

The **Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America** is a continent-level dialogue to provide greater cooperation on security and economic issues. The Partnership was founded in Waco, Texas on March 23, 2005 by Paul Martin, Prime Minister of Canada, Vicente Fox, President of Mexico, and George W. Bush, President of the United States. The partnership exists as a framework.

The initial SPP Working Groups are the Manufacture Goods and Sectoral and Regional Competitiveness Working Group, E-Commerce & ICT Working Group, Energy Working Group, Transportation Working Group, Food & Agriculture Working Group, Environment Working Group, Financial Services Working Group, Business Facilitation Working Group, Movement of Goods Working Group, Health, and Immigration. (Immigration is not currently listed as a working group on the SPP website.)

These working groups are tasked with implementing the SPP as initiated by the North American Heads of State on March 23, 2005, will consult with stakeholders; set specific, measurable, and achievable goals and implementation dates; and of Government on June 23 with semi-annual progress reports thereafter. A 24-month agenda is established to serve as a timeline milestone to have the initial framework fully developed.

The stated goals of the SPP are cooperation and information sharing, improving productivity, reducing the costs of trade, enhancing the joint stewardship of the environment, facilitating agricultural trade while creating a safer and more reliable food supply, and protecting people from disease.



The SPP is based on the belief that prosperity is dependent on security, and claims that the three nations are bound by a shared belief in freedom, economic opportunity, and strong democratic institutions. It is intended to assist, rather than replace, existing bilateral and trilateral institutions like NAFTA and claims to work towards the three North American countries working cooperatively in the face of common risks and economic competition from low cost comulti-modal transportation system along the International Mid-Continent Trade and Transportation Corridor to improve both the trade competitiveness and quality of life in North America.

North American Facilitation of Transportation, Trade, Reduced Congestion & Security (NAFTRACS) is a three phase pilot project designed to focus on business processes and information as freight is transported from buyers to sellers. The project is intended to create a partnership between businesses and local, state, and federal governments, while claiming to foster cooperation among the same entities.

Critics argue that the SPP is a "blueprint for building a European Union-style merger of the three countries of North America", creating a "North American Union". Some see the SPP as part of a larger plan for world government, wherein currently existing sovereign states are first joined into regions.

The Council of Canadians claims that the SPP extends the controversial "no fly list" of the USA (which still contains Canadian citizen Maher Arar) to Canada and Mexico, makes Canadian water a communal resource, and forced Canada and Mexico to adapt the USA's security policies. In September 2006, United States Rep. Virgil Goode Jr., a Republican from Virginia, introduced resolution H.C.R. 487 which stated, in part, that the United States "should not engage in the construction of a North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) Superhighway System or enter into a North American Union (NAU) with Mexico and Canada". CNN anchor Lou Dobbs has called such a North American Union "absolute ignorance... an absolute contravention of our law, of our Constitution, every national value".

On May 10, 2007, Conservative MP Leon Benoit, chair of the Canadian House of Commons Standing Committee on International Trade, prevented University of Alberta professor Gordon Laxer from testifying that SPP would leave Canadians "to freeze in the dark" because "Canada itself – unlike most industrialized nations – has no national plan or reserves to protect its own supplies" by saying Laxer's testimony was not relevant,

defying a majority vote to overrule his motion, shutting down the Committee meeting, and leaving with the other three out of four Conservative members; the meeting later continued presided by the Liberal vice-chair. After these disruptions, the National Post reported on a Conservative party manual to, among other things, usurp Parliamentary committees and cause chaos in unfavorable committees. The New Democratic Party has also criticized SPP for being undemocratic, not open to Parliament, and opaque; New Democratic Party leader Jack Layton described the process as not simply unconstitutional, but "non-constitutional," held completely outside the usual mechanisms of oversight.

On August 31, 2007, conspiracy theorist and Internet broadcaster Hal Turner claimed to have arranged for a United States Government minted Amero coin to be smuggled out of the Treasury Department by an employee of that organization. Snopes has assessed Turner's story as "false".

What do you think of a common currency for NAFTA countries? What would be the advantages and the disadvantages of a common North American currency?

If a common currency was not called the 'Amero' what would you call it? _____

What might the new currency look like? Design it...

