

# EUROPEAN COMMUNITY NEWS

**PUBLISHED FORTNIGHTLY**

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**COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES**

2100 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037 phone: (202) 872-8350  
277 Park Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017 phone: (212) 371-3804

JANUARY 19, 1973 NO. 21

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NEW COMMISSION FOR THE NEW COMMUNITY OF 'NINE'

The task facing the new 13-member Commission of the enlarged European Communities will be to realize the goals set forth by last fall's Summit meeting in Paris -- aims which include economic and monetary union, common social, industrial, regional, and environmental policies, and "European union" by 1980. "The task is heavy," said Commission President Francois-Xavier Ortoli at the first meeting of the enlarged Communities' Council of Ministers, in Brussels on January 15, "but we are prepared and ready...."

President Ortoli and the other 12 Commission members took their oaths of office on January 9 before the EC Court of Justice in Luxembourg. Three days earlier at an informal meeting in Brussels, the Commission decided each member's special responsibilities.

The Commission is a collegial executive that administers the Communities' Treaties and proposes policy to the Council of Ministers, the Communities' decision-making body. Commission members are appointed unanimously by the governments of the nine member countries (Belgium, Britain, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands). Commission members are completely independent and cannot accept instructions from any national government. Before the January 1 entry of Britain, Denmark, and Ireland, the Commission had nine members.

The President and Vice Presidents of the Commission are appointed for two-year terms. Commission members are appointed for a term of four years. The Presidency alternates among the nine nationalities.

COMMISSION MEMBERS' SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

\* President Francois-Xavier Ortoli (France): General Secretariat, Legal Service, the Spokesman's Group.

\* Vice President Wilhelm Haferkamp (Germany): Statistical Office, economic and financial affairs.

\* Vice President Patrick John Hillery (Ireland): social policy.

\* Vice President Carlo Scarascia Mugnozza (Italy): transport and environmental policies, protection of consumer interests, public information activities.

\* Vice President Henri Simonet (Belgium): energy policy, nuclear safeguards, harmonization of taxes, insurance, and banking laws.

\* Vice President Christopher Soames (United Kingdom): trade and external relations.

- \* Commissioner Albert Borschette (Luxembourg): competition policy, personnel, administration.
- \* Commissioner Ralf Dahrendorf (Germany): science, education, research activities.
- \* Commissioner Jean-Francois Deniau (France): budget, development aid and cooperation.
- \* Commissioner Finn Olav Gundelach (Denmark): internal market and customs union.
- \* Commissioner Petrus Josephus Lardinois (Netherlands): common agricultural policy.
- \* Commissioner Altiero Spinelli (Italy): industrial and technological policy.
- \* Commissioner George Thomson (United Kingdom): regional policy.

#### COMMISSION MEMBERS' OATH OF OFFICE

The Treaty establishing the European Economic Community states that "the members of the Commission shall perform their duties in the general interest of the Community with complete independence." In accordance with this and other Treaty obligations, the 13 Commission members pledged the following "solemn declaration" before the EC Court of Justice on January 9 in Luxembourg:

"I solemnly vow: to carry out my responsibilities independently, in the general interest of the Communities; in the fulfilment of my duties, not to solicit nor accept instructions from any government or organization; to abstain from any action that is incompatible with the nature of my responsibilities.

"I take cognizance of each member state's commitment to respect the nature of these responsibilities and not to seek to influence Commission members in the execution of their tasks.

"I vow, furthermore, to respect, for the duration of my responsibilities and after their termination, the obligations inherent to my office, particularly the duties of honesty and discretion regarding the acceptance, after that termination, of certain responsibilities or advantages."

COMMISSION PRESIDENT ORTOLI ADDRESSES COUNCIL

At the first meeting of the Council of Ministers of the enlarged European Communities, in Brussels on January 15, EC Commission President Francois-Xavier Ortoli made the following address:

"Because Europe now counts nine members and because we are setting out on our work after the decisive stage of the Summit, this first meeting of the Council of the enlarged Community is a milestone in Europe's progress and the starting point for decisive action for the future of our peoples -- the action which will lead, before 1980, to a European union.

"These two words are pregnant with an immense hope. We have reached this stage because, 20 years ago, there were men who were bold enough to imagine that Europe could be born from the harshest of all wars. We have reached this stage because the slow process of daily action together, the narrowing of ideological differences, the strengthening and fulfilment of the European venture undertaken by the Six, confirmed by the accession of three new members, has gone on without any faltering of political will. On the contrary, this will has become clarified and strengthened and finds expression in an ambitious and multifarious program with new objectives.

