



News Release

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WILSON TO ATTEND EAST-WEST ECONOMIC AND TRADE CONFERENCE IN GERMANY

The Honourable Michael Wilson, Minister of Industry, Science and Technology and Minister for International Trade, will attend a meeting of economic and trade ministers in Muenster, Germany, May 7-9, to exchange views on the economic framework and reform required to assist in the economic restructuring of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

"Canada's objectives in participating in the conference include securing a lasting commitment to sustained market-based economic structures and establishing a trade policy regime consistent with General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) practices," said Mr. Wilson.

Representatives from seven countries of the former Soviet Union, Central and Eastern Europe, and the seven major industrialized nations will attend the conference. They will be joined by representatives of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).

"For countries dealing with massive economic transformation, Canada recommends a rapid and comprehensive privatization policy that will leverage foreign direct investment," said Mr. Wilson. "We also encourage increased involvement of the private sector, both foreign and domestic, and a complete integration of these economies into the world trading system."

Mr. Wilson will be joined at the Muenster Conference by three representatives from the Canadian business sector who have practical experience in doing business in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. They are: Mr. Larry Pearson, President, Linamar Machine Ltd.; Mr. Charles Baker, Vice President, Market Development, Northern Telecom; and Mr. Robert Losch, Vice-President, Business Development, Pratt and Whitney Canada.

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