

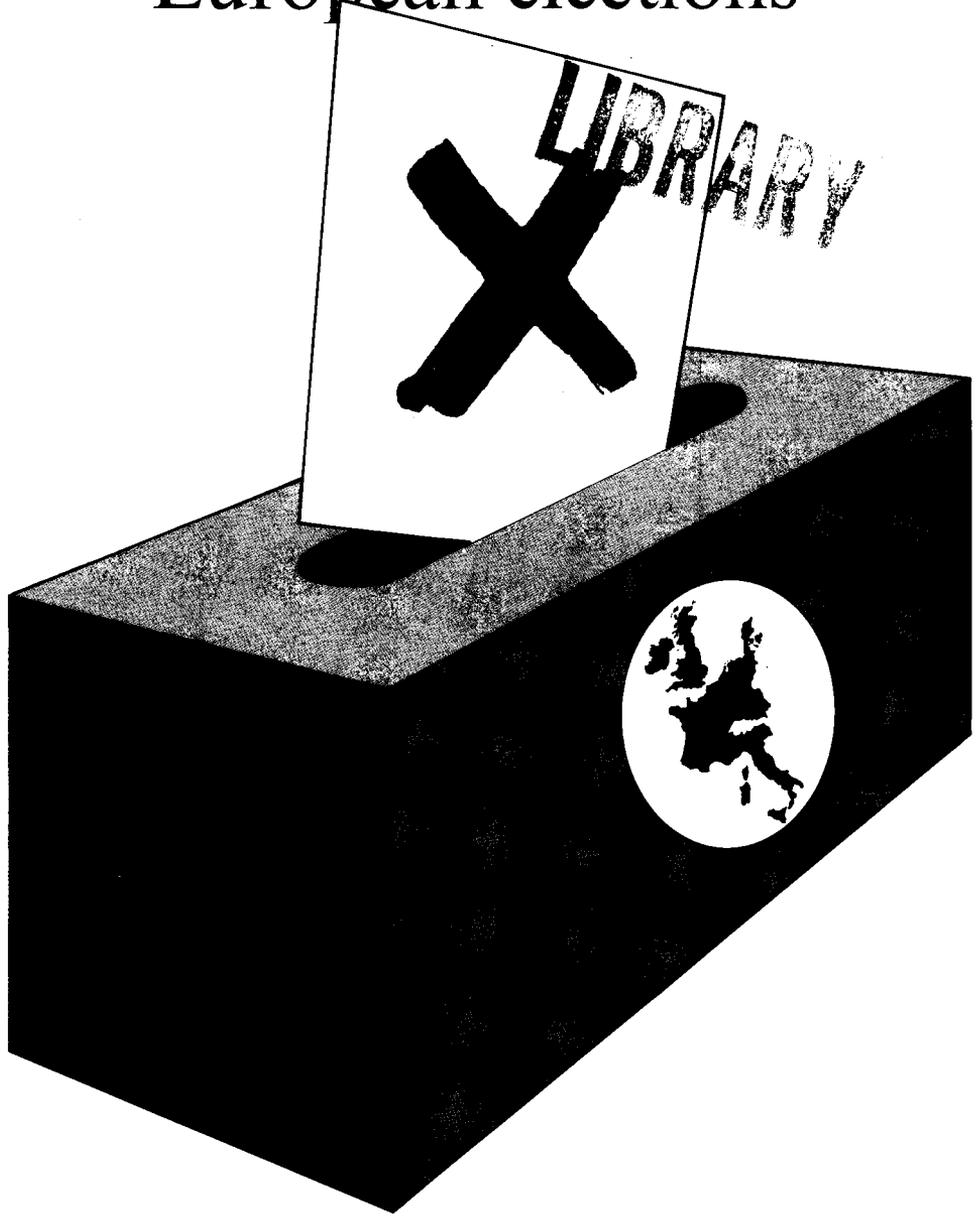
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European Community

No. 8

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European elections



European Community Contents



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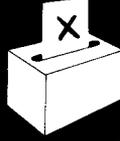
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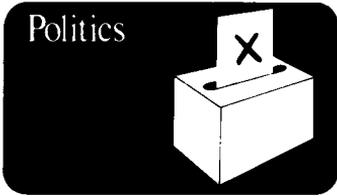
December 13-14 Foreign and Agricultural Ministers Councils

December 15-16 Session of the European Parliament

December 15-16 Economic and Social Committee plenary session

December 16 Finance Ministers Council (Fiscal questions) and Transport Ministers Council

December 20 Finance and Economic Ministers Council



European elections

The Council decides

On September 20, 1976, the Community's Council of Ministers approved and signed the Decision and Act providing for the direct election of the European Parliament in all the Community's member States. Their main provisions are as follows.

