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The European Union and Canada



A strategic partnership built on common values



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A strategic partnership built on common values

Canada is one of the European Union's oldest and closest partners. What started out in the 1950s as a primarily economic relationship has evolved over the years to become a close strategic alliance. Political relations are characterised by a high degree of consensus on key issues such as democracy, the rule of law and human rights.

Framework Agreement

- In 1976, the European Economic Community (EEC) and Canada signed a **framework agreement on economic cooperation**, "to develop and diversify reciprocal commercial exchanges and to foster economic cooperation".



- In 1990, European and Canadian leaders adopted a **declaration on transatlantic relations**, extending the scope of their cooperation and establishing regular meetings at summit and ministerial level.
- The **2004 Partnership Agenda** identified issues of mutual interest, especially where joint action can achieve more than both sides acting alone:
 - in **foreign and security policy**,
 - in the field of **justice and home affairs**,
 - in reinvigorating **global economic growth**,
 - in **tackling global challenges** including climate change and poverty in developing countries.

Highlights of EU-Canada Cooperation

- Afghanistan:** Canada participates in the **EU Police Mission** (EUPOL). Canada contributes a police contingent in Kandahar province.



- Haiti:** Joint cooperation continues to be positive with a particular focus on justice reform and enhancement of donor cooperation.
- Joint Election Observation Missions (EOMs):** There has been excellent cooperation with Canadian observers in recent EU EOMs (Democratic Republic of Congo in 2006, Aceh/Indonesia in 2006/07, and Pakistan in 2008).



- Crisis management:** The main objective of EU-Canada cooperation in military and civilian crisis management is conflict prevention and getting conflict-ridden nations back on their feet. The EU and Canada have agreed to strengthen cooperation in areas such as the EU Police Mission in the Palestinian Territories, and the European Security and Defence Policy Mission in Guinea Bissau.

EU-Canada Economic Partnership

The EU and Canada have concluded several agreements covering a **wide range of economic activities**: from fisheries and wines & spirits to veterinary issues as well as customs cooperation.

Currently, the EU and Canada are actively exploring ways to further deepen this dynamic economic partnership and have finalised a study to that effect for the 2008 EU-Canada Summit. Trade in services and investment are rapidly expanding, more so than goods trading.

Regulatory Cooperation: the EU and Canada are intensifying work to remove regulatory barriers, to trade and investment. A Regulatory Cooperation Roadmap of sectoral initiatives has been agreed.

Aviation: Canada is a significant aviation market and a liberalising agreement would bring substantial economic benefits to the EU and Canada. A comprehensive air services agreement is taking shape. Negotiations have been launched after the 2007 Summit for a comprehensive **Open Air Skies transportation agreement**. Significant work lies ahead, particularly on Canada's restrictions on investment and on opening of domestic traffic, but the bilateral agreement should be one of the most ambitious of its kind in the world.

Justice, Freedom and Security: Our aim in **visa reciprocity** is to have all EU Member States' citizens enjoy visa-free travel to Canada just as Canadians already do when travelling to the EU. Today, European citizens of 25 Member States can travel to Canada without a visa. The EU and Canada continue to cooperate in their exchange of Passenger Information as well as in efforts to combat terrorism.

Science & Technology: in addition to existing bilateral agreements in science & technology, Canada actively participates in the EC Research Framework Programme, in particular on ICT and Food/Biotech (<http://ec.europa.eu/research/fp7/>). Canada is second only to the US in this regard, encompassing some 119 projects worth close to € 700 million under the 6th Framework Programme (2002-2006).



Energy and Environment: The 2007 Summit provided further impetus for cooperation on environment and energy matters. Leaders committed to strengthening the existing High Level Dialogue on Environment with a focus on increasing cooperation particularly on climate change. Leaders also established a High Level Dialogue on Energy, to deal with energy questions of common concern.



Education: the new 8-year EU-Canada **Agreement on co-operation in the fields of higher education, training and youth** entered into force on 1st March 2007.

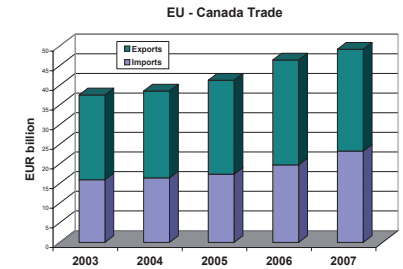


The **Erasmus Mundus programme** adopted in 2004, promotes the attractiveness of the European higher education systems in the world. It provides scholarships to third countries' graduate students and academics, including Canadians. Since 2004, 69 Canadian students and 39 Canadian academics have benefitted from the programme.

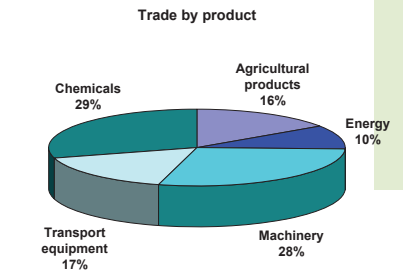
Since 2006, four **EU Centres of Excellence** have been established in Canada, supported by the EU. They are associated with Carleton University, Université de Montréal & Mc Gill, University of Toronto and Dalhousie University. These Centres are dedicated to advancing the study and spreading knowledge on the EU as an international actor.



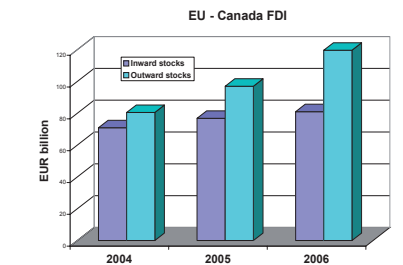
Trade and investment relations



The EU and Canada have substantial and growing trade flows and are exploring ways to further deepen the economic partnership. The EU is Canada's 2nd trading partner after the US, while Canada is the EU's 11th most important partner. Machinery and transport equipment account for more than one third of this exchange; trade in services is growing fastest.



Bi-lateral foreign direct investment flows are rising in both directions. The EU is Canada's second most important investment partner while Canada ranks third in the EU.



Source for graphs: Eurostat