



ECR MEETING, Tuesday, 11 January 2011

Attendance: all Member States, except Bulgaria, Cyprus, Luxembourg, Malta and Slovakia

MINUTES

1. Adoption of the agenda: Agenda adopted without modification

2. CETA

- *Public diplomacy and communication strategy around CETA (in presence of Ana Renart, Canadian Deputy Chief Negotiator); (at 10H00).*

[DELETED]

- *Presentation on CETA by Canadian Agri-Food Trade Alliance (CAFTA) representatives (at 11H00).*

CAFTA was represented by its Executive Director, Kathleen Sullivan, and representatives of CAFTA's member organizations (Canadian Cattlemen's Association, Canola Council of Canada, Canadian Canola Growers Association, Canadian Meat Council, Canadian Pork Council, and Canada Pork International). Sullivan explained that CAFTA represents those Canadian agriculture associations that support an open trading environment for agriculture products (*COMMENT: not Canada's supply-managed agricultural commodities – dairy, poultry and eggs*). She said that about 90% of Canada's farms are trade dependent, either because they sell directly to world markets or because their prices are dependent on world prices. However, CAFTA considers the EU market "underserved" by Canadian agricultural exports, which only amount to about 10% of the amount of agriculture exports Canada sends to the USA.

For this reason CAFTA is particularly interested in an ambitious result to the CETA negotiations. This should include "full access" for Canadian beef and pork products and measures to address certain non-tariff barriers, such as GMOs. She noted that top priorities in CETA of the provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba is also agriculture market access, while this is also a major priority for Ontario and Quebec, which represent 70% of Canada's processed food production. CAFTA will also be in Brussels next week to follow that round of CETA negotiations.

Jim Everson (Canola Council of Canada) said that his organization's major interest in CETA is to achieve a "predictable, timely, science-based approach" to the authorization of new products of biotechnology. He said that Canadian canola farmers want to ensure that no new GMO seed varieties would be planted unless they are approved in the major markets, including the EU-- ideally all approvals coming at the same time.

Concerning pork, Martin Rice (Canadian Pork Council) and Jacques Pomerleau (Canada Pork International) said that their interest in CETA is full market access to the EU market and "full equivalency" with the EU animal and public health requirements. Rice added that Canada has a particular interest to export "chilled pork" to the EU.

Concerning beef, Travis Toews (Canadian Cattlemen's Association) said that his organization's particular concern were various EU non-tariff barriers, in particular the EU acceptance of Canadian methods to decontaminate the surface of meat carcasses.

Sullivan said she would provide a paper outlining CAFTA's interests in the CETA negotiations.

- *Report on the stocktaking between Minister Van Loan and Commissioner De Gucht;*

EUDEL briefed the meeting about the results of the stocktaking that took place on 15 December between Minister Van Loan and Commissioner de Gucht.

In terms of procedure, a quasi final package could be finalised by March after the exchange of the next market access offers. According to Canada this should put us in the perspective of a new political stocktaking by June and possible finalisation by the summer. [DELETED]

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Commissioner De Gucht also recalled the importance of the EU Parliament in our ratification procedure and, in this respect, the importance of having a meaningful chapter on sustainable development. [DELETED]

Finally, the Commissioner mentioned the adoption of the mandate for a renewed Framework Agreement. He underlined that there are key clauses (on human rights and weapons of mass destruction) that will have to find a place somewhere in our (EU/Canada) system of bilateral relations. [DELETED]

- *Preparation of 6th round;*

Given the fact that the exchange of market access package will take place slightly later than initially foreseen, the upcoming round will be still technical. The objective is to advance as much as possible on time-consuming files such as rules of origin etc.

Sustainable development, IPR and services will be another topics largely discussed at the upcoming session in Brussels.

3. Results of the Cancun conference

The Cancun climate change conference concluded with the adoption of a balanced package of decisions – the 'Cancun Agreements'. The Agreements set Parties on a path towards a low-emissions future and support enhanced action on climate change in the developing world.

While not yet on track to keep the world below 2 degrees Celsius and to achieve the legally binding framework needed, the Cancun Agreements are nevertheless an important step forward in that direction. They strengthen the international climate regime, both in terms of institutional governance and action, which was crucial following Copenhagen. Overall, Europe's expectations and objective of a stepwise approach have been met.

Some key elements of the Cancun Agreements:

- Acknowledgement for the first time in a formally adopted UN document that global warming must be kept below 2°C compared to the pre-industrial temperature;
- Establishment of a clear process for reviewing the adequacy of the goal of keeping global warming below 2°C, including consideration of strengthening the goal to 1.5°C, to be commenced in 2013 and concluded in 2015;
- The emission pledges of developed and developing countries, as put forward under the Copenhagen Accord have been anchored in the UN process;
- Agreement to launch a process to strengthen the transparency through Monitoring, Reporting and Verification of actions so that overall progress can be tracked more effectively;
- On finance; confirmation of the goal that developed countries will mobilise US\$ 100 billion in climate funding for developing countries annually by 2020, as expressed under the Copenhagen Accord, and establishment of a Green Climate Fund through which much of the funding will be channelled.
- The two tracks (the Kyoto Protocol and the Convention) will now continue towards the next Conference of the Parties in Durban in December 2011. This also means that the "legal form" issue remains open under the Convention, as well as a second commitment under the Kyoto Protocol,

Finally, the EU played a central role in the advancement of negotiations in Cancun. The extreme position of Russia and Japan eased pressure on the EU to accept a second commitment period and strengthened its role as an honest broker. The EU also consistently spoke with one voice throughout the Conference, which undoubtedly reinforced its credibility and strength in the negotiations.

4. Other business

- *Debriefing of the Veterinary JMC*

EUDEL distributed copies of the draft action items agreed at last month's meeting of the Joint Management Committee (JMC) under the bilateral Veterinary Agreement. EUDEL recalled that certain MS (SE, UK, France and Belgium (Presidency), along with the Council Secretariat, participated actively in this JMC under the so-called "Potsdam Group" arrangement agreed between the European Commission and the Council in this area. At this meeting, in addition to the many action items, both sides agreed on the equivalence of the other's animal health requirements for bovine embryos.

- *Settlement of the WTO beef hormones dispute*

EUDEL informed that the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the EU and Canada to resolve the WTO beef hormone dispute has been delayed, but should be signed later this month. Once this MOU is signed, the Canada will begin the legislative process to withdraw its retaliatory measures against EU products (mainly beef and pork, along with cucumbers).

- *Canadian Agriculture Minister Ritz' reception (18 January)*

EUDEL noted that Canadian Agriculture Minister Ritz has invited MS to a reception on 18 January "to acknowledge the long-standing positive and warm relations between Canada and the EU as evidenced by recent agreements on hormone-free beef, and pork as well as the ongoing Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement negotiations between Canada and the EU." EUDEL added that Minister Ritz will be in Europe the following week to participate in the events surrounding the International Green Week exhibition in Berlin, at which time he will meet with EU Agriculture Commissioner Ciolos and Health and Consumers Commissioner Dalli.