

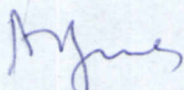
WE, THE UNDERSIGNED MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, NOTE THAT:

- Canada's commercial seal hunt is the largest slaughter of marine mammals on earth, with more than two million harp seals killed in the past decade alone,
- Canadian government reports confirm 97 percent of the seals killed are less than three months old,
- The commercial slaughter of seals causes needless and unacceptable suffering to sentient animals. Veterinarians confirm that commercial sealing is inherently inhumane. The extreme environments in which seal hunts occur, paired with the speed at which the slaughters operate, makes consistent and effective application of humane slaughter methods, and adequate monitoring of the killing by authorities, a practical impossibility,
- In response to concerns of EU citizens and consumers about the animal welfare aspects of the commercial slaughter of seals and the presence on the EU market of products obtained from animals killed and skinned in a way that causes pain, distress, fear and other forms of suffering, the European Commission proposed EU legislation to prohibit the trade in seal products in 2008,
- In 2009, 550 Members of the European Parliament voted in favour of a prohibition on the placing on the market of products from commercial seal hunts in the EU (Regulation (EC) No 1007/2009),
- Polling reveals that not only did Europeans overwhelmingly support a prohibition on seal product trade, but 86 percent of Canadians also supported the right of the EU to ban seal product trade,
- In direct opposition to the views of Canadian and European citizens, the Canadian government is pursuing a formal dispute at the World Trade Organization (WTO) to try to reverse the ban,
- The European Union and Canada are currently negotiating the Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), a deal that reportedly stands to benefit Canada's economy by CAN \$12 Billion (€ 8.7 Billion) annually,
- The CETA deal would provide CAN \$36 Million (€ 26 Million) annually for the Canadian fishing industry, which includes the fishermen who club and shoot seals for their fur,

THEREFORE, WE, THE UNDERSIGNED MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT:

**AGREE that the Canadian government challenge at the WTO in regards to the EU Regulation on seal product trade is an attack on both European and Canadian values and European democratic processes,**

**ASSERT that the European Parliament should not support the Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement until Canada withdraws its WTO challenge against the EU Regulation on trade in seal products.**

Name: Gonts, ANA	Signature:
Date: 5 Oct. 2011	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I hereby authorise the eventual publication of my name - as a signatory to this open letter to the Canadian government - in Canadian and/or EU news media.	