

11 January 2017

To members of the European Parliament

CETA - EP Plenary Vote February 2017

We, members of the Alliance for a Competitive European Industry*, are writing to you to express the strong support of the European manufacturing industry for the EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA). CETA will strengthen the trade and investment relations between two of the world's most advanced economies and like-minded partners, for the benefit of growth and jobs.

The European manufacturing industry, represented by the ACEI, calls on you to endorse this highly ambitious and forward-looking trade agreement at your February 2017 plenary session.

The importance of CETA can hardly be overestimated:

- The **elimination of customs duties** on almost all products and **reduced technical barriers** to trade will, according to the European Commission, help increase trade in goods and services between the EU and Canada by nearly 25% and lift EU output by about €12 billion a year. Tariff savings for EU exporters are estimated to be approximately €470 Mio per year for industrial goods.
- CETA will create major opportunities across all areas of the economy, including for sectors highly dominated by **small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)** like Food or Clothing, with the elimination of duties at entry into force for most products.
- In **Public Procurement** the EU has obtained an unprecedented result that includes commitments for the Canadian Federal level but also the Sub-Federal level including the Provinces.
- In **Intellectual Property Rights** the EU is setting new standards with Canada that are similar to our own, both for innovative industries, like pharma, and also for more traditional industries like food, with the recognition of a considerable number of Geographical Indications (GIs).
- CETA is a progressive agreement that effectively responds to 21st century challenges and concerns. It reaffirms the States' right to regulate and their ability to make public policy choices in key areas like Public Services and it promotes the EU social and environmental standards.

What is at stake is not only the agreement between the EU and Canada but the credibility of the EU as a reliable negotiating partner. Our companies need a level playing field in the EU but also in third countries. Trade is subject to severe public scrutiny and CETA has become the test case. If there is an agreement that can stand public scrutiny and be judged on its own merits, that is CETA. So let's make CETA a reality in 2017!

Yours sincerely,



Marco Mensink
Chair
(Cefic Director General)



Markus J. Beyrer
Co-chair
(BusinessEurope Director General)

**The Alliance for a Competitive European Industry (ACEI) has been formed in 2004 by 11 major European industry sector associations and BusinessEurope. The common objective of its members is to promote the competitiveness of European industry on a global scale. The Alliance therefore encourages a policy and regulatory framework that supports that objective, reinforcing and complementing BusinessEurope work in this respect by providing a sectoral perspective.*

