

Statements & Speeches



Federal Republic of Germany

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Vol. VI No. 11

June 23, 1983

The European Council Meeting
Policy Statement by Helmut Kohl
Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany
June 22, 1983

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EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY IN TIMES OF CRISIS

The European Council, which met in Stuttgart from June 17 to 19, 1983, was an important milestone in the development of the European Community and in co-operation among the member countries.

The Council did not merely prevent stagnation and setbacks in the Community. It also provided important impulses for the Community's further development and drew up concrete guidelines to this end.

The problems have not, however, been eliminated, but they have not been simply cast aside either.

In Western Europe, we have entered more difficult times both economically and politically. The economic crisis has inflicted deep wounds in all our countries, in entire sectors of our economies, in wide regions. It has also profoundly affected the individual's way of life: 12 million people in our countries are jobless.

At such a juncture, national interests tend to become harsher and stronger again and to clash directly where the cushion of prosperity is wearing thin. This situation requires greater and more conscious efforts for European solidarity on our part.

Furthermore, we are engaged in difficult negotiations between East and West in which Europe's voice must be clear and firm, in which Europe must place its entire weight on the Western side of the scales as a factor of stability and peace.

Finally, in Europe a third enlargement of the Community is in the offing. Spain and Portugal, two great European nations, want to take up their place in the Community predetermined by history and political will. It is our task to help ensure that they can genuinely do so to their own benefit and to the benefit of us all.

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