Canada is one of the closest, most like-minded partners of the European Union. The friendship has been shaped through extensive historical, cultural, political and economic links between the people of Europe and Canada and has grown over the decades to become a strategic partnership.

Rooted in common interests and shared values of freedom, respect for human rights, democracy, the rule of law, free and fair trade, effective multilateralism and a rules-based international order, the EU and Canada are working hand in hand to ensure the safety, prosperity and well-being of its people and to address today’s most pressing global challenges.

**STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP**

In 2016, the EU and Canada signed the Strategic Partnership Agreement (SPA) and Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), lifting the relationship to a new level.

The SPA entered into force on a provisional basis on 1 April 2017, enriching the political dimension of the relationship and deepening foreign and security policy cooperation. The Agreement also sets the framework for cooperation in 28 different thematic and geographic areas - from peace and security to human rights, research, innovation, education, fight against climate change, environmental protection and energy security.

This agreement provides structure and regularity in the bilateral cooperation through dedicated dialogues that range from Leaders Summits to Foreign Ministers meetings and expert level exchanges in key areas of shared interests, such as security and defence, sustainable development, climate change and innovation.

**RESPONSE TO RUSSIA’S AGGRESSION AGAINST UKRAINE**

The EU and Canada responded decisively to Russia’s unprovoked and brutal military aggression against Ukraine through coordinated sanctions and by providing comprehensive - security, financial, material and humanitarian - support to Ukraine. Together with like-minded partners, the EU and Canada will continue to support all measures to ensure that perpetrators of gross violations of human rights and international humanitarian law are held to account.

**DEFEAT THE PANDEMIC AND STEER A SUSTAINABLE GLOBAL RECOVERY**

Right from the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the EU and Canada have taken steps to promote international solidarity and to foster a multilateral response to this global health crisis. In May 2020, the EU and Canada co-hosted the EU-led Coronavirus Global Response Conference, and have displayed unwavering support to the WHO and the multilateral institutions coordinating the international response to the pandemic.

The EU and Canada work together to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic through global cooperation and pursue a sustainable and inclusive recovery; both support the COVAX facility to ensure access to vaccines and vaccination rollout in low and middle-income countries and have allocated substantial recovery funds to invest in the green, digital and socially fair transition.

EU EXPORTED MORE THAN 17.5 million VACCINE DOSES 60% DELIVERED TO CANADA
The EU and Canada are committed to fighting the urgent and interlinked challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss – in the air, on earth and in the oceans. They also affirm their commitment to the swift, full and effective implementation of the Paris Agreement and to their shared objective of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. In recognition of the role of carbon pricing to reduce emissions and stimulate innovation, the EU and Canada are exchanging on respective approaches, also with a view to expand the global coverage of carbon pricing.

Working hand in hand to achieve these shared objectives, the EU and Canada host regular dialogues on climate, environment, energy and ocean governance, and joint multilateral initiatives such as the Ministerial on Climate Action, co-convened together with China (the fifth edition took place on 23 March 2021).

The EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), signed at the EU-Canada Summit in October 2016 and provisionally applied since September 2017, cuts tariffs and makes it easier to trade in goods and services, benefitting people and businesses in both the EU and Canada.

Duties on 98% of products that the EU trades with Canada have been removed and, over the course of the next few years, a further 1% of tariff lines will be phased out. Four and a half years into the agreement, figures speak for themselves. In 2021, bilateral trade in goods between the EU27 and Canada increased by 31%, as compared to the pre-CETA situation. In 2021, EU exports to Canada grew by 26% as compared to the pre-CETA situation, whilst EU exports to the rest of the world only grew by 17% in the same period. Under this framework, an EU-Canada Strategic Partnership on Raw Materials was also set up in 2021 to advance trade and investments into a secure, sustainable and resilient raw materials value chain.

The EU is Canada’s 3rd largest trading partner.

**TOTAL MERCHANDISE TRADE BETWEEN CANADA AND THE EU REACHED**

€60 billion in 2021

+ 31% INCREASE COMPARED TO 2016

**TOTAL BILATERAL TRADE IN ENVIRONMENTAL GOODS GREW**

FROM €6.1 billion IN 2016 TO €7.1 billion IN 2019

+ 17% BETWEEN 2016 AND 2019

**BILATERAL TRADE IN SERVICES INCREASED BY**

+ 39% BETWEEN 2016 AND 2019

€35.6 billion IN 2019

CETA does not just work for the benefit of companies. CETA is one of the most progressive agreements the EU has ever concluded. It has some of the strongest commitments ever included in a trade deal to promote labour rights, environmental protection and sustainable development. CETA integrates the EU’s and Canada’s commitments to apply international rules on workers’ rights, environmental protection and climate action. These obligations are binding, with the same legal value as any other provision.
The EU has a strong and successful history of Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) collaboration with Canada, which goes back to 1959 with the signing of the Agreement for Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy. It continues with the Canada-EU Agreement for Scientific and Technological Cooperation. Under this agreement, Canada and the EU have established priority areas for STI cooperation, which include aerospace, agriculture and agri-food, Arctic and marine (under the Galway Statement on Atlantic Ocean Cooperation). Through our Digital Dialogue, launched in 2019, we are collaborating on a wide range of topics including Quantum. Horizon Europe has already selected three projects for joint funding. A series of joint workshops on eID and digital credentials have taken place. Both the EU and Canada are signatories of the ‘Declaration for the future of the Internet’ and join efforts on the DSA and DMA approach to legislating for platforms. We collaborate within the framework of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI). On Arctic, connectivity cooperation with Canada might be foreseen relatively soon.

The promotion of Peace, Security and Democracy constitutes an important pillar of EU-Canada Strategic Partnership Agreement. The EU and Canada regularly hold Senior Official Level Dialogues on Security and Defence (the last meeting took place in Ottawa on 23 November 2021), and the first EU Military Advisor/Defence Attaché to Canada is accredited in Ottawa since 2020.

Since 2003, Canada has contributed to EU civilian and military missions in Africa, Asia, Europe and the Middle East. Canadian experts currently participate in the EU mission supporting Palestinian police in the West Bank, the EU advisory mission in Ukraine and Canada contributes financially to the EU capacity-building mission in Mali.

The EU has recently invited Canada (together with the US and Norway) to participate in the EU PESCO (Permanent Structured Cooperation) project on Military Mobility, which constitutes another important step towards closer EU-Canada partnership in security and defence.

The EU and Canada jointly address new types of threats and challenges – including combatting threats such as attacks on infrastructures in the cyberspace and disinformation campaigns. The EU and Canada closely coordinate also on conflict prevention and mediation and Women, Peace and Security. In line with the EU-Canada Joint Statement of June 2015, they continue to support deepening EU-NATO cooperation on the political and operational levels.

The commitment to boost the partnership between the EU and Canada is reflected in the EU’s first strategy for security and defence – the Strategic Compass.

Academic mobility: since 2014, the EU has funded through Erasmus+ 3,500 mobilities of higher education students and staff between Canada and Europe. In the same period, the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions, which promote collaboration between academic, scientific and business communities in Europe and beyond have supported 332 Canadian researchers and staff members and have allowed 353 researchers and staff members (mostly European) to be hosted by Canadian organisations.