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CROSBIE MEETS EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AMBASSADORS

IN OTTAWA

As a continuation of the initiative launched during his recent visit to three European Community countries, International Trade Minister John C. Crosbie met today in Ottawa with Ambassadors of the 12 member countries of the European Economic Community (EC) and the EC Ambassador to Canada to discuss Canada-EC relations with special reference to the overfishing issue.

"I set out for the Ambassadors of the European Community Canada's position regarding overfishing in the Northwest Atlantic. We had a useful discussion on the issue," Mr. Crosbie said.

Earlier in October, Mr. Crosbie visited the United Kingdom, France and the Federal Republic of Germany to meet with Ministers responsible for fisheries as well as media to press Canadian concerns regarding the fishing practices of EC vessels in the Northwest Atlantic. Thomas Siddon, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, also met recently with Ministers responsible for Fisheries in the Federal Republic of Germany, the United Kingdom and the EC Commissioner for Fisheries.

"The Government of Canada is explaining to the European Community the importance of conservation and proper management in the harvesting the fisheries resource that can be sustained over the long term, for the benefit of fishermen from all NAFO members."