



COMMISSION
OF THE EUROPEAN
COMMUNITIES

Jean Monnet House
8 Storey's Gate London SW1P 3AT
Telephone: 071-973 1992
Fax: 071-973 1900

WE/16/92
23 April 1992

THE WEEK IN EUROPE

EC-US Gatt summit. EC leaders meeting US President George Bush in Washington yesterday described the latest discussions on GATT as "comprehensive and interesting". Commission President Jacques Delors said afterwards "some new ideas" had emerged on solving the disputes on services and agriculture. He went on to underline that neither side was in the mood to pull out at this late stage. He dismissed any suggestion that there should be a postponement of the round as a provisional solution. Both sides agreed not to disclose details of the talks. However, Delors said any new moves were "modest". He added that there was now a definite mood for renewed political impetus. On agriculture, Delors said that the Americans will take another look at the EC proposals and he would await their response patiently. He stressed that the Community would negotiate on the basis that its own subsidy and production reforms of the Common Agricultural Policy were being taken into account. The GATT round as a whole would not falter because of the continued impasse on agriculture. Delors rejected a suggestion that the ideas voiced yesterday should be discussed further at the G7 Munich summit in July. He said Munich was not the right place for taking final decisions.

Telecom's future. Competition Commissioner Sir Leon Brittan spelled out clearly to US businessmen in New York on Monday that the EC expects US authorities to make their markets as open as those of the Community. Speaking on competition in the "new world order of communications", Sir Leon explained how EC policies had gone a long way to liberalising telecom markets by breaking the hold of monopoly suppliers on "captive customers". He stressed that only vigorous competition could provide the climate for the introduction of new technologies which can satisfy consumers' increasing demands for lower prices coupled with a better service. US companies were already grasping the opportunities afforded by the Single Market. He called upon the US to open up public procurement and corporate structures to give EC firms the same chance to flourish in the US marketplace.

Message to Bosnia. Commission President Jacques Delors last week sent a message of support to the President of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Alija Izetbegovic, expressing EC solidarity with the republic's efforts to establish itself during this "difficult period". The message acknowledged Bosnia's full participation in the EC-sponsored peace process and indicated that a representative from the republic, recognised two weeks ago by the EC, would be warmly welcomed in Brussels for discussion on EC-Bosnian relations. Just a few hours before this announcement, the EC agreed to despatch 1.5m Ecu (£1.06m) of humanitarian aid to Bosnia for urgent medical supplies and food. Lord Carrington, Chairman of the EC peace conference, and Portuguese foreign minister Joao de Deus Pinheiro, representing the current EC presidency, visit Bosnia and Serbia today (Thursday) to seek a way of halting the fighting.

EC Trademark. A new EC Intergovernmental Conference is being convened in Lisbon on 4-5 May to modify the conditions for entry into force of the EC trademark agreed on 15 December 1989. Ireland and Denmark have constitutional problems in ratifying the agreement. The single trademark will therefore be introduced by ten Member States from 1 January 1993 if instruments of ratification can be deposited in time, although it has been accepted that Spain and Portugal will introduce the trademark formally only in 1996.

Daimler-Benz repayment. The Commission has asked the German car manufacturer Daimler-Benz to pay back DM 33.8m to the German government after investigations by the EC's competition task force found the company had purchased a prime Berlin site on Potsdamer Platz for a sum well under its market value. The Daimler-Benz purchase was made when West Berlin received state aid because of the economic disadvantages of a divided city. But, the Commission says, the Berlin authorities were already in the process of planning a major city renewal which would enhance the value of the site.

A "Pulitzer Prize" for Environment. The European Commission in conjunction with the Association of European Editors yesterday launched a prize for environmental journalism to be awarded every two years for outstanding articles on green issues. Winners of the prize, entitled "My region, my planet", announced to coincide with Earth Day, will receive 10,000 Ecu (£7,000) to fund research for further

articles aimed at increasing public awareness of the environment, both at global and regional level, focusing in particular on sustainable development. Dubbed "the European Pulitzer for the environment", the prize is open to entries from the Atlantic to the Urals for articles published between 1 January 1991 and 30 June this year. First awards will be presented in Strasbourg in mid-November. Details from GEA, Paris: Tel 010 331 42 22 12 82. Fax: 010 33 1 45 49 27 11.

