Resolution on the upcoming EU-Canada Summit on 5 May 2010

2010/2549(RSP) - 05/05/2010 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

Following the debate which took place during the sitting of 20 April 2010, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on the forthcoming EU-Canada Summit on 5 May 2010. It recalls that negotiations towards a **comprehensive economic trade agreement** which were launched at the EU-Canada Summit held on 6 May 2009 in Prague, and it welcomes the Commission statement in which progress in the negotiations is cited as fundamental to EU-Canada economic relations, stating that the EU-Canada Summit in Brussels on 5 May 2010 offers a good opportunity to speed up those negotiations.

On areas of agreement, Parliament begins by noting the robustness of the Canadian economy during the economic crisis, especially the banking sector, and it expresses its willingness to work closely with Canada in the context of the G20 to achieve a coordinated global approach to fiscal stimulus and fiscal consolidation, in which connection the issue of introducing a bank levy or a transaction tax at global level will be one of the priorities at the next G20 summit in Toronto. It also notes that both Canada and the EU are fully committed to taking a coordinated approach to meeting Haiti's needs and to building a new Haiti that meets the legitimate and long-held aspirations of the Haitian people for their country, whilst ensuring Haitian national ownership of the reconstruction process. Furthermore, Members welcome the intention to open up the Canadian telecommunications industry to outside competition, as well as Canada's commitment to invest in clean energy technologies, to secure its place as a clean energy power and to be a leader in green job creation.

However, they reiterate their its concern that Canada still imposes a **visa requirement** on citizens of the Czech Republic, Romania and Bulgaria, and call for that requirement to be lifted as speedily as possible. Parliament notes that the visa requirement for Czech citizens has been introduced by the Canadian Government in response to an influx of Roma people into Canada, and therefore calls on Member States adequately to address the situation of the Roma people in Europe. In this regard, it welcomes the opening of a visa office in the Canadian Embassy in Prague and the establishment of an expert working group on this issue, and hopes that the promised comprehensive review of the Canadian refugee system will lead to the visa requirement being lifted.

Members go on to take note of the intention to launch a major reform of Canada's fisheries management system, also involving NAFO. They express disappointment about the **position of the Canadian Government at the most recent conference of CITES parties** with regard to the extension of CITES Appendix 1 for bluefin tuna. They also express concern about the impact of the **extraction of oil sand on the global environment** due to the high level of CO2 emissions during its production process and the threat it poses for local biodiversity.

Members hope that Canada will fully support the EU's request to open up the ACTA negotiations to public scrutiny and to have those negotiations conducted under the auspices of an international organisation, the most suitable being WIPO.

Lastly, Parliament reminds the Council and Commission that since entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty the European Parliament has to give its consent on international agreements and has to be immediately and fully involved at all stages of international negotiations, and looks forward to an early statement from the Commission on how it intends to do this. It recalls, in this respect, that its concerns on the **EU-Canada PNR agreement** will have to be duly and jointly addressed before the consent can be given.