

Cooperation under the Canada-EU Action Plan

European Union-Canada Trade Initiative (ECTI)

The "EU-Canada Trade Initiative" (ECTI) announced at the December 1998 Summit in Ottawa is intended to focus on the trade and economic elements of the 1996 Action Plan and Political Declaration.

The ECTI also provided that Canadian and E.U. officials would closely cooperate and consult on multilateral trade issues in preparation for the next round of multilateral trade negotiations. To this end, officials have met to review the broad multilateral agenda and have identified a great deal of common ground in our respective approaches. These consultations began in November 1998 in Ottawa, continued in Brussels, and were further advanced by the visit of the Deputy Minister of Trade Robert Wright to Brussels on October 20, 1999. They were also complemented by consultations on the margins of multilateral meetings and through our joint participation in the Quadrilateral Trade Ministers' meetings with the U.S. and Japan

Trade ministers reviewed overall progress on the ECTI at the June 17 Canada-EU summit in Bonn and agreed on a progress report which was welcomed by leaders in their plenary session. Both sides resolved to push ahead on outstanding issues with a view to taking stock at the next summit.

Progress made to date under ECTI with respect to bilateral issues is summarized below:

Mutual recognition, standards and regulatory cooperation: Discussions have taken place on the implementation of the Canada-EU Mutual Recognition Agreement and its possible expansion. The Joint Management Committee established under the Veterinary Agreement met for the first time on September 28 and 29. A bilateral "biotechnology dialogue" among Canadian and EU officials will be held in Ottawa and Saskatoon in November and promises to contribute toward regulatory cooperation in this field.

Services: Canadian domestic associations for architecture, engineering and accounting wish to examine the feasibility of mutual recognition of licencing and certification, an initiative which appears to find interest as well among their EU counterparts.

Government Procurement: The EU and Canada continue to explore possibilities for cooperation in this field.

Intellectual Property and Standards: Commissioner Fischler and Minister