

## Joint Political Declaration on Canada-EU Relations

Mindful of the ties of history, tradition, culture, and kinship that bind us, and of our community of values we, Canada and the European Union, agree to further enhance our co-operation in pursuit of common objectives and on the basis of deeply-held, shared, principles. This joint endeavour is given special meaning by the trading relationship that has characterised the transatlantic region since the age of discovery, and by a commitment to common security and democratic values that have led Canadians and Europeans to join in defence of freedom and democracy in Europe and elsewhere. Our deep attachment to democracy and the rule of law, our shared commitment to the protection of human rights, and our promotion of free market economies, the 1976 Framework Agreement and the 1990 Declaration on Canada-EC Relations, all of these give special meaning to the actions we will undertake together. In this context, we may associate all interested participants, including the Canadian provinces and other sub-national entities in their respective areas of competence, in developing transatlantic contacts and in implementing the Joint Action Plan.

The transatlantic community benefits from a long tradition of co-operation in international security and defence. In view of the new security environment on the European continent, we are committed to the construction of a European security architecture in which the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, the European Union, the Western European Union, the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe and the Council of Europe have complementary and mutually reinforcing roles to play.

We will co-operate actively to give new impetus to democratic development, good governance, the rule of law, and human rights. Preventive diplomacy, peace-keeping and peace-building will receive increased attention in the future. We will co-operate closely on the former Yugoslavia. We will jointly strive to rebuild a viable civil society in this war torn region and to create the conditions necessary for a lasting peace.

On the basis of our shared experience in assisting the new democracies of Central and Eastern Europe, Russia, Ukraine and other NIS, we will work together seeking to entrench stability, democracy, free markets and economic growth in the region.

We will take new steps to enhance our collaboration in all appropriate fora dealing with arms control and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. In the area of conventional arms control, including the objective of eliminating anti-personnel land-mines, we have agreed to make a special effort. In response to the challenges posed by the threats to global security, and the transnational impact of global trends, we will enhance co-operation to deal better with issues such as environmental degradation, nuclear safety, uncontrolled migration, terrorism and international crime. We will seek to enlist the support of other members of the UN to promote effective international regimes wherever needed.

Recalling the priority we attach to development aid, notably with respect to the least developed countries, we agree to reinforce our coordination in multilateral fora and co-operate more actively at the bilateral level.

We will promote economic prosperity by adopting measures to strengthen our trading relationship and increase business-to-business contacts and give priority to resolving pending bilateral trade disputes and to enhancing the development of bilateral trade flows. In doing so, we will emphasize co-operation and the rules-based resolution of disputes as guiding principles. Our focus will be on practical results in reducing and removing barriers to trade. We will also work closely in the World Trade Organisation in an effort to open new markets and increase prosperity.

In addition to the common approach between Canada and the European Union in combatting secondary embargoes, we will work together under the Action Plan in order to avoid unilateralism and the extraterritorial application of laws.

In order to secure the long-term future of our bilateral relationship we agree to place special emphasis on the people to people links that form a bridge across the Atlantic. In order to renew our ties based on shared cultures and values, we will encourage contacts between our citizens at every level, especially among our youth. We will also remove unnecessary barriers between people by making it easier for our respective business men and women to make contact and to identify new commercial opportunities.

In recognition of the impact information technology has had on scientific and academic development, we will take imaginative new steps to enhance collaboration on science and technology. Cognisant of the new realities of globalization and the emerging information society, including the opportunities offered to increase prosperity, we will co-operate to develop information and communication strategies that respect cultural and linguistic diversity.

To ensure that our elected officials remain engaged and sensitive to the new currents of our dynamic relationship, we will actively promote contacts between our Parliamentarians, as well as our young people, and our artists and creators, on issues of common concern.

In order to achieve our common goals we today adopt this Joint Political Declaration and its Joint Action Plan aimed at furthering our bilateral co-operation. These documents do not affect any legal position of Canada, the European Community, or its Member States, nor do they prejudice the respective legal positions of Canada and the Kingdom of Spain in the "Fisheries Jurisdiction Case" before the International Court of Justice. The Action Plan is based on our community of values, which is the source of our strength in so many fields. We are committed to sharing these values, and the benefits they bestow, with other countries that may seek our co-operation and support. In this respect, we will consider with the United States, on a case-by-case basis, trilateralisation in specific areas covered by the Joint Action Plan.

As our dynamic relationship continues to evolve we stand ready to respond to new challenges and opportunities by updating and amending our mutual agenda to meet future demands.

DONE at Ottawa, in duplicate, this 17<sup>th</sup> day of December, 1996, in the English and French languages, both versions being equally valid.

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT  
OF CANADA**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jean Chrétien  
Prime Minister

**FOR THE EUROPEAN UNION**

\_\_\_\_\_  
John Bruton  
President of the European Council

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sir Leon Brittan  
Vice-President of the European Commission

## Joint Canada-EU Action Plan

This Action Plan is designed to strengthen and expand Canada-EU relations. It consists of four parts:

Economic and Trade Relations

Foreign Policy and Security Issues

Transnational Issues

Fostering Links.

The Action Plan will apply the Joint Political Declaration and be implemented on the basis of the mechanisms established under the 1976 Canada-EC Framework Agreement for Commercial and Economic Co-operation, the Declaration on Canada-EC Relations of 22 November 1990, and, as appropriate, other bilateral or multilateral instruments. Canada-EC Summits will assess results and perspectives.

### I. Economic and Trade Relations

Canada and the EU are important economic partners who share a common outlook and philosophy with regard to international trade and commerce. They commit themselves to strengthening the multilateral trading system and to facilitating their bilateral trade and investment flows.

