

# EU oil spat not linked to trade: van loan

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Canada is concerned about possible European import restrictions on crude from its vast oil sands, but a fight over the industry's emissions will not have an impact on trade talks with the European Union, Ottawa's Trade Minister said on Wednesday. Peter Van Loan, below, denied reports by EU sources that Canada has threatened to scrap a proposed multibillion-dollar free-trade deal if Europe goes ahead with new rules to promote greener, low-carbon fuels as part of a strategy to curb greenhouse gas emissions. Europe's trade and climate chiefs are preparing to take a stand against imports of oil from Canada's oil sands, despite fears that two-way trade would suffer, EU sources and documents say. "This issue is being dealt with separately from the free trade discussions, so I do not anticipate it will have an impact on the timing or the outcome of those free trade talks," Mr. Van Loan said in Vancouver. "That said, we are very concerned about the proposed fuel quality initiative of the European Union."