



**European  
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# PRESS RELEASE

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## PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY'S COMMISSION ANNOUNCES RESIGNATION

WASHINGTON, D.C., March 3 -- Franco Maria Malfatti, President of the Commission of the European Communities, today announced in Brussels his resignation from the leadership of the nine-member Commission of the European Communities.

He said he would leave the top Common Market post on March 22 to campaign for election to the Italian Chamber of Deputies where he had served for 13 years before his appointment to the Commission. The announcement by the 44 year old Italian Community official was prompted by the decision in Rome earlier this week to hold general elections in Italy on May 7th. Mr. Malfatti's term as President of the Commission normally would have expired on July 1, 1972.

The statement released in Brussels, headquarters of the European Community, said that Commission Vice-President Wilhelm Haferkamp would take up the duties of the President on March 22.

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The following is the March 3, 1972 statement of Commission President Franco Maria Malfatti announcing his intention to resign.

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"After informing my colleagues of the Commission of my intention of participating in the premature elections which will take place in Italy on May 7 next, I have just informed the President of the European Parliament and the current President of the Council of Ministers and have asked the permanent representatives to inform their governments.

"The exceptional circumstances which the premature elections in Italy constitute force me to discontinue the completion of my mandate and I am deeply affected by this.

"I took this decision after thorough consideration and having weighed all its implications. I should like to recall that I had accepted to assume the Commission's Presidency for a mandate of two years, until July 1, 1972. I have always maintained that I intended to be and to remain an active political figure and that I intended, at the end of my mandate, to take up again my role as an active political figure in Italy.

"As from March 22 and until the end of my electoral campaign, I will no longer take part in the work of the Community's institutions. I am in this way following the example of my predecessors at the High Authority

and at the Commission in similar circumstances.

"During this period, the Presidency of the Commission will be carried out according to the internal regulations of the Commission by Mr. Wilhelm Haferkamp, Vice-President in office. After the election campaign, and whatsoever the verdict, I will relinquish my functions as President of the Commission.

"Finally, I wish to add that I took this decision with the determination to continue, in the framework of Italian political life, working actively towards the task of creating a united Europe for which we all must strive more than ever before, and this on the basis of my deepest convictions and the irreplaceable experience that I have acquired in Brussels."

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