



news release

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OUELLET TO ATTEND CONFERENCE ON A EUROPEAN STABILITY PACT

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet will participate in the inaugural Conference on a European Stability Pact, in Paris, May 6-27.

The Conference is a European Union (EU) initiative designed to promote stability in Central and Eastern European countries and the Baltic States and to strengthen their ties to Western Europe. It aims to reinforce existing commitments under the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE), the United Nations and the Council of Europe, especially those related to minorities and borders.

The Paris meeting is expected to launch a series of regional discussions and roundtables, culminating in the conclusion of a European Stability Pact in about a year's time.

Participants include members of the EU, as well as Poland, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, all considered prospective EU members. Canada, the United States, Russia, Ukraine and other neighbouring European states will also attend.

While in Paris, Mr. Ouellet is expected to meet with a number of his counterparts, including the Foreign Ministers of Italy, France and Russia.

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