

The role of NATO is also evolving beyond just defence, and is moving to take on an increased political role and increased membership. As U.S. interest in NATO fades, Europe is poised to take possession of NATO structures, with one possible evolutionary change being to widen the role of the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP). NATO provides an opportunity for outreach, and the ESDP creates an opportunity for interaction at a high international level. One participant recommended that Canada strengthen its participation and presence at the Council of Europe, as the Parliamentary wing of the Council of Europe provides an opportunity for outreach and discussion with European counterparts. Canada should use all potential relationships to develop a Canadian presence.

The question arose as to whether Canada should focus its energies on the EU institutions, or on member states. On some issues there is substantial national jurisdiction, on others that is transferred to Brussels. It was noted that many decisions are taken in Brussels, but that most business is conducted with individual member states, work to influence member states is done in the capitals. It was suggested that candidate countries for EU membership deserve special Canadian attention while opportunities still exist for improved Canadian visibility and influence.

In conclusion, it was noted that Europeans make attempts to cooperate with us because they often expect Canada to take a principled position on issues (such as the International Criminal Court and human rights). Canada and Europe also tend to share a common sense of purpose and values in the UN. However, it was agreed that Canada has to address its lack of visibility in Europe. Perhaps the key to raising awareness is to define and present a model and vision of ourselves by defining what Canada's guiding principles of international relations are, and demonstrating our independence through trade, citizenship, and social policy. If Canada truly wishes to have a voice in the world, it must demonstrate its commitment, including through government investment and funding.

A number of participants in the discussion were interviewed on video for webcast, which will soon be available on the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development's (CCFPD) website (www.cfp-pec.gc.ca). Finally, a report from an earlier CCFPD retreat on Canada-Europe relations, *The Future of Canada-Europe Relations, Paper from the Thinkers' Retreat*, March 17-19, 2002, is available from the CCFPD (email to: info.cpc@dfait-maeci.gc.ca), and interviews and proceedings from this retreat are also available on the website.