Deadline 1978

The Council's Decision declares its intention 'to give effect to the conclusions of the European Council in Rome on December 1 and 2, 1975, that the election of the Assembly should be held on a single date within the period May-June 1978.'

410 members

The directly elected Parliament will have 410 seats, allocated as follows:

Belgium	24
Denmark	16
Germany	81
France	81
Ireland	15
Italy	81
Luxembourg	6
Netherlands	25
United Kingdom	81

A 5-year term

Members of the Parliament shall be elected for a five-year term of office.

Independence

Members are to vote on an individual and personal basis and will not be by any instructions or receive a binding mandate. This does not, of course, preclude their membership of political parties or party groups.

National MPs OK

Members of the directly elected European Parliament may simultaneously be members of their national Parliaments. They may not, however, be simultaneously members of a national Government, the Commission, the Court of Justice, etc.

Election procedure

Elections to the European Parliament will be governed in each member State by its own national procedure, pending the entry into force of a uniform procedure, proposals for which the European Parliament itself is to draw up.

Election dates

Each member State will determine the date of the election, but on the understanding that it must fall within the same period for all member States, beginning on Thursday morning and ending on the evening of the following Sunday. Counting of votes

may not begin until the Sunday evening after the close of polling in the last member State to vote.

For the first direct election, the Council is to decide the period for polling, acting by unanimous vote after consulting the European Parliament. The next election is to take place in the corresponding period five years later, but may if necessary be brought forward or put back one month.

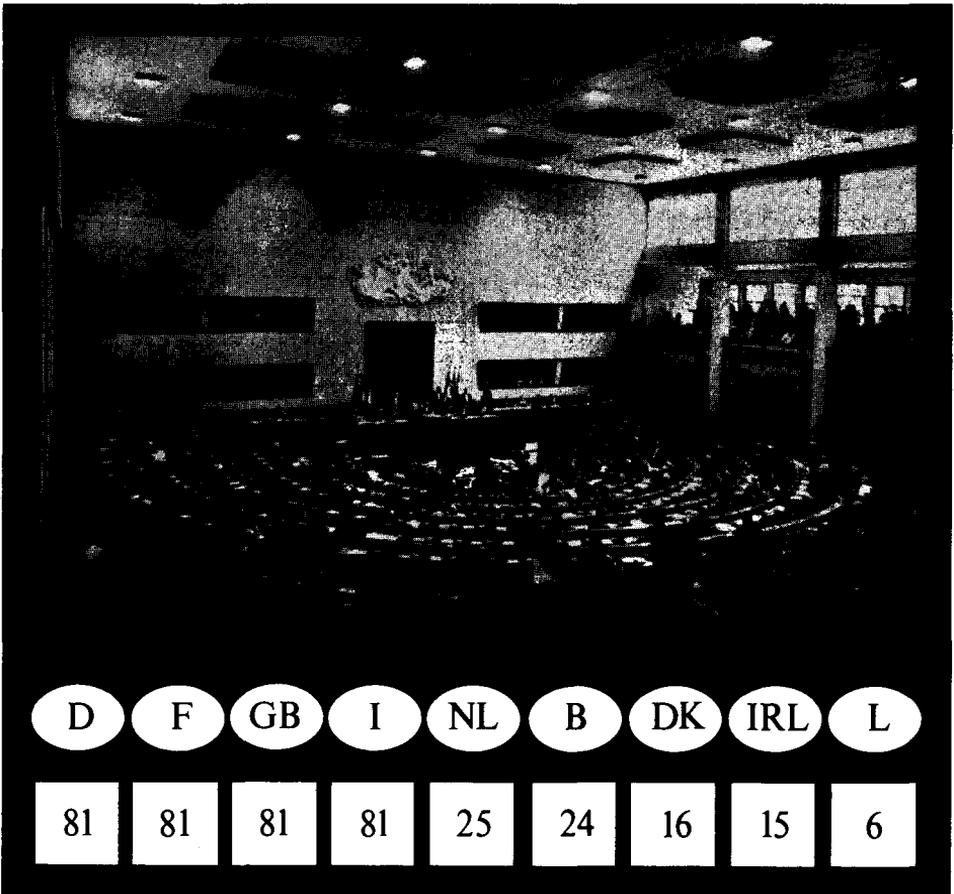
Denmark

Denmark has declared that it will hold direct elections to the European Parliament at the same time as the election of its national Parliament,

the Folketing, and that until then the Folketing will continue to nominate Danish members of the European Parliament, who must themselves be Folketing members. The Danish Government hopes that these exceptional provisions can be wholly or partly dropped during the first five years.

