



*European Communities  
Commission  
Press Release*

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Weekly Timetable of Community Activities - No 44/74

TWO COUNCILS BEFORE CHRISTMAS

Energy and Finance Ministers to meet

A Council of Ministers of Energy will meet in Brussels next Tuesday in the wake of the Paris summit. It is worth noting that before this Council meeting President Giscard d'Estaing will have discussed the energy problem with President Ford at Martinique.

There will be a Council of Ministers on economy and finance in Brussels on Thursday, December 19, to continue progress achieved at the Summit on co-ordinating the fight against inflation and unemployment.

FLASHBACK

The Paris summit meeting was widely regarded as successful. Progress was made on a common Community struggle against inflation; there was more movement towards co-ordinating European and American energy policy; the Regional Development Fund was finally approved with a budget of 1,300 million units of account over the next three years; and there was some progress towards improving the Community's institutional structure, including a positive discussion on the question of direct elections to the European Parliament.

The Heads of State and of Government decided to meet three times a year and otherwise whenever necessary to act as the supreme Council of Ministers.

The British Prime Minister, Mr Wilson, described the progress on the negotiations about Britain's continued membership of the Community as a "big step forward" but added that there was still a long way to go. Significant progress was achieved with the agreement that the Commission should devise a system within the existing financial procedures for correcting a situation which was unacceptable to a member state and thus incompatible with the good functioning of the Community.

At a Council of Transport Ministers on Wednesday it was agreed to relax rules restricting road hauliers to a limited number of intra-Community border crossings, provided part of the journey is made by rail.

The Transport Ministers also finally approved new road haulage quotas, proposed by the Commission in May. The three new Member States were given 20 per cent more quotas each, the Six 15 per cent. Britain's quota for 1975 goes up from 227 to 272.