



## Minutes of the ECR Meeting of June 4th, 2013

**Attendance:** All except Bulgaria, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Slovakia

### 1. CETA update

EUDEL recalled that intense CETA negotiations are still going on in Brussels. Current meetings are focusing on non-agricultural issues. [ **DELETED** ]

The Canadian media during the last days have anticipated that an agreement could be reached by mid-June in conjunction with the G8 in Northern Ireland, where a meeting between PM Harper and President Barroso is scheduled. EUDEL said that the mid-June deadline is a possibility but the EU will not rush to conclude an agreement if the substance is not in line with the Commission's landing zone paper and the positions agreed within the Council.

On the occasion of recent high level visits to Canada of EU leaders (President of Estonia, German Foreign Minister), the Canadian authorities have always reiterated their strong support to CETA. Ireland (EU Presidency) also signaled that they perceived strong lobbying from Canadian stakeholders to conclude CETA in June.

### 2. Canada Trade Policy – developments

EUDEL highlighted the following developments concerning Canada's trade policy for the previous month:

- PM Harper's participation at the Pacific Alliance meeting in Cali, Columbia -- At that meeting, Harper said it was too early for Canada to seek full membership (Canada is currently an observer in this organization). It was noted that full membership would likely entail Canada granting, *inter alia*, visa-free status to all Pacific Alliance members, as well as eliminating tariffs on supply-managed commodities, such as dairy, which would be difficult. A discussion ensued concerning whether it had been expected for Canada to become a Pacific Alliance member. Spain mentioned that its Prime Minister met with Harper at the meeting and added that Harper's attendance was intended to signal strong political support for the organization only. It was noted that over 100 Canadian officials accompanied Harper at the meeting.
- The conclusion of the 17<sup>th</sup> round of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations in Lima, Peru.
- During the recent visit of the Chilean President to Canada, it was announced that Chile will open up its market to Canadian beef. Although the access granted to Canadian beef is expected to be modest (CDN \$5 to 10 million annually), it indicates the political importance of opening up foreign markets to Canadian beef for the current Canadian government.

- Canada's strong reaction against the US' proposed changes intended to put the US in compliance with the WTO Panel decision on the US' current country-of-origin-labelling (COOL) legislation.
- Participation of Minister Fast in the OECD and WTO Ministerial meetings in Paris.

### **3. ECR mission to Alberta - update**

EUDEL circulated a tentative programme of the suggested trip to Alberta scheduled for October 2013. [ **DELETED** ]

EUDEL said that while this opportunity should be taken into account, EUDEL will also enquire about the cost of an Ottawa - Calgary - Fort MacMurray flight with Air Canada.

[ **DELETED** ]

### **4. 2013 Annual Report – Final table of contents**

EUDEL circulated the final table of contents for the 2013 ECR Annual report, with indication of the MS volunteering for the drafting of the various chapters. EUDEL recalled that, as for last year, contributions by MS will be expected between end of November and the beginning of December.

### **5. PEI Visit (=Economic forum)**

EUDEL gave a short debrief of its Head of Delegation official visit to the province of PEI on 13 May. The visit included meetings with the Premier, Ministers of Innovation, Agriculture and Forestry, and Fisheries, Aquaculture and Rural Development, and the Lieutenant Governor. The main subject discussed was CETA, particularly relating to items of interest to the province (e.g. exports of seafood products and potatoes). [ **DELETED** ]

After the official visit, the EU Head of Delegation participated in the Annual Economic Forum held in PEI.

### **6. Seals – follow-up to Arctic Council**

EUDEL said that the EU's understanding is that the EU will be given full Observer status in the Arctic Council once the concerns of Canada are satisfied with regard to the implementation of appropriate arrangements to enable Canadian indigenous communities to benefit from the exemption provided for in the EU legislation restricting trade in seal products within the EU. To this aim, the EU has offered to meet with Canada shortly at experts' level and has requested from Canada to provide information on any existing domestic system to monitor and track the harvesting and movement of seal products.

### **7. AOB**

**EU's WTO challenge to the local content requirements in the Feed-in-tariff (FIT) program under Ontario's Green Energy Act** – EUDEL said that the Ontario Minister of Energy was reported to have announced recently that Ontario intends to comply with the WTO ruling on its domestic content requirements of the current feed-in-tariff (FIT)

programme of Ontario's Green Energy Act, with legislation in place to that effect by early 2014.

## **8. Guest speaker**

Guest speaker was Mr. Pedro Antunes, Director at the Conference Board of Canada. He made a presentation entitled "Waiting for America", focusing on the latest trends in the US and the global economy and how these affect the economic outlook for Canada, with a focus on Canada's fiscal situation. The presentation was followed by a Q&A period.

His power point presentation is attached.

## **9. Next ECR Meeting**

The next ECR meeting will take place on July 2<sup>nd</sup>.

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