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Recent Developments in the European Union

MEMO

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Press releases published by the Washington Delegation are available electronically from the Delegation's homepage at: <http://eurunion.org>.

Jacques Delors receives honorary degree... Georgetown University proclaimed former European Commission President Jacques Delors an honorary Doctor of Laws on May 9, Europe Day. The prestigious university paid tribute in particular to his "vision and pragmatic action which made a profound difference in the shape of Europe during his stewardship, leaving it more united, more competitive, more socially conscious, and more aware of itself." **President Delors' acceptance speech, "The European Union: Internal and External Challenges"**, focussed on EU enlargement, EU decision-making and institutional reform, and the need for a strengthened common foreign and security policy. At another venue in an address entitled "**Towards Economic and Monetary Union**", President Delors said EMU was the logical next step forward in building an integrated Europe. Although he would not make predictions about when EMU would be completed, he said it was his personal view that the 1999 deadline would be met.

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Intergovernmental Conference launchedEuropean Union Heads of State gathered in a refurbished auto plant in Turin on March 29 for the launching of the Intergovernmental Conference on the future of the European Union. The sixth in the history of the Union, the present IGC is expected to last well into 1997 while member states negotiate how to improve the workings of the Union in preparation for further enlargement to include several Eastern European countries.

According to the **Presidency Conclusions of the Turin European Council**, the IGC will "provide the opportunity for dealing more effectively with the internal and external challenges" stemming from changes in the international situation, the need for greater competitiveness and employment opportunities, migratory pressures and crime. EU leaders directed the national officials who will conduct the IGC to focus on building a Union which can respond to the needs of its citizens, make decisions more efficiently and democratically, and exercise a genuine Common Foreign and Security Policy.

In an address to the European Council, **European Parliament President Klaus Haensch** said that the IGC should be about "more than minor adjustments to the Treaty on European Union". In particular he called for more majority voting and a reweighting of votes in the Council of Ministers to prevent polarization of small and large member states.

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Commission adopts Green Paper on commercial communications....the absence of single market rules in the area of commercial communications (advertising, direct marketing, sponsorship, sales promotion and public relations) are the subject of a discussion paper adopted on May 8 by the European Commission. According to EU Single Market Commissioner Mario Monti, the purpose of the **Green Paper on Commercial Communications** is to "better clarify what needs to be done if the single market is to be fully applied" in this sector which employs 250,000 people across Europe and in 1993 generated a turnover of nearly \$100 billion. To do so, it seeks the views of the member states, the European Parliament and interested parties to assess the coherence of national and EU measures in the sector and proposes the creation of a structured dialogue to improve coordination between all the interested parties.

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World Trade and the new millennium....European Commission Vice President Sir Leon Brittan has called on the World Trade Organization and its contracting parties to begin thinking about a future round of trade liberalization. Although he made it clear he did not expect WTO trade ministers to take a negotiating decision at the Singapore Ministerial later this year, he nevertheless expected them to endorse "preparation of this next step forward." In his **April 1 speech to the Graduate Institute of International Studies**, Sir Leon Brittan said: "The further liberalization plans which we agreed at Marrakesh make it clear to me that the decision to launch those negotiations cannot be delayed beyond the end of this century so that it must certainly come well within the political horizon of most governments represented at Singapore and certainly within the mandate of the present European Commission". Between the Singapore Ministerial and the launch of a new Round, Sir Leon added, the WTO would have to find some way of accelerating entry for important countries like China which are still outside the system, and empower developing countries to play a bigger role.

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The European Union's Ambassador in Washington **Hugo Paemen** said in a **March 27 speech to the American Society of International Law** that while the EU and the US are partners and share many of the same basic objectives, the extraterritorial and unilateral tendencies in US trade legislation are nonetheless troubling for the EU and "invariably run into problems with bi- or multilateral agreements". He added: "If every country were to revert to trade or investment restricting measures in order to force its own political views upon third countries, this would seriously put into danger today's free trade system which the US itself decisively helped to build". Ambassador Paemen also discusses the US's trade sanctions against Cuba in the context of GATT's Article XXI on issues of national security.

