With the resolution of the performance standards dispute, a separate but related issue remains regarding the U.S. product standard, which sets out the requirements for veneer grades used in plywood.

The Minister said that, further to an additional recommendation by the BNC, the United States is currently considering altering its product standard. He added that while this matter was in the hands of the industries of both countries, the Canadian Government would do everything possible to promote a resolution of this important issue. Minister Wilson also said that he was looking forward to meeting with the new United States Trade Representative and pursuing the issue more fully.

In 1991, Canadian exports to the United States of panel board, including plywood, oriented strand board and particleboard, were valued at \$177 million, while imports from that country were worth \$66 million.

- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

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