

Speech by Ambassador Marie-Anne Coninx
"EU-Canada Energy Conference: Finding answers to the energy challenges of tomorrow"
Opening Remarks - 22 September 2016

Ladies and gentlemen,

- Bonjour, et bienvenu a la conférence de l'Union européenne et le Canada sur l'énergie.
- Good morning and welcome to our "EU-Canada Energy Conference: Finding answers to the energy challenges of tomorrow".
- I am delighted to see so many of you here today, demonstrating the great interest in the EU, in EU-Canada cooperation, and certainly in our topic of today: "Energy".
- Cette année nous célébrons 40 ans de l'Union Européenne en Canada.

A cette occasion, nous avons prévu cette année quatre Conférences sur des thèmes clés de notre coopération. Ceci est la 3ème Conférence.

Les autres conférences ont traité ou vont traiter de:

- Notre coopération en matière de sécurité et defence
- Sur notre partenariat stratégique
- La 4ème Conférence aura lieu en octobre, sur l'Arctique.

Ladies and gentlemen,

- Few partners have as much in common as the EU and Canada.
- Forty years ago, the European Union opened its diplomatic office - or "Delegation" as we call it, here in Ottawa. It was the third Delegation established outside Europe, after Washington and Tokyo. Today we have 140 Delegations worldwide.
- Also 40 ago (in 1976), the EU and Canada signed a Framework Agreement on Economic Cooperation, the first such agreement the then European Community signed with an industrialized country.

This innovative and ambitious agreement laid the foundations for a strong, strategic partnership, which has brought significant benefits to our peoples.

- Today, the EU is the second largest trading partner, and the second biggest investor in Canada - our investments during last 10 years have actually tripled. Canada is the EU's 12th largest trading partner; and in fact 4th investor in the EU.
- We both consider that promoting free trade is a motor for growth and jobs.
- Hence, the importance of having reached an agreement on CETA - the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement - the most ambitious trade agreement ever agreed, both from the EU and the Canadian side, which is scheduled to be formally signed at the upcoming EU-Canada Summit in October in Brussels.
- We are also working towards the signature of another milestone Agreement: the EU-Canada Strategic Partnership Agreement.
 - This agreement will intensify (already existing) cooperation between the EU and Canada in a variety of sectors, including by jointly addressing global challenges.
 - It will strengthen cooperation in relatively new areas such as energy, innovation, but also climate policy. These are topics we will talk about today during the different sessions, are an important part of this increasing cooperation.
- We all know that a reliable and steady flow of energy is fundamental requirement for our modern economies and for the high quality of life that we have achieved today on both sides of the Atlantic.
- For us in Europe, the notion of integrating our energy infrastructures and policies goes beyond mere economic interests. Energy has a special importance. It is what triggered the European integration project in the 1950s, paving the way to the development of the European Union as we now know it. The European Coal and Steel Community of the 1950s was the result of bold leaders who understood that by tying our energy resources together, we are less likely and capable of turning arms against each other.
- Ironically, whereas the original European Community of the founding Member States revolved around energy, this particular field was left aside for a long time.

Indeed, we have focussed to create a real internal market - for people, goods and services, but not for energy. We have ensured our citizens would be free to move freely across the European Union, to choose in which country they wish to study, live, and do business. However, when it comes to our energy systems, we still have been largely thinking in national terms.

That is why the current President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, set as one of his top priorities the establishment of the Energy Union. In fact, the creation of an Energy Union is a kind of "revolution" in the European Union. It is due to the fact that the European Union - contrary to Canada, is not blessed with many natural resources. Indeed, the EU is heavily dependent on energy imports; more than 55 % is imported. The EU spends over 700 million euros (over 1 billion Canadian dollars) every single day on its energy imports. This makes the EU very vulnerable.

Therefore our incentives for the creation of the Energy Union, for working together, are very clear:

A single European energy market will allow us to increase our security of supply, by allowing energy to flow freely across our borders, therefore offsetting any oversupply on one side of a border with any supply deficit on the other. Ensuring more inter-connectivity is key for ensuring energy security.

