



Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

Voluntary Report - public distribution

Date: 3/7/2003

GAIN Report #E23033

European Union

Trade Policy Monitoring

Fischler calls for more balance in WTO Negotiations 2003

Approved by:

Norval Francis

U.S. Mission to the European Union, Brussels

Prepared by:

Peter Talks

Report Highlights:

European Commisisoner for Agriculture, Franz Fischler, in Geneva for a meeting with WTO Agricultre Negotiations Chairman Harbinson criticized the US's use of the de minimis rule and called for better balance in in any future agreement, in particular accounting for the trade distorting effects of policies.

Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Brussels USEU [BE2], E2

The European Commissioner for Agriculture, Franz Fischler, in Geneva for a meeting with the Stuart Harbinson, Chairman of the WTO Agriculture negotiations, called for more 'balance' in any agreement. By balance, he was referring to policies being measured according to their trade distorting impact. Fischler argues that the EU should be given credit for the shifting of parts of the farm support program into the Blue Box. In effect, he was arguing that from the recent Harbinson Paper a greater burden of adjustment would fall on the EU than the US.

Fischler then moved to attack the US position, especially the de minimis clause, stating that "(de minimis) accounted for 51% of the current AMS (Aggregate Measure of Support) in the US." Fischler continues to call for the de minimis exception to be abandoned for developed countries.

Meanwhile, in Brussels, commenting on Chirac's recent proposal for a developed country moratorium on subsidized exports, Fischler's spokesman reiterated that "it's not only the EU that needs to suspend export refunds; the Americans need to suspend export credits and the abuse of food aid...".