

A WEEKLY SUMMARY OF PAST AND FUTURE EVENTS

Next Council Meetings

Brussels	December 8	Social Affairs
	December 12	Consumer Affairs
	December 12	Finance
	December 12/13	Agriculture
	December 13	Research
	December 14	Fisheries
	December 14	Steel
	December 16	Environment
	December 19/20	Foreign Affairs
	December 19	Energy
	December 20	Transport

Other Events

European Council (summit):	Dec 4-6	(Athens)
European Parliament:	Dec 12-16	(Strasbourg)
Economic & Social Committee Plenary Session:	Dec 13-15	(Brussels)

Provisional Dates Further Ahead

Finance Council:	Jan 9, Feb 20
Agriculture Council:	Jan 9/10, Feb 6/7
Consumer Affairs Council:	Jan 17
Industry Council:	Jan 19
Foreign Affairs Council:	Jan 23/24, Feb 20/21
Fisheries Council:	Jan 30
Energy Council:	Feb 14
Research Council:	Feb 28
Development Council:	Feb 28

THE WEEK AHEAD

The European Council of Heads of State and Government begins in Athens at 3 o'clock on Sunday afternoon, finishing on Tuesday evening. The meeting will be one of considerable significance, with the leaders of the Community's member states seeking agreement on the future direction of the Community. Four main issues need to be tackled: the future budgetary arrangements, particularly the terms for expanding the resources available and for accommodating British and German demands for adjustment in their budget burdens; proposals for adapting the common agricultural policy; the pace of enlargement, which cannot proceed without progress on the other matters; and the need to develop policies which will allow European industry to compete in the new technologies.

A Social Affairs Council meets on Thursday December 8.

EIB press conference: December 8

The European Investment Bank is holding a press conference at its London Office, 23 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9BU (01-222 2933) at 11.30 am on Thursday December 8 1983. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Bank will be giving details of the EIB's rapidly expanding lending programme in the UK, and new loans for the British aircraft industry.

FLASHBACK

EUROPEAN BUDGET: The Special Council held at Brussels at the beginning of the week did not seem to mark any advance towards a solution of the questions discussed. There was, however, a French proposal put forward with the aim of ensuring more financial discipline in Community expenditure. According to this, budget ministers would fix a ceiling to expenditure (including that on the common agricultural policy (CAP)) at the beginning of the financial year and hold meetings throughout the year to ensure that the ceiling is not passed.

NEWSPRINT: British and German publishers are pressing for continued access of Canadian newsprint to the European market after January 1st, 1984, when Scandinavian newsprint will have unlimited right of entry.

STEEL: Ministers were unable to agree to the Commission's request for the immediate implementation of mandatory minimum prices. However, it was agreed that, unless the dispute with the United States on American quotas for special steels were settled by January 15 1984, retaliatory action would be taken and tariffs raised over a range of American exports to the Community.

ENVIRONMENT: Environmental ministers were unable to agree two proposals put forward by the Commission. The first of these provided a system of control for the transport of dangerous substances over frontiers, and the second for a common planning framework for the siting of factories liable to produce pollution.

CYPRUS: Foreign ministers decided to send a Community delegation to Nicosia to discuss the trade difficulties arising out of the unilateral declaration of independence on the part of the Turkish part of the island.

WESTMINSTER: Parliament has been debating Community affairs - in particular the budget problem and the common agricultural policy (CAP). A number of Conservative MPs put down an early day motion opposing any increase in the Community's resources, and this was also adopted as a motion by the Labour Party.

BACKGROUND REPORTS ISSUED:

ISEC/B29/83      Worker Participation in Decision Making -

Fifth draft directive on public companies

ISEC/B30/83      CARS: A producer/consumer confrontation

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