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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## COMMON MARKET OFFICIAL TO VISIT JAPAN

WASHINGTON, D.C., February 9 -- Franco Maria Malfatti, President of the Commission of the European Communities, will leave Brussels Friday, February 11, for an official six-day visit to Japan. The trip is in response to an invitation from the Japanese government.

During his stay in Japan, Mr. Malfatti will discuss international economic and monetary questions and Community/Japanese relations with top-level Japanese officials.

He will be received by their Imperial Majesties, the Emperor Hirohito and the Empress. Mr. Malfatti is then scheduled to talk with Prime Minister Eisaku Sato; the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Takeo Fukuda; the Minister of International Trade and Industry, Kakuei Tanaka; the Minister of Finance, Miki Muzuta; and the Minister of Agriculture, Munenori Akagi, in addition to meetings with leading figures in the Keidanren (Federation of Economic Organizations of Japan).

Besides his wife, Mr. Malfatti will be accompanied by Emile Noël, Secretary General of the Commission, Theodorus Hijzen, Acting Director General for External Trade, and Renato Ruggiero, Chief Executive Assistant to the Commission President.

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