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**Report on European Union  
from the Ministers of Foreign Affairs  
to the European Council**

This report by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs, the third of its kind, will be on the same lines as its predecessors,<sup>1</sup> that is to say that in this report the Ministers for Foreign Affairs do not wish to take stock of Community activity as a whole, but much rather to highlight the decisions and significant achievements regarding the aims pursued, which are to result in European Union. What are these aims? The European Council of 29 and 30 November 1976 outlined them itself:<sup>2</sup>

- the strengthening of the practical solidarity of the nine Member States and their peoples, both internally and in their external relations;
- providing European Union progressively with the instruments and institutions necessary for its action. Union should also be reflected in everyday life.

## I

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs would like to direct particular attention to major developments such as the first direct elections to the European Assembly, the launching of the European Monetary System and the signature of the Treaty of Accession of Greece to the European Communities. Notwithstanding the challenges with which the Community has been faced as a result of the world energy crisis, the Community has made important progress.

1. The election of members to the European Parliament held from 7 to 10 June 1979<sup>1</sup> is a token of an already advanced stage in European Union and of the participation of the peoples of the Member States in the construction of Europe. It is not simply a technical transition from one method of designating the members of the European Parliament to another method, but also an event the importance of which cannot be underestimated in view of the great hope it offers. By their participation in this election the peoples of the Member States have expressed their hope and their resolve to advance, effectively and logically, the construction of Europe. This call must not be left unanswered.

2. The entry into force of the European Monetary System<sup>2</sup> is one of the cornerstones of this effective and logical construction. Although the prime objective of the European Monetary System is to establish increased monetary stability in the Community, it cannot be confined to that. It must also form a basic part of a wide-ranging strategy and of policies aimed at increased growth in stable conditions, a gradual return to full employment, the harmonization of living standards, a better adjustment of industry to meet the challenges offered by the present-day economy and the reduction of regional disparities within the Community. The System is designed to facilitate the convergence of economic development and will therefore certainly assist in giving fresh impetus to the process of European Union.

In addition to specific provisions (Regulation on interest subsidies) adopted or to be adopted under

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<sup>1</sup> The first was published in Supplement 8/77 — Bull. EC, the second in Supplement 1/79 — Bull. EC.

<sup>2</sup> Bull. EC 11-1976, point 2501.

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<sup>1</sup> Bull. EC 6-1979, points 1.3.1 to 1.3.4.

<sup>2</sup> Bull. EC 2-1979, preliminary chapter.

the European Monetary System, with a view to reducing regional disparities, and the creation of a new Community instrument (the Ortolí facility), the Community has at its disposal a new regulation on the Regional Fund.<sup>1</sup> The originality of this instrument is that it permits specific intervention by the Community aimed at mitigating the local repercussions and combating the structural effects of particularly serious events in certain regions.

3. The challenge that concerns the Community in the energy field and the way in which the Community faces this challenge will have a far-reaching effect on its future. It is for this reason that the Community has stepped up its efforts to combat the energy crisis in order to achieve the following objectives:

- more moderate and rational use of oil as a non-renewable natural resource;
- continuing economic growth no longer reliant on an increase in oil consumption but based on the development of other energy resources;
- ensure that the most-needy developing countries will also have the energy necessary for their growth.

The European Council meeting in Strasbourg on 21 and 22 June 1979,<sup>2</sup> having considered the need for urgent action in the face of the serious world energy situation, affirmed the Community's will to play an exemplary role. It undertook that Community oil imports between 1980 and 1985 would be maintained at an annual level not higher than that for 1978, that transparency of the market would be improved, that the process of redeployment of energy within the Community would be extended and that the policy of energy saving would be strengthened.

4. The strength which the Community needs to meet the many challenges facing it will not be found only by strengthening its internal cohesion but also by opening outwards.

5. First of all by opening up to welcome those States which have manifested the desire to join the present nine Community States. The signing of the Greek Accession Treaty<sup>3</sup> is a first step along this road. The negotiations now being actively pursued with Portugal and Spain should reach a successful conclusion as quickly as possible.