Berlin

The German Government has declared that the agreement on direct elections applies equally to the *Land* of Berlin, whose Chamber of Deputies will elect representatives to those seats in the German allocation that are earmarked for Berlin.





The month in Europe

The Green Pound

At the meeting of Community Agricultural Ministers on October 5, 1976, the British Government successfully resisted pressure to devalue the 'green pound'. It is estimated that the maintenance of the 'green pound' at its present level is now causing the Community to subsidise UK food supplies to the tune of about £1,500,000 a day. At the same meeting, the Irish 'green pound' was devalued by 7.5 per cent.

Cross-border study

On September 27, 1976, the Commission's Director-General for Region Policy, Renato Ruggiero, spoke at the formal launching of a joint study by the UK and Irish Governments into cross-border communications in the Derry city and Donegal areas. The Community's Regional Fund is contributing £35,000 to the study, and will also contribute its experience of similar ventures elsewhere.

More cash for Britain

On September 27, 1976, the Commission announced that it had completed arrangements with Finance for Industry Ltd., to make available a £10 million loan over the next three years to small businesses in the UK. The aim is to help them

with expansion plans which will re-employ redundant steelworkers and coal miners in Wales, Scotland, and Northern England.

On October 13, 1976, the Commission announced a further £27.5 million loan to the National Coal Board to finance investments at the following collieries: Ackton Hall in North Yorkshire, Brodsworth in Doncaster, Bentinck in South Nottinghamshire, Bevercotes and Silverhill in North Nottinghamshire, Silverdale in Staffordshire, and Bold. St. Helens in the North-Western coalfield.

These loans bring to well over £1,000 million the Community loans so far received by Britain. Total grants received by the UK from Community sources total some £233 million.

Quote of the month

'European union is rather like paradise. All of us want to get there. No one knows what it is like. And no one knows the way there. We only know that it is extraordinarily difficult.'

Sir Oliver Wright, UK Ambassador in Germany, speaking in Berlin on September 17, 1976



Citizens of Europe

Sir Christopher Soames on European elections

Speaking at Whitchurch on September 18, 1976, two days before the Council decision announced on page 3, Commission Vice-President Sir Christopher Soames declared:

'Let us, above all, be clear as to what the significance of these elections will be.

'They will not – and this will please some of you and disappoint others – they will not usher in a federal European state or a sort of United States of Europe. You have only to look at the ground-rules under which the directly elected European Parliament will work to see why this is so

Integration

'Nevertheless, the running of a Common Market for industrial and agricultural goods in Western Europe is already in itself an enormous operation with far-reaching ramifications in many fields of policy – external trade policy, competition policy, industrial, regional and social policy, economic and fiscal policy. And our ambition is to build on this unified market an increasingly integrated economic system and an increasingly unified foreign policy. The Community is therefore an enterprise of first-class importance in world terms – and its stature will continue to grow. But neither its constitutional arrangements nor its

purposes are such as to justify the view that it is poised to make a comprehensive take-over bid for the functions and responsibilities of its member States.

In fact, of course, the powers and responsibilities of the member States are not only intact in the areas not covered by the treaties – they are also deeply entrenched within the fields of action which the treaties provide for the Community institutions. . . .

Direct Elections

'But what of the more positive side: granted that the powers of the European Parliament are thus circumscribed and counter-balanced and are unlikely to develop with great rapidity – granted all this, why is it so important that the Parliament should be directly elected?

'The importance of direct elections lies first of all in the fact that they will extend real democratic accountability into areas of Community decision-making which cannot at present be subjected to effective Parliamentary scrutiny.

'In the Community structure as it is at present, accountability to the electorate is only indirect, exercised through the nominated European Parliament and through what control the national parliaments are able to

exercise over their national ministers meeting in the Council.

'The European Parliament in its present form – nominated from the national legislatures – makes valiant efforts to scrutinise Commission proposals and Council decisions. But its part-time character and the limitations which grow from it being only indirectly elected inevitably put it at a serious disadvantage. At the same time, the national Parliaments – and in particular the House of Commons – also do their best to 'keep tabs' on what their ministers do in the Council. But they are finding that there is not as much scope for this as they would like – since ministers quite reasonably believe that the national interests for which they are held responsible are best served by keeping their hands free to negotiate and bargain at Council meetings. Either way it is plain that there is a serious gap in the process of parliamentary scrutiny in the Community structure – and it is a gap which can only be filled by the development of a European Parliament confident and strong enough to make its weight felt, and with the time available to do its job.

Legitimacy

'The necessary confidence and strength on the part of the European Parliament can only be supplied by the added legitimacy and authority that direct elections and full-time working will give it. . . .

