



Standing Committee on International Trade (CIIT)

42nd Parliament, 1st Session

Subject Matter of Bill C-30, An Act to implement the
Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement between
Canada and the European Union and its Member States and to
provide for certain other measures

Speaking Notes for Warren Everson

Thursday, November 17, 2016, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Room 306, The Valour Building, 151 Sparks St.

Witnesses:

Business Council of Canada

- Brian Kingston, Vice-President, Policy, International and Fiscal Issues (by videoconference: Toronto, Ontario)

Canadian Cattlemen's Association

- Dan Darling, President
- John Masswohl, Director, Government and International Relations

Canadian Chamber of Commerce

- Warren Everson, Senior Vice-President, Policy

Canadian Labour Congress

Angella MacEwen, Senior Economist

Check Against Delivery

Statement

I would like to thank the committee for the opportunity to appear today representing The Canadian Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber, through our network of local chambers, represents 200,000 Canadian businesses of all sizes across the country.

Our organization has been a longstanding supporter of the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA). This is a modern agreement and an extremely positive one for the Canadian economy which relies greatly on open markets and trade.

The agreement is very timely. In the current environment of growing protectionism and division, the CETA decisively points us in the opposite direction. It is also the right

instrument to grow trade and deliver concrete economic results.

History is not typically kind to politicians, but the Chamber will nevertheless take this opportunity to give credit where credit is due. The tireless work and vision from politicians like Jean Charest and Ed Fast carried the lengthy negotiations and took us close to the mark. Since then, Chrystia Freeland has positioned Canada as a strong negotiating partner and she led the charge in overcoming the final hurdles before the signing.

Canadian businesses have been very well served by our government and our past and current trade negotiators. Indeed, we have a very high regard for Mr. Steve Verheul, our chief CETA negotiator.

Once implemented, the CETA agreement will eliminate tariffs on almost all of Canada's key exports. It is estimated that tariff elimination alone will lead to \$1.4 bn more in exports to the EU by 2023¹ than in a scenario where we had no CETA.

Yet the agreement's provisions beyond tariff reduction are perhaps its most significant elements. Freer trade in services, reduced impact of regulatory barriers, policy certainty and more flexibility in movement of skilled professionals will have a much greater impact in growing transatlantic trade and investment.

With 500 million consumers, the European Union is the world's largest single market for goods and services. As

¹ Conference Board of Canada

Canada's second largest trading partner, the CETA is a logical and needed next step.

As we prepare for implementation, Canadian businesses and government departments will need to develop ambitious strategies to take advantage of this top of class, unrivalled agreement. If there are ways in which the Chamber may partner with relevant players to do so, we stand at the ready to help make this agreement a success.

Thank you.