



8. Canada and French-Speaking Europe

Canada has special relationships with Belgium, Switzerland, Luxembourg and France and co-operates economically and culturally with the French-speaking countries of Europe at the bilateral and multilateral levels in organizations such as the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

France and Belgium have played an important part in returning French Canadian culture to its roots. The last 20 years, especially, have seen an unprecedented number of exchanges in all fields (individuals, information and cultural property). Canada's association with the industrialized Francophone countries **facilitates the co-ordination of the efforts** to assist developing countries and to co-operate with them in economic and cultural matters. These efforts will be more effective in terms of human capital and more open to technological and scientific change because of the French language, and they will be imbued with a unique vitality because of these special relationships.

The Government of Canada has established two cultural centres — one in Paris, the other in Brussels — to promote cultural exchanges with France and Belgium, where the Canadian missions direct significant resources to cultural activities in their areas of accreditation.

Although there is not as yet an organized framework for exchanges between developed Francophone countries other than at the bilateral level, certain highly technical Summit projects are promoting sustained multilateral co-operation between countries such as France, Canada, Belgium and Switzerland. The **TV-5 project**, with the TV-5 Europe and TV-5 Quebec/Canada components, is the best example of this phenomenon. It represents the beginning of a **co-operative effort** that transcends this type of development.