

EU statement at the Trade Policy Review of Canada, 15 & 17 June 2015

Statement by Ambassador Angelos Pangratis

I would first like to welcome the Delegation of Canada led by Mr. Cameron MacKay (Director General – Trade Negotiations). I would also like to thank the WTO Secretariat and the Canadian Government for their reports which form the basis of our discussion today. Let me extend my appreciation to H.E. Mr. Remigi Winzap (Switzerland), for getting us started today with his remarks.

Canada has an open and strong economy which created about 740 000 jobs during the review period. This is a success story. Canada's strategy to diversify its exports and support the internationalisation of its SMEs will be of much interest to many of us. Canada's steady increases in imports and exports, both in goods and services, have contributed to increasing its participation in the world economy. As noted by the Secretariat, Canada's trade however remains very dependent on the situation in the United States' market.

Canada is a strategic partner for the EU. Economic relations between the EU and Canada are characterized by robust two-way trade and investment flows. As far as trade in goods is concerned, the EU is Canada's second most important partner.

We are going through an exciting period as the EU and Canada finalised last August 2014 the negotiations of the EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA). We are both preparing the ratification by our parliaments. Together with other trading partners, the EU and Canada have supported and promoted economic openness as a normative standard in international relations and in this Organisation. We remain convinced that CETA will enable further achievements at the multilateral level. As already underlined by Canada in its report,



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CETA addresses subjects and sectors not yet covered by the WTO. In that sense, CETA allows us to apply new rules beyond the WTO *acquis*, which is unique. We hope this will over time profit this organisation too.

The EU wishes to convey its appreciation for the constructive role played by Canada in reaching a successful outcome at the WTO's Ninth Ministerial Conference in Bali and the commitment it expresses in its report to a timely implementation. The EU would like to acknowledge the role of Ambassador Jonathan Fried and his team for their tireless efforts in advancing the work in this organisation.

The EU has seized the opportunity of the review to present few written questions to Canada. The EU hopes that some of the questions it raised will be of interest to most of the membership. In fact, it may well be that we were not the only ones to raise the following issues:

- The ongoing review of the inter-provinces agreement and the impact on Canada's implementation of its international commitments;
- The Investment Canada Act;
- The perspectives for the liquor boards.
- The legislative measures that Canada intends to take to implement the Trade Facilitation Agreement;

The EU very much welcomes that Canada used the alternative timeframe for its review, which allows all of us to get replies to our written questions in advance to the meeting and to make the meeting more effective.

The EU wishes Canada a very fruitful TPR.