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General Secretariat

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CM 3608/2/16
REV 2

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SIGNATURE

COMMUNICATION

INFORMATION

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Subject: **EARLY WARNING**
Full Powers for the signing ceremony of the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement between Canada of the one part, and the European Union and its Member States, of the other part
(ST 10972/16, ST 10973/16, ST 10973/16 ADD1-ADD15)

With reference to communication CM 3608/1/16 REV 1 of 15 September 2016, Member States are informed that the abovementioned Agreement will be adopted by the Foreign Affairs (Trade) Council in Luxembourg on 18 October 2016. The signature by the EU and Canada is envisaged to take place in Brussels on 27 October 2016, in the margins of the EU Canada Summit.

To facilitate the signing process, it is proposed that all Member States sign the Agreement beforehand. For this purpose, the Agreement will be available for Member States' Ministers, or their authorised representatives, to sign in the margins of the Foreign Affairs Council (Trade) Council and the General Affairs Council on 18 October 2016 or alternatively for Member States' Permanent Representatives to sign in the margins of Coreper II on 26 October 2016.

Member States are requested, if required*, to ensure that an instrument of Full Powers, or at least a copy thereof, authorising their plenipotentiary to sign this Agreement, is duly issued and deposited with the Council's Agreements Office¹ (for the attention of Ida Jacobsen).

¹ Council of the European Union, Agreements Office, 175 rue de la Loi, 10 LM 43, 1048 Brussels

Officials of the Council's Agreements Office will be present at the aforementioned meetings to circulate copies of the Agreement for signature.

* Full Powers are required to be issued to any plenipotentiary who is not a Head of State, Head of Government or a Minister for Foreign Affairs (see Article 7 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties). However, those Member States' Permanent Representatives who have communicated to the General Secretariat of the Council a general authorisation from their authorities to sign EU Agreements on behalf of their country are exempt from this requirement.