

**MINISTERIAL MEETING BETWEEN CANADA  
AND THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES  
IN OTTAWA, SEPTEMBER 20, 1992**

**JOINT COMMUNIQUE**

The annual Ministerial consultations between Canada and the Commission of the European Communities (EC) took place in Ottawa on September 20, 1992.

The meeting was co-chaired by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, and the Minister of Industry, Science and Technology and the Minister for International Trade, the Honourable Michael Wilson. The Commission delegation was led by Frans Andriessen, Vice-President responsible for External Relations and Trade Policy.

The discussions underlined the close bilateral relations that exist between Canada and the EC and which have intensified since the adoption of the Trans Atlantic Declaration on EC-Canada relations in November, 1990. The Ministers and the Vice-President approved the 1992 report of the Joint Co-operation Committee, which outlines co-operation and consultation in a wide range of areas under the 1976 Framework Agreement for Commercial and Economic Co-operation between Canada and the European Communities. They particularly noted improved consultations on environmental issues following the Joint EC-Canada Statement on Co-operation in the Environment, which was approved at the Ministerial meeting in 1991.

Both sides noted the importance of the Canada-EC trade and investment relationship. The EC continues to be Canada's most important trading partner after the U.S. In 1991, trade with the EC totalled \$25.8 billion. The EC is also the second largest source of foreign direct investment in Canada; the EC's investment has doubled between 1985 and 1991 to \$30.8 billion. Canadian direct investment in the EC now exceeds \$18 billion and accounts for 20 per cent of total Canadian direct investment abroad.

The Ministers and the Vice-President reviewed developments concerning three important bilateral agreements:

- discussion on an arrangement on co-operation in the application of respective competition policies,
- progress toward negotiations for an agreement on science and technology, and
- preparations for negotiations on the mutual recognition of the testing and certification of regulated products.