
The Canadian German Chamber of Industry and Commerce reinforces its strong support for CETA

MONTREAL, March 31 /CNW Telbec/ - On March 29th, 2011 the Canadian German Chamber of Industry and Commerce Inc. (CGCIC) hosted a reception in Montreal, QC to reinforce its strong support for a Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement (CETA). The event titled "Quebec and Germany - Strong Supporters of the Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement (CETA)" was very well attended by German companies and by companies and officials from Quebec and other parts of Canada.

To strengthen its position the CGCIC had invited two experts to talk on the topic of free trade, CETA and its impact on Germany and Quebec. Both speakers emphasized the advantages of free trade as well as the importance of CETA and talked about the status and content of the negotiations as well as possible gains and challenges.

Mr. Marcus Breitschwerdt, President & CEO Mercedes-Benz Canada Inc. and Chairman of the CGCIC's board focused on the impact of CETA on companies. "In today's global economy, firms face a number of economic challenges at home and abroad. This increasingly volatile and challenging international economy demands all levels of government to nurture a pro-growth operating environment. Canada and Germany are two of the world's best jurisdictions for business and have the potential to excel within an increasingly competitive and global marketplace.", said Marcus Breitschwerdt. He encouraged the Canadian and German governments to continue to pursue policies that would further increase the ability of businesses to compete around the world, now, and in the future and especially to strongly support CETA.

Mr. Pierre Lortie, Senior Business Advisor at Fraser Milner Casgrain LLP and former President and COO of Bombardier Transportation stressed the importance of the agreement for Germany and Quebec and appealed to both countries to take action. "L'Allemagne et le Québec devront exercer un fort leadership au sein de leur "communauté". Ces deux économies seront les principaux bénéficiaires d'une telle Entente. Il est donc dans leur intérêt de faire en sorte que tous les efforts déployés à date n'aient pas été consentis en vain." noted Pierre Lortie at the end of his speech.

The negotiations between Canada and the European Union towards CETA are going into the 7th round this April. A broad based agreement is projected to benefit the Canadian economy by \$12 billion.

As the official representative of German industry here in Canada, the Canadian German Chamber of Industry and Commerce Inc. (CGCIC) is a strong supporter of Canada's and Europe's commitment to negotiate a free trade agreement.

The CGCIC is a private, non-profit organization established under federal law with the mandate to promote bilateral trade and investment between Canada and Germany.

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