



*European Communities
Commission
Press Release*

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Weekly Timetable of Community Activities - No 14/74

It is difficult in the present circumstances to forecast with any precision future meetings of the Council of Ministers. The way things look at the moment, however, is as follows:

April 29, Luxembourg, Council of Finance Ministers (NOT confirmed);
April 29-30, Luxembourg, Council of Agriculture Ministers (CONFIRMED);
April 30, Luxembourg, Council of Ministers on aid and development (NOT confirmed); May 2, Brussels, Council of Ministers on Education (confirmed BUT with a reservation from the British Government); May 7, Brussels, Council of Ministers (foreign affairs) (NOT confirmed).

The next meeting of the political committee of Foreign Ministers has been scheduled in West Germany on May 4 and 5, but these dates must now also be regarded as provisional.

Two observations are worth noting about the next scheduled Council of Ministers of foreign affairs. First, at the opening of the last Council in Luxembourg the chairman of the Council, Herr Scheel, urged the Ministers to take urgent action at the next meeting to follow up the communique issued after the last summit meeting in Copenhagen.

Secondly, the British Foreign Secretary, Mr. James Callaghan, who followed Herr Scheel, made his declaration on the British terms of entry and subsequently clarified at a press conference that Britain would follow Community procedures and work within the Community's institutions during the process of what he described as "renegotiation". He said Britain would not block further European integration unless it appeared that a particular step might prejudice this process.

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FLASHBACK:

On Monday, April 1, in Luxembourg, the British Foreign Secretary, Mr. Callaghan, made a declaration in which he said his Government was carrying out a major review of Britain's terms of entry into the Community and would make proposals to the Council about changes his Government would seek. He received a lively response from the other Ministers including a general consensus that both the Treaties and the preamble to the Treaty of Rome, giving the Community a political character, were not negotiable.

On Tuesday evening, April 2, the President of the French Republic, President Pompidou, died.

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