

Within the EC, Britain is often sympathetic to Canadian interests and, when possible, will support Canadian positions. Britain is, for example, the most outspoken EC member in favour of a successful Uruguay Round.

ii) Political

Although the close historical ties between Canada and Britain have become looser during the last 25 years as the U.K. has come to define its political and economic agenda more closely with Europe, the Canada/U.K. bilateral relationship is still characterized by a strong convergence of foreign and defence policy objectives, including a shared commitment to achieving and maintaining security and stability throughout Europe.

Canada and Great Britain also have a close consultative and co-operative relationship based on common membership in key multilateral forums including the G-7, NATO and the CSCE. The Commonwealth remains a cornerstone of the bilateral relationship. In recent years, Canada has co-operated closely with Britain to enhance the relevance of the organization on issues such as good governance and human rights. Britain also functions as a window for Canada on deliberations within the UN Security Council and the European Community.

Canada and Great Britain differ over reform of the United Nations Security Council. Britain is naturally nervous about this exercise, as it could lead either to a change in Britain's status on the Council (i.e., loss of the veto) or even, perhaps, to demands that Britain give up its seat.