

participating in the Galileo satellite project. Renewal of the Canada-ESA Cooperation Agreement together with the exploration of terms for Canadian participation are requisite steps which must be undertaken in the very near future. A European industrial mission on satellite navigation is expected to visit Canada shortly.

Energy: An ITER Canada delegation visited Brussels on Sept. 23, 1999, to discuss their proposal for the siting in Canada of the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) facility that the European Union, Russia and Japan are proposing to construct in mid-2001 as a final step before a demonstration facility. ITER Canada will submit a siting proposal to the European Commission in December 1999.

Statistical Cooperation: Eurostat has provided Statistics Canada with data on EU-Canada trade for the years 1993-1997. Statistics Canada is currently reconciling this information with its own data and is preparing an interim report on its conclusions. Subsequent to further consultations between Eurostat and Statistics Canada, a final report would be prepared. In addition, a compilers' reconciliation manual outlining the factors to consider when reconciling differing data is also being prepared by Eurostat. Moreover, officials of the two statistical offices have been in contact with a view to joint examination of conceptual issues following the preparation of the final report.

Employment and Growth: Senior Canadian and Commission officials met in Brussels September 21 and 22 and discussed a wide range of issues of common interest including best practices for employment policy, implementation of the European Employment Plan and guidelines, lifelong learning strategies, new and effective approaches toward an ageing society, overcoming dependency, and addressing social exclusion.

Transnational Issues:

Arctic Cooperation: Cooperation between Canada and the EU has been very close on this issue. The first Canada-EU Seminar on Northern Development was held in Aylmer, Quebec on October 19 and 20. Both sides are working on a Joint Statement on Northern Cooperation for release at the December Summit in Ottawa. The statement will underline the shared interest in establishing complementary policies in this field and will identify potential areas for co-operation.