



COMMISSION  
OF THE EUROPEAN  
COMMUNITIES

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### THE WEEK IN EUROPE

Delors launches policy programme. Speaking to the European Parliament on Tuesday, President Jacques Delors set out the Commission's agenda for the coming year. Delors said the 12 States and the six members of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) might want to create a new, more structured relationship with common decision-making and administrative institutions. He said it was up to EFTA to strengthen its own structures to make such a link with the EC possible. Delors reiterated that no new EC membership applications are wanted, at least until 1992. He said the Commission would give its opinion on Turkey's membership application by the end of this year.

In presenting the new Commission to the European Parliament, Delors spoke confidently of the progress which had already been made towards the 1992 single market. But he asked that Member States make an equal effort to fashion a credible common foreign policy, to accelerate monetary union, and to transform the EC, through social measures from a "technocratic machine" into a "human venture". He warned that monetary union could only be achieved by means of a further change within the institutions to set up a European banking system and a framework to enhance the consistency and effectiveness of national economic policies. At a press conference after his speech Delors added that, in the first instance, he did not envisage a central European Bank, but rather a federal reserve structure under which the national central banks would co-operate. Other proposals made by Delors included an increase in educational exchanges, the promotion of EC television productions, tighter environmental and health and safety controls. He added that the Commission will propose the introduction of the European system of environmental measurement and verification which could be the precursor of a European environment agency. A full text of President Delors statement is available at this office.

Vote of confidence in new Commission. Yesterday (Wednesday) the European Parliament gave a vote of confidence by an overwhelming majority to the new Commission which will remain in office until the end of 1992.

Agricultural prices frozen. The Commission has formally agreed its agricultural price package proposal for 1989. The majority of guaranteed prices for 1989-90 should be frozen; other prices should be reduced including hard wheat (-5.52%), sugar (-5%), butter (-2%), red table wine (-2.5%) and certain fresh fruit and vegetables (-7.5%). Commissioner Ray MacSharry said, "One can expect a slight fall in overall prices to farmers in the coming year." The package has to be approved by EC Agriculture Ministers in the near future.

Brittan orders GEC-Plessey investigation. Sir Leon Brittan, Commissioner responsible for Competition Policy, has ordered an investigation by the Commission into the proposed acquisition by GEC and Siemens of the Plessey company. Sir Leon announced last week that there is a prima facie case that what is proposed falls within Article 85 (1) (restrictions of competition) of the EEC Treaty. The Commission will also have to consider whether the advantages of the agreement are such that it should be permitted to proceed under the provisions of Article 85 (3).

Internal Market Scoresheet. Latest (31 December 1988) totals are as follows: total proposals submitted : 230; Commission proposals due 1989-1991 : 49; total number of proposals presently in internal market programme : 279; final adoptions by the Council : 109; partial adoptions by the Council : 5; current common positions : 16.

Christiane Scrivener meets Nigel Lawson. The first meeting between Christiane Scrivener, new Commissioner responsible for Taxation and Customs Union, and Nigel Lawson, UK Chancellor of the Exchequer, takes place in London today (Thursday). Earlier in the week Mme Scrivener had met Carlos Solchaga Catalan, President of the Financial Council of Ministers, in Madrid.

Andriessen in Vienna. Vice-President Frans Andriessen, Commissioner responsible for External Relations, commercial policy and co-operation with other European countries, yesterday (Wednesday) attended the closing session of the Vienna Conference for Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE). The Commission participated fully in the debate on the implementation of commitments made at earlier stages in the Helsinki process (human rights) and in the negotiations on economics, science and technology, the environment and Mediterranean countries. The Commission will continue to contribute actively to this process in areas within the competence of the Community, notably at the Conference on the Environment in Sofia later this year, the Economic Conference in Bonn in 1990 and the follow-up meeting in Helsinki in March 1992.

Commission-Irish Government meeting. Following a unique agreement last October between the Irish Government and the Commission to consult on developing the potential of the Irish economy, an Irish ministerial delegation led by Finance Minister Albert Reynolds met the Commission on Monday to present and discuss the National Development Plan for Ireland.

Europe Against Cancer 1989. The UK launch of the Europe Against Cancer campaign takes place at 11.00 am on Wednesday, 25 January at The Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, Broad Sanctuary, Westminster. Activities throughout Europe are supported by the Commission's "Europe Against Cancer Programme" and have been co-ordinated in the UK by the Cancer Education Co-ordinating Group.

1992 Events. The first of the New Year's 1992 regional meetings takes place by invitation of Margaret Daly MEP to the Avon, Dorset and Somerset 1992 Club Conference on Tuesday, 21 February, 10.00 am - 5.00 pm. Speakers include Marianne Neville-Rolfe of the DTI and Alan Mayhew, Head of the Small and Medium Enterprise Task Force, European Commission. For information telephone 0278 67688.

The Trade and Industry Committee of the House of Commons is to conduct an inquiry into financial services and the Single European Market. Written evidence to Mr Andrew Kennon, Clerk of the Trade and Industry Committee, House of Commons by 31 January 1989. Oral evidence session will start in February.

#### Diary Dates

General Affairs Council	23/24 January	Brussels
Internal Market Council	30 January	Brussels
ECO/FIN Council	13 February	Brussels
Informal Transport Ministers	13 February	Murcia
Agriculture Council	13/14 February	Brussels
Political Co-operation	14 February	Madrid
Fishing Council	15 February	Brussels

Our next briefing will take place on Thursday, 26 January at 11.30 am.