



**europaean
community**

PRESS RELEASE

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY INFORMATION SERVICE

2100 M Street Northwest, Suite 707, Washington D.C. 20037 • Telephone: (202) 296-5131

No. 8

EMBARGO UNTIL 10 a.m.

January 22, 1972

FOUR CANDIDATE COUNTRIES SIGN COMMON MARKET TREATY OF ADHESION

WASHINGTON, D.C., January 22 -- One of the major steps toward enlargement of the Common Market is being taken this afternoon when representatives from Great Britain, Denmark, Ireland and Norway, and the six Common Market countries sign the Treaty of Adhesion to the European Communities.

The two-hour ceremony is taking place at the Palais d'Egmont beginning at 4 p.m. (10 a.m. EST) in Brussels. The Palais d'Egmont, a 17th and 18th century structure in downtown Brussels, is the representation center for the Belgian Foreign Ministry.

The Treaty of Adhesion, a 600 to 700 page document, specifies the general and specific conditions of membership of the four candidate countries to the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC), the European Economic Community (EEC), and the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom).

Community and candidate countries must ratify the Treaty before it can come into force January 1, 1973. A transition period of five years (1973-78) was agreed upon for the candidate countries to align their economies gradually with the Community's.

Ratification procedures will be different for the member and candidate countries. None of the six member countries (France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands) will hold referenda. Instead,

the respective parliaments will be responsible for ratification.

In the case of the United Kingdom, the British Parliament already voted October 28 "in principle" on British adhesion to the European Communities in accordance with the terms negotiated and set out in the White Paper, "United Kingdom and the European Community," published on July 7, 1971. During the next 11 months, the British Parliament will debate and act on the consequential legislation with the ultimate objective of ratifying the Adhesion Treaty before January 1, 1973.

The Norwegian government has decided to hold a consultative referendum during 1972. The result will not be legally binding, but political parties have generally pledged themselves to accept the "will of the people" as the basis for their position. The ultimate power to decide whether Norway will enter rests with the Parliament.

Denmark will also hold a referendum during 1972, but the Danish referendum will be legally binding. In order for the Treaty to be defeated, a majority of those voting (constituting at least 30 per cent of all those entitled to vote) in the referendum must reject adhesion. Otherwise, the Government will be entitled to ratify the Treaty.

In Ireland, both Parliament and the general public will have a voice in determining Irish membership. Parliament will first vote to approve the Treaty. Then, because the Treaty's execution affects Irish basic law, a referendum must be held to modify the Constitution so that the government may carry out Treaty commitments. Government ratification will follow a favorable referendum vote. Although the referendum date has not yet been set, it is expected to take place in April or May of 1972.

To involve the candidate countries in the Community's work during 1972, common procedures will be put into effect so that decisions made by Community institutions take into account the interests of the candidate

countries, and consultations will take place before the adoption of any important decision.

Similarly, the candidate countries will hold prior consultations with the Six on any national decisions that affect their eventual obligations to the Community.

#

THE ENLARGED COMMUNITY - A COMPARISON

(1970 figures)

	Community of Six	Community of Ten	USA
Area (thousand sq. miles)	449	714	3,600
Population (millions)	190	255	204
Gross National Product (\$ billions)	485	637	993.3
Exports (\$ billions)	45.2	58*	43.2
Imports (\$ billions)	45.6	65*	40.0
Percentage of World Exports	19.2	26*	18.4
Percentage of World Imports	18.3	27.4*	16.0

* estimated