

Facilitation of International Shipping: Competition Policy Related to Liner Shipper – APEC Project TPT 02/2007

Introduction

Canada is pleased to provide an update on APEC Project TPT 02/2007 – Facilitation of International Shipping: Competition Policy Related to Liner Shipping.

There have been significant developments since the last Transportation Working Group Meeting (TPT-WG-28) in Vancouver, September 2006. Two documents have been submitted with this update: a PowerPoint presentation which provides an overall update of the project including the background, project history, recent developments and, introduces Meyrick and Associates, the Consultant who has been contracted to complete the Project. The second document includes a copy of Meyrick's Proposal, which was submitted as part of the selection process.

This update will also provide an opportunity to highlight a very recent development which will have an impact, albeit minor, on the Facilitation Project. Based on provisional information, it appears that the next TPT-WG Meeting (TPT-WG-30) will be held in the Spring of 2008, rather than as expected, in the Fall of 2007. As a result, the Project's timetable has been adjusted; Slide 10 of the presentation sets out the revised timelines. Canada, as project overseer, contacted the Consultant to apprise them of the change in MEG's meeting schedule. The Consultant indicated that they will maintain the project schedule, which means that deliverable #1, a Progress Report at the end of Stage 1, will be completed sometime in Fall 2007, therefore, available to MEG well in advance of TPT-WG-30, tentatively scheduled for March 2008. At the same time, however, it should be noted that the Consultant recognizes that the second payment, of 50%, payable on MEG's approval of the Progress Report, will be delayed until MEG has considered and approved the Progress Report at TPT-WG-30, in March 2008.