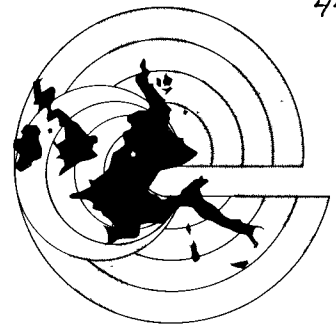


European Community

Beginning with October/September 1977...

August/September 1977



Introducing Ourselves

The Delegation of the Commission of the European Communities was formally inaugurated in Ottawa on February 16, 1976, shortly before Canada and the European Community signed the Framework Agreement on July 6.

The Delegation, which has been granted diplomatic status by the Canadian government, has a role similar to that of the Canadian mission to the EC in Brussels. The Delegation takes part in the negotiations and regular consultations between the EC and Canada. These cover:

- bilateral issues, such as agricultural and industrial trade, nuclear energy, and fisheries.
- multilateral issues, such as talks on commodity agreements, the multilateral trade negotiations in Geneva, fisheries agreements and cooperation with less developed countries.

In the context of the EC-Canada Framework Agreement for Commercial and Economic Cooperation, the Delegation plays a key role in initiating and facilitating cooperation, among the public and private sectors on both sides, in advanced technology areas such as telecommunications, electronics and aeronautics, as well as in some traditional sectors such as forest products and minerals. It fosters joint efforts in the fields of environmental protection, science and technology and development aid.

A Press and Information Service forms part of the Delegation. One of the main ways in which the P & I Service plans to keep Canadians informed about the European Community will be through a bulletin, of which this is the first issue. The bulletin will record EC events of interest to Canadians.

The P & I Service issues news releases and background information notes, loans films about the EC, and is preparing (in cooperation with the Canadian Department of External Affairs) a mobile exhibition.

The library carries official EC documents as well as books and other material on the EC.

A speaker's service whereby EC officials visit different provinces to lecture about the Community is also available.

If you are not already on our mailing list and wish to receive subsequent issues of the newsletter or any other material, send us your name and address.

Free Trade Zone for 300 Million Europeans

Canadians visiting Europe this summer will find that a 17-nation free-trade zone, benefiting 300 million Western European consumers, came into effect on July 1.

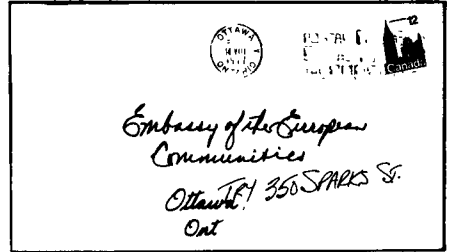
On that day tariffs were finally abolished — after a 4½ year transition period — on trade among:

- the nine-nation European Community and the eight countries that

make up the European Free Trade Association — Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Portugal, Switzerland, Liechtenstein and Austria.

- the original EC member states — Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands — and the newer member states — Britain, Denmark and Ireland.
- the newer EC states themselves.

The EFTA states are the EC's largest trading partner, taking nearly a quarter of EC exports in 1976.



Congratulations Post Office. First-class service!

The free trade provisions cover manufactured goods, and for some "sensitive" products, such as paper, a longer transition to tariff-free movement was negotiated.

Besides abolishing tariffs on trade among themselves, the "Nine" now apply a uniform set of tariffs on goods from non-EC countries. Since July 1, therefore, the original six-nation EC customs union (in effect since July 1968) has been extended to include the "Three".

Canadian and other tourists will still see uniformed officials at border posts. Within the EC, officials continue to watch out for drug smugglers and art thieves, to enforce national currency regulations (where they exist), to inspect imports of perishables, and to collect trade statistics.

And though the tariffs have gone, European governments still have to remove the other obstacles to trade, such as varying health and safety rules.

'Own Revenue' Budget for EC

Starting in January 1978, the EC budget — currently more than \$9 billion — will be financed wholly by the EC's own revenue.

In 1976, 61% was covered by agricultural levies and customs duties, which accrue directly to the EC; member states contributed directly most of the other 39%, according to their share of the gross Community product.

