

# THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

1964?  
P R E S S R E L E A S E

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY • EUROPEAN COAL AND STEEL COMMUNITY • EUROPEAN ATOMIC ENERGY COMMUNITY

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GRAIN PRICE DECISION BROUGHT "DAY OF TRIUMPH FOR EUROPE,"

EEC COMMISSION VICE PRESIDENT MANSHOLT DECLARES

WASHINGTON, D.C., December 18 --- EEC Commission Vice President Sicco Mansholt yesterday in Brussels hailed December 15, the day on which the six Common Market countries agreed on a single grain price, as "the day of triumph for Europe."

Vice President Mansholt, the principal author of the price system adopted, said also in a statement issued in Brussels: "December 15, 1964 will be a milestone not only in the history of the Common Agricultural Policy, but also in the whole development of the European Economic Community."

The remainder of the text of the statement follows:

"In our countries agricultural policy has long been one of the most sensitive areas of policy: it has perforce been a 'national' field in which each country has sought to solve its own problems regardless of those facing its neighbors. Although in the last two years we had succeeded in building up a Community structure for the organization of the agricultural markets, the keystone was still lacking: a common agricultural policy based on a Community price policy.

"On 15 December the governments of the member countries burned the individual boats in which they could have sailed home to the harbors of national agricultural policy. Henceforth, there is only a common policy, a policy of European solidarity.

"Those who still think in purely national terms have asked us which country will get most out of the decision taken at the last agricultural 'Marathon'. The question is ill-conceived. December 15 was the day of triumph for Europe.

Supranational Solutions Found for Farm Problems

"For the first time in the history of our continent, supranational solutions have been found to national agricultural problems. And this means that our Community is now more than ever a reality on which there is no turning back. But it would be a mistake to dwell too long on the past. Let us move on, and ask rather what we still have to do.

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"Inside the Community, the common agricultural policy must be molded into its final form. The most immediate problems are those involved in working out a Community price policy for beef and veal, for milk and milk products. Other sectors will be dealt with later. In 1965 we will also have to take important decisions on how the Community intends to finance the common agricultural policy. Finally, progress must be made in shaping our policy on the structure of agriculture and our social policy in this sphere, for these are two essential elements in overall agricultural policy.

"Not all these problems will be easily dealt with, but we shall certainly resolve them. We are over the most difficult hurdle. That is the result, the outcome, of our recent agreement.

#### EEC Must Remain Outward-Looking

"In its dealings with non-member countries the Community must prove that it is aware of its world responsibilities. Henceforth it is in a position to embark, properly equipped, on the agricultural negotiations in the Kennedy Round. At the same time it is becoming a magnet which attracts other European countries.

"Our Community, then, must remain open to all who wish to join us, and it is our duty to build up increasingly fruitful relations with all non-member countries which wish to cooperate in establishing economic and social equilibrium in the world."

The EEC Council of Ministers agreed on December 15 on a common target price for grains to be applied beginning July 1, 1967. That agreement marked the first time that a group of states had combined their national agricultural policies under a single common-price system.

#### Price Decision Key for Farm Policy, Kennedy Round

The target price for soft wheat was set at \$2.89 a bushel on the basis of price proposals (the Mansholt Plan) made by the Commission in November 1963. The adoption of the common grain price makes possible the creation of a common price for conversion of farm products by July 1, 1967. Free intra-Community trade and single prices will be established for pork, poultry and eggs. The grain price level will also be vital to the price levels for dairy products, beef and veal and rice.

The grain price decision also will enable the Community to negotiate on both agricultural and industrial products in the Kennedy Round of trade negotiations now in progress. The EEC Commission, which negotiates on behalf of the six member states, has proposed that the Kennedy Round participants bind the amounts of support given farm products and establish world commodity agreements for the most important farm products in international trade.