

The Joint Cooperation Committee set up under the Framework Agreement on Commercial and Economic Cooperation between Canada and the European Communities, which entered into force on the 1st of October of this year, met for the first time today in Brussels. The Committee's purpose is to promote and keep under review the various commercial and economic cooperation activities envisaged between the Communities and Canada. It will normally meet once a year.

In their opening statements, to inaugurate the Joint Cooperation Committee, Mr. François-Xavier Ortoli, President of the Commission of the European Communities, and the Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada, Mr. Don Jamieson, said that in establishing the Committee, Canada and the European Communities had taken a major step forward, which would permit the early realization of the objectives of the Framework Agreement. They emphasized that joint efforts under the Agreement should now be vigorously pursued.

The two delegations adopted rules of procedure for the Joint Cooperation Committee. They discussed the Committee's work programme for the coming year and listed a number of possible sectors for commercial and economic cooperation. These included non-ferrous metals and forest based, nuclear, coal, iron ore, steel, aerospace, telecommunication and construction industries. Other areas for cooperation, such as science and technology, protection of the environment, fisheries, and joint ventures in third countries were also discussed.

The J.C.C. will be assisted in the practical implementation of the provisions of the Framework Agreement by two sub-committees. These sub-committees will help to promote commercial and economic relations, including the identification of areas suitable for industrial cooperation.