EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR RESEARCH & INNOVATION

ERA-CAN +

Innovation Collaboration with Europe –

A Transatlantic Symposium

Toronto, 24-26 June 2015

Opening Remarks

Heino NAU
DG Research and Innovation

Dear David, dear Karsten,

- Thank you for your kind introduction.
- I am very glad to hear that the EU-Canada trade relations have improved so considerably since the times of Pierre Trudeau, who once concluded:
- "Canada is a country whose main exports are hockey players and cold fronts. And her main imports are baseball players and acid rain."

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

- I am delighted to be with you today at the occasion of this Transatlantic Symposium.
- Your interest in participating in this event shows that the EU-Canada cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation does not only exist on paper.
- This cooperation is alive and thriving because of bilateral support and coordination projects like ERA-CAN+ and its dedicated partners like - Canada's

Public Policy Forum, the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, the government department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development – and four EU funding agencies.

- I would like to seize the opportunity to thank David Mitchell, Darren Gilmour, Isabelle Couture and Rhonda Moore from the Public Policy Forum for organizing and hosting this event.

Horizon 2020

- The European Union continues to invest heavily in research and innovation – despite the aftermath of the economic and financial crisis.
- The EU Research and Innovation Framework Programme – called Horizon 2020 – will spend 100 billion Canadian dollars until the year 2020 – making it the largest single research and innovation framework programme worldwide.

- Horizon 2020 will finance the entire value chain of research and innovation – from lab to factory to market.
- Measures to support innovative firms include the provision of venture capital, of loans and the use of other financial instruments.
- International cooperation will be vital in achieving our goal of building a smart, sustainable and inclusive economy.
- That is why Horizon 2020 is open to all our international partners.
- The cooperation with Canada is a particularly successful example of this international cooperation – ever since 1959.
- Canada has established an excellent network of National Contact Points to facilitate and to encourage Canadian participation in Horizon 2020.

- Currently, there are almost 200 EU research and innovation projects with Canadian participants, making Canada a top international partner in collaborative EU research.
- The opportunities for Canadian participation in Horizon 2020 are promising throughout the programme – highlighting areas like marine and arctic research, health, aeronautics and ICT.
- Certainly, promoting networking events for innovation stakeholders, like the one you attend today, is a promising way to facilitate transatlantic matchmaking and partnering.
- Building transatlantic partnerships will be a key to success.

Conclusions

- In the first roundtable, we shall celebrate success stories for transatlantic collaboration and identify its key components.

- I have the pleasure and the honour to introduce John Milloy who is the facilitator of this roundtable.
- John is Co-director of the Centre for Public Ethics at Waterloo Lutheran Seminary, and was former Minister of Research and Innovation for the Province of Ontario.
- I was wondering which motto of a great Canadian innovator I could convey to John on his way to the podium.
- I found it by chance in Toronto's Hockey Hall of Fame.
- As Wayne Gretzky once revealed:
- "You miss 100 percent of the shots you never take!"