

The French side noted that budgetary restrictions announced in Canada had not permitted cooperation in the defence sector to reach the level previously anticipated. Nevertheless, both sides will continue to pursue their efforts in this field.

Both sides have identified several sectors which offer possibilities for increased cooperation; notably transportation, biotechnology and environment. The recent visit to France of the Canadian Minister of the Environment, Mr. Lucien Bouchard confirmed the importance both countries accord to the expansion of bilateral cooperation in this area.

In the sector of Agriculture and Forestry, both parties noted with satisfaction the progress achieved, notably in phytosanitary matters, and expressed the hope that other technical questions would also be resolved with satisfaction. In addition, they reaffirmed their mutual interest in developing relations in the agricultural and food processing fields.

Minister Crosbie stressed the high priority that Canada accords to the conservation of the fishery resources of the Northwest Atlantic, and requested the French Government's cooperation in obtaining the adherence of the European Community to the measures adopted by the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (NAFO).

The Canadian side expressed its satisfaction at the prospect of continued cooperation in the audiovisual sector, specifically with respect to film coproductions.

Both sides noted the growing importance of investment in economic relations between the two countries and noted their satisfaction with the numerous recent successes.

The French side hoped for a favourable outcome with respect to investment projects currently underway.

To facilitate partnership agreements between small and medium-sized companies from France and Canada, both sides agreed to continue their efforts, notably through the Chambers of Commerce and their respective professional associations.

Finally, both Ministers expressed their satisfaction with the excellent progress in economic and commercial relations achieved since the last Commission meeting and reiterated their commitment to the continuation of the favourable trend.