

# European Community NEWS

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## US-EC ENVIRONMENT COOPERATION ACCORD

The United States and the European Community have agreed on technical cooperation methods in the field of environment, in an exchange of letters published July 2. The letters call for US-EC information exchanges in such areas as pollutant measurements and their harmful effects; energy production effects on the environment; toxic wastes and related public information or education programs, and trade problems arising from environmental measures. The final text of the letters was negotiated between EC Commission Vice President Carlo Scarascia Mugnozza and Special Assistant to the Secretary of State for Environmental Affairs Christian A. Herter, Jr. during Scarascia's June 1-5 visit to Washington.

## FORTHCOMING TALKS ON EC WORKING CONDITIONS

A conference on improving European working conditions will be held in Brussels November 5-7. European Community experts from member state governments, employers and workers' organizations, research institutes, and universities will attend the meetings. The Commission has organized the conference to help finalize forthcoming proposals for improving the EC working situation. Commissioner Altiero Spinelli (in charge of industrial policy) and Vice President Patrick Hillery (social affairs) will also participate.

## LDC'S UNDERUSE THE EC'S GENERALIZED PREFERENCES

Developing countries are not taking full advantage of the European Community's system of generalized preferences, Commission External Relations official Van Thinh Tran said at a July 1 press conference in Brussels. Of the 104 countries eligible for EC preferences, only 54 have applied for needed customs certificates and 40 have effectively benefited from the system, Tran said. Additionally, developing country 1972 industrial exports to the Community (excluding textiles) totalled 319 million units of account (UA), only 42 per cent of the amount allowed under the preference system. (One UA equals \$1.20635 at current rates.) Only Yugoslavia, Brazil, Hong Kong, and Singapore surpassed the 50 per cent mark. The Community's import ceiling for products falling under the EC system has risen from UA 340 million in 1971 to UA 2.3 billion in 1975.

## ECTM-COMMISSION DIALOGUE INITIATED

The Council of the European Conference of Transport Ministers (ECTM) opened a dialogue with the Commission at its June 20 meeting in Vienna. Commission Vice President Carlo Scarascia Mugnozza (responsible for EC transport, environment, and information policy) addressed the Council, outlining the European Community's common transport policy. This was the first time the Commission had been invited to an ECTM Council session.

**COUNCIL MOVES ON  
EC TRANSPORT MATTERS**

European truckers, chauffeurs, and bus drivers will be subject to common licensing standards throughout the European Community as of January 1, 1978, according to two national law harmonization directives adopted by the Council of Ministers June 27. The measures apply to truck drivers of vehicles weighing over six metric tons or carrying a payload exceeding 3.5 metric tons. Paid drivers of passenger vehicles for more than nine persons will also be subject to the new standards.

The Council also adopted a resolution establishing common principles for financial dealings between railroads and member states.

**BRITISH, GERMAN COAL  
WORKERS GET HOUSING AID**

Two European Community loans totaling about \$8.3 million to help finance coal worker housing projects in Britain and Germany were approved by the Commission June 28. The low interest (1 per cent per annum) loans were granted under the seventh EC program of low-cost housing financial assistance for workers in the European Coal and Steel Community industries.

**TOWARD AN EC TRAINING  
PROGRAM FOR DIPLOMATS**

Experimental training courses on European Community policy, are being conducted for member state diplomats by the Commission. Since last year, the Commission has organized several two or three week "European" seminars for young Belgian, Luxembourg, Irish, British and Italian foreign service officers. The Commission is considering instituting similar biannual seminars for European diplomats on a permanent basis.

**EDF AID FOR FOUR  
AFRICAN COUNTRIES**

The European Development Fund has approved grants totaling 9.6 million units of account (UA) for projects in the Republics of Zaire, Upper Volta, Senegal, and the Somali Democratic Republic. (One UA equals \$1.20635 at current rates.) UA 972,000 will go toward promotion of small and medium sized businesses in Zaire. Upper Volta was granted UA 2.7 million for rural education in the Yatanga and southwest regions. The EDF also approved UA 6 million for highway and bridge construction in Senegal and UA 400,000 for a study on developing the Somali Democratic Republic's Juba Valley.

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