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# PRESS RELEASE

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## A NEW PRESIDENT FOR THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Mr. Emilio Colombo, an Italian Christian Democrat, Member of Parliament, and a former Prime Minister of Italy, has been elected as the new President of the European Parliament for the next year.

Mr. Colombo takes on the Presidency at a crucial time for the Parliament. He will preside over the period leading up to the direct elections to the nine nation assembly in 1978.

In his inaugural address, Mr. Colombo paid homage to the work of his predecessor, Mr. Spadolini, particularly in the cause of direct elections.

For the European Commission, Vice President Ortoli congratulated Mr. Colombo on his election, remarking that as a former economic minister as well, he is particularly suited for the great responsibilities he is taking on at a moment of crisis in the development of Europe.

