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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COMMON MARKET AND ARGENTINE OFFICIALS SIGN HISTORIC TRADE PACT

WASHINGTON, D.C., November 9 -- Common Market officials and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Argentina have signed a non-preferential trade agreement, the first of its kind between the Common Market and a Latin American country.

The three-year pact, which was signed yesterday, conforms to the most-favored nation clause of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and is designed to promote progress in trade relations between the two powers.

General clauses of the agreement include:

- the reciprocal liberalization of trade regulations affecting imports and exports
- cooperation in the field of agriculture, consisting of a regular exchange of information and research, and cooperation on an international level
- the establishment of a commission consisting of Community and Argentinian representatives to study ways to promote economic and commercial cooperation between the two powers.

Argentine beef accounts for about 38 per cent of the beef imports into the Six. In signing the trade pact, the Community agreed to lower levies on imported frozen meat intended for processing. The Community also said that the variable levy on imported refrigerated meat would be fixed

thirty days in advance, thus assuring importers more cost stability.

In exchange Argentina agreed to gradually eliminate a system of import deposit for particular products exported by the Community. Argentina also agreed to participate in solutions to maritime transport problems and promised to give Community investors equal investment opportunities in Argentina.

Other provisions include the gradual reduction of quantitative restrictions, and increased consultation between the parties on customs duty evaluation problems in Argentina.

Franco Maria Malfatti, President of the European Commission, and Aldo Moro, President of the European Council of Ministers, signed the agreement for the Community, and Luis Maria de Pablo Pardo, Argentine Minister of Foreign Affairs, signed for Argentina.

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