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Brussels, 22 July 1987.

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**ADOPTION BY THE UNITED STATES SENATE  
OF ITS NEW TRADE BILL :  
STATEMENT BY MR DE CLERCQ, MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION  
WITH SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR EXTERNAL RELATIONS  
AND TRADE POLICY**

The United States Senate has just adopted its new trade bill by a large majority. Following the vote, Mr De Clercq said that "the content of the bill confirmed the concern he had voiced to Congress and the administration in Washington at the beginning of the month. The text adopted contained a number of clauses which unilaterally reinforce the United States' arsenal of trade measures, limit the administration's room for manoeuvre on trade issues and introduce new concepts such as sectoral reciprocity which are in conflict with GATT rules".

He continued, "the Community hopes that the next Conference of Representatives from both Chambers of Congress will take account of the strong concern expressed by the United States partners and by the American administration itself. Failing that, the Community is counting on the administration's determination, already affirmed on several occasions by President Reagan, to veto the bill. Openly, protectionist legislation would deal a heavy blow to the entire multilateral trade system and jeopardize the negotiations currently under way in the context of the Uruguay Round. It would also force the United States' partners to take similar measures".