

# EU blocks appeal of seal products ban

**POSTMEDIA NEWS** FEBRUARY 25, 2011

The European Union has blocked Canadian efforts to have the World Trade Organization decide whether an EU ban on trade in seal products breaks global trade rules, but won't be able to prevent a second request, likely in March.

Canada filed a request for consultations in September 2007 after Belgium outlawed the manufacture and commercialization of all products containing seal and The Netherlands readied a ban. The 27-nation EU closed its borders to seal products in August.

The Canadian government says the EU ban doesn't contain an exemption clause for humanely harvested seal products. Canada argues that scientific evidence shows the country's seal hunt follows what it calls "rigorous" standards of animal welfare.

The value of Canada's seal hunt in 2009 was about \$10 million, down from about \$35 million in 2006.