

Ms. Cecilia Malmström  
Commissioner  
European Commissioner for Trade  
BE-1049 Brussels  
Belgium

Brussels, 28 February 2018

**Re: EU-CETA Regulatory Cooperation Forum**

Dear Commissioner,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE), which, through the national Bars and Law Societies of the Member States of the European Union and the European Economic Area, represents more than 1 million European lawyers.

Following the provisional entry into force in September 2017 of the EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), we understand that work is now underway to set up the institutional structure to govern the different aspects of the Agreement, and to ensure its correct implementation.

One aspect of the institutional structure which the CCBE is interested in concerns the possibility to develop further voluntary regulatory cooperation between the Parties through a Regulatory Cooperation Forum (RCF). We understand that the first meeting of the RCF is tentatively scheduled to take place mid-2018.

In advance of the first meeting of the RCF, and in the hope of being of assistance, the CCBE would like to mention that it would be beneficial in any future discussions to keep in mind that not all regulators are public entities or public agencies (although most certainly are), as certain regulators are professional bodies. This is the case with the legal profession.

In this respect, the CCBE would very much appreciate if it could be involved in the RCF, either directly or indirectly, at least whenever any discussion within the RCF could impact upon the provision of legal services. In such an event, we would like to have the possibility to follow and to contribute to the discussion.

The CCBE appreciates your consideration of this request, and we remain at your disposal to discuss this further.

Yours sincerely,

Art4.1(b)

Antonín Mokřý  
CCBE President