

News Release

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OUELLET ANNOUNCES TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PACKAGE FOR UKRAINE

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today announced a package of new Canadian technical assistance initiatives totalling \$23.8 million designed to support economic and political reform in Ukraine. The projects target the economic reform program and private sector development in Ukraine, address pressing security and nuclear safety issues, and further land reform and privatization efforts.

"These new initiatives provide practical, immediate assistance in areas of primary importance to Ukraine's reform efforts. Building upon our country's long-standing special relationship with Ukraine, they demonstrate Canada's strong commitment to support Ukraine during this period of transition," said Mr. Ouellet.

Approximately half of the package targets Canadian assistance efforts to the top priorities of economic reform and private sector development. Initiatives include a \$10-million strategy to support Ukraine's emerging private sector with an emphasis on business advisory and training services for small and medium-sized enterprises. Other contributions, totalling \$2.2 million, to two World Bank projects will support economic management training for more than 500 private and public sector officials and provide technical expertise on external debt management.

Security and nuclear safety initiatives comprise the second major element of the Canadian assistance package. Canada will contribute \$5 million to support Canadian participation in the recently established Science and Technology Centre in Kiev, which aims to re-apply the skills of weapons scientists and engineers to commercially viable civilian activities. Canada will also provide a \$3.3-million contribution for a nuclear fuel management project.

Another Canadian initiative will support the design and implementation of a land registration and management system in the Kosiv Rayon in western Ukraine.

