

20 Kensington Palace Gardens London W8 4Q Q Telephone: 01-727 8090

March 25, 1977

# WEEKLY TIMETABLE OF COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES - No 12/77

# Next Council Meetings

Brussels March 29 Energy
March 29 Research

## Provisional Dates Further Ahead

Joint Council of Foreign Affairs/Finance: April 5

Foreign Affairs Council: April 6, May 3, May 31, June 20

Finance Council: April 18, May 16, June 20

Transport Council: April 25 + 26

Agriculture Council: April 25 + 26, May 16 + 17,

June 20 + 21

European Council: June 28 + 29 (London)

Economic Summit: May 7 + 8 (London)

European Parliament:

April 18 - 22

May 9 - 13

June 13 - 17

# FLASHBACK

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: A censure motion against the Commission over the sale of butter to the Soviet Union achieved only 15 votes. The debate, however, revealed a much wider satisfaction with the present system under which surpluses of Community butter can be sold to third countries with the help of export restitutions.

At the House of Commons the British Government survived a no-confidence motion with the support of the Liberals. As part of the arrangements between the Government and the Liberals it was agreed that a Bill would be brought forward on direct elections to the European Parliament.

20TH ANNIVERSARY: Heads of state and of government of the Community were today celebrating the signing of the Treaty of Rome 20 years ago. The celebrations preceded a meeting of the European Council (summit) at which the economic situation in the Community was likely to predominate. It was also expected that the question of the attendance of the president of the Commission, Mr Roy Jenkins, at the Western Economic Summit in London on May 7 would also be discussed.

#### FLASHBACK CONTINUED...

VAT: The Council of Ministers on fiscal affairs reached a large measure of agreement of the Sixth Directive on the common system of value-added tax and in particular of a uniform basis of assessment. This would complete the arrangements by which the Community becomes fully automatically self-financing from its own resources together with revenues from agricultural levies and customs duties. Two member states still have difficulties but the Council expects that it will be able to meet the deadline for introduction of complete self-financing by January 1, 1978.

MULTIFIBRES AGREEMENT: Work in this field was adjourned until April 18 while the Community tries to resolve its differences in order to pursue negotiations with GATT in Geneva. This office is just about to publish a background report on the multifibres negotiations.

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