
INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

CAIRNS GROUP

The Cairns Group consists of 13 small and medium-sized countries that export agricultural products and mutually aim to promote trade reform in agriculture. The countries are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Hungary, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Thailand and Uruguay. The Cairns Group was named after Cairns, Australia, the site of its first ministerial-level meeting in 1986.

CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE (CSCE)

The Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) was created in 1975 by the Helsinki Final Act. It links Canada, the United States and 51 European countries in a series of politically binding commitments covering all aspects of security — from military confidence-building measures to human rights, environmental issues, democratic development and the transition to market-based economies. Japan is a non-participating state with observer status.

The CSCE is evolving to meet the challenges of a Europe in transition. In 1990, the CSCE began its transformation from a process to an institution by establishing a small secretariat in Prague, a conflict prevention centre in Vienna, and an office for democratic institutions and human rights in Warsaw. As well, the Council of Foreign Ministers and the Committee of Senior Officials was established. The CSCE has established the posts of CSCE secretary general and CSCE high commissioner on national minorities. CSCE representatives meet regularly in Vienna.

The CSCE is focusing much of its efforts on conflict prevention and management in Europe by dealing with root causes — through increased

emphasis on democratic development and human rights issues, and with symptoms — through missions. CSCE fact-finding, conciliation, sanctions assistance and conflict prevention missions are deployed throughout Europe — in Estonia, Moldova, Tajikistan, Georgia and the former Yugoslavia. Canadians are participating in several of these missions.

EUROPEAN BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT (EBRD)

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) was set up in 1991 with headquarters in London. Its job is to foster a transition towards open market-oriented economies and to promote private and entrepreneurial initiative in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union that are committed to multi-party democracy, pluralism and market economics.

Canada, a founding member, has a 3.4 per cent share of the EBRD's capital base. The Canadian finance minister is the bank's governor for Canada.

At the request of G-7 leaders at the 1992 Munich Summit, the bank established a nuclear safety account to channel grants for urgently required equipment and materials for short-term improvements to higher-risk nuclear power plants in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. Canada has contributed \$7.5 million to the account.

At the Tokyo ministerial meeting in April 1993, the EBRD was asked to establish a fund, in co-operation with the G-7, to promote small and medium-sized enterprises in Russia.