

B. Other cooperation activities

(i) Information Technology and Telecommunications

EC-Canada consultations in this sector took place in Ottawa on May 18, 1990. There was an exchange of views on the telecommunications policies of both sides, including a general review of the changing regulatory context of the European Community in view of the liberalisation of the internal market. Subjects including international standards formulation and conformance testing were reviewed. In this context, Canada attended the 1990 ETSI Technical Assembly as "special guests". Attempts to avoid duplication of international standards, and transparency in the process was a common approach in the discussion. HDTV was reviewed after the Dusseldorf meeting. The GATT/MTN negotiations on services were also discussed with a view to reaching closer positions on reciprocity, market access and public procurement. The Canadian side has proposed a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the area of telecommunications and information technology; this MOU would aim, in particular, to facilitate and enhance technological cooperation in R&D in this field.

(ii) Environment

The major importance of environmental protection at the international level is reflected by the increasing number of meetings taking place around the world. Canada and the EC have excellent cooperation at this level. The recent White House meeting in Washington reflected a common view on the need to proceed with urgent action on the greenhouse affect, though the reservations of others did not permit a successful outcome of the meeting.

Canada has just launched a domestic policy discussion paper "The Green Paper" to be reviewed publicly to seek consensus before the legislative stage. Canada recently sponsored Globe 90 in Vancouver, which was a major success. The EC is progressing in a number of sectors within the Community (creation of the European Environmental Agency, a proposed program on the greenhouse effect, a waste