

February 18, 1981

A WEEKLY SUMMARY OF PAST AND FUTURE EVENTS

Next Council Meetings

Brussels February 23/24 Agriculture

Provisional Dates Further Ahead

Agriculture Council:	March 2/3, March 23-25, April 13-15
ECSC Council:	March 3
Energy Council:	March 3
Fisheries Council:	March 9/10, April 6/7
Finance Council:	March 16
Foreign Affairs Council:	March 16/17, April 13/14
Transport Council:	March 26
Development Council:	March 31
Finance/Foreign Affairs Council:	April 13
Fiscal Council:	April 28
European Parliament:	March 9 - 13 (Strasbourg) April 6 - 10 (Strasbourg)
European Council (summit):	March 23 + 24 (Maastricht)
Western Economic Summit:	July 20 + 21 (Ottawa)

THE WEEK AHEAD

Agricultural ministers will meet on February 23/24 to give preliminary consideration to the Commission's price proposals for 1981/82. Amongst other items on the agenda are sugar, the import of New Zealand butter and a large package of structural measures.

FLASHBACK

BABY BEEF: France and Ireland have blocked the Commission proposal to increase the quantity of Yugoslav 'baby beef' allowed into the Community at a reduced levy by 30 000 tons. The EEC-Yugoslav Co-operation agreement envisages an import of 34 800 tons, but the accession of Greece has changed the situation as she normally imports 20 - 30 000 tons of Yugoslav 'baby beef'.

JAPAN: The Foreign Affairs Council again stressed its serious concern at the present state of Japan-Community trade, and especially Japanese car imports into the Community. Noting that the Commission intends to set up a surveillance system on imports from Japan of passenger cars, colour television sets and tubes and certain machine tools, it asked for a report on the first three months of this year as soon as possible.

FISHING: The UK Government refused to lift its objections to fishing agreements with Canada, the Faroes and Spain until an internal fishing agreement is reached.

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FLASHBACK (contd)

PARLIAMENT EXPENSES: In response to disquiet at the expense of Parliamentary delegations, the European Parliament has reduced the expenses of members of a forthcoming delegation to Sierra Leone.

EL SALVADOR: President Thorn explained to US Ambassador Lawrence Eagleburger that the Commission would obtain all the necessary guarantees that the emergency aid agreed in principle for El Salvador would not be misused.

AGRICULTURAL PRICES: The Commission brought forward its proposals for agricultural prices for the marketing year 1981/82. Under the proposals, most prices would rise between 6 per cent and 12 per cent (average 7.5 per cent). Overall, the Commissioner Poul Dalsager said this should raise retail food prices by not more than 2.5 per cent. In Britain the increase would be less than 1 per cent as a 5 per cent revaluation of the Green pound is also proposed. The proposals also extend the principle of farmers' 'co-responsibility' for agricultural surpluses.

PRESIDENT THORN: President Gaston Thorn will be received in audience by Her Majesty the Queen on February 20. He is also having talks and lunch with the Prime Minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, and giving a Press Conference at the London Office of the Commission.

BACKGROUND REPORTS ISSUED:

ISEC/B4/81 Safeguarding the Investor
ISEC/B5/81 The Regions of Europe

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