

BUSINESSEUROPE

THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

Mr Karel De Gucht
Trade Commissioner
European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200
B-1049 Brussels

18 December 2012

Dear Commissioner,

The business community is looking forward to the benefits that an ambitious and successful swift conclusion to the negotiations for an EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) will bring to both signatory parties.

We would like to draw your attention to the fact that although the negotiations are expected to be concluded by the end of 2012, several important issues must be solved to promote trade and investment, which we set out below. Indeed, given the CETA's role as a marker for an ambitious broader EU trade policy agenda, and the negotiating leverage afforded by access to the EU's Single Market, we count on the Commission to maintain its strong stance on these issues:

Not relevant

- Investment provisions should offer a high level of protection, equal to the highest EU member states' Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITs) standards. An open definition to investments should be adopted that will include all types of assets. Furthermore, the possibility for international arbitration should be left open.

Not relevant

- Concerning services, we would like to emphasise the necessity that investment protection for financial services be not treated separately from protection granted in other sectors.

Not relevant

It is our sincere hope that the European Commission takes these views into account and makes the progress necessary to conclude a high-quality EU-Canada CETA in 2012.

Yours sincerely,



Markus J. Beyrer