

# European Community

## News Release

### COMMON FISHERIES POLICY FOR THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

---

25 January 1983 marks an historic moment for the European Communities. After years of discussion and many months of intense and delicate negotiations, the ten Member States of the Community adopted a Common Fisheries Policy which took effect on January 26, 1983. The fisheries agreement is the second common policy established by the European Community, the other being the Common Agricultural Policy. It provides for orderly co-sharing of Community marine resources amongst the Member States, and will be in effect for twenty years.

The President of the Commission of the European Communities, Gaston Thorn, issued the following statement concerning the Common Fisheries Policy:

"The establishment of the Common Fisheries Policy - after a delicate negotiation lasting 12 or 14 months - marks a considerable step forward for both the fisheries sector and the Community.

The Community has today made the logical choice to conserve and manage its fish resources through a Common Fisheries Policy. We now have the political apparatus which will make it possible for us to make an orderly harvest of our fish resources and avoid their destruction. It is clear that this is in the long term interests of our fishermen and the shore-based industries that process fish.

Today's agreement should give encouragement to Community activities in other sectors. The conclusion of the present negotiations has required political courage. Ministers and the Commission, convinced of the long term benefits of a Policy, have had to persuade their fishermen to accept difficult measures. If we could show the same perseverance in other sectors, there is no reason why we should not achieve similarly successful results."

Mr. Robert Martin, Acting Head of the Delegation of the Commission of the European Communities in Ottawa, stated:

"Establishment of the Common Fisheries Policy creates a new climate of stability in a major economic sector of the Community, which can only favour the further development of the EC/Canada fisheries relationship".

For further information, please contact J. Gwyn Morgan, Head of our Press and Information office.

 **Delegation of the Commission  
of the European Communities**  
Press and Information Service

NR (83) 02  
26 January