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**EC REJECTS CRITICISM BY PRESIDENT BUSH**

The European Community has rejected criticism of its commitment to the Uruguay Round of international trade negotiations, made by President George Bush in Kansas City on Monday last.

EC Commission Vice President Frans Andriessen, in a statement issued in Brussels, said that he was "disagreeably surprised" by the tone of President Bush's remarks to the annual meeting of the American Farm Bureau Federation.

Mr. Andriessen said that in recent months, the EC had contributed very actively, especially in the GATT negotiations to the search for "appropriate and fair solutions" that would ensure better conditions for the conduct of international trade, including agriculture.

He declared: "The Community has taken part in these recent negotiations in a spirit of cooperation and consultation. As far as the Commission is concerned, the use of expressions like "cold war" and "iron curtain" do not reflect [the state of] relations between the Community and the United States, as we see them."

President Bush had called on the EC to lower its "iron curtain of protectionism."

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