



THE CANADIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
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CANADIAN COUNCIL  
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CONSEIL CANADIEN  
DES CHEFS D'ENTREPRISE



Canadian  
Manufacturers &  
Exporters  
Manufacturiers et  
Exportateurs du  
Canada

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper, P.C., M.P.  
Government of Canada  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

August 29, 2008

Dear Prime Minister,

We write to urge your support for a wide-ranging trade and investment agreement between Canada and the European Union (EU). The joint Economic Partnership Study launched at the November 2007 EU-Canada Summit projects that bilateral goods and services liberalization would create annual trade and investment gains of more than \$40 billion.

We believe that the upcoming Canada-EU Summit in Montreal presents a unique opportunity to open a new chapter in transatlantic relations. Our support for an early commencement of negotiations on a comprehensive Canada-EU trade and investment agreement follows months of consultations and detailed discussions with our member companies. These firms are collectively responsible for millions of jobs, administer trillions of dollars in assets and are responsible for the majority of Canadian exports and investment, between Europe and Canada.

At a recent meeting in Brussels with European and Canadian business representatives, European Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson expressed support for a comprehensive trade and investment liberalization package and instructed his officials to complete a scoping exercise to determine potential negotiating parameters in advance of the Canada-EU Summit. A number of Europe's largest trade associations, including BUSINESS EUROPE and EUROCHAMBERS, support a free trade agreement with Canada, and have called on the European Commission to put forth a strong effort to obtain better market access in both directions.

The Canadian business community strongly supports a comprehensive and ambitious agreement between Canada and the EU to build a more prosperous transatlantic relationship. We are looking to the government of Canada to show leadership on this worthy, indeed long-overdue, objective.

Canada and the EU should and can work together both to strengthen bilateral cooperation and show collective leadership in advancing common transatlantic and multilateral interests. At this critical juncture we urge you to ensure that this golden opportunity does not slip through Canada's fingers. Business leaders from Canada and Europe stand ready to fully support your leadership on this issue.

Prime Minister, even in these uncertain political times, where other important matters demand your attention, we look to you to ensure a positive outcome on a bilateral trade and investment initiative at the October 2008 Canada-EU Summit.

Sincerely,

The Honourable Roy MacLaren  
Chairman  
Canada Europe Roundtable for Business

The Honourable Perrin Beatty  
President & CEO  
Canadian Chamber of Commerce

Thomas d'Aquino  
Chief Executive and President  
Canadian Council of Chief Executives

Jayson Myers  
President & CEO  
Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters

cc:

The Honourable David Emerson, M.P. Minister of Foreign Affairs  
The Honourable Jim Prentice, M.P. Minister of Industry  
The Honourable Michael Fortier, M.P. Minister of International Trade  
The Honourable Jean Charest, P.C. Premier, Government of Quebec and Chair, Council of the Federation