



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 8 May 2013**

**9206/13**

**PE-L 36  
INST 222  
COTRA 13**

**“I” ITEM NOTE**

---

from : Working Party on General Affairs  
to : Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 2)

---

No. prev. doc. : doc. 8686/13 PE-L 31 INST 196 COTRA 9  
doc. 9030/13 PE-L 33 INST 214 COTRA 11

---

Subject: Draft reply to the letter of Mr Brok, Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the European Parliament : Request for access in accordance with Article 218(10) TFEU to the negotiating directives for the negotiations of the Strategic Partnership Agreement with Canada and the initialled agreement, as soon as negotiations have been concluded  
= Approval of a reply\*

---

1. In a letter dated 10 April 2013, the Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the European Parliament asked the Council to grant Parliament access to the negotiating directives for the negotiations of the Strategic Partnership Agreement with Canada and the initialled agreement, as soon as negotiations have been concluded.
2. The Working Party on General Affairs considered the matter at its meeting on 3 May and prepared a draft reply.
3. The Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to approve the attached letter, in accordance with the Council's Rules of Procedure (Article 19(7)(k)).

---

\* Item on which a procedural decision may be adopted by the Coreper pursuant to Article 19 (7)(k) of the Council's Rules of Procedure.

**Council of the European Union**

Brussels, 2013

DRAFT REPLY

Mr Elmar Brok  
Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs  
European Parliament  
Rue Wiertz  
BP 1047  
Brussels

Sir,

Thank you for your letter of 10 April 2013 to the President of the Council concerning a request for access to the negotiating directives and to the initialled agreement as regards the Strategic Partnership Agreement with Canada.

Since 2012 preparations have been underway on new arrangements to be put in place concerning the forwarding to and handling by the European Parliament of classified information held by the Council on matters other than those in the area of the Common Foreign and Security Policy. However, until these arrangements enter into force the current practice as set out in the letter from the chair of the Permanent Representatives Committee of 3 December 2010 to Mr Albertini, as described below, continues to apply.

The Council is pleased to inform you that it is ready to grant access to yourself as Committee Chair, the Rapporteur Ms Elisabeth Jeggle and the coordinators of the political groups to the negotiating directives as regards the Strategic Partnership Agreement with Canada.

Access will be arranged within a secure room on the Council premises. In accordance with the Council's security regulations for protecting EU classified information, it is understood that the document itself will remain in the possession of the Council, and that no subsequent direct reference to the detailed contents should be made in any public meetings.

Concerning your request to have access to the initialled agreement I would like to draw your attention to the fact that the Strategic Partnership Agreement with Canada is still under negotiation and that the Council has not been seized yet of the Commission's proposals for signature and conclusion of the agreement.

The Council will be able to comply with the obligation set out in Article 218(10) TFEU to keep the Parliament immediately and fully informed after the Commission has submitted to it the proposals for signature and conclusion of the Strategic Partnership Agreement with Canada (which should have the final version of the agreement in Annex).

Regarding the replacement of Mr Ioannis Kasoulides, the Council took good note that Ms Eleni Theocharous is the new Rapporteur on the framework agreements with New Zealand and Australia, and therefore she will be granted access to the relevant negotiating directives in accordance with the conditions set out in our previous letter to you on 28 February 2013.

For the purposes of consulting the document, the European Parliament is invited to inform the office of Mr Schiavo, Director General in the General Secretariat of the Council, of the names of the Members concerned, as well as of the dates and times they wish to come to the Council.

Yours faithfully,

R. MONTGOMERY  
Chairman of the  
Permanent Representatives Committee