Packaging laws. The second of Germany's stringent packaging laws designed to place the onus for recycling, reclamation and reuse on the distributor came into effect earlier this month. Consumers can now dump excess (secondary) packaging back at the point of purchase. The law, preceding the EC's own proposals for a packaging directive, is not discriminatory as it requires both German and foreign importers to stamp packaging with the "green dot" conformity mark to inform wholesalers and consumers that the packaging can be recycled. However, the German Chamber of Commerce in London urges exporters to gear up to the new impositions. Information: Birgit Holin tel: 071 233 5656 ext. 238.

European film financed. The European Script Fund has announced the latest batch of 45 film projects which will share the 1m Ecus (£700,000) award. The 1991 Cannes film festival winner "Toto Le Heros" is among the 411 film projects funded since the European Script Fund was set up in April 1989 to aid European co-productions. Renee Goddard, Secretary-General of SCRIPT, one of the Commission's MEDIA Programme initiatives, welcomed the acclaim that many SCRIPT-funded projects were receiving around Europe. SCRIPT will shortly be releasing application details for the 1992 round of Incentive Funding to assist production companies, rather than individual directors, develop a series of projects aimed at wider appeal in the European market. Contact: Janie New on 071 287 6661.

Health & Safety films. As part of the European Year of Health & Safety at Work, a festival of films covering the main topics of well-being and safety at work and control of air and noise pollution is being organised in Thessaloniki, Greece, in October. The festival hopes to encourage audio-visual film-makers as video is considered the best medium for training people at work. Films depicting any aspect can be submitted by the end of June ready for the finalists to be judged by an international jury. Information from the European Year office: Tel 010 352 4301 4634 or fax 010 352 4301 4975.

Jean Monnet Professors. The Commission is to finance a further 45 "Jean Monnet" professorships in the next academic year to enhance the integration of traditional faculty subjects, such as law, economics and social sciences with developments in these fields at the European level. This is the third and final year of the 5.95m Ecus (£4.22m) Jean Monnet Action programme which aims to establish European studies as a normal cross-faculty subject in universities by the end of the century. One of Britain's current 30 Jean Monnet chairs is held by the 1992 winner of the European "Women of Europe" award, Juliet Lodge, who is Professor of European Integration at Hull University. For information contact Viviane d'Udekem d'Acoz Tel: 010 322 236 1919.

Aid coordination. A major international conference addressing the problems of coordinating aid to the Commonwealth of Independent States (former USSR) will take a place in Lisbon on 23-24 May. Some 47 countries and seven international organisations as well as delegations from the CIS will participate in the key working groups on technical assistance and food, medical, energy and housing aid. The decision to stage this world-wide coordination programme was taken at the G24 conference earlier this year. The underlying idea is to show the CIS that the world is taking measures as a matter of urgency to assist the republics' economic reforms and their peaceful transition to full democracies.

Times Guide to Single Market. Times Books has just published an up-to-date comprehensive handbook on how the forthcoming Single Market will affect everything from jobs to crime as well as assessing the recent debates in Britain on federalism and Maastricht. From booksellers ISBN 0723004706 price £8.99.

Eastern European Trade & Investment Review. This newly launched quarterly review will provide firms with an overview of the business opportunities in eastern Europe, picking up on the most significant economic developments and assessing their short and long term impact. Contact: F. Knox 081 675 1693.

Conference & Diary Dates.

The EC Social Agenda - Another of the Institute of Personnel Management's monthly European briefings on aspects of the Single Market, 6 May, cost £40. Contact the IPM Tel: 081 946 9100

Efficient Public Management conference - Sponsored by the EC and the Irish Institute of Public Administration, this conference in Dublin Castle on 28-30 April looks at public management in "the new Europe". Contact Gill Stoddart Tel: 081 332 0044.

Council Meetings

Environment/Development	27 April	Luxembourg
Ecofin	28 April	Luxembourg
Agriculture	28-29 April	Luxembourg
Research	29 April	Luxembourg

Our next briefing will be on 30 April 1992 at 11.30am