



Minister for
International Trade

Ministre du
Commerce extérieur

COMMUNIQUÉ

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CAIRNS MINISTERIAL MEETING CONCLUDES

Pat Carney, Minister for International Trade, at the concluding Press Conference of the Cairns Ministerial Meeting May 23 in Ottawa, welcomed the contribution of Cairns Group members in furthering the objective of liberalized trade in agricultural products.

She noted that the meeting had reinforced the growing international consensus on the need for fundamental reform in the Uruguay Round, as well as for more immediate commitments on policy reform aimed at deescalating the current crisis. Cairns Ministers had endorsed the outcome of the recent OECD Ministerial meeting in Paris and called on Summit leaders in Venice to reinforce the OECD policy commitments. The meeting also gave impetus to the Uruguay Round negotiations on agriculture in Geneva. She noted that Ministers had expressed particular concern over the proposed trade legislation before the American Congress and the European Commission proposal to introduce a consumer tax on oils and fats.

The text of the Ministerial Statement issued at the conclusion of the Cairns Ministerial Meeting is attached.

- 30 -

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