

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(86) 227 final

Brussels, 11 April 1986

Overseas Representation - Developing and consolidating the
Network

(Communication by the Commission to the Council)

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Summary

The aim of this Communication is to take stock of the situation of external representation in non-ACP countries, and set out guidelines for its development in the medium term.

More specifically, it is planned to open four new delegations by the end of 1989, without prejudice to the overall budgetary priorities to be adopted for the financial years concerned.

I. Introduction

1. The aim of this communication is to take stock of the situation of the Commission's external representation in non-ACP countries and set out guidelines for its development and consolidation to end 1989.

The Council is asked to take note of these medium-term guidelines and call on the appropriate bodies to implement them in accordance with detailed proposals which will be submitted to it in the course of the normal budget procedure.

II. Existing network

2. At the present time there are 86 external offices in all; including those in the ACP States.

The ACP delegations are not covered by this communication. In the 66 ACP States which have signed the third Lomé Convention, there are 47 delegations and 13 suboffices (see list in Annex 1); three of the latter are soon to acquire the status of delegations. According to Article 228 of the Convention, the Commission must be represented in each ACP State which expressly so requests, either by a delegate or at least by a resident deputy. *)

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*) It is likely that some of the ACP countries where the Commission is not yet represented will ask for such representation to be set up in the near future. Moreover, in view of the increase in the volume of aid authorized under the third Lomé Convention and in particular the new guidelines for the development policy which will be financed as a result, it will probably be necessary to increase and diversify expatriate staff in the next two years.

Excluding the ACP countries, there are currently 26 external Commission offices, including offices of the EAC (European Agency for Cooperation), in Bangladesh, Costa Rica, Indonesia and Pakistan. There are press and information departments in most of the external delegations, with a separate information office in Turkey (Ankara). The list is given in Annex 2.

The network has been built up gradually over the last twenty years. Progress has been slower in recent years, however, although the Community's external relations have been stepped up at all levels, so the eighties are to be considered as a time for strengthening earlier attainments.

III. Future developments

3. In the light of the promising development of Community relations with a number of countries and regions, careful consideration will have to be given to consolidating the existing network on two levels :
 - i) firstly, the opening of four new delegations must be envisaged between now and the end of 1989 : one each in China and Korea and a further two, in Latin America and/or the Gulf, with the timetable depending on the

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political options and the priorities which the budgetary authority adopts for the financial years 1987, 1988, and 1989.

- ii) secondly, by an internal redistribution of existing resources the Jakarta EAC office is to be converted into a delegation, while the Washington delegation is to be backed up by regional representation in California and the Mid-western/southern United States.

As regards the setting-up of the four new delegations, four priorities have been adopted by the Commission based on the following considerations for each country or region in question :

- 4. In the case of China, the dynamic effects resulting from the new Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreement concluded last year will soon require the establishment of a Community presence in the country. The sheer size of China's economy and the economic restructuring measures already undertaken show that this country represents a potentially very important market. The excellence of relations with the Community, and China's support for its integration process, are additional reasons why the Community is anxious to extend and consolidate links and contacts with China. In addition to the numerous initiatives and steps already taken there is an important political dimension, based on the political cooperation at ministerial level which now exists between the Community and China.
- 5. As regards Korea, a country enjoying remarkably fast economic growth that has brought it close to parity with the industrialized countries, a Community presence is now also essential.

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Korea is an important market for Community industry. The country is pursuing a policy of geographical diversification with a view to shifting the direction and bias of its trade more towards the Community. A Commission delegation in Seoul would, among other things, assist this task and provide the means to monitor closely the liberalization of the Korean market, which is proving a difficult and slow process. It would also help to smooth out the problems which keep cropping up between the Community and this dynamic partner in world trade.

6. The Community's relations with Latin America will, in the years ahead, continue to represent a challenge. The Cartagena Agreement, ministerial conferences, the multiplicity of cooperation agreements - and their reactivation-and, above all, the Cooperation Agreement concluded with the countries of Central America, all bear witness to the revival of relations with the American subcontinent and to the political importance accorded to such developments by the Community. The Community's enlargement will, in this context, provide an additional dimension in view of the traditional links between the Iberian Peninsula and Latin America.

The Latin American countries wish to forge stronger links with the Community; the latter cannot remain indifferent to this desire nor, furthermore, ignore the democratic trend in Bolivia, Argentina, Uruguay, Peru..... It cannot continue to keep Mexico at arm's length.

A gradual strengthening of the Community's presence in Latin America is essential. With only one regional delegation * for the whole subcontinent, plus the bilateral delegation in Brazil, the political and economic potential of the

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* Based in Caracas, with two offices, in San José and Santiago.

Community's relations with Latin America cannot be fully realized. The Community should establish its presence by setting up two additional external offices, one in the Southern Cone in order that the Community can foster its promising relations with Argentina and Uruguay, and the other in Mexico in order to provide additional support for economic and political cooperation based on the current Agreement.

7. In the case of the Gulf states, the Cooperation Agreement now being negotiated could, in long run, make it necessary to set up a delegation on the spot.

