

# europaean community NEWS

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## TRUDEAU MEETS WITH COMMISSION OFFICIALS

Canadian Prime Minister Pierre-Elliott Trudeau met with the Commission in Brussels on October 24 to discuss the possibilities of an EC-Canada trade agreement. Trudeau met with Commission President Francois-Xavier Ortoli, Commission Vice Presidents Christopher Soames and Henri Simonet, and Commissioners Altiero Spinelli and George Thomson. The meetings were highlighted by talks on trade, energy, and investment. Both parties affirmed the need to strengthen EC-Canada cooperation and to continue exploratory work on a potential trade agreement. Trudeau was pleased with the Commission's decision to install a delegation in Ottawa next year.

## GIANT EC TRADE DEFICIT WITH OPEC

The European Community's 1974 trade deficit with the members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) could reach \$25-30 billion dollars, the Commission said in answer to a written question from the European Parliament October 29. EC oil imports from the OPEC countries are expected to reach \$40 billion this year as compared to the 1973 \$16 billion figure. EC imports for the first five months of 1974 totaled \$16 billion, compared with \$6 billion for the same period last year. 1974 EC exports to the OPEC nations should reach \$12 billion as compared to \$8 billion last year.

The Commission said the OPEC nations are expected to import \$10 billion in Japanese and US goods this year (\$7 billion in 1973). OPEC oil exports to these countries should total some \$25 billion in 1974, more than double the 1973 \$10 billion figure.

## EC MEMBER SIGNING OF TWELVE ACCORD ILLEGAL?

Member states signing any agreement made by the Group of Twelve energy consuming nations may run counter to EC Treaty of Rome free movement of goods or common commercial policy regulations, EC Commissioner Henri Simonet said at an October 26 press conference in Brussels. The Twelve, who tentatively agreed to set up an oil sharing plan during crises, consist of eight EC member states (excluding France), the United States, Canada, Norway, and Japan. Simonet said the Commission believes the problem could be overcome if the Community participated in any such agreement or if the member states set up a system complying with Treaty provisions.

## SYMPOSIUM ON FOREIGN LICENSING TO BE HELD

A symposium on foreign licensing and technology transfers will be held in New York under the sponsorship of the World Trade Institute November 6-8. EC Commission Legal Service Special Counselor Bastiaan Van Der Esch will participate in the meetings and address the symposium on November 7.

**EUROPEAN AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY  
NEEDED TO COMPETE WITH US**

Only through a truly united European aircraft industry will Common Market aircraft manufacturers be able to compete on an equal footing with US companies such as Boeing and Macdonald-Douglas in military sales, Commissioner Altiero Spinelli told the European Association of Aeronautic Materiel Builders (AECMA) October 28. Spinelli said Europe's aircraft companies should avoid costly competition among themselves and work together to develop the most advanced equipment. A European industry, he said, would require common member state administration and financing. A Commission report on the entire aircraft sector will be sent to the Council of Ministers early next year.

**TOWARD DEFINING EC  
POSITION IN GATT TALKS**

A Commission communication on guidelines for the European Community in the forthcoming negotiations of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) was sent to the Council of Ministers this month. On June 20, 1973, the Council had adopted an "overall concept" allowing the Community to take a common position at the talks. The Commission called for more explicit guidelines especially in agriculture in view of the

impending passage of the Trade Reform Act, which would clear the way for beginning the negotiations in earnest.

**RESTRICTIVE PLATE GLASS  
REBATE AGREEMENT ELIMINATED**

A cumulative rebate agreement which restricted competition in the German plate glass sector will be ended December 31, following Commission intervention. Under the agreement the German company Gur-Kartell gave control of the plate glass market to the strongest sales agencies in this field, St. Gobain/Pont-a-Mousson and BSN, of France. The two agencies also agreed to separate a series of business activities which they had been developing together in France and Germany.

**EC-MAGHREB TRADE  
TALKS RECOMMENCE**

The European Community reopened trade negotiations with the Maghreb countries (Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia) this month. Commission officials met with Tunisian representatives October 29-30 and will hold talks with Algeria and Morocco during the first half of November. The Community's association agreements with Tunisia and Morocco expired on September 1. The Community began negotiations for its first agreement with Algeria in July 1972.

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