

**SUMMARY RECORD OF THE  
PREPARATORY MEETING  
THURSDAY, 7 APRIL  
FOR BILATERAL CULTURAL CONSULTATIONS  
WITH  
THE NETHERLANDS AND GERMANY**

Alain Dudoit opened the meeting with a brief overview of Canada's cultural relations with The Netherlands and Germany, noting in particular that:

- relations with both countries were excellent;
- especially Germany has a well-developed and dynamic Canadian Studies program, supported by an active scholarly association, while on a smaller scale Canadian Studies in The Netherlands are also doing well (with some interesting initiatives aiming at a pan-European approach);
- both countries are key markets for Canadian artists and offer a jumping-off point for the penetration of other European markets;
- our approach to academic relations vis-à-vis Europe is changing in the direction of a more multilateral approach;
- Germany remains the economic powerhouse of Europe and even much smaller Netherlands is Canada's 6th. largest export market.

With respect to the impending bilateral cultural consultations, he stressed that we wanted to move away from a project-by-project to a more thematic approach, and requested all participants to suggest strategic issues that could usefully be discussed with either or both countries. In this connection he noted that political and economic conditions on both sides of the Atlantic had changed considerably since the last talks in 1990, and that we were operating in a new, and more difficult environment. Obvious points were the problems that Germany was encountering in the process of re-unification, the loss of momentum in moving towards a truly unified Europe, and the economic problems that everyone was facing.

He also alluded to a review of international cultural relations in the context of a broader foreign policy review, and in response to questions indicated that NGO's would be consulted. On timing he said that we hoped to complete the first phase of internal consultations by about the middle of May, and that the scope of the review would then be enlarged to other players. The results of those consultations should be known by June/July. One important aspect of these consultations is the concept of