

Ms Young said that nevertheless the idea of "specific goals" is not without interest since there are research topics of common interest (such as ethnicity, adaptation of migrants/immigrants, relations between the state and national and religious minorities) and inter-ethnic relations in general. Canada is often looked upon as a model and Canadian academic expertise is often sought in these areas. This theme could help to promote significant work done in this field by Canadian scholars.

As a follow-up, M. Girard asked whether Canadian Studies was conducted in a bilateral rather than a European context. M. Dudoit replied that the president of the Dutch association was trying to set up a European network.

Mr. Long then introduced the scholarship programs by admitting that we had suffered considerable embarrassment with respect to The Netherlands because of our unilateral cancellation of our program, and that we might be moving in the same direction with respect to Germany. It was also pointed out that Germany remained unhappy about Canadian taxation policy (taxing German recipients of Canadian scholarships studying in Canada, and also taxing recipients of German scholar- or fellowships who are studying or doing research in Canada).

There was a discussion about different approaches, such as shorter scholarships, but what is gained by a shorter term is lost on higher air fares. Greater mobility might be achieved by expanded institution-to-institution links. To Ms. Egron-Polak's question on AUCC's proposal (actually under discussion with HRD) to develop a Canadian Program for International Academic Mobility (CAPIAM), Mr. Long mentioned that it was a good idea to mention it during the consultations. A high-prestige award is the Diefenbaker fellowship for a senior researcher (counterpart to the Adenauer award). Ms. Stipich asked how interested industry is in these scholarships, and whether they help to finance them.

M. Asselin (ACCC) explained their exchange program with Germany, involving Community College teachers on the Canadian side and technical trainers (often working in industry) on the German side. Because of the quality of the German training system (with its network of "apprentices"), this has been seen as a very useful linkage. Unfortunately, there is no funding mechanism on the Canadian side, and Canadian participants must pay to help host the German visitors, as well as to cover the administrative costs. This makes it very expensive for Canadian participants, and the program may be coming to an end. No solution seems to be in sight.

The meeting took note of the invitation by the European Union to Canada to take part in the Louvain round-table discussions (in mid-April), which will look at the parameters of possible cooperation in higher education.