

### III. FUTURE PLANNED ACTIVITIES

#### 1. PREPARATORY AND GENERAL COOPERATION SUB-COMMITTEE

The priorities are to strengthen the basis of the current excellent cooperation that exists at the bilateral level as well as at the multilateral level. Focus will be placed first on finding an appropriate mechanism to permit a more effective way of financing joint research projects in sectors where both have complementarities to offer. The outcome of the discussion regarding a Community strategy on cooperation with third countries on science and technology and access by European researchers including universities and industries to Canadian R&D programs including the Centres of Excellence will permit a systematic exploration of the possibilities. Any proposed negotiation of a Science and Technology Agreement should focus on the sectors where there is complementary and mutual interest, and where cooperation is already well-advanced, or where significant potential may exist; for example, environment, infotech and telecoms, biotechnology, energy, new materials and marine technology.

An emphasis on human capital and on the sharing of common large-scale facilities should also be the focus of joint effort. Possible cooperation at the education level, bringing universities together should also be part of the mechanism to be put in place. A small initial program of exchange of scientists combined with an increased exchange between universities through programs like COMETT or ERASMUS could be examined. Closer bilateral cooperation in S&T between Canada and the EC, and mechanisms for implementing it could be explored at the Ministerial level at the earliest mutually convenient opportunity.

Companies and universities from Canada should be further encouraged to participate in European seminars, missions or other gatherings so as to become better acquainted. The Going Global Canadian program is in place to support such exploratory mechanisms.

Finally, in order to support the world effort being made to help Eastern European countries in developing better and cleaner technologies, Canada and the EC should explore common action.