

GREECE AT A GLANCE

Greece-Canada Relations:

- Greek-Canadian relations are excellent. Canada and Greece share similar points of view on numerous multilateral issues and work together in many international fora.
- Greece is a member of numerous multilateral security organizations including the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). Its geo-strategic position gives Greece important perspectives on regions such as the Balkans and the Middle East.
- Canadian exports to Greece in 2003 grew 20% from the previous year to (CDN) \$174.8 million; imports from Greece to Canada totalled (CDN) \$113.3 million. The 2002 Canadian foreign direct investment in Greece was \$157 million. Among the leading Canadian exporters to Greece are Nortel Networks and Bombardier. Optimum S.A., a member of the Greek *LogicDIS* ICT Group, recently established an affiliate in Toronto.
- Then Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, Minister of Foreign Affairs Bill Graham and Minister of Trade Pierre Pettigrew visited Athens to participate in the Canada-EU Summit in May 2003.

Canada, Greece and the European Union:

Many of the themes in the Canada - European Union Partnership Agenda also lend themselves to cooperation between Greece and Canada. Possible examples:

- Greece shares in European and Canadian concerns for human security. Greece is one of thirteen members of the Human Security Network (HSN), which Canada will chair after May 2004, and has started a Regional Human Security Centre with support from Hellenic Aid.
- After the Greek national elections, the Government of Greece will be able to fully engage in the present Cyprus settlement talks before the island's accession to the European Union on May 1, 2004.
- In September 2003, Greece jointly ratified with Turkey the Ottawa Convention on anti-personnel mines. Greece and Canada work together on mine action in South East Europe and small arms destruction in Albania.
- Some areas of engagement include human trafficking, the drug trade and the global anti-terrorism campaign. Immigration and the social integration of immigrants are relatively recent issues in Greece, with immigrants representing 10 per cent of the population.
- Greece has contributed significantly to Balkan stability and reconstruction and its Balkan Reconstruction Plan, supported by a fund of 550 million Euros, will support development projects up until 2006. Canada has made a major contribution as a peacekeeping partner in the Balkans.
- Canada et the European Union will shortly begin negotiating a Trade and Investment Enhancement Agreement (TIEA), which aims to facilitate the movement of people and capital. We believe that Greece and Canada will benefit from this agreement.

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