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## **The Government Perspective: Effects Upon Present Competition Policy**

*Robert F. Mathieson\**

**T****o introduce** this portion, we need to remind ourselves that (1) the fundamental objective of the Free Trade Agreement is the improvement of economic efficiency for firms on both sides of the border, and (2) the particular objective of Article 1907 is to bring into existence a substitute regime for the application of each country's antidumping laws, one that would protect fair competition.

The detailed study commissioned by the Committee on Canada-United States Relations of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce and the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, found that Canadian and U.S. competition laws dealing with pricing practices are generally similar and compatible and applicable to pricing initiated in the other country. The study recommends that measures should be added to the FTA and implemented by legislation to: facilitate access to remedies by those alleging substantial detriment to competition, and ensure effective enforcement of appropriate injunctions, penalties and compensation.

Today we are fortunate to have both the U.S. and Canadian government viewpoints on fulfilling the promise of the FTA. First Deborah Owen, member of the Federal Trade Commission will offer her views. Ms Owen will be followed by Derek Ireland, Director of Economics and International Affairs, Bureau of Competition Policy of the Canadian Government.

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