

PRESS RELEASE

We all win with CETA

Over the course of our 75 years of our diplomatic relations, Canada and Poland have enjoyed particularly strong ties and a deep connection between the people of our two countries. This has strengthened Canada's positive relationship with the European Union. Today, September 21st, marks a further strengthening of this relationship, as the Canada-EU Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement – known as CETA - comes into effect through provisional application.

As of today, this progressive free trade agreement has already started increasing two-way trade, promoting new economic opportunities and strengthening economic relations between our countries. Starting today, 98% of all tariff lines between Canada and the EU will be duty-free.

This is good news for consumers on both sides of the Atlantic.

Trade between the EU and Canada is already significant but CETA is a game changer that will include benefits for all. Europeans are looking forward to enjoying better access to high-quality Canadian timber, seafood products, medical devices and delicacies like maple syrup. Meanwhile Canadians are eager to see a wider variety of European products on their shelves, such as furniture, machinery and equipment, chocolate confectionery, apple juice, and vodka.

CETA also provides Canadian and EU companies with unprecedented access to public procurement opportunities. This means new opportunities for both Canadian and Polish businesses – and for smaller companies in particular, who will benefit from more legal certainty, better mobility for company employees and more streamlined rules and procedures generally.

But CETA is about more than just economic benefits. It is a new, progressive type of trade agreement – one that aims to shape globalization in a positive way. Part of the reason that CETA is so ground-breaking is that it ensures economic growth goes hand in hand with workers' rights and high levels of environmental protection. It also protects governments' ability to regulate in the public interest and maintain strong public services.

CETA sends an unmistakable signal that Canada and the EU believe in open societies and open economies; the two go hand-in-hand and can lead to prosperity for all of our citizens through new investments, new businesses and new jobs, while protecting governments' right to regulate and to deliver key public services. It also demonstrates that despite the unrest and uncertainty in many parts of the world, we continue to build bridges and we remain open to the world.

The best and most enduring relationships - whether between people or countries - are those that are mutually beneficial. The ties between our countries go back centuries. Canada and Poland and Canada and Europe have long been close friends and strategic partners, and share many common values, such as a commitment to combat climate change and defend open and democratic societies. Now, through this agreement, Canada, Poland, and the EU have set the standard for a new generation of trade agreements that reflect the progressive values that we share for the benefit of all.

With CETA, we are all winners.

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