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Minister of International Trade



Ministre du Commerce international

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0G2

Michael M Fortier

SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL
COURRIER ARRIVÉ

28 AOÛT 2008

AUG 21 2008

Mr. Guy Sebban
Secretary General
International Chamber of Commerce
38, Cours Albert 1er
75008 France
PARIS

Dear Mr. Sebban:

Thank you for your correspondence of June 5, 2008, addressed to the Honourable David Emerson, regarding issues pertaining to counterfeiting and piracy. I am pleased to respond to you as the newly appointed Minister of International Trade, and on Minister Emerson's behalf. I welcome the active involvement of private sector groups, such as the International Chamber of Commerce and the newly created Canadian Intellectual Property Council (CIPC). Collaboration between industry and government is key if we want to tackle counterfeiting and piracy effectively.

Let me first take this opportunity to reassure you that the Government is committed to the protection of intellectual property rights, as they represent an essential tool for any knowledge-based economy like Canada to ensure economic growth, attract foreign investment and foster an environment conducive to innovation. In its October 2007 Speech from the Throne, the Government indicated its support for the protection of intellectual property rights. This commitment was recently demonstrated when the Government tabled Bill C-61 in Parliament, which proposes amendments to the *Copyright Act* to respond to the challenges and opportunities of the digital environment.

Canada is also committed to the work on counterfeiting and piracy that has been undertaken at the international level, including in the G8. This year again, under Japan's Presidency, G8 leaders reiterated their support for the issue. This

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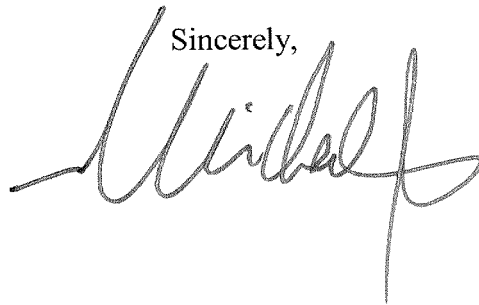
will provide the necessary momentum for G8 countries' involvement and work in other multilateral organizations where counterfeiting and piracy are discussed. For instance, the United States and Canada, along with Mexico, have developed a North American strategy on intellectual property rights under the Security and Prosperity Partnership, which will increase cooperation among the three partners in key areas for tackling counterfeiting and piracy. Other relevant initiatives have been undertaken in Interpol, the World Customs Organization and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, among others, as a follow-up to G8 commitments.

Canada also supports the Heiligendamm Dialogue Process launched at last year's G8 Summit in Germany. Canadian experts have actively participated in the discussions of the Working Group on Innovation, where a frank and open dialogue with representatives from India, China, Brazil, Mexico and South Africa took place. While counterfeiting and piracy were discussed by the Working Group, delegates also considered the role of intellectual property rights in relation to innovation.

I welcome your support for the proposed Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA), in which Canada is involved with key trading partners. From our perspective, ACTA is a key element of the global response to the global problem of the trade in counterfeit and pirated goods, as it is based on enhanced cooperation and collaboration among countries that are concerned with this problem.

Thank you again for sharing your views on this important subject.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail that extends downwards and to the right.

c.c.: The Honourable David L. Emerson, P.C., M.P.