

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY NEWS

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COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

2100 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037 phone: (202) 872-8350
277 Park Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017 phone: (212) 371-3804

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PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION TO VISIT WASHINGTON

A delegation from the European Parliament will visit Washington October 28-31 for meetings with members of Congress and of the Administration. It will be the fourth official meeting between Congressmen and EC parliamentarians, the second during 1973.

The parliamentarians, led by Pierre Cousté, will meet with Congressmen to present, hear, and discuss papers on political and economic relations between the United States and the European Community. They will also meet with Administration officials including Secretary of the Treasury George P. Shultz, Assistant to the President for International Economic Affairs Peter Flanigan, Under Secretary of State William J. Casey, Secretary of Commerce Frederick B. Dent, and Secretary of Agriculture Earl L. Butz.

The European Parliament is composed of 198 members who also belong to their national legislatures which nominated them to the Parliament. The headquarters of the Parliament is in Luxembourg while plenary sessions are held there and in Strasbourg, France.

KRAG TO HEAD EC DELEGATION TO WASHINGTON

Jens Otto Krag, former Prime Minister of Denmark, has been named by the Commission of the European Community to head its Delegation to Washington as of January 1, 1974. Krag will succeed Aldo Maria Mazio, former Italian Ambassador to Belgium, who has held the post for two years.

Krag, born September 15, 1914, in Radours, Denmark, served as Danish Prime Minister from 1962-72. Earlier, he had been Danish Minister of Foreign Affairs (1958-62) and Minister of Economics and Labor (1953-57). He was awarded the Charlemagne Prize in 1966 and the Schuman Prize in 1973 for his dedication to the European cause.

He resigned the premiership in October 1972, after winning a popular referendum to approve Danish EC membership.

SOAMES TO
WASHINGTON,
NEW YORK,
AND OTTAWA

European Commission Vice President Christopher Soames arrives in Washington on Sunday, October 28, from Brussels, for talks on industrial policy, energy, and trade with Treasury Secretary George P. Shultz, Under Secretary of State William J. Casey, and Peter Flanigan, Assistant to the President for International Economic Affairs.

Soames, the Commission Member for External Affairs, has a full schedule of talks and working luncheons on Monday, October 29, and Wednesday, October 31. On Tuesday, October 30, he will travel to New York to address the joint Chambers of Commerce of the nine EC Member States.

On November 1, Soames will fly to Ottawa where he will meet with Canadian officials and address a Conference on "Canada and the European Community," organized by the Canadian Institute of International Affairs, in cooperation with Canada's Office of External Affairs and the EC Commission. He departs for Europe November 3.

EC-EGYPT
COMMERCIAL
AGREEMENT
TO START

The European Community and the Arab Republic of Egypt have completed the internal procedures necessary for putting the EC-Egypt preferential trade agreement into force. The five-year agreement, signed December 18, 1972 will go into effect November 1. In the industrial sector, the Community will grant an initial 45 per cent customs reduction on November 1 and a further 10 per cent cut on January 1, 1974. The reduction will be less for certain products, such as automobiles and aluminium goods.

Tariff cuts on processed agricultural products, cotton thread, veneered wood and plywood will be granted within quotas. EC agricultural concessions involve mainly rice, onions, garlic, and citrus fruits. Egyptian concessions to the Community consist of tariff reductions for industrial goods not produced by Egyptian industry, to be applied in three stages -- 30 per cent initially, 40 per cent on January 1, 1974, and 50 per cent at the beginning of 1975.

Eighteen months before the agreement's expiration date, negotiations will open for a new agreement as a further step toward complete abolition of obstacles to trade.

GERMANS PUT
EUROPE FIRST,
AS HOPES FADE
OF REUNIFYING
TWO GERMANIES

A majority of West Germans view European integration as having greater priority over reunification of West and East Germany, according to a recent survey made by EMNID, a West German polling institute which has been surveying German public opinion on reunification since 1951. The latest poll results found 65 per cent of those interviewed giving integration prime importance. Only 24 per cent held that view in 1965.

