

Minister of Industry,
Science and Technology and
Minister for International Trade



Ministre de l'Industrie, des
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ministre du Commerce extérieur

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MINISTER WELCOMES SAUDI AMBASSADOR AND DELEGATES TO CANADA/SAUDI ARABIA JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSION OCTOBER 1-3

Minister of Industry, Science and Technology and Minister for International Trade, the Honourable Michael H. Wilson, today announced that the Canada/Saudi Arabia Joint Economic Commission (JEC) will hold its sixth plenary meeting in Ottawa, October 1-3.

"I welcome His Excellency Mohamed Ma'Mou Kurdi, as Head of the Saudi Delegation, and all delegates -- including Canadian and Saudi members of the Business Advisory Group -- with whom I will be meeting," Mr. Wilson said. "Canada's role in the Gulf crisis brought closer to home and reinforced our relations with Saudi Arabia and other countries in the region. In a current context, I believe it is important to note that this Commission has worked successfully over the past six years in promoting closer ties between Canada and Saudia Arabia."

Canada and Saudi Arabia established the JEC in 1976. The Commission seeks to encourage and facilitate economic and technical co-operation between Canada and Saudi Arabia in mutually agreed sectors. The Commission encourages Canadian companies to seek out Saudi partners in responding to business opportunities in Saudi Arabia. It also serves to promote greater awareness of Canadian technology, goods and services in Saudi Arabia.

Representatives of the private sector and officials from the Canadian and Saudi governments meet at least once every 18 months under the auspices of the JEC. The Commission last met at Riyadh in February 1989.