



COMMISSION
OF THE EUROPEAN
COMMUNITIES

Jean Monnet House
8 Storey's Gate London SW1P 3AT
Telephone: 01-222 8122
Fax: 01-222 0900

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THE WEEK IN EUROPE

Emergency Summit to discuss changes in East Europe. A special EC Summit to discuss the rapidly developing situation in Eastern Europe has been convened for Saturday 18 November in Paris by French President Francois Mitterrand. The meeting was called at the request of Chancellor Helmut Kohl of the FRG by Mitterrand in his capacity as President of the Council of Ministers. Commission President Jacques Delors and Vice-President Frans Andriessen will also be at the Summit. The 12 EC Foreign Ministers will meet in Paris on Saturday in parallel with the Heads of Government. Ever since the dramatic turn of events in East Germany began last week, a flurry of diplomatic activity has been going on in Europe including a visit to Poland by Chancellor Kohl; the trip to Bonn on Wednesday of UK Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd to meet his FRG counterpart Hans Dietrich Genscher, and his subsequent trip to Berlin; the visit by Jacques Delors and French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas to Poland and Hungary to discuss the aid programme for these two countries launched by 24 industrialised states in July; the trip to Moscow by Dumas to meet USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev and Foreign Minister Edvard Shevardnadze, and a two-day closed meeting of the Commission in Brussels over last weekend. It was agreed then to urge still faster progress towards economic and monetary union on EC Governments as the best way of providing a political and economic focus for countries in Eastern Europe embarked on reform. Against this background it seems probable that the EC Summit in Paris on Saturday will assert the right of the Twelve not to be ignored in any discussion on Europe at the Gorbachev-Bush meeting off Malta on 4 December. At the same time President Mitterrand, in calling the emergency Summit, looks determined to preserve the original agenda of the European Council meeting in Strasbourg on 8/9 December which includes the Social Charter and moves towards economic and monetary union. Other developments stemming from the Commission's closed meeting last weekend include an embryonic pan-European strategy for linking the 12 nation EC with the six countries of the European Free Trade Association, as well as those in Eastern Europe that have opted for reform, which is to be outlined by Jacques Delors to the next meeting of EC Foreign Ministers on 27/28 November. Alongside the new EC initiatives lies that of the Foreign and Defence Ministers of the nine NATO countries in the Western European Union who agreed in Brussels on Monday that German reunification was not a priority. However, EC Governments have accepted that a democratic East Germany would have to be given special priority if it pursued confederal links with the FRG. FRG Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher has stressed that democratic reform in the GDR had to take precedence over moves towards a more unified Germany.

Five EC States to end border checks. The FRG, France and the Benelux countries agreed in Bonn on Monday on the details of a treaty, to be signed in the Luxembourg village of Schengen on 15 December, on immigration and police co-operation allowing them to abolish controls on people on the common frontiers. The five countries have agreed a minimum list of non-EC countries whose citizens will require visas to enter the "Schengen" zone; a common way of treating asylum applications; "hot pursuit" of criminals; a Schengen Information System (SIS) which will pool police data and anti-drug cooperation.