
News Release

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FIRST SESSION OF THE CANADA-RUSSIA INTERGOVERNMENTAL ECONOMIC COMMISSION AND SIGNING OF CANADA-RUSSIA AGREEMENTS

A joint statement was issued today in Ottawa by the Honourable Roy MacLaren, Minister for International Trade, and Mr. Alexandr Zaveryukha, Deputy Chairman of the Russian Federation, at the closing of the first session of the Canada-Russia Intergovernmental Economic Commission (see attached).

Six new agreements were also signed today between Canada and Russia on the occasion of the visit of Russian Prime Minister Victor S. Chernomyrdin to Ottawa (see attached).

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JOINT STATEMENT FOLLOWING THE FIRST SESSION OF THE CANADA-RUSSIA INTERGOVERNMENTAL ECONOMIC COMMISSION

OTTAWA, OCTOBER 5, 1995

The Right Honourable Jean Chrétien, Prime Minister of Canada, and Mr. Victor Chernomyrdin, Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation, opened today in Ottawa the first session of the Canada-Russia Intergovernmental Economic Commission (IEC).

The Canadian delegation was led by the Minister for International Trade, the Honourable Roy MacLaren, and the Russian delegation by the Deputy Chairman, Mr. Alexandr Zaveryukha. Mr. Zaveryukha is accompanied by a delegation of some 35 participants including senior officials from the Russian Government, regional governments and leading business people.

Opening statements were delivered by Mr. Chrétien and by Mr. Chernomyrdin. They were followed by Mr. MacLaren, who discussed Canada's international trade and investment activities with a focus on Russia, and by Mr. Zaveryukha, who addressed the issue of economic reforms in Russia.

The IEC is designed to serve as a forum to address issues relating to bilateral trade and investment between Canada and Russia. "This Commission," declared Mr. MacLaren, "will help raise the profile of Russia in Canada as a place to do business and to raise the profile of Canadians in Russia as partners with whom to do business."

In his turn, Mr. Zaveryukha noted that the first session of the Commission laid down the foundation for regular consultations at the government level in the area of bilateral economic co-operation.

The IEC agenda included presentations by leading Canadian and Russian business representatives in the areas of high technology, energy, aeronautics, natural resources, agriculture, and housing. The Export Development Corporation led a discussion on financing. Trade policy issues were also reviewed.

The Commission agreed on the creation of sectoral working groups in the areas of agriculture, resources and advanced technologies that will throughout the year discuss the issues relating to their particular areas of responsibility. They will report to the next session of the Commission.

The Commission agreed that work on the terms of reference should continue and that they should be presented for approval at the next meeting of the IEC. The Co-chairs further agreed that they would designate officials at an appropriately senior level both

to co-ordinate the work of the Commission and to address questions related to investment and trade policy.

The IEC considered how future meetings should be conducted. It was agreed that they should involve government officials at the federal and regional levels as well as representatives of the private sector. It was further agreed that the next meeting of the Commission should take place in Moscow, Russia next year.

On the occasion of the Commission, bilateral agreements and MOUs were signed between the two parties in the areas of double taxation, housing, culture, television and film co-production, pharmaceuticals, and immigration co-operation. Others currently under negotiation include an air co-operation agreement, a customs co-operation agreement and a mutual legal assistance treaty.

Within the framework of the IEC meeting, Mr. Zaveryukha has travelled within Ontario, where he has held talks with business leaders and academics in the fields of agriculture and agribusiness. Mr. Zaveryukha will also be meeting with the Honourable Ralph Goodale, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, during his stay in Ottawa.

**AGREEMENTS SIGNED BY CANADA AND RUSSIA
ON THE OCCASION OF THE VISIT OF
RUSSIAN PRIME MINISTER CHERNOMYRDIN**

OCTOBER 5, 1995

Double Taxation Agreement

This agreement is to avoid double taxation and prevent fiscal evasion on income and capital. It will provide a new impetus to the bilateral trade and financial relations between Canada and the Russian Federation and will reinforce the economic relations between the two countries.

The agreement was signed by Canadian Finance Minister Paul Martin and Russian Deputy Chairman Alexandr Zaveryukha, in the presence of Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and Russian Prime Minister Victor S. Chernomyrdin.

Agreement Concerning Audio-Visual Relations

This agreement is to expand and strengthen co-operation and encourage exchanges in the audio-visual field between Canada and Russia. It also establishes a Joint Russian-Canadian Commission on Audio-Visual Relations. The Commission will be responsible for examining the terms and conditions and the implementation of the agreement, resolving any difficulties and making the necessary changes to further co-operation.

The agreement was signed by Canadian Heritage Minister Michel Dupuy and the Russian Chairman of "ROSKINO," Armen N. Medvedev.

MOU Concerning Housing and Urban Development

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishes a framework for co-operation between Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) and the Russian Ministry of Construction to foster technical and commercial co-operation in the area of housing, urban development and construction. Key areas covered by the MOU include the potential development of joint venture projects, measures to improve market access in housing and construction, and technical, economic and policy-related research. Another proposed area of co-operation is housing-related institutions that support a market-oriented housing system, such as housing financing, housing policy and regulatory systems.

This MOU was signed by Canadian Public Works and Government Services Minister David C. Dingwall and Russian Construction Minister Efim V. Basin.

MOU Concerning Collaboration in the Field of Migration

In this Memorandum of Understanding, Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) agrees to help the Federal Migration Service of Russia to develop its immigration and refugee policies. The MOU is a follow-up to discussions and a Letter of Intent signed by Canadian Citizenship and Immigration Minister Sergio Marchi during his visit to Russia last year. The Canadian contribution to this project is being funded by CIC and the Program for Co-operation with the Russian Federation managed by the Canadian International Development Agency.

This MOU was signed by Minister Marchi and Russian Minister of Federal Migration Services Tatiana Reguent.

MOU on Cultural Co-operation

This Memorandum of Understanding is designed to promote and develop co-operation in the fields of culture and education, which will further mutual understanding and friendship between Canada and Russia. An objective of this MOU is to facilitate and encourage cultural and educational co-operation, linkages and exchanges. The MOU also encourages attendance and participation at artistic, cultural and educational events, in Russia and Canada respectively.

This MOU was signed by Canadian Assistant Deputy Minister for Europe at the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Jean-Pierre Juneau, and Russian Ambassador to Canada Alexandr M. Belonogov.

MOU on Pharmaceuticals

The aim of this Memorandum of Understanding is to make pharmaceutical and biological products produced and approved in Canada available to the Russian Federation. It will also enhance co-operation and increase the exchange of information between Health Canada and the Russian Ministry of Health and Medical Industry, through a joint co-ordinating committee that will be established.

This MOU was signed by Canadian Health Minister Diane Marleau and Russian Minister of Health and Medical Industry Eduard A. Nechaev.

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