

Canada's international competitiveness in the context of linkages in higher education.

Against the background of the defeat of Bill C-93, and in response to a question By Ms. Stipich (SHRCC) whether it was a reasonable expectation that ICR would remain within the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, he replied that we had no mandate to discuss this question, as this was a decision for the government to make. Our job was to look at the broader issues, and to report the results of our consultations.

Ms. Egron-Polak (AUCC) observed that her organization, and perhaps others, were preparing briefs to the Parliamentary Committee on cultural questions, and that it would be useful to know the terms of reference of the more specilaized cultural review, which would be helpful to the AUCC in preparing their submission on the role of universities in Canada's foreign policy to the Joint Senate/House of Commons Committee to review foreign polciy. M. Dudoit thought we could provide such information, based on the questions we had put to key Canadian missions abroad. In conclusion he drew attention to the fact that Minister Ouellet had made several public references to the importance of ICR as part of foreign policy, and had associated himself personally with the Canada/Mexico/USA tri-lateral exchange program recently concluded in Washington.

Mr. Long (FAIT) then introduced the morning agenda, observing that this was a good time for bilateral discussions in terms of policy developments (almost everything was under the loupe), but a difficult time in program terms (budget cuts). He described the Canadian Studies program, which in Germany was:

- dynamic and effective, covering a wide range of disciplines;
- securely installed at a number of West-German universities;
- supported by a large and active association (650 members - also including members from other German-speaking countries);
- productive in terms of leveraging - our investment went a long way;
- being extended to universities in former East Germany, which, however, were struggling with quite severe problems of adjustment.

With respect to The Netherlands, the program was

- effective and gradually expanding;
- economically efficient, with 1:4 leveraging factor, giving us a good return on our investment;
- benefited from a dynamic centre at Groningen University;