

The London meeting is the fifth Quadrilateral Trade Ministers Meeting. Previous meetings were held in Key Biscayne, Florida (January 1982), at the Chateau d'Esclimont near Paris (May 1982), in Tokyo (February 1983), and in Brussels (April 1983). These meetings provide opportunities for the major trading entities to have exchanges of views on current trade issues. These meetings are of an informal nature and are not intended to lead to specific decisions.

In London, the focus of the discussions will be a review of the international trade situation in the aftermath of the Williamsburg Summit. Ministers will likely address the question of follow-up to the Williamsburg Declaration as it pertains to trade. It will be recalled that in this Declaration, Summit countries committed themselves to "halt protectionism and, as recovery proceeds, to reverse it by dismantling trade barriers". They agreed to consult within appropriate existing fora on ways to implement and monitor this commitment. The Declaration also refers inter alia to the implementation of the GATT Work Programme and to "further trade liberalization negotiations in the GATT".