

European Community NEWS

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EC MOVES TO AID CHEESE INDUSTRY

In a move to rescue the European Community's faltering cheese industry, the Commission recently decided to re-introduce export refunds ("restitutions") on EC cheeses exported to the United States. Such refunds were halted last July following US protests that the EC program dropped American cheese sales by about \$100 million. To lessen the effect on the US market, the Commission exempted cheddar cheeses from the refund schedule, which is lower than it was last year. Current rebates will range from 8 to 50 per cent with an average of about 30 per cent.

COMMISSION REFUTES PROTECTIONISM CHARGE

"The suggestion that the Community is a protectionist trading bloc is ... clearly ill-informed and incorrect," The Commission said last month in answer to a question from the European Parliament. EC average customs duty rates (7 per cent) are the lowest in the industrialized world, according to the latest General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) study (March 1974). Canada rates also average 7 per cent, followed by the United States (7.5 per cent), Japan (9.8 per cent), Australia (15.8 per cent), and New Zealand (22.5 per cent). The Community is also the world's largest agricultural importer (43.9 per cent of 1973 world farm imports), the Commission pointed out.

ECIS RELEASES NEW FILM ON EUROPE

A new motion picture, "Europe United," has been produced by the European Community Information Service and is available on free loan to general audiences and television stations throughout the United States. The 28 minute, 16 millimeter color motion picture outlines the background, work in progress, and the goals of the European Community. It also illustrates the relationship and similarities between Europe and the United States. The film is available from Association-Sterling Films, 866 Third Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022.

EC WOMEN'S PROGRAM PROPOSED TO COUNCIL

A new program for eliminating discrimination against the European Community's 35 million working women was forwarded to the Council of Ministers by the Commission February 12. It includes a draft directive designed to eliminate discrimination against women on the basis of sex, marital, or family status and provides legal recourse for preventing unwarranted dismissals. In a communication to the Council, the Commission recommended urging member states to intensify their search for projects, eligible for Social Fund aid, which promote more and better jobs for women; a broad EC action program to eliminate prejudice against women, and an information program to apprise women of their rights and potential jobs.

**MOVE TO EUROPEANIZE
EC DOCTOR RECOGNITION**

The right for Common Market doctors to practice in any of the nine member states is rapidly becoming a reality. On February 12, the EC Council of Ministers adopted two directives approving the mutual recognition of national medical diplomas and other certificates as well as measures facilitating freedom of establishment, and calling for the coordination of national laws. Once the final texts of the directives are approved, the member states will have 18 months to adapt their laws accordingly.

**COMMISSION FINES
MUSHROOM PRODUCERS**

Five of France's leading canned mushroom producers were fined a total of \$121,000 and ordered to cancel a German market-sharing agreement with Taiwan mushroom exporters, by the Commission January 22. The French and Taiwanese canners are the world's chief producers, while Germany is the largest consumer. The Commission ruled that the agreement's provisions for annual export quotas and a joint pricing policy were against the interest of German consumers.

**YUGOSLAVIA SEEKS
COOPERATION WITH EC**

Yugoslavia would like to increase cooperation with the European Community in industrial, agricultural, energy, financial fields, etc., Yugoslavian officials said in the February 4 meeting of the EC-Yugoslavia joint committee. The committee oversees the functioning of the EC-Yugoslavia trade agreement. EC officials were also asked to look into ways to help ease Yugoslavia's trade deficit with the Community, further aggravated by the EC beef import embargo. A joint working group was set up to study the various suggestions and to formulate recommendations.

**EC INFLATION RATE
NEARS OECD AVERAGE**

Consumer prices in the member countries of the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) rose at an average rate of 14.6 per cent during the 12 month period ended in November 1974 (7.9 per cent in 1973). The European Community's rate of inflation was 14.3 per cent, ranging from 6.5 per cent in Germany to 20 per cent in Britain and 24.7 per cent in Italy. Prices rose by 12.1 per cent in the United States and 25.8 per cent in Japan, the highest rate in the OECD area.

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