



COMMISSION  
OF THE EUROPEAN  
COMMUNITIES

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### THE WEEK IN EUROPE

Towards the Maastricht Summit. UK Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, speaking to the Atlantic Commission in The Hague on Tuesday about prospects for success at Maastricht in December, said there was a real chance of success at the European summit provided all twelve EC partners concentrated on "substance not procedure". On the issue of political union, he thought agreement among the Twelve on a common foreign and defence policy was not beyond reach. The Foreign Secretary said it had sometimes been "the awkward but necessary role of Britain to ask the practical questions about the effect of a policy before it is agreed, when other have been ready to sign first and ask after". Hurd's speech on Tuesday in The Hague had been preceded by a more strongly-worded one the previous day in Brussels in which he attacked what he saw as EC interference over national policies with the European Commission apparently wishing to exert its influence "in every nook and cranny of daily life". The EC's Dutch Presidency said compromises would be put forward at Maastricht. The next stage of the climb to the summit takes place in Nordwijk in Holland on 13,14,15 November when the Dutch government hosts what is billed as a conclave of the twelve Member States' Foreign Ministers.

Serbia rejects EC peace plan. Serbia has refused to accept the revised terms of the European Community's proposed political solution to Yugoslavia's civil war, thus making it likely that the EC will implement the package of sanctions they agreed in Brussels on Monday. The measures, presented to Yugoslavia's leaders in The Hague on Tuesday, are seen by EC officials as the last attempt to forge any lasting settlement to resolve the Yugoslav crisis. The possible sanctions include the suspension of the EC's trade and cooperation agreement with Yugoslavia and the exclusion of Yugoslavia from the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). In addition the EC could ask the UN Security Council to institute a comprehensive oil embargo. With Serbia refusing to accept the EC's proposals for peace, which ultimately allow for a loose confederation of sovereign republics to replace the now defunct Yugoslav State, Foreign Ministers of the Twelve will decide on their next moves on Friday night at the NATO summit in Rome.

ECSC loan to Eurotunnel. A long-term loan agreement of up to £200m in favour of the Eurotunnel Group of companies was signed in Brussels yesterday (Wednesday), by Commissioner Karel Van Miert on behalf of the European Coal and Steel Community. The purpose of the loan, granted under Article 54 of the ECSC Treaty, is to finance the use of Community steel in the Eurotunnel project linking the UK and the Continent. Commenting on the loan Van Miert said the opening of the Channel Tunnel would undoubtedly play a crucial role in European integration, an ideal which he held dear to his heart. Other ECSC loans have already been granted to the project of TGV Atlantique and the Main-Danube Canal.

OO For Europe. EC Telecommunications Ministers have agreed that from 1 January 1993, international calls dialled from any EC country will be prefixed by the same "00" access code. At the moment only six EC Member States - but not including the UK which uses 010 - have 00 as the international prefix.

High Definition Television takes shape. EC Telecommunication Ministers have asked Commission Vice-President Filippo Maria Pandolfi, responsible for telecommunications, to produce for their next meeting on 5 December an amended strategy broadly agreed by the European Parliament and industry groups for the development of European high-definition television. The Commission has already tabled a draft HDTV Directive currently being discussed in the European Parliament. This draft proposed a single standard, called D2-MAC for all satellite broadcasts, as an intermediate step towards a full high-definition television standard, HD-MAC. Pandolfi now intends to produce a letter of intent, which would reconcile the differences of commercial interest groups, by the next full session of the Parliament in mid-November. A Directive would then be adopted and submitted to Telecommunications Ministers next month to be followed by a legally-binding memorandum of understanding, setting out the strategy, which would be agreed by industry.

Nationalised Company Takeovers in UK. The UK Government and the Commission have now reached agreement on how to deal with bids by state-owned concerns for UK companies. The agreement in essence means that the UK government has accepted that it will no longer automatically refer these bids to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. There is also an understanding on how UK competition policy meets Community policy as regards illegal state aids.

