



Mr Paul Magnette
Ministre-Président
Gouvernement Wallon
25-27 rue Mazy
BE – 5100 Namur
BELGIQUE

13 October 2016

Dear Minister-President,

EU – Canada agreement

We are writing to you on behalf of all BusinessEurope members, which are the leading employers and business organisations across Europe.

Our members have raised deep concerns about the confusing Belgian situation in respect to the signature of the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) with Canada.

As it now seems, all other European countries will be in favour of the agreement. Belgium would be the only cause of a possible failure for the best trade agreement Europe has ever negotiated. Canada shares our values and all possible sensitivities have now been carefully addressed in the agreement.

A possible failure would

- put European trade policy, one of the main pillars for growth and job creation in Europe, in agony with the risk that no country might be willing to enter serious trade negotiations with Europe in the foreseeable future;
- be a major blow for the European project at the very wrong moment;
- shed a disastrous light on the credibility of Belgium as a reliable partner and as an attractive business location.

For us it is difficult, if not impossible, to understand that such enormous negative consequences can be neglected due to short-sighted political considerations.

The European business community therefore respectfully but strongly urges you to live up to your responsibility and to find a positive solution.

Yours sincerely,

Emma Marcegaglia
President

Markus J. Beyrer
Director General