



COMMISSION  
OF THE EUROPEAN  
COMMUNITIES

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## THE WEEK IN EUROPE

**Reshaping the Common Agricultural Policy.** On Tuesday the Commission adopted proposals on the development and future of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) which were described as representing the most fundamental reshaping of the CAP since its inception 30 years ago. The Commission aims to introduce the proposals from 1993 and for them to be fully operational by 1996. The main features are: major reductions in prices (cereals - 35%, milk - 10%, butter - 15%) skim powder - 5% and beef - 15%; prices for pigmeat, poultrymeat, eggs and of processed agricultural produce should experience corresponding reductions; introduction of supply control measures (set-aside in cereals, lower milk quotas, tobacco quota, upper limits on sheep premiums and calf disposal premium for beef); substantial compensation for price reductions and supply control measures; measures to improve direct support towards small and medium-sized farmers; an accelerated programme to encourage afforestation of agricultural land; and finally, new measures to facilitate early retirement. The cost of the reformed policy is estimated at 38.8bn ecus (£27bn) in 1997 (1992 prices), representing an increase of 3.7bn ecus (£2.6bn) or some 10% over the level of expenditure in 1992. Nearly 10 million people work in farming in the Community, two million of them are over 65 years of age and 2.5m are between 55 and 65 years of age; half of these farmers have no successors and two thirds farm less than five hectares. The proposals have already been outlined in the European parliament by Agriculture Commissioner Ray MacSharry. The Commissioner will be presenting them formally to Agricultural Ministers in Brussels on Monday. The Community's Netherlands Presidency hopes the Council will be able to reach agreement on the new model CAP by the end of the year.

**EC as peace-brokers in Yugoslav crisis.** The European Community has continued to play the major part in international attempts to bring peace to Yugoslavia. The EC Foreign Ministers troika representing the Netherlands, Luxembourg and Portugal reached agreement over the weekend with Federal and National leaders aimed at halting the country's drift to civil war. The accord put together in many hours of tortuous negotiations on the Adriatic island of Brioni brought agreement on a truce in the breakaway Republic of Slovenia and a compromise over control of its external borders. The EC expects to have a 30-to-50 strong team of civilian and military observers in Yugoslavia this week to monitor the ceasefire. However, Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek warned on his return to The Hague on Monday against premature optimism. Meanwhile, EC Foreign Ministers, who met again to discuss the Yugoslav crisis in The Hague yesterday (Wednesday) had to decide whether to expand the Community's peacekeeping role to cover the larger fellow Republic of Croatia. The weekend agreement in Brioni offered "perhaps the last chance to avoid a devastating civil war", Hans van den Broek told the European parliament on Tuesday. Van den Broek and Commission president Jacques Delors ruled out recognition of Slovenian and Croatian independence at least for the moment.

**EC economic convergence.** In a drive to bring EC economies closer together, the Governments of the Twelve will shortly submit economic strategy plans for discussion in Brussels. The decision was taken at Monday's meeting of EC Finance Ministers, who pledged to provide their medium-term plans by 31 October for discussion in "multilateral surveillance" sessions. The UK representatives fully supported the EC's new multilateral surveillance process to which the UK Government would submit, with little amendment, its latest Medium-Term Financial Strategy paper.

**Impasse over Investment Services Directive.** EC Finance Ministers, meeting in Brussels on Monday, held discussion on the Investment Services Directive but no agreement was reached. Wim Kok, the Dutch Finance Minister and acting President of the Council, said the Presidency would try to "collect its thoughts" and draw up new compromise proposals before long. Commission Vice-President Sir Leon Brittan expressed his disappointment at the lack of progress, and warned that the failure of the ISD could seriously delay two sister proposals, the Capital Adequacy Directive and the Consolidated Supervision Directive. But Sir Leon said he believed that the Ministers were within reach of agreement on whether these could be obligations on stock traders to buy and sell shares on a recognised market. A compromise suggested SEAQ-I, the London based trading network which competes with "regulated" stock exchanges, would itself be considered a regulated market under the Directive. The other two outstanding issues concern transparency and bank access.

