

TALSMANDENS GRUPPE  
SPRECHERGRUPPE  
SPOKESMAN'S GROUP  
GROUPE DU PORTE-PAROLE  
GRUPPO DEL PORTAVOCCE  
BUREAU VAN DE

**PRESSE-MEDDELELSE  
MITTEILUNG AN DIE PRESSE  
PRESS-RELEASE**

**INFORMATION A LA PRESSE  
INFORMAZIONE ALLA STAMPA  
MEDEDELING AAN DE PERS**

Brussels, 6 January 1978

**OPENING STATEMENT FOR COMMISSION MEETING  
WITH PRESIDENT CARTER : 6 January 1978**

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Mr. President, the European Commission is honoured and delighted to welcome you here. It is the first visit to the Commission of a President of the United States. Your visit is therefore both a symbol and a practical manifestation of the enduring relationship between Europe and the United States and, more particularly, of the developing and excellent contacts between this Commission and your Administration. They are both one year old this month, and in fact you visit us on this Commission's birthday, the sixth of January.

Both the United States and Europe have in the past year had to confront many similar problems throughout the world. Your present tour has brought into sharp focus several aspects of your great international responsibilities. We are also aware of our actual and potential role in the outside world. These roles are in our view complementary. We see neither contradiction of our European purpose nor dependence in a strong relationship between the Community and the United States. This is especially so on the world economic scene. Our mutual desire to ensure the success of the multilateral trade negotiations is of greater importance both for us and for the world as a whole than any bilateral difficulties that may exist between us. Our cooperation, together with the Japanese, is necessary both to withstand the damaging dangers of protectionism and to regenerate a still sluggish world economy.

Another important dimension of mutual concern is our approach to the third world and the way in which we conceive of the dialogue between north and south. Both Europe and the United States have outgrown the age of charitable action. We live in a world where a proper division of labour and of economic effort between developed and developing countries is necessary for our health as well as theirs. And it is necessary not only for our economic health but for the political and social health of the world as a whole.

We agree with you that the importance of our relationship is exemplified in the field of energy. My official visit to you in April of last year took place in what, for you, was "energy week". We in the Community strongly support your continuing efforts to achieve a result which is both practical and imaginative and will begin to deal with this major problem. Our relative dependence on the outside world is of course still greater than yours. But our priorities are similar - to save energy, and to develop alternative sources to oil imports. Moreover, if our need for nuclear energy is perceived at the present time somewhat differently from yours - although I believe it is now possible to exaggerate the differences - we enter willingly into the International Fuel Cycle Evaluation Programme, wishing for its success and without prejudice to its results.

The European Community and the Commission here have a major role to play in the world. But to underpin we must constantly safeguard and strengthen our internal cohesion. The United States is still often thought of as a relatively new nation. But we are an even younger Community: twenty-five years<sup>old</sup> compared with your 201. We are a young Community formed out of ancient peoples with strong national traditions. We do not seek to flatten those national traditions, but rather to help canalise them towards more constructive purposes than has often been the case in the past. The Community has powers and responsibilities both externally and internally that make it more than the sum of its constituent parts. Within Europe our job is to make that sum stronger

and more effective. That is why this Commission has redefined and is relaunching our approach towards economic and monetary union.

This initiative has also to be seen in conjunction with two other strategic developments that are on the Community's agenda today: on the one hand, the prospect, very soon, of the first direct elections to the European Parliament, and, on the other hand, the prospect of further enlargement of the Community to embrace the three nascent democracies of Southern Europe - Greece, Portugal and Spain. These three developments are powerfully inter-related. We could not envisage monetary union without a European direct democracy. What better way of underwriting democracy in the three applicant countries than by inviting them to a new, shared democratic Parliament? What better way of assuring that enlargement does not dilute the integration of Europe than by resuming the move towards economic and monetary union?

Mr President, we believe that you, representing the people of the United States, share our desire for a Europe economically unified in essentials and therefore better able to play a major role in the world. We are delighted that your visit today testifies your continuing support for this great enterprise. We are your forefathers. But you are now also ours, in having shown in your very different circumstances, one way of creating unity out of the diversity of European heritage.