British PM urges EU to pass trade deal

BY MARK DUNN, SENIOR NATIONAL REPORTER THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2012 01:06 PM EST

DAVOS, SWITZERLAND - British Prime Minister David Cameron urged his EU counterparts Thursday to move faster on a trade agreement with Canada and get a deal done by the end of the year.

Cameron is one of dozens of foreign leaders, heads of state, industry tycoons, financiers, billionaires and others attending the World Economic Forum and used his appearance to call for bolder action to resolve the eurozone debt crisis.

"Let us get some bilateral deals done. Let's get the EU trade agreements with India, with Canada, with Singapore finalized by the end of this year," he said in a speech.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper is expected to echo Cameron on the eurozone mess when he delivers a speech Thursday to the 2,600 delegates at the forum in this chic playground for the rich and famous tucked away in the Swiss Alps.

Cameron -- like many of his European peers -- is in need of new trading partners as Britain flirts with a double-dip recession.

Canadian and European trade officials have had about 10 rounds of negotiations to reach a pact and are believed to be getting closer to finalizing a deal.