



*European Communities  
Commission  
Press Release*

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BRITONS PREFER COMMON EUROPEAN FIGHT

AGAINST RISING PRICES

New Commission Opinion Poll

A substantial majority of people questioned in Britain believe that a common Community struggle against rising prices is better than independent action. This is one of the main conclusions in the latest opinion survey conducted on behalf of the Commission in the nine Member States in October and November.

Given a choice, the response in favour of Community action against independent action was 59 per cent to 37 per cent. The average percentage in the nine Member States in favour of a common struggle against rising prices was 72 per cent.

In response to another question, 76 per cent of those questioned in Britain thought that Community action was "very important", compared with a Community average of 71 per cent.

On the question of continued British membership, only 25 per cent of the British feel that the effect of leaving the European Community would be beneficial.

Forty-three per cent of the British asked thought that the effect of withdrawal would be "very serious", and 25 per cent "rather serious". On the other hand 11 per cent thought the result would be "very good" and 14 per cent "rather good". Another 20 per cent thought there would be no particular effect one way or another, and there were 12 per cent don't know.

More people in Britain think the Common Market is too complicated for them than in any of the other eight Community countries. Of those asked in Britain, 52 per cent said the Community was too complicated compared with 30 per cent in Germany, 37 per cent in Italy, 39 per cent in the Netherlands and 50 per cent in France.

In Britain, too, more people complained that they do not get enough information about the Community. Of those polled in Britain, 63 per cent maintained that the media does not carry enough about European problems compared with 37 per cent in Germany, 26 per cent in Belgium and 24 per cent in the Netherlands.

Note to Editors: The full document was being handcarried overnight from Brussels and further details will thus be available at this office as you receive this advance note.