6. This also involves opening up towards the developing countries, the poorest of which are alarmingly affected by the repercussions of the energy crisis. An indication of this opening is the signing of the new Lomé Convention.<sup>4</sup> It consolidates the achievements of the earlier Convention while introducing a number of new and innovative features which take into account both the experience gained and the specific requirements of our ACP partners.

7. Finally, the Community must open up to the world at large, and of the many instances which could be given here, the multilateral trade negotiations are worthy of notice.<sup>5</sup> As a result of the constructive efforts made in particular by the Community, a balanced result has been reached which must, however, be implemented in a uniformly correct manner by the signatories.

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 35 of 9. 2. 1979; Bull. EC 2-1979, point 2.1.37.

<sup>2</sup> Bull. EC 6-1979, points 1.1.1 to 1.1.19.

<sup>3</sup> Bull. EC 5-1979, points 1.1.1 to 1.1.19.

<sup>4</sup> Bull. EC 10-1979, points 1.3.1 to 1.3.5; Bull. EC 9-1979, points 1.1.1 to 1.1.15.

<sup>5</sup> Bull. EC 10-1979, points 1.1.1 and 1.1.2; Bull. EC 4-1979, points 1.2.1 to 1.2.11.

## II

1. In the course of 1979 the Nine discussed, within the framework of European political cooperation, the major political issues of international concern. In this regard the Ministers wish to underline that both through the activities of political cooperation and through the Community's external relations activities, the Europe of the Nine is increasingly regarded by the external world as a coherent entity in world affairs.

2. The agreed procedures for the gradual association of candidate countries with Nine coordination within the framework of European political cooperation were fully implemented. In the case of Greece, following the signature of the Treaties on 28 May last, this process has been intensified and Greece now consults with the Nine (through the Presidency) on all issues discussed in political cooperation. In addition Greece is kept abreast of Nine coordination at the United Nations and other international organizations, and at meetings of Ambassadors of the Nine in third countries. Following the second Ministerial meeting in the framework of Spanish accession negotiations held on 18 September last, Spain is kept informed on a regular basis of developments within Nine cooperation. At the appropriate time the Nine will implement similar procedures with regard to Portugal.

3. The Nine attach particular importance to their close cooperation on issues relating to the CSCE<sup>1</sup> process. In addition to consulting regularly on developments related to implementation of the Helsinki Final Act, they have been engaged in extensive preparations for the next CSCE follow-up meeting which will open in Madrid in 1980.

4. As at previous CSCE meetings, the Nine intend to make an active contribution to the Madrid meeting. They aim to make it a significant step in the development of East-West relations in Europe, thus giving a fresh impetus to the CSCE process and contributing to the advancement of *détente*. At Madrid the Nine will press for better implementation of all aspects of the Helsinki Final Act. They will also seek to have the meeting adopt new measures covering all the main areas of the Final Act which will effectively promote further

implementation and enlarge the scope of cooperation among the participating States.

5. To this end they are preparing their positions carefully on all the substantive and procedural issues connected with the meeting. Among the proposals they are studying is the French proposal for a European Disarmament Conference.<sup>2</sup> In addition they are engaging in bilateral consultations with other participating States in order to discuss all these questions and to facilitate a greater understanding of each other's objectives for Madrid and for the future of the CSCE process.

6. The Nine have continued to play an active role in the deliberations of the United Nations and its specialized agencies. During the present thirty-fourth Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, the Nine maintained their practice of seeking to concert their views, to express their common attitudes and to adopt common voting positions wherever possible. A general statement on major world issues was made on behalf of the Nine by the Irish Foreign Minister in the General Debate at the beginning of the Session. At the United Nations the Nine have in particular continued their efforts to promote respect for and observance of human rights throughout the world.

7. The Nine consult closely with a view to contributing in a constructive manner to the disarmament process. They participated actively at the first substantive meeting of the Disarmament Commission earlier this year and made important contributions to the formulation of the elements of a comprehensive programme of disarmament, agreed by consensus at the Commission, which will now be referred to the Committee on Disarmament.

