
TRUDEAU PUSHES EU TO APPLY FREE TRADE PACT PROVISIONALLY

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Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on Wednesday (28 June) called on Europe to immediately apply the CETA free trade agreement while the two sides work through a final hurdle pertaining to agricultural quotas.

Trudeau spoke by telephone with European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker late on Tuesday (27 June) to try to get the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) rolling, according to a readout of their conversation released the following morning.

Noting the important role that CETA will serve in increasing jobs, strengthening economic relations and promoting new economic opportunities for Canadian and European businesses, Prime Minister Trudeau urged proceeding with the provisional application of the agreement as soon as possible so that its benefits can be realised, it said.

EU opens door to Canadas dirty oil

Oil extracted from tar sands is far more polluting than conventional hydrocarbons. But the EUs decision to change the way it classifies the fuel is good news for Canadian exports and bad news for the environment. EURACTIVs partner Ouest-France reports.

The pact has been approved by both the European and Canadian parliaments but must still be ratified by all European Union member states.

At the beginning of the week, a European diplomat and a Canadian official said the agreement was weeks away from implementation.

All that was left was to decide what cheeses Canadian distributors would import. They have sent their demands to Ottawa for what varieties they wish to bring in to sell to domestic clients.

CETA start hits snag over cheese quota dispute with Canada

The EUs pending trade deal with Canada has hit an unexpected snag over quotas for cheese imported from Europe and EU officials said on Thursday (15 June) they were hopeful the two sides could overcome the differences and allow the deal to take effect.

Canadas trade minister is expected to make an announcement soon, his spokeswoman told AFP.

Trudeaus office said both he and Juncker are enthusiastic about the free trade deal.

Last autumn, Paul Magnette, the Socialist minister-president of Belgium's Francophone Wallonia, nearly derailed the CETA deal when he put forward a list of demands to change it. Belgium is the only EU country whose regional parliaments can vote to ratify CETA but the Wallonia parliament eventually backed the deal.

Once applied, CETA will abolish virtually all tariffs between Canada and the EU and the Commission has said it should lead to savings of more than 111 million in taxes for EU exporters per year.

Kaynak/Source: