



Madrid, 8 May 2002

CERT delegation receives joint government response on occasion of May EU-Canada Summit

On the occasion of the Canada-EU Summit of 8 May, a CERT delegation of senior business leaders led by European Chairman Paul De Keersmaecker met with European Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy and Canadian Minister for International Trade Pierre Pettigrew in Toledo, Spain to receive a joint government response to their 2001 CEO Round Table report.



The report focused on competition law, specifically, the need for the multilateral convergence of rules and procedures in the area of merger review. In their response, the governments agreed with CERT's key recommendations and praised the report as a sound contribution to ongoing discussions on merger review.

Both Lamy and Pettigrew highlighted that they were pleased with CERT's ongoing role as business interlocutor to the economic policy making progress and encouraged increased cooperation between business and government in dealing with key issues such as competition.

The CERT delegation was part of a larger Business Forum which ran in parallel to the Summit and featured 30 Spanish and Canadian chief executives. Morning discussions on transatlantic economic relations, including prospects for a Canada-EU free trade agreement, were matched by an afternoon meeting with Prime Ministers Chrétien of Canada and Aznar of Spain.