

# EUROPEAN COMMUNITY NEWS

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**COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES**

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	<u>Page</u>
Americans Rate the European Community . . . . .	2
Luxembourg Wins Monetary Cooperation Fund . . . . .	5
European Communities Prize Offered . . . . .	6
Ortoli Visits Africa . . . . .	6
Tripartite Social Conference Postponed . . . . .	7
Press Views . . . . .	7
Worth Quoting . . . . .	8

AMERICANS RATE THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

In this "Year of Europe," two out of every three Americans believe US ties with Western Europe "matter a great deal," while only 16 per cent say these ties are not important. Most Americans (55 per cent), however, have never heard of the European Common Market.

These findings are contained in a Gallup poll released in Washington on June 28 by the European Community Information Service (ECIS). The ECIS commissioned the poll, the first of its kind, to determine the American public's knowledge of and attitudes toward the European Community. Gallup based its survey on 1,030 personal interviews, conducted nationwide, of Americans aged 18 and over.

Education, income, and sex proved significant variables in the average American's knowledge of the Community. The best informed were usually college-educated males with annual incomes of at least \$15,000. The most frequently mentioned sources of information about the Community were newspapers and magazines. Less than half (45 per cent) of all persons interviewed reported that they had heard or read about the European Community.

An even smaller percentage (35 per cent) demonstrated any real knowledge of the Community by citing some of its purposes. The most frequently mentioned purposes were mutual economic assistance and development of intra-Community trade. Only 4 per cent of those who had read or heard of the Community said it was a forerunner of a United States of Europe.

Four out of 10 people interviewed could name one or more of the EC member countries. The countries named most often were France, Great Britain, and Germany.

Only 5 per cent of those who said they were acquainted with the Community knew that the Community's population was greater than that of the United States, that the Community produces fewer goods than the United States, that the Community exports more than the United States, and that the Community's industrial production is growing faster than that of the United States.

Trust and Ties

Before inquiring directly about views toward the Community, Gallup asked the respondents their attitudes toward various nationalities, their identification with different geographical areas, and their opinions of the US role in the world and on US-European relations.

The survey showed that American attitudes toward the nationalities of the European Community seem to be more favorable than toward the people of other countries. Toward the four EC nationalities used in the Gallup question -- British, French, Germans, and Italians -- an average of 16 per cent of respondents said they felt "a great deal" of trust. Toward other nationalities the average was 9 per cent.

The Gallup survey suggests that most Americans identify most strongly with their local neighborhood or with the United States. Only about one person in 10 identified strongly with either "the Western world" or "the world as a whole." The largest differences by population variables were according to age. While 16 per cent of those aged 18-to-29-years-old named "the world as a whole," only 4 per cent of those over 50-years-old gave this answer.

A majority (55 per cent) of those interviewed felt that the United States should "stop getting involved in other countries' affairs." Thirty-eight per cent said the United States must "play a leading role in world affairs." Seven per cent had no opinion.

On the other hand, 65 per cent of the people interviewed believed that US ties with Western Europe matter a great deal. Only 16 per cent said these ties are not important. The more the respondent knew about the Common Market, the survey found, the more important the respondent considered US ties with Western Europe.

The reasons most frequently given for the view that US ties with Western Europe "matter a great deal" were (in order of frequency):

- The United States should remain interested in world affairs. "We should not isolate ourselves."
  - US-EC ties provide a stronger defense against Communism.
  - It is important for trade. "We need to export and import."
  - "We need economic ties. Our growth is affected by Western Europe."
- Reasons given for saying that US ties with Western Europe "aren't very important" included:
- "We should straighten out our own problems first."
  - "It is more to their advantage than ours."

Opinion on whether the United States should go to war, if necessary, to help defend Western Europe was about evenly divided. Forty-three per cent said "no"; 41 per cent said "yes." Those who were unacquainted with the Community were more inclined to reply in the negative, the survey found.

#### EC Benefits United States

Of those polled familiar with the Community, a plurality (42 per cent) believed the European Community is more likely to benefit than harm the United States. Thirty-two per cent believed the opposite. Twenty-six per cent said they did not know.

According to population groups, the poll found that the people most likely to view the Community as beneficial were male, relatively young, college-educated, and professionally employed with annual incomes over \$15,000. More labor union members than non-members polled thought the Common Market likely to hurt the United States.

In terms of specific benefits, 66 per cent believed the Community will increase the political stability of Europe (32 per cent disagreed), and 56 per cent believed the Community increases US investment opportunities in Europe (23 per cent disagreed). A plurality (42 per cent) believed the Community provides a better market for US goods, whereas a majority (58 per cent) thought it would become a serious rival of the United States in world trade. Thirty-two per cent did not think the Common Market would provide a better market for US goods, and 20 per cent did not see the Community as a serious economic rival. Forty-five per cent agreed and 32 per cent disagreed that the Community would reduce the need for US defense aid to Western Europe. Forty-three per cent thought that the Common Market made European-made goods more expensive for US consumers (32 per cent disagreed).

