

9/21/99 BELGIUM: EU'S LAMY TO MEET CHINESE MINISTER OVER WTO ENTRY.
BRUSSELS (Dow Jones)-The E.U.'s new trade commissioner Pascal Lamy plans to meet with Chinese officials to discuss China's entry to the World Trade Organization in October, a Commission spokesman said Tuesday.
The planned meeting follows the resumption of E.U.-Chinese bilateral WTO talks on Monday when E.U. External Affairs Commissioner Chris Patten met China's Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan in New York.
The spokesman said Lamy will meet with China's Foreign Trade Minister Shi Guangsheng. A precise date and location for the meeting hasn't been determined, he said.
China broke off high-level meetings with the E.U. after the accidental bombing of its embassy in Belgrade on May 7 during NATO's airstrikes on Yugoslavia.

Anthony Gooch, Lamy's spokesman, said the E.U. welcomes the resumption of talks, but he stressed that the E.U. has its own terms for China's accession to the WTO in addition to any agreements made with the U.S.
"We have taken note of the Chinese willingness to restart negotiations," Gooch said. "We've been waiting for this for some time. We welcome China's accession on appropriate terms and we'll defend European interests as staunchly as the Americans."
E.U. spokesman Peter Guilford added: "We're not ready to accept the U.S. deal as a take it or leave it approach."

Gooch said that the E.U. position toward China hasn't changed.
E.U. officials have previously said that the U.S. has been seeking cuts in Chinese tariffs on a narrow range of products that are sensitive to U.S. industries, while the E.U. has taken a broader view of products subject to China's tariffs.

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(END) Dow Jones Newswires 21-09-99
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DOW JONES COMMODITIES SERVICE 21/09/1999