

Canada Europe

Partners Across the Atlantic
Partners Around the Globe

The Rediscovery *Message from*

**the Honourable Lloyd Axworthy, Minister of Foreign Affairs,
and the Honourable Art Eggleton, Minister for International Trade**

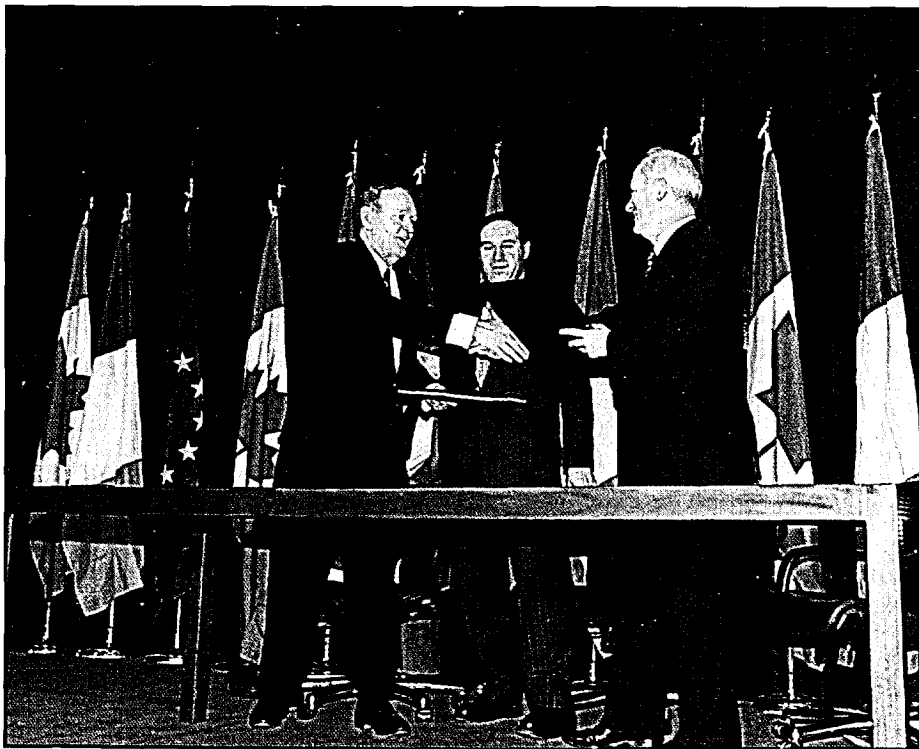
Nineteen-ninety-seven marks a new stage in relations between Canada and Europe. Five hundred years after Giovanni Caboto began our permanent ties by claiming Newfoundland for England's King Henry VII, the European Union-Canada Political Declaration and Action Plan strengthens and modernizes our relationship.

Signed in Ottawa on December 17, 1996, the Action Plan builds on more than 20 years of formal co-operation agreements. It emphasizes today's challenges:

- Expanding trade and investment relations;
- Increasing joint action on shared foreign policy and security priorities;
- Enhancing co-operation on global issues such as the environment and controlling organized crime;
- Development of the information highway; and
- Fostering educational, cultural, scientific, business and people-to-people links.

As European Commission Vice President Sir Léon Brittan noted, "The Political Declaration and Action Plan are both visionary and practical. They are a statement of shared values combined with a detailed program of action."

This issue of *Canada-Europe: Partners across the Atlantic/Partners around the Globe* describes our common agenda for the future. It shows our achievements to date. As ministers responsible for Canada's relations with our international partners, we welcome your interest in the bonds that join Canada and Europe. We look forward to building them even stronger.



Prime Minister Jean Chrétien shakes hands with European Commission Vice President Sir Leon Brittan and Irish Prime Minister and President of the European Council John Bruton after the signing of the European Union-Canada Political Declaration and Action Plan.



Canada was an active participant at the 1996 G-7 Summit, held in Lyon, France.