



Minister for
International Trade

Ministre du
Commerce extérieur

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GATT RULES AGAINST U.S. SUPERFUND

The Honourable Pat Carney, Minister for International Trade, announced today that the GATT Council has adopted a report finding the U.S. Superfund's discriminatory tax on imported oil a violation of that country's GATT obligations.

The finding was initially made by a GATT panel investigating the U.S. Superfund and has now been given official status by the GATT Council. The panel was established in February.

Canada first initiated the GATT action and was joined in it by Mexico and the European Community.

The tax costs Canadian exporters of oil and petroleum products \$12 million a year. The Superfund legislation imposes a higher tax rate on imported oil than on oil produced in the U.S. (U.S. 11.7 cents versus 8.2 cents per barrel).

Minister Carney said, "We hope that the U.S. Government will act as quickly as possible to eliminate the discriminatory aspects of the Superfund legislation."

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Contact: Doug George
GATT Affairs
(613) 996-3969

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