

REPORT OF THE JOINT COOPERATION COMMITTEE

I. INTRODUCTION

1. OVERVIEW

In 1976 Canada and the European Communities signed the Framework Agreement for Commercial and Economic Cooperation. It was intended to "consolidate, deepen and diversify (our) commercial and economic relations... on the basis of mutual benefit."

This Agreement is a framework encompassing general Canada-Community relations, and its mandate was designed to address all aspects of Canada-Community commercial and economic cooperation. However, trade policy matters, in both their bilateral and multilateral dimension, have been most regularly addressed in Semi-Annual meetings of senior officials - a practice which pre-dated the signature of the Framework Agreement and has continued since. The 1959 Canada/Euratom Agreement for Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy provides for a separate structure for consultation on nuclear matters. In fact there was and is a flourishing Canada-Community network of contacts, visits, biannual high-level consultations on bilateral and multilateral trade issues, and other consultative processes which deal with many aspects of the bilateral relationship.

As a consequence, the activity under the Agreement which falls directly under the institution set up at the first meeting - the Joint Cooperation Committee - and its two Sub-Committees (the Preparatory and General Cooperation Sub-Committee, and the Sub-Committee for Industrial Cooperation) has concentrated in practice on cooperation in the industrial sector, and on science and technology, and also more recently on framework conditions for investment and trade.

2. PROCEEDINGS OF THE EIGHTH MEETING OF THE JCC

The eighth meeting of the JCC took place at the senior officials level on May 23, 1990. The proceedings and recommendations of that meeting were approved on May 25, 1990 at a meeting under the Co-Chairmanship, for Canada, of the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, and the Honourable John Crosbie, Minister for International Trade, and for the Community, Mr. Frans Andriessen, Vice-President of the Commission and Member responsible for External Relations and Trade Policy.