

## **EU-Canada Summit Communiqué, Athens, May 28, 2003**

Meeting today in Athens, European Union and Canadian leaders reaffirmed that their partnership has heightened meaning in the current global environment. They agreed to intensify bilateral connections at all levels in order to address pressing international challenges, to strengthen transatlantic links, and to deal with changes in their respective societies.

Leaders agreed that an effective and dynamic multilateral system remains the indispensable basis for the management of global concerns. The European Union and Canada will continue to seek further ways to give expression to this commitment.

In this spirit, the leaders agreed that the European Union and Canada:

- stand ready to contribute in the framework of the relevant UNSC resolutions to the political and economic reconstruction of Iraq, working together to see that the needs of the Iraqi people are met; to this end, they welcome the adoption of the UNSC Resolution 1483, which brings an end to the sanctions against Iraq, and provides the framework to mobilise the international community in support of Iraq's reconstruction and recovery;
- call on all parties to implement fully the roadmap for the Middle East Peace Process recently published by the Quartet and take all necessary action to help bring into being the vision of two States living side by side in peace and security;
- will continue to support the endeavours of the Western Balkans countries to consolidate stability, democracy and economic development, to fight organised crime, to enhance regional co-operation and to implement necessary reforms toward European integration;
- call for a swift and viable solution of the Cyprus problem through negotiations on the basis of the UN Secretary-general's plan.
- will continue to co-operate closely in the common cause of combating terrorism;
- will work together with a view to developing a concrete and action-oriented multilateral framework that will provide timely and effective answers to problems related to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction;
- in the same vein, express real concern about the DPRK's nuclear weapons programme, and call upon it to fulfil its international nuclear non-proliferation obligations and to abstain from any action that would aggravate the situation further;
- remain committed to the reconstruction of Afghanistan through the implementation of the Bonn Agreement in all its aspects and strongly support the role of the International Security Assistance Force in Kabul.

European Commission President Romano Prodi presented a Commission Communication to further strengthen EU-Canada relations, as part of the review process agreed at the December 2002 Ottawa Summit. The document provides food for thought leading to decisions at the next EU-Canada Summit in December on how to make the relationship more forward-looking and action oriented. Canada is also conducting its own concurrent review of the relationship.

In the present global economic climate, the leaders confirmed their shared belief that further liberalisation of trade and investment is even more important in promoting economic growth and prosperity. In this context, the European Union and Canada:

- pledged to give priority to the completion of the Doha Development Agenda negotiations by the end of 2004 with an ambitious and balanced outcome;

- to this end, they agreed to work closely together to ensure a successful WTO Cancun Ministerial Conference, and strong forward momentum in all areas of the Doha mandate, including progress on the development aspects of the negotiations, and the launch of negotiations on trade facilitation, transparency in government procurement, investment and competition;
- re-affirmed their commitment to develop a new bilateral Trade and Investment Enhancement Agreement (TIEA), and issued a report on progress achieved since their Summit in Ottawa last December.

Leaders also:

- agreed to a joint action plan toward a regulatory co-operation framework with the aim of preventing unnecessary barriers to trade and investment, and welcomed the joint EU/Canada seminar on regulatory co-operation on 26 June in Brussels, "Enhancing Partnership and Dialogue";
- welcomed the initialling of a new agreement on wine and spirits, and expressed their wish to carry the process forward to conclusion and ratification on both sides of the Atlantic;
- expressed appreciation for the useful contribution made by the Canada Europe Roundtable for Business (CERT), to enhance bilateral trade and investment;
- with regard to Canada's request for WTO consultations concerning the status and treatment of applications for the approval of genetically-modified organisms (GMOs) in the EU, Canada and the EU set out their different positions. Discussions covered, inter alia, the economic, scientific, social, and political aspects of the issue as viewed by each side.

Leaders welcomed progress being made on expanding the exchange of students and young workers between the EU and Canada. They noted in particular the potential offered by building on existing and new agreements, programmes and other pilot projects, as well as the opportunities for new links between Canadian and European higher education institutions, students and scholars arising from the forthcoming Erasmus Mundus programme.