



Canadian
Manufacturers &
Exporters

Manufacturiers et
Exportateurs du
Canada



**OTTAWA, CANADA
IMMEDIATE
OCTOBER 19, 2010**

BUSINESS LEADERS STRONGLY ENDORSE BOLD ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP WITH EUROPE

Business leaders representing all sectors of the economy support the efforts of the Canadian Government and European Union to negotiate a Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA).

“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), Perrin Beatty, President & CEO of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, Jayson Myers, President & CEO of Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters (CME) and Joy Nott, President of the Canadian Association of Importers and Exporters (I.E.Canada).

The business leaders praised government leadership in developing closer Canada-EU economic ties and rejecting protectionism in challenging economic times. The CETA is projected to create annual trade and investment gains of more than \$40 billion.

According to Perrin Beatty “the CETA negotiations come at a critical time against the backdrop of a fragile global economic recovery, when it is imperative for Canadian companies to diversify and intensify their trade and investment with major global markets. While economic ties with the United States will remain central for Canada, to remain competitive, innovate and prosper, the businesses that make our economy thrive know they must pursue overseas commercial and investment opportunities with new ambition. The European Union represents a huge wealth of such opportunities. An ambitious CETA will expand market access for Canadian resources, agricultural products, manufactured goods and services, enhance two-way investment, and better plug Canada into transatlantic and global value chains.”

Canada and the EU are showing political leadership towards the creation of a bilateral institutional framework that will accelerate the growth of trade and other commercial opportunities. The Canadian federal government in particular 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.

Bilateral trade and investment continues to increase, with total trade amounting to more than \$100 billion in goods and services, while investment stocks are greater than \$350 billion.

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 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.

The Canadian Association of Importers and Exporters Inc., now known as I.E.Canada, was founded in 1932 and federally incorporated as a non-profit organization. The association represents private sector importers and exporters of virtually every commodity and related service and has over 800 members across Canada and abroad. I.E.Canada is committed to providing services to develop and enhance the international trade activity and profitability of its membership.

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