

Update on CETA December 2016

October 2016:

The UK government agreed with the European Scrutiny Committee's recommendation for an urgent debate on CETA in the House of Commons, prior to the signing of CETA.

30.10.16:

CETA was signed by the Canadian Prime Minister and top EU officials

17.11.16

The EU Committee on Employment and Social Affairs calls on the EU International Committee on Trade to withhold its consent to CETA.

23.11.16:

The European Parliament rejected a request by 89 MEPs to refer CETA to the European Court of Justice for its opinion on whether the provision CETA makes for investment protection runs counter to the rights of governments to regulate.

5.12.16:

EU International Trade Committee due to vote on CETA (vote postponed).

January 2017:

UK parliamentary debate on CETA planned prior to EU Parliamentary vote (as demanded by House of Commons European Scrutiny Committee, as above).

1st or 2nd February 2017:

CETA to be presented to European Parliament for endorsement. If endorsed, the European Council can begin preliminary implementation of some parts of CETA (not Investment Court System).

2017:

If the European Parliament has endorsed CETA, the treaty then has to be voted on by the EU member states' national and federal parliaments (38 in all) to be ratified.

NB:

It's a matter of great concern that the process for ensuring a debate and vote to ratify (or not) FTAs like CETA in the UK Parliament is deeply flawed: it seems, for example, that even if a vote takes place, there is no way for the UK to conclusively veto the agreement.

(see The Constitutional Reform and Governance Act 2010, Section 20

[http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/25/section/20.](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/25/section/20))