

I totally support the views expressed in the paper submitted to the Productivity Commission study on trade agreements by Australian and New Zealand business executives and economists . What appeals most is that the approach tackles what will otherwise remain an intractable problem for the multilateral system. The highly relevant and policy neutral form of domestic governance in the proposal places responsibility for global liberalisation where it should be, with individual governments, and appropriately leaves each in full control of domestic policy and decision-making. It provides a unique opportunity for the Australian government to take a leadership role in the G20 response to protectionism. The Evian Group at IMD would certainly be very interested in supporting and contributing to the proposed international study group.

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