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25th ANNIVERSARY OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

On Thursday, March 25, 1982 the Community celebrates its 25th anniversary and 25 years of friendship and cooperation with the United States.

On March 25, 1957 the Heads of State and Government and Foreign Ministers of Belgium, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands signed the Treaties of Rome creating the European Economic Community (EEC) and the European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM).

With its current ten member states (Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom), a total population of 270 million and a gross domestic product of \$2.8 trillion, the European Community is now the world's largest single trading bloc and the largest market for U.S. exports.

In the 25 years since the signing of the Treaties of Rome, the Community has not only furnished unprecedented peace and prosperity to its members, but has also developed policies to enhance the cohesion and unity of Europe.

The common agricultural policy, the common commercial policy, regional and social policies and the European Monetary System are some of the outstanding achievements of the past 25 years.

The Community also exercises an important and growing influence on world events through the increasing cohesion of its foreign policies as a result of the process of "political cooperation".

The Community has become a political as well as an economic force on the world scene. It has diplomatic relations with more 100 countries, including the U.S., and is today the world's largest donor of overseas development aid.

Peace is perhaps the EEC's single greatest achievement as Commission President, Gaston Thorn, pointed out in a recent speech "The people of Europe have seen the absurdity and futility of fratricidal strife. Our great triumph surely, is the younger generation's uncomprehending reaction to the suggestion of another Franco-German war".

Commission Vice President Lorenzo Natali added that "The word 'Community' was itself an accurate reflection of our shared aspirations and our mutual solidarity".

U.S.-E.C. Relations

The European Community as a block is a leading economic partner of the United States and a major political ally. During the 1960s and 1970s, the Community and the United States worked in tandem on some of the most critical issues facing mankind - a fairer distribution of energy resources and raw materials to benefit both developing and industrialized nations, a liberalization of world trade and increased involvement of the Third World in the global economy.

The Community and the United States also share common concerns for their own citizenries. Unemployment and inflation are problems that bedevil both economic giants, and E.C. and U.S. officials frequently exchange information and ideas on how to solve these problems. Initiatives have also been made toward increasing the two-way flow of information between the E.C. and U.S. on environment and scientific research.

Support for the eventual European union has been a vital ingredient of U.S. foreign policy from the beginnings of the European Community. Under the visionary Marshall Plan, which made \$13 billion available to 16 Western European nations after World War II, a strong, democratic Europe was considered an integral element of post-war economic recovery.

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy spoke fervently of an Atlantic partnership: "We do not regard a strong and united

Europe as a rival but partner capable of playing a greater role in the common defense, of responding more generously to the needs of poorer nations, of joining with the United States and others in lowering trade barriers, resolving problems of commerce and commodities and currency, and developing coordinated policies in all economic and diplomatic areas".

In early 1978 President Jimmy Carter sounded a similar theme: "As the first American President to visit the headquarters of the European Community, I believe this meeting symbolizes America's abiding commitment to a strong and united Europe, and to the European Community ... I am proud today to add ... that the United States welcomes a strong, united Europe as a common force for the values our peoples share".

The Marshall Plan investment of \$10 billion to the EC member states has been repaid to the United States many times over. As the European standard of living rose, Europeans purchased American consumer products and capital goods. The total EC trade deficit with the United States from 1958 through 1980 exceeded by more than \$75 billion the total Marshall Plan aid.

American confidence in the increasing political role of the European Community and recognition of its economic power has been underlined in recent years through the U.S. support of participation by Commission Presidents Roy Jenkins and later Gaston Thorn in Western economic summits. High-level consultations between Commission and U.S. administration officials are held twice yearly.

At these meetings, bilateral and multilateral economic and commercial relations, as well as energy, investment, industrial policy, environmental questions, relations with developing countries and the supply of raw materials are discussed.

The United States and the European Community have agreements covering the supply of nuclear fuels and the exchange of scientific information. In addition a permanent dialogue has been developed in Brussels and in Washington between U.S. and Commission officials.

The E.C.'s Twenty-Five years of History

1957, March 25 - Rome Treaties creating the European Economic Community and the European Atomic Energy Community are signed.

