

Ministerial/Commission Meetings

On March 1, 1999, Foreign Minister Mr. Lloyd Axworthy met with German Foreign Minister Joscha Fischer and Sir Leon Brittan, the Commission's Vice President in charge of External Relations, in Ottawa. Vice President Brittan also met with Agriculture Minister Vanclief at that time. Minister Axworthy, Finnish Foreign Minister Tarja Halonen and Sir Leon Brittan met in Helsinki on September 2. At that time the Canadian foreign minister and the EU Council President released a joint statement entitled "EU-Canada Common Approach to Combat the Spread and Destabilizing Accumulations of Small Arms and Light Weapons". External Affairs Commissioner Chris Patten and Minister Axworthy met on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly in New York on September 24.

Minister of International Trade Sergio Marchi met with Commission Vice President Brittan in Brussels on June 16. In addition to exchanging views on bilateral and multilateral trade issues, they participated in the launch of the Canada-Europe Round Table (CERT), a new business forum comprised of both EU and Canadian firms.

On July 13, 1999, Secretary of State for International Financial Institutions, Jim Peterson, attended the first meeting of the High Level Steering Group -- a special European Commission-World Bank chaired partnership for co-ordinating the international donor response to the Kosovo crisis.

Agriculture Commissioner Fischler attended the Quint Agricultural Ministers meeting which took place in Montreal on September 30 and October 1. On that occasion he also met bilaterally with Canadian Minister of Agriculture Lyle Vanclief. During that meeting both sides undertook to initiate negotiations on market access and intellectual property issues associated with trade in wine and spirits.

Other High Level Visits

Catherine Lalumière, MEP, visited Canada on November 16, 1998 for consultations on transatlantic relations, including cultural relations and the MAI. Her program included a call on Minister of Canadian Heritage Sheila Copps.

Robert Speller, Parliamentary Secretary to the Canadian Minister of International Trade and President of the Sub-committee on International Trade, Trade Disputes and Investment, met with Members of the European Parliament, including the Committee on External Economic Relations, on November 25,