



IP(88)212

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

Brussels, 13 April 1988.

**MR DE CLERCQ TAKES PART IN THE QUADRILATERAL MEETING
AND PAYS AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO CANADA**

Mr Willy De Clercq, Member of the Commission responsible for external relations and trade policy, will take part in an informal quadrilateral meeting on 16 and 17 April in Vancouver. Trade Ministers from the Community, the United States, Japan and Canada meet regularly on this basis. The meeting will be devoted to discussing developments in the Uruguay Round and looking ahead to the mid-term review due to take place in Montreal on 5 December, which will assess the progress made in the multilateral trade talks. The four Ministers will run through the main topics under discussion, including services, the functioning of GATT, agriculture and safeguard clauses.

Mr De Clercq will also be taking this opportunity to hold bilateral discussions with Mr Clayton Yeutter, US Trade Representative and Mr Hajime Tamura, the Japanese Trade Minister.

With the former he will discuss agricultural matters still pending, including the hormones issues, slaughter-houses and possibly soya. He will also discuss the future Trade Bill likely to be adopted soon by the US Congress.

In his talks with Mr Tamura, Mr De Clercq will ask for a commitment from the Japanese authorities that European firms will be offered the same conditions as US firms for participation in major works contracts being undertaken by Japan. He will also raise the matter of the results of the GATT panels on wine and alcohol and on semi-conductors and will ask the Japanese Minister for an indication as to when and how Japan intends to implement the conclusions of these panels. He will inform Mr Tamura that unless Japan agrees to abolish its discriminatory system of taxes on imported vehicles by the end of the month, the Community will consider taking this long-standing issue before GATT.

Following the meeting Mr De Clercq will pay an official visit to Canada on 18 and 19 April, when he will be meeting Mr Brian Mulroney, the Prime Minister, Mr Joe Clark, the External Affairs Minister, Mr John Crosbie, the new Trade Minister and Mr Michael Wilson, the Minister of Finance.

The most important item on the agenda is the state of bilateral relations between the Community and Canada, which, although generally satisfactory, have recently been marred by a series of small trade issues which have yet to be settled. These include discriminatory taxes on wine and alcohol, on which GATT found in the Community's favour, quotas on cheeses, the tariff classification of pasta and Community exports of beef to Canada. Mr De Clercq will also discuss the free trade agreement between Canada and the United States.