Pregnant Women's Rights. EC Social Affairs Ministers have just approved a Maternity Rights Directive which from 1993 will give pregnant working women the right to 14 weeks paid maternity leave as proposed originally by the European Commission. British acquiescence was achieved after a compromise making maternity pay at least equivalent to sick pay for the time concerned.

Delors in India. Commission President Jacques Delors has noted with satisfaction the conclusion of the agreement between India and the IMF. He said recent economic policy developments in India aimed at stabilisation will make possible the continuation of the necessary and welcome moves towards the structural adjustment of the Indian economy. On 31 October the IMF authorised drawings of over \$2bn to India to help support the country's economic reform programme. Commissioner Abel Matutes will visit India on 13-15 November.

Animal centre to be set up. On the initiative of Commission Vice-President Maria Filippo Pandolfi and Commissioner Carlo Ripa di Meana the Commission has just decided to set up a European Centre for the validation of alternative methods regarding the protection of animals used for scientific purposes. The Centre is to be set up at Ispra in Italy.

European Emergency Humanitarian Aid office. The Commission has also decided to create an office to deal with European Emergency Humanitarian Aid. Experience accumulated in the course of the last few years (aid for the Kurds, Bangladesh, Africa, Eastern European countries and more recently Albania and Yugoslavia), has made the creation of such an office imperative the Commission believes.

Aid to Africa. In the last week the Commission had decided to give further emergency aid to three African countries - Mali, Zaire and Somelia. The latter is to receive 1m ecus (£700,000) while Zaire is also to receive just over 1m ecus; Mali will get 200,000 ecus (£140,000).

"Pro-Europe?" A new book from Sir Fred Catherwood MEP, Vice-President of the European Parliament, and former Director-General of the National Economic Development Council, reveals how a united Europe points the way to a greater democracy, counteracting the evils of nationalism. Pro-Europe? shows how a united Europe can, and does, work. From Inter-Varsity Press, Norton Street, Nottingham NG7 3HR. Tel: 0602-781054. Price £3.95 paperback. ISBN 0-85110-866-0.

The European Trade Index and European Management Index, published by North Bank Publishing Ltd, are key directives for companies seeking consultancy of joint venture contact within Europe. Available at EuroInfoCentres, BC Net Advisors, and major Chambers of Commerce. Details from Mark Adams on 071-321 2929.

Europa 2000. A layman's guide to the EC covering: the institutions, revenue and expenditure, CAP, Single European Act etc. Facts and figures on Members States, EC documentation and where to go for help. Runs on an IBM PC (or compatible). Price £925 including updates for next two years. Details from Robin Colbourne, Columbia Courseware. Tel: 0923-246404.

Conference and Diary Dates.

**Public Assembly** to establish a European Association of Air Travellers. Thursday, 21 November in Strasbourg at the European Parliament, entrance IPEI. 3.00pm - 6.00pm. Please confirm participation to Fax: 010 3388 17 9526 or to Fax: 010 322 284 9526.

**Business Opportunities in the European Community 1992 Budget.** Conference organised with support of the Commission at the Hotel Palace, Brussels 7210. 16-17 December. Details from Business Briefings Ltd, 565 Fulham Road, London SW6 1ES. Tel: 071-381 1284. Fax: 071-385 0974.

**Lobbying and Decision-making in Europe.** The Third Annual Hawksmere Conference. 30 January 1992. At the Queen Elizabeth II. Conference Centre, Westminster. Speakers: Bryan Cassidy MEP and former Commissioner Lord Clinton-Davis. Details from Hawksmere Ltd, Tel: 071-824 8257. Fax: 071-730 4293.

Foreign Ministers Conclave	12-14 November	Noordwijk
Cultural Affairs Conference	14 November	Brussels
Infrastructure Ministers	17-18 November	The Hague
Agriculture Council	18-19 November	Brussels
Industry Council	18 November	Brussels
European Parliament Session	18-22 November	Strasbourg

Our next briefing will be on Thursday, 14 November, at 11.30am.