

for discussion of a number of outstanding bilateral trade issues and for the exchange of information on trade policy developments of mutual concern.

Asbestos, agricultural support, EU approvals of genetically modified canola, seed potatoes and pinewood nematode were among the trade items raised by Canada. Issues raised by the EU included Canadian administration of cheese and beef TRQs, maximum residue limits in foodstuffs, provincial liquor board practices, Canadian legislation on periodicals, antidumping decisions in the steel sector, and regulation in the banking sector. The meeting resulted in progress in a number of areas. Effective October 1, 1999 Canada requires EU exports of cheese to Canada to be accompanied by an export certificate as had been requested by the Commission. Canada was pleased by a subsequent decision by the Commission to extend a multi year derogation for Canadian seed potatoes as well as with the level at which the EU's malt restitution was established in September.

The TISC remains a useful forum for both sides to exchange information on their relations with third countries, and at April's TISC meeting, focus was on negotiations of free trade agreements between the EU and Mexico, and Canada and EFTA. Canada also provided a summary on recent activities in APEC.

*High Level Consultations on the Environment* took place on March 29, 1999 in Brussels. The Deputy Minister of Environment Canada, Len Good, and Jim Currie, Director General of DG-XI, led the respective delegations. Substantive discussions were held on recent environmental policy developments in Canada and the EU, climate change, trade and environment, and the Biosafety Protocol. Other topics included the Basel Convention, the global convention on persistent organic pollutants (POPs), the next meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol, the follow-up to the UNEP 20<sup>th</sup> Governing Council, preparations for 7<sup>th</sup> session of the CSD in April and cooperation towards a global forests convention.

*High Level Consultations on Fisheries* took place in Ottawa on June 29. The Deputy Minister of the department of Fisheries and Oceans, Wayne Wouters, led the Canadian delegation, while the delegation from the European Commission was led by Antonio Cavaco, Director General of DG-XIV. This was the third time for such consultations to be held. They serve to review the overall Canada-EU fisheries relationship and to provide a formalized context where specific issues can be raised. The EU expressed concerns regarding certain aspects of Canadian fisheries legislation. Other issues discussed included implementation of the NAFO enforcement scheme, access to Canadian waters (fish surpluses) by EU fishing vessels and the ratification of the UN Fisheries Agreement.