

**THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL**

**ROME  
1-2 DECEMBER 1975**

Documents in the dossier include:

*The European Council in Rome*

Includes preparatory work, conclusions, follow up statements  
Reproduced from the Bulletin of the European Communities, No.11, 1975

*European Community Members to Issue EC Citizens a "European Passport"*  
European Community Background Information No. 41/1975  
European Community Information Service  
Washington DC

*Declaration of Rambouillet*

17 November 1975  
Department of State Bulletin, December 8, 1975

# 1. The European Council in Rome

1101. The European Council, consisting of the Heads of Government of the Nine Member States met in Rome on 1 and 2 December. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and the Commission were also present.

Decisions were reached, the most important of which concerned the Community's representation by one delegation at the North-South Conference, establishment of May-June 1978 as the date for election to the European Parliament, issue of a uniform European passport from 1978, the policy aspect of Community financing, and the controls to be applied in that area. The Council also took a hard look at the Community's economic and social situation (with the Rambouillet Summit<sup>1</sup> and the Brussels Tripartite Conference<sup>2</sup> in mind) and European Union (statement of Mr Tindemans, the Belgian Premier). All these matters were covered in a summary of conclusions issued by the Chair after the Rome meeting.

## European Council Summit Meetings

1102. The meeting which has just ended is the third since the deliberations of the Heads of Government when they assembled in Paris on 9 and 10 December 1974.<sup>3</sup> Glancing further back, the first year of this new practice highlights its specific features and originality.

Unlike the Summits at The Hague (1 and 2 December 1969), in Paris (19 and 20 October 1972) and Copenhagen (14 and 15 December 1974), and again unlike the meeting of Heads of Government in December 1974, which was new in 'style', the establishment of what was soon termed the 'European Council', was a response to clear-cut *problems*.

The Communiqué issued in Paris on 10 December spelt these out:

'Recognizing the need for an overall approach to the internal problems involved in achieving European unity and the external problems facing Europe, the Heads of Government consider it essential to ensure progress and overall consistency in the activities of the Communities and in the work on political cooperation.'

In *practical* terms, and to attain these objectives, the Paris communiqué indicated:

The Heads of Government have therefore decided to meet, accompanied by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, three times a year and, whenever necessary, in the Council of the Communities and in the context of political cooperation.

The administrative secretariat will be provided for in an appropriate manner with due regard for existing practices and procedures.

In order to ensure consistency in Community activities and continuity of work, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, meeting in the Council of the Community, will act as initiators and coordinators. They may hold political cooperation meetings at the same time.

These arrangements do not in any way effect the rules and procedures laid down in the Treaties or the provisions on political cooperation in the Luxembourg and Copenhagen Reports. At the various meetings referred to in the preceding paragraphs the Commission will exercise the powers vested in it and play the part assigned to it by the above texts.<sup>3</sup>

What was soon to be known as the 'European Council', was born. Since then it has met in accordance with the terms adopted by the Heads of Government, in Dublin (10 and 11 March), Brussels (16 and 17 July) and lately in Rome (1 and 2 December).

<sup>1</sup> The full text of the Rambouillet Declaration is reproduced in Part 3: Documentation.

<sup>2</sup> Points 1201 to 1205.

<sup>3</sup> Bull. EC 12-1974, point 1104.

