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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RESOLUTION
ON EC - US TRADE RELATIONS

On July 8, 1982, the European Parliament adopted the following resolution on trade relations between the European Community and the United States:

"The European Parliament

- A. Re-affirming its commitment to the closest possible friendly relations between the EEC and the USA in their common self-interest and that of the free world,
- B. Noting with concern the decisions announced by the US Department of Commerce on 11 June concerning, on the one hand, the importation of steel,
- C. Noting with concern the decision of the US Administration on 18 June to embargo the use of American technology in the construction of the Siberian gas pipeline,
- D. Noting with concern the approval by the US House of Representatives on 15 June 1982 of the Copyright Manufacturing Clause Extension Bill (HR 6198), believing the Bill is in breach of an understanding reached at the Tokyo Round of multilateral trade negotiations,
- E. Considering that these measures are part of a general climate of confrontation as regards trade between the United States and the EEC and extend to the agricultural and export credits sectors, notwithstanding the conclusions of the Versailles Summit,

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F. Considering that the prohibitions imposed without prior consultation on the European subsidiaries of American firms concerning the sale to the Soviet Union of sophisticated equipment for the gas pipeline imply an extraterritorial extension of American jurisdiction which is contrary to the principles of international law, this being unacceptable to Community countries,

G. Considering that the measures announced relating to steel imports will cause grave difficulties for exporters of European steel to the United States, thus very seriously aggravating the already catastrophic situation of the European steel industry,

H. Considering that the EEC has already reduced, and is continuing to reduce, its steel-producing capacity on a wide scale and at the cost of many jobs,

I. Considering that all subsidies by member states to the steel industry are subject to the prior authorization of the Commission, which approves them only if they conform to its policy of reducing and restructuring this sector; and that these subsidies or aids are of a temporary nature and will not be granted beyond 1985,

J. Whereas these measures, which are based on a unilateral approach, are incompatible with the commitments entered into regarding the steel sector within the OECD and constitute, along with other measures, a unilateral attempt to upset the overall balance of advantages resulting from the Tokyo Round,

K. Considering that the trade balance of the United States vis-a-vis Europe is greatly in favour of the former and that a considerable part of American exports to Europe is made up of agricultural products,

L. Fully supporting the maintenance of a multilateral open trading system and determined to combat competitive intervention by governments except where mutually agreed by all concerned parties in the context of the GATT to be in the furtherance of necessary restructuring and rationalization,

1. Deeply regrets any unilateral measures by the USA or the Community which conflict with the commitments and principles which were reaffirmed at the recent Versailles Summit on international trade;

2. Urges a united European reaction to this situation, avoiding individual and random steps by the member states;

3. Requests the Commission to prepare for implementation, if necessary, Community legislation to prevent Community companies and other Community persons from complying with the extra-territorial provisions of United States legislation;
4. Requests that the Community immediately bring the matter of Community steel exports to the USA before the Special Committee on Steel of the OECD and the Subsidy Committee of the GATT, in order to denounce the incompatibility of the American measures with the commitments entered into by these agreements;
5. Endorses the Council's decision to refer the export subsidy inherent in the "DISC" to the same GATT committee which is an inevitable riposte to recent American actions;
6. Requests the Commission to make every possible effort to dissuade the US Senate and President from approving the bill (HR 6198);
7. Urgently requests the Commission and the Council to take united action in order to reduce the technological dependence of European firms, which lays them open to unacceptable political pressure;
8. Requests the Commission and the Council to make representations to the American authorities regarding the very serious consequences of their attitude and in particular on the question of whether it is acceptable to oblige Europe to take measures which would lead to a major confrontation and breakdown in the international system of free trade;
9. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council and the US Ambassador to the European Community and to both Houses of Congress."
