



# european community

May 14, 1993  
No. 22/93

# NEWS

## MAY 13 COMMUNIQUE OF THE EC MONETARY COMMITTEE

The Ministers and Central Bank Governors of the member states of the European Community have, by mutual agreement, following a common procedure involving the Commission and after consultation with the Monetary Committee, decided to fix new central rates in the EMS (European Monetary System).

The bilateral central rates of the Spanish peseta and of the Portuguese escudo against other currencies of the exchange rate mechanism have been reduced by 8 percent and 6.5 percent respectively.

The new ecu central rates are the following  
(in units of national currency per ecu)

Belgian franc	40.2123
Danish krone	7.43679
German mark	1.94964
Spanish peseta	154.25
French franc	6.53883
Irish pound	0.808628
Luxembourg franc	40.2123
Dutch guilder	2.19672
Portuguese escudo	192.854
Greek drachma*	264.513
Italian lira*	1793.19
Pound sterling*	0.786749

\*national central rates based on market rates of May 12, 1993

Ministers and Central Bank Governors consider it essential for Spain to achieve the full implementation of the convergence program policies. [To qualify for full Economic and Monetary Union member states' budget deficits cannot exceed 3 percent of Gross Domestic Product. The public debt/GDP ratio must be under 60 percent of GDP.]

They also took note of the Portuguese government's commitment to their basic policy stance of budget discipline which in the view of the Portuguese authorities, together with continued wage moderation and structural reforms, will contribute to non-inflationary growth, employment creation and a decline in interest rates.

The agri-monetary consequences of the present realignment will be examined by the competent bodies.

The new bilateral central rates and the compulsory intervention point in the exchange rate mechanism will be communicated by the central banks in time for the opening of foreign exchange markets on May 14, 1993

Press Contacts: Ella Krucoff  
(202) 862-9540

Maeve O'Beirne  
(202) 862-9549

### Office of Press and Public Affairs, EC Delegation

Washington: 2100 M Street NW 7th Floor Washington DC 20037 / Telephone (202) 862-9500 / Fax (202) 429-1766

New York: 3 Dag Hammarskjold Plaza 305 E 47th Street New York NY 10017 / Telephone (212) 371-3804 / Fax (212) 688-1013