"We have reached this stage also because the Treaties establishing the European Communities provided for an institutional edifice whose originality and efficacy can not but strike the observer -- without it we would not have reached the point where we are today. For its part, the Commission is conscious of this. It knows what its role is, and I believe that it rightly assesses its responsibilities as a college on which the Treaties confer the power to make proposals and ipso facto impose the obligation to use its imagination.

"Europe's will to go ahead and to achieve its union encounters obstacles which are natural and which we must understand. But, knowing them and understanding them, a 'European audacity' must express itself with due regard both for the objective facts and for a common interest. We know, gentlemen, how heavy this task is, but this merely increases our determination to accomplish it fully. The excellent cooperation between the Commission and the Council will, I am sure, enable us to act in such a way that our joint action shall ensure the progress which is an imperative duty for all of us to bring about.

"Policies to be implemented, a union to be prepared, a schedule to be observed -- all this adds up to a sizeable responsibility. It is sufficient to read the resolutions of the Summit to measure its magnitude. But it is above all an opportunity. With a policy so clearly expressed, we can move faster and more freely toward the achievement of Europe. The field of action becomes wider. Along with the economic

and monetary union, the heads of State or Government at the Summit stressed the importance they attach to the human element in Europe, whether considered in the light of social policy or the environment. Their guiding light is not only in the quest for perfection in the economic machinery which will forward the union, but also in the social aims which are the essential issue. An opportunity, finally, for those bearing the highest political responsibilities, when saying that Europe should speak with one voice, to know what voice they mean: the one which will enable our continent to play its part for world peace, for the creation of outward-looking attitudes, and in the search for greater justice.

"All this means strict obligations for us, and we must put ourselves into a position to fulfil these adequately, that is to say, by acting in such a way that the progress on different fronts which is asked of us should be achieved in the best way possible and in the shortest time possible. Of course, this imposes on us a joint effort of organization. Each and everyone here is concerned that this should be accomplished. May I remind you that the Commission is prepared to play its full part in this respect.

"The task is heavy but the need is pressing and the stake is a stirring one. All of us have the feeling that we are participating in a great task which will leave its mark not only on one generation but on the future of a continent and of a civilization. I am therefore sure that we will found our cooperation on the same strong will which, in the interest of our peoples, will not flag short of the final achievement of all that a combination of boldness and realism permits. I think that we are all prepared and ready to do just this."

#### NIXON GREETES NEW COMMISSION

The United States wishes the new Commission of the enlarged European Communities "every success" in the coming years. This wish was contained in President Richard M. Nixon's message to EC Commission President Francois-Xavier Ortoli as the new Commission took office. The text of the message follows:

"As you and your colleagues of the Commission take up your new responsibilities, you have my very best wishes for every success in guiding the enlarged European Communities during the important period which lies ahead. The coming years should prove especially challenging as the Commission draws up programs of action to carry out the ambitious goals set by the leaders of your member states at their recent Summit meeting.

"On behalf of the United States, I am pleased to assure you, as you begin your new duties, of our continued interest in a constructive relationship with the Community. We face major common tasks and an unparalleled opportunity to build a more equitable and open international economic system. I am confident that, through close cooperation, our efforts will achieve success."

TRIBUTES FOR OUTGOING COMMISSION PRESIDENT

Although the new EC Commission members got the headlines, retiring Commission President Sicco L. Mansholt received his share of tributes, both from his colleagues and the press. *The Economist*, for example, said of Mr. Mansholt in its January 6 issue:

"He started out as an orthodox European, ready to defend the principle of EEC supranationality at the drop of a hat....But in the past couple of years Mr. Mansholt has become increasingly critical of the bureaucratic image of the community and apocalyptic about ecology, the population explosion, and the widening gap between the world's rich and poor nations -- all subjects which the present EEC does little about....His taste for dramatic gestures -- such as the famous letter to Signor Malfatti [his predecessor as Commission President] inspired by the report of the Club of Rome, his last-minute flight to Santiago in a bid to "save" UNCTAD III, or his broadsides against the present Greek regime -- was not always appreciated either by the EEC governments or by his colleagues. Deliberately sacrificing consensus in the Commission, he did more in nine months as President to focus public attention on it and its doings than anyone since Mr. Hallstein in the early 1960's. His successors now have to make use of the political impetus that Mr. Mansholt has generated in Brussels."

