



euro

Recent Developments in the European Community

May 1993

MEMO

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EC launches new program to boost democratic reforms in Eastern Europe....the EC Commission has just approved financial support for 52 new projects aimed at broadening the development of democracy in 12 Central and Eastern European countries. Funded by the PHARE* Democracy Program, set up in 1992, the projects bring together independent experts from the East and West to help build democracy in parliamentary practice, human rights protection, independent media, development of non-governmental organizations, local democracy and education. A summary of the projects is available. All will receive a grant for up to 70 percent of their costs from the program's 5 million ECU budget (approximately \$6.3 million at current exchange rates) which the EC wishes to increase next year. *PHARE is the EC's program supporting government-led reform in Central and Eastern Europe. Originally aimed at Poland and Hungary, the first countries to claim their independence, its scope has been broadened to include almost all central and eastern Europe.

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The European Energy Charter....since the European Energy Charter was signed in the Hague, the Netherlands, in December 1991, the now 50 participating countries have been negotiating a Charter Treaty which will provide the legal basis for an unprecedented new era of cooperation in Europe in the energy field. Since March, a Charter Conference is now meeting in monthly plenaries to get the Treaty on paper by early summer. In its first plenary in late March, some key provisions were agreed, including the future role of the Conference and the Charter's institutions, investment protection and energy transit, but others require further negotiation. A press kit issued after the plenary also provides general information origins, aims and signatories of the European Energy Charter.

The EC carbon/energy tax....an EC delegation including Danish Environment Minister Svend Auken, who chairs the EC's Environment Council until June, and EC Commissioner for the Environment Ioannis Paleokrassas were in Washington April 5-6 for high-level meetings with US officials on environment matters, including the EC's proposed CO 2/energy tax. A detailed description of that proposal and its environmental and economic impacts is available. The US is considering a similar initiative and has given strong support to the EC proposal which calls for a freezing of CO 2 emissions in the EC at 1990 levels by the year 2000. CO 2 is believed to be a major cause of the "greenhouse effect" which causes global warming.

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The European Community and Human Rights....as a union of democratic states, the principles of representative democracy and respect for human rights are one of the central strands of European integration and of the European Community's identity in international politics. Despite their importance in all areas of EC activity, human rights were never specifically mentioned in the 1957 Treaties establishing the Economic and Atomic Energy Communities until they were amended in 1987. A new brochure, *The European Community and Human Rights*, traces the gradual development of human rights in Europe from the first postwar international declarations, conventions, and EC Court of Justice case law, to their formal expression in the Maastricht Treaty on European Union, signed in February 1992. The brochure also includes texts of landmark EC declarations on a variety of human rights issues.

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The EC and developing Asia...over the last 30 years, the EC has developed trade and economic relations with developing Asia, a group of 24 very diverse countries that stretches in a great curve from Pakistan to China and the two Koreas. While cooperation agreements are a key element in helping the developing world, the EC has developed instruments and programs of its own to ensure that trade rather than aid lies at the heart of its relationship with these countries. A background brief entitled **The European Community and Developing Asia** describes EC instruments such as the GSP (Generalized System of Preferences) which have helped make the EC the main export market for the major South Asian countries. But all is not trade - to guarantee EC cooperation, all developing countries must pay particular attention to human rights and respect for democratic principles, reduce excessive military expenditure and ensure good governance.

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The single market.....since January 1993, goods, services and capital can move freely across borders within the Community. The fourth freedom - freedom of movement for people - has not yet been fully achieved. **Speaking to the European Parliament Committee on Civil Liberties in April, EC Internal Market Commissioner Raniero Vanni d'Archirafi** explained why this important goal has been only partially implemented and what can be done to ensure more progress by the end of the year. The Commission has refused to take any action against member states continuing border checks, but agreed that if progress in dismantling them lags it may have to propose legislation to force member states to do so. The Commission is likely to wait and see if the Schengen group, to which 9 EC member states belong, is able to meet its July 1 deadline for removal of land and maritime checks.

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Recent publications in the Europe on the Move series:

- Questions and Answers about the European Community (March 1993)
- The Citizens and the Single Market (February 1993)
- Transport in the 1990s (January 1993)
- Strengthening Democracy in the European Community (January 1993)

Recent speeches by EC Commissioners:

- **The Role of Economic and Monetary Cooperation in the New Transatlantic Relationship**, by Henning Christophersen, EC Commissioner for Economic and Financial Affairs at the European Institute Forum, April 29, in Washington.

EC NEWS press releases issued during April:

- TOP EC ENVIRONMENT OFFICIALS TO MEET WITH U.S. COUNTERPARTS IN WASHINGTON, April 2, 1993
- EC COMMISSION PUBLISHES 1993 ANNUAL REPORT ON U.S. TRADE BARRIERS, April 15, 1993 (report available in limited supply)
- BACKGROUND NOTE: EC/U.S. PARTIAL AGREEMENT ON PUBLIC PROCUREMENT, April 22, 1993
- FIRST EC-U.S. PRESIDENTIAL SUMMIT WITH CLINTON TO TAKE PLACE MAY 7, April 30, 1993