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**BEXCOM Membership Announcement**

***Annnonce d'adhésion de BEXCOM***

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**The Republic of Burundi joins Borderpol's Exploratory Committee**

OTTAWA, Canada --- February 27, 2009 --- Recognizing the importance of being associated with the world's only independent border security and border management organization, the Ministry of Public Security for the Republic of Burundi has joined the Borderpol Exploratory Committee (BEXCOM) as a full member.

Burundi has the second-largest population density in Sub-Saharan Africa. Most people live on farms near areas of fertile volcanic soil. The population, is made up of three major ethnic groups, Hutu, Tutsi, and Twa. Kirundi is the most widely spoken language; French and Kiswahili also are widely spoken.

Burundi is heavily dependent on bilateral and multilateral aid, with external debt totaling \$1.4 billion in 2004. The World Bank is preparing a Transition Support Strategy, and has identified key areas for potential growth, including the productivity of traditional crops and the introduction of new exports, light manufactures, industrial mining, and services.

Burundi has asked Borderpol and BEXCOM members and observers to assist in helping it to develop an effective border management infrastructure, in accordance with Article Two of the Borderpol Constitution.

**About Borderpol**

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