'It would be a profound error to think of national interests and the European interest as being opposed to each other and ultimately incompatible one with the other. The Community depends upon the fact that the European interest corresponds with the highest national

interest of each of its member States, and it can only continue to work so long as this is the case. But as the Community has grown over the past 20 years, the political balance between the institutions – their relative political weight – has turned out in such a way that the national element in the Community's decision-making has been very much more prominent than the European element. And this tendency has recently been greatly reinforced by the creation of the European Council of Heads of Government.

'The added political direction and authority which the emergence of the European Council has brought to the Community is of course very welcome. But it is crucial that the formation of European policies should not come to depend essentially on inter-governmental agreements and the primarily national processes which they reflect.

A strong community

'A broader European perspective must also be brought to bear – and this can only be done if national points of view are enriched and set into the wider European context by men and women who are dedicated to a strong and vigorous Community, and who know that they have both the right and the duty to make their views felt. This will be the character of the European Parliament once it is directly elected. . . .

'For let there be no mistake about it – the most fundamentally important aspect of the holding of direct elections will be their capacity to engage the imagination and interest of the peoples of the Community in European questions as citizens of Europe.'



Britain's EEC trade improves

UK exports in the EEC were up by 24 per cent in the first half of 1976

The European Community was the area in which Britain's trade showed the most marked improvement in the first half of 1976, according to figures released by the UK Department of Trade (*Trade and Industry*, October 15, p. 153).

The UK's visible trade deficit with the rest of the Community during that period was £1,017 million, or £203 million less than in the second half of 1975. The reduction in the deficit resulted from a 24 per cent increase in exports to other Community countries, compared with a 13 per cent increase in imports from them. This was the third successive half-year that British deliveries to other Community countries have grown faster than arrivals from them. (See table 1.)

Overall improvement

In the first half of 1976, the Department of Trade stated the United Kingdom's overall visible trade deficit with the rest of the world fell to £1,513 million, its lowest since the first half of 1973. This improvement was concentrated in trade with the developed countries, broadly reflecting the increase in UK exports to them resulting from growth in the industrialised economies. (See table 2.)

Detailed analysis

Table 3 analyses Britain's trade with other EEC countries by broad commodity group. A commodity breakdown of exports and imports, the Department of Trade points out, is not available on a balance of payments basis, but the commodities contributing to the movements in the overall balance can be seen from the 'crude' balance of trade, i.e. the difference between exports f.o.b. and imports c.i.f. – although this is not a good measure of the balance of trade in goods because of, among other things, differences in valuation. A further difficulty is that six-monthly figures are not seasonally adjusted. For this reason, the figures in the table should be used with caution.

With North America, although the value of UK exports rose by 26 per cent in the first half of 1976, the deficit increased slightly owing to a 21 per cent increase in imports. With Australia, New Zealand, Japan, and South Africa, a substantial improvement in Britain's trade balance resulted from a 7 per cent increase in exports coupled with a 12 per cent fall in imports. With the rest of the world outside these areas, imports grew by 27 per cent and exports by 8 per cent.

Table 1 UK balance of trade with the rest of the EEC

£ million, balance of payments basis, seasonally adjusted (percentage change on previous period)

	Exports fob	Imports fob	Visible balance
1970	2,269	2,225	+44
1971	2,408 (+6%)	2,593 (+17%)	-185
1972	2,682 (+11%)	3,267 (+26%)	-585
1973	3,754 (+40%)	4,919 (+51%)	-1,165
1974	5,275 (+41%)	7,282 (+48%)	-2,007
1975	5,945 (+13%)	8,297 (+14%)	-2,352
1975			
1st half	2,782 (+2%)	3,914 (+1%)	-1,132
2nd half	3,163 (+14%)	4,383 (+12%)	-1,220
1976			
1st half	3,927 (+24%)	4,944 (+13%)	-1,017

Table 2 UK balance of trade by area

£ million, balance of payments basis, seasonally adjusted

	EEC	Rest of Western Europe	North America	Other developed countries	Oil exporting countries	Rest of world	Total
1970	+44	+178	-483	+149	-113	+200	-25
1971	-185	+118	-170	+223	-188	+482	+280
1972	-585	-37	-77	-154	-131	+282	-702
1973	-1,165	-277	-276	-202	-329	-85	-2,334
1974	-2,007	-357	-707	+93	-2,219	-23	-5,220
1975	-2,352	-63	-671	-20	-708	+610	-3,204
1975							
1st half	-1,132	+28	-361	+35	-379	+295	-1,533
2nd half	-1,220	-91	-310	-55	-329	+315	-1,671
1976							
1st half	-1,017	-38	-325	+119	-298	+46	-1,513

