



**SEIMAS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

**STATEMENT
ON THE EU-CANADA COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC AND TRADE AGREEMENT
(CETA)**

21 September 2016

Vilnius

The Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania,

in view of the completion of negotiations on the EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) between the EU and its Member States, of the one part, and Canada, of the other part, announced at the EU-Canada Summit on 26 September 2014,

having assessed the EU CETA negotiating mandate made public in December 2015,

having regard to the resolutions of the European Parliament, in particular the Resolution of 8 June 2011 on EU-Canada trade relations,

having regard to the fact that the liberalisation of bilateral trade through CETA would lead to significant gains for both Canada and the EU,

having regard to the fact that free trade is of particular importance for Lithuania since its exports to Canada have been growing significantly in the recent years,

highlights the importance of smooth and fast signature and ratification of CETA,

stresses that, being one of the EU's most ambitious free trade agreements, CETA removes virtually all customs duties from the date of its entry into force, significantly improves EU access to Canadian public procurement and services markets, and lifts non-tariff barriers to trade,

considers that entering into CETA will be beneficial for both consumers and exporters in Lithuania and will create better conditions for attracting investment,

highlights that after entering into CETA, the EU will maintain its standards in the areas of safety, health, animal health, and data protection and will preserve its social and environmental standards,

calls on the EU institutions to agree on the aspects of provisional implementation of CETA as soon as possible,

invites the European Parliament and all the EU Member States to support the conclusion of CETA, and **calls on** the parliaments of the Member States to pay particular attention to the conclusion of CETA and its ratification process,

requests the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania to take into account the provisions laid down in this Statement while presenting the Lithuanian position at the informal meeting of the EU Foreign Affairs Council (Trade) on 23 September 2016 and to inform the Committee about the outcome of the discussions.

Benediktas Juodka

Chair of the Committee