

## **Explanatory Note** **CETA and Human Rights**

The EU, its member states and Canada have reaffirmed their strong commitment to democracy, human rights and respect to the rule of law both in the CETA preamble and in the Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA) which provides the framework for EU-Canada bilateral relations. The SPA makes human rights an essential element of the entire EU-Canada bilateral relationship, including the trade relationship – so much so, that serious and substantial violations of human rights by a Party can be cause for suspension or termination of both the SPA and CETA.

The relevant provisions in the SPA and CETA are:

*SPA ARTICLE 28 – "Fulfilment of obligations", in particular paragraph 7 refers to CETA:*

*7. In addition, the Parties recognise that a particularly serious and substantial violation of human rights or non-proliferation, as defined in paragraph 3, could also serve as grounds for the termination of the EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) in accordance with Article 30.9 of that Agreement [N.B. on procedure to terminate the Agreement].*

*CETA Preamble:*

*REAFFIRMING their strong attachment to democracy and to fundamental rights as laid down in The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, done at Paris on 10 December 1948, and sharing the view that the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction poses a major threat to international security;"*

*RECOGNISING the importance of international security, democracy, human rights and the rule of law for the development of international trade and economic cooperation.*