

# European Community

## News Release

### EC/CANADA COOPERATION: FORECASTING AND ASSESSMENT IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

The Commission of the European Communities and the Canadian Ministry of State for Science and Technology (MOSST) held a joint three-day seminar in Ottawa on 1-3 June 1983 to consider the opportunities and problems posed by the development and introduction of new technologies on both sides of the Atlantic.

The European Communities established four years ago a multi-year FAST (Forecasting and assessment in science and technology) programme, with the purpose of planning and preparing for the consequences of technological change in society. An independent programme the basic mandate of which is to contribute to the definition of "Research and Development Policy", FAST has coordinated over 36 studies carried out by industrial, commercial, academic and governmental R + D organizations. The wide-ranging subjects of research are loosely grouped under three umbrella categories: Bio-Society, Information Society and Technology and Employment. A comprehensive report with recommendations has been released in stages in the early part of this year.

Given similar concerns in Canada, the seminar provided a timely opportunity for both sides to exchange experiences and perspectives on dealing with the impact of new technologies on society.

"The cooperation between the Commission and Canadian authorities responsible for organizing this seminar reflects our common interest in properly adapting to technological change", observed Dietrich Hammer, Head of the EC Delegation in Ottawa, at the opening of the seminar.

The 1976 EC/Canada Framework Agreement for Commercial and Economic Cooperation includes the commitment to facilitate technological and scientific exchanges.

"This (FAST) seminar is part, but an important part, of a continuing and growing programme of mutually beneficial cooperation in the broad field of science and technology between the EC and Canada", Mr. Hammer stated.

At the seminar's conclusion, officials of both sides agreed to consider for further joint examination several issues surrounding technological change, including the consequences on employment, the effect on society of the new information technologies, and the education and re-training policies required to facilitate adaptation to technological change.

For further information, contact Darlene Nowlan of the Press and Information office in Ottawa.



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