#### 1. Reinforcing the multilateral trading system.

##### a) Strengthening the WTO

They will:

- promote adherence to the multilateral trade regime, including the effective functioning of the WTO dispute settlement system, and work to secure the full implementation of the Uruguay Round Agreements by all WTO Members;
- work to ensure a successful and substantive follow-up to the December 1996 Singapore Ministerial meeting;
- co-operate on the accession of new WTO members on the basis of respect for WTO rules and the achievement of meaningful market access;
- promote the effective management and operation of the WTO.

EAI

EAI

EAI

EAI

EAI

**b) Uruguay Round unfinished negotiations**

They will work together for and commit themselves to the successful completion of the negotiations on telecommunications and financial services, aiming at the conclusion of genuine multilateral agreements based on the MFN principle, as well as ensuring multilateral liberalisation of maritime transport.

**c) Government procurement**

- They agree on the general objectives of encouraging all WTO members to accede to the WTO Government Procurement Agreement (GPA) and of improving its disciplines.
- They commit themselves to a full implementation of their commitments under the GPA and to the on-going WTO negotiations related to government procurement and will promote the launch of further negotiations aimed at covering substantially all government procurement and including all WTO members.
- They agree to initiate work on a multilateral arrangement on transparency, openness and due process in government procurement, which would also help to reduce corruption as an impediment to trade.

**d) New issues on the trade policy agenda**

They will address together, in the WTO and other international fora, the new issues on the trade agenda, in particular:

- (i) Environment: They will follow-up on the report of the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE) for the Singapore Ministerial by working within the CTE to ensure that trade and environment policies are mutually supportive.
- (ii) Investment: They will strive for a successful conclusion of the negotiations on a Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI) in the OECD framework, enshrining strong principles on international investment liberalisation and protection.

They agree to promote work on trade and investment within the WTO and to make every effort to create the conditions required for the launching of negotiations on investment in the WTO, which should not prejudice the results of the MAI negotiations.

EBT/EBS/FINANCE/FINANCIAL SECTOR POLICY

EBI/INDUSTRY CANADA

EAS/AGE/ENVIRONMENT CANADA  
/INDUSTRY CANADA

EBI/INDUSTRY CANADA/FINANCE

(iii) **Competition:** They will pursue work on the scope for multilateral action in the fields of trade and competition policy with a view to putting the question on the agenda of future WTO proceedings with the objective of possible rule making.

EBI/INDUSTRY CANADA

(iv) **Labour standards:** They confirm their endorsement of the provisions on core labour standards contained in the WTO Ministerial Declaration adopted at Singapore on 13 December 1996.

EAI/HRDC

e) **Opening new markets**

EAT/FINANCE/INDUSTRY CANADA

They will co-operate in creating additional trading opportunities, bilaterally and throughout the world in conformity with WTO rules.

They will consult about recent respective initiatives in the area of market access.

They will work toward the conclusion of a multilateral Information Technology Agreement as soon as possible.

In the perspective of the WTO Singapore meeting they will pursue all possibilities for further trade liberalisation.

f) **Intellectual property rights (IPR)**

EBT/EAS/INDUSTRY CANADA/REVENUE CANADA

They will:

co-operate to ensure the full implementation of the TRIPs Agreement and improve the level of IPR protection throughout the world.

- work together to conclude successfully the work in progress to develop improved standards of IPR protection in WIPO.

g) **Standards and technical regulations**

EAS/INDUSTRY CANADA/AGRICULTURE CANADA

They will co-operate to ensure the full implementation of the Technical Barriers to Trade and Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary Agreements, and give consideration to developing further initiatives in the WTO to eliminate technical barriers to trade.

2. **Reinvigorating the bilateral economic relationship**

RWD/EAD/EBD

They will consider with the United States, on a case-by-case basis, trilateralisation between Canada, the European Union and the United States for subjects included in the New Transatlantic Market Place.

**a) Dealing with bilateral trade disputes and facilitating trade**

They will give priority to resolving pending bilateral trade disputes and to enhancing the development of bilateral trade flows. They commit themselves to a more effective use of, and where necessary to improve, existing mechanisms, including those under the 1976 Framework Agreement for Commercial and Economic Co-operation, to provide early warning of potential trade and investment disputes and to address the increase of trading and business opportunities.

**b) Joint study**

They will carry out a joint study on ways of facilitating trade in goods and services and further reducing or eliminating tariff and non-tariff barriers.

**c) Standards certification and regulatory issues**

They will rapidly conclude a bilateral agreement on mutual recognition of conformity assessment, which includes certification and testing procedures for several sectors.

They will strengthen regulatory co-operation, in particular by encouraging regulatory agencies to give high priority to co-operation with their transatlantic counterparts, so as to address and prevent technical and other non-tariff barriers to trade and investment resulting from different regulatory processes at all levels.

**d) Competition policy**

They aim to bring the bilateral co-operation agreement in the area of competition policy into force in 1997.

**e) Government procurement**

They will work to expand the access at all levels to their respective public procurement markets, on the basis of fair and balanced opportunities. They will also examine other issues of common interest to advance liberalisation of public procurement markets.

**f) Financial services**

They will co-operate with a view to facilitating market access to their respective financial services industries.

REU/EAT/EAS/JLT/AGRICULTURE/INDUSTRY  
CANADA/FINANCE

Canada continues to pursue resolution of Canadian concerns with respect the EU cereals imports regime. We are expecting a reply to Minister Goodale's letter to Commissioner Franz Fishler (Agriculture), which is anticipated to lead to a negotiated settlement in 1997. (Agriculture) Canada plans to hold discussions on a Canada/EU wine and spirits agreement in February-March 1997. (Agriculture)

RWD/EAD/EBD/FINANCE/INDUSTRY  
CANADA/AGRICULTURE CANADA/REVENUE  
CANADA

EAS/REU/JLE/INDUSTRY CANADA

Canada aims to conclude an agreement on mutual recognition agreements with the EU in 1997.

