



**European
Community**

PRESS RELEASE

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COMMON MARKET INVITES APPLICANT COUNTRIES TO ATTEND

JUNE 30 OPENING SESSION OF NEGOTIATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

WASHINGTON, D.C., June 12, 1970 -- The European Communities have formally invited the Foreign Ministers of the United Kingdom, Ireland, Denmark, and Norway to attend the June 30 opening session of membership negotiations.

The invitations, from Pierre Harmel, President of the European Communities Council of Ministers, were presented yesterday to the heads of the applicant countries' Missions to the European Communities: British Ambassador Sir James Marjoribanks, Danish Ambassador Olav Gundelach, Irish Ambassador Sean P. Kennan, and Norwegian Ambassador Jahn Halvorsen.

Calendar Set for Negotiations

The current members of the European Community -- Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands -- reached agreement on the negotiating procedure at a Council meeting in Luxembourg on June 8-9. They also set a calendar for the first phase of negotiations, to be held in Luxembourg:

- o June 30, 1970: Opening session with the four applicants
- o July 21, 1970: First session at ministerial level with the United Kingdom
- o September 21, 1970: First ministerial session with Ireland
- o September 22, 1970: (Morning) First ministerial session with Denmark
- o September 22, 1970: (Afternoon) First ministerial session with Norway.

In meetings with candidate countries, the European Communities delegation will be led by the President of the Council of Ministers. (Every six months, the Council presidency is held by a different member country. When negotiations open on June 30, Belgian Foreign Minister Pierre Harmel will be in chair, but the role of chairman passes to Germany on July 1.)

At the June 8-9 meeting, the Council also completed preparatory work on the common negotiating position.

The Community's negotiating position will be explained and supported in negotiations with the applicant countries by the Council President or by the Commission, when authorized by the Council, particularly on matters involving existing common policies. As specific problems arise during negotiations, the Commission will receive mandates from the Council to explore possible solutions with the candidates and will then make proposals to the Council.