

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(84) 504 final

Brussels, 20 September 1984

Recommendation for a

COUNCIL DECISION

authorizing the opening of negotiations with the countries
of the Association of South East Asian Nations

(submitted to the Council by the Commission)

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EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

On 7 January 1984 the Association of South East Asian Nations was enlarged to include Brunei Darussalam as its sixth member.

The Community and the five member countries of ASEAN on 7 March 1980 in Kuala Lumpur signed a cooperation agreement covering the commercial, economic and development sectors.

As a result of the accession of Brunei to ASEAN the members of that Association have requested the Community to extend the cooperation agreement to their sixth member.

As a result of that request an exchange of views has taken place with the Brunei authorities and those of the other members of ASEAN which allows the Commission to present the following Recommendation to the Council.

It would be desirable that the procedure takes place as rapidly as possible in order that the signature of the additional protocol can take place at the EEC-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on 15-16 November 1984.

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1. Brunei

Brunei became the 169th independent state on 1 January 1984. It is a country with a small area (5 765 km²) situated in the Malaysian part of the Island of Kalimantan. Its population of about 233 000 inhabitants benefits from a very high per capita income estimated at about US \$ 20 000 per year in 1982.

The country is governed as an absolute monarchy.

Brunei's entire wealth comes from its oil resources which constitute 99% of its exports.

2. Community relations with Brunei

The Community has a constantly growing trade surplus with Brunei which reached 85.9 MECU in 1982.

Community imports are very small (26.3 MECU in 1982) 84% of which are oil products. The principal partner of Brunei is Japan which takes 69% of its exports. The Community is the fourth most important supplier for Brunei (112 MECU in 1982) following ASEAN, Japan and the USA.

Machinery, transport equipment and manufactured goods make up the main part of Community exports.

Brunei does not receive any kind of aid from the Community.

3. Reasons for Brunei's request

Having become a member of ASEAN on 7 January 1984, Brunei wishes, as a full partner in the Association, to be included in the agreements which its member countries have signed on a collective basis with external partners.

4. Exploratory conversations

From preliminary contacts which have taken place with the authorities in Brunei and with those in the other member countries of ASEAN it is clear that it is the wish of the six countries that, within the framework of EEC-ASEAN cooperation, Brunei be treated exactly in the same manner as the other members.

5. Recommendation by the Commission

The Commission considers it is desirable to proceed to extend the EEC-ASEAN Cooperation Agreement to take account of the enlargement of the Association to include Brunei.

In these circumstances, the Commission recommends that the Council in adopting the draft decision set out in Annex I, authorises it to open negotiations for the extension of the EEC-ASEAN Cooperation Agreement, to Brunei, the sixth member of that Association.

The Commission also proposes, in Annex II, draft directives on the basis of which the negotiations will be carried out.

It would also point out that it would be appropriate for the signature of the additional protocol to take place during the next EEC-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting which will take place in Dublin on 15 and 16 November 1984.

Recommendation for a Council Decision
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The Council of the European Communities

HAVING REGARD to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community

HAVING REGARD to the Recommendation from the Commission that the opening of negotiations be authorised with the aim of extending the EEC-ASEAN Cooperation Agreement

WHEREAS the aim of the negotiations should be the conclusion of an additional Protocol extending the existing Agreement to the sixth member of ASEAN, Brunei Darussalam.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The Commission is hereby authorised to open negotiations for the conclusion of an additional Protocol to the EEC-ASEAN Cooperation Agreement extending that Agreement to Brunei Darussalam.

Article 2

The Commission shall conduct the negotiations in accordance with the directives contained in the Annex and in consultation with the representatives of the Member States.

Done at

For the Council

Annex to the Recommendation for a Council Decision

Negotiating Directives

The Protocol would have as its aim the extension, in its entirety and without modification, of the existing Cooperation Agreement between the European Economic Community and Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, member countries of the Association of South East Asian Nations, to Brunei Darussalam.

That Agreement includes the most favoured nation clause, commercial cooperation, economic cooperation and development cooperation provisions, as well as the establishment of a Joint Cooperation Committee.