

# European Community



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## PRESS RELEASE

### EC-CANADA TALKS IN OTTAWA

Senior officials of the Canadian Government and of the Commission of the European Communities held a series of meetings in Ottawa this week on bilateral and multilateral economic matters.

Meetings took place of the two sub-committee of the Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) established in 1976 under the Canada-EC Framework Agreement for Commercial and Economic Cooperation. Representatives of a number of provincial governments joined federal officials for these sub-committee meetings.

The third meeting of the General and Preparatory sub-committee, co-chaired by Mr. D.S. McPhail, Assistant Under-Secretary of Canada's Department of External Affairs, and Mr. J. Loeff, the Commission's Deputy Director General for External Relations, reviewed current cooperation in environmental matters, science and technology, and regional development questions. A number of new cooperative endeavours in the field of science and technology have just been launched with the visit to Ottawa in September 1978 of a mission led by the Commission's Director General of Research, Science and Education, Mr. Günter Schuster, and the Head of the Euratom Supply Agency, Mr. Jan Baldem Mennicken. This new cooperative programme includes exchanges of information covering the exploration and extraction of natural resources; alternative energy sources; technology forecasting systems; and nuclear waste disposal and related health and safety measures.

The sub-committee agreed to the holding of an experimental workshop on impediments to Canada-EC trade which will take place in Canada in November on competition policy. A comparable workshop for businessmen in the Community will be decided on at a later date.

The fourth meeting of the Industrial Cooperation sub-committee, co-presided by Mr. Anthony Guérin, Assistant Deputy Minister of the Canadian Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce, and Mr. J. Loeff, exchanged views on industrial development policies in Canada and the EC and reviewed the current state of cooperation in the sub-committee's working groups on forest products, telecommunications and data-processing, aeronautics, and the nuclear industry. The sub-committee adopted terms of reference of a new working group on metals and minerals, which will cover the iron and steel, asbestos, non-ferrous metals and coal sectors. The sub-committee discussed the recently established link between the Business Cooperation Centre of the EC Commission and in the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce, which will help to promote joint ventures and related arrangements between Canada and Community firms. The sub-committee also exchanged preliminary views on the work programme for industrial cooperation in 1979-80.

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During this week semi-annual senior official consultations also took place on various multilateral and bilateral economic issues and consultations were continued under Article XIX of GATT on Canada's import restrictions on footwear.

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