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PRESSE 52
PR CO 51

OUTCOME OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

3493rd Council meeting

Foreign Affairs

Trade issues

Luxembourg, 18 October 2016

President **Peter ŽIGA**
Minister for the Economy

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OTHER ITEMS APPROVED

none

- ¹
- Where declarations, conclusions or resolutions have been formally adopted by the Council, this is indicated in the heading for the item concerned and the text is placed between quotation marks.
 - Documents for which references are given in the text are available on the Council's internet site (<http://www.consilium.europa.eu>).
 - Acts adopted with statements for the Council minutes which may be released to the public are indicated by an asterisk; these statements are available on the Council's internet site or may be obtained from the Press Office.

ITEMS DEBATED

Trade agreement with Canada

The Council discussed the signature and provisional application of the comprehensive economic and trade agreement with Canada (CETA). The meeting constituted an important step in addressing the remaining issues and moving towards a common agreement.

Ministers expressed overwhelming support, with only one member state voicing concerns relating to substance. Romania and Bulgaria have also made their agreement conditional on confirmation by Canada regarding the issue of visa reciprocity. The presidency and the Commission will continue to work towards reaching a full agreement as soon as possible.

Signing CETA is a priority for the EU. It will allow for a strengthening and deepening of the EU's relations with Canada.

CETA is a progressive and modern trade agreement, which sets high standards for consumer, environmental and labour protection. It will remove more than 99% of the tariffs that are currently imposed on trade between the EU and Canada. It includes provisions on market access for goods, services, investment and government procurement, as well as on intellectual property rights, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, sustainable development, regulatory cooperation, mutual recognition, trade facilitation, cooperation on raw materials, dispute settlement and technical barriers to trade.

On 5 July 2016, the Commission proposed that the deal be signed and concluded as a "mixed" agreement. This means that on the EU side, it must be signed by both the EU and the member states, and ratified by all the relevant national and regional parliaments.

The agreement will be applied on a provisional basis only once the European Parliament has consented to its conclusion, pending ratification by all the member states. Provisional application will essentially concern the provisions of EU exclusive competence.

[Text of the EU-Canada comprehensive economic and trade agreement](#)

[Commission webpage on trade with Canada](#)

[Council website: EU trade agreements](#)

OTHER ITEMS APPROVED

none
