

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001336/25
to the Commission
Joachim Streit (Renew)
(1 April 2025)**

Subject: Prospects of EU membership or association status for Canada

Recent international developments clearly show that the EU needs new reliable allies. At the same time, Canada is increasingly becoming the target of the new Trump administration's attacks on the sovereignty of other states. It seems judicious to consider Canada as a potential candidate for full EU membership or associated membership through the European Economic Area. Moreover, recent surveys show that a large number of Canadians (44-46%) want to consider joining the Union. A European Union strengthened in this manner would expand its single market, create sales opportunities, facilitate the exchange of goods and services, and be better able to withstand threats of tariffs and global security risks.

From a cultural and political point of view, Canada can indeed be considered European. It shares the EU's historical, linguistic and cultural background, performs well on key development indicators and would be able to meet the EU's Copenhagen criteria.

1. Does the Commission believe that Article 49 TEU, as it stands, can be interpreted in such a way as to allow Canadian membership?
2. Alternatively, if Canada were to apply for membership, would the Commission propose a legal revision of the treaties to make this possible?
3. Does the Commission plan to assess the benefits and possible consequences of Canada's accession in terms of the EU's economic competitiveness, standing, and defence and foreign policy positions?

Submitted: 1.4.2025

**Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(14 May 2025)**

Canada is one of the EU's closest and most long-standing partners. The relationship is rooted in shared values and is also shaped by extensive historical, cultural, political and economic links.

Nonetheless, Canada does not qualify as a 'European' state, within the meaning of the term presently set out in Article 49 of the Treaty on European Union. There are no plans to revise the Treaties or to assess the benefits and possible consequences of Canadian accession to the EU.
