

News Release

Department of
External
Affairs



Communiqué

Ministère des
Affaires
extérieures

No. 084

April 15, 1988.

OFFICIAL VISIT OF MR. WILLY DE CLERCQ,
EUROPEAN COMMUNITY'S COMMISSIONER FOR
EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND TRADE POLICY
APRIL 17-19, 1988, EDMONTON-OTTAWA

The Right Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs, announced today that the European Community's (EC) Commissioner for External Relations and Trade Policy, Mr. Willy De Clercq, will pay an official visit to Canada on April 17 to 19.

Mr. De Clercq will begin his visit in Edmonton, on April 17, with a dinner hosted by Mr. Clark where he will meet with Alberta MPs, Provincial Cabinet Ministers and prominent members of the Alberta business and arts community. The following morning Mr. De Clercq will meet Mr. Clark to review the state of the Canada/EC bilateral trade relationship, and to discuss topical agricultural trade policy issues - particularly in the context of the multilateral trade negotiations.

This visit by Mr. De Clercq occurs during the time when some of the operations of the Department of External Affairs have been transferred to Edmonton for the period of April 14 to April 20.

The Canada/EC trade and investment relationship is Canada's second largest after that with the United States. With the favourable currency realignments since the end of 1985, Canada's exports to the EC have experienced a marked increase in growth to the point where the EC is now Canada's fastest growing major export market. The Community's determined march towards the objective of a unified market

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Secretary of State
for
External Affairs

Secrétaire d'État
aux
Affaires extérieures

Canada

by 1992, and Canada's own Free Trade Agreement with the USA, point to major impending changes which should give further stimulus to the growth of our bilateral trade and investment relations.

It was to reconfirm the continued importance of the Community to Canada's economic and trade interest that, last month, the Prime Minister called on EC Commission President, Jacques Delors. His intent was to give renewed political impetus to Canada's relationship with a key economic partner. Mr. Clark's meeting with Mr. De Clercq is a further step in the process of political bridge-building with the Community aimed at pointing the way both to a larger and more intensive bilateral trade and investment relationship, and to increased collaboration on multilateral issues of mutual import such as the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations and agricultural trade reform.

CANADA-EC TRADE 1982-87

SELECTED PRODUCTS

(\$ MILLIONS)

	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1987</u>
I. <u>CANADIAN EXPORTS TO EC</u>	6,630	6,992	6,566	7,802	9,057
1. Wood Pulp	735	985	766	1,040	N/A *
2. Iron Ores & Concentrates	432	403	604	527	N/A
3. Lumber	290	296	220	378	N/A
4. Wheat	568	352	308	298	N/A
5. Newsprint	343	281	214	277	N/A
II. <u>CANADIAN IMPORTS FROM EC</u>	5,951	8,248	10,377	12,812	13,521
1. Crude Petroleum	200	501	1,192	1,328	N/A
2. Motor Vehicles	305	458	587	820	N/A
3. Steel	242	464	544	392	N/A
4. Alcoholic Beverages	238	318	295	379	N/A

* N/A - Not Available

- EC direct investment in Canada: \$14.2 billion (1985)
- Canadian direct investment in EC: \$6.5 billion (1985)

Source: Statistics Canada, - Imports/Exports by Commodity