

# EUROPEAN COMMUNITY NEWS

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## EUROPE IN ITS GRAVEST CRISIS LARDINOIS SAYS

"Europe is going through the gravest crisis since the creation of the European Community." Petrus J. Lardinois said May 28, in Wiesbaden, Germany, addressing the congress of the Deutscher Raiffeisentages, an institution specializing in farmer financing. Lardinois is EC Commissioner responsible for agricultural policy. He said European integration is undergoing a "process of dissolution affecting the very basis of the Community: the customs union and the common agricultural policy."

"Without a common agricultural policy (CAP), European integration cannot survive," he said. The biggest obstacle to the functioning of CAP, he continued, has been Europe's lack of a coordinated monetary policy. He added that the farm ministers cannot solve this problem alone and that the help of all EC governments, particularly of the finance ministers, is needed.

## THOMSON MAKES VISIT TO DENMARK'S GREENLAND

George Thomson, EC Commission member responsible for Regional policy visited Greenland May 22-27 to study Denmark's regional problems there. The Commissioner's trip took him to two of the island's principle centers, Godthaab and

Holsteinsborg, and to the region of Sukkertoppen. Greenland will be one of the beneficiaries of the Commission's proposed Regional Development Fund, currently under review by the Council of Ministers.

## SOAMES CALLS FOR EC POLITICAL COHERENCE

"The international system of cooperation could disintegrate before our very eyes, as it did in the Thirties, ... unless we cement the political coherence of our Community," EC Commission Vice President Christopher Soames told the German Society for Foreign Policy in Bonn May 21. Soames is responsible for EC external relations. Unlike the past, when European events determined Community actions, Soames continued, the enlarged Community today must meet the demands not only of its internal problems but "above all" those of world problems. To succeed, he said, the member states must "summon up the political will to arrive at common foreign policies," and create an "institutional framework ... grafted on to the Community" to effectively carry out these policies.

Of the transatlantic dialogue, Soames said the Common Market is now seeking a "truly European-American relationship" not an extension of German-American, Franco-American, or Anglo-American relations."

## EC STEEL PRODUCTION OUTLOOK OPTIMISTIC

The energy crisis should not affect Europe's iron and steel industry, according to the Commission's 1974 forecast steel program. In 1974, EC steel consumption will be 2 per cent higher than 1973, the Commission said. Consumption in 1973 exceeded 1972 by 8 per cent. Despite a slowdown in the last two months of 1973, EC exports rose 1.8 million metric tons to 27 million metric tons in crude steel equivalent. EC sales to Asian, East Bloc, and Latin American countries went up significantly but dropped in the United States.

Crude steel production reached 150 million metric tons in 1973, 8 per cent more than the previous year. Except for Britain (hurt by the 1973 miners strike), all member states saw a steady rise in production. Steel related industries most hurt by the energy situation this year were the auto and building industries, the Commission said.

## LEAST DEVELOPED ASSOCIATES GET MOST COMMUNITY AID

Close cooperation between the European Development Fund (EDF) and the European Investment Bank neither delays nor tends to concentrate aid in the European Community's more developed associated states, the Commission said May 17 in answer to a written question from the European Parliament. The eight associated countries on the United Nations list of the world's least developed countries received 97.9 per cent of the grants and 2.1 per cent of the special loans offered by the EDF since the first Yaounde Convention took effect, the Commission said. With some exceptions, ordinary EIB loans were granted to States

who were better off, such as Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Senegal, and the Republic of Zaire. According to the Commission, the Community is tending more and more to concentrate its aid efforts on the least developed associated States.

## EC - SWISS TRADE ACCORDS SUCCESSFUL

The two free trade agreements between Switzerland and the European Communities are operating well, according to the joint EC-Swiss joint working committee which administers the accords. Switzerland's trade agreements with the European Coal and Steel Community and the European Economic Community went into force January 1973 and January 1974, respectively. The Committee met May 27 in Brussels. The EC and Swiss delegations emphasized the need to continue moving toward total free trade and to use appropriate consultation procedures to prevent current world economic troubles from undermining the present accords.