Only 17 per cent of the respondents who had heard or read about the Community thought that it would have little or no effect on the United States.

Among the people familiar with the Common Market, opinion was evenly divided on whether British relations with the United States would improve or become worse as a result of Britain's entry into the Community. The respondents who thought the Community was more likely to benefit than hurt the United States also tended to view British membership in the Community as likely to improve US-British relations.

#### Americans Look at European Unity

About half of the people interviewed either were indifferent or had no opinion about European unification. Four out of five of the respondents who had opinions, however, supported European unity. Groups with the largest proportions favoring unification were: 18-29 year-olds (48 per cent); people with incomes over \$15,000 a year (51 per cent); people who have attended college (60 per cent); professional and business people (56 per cent); people who have traveled to Europe (51 per cent); and people who are best informed about the European Community (58 per cent).

Cross-tabulated with opinions on the US role in the world, Gallup found that only 35 per cent of the respondents believing the United States should "stop getting involved" were in favor of European unification. On the other hand, among the people who thought the United States should play a leading role in world affairs, 51 per cent favored European unification. Similarly, among the respondents who believed US-Western European ties mattered a great deal, 49 per cent supported European unification while, of persons who thought US-West European ties were not important, only 34 per cent supported European unification.

Whether or not in favor of European unification, only one out of five persons familiar with the Common Market thought the EC countries were likely to evolve into a United States of Europe. Sixty-eight per cent thought the Community would remain as it is now.

Of persons well informed about the Community, 53 per cent said they would be sorry "if they were told tomorrow that the Common Market had been scrapped." Seven per cent said they would be pleased; 33 per cent, indifferent. Of respondents with some information about the Community, 42 per cent said they would be sorry, 9 per cent pleased, and 36 per cent indifferent. Of the entire sample, almost two out of every three persons replied that they would be indifferent or that they could not say how they would react.

People who answered "sorry" or "pleased" were asked why they had given that answer. About three out of five of the respondents who had answered "sorry" said, in effect, "because it is helping the member nations." Other reasons for being sorry were:

- "We benefit from a stronger Europe."
- It would damage member nations politically.
- It would damage member nations' trade relations.

Reasons for being pleased included "they will shut us out and only trade over there," and "those countries are banding together and trading among themselves -- against us."

In other questions, Gallup found the respondents about evenly divided on whether gradually to eliminate tariffs in both the Community and the United States and generally satisfied with newspaper and television coverage of European events.

The complete poll is available on a lending basis from the ECIS, both in Washington and New York.

#### LUXEMBOURG WINS EUROPEAN MONETARY COOPERATION FUND

Luxembourg will be the seat of the Community's Monetary Cooperation Fund, it was decided on June 25 by the Conference of Representatives of the EC Member States' Governments.

At the same meeting, it was agreed that the strength of inflationary forces precluded passage from the first stage of economic and monetary union to the second, leading to full union. The Monetary Cooperation Fund, like the International Monetary Fund, lends money to members running balance-of-payments deficits on the condition that domestic economic stabilization efforts are made. The decision to postpone the second stage of economic and monetary union will be reconsidered in October.

On June 28, the EC Council of Ministers met, also in Luxembourg, for its second evaluation of the Community's economy in 1973. To slow down prices which are rising "with alarming speed," the Council set the following objectives:

- to bring about a substantial reduction in the rate of expansion of money supply by the end of the year
- to restrict credit, particularly consumer credit and credit for construction

- to follow interest rate policies that are compatible with the stated monetary policies
- to encourage savings through interest rates or taxation
- to continue joint action against undesirable inflows of money from abroad
- to reduce regional imbalances and improve the structure of employment
- to apply tight budget management, cancelling appropriations, if necessary, and increasing taxes
- to ensure responsible management of local budgets
- to finance any budget deficits by long-term borrowing
- to consolidate short-term debt and, where appropriate, long-term loans, the proceeds to be frozen with the central banks.

#### EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES PRIZE OFFERED

Competition has begun for the Eighth European Communities Prize. It is to be awarded for university dissertations "making an important and original contribution to the knowledge of problems relating to European Integration." A prize of approximately \$3,000 will go to the best candidate in each of three disciplinary groups: law; economics; political science, sociology, social psychology, and history.

Americans are eligible for the competition, along with nationals of EC member states or any states maintaining diplomatic relations with the Community. The maximum age for candidates is 35. Dissertations may be submitted for which doctorate or equivalent degrees have been obtained after 1971 from institutions in the EC member states or states with EC diplomatic relations. Dissertations must be written in one of the EC official languages -- English, French, German, Danish, Dutch, or Italian.

