

Co-operation in Health:

The assignment of Madame Michèle Jean, a former Canadian Deputy Minister for Health to the Canadian Mission to the European Union reflects Canada's interest, shared by the EU, in intensifying dialogue on health issues, particularly now that article 152 of the Amsterdam Treaty is in force. Both sides wish to develop a long-term strategic agenda on health and consumer protection. A number of meetings have been organized to exchange information on strategies and emerging trends. David Dodge, the Canadian Deputy Minister of Health, will visit Brussels on November 10. On November 11 and 12 Canadian and Commission officials will meet to discuss public health, health protection and consumer protection issues. Commission officials will visit Canada November 18 and 19 to discuss health telematics and health information issues. Opportunities to develop joint research projects will be considered.

Fostering Links

Co-operation in Higher Education and Training: The five-year agreement for cooperation in higher education and training signed between Canada and the EU in 1995 established a program aimed at facilitating student transatlantic mobility. The program has organized private and public sector partnerships to support internships and has provided funding for both real and virtual student exchange programs, related teaching assignments and the joint development of innovative, technology-mediated teaching materials. Since its inception, over 1600 Canadian and European participants have crossed the Atlantic under the program.

Canadian federal government and European Commission officials met in Ottawa on May 3, 1999 to review the program in the company of representatives from 12 member states and 5 provinces. All participants encouraged the continuation of the agreement which expires at the end of 2000. The joint consortia meeting took place in Rotterdam on October 13 and 14 and brought together project directors to share best practices.

Strengthening and broadening science and technology co-operation:

The next meeting of the Joint Science and Technology Cooperation Committee is scheduled for May 23, 2000 in Brussels. The first meeting on bilateral cooperation in nuclear research will take place the following day.

Canadians have responded with high interest to the launch of the European Fifth Framework Programme (FP5) in 1999. Initial tallies indicate that 63 Canadian applicants are involved in European consortia that responded to the first wave of calls for proposals. The Information Society Technologies Programme has