



news release

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FTA INJURY PANEL ON PORK

FTA Dispute Panel on Pork Orders Remand on U.S. Injury Finding

International Trade Minister John C. Crosbie and Agriculture Minister Don Mazankowski announced today a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) dispute panel has supported Canadian pork industry arguments that the threat of injury determination was not supported by substantial evidence on the record. The panel has remanded the issue to the U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC) for reconsideration because it relied on questionable statistics to reach its conclusion.

The Commission has until October 23 to provide the panel with the results of the remand. Other parties have until November 7 to comment and a final decision should follow soon thereafter.

"This is a welcome development for the Canadian pork industry and its members are to be congratulated for bringing this issue to dispute settlement and making such a convincing case to the panel," said Mr. Crosbie.

"Canada sought, during the FTA negotiations, an improved procedure which affords Canadian exporters an opportunity to obtain timely redress in anti-dumping and countervail cases," noted Mr. Crosbie, "This decision today demonstrates the efficacy of the Chapter 19 process."

"The federal government is encouraged by the panel's finding in support of the industry's arguments and will continue to monitor the situation pending final disposition of the matter," said Mr. Mazankowski.

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