Four copies must be submitted not later than November 15 to: European Communities Prize, Commission of the European Communities, Directorate-General for Press and Information, 200 rue de la Loi, 1040-Brussels, Belgium.

An international panel of judges will announce its decision in December 1974.

#### ORTOLI VISITS AFRICA

EC Commission President Francois-Xavier Ortoli traveled to Africa June 16-28 for a first-hand look at the drought-stricken Sahel region. In Niger, one of the most severely hit countries in the Sahel, Ortoli met with that country's President, Hamani Diori.

The Commission President also went to Yaoundé, capital of Cameroon, for talks with President Ahmadou Ahidjo. The Cameroon capital gave its name to the Yaoundé Conventions, which define EC relations with African Associate States and which is soon to be renegotiated.

### TRIPARTITE SOCIAL CONFERENCE POSTPONED

The conference between labor, management, and officials from the European Community and its member governments has been postponed from June 28, probably until the fall, in a dispute over seating of labor unions.

Commented the European Confederation of Trade Unions (ECTU) on June 18: "...only those trades union organizations which have made a real effort at reorganization on a European level and embracing different categories of workers for the whole of economic life have the right to participate." The ECTU, maintaining that not every union invited to the conference fulfilled these criteria, therefore decided to boycott the meeting, forcing its postponement. The ECTU represents 29 million workers belonging to 18 national union federations from 15 countries.

### PRESS VIEWS

#### WELCOME TO THE U.S.A.

As the dollar continues to sink in international money markets and with the stock market continuing its slide, the London Economist announces that "Now is the time to invade the United States." For Europeans buying in devalued dollars, Wall Street "is a give-away," says the magazine. Why not? If the Europeans and Japanese can't use the dollars they hold to buy into Fort Knox, and if US policy soon will be to limit the amount of food and feed grains and perhaps timber that can be sold abroad, foreigners still can buy bargain-basement US corporate assets.... There are voices that warn of dangers and pitfalls, voices we think should be heard and when necessary accomodated. But certainly not to the extent of barricading the borders. We're pleased to welcome the invasion of the United States by foreign investors and tourists. It's really the only kind of invasion to have. -- Editorial, The Wall Street Journal, June 22, 1973.

#### SUMMIT TALKS LEAVE KEY QUESTIONS FOR EUROPE

LONDON -- Everybody here understands the historic nature of the agreements reached during the Nixon-Brezhnev summit. But for Britain and Europe several major questions remain unresolved. The crucial question, it is said here, will be this: Is there going to be a new detente between Eastern Europe and Western Europe? Commentators here almost unanimously underline the Warsaw Pact countries' enormous superiority in conventional arms and military manpower in Europe.... Secondly, the suppression of freedom within Eastern European countries, which is essentially a European problem, comes even closer home.... But it is East-West relations within Europe that are going to be the most significant factor, observers here agree. If the Nixon-Brezhnev agreements do signal the beginnings of a new deal for the Soviet satellites in Europe, they declare, then it truly will be historic in the profoundest way. -- John Allan May, The Christian Science Monitor, June 26, 1973.

THE COMMUNITY IS WORKING

In part, the European Community is already a palpable reality; in part it is still a dream, a hope, an aspiration. The reality is made up of such dreary paper stuff as beef regulations and directives about barbed-wire fences, or shopkeepers' compromises about low-grade wines and cheap onions. But already it is more than that -- for one thing because the outside world sees more in it and expects more from it. Close to 100 states maintain accredited representatives at the Commission headquarters in Brussels [and] the Community has established formalized relations with a number of international bodies.... At this particular juncture, Europe is perhaps less a precise entity than a mood. But it is the mood of a new departure, and it is visibly hardening into a program of action. Results are slow in coming, yet it would be wrong to wax impatient. The Community will grow through practice and with experience. We are witnessing the first phases of a protracted historical process. What counts above all is the fact that it has begun, and that all the recent crises have not been able to weaken the new resolve toward unity but have indeed helped to reinforce it. -- Theo Sommer, Foreign Affairs, July 1973.

## WORTH QUOTING

RESTORING EUROPE'S SENSE OF UNITY

*Europe is slowly evolving toward a continent no longer divided into two blocs but characterized by more open contacts among all states. This of course is an objective we have long held. It is one which has now been endorsed -- though with some differences of intent -- by the Warsaw Pact early in 1972 when it called for a transformation of relations that would make it possible to overcome the splitting of the continent into military-political groupings. -- Richard F. Pedersen, State Department Counselor, in an Address to the Commonwealth Club, San Francisco, June 8, 1973.*

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**FIRST CLASS**