

Committee of Agricultural Organisations
in the European Community (COPA)

Brussels, January 30 1987

0262

CdP(87)3

General Committee for Agricultural
Cooperation in the EC (COGECA)

PRESS RELEASE

SETTLEMENT OF US-EC ENLARGMENT DISPUTE SERIOUS BLOW TO
COMMUNITY PREFERENCE

The settlement of the enlargement dispute between the EC and the US, if it has permitted to avoid an aggravation of the conflict, has resulted in yet another serious blow to the principle of Community preference, one of the fundamental pillars of the CAP.

The EC has committed itself to import annually 2.3 mio t. of maize and sorghum under preferential conditions over the next four years, and has renounced its minimum share of the Portuguese cereals market in accordance with the Treaty of Adhesion, representing about 450.000 t.

COPA and COGECA regret very much that the Community did not use this occasion to obtain an engagement from the USA, in the interest of farmers throughout the world, to take measures to redress the very depressed world market for the major farm commodities.

They stress that the import commitments accepted by the Community will entail very heavy costs to the already strained Community budget and will cause serious problems to the Community cereals' market, in particular in the present world market situation.

COPA and COGECA can under no circumstances accept that European farmers be the ones to have to bear the financial costs of these preferential imports, be it via price pressure or coresponsibility levies.

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