



European Communities
Commission
Press Release

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Weekly Timetable of Community Activities - No 9/76

Next Council Meetings - March - Brussels

March 15	Finance	CONFIRMED
March 25	Energy	CONFIRMED
March 29	Development	PROPOSED

Further Ahead

April 1 + 2	European Council (summit) Luxembourg	
May 3 - 28	UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)	Nairobi

Council Meetings in April (Luxembourg)

April 5	Joint Council Foreign Affairs, Budget	
April 5 + 6	Foreign Affairs	CONFIRMED
April 5 + 6	Agriculture	PROPOSED
April 12	Development	PROPOSED
April 26	Finance	PROPOSED

Council Meetings in May (Brussels)

May 3 + 4	Foreign Affairs	CONFIRMED
May 17 + 18	Agriculture	PROPOSED
May 17	Finance	PROPOSED
May 31 + June 1	Foreign Affairs	CONFIRMED

FLASHBACK

The Council of Ministers of Agriculture finished a marathon series of meetings on the annual price package with agreement to increase farm prices by an average of 7½ per cent. The decision was greeted in Britain, broadly speaking, with concern on the part of consumers and satisfaction by farmers; but farming circles are critical of the plan to incorporate surplus skimmed milk powder into animal feeding stuffs. This scheme is to be backed by a combination of taxes on failure to use surplus skim and subsidies on its use.

The Commission has sent to the Council of Ministers a proposed new regulation which would replace Regulation 533/69 "on the harmonisation of certain social legislation relating to road transport" - the rules on the hours and distances worked by the drivers of lorries and coaches. The most important of a series of proposed new measures are an extension of daily and weekly maximum hours together with more weekly time off; abolition of the 450 kilometre limit provided the vehicle carries a tachograph; and measures for exceptions and temporary suspension of the Regulation. The proposal will follow the normal course of study by the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee before coming under full scrutiny of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (COREPER) and the Council.