

and implement a foreign investment matchmaking service. The advisor will also assist in identifying potential Czech-Canadian commercial links and investments in key sectors.

Co-operation agreements between the Export Development Corporation (EDC), Canada's export credit agency, and its two Czech counterparts, the Czech Export Bank and the Czech Export Guarantee and Insurance Corporation, were also signed. These agreements are designed to enhance financing and insurance support for projects in third countries involving Czech and Canadian businesses.

"Over recent years, Canadian businesses have built a strong presence in Europe and they are eager to strengthen trade and investment ties with their counterparts in the Czech Republic. These agreements will provide further impetus to their efforts," said Mr. MacLaren.

Canadian companies pursued several business deals during Mr. MacLaren's visit to the Czech Republic. In addition, Merfin Hygienic Products Limited of British Columbia announced a major greenfield investment.

Bilateral trade between Canada and the Czech Republic totalled \$95.7 million in 1994. Canadian direct investment in the Czech Republic is estimated at \$150 million with significant additional investments under consideration.

- 30 -

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