Table 3 Crude trade balance with the rest of the EEC by commodity

£ million, not seasonally adjusted, overseas trade statistics basis

SITC(R) Section	1975						1976					
	1973	1974	1975	1st half	2nd half	1st half	1973	1974	1975	1st half	2nd half	1st half
0 Food	-699	-1,220	-1,474	-704	-770	-704						
1 Beverages and tobacco	-111	-86	-66	-24	-42	-26						
2 Basic materials	+2	+10	+28	+7	+21	+6						
3 Fuels	-105	-251	-326	-153	-173	-197						
4 Vegetable oils	-13	-32	-30	-14	-16	-15						
5 Chemicals	-33	-106	-5	+4	-9	-23						
6 Other semi-manufacturers	+182	-142	-182	-119	-63	+46						
7 Machinery and transport equipment	-321	-262	-228	-118	-110	-147						
8 Other manufacturers	-103	-127	-129	-81	-48	-45						
9 Other goods	+27	+20	+27	+7	+20	0						
Total, not seasonally adjusted	-1,172	-2,196	-2,386	-1,194	-1,192	-1,105						
Total, seasonally adjusted	-1,172	-2,196	-2,386	-1,159	-1,227	-1,105						

The crude balance in some of the major commodities was:

Meat	-238	-329	-310	-157	-153	-130
Dairy produce	-119	-259	-412	-170	-242	-169
Cereals	-128	-284	-263	-116	-147	-198
Fruit and vegetables	-99	-129	-174	-79	-95	-114
Sugar	-3	-68	-152	-105	-47	-35
Fuels	-105	-251	-326	-153	-173	-197
Plastics	-62	-143	-62	-25	-37	-55
Iron and steel	-73	-293	-311	-157	-154	-163
Precious stones	+185	+184	+146	+55	+91	+146
Machinery	-229	-202	-190	-80	-110	-145
Road motor vehicles	-125	-94	-96	-57	-39	-61

Countries concerned by the 1976 programme (being undertaken currently)

	Fairs	Trade missions to Europe	Seminars	European purchasing missions	Fairs	Trade missions to Europe	Seminars	European purchasing missions
Asia								
Afghanistan			x					
Bangladesh	x	x	x					
India	x	x	x	x				
Indonesia	x	x	x					
Malaysia	x	x						
Nepal			x					
Pakistan	x	x	x					
Philippines	x	x	x					
Sri Lanka	x	x	x					
Singapore	x	x	x					
Thailand	x	x	x					
Latin America								
Argentina			x					
Bolivia	x		x	x				
Colombia	x	x	x	x				
Costa Rica	x		x					
Ecuador			x					
Dominican Republic	x							
Guatemala	x							
Honduras	x							
Mexico	x							
Nicaragua	x							
Panama								
Paraguay	x							
Peru								
El Salvador	x							
Uruguay	x							
Venezuela								
Other								
Algeria							x	
Egypt	x						x	
Haiti							x	
Tunisia							x	
Yemen							x	



Carter on Europe

How the U.S. President-elect sees Atlantic relations

The United States–European relation is at the heart of US foreign policy. In economic policy, their co-operation with each other and with Japan is necessary both to their prosperity and to the progress of developing countries; growing European unity can help to fulfil this promise. In defense, the ties between Europe and the United States are essential to the maintenance of peace. In recent years, these essential truths have been overlooked. In the future, they should be remembered.

Inflation

The main economic problems facing the developed world are inflation and unemployment. Each of our countries must attack these problems through policies of its own choosing. These policies will be more effective, however, if they are devised in close consultation among the main industrial countries.

The industrial countries must also co-operate in reducing trade barriers that limit their efforts to achieve growth and restrain inflation. They must act in concert in developing sources of energy supply and in conserving energy consumption so as to reduce the danger of costly new oil shocks. They must join in developing food policies that will assure farmers and consumers alike

ample and assured supplies at fair and stable prices.

Europe will be better able to fulfil its role in US–European–Japanese co-operation in the degree that it can speak with one voice and act with one will. The United States has sometimes seemed to encourage European unification with words, while preferring to deal with national governments in practice. I believe that we should deal with Brussels on economic issues to the extent that the Europeans themselves make Brussels the focus of their decisions.

Developing countries

The purpose of economic co-operation is not merely to enhance the prosperity of the industrial countries. It is also to hasten the developing countries' progress. This means turning away from the rhetoric of North–South confrontation, which often focuses on false issues, to address those areas in which genuine progress can be made. In so doing, we need to distinguish between the differing needs of various categories of developing countries.

Some of these countries are making good progress. They need access to the import markets of the industrial countries; tariff reductions in the Tokyo round of multilateral trade negotiations will be conducive to

this end. They also need access to loans on commercial terms. The industrial countries should make it possible for the World Bank and the regional development banks to step up their loans on business-like terms to these countries. This is sound economics and involves little budgetary cost.

