

## Canada Concludes Second Round of Free Trade Negotiations with Ukraine

*Free trade agreement would strengthen people-to-people ties between Canada and Ukraine*

**(No. 137 - May 20, 2011 - 1:25 p.m. ET)** The Honourable Ed Fast, Minister of International Trade and Minister for the Asia-Pacific Gateway, today announced the successful conclusion of the second round of free trade negotiations with Ukraine.

"Our government remains focused on the economy," said Minister Fast. "A free trade agreement with Ukraine will further expand trade opportunities, encourage economic growth and help create jobs."

This round of talks began on May 16, 2011, and took place in Kyiv.

"We want to build on our already strong cultural relationship with the Ukrainian people by strengthening our economic ties," said Minister Fast. "Canadian companies are steadily building a presence in Ukraine in areas such as aerospace and agriculture. We want to encourage more of these connections."

A free trade agreement with Ukraine would further open markets for Canadian exports ranging from seafood products to machinery, vehicles, iron and steel products, and plastics.

Ukraine is one of the largest countries in Europe, and home to a highly educated population, a diversified industrial base and substantial natural resources. Some 1.2 million Canadians have Ukrainian roots, enriching Canada's business, arts and academic communities.

The Harper government has already concluded new free trade agreements with eight countries and is in negotiations with close to 50 others, including the members of the European Union and India, which are among the world's largest economies.

- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

Trade Media Relations Office  
Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada  
613-996-2000