

TRADE TALKS

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Canada and EU launch forum Canadian and European multinational businesses yesterday launched the Canada-Europe Round Table as a forum for developing common private-sector positions on bilateral trade issues. The group, which includes Canadian companies such as Alcan Aluminium and Nortel Networks and European companies such as DaimlerChrysler and Novartis, is urging Canada and the European Union to tackle several outstanding trade irritants. These include cracking down on computer software piracy, eliminating tariffs on forest products, aluminium and liquor, and encouraging competition in public procurement. The forum will be similar to the current Transatlantic Business Dialogue which brings together companies from the US and the European Union to make recommendations to governments.