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INTERNATIONAL TRADE MINISTER CROSBIE TO PORTUGAL TO PROMOTE TRADE AND DEFEND CANADA'S FISH INTERESTS

International Trade Minister John C. Crosbie will visit Portugal March 20-25 to promote bilateral relations and to press for an end to overfishing in waters beyond Canada's 200-mile limit.

His visit, the first ever by a Canadian international trade minister to Portugal, signals Canada's desire to consolidate and expand bilateral trade and investment relations and to secure European Community (EC) adherence to conservation decisions set by the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO).

During his visit to Portugal, Mr. Crosbie will explore bilateral trade and investment possibilities as well as joint venture and third country market opportunities.

"Portugal's buoyant economy, the fastest growing in the EC, offers real opportunity for Canadian companies to establish a foothold in the unified market," said Mr. Crosbie. "The availability of EC funds to develop Portugal makes it attractive to potential Canadian partners." The Minister added that Portugal is also an important market for Canadian fish exports.

Mr. Crosbie is scheduled to meet with his counterpart, the Minister of Commerce and Tourism, and the Ministers of Industry and Energy, and Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, as well as senior government officials. In his meetings the Minister will make the point that overfishing must be brought under control.