



IP(87)154

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

Brussels, 15 April 1987.

441.2(103)

**MEETING BETWEEN MR DE CLERCQ AND MR ROSTENKOWSKI**

---

On 15 April the Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee in the US House of Representatives, Mr Dan Rostenkowski (Democrat, Illinois), who plays a key role in debates on trade bills currently before Congress, visited the Commission and was received by Mr Willy DE CLERCQ, Member of the Commission with special responsibility for external relations and trade policy.

Mr De Clercq emphasized that the Commission retained confidence in the sense of responsibility of the US leadership and thanked Mr Rostenkowski for the moderating influence he had exercised during the current debates in Congress.

Nevertheless, the Commission was very gravely concerned about the mounting protectionist pressure in the US and the danger that restrictive trade legislation might be adopted. "We are far from underestimating the difficulties facing the US economy - the enormous budget deficit, a record trade deficit, the possible loss of competitiveness by some industries, etc. - but the main reasons for these difficulties lie in the US itself and the solutions must not therefore be sought outside," said Mr De Clercq.