



Minutes of the ECR Meeting of July 5th, 2011

Attendance: All except Bulgaria, Cyprus, Estonia, France, Hungary, Luxembourg, Malta, Slovakia, Slovenia

1. Adoption of the draft agenda

Agenda adopted without modification.

2. Guest Speaker – Brian Lee Crowley (on Canadian Budget)

The guest speaker, Brian Lee Crowley, is head of the think tank called the MacDonald Laurier Institute. He has worked for the Canadian Department of Finance as economist-in-residence, and previously worked for EUDEL at the time when it was the Delegation of the European Communities. He made a presentation to the meeting about the history of Canadian public spending over the last 50 years, and provided insight into the current budgetary situation at the federal and provincial levels. He posited that the current state of finances and the current federal government strategy to combat rising deficits and debt point to a recurrence of past failures with respect to controlling public spending. He answered questions from Member States regarding the split between provincial and federal budgetary powers, the types of strategies used successfully to rein in spending in the 1990s and early 2000s, and about the relevance of the Canadian experience to other large democracies. A copy of Mr. Crowley's presentation is attached.

3. Programme of the Polish Presidency for the 2nd semester 2011

Poland provided to the meeting a comprehensive overview of the objectives of the Polish Presidency. It has grouped its plan under three headings: Growing Europe, Secure Europe and Open Europe.

Poland plans to promote the economic growth of Europe by supporting Commission initiatives for internal market reform. It will also promote progress towards a higher degree of efficient cross border e-commerce, a common EU sales contract and greater budget efficiency.

Poland pledges to promote the security of Europe by supporting crisis management initiatives and groups, and by lending its backing to the work of the High Representative for Foreign Affairs.

Finally, Poland would like to share the EU's success with the rest of the world. It would like to open Europe by concluding the accession negotiations with Croatia, and advancing talks with Turkey and Iceland. It also places importance on dealing with the issue of Belarus, and promoting closer ties with Russia. It would also like to set up association agreements with Ukraine and Moldova. Poland also wants to set up a high-level conference dealing with reform in North Africa and the wider Arab region in light of the recent developments in those regions. In September, the Presidency will convene the Eastern Partnership Summit in Warsaw. Finally, Poland would like to see the successful conclusion of CETA negotiations in 2011.

4. CETA up-date

EUDEL provided an update about the upcoming developments in the CETA negotiations. The next round will take place in Brussels from July 11-15, and a partial exchange of offers on goods and public procurement should take place before the round. [DELETED]

EUDEL also discussed the European Parliament resolution of 8 June 2011 (available at the following link: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P7-TA-2011-0257+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&language=EN>) regarding EU-Canada trade relations, particularly the CETA negotiations. Following procedure, the European Commission will issue a response to the resolution, which is currently being drafted by DG TRADE. Despite the increased role of the Parliament regarding the approval of any EU international trade agreements under the new rules of the Lisbon Treaty, the resolution of the Parliament does not represent, as such, a mandate for negotiations. The Council of Ministers alone can give a negotiating mandate to the Commission.

At the request of MS, EUDEL confirmed that there is still significant discussion regarding rules of origin. Regarding the end of negotiations, it is still anticipated that the 9th round in Ottawa in October could be the final full round. There is no subsequent full round planned.

EUDEL is planning to hold a debriefing on the 8th negotiating round on July 19th for Member States. More details will follow.

5. LSE/TMX merger – state of play

EUDEL provided an update on the LSE/TMX merger. Faced with insufficient TMX shareholder support for the merger, the TMX announced on 29 June the cancellation of its merger agreement with the LSE. The TMX will continue to consider the takeover offer from the rival Maple Group.

[DELETED]

The Maple bid for TMX might now go ahead; however, any further progress will have to go through the screening of the Canadian competition authorities, as well as four provincial security regulatory bodies (Ontario, Quebec, British Columbia and Alberta).

[DELETED]

6. Organics – EU Canada equivalency

EUDEL announced that Canada and the EU had reached an agreement on the equivalency of the other's organic production and control standards. Consequently any EU-certified organic product exported to Canada should also automatically be recognized as organic under the Canadian system. In this context, EUDEL requested that Member States report any problems with their respective organic exports to Canada.

7. Other business

- Public consultation on public procurement

The EU is conducting an open consultation until August 2 2011 regarding foreign access to the EU procurement markets. MS Embassies and stakeholders may provide a contribution. The consultation is accessible online at the following link:

http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/consultations/2011/access_EU_public_procurement_en.htm

[DELETED]

- Visits of the European Parliament to Canada

The EP is sending two delegations to Canada, during the week of 18 July and one in early November. The July delegation is made up of MEPs from the EP's Delegation for relations with Canada headed by Philip Bradbourn, along with the recently-appointed rapporteur of the EP's Foreign Affairs Committee (AFET) for the revised Framework Agreement, Mr Ioannis Kasoulides. This group will travel to Toronto, Winnipeg and Churchill. The EP delegation will meet with senior government officials, mainly related to agriculture and immigration. The November visit will be from the International Trade Committee (INTA), with a focus on CETA.

- High Level Dialogue (HLD) on Environment

EUDEL indicated to the meeting that the HLD, postponed because of the Canadian election, will likely take place the week of October 24th 2011. This will be confirmed at a later date.

- Joint Science and Technology Coordination Committee (JSTCC) meeting

The JSTCC meeting will take place on October 3-4 2011 in Ottawa.

- Position of Canada on the chrysotile asbestos in the Rotterdam Convention

[DELETED]

- Activities for October ECR

Poland proposed to make a presentation to the meeting regarding shale gas. The meeting accepted this proposal.

- Good-bye to ECR colleagues leaving Ottawa

EUDEL and the rest of the meeting gave its best wishes and heartfelt thanks to the departing economic and commercial counsellors. These include RO, ES, AT, NL, DK, Slovenia and FR.

7. Next ECR Meeting

The next ECR meeting will take place on Tuesday, September 13th.
