

# News Release

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## OUELLET RESPONDS TO EUROPEAN UNION STATEMENT

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet rejected today's statement by the European Union (EU) criticizing Canada's actions during the Greenland Halibut dispute.

"Canada makes no apologies for its actions in the recent fish dispute. The Canadian government exercised much-needed environmental leadership on this issue. All nations concerned about conservation – including those of the EU – should be grateful that we did. Had Canada not acted, the Greenland Halibut stock would have been fished to commercial extinction," said Mr. Ouellet.

Mr. Ouellet pointed out that with the conclusion of a fair and reasonable Canada-EU fisheries agreement, efforts should be directed at co-operating to make the agreement work, as well as at strengthening the overall bilateral relationship.

"Canada's relationship with the EU spans a wide range of mutual interests and activities, to the benefit of both sides," Mr. Ouellet added. "It does not stand or fall on the fisheries issue. We've gone through a difficult period. Let's turn our attention to the future of our relationship and not waste time on recriminations."

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