



Minutes of the ECR Meeting of February 5th, 2013

Attendance: All except Bulgaria, Cyprus, Estonia, Malta, Slovenia

1. CETA Update

EUDEL informed that the CETA ministerial meeting is confirmed on February 6 and 7 in Ottawa. Both Agriculture Commissioner D. Ciolos and Trade Commissioner K. De Gucht will be in town. The objective is to try to make progress and if possible to reach a breakthrough in the negotiations.

Either Commissioner de Gucht or the EU Chief Trade negotiator will debrief MS about the outcome of the talks. As the programme is still uncertain, MS will be informed at short notice about the precise date and time of the debriefing.

2. Canadian Trade Policy Developments

EUDEL reported that International Trade Minister Fast participated with Minister Baird (Foreign Affairs), Flaherty (Finance) and Paradis (Industry) at the World Economic Forum in Davos (23 - 27 January) "to promote Canada as an investment destination of choice". Minister Fast also participated at an informal WTO ministerial in the margins of the Davos meeting. After Davos, Minister Fast led a 5-day trade mission to Nigeria and Ghana (27 January - 1 February).

3. Adoption of the 2012 ECR Annual Report

EUDEL distributed the final draft of the 2012 ECR Annual Report (attached) and expressed its appreciation to all ECRs for their contribution to this Report.

4. 2013 ECR Annual Report – Table of contents and contributions

EUDEL distributed the draft table of contents for the 2013 ECR Annual Report (attached). The only proposed change from the contents of the 2012 Report is the addition of the subject of "High Tech" in the chapter entitled "Developments in producing sectors". At the 9 April 2013 ECR meeting EUDEL would welcome indications from Member States as to which sections of the Report they might wish to contribute. In this context, EUDEL would volunteer to contribute to the chapters on trade policy, agriculture, fisheries and ECR issues and activities. EUDEL said that he would encourage Member States to be co-drafters of a particular section. He added that the Report itself should be no longer than this year's report and should focus on what has changed during the year. Suggested additions to this year's report included a focus on Canada's competitiveness and productivity (Sweden) and issues related to Canada's workforce, including lack of skilled labour and immigration (Austria).

5. ECR Mission to Toronto

EUDEL confirmed that the ECR joint mission to Toronto will take place on March 5th. [**DELETED**] EUDEL said that, once the participants have secured their travel plan, they should inform the delegation in order to compile a precise list of participants.

EUDEL also circulated a draft programme of the visit (attached). Most activities are confirmed and the only point to be confirmed is the time of the meeting with the representatives of the Ontario government.

As regards the participation to certain events of the EU representatives in Toronto (Consuls, Trade representatives and Chambers of Commerce), EUDEL said that it would send out an invitation based on the existing list of the EU trade entities in Toronto (see also point 6), plus any other entity that MS would like to add.

6. Update of the list of EU Trade representatives and Chambers of Commerce in Canada

EUDEL distributed its current list of EU trade-related entities in Ontario (attached) and requested Member States to provide updates to the list. EUDEL said that an update list would be particularly useful to inform those EU trade-related entities in Toronto about the upcoming ECR Mission to Toronto in March. Later in the year EUDEL will ask Member states to update the list of EU trade-related entities in the remaining parts of Canada.

7. Debrief on TISC meeting

EUDEL distributed the final agenda of the meeting and gave a very short debriefing of some of the highlights of the EU-Canada Trade and Investment Sub-Committee (TISC) held on 28 January in Brussels. The Canadian side was led by Robert Brookfield (Director, Technical Barriers and Regulations division, DFAIT) and the EU side was led by Philipp Dupuis (Deputy Head of Unit, US and Canada, DG TRADE). EUDEL added that it was open to debrief in more detail the discussion under any particular TISC agenda item to any interested Member State after the ECR meeting.

8. Next ECR meeting

The ECR meeting in March will be replaced by the joint ECR mission to Toronto. The next ECR meeting in Ottawa will take place on April 2nd.

Guest speaker – Peter Clark, Partner with Grey, Clark, Shih and Associates Ltd

Mr Clark is a well known consultant on international trade matters. His remarks focussed on the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) free trade negotiations and were based on the attached PowerPoint presentation. He noted that the TPP started in 2005 with only 4 members (Brunei, Chile, New Zealand and Singapore), but has since grown to 11 members (plus Australia, Canada, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, USA and Vietnam), with the recent addition of Mexico and Canada, and may increase this participation with Japan and, possibly, Thailand. [**DELETED**]

The TPP has had 15 negotiating rounds to date -- the latest being in Auckland, New Zealand last December. The next round is in Singapore in March 2013. [**DELETED**]

For Canada, the major motivation to enter into the TPP is defensive -- to ensure that it has the same preferential access as the US to the other TPP participants, particularly Japan (if it ever joined the TPP). In this context, market access for beef and pork are major offensive interests for Canada. Canada is also looking for "bridges" to the Pacific as much as possible. However TPP will also effectively be a renegotiation of the NAFTA -- a NAFTA +. Canada will continue to have defensive concerns such as pharmaceutical patents, copyright, supply-management, foreign investment and culture. Clark added that the last major free trade agreement that Canada has negotiated was the 1987 Canada-US Free Trade Agreement (which preceded NAFTA -- NAFTA was a defensive agreement to ensure that it was at the same preferential access to the US market as Mexico). Consequently Canada needs to reach a deal for its own credibility.

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