

Committee on International Trade
The Chairman

Subject: Lunch Debate with National Parliaments on CETA 29 November 2016

Dear Chairperson, dear colleague,

During the last weeks, we have seen an intense debate on the EU trade policy in general, and about the trade agreement with Canada in particular. The Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement between the EU and Canada (CETA) is the most ambitious agreement the EU has negotiated, aiming to boost trade, strengthen economic relations and create jobs. The European Parliament has closely monitored the negotiations of this agreement since they started, and has also clearly influenced the final outcome, such as the revised provisions on investment protection and dispute resolution.

The ongoing process for a decision on a signature of this agreement has brought both the content of EU Trade Policy, as well as the decision-making procedure, in particular as regards trade agreements, to the forefront of the public debate. It has also put the spotlight on the role of parliaments in this process. At this critical moment, we believe it would be important for parliamentarians to meet and share experiences and expertise, with a special focus on CETA.

In view of the above, and in order to give the opportunity for an open and informal discussion on this important agreement with all the parliaments involved, I would like to cordially invite you, together with relevant representatives from all national parliaments of the EU Members States, to a **lunch debate on the premises of the European Parliament in Brussels on 29 November 12.30-15.00.**

Further details on exact venue and format of the lunch will be communicated as soon as we have a better understanding of the expected participation.

I look forward to welcoming you to the European Parliament on 29 November.

Yours sincerely,



Bernd Lange