
GERMANY LEADS PUSH AGAINST EU'S 'ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP' LABEL FOR CANADA

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Governments are split over the idea, which Ursula von der Leyen floated in her 2026 State of the Union address.

Germany, France and at least six other EU countries are pushing against associate membership as the name for closer EU ties with Canada, six diplomats involved in the negotiations said.

The label is one of the main sticking points in talks over a joint declaration setting areas of deeper cooperation between Brussels and Ottawa ahead of the EU-Canada summit in Montreal on Oct. 29-30, the six diplomats and two EU officials told POLITICO. They were granted anonymity to discuss the sensitive negotiations.

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