

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY NEWS

PUBLISHED FORTNIGHTLY

The contents of this newsletter may be quoted or reproduced without further permission.

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

NO. 44 DECEMBER 7, 1973

EC SUMMIT MEETING COMING UP

A "Summit" meeting of the Chiefs of State or Government of the nine European Community countries will be held in Copenhagen, Denmark, December 14-15. The primary purpose of the meeting will be to discuss Europe's current oil crisis and the Community's transition into the second stage of economic and monetary union.

EC REVIEWS ITS RELATIONS WITH UNITED STATES

Technical details connected with today's economic and monetary problems should not be allowed to obliterate "the overall political objective of relations between Europe and America" according to the Commission of the European Communities. Its latest review of EC-US relations, released in Brussels on November 30 attempts to put these problems in perspective.

Among the topics explored are agriculture, nontariff barriers, American investment in Europe, trade, the monetary situation, and preferential agreements. "The European Community and the United States in 1973" may be obtained from the Washington or New York offices of the European Community Information Service.

EC-CECLA TALKS CONTINUE

A fourth round of talks between the Ambassadors of the European Community Member States and members of the Special Latin American Coordination Commission (CECLA) was held in Brussels on November 28. The meeting focused on the report of the Joint Working Party on Trade Questions, dealing with technical operation of the generalized tariff preferences and the promotion and mutual expansion of trade. The Working Party, set up at the previous meeting, was instructed to continue its research and to carry out two parallel surveys before the next meeting. The first study will evaluate existing procedures and structures for promoting Latin American exports to the Community and ones which should be planned in the near future. The other will concern EC exports to Latin America.

These meetings are held under the aegis of the 1971 Joint EC-CECLA declaration.

COMMUNITY
DEFINES
BROAD
SOCIAL
ACTION
PROGRAM

Detailed proposals dealing with aid and assistance for migrant and handicapped workers, harmonization of Member State legislation concerning mass dismissals and equal pay for men and women, and on universalizing the 40-hour work week have been sent by the Commission to the Council of Ministers. The proposals concern five of the priority actions of the Social Action Program which was sent to the Council for adoption on October 24.

The Commission recommended that Social Fund aid be made available for retraining handicapped workers who are either self-employed or in paid employment. To improve employment opportunities and increase mobility of intra-Community migrants, the proposals call for Social Fund support of programs to integrate migrant workers and their families into the Community's social and working environment.

To enforce the principle of equal pay for men and women, the Commission drafted a directive which would enable legal proceedings to be taken against violators, eliminate discriminating aspects of wage laws and contract agreements, protect those engaged in lawsuits against dismissal, and make employers subject to supervision and penalties.

The Commission's proposals for harmonizing Member State mass dismissal laws call for setting up a procedure requiring employers to consult with workers' representatives in an attempt to work out a solution and to notify public authorities of their dismissal plans.

Following notification, the public authorities will investigate the situation. They may prohibit the employer from carrying out any plans found to be unjustified.

LONG TERM
CREDIT HOUSES
SIGN PACT FOR
COOPERATION

A convention providing for closer cooperation between eight EC Member State national institutions specializing in long term credit was signed November 21 in Luxembourg.

The agreement provides a new framework for cooperation in promoting investments large enough to require external financing and involving the interests of two or more bodies. It also calls for continuation of joint research and information exchanges.

SOCIAL
FUND AID
TO ITALY
FRANCE
BELGIUM
GERMANY

European Community Social Fund assistance, totalling 19,574,872 units of account (UA) for Italy, France, Belgium, and Germany, was approved by the Commission on November 26, 1973. (One UA equals one 1970 dollar.)

Belgium will receive UA 30,785 for vocational retraining of handicapped persons. Social Fund aid for vocational retraining will also go to Germany (UA 11,909,683) and Italy (UA 7,564,096). Resettlement projects in France will be assisted by UA 39,938 from the Fund. Similar projects in Germany's North Rhine-Westphalia region will benefit from UA 30,370 in Fund aid.

