



*European Communities
Commission
Press Release*

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

September 23, 1977

WEEKLY TIMETABLE OF COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES - No 33/77

Next Council Meetings

Brussels	September 26 + 27	Agriculture/Fisheries
----------	-------------------	-----------------------

Provisional Dates Further Ahead

Agriculture/Fisheries Council:	October 10 + 11	
Finance Council:	October 17	
Foreign Affairs Council:	October 17 + 18	
Fisheries Council:	October 24 + 25	
Energy Council:	October 25	PROPOSED
Transport Council:	October 27	"
Agriculture Council:	November 7 + 8	
Foreign Affairs Council:	November 21 + 22	
Finance Council:	November 21	
Budget Council:	November 22	
European Parliament:	October 10 - 14	
	October 24 - 26	
	(Debate on Budget)	

FLASHBACK

The Commission looks at the future: During the weekend of the 17th - 18th of September the Commission held an informal meeting at La Roche in the Ardennes to consider and discuss the future direction of European policy. The subjects debated included the institutional aspects of enlargement of the Community, the economic consequences of the adhesion of Greece, Portugal and Spain - especially in the Mediterranean area - and the future of economic and monetary union. Since the new enlargement would have as a fundamental cause the reinforcement of democracy in the new Member States, it was felt that it would be desirable for present members to make a political declaration of democratic belief which could be included in the preamble to the new treaty of enlargement. The Commission also agreed that enlargement must not prevent progress towards economic and monetary union, and that it must not bring about the accumulation of surpluses of Mediterranean agricultural products. On economic and monetary union it was felt that preparations for the December European Council should be made.

Follow-up: The "Noël group" has been asked to prepare the declaration on democracy by the Commission.

Comecon: A meeting between the Commission and a Comecon delegation ended with agreement to open negotiations for an agreement next Spring.

.../...

Sugar: The Foreign Ministers Council was unable to agree on a mandate for the Commission at the international sugar talks in Geneva. The failure was due to French opposition to any limitation of Community exports of beet sugar.

EEC, USA and GATT: Mr Robert Strauss, special representative of the President for trade negotiations, visited the Commission on September 21st and 22nd and had conversations with vice-President Haferkamp, Commissioner in charge of external relations. Both sides reaffirmed their political commitment to complete the present round of trade negotiations by January 15, 1978.

South Africa: A code of conduct for European firms operating in South Africa was agreed at a political cooperation meeting of the Foreign Ministers of Member States held on September 20th. The code deals with matters such as freedom to organise trade unions for black African employees, levels of pay, fringe benefits etc. Emphasis was also laid on the importance of desegregation at places of work.