



news release

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MINISTERS TO PARTICIPATE IN MAJOR CONSULTATIONS IN EUROPE

The Right Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs, and International Trade Minister John C. Crosbie announced today that they will be in Europe next week to participate in wide-ranging discussions concerning international economic policy, trade, security and environmental issues.

After participating with Prime Minister Mulroney in the May 29-30 NATO Summit meeting in Brussels, Mr. Clark will stop over in Madrid for meetings with his Spanish counterpart, Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez, as well as with Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez Marquez. He will then join Mr. Crosbie and Finance Minister Michael Wilson in Paris and lead the Canadian delegation to the OECD Ministerial meeting May 31-June 1. Mr. Clark and Mr. Crosbie will also participate in ministerial meetings between Canada and the European Community June 1-2 in Brussels.

OECD ministers will discuss policies to sustain economic growth, particularly measures to dampen inflationary pressures and to reduce global economic and trade imbalances. They will also review the current round of multilateral trade talks under the GATT and discuss issues related to the global environment and co-operation between OECD member states and developing countries.

The OECD meeting will lay the groundwork for discussions at the Economic Summit in Paris July 14-16 and provide impetus to the trade talks in Geneva.

Mr. Clark and Mr. Crosbie will then begin a round of bilateral talks with the European Community, including the plenary session of the Joint Cooperation Committee in Brussels June 1-2. They will meet Frans Andriessen, EC Commissioner for External Relations and Trade Policy.

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Depletion of Northwest Atlantic fish stocks will be at the heart of the discussions with the European Community. According to the Minister for International Trade, "We will seek to persuade the Europeans of the need for effective conservation of cod and other groundfish species. Canada, the European Community and other nations fishing in the Northwest Atlantic will all benefit by adhering to fisheries management decisions taken by the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization. This is an issue of the utmost importance to Canada."

The serious situation facing the Northwest Atlantic fish stocks will be discussed by Mr. Clark and Mr. Crosbie during meetings with European commissioners and with ministers of EC member states on various occasions during the visit, including Spain.

Mr. Clark and Mr. Crosbie will also hold talks with Jacques Delors, President of the EC Commission. They will discuss the implications of European market integration in 1992 for trade and investment relations between the EC and Canada.

Mr. Crosbie will then go to The Hague where he will meet his counterparts from the U.S., the EC and Japan. The Quadrilateral Trade Ministers meeting, the first since the Montreal Ministerial Meeting last December, will focus on the multilateral trade negotiations under the GATT.

From June 4 to 10, Mr. Crosbie will lead a business mission to Spain, which will include the presidents and chief executive officers of 10 Canadian corporations. The mission will promote Canadian exports and expansion of trade and investment links between our two countries, including the establishment of joint ventures.

Mr. Crosbie said, "Spain is one of the European Community's most dynamic economies and Canadian firms are anxious to explore trade and investment opportunities there, especially in light of European integration in 1992. In fact, 1992 will be historic for Spain as it hosts both the Summer Olympics in Barcelona and Expo 1992 in Seville."

Invited to Spain by Apolonio Ruiz Ligeró, the Secretary of State for Trade, Mr. Crosbie will meet the King of Spain, the Prime Minister and several other ministers. He will also meet the mayor of Seville and tour the site of Expo 1992.

Mr. Crosbie said, "Canada's participation in the OECD Ministerial meeting and the Quadrilateral Trade Ministers meeting ensures that Canada is heard on important international economic and trade issues. The upcoming meetings in Brussels and Madrid show the depth and importance of our relationship with the European Community. Major changes are taking place in the European Community which will create opportunities for expanding our trade and investment relations with that vital market."

Contact: Suzanne Szukits or André Leblanc
Media Relations Office
Department of External Affairs
(613) 995-1874