

December 15, 1983

A WEEKLY TIMETABLE OF PAST AND FUTURE EVENTS

Next Council Meetings

Brussels	December 19	Foreign Affairs
	December 19	Energy
	December 20	Transport
	December 21	Budget TO BE CONFIRMED
	December 22	Steel

Provisional Dates Further Ahead

Agriculture Council:	Jan 9/10, Feb 6/7, March 12/13, March 26/27
Consumer Affairs Council:	Jan 17
Industry Council:	Jan 19
Finance Council:	Feb 20, March 12
Foreign Affairs Council:	Jan 23/24, Feb 20/21, March 12/13
Fisheries Council:	Jan 31, March 5
Energy Council:	Feb 14
Research Council:	Feb 28
Development Council:	Feb 28
Environment Council:	March 1
Social Affairs Ministers (informal meeting):	Feb 2
European Parliament:	Jan 12-20 (Strasbourg)
	Feb 13-17 (Strasbourg)
	March 12-16 (Strasbourg)
European Council (summit):	March 19/20 (Brussels)

THE WEEK AHEAD

On December 19 Foreign Affairs and Energy Councils will meet. The agenda for the former includes Greenland and Cyprus and Community tariff quotas for newsprint in 1984. The Energy Council will discuss the rational use of energy, atmospheric pollution and lead in petrol. A Transport Council on December 20 will discuss the weights and dimensions of lorries, railway policy and maritime relations between the Community and third countries. Having reached broad agreement in principle on new price and quota measures for steel, on December 22 ministers will consider further the methods whereby these measures may be implemented.

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FLASHBACK

AFTER ATHENS: Before the European Parliament the President of the Commission, M. Gaston Thorn, spoke of the blame attaching to member states of the Community for the failure to resolve its problems at the Athens European Council. M. Thorn also pointed to the use of procedures which were not in accordance with the treaty as one cause of the failure. In Germany Chancellor Helmut Kohl has spoken of the need to return to the spirit of the original Six for Europe to make progress.

DANGEROUS LOADS: A consumer Council has agreed a Commission directive for an exchange of information concerning loads of dangerous substances crossing European frontiers.

RESEARCH: A research Council failed to agree that Commission proposals for a European programme of research on information technology (ESPRIT) should go ahead.

FISHERIES: Ministers succeeded in agreeing the last outstanding quotas of fish which had been left unsettled - the herring catch. Britain will get a larger share of North Sea herring than any other country except the Netherlands. Michael Jopling, the Minister of Agriculture, commented that this was a 'good deal' for Britain.

STEEL: Industry ministers have agreed Commission proposals for minimum price controls on flat steel. This will operate through a system of deposits by steel companies which will be forfeit if prices charged are under the minimum.

THE BUDGET: The European Parliament has voted to freeze the British and German rebates on the 1983 budget pending a solution to the Community's financial problems. In the case of Britain the amount in question is f450m.

BACKGROUND REPORTS ISSUED:

ISEC/B31/83 More problems over steel

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