EC SETS
TIGHTER
CONTROLS
ON AUTO
MUFFLERS

Mufflers on European automobiles will be subject to more stringent examination procedures if the Council of Ministers enacts proposals passed by the Commission on November 21. To ensure that cars meet the Community's "admissible sound level" standards, the Commission's proposals specify the continuous road tests and special "on the ramp" checks to be made on auto-noise control devices. In particular, the Commission has tried to ensure that car mufflers cannot be tampered with after examination.

These new measures will go into effect on October 1, 1974, from which time all new vehicles must be fitted with mufflers that meet the Commission's standards.

AID FOR
FARMING
IN LESS
FAVORED
REGIONS

Member States will introduce a special system of aids to raise incomes in mountain and hill farming when the Council of Ministers finishes its work on a directive authorizing such a system.

The directive, proposed by the Commission, is designed to maintain a minimum population level and conserve the countryside in certain backward regions by maintaining farming in those areas. It would also encourage beef production by offering mountain farmers a premium for every head of cattle raised. The EC European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund would provide financial support for the system.

On November 21, the Council agreed on the terms for enacting the directive and on the general criteria for eligibility. The actual percentage of EC financial participation in the system and a specific list of target areas will later be drawn up by the Council.

In other action, the Council moved to improve the olive oil market by deciding to: establish a buffer stock of up to 75,000 metric tons; allocate one per cent of EC aid to producers for establishing an EC olive grove register, and fix the target price for olive oil at 95 units of account (UA) per 100 kilos for the 1973/74 marketing year. (One UA equals one 1970 dollar.)

COSMETICS
SAFEGUARDS
PROPOSED

A prohibition on deceptive advertising and inadequate labeling of cosmetics has been proposed to the EC Council of Ministers to amend its October 19, 1972 directive on cosmetics. The amendments establish labeling specifications and stipulate that any warnings that have to be given on labels should also be printed on either the container, its package, or on a notice attached to it. The Commission would also ban any product advertisement which lays claim to effects not yet scientifically proven.

For products which meet EC specifications but constitute a danger to human health, the Commission would give Member States the power to halt marketing of the product immediately, for a maximum period of one year. During that time Community level action would be taken to handle the problem.

In the near future the Commission will make proposals on the maximum content of certain cosmetic ingredients, such as hexachlorophene, and will draw up a "positive" list of substances cosmetics may contain, with or without restriction.

EC NEEDS
BROADENED
TRANSPORT
POLICY

"The time has come to give a new impetus to developing the common transport policy" -- so begins the Commission's Communication on Transport to the Council of Ministers. Noting that the Community has undergone substantial economic and social change in recent years, and that enlargement of the Community has changed traffic flows and given added importance to air and sea transport, the Commission said the scope of the common transport policy should be broadened. The common transport policy of the future, the message said, should cover all forms of transport (sea, air, inland, oil pipelines, etc.).

To prevent national action from leading to increasingly divergent national transport systems, the Commission proposed the gradual development of a Community transport network through coordinated EC Member State action.

The Commission's message included a proposed action program for the years 1974-76. Highlighting the program was a proposal for setting up an EC Member State consultation procedure on infrastructure investment programs. The program also included proposals on transport safety (technical controls, speed, alcohol tests, etc.), sea transport, harmonization of working conditions, and organization of goods transport capacities by road.

EC SHOULD
ACCEPT
CONVENTION
ON ANIMAL
TRANSPORT

The European Community should adhere to the European Convention on the Protection of Animals in International Transport, the Commission told the Council of Ministers on November 11. Besides ensuring the protection of animals, the Commission pointed out that a primary objective in urging EC adherence to the Convention is to prevent differences in the Member States' animal protection laws from impeding intra-Community trade in meat on-the-hoof.

The Commission has issued repeated calls to Member States for rapid and simultaneous ratification of the Convention.

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY NEWS

2100 M Street NW Washington DC 20037

FIRST CLASS