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## Update about CETA negotiation

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**Brussels, 26 September 2016**

• **To the members of the International Matters, Trade and International Development Committee**

Dear all,

The informal EU Trade Council met in Bratislava last week and has mandated the EU Commission to sign and provisionally apply CETA.

The formal Trade Council will meet on 18 October for its final decision, on the basis of which the agreement will be signed by the two institutional parties during the EU-Canada summit on 27-28 October.

As you know the ETUC line was always that CETA has to be rejected in its current form.

We succeeded in obtaining that CETA has to be considered as a mixed (EU/national) agreement, and this will give the parliaments of member states the possibility to block the parts of the deal that are of national competence.

But this process it's likely to take years, while the deal will be signed in a few weeks, and provisionally applied at least for the parts that are of EU competence.

Since the negotiations on contents cannot be reopened, we are now trying a plan B, that is to go for a declaration with legal value, which can interpret the agreement by taking on board some of our key concerns.

The idea of an additional declaration, to be signed by EU and Canada at the same time when they sign the agreement and having full legal value, was already discussed few months ago between ETUC/CLC and the Canadian Government.

Then, thanks to the initiative of the German government and other EU governments, this option is starting to be accepted by the EU Commission too.

Our colleagues of DGB discussed some technical/legal texts with the Canadian trade unions CLC, and the ETUC fully supports such proposals.

Now all our common efforts are focused on making sure that our points are included in the declaration, which is going to be drafted in the next couple of weeks.

That's why we warmly invite you to put pressure on your governments, to convince them to support the inclusion of our proposals in the text of the declaration.

For your information, you can find here in attachment:

- The joint S&D German-Canadian statement on CETA, where the declaration is mentioned and some of our points listed
- A DGB assessment of such statement
- The 4 documents containing the DGB-CLC proposals for the declaration, which the ETUC supports since they are addressing our 4 priority demands for improving CETA

We will keep you informed of further developments.

A specific point for discussion on all this will be included in the agenda of next meeting of the ETUC Executive Committee on 26-27 October.

CLC President Hassan Yussuff will attend that part of the meeting.

At your disposal for any clarification.

All the best

Luca Visentini  
General Secretary

Liina Carr  
Confederal Secretary

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26.09.2016

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Issue

- Trade and globalisation
  - TTIP
  - CETA
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