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HEADLINE: Schaefer Plans European Trip

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BODY:

Maryland Gov. William Donald Schaefer will visit three European countries on a trade mission beginning May 29 in Germany and ending June 5 in London.

Schaefer, who has traveled overseas seeking business nearly every year since taking office in 1987, will travel with a handful of aides -- but no private business leaders as on past trade trips -- when he calls on shipping executives in Italy on what aides said would be a "very lean sales mission."

The governor also will deliver a commencement address at an extension campus of the University of Maryland in Heidelberg, Germany.

Frank Traynor, Schaefer's press secretary, said the governor expects criticism of the trip in light of the state's financial condition. However, Traynor said, the trip will be "part of the cost of doing business as Maryland positions itself in the global marketplace."

Mark L. Wasserman, secretary of the Department of Economic and Employment Development, said yesterday that Schaefer's trip will take him to Germany, three cities in Italy, and to London.