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**EC AND US MEET ON TRADE IN CIVIL AIRCRAFT**

Mr Willy De Clercq, Member of the European Commission in charge of external trade, Mr Kenneth Clarke (UK Minister for Trade and Industry), Mr Martin Bangeman (German Minister for Economic Affairs), Mr Michel Noir (French Trade Minister) and Mr Angel Fernandez Ordonez (Spanish Minister for External Trade) will meet with Mr Clayton Yeutter, US Trade representative, in London on 27 October 1987.

The meeting, which is taking place on European initiative, is designed to pave the way for a mutually satisfactory solution to current aircraft trade tensions. The EC hopes that it will be possible to agree on disciplines which will apply to both sides and contribute to healthy competition in the civil aircraft sector.

Tensions appeared some months ago when the US questioned the government support and trade incentives provided to the European civil aircraft industry. The European side underlined the substantial indirect government support received by the US aircraft industry and the fact that European practices in this sector were in conformity with GATT rules. Both parties agreed to settle their differences in the framework of the GATT code on civil aircraft.

The EC and the US have already held several meetings at expert level during which they have managed to reach a large degree of agreement on issues covered by article 4 of GATT code on civil aircrafts ie government inducements to airlines, procurement and sourcing of aircraft parts.

The US export nearly \$ 5000 million worth of aircraft and parts to the EC, the EC \$ 3000 million to the US. European orders and options for US aircraft are worth US \$ 23 billion, US orders and options for Airbus are worth US \$ 13 billion.