

European Communities Commission

The Week in Europe

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A WEEKLY SUMMARY OF PAST AND FUTURE EVENTS

Next Council Meetings

Luxembourg	October 24	Eco-Finance
	October 26	Research
	October 26	Internal Market

Other Events

Foreign Affairs Ministers (informal meeting):	Oct 22-23	(Athens)
European Parliament:	Oct 24-28	(Strasbourg)
Economic and Social Committee Plenary Session:	Oct 25-27	(Brussels)

Provisional Dates Further Ahead:

Energy Council:	Nov 4, Dec 2	
Special Council:	Nov 9-12	(Greece)
Finance Council:	Nov 14, Dec 12	
Agriculture Council:	Nov 14-15, Dec 12-13	
Development Council:	Nov 15	
Foreign Affairs Council:	Nov 28-29, Dec 19-20	
Budget Council:	Nov 22	
Environment Council:	Nov 28	
Fisheries Council:	Dec 5	
Social Affairs Council:	Dec 8	
Consumer Affairs Council:	Dec 12	
Research Council:	Dec 13	
Transport Council:	Dec 20	
Social Affairs Ministers (informal meeting):	Nov 7	(Athens)
Agriculture Ministers (informal meeting):	Nov 28	(Delphi)
European Parliament:	Nov 14-18	(Strasbourg)
	Dec 12-16	(Strasbourg)
Economic and Social Committee Plenary Session:	Nov 22-24	(Brussels)
	Dec 13-15	(Brussels)
Political Cooperation:	Nov 22	(Brussels)
European Council (summit):	Dec 5-6	(Athens)

THE WEEK AHEAD

Finance Ministers meet in Luxembourg on Monday to discuss economic and monetary issues likely to be raised at the Athens European Council. They will also be considering the issue of insurance other than life assurance. On Wednesday October 26, the Research Council will consider the ESPRIT programme on research and development in the field of information technology and the pluriannual programme of research in the field of bio-molecular technology. Ministers will also discuss the opening up of the internal market on October 26. The main item for the European Parliament at its plenary session will be the 1984 Community budget, with a debate on Tuesday and Wednesday and the voting on Thursday, October 27.

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FLASHBACK

MEDITERRANEAN POLICY: The Ministers of Agriculture finally reached agreement on measures to help the Community's Mediterranean producers. This follows two years of negotiation. The decisions will mean changes to the market organisation for fruit and vegetables, olive oil and raisins, special help for the establishment of producer organisations and modification of the rules on third country imports. Agreement on this package means that negotiations can now begin with Spain and Portugal on the agricultural aspects of enlargement.

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET: The Foreign Ministers were able to reach agreement on the second supplementary budget for 1983, following the European Parliament's passing of the budget last week. The budget now requires the formal signature of the Parliament's President. The supplementary amounts are: agriculture - 1 761m ECU; risk sharing (rebates to UK and Germany) - 370m ECU; Social Fund - 64.5m ECU; other expenditure - 69.5m ECU.

AGRICULTURAL FINANCE: The European Commission has decided to prolong indefinitely, but not beyond the end of the year, the suspension of advance payments on export refunds and on a range of direct premiums. Further measures will help to reduce the call on Community agricultural funds during November and December. Credits available for November and December total 2 396m ECU. The monthly average of January-September payments to member states for agricultural guarantee spending has been 1 340m ECU.

FISHERIES: Ministers once again failed to reach agreement on the fish quotas for 1983, with the allocation of herring catches the continuing cause for disagreement. Discussions are expected in December.

STEEL: The Commission and the United States have agreed to prolong the period for finding an agreement on compensation for the US duties imposed on special steel imports.

REGIONAL FUND: The Commission announced an allocation of £62m to the United Kingdom under the Regional Fund.

ANNUAL ECONOMIC REPORT: The Commission's annual report on the Community's economic situation shows a guarded optimism. Introducing the report Commission Vice-President Ortoli said that the signs were encouraging, but he warned against over-optimism. There were still too few signs of structural change and significant uncertainties on the international scene, particularly on interest rates and exchange rates.

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