

News Release

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MINISTER CROSBIE TO VISIT EUROPE

International Trade Minister John C. Crosbie will visit Europe October 12 to 20 to press Canadian concerns regarding the fishing practices of European Community (EC) vessels in the Northwest Atlantic.

Mr. Crosbie will also lead a trade mission to France and participate in other trade promotion events in the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG). As well, he will meet with his counterparts to discuss trade and investment.

The Canadian Government announced last Friday it would initiate a public awareness campaign to increase European understanding of the serious state of the northwest Atlantic fishery. This campaign follows the recent annual meeting of the 12 member Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) in Brussels. NAFO is an international organization responsible for the management and conservation of fish stocks in the international waters in the northwest Atlantic. The EC is a member of NAFO, but abstained from NAFO conservation decisions and quotas, which were agreed to by all the other members.

In light of this situation, Minister Crosbie will spend October 12 and 13 in London to explain Canada's views in a speech to the Foreign Press Association and in meetings with representatives of leading European periodicals. In Bonn on October 17, Mr. Crosbie will meet with the senior German minister responsible for fisheries, Mr. Ignaz Kiechle, Federal Minister of Food, Agriculture, and Forestry. In Paris on October 18, Mr. Crosbie will discuss the issue with the senior French minister responsible for fisheries, Mr. Michel Delebarre, Minister of Transport and Oceans.

"The Government will explain Canada's deep concerns to European media and decision makers. We will continue our concerted effort to persuade the EC to return to fishing at NAFO set quotas to preserve the long term viability of one of the world's richest fishing zones," said Mr. Crosbie.

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