



## **EU-Canada Summit, Athens, 28 June 2003**

### **Lamy and Pettigrew credit CERT contributions as a valuable resource to enhance bilateral trade and investment**

CERT delegates presented working papers on regulatory cooperation, mutual recognition, and competition to EU Trade Commission Pascal Lamy and Canadian Trade Minister Pierre Pettigrew at the bi-annual Canada-EU Summit on 28 May 2003 in Athens, Greece.

Lamy and Pettigrew agreed upon the importance of CERT's role in voicing the concerns of Canadian and European multinationals, and encouraged CERT to "push its points." They noted that CERT's efforts reflect an "obvious and favorable exercise" to help shape policy from its conception. In addition, Lamy acknowledged that by taking a proactive approach to policy issues, CERT is providing its membership with the opportunity to access to the policy development process.

Representatives from both Canada and the EU re-affirmed their commitment to develop a new bilateral Trade and Investment Enhancement Agreements (TIEA). They agreed to a joint action plan toward a regulatory co-operation framework with the aim of eliminating unnecessary barriers to trade and investment, and welcomed the joint EU- Canada seminar on regulatory co-operation on 26 June in Brussels, "*Enhancing Partnership and Dialogue.*"

The architecture of the agreement is to be finalised by the next Canada-EU Summit meeting in Ottawa in December 2003.

Although the Canada-EU relationship was the focus of the Summit, both parties acknowledged that the current WTO round is a top priority, specifically, the upcoming WTO Cancun Ministerial Conference in September 2003. Both sides are eager to complete the Doha Development Agenda negotiations by the end of 2004.

For further information, consult the CERT website at [www.canada-europe.org](http://www.canada-europe.org).