

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY NEWS

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

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TRUDEAU TO BRUSSELS FOR TRADE ACCORD TALKS

The possibility of a broad trade agreement between Canada and the European Community will be discussed between Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Elliot Trudeau and Commission officials in Brussels October 23. Canada had proposed the establishment of a "direct contractual link" with the Community in an April 20 memorandum to the Commission. Following exploratory talks with Canadian authorities, the Commission informed the Council on September 12 that it favors exploring a new type of agreement providing a broad EC framework for economic and commercial cooperation between Canada and the member states, extending far beyond classic trade policy matters such as tariffs and quotas.

ADVANCEMENT OF EC-ARAB DIALOGUE

The European Community's dialogue with the Arab countries on potential areas for mutual economic and technological cooperation will move forward with upcoming talks between energy Commissioner Henri Simonet and Ali Attiga, Secretary General of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). Simonet announced the talks at a September 27 press conference in Brussels. Discussing energy, Simonet emphasized the need for the Community to play a role in international energy policymaking and for the Commission to attend future meetings of the Group of Twelve oil consuming

countries. The Twelve, who tentatively agreed September 20, to set up an oil sharing plan during crises, consist of the eight EC member states (excluding France), the United States, Canada, Norway, and Japan.

SOAMES MEETS WITH ASEAN MINISTERS

The European Community is committed to a new development cooperation policy towards non-associated developing countries, including the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), Commission Vice President Christopher Soames told ASEAN ministers at a September 24-25 meeting in Djakarta, Indonesia. This was the third such meeting between the Commission and ASEAN ministers since June 1972. ASEAN members are Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand. Soames attended the ASEAN meeting as part of his six weeks' official visit which also took him to New Zealand, Singapore, and the Philippines.

EC-MEDITERRANEAN TRADE TALKS RESUME

After a year's delay, the Commission will resume negotiations for a European Community trade agreement with Israel October 1-2. The talks will highlight discussion on potential Israeli tariff reductions for EC industrial products, EC concessions for Israel's farm goods, and possible industrial, scientific, and technological cooperation arrangements. Over the next few weeks the Commission will conduct similar trade negotiations with Morocco, Tunisia, Spain, and Algeria.

MOVE TO THAW EC--
GREECE ASSOCIATION

The European Community's association agreement with Greece is being resumed in accordance with a September 17 Council of Ministers resolution. Greece has been allowed to keep high customs duties on tire imports from the Community for four years to protect its infant tire industry. Other measures, such as the signing of protocol agreements and release of European Investment Bank financial aid, will be announced at the next EC-Greece Association Council meeting, probably next month. Greek Defense Minister Evangelos Averoff responded to the Council of Europe's Consultative assembly vote to make Greek Council membership contingent on the holding of parliamentary elections by announcing they will be held in early November.

EC IRON AND STEEL WORKS
POLLUTION CONFERENCE HELD

A conference on technical measures for prevention of pollution in Europe's iron and steel industry was held in Luxembourg September 24-26. Organized by the Commission, the meeting concentrated on results of relevant research and study projects carried out under the European Coal and Steel Community's research program, initiated in 1958.

EC SOCIAL FUND
GRANTS APPROVED

European Social Fund grants totaling 77.7 million units of account (UA) to retrain European Community workers were approved by the Commission this month. (One UA equals \$1.20635 at current rates.) The funds will go toward member states projects to help retrain workers such as those leaving farming and acquiring new textile skills, as well as migrant and handicapped workers. They will also help improve the employment situation in declining regions or in modernizing industries.

EC NEARS COMMON
TRANSPORT POLICY

The European Community's common transport policy is gradually becoming a reality, Commissioner Carlo Scarascia-Mugnozza told the European Parliament September 25. Scarascia (responsible for transport matters) said the Commission would send the Council of Ministers a communication with final proposals on October 24. He noted that through a successful dialogue with EC institutions and national authorities and experts, solutions were being found for major problems such as the financial relationship between member states and the railroads, and the harmonization of commercial vehicle taxation.

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