
CETA: MEPs pave the way for vote on EU-Canada trade agreement

Parliament rejected a request by 89 MEPs to refer the EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) to the European Court of Justice (ECJ) for an opinion on Wednesday.

Eighty-nine MEPs had questioned whether the free trade deal's investor protection provisions are in line with the right of governments to regulate in order to achieve legitimate public policy aims, such as protecting health, safety or the environment.

The referral request was rejected by 419 votes to 258, with 22 abstentions, paving the way for a vote on the CETA agreement itself.

“Our legal experts said that CETA has no effect on our legal framework, on the competencies of the EU or on our constitutional rights. This agreement provides an answer to our concerns regarding globalisation without causing problems for democracy”, said rapporteur Daniel Caspary (EPP, DE).

The [European Parliament's Legal Service](#) found no contradiction between CETA's investment chapter and the EU Treaties when it assessed this issue in June this year.

Background

Under Parliament's [Rules of Procedure](#) (108), the committee responsible, a political group or at least one-tenth of the Members may propose that Parliament seek an opinion from the ECJ on the compatibility of an international agreement with the Treaties before a vote is taken on that agreement.

Next steps

The agreement is to be put to a vote by the International Trade Committee on 5 December.

Procedure: Consent

Further information

[Draft motion for a resolution seeking an opinion from the Court of Justice on the compatibility of CETA with the Treaties](#)

[Opinion from the EP Legal Service on the compatibility of CETA investment dispute settlement provisions with the EU Treaties \(June 2016\)](#)

[Press release: Key MEPs on the revised CETA: EP investment protection demands are on board \(February 2016\)](#)

[EP Research Service: Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement \(CETA\) with Canada \(October 2016\)](#)

[Questions and answers by the European Commission](#)

[Rules of Procedure of the European Parliament](#)

Political groups

[News pages of the EPP group](#)

[News pages of the S&D group](#)

[News pages of the ECR group](#)

[News pages of the ALDE group](#)

[News pages of the GUE/NGL group](#)

[News pages of the Greens/EFA group](#)


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