



News Release

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CANADA-U.S. TRADE COMMISSION MEETS IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Honourable Michael Wilson, Minister of Industry, Science and Technology and Minister for International Trade, and United States Trade Representative Carla A. Hills met today in Washington, D.C. to review recent developments in the implementation of the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

This is the sixth regular session of the Commission, which is chaired jointly by the trade ministers of the two nations. The Commission meets at least once a year to review progress and discuss FTA management issues.

Today's meeting came as a follow-up to the visit by Prime Minister Brian Mulroney to Washington on May 20, when it was agreed that both countries would increase efforts to manage current trade issues and avert future disputes.

Minister Wilson and Ambassador Hills reviewed the full range of issues currently on the bilateral trade agenda and discussed ways of making further progress toward resolving outstanding disputes. Both expressed desire to see the recognition of new plywood standards this fall. This would mean the two countries could implement tariff cuts on plywood, waferboard, oriented strand board and particle board by the end of 1992. In 1991, Canadian exports of plywood and related products amounted to \$177.6 million (US\$155 million).

Minister Wilson and Ambassador Hills also announced that a Chapter 18 dispute settlement panel, established to consider the treatment of interest costs under the rules of origin in the FTA, has delivered its final report.

The panel was established to resolve a dispute over the treatment of non-mortgage interest on production facilities and equipment in the value-added formula for determining the eligibility of