Next year, part of the proceeds of the value-added tax (VAT) — levied on sales and services — will be channeled to the EC, replacing government contributions.

This further step towards European fiscal integration follows the May 17 decision by the Council of Ministers to adopt a sixth VAT directive that will unify the way member governments assess the tax — for example, which activities should be VAT exempted.

Up to the equivalent of a 1% rate

levied uniformly (not 1% of total VAT revenue) will be available to help fund EC activities. Still to be achieved is the alignment of VAT rates, which vary widely among member states.

EC Urges Canada to Rethink Uranium Ban

Energy Commissioner Guido Brunner hopes Canada will reconsider its embargo on uranium supplies to the European Community while negotiations continue. Such a gesture will facilitate the EC-Canada talks, he said.

Mr. Brunner told a press conference in Brussels on June 13 that the EC is studying new Canadian proposals and will reply in due course. The embargo is causing damage to investors, firms and reactors, he said. While there is no immediate supply crisis, reconsideration of the embargo will be a token of goodwill, Mr. Brunner believes.

Mr. Brunner confirmed that shipments of highly enriched uranium are now arriving from the United States, as promised.

Canada and the European Atomic Energy Community ("Euratom") signed an agreement in 1959 for cooperation in the peaceful use of atomic energy. The current negotiations, which began last year, are intended to revise the agreement, following Canada's decision to require more stringent safeguards over exports of Canadian nuclear material and information.

Canada suspended uranium supplies on January 1, 1977.

During his official visit to Canada in July, German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt raised the problem of uranium supplies with Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau and members of his cabinet. At his July 12 press conference in Ottawa, Mr. Schmidt said Canada might resume exports of uranium to Europe on an interim basis, pending the conclusion of an international study to evaluate nuclear fuel cycling processes.

EC-Canada Fisheries Negotiations Under Way

Following the widespread declaration of 200-mile fishing zones, the EC is negotiating fishery accords with Canada and other maritime countries in the North Atlantic and Baltic Sea areas.

Its first agreement, with the United States, was signed on Feb. 15, 1977.



Mr. Alexander Ischkow, USSR fisheries minister, arrives at the Charlemagne building, headquarters of the Council of Ministers.

As the Community has substantial fishing activity off the US Atlantic coast, while the US does little fishing in the EC zone, the agreement is of a one-way nature, enabling a reduced number of EC vessels to continue working the Atlantic coast.

In the EC's continuing discussions with Canada — they began in December — the EC hopes to work out an agreement in which each would grant the other fishing rights.

Other countries involved in talks include the Soviet Union, Poland, East Germany, Spain, Sweden, Portugal and Finland. As the EC does relatively little fishing in their waters, it believes that the agreements should include the gradual withdrawal of their fleets from EC waters until a satisfactory balance of interests has been achieved. At the same time, Norway and the EC, which between them share the fishing reserves of the North Sea, are close to an agreement on reciprocal fishing access.

The EC talks with the Soviet Union are politically significant in that, for the first time, the USSR is engaged in negotiations with the Community, which it officially does not recognize. Pending the outcome of these talks, the Community has licensed a much-reduced number of USSR boats to fish in the EC zone.

Progress on the Community's internal fisheries policy has been delayed by major differences among member states over the degree of protection given to coastal com-

munities. Britain and Ireland oppose the principle of unlimited access by all EC fishermen up to 12 miles from the coast, and Ireland unilaterally imposed a 50-mile limit on vessels over a certain size. This measure led to the arrest of 10 Dutch vessels in May by the Irish authorities, and the Commission has consequently brought the Irish Government before the European Court of Justice.

The Belgian Presidency

On July 1, 1977, Belgium took over from the United Kingdom the presidency of the EC's Council of Ministers and European Council (the thrice-yearly meeting of the EC heads of government). The presidency rotates on a six-monthly basis and in alphabetical order.

The three dominant themes of this presidency are likely to be the direct election of the European Parliament, negotiations on further enlargement of the Community — Greece, Portugal and Spain have already applied to join — and moves to a closer "European Union".

Belgian Prime Minister Leo Tindemans has said he wishes to make the discussions of the Nine more political and the current situation makes this appropriate. On European union, Mr. Tindemans stated that "it is not exaggerated to say that Europe will or will not be, depending on the success of efforts to create a real [European] Parliament."

