

November 24, 1983

A WEEKLY SUMMARY OF PAST AND FUTURE EVENTS

Next Council Meetings

Brussels	November 28	Special Council
	November 28	Environment
	November 29	Foreign Affairs

Other Events

Culture Ministers (informal meeting):	Nov 28	(Delphi)
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Provisional Dates Further Ahead

Transport Council:	Dec 1	
Social Affairs Council:	Dec 8	
Consumer Affairs Council:	Dec 12	
Finance Council:	Dec 12	
Agriculture Council:	Dec 12/13	
Research Council:	Dec 13	
Fisheries Council:	Dec 14	
Foreign Affairs Council:	Dec 19/20	
Energy Council:	Dec 19	
Transport Council:	Dec 20	
European Parliament:	Dec 12-16	(Strasbourg)
European Council (summit):	Dec 4-6	(Athens)
Economic & Social Committee Plenary Session:	Dec 13-15	(Brussels)

THE WEEK AHEAD

Preparations for the Athens European Council move into their final phase next week, with the Special Council seeking to define the main lines of agreement for Athens at a meeting in Brussels on Monday and the foreign ministers meeting in Brussels on Tuesday to consider other aspects of the Summit agenda which do not come under the aegis of the Special Council. Foreign ministers will also be discussing Cyprus - an issue expected to loom large in Athens the following week - negotiations with Portugal, the future status of Greenland, steel policy and relations with Japan, especially concerning video recorder imports.

The Environment Council on Monday will deal with a range of anti-pollution legislation, including atmospheric pollution from industry and cross-frontier movement of dangerous wastes. Ministers will also discuss an interim report on Community progress concerning lead in petrol.

Athens background: A dossier of background material for the Athens European Council will be available at this office at 11.30 tomorrow, Friday November 25, when we shall be holding a press briefing which readers are welcome to attend. Copies of the dossier will be available by post on request.

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FLASHBACK

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY BUDGET: The budget ministers' Council has rejected most of the European Parliament's amendments to the 1984 budget. In particular, ministers struck down the Parliament's attempt to freeze £604m intended for the British and German budgetary rebates for 1983 as well as reducing Parliament's increase in non-agricultural spending by over £100m.

JAPAN: The European Community and Japan have reached agreement on the restriction of Japanese exports of video cassette recorders (VCRs) to the Community. A ceiling is to be placed on assembled machines, but the export of kits for assembly is to be unrestricted.

UNEMPLOYMENT: Unemployment in the European Community rose to 10.5 per cent in October. The number of unemployed is 12.1m.

SPAIN: The Spanish Prime Minister, Senor Felipe Gonzalez, has called on EEC countries to decide where they stand on Spanish entry into the Community.

STEEL: The liaison group of engineering industries has made representation to the European Commission that the new minimum steel prices should not apply to contracts already negotiated.

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