COMMUNITY AIDS NICARAGUA

The earthquake-devastated capital of Nicaragua received prompt assistance through the Community's emergency food aid program. An EC Council of Ministers decision on December 29 sent to Managua 200 tons of powdered skim milk to be distributed by the International Red Cross.

EC COMMISSION RULING INCREASES INDUSTRIAL COMPETITION

Small and medium-sized companies within the European Community may now contract specialized production agreements with one another. The EC Commission's ruling, announced January 10, means that specialized production agreements between these smaller companies will not violate Common Market competition rules. The Community has tried to encourage cooperation between small and medium-sized firms to make them more competitive with the giant conglomerates. Excluded from the definition of small and medium-sized firms are companies that hold 10 per cent of the Community market and have assets of more than \$163 million.

## PRESS VIEWS

### NEW COMMISSION SPELLS EXCITEMENT

\*Brussels -- These have been exciting days in the Brussels headquarters of the expanded European Economic Community. The new brooms have swept well. Perhaps everything has not gone quite as easily (and painlessly) as it seemed. Nor is the job of organizing the new Commission, or executive, of the EEC anywhere near being completed. But with the rapid division of labor, the Ortolini Commission has been off to a good start. Old hands in Brussels remember what happened in 1967. Then, too, the Community underwent a major transformation. The executives of the three existing Communities (Common Market, Coal and Steel, Euratom) were merged into one. It took the best part of six months to get properly organized. Very little other constructive work was done in that period. It is plain that neither Mr. Ortolini nor his colleagues want to repeat that experience. They have far too much pressing work confronting them. Some of it stems directly from the enlargement process and its implementation. There are also the many deadlines imposed on them by the Paris summit meeting of last October. On top of that, this looks like a much more political commission than its predecessors. Most of its members come from political jobs in their own countries. Nearly every one of them is young enough to want to go back to a political job at home, preferably a higher one. Consequently, they are all anxious to make a success of their EEC assignment. -- H. Peter Dreyer, *The Journal of Commerce*, January 15, 1973.

### HOPE AND DANGER

The enlargement on New Year's Day of the European Economic Community, with the addition of Britain, Ireland, and Denmark to the original Six, opens an era of both hope and danger. The results will be vital to the political and economic interests of the United States. The bright promise for Europe is the prospect of vigorous economic growth, and prosperity for the area's 250 million people. American policy since the war has approved of the Common Market and other forms of European unity, on the theory that a stronger, peaceful and friendly Western Europe serves the peace and well-being of the world we share. It is a sound position, and the Market already has partly fulfilled this hope....The biggest question, from our standpoint, is what kind of relationship the larger Community will have with America. Serious negotiations lie ahead on trade and monetary affairs, and the differences of interest and approach are substantial. If the talks go badly, we and the world's largest market could take a dispiriting turn toward more rather than less protectionism, to the economic detriment of all and with unpleasant political consequences. Dove-tailing concerns include a common stance toward the Communist nations and efforts toward East-West detente, and a reduction of the possibility of World War III. The future of the North Atlantic alliance is tied to our arrangements with the Common Market. President Nixon's promise to concentrate this year on relations with Europe has come none too soon. -- Editorial, *The Washington Star News*, January 9, 1973.

A SINGLE EUROPEAN CURRENCY

\*Brussels -- The British pound, the French franc, and the Italian lira someday may be as extinct as the Confederate dollar. In their place may stand a single European currency. It won't happen tomorrow, but it could come to pass by 1980, if the European Common Market has its way. The odds are strong that it will -- especially since a summit meeting of the nine Market nations in October endorsed the idea of a single currency. The plan holds obvious advantages for American tourists trying to keep their money straight during a nine-countries-in-eight-days tour of Europe. More important is a key to the Common Market's crucial next step -- its transformation into a single economy....The study which did much of the groundwork for economic and monetary union said the Common Market should have the necessary powers to ensure an efficient management of the union -- and one that is put under democratic control at the Community level. This is because the current method of decision-making on major questions -- regular two-day bargaining sessions among the member nations, with each holding a veto, would make chaos out of an economy. But what the proponents have in mind is that the democratic control would come from the European Parliament. This body currently is appointed and has no power. The Netherlands, among other nations, wants it to be directly elected and given power over a true European government centered in Brussels. This sort of political union is believed to be far beyond anything that France -- or Britain -- has in mind. But Common Market officials say they do not see how the nine nations can achieve unity in such a political area as the economy without achieving political unity as well. -- Richard C. Longworth, United Press International, The Washington Post, December 26, 1972.

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