

## CAFTA Trade Insights

*CAFTA: The Voice of Canada's Agriculture and Agri-Food Exporters*

### CAFTA in Brussels for the signing of CETA deal

In an official ceremony and after seven years of negotiations, the Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement (CETA) was signed on Oct. 30 in Brussels, by Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau, President of the European Council Donald Tusk, President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker, and Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico (for the Slovakia's Presidency of the Council) (pictured below).



*Left to right) European Council President Donald Tusk Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, and European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker sign the CETA in Brussels, Belgium on Oct. 30.*

The agreement finally came together after a hectic week of negotiations to secure unanimous support in the European Council. Belgium, the lone hold-out, was able to secure support for CETA from its five regional parliaments after adopting a unilateral declaration. Following this, the CETA was adopted by the Permanent Representatives of the other 27 member states at the Committee of Permanent Representatives in the European Union meeting late Friday. This paved the way for the formal signature with Canada at the EU-Canada Summit.

The reactions from all parties at the official ceremony were positive. "CETA is the best trade agreement



**CAFTA ACCA**

Canadian Agri-Food Trade Alliance | Alliance canadienne du commerce agroalimentaire

the European Commission has ever negotiated,” President Juncker remarked. Afterwards, [he took to Twitter](#) to add, “Free trade and globalisation have protected humanity from poverty, hunger and total conflict. Few people seem to believe this today. We need to explain better the real effects of free trade. Protectionism means a return to national egoisms, and threat of violent conflict.”

[In an official statement](#), Prime Minister Trudeau said, “The signing of CETA is a historic occasion. This modern and progressive agreement will reinforce the strong links between Canada and the EU, and create vast new opportunities for Canadians and Europeans alike—opening new markets for our exporters, offering more choices and better prices to consumers, and forging stronger ties between our economies.”

In Europe, the treaty has officially been transmitted to the European Parliament, which will have to give its consent. The European Parliament is now due to examine the text in the International Trade Committee where a vote is already scheduled for Dec. 5. This will be followed by a vote in Plenary either in December 2016 or early January 2017. Publication in the Official Journal would then take couple of days and provisional implementation could start shortly thereafter. The complete text must also be ratified by the Canadian Parliament.

CAFTA executive director Claire Citeau was in Brussels for the signing of the CETA on behalf of CAFTA members to demonstrate support for the CETA and for trade. Earlier in the week, she was accompanied by Doug Sawyer, Foreign Trade Vice-Chair with the Canadian Cattlemen’s Association to highlight the immense potential for the CETA for the Canadian beef sector and the need to resolve outstanding issues.

Eliminating barriers to trade through the CETA could allow Canada to capture more value from agri-food exports to the EU. Canada exported C\$2.6 billion in agriculture and food products to the EU in 2014. When the CETA is fully implemented, it will eliminate EU tariffs on almost 94 per cent of Canada’s agri-food products. The agreement could drive additional exports of up to 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. One remaining concern is the slow progress the EU is making to resolve technical issues that will allow agri-food exporters to have real, commercially viable access to the market. To read CAFTA’s statement on the CETA, [click here](#).

While in Brussels, CAFTA representatives also met with Canadian embassy officials, EU industry counterparts and EU members of parliament. A continuing theme of the meetings was the need for our leaders to address protectionist sentiments, and stand up for free trade.

For updates on the CETA as the ratification process continues, follow [@CAFTA\\_ACCA](#) on Twitter.

## On Parliament Hill

Minister of International Trade Chrystia Freeland [officially tabled the CETA treaty](#) and introduced implementing legislation in the House of Commons. The legislation is entitled, *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*. The trade committee is expected to



**CAFTA ACCA**

Canadian Agri-Food Trade Alliance | Alliance canadienne du commerce agroalimentaire

[review the bill and hear from witnesses.](#)

Last week, the House of Commons Standing Committee on International Trade decided to allow a proposed postponement of the deadline to submit briefs on the **Trans-Pacific Partnership** beyond October 31 to January 27, 2017.

