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Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade to Attend Paris Conference on Afghanistan

The Honourable David Emerson, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and Minister for the Pacific Gateway and the Vancouver-Whistler Olympics, will travel to Paris to participate in the International Conference in Support of Afghanistan taking place June 12, 2008.

This conference will be an opportunity for the international community to reaffirm its commitment to Afghanistan and its people. It follows previous international conferences, including the 2006 London Conference, where the Afghanistan Compact was adopted.

Ministers and representatives of 80 states and organizations will attend, including all major contributors of troops or development assistance to the United Nations, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. Representatives of Afghanistan's neighbouring states and other states in the region will also attend.

Afghan president Hamid Karzai, French president Nicolas Sarkozy and UN Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon will open the event, which will be presided over by French foreign minister Bernard Kouchner.

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