EBI/REU/JLE/ INDUSTRY CANADA/EBD

Canada will seek to conclude negotiations on a Competition Policy Agreement with the EU in 1997.

EBI/REU/INDUSTRY CANADA

EBS/REU/FINANCE

**g) Intellectual property rights (IPR)**

They will renew their efforts to resolve all remaining bilateral IPR problems.

**h) Customs and indirect taxation**

- (i) They will endeavour to reach a bilateral agreement on customs co-operation and mutual assistance in early 1997. This agreement should cover:

-with regard to customs co-operation:

- the simplification of customs procedures, computerisation, including data exchange and common access to databases, methods of work, exchange of officials and co-operation within international organisations;

-and with regard to mutual assistance:

- the provision of information on request, including the carrying out of surveillance and enquiries and the spontaneous exchange of information on all matters related to the application of Canadian/Community customs legislation, including the exchange of enforcement information for the proper application of customs law and for the prevention and combatting of customs offenses.
- (ii) They will establish, as much as possible, a common approach with regard to interpretation of the WTO Customs Valuation Code.
- (iii) They will exchange information with respect to value-added taxation systems in both Canada and the Community.

**i) Anti-dumping and countervailing duties**

They will work together towards the achievement of multilateral consensus in the interpretation and implementation of the WTO rules concerning anti-dumping and countervailing duties.

EBT/EAS/REU/INDUSTRY CANADA/AGRICULTURE

REU/JLE/EAT/JLT/REVENUE CANADA/FINANCE

In 1997, Canada will seek to conclude an agreement in customs co-operation with the EU.

Canada and the EU Member States participate in the World Customs Organization (WCO) Technical Committee on Customs Valuation, and will work together on a multilateral basis to establish a common approach to valuation issues, to the extent possible.  
(Revenue Canada)

Canada will be providing information on the new harmonised sales tax in the Atlantic provinces to the European Commission which we expect to lead to a regular dialogue between Canada (Finance and Revenue Canada) and the EU on taxation systems.  
(Revenue Canada)

EAR/FINANCE/REVENUE CANADA/AGRICULTURE  
CANADA



**j) Fisheries**

Noting:

- the Agreed Minute of 20 April 1995 and the subsequent adoption of its different elements in the NAFO context;
- Canada's decision to reopen its ports to EU-registered fishing vessels effective 21 June 1996 and that Canadian and EU enterprises can enter into joint commercial ventures;

They will follow up on the results of their bilateral fisheries negotiations of 1992 and 1995.

They express their determination to adopt all the necessary measures with a view to the early ratification and subsequent implementation of the United Nations Agreement on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks.

**k) Veterinary, sanitary and phyto-sanitary co-operation**

They will aim to conclude the ongoing negotiations on a bilateral agreement concerning equivalence in the veterinary sector, without delay. They will also co-operate on sanitary, phyto-sanitary and other veterinary matters.

**l) Transport**

They will jointly support the development of a global navigation satellite system and the multilateral co-operation mechanisms to achieve that goal.

They will co-operate on air traffic management and air safety.

They will exchange information on maritime transport of dangerous or polluting goods, further strengthen co-operation in the area of Port State Control, and develop co-operation on vessels traffic management information systems, including use of the European Permanent Traffic Observatory (EPTO).

**m) Energy**

They will consult regularly using existing mechanisms on energy and energy-related issues, and pursue the possibilities for joint or coordinated actions where appropriate, notably in the field of energy trade, investment and deregulation, energy policy including environmentally related issues, energy technology, and nuclear questions. This also includes energy co-operation with third countries, and, in particular, the former centrally planned economies.

**REU/JLO/FANDO**

Spanish fisheries officials visited Canada in February 1997 to develop better understanding of Canadian policies and practices in the North Atlantic fishery. (REO/Madrid)

Canada-EU Senior Officials level consultations on fisheries issues will take place in Ottawa in the Spring, 1997

Canada expects to ratify the UN Agreement shortly. (JLOA)

**REU/EAS/AGRICULTURE**

**EBS/TRANSPORT CANADA/NAVCAN**

**AGE/NATURAL RESOURCES CANADA**

**n) Information society, information technology, and telecommunications**

They will:

- exchange views on the evolution of the information society (both information technology and content, including in the audio-visual sector) and promote joint co-operation for a better understanding of its importance for economic, social and cultural development and for the respect of cultural and linguistic diversity;
- exchange views and coordinate on regulatory issues, paying particular attention to pro-competitive policies and regulatory regimes, interconnection and interoperability, including standardization issues, universal service, access to information and the protection of IPR;
- continue their joint work on telecommunications policy including the negotiation of a multilateral agreement on basic telecommunications services with a view to eliminating barriers to trade and investment and to ensuring effective possibilities for competition;
- exchange views on their respective development of the information highway in order to identify opportunities for joint development of business and public sector products and services, to provide new cultural links and to enhance their ability to promote cultural and linguistic diversity;
- co-operate on the integration of the developing countries into the global information society, in particular, through joint support of the actions arising from the Information Society and Development Conference in South Africa and through joint participation in the International Telecommunications Union;
- jointly support the implementation of the G-7 global projects on the information society including establishing broadband communication network links and institutional links among Canadian and European institutions in order to facilitate joint co-operation projects;

**EBT/INDUSTRY CANADA/HERITAGE**

A Canada chaired Canada-France joint working group on multimedia content will be meeting in 1997 to foster joint ventures and projects between Canada and French businesses in telecommunications and information technologies. (Heritage/Industry)

In 1997, Canada will explore the launching of negotiations with the EU on a Canada-EU Memorandum of Understanding on Audiovisual Cooperation. This would give Canada an eventual Association with the EU's Media II Program and establish a working Group on audiovisual cooperation under the Canada-EU Joint Cooperation Committee. (Heritage)

In 1997, Canada seeks to conclude audiovisual co-production agreements with Austria, Denmark and Finland, which will bring the total number of EU countries with which we have agreements to 13. (Heritage)

A delegation of members of the European Parliament's Culture Committee is scheduled to come to Canada in the Spring of 1997, to study Canada's approach to audio-visual and broadcasting policy. (REU/Heritage)

CIDA  
EEA  
INDUSTRY CANADA  
HERITAGE CANADA

- address data protection and privacy issues with a view to facilitating data flows between Canada and the EU, while guaranteeing the rights of individuals.

