

There are aggressive and capable Canadian firms from Vancouver to Montreal to St. John's, Newfoundland each with a high degree of expertise and advanced technology ready and eager to make a contribution here in Europe in cooperation with Finnish companies.

I have brought presidents and chief executive officers of 10 such Canadian companies with me. They provide products and services ranging from equipment and expertise related to cold weather environments, to air traffic control systems, to education software, to ambulances, to hockey equipment.

I hope that enterprising Finnish companies interested in the North American market will also give consideration to the special advantages which Canada offers as a place to establish operations.

There is a solid base to build on, but I firmly believe that now is the time for our companies to make a special effort to discover each other and make common cause to capitalize on the exciting new business opportunities emerging throughout the world.

Thank you.