

FOREWORD

This report is intended for the information of Canadian companies in the telecommunications, computer and information services sectors. It provides an overview of the many initiatives being taken within the European Community in preparation for "Europe 1992", the formation of the "single market" in Europe. In so doing, it identifies priorities within the European Community (EC) and its executive arm, the European Commission, and highlights those activities or directions that may impact upon the future activities of Canadian industry.

The report represents the efforts of an Interdepartmental Working Group of officials from the Department of Communications; Industry, Science and Technology Canada; Consumer and Corporate Affairs Canada; and External Affairs and International Trade Canada. In addition, many other officials have contributed within their Departments or as members of subgroups that assessed specific issues. To all these individuals, we, the co-chairpersons of the Working Group, express our appreciation, with particular mention to the author of this report, Mr. Michael Tiger, Senior Policy Advisor in the International Relations Branch at the Department of Communications.

The Working Group was formed to provide the government with an assessment of the European initiatives in these sectors. As discussed in the report, there are ongoing developments which require continuous review by government. Equally, we feel that Canadian industry could also benefit from a better understanding of the developments surrounding the creation of the single market. Hence, although it is too early to provide a comprehensive report, we hope this initial overview will be of benefit to Canadian companies.

CHAIRPERSONS:



Gabriel I. Warren
Director General,
International Relations Branch,
Department of Communications
300 Slater Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0C8



Ron Watkins
Director General,
Information Technologies Industry Branch,
Industry, Science and Technology Canada
235 Queen Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0H5