



*European Communities
Commission
Press Release*

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WEEKLY TIMETABLE OF COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES - No 7/77

Next Council Meetings

Brussels	March 8	Foreign Affairs
	March 14	Finance
	March 14 + 15	Agriculture
	March 22	Development
	March 29	Energy

Provisional Dates Further Ahead

Joint Council of Foreign Affairs/Finance:	April 6
Foreign Affairs Council:	April 5, May 3, June 20
Transport Council:	April 18 + 19
Finance Council:	April 25, May 16, June 20
Agriculture Council:	April 25, 26+27, May 16+17, June 20+21
European Council:	March 25 + 26 (Rome) June 28 + 29 (London)
Plenary Session of the European Parliament on Agriculture:	March 23+24 (Luxembourg)
European Parliament:	March 7 - 11 April 18 - 22 May 9 - 13 June 13 - 17

FLASHBACK

AGRICULTURE: The Commission announced at the weekend that it had approved proposals for the annual price review amounting to an average increase of three per cent across the board. The Commission regards the proposals as necessarily modest and budgetarily coherent.

The Council of Ministers of Agriculture had a first "tour de table" on the Commission's proposals. The Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg and Italy argued for higher prices; Britain said there should be no increases at all for milk and beef and all other products of which there were surpluses; Ireland, France and Germany were restrained in their comments, the last two concentrating on the growth of monetary compensatory amounts (which determine the "green pound").

The Council lifted its suspension of the Commission's procedural action against the British Government's direct subsidy to pig producers. The Commission is currently expected to tell Britain it must stop the subsidy, which is against the competition rules of the Treaty of Rome.

The Council approved a Commission proposal to set aside 400 million units of account (£166 million) to be spent over the next five years in aid of investments aimed at rationalising and improving the intermediate stages of food production between the farmer and the consumer, that is, the processing and selling of food. The plan should benefit producers by improving deliveries, and consumers by improving quality and keeping down prices.

FISH: Negotiations began between the Community and the Soviet Union on a framework agreement to regulate reciprocal fishing rights with the 200-mile limit. This is the first time the Soviet Union has agreed to negotiate an agreement with the Community.

The Community delegation was headed by the Presidency, Dr David Owen, British Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and Mr Finn Olav Gundelach, Vice-President of the Commission responsible for fisheries. There was major progress on a framework agreement to operate from March 31; later Russia applied for licences for 40 fishing boats. The Commission had proposed 27 with only 17 fishing at any one time. There is scope for negotiation on the number of licences depending on the size of the boats.

ATOMS: The Commission notified the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna that all necessary steps had now been taken for conclusion of the Euratom/IAEA agreement to come into force. The move is an important step in developing cooperation between the Community and the IAEA on nuclear safeguards and controls. The Commission hopes it will contribute towards an unimpeded and steady delivery of fissionable materials.

MALTA: The Commission has proposed opening negotiations aimed at the second step in commercial relations with Malta, which should mean the elimination of all customs barriers and the creation of a customs union between Malta and the Community.

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