

Give a voice to all economic sectors in trade negotiations with India

Background

The Canadian government wants to enter into a free trade agreement with India to gain access to a large market for Canadian natural resources, manufactured products and services. We are in favour of this openness toward the global market, but it is essential that all Canadian economic sectors have a voice at the table.

An example of such a sector is Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) sector. ICT firms are a major employer in Canada. This growing sector supports well-paying jobs and generates billions of dollars in revenues. During the last few years, this sector's development has put Canada at the forefront within North American scene, but it has also encountered stiff competition from offshore providers, including from India.

The Canadian government specifies that an agreement with India would benefit exports of forest products, minerals and manufacturing products as well as Canadian science and biotechnology companies.

However, we are concerned that the supporting committee does not represent all those large components of the Canadian economy which would be most affected by Indian competition.

Recommendation

That the Canadian government gives a significant place to the every economic sector within the negotiating committees in order to ensure that the industry-specific problems are heard and dealt with appropriately.

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The International Affairs Committee supports this resolution.