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Brussels, 24 June 1983

**MR THORN, COMMISSION PRESIDENT, AT CEREMONY TO INAUGURATE
THE HISTORICAL ARCHIVES OF THE HIGH AUTHORITY OF THE
EUROPEAN COAL AND STEEL COMMUNITY (ECSC)**

Brussels, 28 June 1983 at 11.30 hours

On Tuesday 28 June 1983 Mr Gaston E. THORN, President of the Commission of the European Communities, will inaugurate the historical archives of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) at an official ceremony in the Square de Meeus building (Room E, ground floor), where the archives are kept.

In February the Council of the European Communities decided (1) to open these archives to the public for two reasons :

- to encourage research into Community history and stimulate public interest in the process of European integration;
- to throw more light on the workings of the European institutions.

To mark the inauguration, an exhibition is being held of documents from the archives to illustrate various themes of research into the beginnings of the ECSC, notably implementation of the ECSC Treaty, the setting up of the institutions, the establishment and expansion of the common market and relations with the Member States, non-member countries and international organizations.

A detailed guide (2) has also been published. Researchers wishing to consult the archives may apply to the special department at the archives which will provide them with the information they require.

The Commission considers that the provision of these important new sources of information will for the first time allow systematic, interdisciplinary and comparative research into post-war European integration and will set the institutions and bodies of the Community in their proper historical context.

The Community's initiative will also contribute to providing a basis of historical truth for the further spread of the European spirit among young people.

(1) OJ L 43, 15 February 1983.

(2) Opening of the historical archives of the European Communities to the public (119 pages). Official Publications Office of the European Communities, Luxembourg, 1985.