

# News Release



The following text is being issued at the close of the Conference ***Tax Administrations in an Electronic World*** by the conference's five co-sponsoring organizations, the Commonwealth Association of Tax Administrators (CATA), the Inter-American Center of Tax Administrations (CIAT); le Centre de Rencontres et d' Etudes des Dirigeants des Administrations Fiscales (CRÉDAF); the Intra-European Organisation of Tax Administrations (IOTA) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The Conference was held in Montreal from June 4 to June 6, and was hosted by the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency (CCRA).


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## **Representatives From Over 100 Tax Administrations Examine the Challenges of Electronic Commerce**

Montreal, June 6, 2001...Tax administrations have a key role to play in providing a fiscal climate within which electronic commerce can flourish while maintaining a fair and predictable tax system. Tax administrations should seize the opportunities offered by new technologies to improve the service they provide to taxpayers.

Representatives from tax administrations from over 100 countries came together this week in Montreal to discuss how to develop and to implement such a taxation framework. The conference was co-sponsored by the world's major organizations representing tax administrations CATA, CIAT, CRÉDAF, IOTA and the OECD. It was hosted by the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency (CCRA) and representatives from the International Monetary Fund, United Nations and other interested organizations participated.

The conference was opened by the Honourable Martin Cauchon, Minister of National Revenue. "In an increasingly globalised economy tax administrators need to understand both the technology that underpins the new economy and the impact of new business models on the operation of tax systems around the world," the Minister told Conference participants.



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The co-sponsors of the meeting set themselves ambitious objectives at the outset. Participants agreed that these objectives had been fully met. “There was general agreement that the conference should be the start of an ongoing process by which governments work together to improve their tax systems, to exploit the opportunities offered by the new technologies to improve taxpayer service and to enable governments to raise revenues in an effective and equitable way,” said Mr. Etcheberry, the President of CIAT. The presidents and chairs of the other sponsoring organizations shared this view.

The ongoing dialogue will focus on four related areas:

1. Identifying best practices in the area of taxpayer service;
2. Improving the capacity of tax administrations to identify taxpayers engaged in e-commerce and to assess and collect tax due;
3. The implication of consumption taxes to cross-border e-commerce transactions; and
4. Direct taxation with exchange of information

The attached fact sheet provides an outline of the strategy that will be followed to take forward these discussions.

All documents are available on the conference Web site at: <http://www.ae-tax.ca>

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