

European Community NEWS

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

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

NO. 15 APRIL 25, 1975

SCHEEL CALLS FOR EC CONSTITUTION

German President Walter Scheel has called on the EC member states to adopt a constitution "to be the basis for a common foreign and economic policy and a common defense." Speaking in Paris this week on his first official foreign visit as president, Scheel warned that unless Europe adopts common solutions to the problems it faces, the problems would soon become a matter of "life or death" for the continent.

MONNET COMMITTEE TO TERMINATE IN MAY

Jean Monnet, first President of the European Coal and Steel Community, has announced his resignation as chairman of the Action Committee for the United States of Europe and the dissolution of the committee. The move becomes effective May 9, the twenty-fifth anniversary of Monnet's proposals, through French Prime Minister Robert Schuman, to set up the European Coal and Steel Community.

Monnet, a driving force behind Europe's move toward economic and political unity, founded the Action Committee in 1955. He grouped together leaders of all major non-Communist political parties and trade unions of the Community to give their organizations' official support for EC policies and resolutions. Monnet

and his committee were instrumental in generating support for the formation and development of the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) and the European Economic Community (EEC).

COUNCIL ACTS TO PROTECT CONSUMERS

Consolidating consumer protection throughout the Community was the purpose of a resolution passed by the Council of Ministers of April 14. The resolution sets the following goals for the Community's consumer protection and information program:

- to protect consumers against health or safety risks
- to protect consumers' economic interests
- to provide damage compensation aid
- to educate and inform consumers
- to provide consumers' representation in decisions affecting them.

INDIA RECEIVES COMMISSION HEAD

Discussions of EC-India economic relations and their future development highlighted Commission President Francois-Xavier Ortoli's April 18-26 trip to India. Traveling at the invitation of the Indian Government, Ortoli met with Indian President Fakruddin Ali Ahmed and Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and held talks with the ministers of external affairs, agriculture, finance, industry and civil supplies, commerce, and energy.

In talks with Indian leaders, Ortoli stressed the Community's effort to deepen and diversify its relations with India and participated in an exchange of views on the possibilities of greater economic and commercial cooperation between the two countries.

EC-INDIA TEXTILE AGREEMENT REACHED

India is the first country to reach an accord with the Community under the 1974 General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) multifibers arrangement. The bilateral textiles agreement was initialed in Brussels on April 19. The arrangement aims to provide for the orderly growth of trade in all textiles. Textile negotiations with Pakistan, Hong Kong, and Korea are underway, and others are in preparation.

EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY PROPOSED

Seven EC countries will join the proposed European Space Agency, it was announced in Brussels April 15. The agency, to be based in Paris, would coordinate existing national space programs and would replace presently operating European space research and development organizations. The agency would operate with an annual budget of \$380 million with participating nations contributing financing according

to their interest in space activities.

The full members of the European Space Agency are EC member states Belgium, Britain, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, as well as Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland. Austria, Norway, and Ireland are participating as observers.

UK IMMIGRANTS TO GET SOCIAL FUND AID

United Kingdom immigrants from non-Community countries -- mainly Commonwealth nations -- will receive 2,643,300 pounds sterling in aid, the Commission announced in January. The aid, granted through the European Social Fund, will be used to provide reception facilities, information, advice, and language teaching for immigrant workers and their families to ease their employment situation and the assimilation of their families.

SPECIAL STEEL SHARES PURCHASED

Friedrich Krupp Huettenwerke AG (FKH) of Bochum, Germany, has been authorized to acquire a majority of the share capital of Stahlwerke Suedwestfalen AG (SSW) of Huettental-Geisweid, Germany, by the EC Commission. FKH and SSW together will be responsible for about 10 per cent of the Community's special steel production.

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY INFORMATION SERVICE

2100 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037