



## **Minutes of the ECR Meeting of May 5th, 2013**

**Attendance:** All except Cyprus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Romania

### **1. CETA update**

EUDEL informed that no major new elements developed over the last weeks but informed that a short 3 day round of talks is under way in Brussels this week.

On the political side, both Foreign Minister Baird and Trade Minister Fast continue to be positive about the possible rapid conclusion of the negotiations. On May 6<sup>th</sup>, Minister Fast reiterated that CETA is a government priority in front of the International Trade Committee of the House of Commons.

### **2. EU Trade Policy – short presentation by EUDEL**

EUDEL proposed to review some key elements of the current EU trade policy, and the positive role it can play in time of economic crisis. EUDEL used the attached Power Point presentation already used by President Barroso last February at the EU Council.

EUDEL also made a presentation on EU free trade agreements – concluded or still in phase of negotiation – on the basis of the attached Commission's paper.

### **3. Canadian Trade Policy**

Canada has signed a Foreign Investment Protection Agreement with Nigeria, a country host to important Canadian investments in the natural resources sector.

Canada has participated in the 16<sup>th</sup> TPP negotiating round in Singapore and welcomed Japan as a TPP Member.

Canada has concluded its 2<sup>nd</sup> round of the economic partnership agreement talks with Japan.

### **4. Proposed joint ECR mission to Alberta – state of play**

Further to the interest expressed by Member States in the organization of a joint trip to Calgary, EUDEL explained that a joint trip could be organized taking into account the following elements:

- Indicative date: 6 to 8 October (with departure on Sunday in order to maximize available time);

- Indicative minimum cost: air flight should be in the range of \$700 (EUDEL will explore possibility to negotiate a group arrangement with Air Canada or West Jet), plus \$150 per person per night, plus small expenses for local transport.
- Indicative programme: the visit should focus on the oil and gas sector, with meetings with Alberta authorities, business and academia representatives, but also with EU entities represented in Calgary. In addition, it would be interesting to cover other non-oil sectors like agriculture.

A visit to Alberta should include ideally a visit to the oil sands in the Fort McMurray area. The excursion from Calgary could be done in a day from Calgary by air. [ **DELETED** ]

EUDEL will report to the ECR colleagues further elements during the month of May. Given the relatively short period of time left for the complex organization of the trip, it would be important that ECR colleagues indicate by the next ECR meeting in June whether they consider to take part in the trip or not.

## **5. 2013 Annual Report**

EUDEL called for volunteers to draft sections of the 2013, which still did not have assigned contributors. Ireland has volunteered for environment and Belgium for natural resources.

Chapters that the EUDEL would like to have covered, but still no Member State has volunteered are high-tech and investment / finance / banking sectors.

EUDEL encouraged Member States to participate in this joint effort and called for volunteers to cover these two remaining chapters of the report. The sharing among MS of the various chapters is reported in the attached table of contents.

## **6. EU Trade entities in Canada – contact review**

EUDEL asked Member States to update the list of contacts in Canada. EUDEL is preparing a semi-annual newsletter that it would like to distribute to all EU interlocutors identified by Member States. These organizations, if they wish, would be invited to further disseminate the newsletter in order to make broader public aware of what EU does in Canada.

## **7. Seals: state of play**

EUDEL distributed the press release of the General Court of the European Union, which, on 25 April, dismissed the challenge to the EU's seal Regulation by the Inuit and other manufacturers and traders of seal products. There has been a strong negative reaction to this decision by Canada's Inuit. EUDEL also informed that Canada's WTO challenge to the EU's seal Regulation is proceeding and a decision by the WTO Panel is expected in October or November of 2013.

## **8. AOB**

### **▪ Fuel Quality Directive – update**

EUDEL noted that the Canadian government (Minister Oliver in particular) have raised the profile of their lobbying against the proposed implementing measures of the

fuel quality directive, with a series of visits to European capitals including Brussels. EUDEL said that the impact assessment is still to be finalized and reported that a stockholders meeting took place in Brussels on April 15<sup>th</sup>; where the Canadian authorities were given ample space. Several Member States Embassies in Ottawa reported that they were contacted in the last few days by the Canadian government for a forceful lobbying on the FQD implementation measures.

- **EU's WTO challenge to the local content requirements in the Feed-in-tariff (FIT) program under Ontario's Green Energy Act** – EUDEL reported that on 6 May the WTO Appellate Body dismissed Canada's appeal of the WTO Panel decision thereby confirming that the local content requirements of Ontario's FIT program breached WTO rules. EUDEL also distributed a copy of the European commission's Press release reacting to this decision. Under WTO rules, the Appellate body report will be adopted within 30 days, following which Canada should present in a further month's time its plan to implement the ruling.
- **Canadian dairy developments** – EUDEL reported that the Canadian Dairy Commission has established a new Special milk class for domestic shredded mozzarella cheese in bags of 2.27 kg or more to be used by restaurants only on fresh pizzas. This Special milk class will come into force on 1 June. The class will, in effect, provide a CDN \$25 million/year subsidy to pizza restaurants and is designed to make Canadian mozzarella more competitive against imports of so-called "pizza kits" from the US. In this context, the Dairy Farmers of Canada (DFC) are also challenging in the Canadian International Trade Tribunal a Canada Customs ruling that these imported pizza kits can enter into Canada duty-free. The DFC alleges that, since these pizza kits can be composed of 80% mozzarella and 20% sausage, they should be classified instead 'dairy' and thereby subject to Canada's highly-protective dairy import regime.

## **9. Next ECR meeting**

The next ECR meeting will take place on June 4<sup>th</sup> and will be followed by light lunch offered by the EU Delegation.