

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(76) 284 final.

Brussels, 4 June 1976.

Preparatory work
for the negotiation of a new
International Sugar Agreement

(Communication from the Commission to the Council)

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1. On the 18th June next, the Council of the International Sugar Organization will meet in London to decide whether to request the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to convene in September 1976 a United Nations Conference for the negotiation of a new International Sugar Agreement.
2. The European Economic Community - which is not a member of this Organization but has observer status at its Council meetings - has up to now refrained from taking a position on the timeliness or otherwise of convening such a conference or on whether to participate in it, if convened.
The Community has equally refrained from taking part in the preparatory work which has resulted, after two years of discussion, in the preparation of a draft agreement which would be submitted as the basic working document of the Conference.
3. The Commission considers it necessary - in the light of various approaches recently made to it by the Secretariat and certain members of the International Sugar Organization - that the Community should make known its attitude to the question of negotiation of a new International Sugar Agreement at the next meeting of the Organization's Council.
4. The Community could on this occasion express the following point of view :
 - (i) the European Economic Community is in favour of setting up a new International Sugar Agreement, and of taking part in it;
 - (ii) the Community considers that the draft agreement at present envisaged by the International Sugar Council (doc. CON C/12) does not take sufficient account of the recent evolution of the international situation and of the problems currently facing the sugar market;
 - (iii) if the International Sugar Council should defer its decision to convene a negotiating conference and envisage further preparatory work, the Community might well be willing to take part in this work.
5. The Commission recommends to the Council that a decision should be taken in the sense suggested above, in sufficient time to permit the Community to make known its point of view at the meeting of the International Sugar Council on 18th June next.

The Commission will advise the Council as to the results of the London meeting.