



COMMISSION
OF THE EUROPEAN
COMMUNITIES

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THE WEEK IN EUROPE

Delors presents Commission's 1990 programme. Addressing the European Parliament yesterday, Commission President Jacques Delors presented the Commission's programme for 1990. Speaking on the challenge of events in Europe, Delors said: "Our admiration for the people of Central and Eastern Europe must not blind us to reality. The changes under way give cause for hope, but they are also fraught with danger. As de Tocqueville wrote in the aftermath of the 1848 revolution: "it has ceased to be an adventure and is taking on the dimensions of a new era. There is still a danger of back-tracking, of things going wrong....." He went on: "Neither must we underestimate the predicted dangers facing Eastern Europe - and hence also of concern to us - in the uncharted waters leading to the free, multi-party elections scheduled for the spring, and indeed in the post-election period should political reforms fail to materialise, should economies collapse, should there be moves towards Balkanisation". Turning to East Germany he said that state was a "special case". He continued: "I would like to repeat clearly here today that there is a place for East Germany in the Community, should it so wish, provided, as the Strasbourg European Council made quite clear, the German nation regains its unity through free self-determination, peacefully and democratically". He concluded by saying that because the Community's prosperity and future role in the world depended on the success of the Single Act, this was the Community's main priority in its programme for 1990.

Andriessen in Eastern Europe tour. Commission Vice-President Frans Andriessen concluded this week a lightning tour of Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria and Romania in an effort to shape the groundwork of a new generation of agreements with the EC. At this stage his aim was to start the massive job of coordinating Community - and all Western - aid for an Eastern Europe struggling to emerge from the Chrysalis of revolutions into multi-party democracies. His visit to the three countries follows another recent trip to East Berlin with the same basic aim in mind. With many of the Governments in these countries having a provisional nature, the Commission is not demanding that duly-elected governments first take office before it gives certain trade concessions and food aid. In Czechoslovakia, Andriessen met Vaclav Havel, the new President, and Alexander Dubcek, President of Parliament. He told Czechoslovak Prime Minister, Marian Calfa, the EC was working on the idea of "second generation" association accords with East European countries. The first step in Prague's case would be a widening of the EC's limited agreement reached in 1988, which eased quotas on certain Czechoslovak industrial goods. When Rumania asked for large quantities of food, Andriessen's only condition was that Bucharest stop food exports while any EC aid effort lasts. On this visit, the Commission's representative acted not only as the Community's trade and aid negotiator but also the appointed coordinator of aid provided by a dozen other countries including the US and Japan.

European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Talks on the establishment of a multilateral European Bank for Reconstruction and Development began on Monday in Paris at a two-day meeting of senior officials from 34 countries from East and West. Key issues facing the negotiations will include the allocation of shares in the new EBRD to participating governments and institutions; the size of the capital of the bank, and the proportion which should be paid up; the definition of the bank's objectives and lending policies; and the location of the bank. Participants at the negotiations include the 12 EC countries. the Commission and the European Investment Bank, the six countries of EFTA; the Soviet Union and its six East European partners in Comecon plus Yugoslavia; the US, Japan, Canada, Australia and New Zealand; Turkey, Cyprus and Malta.

Irish Foreign Minister at Europe Parliament. In an address to the Strasbourg European Parliament on Tuesday, Irish Foreign Minister Gerard Collins current President of the Council said Eastern Europe required the fullest response but refuted the notion that the Community's energies for other tasks would thereby be exhausted. He said Ireland's aims will be broadly to continue on the road to European integration, through the Social Charter, and develop EC relations with neighbouring countries and the world beyond.

Air competition to be boosted. Under proposals to be announced on 24 January, the EC plans to set up a Community Framework to negotiate all future air route rights between the EC and third countries to replace the current system of bilateral agreements. This new Community structure should strengthen the EC's hand in acquiring greater access for Community airlines in the markets.

Mercator. The Commission is in the process of setting up an information and documentation network on less used languages to be known as "Mercator". It is estimated that around 50 million people in the EC speak minority languages ranging from Breton to Catalan.

Ozone layer measures adopted. The Commission has decided that CFCs which deplete the ozone layer should be eliminated by 1997, three years earlier than is commonly accepted at world level.

EC unemployment falls. The unemployment rate in the EC, seasonally adjusted, fell in November 1989 to 8.9% and is thus for the first time since 1982 below 9%.

Swedish PM visits Commission. On Monday Swedish Prime Minister, Ingvar Carlsson, current President of EFTA, held talks with Commission President Jacques Delors on developing the wider European Economic space.

EC Energy Monthly. From 1 January, the Financial Times newsletter EC Energy Monthly has been launched as an independent title at £225 for a year's subscription. EC Energy Monthly is a unique specialist publication containing detailed profiles of Member State positions regarding Brussels energy policies, news from Council, Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee, as well as collating all energy and energy-related news emerging from the Commission. Details from Paul Lynes is 07 - 240 9391 ext 237.

European Business Journal. The latest issue of this quarterly magazine just out contains articles by Ralph Land on political and economic change in Eastern Europe; by Sue Birley on a European Dimension for SMEs, "working into the European Parliament" by Tom Spencer MEP, and European attitudes to the EEC by Robert Worcester of MORI.

Parliamentary Companion. The latest issue of Parliamentary companion for the UK and EC has just been published. This issue has been updated and expanded and has a foreword by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Details from Parliamentary Monitoring Services, 29 Tufton Street, London SW1 P 3QL. Tel: 01 - 222 5024.

"Your Parliament in Europe". Written by George Clark, former political correspondent and later European Political Correspondent of The Times, this new 60 page booklet is based on 14 years coverage of the European Parliament. While all views expressed and judgements made are his own and do not commit the European Parliament, they will not fail to illuminate, amuse, irritate and even sometimes infuriate readers. Available from Martyn Bond, UK Information Office of the European Parliament, 2 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AA. Tel: 01 - 222 0411.

Diary Dates.

General Affairs	20 January	Dublin
Agricultural Council	22/23 January	Brussels
General Affairs Council	5/6 February	Brussels
ECO/Fin Council	12 February	Brussels
Agriculture Council	12/13 February	Brussels
Internal Market Council	22 February	Brussels

Our next briefing will be on Thursday 25 January at 11.30 a.m.