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SIGNATURE IN BRUSSELS OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING IN THE AREA OF FUSION

On March 6, 1986, Ambassador Robert K. Joyce, Head of the Canadian Mission to the European Communities, and Mr. Willy De Clercq, Commissioner of European Communities responsible for External Relations, signed a Memorandum of Understanding concerning cooperation in the area of controlled thermonuclear fusion.

It should be noted that the Community manages an extensive project of controlled thermonuclear fusion and that it has as one of its assets the "Joint European Torus" (JET), operating since 1983. The Canadian programme of fusion lead mostly by Atomic Energy of Canada Limited has complementary scientific activities.

The Memorandum calls for exchange of information and mutual participation in scientific meetings organized by either party. Exchange of experts and the conducting of experiments, studies and common projects are also foreseen, which may comprise exchange of materials, equipment and instrumentation.

Implementation and review of cooperation will be carried out by a Joint Committee charged with the promotion and review of activities undertaken under this Memorandum.

Among the sectors of research and development identified at present should be mentioned Tokamak physics (controlled thermonuclear fusion reactors) and fusion fuels; this also includes the problems involved in the management of tritium. Problems of safety and environment related to fusion will also be dealt with.

The Memorandum will remain in force for a period of five years and can be extended.