Major EC Events This Year

January 1977

1. Member states introduce a 200-mile fishing zone.
6. New Commission of the European Communities takes office for four-year term under presidency of Roy Jenkins.
18. EC signs cooperation agreements with Egypt, Syria and Jordan.

February

15. EC, United States sign agreement on access for EC fishing vessels to U.S. waters.
17. Agreement between Euratom and International Atomic Energy Agency, within framework of Non-Proliferation Treaty, enters into force.

March

23. EC Commission survives motion of censure in European Parliament.
25. EC heads of government meet in Rome for European Council and to mark 20th anniversary of signing of Rome Treaties.
28. Cape Verde, Papua-New Guinea and Sao Tomé-Príncipe join Lomé Convention, which now provides aid and trade links between EC and 52 African, Caribbean and Pacific countries.

Portugal applies officially to join EC.

April

5. Declaration on respect of fundamental rights within EC signed by Parliament, Council of Ministers, and Commission.

May

3. EC signs cooperation agreement with Lebanon.
- 7-8. Third summit of seven leading industrial nations takes place in London; EC Commission represented for first time.

May 30-June 1. EC represents member states at CIEC Conference in Paris.

June

- 29-30. Meeting in London, European Council adopts declarations on Middle East and on economic growth.

July

1. 17-nation EC-EFTA free trade zone, nine-nation EC customs union in effect.
- 5-6. Ninth semi-annual EC-Canada high-level consultations take place in Ottawa.
28. Spain applies officially to join EC.

EC Experts Study Canada's Public Finances

Canada was one of five federations looked at by a group of European economists reporting to the Commission on the role of public finance in European integration.

The experts studied how far public finance redistributed wealth to poorer regions and cushioned economic ups and downs. They argue that a bigger EC budget could help create a true economic union.

According to their report, public expenditure and taxation reduce regional inequalities in per capita income by 28% in Canada, 23% in the U.S.A. and 39% in Germany; the redistributive power between member states of the EC's finances is, however, only 1%, because the EC budget is so small and because the EC's revenue and expenditures have a weak geographical redistributive effect.

Study Programme Open to Canadian Journalists

Canadian journalists are eligible to apply for an eight-month course designed to give them a better knowledge of Europe. The course, open to experienced journalists between 23 and 35 years old, starts in November and takes place in Paris, Brussels and other cities. Fees are 25,000 French francs, but some scholarships are available.

Full details can be obtained from: "Journalists in Europe", Centre International d'information, 33, rue du Louvre, F-75002, Paris.

modernize France, drafted the dramatic offer by Foreign Minister Robert Schuman to pool the coal and steel resources of France with those of other European countries. The Schuman Plan paved the way to the nine-nation European Community.



A jury of buyers from Europe's major departmental stores chose these two European motifs in an EC-sponsored T-shirt competition.

Cross-Frontier Lawyers

In two years' time the EC's 125,000 lawyers will be permitted to defend their client's interests, in whichever Community country they reside. A recent EC directive will enable lawyers to provide services throughout the nine member states.

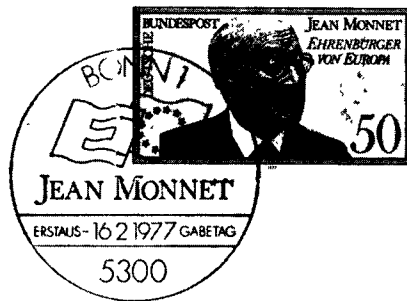
The free right of establishment is a more distant goal, as it requires various coordination measures and the mutual recognition of diplomas. At first member states will simply recognize lawyers from the rest of the Nine and permit them to represent their clients in their country.

Radioactive Wastes:

EC, Canada in 15-Nation Project

Scientists from Canada, the EC and other countries have agreed to study together the storage of high-level radioactive wastes in geologic formations. They will pool the results of their research and organize periodic meetings for a further exchange of information.

A total of 43 scientists from 15 countries met in May at the EC Joint Research Centre in Ispra, Italy, to discuss the problem, which the EC has been studying since 1973.



