

Brussels, 13 March 2017

ECCJ  
Rue d'Edimbourg 26  
1050 Brussels, Belgium

To: Prime Minister Justin TRUDEAU  
Minister of Trade François-Philippe CHAMPAGNE

**RE: Call for a Canadian Ombudsperson for the Extractive Sector**

Honourable Mr Trudeau and Mr Champagne,

With this letter, the [European Coalition for Corporate Justice](#) (ECCJ) would like to join calls for the creation of a Canadian Ombudsperson for the extractive sector, to ensure remedy for people who have been harmed by Canadian extractive companies operating overseas.

With 21 member groups representing over 250 organisations from 15 countries, ECCJ is the only European coalition bringing together campaigns and national platforms of NGOs, trade unions, consumer organisations and academics in order to promote corporate accountability.

Our organisation was created with the purpose of uniting civil society under a strong common message on the subject of business and human rights. One of ECCJ's main priorities is ensuring access to justice for victims of corporate malpractice.

It is vital that major economic players, like Canada, address the salient issue of access to effective remedy for victims and affected communities, through providing for independent and transparent mechanisms with capacity to conduct investigations. The need for more decisive action on access to justice was also expressed by the European Union Council in its [Conclusions on Business and Human Rights](#) in July 2016.

We trust that the creation of an Ombudsperson for the Canadian extractive sector is a step forward in the right direction.

Lastly, after consulting the model legislation published by the **Canadian Network on Corporate Accountability** on this subject, we would like to express our agreement with their findings, and our support for their proposal.

We would like to thank you for the attention and time given to our letter and we trust that you will take our recommendations into consideration.

Sincerely,

Jerome Chaplier  
Coordinator, European Coalition for Corporate Justice

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'JC', is located at the bottom left of the page.