

TALSMANDENS GRUPPE  
SPRECHERGRUPPE  
SPOKESMAN'S GROUP  
GROUPE DU PORTE-PAROLE  
GRUPPO DEL PORTAVOCE  
BUREAU VAN DE WOORDVOERDER

**PRESSE-MEDDELELSE  
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Joint Press Communiqué

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EEC-PORTUGAL NEGOTIATIONS

The negotiations between the European Community and Portugal opened in Brussels on 13 February 1976. The Portuguese delegation was led by His Excellency Mr. de Siqueira Freire, Head of the Portuguese Mission to the European Communities, and the Community delegation by Mr. de Kergorlay, Deputy Director General in the Commission's Directorate-General for External Relations.

The negotiations follow on from the talks that have been held between Portugal and the Community since summer 1974. At that time the Portuguese authorities stated that they hoped for closer links with the Community and wished to broaden the relations established between Portugal and the Community under the 1972 agreement. Last year the Lisbon Government submitted requests relating to trade, to the establishment of financial, industrial and technical cooperation and to labour and social security.

It will be remembered that a Portuguese delegation met Community Ministers in Luxembourg on 7 October 1975 at a Council meeting, during which the Community offered Portugal exceptional emergency aid of 180 million u.a. It was agreed, furthermore, that negotiations, based on the evolutive clause of the current agreement, should open as soon as possible.

At the opening of the negotiations, the Community delegation set out its position in response to the requests made by Portugal.

It proposed certain measures to promote Portuguese industry and to extend the agricultural concessions and, in addition, methods of industrial and technological cooperation and cooperation in the fields of labour and social security. The delegation also stated that the Community would be willing to negotiate a financial protocol in place of the exceptional emergency aid, as agreed in October.

The Portuguese delegation noted the Community's offers and stated its reactions. It stressed, in particular, that the various matters were inter-dependent and that its Government therefore attached great importance to finding satisfactory solutions regarding all these sectors.

The two delegations noted that there had already been some convergence of views on a number of questions. They welcomed the cordial atmosphere in which these negotiations had opened and agreed to continue them as soon as possible, the next meeting being scheduled for mid-March.