



# communiqué

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## VISIT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE OECD

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, announced today that Canada will chair this year's meeting of the Ministerial Council of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), which will take place in Paris April 11 and 12. He also announced that he and his colleague the Minister of Finance, the Honourable Michael Wilson, will attend the meeting and have together accepted the invitation of the Organization's Council to co-chair the Ministerial meeting.

The new Secretary-General of the Organization, Mr. Jean-Claude Paye, will visit Ottawa on Wednesday, March 6, to meet Ministers Wilson and Clark, and to discuss the international economic and trade issues that will be on the agenda of this year's Ministerial meeting.

Mr. Clark said that Canada was honoured to chair the Ministerial of the OECD during its Twenty-Fifth Anniversary year. The Organization, he said, was an effective instrument of multilateral cooperation, that had contributed in many ways to the economic development of the industrial democracies since its foundation. He added that Canada will continue to work to strengthen the Organization and the principles of multilateralism that it embodies.

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The OECD was created in 1961 as a forum for discussion and consultation on matters of economic, trade, and development assistance policies. Over time its membership has grown to 24 (including all of Western Europe, plus Australia, New Zealand, Japan, the USA, and Canada), and its work has also spread into a variety of other important areas including environmental policies, energy, manpower and social affairs, education, and science and technology policy. Canada is a founding member of the OECD, and is an active participant in virtually all its programmes and activities. Canada's Minister of Finance, the Honourable D. M. Fleming, chaired the first OECD Ministerial Meeting in 1961.