Jean Monnet Honoured

The German post office paid a rare tribute to a living statesman of another country when it issued a stamp this spring, bearing the portrait of France's Jean Monnet, one of the EC's founding fathers. In 1950 Mr. Monnet, Commissioner of the plan to

58 Bird Species Face Extinction

Of the 408 species of wild birds living in the EC, 125 are increasing in number, 221 species are declining, and 58 species are threatened with extinction.

A study on bird protection carried out for the Commission indicates that the massive destruction of migratory and song birds threatens Europe's ecological balance, because it causes plant parasites to proliferate.

EC Awards for Urban Renewal

The EC Commission is following up last year's UN Habitat conference in Vancouver on "human settlements" by arranging for European awards to publicize the best efforts in urban renewal. The biggest problem highlighted at Habitat was the decline of inner-city housing, and the Commission will report on solutions in that area.

Smokers Undeterred

Ever heavier tobacco taxes and numerous anti-smoking campaigns have not curbed the smoking habits of EC citizens. In 1975, around 400 billion cigarettes went up in smoke. Tobacco remains a major sector of the EC economy, with consumption rising steadily over the last 15 years.

Germans Most Self-Confident

Of the nine EC member nations, it appears that the Germans have the most self-confidence and Italians the least. Eurobarometre, an EC opinion poll, puts Luxembourg and Belgium behind the confident Germans, followed closely by the British, Dutch, Irish, Danish and French.

Electronic Traffic Aids

Six EC countries are working with five other European countries in an attempt to use electronics to help traffic on Europe's main roads. Belgium, Germany, France, Britain, Italy and the Netherlands, along with Austria, Finland, Sweden, Switzerland and Yugoslavia, plan a harmonized European traffic system.

An electronic system of traffic direction will give roadside information, and will be able to detect traffic levels and bad weather that might threaten visibility and road safety.

Car Output Peaked in 1973

The production of private cars in the EC peaked in 1973 — 10.7 million units, compared with 6.6 mn in 1963,

and 8.7 mn in 1975. Exports amounted to 5.7 million in 1973, compared with 2.8 mn in 1963 and 4.8 mn in 1975.

Europe in Print

The following EC publications are available free of charge, in French and English, from the European Community Information Service, 350 Sparks Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1R 7S8:

European Community: The Facts
Prepared in cooperation with the Canadian Department of External Affairs, "The Facts" summarizes the European Community's development, institutions, policies and external affairs.

The European Parliament
This illustrated brochure explains the origin, role, power and external relations of the European Parliament.

History in the Making
A review of the EC's progress, issued on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the signing of the 1957 Rome Treaties. (in English only)

European Community Assistance for University Studies
A guide to assistance available for university studies and research in the field of European integration.

The following selection of official EC publications can be obtained from the Office of Official Publications of the European Community, Post Office Box 1003, Luxembourg. Unless otherwise indicated, the publications are available in French and English.

Bulletin of the European Community, 1977. A monthly review of EC activities. Annual subscription. . . . \$15.85

Tenth General Report of the Activities of the European Community, 1977 \$5.80

Competition Policy: Sixth Report, 1977 \$5.50

State of the Environment: Report of the Commission of the European Communities, 1977 \$12.50

Commission Regulation on the Application of the Provision of Euratom Safeguards. EC Official Journal. Volume 19, No. 1361, 1976 \$1.20

Agricultural Situation in the Community, 1976 Report \$17.20

Inventory of Taxes: 1976. Lists taxes levied by the state and local authorities of EC member states, 1976 \$28.70

The Methodology of the United Kingdom Balance of Payments, 1976 \$8.00

Other Recent Publications

Policy Making in the European Communities. Edited by Helen Wallace, William Wallace and Carole Webb. New York: John Wiley and Sons Ltd., 1977 \$24.60

The Regional Economic Policy of the European Community. By Thomas N. Brewis. Carleton International Studies. Ottawa: Carleton University, 1977 \$2.00

International Perspectives. March/April 1976. Department of External Affairs, Ottawa. Articles by James Langley, "Towards European Unity"; Jean-Yves Grenon, "Canada's Developing Relations with the Europe of the 'Eighteen'"; and David Humphreys, "Canada's Link With Europe Still Not Understood".

