

European Community

News Release

THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY RENEWS ITS TIES
WITH LATIN AMERICA

On Friday, 15 October 1982, Mr. Wilhelm Haferkamp, Vice-President of the Commission of the European Communities responsible for External Relations, hosted an informal luncheon for the Heads of Latin American Delegations accredited to the E.C. in Brussels. This was the first exchange of views between the Commission and the Governments of Latin America since the outbreak of war in the Falklands.

Mr. Haferkamp states that, "to remain silent, not to communicate under economic and political conditions as difficult as those we are currently experiencing, can only be detrimental to both sides".

"The Community wishes not only to renew but to expand its dialogue and relations with Latin America", he emphasized.

Responding to political signals from the European Council, the Commission has proposed a special aid programme for Latin America. In the same spirit, Mr. Haferkamp added that the Commission hopes to conclude a cooperation agreement with the Andean Pact in the near future.

Mr. Haferkamp spoke in favour of increased trade, industrial and financial contacts as well as cooperation in the fields of energy, research and development. He referred to the Commission memorandum on development policy which urges concrete improvement of the financial aspects of cooperation agreements, for instance, with Latin American countries, as well as increased aid to the least-developed nations.

The Commission also proposes the possibility of financial intervention on the part of the European Investment Bank as well as access to the Community's loan market for projects of mutual interest.

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 **Delegation of the Commission
of the European Communities**
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