

## ABSTRACT

The formalization of high level political ties through the European Community-Canada Transatlantic Declaration (TAD, 1990) marks Canada's recognition of the European Community's evolution as a foreign policy actor, builds on the Canada-European Communities Framework Agreement (1976), and thereby increases the relative importance of the EC in Canada's public policy approach to Europe. The TAD augurs a new stage in bilateral relations. The two fundamental questions posed by this paper are: Given the nature of Canada-EC relations in the 1980s and Canada's role as a *demandeur* in the international system, was Canada a leader or a follower in the decision-making processes leading up to the TAD? Second, how significant is the TAD for bilateral relations in the 1990s as Canada's other European 'pillars' (e.g., NATO, the CSCE) increasingly lose their relevance, while at the same time the Community's own limited resources are focused on the completion of its internal market as well as on political and monetary union? The paper is divided into two parts. The first half focuses specifically on Canadian perceptions of the vicissitudes of EC-US relations in 1989-1990 and examines Ottawa's review of its policy approach to Europe during the same period. The second half of the paper assesses the significance of the TAD from a variety of perspectives, i.e. European, bureaucratic, political, economic and institutional.