



## **Minutes of the ECR Meeting of October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

**Attendance:** All except Cyprus, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal and Slovakia

### **1. CETA up-date**

EUDEL confirmed that the 9<sup>th</sup> round of CETA talks will take place in Ottawa the week of 17 October. Discussions are still ongoing in Brussels between the Commission services and Member States in order to finalise the services and investment offer, which should be exchanged before the beginning of the round.

EUDEL informed that CERT will organise a reception on Tuesday the 18<sup>th</sup> (Member States are invited) while a debriefing for MS will be held by the EU chief negotiator on Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup> in the afternoon.

### **2. New Copyright bill**

EUDEL recalled that last week the Canadian government reintroduced proposed legislation for the reform of the copyright legislation, Bill C-11. This Bill is the exact copy of Bill C-32 introduced during the previous Parliamentary session. The Canadian government has stated that by introducing the same text it will help to speed up the approval process.

#### **▪ Signature of ACTA**

EUDEL also reported that on the 1<sup>st</sup> October the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA) was signed in Japan by Canada, United States, Australia, Japan, Morocco, New Zealand, Singapore, and South Korea. The EU still needs to pass an enabling legislation in order to be able to sign the Treaty. ACTA creates a new legal framework including border enforcement measures for more efficient IPR protection.

### **3. Fraser Institute Study on health care cost in Canada**

In the context of the Canadian debate on health care costs (an issue indirectly related to the CETA negotiations on pharmaceutical patents), the Fraser Institute has just published a study which indicates that the cost of patented drugs is not a major factor to explain the increasing rate of government healthcare spending in Canada.. In particular, the study – which supports the position of brand-name pharmaceutical companies - highlights that patented prescription drugs account for only 5.2% of the

total annual government spending on health care in Canada in 2010. The study is available at the following link:

<http://www.fraserinstitute.org/research-news/display.aspx?id=16646>

#### **4. Debriefings**

- ***Sweden-Canada roundtable on International Trade***

Sweden provided a debriefing about the roundtable organised by the Embassy of Sweden in Ottawa and DFAIT on September 20<sup>th</sup> about the current trends in international trade.

Minister Fast and the Swedish Trade Minister, Ms Bjorling, attended the opening ceremony and the official lunch. Min. Fast confirmed that CETA is his number one priority, while India and other potential Asian countries come second. Min Fast expressed concern for the Buy America Provisions in Obama's Jobs Act and, in light of that, underlined how important it is for Canada to diversify its export markets. Min. Bjorling underlined her strong commitment to free trade and to CETA and underlined that CETA will help to put "the bar high" for other FTAs. Business representatives from Canada and Sweden attended the roundtable.

- ***Visit of UK Prime Minister Cameron: discussion on trade***

UK reported about the visit of PM Cameron to Canada on 22 September. With respect to trade, both countries expressed strong backing for free trade and expressed support for the speedy conclusion of the EU/Canada CETA negotiations in 2012.

- ***EU/Canada Framework Agreement – First round of negotiations***

EUDEL recalled that a full debriefing about the first round of EU/Canada negotiations for a new Framework Agreement (FA) was given by the EU Chief negotiator to EU HoMs last week. EUDEL said that the FA negotiations should proceed at a rather quick pace. EU and Canada do not have fundamental divergences on the content but they have still to find a common approach. In any case, the timing of the FA negotiations should not interfere with the conclusion and ratification of the CETA negotiations.

- ***NAFO Annual meeting***

EU DEL gave a short debrief on the results of the Annual Meeting of NAFO (Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization), which took place in Halifax from 19 – 23 September and distributed a copy of the NAFO and Canadian press releases issued following the meeting. At this meeting, NAFO established a Working Group to address the over 50 recommendations to improve the Organization by an independent Performance Review Panel. For the next year, this Working Group will establish an Action Plan to address these recommendations, for adoption at next year's Annual Meeting. EUDEL said that most of the fish stocks in the NAFO area continue to be in poor shape. Consequently NAFO decided either to maintain the moratoria or quotas from the previous year or have slightly

decreased quotas (e.g. cod, redfish, shrimp and white hake). For Greenland halibut, the quota was increased in line with a Harvest Control Rule agreed at the previous Annual Meeting.

- **Official visit of EU Head of Delegation to New Brunswick**

EUDEL gave a short debrief of this official visit that took place in Fredericton on 29 September. The visit included meetings with the Premier, the Minister of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries, the Lieutenant Governor and New Brunswick's trade representative to the CETA negotiations. The main subjects discussed were CETA and the current economic crisis in the Eurozone.

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## **5. Other business**

- ***Joint Science and Technology Coordination Committee (JSTCC) meeting***

EUDEL informed that the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the EU/Canada JSTTC is taking place in Ottawa this October 4<sup>th</sup>. EUDEL will organise an ad hoc debriefing for Member States on October 5<sup>th</sup> at the EU Delegation.

- ***High Level Dialogue on Environment***

EUDEL informed that the announce HLD on environment will take place in Ottawa on October 25<sup>th</sup>. The EU side will be represented by Mr Karl Falkenberg, Director General at DG Environment.

- ***Visit of the International Trade (INTA) Committee of the EU Parliament to Canada***

EUDEL informed that a visit of the EP INTA Committee will take place during the first week of November. The Committee will travel to Ottawa and Toronto and focus primarily on the CETA context. Apart from the political agenda (Meetings with Minister Fast, with the International Trade Committee of the House of Commons and meeting with Provincial authorities), the Committee will meet with business and union representatives, civil society organisations, academia, etc. A meeting with MS HoMs could take place in Ottawa on November 2<sup>nd</sup> (tbc).

Austria inquired about the possibility to extend the bilateral Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) to biomass boilers. EUDEL replied that the MRA has not been working very well for some time, but would check as to the possibility of addressing the concern through it or in the context of CETA.

## **6. Presentation on Shale gas**

Upon initiative of the Embassy of Poland, Mr George Eynon and Paul Ferensowicz of the Energy Resources Conservation Board (ERCB) of Alberta made a presentation on ERCB and the exploitation of shale gas. ERCB is an independent agency of the

Government of Alberta, which regulates development of the Province's oil and gas natural resources. The main conclusions were that any resources, including shale gas, if properly extracted guarantee respect of strict conformity rules, including environmental provisions.

## **7. Next ECR Meeting**

Due to the visit of the INTA Committee of the European Parliament during the first week of November, the next ECR meeting will be postponed exceptionally to **Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup> at 10.00.**

In terms of activities for the November ECR, Poland proposed to share information about the forthcoming G20 Summit (3 and 4 November 2011). EUDEL agreed to try to organize such a presentation with possible contributions from G20 participating MS.