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NEWS

COMMISSIONER RUBERTI TO VISIT U.S. FOR FIRST MEETINGS WITH SCIENCE, EDUCATION OFFICIALS

Antonio Ruberti, EC Commissioner for Science, Research and Development and Education, will be in Washington May 20-21 for first meetings with his counterparts in the new US Administration and Congress. Commissioner Ruberti took office in January.

On science matters, Commissioner Ruberti will meet May 20 with Assistant to the President for Science and Technology Dr. John Gibbons to discuss furthering EC-US cooperation in science and technology and to review the working of the EC-US Joint Consultative Committee on Science and Technology and the EC-US Task Force on Biotechnology Research which were set up in 1990. Commissioner Ruberti will also raise EC-US cooperation in multilateral megaprojects, in particular, ITER (International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor) and global change. Bilaterally, the EC and the US have formalized their cooperation in agreements on health, energy, the environment and biotechnology. Commissioner Ruberti will meet with Chairman of the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology George E. Brown (D-Ca.) on May 21.

On education matters, Commissioner Ruberti will meet May 20 with US Secretary for Education Richard Riley. They are expected to announce the launch of an exploratory EC-US university exchange program aimed at improving the quality of transatlantic academic cooperation and at reducing imbalances in current exchange patterns between EC member states and the United States.

On May 20, Commissioner Ruberti will speak on "The Future of European Community Research" to a European Institute Seminar on Transatlantic Technology Cooperation: Domestic Priorities and International Competition.

At 8.30 a.m. on May 21, Commissioner Ruberti will brief members of the press. Those interested in attending should contact Ella Krucoff (202) 862-9540 or Maeve O'Beirne (202) 862-9549 for briefing location.

Biographical Note

Antonio Ruberti
Commissioner for Science, Research and Development

Before joining the EC Commission in January 1993, Antonio Ruberti was actively involved in Italian national politics. In 1992, he was elected to Parliament as a member of the Italian Socialist Party (PSI). Between 1988 and 1992 he served in the Italian government as Minister for the Coordination of Scientific and Technological Research and Minister for Research and Universities. Before entering politics, Mr. Ruberti taught engineering at La Sapienza University in Rome and was its Director from 1976 to 1987. He was born in Aversa, Italy, on January 24, 1927.

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