

The Department is closely monitoring and evaluating the implications of the 1992 initiative while ensuring awareness of the opportunities created for Canadian trade and investment relations in Europe. Close to 2 500 business leaders have participated in 19 seminars and conferences on Europe 1992, co-sponsored by the federal and provincial governments, and business and industry associations. The Department has distributed over 40 000 copies of sectoral reports on the 1992 initiative to the business and academic communities. Studies under preparation for release in 1991 included sub-sectoral reports on the environmental, software, ocean telecommunications and value-added wood products industries; and a booklet, *Moving into Europe*, was designed to help Canadian firms forge strategic alliances with European firms.

The Department intervened with the EC to defend Canadian interests where Community actions threatened to limit Canadian exports. Lumber, newsprint, and various agricultural products were among the commodities for which the Department worked to protect Canada's market access. Proposed EC legislation that would inhibit the export of Canadian furs and fur products to the EC continues to be a major concern.

The question of European Community overfishing in the area of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) is still unresolved. Canada and the EC are cooperating in three bilateral working groups: fishing by non-NAFO vessels, scientific research, and surveillance and control. Canada continues to press the EC to comply with all NAFO conservation measures.

## IMMIGRATION

Western Europe continued to be a major source of new immigrants, many of whom possess valuable skills necessary for Canada's economic development. In 1990, Canadian missions in the region issued 37 944 immigrant visas, as well as 79 988 visas to tourists, students and temporary workers.

Business immigration remained a high priority. Promotional activities undertaken in conjunction with the provinces by staff at Canadian missions attracted over \$450 million from entrepreneurs; these funds will result in 1 141 jobs for Canadians.

The implementation of the new Canada-Quebec Immigration Accord will have a major impact in Western Europe, as Quebec has designated Belgium and France as priority-source countries for Francophone immigrants. In order to process the anticipated growth in Quebec-destined migrants,

additional locally engaged staff will be assigned to the Canadian Embassy in Paris.

Since many improperly documented passengers come to Canada via Western Europe, maintaining cooperation with travel industry personnel and local officials is important. Immigration control officers stationed in London, Paris, Rome, Bonn, Brussels and The Hague have coordinated training programs for airline staff and provided support for Canada Employment and Immigration Commission enforcement activities.

The movement of large numbers of people migrating for economic reasons is potentially destabilizing. The countries of Western Europe are recognizing this at a time when members of the EC are working towards the removal of all internal border controls and the standardization of immigration procedures. These initiatives are likely to result in the adoption of multilateral approaches such as the Dublin Convention, which addresses the issue of refugee protection and the granting of asylum by signatory countries.

It is in Canada's interest to monitor and participate in this process and to promote and enhance the level of international cooperation with like-minded countries in addressing migration issues. Accordingly, this aspect of Canada's bilateral relations with the countries of Western Europe can be expected to remain a top priority for staff at Canadian missions in the region.

At the same time, Canada remains committed to assisting refugees who are in need of protection and for whom resettlement in Canada represents a viable alternative. In 1990, Canada accepted 13 442 refugees and members of designated classes at missions in Western Europe.

## PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAMS IN WESTERN EUROPE

Numerous public affairs activities were designed to heighten Canada's profile and defend Canadian interests in European public opinion. A strong information campaign raised the awareness of European decision makers and segments of the public at large concerning the dangers of overfishing in the North Atlantic. Journalists from most of the European countries were invited to Canada on visits highlighting Canada's economic vitality, resourcefulness, environmental policies, cultural industries and social, scientific and technological achievements. The resulting media reports brought large European audiences into closer contact with life in Canada.