

# European Community NEWS

**PUBLISHED WEEKLY** The contents of this newsletter may be quoted or reproduced without further permission.

**EUROPEAN COMMUNITY INFORMATION SERVICE** 2100 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037 Telephone: (202) 872-8350  
277 Park Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017 Telephone: (212) 371-3804

NO. 17 MAY 9, 1975

## COMMUNITY - US TO DISCUSS ECONOMICS

US and Community measures for economic resurgence will be discussed in upcoming meetings between EC Council President in Office Richie Ryan, Irish finance minister; Commission Vice President Wilhelm Haferkamp, responsible for economic and monetary matters; US Treasury Secretary William Simon, and other high-level US officials. The meetings, to take place May 15-16 in Washington, are hoped to be the precursor of future Community concertation and consultation relationships with major economic powers regarding the world economic outlook, and national policies. While in Washington, Ryan and Haferkamp will also meet with Johannes Witteveen, managing director of the International Monetary Fund.

## COMPANY STATUTE UNDER DISCUSSION

Workers employed in Community countries may soon have a greater say in company decision-making, as the statute for European companies moves closer to reality. EC Commissioner Finn Olav Gundelach, speaking at a May 5 Brussels press conference, stated that the amended proposal for the statute, in the form of a regulation, is currently under discussion by the Council and will become European law upon its adoption. Gundelach is responsible for internal markets.

The European company statute is a complete piece of company law which would allow European companies to operate throughout the Community as one economic entity, ignoring national borders. Industry may choose whether or not to use the statute as a means of simplifying legal paperwork, and workers may elect to participate in "codetermination" of company decision making or not.'

## KRAG TO CELEBRATE SCHUMAN DAY IN PARIS

Jens Otto Krag, head of the European Community's delegation to the United States, will be among the Community dignitaries taking part in the French Government's celebration of Schuman Day May 9 in Paris. Schuman Day commemorates Robert Schuman who, twenty five years ago, called for the creation of the European Coal and Steel Community, the first of the three European Communities.

## BRITONS ABROAD CAN'T VOTE IN EC REFERENDUM

British citizens living abroad will not be permitted to vote in the June 5 referendum on continued UK membership in the Community, following rejection of the motion in an April House of Commons vote. However, Robert Adley, a Conservative member of Parliament, plans to organize a "mini-referendum" in Community countries to allow British citizens living there to express their opinions. Commons also voted to count ballots by county, and not nationally as previously proposed.

### ORTOLI RENEWS GREEK ASSOCIATION

Discussion of the future development of the Community's relationship with Greece was the focal point of EC Commission President Francois Xavier Ortoli's May 6-9 trip to Greece. Matters relative to the reactivation of the EC-Greek association agreement, following the "thaw" of relations, were discussed.

### EC POLITICAL LEADERS TO MEET JULY 16-17

The foreign ministers of the nine EC member states met in Brussels May 5 to discuss the next Council meeting of EC heads of state or government. The first of the thrice-yearly meetings, which replaced the annual full-scale "summits," was held in Dublin on March 10-11. The second meeting is scheduled for July 16-17 in Brussels.

### COMMUNITY STEEL PRODUCTION SLOWS

Raw steel production dropped 18.3 per cent in the original EC-Six from March 1974 to March 1975. The decline was attributed to a slowdown in demand for steel products and a subsequent fall in new orders. Germany saw the greatest drop in production -- 25.6 per cent, and Italy the least -- 3.4 per cent. However, the corresponding decline for the EC-Nine was lower -- 13.3 per cent.

### EC, GREECE SIGN ADDITIONAL PROTOCOL

The Community's association agreement with Greece was extended to Britain, Denmark, and Ireland, following the April 28 signing of an additional protocol in Brussels. The protocol will come into force after ratification by the national legislatures. Both parties also signed an interim agreement permitting the three new EC members to apply the same customs reductions to Greece as they apply to their fellow member states. At the same time, Greece will begin reducing its duties toward the "Three."

### COMMUNITY NEARS ACCORD WITH MEXICO

Mexico and the European Community are moving toward the conclusion of a trade agreement, following the completion of the first round of negotiations in Brussels on April 29-30. The proposed agreement would promote the development and diversification of trade through economic and commercial cooperation between Mexico and the Community. The next round of negotiations, to be held June 9-10, will be devoted to the examination of a draft text of the main elements of the negotiations. The opening of negotiations follows the April visit of Commission Vice President Christopher Soames to Mexico.

---

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY INFORMATION SERVICE

2100 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037