***SPIRITSEUROPE RELIEVED BY THE POSITIVE VOTE IN FAVOUR OF***

***THE EU-CANADA TRADE DEAL***

Brussels, 24 January 2017 - ***Statement of Mr Paul Skehan, Director General of spiritsEUROPE\* on the positive vote in the INTA Committee on the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) on 24 January 2017***

“*We welcome the positive vote in INTA this morning and we look forward to a full ratification in Strasbourg next month. There have been fruitful debates at national and EU level. We have made the case for CETA. We have contributed with all positive arguments to demonstrate the benefits of the deal for the small and large spirits producers and all those working in sectors connected to our local productions. It is the right time for Europe to seize the opportunity offered by an ambitious deal with a democratic country that is sharing our values*”.

*“We strongly believe that at a time when domestic markets are difficult, export markets are providing the only opportunities for growth. From a specific spirits sector perspective, Canada is already the 5th largest market for European spirit drinks, generating €341 million for the European economy each year, and a deal now will open the opportunity for increasing our sales there. It would also mean greater access to quality European spirits for Canadian consumers.”*

- ENDS -

\*in his capacity as permanent representative of Skehan sprl

**NOTE TO EDITORS:**

* spiritsEUROPE is the representative body for the spirits industry at European level comprising 31 associations and 8 multinationals: [www.spirits.eu](http://www.spirits.eu).
* Specific arguments, videos and data available at [www.cetanow.eu](http://www.cetanow.eu) and @ceta\_eu