



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs
Competitiveness and European Semester

Directorate-General for Trade
Neighbouring Countries, USA and Canada

Brussels,
trade.dga2.e.1(2017)5656948

NOTE FOR THE ATTENTION OF

WILLIAM SLEATH (SG)
MICHAEL SCANNELL (SANTE)
JOHN CLARKE (AGRI)
ANTONIS KASTRISSIANAKIS (TAXUD)
KRIS DEKEYSER (COMP)
MARIO NAVA (FISMA)
PER HAUGAARD (MOVE)
STEFAN DEPYPERE (MARE)
EMMANUEL CRABIT (JUST)
MEGAN RICHARDS (ENER)
LINDA CORUGEDO STENEBERT (CNECT)
YVON SLINGENBERG (CLIMA)
ASTRID SCHOMAKER (ENV)
JORDI CURELL GOTOR (EMPL)

Subject: CETA Regulatory Co-operation Forum - request for contributions

The EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) entered into force provisionally on 21 September 2017. Work is now underway to set-up the institutional structure of the Agreement to ensure that the necessary governance is in place to oversee its implementation.

CETA is one of the first EU trade agreements that establishes a cross cutting mechanism for regulatory co-operation known as the Regulatory Co-operation Forum (RCF). Its regulatory co-operation activities are voluntary in nature as either Party is entitled to refuse or withdraw from a co-operation activity. Chapter 21 of CETA (enclosed for ease of reference) defines a broad scope for such activities under the Forum. However, in doing so, it would be important to ensure that the activities of this Forum do not duplicate the work carried out in the Specialised Committees of CETA.

The RCF replaces an earlier EU-Canada Framework on Regulatory Co-operation and Transparency led by DG GROW. CETA in fact mentions DG GROW as the EU contact point for the Forum. DG GROW and DG TRADE have agreed that they will jointly coordinate and oversee the RCF. In view of the very broad scope of co-operation activities and to ensure a good functioning of the RCF within the CETA framework

Our objective is to establish an agenda of issues for regulatory co-operation where EU and

Canadian Regulators can meaningfully co-operate. With this objective we seek your input on identifying sectors/issues where, in the interest of EU businesses and citizens, there is potential for achieving greater compatibility of regulations or where the EU and Canada can co-operate to promote common regulatory approaches in international fora.

We kindly request you to share with us an indication of the scope of proposed issues; the objectives pursued; the state of play of any previous discussions with Canada; the possible timeframe for taking the issue forward; any particular constraints; and any other information you think useful. In essence, we are looking for issues where you think that cooperation with Canada can achieve added value in the short to medium-term.

In this context, we note that CETA also includes a Committee on Trade and Sustainable Development which is also tasked to deal with environmental and labour issues. In view of the sensitive ongoing discussions on both Trade and Sustainable Development and Regulatory Cooperation, we propose to first consider if such topics could be better addressed in the Committee on Trade & Sustainable Development Committee.

Finally, the RCF has received significant attention from various stakeholders; in fact some groups have already started to submit informal suggestions for co-operation while others have stressed the need for an inclusive consultation process and sufficient transparency on the co-operation activities. In light of this strong interest from civil society we plan to invite proposals from EU stakeholders for activities that could potentially be considered for co-operation under the RCF.

Following your input and the public submissions, you will be consulted to finalise a shortlist of items that the EU would like to propose for regulatory co-operation with Canada under the RCF. We would be grateful if you could send us your proposed items by 23 November.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions on the above. The contact persons for this file are: [REDACTED] (DG Trade) and [REDACTED] (DG GROW).

Eric MAMER

Ignacio GARCIA BERCERO

Enclosure: Chapter 21 of CETA on Regulatory Cooperation

C.C.: J.-L. Demarty, J. Korte, M. Petriccione, D. Redonnet, S. Ratso, L. Rubinacci, H. Konig, M. Martin-Prat, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Unit E.1 (TRADE);

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] (GROW)

[REDACTED] (SC); [REDACTED] (SANTÉ); [REDACTED]
(AGRI); [REDACTED] (TAXUD); [REDACTED] (COMP); [REDACTED]
(FISMA); [REDACTED] (MOVE); [REDACTED] (CNECT);

[REDACTED] (EEAS)

[REDACTED] (EEAS-OTTAWA);