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Challenges and Opportunities in Canada-EU Relations

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Introduction

- EU is omnipresent on the world stage
- Canadian interests intersect with EU action on multiple fronts:
 - Political/international security
 - Trade
 - Global REACH
- Constant vigilance to spot and manage challenges, exploit opportunities



Foreign Policy/International Security

- Common values make us natural partners on peace and security issues
- We can leverage shared interests and resources
- How do we make this concrete?
- Example: EU POL in Afghanistan

- Solid if underperforming trade relationship
- EU disinterest in smaller and developed economies (*Global Europe*)
- Two-year (+) Canadian effort to overcome this challenge
- Result is historic opportunity to create comprehensive economic partnership



Global REACH

- EU regulations have effects beyond its borders: “regulator for the world”
- Substantial effects on third countries
- Seals: intentional attempt to regulate outside EU
- Arctic: bloc policy on area of key Canadian interest, but we have no say



Lessons learned

- EU is an “unavoidable partner”, which creates challenges and opportunities
- Canada can move the EU, if we work at it
- Must address Commission and Member States simultaneously
- Summits matter, if they are done properly
- What next?