



Domestic Advisory Group under the EU-Canada CETA

Ottawa, 4 June 2026

**JOINT STATEMENT**  
**of**  
**CANADIAN AND EUROPEAN UNION (EU) DOMESTIC ADVISORY GROUPS (DAGS)**  
*established under the Trade and Sustainable Development (TSD) Chapters of the EU-Canada*  
*Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA)*

Following our DAG-to-DAG meeting on 1 June 2026, and the Civil Society Forum (CSF) hosted by the Canada on 2 and 3 June 2026, the Domestic Advisory Groups of Canada and the European Union jointly state the following:

- In a context of growing geopolitical tensions, economic uncertainty and increasing challenges to the rules-based international order, we reaffirm more than ever the **strategic importance of the EU-Canada partnership**. CETA represents an agreement designed to deepen trade, investment between Canada and the European Union and enhance their competitiveness. More importantly, CETA provides a stable and predictable framework for cooperation between like-minded partners committed to democracy, the rule of law, sustainable development, open trade and showcases the pivotal advisory role of the DAGs in its implementation. At a time when these principles are increasingly being challenged, the EU and Canada must continue to demonstrate, both bilaterally and in international forums, that economic prosperity, democratic values, sustainable development and meaningful civil society engagement go hand in hand. Together, they should continue to champion these principles and strengthen rules-based cooperation at the global level.
- We thank the Parties for their continued **engagement with the DAGs** as an integral part of their TSD commitments and we welcome the opportunity to regularly inform their ongoing TSD work. We wish to explore, together with the Parties, the best way to ensure annual exchanges within the framework of the CSF and joint DAG meetings. We want to continue the progress made in strengthening dialogue between governments and civil society, including through regular intersessional meetings and the participation of DAG Chairs in meetings of the TSD Committee. We encourage the Parties to reflect the DAGs recommendations in the development and implementation of the Joint Work programme and would welcome any specific role in assisting its implementation where the Parties find this helpful. We also encourage meaningful follow-up to the recommendations put forward by the DAGs, including through timely and substantive responses to our joint statements and their strengthened implementation. Aware of the challenges facing our societies and economies, we recognise that civil society has an important role to play in shaping solutions. As committed partners, we stand ready to further strengthen our engagement and contribute actively to the pursuit of our shared TSD objectives.



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*We call on the Parties to:*

1. Ensure that CETA's continued implementation supports open, rules-based and mutually beneficial trade, **improves market access for businesses, strengthens economic resilience and creates quality jobs and opportunities** for workers, consumers, investors and enterprises on both sides of the Atlantic.
2. Ensure that TSD **commitments and their enforceability** remain at the heart of CETA's implementation, fully integrated into the broader strategic and economic objectives of the agreement. We encourage the Parties to advance the respective commitments set out in the Joint Interpretative Instrument (JII) and to keep the DAGs closely involved in this work.
3. Ensure that any future bilateral and multilateral agreements with other trade partners include robust and enforceable TSD, labour and environment chapters, reflect and uphold fundamental rights, environmental standards, internationally recognised labour standards, and ILO Conventions. The current geopolitical context must not serve as a **pretext to weaken these commitments**, which remain at the core of sustainable and inclusive trade.
4. Uphold the principle of **non-regression** and ensure that efforts to enhance competitiveness, accelerate investment or respond to geopolitical pressures are not employed as covers to weaken labour rights, environmental protections or democratic processes.
5. Recognise that environmental protection, human rights, Indigenous Peoples' rights and economic competitiveness are not contradictory objectives. Strong performance on environmental and social issues is a **source of resilience**, innovation and long-term prosperity.
6. Continue efforts to uphold **fundamental ILO Conventions**, eliminate forced labour and child labour, and promote decent work, social dialogue and tripartism and respect for workers' rights.
7. Explore strengthened regulatory cooperation among Canada, the EU and third countries on the effective implementation of legislation prohibiting the import or placing on the market products made with **forced labour**. Such cooperation can take several forms including capacity building, sharing information and methodological exchanges, but also on enforcement actions.
8. Ensure that cooperation on **critical raw materials** and supply chains is accompanied by strong due diligence efforts and safeguards for workers, communities, Indigenous Peoples and the environment, and a meaningful civil society involvement.
9. Recognise that **regulatory** predictability, transparency and legal certainty are essential for long-term investment and sustainable economic development.
10. Ensure that the urgency of current economic and geopolitical challenges does not come at the expense of meaningful consultation and **participation by civil society**.



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11. Strengthen cooperation on **climate action**, biodiversity conservation through nature-positive development and a just transition with sustainable jobs towards industrial decarbonisation.
12. Strengthen cooperation to accelerate the **energy transition** through clean technology innovation, investment, commercialization, and deployment and enhanced market access for clean technologies.
13. Continue promoting **gender equality** and inclusion, including in relation to trade, supply chains and the green and digital transitions, in particular through assessing gendered impacts of trade agreements ex-ante and ex-post as well as further exchanging and promoting comparability in collection, tracking and analysis of gender-disaggregated data.
14. Strengthen cooperation on digital governance and **emerging technologies** in a manner consistent with democratic values and fundamental rights.
15. Expand **meaningful engagement** with the DAGs, as essential partners in the effective implementation of CETA and the achievement of its objectives.
16. In assessing the impact of trade policy adjustments, incorporate **metrics** for broader socio-economic performance, in addition to GDP, such as those featured in the Canadian Ministry of Finance's *Quality of Life Framework for Canada* which is built on the following 5 pillars: Prosperity, Health, Society, Environment and Good Governance.

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- The EU DAG thanks the Canadian Environmental DAG (CEDAG) and the Canadian Labour DAG and the Canadian authorities for facilitating the organisation of this year's meetings and for their hospitality. All the DAGs are grateful for the opportunity to successfully lead on dedicated sessions of the CSF and stand ready to continue shaping this important annual forum for civil society both in Canada and the EU. We are looking forward to the joint meeting next year and to continuing our productive and cordial cooperation.
- We reaffirm the strong cooperation between the Canadian and EU DAGs. Our partnership remains strong and more essential than ever in advancing our shared objectives, in particular in times of shrinking civic space. In the geopolitical situation we find ourselves in, it behoves government and civil society to deepen our collaboration in search of a sustainable path in our trade relations, and beyond.