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*years of co-operation*

The bilateral dialogue is helping to move economic and trade issues forward, and the result is that trade is becoming more fair, safe and profitable:

- High-tech Canadian and EU firms should see regulatory burdens and transaction costs reduced with the introduction of regulatory co-operation, which allows products approved in one jurisdiction to be accepted in the other. Implementation of the 1998 Mutual Recognition Agreement on conformity assessment is in a confidence-building phase: regulators on each side are assessing the other's capacity to conform to their regulations.
- The 1999 Agreement on Competition Policy and Law increases the effectiveness of competition law enforcement, reduces the risk of reaching conflicting or incompatible decisions, and provides for enforcement co-operation to deal with illegal activities of multinational corporations.
- Now being discussed is mutual recognition of sanitary measures, with the aim of facilitating trade while maintaining strict protection of human and animal health. The talks are taking place under the 1998 Veterinary Agreement, which covers two-way trade in animals, fish, and animal and fish products.
- The private-sector Canada-EU Round Table is working to enhance the trade and economic relationship on a business-to-business level.

**Security and democratic values**

Since it was founded in 1949, NATO has been the transatlantic community's collective defence mechanism. Today, however, the Euro-Atlantic security and defence structure is changing: the Cold War is over, the EU is getting bigger, and it has initiated a European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP).

Despite the changes, the Canada-EU dialogue continues under the 1990 Declaration on Transatlantic Relations, in which both sides agreed to enhance co-operation in foreign and security policy. Though not directly involved in the ESDP, Canada will meet with the EU at least quarterly to discuss ESDP-related issues (including ESDP options that call upon NATO assets and capabilities) and potential Canadian participation in EU-led crisis management operations.

The best example of the Canada-EU security and peace relationship is Canada's role in the Balkans. Since 1992 the region has been the focus of Canada's largest peacekeeping effort, one of our largest refugee programs, our largest civilian police deployment and our largest post-conflict peacebuilding efforts. Canada and EU co-operation in

the Balkans has led to intense diplomatic activity in international and regional forums, including the UN, the G-8, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, and NATO.

Throughout the Balkans, Canada is working with local governments and civil society to help normalize relations within countries (e.g., through democratic and economic reform) and across national borders (e.g., through peacebuilding and encouraging regional co-operation).

Canadian and international efforts are making a difference in the Balkans. In Yugoslavia's federal and state governments, progress toward democracy is measurable although still fragile; the same may be said of Croatia; Kosovo is moving toward restored order and institution building; regional co-operation is spreading; the economy is growing; refugees are returning home; and the judicial system is tackling war crimes trials.

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photo: Master Corporal Ken Allan, Department of National Defence



On September 6, 2000, Sam Hanson, Canada's Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina, helps cut the ribbon to re-open a high school, rebuilt with help from Canada and the European Union. From left: town mayor Ivan Damjanovic, Goran Filipovic (representative of the European Union), Captain Phil Baker (Canadian project officer) and Ambassador Hanson.