**o) Statistical co-operation**

They will:

- continue their efforts to reconcile their respective statistics on investment and trade in goods and services;
- develop compatible methods of collecting and analysing statistics.

**3. Employment and Growth**

Faced with the twin challenges of achieving economic growth and combatting unemployment, they will co-operate in the follow-up to the G-7 Summit initiative and the G-7 Jobs Conference in Lille.

They will continue to exchange views on macroeconomic issues in the light of the importance of a sound macroeconomic framework, both for the development of an harmonious relationship and for the fostering of non-inflationary growth, the reduction of imbalances and international financial stability.

They will establish a dialogue on employment policy as well as labour related and social issues under the aegis of the Joint Co-operation Committee. Such a dialogue may include: removing barriers to employment and disincentives to entering the labour market; integration of young people into the labour market; fostering workers mobility; approaches to training and innovations in the work place.

**REU/ JUSTICE**

Canada will continue to participate in an EU project to survey the legal structures relating to the policy of enhancing transborder data flows on the information highway. The project is expected to be completed in 1997. (Justice)

**REU/EET/STATISTICS CANADA**

**EER/FINANCE**

Throughout 1997, Canada will be co-operating with the EU and participating EU Member States, on macro-economic issues to address the shared twin challenges of achieving economic growth and combatting unemployment, in the follow-up initiatives to the 1996 Lyon G-7 Summit, G-7 Jobs Conference in Lille, and preparations for the Denver G-7 Summit in June 1997. Employment issues will also be addressed by the G-7 Employment Ministers Conference in Japan in the autumn of 1997. (EER)

Canada is planning to host a visit by commissioner Yves Thibault de Silguy (Economic and financial affairs, monetary matters) to liaise on EU preparations to introduce the (proposed) single currency. (REU/B. of Can./Finance/EER)

**HRDC/EAI**

## II. Foreign Policy and Security Issues

As stated in the 1990 Declaration on Canada-EU Relations, Canada and the EU share a commitment to strengthening the transatlantic relationship and to the security and stability of Europe, the extension of democracy, respect for human rights, and the rule of law, in the wider world. They have a common interest in stimulating and supporting efforts aimed at resolving international and civil conflicts also by promoting peace-keeping and peace-building measures. They also share a commitment to working through relevant international organisations and implementing preventive diplomacy in conformity with international law.

In the spirit of the commitments and mechanisms identified in the 1990 Declaration, areas for common consultation and action will be jointly identified and periodically reviewed.

### 1. Strengthening co-operation on Euro-Atlantic security issues

Recognising the indivisible character of Euro-Atlantic security they confirm that NATO remains, for its members, the centrepiece of transatlantic security, providing the indispensable link between North America and Europe.

In the context of the relevant institutions and in the light of their evolution, they will continue to work together to promote common security, including through the design of a new European Security Architecture.

They will work together in ensuring that the process of integration into European and transatlantic security structures occurs in a manner which enhances the common security preserved by the transatlantic link.

## IDD

Canada expects to maintain an ongoing involvement in security building in Europe. We will be engaging the Commission and EU Member States, in a wide range of fora throughout the year about a) future flash points in the region and how to address these, b) where Canadian involvement would be useful, and c) policy-level structures in which we are represented to coordinate policy and programme delivery.

Through regular consultations throughout the year with the EU and its Member States, on multilateral questions such as disarmament and NATO enlargement, we intend to ensure that where concerted action is possible we will work together to achieve common goals internationally.

Canada wishes now to propose to the EU Dutch Presidency that it join in the formal framework of consultations on matters of foreign and security policy with the EU Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) Working Groups.

On February 26, MINA is scheduled to participate in a transatlantic Dialogue Ministerial with Dutch Foreign Minister Jan Mierlo.

## IDR/REU

In the coming months, the Canada-EU Troika Political Directors are scheduled to meet to discuss political and security issues of common concern. (REU/IDR/DND/RCMP/SOLICITOR GENERAL/CSIS).

## IDR/IDC/DND

In May 1997, the Association of Canadian Studies in Ireland will be hosting a seminar in peacekeeping. (Dublin)

## IDR

## **2. Strengthening co-operation on global issues**

### **a) United Nations**

They will coordinate their efforts to resolve the financial crisis of the United Nations and consult on reform of the UN system.

Wherever possible, they will coordinate more closely their positions in all appropriate UN bodies, including specialised agencies and subsidiary organs of the UN, in the spirit of transatlantic relations.

### **b) Global security, disarmament and non-proliferation**

They will co-operate to achieve further progress on disarmament measures and will co-ordinate their efforts to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons by working towards the implementation of the CTBT and promoting and strengthening of, and universal adherence to, the NPT, the early and effective implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention and the conclusion of a verification regime for the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention. They will promote efforts to negotiate a convention to ban the production of fissile material for weapons purposes and will co-operate within the G-7/P-8 on the safe and effective management of weapons fissile material designated as no longer required for defence purposes. They will work to promote greater restraint and transparency in conventional arms transfers and co-operate to promote the further strengthening of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and the elimination of the irresponsible use of anti-personnel mines.

### **c) Human rights and democracy**

They will:

- consult bilaterally and within the framework and the relevant bodies of the UN, especially the UN Commission on Human Rights, on human rights issues in general and particularly on measures to apply to countries where human rights are being violated;

IMO

In September 1997, Canada is expected to meet again with the EU "Troika" and at the U.N. General Assembly to discuss issues of common concern regarding the U.N and human rights in the U.N. context. (AGH, IMD, Justice)

IDD/IDN/IDA/EPE/IDC

In May 1997, Canada and the EU will be collaborating at a Chemical Weapons Conference in The Hague. Canada and the EU will work together to ensure that the entry into force of the Chemical Weapons Convention occurs as gracefully as possible, will encourage those states which have not already done so to ratify the Convention, and will share information and experiences concerning the implementation of the Convention. (IDA)

Canada and the EU will continue to consult and cooperate at every appropriate opportunity to work towards the rapid achievement of a global ban on the use, production, stockpiling and transfer of anti-personnel mines. Toward this end, Canada and the EU will work together to promote successful conferences to be hosted by Austria and Belgium, and we will cooperate in promoting a strong resolution at the 52nd session of the U.N. General Assembly. (IDA)

Canada and the EU will also continue their close cooperation on the negotiation of a verification regime for the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention. (IDA)

In the fall of 1997 at the UN General Assembly, Canada will consult with the EU on UN Third Committee (Human Rights, Social Affairs, and Justice) issues of concern within the context of the informal consultations between the EU and the other like minded non-EU nations. They will also consult before the UN Human Rights Commission. (AGH, JUSTICE)

- consult on election monitoring missions, regularly exchange information on the results of electoral missions and, whenever possible, co-operate in order to promote good governance, the rule of law, democratic institutions and civics education;
- consult and co-operate in the development of peace-building strategies aimed at, inter alia, the development of an effective framework for action;
- improve international coordination in post-conflict situations;
- work together to promote the rights of the child.

AGP

AGP

AGP

AGH

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Axworthy, is scheduled to participate in the Amsterdam Conference on the most intolerable forms of child labour worldwide. (AGP)

### 3. Regional co-operation

Within the general framework of their consultations, Canada and the EU will enhance the level of their co-operation in specific areas where this might prove appropriate and fruitful. For the time being they reaffirm their interest in the following areas:

#### a) OSCE

They will strengthen their coordination in the OSCE framework, including on conflict prevention and crisis management, confidence and security building measures, the new security model, and fostering democracy and human rights.

IDR

At the OSCE, Canada will work closely with the EU on election monitoring in Croatia and in Bosnia, to ensure the setting up and effective functioning of democratic institutions. (RES)

#### b) The Balkans

They will continue their work together to ensure the full implementation of the Dayton/Paris Peace Accords and of the relevant UN Security Council resolutions and to assist in the reconstruction of the region.

Canada will continue, at every opportunity, to consult with EU Member States, the Presidency, and the Council, through the Peace Implementation Council for Bosnia, through its steering Board, and through other fora such as NATO, the OSCE, and the U.N.. (RES)

They will work together to safeguard and develop the political, legal, economic and human conditions needed for a full return of peace, stability, rule of law, and respect for human rights to former Yugoslavia. In the spirit of preventive diplomacy they will also co-operate in order to promote general conditions of stability in the region.

**c) Central and Eastern Europe**

They will consult and work together in order to support the process of transition towards full democracy and market economy in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe with specific reference to problems of common interest.

REC/REE/CIDA

**d) Russia, Ukraine and other NIS**

They will consult on their respective policies with regard to Russia, Ukraine and other NIS with specific regard to problems and actions of common interest. This consultation will take place bilaterally and in multilateral fora such as the EBRD, IBRD and the IMF.

REE

**e) Middle East**

They will consult on further steps necessary to promote peace and stability in the Middle East.

Canada is an active in the Canada/EU/US Working Group on Iran, and is endeavouring to initiate consultations with the EU Troika Working Groups on the Middle East Peace Process. GXD also met with the Commission head responsible for the Middle East in January to discuss our common interests in the future of the Refugee Working Group and a planned mission to Lebanon. (GXD/GMR)

**4. Development co-operation**

- Recalling the priority they attach to development aid, notably with respect to the least developed countries, they agree to reinforce their coordination in multilateral fora and co-operate more actively at the bilateral level.

CIDA president Madame Labelle will have the opportunity to consult and explore the possibility of future joint action with the EU.

**5. Humanitarian assistance**

They will consult on improving the delivery of multilateral humanitarian assistance and the efficiency of UN humanitarian operations and, where appropriate, may undertake joint initiatives towards these ends.

CIDA/IHA

### III. TRANSNATIONAL ISSUES

In an era of increasing globalization, Canada and the EU pledge to pool their efforts to respond effectively to the new challenges affecting their social and physical environment.

#### 1. Preservation of the environment

They will reinforce their efforts to improve the effectiveness of multilateral actions to protect the global environment including by strengthening the exchange of information and reporting on global environmental issues, such as biodiversity, climate change, depletion of the ozone layer, desertification and erosion, water quality, land-based sources of marine pollution, hazardous wastes, contaminated soils, and forest issues.

They will work together at the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) and will continue working on the successful conclusion of the CSD's work on the sustainable management of forests. They will also work together at UNEP, and at the Global Environmental Facility to encourage greater effort in the challenge of preserving the global environment.

