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2019/0216 (NLE)

Proposal for a

## **COUNCIL DECISION**

**on the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union in the Committee on Services and Investment established under the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) between Canada, of the one part, and the European Union and its Member States, of the other part of the other part as regards the adoption of a code of conduct for Members of the Tribunal, the Appellate Tribunal and mediators**

## **EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM**

### **1. SUBJECT MATTER OF THE PROPOSAL**

This proposal concerns the decision establishing the position to be taken on the Union's behalf in the Committee on Services and Investment established under the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) between Canada, of the one part, and the European Union and its Member States, of the other part, in connection with the envisaged adoption of a decision concerning a code of conduct for Members of the Tribunal, the Appellate Tribunal and mediators to be applied in disputes arising out of Chapter Eight (Investment) of the Agreement.

### **2. CONTEXT OF THE PROPOSAL**

#### **2.1. The Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) between Canada, of the one part, and the European Union and its Member States, of the other part**

The Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) between Canada, of the one part, and the European Union and its Member States, of the other part ('the Agreement') aims to liberalise and facilitate trade and investment, as well as to promote a closer economic relationship between the European Union and Canada ('the Parties'). The Agreement was signed on 30 October 2016 and has been provisionally applied since 21 September 2017.

#### **2.2. The Committee on Services and Investment**

The Committee on Services and Investment, which addresses inter alia matters concerning cross-border investment, is established under Article 26.2.1(b) of the Agreement. In accordance with Article 8.44.1 of the Agreement, the Committee on Services and Investment provides a forum for the Parties to consult on issues related to Chapter Eight (Investment) of the Agreement, including difficulties which may arise in the implementation of Chapter Eight (Investment) of the Agreement and possible improvements of Chapter Eight (Investment) of the Agreement, in particular in light of the experience and developments in other international fora and under the Parties' other agreements.

In accordance with Article 26.2.4 of the Agreement, the Committee on Services and Investment meets once a year, unless otherwise provided in the Agreement, or if the co-chairs decide otherwise. Additional meetings may be held at the request of a Party or of the CETA Joint Committee. The Committee on Services and Investment is co-chaired by representatives of the Parties. It sets its meeting schedule and agenda by mutual consent. It may set and modify its own rules of procedures, if it deems it appropriate. It may propose draft decisions for adoption by the CETA Joint Committee, or take decisions when the Agreement so provide.

In accordance with Rule 10.2 of the Rules of Procedure of the CETA Joint Committee and of the Specialised Committees, including the Committee on Services and Investment,<sup>1</sup> in the period between meetings, the Committee on Services and Investment may adopt decisions or recommendations by written procedure if the Parties to the Agreement decide by mutual consent. For that purpose, the text of the proposal will be circulated in writing from the co-chairs to the members of the Committee on Services and Investment pursuant to Rule 7, with

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<sup>1</sup> Decision 001/2018 of the CETA Joint Committee of 26 September 2018 adopting its Rules of Procedure and of the Specialised Committees (OJ L 190, 27.7.2018, p. 13), available on the DG TRADE website at [http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2019/february/tradoc\\_157677.pdf](http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2019/february/tradoc_157677.pdf).

a time limit within which members will make known any concerns or amendments they wish to make. Adopted proposals will be communicated pursuant to Rule 7 once the time limit has elapsed and recorded in the minutes of the next meeting.

### **2.3. The envisaged act of the Committee on Services and Investment**

The Committee on Services and Investment is to adopt a decision concerning a code of conduct for Members of the Tribunal, the Appellate Tribunal and mediators to be applied in disputes arising out of Chapter Eight (Investment) of the Agreement ('the envisaged act').

The purpose of the envisaged act is to supplement the rules in application under Article 8.30 (Ethics) of the Agreement.

The envisaged act will become binding on the Parties.

### **3. POSITION TO BE TAKEN ON THE UNION'S BEHALF**

As provided in paragraph 6(f) of the Joint Interpretative Instrument on the Agreement, the European Union and its Member States and Canada have agreed to begin immediately further work on the implementation of the provisions on investment dispute resolution of the Agreement, the so-called 'Investment Court System'<sup>2</sup>.

