

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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HOFFMAN-LA ROCHE ANTITRUST CASE

The Commission's brief concerning the activities of the Swiss pharmaceutical company Hoffman-La Roche was aired in a July 24 Brussels press conference given by EC Commissioner Albert Borschette, responsible for competition policy. Following an investigation opened in February 1974, the Commission called into question Hoffman-La Roche's practice of according preferential supply terms to "faithful" customers in the sale of vitamins. According to the Commission, this constitutes an abuse of a dominant market position and is therefore an infringement of EC antitrust laws. The Swiss company has been invited to give its comments on the matter, after which the Commission may start a procedure against it, taking into account its own investigation and Hoffman-La Roche's comments. In such a procedure, the Commission would ask Hoffman-La Roche and its clients to stop these infringements, under threat of a fine.

EC-YUGOSLAV JOINT COMMITTEE GATHERS

The EC-Yugoslavia Joint Committee met for the first time at ministerial level July 24 in Brussels, to discuss Yugoslavia's growing trade deficit with the Community. In the course of the meeting, both parties decided to set up two sub-committees to promote cooperation between the Community and Yugos-

lavia in agriculture and industry respectively, supplementing the existing bilateral cooperation between Yugoslavia and the member states. Within the framework of the committee, the member states and Yugoslavia decided to exchange information on the situation of Yugoslav migrant workers in their respective countries. The Community and Yugoslavia have had a non-preferential trade accord since September 1, 1973.

ATTORNEYS' SERVICES STUDIED BY COMMISSION

Lawyers should be allowed to plead in civil and penal courts of member states of which they are not residents, according to a draft Commission directive, submitted to the Council July 29. However, this directive does not give a lawyer the freedom to open a practice in another member state. This question, involving the mutual recognition of diplomas, is under study by the Commission.

EC, SRI LANKA JOIN IN TRADE AGREEMENT

In line with its intent to improve trade relations with the independent developing commonwealth countries in Asia, the European Community signed a commercial cooperation agreement with Sri Lanka July 22 in Brussels. The accord provides for the mutual granting of most-favored nation status by which the two parties give each other any trade liberalization extended to any third country. Sri Lanka and the Community also pledged to promote trade development and diversification, encourage economic

contacts and cooperation, and support institutions set up to this end. Where it serves their mutual interest, they will try to improve their trade and economic cooperation in third countries. A joint EC-Sri Lanka commission will ensure the agreement's smooth operation. The accord, concluded for a five-year period, may thereafter be extended on a year-to-year basis.

EC-HONG KONG TEXTILE ACCORD

The Community concluded negotiations for a textiles agreement with Hong Kong in Brussels this month, in the latest of a series of bilateral agreements under the 1974 General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) multifibers arrangement. The agreement provides quantitative ceilings on Hong Kong's exports of 14 categories of Community-bound textiles, including knitted sweaters, outer garments such as coats, skirts, dresses, and trousers, bed and table linens, and undergarments. The agreement went into effect immediately.

EC ATTACKS HOOF AND MOUTH IN TURKEY

In a continuing war on hoof-and mouth disease, the EC Commission has sent a proposal to the Council for a contribution of \$1 million to expand the

Hoof and Mouth Institute in Ankara, Turkey. The Community contribution, administered by the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), would help equip a new laboratory which would enable the institute to increase its annual vaccine production from about 10 million to 90 million doses. The Commission also suggested technical exchanges between Turkey and the Community.

CONSUMER COMMITTEE ON FOODSTUFFS MEETS

European Community consumers are finding that their voices are being heard more and more, this time in the domaine of foodstuffs. The Commission's Consultative Committee on Foodstuffs, composed of representatives of agriculture, industry, and commerce, as well as workers and consumers, met for the first time July 3-4 in Brussels to discuss the labeling of foodstuffs. The committee was set up as a consultative body to the Commission for all problems relating to harmonization of legislation in foodstuffs. It also seeks to improve the quality of mutual consultation between professionals, consumers, and the Commission and to give the Commission a better idea of general interest in this area.

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