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**VICE-PRESIDENT CHRISTOPHERSEN ON MAASTRICHT, DELORS II FINANCIAL
PACKAGE AND ENLARGEMENT**

Vice-President Christophersen yesterday spoke to an American audience of opinion leaders and businessmen in Washington at the Atlantic CEO Institute Round Table on "EC 2000: Towards a European Empire."

"The European Union is still very much in the mould" he said. "The Maastricht Treaty is an important step forward, but there is still a long way to go before achieving anything like "United States of Europe."

"Without a politically and economically strong European Union we might see the new democracies in the East drift before the wind, winding up in crisis which eventually would affect security and stability in Europe and beyond".

"I am confident of American support in moving Europe further towards the European Union" he said.

Turning to enlargement of the EC, Vice-President Christophersen explained the "dynamic triangle": ratification of the Maastricht Treaty, financial resources as proposed in the Delors II package, and opening of accession negotiations 1 January 1993 to be completed before the next revision of the Treaty in 1996-98.

"Some Member States of the EC would agree to new expenses only if they get the enlargement going. Others would ratify Maastricht only if they feel assured that new finance is coming forward and finally some might only accept new members if the Treaty of Maastricht is ratified.

An agreement on all three items is the way for success.

We must also ensure that new members would participate in the decisive move towards a genuine political union in 1996, including the eventual framing of a common defence policy.

It remains to be seen how such a commitment can be spelled out. But obviously old members' enthusiasm for enlargement would grow if some assurances were given in this respect."

He then addressed developments towards year 2000: "The next intergovernmental Conference would produce a new treaty by 1998. After 1998 the European Union would then welcome some countries of Central and Eastern Europe.

The European Union would become larger and stronger. But it would not move beyond what is required to preserve security and stability and it would not grow so far as to upset the global geopolitical balance."

He concluded: "We have not seen communism crumble and freedom spread in the East in order to let us drift into a new rivalry among the US, the European Union, the Commonwealth of Independent States, and Japan."