



european community

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EC COMMISSION WARNING ON U.S./GERMAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS AGREEMENT

A press statement from the United States Trade Representative suggested that Germany has entered into a bilateral agreement with the United States on government procurement. According to these reports, it is alleged that Germany would not apply Article 29 of the European Community's Utilities Directive, the US will exclude Germany from the sanctions they have imposed against the Community and that Germany would not impose the countersanctions decided by the Community against the US on June 8, 1993.

The EC Commission is surprised by this news and is currently investigating the substance of these reports with the German authorities and has requested immediate information and clarification. The Commission is urging the German authorities not to act in any way which may be in breach of Community law, and to remain loyal to agreed Community policy.

If confirmed, any bilateral agreement of such a kind would be illegal under Community law. Furthermore, failure by any member state to transpose agreed EC Council Directives into national law would render it liable to infringement proceedings.

Lastly, the 12 member states of the Community decided last Tuesday (June 8) at the EC Foreign Affairs Council to take countermeasures against the United States sanctions. A regulation has been unanimously adopted by the Council and will come into force upon publication in the EC Official Journal.

Press Contacts: Pedro Marin
Tel: (202) 862-9523

Ella Krucoff
Tel: (202) 862-9540

Office of Press and Public Affairs, EC Delegation

Washington: 2100 M Street NW 7th Floor Washington DC 20037 / Telephone (202) 862-9500 / Fax (202) 429-1766

New York: 3 Dag Hammarskjold Plaza 305 E 47th Street New York NY 10017 / Telephone (212) 371-3804 / Fax (212) 688-1013