



Minister for
International Trade

Ministre du
Commerce extérieur

COMMUNIQUÉ

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CANADIAN STATEMENT TO GATT COUNCIL CONCERNING
U.S. COUNTERVAILING DUTY PETITION AGAINST
CANADIAN SOFTWOOD LUMBER

Canada's Minister for International Trade, James Kelleher, released a copy of the statement made by the Canadian representative at the GATT council meeting held today in Geneva.

The statement highlighted the reasons why Canada considers that it would be inappropriate for a new countervailing duty action to be initiated, based as it would be on essentially the same facts and the same law as in 1983 when the Commerce Department ruled that Canadian stumpage systems did not constitute subsidies.

The statement makes clear that Canada views the refiling of a countervailing duty petition on the same issues as a calculated protectionist action by the U.S. lumber industry. Acceptance of the petition by the U.S. Department of Commerce would subject Canadian industry to unwarranted costs and harassment and offend against principles of natural justice.

The statement notes that in raising again the same fundamental issues, the U.S. industry is in effect requesting the Commerce Department to act as its own court of appeal.

The Minister stated that the federal government, in cooperation with Canadian industry and the provinces, will be taking further appropriate steps to protect Canadian lumber interests.

The full statement is attached.

Canada
