



COMMISSION  
OF THE EUROPEAN  
COMMUNITIES

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THE WEEK IN EUROPE

Delors and Andreotti in Washington. Commission President Jacques Delors and Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti, current Council of Ministers' President, met US President George Bush in Washington DC on Tuesday for long-scheduled talks. On the agenda was the disagreement between Brussels and the US over cuts in farm subsidies in the context of the current Uruguay Round of the GATT talks. Despite the war of words now taking place over the degree to which the EC is prepared to cut farm subsidies, there is the realisation that a breakdown in GATT over agriculture would result in both the US and the EC losing out. Agriculture is just one of the 15 areas covered by the talks and a successful agreement would allow the service industries of the West to move into new markets and protect its intellectual property from piracy. Speaking in Geneva on Monday, Arthur Dunkel, Director-General of GATT, said the negotiations were in a "grave situation" and called for political action to move the talks forward. The current EC proposal, involving cuts of 30% in farm subsidies in the Community, was accepted by EC Ministers only after a series of highly charged meetings. Speaking in London on Tuesday, US Agriculture Secretary Clayton Yeutter said there were only three weeks before the GATT talks were due to be completed in Brussels. He stressed that the US preferred no GATT agreement to a bad one. The row between the EC and the US over this issue has, for the moment, prevented the initialling of the Transatlantic Declaration, an attempt to institutionalise relations between Washington and Brussels. Today (Thursday) the EC General Affairs Council convenes especially to discuss the Uruguay Round. On Friday there will be a Commission-US Government meeting to discuss the same subject.

Delors at General Affairs Council. In the General Affairs Council on Monday in Brussels, President Jacques Delors submitted the Commission's viewpoint on matters varying from the GATT talks to next week's CSCE Summit. Delors said the Commission and the Netherlands could now propose to the CSCE the idea of a European Energy Charter, involving the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. He also underlined the "extremely positive nature" of the EFTA declaration of 23 October concerning the evolution of EC-EFTA relations and the creation of a European Economic Space. The Commission President also told the Council that the agreements to negotiate more wide-ranging trade and cooperation agreements with Czechoslovakia, Poland and Hungary should be adopted on 4 December.

Millan on EMU. Speaking at the Royal Institute of International Affairs in London on Tuesday, Commissioner Bruce Millan said that the impetus given by the Rome Council on Economic and Monetary Union meant that we must intensify our efforts towards economic and social cohesion, as a necessary corollary of closer economic and political integration, "so that the benefits of EMU are felt by all regions of the Community". (Full text of his speech is available on request accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope).

EC Foreign Ministers on Iraq. At their meeting on Monday EC Foreign Ministers decided to encourage the UN Secretary-General in his action over Iraq and urged the Iraq authorities to receive Javier Perez de Cuellar's special representative.

Women of Europe Award. Sally Greengross, Director of Age Concern England and Secretary General of Eurolink Age which she set up in 1980, has been selected as the British Woman of Europe to hold the title for 1991. She was chosen from a list of nominations presented by the UK media and individuals. Sally has been invited to Brussels on 7th and 8th December with the Women of Europe nominated from the eleven other member countries of the European Community. She will receive her award then and one of the twelve will be chosen as the 1991 Woman of Europe. Sally's CV and photographs are available from this office or from Margaret McLellan, Age Concern - 081-679 8000. Further information from the UK President Women of Europe Award: Alison Parry - 081-891 1021.

Debt write-off for ACPs. The Commission is proposing that Member States write-off debts owed by the countries of Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP) to the Community under the Lome Convention. These debts amount to some 1,010m ecus (£707m) out of a total of 130,000m ecus (£91,000m) owed by these countries globally.

Millan proposes land-use study. Regional Policy Commissioner Bruce Millan has received Commission approval for a discussion paper looking at the trends and pressures likely to shape land use and planning towards the year 2,000. The paper will be studied at the meeting of Regional Policy and Planning Ministers in Turin on 23-24 November.

