



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Office of the President
Member of Cabinet

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Mr Beat SANTSCHI
Vice President for Europe
International Federation of
Coalitions for Cultural Diversity

E-mail: cedc@coalitionfrancaise.org

Dear Mr Santschi,

The President of the European Commission, Mr José Manuel Barroso, asked me to thank you for your letter of 27 February concerning the treatment of audiovisual and cultural services in the negotiation by the Commission of a Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) with Canada.

I am afraid you have been misinformed on this issue. There is no disagreement with Canada on the exclusion of audiovisual services from market access commitments. Both parties agreed that the CETA will not interfere with their right to maintain the possibility to preserve and develop their capacity to define and implement their cultural and audiovisual policies for the purpose of preserving their cultural diversity, whilst promoting cultural and audio-visual exchanges and favouring inter-cultural dialogue.

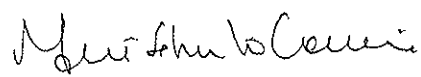
There are technical discussions with Canada on the modalities of the agreement. We particularly wish to avoid the risk that European cultural operators who play an active role in Canada could be discriminated against in relation to the protection of their intellectual property rights.

The Commission attaches a high importance to the 2005 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) convention on the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions to which the European Union is a party. The Commission played an essential role in the negotiation of the UNESCO convention together with other parties and is pursuing, with third countries in the field of culture, the promotion of the convention's ratification and also the implementation of its principles and provisions with the objective of fostering the diversity of cultural expressions both within the European Union and abroad.

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The implementation of the UNESCO convention, in conjunction with the implementation of the European agenda for culture, has emphasised and underlined the role and specificity of cultural goods and services that the Commission is taking into account when addressing these issues in bilateral or multilateral negotiations.

Yours sincerely,



Inês SERVULO CORREIA