

# News Release

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## **HIGH-LEVEL TURKISH TRADE DELEGATION VISITS CANADA**

The Honourable Roy MacLaren, Minister for International Trade, announced today that a 30-person trade delegation, including a strong private sector component, led by Mr. Neyat Eren, Turkey's Undersecretary for Foreign Trade, is visiting Ottawa, Montreal and Toronto, November 1-3. The purpose of the visit is to strengthen trade ties between Canada and Turkey.

"Turkey is a uniquely positioned trading partner with a foot in both Europe and Asia," Mr. MacLaren said. "It is linked to the European Union by a customs union. With the recent opening-up of Central Asian economies, Canadian exporters are well advised to take advantage of Turkey's strong European and Asian linkages and burgeoning economy."

Today in Ottawa, the Canadian and Turkish delegations held extensive consultations and reviewed numerous issues of common interest. Both delegations acknowledged that a double taxation agreement was near completion, and Canada submitted a proposal to institute a regular series of political and economic consultations. The two delegations agreed to support their respective private sectors with respect to creating a Canada-Turkey Business Council.

In Montreal and Toronto, Mr. Eren's delegation will meet with senior representatives of the business community to pursue commercial opportunities in the fields of forestry, textiles, agro-business, mining, metallurgy and construction.

In 1994 Canada exported \$140 million worth of goods to Turkey and imported \$119 million worth of goods from Turkey. Canada's principal exports to Turkey are machinery and equipment, fabricated materials, crude materials, feedstuffs and beverages and its principal imports are textiles, apparels, fruits and nuts, and petroleum products.

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