

A message from the German Minister, E. Bulmahn



The Agreement between the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Government of Canada on Scientific and Technological Cooperation has reached the impressive age of thirty years. Over that time, German and Canadian scientists at research institutes and institutions of higher learning have carried out some 500 projects together. In so doing, they have noticeably broadened the scientific basis for improving our quality of life, coping with serious environmental problems and introducing technological innovation, while at the same time helping to further the economic prosperity of Canadians and Germans.

Since 1971, Germany and Canada have succeeded in opening up many new and important fields of research, as is vividly demonstrated by this brochure. Their cooperation owes its vitality to the productive relationship between the scientific communities and the governments of our two nations. Honourable mention must go here to the scientific project partners working together to resolve significant problems, likewise to the personnel in participating government departments and administrations and, last but not least, to the committed intermediaries between the scientific research groups and the governments of our two countries, who have engaged their expertise in promoting and developing German-Canadian cooperation in their respective sectors – in some instances over a period of many years. I wish to express my gratitude to all concerned.

Apart from their own bilateral cooperation, however, another link between Canada and Germany is their both belonging to numerous international organizations, for example the OECD, NATO and international research centres. Canada's participation in the European Union's Fifth Framework Research Program and its cooperation with the European Space Agency (ESA) merit special mention in this regard. Of course, the German and Canadian economies and their companies which are active internationally are in competition with each other as well – for market share and for highly qualified manpower. Simultaneous competition and cooperation is a characteristic phenomenon of globalization, feared by some but considered a special challenge by others. The bilateral STC agreement concluded between Canada and Germany and, most of all, its positive results over the past three decades are clear evidence, however, that it is possible to establish a reliable collaborative framework that is beneficial to all involved.

The stage is therefore well set for German-Canadian cooperation in science and research to continue to flourish and bear fruit. I am sure that a selective expansion and intensification of our cooperative endeavours, preferably embracing the participation of small and medium-sized technology companies, is in the mutual interest of our two nations and offers the prospect of imparting a new quality to Canadian-German scientific and technological cooperation over this next, its fourth decade.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Bulmahn'.

E. Bulmahn, Member of Parliament
Federal Minister of Education and Research