

## **EU-Canada Summit: businesses want trade on top of agenda**

While recognising the importance of issues such as energy, climate change, peace and security, EUROCHAMBRES and EUCOCIT jointly call on EU and Canadian political leaders to put trade and investment issues at the heart of their bilateral Summit on 5 May.

Christian D. Frayssignes, President of EUCOCIT, said: *"If our organisations were to draft the agenda of the upcoming EU-Canada Summit, we would put trade and investment issues on top. Though we are pleased that the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) negotiations are progressing, this Summit should constitute an opportunity to give an even stronger push to market-access cases."*

*"Deficiencies still exist in Canada's Intellectual Property Rights protection system,"* added Arnaldo Abruzzini, Secretary General of EUROCHAMBRES. *"Also, some EU businesses which are already legally established in Canada have problems getting hold of procurement contracts in Canada at sub-federal level, while any Canadian business that is legally established in the EU benefits from the same treatment as any other European supplier. EU business is looking for quick solutions to real problems and we can not just wait for the CETA to be implemented."*

EUROCHAMBRES and EUCOCIT have been strongly advocating for CETA negotiations and are now pleased with the offers and proposals that are on the different tables of negotiations. The 'stock-take' exercise scheduled after the October round is the next important step, which should hopefully lead to a conclusion of the agreement by the summer of 2011.

EUROCHAMBRES and EUCOCIT have recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding to institutionalise the joint work carried out in the past two years.

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**EUROCHAMBRES** – The Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry represents over 19 million enterprises in Europe – 96% of which are SMEs – through members in 45 countries and a European network of 2000 regional and local Chambers.

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**EUCOCIT** is a not for profit, volunteer association, affiliated to the European Delegation of the European Commission to Canada, in Ottawa and is dedicated to promoting bi-lateral trade and investment between Canada and the EU. EUCOCIT events and activities provide outstanding networking and marketing opportunities for companies looking to build awareness of their products and services to business leaders, decision-makers and potential buyers in Toronto and throughout Canada.

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