Last Words

"The Marshall Plan still stands as the great creative initiative of American diplomacy since the war . . . A creative act was required from [the European] side of the Atlantic, too, and it was forthcoming: the movement toward West European unity. The ideas took form in the Common Market, but something much deeper was involved. Stanley Hoffmann of Harvard has called it "a will to reconciliation" — a determination to restrain the nationalist rivalries that had twice savaged Europe in this century." — Anthony Lewis, in the New York Times, on the 30th Anniversary of the Marshall Plan.

"The major growth business, internationally, is bureaucracy. The Lord's Prayer contains 56 words, the Ten Commandments 297, the American Declaration of Independence 300 and the Common Market directive on the export of duck eggs 26,911." — Kenneth Fleet, in the London Sunday Times.

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août/Septembre 1977

Nous voici!

La délégation de la Commission des Communautés européennes a ouvert officiellement ses portes à Ottawa le 16 février 1976, peu avant la signature, le 6 juillet, de l'accord-cadre entre le Canada et la Communauté européenne.

La délégation, à qui le gouvernement canadien a accordé un statut diplomatique, a un rôle semblable à celui de la mission canadienne auprès de la C.E. à Bruxelles. Elle prend part aux négociations et aux consultations régulières entre la C.E. et le Canada couvrant, entre autres, les sujets suivants:

— les questions bilatérales, telles que le commerce dans les domaines agricole et industriel, l'énergie nucléaire et la pêche.

— les questions multilatérales, telles que les pourparlers sur les accords portant sur les produits de base, les négociations commerciales multilatérales à Genève, les accords sur la pêche et la coopération avec les pays en voie de développement.

Dans le contexte de l'accord-cadre de coopération commerciale et économique entre la C.E. et le Canada, la délégation joue un rôle clé en amorçant et en favorisant de part et d'autre la coopération réciproque entre les secteurs public et privé, dans les secteurs de haute technologie tels que les télécommunications, l'électronique et l'industrie aérospatiale, de même que dans quelques secteurs traditionnels comme les produits forestiers et les minéraux. Elle encourage également les projets conjoints dans les domaines de la protection de l'environnement, de la science et technologie et de l'aide au développement.

Un bureau de Presse et d'Information fait partie de la délégation. Un bulletin d'information, dont c'est la première livraison, est un des moyens par lesquels nous comptons renseigner les Canadiens sur la Communauté européenne. Ce bulletin relatara les activités de la C.E. susceptibles d'intéresser les Canadiens.

Le bureau de Presse publie des communiqués et des notes d'information détaillées, assure le prêt de films sur la C.E. et prépare présentement une exposition itinérante, en collaboration avec le ministère des Affaires extérieures.

Les publications officielles de la C.E. peuvent être consultées sur place, à la bibliothèque, de même qu'une documentation générale.

Des visites dans les provinces canadiennes de conférenciers de la C.E. traitant de questions communautaires peuvent également être planifiées par le bureau de Presse.

Si vous ne figurez pas sur notre liste de diffusion et désirez recevoir les numéros subséquents à ce bulletin, ou toute autre pièce d'information, veuillez nous faire parvenir votre nom et adresse.



Ambassade de l'Europe
Ottawa, Ontario
July 30, 1976

Félicitations au bureau de Poste.
Service de première classe!

Une zone de libre-échange pour 300 millions d'Européens

Les Canadiens qui visiteront l'Europe cet été constateront qu'une zone de libre-échange englobant 17 pays profite à quelque 300 millions de consommateurs de l'Europe de l'Ouest et ce, depuis le 1er juillet.

Les barrières tarifaires ont en effet finalement été abolies après une période transitoire de quatre ans et demi entre:

- les neuf pays membres de la Communauté européenne et les huit pays formant l'Association européenne de libre-échange — Islande, Norvège, Finlande, Suède, Portugal, Suisse, Liechtenstein et Autriche.
- les six membres fondateurs de la C.E. — Allemagne, Belgique, France, Italie, Luxembourg et Pays-Bas — et les trois plus récents Etats membres — Grande-Bretagne, Danemark, Irlande.
- les plus récents Etats membres eux-mêmes.

