

[20942001]



[20942016]

Ambassador Katz said the U.S. was open to discussing particular problems of developing countries .

[20942017]

The U.S. argues that its plan would ease the transition to freer agriculture trade by converting certain non-tariff barriers into tariffs that , together with existing tariffs , then would be phased out over 10 years .

[20942018]

But the EC is strongly opposed to converting agricultural supports into tariffs .

[20942019]

The new U.S. package also says countries could temporarily raise tariffs on certain products if they experience an unusually heavy volume of imports .

[20942020]

It would establish procedures to prevent countries from using health and sanitation rules to impede trade arbitrarily .

[20942021]

Seeking to allay European concerns , U.S. Agriculture Secretary Clayton Yeutter said in Washington that the new U.S. plan would n't " put farmers out of business " but would encourage them to " grow what the markets desire instead of what the government wants . "

[20942022]

The EC , with a population of 320 million , has 8.5 million farmers , while the U.S. , with a population of about 245 million , has only two million farmers .

[20942023]

Japan 's objections to the U.S. plan center around its desire to stay self-sufficient in rice , a staple food , even though foreign producers are far more efficient .