Poverty

In other developing countries, notably in South Asia and Africa, hundreds of millions of people live in abject poverty. These countries do not have the credit to borrow on private markets. They need concessional aid to get their economies on the move. International negotiations are now underway for replenishment of the International Development Association (IDA), the soft loan affiliate of the World Bank. In recent years the United States has been lagging in its support of this essential program. I hope that the United States will play a constructive role in the current negotiations, so that agreement can be reached next spring on a replenishment of IDA large enough to bring hope to the poorest countries and to make a difference in their economic prospects.

There are, of course, other issues in North-South relations about which the United States, Europe, and Japan will need to act in concert. A selective approach to commodity agreements, where these can be useful in stabilising prices, makes sense. By contrast, any attempt at across-the-board indexing or otherwise inflating commodity prices artificially is bound to fail. Nor will a debt moratorium or other across-the-board approaches to debt problems in developing countries help.

Most developing countries neither need nor seek rescheduling; they fear it would impair their continued ability to borrow on international markets. For the poorest countries, debt rescheduling should be considered sympathetically as and where it is needed.

In all of this the European Community has a large role to play. Its founders envisioned that it would be outward-looking; it has already done a great deal to help some developing countries. Much remains to be done; it can only be done if the United States, Japan, and the Community work together on this range of economic problems.

Threats to peace

We have become so used to peace in Europe during the past 30 years that we tend to overlook how readily it could be threatened. Peace has been preserved, in good part, because NATO's exertions have maintained a stable balance of military power in Central Europe. That balance is now endangered by the steady build-up of Soviet conventional ground and tactical air forces which has been underway in Europe. Against a background of increasingly evident nuclear parity, the balance of conventional forces is of growing importance. We cannot be indifferent to a threatened shift in that balance.

To avert that shift, we need to re-examine the military problem that NATO faces. Soviet forces appear to be configured for brief, intense all-out offensive operations. Effective deterrence requires that NATO have a clear capability to withstand that initial attack. We need units in place with a high degree of readiness and reserve forces that can come quickly

to their support. High priority should go to meeting these needs.

To this end, we need to improve armoured and close support air capabilities; for at least the next decade those arms will be of decisive importance. We also need to exploit new technology – precision guided anti-tank and anti-aircraft munitions which promise a steady growth in future defensive capabilities.

Only if all NATO members on the Central Front agree on these improvements, can they be carried out with any prospect of success. A thorough review of NATO's strategy and force posture, to ensure that it is adapted to a changing environment, should be mounted as a matter of urgency. Increasing co-ordination of NATO procurement activities – including standardisation of major weapons components – is also of the essence. Growing defense concert among the Western European members of NATO would contribute to these goals, as well as to a continuing vigorous effort to reach agreement with the Warsaw Pact on mutual

balanced force reductions in Europe.

Defense and economic policy are key areas of co-operation. The tendency, evident in recent years, to allow a preoccupation with East-West relations to overshadow the need for this co-operation, must be resisted. We will only make progress in our dealings with the Soviet Union and other Communist countries if we do so against a background of solid progress by the industrial countries in jointly addressing their common problems. Increasing Western European unity will facilitate this task, and should be welcomed by the United States.

The period that lies ahead can be as exciting and challenging as the period after World War II, in which the European Communities, NATO, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and the other great institutions of our day were fashioned. The opportunity is there. Working closely together, Europe and the United States can seize it – for their good and that of mankind.

More work with NGOs

The Commission has proposed to the Council to extend its work in developing countries with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) such as Oxfam, etc. Already, the Community distributes much of its emergency food aid through such intermediaries as the Red Cross and the church organizations. It now proposes to work more directly with NGOs, both to undertake joint development projects and to inform public opinion in the developed countries.

Statistic of the month

Not only the UK, but the Community as a whole, has a trade problem with Japan:

EEC exports to Japan:

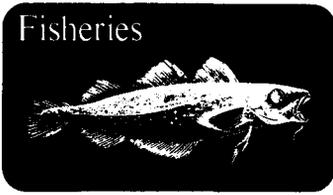
1973	\$2.8 bn
1974	\$3.3 bn
1975	\$2.7 bn

EEC imports from Japan:

1973	\$4.18 bn
1974	\$5.2 bn
1975	\$5.9 bn

Deficit:

1973	\$1.3 bn
1974	\$1.9 bn
1975	\$3.2 bn



Fewer fish in the sea

Michael Berendt on the real problem behind fisheries disputes

'There are more fish in the sea than ever came out of it' runs the proverb. In the North Sea and the North Atlantic this may no longer be true, for stocks of many species of fish have fallen to crisis level. This is the real drama behind the recent fisheries dispute with Iceland and the present debate on the European Commission's proposals for a modified common fisheries policy.

