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

Brussels, 9 April 1986.

**COMMUNITY/US DISPUTE ON ENLARGEMENT  
COMMUNITY MUST RESPOND, WITH REGRET BUT FIRMLY,  
TO ANY AMERICAN ACTION**

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The Commission has agreed three lists of products for possible retaliatory action should the American authorities decide on unilateral restrictive measures in respect of Community exports in connection with the dispute over the consequences of Spain's and Portugal's joining the Community. The lists have been proposed to the Council of Ministers.

"The Community must be able to defend its interests," said Mr Willy De Clercq, the Commissioner for external relations and trade policy. "For this reason the European Commission today agreed three lists of products, in response to those indicated by the United States. These are tentative lists. The actual choice of products and the scale of the restrictions will be decided, if they are decided, according to the measures the United States adopts: in the Commission's view the Community should react in complete symmetry with those measures.

"We still feel it should be the common aim of the Community and the United States to resolve this dispute without confrontation and by tightening the rules of GATT. We for our part should be sorry to have to resort to restrictive measures.

"All the more so as the problems the United States fears from enlargement seem considerably exaggerated, and indeed not likely to arise at all in the near future. It can expect to export 20% more soya to Portugal this year than in 1985. The reserving of 15% of the Portuguese grain market for Community exporters will have no restrictive effect in 1986. And American grain exports to Spain have, owing to pre-emptive action by the exporters, grown so substantially that there too enlargement will have no adverse implications for the United States in the months ahead.

"Notwithstanding, we have always said we are prepared to discuss these issues with our American partners. I here repeat the Community's proposal that we open negotiations forthwith by the normal procedures laid down in GATT for enlargements.

"But if the United States does decide to take the steps it has spoken of, it must be clear that the Community will firmly defend its lawful interests."

The three tentative lists of products drawn up by the Commission correspond to the three classes of measures the United States has said it plans to take:

- (i) in response to the American measures relating to the Portuguese arrangements on oilseeds, the relevant products would be sunflower seeds, beef fat and offal, honey, wine and bourbon;
- (ii) in response to the American measures in consequence of the reserving of 15.5% of the Portuguese grain market for Community producers, the relevant products would be prunes, fruit juice, beer, food preparations, dried fruit, horsemeat, ambergris and fresh ornamental foliage;
- (iii) in the event of American measures in consequence of the application of the CAP to grain on the Spanish market, the relevant products would be corn gluten feed, soya cake, almonds, wheat and rice.