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# news release

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## CANADA PARTICIPATES IN CSCE TALKS ON EUROPE'S ECONOMIC FUTURE

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, and International Trade Minister John C. Crosbie today announced Canada's participation in the Conference on Economic Cooperation in Europe taking place in Bonn, the Federal Republic of Germany, from March 19 to April 11, 1990. This Conference is part of an ongoing process referred to as the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).

Minister Crosbie will represent Canada in the Conference's plenaries from April 9-11. A group of prominent Canadian business leaders will accompany the Minister.

"Over the past 15 years, the CSCE has made major progress in security and confidence-building in Europe, while also encouraging freer movement of people, information and ideas," stated Mr. Clark. "Given the historic changes we are now witnessing in the region, it is important that we broaden the dimensions of the CSCE. It will now play a pivotal role in building a new Europe which is free and democratic, as well as committed to the rule of law and to an open market economy. Indeed, the CSCE promises to serve as a drafting board for a new European architecture."

"For the first time, its member countries will devote a meeting entirely to the economic side of the CSCE process," stated Mr. Crosbie. "As Minister for International Trade, I welcome this development, as this provides a forum for Canada, together with the CSCE's other 34 members, to encourage economic reform in the USSR and Eastern Europe, so these countries can meet the challenges of integrating themselves into the global economic community," emphasized Mr. Crosbie.

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Ministers Clark and Crosbie noted that Canada has already taken action to help Eastern Europe through a \$71 million assistance package to Poland and Hungary and involvement in the establishment of a European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

A unique feature of the Bonn Conference is the inclusion of business representatives in the various national delegations. "The Canadian government greatly values the special expertise our country's business people can contribute to the process of East-West economic cooperation," said Minister Crosbie, "and we heartily welcome their participation in the Conference." In addition to the prominent business leaders who will accompany Mr. Crosbie to the final plenary sessions, another group of private sector representatives will form part of the official Canadian delegation for the duration of the Conference, while a third group will join in a series of informal discussions with business people from other countries.

The CSCE has assumed increased importance in recent months following the dramatic changes in Eastern Europe. The Bonn meeting will constitute the latest in a continuing series of general and specialized meetings which have grown out of the 1975 CSCE Helsinki Final Act, a document agreed to by the heads of government of the 33 countries of Europe (all except Albania), plus Canada and the United States. It encompasses military security and confidence-building, human rights and co-operation in human contacts, information, culture, education, trade and industrial co-operation, science and environmental protection.

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