



Deputy Minister

Sous-ministre

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DMC 254373

NOV 22 2019

Anne Bucher
Director-General
Directorate-General for Health
and Food Safety
European Commission

Dear Anne Bucher:

It was a pleasure meeting with you last month in Brussels, and I thank you for your continued support of the Canada-European Union (EU) bilateral agriculture relationship.

I appreciated the positive, collaborative, and frank discussion on a range of issues during our first meeting. An open and constructive dialogue is important to the Canada-EU relationship, which I hope will continue within the context of the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) committees.

I very much appreciated our discussion on the issue of anti-microbial resistance, a serious public health matter that requires global attention. Anti-microbial resistance (AMR) is an area where collaboration at the global level will be necessary for success, as evidenced through work by our scientists on vaccine development, animal health, and the environment. I am pleased that a Canada-EU agriculture workshop to advance our co-operation on AMR is being planned for February 2020.

Canada and many other trading partners are seeking further information on the EU's approach to decision making on pesticides, and I was encouraged to hear that the EU-led seminars for third countries are also planned for February 2020.

With regard to innovation, Canada strongly believes that new plant breeding techniques offer tremendous potential for agriculture. The Government of Canada is available to offer information on our regulatory approach to new plant breeding techniques, should that be of interest. I am encouraged to hear that there have been improvements in the timing for approvals of genetically modified (GM) events.

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Anne Bucher

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Again, thank you for meeting with me earlier this month, and I look forward to continued collaboration and co-operation.

Sincerely,

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Chris Forbes

c.c.:

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