



CANADA EUROPE ROUND TABLE FOR BUSINESS
FORUM SUR LE COMMERCE CANADA-EUROPE

Ottawa, 18 December 2001

Dear Minister Pettigrew / Commissioner Lamy,

As the key business channel of communication between the private sector and the EU and Canadian administrations on trade and investment liberalization, CERT has consistently voiced strong support for the European Commission and the Canadian government in their efforts to launch a new round of multilateral negotiations within the WTO. Our members welcome the apparent success of the November Doha Ministerial meeting in achieving this aim. We look forward to continued progress on CERT positions on trade and investment issues, as identified in our memoranda of June 2001, December 2000 and June 1999.

As the process continues of launching post-Doha WTO negotiations, CERT requests that the following long-standing trade, tariff and investment liberalization measures be pursued by the European Commission and the Canadian government:

- Reduction and eventual elimination of all agricultural export subsidies, with an increased commitment to national treatment under GATS;
- Negotiations of further liberalization of trade in telecommunications, financial services, industrial tariffs, technical standards barriers to trade and electronic commerce;
- Protection of trade-related intellectual property rights as a means of encouraging innovation and securing investment;
- Greater convergence of merger review procedures to lower the risks associated with cross-border mergers and acquisitions (as outlined in our 2001 CEO Round Table & Symposium report and recommendations); and,
- Increased technical assistance and capacity building to enable lesser-developed countries to fully participate in the global trading system. Trade and investment must be seen as the primary means of increasing the prosperity of all stakeholders.

CERT is convinced that consumers and society in general will benefit most when business, trade and investment proceed under WTO rules, consistently applied by the European Commission and the Canadian government.

In order to ensure the continued progress and prosperity of our economies, governments must increase their efforts to remove barriers to trans-Atlantic and global trade and investment. Now, during challenging economic times, it is more important than ever that the cooperation between business and government within CERT produce results that reinforce our economies for the benefit of all stakeholders.

Sincerely,

The Hon. Roy MacLaren, P.C.
Canadian Chair

Baron Paul De Keersmaeker
European Chair

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