

No. 3/1979

January 25, 1979

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARIANS TO VISIT WASHINGTON

Nineteen members of the European Community's Parliament are to meet with members of the U.S. Congress and administration next week in the 14th annual exchange visit between Congress and the European body.

The four-day visit holds particular significance as the final one in which members of the delegation are appointed from and by their national parliaments to the European Parliament. In June this year, in the world's first international elections, more than 175 million voters in the nine nations of the Community will directly elect 410 representatives to the European Parliament.

The delegation will be led by Mario Zagari, vice president of the European Parliament and an Italian Socialist who was for 20 years editor of a magazine called "The European Initiative." In addition to Zagari, the delegation is made up of two other deputies from Italy, four from Britain, four from Germany, three from France, two from the Netherlands, two from Ireland and one from Denmark. Luxembourg and Belgium are not represented.

In the Parliament, deputies are grouped according to political rather than national lines. According to these distinctions, the delegation includes six Socialists, five Christian-Democrats, two Conservatives, two Communists, two Liberals and two Progressive Democrats. Seventeen officials of the Parliament's Secretariat are also traveling with the delegation.

U.S. organizers of the visit are Representative Clement Zablocki, (D-Wis.), who heads the House Committee on International Relations; Representative Sam Gibbons, (D-Fla.), a member of the House Ways and Means Committee; and Representative Larry Winn, (R-Ks.), a member of the House Committee on International Relations.

A parliamentary exchange between European deputies and members of the U.S. Congress has taken place regularly since 1972, when a group of legislators from the United States first visited Luxembourg, the site of the European Parliament's Secretariat. The Parliament divides its meetings between Luxembourg and Strasbourg, France. In April last year a U.S. delegation of eight congressmen met with their European counterparts in Sicily.

Next week's meetings with U.S. representatives include three plenary sessions, the first at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday in the Rayburn House Office Building. Topics scheduled for discussion are multilateral trade negotiations, energy policy, the international monetary situation and the European Monetary System, the situation in the Middle East and Iran, human rights issues and U.S. and EC relations with African nations.

Meetings have been arranged for the delegation with administration officials on Thursday and Friday. Among those whom the European deputies will see are Secretary of Energy James Schlesinger, Presidential Adviser on National Security Affairs Zbigniew Brzezinski, Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs David Newson, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for International Affairs C. Fred Bergsten, Chairman of the President's Council of Economic Advisers Charles L. Schultze, Special Trade Representative Robert S. Strauss and Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for International Affairs Dale Hathaway.

Parliamentarians in the group are:

- Mr. Mario Zagari (Italy), Chairman of the Delegation
Vice President of the European Parliament
Member of the Socialist Group
- Mr. James Scott-Hopkins (United Kingdom), Vice President
of the European Parliament
Vice Chairman of the European Conservative Group
Vice Chairman of the Committee on External Economic
Relations
- Mr. Geoffrey Rippon (United Kingdom), Chairman of the
European Conservative Group
- Mrs. Hanna Walz (Federal Republic of Germany), Member of
the Enlarged Bureau of the Christian-Democratic Group
Chairman of the Committee on Energy and Research
- Mr. Silvio Leonardi (Italy), Member of the Communist and
Allies Group
Vice Chairman of the Committee on Economic and
Monetary Affairs
Chairman of the Committee on the Rules of Procedure
and Petitions

- Mr. Harry Notenboom (Netherlands), Vice Chairman of the Christian-Democratic Group
Vice Chairman of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs
- Mr. Hans Edgar Jahn (Federal Republic of Germany), Member of the Christian-Democratic Group
Vice Chairman of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection
- Mr. Gerhard Flamig (Federal Republic of Germany), Member of the Socialist Group
Vice Chairman of the Committee on Energy and Research
- Mr. Charles B. McDonald (Ireland), Member of the Christian-Democratic Group
Vice Chairman of the Committee on Regional Policy
- Mr. Jan Baas (Netherlands), Vice Chairman of the Liberal and Democratic Group
- Mr. Camillo Ripamonti (Italy), Member of the Christian-Democratic Group
- Mr. Jacques Eberhard (France), Member of the Communist and Allies Group
- Mr. Maurice Faure (France), Member of the Socialist Group
- Mr. Ronald Brown (United Kingdom), Member of the Socialist Group
- Mr. Vincent Ansquer (France), Member of the Group of European Progressive Democrats
- Mr. Patrick Power (Ireland), Member of the Group of European Progressive Democrats
- Mr. Horst Haase (Federal Republic of Germany), Member of the Socialist Group
- Mr. John Prescott (United Kingdom), Vice Chairman of the Socialist Group
- Mr. Joergen Broendlund Nielsen (Denmark), Member of the Liberal and Democratic Group

Further information or interviews with individual members of the group may be arranged through Barbara Bright-Sagnier, 862-9537.

