

Both Ministers said the Committee's ruling had confirmed the advantages offered by the FTA's binational panel review system in respect of countervailing or anti-dumping duty proceedings. They recalled that one of the key objectives of the FTA was to protect Canadian exports against arbitrary application of U.S. trade remedy laws.

"The Committee's decision is final and binding: the system has now been tested and proved," Mr. Wilson said.

"Moreover, the decision confirms the Government's position that the extraordinary challenge procedure is not an appeal procedure and is to be used only in truly extraordinary cases."

Mr. McKnight said, "The outcome is a victory that the Canadian pork industry richly deserves. All industry members are to be congratulated for their persistence in demanding -- and obtaining -- a fair and impartial hearing of their case."

-30-

For further information, media representatives may contact:

Media Relations Office  
External Affairs and International Trade Canada  
(613) 995-1874

or

Don Marsh  
Office of the Minister of Agriculture  
(613) 995-9133