**Identification**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title of the action</th>
<th>EU-Canada Policy Dialogues Support Facility (PDSF)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Country(ies)/Region</td>
<td>Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total cost</td>
<td>Total estimated cost: EUR 3 000 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total amount of the EU budget contribution: EUR 3 000 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total duration</td>
<td>36 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Method of implementation</td>
<td>Procurement - Direct management</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Markers (from CRIS DAC form)</th>
<th>Not targeted</th>
<th>Significant objective</th>
<th>Main objective</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rio Convention Markers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biological diversity</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Combat desertification</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climate change mitigation</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climate change adaptation</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General policy objective</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aid to environment</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender equality</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade Development</td>
<td>□</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. **RATIONALE AND CONTEXT**

2.1. **Summary of the action and its objectives**

This action will strengthen EU-Canada strategic partnership by supporting activities that will help advance bilateral dialogues in key priority areas. Notably it will facilitate existing EU – Canada dialogues in attaining their objectives and support the establishment of new ones as foreseen in the EU – Canada Strategic Partnership Agreement.

Dialogue between EU and Canada is rich including summit level, ministerial, senior officials, Members of Parliament and working levels. Consultations are held in a wide array of issues such as political cooperation, foreign policy, security and defence, trade and trade related matters, geographical and thematic issues. In line with the overall strategic framework defined by the Global Strategy for Foreign and Security Policy (‘Global Strategy’)\(^1\), the project will support, through expert and logistical assistance in targeted interventions, the implementation of the Global Strategy, the Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA)\(^2\) and, where relevant, the Comprehensive and Economic Trade Agreement (CETA)\(^3\).

2.2. **Context**

The SPA was signed in October 2016 and entered into force provisionally on 1 April 2017. The Agreement enshrines EU and Canada’s shared democratic values and aims to intensify and expand political dialogue and cooperation across the board, including on international peace and security, multilateralism, economic and sustainable development, justice, freedom and security.

The SPA acknowledges structural and institutional changes stemming from the 2009 Lisbon Treaty and provides an institutional platform which allows a coherent and ambitious collaboration between EU and Canada. Notably, the Agreement sets-up two bodies: the Joint Ministerial Committee and the Joint Cooperation Committee with the aim to review the overall cooperation, to provide strategic guidance and to assess the implementation of the Agreement.

The SPA institutionalises an already strong EU-Canada collaboration and constitutes an essential framework covering a wide range of sectoral agreements.

The first meetings under the SPA were the EU-Canada Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) in June 2017 in Ottawa and the Joint Ministerial Committee in December 2017 in Brussels.

The JMC and the JCC meetings provided an opportunity for the European Union and Canada to take stock of developments in the EU – Canada relationship, including on a number of issues linked to the thematic and foreign policy dialogues that had taken place. The dialogues allow the European Union and Canada not only to exchange information but also to ensure coordination whenever possible and to explore ways to expand the areas in which we concretely work together. Political Dialogues and consultation between EU and Canada exist on a wide range of

---

\(^1\) COM(2017)650  
\(^3\) OJ L 11, 14.1.2017, p. 23–1079
matters, including on Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Latin America, Middle East, Human Rights, UN matters, non-proliferation and disarmament, counter terrorism, and sectoral dialogues on environment, climate change, migration and asylum, consular affairs, agriculture, fisheries and maritime affairs, macroeconomic policy take place. The JCC also proposed recommendations for the establishment of new areas of cooperation, including on employment and social affairs, development, gender issues, with a possibility of establishing cooperation in other areas of common interest.

This project could be used to support activities in the above mentioned areas as well as in new fields of EU and Canada dialogues and cooperation.

**CETA** has entered into force provisionally on 21 September 2017. It reflects a shared commitment by the EU and Canada to open, fair and sustainable trade. CETA creates a unique opportunity to boost Canadian and European economic ties but also to set a new standard for progressive trade that is in line with our values.

