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DELEGATION OF THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
PRESS AND INFORMATION

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

SENATOR MARY ROBINSON, REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Senator Mary Robinson was born in Ballina, County Mayo, Ireland, in 1944.

She received Master's Degrees in Law from Trinity College, Dublin in 1967 and from Harvard University in 1968.

Mary Robinson has been a Senator since 1960, representing the Dublin University constituency for which she was re-elected in 1973 and 1977. In 1976, she joined the Irish Labour Party and she has been a prominent member of the joint Committee which serves as a watchdog on European Community legislation. She has introduced a number of private members' bills, including bills to reform the Irish law on adoption, illegitimacy and contraception.

As a lawyer, Mary Robinson specializes in constitutional law and European Community law, the subject on which she lectures at Trinity College in Dublin. She has acted as junior counsel in a number of major constitutional cases. She recently appeared before the Strasbourg Court of Human Rights in proceedings brought against the state of Ireland by an Irish woman seeking access to a remedy for marriage breakdown before the Irish courts (Airey-V-Ireland).

Ms. Robinson has also participated in a number of special commissions established by the European Community. She was a member of the 1971 Vedel Committee on the institutions of the European Community and the powers of the European Parliament, and of the recent group under Professor Saint-Geours of Paris which reported on the energy situation in Europe under the title "In Favor of an Energy Efficient Society" (June 1979).

Ms. Robinson is also a member of the Dublin City Council, and she is married with one son and one daughter.

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