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EU calls for safer maritime industries.....Over 90 percent of Europe's external trade and nearly 30 percent of its internal trade is carried by sea. According to the European Commission, although seaborne trade has been on the increase since 1985, there is considerable potential for growth in the sector as only 14 percent of the world fleet still flies the flag of an EU Member State and 56 percent of EU tonnage is flagged out. The European Commission has approved two Communications outlining measures to enhance the competitiveness of the European Union's shipping and maritime sectors. The Communications - "**Shaping of Europe's Maritime Future**" and "**A new Approach to Maritime Strategy**" - propose to

develop and enforce international rules on safety and environmental protection as an integral part of fair competition, ensure the common application of internationally agreed rules, promote self-regulatory codes of behavior, and encourage operators to achieve higher standards (e.g. through lower port charges for higher quality ships). It also proposes to review the maritime defense instruments of the Union designed to combat unfair pricing in liner shipping, the application of information technology in the maritime sector, and promotion of vocational training programs.

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Recent Publications:

The Trans-European Transport Network: Transforming a Patchwork into a Network

...this new booklet sets out the Commission's practical plans for a trans-European transport network linking Europe from north to south and east to west. It includes maps outlining the 14 priority projects agreed by EU leaders in December 1994 and explains how European Union funds are helping get plans off the drawing board and into construction.

European Union database directory...as the European Union and its 380 million citizens enter the information society, the task of delivering public information takes on new significance. The EU's Office for Official Publications has updated its European Union Database Directory, which lists 51 databases and for the first time five CD-ROMs (including Eurostat, Eurofarm and Panorama of European Industry).

Europe towards the Global Information Society...this booklet summarizes the conclusions of a workshop on information and communications technology (ICT) standardization, which was organized by the European Commission in response to the challenge of the information society.

The European Union in Former Yugoslavia... ECHO, the European Union's humanitarian aid office, has issued a new color booklet outlining its role in providing emergency aid to the victims of the conflict in the former Yugoslavia. ECHO in Belgrade and the EU's Task Force in Zagreb are both involved in "direct actions" to ensure the provision of food aid.

The European Parliament...a new color booklet explains the Parliament's role in the European Union, the make-up of its political groupings, its powers and responsibilities.

EU NEW PRESS RELEASES

1/96		Paemen to Present Credentials to President Clinton
2/96	Jan. 22	EU First to Release Funds for Aid Programs for Former Yugoslavia
3/96	Jan. 26	Commissioner Bjerregaard to Visit California and Washington DC Jan. 28-Feb. 3, 1996
4/96	Jan. 30	European Commission Proposes Action Program for More Competitive Arms Industry
5/96	Jan. 31	First Asia-Europe Summit to Take Place in Bangkok
6/96	Feb. 1	European Commission Authorizes Capital Increase For Iberia
7/96	Feb. 9	EU Warns Japan to Change its Piracy Laws on Sound Recordings
8/96	Feb. 12	President Santer Says Northern Ireland Peace Process Must Continue
9/96	Feb. 14	European Commission Calls for Sharper European Trade Policy

10/96 Feb. 16 EU Investment in Asia Increases
 11/96 Feb. 26 Declaration on Shooting Down of Aircraft by Cuban Authorities
 12/96 Feb. 28 Commission Issues Guidelines to Promote World Rules on Trade
 and Environment
 13/96 March 1 Commission Accelerates Telecoms Liberalization
 14/96 March 5 Eu Opposes US Legislation on Cuba
 15/96 March 6 Commission Calls for Legal Protection for Encrypted Services
 16/95 March 11 European Union Declaration on Mideast Terrorism and the Peace
 Process
 17/96 March 14 European Commission Calls for More Affordable Telephone Service
 18/96 March 19 Safeguarding Multilateralism in the EU, US and Asia
 19/96 March 20 Fischler Welcomes Decision on Illegal Use of Substances in
 Meat Production
 20/96 April 4 EU-US Officials to Meet April 11
 21/96 April 4 Russian, American and European Experts Discuss Nuclear
 Safeguards in Russia for the First Time
 22/96 April 10 Second Donors' Conference on Bosnia-Herzegovina Confirmed for
 April 12-13 in Brussels
 23/96 April 22 EU Regrets US Legislation on Cuba, Iran & Libya
 24/96 April 23 European Union Declaration on Lebanon
 25/96 April 24 EU-Led International Research Effort Finds Full DNA Sequence
 of Yeast
 26/96 April 26 Commissioner Flynn to Meet with Secretaries Reich And Shalala
 27/96 April 26 Van den Broek to meet with US Foreign Policy Officials
 28/96 April 29 Olympic Gold for Children in War
 29/96 May 3 European Union to Seek Consultations with US in WTO Over Cuba