

A WEEKLY SUMMARY OF PAST AND FUTURE EVENTS

Next Council Meetings

Brussels	March 16/17	Agriculture
	March 22	Transport
	March 26/27	Agriculture

Other Events

European Council (summit):	March 19-20	(Brussels)
Economic & Social Committee Plenary Session:	March 27-29	(Brussels)

Provisional Dates Further Ahead

Agriculture Council:	April 9/10, May 7/8, June 4/5	
Finance Council:	April 2, June 4	
Foreign Affairs Council:	April 9/10, May 14/15, June 18/19	
ACP/EEC Council:	April 30 - May 4	(Fiji)
Transport Council:	May 10	
Education Council:	May 21	
Energy Council:	May 22	
Fisheries Council:	May 24	
Research Council:	May 29	
Consumer Affairs Council:	June 5	
Social Affairs Council:	June 7	
ACP/EEC Council:	June 21/22	to be confirmed
Environment Council:	June 28	
Industry Ministers (informal meeting):	April 3	(Paris)
Social Affairs Ministers (informal meeting):	April 5	(Paris)
Finance Ministers (informal meeting):	May 12/13	(Paris)
Agriculture Ministers (informal meeting):	May 28/30	(Angers)
European Parliament:	April 9-13	(Strasbourg)
	May 21-25	(Strasbourg)
European Elections:	June 14+17	
Economic & Social Committee Plenary Session:	April 24-26	(Brussels)
	May 22-24	(Brussels)
World Economic Summit:	June 7-9	(London)
European Council (summit):	June 25-26	(France)

THE WEEK AHEAD

Ministers of Agriculture are resuming their meetings in Brussels on Friday and Saturday in an attempt to conclude their negotiations for the 1984/5 agricultural prices and reform measures in advance of the European Council which convenes on Monday for a two-day session. There is no formal agenda for the European Council, but the deliberations of European leaders will be concentrated on the future development of Community financing, and the agricultural policy and the expansion of Community policies into further areas.

THE WEEK AHEAD (cont'd)

On Thursday, March 22, Transport Ministers will be making further efforts to open up frontiers within the Community, making it easier to trade between member states.

We will hold our usual Friday press briefing at 11.30 at this office tomorrow, March 16. Mr Michael Davis, a Director in the Commission's energy directorate-general, will speak about the Community programmes in the fields of energy saving and development of alternative energy sources. This will follow the normal briefing.

FLASHBACK:

AGRICULTURE: Agricultural ministers meeting in Brussels managed to reach agreement on two important aspects of the reform of the common agricultural policy (CAP). These were a cut-back in the production of milk products and the elimination of monetary compensatory amounts (MCAs) - a system of payments used to compensate for changes in currency values between member states of the Community and thus to maintain a common price structure. It was decided to reduce the amount of milk subject to guarantee from the present level of 105m tonnes to 98.8m tonnes. The mechanism for the elimination of MCAs is a revaluation of the European Currency Unit (ECU) which effectively links agricultural prices to the movement of the deutsch-mark. Since the British government has placed a reserve on this decision, it remains to be determined by the European Council.

THE BUDGET: The President of the Commission, Mr Gaston Thorn, speaking before the European Parliament has said that spending by the Community is likely to overshoot by flbn this year and that a further contribution from member states may be necessary. Meanwhile the British Prime Minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, has called for a thorough reform of the Community's financing system. At the Council of Foreign Ministers France and Italy have for the moment blocked the British £457m rebate.

THE EUROPEAN MONETARY SYSTEM: The fifth anniversary of the European Monetary System (EMS) was hailed by Finance Ministers with a declaration of satisfaction at its achievements.

INSURANCE: At an Economic Council ministers agreed to refer to officials a German proposal to narrow the scope of the directive on non-life insurance by excluding mass risk proposals (e.g. motor car insurance). This is believed to be a step towards a common insurance market.

EEC-CANADA: The dispute between Canada and the European Community over the latter's restriction on newsprint imports has led to the matter being referred to arbitration of a panel set up under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

AUDITORS: The eighth directive on company law having been approved, certain common measures on the education and training of auditors will come into force throughout the Community.

GREENLAND: The Council signed the various agreements dealing with the departure of Greenland from the European Community. National Parliaments will now have to ratify the terms.

BACKGROUND REPORTS ISSUED: