

European Community



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NEWS RELEASE

EC-CANADA TALKS HELD IN OTTAWA ON FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT

Closer Industrial Cooperation Explored

Senior Canadian and EC Commission officials met in Ottawa this week to review topics of mutual concern and to discuss ways of developing the EC-Canada Framework Agreement for Commercial and Economic Cooperation ('contractual link'), signed in Ottawa on July 6, one year ago.

In the ninth of their semi-annual high-level consultations (the second in the context of the Framework Agreement), the two sides exchanged views on multilateral and bilateral issues.

The Commission delegation was led by Jos Loeff, Deputy Director-General for External Affairs. The Canadian delegation was headed by Donald S. McPhail, Assistant Under-Secretary for External Affairs.

International issues included the world economic situation, the outlook for the Multilateral Trade Negotiations (MTN) in Geneva, the follow-up of the Conference on International Economic Cooperation (North/South Dialogue), the world steel situation, the prospects for world agreements on wheat and sugar, and the proposed renewal of the GATT Multifibre Agreement (MFA).

On the bilateral side, the participants reviewed current trade prospects in the agricultural and industrial fields, and discussed recent economic developments in both Canada and the Community.

The work programme of the Joint Cooperation Committee set up under the Framework Agreement, is carried out by two sub-committees who also met in Ottawa on July 6-7.

The Sub-Committee for Industrial Cooperation reviewed progress in sectors of particular promise to both parties, including telecommunications, electronics and the aerospace industry. Opportunities in the forest products, minerals and energy sectors were also noted.

The Preparatory and General Sub-Committee looked at possibilities of cooperation in the areas of environmental protection, science and technology and regional policy, and reviewed trade and investment flows between Canada and the Community.

Both sub-committees will meet again in the fall, as part of the joint work programme. Parallel contacts between the private sectors, already highlighted by a mission of senior Canadian businessmen to Brussels last March, will be intensified.

These talks emphasize joint efforts which are now vigorously pursued.