



## **Minutes of the ECR Meeting of September 13, 2011**

**Attendance:** All except Bulgaria, Cyprus, Hungary, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Portugal and Slovakia

### **1. Adoption of the draft agenda**

Agenda adopted without modification.

### **2. CETA update**

EUDEL recalled that the 8<sup>th</sup> round of CETA talks took place in Brussels last July and that a debriefing of MS was held in Ottawa on July 19<sup>th</sup>. Also, a new "state of play" after round 8 was circulated at the end of July.

[ **DELETED** ] Overall, negotiations are progressing well and a good number of chapters may be concluded before the end of the year. An agreement on the global package should be possible early in 2012.

While EU and Canadian negotiators continue to analyze the offers on goods and public procurement exchanged in July, the two sides are preparing the exchange of offers on services and investment. On the EU side, the Commission is expecting MS reaction to the proposed offer on services by September 30<sup>th</sup> at the latest. The idea is to exchange offers at the beginning of October, before the 9th round, which will take place in Ottawa the week of 17 October.

With respect to investment protection, EUDEL announced that on 12 September the EU Council adopted a mandate authorizing the Commission to negotiate investment protection with Canada (the same mandate covers also negotiations with India and Singapore).

[ **DELETED** ]

### **3. Beef Hormones- withdrawal of Canadian retaliatory measures**

EU DEL distributed a copy of the Canadian legislation passed on 29 July 2011 repealing 100% tariffs on certain agricultural products from the EU (pork, beef, cucumbers, certain meat-based food preparations). These 100% tariffs had been imposed in 1999 as retaliatory measures in the context of the WTO beef hormones dispute and are now repealed pursuant to the March 2011 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) reached between the EU and Canada to resolve this dispute.

#### **4. Green Energy Act – EU's WTO complaint**

EU DEL explained the background of the EU's WTO complaint against the Ontario's feed-in-tariff (FIT; so called Green Energy Act). [ **DELETED** ]

The request for consultations was sent to the Canadian mission to the WTO on the 11th August. Consultations took place at the beginning of September. It is still not clear whether EU would request a composition of a panel as Japan did. The composition of a panel can be requested as of 11 October. [ **DELETED** ]

[ **DELETED** ]

#### **5. Debriefings**

- ***European Parliament's Delegation for relations with Canada visit to Canada (Toronto and Winnipeg, 17-22 July)***

EU DEL gave a short debrief of the mission of certain Members of the European Parliament's Delegation for relations with Canada to Canada (Toronto and Winnipeg) headed by its Chair, Philip Bradbourne, from 17 to 22 July. Also joining the group for part of the mission was MEP Iannis Kasoulides, who was recently appointed Rapporteur for the EP's Foreign Relations Committee's consideration of possible amendments to the EU-Canada Framework Agreement. In Toronto, the MEPs met with Ontario's Minister of Economic Development and Trade, Sandra Pupatello, Ontario Deputy Ministers of Agriculture, Finance and Citizenship and Immigration, Canada-US border officials and representatives of the federal Department of Citizenship and Immigration. In Winnipeg, the group met the Manitoba Deputy Premier, Rosann Wowchuk, the Manitoba Agriculture Minister, Stan Struthers, the Executive Director of the Internal Trade Secretariat, various agriculture groups (CAFTA), representatives of the port of Churchill (in Churchill, which is attempting to redefine itself as Canada's "Arctic Gateway") and the President of CentrePort (foreign trade zone connected with the Winnipeg airport).

EU Del also reported that MEP Kasoulides left the group mid-week to have preliminary discussions in Ottawa with DFAIT officials on the upcoming negotiations to amend the EU-Canada Framework Agreement.

#### **6. Upcoming events**

- ***Annual Meeting of NAFO (Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization) – (Halifax, 19 – 23 September)***

EU DEL. said that the major issue for the upcoming NAFO Annual Meeting was how the organization will address the over 50 recommendations to improve the Organization by an independent Performance Review Panel. The meeting will also make decisions on next year's catch quotas for the various fish stocks under its jurisdiction (mainly ground fish stocks that straddle Canada's 200-mile limit), as well as reviewing NAFO's various surveillance and control measures. EU DEL will give a short debrief on the main results of this meeting at the next ECR meeting.

- ***The JSTCC (Joint Science & Technology Cooperation Committee) will be meeting in Ottawa from Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup>***

The first day of meetings will include high level meetings for Deputy Director General Anneli Pauli to discuss strategic-level Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) issues with senior Canadian government officials and heads of the main research agencies and Granting Councils. In parallel, thematic cooperation meetings (e.g. health, food and agriculture, ICT, space, energy, etc.) will take place for the rest of the EC delegation.

The actual JSTCC meeting will take place on the second day and will offer the opportunity to translate the previous day's discussions into the thematic areas, which will report and discuss their specific activities to the plenary.

The Head of Delegation will host a reception on 3 October for all JSTCC participants and there will also be a debriefing for Member States Embassies following the end of the meetings during that same week.

## **7. Other Business**

[ DELETED ]

### ***Activities for November ECR***

For future ECRs, EUDEL invited MS to make proposals for issues to be discussed and bring along a speaker or presentation. DK and other MS expressed interest in having a meeting with the new Canadian chief negotiator for the IPR chapter. EUDEL said that November is going to be a very critical moment in the CETA negotiations and therefore the opportunity to invite a Canadian negotiator will have to be carefully assessed. EUDEL will have to consider this possibility with the EU negotiators in Brussels.

DE informed about a joint demarche by UK, FR and DE vis-à-vis Foreign Affairs Canada to remind the Canadian side of the position taken by these member states with regard to the Canadian NORDREGs.

## **8. "The Agri-Food sector in Canada: the Italian Perspective".**

Presentation by Maria Michela Laroccia of the Embassy of Italy. See the attached PowerPoint presentation.

## **9. Next ECR Meeting**

The next ECR meeting will take place on Tuesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>.

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