



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 26.11.2018
C(2018) 7749 final*

Dear Chair,

The Commission would like to thank the Assembleia da República for its positive Opinion on the Proposal for a Council Decision on the position to be adopted, on behalf of the European Union, in the CETA Joint Committee set up by the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement between Canada of the one part, and the European Union and its Member States, of the other part, with regard to the adoption of the rules of procedure of the CETA Joint Committee and the specialised committees {COM(2018) 344 final}.

The proposal in question has been adopted by the Council on 16 July 2018 and endorsed by the CETA Joint Committee on 26 September 2018.

The Commission takes note of the interest expressed by the Assembleia da República to monitor the implementation of the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (“the Agreement”) and would like to highlight that following its provisional entry into force on 21 September 2017, the Commission has spared no efforts to ensure that the Agreement is implemented promptly and effectively to allow companies and entrepreneurs across the European Union to benefit from the opportunities created by the Agreement. In light of this, the Commission’s priorities have been as follows: (i) to make the Agreement fully operational by setting up the governance mechanisms foreseen by the Agreement, (ii) by actively following up on the implementation issues and (iii) to initiate work on the commitments undertaken during its ratification.

Furthermore, the Commission has also paid particular attention to prepare practical information and materials useful for small companies and businesses to support the Trade Promotion efforts of the Member States. Notably, the Market Access Data Base of the Commission has a dedicated space for the Agreement which includes a wide range of practical information on how to access the Canadian market. The Commission has also prepared a business guide which explains the Agreement and also includes a set of contact points in Member States’ capitals and in Canada.

*Ms Regina BASTOS
Chair of the European Affairs Committee
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*cc Mr Eduardo FERRO RODRIGUES
President of the Assembleia da República
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The Commission will continue its efforts to promote the Agreement and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue with the Assembleia da República in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Cecilia Malmström
Member of the Commission*