They will enhance their bilateral dialogue by:

- exchanging information on the development and possible use of economic and fiscal instruments in the implementation of environmental policy objectives;
- endeavouring to achieve better environmental performance towards greening their operations;
- exchanging information on their respective eco-labelling systems;
- extending co-operation on chemicals issues, such as prior informed consent for the trade in hazardous chemicals, harmonisation of classification and labelling, and reduction of risks from hazardous substances;
- exchanging information on the implementation of environmental impact assessment;

#### ENVIRONMENT CANADA/EAS/FINANCE/ REVENUE/AGRICULTURE

The Hon. Jon Gerrard, Secretary of State for Science and Technology, is scheduled to visit Spain in March 1997 with a delegation of Canadian companies from the environmental sector. (INDUSTRY CANADA)

Canada and the EU will be sharing information on the processing complex mineral sulphides at a meeting to be held in the Fall of 1997. (Natural Resources)

The next annual Canada-EU senior officials consultations on the environment is tentatively scheduled for December 1997.(AGE)

Canada and the EU are working together for the negotiation of an international forest convention, and participate in a working group on forests.(AGE)

They will pursue their consultations on environment matters through the Canada-EU High Level Environmental Consultations in December 1997.

#### EAS/FINANCE/ENVIRONMENT/AGRICULTURE

Canada and the European Commission representatives will share their experience on eco-labelling at a meeting in Brussels on the 6th of March 1997.



- co-operating in helping the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, Russia, Ukraine and other NIS address their environmental problems, including nuclear safety issues;
- developing multilateral agreements towards the mitigation and reduction of Persistent Organic Pollutants.

**2. Arctic co-operation**

They will co-operate on the sustainable development and the environmental protection of the Arctic region.

ACX

**3. Migration and asylum**

CIC/ACM

They will:

- co-operate on all issues related to the international movement of people;

In 1997, there will be a stepping-up of information exchange with the EU on all aspects of the international movement of people, illegal migration, smuggling of people, the trafficking of women and children, and asylum issues, dealt with in numerous EU fora, with occasional Canadian delegate participation. (CIC/ACM)

Canada will attend the EU Conference on Social Integration of Migrants, the Hague, in April 1997. This is the first EU migration conference attended by Canada. Canada will also attend the EU Conference on the Reception of Asylum seekers in the Hague in June. (CIC/ACM)

- continue to jointly explore measures to combat illegal migration, including the smuggling of people and the trafficking of women and children across national boundaries in contravention of established immigration or refugee procedures;
- exchange information on asylum trends and on initiatives in the area of asylum system reform and on the emergence of new phenomena such as asylum claims of unaccompanied children;
- increase co-operation in such areas as immigrant integration and address the root causes of migration;

In 1997, Canada is expected to participate in the follow-up process to the EU Conference on Trafficking in Women held in Vienna in June 1996. (AGM/CIC, Justice)

Netherlands State Secretary, Ministry of Justice, Elizabeth Schmidt visited Canada in January for consultations in migration and asylum issues. (CIC)

Canada wishes to discuss with the EU Commission the possibility of joint research projects on migration and asylum topics of interest to both Canada and the EU. (CIC)

- co-operate in response to situations involving the international displacement of persons, both bilaterally and in international fora;
- work towards the development of appropriate multilateral and bilateral co-operation for the management of migration and asylum movements;
- exchange information and experiences on the application of information technology to immigration projects and operations.

#### 4. Fight against terrorism

They will:

- work on assessing and responding, appropriately, to terrorist threats in particular through close co-operation in all areas concerned;
- study various international and domestic instruments to counter terrorism and the possibilities of co-operating more closely in this fight. This work should be based on the Guidelines for Action established in the Ottawa Ministerial Declaration on Countering Terrorism and recent developments in international fora such as the P8 experts meeting on terrorism.

#### 5 Combatting international organised crime, drug trafficking, and misuse of the information highway

They will:

- exchange information and coordinate their efforts, both bilaterally and in multilateral fora, in combatting drug trafficking and in the fight to stem the spread of international organised crime;

Canada will follow up with the EU Council the possibility of holding a joint Canada-EU Immigration Technology Seminar (CIC)

CIC/JUSTICE/SOLICITOR GENERAL/REVENUE CANADA

Canada and the four participating Member States of the EU will continue to address terrorism and crime issues within the P-8 context in 1997. The next meetings of the terrorism and crime P-8 groups are expected in the Spring 1997 in the lead up to the Denver Summit in June 1997.(AGM)

AGM

Canada will continue to participate in an EU project to survey the legal structures relating to computer-related crime on the information highway. The project is expected to be completed in 1997. (JUSTICE et al)

- co-operate with the view to enhancing the effectiveness of the Dublin Group as the informal forum for coordination of international assistance in the areas of the fight against drugs;

Canada will continue to cooperate with the EU (and other donors) within the Dublin Group in sharing information on drug issues and consult on coordinated action in areas of mutual concern. This includes working with the EU and other donors to assist Caribbean countries and multilateral organizations (UNDCP and C/CAD) to implement the "Barbados Plan of Action" produced by the UNDCP Regional Workshop on Drug Control Cooperation held in the Caribbean in May 1996. Canada will participate in the proposed "Barbados Plus One" Meeting currently planned for June 1997. (AGM/REVENUE/ JUSTICE/SOLICITOR GENERAL/HEALTH)

- endeavour to reach an agreement in 1997 on combatting the diversion of precursor chemicals to illicit manufacture of drugs and psychotropic substances;

Canada will continue to intensify its efforts in cooperation with the EU and the UN International Drug Control Programme. (REVENUE CANADA/ SOLICITOR GENERAL/HEALTH)

- coordinate their counter-narcotics assistance programmes and projects in the Caribbean;

- share information with a view to combatting money laundering;

Continue working with the EU and others within the FATF (Financial Action Task Force) and Caribbean FATF, which meets regularly at the OECD, to promote the adoption of effective controls to prevent money-laundering. (AGD/FINANCE/SOLICITOR GENERAL/JUSTICE/JLE)

- promote respect for public policy concerns (eg. privacy, hate propaganda, obscenity and law enforcement access) in enhancing transborder data flows on the information highway.

