



Minister for
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Ministre du
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MINISTER CARNEY TO PARTICIPATE IN
QUADRILATERAL TRADE MINISTERS MEETING
IN PORTUGAL

The Honourable Pat Carney, Minister for International Trade, will participate in a Quadrilateral Trade Ministers meeting in Sintra, Portugal, September 4-7.

The meeting will be hosted by the European Communities Commissioner, Mr. Willy de Clercq. Other participants will be the United States Trade Representative, Mr. Clayton Yeutter, and Mr. O. Tanura, Minister for International Trade and Industry of Japan. It will be the second meeting this year of the Ministers responsible for trade of the Quadrilateral group, which includes Canada, the European Community, Japan and the United States. The previous meeting was held in San Diego (California) at the beginning of January.

This Quadrilateral Meeting will be the first one attended by Miss Carney. "I am looking forward to meeting my counterparts from Japan and the EC for the first time and to meet again with Mr. Yeutter of the U.S.A", she said. "I expect to review with them the international trading situation and to exchange views on the coming GATT Ministerial Meeting at Punta del Este, Uruguay, that will officially launch the new round of the multilateral trade negotiations. Trade plays a vital role in the Canadian economy and, as a member of the Quadrilateral group, it is important that Canada play its part in strengthening the multilateral trade system."

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Canada

QUADRILATERAL TRADE MINISTERS MEETING

BACKGROUND

Ministers responsible for International Trade of Canada, the United States, the European Community and Japan have met on a regular basis (two or three times a year) since 1982. The last Quadrilateral meeting took place in San Diego (California) at the beginning of January 1986 and prior to that Sault Ste. Marie in July 1985.

The idea of ministerial discussions on trade was first raised during the preparations for the 1981 Ottawa Economic Summit, against the background of the experience developed during recent multilateral trade negotiations (Kennedy Round and Tokyo Round). The first Quadrilateral Trade Meeting was held in January 1982 at the initiative of then United States Trade Representative, Mr. William Brock. The objective was to provide an opportunity for informal discussions among the participants on international trade and trade-related economic developments, and trade prospects and problems of common interest.

During three days of informal meetings in Portugal, the Ministers and their officials will review the international trading situation and the issues involved. They are expected in particular to discuss the mid-September ministerial meeting in Punta del Este, Uruguay, on a new round of multilateral trade negotiations.