



Minutes of the ECR Meeting of April 5th, 2011

Attendance: All except, Cyprus, Estonia, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal

1. Adoption of the draft agenda

Agenda adopted without modification.

2. CETA State of Play

[DELETED]

EUDEL also mentioned that a draft final report of the SIA was available and that some Canadian newspapers had reported that this last version reduced the overall estimates of macroeconomic benefits (compared to the Joint Study). EUDEL underlined that, in spite of some reduced figures in terms of overall gain in terms of the GDP, it must be underlined that the SIA indicates CETA will provide an overall gain in welfare, GDP, total exports and wages for both parties. In addition, it must be recalled that the study is based on conservative assumptions, like the successful completion of the Doha round, the non inclusion of potential gains from investment liberalization and the non calculation of benefits from the removal of non-tariff barriers.

[DELETED]

Germany recalled that, further to the Canadian Automotive Partnership Council (CAPC) document on the automotive sector, released last March, the German Chamber of Commerce has sent letters to the Federal and Provincial authorities (Ontario and Quebec) presenting much more positive forecast of the future CETA for both economies and also discouraging them from taking a protectionist attitude.

3. Hormone-free beef: signature of EU/Canada MoU

EUDEL distributed a copy of the March 22nd WTO Joint Communication of the EU and Canada enclosing the text of the recent bilateral MoU in the context of the WTO beef hormones dispute. Under this MoU, Canada has started the process to remove all of the retaliatory trade measures it had imposed on certain EU imports since 1999 (mainly pork and beef). Denmark reported that the legislation to withdraw these measures still had to be agreed interdepartmentally and its passage may also be delayed due of the recent federal election. Consequently it could be several months before this withdrawal of measures takes effect.

4. Market Access Issues

- TISC meeting – EUDEL informed that the next TISC meeting will take place in Ottawa on April 8th and circulated the draft agenda. EUDEL will report on the TISC meeting at the next ECR meeting.
- Questionnaire on government procurement:

EUDEL has presented its analysis of replies received from MS to a questionnaire on public procurement. This questionnaire was prepared by DG TRADE Market Access directorate and sent to several other EU Delegations as well.

First of all, EUDEL has noted that only seven MS provided replies, but the other MS are encouraged to produce a contribution even if we have passed the deadline.

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5. Other Business

- Fuel Quality directive: EUDEL reported about the growing activism of the Canadian authorities, and of the Canadian Embassy in Brussels in particular, on the question of the Fuel Quality Directive. EUDEL also distributed two recent Canadian letters on this subject, one from Minister Cannon to VP Ashton and another letter from Mark Corey, ADM of Natural Resources Canada to Commissioner Hedegaard. The two letters are attached.

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- Seals: establishment of WTO panels EUDEL reported that WTO Panels had recently been established concerning both the EU and the Belgian and Dutch legislation prohibiting the importation and marketing of seal products and distributed copies of the Canadian requests for both of these Panels. Concerning the Belgian and Dutch measures, Canada indicated that it would continue with this particular Panel proceeding until the respective measures had been repealed. Canada added that it wanted both disputes heard by a single set of Panellists. Norway has also requested a WTO Panel concerning the EU legislation, while Ecuador and Iceland have also requested to be accepted as a third party to that particular dispute
- Canadian Consumer Product Safety Act: EUDEL mentioned that the European textile industry had approached the Commission about some unspecified concerns over Canada's new Consumer Products Safety Act (CPSA), which will come into force on 20 June 2011, and distributed a copy of Health Canada's web page on this legislation. EUDEL requested ECRs to check with their respective stakeholders to determine whether they have any specific concerns.
- High Level dialogue on environment: EUDEL informed that, because of the electoral campaign DG ENV decided to postpone the High Level Dialogue (planned on April 8th) to a later date, either before the summer break or during the fall.

6. Guest speaker: Campbell Clark, Deputy Bureau Chief, of the Globe and Mail

EUDEL invited Mr. Campbell Clark (CC) of the Globe and Mail to provide an overview about recent trends in Canadian trade policy, with a focus on EU/Canada trade. [DELETED]

According to CC the focus of this election is between the quest of the Conservatives for a full majority and the effort of the Liberals to impede it. International trade is not going to play a major role in the campaign, as it was the case in 1988 with the US/Canada free trade agreement.

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7. Next ECR meeting: Tuesday, May 3rd