

# COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(77) 605 final.

Brussels, 15 November 1977.

## DECLARATION ON DEMOCRACY

(European Council, 5 and 6 December 1977, in Brussels)

COM(77) 605 final.

The Heads of Government of the Member States meeting within the European Council make the following declaration.

The election of the Members of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage is an event of outstanding importance for the future of the European Communities and a vivid demonstration of the ideals of democracy shared by the people within them..

The creation of the Communities, which is the foundation of ever closer union among the peoples of Europe called for in the Treaty of Rome, marked the determination of their founders to strengthen the protection of peace and freedom.

The Heads of Government confirm their will, as expressed in the Copenhagen Declaration on the European identity, to ensure that the cherished values of their legal, political and moral order are respected and to safeguard the principles of representative democracy, of the rule of law, of social justice and of respect for human rights.

The application of these principles implies a political system of pluralist democracy which guarantees both the free expression of opinions within the constitutional organisation of powers and the procedures necessary for the protection of human rights.

The Heads of Government associate themselves with the Joint Declaration by the Assembly, the Council and the Commission whereby these Institutions expressed their determination to respect fundamental rights in pursuing the aims of the Communities.

They solemnly declare that respect for and maintenance of representative democracy and human rights in each Member State are indispensable for membership of the European Communities.