

Declaration on Transatlantic Relations, 1990

The European Community and its member States on one side, and Canada on the other,

- bonded by their common heritage and close historical, political, economic and cultural ties,
- guided by their faith in the values of human dignity, intellectual freedom and civil liberties and in the democratic institutions which have evolved on both sides of the Atlantic over the centuries,
- considering the recent revolutionary changes that have transformed the face of Europe and the new hope for durable peace and cooperation among nations on the basis of those universal values,
- recognizing that transatlantic solidarity has played a historical role in presenting peace and freedom and can greatly contribute in the future to the continued stability and prosperity of Europe and North America,
- resolved to strengthen security, economic cooperation and human rights in Europe by every possible means, both in the framework of the CSCE, and in other fora,
- noting the firm commitment of Canada and the EC member states concerned to the North Atlantic Alliance and to its principles and purposes,
- determined to strengthen peace, foster economic well-being and social progress throughout the world, and cooperate in meeting the challenges confronting all their nations,
- building on the privileged relationship established by the Framework Agreement for Commercial and Economic Cooperation between the European Communities and Canada, signed in 1976, as well as by the arrangements agreed in 1988 on a political dialogue,
- bearing in mind the accelerating process by which the European Community is acquiring its own identity in economic and monetary matters, in foreign policy and in the domain of security,
- determined further to strengthen transatlantic solidarity through the variety of their international relations,

have decided to endow their mutual relations with a long-term perspective.

Common goals

Canada and the European Community and its member states solemnly reaffirm their determination further to strengthen their partnership; in accordance with their common values and their commitment to the aims and principles of the UN Charter, they shall in particular work together to:

- support democracy, the rule of law, and respect for human rights and individual liberty,
- safeguard peace and promote international security, especially by cooperating with other nations of the world against aggression and coercion and other forms of violence by strengthening the role of the United Nations and other international organisations, and by contributing to the settlement of conflicts in the world,
- pursue policies aimed at achieving a sound world economy marked by sustained economic growth with low inflation, a high level of employment, equitable social conditions and a stable international financial system,
- promote market principles, reject protectionism and expand, strengthen and further open the multilateral trading system,
- reaffirm their commitment to help developing countries in their efforts towards political and economic reforms by improving development assistance, broadening market access, strengthening the debt strategy and encouraging the efficient use of foreign assistance and national resources,
- provide adequate support, in cooperation with other states and organisations, to the countries in Europe undertaking fundamental economic political reforms and encourage their participation in the multilateral institutions of international trade and finance.

Principles of Partnership

To achieve their common goals, they will consult on humanitarian, political and economic issues to ensure that their efforts will have maximum effect. On matters of mutual interest, and in particular within international bodies, they will exchange information and seek close cooperation, in the spirit of this Declaration.

Ad hoc consultations, to be held as the need arises, will greatly benefit from the mutual knowledge and understanding acquired through the regular meetings listed in the last section of this Declaration.

Economic, Scientific and Cultural Cooperation

Both sides recognize the importance of strengthening the multilateral trading system. They will support further steps towards liberalization, transparency, and the implementation of GATT and OECD principles concerning both trade in goods and services, and investment.

They will further develop their dialogue, which is already underway, on other matters such as technical and non-tariff barriers to industrial and agricultural trade, services, competition policy, transportation policy, standards, telecommunications, high technology, and other relevant areas.

They will support the activities of the IBRD, IMF, OECD, G.24, EBRD and other multilateral fora.

Their mutual cooperation shall also be strengthened in various other fields which directly

affect the well-being of their citizens, such as exchanges and joint projects in science and technology, including space, research in medicine, environmental protection, energy conservation, and the safety of nuclear and other installations, and in communication, culture and education, including academic and youth exchanges.

Trans-national Challenges

Canada and the European Community and its member states will join their efforts in meeting trans-national challenges in the interest of their own peoples and of the rest of the world. In particular, they assign a high priority to:

- the combatting and prevention of terrorism,
- the fight against the production and consumption of drugs and related criminal activities, such as illegal trafficking and the laundering of money,
- the control of the proliferation of the instruments of war and weapons of mass destruction,
- the protection of the environment and the pursuit of sustainable development within each country as well as the preservation of the fragile global ecosystem, which calls for effective international action and multilateral cooperation,
- appropriate measures concerning large-scale migration and the flow of refugees.

Institutional Framework for Consultation

Both sides will make full use of the mechanisms established under the EC/Canada Framework Agreement and enhance their consultative arrangements through:

- regular meetings, in Canada and in Europe, between the Prime Minister of Canada on one side and, on the other, the President of the European Council and the President of the Commission;
- bi-annual meetings, alternately on each side of the Atlantic, between the President of the Council of the European Communities, with the Commission, and the Secretary of State for External Affairs of Canada;
- annual consultations between the Commission and the Canadian Government;
- briefings by the Presidency to Canadian representatives following EPC meetings at the Ministerial level.

Both sides are resolved to develop and deepen the existing procedures for consultation in the light of the evolution of the European Community and of its relationship with Canada.

Both sides welcome the actions taken by the European Parliament and the Canadian Parliament in order to improve their dialogue and thereby bring closer together the peoples on both sides of the Atlantic.