

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. CON. RES. 73

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 22, 1998

Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress that the European Union is unfairly restricting the importation of United States agriculture products and the elimination of such restrictions should be a top priority in trade negotiations with the European Union.

Whereas on a level playing field, United States producers are the most competitive suppliers of agricultural products in the world;

Whereas increased United States agricultural exports are critical to the future of the farm, rural, and overall economy of the United States;

Whereas the opportunities for increased agricultural exports are undermined by the unfair subsidies provided by trading partners of the United States, and by various tariff and nontariff trade barriers imposed on highly-competitive United States agricultural products;

Whereas United States agricultural exports reached a record-level \$60,000,000,000 in 1996 compared to a total United States merchandise trade deficit of \$170,000,000,000;

Whereas the United States is currently engaged in a number of outstanding trade disputes with the European Union regarding agriculture matters and the disputes involve the most intractable issues between the United States and the European Union;

Whereas the outstanding trade disputes include the failure to finalize a veterinary equivalency program, which jeopardizes an estimated \$3,000,000,000 in trade in livestock products between the United States and the European Union;

Whereas the World Trade Organization has ruled that the European Union must allow the importation of beef with growth hormones produced in the United States;

Whereas the European Union has yet to fulfill its commitment under the Agreement on Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures reached as part of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade;

Whereas the European Union has promulgated regulations regarding the use of “specified risk materials” for livestock products which have a disputed scientific basis and which serve to impede the importation of United States livestock products despite the fact that no cases of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (mad cow disease) have been documented in the United States;

Whereas the European Union has hindered trade in products grown with the benefit of biogenetics based on claims that also have a disputed scientific basis;

Whereas these barriers to biogenetic trade could have a profound negative impact on agricultural trade in the long run; and

Whereas there are also continuing disputes regarding European Union subsidies for dairy, wheat gluten, and canned fruits: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*
2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of Congress that—

3 (1) the European Union unfairly restricts the
4 importation of United States agricultural products;

5 (2) the restrictions imposed on United States
6 agricultural exports to the European Union are the
7 most vexing problems facing United States exporters
8 in Europe;

9 (3) the elimination of restrictions imposed on
10 United States agricultural exports should be a top
11 priority of any current or future trade negotiations
12 between the United States and the European Union;
13 and

14 (4) the United States Trade Representative
15 should not engage in any trade negotiations with the
16 European Union that undermines the ability of the
17 United States to achieve the elimination of unfair

- 1 restrictions imposed upon United States agricultural
- 2 exports to the European Union.

Passed the Senate May 21, 1998.

Attest:

GARY SISCO,
Secretary.