8. Six countries of the Nine are members of the new Committee on Disarmament in Geneva. The Nine consult regularly on the issues treated in this important disarmament forum. The Nine maintain a high level of coordination on the whole range of disarmament issues which come before the United Nations General Assembly which they regard as an indispensable instrument for facilitating discussion

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<sup>1</sup> Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

<sup>2</sup> Bull. EC 11-1979, point 2.2.60.

and agreement among the members of the international community in the field of disarmament.

9. The Nine continue to follow closely developments in the Middle East. On the occasion of the signing of a peace treaty between Egypt and Israel on 26 March, the Nine issued a statement to the effect that they considered the Treaty to constitute a correct application of the principles of Security Council Resolution 242 to Egyptian-Israeli relations.<sup>1</sup> They added that a just and lasting peace in the Middle East can be established only within the framework of a comprehensive settlement. In their statement of 18 June the Nine deplored any action or statement which might constitute an obstacle to the search for peace.<sup>2</sup> They accordingly opposed the Israeli Government's policy of establishing settlements in occupied territories, nor could they accept claims by Israel to sovereignty over these territories.

10. In his address to the United Nations General Assembly on behalf of the Nine on 26 September,<sup>3</sup> the Irish Minister for Foreign Affairs endorsed the right of the Palestinian people, within the framework set by a peace settlement, to exercise their right to determine their own future as a people. He further stressed their right, through their representatives, to play their full part in the negotiation of a comprehensive peace settlement.

11. The Nine remain particularly concerned by the unstable situation in Lebanon, which they see as related to the problem of the Middle East as a whole. In statements of 18 June<sup>2</sup> and 11 September,<sup>4</sup> the Nine reaffirmed their support for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Lebanon.

12. After the significant progress achieved at the General Committee in Damascus in December 1978, the Euro-Arab Dialogue has recently suffered a slowing-down of activity as an indirect Middle East. The Nine have expressed their willingness to pursue the Dialogue and they hope that conditions will soon be favourable for a renewal of the Dialogue, which is a unique instrument for cooperation between the Community and the whole of the Arab region.<sup>5</sup>

13. The Nine have continued to cooperate to the fullest extent possible with African countries in promoting their development in a spirit of partnership. They have followed events in Africa closely and they remain convinced that such problems can best be resolved peacefully and through African solutions. The Nine have been particularly concerned about the situation in southern Africa and they have supported efforts to bring about, through peaceful means, the just solutions that are urgently required to the problems of the region.

14. Indo-China remains an area of great concern to the Nine. Following the Vietnamese intervention in Cambodia and the subsequent Chinese intervention in Vietnam, the Nine called for the independence, territorial integrity and self-determination of both Cambodia and Vietnam to be respected.<sup>6</sup> In the Nine's view the establishment of peace and stability in South-East Asia requires an independent Cambodia. In the Nine's view this means a Cambodia with a genuinely representative government, free from any foreign military presence, maintaining friendly relations with all the countries of the region and having the benefit of international assistance for reconstruction.

15. On a number of occasions the Nine have voiced their concern about the problem of the Indo-Chinese refugees and they called for immediate practical measures to deal with it.<sup>7</sup> In adopting concerted positions at the United Nations meeting on South-East Asian Refugees in July this year,<sup>8</sup> the Nine stressed the right of people to leave freely and to return to their own countries. They also expressed their determination to contribute to continuing international efforts on behalf of the refugees.

16. The Nine have already taken steps to respond urgently to the desperate needs of the Kampuchean people in the face of widespread famine.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Bull. EC 3-1979, point 2.2.74.

<sup>2</sup> Bull. EC 6-1979, point 2.2.59.

<sup>3</sup> Bull. EC 9-1979, point 3.4.1.

<sup>4</sup> Bull. EC 9-1979, point 2.2.55.

<sup>5</sup> Bull. EC 9-1979, point 2.2.58; Bull. EC 11-1979, point 2.2.61.

<sup>6</sup> Bull. EC 2-1979, point 2.2.61.

<sup>7</sup> Bull. EC 6-1979, point 2.2.58.

<sup>8</sup> Bull. EC 7/8-1979, point 2.2.63.

<sup>9</sup> Bull. EC 9-1979, point 2.2.57; Bull. EC 11-1979, point 1.1.15.

