

News Release

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ANITA GRADIN, EUROPEAN COMMISSIONER FOR IMMIGRATION, JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS, TO VISIT CANADA

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today announced that Mrs. Anita Gradin, European Commissioner for Immigration, Justice and Home Affairs, will pay an official visit to Canada, September 28 to October 2.

With the ratification of the Maastricht Treaty in 1993, the European Union gained new jurisdiction in the field of immigration, justice and law enforcement. Mrs. Gradin's visit underscores the numerous ties that Canada has with the European Union on these issues.

"Canada attaches great importance to establishing a long-term relationship with the European Commission and the European Union on global issues such as organized crime, immigration and justice," declared Mr. Ouellet. "We believe there is much to be gained by exchanging views and sharing experiences on these issues."

Mrs. Gradin will meet with Solicitor General Herb Gray, Minister of Justice and Attorney General Allan Rock, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Sergio Marchi, Secretary of State (Multiculturalism and Status of Women) Sheila Finestone and Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Gordon Smith.

Among the topics to be discussed are international organized crime, drug trafficking, immigration and asylum policy. Also on the agenda are the strengthening of transatlantic ties between Canada and Europe, the review of the Maastricht Treaty in 1996 by Member States of the Union and the issue of violence against women, a subject of concern in both Canada and Europe.

During her visit to Canada, Mrs. Gradin will visit the National Operations Centre of the RCMP as well as the Rainbow Bridge customs port of entry in Niagara Falls.

