



Minutes of the ECR Meeting of June 7th, 2011

Attendance: All except Cyprus, Hungary, Latvia, Luxemburg, Malta and Slovakia

1. Adoption of the draft agenda

Agenda adopted without modification.

1. New Harper government and new International Trade Minister: exchange of views

EUDEL briefly presented the profile of Ed Fast, the new Minister of International Trade.

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2. Speech of the Throne: comments

EUDEL presented the highlights of the Speech, which included confirmation of the 2012 timeline for the conclusion of CETA and the 2013 timeline for the conclusion of trade talks with India. The Governor General also mentioned the reintroduction of a copyright reform bill and perimeter security talks with the US. He restated the government's support for the supply management system and announced the end of the Canadian Wheat Board's monopoly. Finally, he mentioned that the government would move forward in creating a new national securities regulator, and that it would continue to pursue a "principled" foreign policy.

EUDEL also presented the Budget, tabled on June 6 in the House of Commons. It was virtually identical to the March 22 budget, with the exception of: (1) a \$2.2bn payment to Quebec for the harmonization of its sales tax regime, (2) the end of political party subsidies, and (3) a promise to eliminate the budget deficit by 2014-2015.

Member States (in particular B, NL, D, E, I) discussed the possibility of having a presentation about the main points of the budget, and specifically about the details surrounding the deficit-cutting plans. Inviting a Bank of Canada or a Ministry of Finance representative was proposed. Given the Member States' proposals, the EUDEL also welcomed any sharing of their analysis of the budget.

3. CETA up-date

EUDEL presented the current state of play of the CETA negotiations. Overall, there has not been much change since the last ECR. The offers are still to be discussed in TPC, and it is hoped that they will be ready and exchanged before the 8th round. This will be held in Brussels from 11th – 15th July 2011.

EUDEL also provided a brief summary of a high level meeting held at the margins of the G8 Summit in Deauville, FR between Presidents Barroso and van Rompuy and Prime Minister Harper. [**DELETED**]

4. Discussion on ECR functioning

As about one year ago the EUDEL took over the chairmanship of ECR meetings following the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, EUDEL proposed to have an exchange of views about the current functioning of the ECR and discuss possible ways to improve it. In particular, EUDEL expressed the view that the ECR could provide further added value by increasing proactive participation from Member States.

Member States generally voiced their satisfaction with the EUDEL's stewardship of the ECR meetings, and commended the ECA team for its professionalism in chairing the meetings. The meeting discussed at length proposals from various Member States (B, D, E, NL, S, I, A) to derive further added value from the ECR meetings. Some suggestions that received support are the following:

- having Member States propose speakers for the ECR,
- engaging in joint outreach activities and do more external activities together "as a team" (ex. trips to Bank of Canada, CBSA facility at Ottawa airport, or visit of industrial facilities in Montreal or Toronto),
- having presentations at the ECR by Member States on specific sectors (ex. Agri-food, telecommunications etc.),
- Pooling local contacts in a central database hosted by the EUDEL.

The basic idea is that contributions from MS should tap from their existing contacts and resources, without creating additional work. It was also agreed that, in order to have some planning for Member States contribution at future ECR meetings, contributions should be identified and planned ideally two months in advance.

Finally, for the forthcoming meetings, Belgium proposed to find a guest speaker to discuss the federal budget at the July ECR. Italy volunteered to make a presentation on the agri-food sector at the September meeting.

5. Debriefings:

- *Fuel quality directive (FQD): stakeholders' consultation held in Brussels on 27 May 2011* EUDEL provided the highlights of the meeting that brought together Member States' representatives, Canadian and Norwegian representatives, and NGOs and industry members to discuss the FQD. The Canadian expert,

Paul Khanna from Natural Resources Canada, presented Canada's position that the oil sands should not be differentiated from other sources of crude, that Canada is being discriminated against and that Canada is being penalized for being transparent. EUDEL will provide Member States with copies of the recent correspondence on the FQD between the Canadian authorities and the European Commissioners.

- *Mission of Ambassador Brinkmann to Manitoba and Saskatchewan*
EUDEL shared the outcome of the Official Visit to the Prairie Provinces. During the 3-day trip, Ambassador Brinkmann visited Winnipeg, Saskatoon and Regina. He met with honorary consuls, who mainly brought forward consular issues, problems caused by differences between technical standards, and the question of non-recognition of European diplomas and credentials.

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6. Others business

- Japan – Canada WTO dispute regarding Ontario Green Act: Japan has requested the formation of a dispute resolution panel. EU has requested to be a 3rd party.
- E-Coli outbreak in the EU: the CFIA has imposed "enhanced controls" on all imports of tomatoes, lettuce and cucumbers from the EU until further notice, pending clarification on the source of the outbreak. Member States should report to the EUDEL any cases of exporters having problems.
- Canada and the Kyoto Protocol: at this time, the article circulated represents only press speculation on the chances of Canada's full withdrawal

7. Next Meeting

The next ECR meeting will take place on Tuesday, July 5th.
A light lunch will be offered at the end of the meeting by the EUDEL to the participants.