

News Release

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OUELLET TO VISIT RUSSIA, ATTEND NATO MEETINGS IN BRUSSELS AND CSCE SUMMIT IN BUDAPEST

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today announced that he will pay a working visit to Russia from November 28 to 30, attend North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) ministerial meetings in Brussels on December 1 and 2, and the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) Summit in Budapest on December 5 and 6.

While in Russia, Mr. Ouellet will meet with Russian Foreign Affairs Minister Andrei Kozyrev, who extended the invitation for the visit earlier this year. Discussions are expected to focus on trade and investment, technical assistance to Russia, expansion of NATO membership, the CSCE Budapest Summit, as well as on Russia's participation at the G-7 Summit in Halifax next summer.

From Russia, Mr. Ouellet will travel to Brussels for meetings of the NATO North Atlantic Council (NAC) and North Atlantic Co-operation Council (NACC). Discussions among NAC and NACC foreign ministers are expected to focus on the situation in Bosnia, the future expansion of NATO, the Partnership for Peace program and matters of European and international security.

On December 5, Mr. Ouellet will attend the CSCE Summit in Budapest. Discussions at the Summit will focus on issues such as European security, the strengthening of the CSCE's role in preventive diplomacy, CSCE involvement in peacekeeping operations in Europe and its role in promoting human rights and democratic development.

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