

# European Community

## News Release

### Background Note

ATTENTION EDITORS - PRINT AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA

### EC COMMISSIONER, WILLY DE CLERCQ: MEDIA CONTACTS IN VANCOUVER, 8 - 10 MAY

Scheduled to hold talks in Vancouver, 10 May, are the Rt. Hon. Joe Clark and his opposite number of the European Community, EC Commissioner for External Relations and Trade Policy, Willy De Clercq.

Mr. De Clercq, a former Deputy Prime Minister of Belgium and Minister of Finance and Foreign Trade, comes to Vancouver fresh from participation in the Western Economic Summit in Tokyo.

On 9 May (known as Schuman Day in the EC), he will attend European Day celebrations at the EC's Expo '86 pavilion (see Press Release NR (86) 7).

The 10 May Clark-De Clercq talks take place in the Canada-EC Joint Cooperation Committee set up by the Framework Agreement for Commercial and Economic Cooperation between the EC and Canada which this year marks its tenth anniversary.

Representing the world's largest trading entity consisting of 12 Member States (Belgium, Denmark, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and the United Kingdom) and more than 320 million people, Willy De Clercq is one of the main players of the international trade scene.

The Joint Cooperation Committee meets at the ministerial level and keeps under close review agreed programs of cooperation. Canada is the only industrialized state with which the EC has entered into such an agreement which calls on both parties to develop their cooperation in order «to consolidate, deepen and diversify their commercial and economic relations to the full extent of their growing capacity to meet each other's requirements on the basis of mutual benefit».

Born in Ghent, Belgium, in 1927, Willy De Clercq, Doctor of Law, became the Member of the European Community Commission responsible for External Relations and Trade Policy in January 1985. He is also Chairman of the Federation of Liberal and Democratic Parties of the European Communities and former member of the European Parliament.

Mr. De Clercq is prepared to meet with the media during his stay in Vancouver from late afternoon 8 May. You are invited to explore the results of the Tokyo Summit with him, including the important issue of world terrorism; the opening of the new GATT Round in September at Punte del Este in Uruguay; liberalization of world trade in general; trade relations between the Community and the U.S.; the international monetary situation; the world supply and price situation concerning oil; the debt situation of Third World countries; and whatever else you wish, including, of course, the relationship between Canada and the European Community. Are relations in general good? Are there irritants? Is there room for improvement?

On 9 May at 10:00 hrs., a half-hour informal press conference with continental breakfast will take place with Mr. De Clercq at the VIP Lounge at the EC Pavilion at the European Plaza. The breakfast requires us to ask you to let us know you are coming.

We also invite print and electronic media to attend a panel discussion at the EC Pavilion on 9 May at 17:00 hrs. The subject is «Canada and the European Community: Where Do We Stand?».

Apart from Mr. De Clercq, the panel members are:

- Dietrich Hammer, Head of EC Delegation, Ottawa, and EC Commissioner General at Expo '86;
- John Halstead, former Assistant Undersecretary and Deputy Undersecretary in the Department of External Affairs, former Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany and NATO, presently distinguished research professor at Georgetown University, Washington, D. C.;
- Jeffrey Simpson, Ottawa-based national columnist for the Globe and Mail, former head of the Globe and Mail's London bureau;
- Helmut Eppich, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of EBCO Industries Ltd., Richmond, B. C., Vice-President of the German Canadian Chamber of Commerce.

If you wish to cover this one-hour debate on a subject of importance on both sides of the Atlantic, we would much appreciate it if you would kindly contact us (Finn Olesen or Ileana Bertelli) at telephone (604) 668-8120.

For appointments with Willy De Clercq, please contact Finn Olesen or Ileana Bertelli at the European Community Pavilion at Expo '86, telephone (604) 668-8120, or alternatively, David Levy, Press and Information Service, EC Delegation, Ottawa, telephone (613) 238-6464.