

A WEEKLY TIMETABLE FOR PAST AND FUTURE EVENTS

Next Council Meetings

Brussels	February 6	Finance
	February 6/7	Agriculture
	February 9/10	Foreign Affairs-ACP/EEC
	February 20/21	Foreign Affairs
	February 27/28	Agriculture
	February 28	Research
	February 28	Development TO BE CONFIRMED

Other Events

European Parliament: Feb 13-17 (Strasbourg)

Provisional Dates Further Ahead

Environment Council:	March 1	
Consumer Affairs Council:	March 2	
Fisheries Council:	March 5	
Finance Council:	March 12, April 2	
Agriculture Council:	March 12/13, March 26/27, April 9/10	
Foreign Affairs Council:	March 12/13, April 9/10	
Industry Council:	April 3	
Social Affairs Council:	April 5	
ACP/EEC Council:	April 30-May 4	(Fiji)
Women's affairs (informal meeting):	March 8	(Paris)
European Parliament:	March 12-16	(Strasbourg)
	April 9-13	(Strasbourg)
European Council (summit):	March 19-20	(Brussels)
Western Economic Summit:	June 7-9	(London)
European Elections:	June 14+17	

THE WEEK AHEAD

Finance ministers will meet on February 6. They will discuss the world economic situation both in terms of the 1983 results and the prospects for 1984. Also on the agenda is the preparation of the special meeting of OECD which is to take place in Paris on February 13 and 14. At a meeting of agricultural ministers on February 6-7 the provisional agenda includes: discussion of the price-fixing proposals of the Commission for 1984/85; imports of New Zealand butter; beef. On February 9 there will be a short session of the Foreign Affairs Council to prepare the meeting with the ACP states on February 9 and 10.

We shall hold our normal Friday press briefing at this office at 11.30 a.m. tomorrow, February 3.

FLASHBACK

THE BUDGET: A slight flury was caused by the decision of the Commission's financial controller, Signor Carlo Facini, not to approve payments to Britain in 1978/79 on the grounds that the Milk Marketing Board was in a situation of irregularity. This might have involved a repayment by Britain of £430m. However, the Commission decided not to follow Signor Facini's advice.

MEAT: France has decided to reduce the number of entry points for imports of live cattle, pigs and fresh meat from 150 to 80. The reason for this is a shortage of veterinary inspectors. In the poultry sector Britain's system of licensing for poultry imports has been condemned by the European Court as well as the similar system for heat-treated egg imports.

STEEL: British steel is to be allowed to continue to receive short-term subsidies pending Britain's submission to the European Commission of its plan for re-structuring the industry.

JAPAN: The Commissioner in charge of external affairs, Vice-President Wilhelm Haferkamp, has suggested, in a letter to the Japanese minister for International Trade and Industry, that Japan should drop its import tax on manufactured goods.

MEETING IN ROME: The British Prime Minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, has visited Rome for talks with the Prime Minister of Italy, Signor Bettino Craxi. The European Community was among matters discussed. Afterwards Mrs Thatcher repeated that there could not be any increase in the Community's resources unless there were a fair and equitable sharing of the budgetary burden.

FISHERIES: Ministers reached quick agreement on the total allowable catch (TAC) for certain types of fish during 1984. These included herring, mackerel and cod in Greenland waters. For herring the total catch is 34,500 tonnes until the end of July, but, after taking scientific advice, it may prove possible to allow a further 20,000 tonnes. Quotas were also agreed for catches in Canadian waters under the agreement with Canada.

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