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ΑΝΑΚΟΙΝΩΣΗ ΓΙΑ ΤΟΝ ΤΥΠΟ · INFORMAZIONE ALLA STAMPA · MEDEDELING AAN DE PERS**

Brussels, 17 February 1984

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WINE IMPORTS INTO THE UNITED STATES

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

The Commission has been informed that the US Department of Commerce has decided to open antidumping and countervailing investigations against the import of ordinary table wine from France and Italy. Such investigations will cover over \$300 million in trade value and could affect the livelihood of at least 1 million full time wine growers in the EEC. The Commission regrets the acceptance of the petitions since they did not fulfil the conditions set out in the relevant codes of the GATT. In particular, there is no evidence that petitioners were sufficiently representative of the US-ordinary table wine industry to bring such a complaint nor was any convincing proof of dumping, nor of injury submitted by the US industry concerned.

The Commission has already taken steps to let the US Administration know about its concern and will be following the procedures of the Department of Commerce and the US International Trade Commission very closely.

The European Commission will ensure that the interests of the Community are fully safeguarded, and that the provisions and obligations of the GATT codes are fully respected.

The Community wine policy's essential aim is to maintain market equilibrium by withdrawing, through storage and distillation, surplus production from the market in order to stabilise prices, and to improve quality. These measures do not have the effect of depressing prices and do not lead to an increase in exports. There are no refunds for wine exported to the American continent.

* The Commission believes that a decision to conclude positively on these investigations could ~~also~~ lead to a series of escalating anti-dumping and countervailing duties and other protectionist measures in the agricultural sector, with wide ranging consequences for US-EC trade relations. In 1983 EEC exported \$3,7 billion agricultural products to the US and imported \$9,5 billion from the US, of which \$5 billion is for soyabean and meal, \$750 million for mais (corn) and \$500 million for corn gluten feed.