Pursuant to Article 8.44.2 of the Agreement, '[t]he Committee on Services and Investment shall, on agreement of the Parties, and after completion of their respective internal requirements and procedures, adopt a code of conduct for the Members of the Tribunal to be applied in disputes arising out of this Chapter, which may replace or supplement the rules in application, and may address topics including: (a) disclosure obligations; (b) the independence and impartiality of the Members of the Tribunal; and (c) confidentiality. The Parties shall make best efforts to ensure that the code of conduct is adopted no later than the first day of the provisional application or entry into force of this Agreement, as the case may be, and in any event no later than two years after such date'.

Paragraph 6(f) of the Joint Interpretative Instrument on the Agreement expressly refers to 'further work on a code of conduct to further ensure the impartiality of the members of the Tribunals'.

In addition, Statement No 36 by the Commission and the Council, entered into the Council minutes on the occasion of the adoption by the Council of the decision to authorise the signature of CETA on behalf of the Union, provides: '[t]he ethical requirements for members of the Tribunals, already provided for in CETA, will be set out in detail as soon as possible and allowing sufficient time so that Member States can consider them in their ratification processes, in an obligatory and binding code of conduct (which is also already provided for in CETA). This Code will include in particular: detailed rules of conduct applicable to candidates for appointment as members of the Tribunal or the Appellate Tribunal, in particular concerning of disclosure of their past and current activities that might affect their appointment or the exercise of their duties; detailed rules of conduct applicable to members of the Tribunal and the Appellate Tribunal during their term of office; detailed rules of conduct applicable to members of the Tribunal and the Appellate Tribunal at the end of their term of office, including the prohibition of the exercise of specific duties or professions for a specified period after the end of their term of office; a sanction mechanism in the event of non-

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<sup>2</sup> Joint Interpretative Instrument on the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) between Canada and the European Union and its Member States (OJ L 11, 14.1.2017, p. 3).

compliance with the rules of conduct which is effective and fully respects the independence of judicial power<sup>3</sup>.

The envisaged act fully implements these commitments by including detailed rules on ethics for the Members of the Tribunal, the Appellate Tribunal and mediators. Specifically, the code of conduct includes provisions on responsibilities to the process (Article 2 of the envisaged act); disclosure obligations (Article 3); independence, impartiality and other obligations (Article 4); obligations of former Members (Article 5); confidentiality obligations (Article 6); obligations on transparency as regards time and expenses devoted to proceedings (Article 7); sanctions (Article 8); obligations on mediators (Article 9); and the establishment of Consultative Committees (Article 10). The envisaged act will enter into force on the date of entry into force of the Agreement (Article 11).

This proposal fits in with other initiatives on the implementation of the CETA Investment Court System. Specifically, since June 2018, the Commission has been working with the Member States in the Trade Policy Committee on Services and Investment of the Council and with Canada on a package of four draft decisions regarding:

- rules setting out administrative and organisational matters regarding the functioning of the Appellate Tribunal in accordance with Article 8.28.7 of the Agreement;
- a code of conduct for Members of the Tribunal, the Appellate Tribunal and mediators in accordance with Article 8.44.2 of the Agreement;
- rules for mediation for use by disputing parties in accordance with Article 8.44.3(c) of the Agreement; and
- rules on the procedure for the adoption of interpretations in accordance with Articles 8.31.3 and 8.44.3(a) of the Agreement.

Further work on other areas of implementation of the Investment Court System continues. As provided in paragraph 6(f) of the Joint Interpretative Instrument on the Agreement, '[t]he common aim is to conclude the work by the entry into force of CETA'.

It is therefore appropriate to establish the position to be taken on the Union's behalf in the Committee on Services and Investment on the envisaged act in order to ensure the effective implementation of the Agreement.

## **4. LEGAL BASIS**

### **4.1. Procedural legal basis**

#### *4.1.1. Principles*

Article 218(9) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) provides for decisions establishing 'the positions to be adopted on the Union's behalf in a body set up by an agreement, when that body is called upon to adopt acts having legal effects, with the exception of acts supplementing or amending the institutional framework of the agreement.'

The concept of 'acts having legal effects' includes acts that have legal effects by virtue of the rules of international law governing the body in question. It also includes instruments that do not have a binding effect under international law, but that are 'capable of decisively influencing the content of the legislation adopted by the EU legislature'<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>3</sup> Statements to be entered in the Council minutes (OJ L 11, 14.1.2017, p. 9).

<sup>4</sup> Judgment of the Court of Justice of 7 October 2014, *Germany v Council*, C-399/12, ECLI:EU:C:2014:2258, paragraphs 61 to 64.