The fishermen of the Community face a common threat to their livelihood; the future of the industry in all member States is in jeopardy.

Dwindling

Fish is a potentially renewable resource like any living thing, but only if stocks are properly husbanded at all stages of their growth. In the waters around western Europe attempts at caring for these stocks have failed miserably.

An analysis of stocks drawn up by the European Commission in conjunction with scientists from member countries shows how critical the situation has become with many species. In the North Sea, for instance, herring and sole are 'highly over-exploited'. The spawning stock is 'dangerously depleted', at one-tenth of its post-war level; catches are declining. Cod and haddock are 'over-exploited', with a moderate

spawning stock level. Plaice is 'fully over-exploited', with spawning stock declining. It is a similar picture in the English Channel, with plaice 'highly over-exploited', sole and mackerel 'fully exploited' and herring 'over-exploited'. Off the West of Scotland herring, haddock and cod are 'fully or over-exploited'.

This decline in stocks results from a fishing effort which has exceeded the sea's capacity to replace them.

Industrial fishing for fish meal and fish oil causes special problems. It takes fish which are needed for human consumption and damages their breeding areas. It also takes species which are important food for the more valuable commercial species and thus upsets the ecology.

With the help of fisheries scientists, the Commission has set out in detail what conservation measures it believes to be necessary for each species of fish in the various fishing zones which surround the EEC member States. In many areas these measures imply a substantial cutback in the present fishing effort in order to conserve stocks and rebuild stocks for the future.

As the fish become scarcer and more difficult to find, so the gear for seeking and catching them becomes more efficient. Dr Mark Hughes, Labour MP for Durham, explained

the problem in a report earlier this year to the European Parliament:

'There will always be attempts to offset diminishing catches by increasing capital employed. The result is a natural tendency for catches to increase beyond the point at which, for a particular species, a yield can be sustained by natural regeneration.

'The problem of over-fishing has been enormously increased by the very high levels of capital investment in the last two decades. Fast-moving fleets, endowed with sophisticated sounding and catching equipment, are able to engage in 'pulse-fishing' to clear one area of fish and swiftly move on to the next.

'Fisheries are now heavily over-capitalised. The world catch, by weight, nearly doubled between 1958 and 1968. Since 1968, despite a continuous increase in effort and resources, the catch has failed to increase and in some areas has fallen.'

Falling catches

North Sea herring fisheries have declined as drastically as any. 'In the 1950s', says Dr Hughes, 'fishing based on the adult herring showed an average annual catch of around 600 to 700,000 tonnes. Industrial fishing increased this to 900,000 tonnes. In the mid-1960s Norwegian purse-seiners further increased the catch to 1.4 million tonnes. This led to a sharp reduction in catches which are now around 500,000 tonnes.'

In the North Atlantic as a whole, herring catches fell from 3,334,000 tonnes in 1964 to 1,616,000 tonnes in 1974. Danish, German and Dutch catches were halved, and only the British catch increased, from 99,000 to 160,000 tonnes, partly, at least, as

a result of tighter conservation measures near home.

Total Community catches of several species of fish have been falling over the last 10 years. In 1964 French fishermen took 178,000 tonnes of cod in the North Atlantic area. The German catch was 176,000 tonnes and the British catch 361,000 tonnes. By 1974 the French and German landings had halved and British landings had fallen to 323,000 tonnes. The Soviet catch had risen from 340,000 to 689,000 tonnes.

Until recently, mackerel was in limited demand, but the pressure on North Atlantic mackerel stocks has been mounting, with total catches up from 190,000 tonnes in 1964 to 973,000 in 1974. The EEC catch rose from 74,000 to 94,000 tonnes, while the Norwegian share rose from 51,000 to 288,000 tonnes, the Polish from 8,000 to 122,000 and the Soviet from 4,000 to 244,000 tonnes.

Total fish catches in the North Atlantic rose by about 25 per cent over the 10 years, but East European fishermen's catches in the waters were up 50 per cent. EEC catches rose by a relatively small amount.

Reducing the pressure

Extension of Community limits to 200 miles, proposed for January 1, 1977, will allow greater control of third country fishing, but a cutback is also implied for EEC fleets.

In addition to the detailed conservation measures which would set out minimum landing sizes, mesh sizes and seasonal restrictions, the Commission proposes the introduction of quotas for each type of fish. But such proposals have no value if they cannot be enforced. The North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission

depends entirely upon the good faith of its signatory States to apply the quotas and other measures which are agreed; it has no sanctions and no powers of inspection.

