

When all the dust has settled about the details of what we might want to negotiate, these questions remind us of the formidable task ahead. There are no easy answers, only a few considerations that might assist us over time. For example, the largely self-sufficient nature of the huge U.S. market long meant that there was little incentive to worry about how trading partners might misuse antidumping or not use competition policy. But over the last 25 years, the importance of trade (imports and exports of goods and services combined) to the U.S. economy has doubled to about one-quarter of gross domestic product. The U.S. has regained its lead as the most important exporter, with an almost 13% share of world merchandise exports and 16% of world imports in 1993. Exports have doubled to more than 10% of GDP. Trade increasingly matters for the U.S.. Moreover, more countries are adopting an antidump regime, with developing countries using it more frequently against imports, including imports from the U.S..<sup>35</sup>

This new reality is, perhaps, increasingly worrying certain U.S. exporters who are making their concerns known to their government authorities. Last December, for example, the CEOs from Sun Microsystems, Hewlett Packard, Cargill and Philip Morris International wrote to United States Trade Representative Kantor expressing concern about last minute changes to the MTN antidumping agreement that would weaken certain aspects of the disciplines in the text as it then stood. The CEOs warned that U.S. "[e]fforts to open foreign markets could be rendered meaningless if foreign governments are allowed to use loose antidumping rules to restrict U.S. exports." This protest is a welcome sign, although it must also be noted that the CEOs apparently were not successful in the face of more protectionist agendas supported, for example, by the U.S. steel industry.<sup>36</sup> More recently, over 20 trade lawyers representing many of the U.S.'s leading law firms publicly wrote urging the Administration to refuse to curry favour with certain domestic industries by drafting the MTN implementing legislation in ways that could potentially loosen the MTN text even further:

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<sup>35</sup> The recent increase in the number of Mexican antidumping initiations against U.S.-based companies is a case in point.

<sup>36</sup> See "GATT Partners Work Out Compromise On Controversial Dumping Issue", in *Inside U.S. Trade*, Special Report (December 14, 1993), pp.1-6.