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EC REACTS TO GATT OILSEEDS PANEL REPORT

During the debate in the GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) Council in Geneva on April 30, the EC Commission made the following statement concerning the GATT Panel Report on Oilseeds

"It is the first time that the reconvened oilseeds panel report is on the agenda of the GATT Council.

The Community is not in a position to accept the report.

The Community has already made it clear that it wishes to find a solution to the dispute. The Community will come forward with a concrete proposal before the next GATT Council."

Concerning the United States decision to initiate procedures for suspending concessions on certain EC exports to the US market, announced by the US at the April 30 GATT Council, the Commission considers this action to be totally without justification. Since the conclusion of the GATT Council on the Oilseeds Panel Report is still pending, the US decision lacks any legal basis. Furthermore, it is in contradiction with the spirit and the practices of the GATT dispute settlement procedures.

The EC Commission considers this unilateral US decision inappropriate and counterproductive in the search for a mutually acceptable solution for the dispute.

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