



European Communities
Commission

The Week in Europe ISEC/WT11/81

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A WEEKLY SUMMARY OF PAST AND FUTURE EVENTS

Next Council Meetings

Brussels	March 26	Transport
	March 16	Steel
	March 30/31	Agriculture

Other Events

Maastricht	March 23 + 24	European Council (summit)
Strasbourg	March 23 - 26	European Parliament

Provisional Dates Further Ahead

Fisheries Council:	April 6/7	
Finance/Foreign Affairs Council:	April 13	
Foreign Affairs Council:	April 13/14, May 18/19, June 22/23	
Agriculture Council:	April 13-15, May 11/12, June 15	
Development Council:	April 28, June 2	
Finance Council:	May 11, June 15	
Social Affairs Council:	June 9	
Environment Council:	June 11	
Energy Council:	June 16	
Transport Council:	June 18	
European Parliament:	April 6 - 10	(Strasbourg)
	May 4 - 8	(Strasbourg)
	June 15 - 19	(Strasbourg)
Western Economic Summit:	July 20 + 21	(Ottawa)
European Council (summit):	June 29 + 30	(Luxembourg)
	Nov. 26 + 27	(London)

THE WEEK AHEAD

Two meetings of the Council are planned for next week, both on Thursday, March 26. The ministers responsible for steel will be meeting to discuss the current situation in the industry and the possibility of renewing the Community's measures, and transport ministers will also be meeting.

The European Parliament has its main debate on the Commission's agricultural price proposals on Wednesday and votes on Thursday on its agricultural committee recommendations for a 12 per cent price rise coupled with a revaluation of green currencies. A revised common fisheries policy will be debated on Monday.

The European Council, scheduled for Maastricht in the Netherlands at the beginning of the following week, will cover general policy issues, such as the economic and social situation in the Community, relations with the United States and Japan, North-South relations, and more immediate matters including steel, fisheries and progress towards Spanish membership. Some discussion is expected on the siting of the Community institutions. Policy towards the Middle East and Afghanistan will also be on the agenda.

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FLASHBACK

EUROPEAN PASSPORT: The foreign ministers of the Community have decided that member states should use their best endeavours to introduce a European passport by the end of 1985. In the case of Britain this will have a 'burgundy-red' cover and be in two languages (English and French).

RUSSIAN CORN: The foreign ministers also agreed to continue the ban on the export of cereals to the Soviet Union which was imposed following the invasion of Afghanistan.

FISHING: Neither the agricultural council nor the foreign ministers' council saw any further progress on a common fisheries policy. Britain has continued its refusal to ratify the fisheries agreement between the Community and Canada.

AGRICULTURAL PRICES: Community finance ministers showed little support for the idea of curbing this year's agricultural price rise. Only Britain and Germany were in favour of accepting the Commission's proposal for a 7.8 per cent increase. Christopher Tugendhat, commissioner in charge of the budget, has stated that a 10.8 per cent price this year would mean a rise of 14 per cent in Community expenditure in 1982.

INSURANCE: Finance ministers agreed to make another effort to get agreement on the Commission's draft directive on a common market for insurance which has been hanging fire for six years. They also agreed to a close study of the management of interest rates.

CHINA: The Community is to give £2.7 million in emergency aid to China, following famine in the Chinese provinces of Hubei and Hebei.

BANKS: The Commission has produced a draft directive intended to produce better standards of presentation and disclosure in annual reports.

BACKGROUND REPORTS ISSUED:

ISEC/B11/81 Food Aid 1981

ISEC/B12/81 Generalised System of Preferences 1981

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