



DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES EXTÉRIEURES

# communiqué

N°: 107  
No.:

DIFFUSION: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
RELEASE: OCTOBER 23, 1981

## SEVENTH MEETING OF THE CANADA-BELGIUM MIXED COMMISSION OCTOBER 19-22, 1981

---

The Department of External Affairs announced today that the seventh meeting of the Canada-Belgium Mixed Commission was held in Quebec City, October 19-22, 1981. The Commission was established under the Cultural Agreement signed between Canada and Belgium in July 1967.

The co-chairmen of the Commission were Mr. Jacques Gignac, Deputy Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs, for the Canadian side, and Mr. F. Dethier, Director General of Higher Education and Scientific Research at the Belgian Ministry of National Education.

A meeting of the Quebec-Belgium Sub-Commission was held at the same time. The Quebec side was led by Mr. Robert Normand, Deputy Minister of the Quebec Department of Inter-governmental Affairs, who, as Chairman of the Quebec delegation, is also an ex-officio member of the Mixed Commission.

The Canadian delegation was composed of representatives of the provinces of Manitoba, Ontario, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, as well as of federal departments and agencies involved in the administration of cultural exchange programmes between the two countries.

The Commission reviewed the activities that have taken place in the framework of the cultural agreement since its sixth meeting last year in Antwerp. During the past year, cultural relations between the two countries received an impetus from the impressive array of activities that made up "Belgian Autumn in Canada", in particular the appearances in Montreal and Ottawa of the Theatre Workshop of Louvain-la-Neuve, the Delvaux exhibition in Montreal and Calgary and the cross-Canada tour of

an exhibition of works by contemporary Flemish painters. In Belgium, Canada presented a wide spectrum of events in both the performing and visual arts, including an exhibition of contemporary Canadian tapestries in Brussels, the Art Gallery of Ontario's exhibition of ten Canadian artists of the 70's at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Ghent, and concerts in a number of Belgian cities by the Orford String Quartet, the guitarist Liona Boyd, Mimes Electriques and Claude Gauthier. A Centre for Canadian Studies was also established at the Free University of Brussels.

It was agreed by the Mixed Commission that particular emphasis should be placed during the coming year on inter-university cooperation, exchanges of young creative artists, and on literary exchanges as an extension on the Canada-Belgium literary prize, which has been presented annually since 1970. The two sides also agreed to give priority to the development of their respective programmes in the areas of audio-visual projects and cultural industries.

Of special significance in the visual arts is an exhibition of Inuit art to be presented in Belgium in 1983 or 1984 by the Winnipeg Art Gallery and two Belgian exhibitions that will tour Canada: one of drawings by Rubens and one on the "Art nouveau" movement. In the performing arts, the Touring Office of the Canada Council will invite in 1982, two Belgian experts, one from both the French and Flemish communities, to familiarize them with the services the Touring Office offers for assisting with the organization of tours in Canada.

The International Programmes Division of the National Museums Corporation of Canada will also invite a Belgian expert to acquaint him with the services offered by the Corporation in the presentation of exhibitions in Canadian museums.

The Department of External Affairs will provide grants for tours by Canadian artists in Belgium, including Le Théâtre de Carton in May 1982, Mimes Omnibus in April/May 1982 and the Eddy Toussaint dance company in March 1982.

Both sides announced their intention of facilitating, as far as possible, direct contacts between creative artists in both the visual and performing arts in the two countries.

It was announced that the next meeting of the Canada-Belgium Mixed Commission and the Quebec-Belgium Sub-Commission would be held in Namur, Belgium, on October 18-22, 1982.