

European Community NEWS

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US MEAT IMPORTS OUTPACE COMMUNITY

The United States imported more meat than the European Community in 1973, although production was nearly double that of the Community, according to US Department of Agriculture estimates. US beef and veal production (21.6 billion pounds) was about 46 per cent higher than EC production (11.6 billion pounds). American imports reached 1.9 billion pounds or 11 per cent more than EC imports (1.7 billion pounds). Japan, on the other hand, produced only 498 million pounds and imported 428 million pounds of beef and veal in 1973.

ENERGY CRISIS EFFECTS ON AGRICULTURE STUDIED

The energy crisis has upped production costs of greenhouse farming by 20 per cent and fishing by 10 per cent, the Commission said this month in a report to the Council of Ministers on the impact of the energy crisis on farming. Additionally, revenue in the greenhouse sector has dropped 15 per cent the Commission said.

ECTU HOLDS FIRST CONGRESS IN DENMARK

European Community representatives of trade unions with 33 million members met at the first congress of the European Confederation of Trade Unions (ECTU) last month in Copenhagen, Denmark. The ECTU

called for a European policy which would seek full and better employment in all EC regions; equal social rights and opportunity for non-EC migrants; abolition of sex discrimination at work; harmonization of urban and industrial life, and effective counter-inflation measures.

APPEAL FOR STRONGER EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS

The European Community's latest crisis can be overcome by improving European institutions, former Commission President Jean Rey told reporters at a June 19 press conference in Brussels. Rey called for an increase in the Commission's powers; popular election of European Parliament members, and maintenance of Europe's independence in continuing active collaboration with the United States in fields of common interest.

AID FOR COAL AND STEEL WORKER HOUSING

A series of European Community loans totaling nearly \$2.3 million to help finance low cost housing of coal and steel workers in Denmark, France, Ireland, and Luxembourg was approved by the Commission June 24. The low interest loans are part of the seventh EC program of financial assistance for housing for European Coal and Steel Community industry workers. About \$830,000 was loaned for housing in Denmark, \$472,000 in France, \$326,000 in Ireland, and \$656,000 in Luxembourg.

**SOAMES APPEAL FOR MOVE
TOWARD EUROPEAN UNITY**

"It would be naive to regard cooperation within the EC as being in competition with, or an alternative to, cooperation on a world scale," EC Commission Vice President Christopher Soames told the American Club in Brussels on June 18. Soames said there are two lessons to be learned from European-American relations: the member states must "consciously summon up the political will to arrive at common foreign policies and create an institutional framework "grafted on to the Community," through which these policies may be effectively carried out.

**CONSUMER ADVISORY
COMMITTEE MEETING**

The EC Consumers Advisory Committee criticized the Council of Ministers for delaying action on a preliminary consumer action program, proposed by the Commission, at its June 21 meeting in Brussels. The Committee was set up by the Council of Ministers last year to advise on consumer policy measures.

**SOCIAL FUND AID FOR
PILOT PROJECTS APPROVED**

European Social Fund assistance for pilot projects and studies regarding handicapped, migrant workers, and computer training was approved

by the Commission this month. The Commission allocated 216,000 units of account (UA) to help underwrite a vocational training project for French meat industry workers; setting up an applied computer technology training center in Charleroi, Belgium; a model vocational and social reintegration plan for mentally handicapped young adults in France, and research and development of a program to introduce science studies in vocational education. (One UA equals \$1.20635 at current rates.)

**THREE EIB LOANS TO
GERMANY AND IRELAND**

Three European Investment Bank loans totaling 31.3 million units of account (UA) were granted June 6 for energy and agricultural projects in Germany and Ireland, respectively. (One UA equals \$1.20635 at current rates.) UA 24.9 million was granted to help finance the installation of three gas turbine generator sets in the Charlottenburg power station in West Berlin and the construction of a hydroelectric power station at Iffezheim on the Rhine (Baden-Wurttemberg). The Agricultural Credit Corporation Limited (ACC) in Dublin was loaned UA 6.4 million to expand and improve dairy product and engineering factories at Charleville in Cork County.

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