



## Minutes of the ECR Meeting of February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011

**Attendance:** All except, Cyprus, Luxembourg and Malta

### 1. Adoption of the draft agenda

The agenda (attached) was adopted without changes.

### 2. CETA State of Play

- *Debriefing by Steve Verheul, Canadian Chief negotiator*

EUDEL invited Steve Verheul (SV), Canadian Chief CETA negotiator, to debrief MS about the 6<sup>th</sup> round of CETA negotiations that took place in Brussels from the 17 to 21<sup>st</sup> of January.

SV remarked that a continued positive atmosphere characterized the 6<sup>th</sup> round of negotiations. Inevitably, more complex issues are coming to the fore but ambitions and expectations remain high. The work of the round focused on the text, with further improvements on market access, regulatory standards, geographical indications, government procurement and dispute settlement. Approximately 8 out of the 22 areas of negotiations can be considered as finalized. Even though it was not possible to exchange offers, he said that the negotiators have already a good idea of where the key differences are.

He underlined that this is a delicate phase in the negotiations. The debate on the EU side (TPC) for the negative list on services is causing some delay to the initially planned schedule. However, if offers are exchanged by March, before the 7<sup>th</sup> round of negotiations, we'll still be on track for completing the negotiations before the end of the year.

SV said that, once the offers are exchanged, there will be immediate agreement on 90% of their content. The remaining 10% will require a good effort to narrow down the differences.

[ DELETED ]

After this presentation MS have had opportunity to put questions.

[ DELETED ]

- *State of play after the 6<sup>th</sup> round*

EUDEL completed the large overview given by SV by recalling that now the major issue is with MS representatives in the TPC for the adoption of the negative list approach on services and the finalization of the market access offer. If MS give their green light on the negative list quickly, there will be time for the Commission and MS to discuss the market access package between mid-February and mid-March and then present the offer to the Canadian side before the round in April.

[ DELETED ]

Finally, EUDEL informed that Mr. Leffler, Managing Director at EEAS, will be on mission in Ottawa the week of 14 February. His main mission goal will be to discuss with Canada about the new Framework Agreement. Mr. Leffler will meet and debrief EU Ambassadors at the HOMs meeting on 16 February.

### **3. Programme of the Hungarian presidency**

Hungary gave a brief overview of the priorities of the Hungarian Presidency. In particular, these priorities focus on 4 areas, namely growth, jobs and social inclusion; a stronger Europe – building on the foundations and protecting the future; a Union close to its citizens; and enlarging responsibly and engaging globally. Attached is a PowerPoint presentation outlining the Hungarian Presidencies priorities in more detail. The web site of the Hungarian Presidency can also be found at the following link: <http://www.eu2011.hu/presidency> .

### **4. Presentation by the Centre for Trade Policy and Law (CTPL) on the results of its simulated CETA negotiations**

Faculty and students from the CTPL gave a debriefing of the results of their recent simulation of the CETA negotiations. For the purposes of the simulation, the student participants were divided into two negotiating teams, one representing Canada and the other European Union and were asked to come out with a negotiated text within two weeks. The results of the simulation were presented in the attached PowerPoint presentation.

### **5. Other business**

- EUDEL gave a short debriefing of the recent meeting between EU Ambassador Brinkmann and Canadian Agriculture Minister Ritz. [ DELETED ]
- Netherlands asked whether the next EU-Canada Energy Dialogue was to take place later this month. EUDEL replied that the next meeting has not yet been scheduled, but will check.
- Meeting of the Joint Committee under the bilateral Air Services Agreement will meet in Ottawa on 9 February.
- Hungary mentioned Canada's participation in the recent World Economic Forum and the informal WTO ministerial meeting in Davos, Switzerland.

### **6. Date of next ECR Meeting: Tuesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011.**