

The Boston Globe

Canada requests WTO consultations on seal hunt ban

http://www.boston.com/news/world/canada/articles/2009/11/02/canada_requests_wto_consultations_on_seal_hunt_ban/

November 2, 2009

OTTAWA --Canada is taking its seal hunt dispute with the European Union to the World Trade Organization. Trade Minister Stockwell Day said Monday that Ottawa has formally requested WTO consultations on Europe's ban of Canadian seal products, the first stage of the world body's dispute-settlement process.

Day says the regulation, adopted by 27 European countries earlier this year, is a violation of the EU's trade obligations. The ban is to come into force next August.

Animal rights groups have protested the annual hunt, saying it is cruel, poorly monitored and provides little economic benefit. Seal hunters and Canadian authorities say it is sustainable, humane and provides income for villagers in isolated northern indigenous Inuit communities.

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Norway seeks WTO help in disputed EU seal hunt ban

(AP) – November 6, 2009

http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5jx6hrTjbQbytpI1bCyao5m_vrK7wD9BPHC2G3

OSLO — Norway has joined Canada in asking the World Trade Organization to settle its seal hunt dispute with the European Union.

Foreign Minister Jonas Gahr Støre said Thursday that Norway has formally requested WTO assistance in mediating the trade dispute, which erupted after the 27-nation EU banned seal products earlier this year. The ban goes into effect in August 2010.

Støre says the regulation runs "contrary" to trade obligations laid out by the WTO, adding that Norway "will not let this go uncontested." Canada lodged a similar request Monday.

Animal rights groups have long protested seal hunting, calling it inhumane. Norwegian officials, meanwhile, say it's a sustainable and carefully regulated part of Norway's wildlife management policy.

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