



COMPENDIUM OF CANADA'S ENGAGEMENT IN INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS AND INSTRUMENTS

Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA): Trade and Environment Chapter

SUBJECT CATEGORY:

Environmental Cooperation

TYPE OF AGREEMENT / INSTRUMENT:

Bilateral

FORM:

Legally-binding treaty

STATUS:

- Signed by Canada on October 30, 2016.
- Provisional application since September 21, 2017.

LEAD & PARTNER DEPARTMENTS:

Lead: Environment and Climate Change Canada.

Partners: Global Affairs Canada

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:**Web Links:**

- [Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement: Trade and Environment Chapter](#)
- [Canada-European Union: Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement \(CETA\)](#)

Contacts:

[ECCC Inquiry Centre](#)

COMPENDIUM EDITION:

October 2018

PLAIN LANGUAGE SUMMARY

CETA includes a substantive chapter on the environment. This chapter incorporates commitments to help ensure that trade and environmental protection are mutually supportive and reinforcing, so that Canadians can benefit not only from liberalized trade, but also from a healthy environment.

In the environment chapter, parties commit to strengthen environmental governance by agreeing to enforce domestic environmental laws and ensure the promotion of public awareness and transparency for those laws. The chapter also promotes sustainable resource management in relation to trade in forest and fish products and cooperation on trade-related environmental issues of common interest. The chapter will be overseen by the Committee on Trade and Sustainable Development, and will be composed of representatives from Environment and Climate Change Canada and the European Union Director General of Trade.

OBJECTIVE

The objectives of the Trade and Environment Chapter are to support sustainable development, strengthen environmental governance, build on the international environmental agreements to which both Canada and the EU are a party, and complement the objectives of CETA. These objectives are supported by provisions that include both commitments and mechanisms for dialogue and cooperation on trade and environment issues.

KEY ELEMENTS

The Chapter recognizes the right of both Canada and the EU to set their own environmental priorities and corresponding levels of protection. With this in mind, the Parties commit to strive for high levels of protection in their domestic laws and policies, and to continue to develop and improve their environmental laws and policies.

The Parties commit to effectively enforce their respective domestic environmental laws, and not to waive or derogate from those laws in order to encourage trade or investment. The agreement contains provisions to ensure that domestic proceedings are available to remedy violations of environmental law. The chapter also requires Parties to ensure that information regarding environmental laws and policies is made available to the public.

Canada and the EU commit to cooperate on trade-related environmental issues, in areas such as facilitating and promoting trade and investment in environmental goods and services, climate change, and biodiversity.

EXPECTED RESULTS

High levels of environmental protection are maintained, and improved while increasing bilateral trade flows.

Provide effective mechanisms to raise and resolve concerns about the effective enforcement of domestic environmental laws.

CANADA'S INVOLVEMENT

Since the provisional entry into force of CETA, the EU and Canada have been actively working to establish CETA's governance structure including the setting up of the multiple committees and dialogues as required under the Agreement. This includes the Committee on Trade and Sustainable Development (TSD), which oversees the Trade and Environment Chapter.

RESULTS / PROGRESS

Activities

The first meeting of the Committee on Trade and Sustainable Development (TSD) established under CETA took place on 13

September 2018 in Brussels. During the meeting, the EU and Canada acknowledged the adoption of three recommendations on trade and climate, trade and gender and, which were prepared in the framework of the TSD implementation work. The Parties had an exchange of views in relation to the trade and climate agenda, the Parties welcomed progress made in preparation to an event on trade and climate scheduled for January 2019 in Brussels.

The first Civil Society Forum established under CETA took place on September 12 2018 in Brussels, the meeting gave the opportunity to officials from the Government of Canada and from the European Commission to exchange views with the participants on the sustainable development aspects of CETA, including on implementation of the Trade and Environment Chapter.

Reports

- [Report from the 1st Meeting of the Committee on Trade and Sustainable Development.](#)

Results

The CETA Joint Committee formally adopted the recommendations on trade and climate, prepared in the framework of the TSD implementation work, on 26 September 2018.