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Brussels, June 1985.

COMPLETING THE INTERNAL MARKET (1)

Introduction

1. The Heads of State and Governments at the European Council meeting in Copenhagen in 1982 pledged themselves to the completion of the Internal Market as a high priority. The pledge was repeated at Fontainebleau in June 1984; at Dublin in December of that year; and most recently in Brussels, in March 1985, when the European Council called upon the Commission to draw up a detailed programme with a specific timetable for completing the single market by 1992. That is what the Commission's White Paper will be about. It will set out the essential and logical consequences of accepting the European Council's commitment, together with an action programme for achieving the completion of the Internal Market by 1992.
  
2. The Commission's analysis will be directed primarily to the objective of welding together the ten, soon to be twelve, individual markets of the Member States into one single market of 320 million people. It also recognizes the need to ensure that this single market will also be an expanding and flexible one. It divides the actions required into three categories:
  - the removal of physical barriers;
  - the removal of technical barriers;
  - the removal of fiscal barriers.

There is of course a measure of overlap: thus physical barriers are often as not a reflection of technical or fiscal barriers. Nevertheless, this is a useful and convenient approach to addressing the measures that need to be taken.

3. The objective is not merely to continue to simplify existing procedures, but to do away with physical, technical and fiscal barriers in their entirety. The reason for this is not one of theology or appearance, but the hard practical fact that the maintenance of any internal frontier controls will perpetuate the waste and disadvantages of a divided market; the more the need for such controls diminishes - short of total elimination - the more disproportionate become the costs, expenses and disadvantages of maintaining the frontiers and a divided market. In order to achieve the objective, a major and qualitatively different approach is required.