Animal welfare in a bilateral trade policy framework

EU-Canada Equivalency Agreement on Slaughter

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Canada:

- EU's 12th most important trading partner
- 1.6% of the EU's total external trade in 2011 (€22.8bn; 2011)

EU

- Canada's second most important trading partner, after the U.S.,
- 10.4% share of its total external trade (€29.6bn; 2011)

Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) between Canada and EU near completion.
Microcosmos – Animal Health, Welfare and Food Safety

2001: EU-Canada Veterinary Agreement. Formal CFIA-EU SANCO forum for animal health and food safety.

2004: Animal welfare included within the scope of the Canada-EC Veterinary Agreement.

2006: AW technical working group established; Detailed Terms of Reference, respecting each others’ authorities and limitations

2010: Workshop on the welfare of animals at the time of slaughter; joint EU-Canada in Calgary
The Red Thread

- OIE animal welfare standards
- Canadian Regulations
- EU Regulations
- Industry Standards and Guidance
Why this is important

- AW standards are (or perceived) to be a cost factor

- Industry is (or perceives to be) disadvantaged when trade partners not held to similar, comparable, standards

- AW too important to become TBT

- AW too important to be a token in negotiations
What has worked for us

• Open and timely discussion on AW topics
• Joint awareness and training session
• Understanding of each other’s commitment and ways to address AW topics
• Understanding that “equal” is not necessarily “identical”
• Willingness to discuss and to learn
• Not losing sight of the goal – betterment of the well being of animals