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INFORMAL SPECIAL SESSION OF THE  
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

DUBLIN CASTLE

Dublin, 20th January 1990

**CONCLUSIONS**



- The EC/Twelve are determined to make their contribution to ensuring that the process of change on our continent will be to the advantage of all.

- The Community's own integration process is of central importance in any consideration of the future of Europe. We reaffirm our commitment to this process.

- We recall that we concluded a trade and cooperation agreement with the Soviet Union in December last. The USSR has embarked on a large-scale programme of restructuring of its economy and of its polity. We support the efforts of Mr. Gorbachev to transform his country in these directions. We shall continue our cooperation with the Soviet Union in our trade and cooperation agreement, in the political dialogue we have instituted and through the CSCE process.

- We wish to promote the process of liberalisation in Central and Eastern Europe. We support the movement towards pluralistic democracy, in accordance with the rule of law, fully respecting human rights and offering equal electoral opportunities to all. We also support the intentions of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe to change towards more market-oriented economies.

- We regard the Council of Europe as a depository of norms on which the countries of Central and Eastern Europe can draw in their efforts to transform themselves into pluralist democracies based on the rule of law and respecting human rights.

- The CSCE has proved its worth as a process in which wide-ranging cooperation covering the whole continent and extending across the Atlantic can be regulated. Its validity today is undiminished. The participating States can continue to rely on it to ensure that the legitimate rights of each participant are taken into account. The CSCE also continues to ensure that adequate attention is paid to the need to ensure respect for the human rights of individuals throughout the participating States. We have discussed the proposals that have been made to organise a meeting of Heads of Government of the 35 participating States in the course of this year and agreed on it in principle. We have instructed the Political Committee to examine this proposal carefully. We will be ready to discuss it further at our meeting on 20 February.

- We shall be continuing to consider, notably at our informal meeting at Ashford Castle on 28-29 April next, the future shape of our continent as a result of the transformations now taking place.

- We had some discussion of the question of association agreements. The Commission will prepare a paper on this.

- We have noted with interest the reports provided by Vice-President Andriessen following his visits to Prague, Sofia and Bucharest and express our appreciation of, and continued support for, the work undertaken by the Commission both in the Community framework and within the G24. We also heard most interesting reports and comments from other colleagues. They all underline the varying economic and political difficulties of each of these countries and the clear need to respond effectively to their requirements, according to their circumstances.

- We have noted views of the Commission on budgetary resources needed in the context of cooperation with, and assistance to, countries in Central and Eastern Europe and the comments of delegations on these views. We agree that we will discuss this subject further once the Commission's proposals for revision of the financial perspectives have been tabled.

- Regarding the various bilateral agreements between the Community and countries of Central and Eastern Europe, we felt that the Council could decide rapidly on Commission draft directives for a trade and economic agreement with Czechoslovakia and revised directives for a similar agreement with Romania, and note with satisfaction that current negotiations with Bulgaria and the GDR should be concluded rapidly.

- We agree that there should be a prompt and effective response from the Community to urgent requests from Poland and Romania for emergency food and medical aid. We greatly appreciate the effective way the Commission has fulfilled its recent responsibilities in this area.

- We agree that a positive response should be given with the G24 to requests from the other countries in Central and Eastern Europe who have embarked on political and economic reforms to become beneficiaries of coordinated assistance; the Twelve will take the initiatives which correspond to the leading role in G24 which we intend to continue.

- We will examine in a positive spirit any future Commission proposals aimed at providing appropriate project assistance, in the light of each country's need and characteristics, to the countries of Central and Eastern Europe including proposals on Community training and exchange schemes.

- We noted the importance of the initiative on the Bank for European Reconstruction and Development and issues concerning it.