The poll also found increased pessimism regarding the prospects for reunification. Only 9 per cent thought it feasible, whereas 43 per cent thought so in 1953. Eighty-five per cent a 33 point increase since 1953, were either uncertain or thought reunification was no longer a possibility.

GERMANY TRIES
DRIVER-LESS
TAXI SYSTEM

Tired of listening to cab-driver political commentary? An electric, fully automated, driver-less taxi system which could set a pattern for future intra-city travel is being developed in Hagen, Germany, (population 400,000). When fully developed, the Cabinen-Taxi (CAT) network will consist of an overhead rail network from which electrically driven cabins, holding up to three persons, will be suspended 20-25 feet above the ground and steered by computer. A passenger buying his ticket would punch his location and destination into a computer. One of the cabins would then pick him up, take him where he is going at approximately 20 miles per hour, let him off, and move into a parking spot until called for again.

The system being developed by two German companies, DEMAG and Messerschmitt-Boelkow-Blohm, with financial assistance from the German Government, was recently demonstrated on a 105-foot track using two cabins. A longer track will be built to test complex routing problems. Successful results will permit construction in Hagen of a city-wide system 85 miles long with 182 stations.

EC GUARDS
AGAINST HOOF
AND MOUTH
DISEASE

European livestock will be protected against an epidemic of an exotic form of hoof and mouth disease, currently raging in Turkey, with two million doses of a vaccine purchased by the EC Commission from RAZI, the State Institute of Serums and Vaccines, at Hessarak, Iran. The contract, involving about 482,000 units of account (UA), was made under a March 26 Council of Ministers decision to establish a reserve of such vaccine, should the disease appear in the Community. (One UA equals one 1970 dollar.)

The Community has also contributed UA 600,000 toward a preventive campaign being carried out by the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization to create buffer zones around Turkey and Greece, where the disease has been spreading.

EC SIGNS FREE
TRADE ACCORDS
WITH FINLAND

The signing of two agreements between the European Community and Finland marks the end of negotiations to establish an industrial free trade area between the Community and all European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries which did not request full EC membership. Talks between the Community and all non-applicant EFTA countries, including Finland, were begun in Brussels in December 1971 and concluded in July 1972. Agreements previously signed with Austria, Iceland, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, and Norway went into force this year. The agreements with Finland, which will go into effect in 1974, are essentially the same as those signed with the other EFTA countries. They provide for reduction of industrial tariffs between Finland and the six original EC Members plus Ireland, in five 20 per cent stages. The agreements, intended to secure free trade in industrial goods, also provide for safeguard measures to prevent distortions of competition. The agreements leave both parties free to establish trade links with any other third party.

EC STAGES
AFRICAN
FORTNIGHT
IN BRUSSELS

An "African Fortnight" was sponsored by the Commission of the European Communities in Brussels during the second half of September. Traditional dance troupes from Cameroon, Zaire, and Niger performed, African sculpture was exhibited, and Senegal's national Theater produced a contemporary comedy and an African-setting version of Moliere's *Le Malade Imaginaire* ("The Hypochondriac"). Brussels stores featured African leatherwork, fashions, and tropical produce.

The Fortnight was inaugurated by Niger's President Hamani Diori, who used a news conference to propose that present EC Associated States should renew the Yaounde Convention (which expires January 31, 1975) as it stands, while other tropical states could negotiate a separate arrangement with the Community.

The Magazine *West Africa*, published in Lagos and London, which often reflects Nigerian government opinions, said: "On the face of it, he [Diori] has called into question the whole basis of the elaborate compromise worked out...and seems to imply that the 'united front' as it stands is of doubtful value." The magazine thought it was too late to reverse the "united" approach.

Negotiations between the Community and 36 African, Caribbean, and Pacific countries opened October 17 to decide on future trade and aid relations between those countries and the Community.

CORRECTION

Our "Food Aid" item in Newsletter No. 40, October 12, 1973, should have said that the Commission wants to send *10,000 tons* of wheat to India and Pakistan and to supplement the International Red Cross supply of powdered milk by *1,500 tons*.

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FIRST CLASS