

Trade

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Sharratt<info@cban.ca><aname="eztoc3585_1" id="eztoc3585_1"><h2>Canada-Europe Trade Deal (CETA) Attacks Seeds, Farmers, Food Sovereignty</h2><p>CBAN has joined the Trade Justice Network to take action. CBAN supports The National Farmers Union's new campaign to stop CETA.</p>Trade agreement with Europe threatens Canada's farmers, by Terry Boehm, President, National Farmers Union, Common Ground Magazine, Nov 2010.Video Primer on CETA from the Canadian Auto Workers<aname="eztoc3585_2" id="eztoc3585_2"><h2>Take Action</h2>You can write to The Honourable Peter Van Loan, Minister of International Trade: Just click here to send your letter instantly!Download the petition<aname="eztoc3585_3" id="eztoc3585_3"><h2>What is CETA?</h2><p>The Canada-EU Trade Agreement (CETA)- the trade agreement now being negotiated between Canada and the European Commission will impact on all aspects of our lives. The proposed agreement will jeopardize the ability of governments at all levels to procure goods and services that favour in any way local businesses thereby, for example, destroying arrangements that specifically source local food. Further this agreement is calling for the inclusion of UPOV '91 a draconian form of Plant Breeders Rights legislation that will effectively eliminate a farmer's or citizen's ability to save, reuse, exchange and sell seed. This agreement is also calling for the inclusion of enforcement procedures to uphold intellectual property rights that would allow for the judicial precautionary seizure of movable and immovable property, and the freezing of bank accounts of the alleged infringer. A farmer could see his/her home, land, equipment, and crops seized and have bank accounts frozen for being accused of using seed (including their own) that has a gene patent or other form of intellectual property attached to it. This agreement is likely to have every negative impact on our Canadian supply management systems for dairy, poultry and egg farmers as well as the Canadian Wheat Board.</p><p>The Canada-EU Trade Agreement (CETA) is already being negotiated! On May 6, 2009, Prime Minister Stephen Harper launched negotiations with Europe towards a Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement that will go beyond NAFTA in ways that threaten public services and local democracy in Canada. On April 19, 2010, the Trade Justice Network leaked the draft consolidated text of the agreement to start a public debate on the effect the agreement would have on a number of public policy areas in Canada.</p><p>European companies see Canada's public services, including water treatment, transportation, energy and even health care, as ripe for privatization. Europe has already requested that GMOs be exempt from the trade agreement but the right of farmers to save seed are under direct attack from the agreement. CETA would put powerful new tools into the hands of the biotech corporations.</p><aname="eztoc3585_4" id="eztoc3585_4"><h2>How will CETA affect farmers?</h2><p>National Farmers Union (NFU) President, Terry Boehm, warns this agreement will further intensify Canada's farmland crisis. <i>"The CETA would mean many changes, but none more negative than its effect to extinguish farmers' rights to save and reuse seeds,"</i> states Boehm.</p><p>National Farmers Union</p><p>Agriculture is a critical economic sector that will be severely affected by the proposed trade agreement with Europe. The trade deal will concentrate even more power in the hands of corporations, at the expense of farmers and food sovereignty.</p><p>Corporations Get Powerful New Tools to Control Seeds</p><p>The trade deal would give biotech, pharmaceutical, pesticide, seed, and grain companies powerful new tools to force farmers to buy seeds at high prices, on corporate terms. It would give corporations even more power to ultimately decide who farms and how.</p><p>Eliminate the Right to Save Seed?</p><p>The trade deal would almost entirely eliminate the right of farmers to save, reuse and sell seed</p><p>Plant varieties can be protected as intellectual property through Plant Breeders Rights as well as patents on genes. The trade deal would give rights holders an unprecedented degree of control over seeds and farming by committing Canada to adopt UPOV '91, the draconian 1991 version of <i>The International Convention for the Protection of New Plant Varieties</i>. The inclusion of UPOV '91 in the deal is completely unnecessary and is excessively harmful to Canadian farmers. Seed breeders would have the right to collect royalties on seed at any point in the food chain!</p><p>The draft of the trade deal also says that biotech corporations could seize the crops, equipment, and farms - and freeze the bank accounts - of farmers who are deemed patent infringers, like farmers who find unwanted contamination in their fields.</p>

End Supply Management? The deal would commit Canada to reducing or eliminating agricultural subsidies and other government support to farmers over time. Supply management systems that have allowed farmers in the dairy, poultry, and egg sectors to earn a decent living are under attack. The Canadian Wheat Board (a farmer-controlled grain marketer) is very likely under also threat.

