



CC(17)1253:1 – AP/mvs

To the attention of all the
members of the European
Parliament

Brussels, 10th February 2017

Re: CETA agreement

Dear Member of the European Parliament,

The European Business and farming communities hope for an endorsement of the CETA agreement by the European Parliament on the 15th of February. The European Commission and the Canadian authorities reached this trade deal in 2014. In the meantime, the international context has changed dramatically. In these turbulent times, the European Union needs to send a clear message to the world that its single market remains open to the global economy.

The EU agri-food chain provides 43 million jobs and the non-financial business economy accounts for 136 million jobs: these are the main engines of the positive EU trade balance of 60 billion euros. We are convinced that many more opportunities will be opened through trade agreements such as CETA. In turn, these opportunities are expected to generate more investments supporting high-skilled jobs in Europe.

CETA has achieved very positive results in a number of the EU's key requests. For instance, in what concerns food safety the agreement establishes a definitive recognition of the European standards of production, in particular the hormone-free beef. In public procurement, European companies, including SMEs, will now have an improved access to public tenders in Canada both at central and sub-central level. We believe the results achieved in the intellectual property rights chapter and more particularly on Geographical indications (GIs) are crucial for the EU strategy to ensure a broader recognition of the GIs scheme and the ability of the European farmers to get a better return from the market. Likewise, the elimination of tariffs as high as 18% in sectors mainly composed of SMEs like Textiles and the simplification of customs procedures will improve significantly the performance of European SMEs on the Canadian market.

Measures taken by the European Commission to alleviate market price impact and the overall economic balance of the deal should address concerns in certain parts of the farming community. In the long term, we are convinced that EU economic operators will have a reinforced competitive position by promoting high-quality products.

We thank you in advance for taking our views into consideration.

Markus J. Beyrer
Director General of BusinessEurope

Pekka Pesonen
Secretary General of Copa-Cogeca