In order to implement CETA effectively and ensure correct oversight on the agreement, CETA establishes an institutional structure composed of the CETA Joint Committee and a number of Specialised Committees and other bodies. After the CETA institutional structure is put in place, CETA committees may wish to seek additional expertise or support to their work that could be reinforced by this project, such as for example (non-exhaustive) in respect of the implementation of the Trade and Sustainable Development provisions in CETA (Chapters on Trade and Sustainable Development, Trade and Labour and Trade and Environment).

### 2.3. Lessons learnt

The proposed action will prove to be very useful for the implementation of the recently signed EU-Canada agreements, allowing broad and concrete follow-up actions.

For example, in order to implement the action plan stemming from the High level Energy dialogue, a TAIEX (Technical Assistance and Information Exchange instrument of the European Commission workshop was held in June 2017 in Ottawa, bringing together experts from the Commission and from EU Member States and civil servants from Canadian Federal Government, Provinces and Cities. This workshop proved to be very useful to strengthen the dialogue on Energy between the EU and Canada. The stakeholders agreed on following up with further workshops, expert exchanges, etc., which would be made possible through this project.

Supporting the EU-Canada Dialogue on Consular Affairs, a TAIEX workshop on EU-Canada Consular Crisis Management Cooperation, took place in Brussels in September 2017. Consular Representatives from Canada, the EU Member States, the United States, New Zealand and Australia, in addition to colleagues working on Consular issues from the EU institutions, came together to share information and best practices. This two-day event proved very useful in promoting consular crisis management cooperation between the EU and Canada through enhanced understanding of the structures in Canada, the EU and its Member States and other like-minded countries, as well as through sharing experience from concrete crises.
responses, and proved a successful way to feed into preparations for the EU-Canada Consular Dialogue which will take place in November 2017.

At the 2016 Summit EU and Canada committed to deepening bilateral cooperation on refugee and migration issues. Alongside existing cooperation arrangements, EU and Canada launched in 2017 a new migration platform involving Canada, the EU and its Member States to share best practices and technical expertise on themes which may include effective border management, integration and resettlement programmes, asylum systems, return policies and tackling illegal migration, and legal migration, as appropriate. The EU-Canada Policy Dialogues Support Facility may facilitate the operation of such an experts' platform.

The proposed action also builds on the experience and the evaluations drawn from similar facilities in China and in Brazil:

- Although the PDSF will be designed to follow a flexible approach, experience from the previous and existing Sector Dialogue Support Facilities (SDSF) has shown that translating agreements reached in the context of political dialogues into concrete actions is often not straightforward. Therefore, it is recommended that the agreements reached at political level include operational aspects. The services responsible for each dialogue should participate actively in this process.

- The financial continuity of actions is vital for sustaining sectorial dialogues and for reaching concrete results. At the same time, it is to be ensured that the result of these actions feed into the high level political dialogue.

- Finally, the China/Brazil SDSFs have shown that the actions undertaken should have a comprehensive logical structure and be embedded in the wider cooperation framework between the EU and Canada, rather than being limited to isolated events, such as missions or conferences.

2.4. **Complementary actions**

Complementarities will be sought with ongoing Partnership Instrument (PI) actions such as the following ongoing service contracts and projects: the *Feasibility Study for an EU-Canada mineral investment facility*, *Market access support for EU business in Canada in the CETA context*, *the Support civil society participation in the implementation of EU trade agreements*, the *International Urbanization Cooperation program*, the *EU Policy and Outreach Partnership*, the *Promoting economic empowerment of women at work through responsible business conduct in G7 countries project*, the *Cooperation with major economies for the implementation of the Paris Agreement*, the *Environmental Diplomacy in G7/G20*, possible TAIEX initiatives and other future PI actions in Canada.

Complementarity will also be sought with any programme / project funded by the EU (Horizon 2020, COSME, etc.) and activity implemented by the Member States in the priority areas.
All ongoing actions relevant to the identified priority areas will be closely monitored in order to ensure complementarity and to build on good experiences while avoiding duplications.