#### 6. Co-operation in legal matters

They will:

- identify means of strengthening international legal assistance, extradition mechanisms, and of co-operating in the obtaining of evidence and other relevant information;
- examine possible co-operation on judicial seizure and forfeiture of assets.

JUSTICE/JCD

In the Spring of 1997, Canada seeks to negotiate a treaty on extradition and mutual legal assistance with Ireland. (Dublin)

In the Spring of 1997, Canada seeks to finalize the Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters (MLAT) in Germany. Canada will also seek to sign an MLAT with Sweden by the summer of 1997 and commence negotiations on such a treaty with Denmark. By April/May 1997, Canada hopes to sign an MLAT with Portugal. Canada has offered to commence negotiations with France on an Agreement on Sharing Forfeited Assets. (JLAA)

**7. Co-operation in health**

Canada and the EU will work together to develop a co-operative approach which recognises the need to share information and experiences on health issues. Increasing globalization has led to the need to collaborate on a variety of health issues including those related to communicable diseases and the regulation of health goods and services.

They will exchange information on occupational respiratory diseases and explore the possibility of co-operation between the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work and the International Centre for the Prevention of Occupational Respiratory Disease (ICPORD).

Canada will continue to explore the opportunities for future actions/initiatives between the existing European Agency for Safety and Health at Work and the proposed International Centre for the Prevention of Occupational Respiratory Disease (ICPORD).

HEALTH/REU/EAS

**IV. FOSTERING LINKS**

History, language, commercial relations, and long-standing cultural exchanges have cemented transatlantic ties on culture and society. To allow this valuable relationship to grow further into the next century and beyond, new bridges need to be built between the peoples of Canada and the EU.

**1. Strengthening educational and cultural links**

They will:

- further strengthen their co-operation through the Agreement on Higher Education and Vocational Training;
- encourage voluntary co-operation and dissemination of information for the mutual recognition of university studies, degrees, and professional qualifications;
- further co-operate in the cultural field by facilitating increased contacts between cultural institutions in Canada and in Europe;

In March 1997, Canada will launch a pilot project for Europe, establishing the first educational resource centre to market Canadian education in Europe.

HERITAGE/ACE/EBT

ACE/HRDC

Six projects approved under the Canada-European Community Programme for Cooperation in Higher Education and Training announced in 1996 include Canada-EU partnerships in the fields of:

encourage the study of each other's systems of government, as well as histories, cultures and languages, including the possibility of creating a network of transatlantic centres of excellence;

- a) Avenirs Atlantique - Business management
- b) Modern Language Teaching
- c) Intercultural Engineering and Management Training
- d) Studies and exchanges in criminology
- e) "Integration and Disintegration in Multilevel Systems of Governance"
- f) Studies and exchanges in Northern Development.

Canada and the EU will continue to actively promote contracts between their Parliamentarians. Canada will explore further avenues to encourage youth exchanges with Europe including those among young entrepreneurs, through public and private programmes.

Thirteen additional projects under this programme were announced on January 27, 1997. They include projects in the fields of;

- a) promoting entrepreneurship and enterprise education and teacher education programmes
- b) Co-operation Programme in health care education
- c) Promoting International understanding in health care management
- d) Standardized international pre-university aerotechnical training
- e) The Use of European Credit Transfer System to enhance EU-Canada mobility for science students
- f) Foodlink: European-Canadian University Network for promoting the international dimension of training programmes in food studies
- g) Interactive curriculum in Reproductive Biology
- h) EU-Canada curriculum on Environmental informatics
- i) Transatlantic Masters Programme on "Public Policy and the Global Economy"
- j) Training of Social Workers in Child Abuse, Protection, and Welfare
- k) Euro-Canadian Consortium for Communication and Intercultural Studies
- l) Management of Technology in a Global Environment for a Sustainable Development

#### EBT/HERITAGE

In 1997, Canada seeks to explore the launching of negotiations with the EU on a Canada-EU Memorandum of Understanding on Audiovisual Cooperation. This would give Canada an eventual Association with the EU's Media II Program and establish a working Group on audiovisual cooperation under the Canada-EU Joint Cooperation Committee.

In 1997, Canada seeks to conclude audiovisual co-production agreements with Austria, Denmark, Greece and Finland, which will bring the total number of EU countries with which we have agreements to 13. (HERITAGE)

co-operate with a view to negotiating a bilateral arrangement in the audio-visual sector;

- facilitate co-productions within the framework of their respective regulatory regimes;
- promote the development of co-operation in multi-media use, including audio-visual, inter alia in the areas of culture and education (e.g. children's programmes);
- promote joint programmes for the development of domestic content in the areas of culture and education;
- promote conferences, symposia and workshops on issues such as television and cultural expression, children's and educational programmes and violence on tv.

## 2. Strengthening and broadening science and technology co-operation

Building on the Agreement for Scientific and Technological Co-operation between Canada and the EC, which entered into force in February 1996, they will further strengthen and broaden their co-operation in the area of science and technology.

Recognizing that scientific and technological advances underlie their ability to meet global challenges and the fostering of economic growth and job creation, they will promote co-operative science and technology activities in support of topics identified in this document.

They will co-operate in the field of bio-technology and encourage regulatory co-operation, including with respect to genetically modified organisms.

## 3. Business-to-business contacts

Canada and the EU will devote their best efforts to identify and support the establishment of transnational strategic business alliances, technology transfers and other forms of industrial co-operation. To this end, they will explore the scope for supporting business-to-business contacts, including round-tables, seminars and conferences on issues of mutual interest and, if appropriate, for fully utilizing the existing mechanisms established by the 1976 Framework Agreement.

