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CANADA-EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
JOINT COOPERATION COMMITTEE MEETING,
BRUSSELS, JANUARY 27, 1983

The Honourable Allan J. MacEachen, Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs and Wilhelm Haferkamp, Vice-President of the Commission of the European Communities, today co-chaired the Fifth Meeting of the Canada-EC Joint Cooperation Committee.

It is almost seven years since the Joint Cooperation Committee was set up under the Framework Agreement on Commercial and Economic Cooperation. Mr. MacEachen, as Secretary of State for External Affairs in 1976, signed the Framework Agreement for Canada. Lord Soames and the then President of the Council of Ministers, the Netherlands Foreign Minister, Mr. van der Stoep, signed for the European Community. The Joint Cooperation Committee was designed to promote and keep under review the various commercial and economic cooperation activities envisaged between Canada and the EC. It meets at the Ministerial level, alternatively in Ottawa and Brussels. These cooperation activities, when viewed against the background of world economic recession and stagnation in international trade, offer an important means of coordinating economic development and enhancing bilateral exchanges. The Deputy Prime Minister and the Vice-President agreed that the Framework Agreement, as well as the Joint Cooperation Committee and its sub-committees, which have been created to implement it, constitute an important vehicle for the intensification of Canada-EC cooperation and trade.

At today's meeting, the two delegations reviewed the work of industrial and scientific cooperation which has been accomplished since the last meeting in July 1981, and approved the attached reports. The sectors covered by this activity include metals and minerals (asbestos, coal, iron and steel, non-ferrous metals) forest products, uranium, energy conservation, urban transportation, science and technology and environment.

One significant event since the last meeting of the Joint Cooperation Committee was the holding of the World Symposium on Asbestos in Montreal in May, 1982. This symposium, which was co-sponsored by Canada, the Province of Quebec and the Commission of the European Communities conducted an in-depth examination of the state of scientific knowledge of all aspects of asbestos use and manufacture and the implications for public health and safety. A new working group on urban transportation was established, and agreement was reached on future cooperation on waste water research. The Committee expressed satisfaction with progress achieved to-date, but agreed that ample scope remains for intensifying cooperation and fulfilling the potential of the Framework Agreement. The Committee also approved the Work Programme for the next year which will focus on the potential for expanding cooperation in areas such as transportation, alternative sources of energy, energy saving equipment and small and medium-size enterprises. Cooperation will be intensified on research, environment and health and safety in the work place.

The Deputy Prime Minister and the Vice-President also took the occasion to review a wide range of multilateral and bilateral issues. They focussed in particular upon the trading environment, the need to resist protectionist pressures, and to implement effectively and as soon as possible the results of the

GATT Ministerial Meeting chaired by Mr. MacEachen. On the bilateral side, they discussed the Canada-European Communities Long Term Fisheries Agreement, imports of seal products into the European Community, and the general state of trade between Canada and the Community. They agreed on the value of the growing commercial interchange and the importance of dealing with trade questions on the basis of full adherence to the GATT, which governs trade relations between Canada and the Community.

The Committee agreed that it would meet again in Ottawa early in 1984.