

Minister of International Trade and
Minister for the Asia-Pacific Gateway



Ministre du Commerce international et
ministre de la porte d'entrée de l'Asie-Pacifique

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0G2

The Honourable L'honorable
Stockwell Day

AUG 26 2009

Mr. Dennis J. Slater
President and Secretary
Association of Equipment Manufacturers
World Exchange Plaza
880 - 45 O'Connor Street
Ottawa Ontario
K1P 1A4

Mr. Jerry Engel
President
Agricultural Manufacturers of Canada
P.O. Box 636, Main Station
Regina, Saskatchewan
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Dear Messrs. Slater and Engel:

Thank you for your letter of May 12, 2009, regarding your concerns about reports of increasing protectionist measures coming out of the Russian Federation. I appreciate your concerns and regret the delay in replying to you. The issues you have raised were discussed during the Canada–Russia Business Summit (CRBS) on June 22 and 23, 2009, in Moscow.

I have raised the issue personally during a private bilateral meeting with my CRBS co-host, First Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Zubkov. Concrete proposals had already been provided to Russian officials in advance of our meeting. I am hopeful for a practical solution that will serve the interests of both sides.

I also raised the issue of the recent higher tariff imposed on combine harvesters (i.e., as classified under HS 8433.51 [combine harvesters-threshers]) at the Commission meeting. I raised the issue with the understanding that the tariffs on Canadian equipment that the Russian authorities agree not to be in direct competition should be repealed. In order to achieve this, I have proposed drawing up a list of equipment that should remain free of any tariffs, in light of such non-competitive nature.

I understand the pressures that the new measures introduced by the Russian government have placed on the competitiveness of Canadian exporters to the Russian market. I want to assure you that we will work with you and your members to identify a near-term resolution of the situation.

Sincerely,

Hon. Stockwell Day

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