2.5. Cross-cutting issues

The EU and Canada are key strategic partners in some issues such as gender equality, human rights, inclusion and diversity, climate change and environment, where dialogues have already taken place or could take place in the near future.

Moreover, as already implemented for the ongoing PI actions in Canada, gender equality, human rights, inclusion and diversity, climate change and environment will be taken into account when relevant, when supporting dialogues on other priority topics.

3. Detailed Description

3.1. Objectives

The overall objective of this action is to contribute to strengthening and further enlarging the strategic partnership between the EU and Canada.

Its specific objectives are to foster dialogue in specific priority areas\(^4\) of EU and mutual interest and to support the implementation of the EU-Canada SPA and, where appropriate, CETA, but also other relevant agreements concluded between the EU and the Canadian Government.

3.2. Expected results and main activities

The main expected results of the project are:

R.1: Cooperation in shared priority areas is reinforced and concrete follow-up measures to sector dialogues are put in place and implemented;

R.2: The external dimension of EU policies in shared priority areas is promoted efficiently in the dialogue with Canadian authorities;

R.3: Updated information is available and regularly disseminated on the evolution and "state of the art", contents and results of the different dialogues;

R.4: Bilateral cooperation in support of initiatives to facilitate and support the implementation of CETA, such as for instance regarding the Trade and Sustainable Development

---

\(^4\) The list of priority areas include but it is non-exhaustive: security and defence, foreign policy, non-proliferation and disarmament, trade, energy, environment, climate change, oceans, Arctic, migration and asylum, employment, social affairs and decent work, macroeconomic policy, consular issues, gender and women empowerment, democracy and human rights, United Nations, development, transport, raw materials, and forest products.
R.5. Synergies in terms of business opportunities for EU companies in Canada are created in the context of the dialogues.

The indicative project activities -implemented on issues that are relevant for the dialogues and partnership and in close partnership with Member States- will include:

- The preparation of baselines, benchmarking, specific sector studies, polls, etc.;
- The organisation of events (conferences, seminars, workshops, mutual technical visits and other exchange activities, press conferences, etc.) within the scope of the dialogues, including horizontal business-related events;
- The provision of specialised technical assistance to relevant stakeholders;
- The support of exchanges between Canadian and EU stakeholders, experts, civil society and social partners;
- The consolidation and further development of monitoring, communication and visibility tools.

3.3. Risks and assumptions

The main assumption is that Canadian and European authorities are committed to implement the SPA and the CETA, engaging in concrete actions to foster dialogues in key priority areas.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk</th>
<th>Risk level (H/M/L)</th>
<th>Mitigating measure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lack or decreasing commitment to implement the EU-Canada SPA and CETA</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>Ensure involvement at the highest level from the EU and Canadian side</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor availability of EU institutions and services to get involved in the actions, including the necessary provision of human resources needed to steer them.</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Strategic selection of the areas of intervention, in line with EU's interests and policy priorities. Extensive internal coordination among EU services.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irritants coming from political developments, trade-related disputes or others, negatively affecting bilateral relations</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>Careful monitoring of the bilateral agenda and continuous engagement with Canadian counterparts by the EU Delegation. The project will be informed by the EU Delegation of relevant political developments so as to adapt to evolving circumstances.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overlaps with activities from other DGs or EU Member States</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>Internal monitoring and informal coordination with MS through the EU Delegation in Ottawa and through the EEAS in Brussels; ensure enough flexibility to avoid overlaps.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frustration in counterparts when specific proposals are rejected</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>Extensive coordination, dissemination and preparatory work with relevant counterparts, linked to the bilateral policy dialogues.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scattered activities can dilute the impact of the facility</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>A strategy will be elaborated to constantly monitor, during the implementation, the risk of excessive dispersion of efforts resulting in limited impact.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.4. **Stakeholders**

The key stakeholders are:

- EU and Canadian Federal government, institutions, agencies, services and other relevant bodies;
- EU Member States and Canadian provincial institutions and bodies, according to subject area;
- European and Canadian Academia and Civil Society including social partners (trade unions and employer organisations) as well as youth organisations, the private sector, according to subject area;
- Local governments, professional organisations or other similar bodies, as appropriate and according to subject area.

