



Mr Donald Tusk
President
European Council
Rue de la Loi 175
B-1048 Brussels
Belgium

18 July 2016

Dear President,

The Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) between the European Union and Canada is the best trade and investment deal concluded so far by the EU and should be implemented as soon as possible.

The CETA is a very comprehensive agreement that provides for ambitious and balanced market access in a number of areas including public procurement, services and tariffs. It is forward-looking in important fields such as intellectual property rights and regulatory cooperation and sets an important precedent on Geographical Indications (GIs). The European business community believes that this agreement marks a great success of the EU's trade policy and expects it will deliver economic benefits on both sides of the Atlantic that will be felt by enterprises, workers and consumers.

Businesses have been highly engaged in supporting the negotiations since their inception and followed the subsequent process that has already taken 7 years. We should not lose more time to implement an agreement that is balanced and extremely positive for Europe.

BusinessEurope believes that a swift ratification of the agreement is necessary to ensure that all the expected benefits can translate into reality within the shortest delay possible. Therefore, we call for the signature of the agreement during the EU-Canada Summit that has been tentatively scheduled for 27 October 2016.

The European public debate around trade has taken on a new dimension that it didn't have at the time negotiations started. Implementing CETA is important not only for the EU-Canada commercial relationship, but for the EU's trade policy altogether. If the provisional application of CETA is delayed, the signal sent to European companies and other trading partners would be that the EU is no longer able to deliver on one of its key policy areas, one that is critical for boosting economic growth and job creation.

BusinessEurope looks forward to a swift approval by the Council of Ministers and the reaffirmation that the European trade and investment policy delivers concrete results.

This is an important signal in a time of so many challenges and uncertainties. We now need to boost confidence and stability in our companies and our citizens.

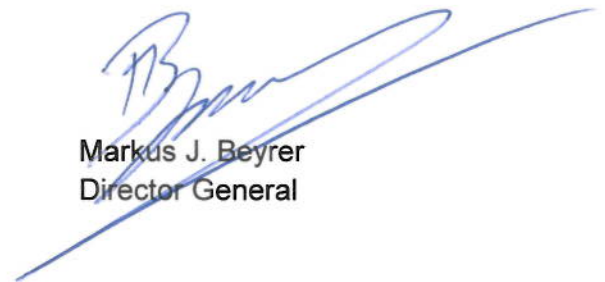
The EU now faces many daunting challenges. Its credibility, both internally and externally, is at severe risk of disintegrating. The acceptance of CETA will therefore be a litmus test of the Union's external credibility as a trade negotiating partner. BusinessEurope, as a representative of EU and other European business in general, cannot emphasize this point strongly enough.

I thank you in advance for taking our views into consideration and remain at your disposal should you wish to discuss this further.

Yours sincerely,



Emma Marcegaglia
President



Markus J. Beyrer
Director General