

# EUROPEAN COMMUNITY INFORMATION SERVICE

220 Southern Building, Washington 5, D.C.  
telephone NAational 8-5070

COMMON MARKET · EURATOM · COAL & STEEL COMMUNITY

April 8, 1960

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## EUROPEAN LABOR ENDORSES

## COMMON MARKET SPEED-UP

WASHINGTON, D.C., April 8 -- Western European labor unions have given their full support to the proposals to accelerate the Common Market, it was announced by European Economic Community headquarters today after a meeting held in Brussels. Leaders of the International Confederation of Free Labor Unions and of the International Federation of Christian Workers told officials of the Common Market that their organizations endorsed the parallel developments of economic union and tariff and quota disarmament.

The round-table conference, called on the initiative of the Commission of the EEC to study the Commission's proposals for speeding up the Common Market transition period, was held on April 7. The Commission was represented by Giuseppe Caron, Vice President; Giuseppe Petrilli, member of the Commission; Francois Ortoli, Director General of the Internal Market Department; and Pieter Verloren van Themaat, Director General of the Competition Department.

In the course of the meeting it was announced that the Committee on Economic Expansion, whose first session was being held the same day in Brussels, had pledged its cooperation with the union representatives. It was proposed that at the next round-table conference union representatives meet with representatives of the European Investment Bank as well as with officials of the EEC Commission.

The proposals to accelerate the development of the Common Market, first announced by the Commission on March 3, would increase the internal tariff reduction scheduled to go into effect July 1 from 10 per cent to 20 per cent and would at the same time take the beginning steps toward the equalization of the common external tariff. The plan, presented to the European Parliament in Strasbourg by Common Market Commission President Walter Hallstein last week, was overwhelmingly endorsed by the Parliament on April 1. The Community's Council of Ministers, representing the six member countries, is expected to take up the proposals at the next meeting of the Council on May 10.