

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

President of the Commission of the European Communities, Jacques Delors

Jacques Delors, a French citizen born in 1925, has been President of the Commission of the European Communities since January 1985. Previously he was a banker, public servant, university professor and politician. He served as Economics and Finance Minister of France from 1982 to 1984.

The Commission is the executive branch of the European Community (EC) and, as President of the Commission, Mr. Delors has campaigned vigorously for reform and renewal of the EC. His presidency has been marked by such an initiative as the Europe 1992 Program, which aims to eliminate, by 1992, all internal barriers to the free circulation of goods, services, persons and capital. Mr. Delors has also maintained a direct and deep interest in monetary affairs and advocates greater central coordination within the community in support of the Europe 1992 program.

Mr. Delors will be accompanied by Frans Andriessen, Vice-President and Commissioner for External Relations and Trade Policy; and Henning Christophersen, Commissioner for Economic and Financial Affairs. Mr. Delors' personal representative is Pascal Lamy, Chef de Cabinet.

European Community

The European Community is a supranational entity joining 12 member states in three communities: the European Economic Community (Common Market); the European Coal and Steel Community; and the European Atomic Energy Community.

The 12 member states are France, Italy, the F.R.G., the U.K., Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands, Greece, Ireland, Spain, Portugal, and Luxembourg.

These countries have yielded certain sovereign powers to the EC, notably external and internal trade, agriculture and fisheries.

Canada — EC Relations

The European Community is our second largest trading partner. In 1988, the growth of our exports to the EC (C\$10.7 billion) remained very vigorous, increasing by 18 per cent; and our imports (C\$16 billion) increased by 18 per cent as well. Our trade deficit therefore rose to C\$5.2 billion.

Relations between Canada and the EC are both diverse and dynamic. They show particular strength in the areas of trade and investment; and Canada is currently expanding its programs for industrial, scientific and technological cooperation. There are some differences of opinion, especially in the areas of agricultural trade and fisheries. Canada is opposed to the EC's export subsidy policies, which distort its domestic and foreign markets.

The fisheries issue concerns the size of catches by vessels of member countries of the EC in waters bordering the Canadian economic zone. This has resulted in the closure of Canadian ports to community fishing vessels and the arrest of those illegally fishing in the Canadian zone.