

European Community NEWS

PUBLISHED WEEKLY The contents of this newsletter may be quoted or reproduced without further permission.

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

NO. 11 MARCH 21, 1975

UK GOVERNMENT FAVORS CONTINUED MEMBERSHIP

The British Government will recommend continued EC membership to its electorate, Prime Minister Harold Wilson announced in a March 18 statement to Parliament. The announcement came at the end of two cabinet meetings lasting more than seven hours. It is now up to the British people to decide by referendum whether or not to remain in the Community.

REDEFINITION OF AID UNIT OF ACCOUNT

A new value has been set for the European unit of account to express amounts of aid to the 46 African, Caribbean, and Pacific countries linked to the Community by the Lome Convention. The announcement was made in Brussels following the March 18 meeting of the EC finance ministers. The unit of account, to be used by the European Development Fund and the European Investment Bank, is based on a basket of EC member state currencies. The initial value of one unit corresponds to the June 28, 1974, value of one International Monetary Fund Special Drawing Right (SDR). The Commission will calculate daily values for the unit, which will change with the fluctuations of the member states' currencies exchange rates.

NEW PRESIDENT FOR EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

The European Parliament has a new president, Georges Spenale, elected on March 11. Spenale replaces Cornelis Berkhouwer, president since March 1973.

Spenale, a Frenchman from the Parliament's Socialist Group, was born November 29, 1913, in Carcassone, France. A member of the French National Assembly since 1962, he was appointed to the European Parliament in December 1964. Spenale has served as chairman of the Committee for Finance and Budget, chairman of the Socialist Group, and as a member of the Committee on Development and Cooperation. He led the European Parliament's drive for increased budgetary powers.

COMMISSION STOPS DUTCH AGREEMENT

Commission intervention opposing a prototype agreement by the Dutch firm La Stichting Instituut Voor Industriële Vormgeving Te Amsterdam, has resulted in the cancellation of the agreement by 30 participating Dutch companies. The agreement had run counter to the Commission's anti-trust regulations by obliging the Dutch companies not to produce, sell, or import products imitating the designs or models registered with the Stichting Instituut.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND TO GET UNDERWAY

The EC's Regional Development Fund has taken shape, following agreement on its operating rules by the Council of Ministers on March 4. The fund will give Community aid to areas where there are problems resulting from overdependence on agriculture, industrial change, or structural underemployment. A Regional Policy Committee will insure efficient use of the resources provided for regional development.

Aid totaling 1,300 million units of account (\$1,568) has been allocated for 1975-77. Italy and Britain will receive the largest amounts -- 40 per cent and 28 per cent of the total, respectively.

NUCLEAR ENERGY STANDARDS PROPOSED

There will be greater member state collaboration on nuclear energy research and safety programs, if the Council adopts a February 25 Commission draft resolution. The Commission called for common controls on safety and health protection, as well as for equipment manufacturing standards. The resolution encouraged coordination of applied research programs to forge a truly European nuclear energy program for the 1980's.

COOPERATION CENTER PROGRESS EVALUATED

Nine hundred "matchmaking" requests were received by the Business Cooperation Center, according to its first annual report, submitted to the Commission in February. The center was established by the Commission in April 1973 to ease cross-frontier cooperation programs and partnerships between small and medium-sized firms in Community member countries. Of the agreements concluded through the center, six involved Britain. Belgium, Germany, and the Netherlands accounted for three. The Commission cited organizational problems, the companies' capital market positions, and insecurity created by the general economic situation as obstacles to increased partnerships.

TURKISH MILL WILL RECEIVE EIB LOAN

European Investment Bank funds totaling 6.35 million units of account (\$7.7) will help build a cement mill in Central Anatolia, Turkey. The mill is being established by Yozgat Isci Birliđi Insaat Malzemeleri Ticaret ve Sanayi AS (YIBTAS), a joint stock company which allows Turkish workers employed abroad to invest their savings in their own country's industrial development.

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY INFORMATION SERVICE

2100 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037