



PRESS RELEASE

MACLAREN TO CO-CHAIR CANADA-EUROPE ROUND TABLE FOR BUSINESS

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The Honourable Roy MacLaren PC, former Canadian Minister of International Trade and former High Commissioner to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, has accepted the position of Canadian Chair of the Canada Europe Round Table for business (CERT). The appointment will take effect on 1 February 2001. Mr. MacLaren joins European Chair Baron Paul de Keersmaecker, Chairman of Interbrew, based in Belgium.

Commenting on the state of bilateral trade and investment relations between Canada and the European Union, Mr. MacLaren said that Canada and the European Union have made considerable progress in concluding agreements on competition policy, veterinary services, customs procedures and mutual recognition of standards.

“Despite the progress, there is still much more work to be done to facilitate further trade and investment activities,” he stated. “CERT members are convinced that more can be done with both Canadian and European governments to reduce or eliminate tariffs and non-tariff barriers and to improve further the bilateral flow of goods, services, and capital. I am excited to be part of this worthwhile initiative.”

CERT has prepared a memorandum to participants in the Canada-EU Summit in Ottawa on 19 December 2000, in which it calls for Canadian and European officials to speed up the process of removing barriers to trade. It also reaffirmed its commitment to act as a support catalyst for cooperative business development and policy reform in bilateral and global action.

CERT is a high-level business forum that promotes and strengthens trade and investment between Canada and the EU in the bilateral and global economic interests of both industry and government. Its members advise and engage in a permanent business-to-government and business-to-business dialogue. CERT was founded in June 1999. Founding members include Alcan, Nortel Networks and Novartis. CERT invites all interested organisations to use its round table platform to develop a truly interconnected information and support network for the Euro-Canadian business community.

For more information:

Photo of Roy MacLaren available upon request.

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