Energy in the EU is very expensive, one of the reasons being that there is no real internal market for energy. Energy will become less expensive if we create a far more competitive market across the EU by ensuring that energy suppliers cannot charge significantly different prices in different EU countries.

Given that we have few energy resources, we need to use it efficiency. Hence the importance of energy efficiency and the promotion of renewable or green energy. Moreover, this would allow us to achieve our climate targets much more efficiently by setting common targets and negotiating more effectively with our global partners. Our ability to represent a block of half a billion people puts us indeed in a much stronger position.

- But as we are having this conversation here in Ottawa today, I am sure that many of you are asking yourselves "What is in it for us? How is this energy integration across Europe going to affect us in Canada?"

- Well, the Energy Union Strategy which we published in February 2015 explicitly calls also for building an energy partnership with Canada. Partnerships are needed on a global market of energy, where developments in one part of the world, affect other parts.
- In fact, the Energy Strategy was drafted in parallel with the preparations and follow-up to the last EU-Canada Summit back in 2014 and which called to: "revitalise our cooperation in energy [...] particularly in key areas such as energy security, increased energy efficiency, renewable energy, the safe and responsible exploitation of conventional and unconventional energy resources, LNG trade, and improved market transparency and stability".
- In practice, Canada and the EU already share the same fundamental approach to the global energy market, recognising the importance of open, competitive and transparent energy markets and the need to actively support and promote energy efficiency as well as clean and renewable energies.
- But we also need looking into deepening and expanding our cooperation across a range of fields, including:
 - Gas and oil market developments including infrastructure and Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and, in particular, the potential for Canada to supply the EU market;
 - Ukraine, where the EU and Canada already co-operate together with the United States;
 - Renewable energy in the EU and Canada, where both sides have a keen interest in exchanging experiences on the integration of variable energy sources into the grid.
 - Research and Innovation, where the initial focus would be on carbon capture and storage and smart grids,
 - Co-operation in international energy fora such as the G7, G20 and the International Energy Agency, and at the UN where we worked already together in the run up to COP21 in Paris, and will need to further cooperate to ensure its implementation.

- Being two major economies means that the EU and Canada have a great responsibility towards the viability of this planet:

The importance of sustainable energy, of renewable or green energy.

- In Europe, the field of sustainable energy, of renewable or green energy. is currently booming and has already created over 1 million jobs.
- I know that a great level of cooperation exists between Canadian and European scientists, researchers, and entrepreneurs when it comes to this green energy paradigm change.

And what I have seen so far during my diverse trips around Canada in terms of know-how, ideas and business strategies is quite impressive.

- We in Europe can benefit and learn a lot from the experience of the Canadian government, and notably Natural Resources Canada (NRCan), which I know has been investing in energy efficiency and innovation technologies or smart grids and renewables projects. As for us, we could bring to the table the best practices from all across the EU.

Climate Change

- For the EU, the energy dossier is closely linked to Climate Change
- The UN Climate Conference in Paris, also known as COP21 was an important milestone. I know we can count on the current Canadian government to make Paris a turning point and to reach a global and binding deal, which would limit global warming to below 2 degrees Celsius.
- Fighting climate change is not an option, it is a must. It is not about helping others. It is about helping ourselves, about saving ourselves.

And we are not just talking. The EU has set itself the most ambitious climate and energy plan of cutting at least 40% of our greenhouse gas emissions (from 1990 levels) by 2030. Along with our 2030 targets of at least 27% renewable energy and at least 27% energy efficiency across the EU, we are gradually moving the EU towards a more competitive low-carbon economy by 2050.

In setting such ambitious goals, the EU is also sending a strong message to the rest of the world: we expect everyone, without exceptions, to join the global efforts.

We know that we can count on Canada, as a strategic partner and ally of the European Union. Support on both sides of the Atlantic and around the world will be critical in successfully implementing all our ambitious and these policies. Thank you for your attention and I wish you very fruitful deliberations today.

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