[Resources/Topics/Trade/Secret-draft-text-Intellectual-Property-Chapter](#) target="_self">Click here to download the full draft chapter on Intellectual Property.

[eztoc3585_5?id="eztoc3585_5"](#) <h2>Other Trade News </h2> <p>**November 2009:** Contamination crisis deepens as reported /Resources/Topics/GE-Crops-and-Foods-Not-on-the-Market/Flax target="_self">GM flax contamination from Canada continues to be found. Canadian flax farmers faced depressed prices and their European market is closed. </p> <p>October 22, 2009. Press Release: /Press/Press-Releases/Trade-with-Canada target="_self">European Consumers Warned that Trade Deal with Canada could be used to Weaken GM Regulations </p> <p>July 20, 2009. Press Release: /Press/Press-Releases/Canada-capitulates-and-abandons-fight-with-Europe-at-the-WTO target="_self">Genetically Modified Food: Canada capitulates and abandons fight with Europe at the WTO </p> <p>Canada and Europe have signed a bilateral settlement which ends Canada's dispute with the EU at the World Trade Organization (WTO) over genetically modified foods - this leaves the US and Argentina alone in their WTO dispute with Europe over GM food and requires Canada to meet with EU officials twice yearly to discuss GM issues. </p> <p>The Canadian Government is trying to spin this new agreement as improving market access for GM crops in Europe, but this access already exists and the obstacle for Canadian food exports to Europe is continued consumer rejection. According to Monsanto, by March of this year, the European Commission had already approved all of the GM seeds currently used in Canada. </p> <p>**April 21, 2010 - Press Release, National Farmers Union:** /Resources/Topics/Trade/NFU-Canada-Europe-Free-Trade-Agreement target="_self">Secret Text of Canada-EU Trade Deal Released: The agreement may be the largest single issue on farm-policy horizon </p> <p>See the National Farmers Union and other unions discuss the impact on YouTube. </p> <p>Click here for or background information: /Resources/Topics/Trade/Background-Information-on-Canada-s-WTO-Dispute-with-Europe-over-GMOs target="_self">CBAN Briefing: WTO Dispute over Genetically Modified Organisms: Canada, Australia, US vs European Union, July 20, 2009 </p> <p>**Summary** </p> <p>On May 13, 2003, Canada filed a complaint, in tandem with complaints filed by Australia and the US, to the World Trade Organization (WTO) Dispute Settlement Body regarding European Commission delays in approving GMOs. </p> <p>Canada, US and Argentina alleged that the EU had put in place a de facto moratorium on GM approvals and that they had:
? Refused to give the approval to a number of new GM foods,
? Stopped processing application for new GMOs,
? Not taken action to stop EU member states banning GM products. </p> <p>In 2006, WTO dispute panels ruled that the EU had put in place an illegal moratorium. Canada and the EU continued discussions as the EU requested more time to address the outcome of the WTO ruling. </p> <p>European Union Member States are clashing with the European Commission over the approval of GMOs. The European Commission has approved 21 new GM crops since the WTO dispute was filed in 2003, while European countries continue to ban some GM crops. According to Monsanto, as of March of 2009, the European Commission had actually approved the last of the GM seeds used in Canada. Yet six European Union member states have banned the cultivation of Monsanto's GM corn MON810 </p> <p>Click here to read Canadian Government Press Release July 15 </p> <p>Click here to read the European Union Press Release July 15. </p>