

March 12, 1981

A WEEKLY SUMMARY OF PAST AND FUTURE EVENTS

Next Council Meetings

Brussels	March 16	Agriculture	
	March 16	Finance	
	March 16/17	Foreign Affairs	
	March 26	Transport	
	March 26	Steel	
	March 30/31	Agriculture	PROVISIONAL
	March 31	Development	PROVISIONAL

Other Events

Maastricht	March 23 + 24	European Council (summit)
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Provisional Dates Further Ahead

Fisheries Council:	April 6/7	
Finance/Foreign Affairs Council:	April 13	
Foreign Affairs Council:	April 13/14, May 18/19, June 22/23	
Agriculture Council:	April 13-15, May 11/12, June 15/16	
Fiscal Council:	April 28	
Environment Council:	May 18 or 19, June 11	
Development Council:	June 2	
Social Affairs Council:	June 9	
Finance Council:	June 15	
Energy Council:	June 16	
Transport Council:	June 18	
European Parliament:	April 6 - 10	(Strasbourg)
	May 4 - 8	(Strasbourg)
	June 15 - 19	(Strasbourg)
Western Economic Summit:	July 20 + 21	(Ottawa)
European Council (summit):	June 29 + 30	(Luxembourg)
	Nov. 26 + 27	(London)

THE WEEK AHEAD

The Commission's farm price proposals 1981/82 will be seriously considered by the agriculture ministers for the first time on Monday, March 16. Finance ministers will also consider the price package at their meeting on the same day. This Council will also be preparing economic matters for the European summit scheduled for Maastricht on March 23/24, and will be considering the 2nd directive on insurance other than life assurance.

Foreign ministers will be planning the agenda for the European Council.

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FLASHBACK

FISHERIES: The Council of Ministers failed to reach agreement on a Community fisheries policy, despite a special trip to London and Paris by the President of the Commission, M. Gaston Thorn. The British government rejected the Commission's compromise proposal, and a revised proposal was rejected by France. What is at issue is access to British coastal waters by French fishermen and, in particular, access to an area around the north of Scotland, to which the British government wishes to restrict fishing by larger vessels. Discussion will be resumed on April 6 and 7.

CHANNEL TUNNEL: The construction of a rail tunnel has been supported by members of an all-party committee of MPs.

AGRICULTURAL PRICES: The British minister of agriculture, Mr Peter Walker, has announced his opposition to the Commission's proposal for a 5 per cent revaluation of the green pound. This would largely cancel out any increase in agricultural prices as far as British farmers are concerned.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: The budget committee of the European Parliament has called for the removal of the 1 per cent ceiling on the amount of VAT available for the Community budget.

THE DISABLED: Mr Ivor Richard, Commissioner in charge of social affairs, in a speech to the European Parliament, has announced his intention of putting forward a new action programme to promote the social integration of the disabled. Mr Richard emphasised the need for a considerable increase in the Social Fund budget for 1982.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES: The European Court of Justice has ruled that to deny women an employer's contribution towards pension, when men doing the same job are receiving it, is discriminatory.

BACKGROUND REPORTS ISSUED:

ISEC/B8/81 Commission Programme 1981
ISEC/B9/81 Second Anniversary of the EMS
ISEC/B10/81 Help for Coal and Steel Orphans - Paul Finet
Foundation

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