There would be a number of economic and political reasons for such a step. The Gulf states have always been the Community's leading oil suppliers and theirs continues to be the third largest market for Community exports. Moreover, the regional integration process within the Gulf is a fact of major political importance, particularly for the European Community, which is itself a regional entity. Given the special nature of the problems in the Gulf by comparison with the Maghreb countries and the other Mashreq states it is not possible to develop relations with this region from nearby offices in Amman or Damascus. These remarks will be all the more pertinent when peace is restored in Iraq and it becomes once again an attractive market and an important country in the region. Moreover, a delegation in the Gulf would make it possible to consolidate contacts with North Yemen, with which the Community has concluded a Cooperation Agreement and a development aid programme.

IV. Strengthening the structure of the existing network

8. In the light of developments in the Commission's relations with the regions or countries where it is already represented, immediate structural back-up is indispensable, as far as possible through the redistribution of existing resources.

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9. Developments in our relations with United States show that the one Commission office in Washington is insufficient. Relations with this large country must take the political set-up into account, that is, the decentralization of economic life, the presence of the media and the political powers of the various States - particularly in the South and West. Our Member States have been adopting this approach for some time now in their diplomatic and consular practice. Although it is obvious that the major part of the Commission's activities in the United States should be concentrated in Washington, it would seem appropriate, in the long term, to set up some kind of representation, however modest, in other regions of major political and economic interest.

In this connection the office of the representative to the UN in New York might also be given a bilateral function which would enable it, along with the Washington office, to defend the Community's interests in political and economic circles and public opinion in the region.

In addition to New York it will still be necessary to arrange for the setting-up, not later than 1987, of the first regional suboffice of the Washington delegation on the West coast of the United States. California's economic and political importance is obvious and an on-the-spot suboffice should provide the indispensable links with the various interests concerned in the region, encourage cooperation between the representatives of both the Member States and European economic interests, and promote public relations. Depending on initial experiences, two other suboffices, in the south and centre (Midwest) of the United States, for example, might be envisaged from 1988.

10. The Commission presence in South East Asia is sparse. The Council and Parliament have repeatedly pointed to the problems of selecting and carrying out operations under our cooperation protocols and food aid and relief programmes.

The Court of Auditors has made severe and sometimes justified criticisms. In addition, it is proving increasingly difficult to cover Community-Indonesian relations from the regional delegation in Bangkok. The region's political and economic importance and the fact that the ASEAN secretariat is situated in Jakarta argue in favour of upgrading the existing EAC office to a fully-fledged delegation.

V. Conclusions

11. It is suggested that the Council :

- without prejudice to the budgetary aspects to be dealt with in the context of the 1987, 1988 and 1989 budget years, take note of the medium-term guidelines proposed by the Commission for developing the external network;
 - call on the Commission and the appropriate Council bodies to implement those guidelines on the basis of detailed proposals to be submitted as part of the usual budget procedures.
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LIST OF DELEGATIONS AND SUBOFFICES IN ACP COUNTRIES

ANGOLA	MALI
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA *	MAURITANIA
BARBADOS	MAURITIUS
BELIZE *	MOZAMBIQUE
BENIN	NETHERLANDS ANTILLES
BOTSWANA	NIGER
BURKINA FASO	NEGERIA
BURUNDI	PAPUA NEW GUINEA
CAMEROON	RWANDA
CAPE VERDE *	SAMOA
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC	SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE *
CHAD	SENEGAL
COMOROS *	SEYCHELLES *
CONGO	SIERRA LEONE
COTE D'IVOIRE	SOLOMON ISLANDS *
DJIBOUTI *	SOMALIA
EQUATORIAL GUINEA *	SUDAN
ETHIOPIA	SURINAME
FIJI (Pacific)	SWAZILAND
GABON	TANZANIA
GAMBIA	TOGO
GHANA	TONGA *
GRENADA *	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
GUINEA-BISSAU	UGANDA
GUINEA	VANUATU *
GUYANA	ZAIRE
JAMAICA	ZAMBIA
KENYA	ZIMBABWE
LESOTHO	
LIBERIA	
MADAGASCAR	
MALAWI	

* Suboffices

EXTERNAL OFFICES OF THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
IN NON-ACP COUNTRIES

Delegations

ALGERIA	(Algiers)
AUSTRALIA	(Canberra) **
AUSTRIA	(Vienna, IAEA, UN)
BANGLADESH *	(Dhaka)
BRAZIL	(Brasilia)
CANADA	(Ottawa) **
CHILE	(Santiago)
COSTA RICA *	(San José)
EGYPT	(Cairo)
FRANCE	(Paris, OECD, UNESCO)
INDIA	(New Delhi) **
INDONESIA *	(Jakarta)
ISRAEL	(Tel Aviv)
JAPAN	(Tokyo) **
JORDAN	(Amman)
LEBANON	(Beirut)
MOROCCO	(Rabat)
PAKISTAN *	(Islamabad)
SWITZERLAND	(Geneva, Gatt, UN) **
SYRIA	(Damascus)
THAILANDE	(Bangkok) **
TUNISIA	(Tunis)
UNITED STATES	(New York, UN) **
UNITED STATES	(Washington) **
VENEZUELA	(Caracas) **
YUGOSLAVIA	(Belgrade) **

Information Office

TURKEY (Ankara)

* Office of the European Agency for Cooperation (EAC)

** Press and Information Office within the delegation