



CANADA EUROPE ROUND TABLE FOR BUSINESS
FORUM SUR LE COMMERCE CANADA-EUROPE

Ottawa, 18 December 2001

Dear Minister Pettigrew / Commissioner Lamy,

We are pleased to submit the 2001 CERT CEO Round Table and Symposium report, containing recommendations for increased international convergence of merger review rules and procedures.

The increasing investment risks that multiple merger review requirements can represent for cross-border merger and acquisition activity are significant. The development of a flexible multilateral merger review framework would be strongly welcomed by business. By implementing the recommendations for merger review convergence that are outlined in this report, the governments of Canada and the EU can improve investment certainty and reinvigorate economic growth. This is of particular significance as governments respond to worldwide economic uncertainties.

CERT challenges the governments of Canada and of the EU to show leadership in the development of a multilateral framework for merger review, building on their 1999 Canada-EU framework agreement for commercial and economic cooperation, and in WTO negotiations on trade and competition. The "Doha" round of the World Trade Organization is a top priority for CERT. It presents an excellent opportunity to unite countries at all stages of development in a dynamic, progressive and rules-based trading system, and an ideal forum for discussing the international convergence of competition rules.

We thank the Canadian and EU administrations for their continued support. This report is the first of a series of major CERT thematic works on issues of strategic relevance to those involved in bilateral and multilateral trade and investment. In providing their detailed knowledge of the inefficiencies and impediments to developing a strong Canada-EU business environment, CERT members will continue to formulate recommendations that promote trans-Atlantic trade and investment and resolve potential commercial problems.

We trust that you will find this report useful. We look forward to your response to our report and to working with you to provide the effective private sector input required to make this most necessary initiative an early reality.

Sincerely,

The Hon. Roy MacLaren, P.C.
Canadian Chair

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European Chair

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