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# news release

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## MACLAREN TO VISIT BRUSSELS, PARIS AND HELSINKI

The Honourable Roy MacLaren, Minister for International Trade, will be visiting Brussels, Paris and Helsinki from June 3 to 9 to meet his counterparts responsible for economic and commercial affairs and to strengthen trade relations with their countries and with the European Union (EU).

In Brussels on June 6, Mr. MacLaren will meet with Sir Leon Brittan, Vice-President of the Commission of the European Communities and Commissioner in charge of External Relations and Trade Policy. Mr. MacLaren's visit to Brussels takes place under the framework agreement for trade and economic co-operation between Canada and the EU. The purpose of this bilateral meeting is to review trade relations between Canada and the EU as well as the latest developments in multilateral trade.

In Paris, after attending the OECD (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development) ministerial meeting (June 7 and 8), Mr. MacLaren will chair the closing session of the France-Canada Joint Economic Commission on June 9, at which time he will review bilateral commercial and industrial issues. These consultations will lay the groundwork for future co-operation.

Mr. MacLaren will meet with his French counterpart, Mr. Gérard Longuet, Minister of Industry, Posts & Telecommunications and External Trade. He will hold discussions with representatives of Canadian companies established in France, and will lead a round table with French industrialists and investors, under the auspices of the Conseil National du Patronat Français (CNPF).

Before visiting Brussels and Paris, Mr. MacLaren will travel to Helsinki, where he will represent Mr. Lloyd Axworthy, Minister of Human Resources Development, for the signing of an amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding on Social Security between Canada and Finland concerning old age security and the Canada Pension Plan. This amendment will be co-signed by Mr. Jorma Huuhtanen, the Finnish Minister of Social Affairs and Health.

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