



Minutes of the ECR Meeting of May 3rd, 2011

Attendance: All except Cyprus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Malta and Slovakia

1. Adoption of the draft agenda

Agenda adopted without modification.

2. CETA – State of Play

[**DELETED**] A detailed report about the round was provided by Mr Petriccione, EU Chief Negotiator, and Mr Dupuis, Deputy EU Chief Negotiator, to the EU HoMs and the EU trade counsellors respectively.

As regards the finalisation of the market access offers, EUDEL recalled that important work is still ongoing in the TPC, particularly for the service sector and the labour mobility chapter. At this stage it is clear that if we want to respect the deadline of end 2011 for the completion of the negotiations, it is essential that market access offers are exchanged before the 8th round. EUDEL said that this is still possible and recalled that this same message was conveyed by Commissioner de Gucht to the European Parliament on April 12th.

As usual after each round, EUDEL distributed an up-dated state of play after the 7th round of negotiations (attached). EUDEL recalled that the document is exclusively for internal use.

The 8th round of talks will take place in Brussels the week of 11 July.

3. Trade and Investment Sub-Committee (TISC) meeting – debriefing

[**DELETED**]

4. Federal elections results- exchange of views

The meeting exchanged views about the recent results of the Canadian federal elections, which have given the Conservative Party an absolute majority in the Parliament and made the NDP the main Opposition Party.

Harper's majority should be good news for CETA talks. Negotiations will proceed as before given that the re-elected Tories are the most favourable to the idea of free trade. [**DELETED**]

However, it is important to note the exponential rise of the NDP in the newly elected Parliament - a left-wing party, which was the only one that spoke against a trade deal with the EU and against free trade in general. Jack Layton as Opposition leader will probably make these voices heard and stimulate more critical public debate on the subject.

[DELETED]

5. Other business

EUDEL said that, after one year from the implementation of the Lisbon Treaty in Canada and the holding of ECR meetings under EU Chairmanship, EUDEL wished to discuss with MS if there are ways to improve ECR efficacy and, if needed, how to reinforce MS participation and contributions to such meetings. EUDEL anticipated that one specific point of the next month's agenda will be dedicated to this subject.

6. Guest Speaker: Cameron Walter, Senior Adviser at the Canada Border Security Agency (CBSA)

Mr Walter made a presentation (attached) on the agency's activities and its cooperation with the European Union. The agency is responsible for both human and goods traffic control. CBSA has its agents in eight different EU capitals, including Brussels. It cooperates closely with DG TAXUD, Frontex, OLAF etc. Two bilateral agreements: one on Customs Cooperation and Mutual Assistance and the one on Passenger Name Record Data are the framework of the bilateral cooperation.

CBSA acknowledged that it is aware of problems relating to IPR enforcement at Canadian borders and promised to provide relevant contacts to the Delegation. CBSA also understands that there is a problematic situation regarding lack of visa free travel for three EU MS. However, CBSA only enforces the immigration law.

To sum up, this comprehensive presentation was also a great opportunity to establish contacts between MS representatives and CBSA.

7. Next ECR meeting: June 7th, 2011