

March 12, 2013

The Honourable Ed Fast
Minister of International Trade
Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada
125 Sussex Drive
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G2

Dear Minister:

We are writing on behalf of our member companies, which collectively employ millions of Canadians, represent every industrial sector of the economy, are located in every region of the country, administer trillions of dollars in assets, and are responsible for most of Canada's exports and investment flows to the European Union.

Together, our associations support policies that improve our members' ability to compete in domestic and global markets, provide Canadian workers with well-paying jobs, and generate the wealth that sustains Canadians' living standards.

We support your ongoing efforts to open new export opportunities for Canadian businesses in the world's most important economies. You are pursuing an ambitious trade agenda, and it is our view that finalizing a Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) with the European Union should continue to be your top priority.

From the start, we have urged the Government of Canada to pursue an agreement that is both ambitious and comprehensive, addresses the key issues raised by our members, and opens new opportunities for Canadian industry and workers. We are confident that a comprehensive final agreement between Canada and the European Union will generate significant benefits for the Canadian economy.

The EU is home to more than 500 million consumers. It is the world's largest importing market for goods and is already Canada's second-largest trade and investment partner. We are hopeful that this agreement will give Canadian businesses a competitive edge by providing preferential access to goods and services markets in the EU.

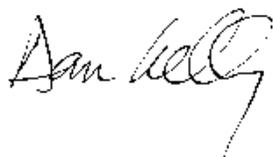
Beyond that, we expect that the CETA will set the standard for 21st century trade agreements and will solidify the foundation upon which Canada will forge future trade and economic partnerships. It will provide Canadian companies with a "first-mover advantage" and ensure that Canada plays a global leadership role in advancing open markets.

As associations representing businesses of all sizes with significant interests in the EU market, you can count on our full support as you seek to finalize a balanced agreement that benefits Canadian businesses, workers and communities in all regions and sectors of Canada's economy.

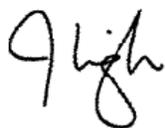
Sincerely,



The Honourable Perrin Beatty
President & CEO
Canadian Chamber of Commerce



Dan Kelly
President and CEO
Canadian Federation of Independent Business



Jason Langrish
Executive Director
Canada Europe Roundtable for Business



The Honourable John Manley
President & CEO
Canadian Council of Chief Executives



Jayson Myers
President & CEO
Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters



Joy Nott
President and CEO
I.E. Canada, Canadian Association of Importers and Exporters