

Commissioner Ashton says EU-Canada trade deal would boost economic recovery - Prague, 5 May 2009

EU Trade Commissioner Catherine Ashton has said that a comprehensive economic and trade agreement between the European Union and Canada will boost the two economies as the world recovers from economic recession. The two sides will launch negotiations for an economic agreement in Prague at the EU-Canada Summit on the 6th of May. A deal, once negotiated and implemented, is expected to generate total benefits of more than EUR 20 billion per year in added trade opportunities, better value goods and services and more efficient regulation.

Speaking in Prague ahead of the EU-Canada Summit, Commissioner Ashton said: "At a time when protectionist sentiment is on the rise, it is a powerful signal that two major economies like ours can talk about opening up our markets further. Trade and investment are drivers of economic recovery, and an EU-Canada agreement will be the equivalent of a stimulus package that keeps delivering growth and jobs."

Any agreement will seek a maximum level of liberalization in trade in goods and services, but negotiations will also focus on enhancing opening and cooperation on investment, opening public procurement markets, improving the protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights, and ensuring commitments on the social and environmental aspects of trade and sustainable development.

An agreement will strengthen a relationship that is already worth some EUR 70 billion annually in trade of goods and services alone. The European Union is Canada's second-largest trading partner and its second-largest source of foreign investment (EU FDI stocks in Canada: EUR 160 bn in 2007). Canada ranks fourth in terms of foreign investment in the EU (Canadian FDI stocks in the EU: EUR108 bn in 2007).

[Joint Report](#) on the EU-Canada scoping exercise for an economic agreement