

European Community NEWS

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COMMUNITY SUSPENDS REFUNDS ON CHEESES

The European Community temporarily suspended export refunds on two US-bound cheeses April 23, bowing to US Administration requests. The suspensions -- on table Gruyere and Emmenthal -- were the last in a complex series requested by the United States following the Commission's February 5 reintroduction of export refunds on certain cheeses destined for US markets. The refunds had been suspended last July after a US complaint that EC export refunds had caused a large loss in US domestic cheese sales. The most recent suspensions were made to avoid endangering US-EC commercial relations.

EC-YUGOSLAV LEADERS MEET

Economic relations between the European Community and Yugoslavia were examined in an April 28 meeting between Commission Vice President Christopher Soames and Janko Smole, member of the Federal Executive Council of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Soames and Smole reviewed the proposals made at the February meeting of the EC-Yugoslavia Joint Committee concerning cooperation in the fields of industry, agriculture, scientific research, finance, migrant workers, and joint action in third countries, within the framework of the existing commercial agreement between the Community and Yugoslavia. A ministerial-level meeting of the joint

committee will be held in Brussels this July on the extension and diversification of EC-Yugoslav economic relations.

MARJOLIN STUDY GROUP RELEASES EMU REPORT

Europe is no nearer to economic and monetary union (EMU) now than it was five years ago, according to a report by the EC Commission's Study Group on EMU in 1980, released this month. The study group, headed by former EC Commission Vice-President Robert Marjolin, ascribed the failure to unfavorable events, such as the current international monetary and financial crises; lack of political will by governments, and insufficient understanding of EMU goals. The group has drawn up a list of short- and long-term actions to be taken in the economic, monetary, and financial sectors to avert the dangers threatening the nine member states and the Community itself.

SWITZERLAND SEEKS TIES WITH EC SNAKE

Switzerland has been discussing with the Community the possibilities of its joining the EC's monetary "snake." The snake is the system by which five EC countries -- Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands -- limit the fluctuations between their currencies to a maximum deviation of 2.25 per cent above and below their respective cross-central rates. Norway and Sweden are also associated with the snake, on a bilateral basis, as well as Austria.

**FRENCH GOVERNMENT
COMMEMORATES SCHUMAN**

The French Government will commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of Robert Schuman's May 9, 1950, declaration calling for the creation of the European Coal and Steel Community, the first of the three Communities. The ceremony, to take place in Paris on May 9, will be attended by present and past dignitaries of various Community and member state bodies, as well as the signatories of the EC treaties, and the ambassadors of the eight member states to France.

**EC POPULATION
FIGURES PUBLISHED**

Women outnumber men in every EC member state but Ireland, according to the Commission's "Report on the Development of the Social Situation in the Community in 1974," published in March. Women constitute an average of 51.5 per cent of the Community population, though in Ireland they represent only 49.6 per cent. The study also noted that the 1973 Community population had reached 256.6 million, of which more than 88 per cent lived in Britain, France, Germany, and Italy. The Community's average population density is 168 inhabitants per kilometer.

**ITALY TO BENEFIT
FROM NEW EIB LOANS**

Italy's Mezzogiorno region will have better telephone service, thanks to two European Investment Bank (EIB) loans announced April 1. Five loans totaling 89.9 million units of account (UA) have been granted to Italy for: the construction of Italy's first industrial-scale nuclear power station; an extension to the Gruppo Lepetit SpA pharmaceutical factory at Anagni; for aid in financing the construction of the Frejus tunnel between Italy and France, as well as for the improved telephone service. (One UA equals \$1.20635 at current market rates.)

**COMMISSION ENDS
LINOLEUM CARTEL**

Competition in the linoleum industry will become keener, following Commission intervention in a floor coverings manufacturers' cartel. The members of the Linoleum Manufacturers' Export Convention -- grouping Nairn Floors Ltd. of Kirkaldy, Fife, Scotland; Barry Staines (Sales) Ltd., Staines, Middlesex, England; Fobo AG (formerly Continentale Linoleum Union), Zurich, Switzerland, and DLW-Aktiengesellschaft, Bietigheim, Wuerttemberg, Germany--were concerting prices and discounts, as well as harmonizing terms of payment, charges, and product standards.

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