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# news release

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## MINISTERIAL MEETINGS BETWEEN CANADA AND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, MAY 24-25, 1990, OTTAWA

Meetings at the Ministerial level between Canada and the European Community took place May 24-25 in Ottawa, preceded by the eighth meeting on May 23 of the Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) set up under the 1976 Framework Agreement between Canada and the European Community.

The Commission Delegation was headed by Vice-President Frans Andriessen, Commissioner responsible for External Relations and Trade Policy, while the Canadian Delegation was led by the Right Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs and the Honourable John Crosbie, Minister for International Trade for Canada.

The Prime Minister of Canada, the Right Honourable Brian Mulroney, also received the EC Vice-President.

The meetings imparted a renewed political momentum to the Canada-EC relationship, and permitted a thorough review of a wide range of issues relevant to the relationship.

Both parties underlined the importance of the relationship between the European Community and Canada and agreed that contacts between the Commission and Canada at the political level should be intensified.

Discussions covered a number of subjects, in particular recent developments affecting the political and institutional architecture of Europe, North America/EC transatlantic links and the Community's relations with its European Free Trade Agreement partners and its Central and Eastern European neighbours, Europe of 1992 and the Free Trade Agreement between Canada and the United States, and developments in the Asia/Pacific region.

Canada shares the Commission's view that a reinforced European Community will prove to be a stabilising factor for the future of Europe as a whole.

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Ministers Clark and Crosbie and EC Vice-President Andriessen discussed the serious differences, both bilateral and multilateral, between the Community and Canadian positions on fisheries issues. They noted the progress made to date towards seeking solutions to these problems, in particular during the May 10 discussions held in Ottawa between Vice President Manuel Marin, EC Commissioner responsible for fisheries, and the Prime Minister and Canadian Ministers Crosbie and Valcourt. They agreed that further progress towards resolving such outstanding differences is essential and to this end, they agreed to encourage the development of a process to improve cooperation in scientific research, in surveillance and enforcement by the two countries in the northwest Atlantic, and in eliminating fisheries in the northwest Atlantic by vessels from countries that are not members of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO).

Existing cooperation in the fields of science and technology, industrial cooperation, environment and development assistance was reviewed and both sides agreed to expand such cooperation. The possibility of a specific framework agreement on science and technology between Canada and the Community was further discussed with Vice President Andriessen. The Canadian side noted that a large number of Canadian R&D programs would be open to European Community participation if such an agreement were concluded.

A discussion took place on the commercial relationship between Canada and the Community. Several bilateral trade issues were referred to, including questions on the outstanding negotiations relating to previous Community enlargements and the Canadian countervailing duty on Community manufacturing beef exports.

Both parties noted the strong growth in the Canada-EC commercial and economic relationship over recent years. Trade between the two partners has increased to reach a level of two-way trade equal to more than \$26 billion in 1989 which reflects an average annual increase of more than 11% over the past 5 years and makes the EC Canada's second largest trade partner.

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The EC accounts for one-third of all Canada's non-USA trade and for nearly 85% of all overseas foreign investment in Canada. At the same time, the Canadian private sector has been looking increasingly to investment and marketing opportunities in Europe, especially to take advantage of the 1992 program for internal liberalization of the EC market.

It was noted that the Canada-USA Free Trade Agreement and the European Single Market will sustain and promote growth in both economies and make Canada and the EC even more dynamic trade and investment partners. Both Canada and the EC consider it essential that their respective private sectors take full advantage of these developments. Both sides are working towards further trade liberalization through the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations. The Canadian Ministers and Vice President Andriessen reconfirmed their strong commitment to the success of these negotiations and underlined their importance for the future of the Canada-EC trade relationship.

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