



COMMISSION
OF THE EUROPEAN
COMMUNITIES

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THE WEEK IN EUROPE

The EC and the Gulf crisis. The so-called holiday period has been dominated by the events surrounding Iraq's invasion and annexation of Kuwait. At a press conference after the Commission's meeting of 21 August, Commission President Jacques Delors said the Western European Union, the principal defense organisation, apart from NATO, linking exclusively the major European nations confirmed the UN decisions against Iraq as endorsed by the EC Council of Ministers at its meeting on 10 August. The Council of Ministers has issued a communique condemning the detention of foreigners in Kuwait and Iraq and the aggression against Kuwait. The Commission has taken a series of initiatives to investigate the plight of the tens of thousands of refugees leaving Iraq. In the medium term the Community intends reinforcing its agreements with the Gulf Cooperation Council and improving the Community's Mediterranean policy. President Delors also said the opportunity would be taken at the informal meeting of the Economic and Finance Ministers in Rome on 7 and 8 September to discuss the economic consequences of the Gulf issues including the rise in oil prices, and to make proposals to the Ministers of G7 countries. Already EC emergency aid to the Gulf amounts to some 5.6m ecus (£4.2m) which is destined for emergency food supplies, repatriation of refugees, and aid to the refugees, mainly in Jordan. Thousands of refugees have already been flown out of Jordan to Egypt with Commission help; ferries to carry other refugees have been hired; and buses leased to take refugees from the Jordan-Iraq frontier to the embarkation points. Jordan has been given emergency food comprising 9,000 tonnes of cereals, 200 tonnes of milk powder and 500 tonnes of vegetable oil. Finally, the EC has financed the sending of medicines, tents, blankets and medical personnel to Jordan. At the political level, the Political Cooperation group of the EC issued a statement after its meeting in Paris in which they warned the Iraqi Government "that any attempt to harm or jeopardise the safety of any EC citizen will be considered as a most grave offense directed against the Community and all its Member States and will provoke a united response from the entire Community". At its meeting yesterday (Wednesday) the Commission decided to give a total of 15m ecus to help resolve the refugee problem. In addition, Foreign Affairs Ministers, who are to meet on Friday, will consider further short-term aid to countries affected by the UN embargo - Jordan, Egypt and Turkey.

UK Government aims to boost number of British in EC. On Monday UK Civil Service Minister David Mellor launched a new recruitment and training scheme designed to boost the number of Britons working in EC institutions. Under the European Fast-Stream programme, the Civil Service Commission aims to recruit up to 30 graduates each year who will be helped to prepare for the recruitment competitions organised by EC institutions. They will be offered a programme of relevant work experience in British Government departments, language and other training, study visits to the EC and courses on European issues. At the same time, the Commission is planning to step up its recruitment publicity and will introduce for the first time next January a regular competition for graduates of all disciplines. At present fewer than 12% of all 'A' grade administrative staff in the Commission are British, whereas a geographically balanced share would be around 15%. In lower grades the proportion falls below 8%, while applications for EC recruitment competitions are also falling: in the last two major competitions the British accounted for fewer than 3% of applicants.

Commission proposes package for integration of GDR in EC. On 21 August, in line with wishes expressed by the Dublin European Council at the end of June, the Commission adopted a package of measures designed to ensure the rapid integration of the German Democratic Republic into the Community. German unification will take place without any amendments to the Treaties (exceptions being for a limited time only); the cost to the Community budget will be reasonable and will not entail any changes in the budgetary and financial arrangements that have been in operation since 1988. Upon unification, the main body of Community legislation will have immediate effect in the territory of the former GDR. As President Delors pointed out to the Foreign Ministers of the Twelve on 10 August, now that unification is to take place earlier than expected, at the request of the East German authorities, the Commission will have to be given special powers to apply the proposed transitional measures and technical adjustments before they are formally adopted. These special powers would

enable the Commission to authorise the FRG to maintain provisionally in force legislation now applying in the territory of the former GDR which does not conform to Community law but which may be covered by transitional measures proposed by the Commission. A safeguard clause will be introduced to obviate possible difficulties for the Community. According to the Commission, there will be no need for the internal market to suffer from German unification: some 80% of directives laying down technical rules will apply at once in the former GDR. Existing rules on state aid, for instance, will allow the Commission flexibility in dealing with the vital restructuring of the East Germany economy. In agriculture, the main thrust of Community policy will be introduced gradually. Lastly, the ECSC Treaty can be applied without adjustments or transitional measures: a six year restructuring programme is planned for the coal and steel industries, which will be receiving a total of around 120m ecus of Community aid; a first instalment of 10m ecus may be paid as early as 1991. According to the Commission's estimates the additional cost of the integration of the GDR into the Community will be no more than an average of 500m ecus in each year from 1991 to 1993.

Commission adopts final proposal for EMU. On 21 August the Commission adopted its final proposal for Economic and Monetary Union. The Commission's communication proposed by Delors and Vice-President Henning Christophersen is intended to serve as a reference text for December's Intergovernmental Conference. The Commission proposes to start the second stage of EMU on 1 January 1993. The second stage would become a phase of intensive preparation during which the European system of central banks, Eurofed, would be set up. The Commission thinks there is a clear economic case for a short duration of the transition. The beginning of stage 3 and the introduction of the ecu as the single currency would be the subject of political agreement by the European Council. The Commission's communication states three fundamental principles for Eurofed: the objective of Eurofed should be price stability; Eurofed should be independent from national governments and Community authorities; Eurofed should be democratically accountable. Its President should be appointed by the European Council after consultation with the European Parliament.

Commissioner Jean Dondelinger will launch the UK Offices' refurbished Mobile Information Unit at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre on Thursday, 13 September at 11.30 am. The MIU has become an effective vehicle for translating the message about the Single Market across the regions of the UK.

"European Parliament list of members". This book, which lists names, party affiliations and addresses of all members of the European Parliament is now available through HMSO. ISBN 0119725134. Price £3.60.

Conference and Diary Dates.

"A Currency for Europe" (The currency as an element of division or union of Europe). The fourth Lothian Conference. 21 September 1990 at King's College, London. For further details write or fax: The Lothian Foundation, 1 Whitehall Place, London SW1A 2DA. Tel: 071-930 3413. Fax: 071-925 2685.

"Europe preserved for Europe". Conference of European environmental and heritage organisation, to identify threats and determine an effective response by NGOs within the European institutions of the 1990s. 26-28 September 1990 at the University of York. Conference coordinator: Leslie McCracken, The National Trust, 36 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AS. Tel: 071-222 9251. Fax: 071-222 5097.

Setting up links with Central Europe: EC and national support. Organised by the Institute of European Trade and Technology. A one day conference organised in association with the Commission of the European Communities, London Office. 5 October 1990 at the Hotel Russell, Russell Square, London WC1. Details from IETT, 64 West Smithfield, London EC1A 9DY. Tel: 071-6062930. Fax: 071-606 2935.

Informal ECO/FIN Ministers	7-8 September	Rome
European Parliament Session	10-14 September	Strasbourg
General Affairs Council	17-18 September	Brussels
Internal Market Council	17 September	Brussels
ECO/SOC Plenary Session	19-20 September	Brussels
Industry Council	21 September	Brussels
Agriculture Council	24-25 September	Brussels
Research Council	24 September	Brussels
Informal Agriculture Ministers	30 September-2 October	Palermo

Our next briefing will be on Thursday, 13 September at 11.30 am asap after the MIU ceremony.