

No. 2/91
January 29, 1991

PRESIDENT OF EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT TO VISIT U.S.

Enrique Baron Crespo, President of the European Parliament, will visit the United States from February 4-7 for discussions with top officials on political, trade and human rights issues. Concerned about the situation in the Baltic States, the Parliament recently postponed a decision on European Community aid to the Soviet Union. On the Gulf crisis, the Parliament fully supports the United Nations Resolutions.

In Washington D.C. until February 6, Baron's present schedule includes meetings on Capitol Hill with Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell (D-Me.), Speaker of the House Thomas Foley (D-Wa.), Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East Lee Hamilton (D-Ind.), and members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

On the Administration side, President Baron will meet with U.S. Secretary for Agriculture Clayton Yeutter, United States Trade Representative Carla Hills, Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger and Assistant Secretary for Human Rights Richard Schifter. He will also see David Gompert, Special Adviser to the President on European Affairs, National Security Council.

Before his return to Europe on February 7, Baron and U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar will meet in New York to discuss the Gulf Crisis and human rights issues.

On 12.00 noon, February 4 in Washington D.C., President Baron will speak on the topic "Political Union: The Future of the European Parliament" at a luncheon organized by the Mid-Atlantic Club in the Conference Center of the Carnegie Endowment, 2400 N Street NW, 8th Floor. Tickets cost \$12.50. Those wishing to attend should immediately contact Madeleine Rotter at (202) 862-9500.

Baron has been President of the European Parliament since July 1989 when 301 of the assembly's 518 members (MEPs) elected him in a single ballot. A Spanish socialist, he is the first Spaniard to head a European Community institution. Since taking office, he has concentrated on strengthening the European Parliament as an institution, and on encouraging parliamentary democracy in Central and Eastern Europe.

Baron was elected to the European Parliament in 1986 and became its Vice President in 1987. Before entering European politics, Baron was a member of the Spanish Parliament (1977-1987), Minister for Transport, Tourism and Communications (1982-1985), and Spokesman on economic affairs for the socialist parliamentary party (1977-1982).

Born in Madrid on March 27, 1944, he studied law and economics there and in Paris. Before going on to practice law in defense of political prisoners and workers (1970-1977), he lectured at the University of Madrid and at the National Agricultural Institute in Valladolid (1966-1970).

Press Contacts: Peter Doyle
(202) 862-9530

Ella Krucoff
(202) 862-9540

EC OFFICE OF PRESS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Washington: 2100 M Street NW Seventh Floor Washington DC 20037 / telephone (202) 862-9500 / telex 64215 EURCOM-UW

New York: 3 Dag Hammarskjold Plaza 305 E 47th Street New York NY 10017 / telephone (212) 371-3804 / telex 661100 EURCOM-NYK