



CANADIAN AGRI-FOOD TRADE ALLIANCE

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NEWS RELEASE

Disappointed But Not Discouraged

Geneva, Thursday November 10, 2005 - Representatives of the Canadian Agri-Food Trade Alliance are disappointed with the lack of progress in WTO negotiations on agriculture, but are encouraged that WTO members are still committed to the ambition prescribed by the Doha Mandate and last year's negotiating framework.

"It's pretty clear now that there will not be a full detailed agreement for Ministers who will meet in Hong Kong in December - yet another deadline missed in this round," said CAFTA President Liam McCreery. "That is very disappointing. Canadian farmers, processors and exporters, who continue to compete in markets that are distorted by access barriers and subsidies, will be disappointed again that there hasn't been more progress towards better rules."

Ministers and negotiators from more than 20 WTO member countries met this week to try to move the negotiations forward, but were forced to concede that they will not be able to reach a complete agreement by December. A detailed agreement will likely come now in early 2006.

Despite this latest set back, CAFTA is encouraged that all WTO member countries are still committed to reaching an ambitious agreement by the end of 2006. "All of the ministers who met in Geneva this week made it clear that there is no support for backing down on goals set for this round," said CAFTA Vice-President Alanna Koch. "The commitment to the goals and to the final deadline of the end of 2006 for a comprehensive deal is positive, but it is going to take a tremendous amount of political will to get this done, and we are concerned that time is getting short. Our message on behalf of Canadian farmers, processors and exporters is that Ministers need to be fully committed to moving beyond finger pointing and entrenched positions, to get a deal that will benefit world agriculture."

CAFTA is particularly encouraged by the message from Canadian ministers in Geneva this week. Ministers Mitchell and Peterson made it clear that Canada is and will continue to negotiate aggressively for *'fundamental change—real reform—not just modest improvements'* in this round. "During our meetings with Ministers in Geneva, they committed to pursuing a very ambitious deal for agriculture - one that results in substantial new access for Canadian agriculture and food exports; eliminates export subsidies and makes deep cuts to trade distorting domestic support," said Liam McCreery. "We are encouraged by that message and will continue to stress the critical need for better trade rules, at home and internationally."



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The Canadian Agri-Food Trade represents producers, processors and exporters of agriculture and agri-food products, as well as suppliers of agricultural inputs. Accounting for over 80% of Canada's agriculture and food exports, and more than 60% of farm cash receipts, CAFTA's members are united in their dependence on trade, and in their need for a liberalized international trading environment.

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