

***Remarks of Mr. Jonathan Wilkinson, MP,  
Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of the Environment and Climate  
Change***

***Canada - EU Strategic Partnership  
Conference***

***Panel 2: The EU-Canada Relationship: Global Cooperation on the  
Environment, Climate Change and Energy***

**May 9, 2016 15:30-16:40**

**Moderator: Mr. Campbell Clark, Chief Political Writer, *Globe and Mail***

**Panellists:**

**H.E. Nicolas Chapuis** – Ambassador of France to Canada

**Mr. Ed Fast, MP** – Former Trade Minister, currently Conservative Critic for Environment

**Mr. Jonathan Wilkinson, MP** – Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change

**Mr. Jean-Arnold Vinois** – Energy Adviser, Jacques Delors Institute

## May 9 - REMARKS

Good afternoon everyone. It is a great pleasure to be here with you today as we celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the **Framework Agreement for Commercial and Economic Cooperation between Canada and the EU**.

On a personal level, as someone whose academic training is in international relations and who went to university in Europe, I am very familiar with the importance of the role that has been played by the European Union in the post-World War II era and of the historic relationship and the strong ties that exist between Canada and Europe.

The focus of the original agreement signed between the parties in 1976 was on the promotion of commercial and economic cooperation. However, concurrently Canada and the EU also established bilateral cooperation on environmental matters. Such cooperation has continued and deepened since that time.

This year is rightly a year to celebrate the important relationship that exists between the EU and Canada. It also however provides us with an opportunity to reflect on how we may broaden and deepen our relationship for the benefit of both parties and for the benefit of the broader global community.

There are presently a number of activities and a number of critical policy files that provide opportunities to add significant incremental value to the current relationship. These include:

1. Canada and the EU have, for some time, been working on the development of a **Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement**. This agreement will facilitate freer trade between the parties and will drive economic growth and prosperity. The agreement contains substantive environmental commitments – including commitments relating to ensuring that domestic environmental laws are effectively enforced.

I would be remiss if I did not note the important role played in the negotiation of this agreement by Mr. Fast who was Minister of Intl Trade in the previous government.

2. Canada and the EU recently negotiated a **Strategic Partnership Agreement**. The Strategic Partnership Agreement will deepen and broaden the scope of our bilateral relationship on key foreign policy and related issues. This agreement includes recognition of the importance of the protection and conservation of the environment and climate change with a view to sharing best practices.
3. Effective implementation of the Paris Agreement represents another area in which closer Canada-EU collaboration will be important.

Both Canada and the EU played important roles in achieving agreement at Paris. In this regard I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ambassador Chapuis for France's

leadership and commitment to the success of the Paris Agreement.

4. Beyond the implementation of the Paris Agreement itself there are enormous opportunities available to the parties going forward on a number of related fronts, including:
  - Sharing of best practices and experiences with regard to areas such as energy strategy, carbon pricing and others
  - Facilitating learning and co-operation in the area of clean technology development – which can assist both parties in driving economic growth and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
  - Working co-operatively with the developing world to find means by which we can enable these countries to make economic progress in a less carbon intensive manner and, for some, to assist with determining can they can effectively adapt to some of the emerging effects of climate change
  - Working collaboratively in association with the Arctic Council to ensure that we effectively can manage the impacts of climate change on Arctic peoples and on security issues in the Arctic.
  
5. Beyond the climate file there are many other areas of foreign policy where enhanced cooperation between Canada and the EU can be useful in advancing common interests. This would include more active engagement by the parties in bilateral and multilateral forums on issues ranging from poverty reduction, conflict management/resolution and challenges posed by migration of large number of people.

Canada and the EU share much in the way of common history. We also share a strong commitment to many common values including commitments to:

- Democratic institutions and processes
- Human rights
- Pluralism
- Multilateralism and
- Environmental protection and sustainable development

There is strong alignment on many fronts between the new Government of Canada and the European Union. This is an exciting time in the history of our relationship. I and my colleagues very much look forward to working with our counterparts in the European Union to make substantive progress on all of these critical fronts going forward.

Thank you once again for the invitation to participate today. I very much look forward to the discussion.