of all sizes, as well as the inventive and novel ways that their organizations are facing these the challenges.

The panelists will also share their views on the competitive challenges facing the tourism industry, and how the sector can work in partnership with other stakeholders and all levels of government to address these challenges.

For more information, go to <http://www.tiac.travel/english/PolicySymposium.asp>.

April 26 – World Intellectual Property Day The World Intellectual Property Organization is promoting this day where the focus will be on celebrating innovation and promoting respect for intellectual property. For a message on World IP day, or a poster or IP Day Postcard go to www.wipo.int and click on the events section.