



*European Communities
Commission
Background Report*

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DEVELOPING NEW AID PROGRAMMES

Most people know of the Lomé Convention and its uses as an instrument for helping development of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) States associated with it. Fewer are aware of what the Community is doing for so-called 'non-associated' states in South East Asia and Central and South America. Yet it already has in hand a useful programme of financial and technical aid to these countries, aimed at helping them to improve export levels through schemes or regional integration and trade promotion.

Following affirmation by the Council of Ministers in principle in July 1974, the Commission proposed a general action programme for 1976-80 which, besides involving schemes for regional cooperation and integration, included operations to develop food production. Twenty million units of account (nearly £10 million) was included in the 1976 Budget for this purpose.

In addition a sum of 4,340,000 u.a. (£1.8 million) has been set aside in 1976 for trade promotion schemes. This is considerably more than in previous years (only 600,000 ua in 1975) and forms part of the Community's policy, based on the generalised system of preferences, of opening the Community market to manufactures and semi-manufactures from the developing countries.

These schemes are also an essential means of implementing trade cooperation agreements already concluded with countries in Asia and Latin America, such as India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Mexico and the cooperation programmes set up with regional integration groupings such as the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN - Indonesia, Malaysia, Phillipines, Singapore and Thailand); the Andean Group (Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela); and the Central American Common Market (Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua).

Export promotion is also one of the main topics discussed at the annual dialogue between the Community and the member countries of the Special Coordinating Committee for Latin America (CECLA).

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Varied action

Whereas in 1973-4 promotion schemes were limited to the organisation of training courses and seminars, today Community activity has been greatly expanded. It includes:

- (i) Financing participation at international or regional fairs and special trade shows in Europe (13 fairs in 1976 with a total of 90 stands).
- (ii) Organising trade missions from the developing countries to the Community, and arranging marketing seminars to assist exporters to explore markets for particular products in Member States (6 seminars were organised in 6 Member States in 1975-6).
- (iii) Organising European purchasing missions to the developing countries. (1976: Bolivia, Colombia, India, Paraguay, Venezuela).
- (iv) Sending European experts in marketing, design, etc, to the developing countries (50 missions in 1976), and publishing market brochures and guides.

These schemes have proved of interest mainly to the Asian and Latin American developing countries among non-associated states. Similar schemes are also mounted for the Lomé Convention countries.

In addition the Commission has organised annual seminars since 1972 in various non-associated developing countries on the generalised system of preferences so that industrialists in these countries can make the most of the opportunities offered by the GSP.

COUNTRIES CONCERNED BY THE 1976 PROGRAMME

(being undertaken currently)

	Fairs	Trade missions to Europe	Seminars	European purchasing missions
<u>ASIA</u>				
Afghanistan			x	
Bangladesh	x	x	x	
India	x	x	x	x
Indonesia	x	x	x	
Malaysia	x	x		
Nepal			x	
Pakistan	x	x	x	
Philippines	x	x	x	
Sri Lanka	x	x	x	
Singapore	x	x	x	
Thailand	x	x	x	
<u>LATIN AMERICA</u>				
Argentina			x	
Bolivia	x		x	x
Colombia	x	x	x	x
Costa Rica	x		x	
Ecuador			x	
Dominican Republic	x			
Guatemala	x		x	
Honduras	x		x	
Mexico	x		x	
Nicaragua	x		x	
Panama			x	
Paraguay	x		x	x
Peru			x	x
El Salvador	x		x	
Uruguay	x		x	
Venezuela				x
<u>OTHER</u>				
Algeria			x	
Egypt	x		x	
Haiti			x	
Tunisia			x	
Yemen			x	