



U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON

Finance

SENATOR CHUCK GRASSLEY, OF IOWA - CHAIRMAN

<http://finance.senate.gov>

MEMORANDUM

To: Reporters and Editors
Re: European Union's agricultural reforms
Da: Thursday, June 26, 2003

Sen. Chuck Grassley, chairman of the Committee on Finance, and Sen. Max Baucus, ranking member, each made the following comment on the European Union's agricultural reforms announced today.

Here is Sen. Grassley's comment:

"A step by the EU on agricultural reform is better than no step at all. I look forward to examining further what is being presented by the EU as a major restructuring of its agricultural policies. But the devil can be in the details, including the exceptions and flexible implementing provisions. I hope that the EU's reforms are substantial enough to permit the EU to commit to real progress at Cancun. The United States has been, and remains, ready to negotiate real agricultural reforms at the WTO."

Here is Sen. Baucus' comment:

"I am pleased that the European Union recognizes the need for reform of its Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). Reform is long overdue. I am still reviewing the details, but this plan clearly does not appear to go as far as it should. Some basic reforms -- such as movement towards full de-coupling of subsidies and production -- could constitute a good first step. Of course, the key will be whether the reform plan gives their negotiators the necessary flexibility to agree to real and serious reform within the Doha Round talks. Anything less than that will, ultimately, be insufficient."