L'A.E.L.E. est le principal partenaire commercial de la Communauté; en 1976, ces pays ont absorbé près du quart des exportations de la Communauté.

Les dispositions relatives au libre-échange touchent principalement les produits manufacturés; une période transitoire plus longue a été prévue pour les quelques produits dits "sensibles", tels que le papier.

Les Neuf ont convenu que, en plus de l'abolition des barrières tarifaires commerciales entre eux, ils appliquent maintenant un ensemble de mesures tarifaires sur les biens provenant des pays à l'extérieur de la Communauté. Par conséquent, depuis le 1er juillet, l'union douanière de la C.E. (datant de juillet 1968) a été étendue aux trois plus récents membres.

Par ailleurs, les touristes verront encore les douaniers lorsqu'ils franchiront les postes frontaliers; en effet, les douaniers continueront, à l'intérieur de la C.E., à dépister les passeurs de drogue et les voleurs

d'oeuvres d'art, à mettre en vigueur les règlements relatifs aux changes nationaux (où ils existent), à effectuer le contrôle des denrées périssables et à établir des statistiques sur les échanges commerciaux.

Bien que les barrières tarifaires aient été abolies, les gouvernements européens doivent encore franchir d'autres obstacles au commerce, entre autres, les variations dans les règlements sur la santé et la sécurité.

Un régime budgétaire de ressources propres à la C.E.

A compter de janvier 1978, le budget de la Communauté européenne — atteignant cette année quelque \$9 milliards — sera entièrement financé par les ressources propres de la Communauté.

En 1976, 61% du budget étaient constitués de prélèvements et de droits de douane allant directement à la C.E.; les Etats membres comblaient le solde budgétaire, leurs contributions variant suivant leur part au produit communautaire brut.

L'an prochain, une partie des montants dérivés de la taxe sur la valeur ajoutée (T.V.A.) — laquelle est prélevée sur les ventes et les services — alimentera le budget de la C.E. en remplacement des contributions financières gouvernementales.

Cette étape importante vers l'intégration fiscale européenne suit la décision du Conseil des ministres du 17 mai d'adopter une sixième directive T.V.A. suivant laquelle les gouvernements des Etats membres harmoniseront la manière d'imposer cette taxe — quelles activités doivent être exemptées de la T.V.A. par exemple.

Les activités de la C.E. seront dès lors financées partiellement avec l'aide d'un certain pourcentage des recettes provenant de la T.V.A., perçues de façon uniforme (maximum 1% de l'assiette et non 1% du revenu total de la T.V.A.). Il reste néanmoins à aligner les taux de la T.V.A., lesquels varient grandement entre les Etats membres.

La C.E. prie le Canada de repenser l'embargo sur l'uranium

Le commissaire à l'énergie, M. Guido Brunner, espère que le Canada reconsidérera son embargo sur les approvisionnements d'uranium vers la Communauté européenne alors que les négociations se poursuivent. Un tel geste, a-t-il dit, faciliterait les pourparlers C.E./Canada.

M. Brunner, s'adressant ainsi lors d'une conférence de presse tenue à Bruxelles le 13 juin, a poursuivi en disant que la C.E. étudie présentement de nouvelles offres canadiennes auxquelles elle répondra en temps opportun. L'embargo cause préjudice aux investisseurs, aux firmes et aux

réacteurs, a-t-il dit. Bien qu'il n'y ait pas encore de crise de l'approvisionnement, M. Brunner croit qu'une reconsidération de l'embargo serait une preuve de bonne volonté.

M. Brunner a confirmé la reprise des livraisons d'uranium hautement enrichi provenant des Etats-Unis, telle que promise.

Le Canada et la Communauté européenne de l'énergie atomique (Euratom) ont signé, en 1959, un accord de coopération sur l'utilisation pacifique de l'énergie atomique. Les négociations en cours, lesquelles ont débuté l'année dernière, ont pour but de réviser cet accord, à la suite de la décision canadienne d'exiger des contrôles plus rigoureux sur le matériel et l'information nucléaires canadiens exportés.

