

n) Information society, information technology, and telecommunications

They will:

- exchange views on the evolution of the information society (both information technology and content, including in the audio-visual sector) and promote joint co-operation for a better understanding of its importance for economic, social and cultural development and for the respect of cultural and linguistic diversity;
- exchange views and coordinate on regulatory issues, paying particular attention to pro-competitive policies and regulatory regimes, interconnection and interoperability, including standardisation issues, universal service, access to information and the protection of IPR;
- continue their joint work on telecommunications policy including the negotiation of a multilateral agreement on basic telecommunications services with a view to eliminating barriers to trade and investment and to ensuring effective possibilities for competition;
- exchange views on their respective development of the information highway in order to identify opportunities for joint development of business and public sector products and services, to provide new cultural links and to enhance their ability to promote cultural and linguistic diversity;
- co-operate on the integration of the developing countries into the global information society, in particular, through joint support of the actions arising from the Information Society and Development Conference in South Africa and through joint participation in the International Telecommunications Union;
- jointly support the implementation of the G-7 global projects on the information society including establishing broadband communication network links and institutional links among Canadian and European institutions in order to facilitate joint co-operation projects;
- address data protection and privacy issues with a view to facilitating data flows between Canada and the EU, while guaranteeing the rights of individuals.