

EUROMEMO

Recent Developments in the European Community

March 1992

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1992: a pivotal year....EC Commission President Jacques Delors in a recent speech to the European Parliament described 1992 as an important benchmark on the road to European Union. Outlining the Commission's workload for the coming year, he said completion of the single market - while on the home-run - is no longer an end in itself, but an essential part of the way forward on the course agreed by EC leaders at Maastricht (the Netherlands) in December 1991. To achieve the new frontiers (Economic and Monetary Union, Political Union) set out in the new draft Treaty on European Union, Delors stressed the importance of devising new institutional procedures and providing additional resources. In this context, he presented his proposal for a new financial package, dubbed the Delors II package because it uses the same strategy as its 1988 predecessor, Delors I, which helped bring the 1992 program to successful conclusion. Entitled "From the Single Act to Maastricht and Beyond: The Means to Match our Ambitions", the three-part document analyses the Community's expanded responsibilities and competences after Maastricht and proposes a new financial perspective for the period 1993-1997.

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Central and Eastern Europeans want closer ties with the European Community....according to a recent poll carried out by the EC Commission's research and analysis unit, a large majority of the citizens of 10 Central and Eastern European countries "feel European" and want closer ties with the EC, both through Association Agreements and eventually as full members. The study, **Central and Eastern Eurobarometer No. 2**, also measures a sample population's perceptions on topics like the future of the former Soviet Union, the prospects for economic and democratic reform in their own countries, the impact of Western assistance** on their national economies, and the EC's mediating role in the Yugoslav crisis. The survey was carried out in September-October 1991 by participating research institutes in Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, and European Russia under the coordination of Gallup UK. Using random sampling procedures, 10,000 people over 15 years of age were selected and interviewed in their homes by professional pollsters.

** The EC Commission has been coordinating Western assistance for Central and Eastern Europe since 1989. PHARE (Poland and Hungary Assistance for Economic Restructuring) is the EC's particular financial and

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technical assistance program for the economic and political reorientation of countries in the region. A new **Operational Guide to PHARE** describes the program's objectives, instruments and implementing procedures, and lists the beneficiary countries and the criteria for obtaining assistance. The guide also answers typical questions of use to private firms or individuals interested in taking part in the national actions financed by the PHARE program, and includes the legal texts establishing the program and useful sources of further information.

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A safer workplace for young people....a number of recent reports carried out by international organizations have established that young people in their first year of employment are a special risk group and are more liable than adults or more experienced employees to suffer from fatigue and fatigue-related injuries. In light of these findings, the Commission has just proposed a new directive on protection of young people at work. Addressing an important element of the EC's Social Charter** and implementing action program, the draft directive would define a basic set of minimum provisions dealing with exposure to various occupational risks; forbid employment of youths under the age of 15 (except in special cases, such as newspaper delivery, babysitting, cultural or sports activities); and impose flexible restrictions on the amount of work performed by children and adolescents.

** The Commission in December 1991 adopted its first report on application of the Community Charter on the Fundamental Social Rights of Workers, which was adopted in December 1989 and lays down the guiding principles of the European model of labor law. A summary of that report outlines the initiatives which have been drawn up as part of an action program to implement the Charter, and describes the situation in each of the member states, including the United Kingdom, which is not a signatory of the Charter.

Other New Publications

The European Community in the 1990s, a flier summarizing the major tasks on the Community's agenda, including Economic and Monetary Union, Political Union, and enlargement of the Community.

EC NEWS Press Releases issued during February 1992:

- NEW EUROPEAN UNION TREATY IS SIGNED IN MAASTRICHT
- DELORS II PACKAGE ENLARGES THE INTERNATIONAL ROLE OF THE COMMUNITY
- EC STATEMENT ON US POLICY ON FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT