

# News Release

# Communiqué

Minister for  
International  
Trade



Ministre du  
Commerce  
extérieur

No. 251

October 19, 1989.

OVERFISHING: MINISTER CROSBIE CONCLUDES  
ROUND OF EUROPEAN MEETINGS

October 19 -- International Trade Minister John C. Crosbie has expressed Canada's concern regarding overfishing in the Northwest Atlantic in discussions with Ministers of the governments of the Federal Republic of Germany and France, and in public statements to groups in those countries.

Canada is seeking the support of France, West Germany and other member states of the European Community (EC) in persuading the EC to support and to adhere to the decisions of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO), the international body responsible for managing these resources.

The Canadian concern was raised also during a meeting in Paris of the Canada-France Joint Economic Commission, co-chaired by Minister Crosbie and the French Minister for International Trade Jean-Marie Rausch.

In commenting on the Joint Commission meeting, Mr. Crosbie expressed appreciation for the hearing Canada had received on this subject.

"We have received a very sympathetic hearing from the French ministers, who have been supportive of the position we have outlined and supportive of the need for conservation," Mr. Crosbie said.

"While I don't want to speak for the French government, my impression is that it understands our concerns and is sympathetic. France currently holds the presidency of the Council of Ministers of the European Community and I am sure this will be helpful to us."

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In France, Minister Crosbie also met with the French minister responsible for fisheries, Michel Delebarre, Minister of Transports and Oceans, and with Jacques Mellick, Minister responsible for oceans.

In West Germany, Minister Crosbie put forward Canada's views on the urgent need for adherence to NAFO decisions when he met with Ignaz Kiechle, Minister of Food, Agriculture and Forestry, who has responsibility for fisheries. Mr. Crosbie also addressed a German industrial association (BDI).

"Overfishing in the Northwest Atlantic is damaging an important world resource, harming Canadian fishermen, harming fishermen from other NAFO member states, and ultimately, harming European fishermen," the Minister said in an address to the France-Canada Chamber of Commerce.

In both countries, Minister Crosbie met representatives of the European and international media to discuss overfishing in the NAFO area, involving fleets from Spain and Portugal.

The seventh meeting of the Canada-France Joint Economic Commission was held in Paris, France on October 19, 1989. The attached statement was issued jointly by the two chairmen, Canada's International Trade Minister, John C. Crosbie and the International Trade Minister of France, Jean-Marie Rausch.

## CANADA-FRANCE ECONOMIC COMMISSION

### JOINT STATEMENT

The seventh session of the Canada-France Joint Economic Commission took place in Paris on October 19, 1989.

The Canadian delegation was chaired by Mr. John C. Crosbie, Minister for International Trade and the French delegation by Mr. Jean-Marie Rausch, Minister for International Trade.

Both sides expressed their satisfaction with progress in the fields of economic, commercial, industrial, scientific and technological cooperation since the last meeting of the Economic Commission and further to the Agreement of the Economic and Industrial Cooperation signed on January 15, 1987.

They underlined in particular the excellent climate created by the state visits of President F. Mitterrand in 1987 and Governor General Jeanne Sauvé in 1988 and the visit of Prime Minister Brian Mulroney in connection with the celebrations of the bicentenary of the French revolution. In addition, the visits to France of the Premiers of Quebec, Ontario and New Brunswick contributed to the prospects for increased economic cooperation between both countries. Both sides consider that the visit by Prime Minister of France to Canada planned for next year will further strengthen this favourable trend in economic relations.

Both sides commented on the economic situation of their respective countries. They also presented an overview of their respective economic policies specifically in light of the implementation of the Free Trade Agreement between Canada and United States and the prospect of the Single European Market of 1992.

Both Ministers noted the importance of the Uruguay Round of the Multilateral Trade Negotiations currently underway and expressed the hope that the result is a broad and balanced agreement.

Both sides noted with satisfaction the appreciable increase in trade achieved between the two countries in the last two years.

They are pleased by the expansion of cooperation in several fields, as demonstrated most particularly in the aeronautic sector.

The French side noted that budgetary restrictions announced in Canada had not permitted cooperation in the defence sector to reach the level previously anticipated. Nevertheless, both sides will continue to pursue their efforts in this field.

Both sides have identified several sectors which offer possibilities for increased cooperation; notably transportation, biotechnology and environment. The recent visit to France of the Canadian Minister of the Environment, Mr. Lucien Bouchard confirmed the importance both countries accord to the expansion of bilateral cooperation in this area.

In the sector of Agriculture and Forestry, both parties noted with satisfaction the progress achieved, notably in phytosanitary matters, and expressed the hope that other technical questions would also be resolved with satisfaction. In addition, they reaffirmed their mutual interest in developing relations in the agricultural and food processing fields.

Minister Crosbie stressed the high priority that Canada accords to the conservation of the fishery resources of the Northwest Atlantic, and requested the French Government's cooperation in obtaining the adherence of the European Community to the measures adopted by the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (NAFO).

The Canadian side expressed its satisfaction at the prospect of continued cooperation in the audiovisual sector, specifically with respect to film coproductions.

Both sides noted the growing importance of investment in economic relations between the two countries and noted their satisfaction with the numerous recent successes.

The French side hoped for a favourable outcome with respect to investment projects currently underway.

To facilitate partnership agreements between small and medium-sized companies from France and Canada, both sides agreed to continue their efforts, notably through the Chambers of Commerce and their respective professional associations.

Finally, both Ministers expressed their satisfaction with the excellent progress in economic and commercial relations achieved since the last Commission meeting and reiterated their commitment to the continuation of the favourable trend.

The next meeting of the Canada-France Economic Commission is scheduled for 1991 in Canada.

John C. Crosbie  
Minister for  
International Trade  
Chairman of the  
Canadian Delegation

Jean-Marie Rausch  
Minister for  
International Trade  
Chairman of the  
French Delegation

Signed in Paris on October 19, 1989