



*European Communities
Commission
Press Release*

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WEEKLY TIMETABLE OF COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES - No 27/77

Mr Roy Jenkins, President of the Commission, will pay an official visit to London on Thursday and Friday, July 21 and 22.

On Thursday at 2.30 pm he will receive an honorary doctorate at the University of Aston, Birmingham. On Thursday evening he will have a meeting with the Prime Minister, Mr Callaghan.

On Friday morning he will meet the Foreign Secretary, Dr David Owen. He will call on the Queen at Buckingham Palace at noon and return for lunch with Dr Owen at 1, Carlton Gardens.

Mr Jenkins also expects to meet the Leader of the Opposition, Mrs Thatcher.

Next Council Meetings

Brussels	July 18	Eco-Finance
	July 18 + 19	Agriculture/Fisheries
	July 20	Budget
	July 25 + 26	Foreign Affairs/Conf. Greece
	July 28	Research PROPOSED

Provisional Dates Further Ahead

	August	No Council Meetings
Brussels	September 19	Eco-Finance
	September 19 + 20	Foreign Affairs
	September 26 + 27	Agriculture
Luxembourg	September 12 - 16	European Parliament

FLASHBACK

TRADE: President Carter's special representative for multilateral trade negotiations, Mr Robert Strauss, described his talks at the Commission this week as the most important since the beginning of the Tokyo Round. For the first time he felt sure that the political will existed to achieve substantial results. These talks sprang from anxiety over protectionist tendencies emerging as a result of excess imports in certain sectors.

Mr Strauss and Mr Wilhelm Haferkamp, Vice-President of the Commission for External Affairs, agreed that work should start this week-end towards drawing up elements of a global package by January 15 for a concluding phase in the current multilateral trade negotiations. A working party led by Sir Roy Denman, the new British Director-General for External Affairs, was flying to Washington this week-end.

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The package should contain 4 elements - tariff reductions, agricultural levies and non-tariff barriers, differing international codes (government purchases etc) and a list of global offers from all participating countries.

Mr Strauss stressed that the United States did not wish to threaten the structure of the Community's Common Agricultural Policy, but he equally emphasised that a package which did not include an agricultural agreement would not be acceptable to the United States.

SOUTH AFRICA: Foreign Ministers of the Member States meeting under the umbrella of the Political Co-operation in Brussels adopted a British suggestion to create a working group to study with the least delay the possibility of drawing up a code of conduct for investments and activities of firms of Member States operating in the Republic of South Africa. Mr Haferkamp promised that the Commission would consider possibilities of supporting such action through its common commercial policy.

CHINA: An exploratory conversation in Peking between a delegation of the Commission headed by Mr Roland de Kergorlay, Deputy Director-General for External Affairs, and Mr Cheng To-pin, Director of the Third Department of the Foreign Trade Ministry, ended successfully. The warm welcome of the Chinese authorities confirmed the political importance which they attach to a strong Community and the conclusion of an agreement.

Given the progress achieved and the evident wish of the Chinese to reach an agreement, it is now considered that the exploratory phase of the Community's relations with China has now ended and that the Commission will soon address a report to the Council seeking authorisation to open formal negotiations towards a commercial agreement. These negotiations could begin in the autumn.

TEXTILE: The Commission announced that it has drawn up a regulation to introduce quotas on the import of 4 sensitive products in the textile field originating from 5 Mediterranean countries with which the Community has preferential agreements (Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, Spain and Turkey), and 4 countries with which the Community has negotiated bilateral agreements on textile products within the Multi-Fibre Agreement (Columbia, India, Malaysia and Pakistan). The 4 products are cotton yarn, t-shirts, women's blouses and men's shirts. The quotas will be selective rather than blanket. The regulation was published in the Official Journal of July 14.

First reports suggest that the Indian Government will protest against the restrictions on the grounds that they are against the MFA and will cause unemployment.

FISH: The Commission has asked the Council of Ministers to approve a ban on the fishing of herring in the North-Sea up to the end of next year. The Commission has already approved a British ban on herring fishing within its 200-mile limit until the end of this year.

URANIUM: The Commission has proposed the setting up of re-processing plants for spent nuclear fuel to increase the Community's independence from outside sources of uranium for its nuclear power plants. It envisages re-processing plants set up in co-operation with nuclear power plants partly financed by the Community and open to Community and other countries at the lowest possible cost and subject to strictest control by EURATOM. The EEC imports 80 percent of its uranium requirements.

THE ECONOMY: A new routine (thrice yearly report by the Commission on the economies of the Nine) suggests that real growth may be as little as 3 % this year largely because of a slow-down in the rate of growth of the West German economy. The report envisages, however, a fresh bouyance for some countries particularly Britain which should meet the Community average. The Commission suggests that a third of Britain's growth next year will come from North-Sea oil, but the outlook as a whole in the UK is greatly dependent on an incomes policy and the report was prepared 2 weeks before the recent trades union conferences in Britain, which appeared to write-off the Social Contract.