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Brussels, 2 May 1986

**OPENING OF BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES
ON THE EFFECTS OF ENLARGEMENT**

441.2(103)

Statement by Mr De Clercq

"Following notification of GATT by the Community on 4 February last, I am glad that we can today open the negotiations on the effects of enlargement, within the framework of Article XXIV(6) of GATT.

"The first partner we shall be meeting is the United States. On 4 March last, the Commission proposed to the United States that bilateral negotiations within the framework of GATT should be started as soon as possible, so that the dispute which had arisen between the Community and the United States concerning the enlargement of the Community to include Spain and Portugal could be resolved on the basis of the international rules in force.

"Since then, the Commission has asked for and obtained from the Council a negotiating mandate enabling it officially to start the Article XXIV(6) procedure. It has sent the United States the statistics on exports to Spain and Portugal for the years 1983 and 1984, thus enabling concrete discussions to be started. In order to ensure that this work is carried out quickly and effectively, the Commission has decided to set up a special task force which will be responsible for completing the Article XXIV(6) negotiations.

"The Commission is still of the opinion that, as provided for in Article XXIV(6), negotiations must consider the overall effects of enlargement without laying particular emphasis on any individual product.

"The opening of these negotiations is itself a sign that both sides wish to find a mutually acceptable solution to the problems related to enlargement. I hope that this sign of progress will soon be translated into facts."