

# The EC-Canada Framework Agreement

*Signing the Framework Agreement in Ottawa, July 1976*

A mutual desire for closer relations between the Community and Canada found expression on the eve of British entry to the EC. In October 1972 the EC heads of government invited Canada to a "constructive dialogue" with the European Community. In November of that year, Canada proposed a general agreement on economic and other matters.

Canada wished to forge new links with the EC as part of a move to diversify its external economic relations and to add a Community dimension to its good ties with individual EC member countries. In particular Canada sought to improve its share of Community imports. Other major attractions of the EC were its capital resources, investment opportunities, and scientific know-how and technology.

In April 1974, Canada proposed the negotiation of an agreement which would establish a "direct contractual link between Canada and the Community" and "foster the development of long-term commercial and economic relations". Negotiations opened in March 1976; the Framework Agreement on Commercial and Economic Cooperation was signed in Ottawa on 6 July 1976 and came into effect on 1 October 1976.



The Framework Agreement is the first time that the Community has committed itself, on a non-preferential contractual basis, to economic and commercial cooperation with one of its major industrial partners.

The Framework Agreement provided for the setting up of:  
- a *Joint Cooperation Committee* (JCC) to carry out the provisions of the agreement. Among the priority areas the JCC has identified as suitable for cooperation are: aeronautics; electronics and telecommunications; uranium and nuclear industries;

minerals and metals; forest-based industries; science and technology; energy conservation; and environment policy.

The JCC has established two sub-committees: the *General and Preparatory Cooperation Sub-Committee*, responsible for the preparation of the work of the JCC and the examination of new areas of cooperation; and the *Industrial Cooperation Sub-Committee*, responsible for promoting and monitoring joint industrial cooperation ventures.

The sub-committees have established working groups in a number of the sectors mentioned above.