

## CANADA'S DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER CO-CHAIRS THE CANADA/EC JCC

It was a renewal of an old relationship when the Honourable Allan J. MacEachen visited the European Commission on 26 and 27 January 1983. Deputy Prime Minister of Canada and Secretary of State for External Affairs, Mr. MacEachen came to co-chair, with Vice-President Wilhelm Haferkamp, the fifth meeting of the Canada-EC Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC). During Mr. MacEachen's first term as Secretary of State for External Affairs, in 1976, he signed the Canada-EC Framework Agreement on Commercial and Economic Cooperation which created the JCC. Lord Soames signed the Agreement for the Commission and Mr. Van der Stoel signed it as President-in-Office of the Council.

The Joint Cooperation Committee was designed to promote and keep under review the various commercial and economic cooperation activities envisaged between Canada and the EC. It meets each year at ministerial level, alternatively in Ottawa and Brussels. Mr. MacEachen noted that these cooperation activities, when viewed against the current background of world economic recession and stagnation in international trade, offer an important means of coordinating economic development and enhancing bilateral exchanges and he confirmed that in his view, the Canada-EC Framework Agreement has proved to be a very useful vehicle for the intensification of Canada-EC cooperation and trade.

The two delegations to the JCC reviewed the work of industrial and scientific cooperation which has been accomplished since the last meeting in July 1981 in the areas of metals and minerals (asbestos, coal, iron and steel, non-ferrous metals) forest products, uranium, energy conservation, urban transportation, science and technology and environment. A major event during the last year was the holding of the World Symposium on Asbestos in Montreal in May 1982. This Symposium, which was co-sponsored by Canada, the Government of Quebec and the European Commission, reviewed all the advantages and disadvantages of producing and working with this important substance. In addition, a new working group on urban transportation was established, and agreement was reached on future cooperation on waste water research. The Committee expressed satisfaction with the progress in these areas, and approved the work programme for the next year which will focus on the potential for cooperation in several new fields such as transportation, alternative sources of energy, energy saving equipment and small and medium-sized enterprises. Cooperation will be intensified on research, environment and health and safety in the work place.

Mr. MacEachen and Vice-President Haferkamp also took the occasion to review a wide range of multilateral and bilateral issues. They focused in particular upon the trading environment, the need to resist protectionist pressures and to implement the results of the GATT Ministerial Meeting as effectively and as soon as possible. On the bilateral side they discussed the Canada-EC Long Term Fisheries Agreement, the import of Canadian seal skins into the Community and various measures which both sides have taken in the area of anti-dumping and countervailing duties. During his visit the Canadian Deputy Prime Minister also met with Commission President Gaston Thorn and Vice-Presidents François-Xavier Ortoli and Etienne Davignon, with whom he discussed many of the same points.