## Hearings and debates

Early this month, Parliament voted to ratify the Paris climate change agreement. Following the Thanksgiving break week, the focus in the House shifted to debated the US soft wood lumber trade issue- with CETA and the TPP featured in much of the discussion. In the second last week of October, the World Trade Organization’s *Bill C-13: Agreement on Trade Facilitation* hearings concluded. The bill was then debated and passed at third reading.

## Join the conversation

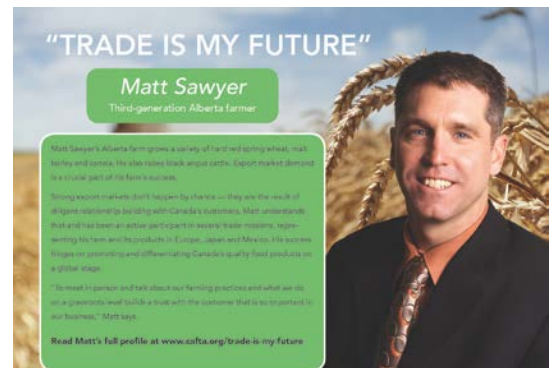
When talking trade on Twitter, remember to use the hashtags #TPP, #SupportTPP, #cdnag #cdntrade, #cdnecon, #cdnpoli

## Trade is my future

CAFTA’s "Trade is my future" campaign rolled on this month with a profile on Alberta barley farmer Matt Sawyer.

The purpose of this campaign is to tell the story of Canadian farmers and processors who depend on trade. Matt Sawyer is a third-generation farmer in Alberta growing a variety of wheat, malt, barley and canola. Matt also raises black angus cattle. Read Matt’s story here:

<http://cafta.org/trade-is-my-future/>



## Market Access News

### Market access for Canadian beef to Mexico improves

As of Oct. 1, Canadian beef producers now have full access to the Mexican market. It is estimated this deal could be worth almost \$200 million a year for Canadian farmers and ranchers. To read more about the re-opening of the Mexican market, click [here](#).

[Click here](#) to read the Canadian Cattlemen’s Association official release on the restored access to Mexico.



**CAFTA ACCA**

Canadian Agri-Food Trade Alliance | Alliance canadienne du commerce agroalimentaire

## In other news

### Japan presses Canada to 'send a message,' ratify TPP

As indicated in *The Hill Times*, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is under pressure from his Japanese counterpart, Shinzo Abe, to ratify the TPP. Read more [here](#).

### China Backs GMO Soybeans

China is pushing for the commercialization of genetically modified soybeans over the next five years to potentially boost output. China is the world's largest importer and consumer of soy. See the full article [here](#).

### EU: Glyphosate 'could be' banned by the end of 2017

European Food Safety Agency's (EFSA) conclusion that glyphosate was unlikely to pose a carcinogenic hazard to humans 'was not convincing enough' according to Merja Kyllonen, one of the MEPs responsible for steering its re-authorisation through the European Parliament. Read more [here](#).

### Pulse exporters relieved after India grants waiver extension

India's last-minute extension to a phytosanitary policy waiver allows non-fumigated Canadian pulse exports to continue until the next extension deadline of March 31, 2017. To read more on this, click [here](#).

## In case you missed

### Growth potential in the Canadian agriculture stressed by Barton

On Oct. 13, during a speech at a Public Policy Forum growth conference in Ottawa, Dominic Barton, McKinsey Executive Director and chair of the Prime Minister's Advisory Council of Economic Growth, stressed growth opportunities in the agriculture sector as a means of boosting economic growth. To read more on Barton's speech, click [here](#).

### President Obama signs GMO labeling bill

At the end of July, Obama signed into law a new GMO Labeling bill which will give consumers access to more product information. The Department of Agriculture will have two years to write the rules. Read more [here](#).

**Contact us:** [www.cafta.org](http://www.cafta.org) or [info@cafta.org](mailto:info@cafta.org).

**Follow us:** @CAFTA\_ACCA

