

## FRANCE

<b>Official Name:</b>	Republic of France
<b>Capital:</b>	Paris
<b>Head of State:</b>	President François Mitterand
<b>Head of Government:</b>	Premier Edouard Balladur
<b>Foreign Minister:</b>	Alain Juppé
<b>Minister of Industry, of the Postal Service and Telecommunications and Foreign Trade:</b>	Gérard Longuet

### DOMESTIC SITUATION

Since the national elections in March of this year, France has been going through another period of political cohabitation with socialist President Mitterand having to deal with a government of the centre-right majority in the National Assembly. The defeat of the French left led to speculation at the time that Mitterand might choose to resign. Since then, he has made adroit adaptations. He now seems certain to serve out the remainder of his mandate.

Although the extreme right did not do well in the March election, the National Assembly is now dominated by a body of deputies who are, for the most part, much more conservative than their predecessors. The shift to the right has occurred in large measure in response to domestic issues. The division of power under the cohabitation arrangement could have an adverse impact on France's ability to make compromises, particularly on agriculture, as the Uruguay Round enters its final stages.

### CANADIAN INTERESTS

#### i) Trade and Economic

France is Canada's sixth largest trading partner. The value of Canadian exports in 1992 was just over \$1.4 billion, while imports from France were worth almost \$2.7 billion. French direct investment in Canada totalled \$3.9 billion at the end of 1991, while Canadian direct investment in France was worth \$1.7 billion.

Aircraft, spacecraft and parts	1,038.3	142.6	662.7	230.4	911.3
Machinery, boilers, engines	365.0	301.9	344.8	356.7	292.3
Beverages, spirits and vinegar	196.2	257.7	203.1	221.8	389.8
Electrical machinery and equipment	165.0	169.8	207.4	199.1	202.8
Printed books, papers, pictures	75.7	78.8	101.7	91.8	75.3