

CITY OF HAMILTON M O T I O N

General Issues Committee Date: December 12, 2011

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR B. McHATTIE.....

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR

Canada – European Community Free Trade Agreement – Impact on City of Hamilton

WHEREAS the government of Canada and the European Union have been negotiating a trade agreement known as the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (the “CETA”); and

WHEREAS the European Union and European corporations are insisting on unobstructed access to procurement by sub-national governments, including municipalities, school boards, universities, hospitals and other provincial agencies, which could significantly reduce or eliminate the right to specify local priorities when public money is invested in goods, services or capital projects; and

WHEREAS Canadian municipalities have expressed growing concerns with trade agreements and their potential impacts on municipal programs and services and local autonomy; and

WHEREAS unobstructed access to Canadian municipal procurement by European corporations, combined with investment protections in CETA on government concessions related to transit, water, electricity and other social services delivered locally, may encourage privatization and reduce economic development options for local communities; and

WHEREAS the provincial and territorial governments have been actively involved in negotiating CETA with the European Union:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

(a) That the City of Hamilton request:

- (i) a briefing from the Ontario Government on the scope and content of trade negotiations with the European Union, including the details of its procurement offer to the EU;
- (ii) the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to provide a sector-by-sector analysis of the potential impacts on municipal functions and powers of the procurement regime that the European Union is seeking;

- (iii) the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to urge the Government of Canada not to provide the European Union with access to sub-national government procurement;
 - (iv) that the Government of Ontario negotiate a clear, permanent exemption for local governments from CETA;
 - (v) City staff to review the available information on the impact CETA will have on the City of Hamilton, with special emphasis on procurement and the delivery of social services, and;
- (b) That this resolution be sent to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario for consideration and circulation to Ontario municipalities.