

European Community



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INFORMATION NOTE

CARRYING OUT EC-CANADA AGREEMENT

Commission Reviews Progress so Far

Asked by a French member of the European Parliament, Pierre Bernard Cousté, to "state the present position as regards the agreement between the EEC and Canada", the EC Commission on 7 November issued the following answer:

1. In the implementation of the EC-Canada Framework Agreement on Commercial and Economic Cooperation, signed in Ottawa in July 1976, progress has been accomplished both procedurally and on substance.
2. The necessary machinery is in place:
Under the aegis of the Joint Cooperation Committee two Sub-Committees, one for industrial cooperation and the other for general steering purposes, have been set up to supervise and assess work being pursued at the level of ad hoc working groups. The sub-committees met in Ottawa early in July 1977; they will meet again towards the end of this year in time to prepare the next meeting of the Joint Cooperation Committee.
3. Both sides are now actively engaged in the execution of the work programme for 1977/78 which was adopted by the Joint Cooperation Committee in December 1976. This programme was drawn up bearing in mind the long-term objectives of the EC-Canada cooperation agreement and in the realization that spectacular results would probably not be achieved at short notice. Nevertheless, some tangible results may well be expected within the first two or three years of the life of the Agreement.
4. In the field of commercial cooperation a detailed analysis of trade and investment flows between Canada and the Community is being prepared to discover the reasons for the relative downward trend of two-way trade in recent years, and thus help to identify areas in which cooperation would seem to be most promising. Moreover, both sides are working in the spirit of cooperation, on trade and investment difficulties as they arise.

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5. Particular emphasis is being placed on industrial cooperation in the priority sectors identified by the Joint Cooperation Committee which include aeronautics, electronics/communications, uranium/nuclear industries, non-ferrous metals and forest-based industries. Possibilities for cooperation in such fields as the protection and improvement of the environment and research and development are also being explored. Both sides are, of course, aware that, to a large extent it will be up to industry to implement cooperation.

6. Direct contacts between European and Canadian politicians, businessmen and officials have significantly increased already in the present early stage of the implementation of the Agreement. Contacts between businessmen have included exchanges of delegation from a number of economic sectors (uranium, forestry products and non-ferrous metals) and the visit to Brussels of a delegation of prominent Canadian industrialists. The Commission also notes with satisfaction the increased rhythm of regular exchanges of visits of European and Canadian Parliamentarians.
