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CANADA-BELGIUM BUSINESSMEN'S COMMITTEE LAUNCHED

Francis Fox, Minister for International Trade, announced today the establishment of a Canada-Belgium Businessmen's Committee, to promote closer economic and commercial relations between the two countries.

The co-chairmen of the new Committee will be Mr. Laurent Beaudoin, President of The Bombardier Company of Montreal, and Mr. Rolland D'Ieteren, President of the important Belgian corporate group D'Ieteren. Mr. Paul Frerotte, President of the Redma Group of Montreal, will be the Committee's secretary.

The goals of the Committee will be:

- To broaden and deepen Canada-Belgium economic and commercial relations;
- To forge links between senior businessmen of the two countries;
- To encourage investment in both countries;
- To seek joint commercial ventures in third countries.

The Committee will seek members from among the most active trade-oriented firms in the two countries and will hold meetings twice yearly, alternating between Canada and Belgium.

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Mr. Fox noted that Belgium has been for a long time one of the most important commercial partners of Canada and that two way trade reached one billion dollars in 1983.

The Minister said: "I am pleased to see that once again the private sector by its dynamism has demonstrated leadership in spurring economic growth, a principal element of our bilateral relations with Belgium".