4. **IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES**

4.1. **Method of implementation**

**4.1.1. Procurement (direct management)**

(a) The programme will be implemented via service contracts. Indicatively one (1) service contract is expected to be concluded for the implementation of the programme.

(b) Indicative timing: this call for tender is expected to be launched during the 1st Quarter 2018.
4.2. Indicative budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method of Implementation</th>
<th>Amount in EUR million</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.1.1. – Procurement (direct management)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.3. Organisational set-up and responsibilities

The organisational set-up and responsibilities will be further developed and agreed.

However, it is foreseen that the basic structure will consist of

- A Steering Committee which will provide strategic guidance to the project, in compliance with the decisions taken and agreements made at high political level, and will ensure the regular monitoring of the project and appraise the results achieved; This steering committee should be composed of representatives from the EEAS and the Commission services as well as representatives from Global Affairs Canada, and the relevant sectorial Canadian Ministries. Member States could be invited to participate to these meetings as Observers. The participation of Commission services in the Steering Committee will also ensure complementarity and consistency with any actions undertaken directly under CETA.

This steering committee shall meet twice a year in Ottawa or in Brussels, with Video Conference connections to respectively Brussels or Ottawa.

- A Project Coordination Unit, that should indicatively include the team leader, any other relevant expert/staff from the project, the project manager in the EU Delegation in Ottawa, and possibly a representative from Global Affairs Canada. This project coordination unit will ensure the day-to-day management of the project, the visibility of the project, promotion of the activities and dissemination of information and support to the Steering Committee.

4.4. Performance monitoring

The day-to-day technical and financial monitoring of the implementation of this action will be a continuous process and part of the implementing entity’s responsibilities. To this end, the implementing entity shall establish a permanent internal, technical and financial monitoring system for the action and elaborate regular progress reports (not less than annual) and final reports.

Every report shall provide an accurate account of implementation of the action, difficulties encountered, changes introduced, as well as the degree of achievement of its results. The progress and final reports shall provide quantified and qualitative data in relation to the logical framework indicators which will include relevant indicators.
from the list of common PI indicators. These reports shall also clearly highlight the link between the project activities and the dialogues held.

The report shall be laid out in such a way as to allow monitoring of the means envisaged and employed and of the budget details for the action. The final report, narrative and financial, will cover the entire period of the action implementation.

The Commission may undertake additional project monitoring visits both through its own staff and through independent consultants recruited directly by the Commission for independent monitoring reviews (or recruited by the responsible agent contracted by the Commission for implementing such reviews).

Based on this monitoring, the Delegation will report when relevant to the Member States through the monthly Economic Counsellor Representatives or Deputy Head of Missions meetings.

4.5. **Evaluation and audit**

For this project, the Commission may carry out interim and/or final/ex-post evaluation(s) via independent consultants contracted by the Commission based on specific terms of reference.

Without prejudice to the obligations applicable to contracts concluded for the implementation of this action, the Commission may, on the basis of a risk assessment, contract independent audits or expenditure verification assignments.

As the “N+1” rule applies for contracting under this decision, external evaluations and audits, as well as additional external monitoring referred to under section 4.3 above, will be funded from sources other than those allocated to this specific action.

4.6. **Communication and visibility**

Communication and visibility of the EU is a legal obligation for all external actions funded by the EU.

This action shall contain communication and visibility measures which shall be based on a specific Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action, to be elaborated at the start of implementation.

Furthermore, this action will represent an opportunity to communicate and give appropriate visibility in Canada about the EU-Canada strong partnership in particular within the scope of the selected priority areas.

Appropriate contractual obligations shall be included in, respectively, the procurement and grant contracts, and delegation agreements.

The Communication and Visibility Manual for European Union External Action shall be used to establish the Communication and Visibility Plan of the Action and the appropriate contractual obligations.