



*The delegations of the European Parliament and the Parliament of Canada held the 38th inter-parliamentary meeting on 22nd June 2017 in Brussels. The following statement was adopted:*

The Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA) between the European Union and Canada provides a new framework for deepening the political cooperation between the two sides. In particular, under point e) of Article 27 it foresees the promotion of exchanges of delegations from the European Parliament and the Parliament of Canada. Taking the existing inter-parliamentary relationship as its basis, the European and Canadian legislators will aim to strengthen and enhance the level of discourse between them. It will do so against the background of other bodies set up under SPA, such as the Joint Cooperation Committee and the Joint Ministerial Committee.

In practical terms, the exchanges will continue to include the annual meeting of delegations. However, with a view to transforming these regular meetings into an ongoing and uninterrupted dialogue, additional contacts will be established. These will include:

- Additional meetings of delegations, including in Bureau format, organised with consent of both parliaments;
- Videoconferences, organised as needed between regular meetings of the delegations. This will serve to enable members to bring each other up to date on pending and topical issues. Responsibility for organizing and financing the conference will be shared on an alternating basis between the two institutions. Where issues are identified as having a possible impact on the other side, each party would be able to request an exchange via videoconference at an early stage. Efforts will be made to include members of relevant parliamentary committees.

Through these and other measures, the parliamentary dialogue between the EU and Canada would develop into a powerful tool to add a new level of democratic oversight to the expanding transatlantic relationship; at the same time, it would assist in the development of more harmonised approaches to issues of joint concern and be helpful in preventing disputes in sensitive areas before they occur.

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**Bernd Kölmel**  
Chair  
Delegation for relations with Canada  
European Parliament

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Scott Simms'.

**Scott Simms**  
President  
Canada-Europe Parliamentary Association  
Parliament of Canada