



*European Communities
Commission
Press Release*

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Weekly Timetable of Community Activities - No 42/75

Council Meetings before Christmas

Monday and Tuesday, December 15 + 16: Agriculture ministers take their first look at the Commission's price package, announced Thursday.

Monday, December 15: Ministers for research will discuss the EEC's research efforts in thermo-nuclear fusion, biology and health protection and environment, the multiannual joint research programmes and prospects for common research and development policy.

Thursday, December 18: Social affairs ministers' discussions will include the implementation of equal treatment for men and women workers, the action programme for migrants, and action by the Social Fund to help employment and adaptation in industrial sectors hit by recession.

(Monday's planned council of finance ministers has been cancelled, but the same ministers will meet as in "conference" to prepare the Jamaica IMF meeting of January 7 and 8 and the Group of Ten meeting on December 18, aiming to decide on a common position on exchange rates, gold and IMF policy towards developing countries.)

Council Meetings Further Ahead

January 19	Finance Ministers	Proposed
January 19/20	Foreign Affairs	Proposed
January 19/20	Agriculture Ministers	Proposed

FLASHBACK

At Tuesday's Foreign ministers meeting the Nine decided on the procedure for following up the Paris International Economic Cooperation meeting of December 16, agreeing to adopt its formal stance on energy after proposals by the Commission in the second half of January. Britain dropped its demand for immediate mention of a floor price for imported oil in the EEC's mandate for the conference. The Nine agreed to open negotiations with Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan and Syria for global cooperation agreements, but delayed the adoption of a mandate for improving Portugal's trade arrangements with the EEC.

At Monday's Environment ministers meeting the UK won agreement on the possibility of exceptions to the general rules on emission standards for pollutants, where "quality objectives" could be effective.

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FLASHBACK contd.

Transport: West Germany joined Britain, Denmark and Ireland in opposition to the proposed 11 tonne permitted axle weight for lorries, when transport ministers met on Wednesday and Thursday. A working group will study a modification to the proposed regulations on drivers' hours, and further work will be done in Coreper on the question of taxing the use of infrastructure.

Education ministers passed a resolution laying down the basis for freedom of movement for teachers and students and mutual recognition of educational qualifications. The ministers inserted into the resolution an amendment making special note of the requirements of education policy in respect of unemployment among young people.

At a meeting between high officials from Japan and the Community, beginning on Thursday, discussion is expected of the EEC's growing trade deficit with Japan, likely to top 2 bn dollars, and possibly of the UK's policy over import restrictions.

Note:

The London EEC office will shut between December 24 and January 2, after which date the information service will resume its usual operations. A skeleton staff will remain during the holiday period to deal with inquiries.