



Canada's Co-operation in Central and Eastern Europe

CANADA-CENTRAL EUROPE RELATIONS

Like the European Union, Canada is working with the people of Central and Eastern Europe during a time of immense transformation. Canada has created a Program of Co-operation in the region with three primary objectives:

- To support the transition to market-based economies;
- To increase Canadian trade and investment links with the region;
- To promote democratic development.

The program recognizes the importance of this evolution on peace and stability and on economic growth. It works in co-ordination with other international initiatives in the region to ensure the greatest possible effectiveness. For example, agriculture, democratizing and good governance, education and private sector development are program priorities in Poland. In Hungary, the emphasis is on projects that improve environmental protection and on the development of the financial and private sectors.

Other support across the region goes to humanitarian assistance, nuclear safety and the multilateral initiatives of the international community. The results of the Program of Co-operation are being felt in more stable, democratic countries with sound social and economic institutions.

The Renaissance Eastern Europe Program

Joint ventures in Central and Eastern Europe offer a way for local entrepreneurs to tap western technology and business practices. They offer a way for Western businesses to position themselves in these emerging markets.

The Renaissance Eastern Europe Program has already funded almost 500 projects across the region. It supports pre-feasibility studies for specific ventures, shares the costs of specific training programs, and supports new, bilateral business councils.

Projects have included a special truck body assembly operation in Poland, auto parts manufacturing in Hungary, an airborne geophysical survey company in Bulgaria and a radio station that is bringing North American rock music to St. Petersburg.



Canada wants the Central European people to know that we are a reliable, long-term partner that stands ready, willing and able to help develop their infrastructure and take their rightful place in the global economy.

International Trade Minister
Art Eggleton

Canada-Ukraine Nuclear Co-operation

Canada has been one of the Western nations at the forefront in working with the newly independent countries of the former Soviet Union. A prime example of this support is Canadian-Ukrainian nuclear co-operation, which encompasses both multilateral and bilateral components.

In 1995, during Canada's presidency of the G-7, member governments signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Ukraine and the European Commission. This agreement laid the foundation for effectively shutting down the Chernobyl nuclear plant and ensuring the subsequent decommissioning of the facility. As well, it stipulated a cleanup of the surrounding area. Precautions were taken during negotiations to prevent Ukrainians from suffering undue financial hardships or energy loss as a result.

Under the terms of the MOU, Canada is playing a key role in working with Ukraine to rehabilitate its power grid. On a commercial level, Canada is assisting in the redesign and retooling of older conventional plants, making them safer and more efficient. During Minister Axworthy's trade mission to Ukraine, in October 1996, Canada's Northland Power signed an agreement valued at 92 million ECU to renovate the Darnytsia Power Plant in Kyiv, which supplies electricity and district heating to 900 000 people in the area.

Bilateral co-operation in the nuclear field continues to grow between both nations as well. Canada is involved with cleaning up old missile sites, determining storage requirements for spent fuels, and providing courses on nuclear safety and regulations.

Nuclear co-operation between Canada and Ukraine, already well established, will no doubt continue to develop and benefit all involved.

Protecting Borders with Science

A wave of contraband is flowing through Central and Eastern Europe on its way to Western Europe. A Canadian project is helping the Czech Republic to block that wave through stronger customs services. The Laboratory and Scientific Services and Enforcement directorates of Canada's Department of National Revenue are working with their Czech partners to bring scientific and technical tools to bear on the battle against contraband. The result should be better controls over alcohol, arms and drug smuggling through the Czech Republic, and better enforcement of tariffs on other goods. It is a step in building good governance practices in the region.



Canada's Deputy Prime Minister and former Minister for the Environment, Sheila Copps, shakes hands with Ukraine's Acting Head of the State Committee on the Use of Nuclear Energy, N.R. Nigmatullin, at the signing of a memorandum of understanding among the G-7, Ukraine and the European Commission.