Le Canada a suspendu ses livraisons d'uranium le 1er janvier 1977.

Lors de sa visite officielle au Canada en juillet, le Chancelier allemand Helmut Schmidt a soulevé le problème de l'approvisionnement en uranium avec le Premier ministre Pierre Trudeau et les membres de son cabinet. Au cours de sa conférence de presse à Ottawa le 12 juillet, M. Schmidt a dit que le Canada pourrait reprendre provisoirement ses exportations d'uranium vers l'Europe en attendant la conclusion de l'étude internationale d'évaluation du cycle combustible nucléaire.

Poursuite des négociations C.E.-Canada sur la pêche

Faisant suite à la déclaration générale de porter les zones de pêche à 200 milles marins, la C.E. est à négocier des accords sur la pêche avec le Canada et d'autres pays de la région de l'Atlantique Nord et de la mer Baltique.

Un premier accord a été signé avec les Etats-Unis le 15 février 1977. Cet accord est pratiquement à sens unique, la Communauté pêchant considérablement au large de la côte américaine de l'Atlantique alors que les Etats-Unis pénètrent très peu dans la zone de pêche communautaire; un nombre réduit de chalutiers de la C.E. est ainsi admis dans cette zone de l'Atlantique.

La C.E. espère par ailleurs en arriver, par ses négociations avec le Canada — lesquelles ont débuté en décembre dernier — à un accord stipulant des droits de pêche réciproques.

L'Union Soviétique, la Pologne, l'Allemagne de l'Est, l'Espagne, la Suède, le Portugal et la Finlande sont également impliqués dans des pourparlers avec la Communauté. Comme la C.E. pêche relativement peu dans leurs eaux respectives, elle croit que les accords devraient inclure le retrait progressif de leurs flottes des eaux communautaires, à moins d'en arriver à un juste équilibre au chapitre



M. Alexander Ischkow, ministre de la pêche de l'U.R.S.S., arrive au bâtiment Charlemagne, siège du Conseil des ministres.

des intérêts. Parallèlement, la Norvège et la C.E., qui se partagent les réserves de pêche de la Mer du Nord, sont sur le point de conclure un accord portant sur un accès réciproque à la pêche.

Les pourparlers entre la C.E. et l'Union Soviétique revêtent une signification politique importante en cela qu'il s'agit de la première fois où l'U.R.S.S. est engagée dans des négociations avec la Communauté, qu'elle ne reconnaît d'ailleurs pas officiellement. En attendant la conclusion des négociations, la Communauté a octroyé un nombre très réduit de licences de pêche aux bateaux de l'U.R.S.S.

Le retard accusé par la C.E. au chapitre de l'implantation d'une politique interne sur la pêche est dû à des divergences d'opinion entre les Etats membres, sur le degré de protection à accorder aux communautés côtières. La Grande-Bretagne et l'Irlande s'opposent au principe de l'accès illimité par tous les pêcheurs de la C.E. jusqu'à 12 milles des côtes; l'Irlande a donc rétorqué en imposant unilatéralement une limite de 50 milles aux bateaux excédant une certaine taille. Cette mesure a mené à l'arrestation par les autorités irlandaises de 10 bateaux hollandais, forçant la Commission à mener le gouvernement irlandais devant la Cour européenne de justice.

Au tour de la Belgique

Depuis le premier juillet, la Belgique a succédé à la Grande-Bretagne en assumant la présidence du Conseil des ministres de la C.E. et du Conseil européen, réunion tri-annuelle des chefs de gouvernement de la C.E. La présidence alterne tous les six mois et ce, par ordre alphabétique.

Trois dossiers importants domineront vraisemblablement l'actualité européenne: l'élection du Parlement européen au suffrage universel, les négociations en vue de l'élargissement de la Communauté — la Grèce, le Portugal et l'Espagne ont déjà posé officiellement leur candidature — et la poursuite de la marche vers "l'union européenne".

Le Premier ministre belge Léo Tindemans a déjà exprimé sa volonté de rendre plus politiques les débats des Neuf, faisant remarquer que la situation présente s'y prêtait. Parlant