#### *4.1.2. Application to the present case*

The Committee on Services and Investment is a body set up by an agreement, namely the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) between Canada, of the one part, and the European Union and its Member States, of the other part ('the Agreement').

The act which the Committee on Services and Investment is called upon to adopt constitutes an act having legal effects. The envisaged act will be binding on the Parties under international law in accordance with Article 26.2.4 of the Agreement.

The envisaged act does not supplement or amend the institutional framework of the Agreement.

Therefore, the procedural legal basis for the proposed decision is Article 218(9) TFEU.

### **4.2. Substantive legal basis**

#### *4.2.1. Principles*

The substantive legal basis for a decision under Article 218(9) TFEU depends primarily on the objective and content of the envisaged act in respect of which a position is taken on the Union's behalf. If the envisaged act pursues two aims or has two components and if one of those aims or components is identifiable as the main one, whereas the other is merely incidental, the decision under Article 218(9) TFEU must be founded on a single substantive legal basis, namely that required by the main or predominant aim or component.

#### *4.2.2. Application to the present case*

The main objective and content of the envisaged act relate to the common commercial policy.

Therefore, the substantive legal bases of the proposed decision are Article 207(3) and the first subparagraph of Article 207(4) TFEU.

### **4.3. Conclusion**

The legal bases of the proposed decision should be Article 207(3) and the first subparagraph of Article 207(4), in conjunction with Article 218(9) TFEU.

## **5. AUTHENTIC LANGUAGES AND PUBLICATION OF THE ENVISAGED ACT**

As the act of the Committee on Services and Investment will implement the Agreement with respect to the resolution of investment disputes between investors and states, it is appropriate to adopt it in all authentic languages of the Agreement<sup>5</sup> and publish it in the Official Journal of the European Union after its adoption.

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<sup>5</sup> Pursuant to Article 30.11 (Authentic texts) of the Agreement, the Agreement is drawn up in duplicate in the Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, English, Estonian, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Maltese, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Slovak, Slovenian, Spanish and Swedish languages, each version being equally authentic.

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THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 207(3) and the first subparagraph of Article 207(4), in conjunction with Article 218(9) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

Whereas:

- (1) Council Decision (EU) 2017/37<sup>6</sup> provides for the signing on behalf of the European Union of the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) between Canada, of the one part, and the European Union and its Member States, of the other part ('the Agreement'). The Agreement was signed on 30 October 2016.
- (2) Council Decision (EU) 2017/38<sup>7</sup> provides for the provisional application of parts of the Agreement, including the establishment of the Committee on Services and Investment. The Agreement has been provisionally applied since 21 September 2017.
- (3) Pursuant to Article 26.2.4 of the Agreement, the Committee on Services and Investment may take decisions when the Agreement so provides.
- (4) In accordance with Article 8.44.2 of the Agreement, the Committee on Services and Investment is to adopt a decision on a code of conduct for Members of the Tribunal, the Appellate Tribunal and mediators to be applied in disputes arising out of Chapter Eight (Investment) of the Agreement.
- (5) It is therefore appropriate to establish the position to be taken on the Union's behalf in the Committee on Services and Investment on the basis of the attached draft decision of the Committee on Services and Investment on a code of conduct in order to ensure the effective implementation of the Agreement,

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<sup>6</sup> Council Decision (EU) 2017/37 of 28 October 2016 on the signing on behalf of the European Union of the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) between Canada, of the one part, and the European Union and its Member States, of the other part (OJ L 11, 14.1.2017, p. 1).

<sup>7</sup> Council Decision (EU) 2017/38 of 28 October 2016 on the provisional application of the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) between Canada, of the one part, and the European Union and its Member States, of the other part (OJ L 11, 14.1.2017, p. 1080).

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

*Article 1*

The position to be taken on behalf of the European Union in the Committee on Services and Investment as regards the adoption of a code of conduct for Members of the Tribunal, the Appellate Tribunal and mediators shall be based on the draft decision of the Committee on Services and Investment attached to this Council Decision.

*Article 2*

1. The Decision of the Committee on Services and Investment shall be adopted in all authentic languages of the Agreement.
2. The Decision adopted by the Committee on Services and Investment shall be published in the Official Journal of the European Union.

Done at Brussels,

*For the Council*  
*The President*