



Canada Europe Round Table for Business, Summit Communiqué, 19 June 2000

In light of the upcoming EU-Canada Summit in Lisbon, the Canada Europe Roundtable for Business (CERT) actively supports the common efforts of the EU and Canada to promote further trade liberalisation. CERT fully believes in the economic and social benefits created by increased flows of information, products and services through globalised trade.

As the prime business voice to advise the Canadian government and EU institutions on bilateral and multilateral trade and investment issues, CERT's efforts enhance this trans-Atlantic relationship. In keeping with a strong commitment to promoting increased trade and investment flows between Canada and Europe, CERT calls for an early launch of a new round of comprehensive negotiations at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) as a means to fostering continued growth and job creation.

CERT is unique in that it is not an organisation, but a business-led process whereby European and Canadian member companies engage in dialogue, both with other companies and with EU and Canada government officials, in efforts to remove costly inefficiencies in trans-Atlantic trade and investment.

Part of the task of CERT is to identify problem areas and try to head off trade conflicts before they develop. In some instances, CERT favours the development of mutual recognition agreements as an effective tool in which to bring about a level playing field for international commercial transactions. In the coming months, CERT members will be looking to address issues in such areas as forestry, aluminium, beverages, telecommunications and health and pharmaceuticals.

Since its inception, CERT has supported open dialogue, nurturing business input to government policy makers. CERT's detailed proposals to the Canadian government and European institutions on issues ranging from public procurement to patent protection have generated success, including contributing to a Canada-EU Joint Statement on e-commerce in December 1999.

CERT recognises that international standards are needed to further harmonise the trans-Atlantic marketplace and ensure that consumers, employees and small businesses all benefit in the development of the globalised economy. CERT believes that every effort must be made to convince all segments of society that liberalised trade and investment improves peoples' prosperity, employment and quality of life.