The Community system of law puts all such measures on a totally different basis:

'The Treaty and Community rules provide the Community with the necessary powers to adopt any measures including binding ones, to attain the objectives laid down and to ensure that they are observed', emphasises the Commission.

Community regulations, once approved by the Council of Ministers, would have the force of law in all member States: they would become part of national law. If a member government was failing to implement this Community law, it could be taken before the Court of Justice.

Policing

Measures on a Community basis would be policed by the member States. So whereas policing is at present confined to waters up to 12 miles off national coasts, the Community system would provide for control far beyond that, allowing proper protection of breeding grounds outside present limits.

The Commission envisages a system of licences requiring registration of fishing vessels and skippers; systematic recording of information on the position, intensity and results of each vessel's activity; compilation of records provided by skippers; and establishment of sanctions ranging from a warning to suspension of a vessel's licence.

Quotas have to be policed at the ports, and the Commission proposes that a list of 'permitted landing points' should be drawn up to ensure that catch restrictions are kept.

About 80 per cent of the Community's fishermen get their living from so-called inshore fishing, involving trips of up to two days at a time. The Commission reckons that 600,000 people directly or indirectly depend upon this sector and recognises that special conditions should be provided for the inshore industry in a modified fisheries policy.

The Commission therefore proposes that a 12-mile national limit should apply to all EEC coasts indefinitely, extending the principle enshrined in the Treaty of Accession. Traditional fishing rights would be respected, but subject to the issue of licences for fishing within the 12-mile limit of another member State.

Further measures are envisaged in some areas, notably off Ireland and Scotland; where 'the provisions relating to fishing in the zones from six to 12 miles should be supplemented by provisions whereby fishermen in these regions may receive an additional share when quotas are allotted.'

It would be wrong to suggest that such exclusive zones will protect all inshore fishermen, whose activities range far out to sea, but it would provide substantial protection for many fishing communities. About 90 per cent of Britain's mollusc and crustacean catch is got from within the 12-mile limit and 88 per cent of the pelagic fish like herring and mackerel. It is in haddock, cod, plaice and whiting that British fishermen depend so heavily on other waters, taking only 20 per cent of the catch within the 12-mile band.

Beyond any exclusive limits, the Commission proposes the introduction of a quota system on an EEC basis. Quotas would be calculated back from an annual catch rate for each species of fish. The catch rates

would be determined by a Scientific Committee. They would be set at a level which would sustain fish population and rebuild stocks of those species which have dwindled in recent years in the North Sea and the North-East Atlantic. The Commission seeks to secure the long-term future of the fishing industry, and to achieve that aim the catch rate must be based on scientific information gathered by the member States on the production capacity of Community waters.

The total quota would allow for any reciprocal deals with non-member States and would be divided between EEC countries so that a country which accounted for, say, 40 per cent of the Community catch of cod during a past reference period would be entitled to the same proportion in future. Thus a cutback in fishing for one member State in third country waters would be reflected in a reduction in other member States too. A special reserve would be set for inshore fishermen.

Dr Hughes said in his European Parliament report that dangers of stock depletion would grow enormously when the deep water fleet had its traditional fishing grounds closed by third countries, such as Iceland, Norway and Tunisia extending their fishing limits. 'The deep sea fleet will be forced to turn towards waters now used by the inshore fishermen and its more sophisticated equipment will increase enormously the problem of over-fishing.' In fact, some 370,000 tonnes of the British catch came from foreign waters in 1973—about one-third of the UK total.

But all Community fishermen are feeling the impact of change. During the difficult period from the summer of 1973 to the summer of 1974,

overall operating costs for the British, Irish, French, and Italian fishing industries all rose by 30 per cent. Costs have continued to go up since.

Between 1974 and 1975, moreover, landings of fish in the UK dropped by 11 per cent, in Ireland by 9 per cent, in France by 9½ per cent, and in Germany by 14 per cent.

Employment in the fishing industry has been affected as well. It has fallen in most Community member States, but particularly in Germany, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom. Iceland's action in unilaterally extending fisheries limits has affected the German as well as the British industry. The small rural communities which depend so heavily on fishing – for example in Brittany, Ireland, South-West England, and Scotland – are particularly vulnerable to the changes confronting the fishing industry. The Italian fishing fleet, too, which is one of the largest in the Community, has many boats that are too small or too old to provide adequate income.

The changes which the industry is suffering thus affect fishermen in most member States, so it is logical that they should be tackled on a Community basis.

The Commission is proposing measures to the Council of Ministers for helping the industry to cope with these problems. Similar proposals have already been made for in-shore fisheries. They would provide help for those who wished to retire early, compensate owners who wanted to take older boats out of the fishing industry and encourage investment in modern boats and on-shore facilities. The programme for the deep water fleet might cost the Community 400m units of account over five years.