

CAFTA CELEBRATES BREAKTHROUGH IN LANDMARK TRADE DEAL WITH THE EU

Brussels (Belgium), October 18, 2013 – Today in Brussels CAFTA Executive Director Kathleen Sullivan was on hand as Prime Minister Stephen Harper and EU President José Manuel Barroso announced that they have reached an agreement in principle on the Canada-EU Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA).

“CAFTA congratulates the federal government for concluding the CETA - Canada’s most significant free trade initiative since the NAFTA and the broadest trade negotiation Canada has ever undertaken,” said CAFTA President Lisa Skierka. “CAFTA fully supports this deal, which we expect will expand agriculture and food exports to the EU by an incredible C\$1.5 billion dollars a year.”

Canada exports C\$2.4 billion in agriculture and food products to the EU each year. When the CETA is fully implemented, it is expected to drive additional exports of C\$1.5 billion, including \$600 million in beef, \$400 million in pork, \$100 million in grains and oilseeds, \$100 million in sugar containing products, and a further \$300 million in processed foods, fruits and vegetables.

At the CAFTA Annual General Meeting held in Ottawa earlier this week, CAFTA members met with Trade Minister Ed Fast. They confirmed their support for the CETA and their gratitude to Canada’s federal and provincial governments for achieving this landmark deal.

“The Canadian government has secured real and substantial access to one of the world’s few billion dollar export markets, and they did it ahead of our major competitors,” said CAFTA Executive Director Kathleen Sullivan. “Through the CETA, Canada has confirmed its support for farmers and food processors and Canada has let the world know that we are serious about trade.”

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About CAFTA

CAFTA is a coalition of national and regional organizations which support a more open and fair international trading environment for agriculture and agri-food. CAFTA’s members include producer organizations, processors, marketers and exporters from the major trade dependent sectors in Canada. Together, these sectors produce almost 80% of Canada's agriculture and agri-food exports, conduct about \$40 billion in business annually and directly employ close to 500,000 Canadians.

For more information, contact: Kathleen Sullivan, 613-560-0500 or sullivank@cafta.org.