

- Canadians will for some time be preoccupied with the implications of the new North American military command. There will likely be better opportunities for Dutch-Canadian initiatives outside of Europe rather than inside it.
- From a Dutch perspective, cooperation with Canada outside Europe gets handicapped by Ottawa's habit of cutting spending on ODA.
- From a Canadian perspective, Canada's access to the EU, and hence its ability to cooperate fully with the Netherlands, is likely to be affected negatively by new visa requirements in the Schengen group, limiting Canadians to three-months maximum of visa-free entry; nevertheless, since 11 September, there may be more potential for bilateral efforts on Third Pillar items.
- Perhaps working together on a joint threat assessment, say on WMD, might prove worth doing?
- Another possible area for cooperation: the Caribbean region.

CLOSING REMARKS

From the Dutch side, Prof. Siccama observed that much of the focus of the seminar over the two days had been the US in the aftermath of 11 September, which led him to remark upon a major difference between Canada and the Netherlands: the former was part of America's "strategic space," the latter was not. By implication, Canada's ability to influence US thinking had risen, while the Netherlands' had declined. Indeed, compared with the height of the Cold War, when all reinforcements destined for the Central Front would have had to pass through Belgian and Dutch ports, you could even say that Dutch strategic standing vis-à-vis the US had changed "drastically."

Less explicit as a focus of the discussion was a theme that intruded several times at the margins of the debate: the question of Europe's finalité. This, suggested Prof. Siccama, would have great bearing on the quality of Dutch-Canadian relations in the future. The EU's future constitutional order was more likely to reflect French and British, rather than German, preferences, in that it was doubtful that future constitutional order would much resemble "federalism." As for the Netherlands, "we have to admit that we have abandoned the supranational, federal position ourselves." Only Germany and Belgium appeared today still to be committed to a federal Europe.