

Canada–European Union Co-operation Over 25 years

The year 2001 marks the 25th anniversary of formal co-operation between Canada and the European Union under a framework agreement signed in 1976. This anniversary is being celebrated throughout the year with cultural, academic and trade activities in Canada and in several European Union member states.

Canada has planned special events with Sweden and Belgium, the two countries successively holding the European Union presidency in 2001. These events are an opportunity to make the sustained and productive relationship better known to citizens on both sides of the Atlantic and to promote the values shared by Canadians and Europeans.

The 1976 Framework Agreement for Commercial and Economic Co-operation first aimed at facilitating trans-Atlantic trade between Canada and the European Economic Community. The 1996 Political Declaration and Action Plan extended co-operation to foreign and security policy issues, development and humanitarian assistance, the environment, and transnational crime and migration issues.

Over the past 25 years, the business and political communities of Canada and European Union nations have established networks that will be key to even more active trade and political relations during the 21st century.