

THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA and the EUROPEAN COMMUNITY ("the Parties"),

CONSIDERING the traditional links of friendship that exist between Canada and the European Community;

CONSIDERING that on the basis of past experience under the 1976 Framework Agreement on commercial and economic cooperation between the European Communities and Canada, and in order to further develop their dialogue in the area of standards as specified in the 1990 Declaration on EC-Canada Relations, both Parties have expressed a desire to establish a more formal framework for the conduct of collaboration in the field of mutual recognition in relation to conformity assessment;

CONSIDERING the Parties' interest in strengthening the rules governing free and unhindered international trade;

CONSIDERING the improved conditions for trade between the Parties which the mutual recognition of tests, certificates and marks of conformity will bring about;

RECOGNIZING the importance of maintaining their respective high standards of health and safety;