



Overview of the Canada-EU Summit of 21 June in Stockholm, featuring CERT press coverage (in bold)

A Canada-EU Joint Statement on the World Trade Organisation (WTO), agreed to by Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, Swedish Prime Minister Göran Persson (representing the presidency of the Council of the European Union) and President of the European Commission Romano Prodi underlines the importance of launching new WTO negotiations at the Ministerial Conference in Doha, Qatar in November.

At the Summit, Canadian Minister for International Trade Pierre Pettigrew provided the European Commissioner for Trade Pascal Lamy with the Canada-European Union Trade and Investment Relations: The Impact of Tariff Elimination study, which concludes that Canada-EU trade could increase over \$10 billion a year if tariffs were eliminated on transatlantic trade.

The EU and Canada noted the progress of the Canada-Europe Round Table for Business (CERT) in engaging further business participation from both sides of the Atlantic. The EU and Canada agree to continue encouraging the growth of the CERT and look forward to the CEO roundtable meeting in November 2001, which will include a symposium on international competition law. "We welcome the strong support for a new WTO Round expressed by CERT."

The Europe-Canada Trade Initiative (ECTI) Progress Report reviews advances made toward certain trade liberalization goals set under ECTI during the past six months. One of ECTI's accomplishments has been the involvement of ***the Canada-Europe Round Table (CERT) business grouping which former Minister for International Trade Roy MacLaren is now co-chairing.***

Minister Pettigrew, addressing to the Royal Institute of International Affairs Roundtable discussion "From Pre-Seattle to Post-Québec: Regaining the Trade Initiative" in London the day following the Summit, outlined that:

"...if there is to be a place for many voices in the debate, it must include not just those of the demonstrators on the streets or of civil society, but indeed consumers as a whole and the business community. The development of trade rules must reflect the current and future challenges faced by business. I would therefore challenge the business community on both sides of the Atlantic to engage more fully in the current debate on further trade liberalization and, in particular, on the substance of a new round. I would encourage businesses to speak out, whether in public or in the many vehicles for dialogue, including the Canada-Europe Round Table for Business (CERT)."

In a separate story, the Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters, Canada's leading business network, outlined that Europe was identified as a key market for international business opportunities by 27% of respondents to CME's 2000-2002 *Management Issues Survey*, after the United States and South America. Respondents also identified tariff reductions as the second biggest trade negotiating priority, second only to streamlined customs procedures.

The CME highlighted that:

...in recognition of the importance of European trade to its members, CME hosts the secretariat of the Canada-Europe Roundtable for Business.