



european community

NEWS

No. 33/93
July 14, 1993

TOP EC FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICIALS TO VISIT UNITED STATES

Belgian Foreign Affairs Minister Willy Claes and EC Commissioner for External Political Relations Hans van den Broek will be in Washington July 16 for talks on a range of political issues with US Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Chairman of the House Foreign Relations Committee Rep. Lee Hamilton (D-Ind.). There will also be meetings at the National Security Council. Mr. Claes is President of the EC Council of Ministers since Belgium assumed the six-month EC Council Presidency on July 1.

The meetings are expected to focus on assistance for the New Independent States and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe following the latest G-7 summit in Tokyo, the development of the Community's Common Foreign and Security Policy once the Maastricht Treaty is ratified, the situation in Yugoslavia, and the Middle East Peace Process. The meetings will also discuss developments in the transatlantic relationship.

At 3 p.m. on Friday, July 16, Mr. Claes and Mr. van den Broek will give a joint press conference at the EC Commission Delegation (2100 M Street NW, Seventh Floor). Members of the press are invited to attend.

* * *

Biographical Notes

Willy Claes

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belgium

Willy Claes has been Belgium's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs since March 1992. A member of the Belgian Socialist Party (BSP), he has served in both offices in numerous governments. His first ministerial post (in the Department of Education) was in the Eyskens government in 1972.

Mr. Claes has been Spokesman of the BSP since 1971. He was first elected to the Belgian House of Representatives in 1968. His first public office was on the Limburg city council, to which he was elected in 1964.

Mr. Claes is author of numerous publications written in French and in Flemish. He graduated in diplomatic and political sciences in 1960 from the Brussels Free University. Son of a prominent Belgian musician, he has directed numerous performances of the Belgian Symphony Orchestra. He was born on November 24, 1938, is married and has two children.

../..

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

Hans van den Broek

EC Commissioner for External Political Affairs

Before joining the third Delors Commission in January 1993, Mr. van den Broek was Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands in the third government of Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers elected in 1989. Mr. van den Broek - a member of the Dutch Catholic People's Party (KVP) - also served as Foreign Minister in Prime Minister Lubbers second (1986-1989) and first (1982-1986) governments. He was State Secretary for Foreign Affairs (a cabinet-level position one step below Minister) in former Dutch Prime Minister Andreas van Agt's second and third governments (1981-1982).

Mr. van den Broek was a member of the Dutch Lower House of the States-General (Parliament) from 1976 to 1981 and became a member of the KVP's executive council in 1978. He entered politics in 1970 when he became a member of the Rheden municipal council until 1974. At the time he was involved in the management of ENKA BV, a multinational textiles and chemicals company in Arnhem, first as secretary of the board, and later as its commercial secretary (1973-1976).

A law graduate of the University of Utrecht, Mr. van den Broek practiced law in Rotterdam from 1965 to 1968. He was born in Paris on December 11, 1936. He is married and has two children.

Press Contacts:

Embassy of Belgium

Gisele Eggermont Lepage
(202) 333-6900

EC Commission Delegation

Ella Krucoff
(202) 862-9540