

Germany says undecided whether to accept EU-Canada trade deal - RTRS

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BERLIN, July 28 (Reuters) - Germany, the European Union's economic powerhouse, has not yet decided whether to agree to an EU free trade deal with Canada, an economy ministry spokesman said on Monday, denying a newspaper report that said Berlin planned to reject it.

The Sueddeutsche Zeitung of Munich reported on Saturday that Berlin objected to clauses outlining the legal protection offered to firms investing in the 28-member bloc. (Full Story <[reuters://REALTIME/verb=NewsStory/ric=nL6N0Q10YO](https://realtime.reuters.com/verb=NewsStory/ric=nL6N0Q10YO)>)

The multi-billion-dollar free trade deal is widely seen as a template for a bigger agreement between the EU and the United States. A German official quoted by the newspaper said that if Germany rejected the deal with Canada, the one with the United States would also not come to pass.

"The negotiations are continuing - we don't have a draft yet. Once we have a draft, we'll evaluate it," economy ministry spokesman Tobias Duenow told a government news conference.

He reiterated the German government position that it is not necessary to make stipulations about protecting investors in states with developed legal systems.

Duenow added that Germany's upper and lower houses of parliament would have the ultimate say on the agreement.