

European Community

News Release

BACKGROUND NOTE

THE EUROPEAN FOUNDATION IS ESTABLISHED

On March 29, the Member States of the European Economic Community signed the Act formally constituting the European Foundation. Proposed in 1976 in the Tindemans report on European Union, the European Foundation aims at increasing mutual understanding amongst European peoples, promoting a better appreciation of European cultural heritage both in its diversity and its homogeneity, and fostering the concept of European integration.

The programmes of the Foundation will complement those of other institutions and bodies already in existence, and will not duplicate the programmes of the Community. The European Economic Community will allocate five million dollars (Cad) over three years to finance the European Foundation, of which 1 1/4 million dollars will be provided in the first year. In addition to funds furnished by the EEC, other private and public sources are expected to contribute to the support of the European Foundation.

The activities of the Foundation will include promotion of youth exchanges (young workers as well as students); coordination and promotion of research projects on European integration; encouragement of sociocultural contacts among member states; and exchange programmes for journalists.

The European Foundation will consist of two bodies: the Council, of which a certain number of members will be appointed by the European Economic Community; and the Executive Committee. The Secretariat will be based in Paris.

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 **Delegation of the Commission
of the European Communities**
Press and Information Service