



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology

Policy Strategy and Outreach
Director

Brussels,
CONNECT/D3/Art 4.1(b)

NOTE FOR THE ATTENTION OF IGNACIO GARCIA BERCERO, DIRECTORATE E, DG TRADE ERIC MAMER, DIRECTORATE A, DG GROW

Subject: CETA Regulatory Co-operation Forum - Contribution DG CONNECT

Thank you for consulting DG CONNECT on the Regulatory Cooperation Forum (RCF) with Canada, set up by CETA (chapter 21) to replace an earlier framework on regulatory co-operation and transparency.

DG CONNECT supports the creation of the forum to ensure that the necessary governance is in place to oversee proper implementation of CETA. We understand that the RCF is led jointly by DGs TRADE and GROW. DG CONNECT would like to be systematically consulted and take active part in dialogues with Canada concerning regulatory affairs in the telecommunications (electronic communications) services and networks domains, as well as on items pertaining to digital trade. We recognize the importance and value of regulatory cooperation, and are especially interested in cross-border trade in services and the GATS, in line with Art. 21.1 of the CETA (Scope) in order to:

- a. prevent & eliminate unnecessary barriers to trade & investment, including digital trade;
- b. enhance competitiveness and innovation, including by pursuing regulatory compatibility, recognition of equivalence and convergence; and to
- c. promote transparent, efficient and effective regulatory process that support public policy objectives and fulfil the mandates of regulatory bodies, including the promotion of information exchange and enhanced use of best practices, in line with Art. 21.2.4 (Principles), on a voluntary basis.

We support the RCF's mandate to facilitate and promote regulatory cooperation between the EU and Canada (Art. 21.6). We agree with the objectives (Art. 21.3) and the activities (Art. 21.4). We fully support a robust consultation mechanism with private entities (Art. 21.8) to profit from the non-governmental perspective and to more fully engage our stakeholders.

As requested by the letter dated 10th November¹ we would like to propose [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Art 4.1(a) 3' and Art 4.3, in the
interest of EU businesses and citizens, the EU and Canada can co-operate to promote common
regulatory approaches in international fora.

We acknowledge the strong expressions of interest from civil society and business in both EU
and Canada, and look forward to discussing together opportunities in telecoms and digital
trade.

Your contact people in DG CONNECT are [REDACTED] Art 4.1(b), and
[REDACTED] Art 4.1(b).

(e-signed)

Linda Corugedo Steneberg

C.C.: [REDACTED] Art 4.1(b)
[REDACTED]
(DG CONNECT)
[REDACTED] Art 4.1(b) (DG TRADE)
[REDACTED] Art 4.1(b) (DG GROW)

¹ Ares (2017)5480178