

# European Community NEWS

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## EC-ACP KINGSTON TALKS: AGREEMENT ON KEY ISSUES

Ministers of the nine European Community countries and the 44 associated and potential associated states of Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific ("ACP countries") reached agreement on key issues during two days of meetings, July 25-26, in Kingston, Jamaica. The Community agreed to stabilize ACP export commodity earnings by compensating for any drop in world prices below agreed reference prices. The Community abandoned its efforts to secure "reverse preferences" for EC exports on ACP markets and agreed to study the problems caused to ACP exports by EC rules of origin and non-tariff barriers, notably in agriculture.

EC Commissioner responsible for development and cooperation policy Claude Cheysson told a news conference at the EC Washington Delegation office on July 30 that the exports compensation plan was a major breakthrough; the Community hoped other industrial nations would follow the EC lead. "We were on the brink of complete failure when it was decided to make this step forward," Cheysson said. Abandoning reverse preferences had solved a "longstanding conflict with the United States."

While in Washington this week, Cheysson saw World Bank President Robert MacNamara, International Monetary Fund Managing Director Johannes Witteveen, Senator John

Sparkman (chairman of the Senate subcommittee on Europe), and several top White House, State Department, Agency for International Development (AID), and other US officials. Cheysson left July 30 for Chicago.

## EC WELCOMES NEW GREEK GOVERNMENT

"The progress toward democracy in Greece can only have beneficial effects on the development of our (Greek-EC) association," the Commission said in a July 25 message to Greece's new Prime Minister Constantine Karamanlis. At a press conference the day before, EC Commissioners Altiero Spinelli and Henri Simonet said EC-Greece relations would approach normalization through speedy Greek action to: free political prisoners, end press censorship, reestablish democratic freedoms, and move toward free elections and a constructive solution to the Cyprus situation which would guarantee the island's continued independence.

## EC CONSUMER PRICES CONTINUE UPWARD TREND

Consumer prices in the European Community rose by an average of 8.3 per cent between July 1973 and March 1974. Prices went up most in Italy (11.5 per cent) and least in Germany (4.9 per cent). They rose by about 10 per cent in Ireland, 9 per cent in Britain, Denmark, and France, 7 per cent in Belgium and the Netherlands, and 6 per cent in Luxembourg.

## EC COOPERATION ACCORD CONSULTATION PROCEDURES

European Community countries will henceforth consult and exchange information with the Commission before signing economic and industrial cooperation agreements with third countries, according to procedures adopted in a July 23 Council of Ministers decision. The procedures cover both text of proposed agreements and corresponding member state commitments and measures which may affect common EC policies.

## COUNCIL GETS EC ENERGY RESEARCH PLAN

"Energy for Europe," a program to coordinate all energy research and development programs in the European Community, was proposed to the Council of Ministers by the Commission last month. The program cites eight priority areas needing joint EC-member state action: information; energy conservation programs; coal, gas, and oil exploitation; environment; systems modeling, hydrogen, and wind, solar, sea, and geothermal energy use studies. The program would raise the member state and EC yearly energy research spending

by 480 million units of account (UA) to UA 1.5 billion. (One UA equals \$1.20635 at current rates.)

## REPORT ON WOMEN'S EQUALITY IN EC THREE

The European Community's three new members (Britain, Ireland, and Denmark) have moved closer to professional equality for women but still have a way to go, the Commission said in a July report on their application of Treaty of Rome equal pay for equal work provisions. The Commission said collective bargaining agreements with discriminatory salary level and job classification provisions were more evident in Britain and Ireland than Denmark.

## COMMISSION APPROVES FARM IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

European Agriculture Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF) grants, totaling 80.6 million units of account (UA) for structural improvement projects in the European Community's farm regions were approved by the Commission in July. (One UA equals \$1.20635 at current rates.) Member state grant totals ranged from a high of UA 19.4 million for 55 projects in Germany to a low of UA 205,000 for two projects in Luxembourg.

## NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

*Since Community business will be suspended during the August vacation, the next issue of European Community News will be published September 6.*

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