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LETTER OF INVITATION TO THE HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT

I am looking forward to welcoming you and our other colleagues to Vienna for the European Council meeting on 11 and 12 December 1998. We have already had an opportunity of discussing the topics on our agends, for which, once again, many thanks.

The debate on the future of Europe that was begun in Cardiff is giving added momentum to the process of European integration. The aim is to focus the European Union's economic and political strengths, to harness them more to people's needs. We used our informal meeting in Portschech to press for policies of particular relevance to our citizens: economic stability and employment, internal security and a stronger role for the European Union in the outside world.

We must now continue along these lines, in the spirit of the Portschach meeting, both at the Vienna European Council and under the forthcoming Presidencies.

Our meeting will begin at 10,00 on Friday 11 December with an exchange of views with the President of the European Parliament on the key questions before the European Council.

The Council's first working session will start at 10.30. As I discussed with you earlier, we shall start by deciding to make Helmut Kohl, the former German Federal Chancellor, an honorary citizen of Europe.

The session will then focus on control issues of economic and employment policy, a discussion at which the Finance Ministers will be present. The aim is to give a further strong boost to common European efforts to create jobs and to strengthen economic policy coordination. We aught to concentrate on the following topics:

A review of the implementation of the European Employment Strategy and its future development

External representation of the European Union in EMU matters Enhanced economic policy coordination,

At the end of the morning session we should also consider how we can make more progress in integrating environmental issues into Community policies.

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FAX

To: Heads of Representation

Telephone:

Fax:

From:

Marilyn Carruthers Pincott

Telephone:

(+32-2)2999451

T120 5/96

Fax:

(+32-2)2999203

Number of pages:

Subject:

Message:

For your information the Klima letter to Heads of State.

Marilyn Carruthers Pincott

Rue de la Loi 200, B-1049 Bruxelles/Wetstraat 200, B-1049 Brussel - Belgium - Office: T120 5/96. Telephone: direct line (+32-2)2999451, switchboard 299.11.11. Fex; 2999203. Telex: COMEU B 21877. Telegraphic address: COMEUR Brussels.

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This will be followed by a ceremony in which Helmus Kohl, the former German Federal Chancellor, will be made an honorary citizen of Europe, and then by the group photo.

Thomas Klestil, the Austrian Federal President, has invited the Members of the European Council and Helmut Kohl, the former German Federal Chancellor, to lunch at the Hofburg at approx. 13.15. The Finance Ministers will be funching at the Hotel Bristol at the Hotel State Secretaries for European Affairs present in Vienna will have their lunch at the Hotel Sacher.

The second working session, starting after lunch at 15.00, will centre on an intensive and substantive exchange of views on the key issues of Agenda 2000. We should also confirm the timetable for concluding Agenda 2000.

Afterwards we should hold a short discussion, on the basis of the preliminary work already done, on a few other issues also discussed in Portschach. Chief among these will be future developments in the field of justice and home affairs, common foreign and security policy developments in the field of justice and home affairs, common foreign and the instructions for instruments and the future development of that policy, subsidiarity and the instructions for instruments and the future development of that policy. As we discussed, we should also improving the working of the institutions issued in Cardiff. As we discussed, we should also look at the question of asking the Commission to study the links between the internal market look at the question of asking the Commission to study the links between the internal market and established sporting attructures in our countries.

At 20.15 I should then like to invite you to a working dinner at the Upper Belvaders. I would suggest that we begin by discussing the progress of the enlargement process. We should also consider the European strategy for Turkey and look into topical issues in that connection. We shall then discuss the situation in Russia.

At the same time, over dinner, the Foreign Ministers will be dealing with major external policy issues facing the European Union, especially the Western Balkara and the Middle East.

A dinner for Finance Ministers and Members of the Monetary Committee will be held

As usual, we shall meet again at 9.00 an Saturday 12 December to propage our conclusions.

This time they will also comprise the "Vienna Strategy", a summary of the discussions on the future of Europe begun in Cardiff and continued in Portschach.

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At about 13.00 we shall be joined, as I discussed with you, by the Heads of State and Government and the Foreign Ministers of the Central and Eastern European countries involved in the accession process, and of Cyprus. We should brief our guests on the main outcome of our discussions at a working session to be held over lunch. Afterwards a group photo will be taken with our guests.

I am looking forward to welcoming you to Vienna and firmly believe that our meeting will bring the European Union an important step nearer to its citizens.

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