Six-point platform at development talks. Meeting informally at Apeldoorn in the Netherlands over the weekend, EC Development Co-operation Ministers discussed a six-point agenda dealing with human rights and democracy as well as humanitarian emergency aid with Commission Vice-President Manuel Marin putting forward the idea of creating a "platform" to co-ordinate all community and, eventually, national assistance. Ministers were concerned to reassure the "South" that the Eastern Europe aid programme would not be detrimental to the developing world. In addition they agreed on the dispatch of the troika of Dutch, Luxembourg and Portuguese Ministers plus the Commission to Ethiopia.

Citizens' Europe Advisory Service has up-dated and re-printed the series of fact-sheets that give practical guidance on the rights guaranteed Community nationals under the Treaty of Rome. The fact-sheets are available on request from the London office of the EC Commission at Jean Monnet House, 8 Storey's Gate, London SW1P 3AT. Any other queries concerning rights of individuals in Community law should be addressed to Bernardine Adkins, Citizen's Europe Advisory Service, at the same address. The CEAS is also open to telephone enquiries on Monday from 2.00 to 5.00pm - Tel: 071 973 1904.

World Student Games, Sheffield. The Commission's Mobile Information Unit will be present at the World Student Games in Sheffield from 15 to 22 July inclusive. The Games have received endorsement from the EC.

Summer time. The Commission has proposed to extend the Directive on Summer time in the EC for the years 1993 and 1994. As now the start of Summer time would be on the last Sunday in March and its end on the Last Sunday in September (with exceptions granted for the UK and Ireland where Summer time will again end on the last Sunday of October).

Crystal trophies at Science Museum. London's Science Museum is to exhibit a number of crystal trophies created by European artists in a competition to find a trophy symbolising Europe. The trophies, including the winner by sculptor Robert Rigot will be on display in the museum's glass section from 12 July to the end of August. Rigot's prize-winning entry - "Twelve stars in crystal" - was created in the workshops of the Compagnie des Cristalleries de Baccarat, a world-famous French company from near Nancy. The sculpture is made of the purest white crystal, standing 55cm high and weighing 43 kilos. It consists of an arrangement of European flags, showing the twelve-star emblem. Four of the entries are from the UK.

Relay Europe, a regional co-ordinating network of European events organisers, was officially endorsed by the FCO, the European Commission and the DTI at its inaugural conference in York on 8-9 July. The network aims to strengthen and expand existing regional links as well as run approved European activities. It is non-profit making drawing funds from both public and private sectors. Details: Dr Keith Johnson 0273 600900.

British Steel's Ravenscraig works. In a statement to the European Parliament yesterday, Commission Vice-President Sir Leon Brittan said he had examined a documented complaint from the Scottish Steel Campaign Trust over the closure of the strip mill at Ravenscraig. He was conscious of the importance of the plant for the local economy but Sir Leon said there were no grounds for the Commission to sustain the complaint.

Access to Europe by Nicholas Moussis. The definitive handbook on European construction. Price £41.67 plus £3.00 postage and packing from Euroconfidentiel, Rue de Rixensart 18, B-1332 Genval, Belgium.

Public Policy and Administration. The Spring 1991 of this journal is a special issue on "Britain and the evolving European Community", edited by Howard Elcock and Ken Harrop of Newcastle-upon-Tyne Polytechnic. It includes contributions from Brian Bender of the Cabinet office, Dr Juliet Lodge of Hull University and Dr Frank Gregory of Southampton University. Price £13.00 from Dr Barry J O'Toole, Editor, Public Policy and Administration, the Business School, The University, Loughborough, Leics LE11 3TU.

Conference and Diary Dates.

**International Television Studies Conference.** 24-26 July at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1. Details: ITSC 91, British Film Institute, Television and Projects Unit, 21 Stephen Street, London W1. Tel: 071-255 1444 Ext 385. Fax: 071-436 7950.

**Influencing Decisions in Europe.** Seminar 9-11 September, Templeton College, Oxford, Details from European Centre for Public Affairs. Tel: 0865-735 422. Fax: 0865-737374.

Agriculture Council	15 - 16 July	Brussels
General Affairs Council	22 - 23 July	Brussels
Budget Council	25 July	Brussels

Our next briefing will take place on Thursday, 18 July at 11.30am at the European Parliament Offices, 2 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1. PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE - DUE TO REFURBISHMENT HERE.