

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.