1958, January 1 - Rome Treaties go into force. Walter Hallstein becomes EEC Commission's first President; Etienne Hirsch becomes Euratom Commission's first President.

1962, July 30 - First common agricultural policy regulations go into effect.

November 1 - EEC Association agreement with Greece enters into force.

1964, May 4 - Kennedy Round of negotiations within the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) opens in Geneva.

June 1 - First Yaounde Convention enters into force associating 17 African states and Madagascar with the Community.

December 1 - Association agreement with Turkey enters into force.

1965, April 8 - Six sign treaty merging Community executive institutions: ECSC, EEC, EURATOM.

1967, February 8-9 - Council of Ministers accepts first five-year economic program and agrees to introduce a value-added turnover tax system in all member countries.

May 15 - Kennedy Round ends in agreement to cut industrial tariffs by an average of 35-40 per cent.

July 1 - Merger of Community's executive institutions.

1968, July 1 - Customs union is completed 18 months early. Remaining industrial tariffs between the Six are abolished. Common external tariff around the Common Market enters into force.

July 18-19 - Six adopt basic common transport policy regulations.

July 29 - Six decide to remove last remaining restrictions on free movement of workers and the last national discriminations between member states' workers in employment, pay and other conditions.

1969, March 25 - Six adopt program to align legislation on technical standards for industrial goods and food.

December 1-2 - The Hague Summit meeting: agreement to complete, enlarge and strengthen the Community.

1969, December 31 - Community's twelve-year transition period ends.

1970, January 1 - Common foreign trade policy goes into operation.

February 9 - Community central bank activates \$2 billion short-term mutual monetary aid system.

July 31 - Six agree to hold ministerial meetings on political co-operation twice yearly.

1971, January 1 - Second Yaounde and Arusha Conventions enter into force. Community's "own revenue" system goes into operation.

1972, January 22 - Britain, Denmark, Norway and Ireland sign Accession Treaty.

April 19 - Six sign agreement for European University Institute in Florence, Italy.

September 26 - Norwegian entry to Community is rejected by referendum.

October 19-20 - The Heads of State or Government - now nine in number - meet in Paris and decide to set up a European Union by 1980, adopting a new program of Community policy.

1973, January 1 - Britain, Ireland and Denmark join the Community.

February 1 - Convention making civil and commercial judgments enforceable throughout the original six Community members enters into force.

July 19-20 - Council agrees on guiding principles on environmental issues.

September 12 - Tokyo Round of GATT world trade talks opens.

October 5 - Twenty-one countries endorse European Patent Convention.

December 14-15 - Community Summit in Copenhagen adopts statement on Europe's identity.

1974, July 31 - A dialogue is opened between the Community and Arab States.

1975, March 18 - the Council sets up the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and a Regional Policy Committee.

March 20 - The European University Institute in Florence is officially instituted.

1975, June 5 - A two-thirds majority in Britain vote to remain within the Community.

June 12 - Greece applies for Community membership.

1976, April 1 - EEC/ACP Convention signed at Lome on February 28, 1975 enters into force.

1977, January 1 - Decision of Nine to extend 200-mile limits for their North Sea and Atlantic fishing zones enters into force.

March 28 - Portugal applies for Community membership.

May 7-8 - Economic Summit: Community, as such, participates for first time in discussions in London of industrialized countries.

July 1 - Customs union of Nine is completed; free-trade area with EFTA is completed.

July 28 - Spain applies for Community membership.

October 25 - Court of Auditors, replacing the Audit Board and the ECSC Auditor, meets for the first time, in Luxembourg.

October 25 - Council chooses Culham, in Britain, as the site for JET, a major experimental project in controlled nuclear fusion.

1978, December 4-5 - European Council agrees to establish European Monetary System.

1979, March 9-10 - The EMS comes into operation.

May 28 - In Athens, Greece and the Community sign the Treaty of Accession.

June 7-10 - In the first direct elections the citizens of the nine Member States vote for the 410 members of the European Parliament.

1981, January 1 - Greece joins the Community.

EEC/ACP new Lome Convention (Lome II) signed on October 10, 1979 enters into force.