

Federal Republic of Germany

Chancellor Helmut Kohl

Helmut Kohl was born April 3, 1930 in Ludwigshafen, Rhineland-Palatinate. He studied Law, Sociology, Political Science and History at the universities of Frankfurt and Heidelberg and received his doctorate in 1958.

Dr. Kohl joined the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) in 1947 and by 1955 had become a member of the Party Executive for his home state of Rhineland-Palatinate. In 1959, Dr. Kohl was elected to the State Assembly and between 1969 and 1976 served as State Minister President (Premier). He has been a member of the Bundestag in Bonn (federal lower house) since 1976, the same year in which he was the CDU candidate for Chancellor and became Chairman of his party's Bundestag caucus.

Dr. Kohl became Chancellor in October 1982. His centre-right coalition government of Christian Democrats, the Christian Social Union (CSU) and moderate Free Democrats (FDP) was re-elected in January 1987. The issue of German unification will be a central preoccupation in the months preceding the 1990 federal elections scheduled for December 2.

Chancellor Kohl made his first official visit to Canada in June 1988.

Houston will be Chancellor Kohl's eighth Economic Summit. He will be accompanied by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Deputy Chancellor, Hans-Dietrich Genscher; the Minister of Finance, Theo Waigel; and the Minister of Economics, Dr. Helmut Hausmann. Chancellor Kohl's personal representative is Dr. Horst Koehler, State Secretary in the Ministry of Finance.

Canada-F.R.G. Relations

The F.R.G. is one of Canada's most important defence partners, the third-largest source of foreign direct investment (after the U.S. and the U.K.), the fourth-largest single trading partner (after the U.S., Japan and the U.K.), and Canada's most important Western European partner in science and technology. Co-operation within NATO has created a unique relationship through the commitment of roughly 8000 Canadian troops in Lahr and Baden-Baden and 5500 F.R.G. soldiers and airmen who are trained annually in Shilo and Goose Bay.

Canada has been actively enhancing its bilateral contacts with the F.R.G., in the context of that nation's pivotal role in the EC 1992 process and in light of the process of German unification. Canada has done so through increased high-level visits at the federal and provincial levels, as well as through trade missions, parliamentary exchanges and strengthening of institutional linkages and technical co-operation.

Two-way trade has grown dramatically over the past decade to its present level of over \$5.5 billion. However, bilateral trade and economic activities still capture only about 1 percent of each country's total exports. The F.R.G. has consistently enjoyed a trade surplus with Canada (which last year amounted to roughly \$2 billion), but Canada's exports to the F.R.G. increased last year by 11 percent to \$1.7 billion. Particularly promising sectors for further bilateral co-operation and development are the environment, high technology, manufacturing and the commercial prospects related to German unification and new markets in Central and Eastern Europe.