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CONSEIL CANADIEN
DES CHEFS D'ENTREPRISE



Canadian
Manufacturers &
Exporters

Manufacturiers et
Exportateurs du
Canada

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***BUSINESS LEADERS STRONGLY ENDORSE
BOLD ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP WITH EUROPE***

Business leaders representing all sectors of the economy applaud the decisions of the Canadian Government and European Union to seek official mandates to launch negotiations towards a comprehensive economic agreement at the May 6th EU-Canada Summit in Prague.

“We support the efforts made by Canada and the EU to date, and we strongly urge them to take whatever steps are required to conclude a fair and balanced agreement,” said co-Chairs Roy MacLaren and Bill Emmott of the Canada Europe Roundtable for Business (CERT), Thomas d’Aquino, Chief Executive and President of the Canadian Council of Chief Executives (CCCE), Perrin Beatty, President & CEO of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce and Jayson Myers, President & CEO of Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters (CME).

The business leaders praised government leadership in urging closer Canada-EU economic ties, including deeper cooperation on bilateral trade and investment.

A recent statement of support announced by Canada’s premiers through the Council of the Federation for negotiations between Canada and the European Union urges the development of a new and modern economic partnership to improve the economic well-being of our respective societies.

The Canadian federal government has committed to a process that enables all provinces and territories to participate directly in the negotiations. Consequently, after a final agreement, provinces and territories will take the necessary measures to ensure the implementation of any commitments they, as individual provinces and territories, undertake through the negotiation process. This heralds a new era in Canadian trade policy and the emergence of Canada as a major actor in international trade.

An ambitious agreement between Canada and the EU would send a strong positive signal to markets at a time of growing international economic uncertainty, and would boost transatlantic economic growth.

While bilateral trade and investment continues to increase (total trade amounts to over \$100 billion in goods and services while investment stocks are greater than \$250 billion), Canada and the EU are showing political leadership towards the creation of a bilateral institutional framework to accelerate the growth of trade and other commercial opportunities.

Such a bilateral EU-Canada partnership should include: the elimination of remaining trade barriers (tariff and non-tariff barriers); broad and comprehensive coverage of all services sectors in the EU and Canada;

broader reciprocal access to public procurement; measures to ensure mobility of skilled personnel and service providers as well as mutual recognition of professional qualifications; stronger intellectual property protection; a comprehensive air services liberalization accord; a sustainable energy and environment agreement to boost technological development; an ambitious regulatory cooperation agreement with a commitment to action in priority sectors; accelerated convergence in competition policy and where appropriate taxation matters; and a comprehensive dispute resolution system.

To improve the competitiveness of European and Canadian enterprises, business leaders support increased private sector and academic cooperation in science and technology. They also encourage much closer cooperation between Canada and the EU in international climate change negotiations to ensure that all major players, including emerging economies, join the fight against global warming.

CERT, CCCE, The Canadian Chamber of Commerce and the CME will continue to press these issues with their government leaders ahead of the EU-Canada Summit on May 6th and will support efforts to strengthen and deepen transatlantic economic ties.

The Canada Europe Roundtable for Business (www.canada-europe.org) – Founded in 1999, The Canada Europe Roundtable for Business (CERT) is the leading association dedicated to creating business opportunities between Canada and the European Union. In 2007, CERT launched a campaign to generate CEO-level support for a greater level of ambition for the bilateral trade and investment relationship. More than 100 Canadian and European chief executives signed the Declaration in support of a Canada-EU Trade and Investment Agreement.

Canadian Council of Chief Executives (www.ceocouncil.ca) – Founded in 1976, the Canadian Council of Chief Executives is a non-partisan organization composed of 150 chief executives and leading entrepreneurs from all major sectors and regions of Canada. Member chief executives lead companies that collectively administer \$3.5 trillion in assets, have annual revenues of more than \$800 billion, and are responsible for the vast majority of Canada's exports, investment, research and development, and training.

Canadian Chamber of Commerce (www.chamber.ca) – Founded in 1925, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce is the national leader in public policy advocacy on business issues with a goal to foster a strong competitive economic environment that benefits Canada and all Canadians.

Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters (www.cme-mec.ca) – Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters (CME) is Canada's leading trade and industry association and the voice of manufacturing and global business in Canada. The association directly represents more than 10,000 leading companies nationwide. More than 85% of CME's members are small and medium-sized enterprises. As Canada's leading business network, CME, through various initiatives including the establishment of the Canadian Manufacturing Coalition, touches more than 100,000 companies from coast to coast, engaged in manufacturing, global business and service-related industries. CME's membership network accounts for an estimated 82% of total manufacturing production and 90% of Canada's exports.

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