A Centre for German and European Studies at the York University and the University of Montreal, funded by the German MFA, is expected to be operational by September 1997. (Bonn)

INDUSTRY CANADA/ETC/TBR/REU/EAD/EBD

AGRICULTURE CANADA/EAS/REU/AGE  
Canada and the EU will explore the initiation of a formal dialogue on regulation and promotion of biotechnology, including the possibility of trilateralization of discussions between the EU and the US in this area.

RWD/EAD/EBD/INDUSTRY CANADA

Canadian is initiating plans for a business delegation to meet their European counterparts sometime in 1997.

**4. People to people links**

In order to promote closer links between people they will:

- facilitate the movement of each other's citizens across their respective borders;
- facilitate contacts between parliamentarians;
- encourage increased contacts between citizens and institutions in diverse fora: youth (including through working vacations), artists, professionals, indigenous people, think tanks, etc.;
- promote activities in the field of tourism;
- promote joint conferences, symposia and workshops in the context of the information society to encourage information exchange in particular to foster industrial and institutional relationships (eg. links between regions having similar interests).

**CIC/CANADIAN TOURISM COMMISSION**

The Public Affairs section of our Embassy in Germany links five Canadian Studies Centers. In Germany and the embryonic "North America Program" and the "German Canadian Centre" at Bonn University.

The Annual Grainau Canadian Studies Conference held every February, that attracts Canadianists from all over the EU and Eastern Europe. (ACE)

**AGP/ACE/ACA**

The Annual Atlantic-Brucke think tank is an example of transatlantic cooperation. (REC)

Canada will actively participate in Thessaloniki (Greece) Cultural Capital of Europe, January-February 1997. Current planning has Canada bringing the second largest number of participants. Consultations on cultural matters within the EU context, are planned on the margins of the opening ceremonies, providing an opportunity for discussions on expanding Canada-EU ties in the cultural field.

High commission to the UK Roy MacLaren, Canada's Ambassador to the EU, Jean-Pierre Juneau, and Canada's Ambassador to the Netherlands, Marie Bernard-Meunier participated in the Youth Perspectives Conference on Canada and Europe at the Merstmonceux Castle Queens University Study Centre in the UK.

A Canadian Studies Centre will be inaugurated at the University of Innsbruck in April 1997.

A Canadian Studies Conference will be held in Riga, Latvia in May 1997, organized by the Nordic Association for Canadian Studies.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Youth International Internship program will provide first career-related internationally focused work experience for Canadian Youth places in the programme. (Including the EC).

February 18, 1997



### IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CANADA-EU ACTION PLAN: CALENDAR

Received Time Feb. 20. 5:15PM

Print Time Feb. 20. 5:24PM

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	ACTION
Feb. 8/22	S&T Consultations in Canada	Vanc., Calgary, Winnipeg, Toronto, Quebec Ottawa	BREEC/TBR/REU
Feb. 19	Interdepartmental meeting on the Implementation of the Action Plan for Third Pillar Issues	Ottawa	RWD/REU
Feb. 20	Meeting with EU M/S Ambassadors on the Implementation of the Action Plan	Ottawa	MCL/RWD/REU/
Feb. 23/28	Visit of Minister L. Robillard	Paris, London	REO/REN
Feb 26	TAD Ministerial	Amsterdam	REU
Feb. 27	Visit of MINA to Germany	Bonn	REC
Feb. 27/29	Visit of MINT to the Netherlands	The Hague	REO/REU

02/20/97 17:26 FAX 1 813 238 5191

EC DELEGATION WASHINGTON

027/029



# IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CANADA-EU ACTION PLAN: CALENDAR

February 18, 1997

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	ACTION
Spring (TBC)	Visit of EP Delegation for Relations with Canada	Toronto, Ottawa, Montréal	REU
March 31/April	Cross-Canada tour of lecturer on EU (activity Chaire Jean Monnet), including session in Ottawa for Govt officials		REU
Mar. 16/7	Environmental Consultations	Brussels	REU/AGE
Mar. 16	Resumed negotiation on Vet Equivalency Agreement	Brussels	REU
March 13	CDA-EU Joint Cooperation Committee Meeting	Brussels	REU
March 19	Visit of the Irish Joint Committee on EU Affairs	Ottawa	REU/REN/PPP
March 14-26	PDS M. Castellina MEP and Chair of External Economic Relations: Visit to Canada in conjunction with Chaire Jean Monnet Colloquium "L'Europe des langues et des cultures" (Montréal)	Ottawa, Toronto Montreal	REOP/REU
Spring (TBC)	Canada-EU Troika Political Directors meeting	Brussels/The Hague	REU
Spring (TBC)	CDA-EU High Level Consultation Meeting on Fisheries	Canada	JLO/REU
April 4	EMU Information Session (National Conference of FOREX)	Toronto	REOP REU

Received Time

Feb. 20,

5:15PM

Print Time

Feb. 20,

5:24PM

02/20/97 17:26 FAX 1 613 238 5191

EC DELEGATION ↔ WASHINGTON

028/029

# IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CANADA-EU ACTION PLAN: CALENDAR

February 18, 1997

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	ACTION
Apr/May	QUAD Meeting in Toronto (incl ministerial meeting Cda-Commission under the Framework Agreement)	Toronto	EAI/REU
May 28	EMU Information Session, FOREX International Conference (PDS activity)	Toronto	REU
June 20 TBC)	TAD Summit (in the margins of the G-7 Summit)	Denver	REU
June	European Community Studies Association Conference	St. John's	REU
Fall TBC)	Visit by EP Delegation for relations with Canada	Ottawa	REU

Received Time  
Feb. 20.  
5:15PM

Print Time  
Feb. 20. 5:24PM

02/20/97 17:27 FAX 1 613 238 5191  
A EC DELEGATION  
→→→ WASHINGTON  
029/029