

## **Comprehensive Economic & Trade Agreement (CETA)**

At its November 29<sup>th</sup> Council of Ministers, EU Trade Commissioner Karel De Gucht told the EU member states that Canada and the EU are still aiming for a conclusion of their bilateral trade negotiations before the end of 2012. However, some tough topics still remain on the table.

“I am pleased that our meeting at a political level has provided the momentum needed to spur on the negotiations into the home straight. It’s clear that there has been significant progress but some important work remains to be done,” De Gucht said.

Negotiators are expected to meet again the week of December 3<sup>rd</sup> in Brussels and the week of December 10<sup>th</sup> in Ottawa to try to close the gaps on the remaining matters i.e. agriculture market access, Intellectual Property Rights (pharmaceutical patents & geographical indicators), government procurement, investment (market access and protection), services (financial, cultural and Mode 4 – i.e. cross-border movement of professionals), automobile (Tariff Rate Quotas, Rules of Origin, standards).

However, as negotiators hope to aim for a deal in the coming weeks following the coming weeks of intensive negotiations, observers from both sides believe that the chances to hold another ministerial meeting to tackle the above mentioned issues are fairly slim given their number and complexity.

One European source said that the likely scenario would be for negotiators to return to their intensive discussions sometime in mid-January 2013 with the view to hammer out a final agreement through a ministerial meeting by the end of that same month. This will allow the Commission to present a deal to Member-states when the EU holds its next Council of Ministers, which should take place sometime in February 2013 under the Irish presidency set to start on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013 for a 6-month period, the source added.

## **WTO - NAMA**

The new Chair on non-agricultural market access (NAMA), Swiss ambassador to the WTO, Remigi Winzap, who replaced his countryman ambassador Luzius Wasescha who retired last July, convened a meeting of his negotiating group on November 29<sup>th</sup> to stress the importance of a successful outcome in the NAMA negotiations.

At the meeting, Ambassador Winzap told Members that he will hold small group consultations in the weeks to come in preparation for a negotiating session to be organized next February. A successful NAMA outcome has now become important for the WTO entire Membership, particularly for those who look to be involved in a regional or a global value chain, the new chair stressed.

Observers are expecting negotiating groups to pick up their work in 2013 to prepare for December 2013’s ninth Ministerial Conference (MC9) in Bali, where key deliverables are expected to keep the multilateral negotiations afloat. As such, Ambassador Winzap expects Members to table suggestions on how they perceive the NAMA negotiations going forward.

WTO Director General Pascal Lamy has called an informal meeting with ambassadors the week of December 7<sup>th</sup> to brainstorm next year’s agenda.

## Upcoming Events

- CETA, Weeks of December 3 & 10, 2012
- TPP Round XV, December 3–12, 2012, Auckland (New Zealand)
- Services Plurilateral, December 2012
- WTO General Council, December 11-12, 2012
- Regular Agriculture Committee, March 26, September 4, November 12, 2013
- World Economic Forum, January 23–27, 2013, Davos-Klosters (Switzerland)
- MC9, December 2013, Bali (Indonesia)

Geneva Watch is published by Dairy Farmers of Canada, Chicken Farmers of Canada, Egg Farmers of Canada, Turkey Farmers of Canada and Canadian Hatching Egg Producers to report on the various events occurring in Geneva, particularly on the WTO negotiations on agriculture.

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