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**STATEMENT BY COMMISSIONER MAC SHARRY ON RECENT US DECLARATION  
ON US/EC AGRICULTURE**

EC Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, Mr Ray Mac Sharry, has noted with regret the recent remarks made by US Agriculture Secretary, Mr Clayton Yeutter, concerning agriculture in the context of the Uruguay Round.

These would appear to depart from the direction of the recent talks held with the new US Administration in Washington.

They are not helpful to the development of a cordial and friendly atmosphere in these negotiations, so essential to the interests of US and European Community agriculture.

Mr Yeutter obviously has difficulty in recognising the progress made in the reform of the Common Agriculture Policy and even more difficulty in matching those reforms.

Furthermore, recent changes by the US on its set-aside programme, coupled with the call to remove the ceiling on how much the US can spend to subsidise its agricultural exports, would appear to suggest that the US is not committed to a serious reform of its agriculture policy, especially in the short-term.

Commissioner Mac Sharry reiterated the willingness of the European Community to continue its constructive approach to negotiations on agriculture in the Uruguay Round.

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