Satellite Broadcasting. The Commission is putting forward a new Green Paper suggesting a Community approach to satellite broadcasting and communications which are assuming increasing importance as 1992 approaches. Vice-President Filippo Pandolfi told the Commission Wednesday that the debate initiated by the document will permit the elaboration of specific proposals from the Commission.

Tobacco Labelling. Social Affairs Commissioner Vasso Papandreou is putting proposals before the Council to tighten up health warnings on packets of tobacco. A new optional warning should be added: "Smoking causes addiction". One cancer in three in Europe is said to be caused by smoking.

Women on TV. In Athens last Friday Cultural Affairs Commissioner Jean Dondelinger presented the NIKE awards for television programmes best illustrating the role of women in present-day society. Britain's Central TV took the prize in the section comprising Children and Young People.

EEC Brief by Gregg Myles. 8th edition, 4 volumes, 1700 pages, looseleaf, updated annually, contributions from top world authorities. Handbook for the business, professional and public sectors. Covers institutions, laws, policies, grants and loans. price £85. Update £40 per annum. Available Locksley Press Ltd, 16 Coolsana Park, Lisburn BT28 38G UK. Tel: 0846-602194. Fax: 0846-660571.

European Research Press. Established in 1989 publishes "European Research" and "European Environment". More information from Jonathan Wilson, European Research Press Ltd, PO Box 75, Shipley, West Yorkshire BD17 6EZ. Tel 0274 594402.

Europe Week at LSE and King's College. The European Society of King's College, London and the London School of Economics and Political Science is organising a Europe Week in King's College on from 19-23 November. Speakers include Tony Blair MP, the Economic Counsellor of the Polish Embassy and Lord Donaldson of Lymington, Master of the Rolls. Details: Pierre Lastenouse, Europe House, 1 Whitehall Place, London SW1A 2DA. Tel: 071-839 3793.

Conference and Diary Dates

**AGM of the European Movement.** 24 November from 10.00 - 4.00pm at Hoare Memorial Hall, Church House, Dean's Yard, London SW1. The speakers are former Commission Vice-President Lord Cockfield and David Martin MEP. Tickets £2.00. Details: 071-839 6622.

**Towards Political Union in the EC: issues for the IGC.** 4 December at Jean Monnet House, 8 Storey's Gate, London SW1. A Federal Trust one-day Conference. Keynote address: Tristan Garel-Jones, Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Contact: Judy Keep - 071-839 6625.

**Researching EC Law.** 5-6 December at the Law Society, Chancery Lane. Accredited under the Law Society's continuing education scheme (4 points). Details: Alison Parry, 34 Ailsa Road, Twickenham TW1 1QW - 081-891 0591.

**Lobbying the European Community.** Half-day Conference on 7 December, organised by the Institute of Public Relations Government Affairs Group. Venue: 44 Belgrave Square, London SW1. Details: Caroline Roberts - 071-486 4831.

**1992 - Implications for the nursing profession.** 7 December. The Royal College of Nursing Conference at Regent's College, Regent's Park, London NW1 4NS. Fax: 071-355 1379.

**A Constitution for Europe.** 16-17 December. Fifth Lothian Conference under the auspices of the European Movement and the Federal Trust. Venue: Royal Holloway and Bedford New College, London. Details: Conference Secretary, The Lothian Foundation, 1 Whitehall Place, London SW1A 2DA. Tel: 071-930 3413. Fax: 071-925 2685.

ECO/FIN Council	19 November	Brussels
European Parliament Session	19-23 November	Strasbourg
Social Affairs Council	26 November	Brussels
Industry Council	26 November	Brussels
Telecommunications Council	27 November	Brussels
Tourism Council	29 November	Brussels
ECO/SOC Plenary Session	28-29 November	Brussels

Our next briefing will be on Thursday, 22 November at 11.30am.