



IP(86)153

**PRESSE-MEDELSELE • MITTEILUNG AN DIE PRESSE • PRESS-RELEASE • INFORMATION A LA PRESSE  
ΑΝΑΚΟΙΝΩΣΗ ΓΙΑ ΤΟΝ ΤΥΠΟ • INFORMAZIONE ALLA STAMPA • MEDEDELING AAN DE PERS**

Brussels, March 31, 1986

44.2(103)  
44.213

**EEC/U.S. ENLARGEMENT DISPUTE : E.C. WARNS AGAINST  
OPEN CONFLICT**

**STATEMENT BY MR DE CLERCQ**

The United States have announced today plans to impose quotas and tariffs on E.C. imports in response to provisions in the EC enlargement Treaty with Spain and Portugal that affect US exports such as corn, sorghum and soybeans.

Mr Willy De Clercq, EC Commissioner for external relations currently in New Zealand on an official visit, informed of the American announcement made the following statement:

"I deeply regret this American announcement. It is an unfriendly action, needlessly aggressive, and difficult to understand in the light of actual circumstances."

"The United States will derive considerable benefits from the enlargement of the Community, not only in terms of trade, but also from the political standpoint, since enlargement will reinforce the Western alliance."

"This confrontational approach risks leading to open commercial conflict even though the Community has declared itself ready to negotiate. A GATT working group was established on 12 February to examine with the Community's trading partners the consequences of enlargement. In addition, we informed the United States that we were ready to enter into bilateral negotiations immediately. This proposal has not so far received a response."

"The Community, as on the occasion of previous enlargements, has scrupulously respected its commitments in the framework of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). It rejects the allegation that any of its actions are contrary to GATT rules : the measures agreed upon in the Accession Treaty continue and adapt the import régimes previously in force during a strictly transitional period of four or five years."

"It is now clear that the United States wants to separate these specific agricultural questions from the overall context of the consequences of enlargement, and thereby ignore the much greater benefits it will gain elsewhere. This is not in line with GATT provisions, which provide, as is only common sense, that both credits and debits must be taken into account."

"If the United States were to take the unilateral measures against the Community which they envisage, these would be quite unjustified and contrary to GATT rules. It ill accords with the declared US intention of strengthening the GATT through the launching of a New Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations. The Community could not accept such a flagrant violation of its GATT rights and would be obliged to take appropriate action to defend its interests."