



*Speaking Notes for*

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## **The Honourable John McKay**

*Parliamentary Secretary Minister of National Defence  
Secrétaire parlementaire du ministre de la Défense nationale*

### **Keynote Address Canada-EU Symposium Common Security and Defence Policy**

Ottawa, ON

April 28, 2016

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**Canada**

Thank you Amabassador Coninsx.

Good morning everyone. Thank you for joining us today.

To those of you visiting our city, I'd like to welcome you.

I'm honoured to be addressing all of you on behalf of Minister Sajjan at this annual symposium, which looks at the ongoing Canada-EU relationship in international security issues.

Today's discussions will examine ways that Canada and the EU can continue cooperating in global crisis management.

It is due to the strong bond that exists between Canada and the EU that we are able to collaborate so well.

We may be one ocean and over 3,000 kilometres away from one another, but geography has not been an impediment to building strong cultural, economic, and defence ties.

The Canada-EU relationship is solid because we share values and our histories are inextricably linked.

Canada fought in Europe in both World Wars. We emerged from the First World War as a nation largely independent from Great Britain.

We went on to declare our entry into the Second World War autonomously. By the war's end, Canada had the third largest navy in the world and went on to sever its last remaining legal ties with the mother country. However, we kept the Queen because we like her.

Many Canadians can trace their ancestry back to Europe, myself included.

But it is not just time or fate that has brought us together. We have worked to develop our bond through partnerships and a genuine desire to engage each other productively ... and in friendship.

Canada and the EU have enjoyed a dynamic bilateral relationship since 1959.

As you may know, 2016 marks the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the signing of the first Canada/EU Framework Agreement and the establishment of the EU's first diplomatic mission here in Ottawa. In the spirit of diplomatic entente, the EU lets us win at hockey, and we let you win at soccer—or football, as you say.

To help mark this anniversary, there will be other symposia throughout the year on areas of cooperation such as energy security and the Arctic.

This past year has been a productive one in Canada-EU relations.

After extensive negotiations, I am happy to say that we have finalized the text of the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement – CETA. Canada is, after all, one of the world's foremost trading nations.

We also saw the signing of the Strategic Partnership Agreement (or the SPA), and Canada looks forward to its ratification later this year as well.

It complements CETA in that it further deepens our bilateral cooperation on key international issues. No security, no trade.

The SPA identifies mechanisms to deepen and broaden our dialogue and cooperation with EU member states. And, it will increase high-level consultations in such multilateral forums as the UN, the OECD, NATO and the OSCE.

More specifically, the SPA reflects our shared fundamental values and facilitates our coordinated action on mutual areas of interest, such as:

- pluralism and human rights;
- scientific research;
- and climate change and clean energy.

On this particular area, I must tell you how impressed I was when I had the privilege of attending Germany's Energiewende conference on clean energy innovation last

spring. The EU's leadership on climate change has set an example for the rest of the world to follow. Chancellor Merkel's steadfast leadership has led to great success in Paris and New York.

Furthermore, the SPA will enhance our cooperation on two fronts that are of utmost importance to the Minister of Defence and I:

- combatting terrorism; and
- the promotion of international peace and security.

This last point is especially important.

Continuing our joint efforts to strengthen transatlantic security and defence is of the utmost importance.

The global environment is now more complex than ever, and is changing rapidly. Threats to global peace and security abound.

The SPA will facilitate continued dialogue between Canada and the EU on global security issues. It will introduce emerging areas of discussion in international security and defence, such as: cyber security, development and counter terrorism.

I understand that, to meet the current challenges to global security, the EU has embarked on a review of its security strategy.

I was also at a NATO conference yesterday hosted by the Polish Embassy and the Munk Centre in the lead up to Warsaw. NATO is of course one of the EU's major guarantors of security.

We here in Canada are doing something similar.

Our Minister of Defence just launched a Defence Policy Review that is the most comprehensive since 1994.

We expect a lot from our military and it is only appropriate that we ask Canadians what their expectations are for it. It is, after all, their security and their tax dollars. We will examine our strategic goals, and consider what resources we need to meet them.

The Canadian Armed Forces must stand ready to act when called upon in whatever capacity is required.

We also need to ensure that Canada remains interoperable with its allies.

This is why Canada has cooperated with the EU through its Common Security and Defence Policy, or CSDP. The CSDP has allowed Canada to partner with the EU in international missions to further our common goals.

Since 2003, Canada has sent military and civilian personnel to numerous CSDP missions in places like Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

One area in particular that we are currently focused on is Ukraine. And I am pleased that we are working with the EU here, too.

Last month, I accompanied Defence Minister Sajjan on a trip to Ukraine, Poland and Germany. We met with defence allies and counterparts, and saw some of the work our recently deployed troops to the region are doing.

I would like to assure everyone that Canada remains committed to supporting Ukraine in its efforts to advance as a stable and prosperous democracy.

The Ukrainian soldiers are tough and able. It is not an understatement to say that their resolve combined with NATO training has turned them into a formidable force and possibly—just possibly—stopped Putin in his tracks in what would otherwise have been a cakewalk through Ukraine.

We believe in a firm and united response, including sanctions, to ensure that Russia fully adheres to the Minsk agreements.

And, we have put into place some tangible signs of our support for Ukraine, bilaterally and multilaterally.

In January, we signed an agreement with the European Union Advisory Mission that will see the strengthening of local Ukrainian police forces.

We are pleased to be participating in these police deployments. It's a great opportunity for Canadian police officers to share their expertise with their Ukrainian counterparts ... to share best practices for community policing and policing reform.

More broadly, Canada has been operating in Eastern Europe as part of NATO assurance measures to promote security and stability in Central and Eastern Europe.

Our military personnel are conducting exercises and training with local forces in Poland, and the broader region. This helps the CAF enhance its interoperability with key allies, as

I witnessed during our visit to Poland's Swidwin Military Base in March.

And, just as importantly, we are letting Eastern Europeans know that Canada stands with them.

Last year we conducted operations in the Mediterranean, the Baltic and the Black Sea. We have also engaged with Russia. Please note that engagement is not a synonym for appeasement. I can do no better than to quote Winston Churchill: To jaw-jaw is better than to war-war.

I've seen the positive work being done in the region firsthand, and fully recognize its importance.

Prime Minister Trudeau has declared his commitment to renew our active participation in international peace support

operations – whether through the United Nations, NATO, or the EU.

Our renewed military engagement in Iraq entails greater risk for our troops, but it is more conducive to establishing lasting peace and security on the ground.

We are assisting with military training in Romania and the Ukraine, and this summer will join other allies in the region in military exercises.

We will hold true to our commitment to our EU partners.

The Canada-EU relationship is strong and constantly evolving.

And Canada remains committed to working with the EU to strengthen our joint efforts in international crisis

management, capacity building, and global peace and security.

Our support for our transatlantic ties is unequivocal.

We are partners, allies ... friends.

I know that the Canada-EU bond will only get stronger as we move forward and face future defence and security challenges together.

Thank you.