EC REACTS TO US/JAPAN AGREEMENT ON SEMICONDUCTORS

The EC Commission has followed closely the evolution of the negotiations between Japan and the United States on the agreement in semiconductors initialled on June 4 and has had consultations with both countries.

The Commission has also received formal assurances that the terms of the agreement concerning access to the Japanese market will be carried out in a non discriminatory fashion.

Nonetheless, it goes without saying that these conditions as well as the other elements of the agreement must be examined within the multilateral system, including the OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development).

Concerning the anti-dumping measures adopted in the accord, the Commission is insistent that their implementation should not affect the EC's single market. Formal assurances have been received on this aspect, but the Commission will give a definitive opinion following examination of the texts.

As regards the implementation of a system for collecting information to permit antidumping investigations to be carried out speedily, the Commission expects that Japan will make an equivalent system available to the Community.

History

The US and Japan signed an agreement on semiconductors in 1986. The EC complained to the GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) that aspects of the agreement violated the Community's GATT rights.

In June 1989 Japan agreed to bring measures relating to exports of semiconductors to countries other than the United States into conformity with the rules of the GATT. The Japanese Government would refrain from taking any action relating to the determination of export prices or quantities of any specific export transactions and from restraining exports of any company. The Government of Japan would also abolish the joint government/industry supply and demand forecast committee and it would refrain from interfering with the levels of production.

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