

INFORMATION

ECONOMY AND FINANCE

LANDMARKS IN EUROPEAN COMMUNITY PROGRESS —
TOWARDS ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL UNION

30/72

The European Community, now on a nine-nation basis, has laid down its action programme for the years ahead. This was approved at Paris, at the conference of heads of State and governments on October 19 and 20 1972.

I - ECONOMIC AND MONETARY POLICY

- October 31, 1972 : Decisions to be taken by the Council on joint measures against inflation.
- April 1, 1973 : Formation of a European Monetary Cooperation Fund.
- September 30, 1973 : Proposals by the Community institutions to be submitted to the Council regarding adjustment of the arrangements for short-term support (increase in the credits available).
- December 31, 1973 : Proposals on terms and conditions for progressive pooling of monetary reserves.
- January 1, 1974 : Beginning of the second stage of economic and monetary union. Before the end of 1975 : presentation by the Community institutions of a report on European Union with a view to a further Summit Conference.
- December 31, 1980 : Completion of the Economic and Monetary Union.

II - SOCIAL POLICY

- January 1, 1974 : Decisions to be taken by the Council on a social policy action programme. This is to relate especially to living and working conditions, vocational training, cooperation by the workers in the organs of firms and companies, European collective agreements and the protection of consumers.

III - REGIONAL POLICY

December 31,1973 : Entry into operation of a Regional Development Fund.

IV - INDUSTRIAL,TECHNOLOGICAL and SCIENTIFIC POLICY.

January 1,1974 : Establishment of an action programme containing,especially,

- elimination of technical obstacles to trade ;
- forms and status of the European Company ;
- opening to competition of public works and procurement contracts ;
- promotion of high technology undertakings ;
- transfer and reconversion of depressed industries ;
- concentrations and the rules of competition ;
- joint scientific and technological policies ;
- joint execution of measures of Community interest.

V - ENVIRONMENT

July 31,1973 : Establishment of an action programme,laying down a precise timetable regarding the environment.

VI - DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

beginning of 1973 : Initiation of studies aimed at increasing the volume of financial aid to developing countries,and improving these aids for the poorer countries. Decisions to be taken before December 31,1973

VII - WORLD TRADE

January 1,1973 : Initiation of a cooperation policy,based on reciprocity, with the countries of the East.

July 1,1973 : Definition of a general attitude and conception for the negotiations in GATT on the liberation of international trade,aimed at agreement being reached in 1975.

VIII - STRENGTHENING OF COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS

May 1, 1973 : Compilation of a report on the distribution of powers and responsibilities between the Community institutions and the member States. Improvement of relationships of the Commission and the Council with the Parliamentary Assembly.

January 1, 1974: Ultimate date for decisions on these measures.

June 30, 1973 : Practical measures to be taken by the Council to improve its decision procedures and give greater coherence to Community action.

IX - POLITICAL COOPERATION

June 30, 1973 : Submission of a second report on political cooperation (following the Davignon report).

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