



*European Communities
Commission
Press Release*

20 Kensington Palace Gardens
London W8 4QQ
Telephone: 01-727 8090

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STATEMENT BY MR. GEORGE THOMSON, MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION
OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1974.

Press reports that the Regional Development Fund was reduced yesterday by the Council of Ministers to 44p (1 u.a.) are ludicrously untrue. The Commission's proposal to establish a Fund of 2,250m u.a. for three years stands unaltered on the Council's table. The Council has taken no new decisions since it authorized the Commission in June 1974 to hold further discussions with the member governments with a view to presenting a new report at the appropriate time suggesting lines on which to reach a solution.

Yesterday the Council discussed the 1975 Community Budget. As there is not yet agreement on the size of the Regional Fund, it took the same decision on the Fund entry in the budget as it did 12 months ago for the 1974 budget. Technically, the Community practice in such cases is to enter words "token entry" in the budget against the item concerned until a decision on it has been taken. This practice does not mean that the Community has in any way retreated from its commitment to establish the Fund.

I remain confident that the Community will agree to set up the Regional Development Fund as part of its current programme for regenerating Community activity and that the Fund will be an important positive element in a European Community in which Britain decides to continue to stay.

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