



**European
community**

PRESS RELEASE

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY INFORMATION SERVICE

2100 M Street Northwest, Suite 707, Washington, D.C. 20037 Telephone: (202) 872-8350
New York Office: 277 Park Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017 Telephone: (212) 371-3804

No. 36

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 26, 1972

NORWAY'S VETO ON MEMBERSHIP DISAPPOINTS EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- September 26 -- The Commission of the European Communities made the following statement today in Brussels after learning that the Norwegian people had voted 46.4 per cent for and 53.6 per cent against joining the Communities. The Norwegian referendum was held Sunday and Monday.

"The Commission is disappointed at the results of the referendum that has just taken place in Norway. It considers it a very serious decision for that country. For the Communities, it is a step backwards on the path toward European unity. The Commission hopes that time will give Norway another chance to participate in this great undertaking.

"This defeat of 'Europe' should give all of us food for thought on the eve of the conference of heads of state or government. It should persuade us to do everything possible so that the construction of Europe arouses more public interest in creating a truly democratic and socially responsive Europe."

The United Kingdom and Ireland have nearly completed ratification, allowing them to become full members of the Communities on January 1, 1973. On September 8, the Danish parliament, by a vote of 141 to 34, passed the bill permitting Denmark to join. This decision must be confirmed by a referendum, to be held on October 2.

#