
NEWS RELEASE

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MINISTERIAL MEETING BETWEEN CANADA AND THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, and the Minister of Industry, Science and Technology and Minister for International Trade, the Honourable Michael Wilson held a meeting yesterday, September 20, with the Commission of the European Communities Vice-President responsible for External Relations and Trade Policy, Frans Andriessen.

The joint communiqué issued at the conclusion of the meeting is attached.

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**MINISTERIAL MEETING BETWEEN CANADA
AND THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
IN OTTAWA, SEPTEMBER 20, 1992**

JOINT COMMUNIQUE

The annual Ministerial consultations between Canada and the Commission of the European Communities (EC) took place in Ottawa on September 20, 1992.

The meeting was co-chaired by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, and the Minister of Industry, Science and Technology and the Minister for International Trade, the Honourable Michael Wilson. The Commission delegation was led by Frans Andriessen, Vice-President responsible for External Relations and Trade Policy.

The discussions underlined the close bilateral relations that exist between Canada and the EC and which have intensified since the adoption of the Trans Atlantic Declaration on EC-Canada relations in November, 1990. The Ministers and the Vice-President approved the 1992 report of the Joint Co-operation Committee, which outlines co-operation and consultation in a wide range of areas under the 1976 Framework Agreement for Commercial and Economic Co-operation between Canada and the European Communities. They particularly noted improved consultations on environmental issues following the Joint EC-Canada Statement on Co-operation in the Environment, which was approved at the Ministerial meeting in 1991.

Both sides noted the importance of the Canada-EC trade and investment relationship. The EC continues to be Canada's most important trading partner after the U.S. In 1991, trade with the EC totalled \$25.8 billion. The EC is also the second largest source of foreign direct investment in Canada; the EC's investment has doubled between 1985 and 1991 to \$30.8 billion. Canadian direct investment in the EC now exceeds \$18 billion and accounts for 20 per cent of total Canadian direct investment abroad.

The Ministers and the Vice-President reviewed developments concerning three important bilateral agreements:

- discussion on an arrangement on co-operation in the application of respective competition policies,
- progress toward negotiations for an agreement on science and technology, and
- preparations for negotiations on the mutual recognition of the testing and certification of regulated products.

The latter agreements will provide for greatly enhanced co-operation and facilitate bilateral trade.

The Ministers and the Vice-President discussed bilateral trade issues with respect to access to the Canadian market for European beer, and Canada's concern with the urgent need to define a mutually satisfactory regime governing the exports of softwood lumber to the EC.

Both sides noted that they were pleased with the results of the Northwest Atlantic Fishing Organization (NAFO) Annual Meeting, at which a ban on Northern cod fishery was established for 1993, and agreement reached on reduced quotas for other species. In light of NAFO scientific advice, these decisions will help ensure renewal of these depleted stocks. The two sides noted the cooperative climate that has developed to preserve the resource, and on surveillance and control, in light of which Vice-President Andriessen emphasized the Community's interest in pursuing discussions on bilateral arrangements. Both sides agreed to intensify their efforts to deter reflagging of vessels to avoid NAFO conservation measures, and the elimination of fishing of regulated species by non-NAFO countries in the NAFO-regulated area.

The two sides discussed points of interest in the agenda for the upcoming session of the United Nations General Assembly. They also exchanged views on current efforts to deal with the crises in Yugoslavia and Somalia.

Both sides stressed the priority they attach to the substantial, comprehensive and balanced outcome to the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations. They agreed that a successful conclusion to the Round is crucial for the continued growth and expansion of world trade, and in particular for Canada-EC trade and investment interests.

In conclusion, the Canadian Ministers and the Vice-President underlined the importance they attach to the dialogue between Canada and the Commission and reaffirmed their commitment to annual consultations. They agreed to meet again at a mutually convenient date in 1993.