



## **Minutes of the ECR Meeting of January 10th, 2012**

**Attendance:** All except Cyprus, Ireland, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland

### **1. Guest speaker – 10:00 – Steve Verheul , CETA Chief Negotiator**

EUDEL invited Steve Verheul (SV), Canada CETA Chief Negotiator, for a presentation on the state of play on the current CETA Negotiations.

[ DELETED ]

### **2. Priorities of the Danish Presidency during the 1st semester of 2012**

The DK representative made a presentation on the Programme of the DK presidency during the first semester 2012 on the basis of the attached PowerPoint presentation.

### **3. ECR meeting**

EUDEL invited MS to have a discussion on ways to improve the functionality and effectiveness of the ECR meetings. EUDEL recalled that, although EU Embassies in Ottawa have fairly limited resources to do in depth economic and trade analysis in a large spectrum of issues, it is a fact that, as a whole, all EU Embassies, if taken together, can muster a fairly large team of trade and economic counsellors. The challenge is to pull such resources together in a way to get a real added value in terms of visibility, analysis and reporting which can be then shared among all the participants.

In that spirit, and in order to improve the ECR functionality, EUDEL proposed to focus on some new ideas, which have to be practical and pragmatic, namely:

1. Production by the ECR of an annual report covering key aspects and developments of the Canadian economy, trade policy, financial and industrial sectors. This first annual report would cover events in 2012 and should be finalised by year's end. It has to be a joint effort with burden sharing among ECR members. The idea is that, on a voluntary basis, certain MS take responsibility for drafting some parts of this report. For its part, EUDEL said that it would volunteer to draft chapters on trade policy (including IPR), agriculture and fishery sectors and environment. EUDEL would also be responsible for collating the various contributions and for producing the final draft. In order to plan activities and contributions in advance it is essential that those MS who want to take a responsibility in this exercise manifest their intentions by February/March at the latest. Then they will take a commitment to

provide their contributions by November 2012 in order to be able to have a draft report by December and finally adopted at the beginning of January next year.

2. Organise outside activities such as field visits and participation (as a group) to trade events in the Ottawa/Montreal area. Such activities in particular will be useful to increase EU visibility as such. Furthermore, it would be good to continue to invite Canadian guest speakers from representative Canadian business and institutions. EUDEL invited MS to make proposals for potential guest speakers.

As regards field visits, EUDEL said that it had contacts with Bombardier in order to prepare a visit to their production facilities near Montreal probably by March/April.

3. A third area of action could be in compiling a "directory" of the EU presence on the Canadian territory, specifically in terms of economic and trade activities. EUDEL said that, given the specific CETA context, and in the perspective of its implementation, it would be very useful to have a clearer picture of the network of the MS presence on the Canadian territory (Trade Commissioners, Consuls General, Honorary Consuls, Chambers of Commerce, etc.). The advantage of having a single picture (census/radiography) of the EU presence in Canada could be useful for the following reasons:

i) provide a better idea of the overall presence of EU MS on the vast Canadian territory; ii) provide EUDEL with a comprehensive list of contacts in the case of the organisation of official visits to Provinces and EU-related conferences or seminars; iii) increase EU visibility in the Provinces and diffuse information about the role of the EU Delegation to Canada; iv) keep the identified entities up-dated on the CETA negotiations and raise their awareness on the challenges for the implementation period; v) provide to the identified entities EU information and promotional material.

EUDEL said that in order to complete this directory it will be necessary that each MS agrees to provide EUDEL with the relevant information about their own presence on the territory.

The meeting welcomed the three proposals and showed availability to pursue them forward.

On the annual report, Italy volunteered to take responsibility for a chapter on macroeconomic policy and financial issues and said that, if necessary, it could be available to assume a coordination role in case other MS wanted to contribute on the same topics. B, NL, D, supported the idea of the annual report. Hun said that it would be useful if the annual report could be integrated with some ad hoc contributions on specific issues (e.g. supply management). D also underlined the importance of EU visibility / public diplomacy (activities with school and universities) and the need to improve the inter-linkages between the web-sites of the EU MS and the EUDEL in Ottawa.

Given the positive reaction by MS, EUDEL suggested the following actions:

1. The question of the annual report will be discussed again at the ECR in February. On that occasion MS will be expected to come forward with areas they are willing to cover for the ECR annual report;
2. EUDEL will send a template to MS for the provision of contact information of EU economic and trade offices on the Canadian territory. A first picture of the EU network in Canada could be discussed already in February

#### **4. Climate Change**

EUDEL resumed the conclusion of the Durban Conference on climate change and circulated the official UN notification of Canada's withdrawal from the Kyoto Protocol.

#### **5. EU-Canada Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA)**

EUDEL provided a brief state of play on SPA negotiations: Next week (January 17-18), there will be the third round of SPA/Framework Agreement negotiations. Previous ones took place on September 26-27 in Ottawa and November 23-24 in Brussels. Good progress on the main text with the aim of concluding it quickly. [ **DELETED** ]

Draft text has been distributed to Capitals before the holiday break, in order to have comments ahead of the next round (deadline 12 January). A debrief with the Missions here in Ottawa is foreseen for Friday, January 20<sup>th</sup>.

#### **6. Other business**

- EUDEL introduced to the group and welcomed Mr Mario Martinec of the Croatian Embassy, who will attend the ECR meetings as observer.
- JCC and HLCC meeting (19 January 2012) - EUDEL distributed the agendas of the two meetings (already circulated at COTRA) and recalled the MS are invited to attend as observers the JCC meeting. MS participation is instead excluded from the HLCC meeting.
- Ontario Green Energy Act – WTO panel: EUDEL informed that the EU has requested the establishment of a panel and that the point will be discussed in the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) on January 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Mutual recognition of technical standards for biomass boilers -- Austria raised the issue of the lack of recognition by most Canadian provinces of EU standards for biomass boilers and requested that this concern be raised by EU negotiators in the CETA. He added that British Columbia had recently recognized these EU standards, but this recognition has not expanded beyond BC. COM said it would inform the EU CETA negotiators of this concern and this recent development.

#### **7. Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place on February 7<sup>th</sup> at 10.00 am.