- This year again, the Information Communication Technology Sector Team at Industry Canada is organising Canada-EU partnering events and missions, including coordination of Canada's participation at IST 2002 in Copenhagen, in November 2002. For information, please contact Donna Jackson, atjackson.donna@ic.gc.ca

- The Canada-EU Joint Science and Technology Cooperation Committee (JSTCC) set up under the 1996 Canada-EU Agreement for Scientific and Technological Cooperation will meet again in the autumn of 2002, likely at the time of the Conference which will launch FP6. The JSTCC promotes and reviews joint activities, advises on ways to enhance cooperation, provides an annual report on the level, status and effectiveness of cooperation and reviews the functioning of the Agreement. For information, please contact Meg Barker, at meg.barker@dfait-maeci.gc.ca or Paola de Rose, at paola.de-rose@dfait-maeci.gc.ca

This list, while not comprehensive, gives an idea of the range of activities and initiatives that the Government of Canada is promoting to stimulate contacts between the Canadian and European research communities.

2. Snapshot of United States S&T in 2002

A) European Union R&D Budget for 2002
B) S&T Structure in the European Union in 2002
C) S&T Organizations in the European Union in 2002

The European integration process, started in the 1950's, has resulted in a Union with 15 Member States: Germany, France, Italy, United Kingdom, Spain, Netherlands, Belgium, Greece, Portugal, Sweden, Austria, Denmark, Finland, Ireland and Luxembourg. The EU is the world's largest single market, having surpassed the United States in both GDP and population. The Euro is now the official currency of 12 of the Member States.

EU enlargement is well under way. Negotiations have started with 13 candidate countries: Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovenia, the Slovak Republic, Malta, Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey. Since 1999, these accession countries have been "associated" with EU research programs, and they contribute a growing fraction of their GDP to program funding.

Since 1983, R&D at the Union level has centred around a succession of 4-year Framework Programs for Research, Technology Development and Demonstration Activities (RTD). The Fifth Framework Program (FP5) has dominated the scene in recent years: It was launched in1999 and is now drawing to a close. The statistics are impressive: For the year 2000 alone, 3.9 billion Euros were given in support of some 4,800 research contracts involving 23,000 participants. Averaged over its 4 year duration, FP5 accounted for 4 % of EU's total annual budget, and approximately 5% of annual public R&D spending across Europe. Analysts note that these are small but important percentages, for the FPs fund leading-edge initiatives, stimulate transnational research cooperation, and influence more and more the priorities and structures of national research programs across Europe.

Although the Framework Programs have helped advance European R&D, there is a continued