

German colleagues have suggested establishing an international group of eminent Atlantic citizens to guide us forward, as have I.

The modalities of how we proceed, and exactly what we seek to accomplish, are still emerging from the dialectical process. Among the possibilities are further duty reductions, new investment rules, increased intellectual property protection, aviation and maritime transport agreements, and improved rules for public procurement practices.

But if the agenda is still emerging, the consensus is clearly growing that the status quo is insufficient. If Atlantic nations are to continue to provide economic leadership in the future, we shall have to revitalize old transatlantic bridges, and build new ones.

We had a glimpse of the future at the recent G-7 Summit in Halifax. Canada and the EU signed a major agreement on co-operation in the field of science and technology. This agreement opened the door for Canadian companies, universities and researchers, to enter into joint ventures with European partners participating in the European Commission's \$23-billion fourth Framework Program for Research and Development.

In the weeks ahead, our Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade will host seminars in Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver to explain the agreement to interested Canadians and a new era of co-operation in science and technology will begin.

We have other initiatives under way. We are negotiating agreements with the EU on competition policy and customs co-operation. We are almost ready to sign an agreement on education and training. We are negotiating agreements on veterinary inspections and mutual recognition of testing and certification for product standards. These are steps toward the closer co-operation and trade liberalization of the future.

Sweden and Canada are not superpowers, but we are respected and influential nations within the European Union and the NAFTA respectively. We have a shared responsibility to provide leadership on global problems.

We can do this. We have collaborated in the maintenance of peace. We built the international institutions of our common security, and we can build the transatlantic bridge to our common prosperity. And when we do find ourselves in a position to lead, let us act boldly.

Thank you.