## NEW BRITISH ROLE IN FINET FOUNDATION

The Executive Committee of the Paul Finet Foundation met in Luxembourg, April 1, under the chairmanship of EC Commission Vice President Patrick Hillery (responsible for EC social policy). Britain was represented for the first time by Joe Gormley, President of the National Union of Mineworkers and National Coal Board member Norman Parkin. The Finet foundation was set up in 1965 to help educate orphans of European Coal and Steel Community workers. To date, the foundation has made nearly 693,000 awards to 3,549 students whose fathers died in mine or steel mill accidents or from occupation-related illness.

## EC TRAVELERS, WORKERS GUARANTEED HEALTH CARE

Labor mobility within the European Community is enhanced by EC social security regulations making EC workers (including migrants) pensioners, and their families eligible for free medical care throughout the Common Market. Benefits are available to all persons presenting a simple EC form certifying eligibility. Denmark and Ireland require no proof from British citizens.

Medical expenses are paid according to the health system of the country where a claimant is staying. Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, and Britain provide free care by doctors approved by the respective national health insurance systems. EC citizens must pay all or part of the costs in Belgium, France, and Luxembourg, but are reimbursed by health organizations in those countries. EC Citizens may also draw sickness benefits in each others' countries when illness leads to loss of salary, payable by insurance body in the workers' home country.

## EC-INDIA TRADE LINKS EMPHASIZED

First steps toward implementing the EC-India Commercial Cooperation Agreement were taken in Brussels at an EC-India joint commission meeting in Brussels May 27-28. Two subcommissions were set up, one to work on trade in fibers and cottage-industry goods, the other on trade liberalization measures, technical assistance for trade promotion, joint research, economic cooperation, and the efficient utilization of the generalized preference system.

The meeting was chaired by Indian Commerce Minister D. P. Chattopadhyaya and EC Commission Vice Pres-

ident Christopher Soames, who pledged "every effort" to extend and diversify economic and commercial links between the Community and India. A second meeting of the joint commission will be held later in the year in New Delhi.

## PARLIAMENT FAVORS AID FOR SHIPBUILDERS

In a resolution adopted in its April session, the European Parliament has endorsed the Commission's recent proposal on European Social Fund intervention to help workers in the shipbuilding industry. Such support should fit within the framework of restructuring and investment policy coordinated at the EC level, the resolution said. The Parliament also emphasized that EC industrial, regional, and social policy measures for the European shipbuilding industry should not be delayed because shipyard order books are comparatively full, if the industry is to hold a strong position world wide.

## MEETING OF SWEDEN-- ECSC CONTACT GROUP

The market situation and investments in the European coal and steel industry were discussed at the twelfth meeting of the Sweden-European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) Contact Group, in Stockholm on May 16. Representatives of Swedish Government agencies, trade unions, and the iron and steel industry met with an EC Commission delegation led by Johannes Petrick, Director of the Industrial and Technological Affairs directorate general of the Commission. The contact group also discussed the possibility of future EC-Sweden cooperation on technical iron and steel related research, statistical exchanges, and standardization measures.

### CALL TO AVOID ENERGY CLASH WITH ENVIRONMENT

Adequate energy and environmental protection are not contradictory, said the EC Commission in a draft resolution it recently sent to the Council of Ministers for approval. The Commission said energy conservation measures should help preserve the environment through such methods as recycling and re-use of waste.

### SCIENTIFIC FOOD COMMITTEE TO ASSIST COMMISSION WORK

A Scientific Committee for Food was set up by the Commission May 27 to provide it with expert assistance in drawing up food quality legislation. The official Commission body, made up of scientists in this field, will formulate impartial opinions on all food-related questions concerning the protection of human life and health. It will concentrate on food make-up and harmlessness, the use of additives, and the presence of contaminants. The new committee replaces the Commission's unofficial advisory committee of food experts.

### TOWARD EUROPEAN DRIVING LICENSES

The best way to gain reciprocal recognition of member state driving licenses is to set up a uniform Community issuance procedure, the European Parliament said in a resolution adopted at its April 22-26 session in Strasbourg, France. The resolution, dealing with recent Commission proposals to harmonize national driving license laws, also called for close Commission examination of national medical standards for heavy truck and public transport drivers.

### LATIN--THE COMMON COMMUNITY LANGUAGE?

Should Latin be made the European Community's common language to prevent American English from becoming the common EC tongue? This is not for the Commission to decide, the Commission said, May 10, answering a written question from the European Parliament.

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