

# News Release

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## MACLAREN TO HOLD TRADE TALKS IN EUROPE

The Honourable Roy MacLaren, Minister for International Trade, will be in Europe October 15 to 25 to participate in the Quadrilateral Trade Ministers' Meeting, or "Quad", in Yorkshire, England, (Oct. 21-22) and to foster trade and investment relations with Germany (Oct. 15-17), Great Britain (Oct. 18-20), Sweden (Oct. 23) and Spain (Oct. 24-25).

Created in 1982, the Quad is formed by the ministers responsible for international trade from Canada, the European Union, the United States and Japan. It is an informal forum which meets regularly to discuss multilateral trade issues. The most recent meeting was in early May of this year in Whistler, British Columbia.

The Quad meeting in Yorkshire, chaired by Sir Leon Brittan, Vice-President of the European Commission, will, among other subjects, consider World Trade Organization (WTO) implementation issues and the impact of regional trade initiatives on the multilateral agenda.

"At the last Quad meeting in Whistler, we talked about the need to maintain the momentum of trade liberalization," Mr. MacLaren said. "The WTO and regional trade initiatives are parallel paths to the same destination - freer trade around the world. I see this meeting in Great Britain as an opportunity to keep the ball rolling on these important matters."

In Stockholm, Mr. MacLaren will attend a major trade policy seminar chaired by the Swedish Trade Minister, Mats Hellström. Mr. MacLaren will participate in the session on "Regional Integration and Multilateral Co-operation" during which he will deliver a speech entitled: "Relating Regionalism with the Global Trading Order."

"Multilateral disciplines are preferable because they provide for broader application of rules, which allows for economic



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rationalization over larger markets and greater efficiencies and economies of scale," said Mr MacLaren. "However, we should not be afraid to pursue additional arrangements when these are the best means to advance rule making into new areas or to achieve more levels of obligation in existing areas."

Mr. MacLaren will also call on his counterparts in Bonn, London, Stockholm and Madrid and meet with prominent business groups in Hamburg, Bonn, Cologne, and London. Discussions will focus on ways to foster bilateral trade and investment ties and on the need to strengthen transatlantic links through trade and investment liberalization.

Since Spain currently presides over the Council of Ministers of the European Union, the visit to Madrid will also provide an opportunity to hold discussions on Canada-EU trade and investment relations within the context of regular consultations with the European Union.

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