

No. 11/91
April 25, 1991

E.C. FARM COMMISSIONER MACSHARRY TO VISIT U.S.

Ray MacSharry, EC Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, will be in Washington May 1 to 3 for meetings with members of the United States Administration and Congress to discuss the Uruguay Round, European Community agricultural reform and some bilateral EC-US agricultural trade issues.

On May 2, Commissioner MacSharry will meet separately with newly-appointed US Secretary for Agriculture Ed Madigan, and with United States Trade Representative Carla Hills following a larger meeting with officials of the US Department of Agriculture. All meetings are expected to focus on the Uruguay Round, reform of the EC's Common Agricultural Policy and of US farm policy, EC oilseeds policy, and the EC's veterinary questions concerning US fresh-meat establishments. Commissioner MacSharry will meet Advisor to the President Roger Porter at the White House on May 3.

On Capitol Hill, Commissioner MacSharry will meet on May 2 with Rep. E. "Kika" de la Garza (D-Texas), Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, and with Rep. Sam M. Gibbons (D-Fla.), Chairman of the House Ways and Means Trade Subcommittee.

MacSharry's present schedule also includes meetings with Dean Kleckner, President of the American Farm Bureau, and with Leland H. Swenson, President of the National Farmers Union.

On May 3, at 11 a.m. in the EC Commission's Delegation (2100 M Street NW, Suite 707), Commissioner MacSharry will give a one-hour press conference. Members of the press are invited to attend.

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Ray MacSharry

Before taking up his appointment to the EC Commission in January 1989, Ray MacSharry served as Minister for Finance in the Irish Government (1987-1988).

Mr. MacSharry has spent most of his professional life in national and European politics. A member of Dáil Éireann, the Irish Parliament, since 1969, he has served as Tánaiste (Deputy Prime Minister) and Minister for Finance (1982), Minister for Agriculture (1979-1981) and Minister of State at the Department of Finance and Public Service (1977-1979). A native of County Sligo and an active member of the Fianna Fáil Party, he represented the Sligo-Leitrim constituency in Dáil Éireann from 1969 until his resignation following his appointment as EC Commissioner.

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Mr. MacSharry has represented Ireland in Europe on several occasions and has served in three EC institutions.

He has represented Ireland in the EC Council of Ministers as Minister for Finance (1987-1988) and as Minister of State at the Department of Finance and Public Service (1977-1979). During Ireland's EC Council Presidency in 1979, he chaired the Council of Budget Ministers.

He was elected Member of the European Parliament (MEP) in 1984 and represented the Connaught/Ulster constituency until his return to Ireland in 1987 on his appointment as Minister for Finance. As an MEP, he served on various Parliament Committees including those on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Economic and Monetary Affairs, and on the Parliament's delegation for relations with the United States.

In 1982 he was a Governor at the European Investment Bank in Luxembourg.

Mr. MacSharry was born in County Sligo, Ireland in April 1938. He is married to Elaine Neilan and has three sons and three daughters. Following his education at Summerhill College (Sligo), he became involved in agri-business and road haulage. He entered politics in 1967 when elected to Sligo County Council and Sligo Corporation.

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