

The EU and Canada also agree to consider working together on the promotion of GPA membership, in particular amongst developing countries, and accelerating negotiations of those already committed to join the GPA.

8. Trade Facilitation

The TIEA should set out a joint commitment and establish a framework for Canada and the EU to progress both bilaterally and multilaterally on trade facilitation.

The TIEA shall reflect a strong Canada-EU commitment to co-operate towards convergence of views and joint action in relevant multilateral organisations dealing with trade facilitation, notably in the WTO, the World Customs Organization (WCO), the United Nations (UN) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and use appropriate elements from their bilateral relations as a point of reference in such multilateral discussions.

Co-operation pursuant to the TIEA should in particular focus on areas that can bring identifiable trade benefits to both Parties.

The following aspects of trade facilitation should be covered:

- The development and sharing of best practices in modern customs techniques: risk management; simplified procedures; the status of authorised trader; pre-arrival processing; post entry audit; and “single window” co-ordination of official controls;
- Promotion of common application of international rules, standards and guidelines in the field of customs and international trade, including simplification and harmonization of import and export data and, where possible, use of documentation and procedures that are in line with relevant international standards of the WCO, the UN and other organizations;
- Co-operation in the field of electronic data exchange with the aim of facilitating trade (e.g. in line with the results of the G7 initiative on trade facilitation), once Canada and the EU have completed their respective electronic data interchange systems;
- Ensuring that any measure on security takes account of trade facilitation, by aiming at greater transparency, proportionality, non-discrimination, and the reduction of barriers to legitimate trade;
- Consulting the trading community on its needs with regard to the development and implementation of trade facilitation measures, noting that particular attention should be given to the interests of small and medium enterprises;
- Exchange of information and best practices regarding the Parties’ technical assistance policies and programmes in the field of trade facilitation; and
- Establishing a programme to develop future steps to facilitate trade.

Canada and the EU will make use of relevant co-operation mechanisms, notably those established under the 1997 Customs Co-operation Agreement and international organizations.