

European Community



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NEWS RELEASE

EC-CANADA TALKS IN BRUSSELS

Senior Canadian and EC officials met in Brussels this week to discuss ways of developing cooperation under the EC-Canada Framework Agreement and to review topics of mutual concern within the regular bi-annual high-level consultations.

The Commission delegation was led by Mr. J. Loeff, Deputy Director General for External Relations, and by Mr. P. Cecchini, Deputy Director General for Industrial and Technological Affairs. The Canadian delegation was headed by Mr. D.S. McPhail, Assistant Under-Secretary for External Affairs and Mr. A.M. Guerin, Assistant Deputy Minister for Industry, Trade and Commerce.

In the context of the EC-Canada Framework Agreement, meetings of two sub-committees of the Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) took place on the 18 January.

The third meeting of the industrial cooperation sub-committee had as its main object to review the state of cooperation in sectors such as forest-based industries, construction industries, metals and minerals, nuclear industries, aeronautics, telecommunications and peri-informatique and to make recommendations for the next JCC meeting to be held in March 1978 in Ottawa.

The second meeting of the general and preparatory sub-committee discussed a report of the trade flows between the two partners, considered possibilities for cooperation in the fields of environment, science and technology, and discussed a joint report to be presented to the JCC for publication.

The second part of the talks was dedicated to the tenth in the series of bi-annual high-level consultations. Multilateral issues discussed included the world economic situation, the Multilateral Trade Negotiations (MTN), the Multifibres Arrangement (MFA), and the world steel situation. In particular, the Commission side described the measures recently taken by the Community to improve price levels on the steel market as well as the arrangements which the Community has offered to conclude with major exporting countries to the Community.

On the bilateral side, both sides expressed their satisfaction with the recent agreement on nuclear safeguards between Canada and Euratom, which has enabled Canada to resume exports of uranium to the Community. The participants reviewed various trade problems in the industrial and agricultural fields. Recent internal policy developments both in the EC and in Canada, in particular in the fields of agriculture, competition and energy were also discussed.

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The usefulness of these talks in strengthening EC-Canada economic and commercial relationships within an increasingly interdependent world economy was stressed by both sides. During the week a consultation under article XIX of GATT was held on the recent Canadian restrictions on imports of footwear.
