

Vanclief have explored the commencement of negotiations toward a bilateral wine and spirits agreement in the near future.

Competition Issues: The Canada-EU Competition Agreement was signed at the June 17 summit in Bonn and is now being implemented.

Cultural Cooperation: Initial exploratory discussions have taken place between Commission and Canadian officials regarding an amendment to the 1976 Canada-EU Framework Agreement, or the negotiation of a separate agreement, to enhance cooperation in the cultural field.

Business to Business Contacts: The launch of a business dialogue, the Canada-EU Roundtable (CERT), took place in Brussels on June 16. Members of the CERT Steering Committee visited Montreal, Ottawa and Toronto October 12 to 15 to seek the support of Canadian private sector for the new organization.

Electronic Commerce: Officials from both sides have been in frequent contact, particularly with regard to privacy issues and the measures taken by the respective jurisdictions to deal with them. A Joint Statement on Electronic Commerce is being explored for possible issuance at the December Summit.

Other Cooperation in the Trade and Economic Field

Financial Services: Officials of DG-Internal Market and Financial Services and Canada's Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions (OSFI) have recently met and expressed a mutual interest in establishing a non-binding arrangement concerning the exchange of information as needed to facilitate the supervision of financial institutions active in their respective jurisdictions. There is a chance that an arrangement may be finalized or approved prior to the Canada-EU Summit in June 2000.

Customs Cooperation: Revenue Canada has agreed to the Commission's proposal to convene a first meeting of the Joint Customs Cooperation Committee on 9 December in Brussels. Consultations among customs experts have also taken place throughout the year in the Enforcement Committee and other bodies of the World Customs Organisation (WCO).

Fisheries: In addition to last June's High Level Consultations on Fisheries, both sides have continued to promote business-to business contacts. In April 1999, Canadian firms attended a fish industry workshop in Brussels. This was followed by an EU mission to Canada from September 20-24 which was held in conjunction with the Fisheries Council of Canada's annual convention.

Galileo Project: The Canada-EU Working Group on Satellite Navigation met September 22 in Brussels. The Working Group is scheduled to meet again on October 28 and 29 in Brussels. Canada has indicated its strong interest in