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# Free trade agreement with EU encouraging, writes Beatty

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Re: "Parliamentarians should support CETA, upgrade intellectual property regime," *The Hill Times*, Sept. 5, 2011.

At such a critical point in Canada's relations with the European Union, it is encouraging to see our nation's innovative industries getting engaged and speaking about the benefits of a free trade agreement with the EU.

Opening the markets of the EU would allow Canadian companies to grow, innovate, and expand their foreign trade and investment, with expectations that Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) would generate more than \$40-billion in economic activity at a time when our country's fragile economic recovery could really use the boost.

The EU also represents the world's largest economy, home to 500 million consumers, and would become Canada's second-largest trading partner after the United States.

It is encouraging that, according to the Nanos survey cited by Russell Williams in his column, Canadians clearly understand the importance of this deal—the survey of 1,200 found nearly 80 per cent of Canadians support or somewhat support a free trade agreement with the EU.

Given what is at stake for Canadian businesses, it is imperative the Canadian government recognize this and ensure the CETA negotiations reach a successful conclusion.

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