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**PRESS RELEASE**

**ENTERPRISE POLICY**

**New European Information Centres  
for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises  
to open in the UK**

The European Commission announced today the extension of the Euro-Info Centres Project, adding a further 148 new centres to the existing 39. Sixteen of these new Centres will be in the United Kingdom. Four of the new UK Centres will be open by the end of this year, the remainder to be in operation by mid-1990.

The Euro-Info Centre Project was launched as a Pilot Project two years ago by the Commission's Task Force for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs), when the first Centres were opened in the 12 Member States, including one in Scotland and three in England. The extension of the project follows the positive assessment of the pilot phase carried out by the Commission and Member States in autumn last year. This new round of contracts, awarded following a public tender, means that the project now ensures broad coverage of the whole of the European Community. The new Centres were chosen by the Commission after consultation with the Member States.

The new Centres will be provided with all the same logistical support already granted to the first phase Centres. The Commission will also train staff, provide access to Brussels data bases and a supply of Commission documentation. A diminishing Commission grant is envisaged for subsequent years, and the intention is that Centres will become self-financing. The Centre organisers will provide the premises and staff for the Centre.