



COMMISSION
OF THE EUROPEAN
COMMUNITIES

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THE WEEK IN EUROPE

Cold War over. The Cold War in Europe officially ended on Monday in Paris when the former adversaries from East and West signed an unprecedented arms control treaty and joined forces to endorse a joint declaration renouncing the use of force. The epoch-making treaty on conventional forces in Europe, signed by the sixteen members of NATO and the six members of the Warsaw Pact brings to an end the military and political confrontation in Europe and establishes new, equal armaments ceilings for East and West. The thirty four nations summit of the countries belonging to the Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), which also gathers together neutral and non-aligned countries of the European continent, ended yesterday (Wednesday) with the signature of a 'Paris Charter for the New Europe'. For the Commission, President Jacques Delors pressed the meeting to consider a European Energy Charter to make sure that Europe's considerable energy resources, East and West, should be used to best advantage. He also said that the EC felt "profoundly involved" in this exciting development which was so full of promise. The NATO and Warsaw Pact signatories extended the hand of friendship to each other and stated that none of their weapons will ever be used except in self-defence or otherwise in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. The signatories also affirmed their obligations and commitment to refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial or the political independence of any state, or from seeking to change existing borders by threat or use of force. The twenty-two nations reaffirmed the right of any state either to be or not to be a party to a treaty or alliance. NATO members have already made it clear they want to maintain their alliance.

Transatlantic Declaration ready to be signed. Agreement is now understood to have been reached on the Transatlantic Declaration, which establishes a formal process of consultation between the US and the EC. The text is expected to be published on Monday. A parallel document between Canada and the EC will be formally agreed this week. The drafting of the rest of the text has been an arduous one as several contentious issues between the EC and the US remain unresolved. The location of the two annual EC-US summits, and whether they should alternate between the US and Europe came to symbolise these differences. There are to be two summits each year between the US President and the Presidents of the EC Council of Ministers and the Commission, and the text does not specify where they will be held. Even so, the declaration appears to underline a new US priority of dealing with Europe as a whole rather than through traditional bilateral channels.

Gap remains over farm subsidies. Last week the US and the Commission failed to narrow the difference on farm subsidies, seriously complicating the task of the Uruguay Round of the GATT negotiations. The disagreement overshadowed discussions in Brussels led by the US Secretary of State, James Baker, and Commission President Jacques Delors. Baker, however, reaffirmed cooperation with the Commission in giving economic aid to Central and Eastern Europe and said that joint plans were being laid to ensure that emergency humanitarian aid would be available for the USSR if economic conditions there continue to deteriorate. Meanwhile Commission Vice-President Frans Andriessen has criticized a decision taken at the GATT negotiations in Geneva to suspend discussions on agriculture. Final ministerial talks are due in Brussels on 3-7 December.

Cockfield on EMU. Former Commission Vice-President Lord Cockfield said on Monday that a single European currency could be achieved in a series of steps by narrowing the fluctuations of exchange rates within the European Monetary System over time. Speaking to businessmen at a conference on investing in Europe, he said the UK government should abandon its plans for a hard ECU and turns its effort into making a success of a single currency as the natural corollary of the Single Market. Lord Cockfield, a former Trade and Industry Secretary in the Conservative Government, is one of the architects of the Single European Market.

Euro Money for Channel. At the instigation of Transport Commissioner Karel van Miert, the Council on Tuesday gave the green light for money to be spent on the Community's Transport infrastructure. The Commission's action plan envisages a three year period leading to 1992. Sixty million ecus (£42m) are in the 1990 budget with about double that amount expected for 1991. Among the projects which might be helped are the Paris, London, Brussels high speed rail links through the Channel Tunnel, the A5/A55 North Wales Coast Road route to Ireland and the railway link between Belfast and Dublin.

Agreement on VAT transition system. Meeting in Brussels on Monday, EC Finance Ministers reached political agreement on the transition systems for VAT in the community, to come into effect on 1 January 1993. Speaking after the meeting, Commissioner Christiane Scrivener said that for the first time basic problems had been tackled and that she thought the results very positive. She added: "This unanimous political agreement is irreversible and we have a good chance of being in a position to fulfil the mandate given by the Dublin European Council."

Ratification of EBRD agreement. EC Finance Ministers have adopted the Commission's proposal for ratification of the agreement establishing the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. The agreement was signed on 29 May 1990 by forty countries, the EC and the European Investment Bank.

"Greening the Treaty." A commitment to 'green' growth and sustainable development should be written into the EC Treaty, and Member States who fail to respect European Court rulings to tighten environmental standards should be denied payments from EC funds. So says a paper published by the Institute for European Environmental Policy, London, as a contribution to the EC reforms in the run-up to December IGC on Political Union. Author is David Wilkinson. Available from IEEP London, 3 Endsleigh Street, London WC1H ODD. Price £5.00 including postage.

"EEC Environmental Policy and Britain." by Nigel Haigh. Second edition. This handbook is a unique guide to environmental legislation, including all relevant Directives, Regulations and Decisions. Over 200 items of EEC legislation are covered and clearly summarised. Price £38.50. 382 pages. ISBN 0 582 05959 3.

Putting children and families on the European agenda. The Scottish Child and Family Alliance is hosting a meeting on 14 December with its sister organisations in England, Wales and Northern Ireland to develop an agenda for European action on issues relating to children and families. This second meeting of the four nations forum coincides with SCAFA's decision to join the Confederation of Family Organisations in the European Community (COFACE).

The dynamics of European Integration. edited by William Wallace. Drawing on the knowledge of leading experts, this volume surveys all aspects of the dynamics of the European integration. Available direct from the publications department of the Royal Institute of International Affairs, Chatham House, 10 St James Square, London SW3Y 4LE.

CAFE. Christianity and the Future of Europe is an organisation formed in November 1989 on the day that the British Council of Churches Assembly unanimously resolved that the British Churches should "ensure that the European Community issues are effectively included in their social responsibility agenda". The first issue of CAFE News has just been published. Subscription £4.00 from CAFE, 11 Minster Yard, Lincoln LN2 1PJ.

Conference and Diary Dates.

The Scarman Seminars 1990-1991. European unity and its constitutional implications, particularly in relation to supranational powers such as the EC and NATO is the theme of this year's Scarman Seminars organised by the UK Constitutional Reforming Centre, starting in December. Details contact CRC, 60 Chandos Place, London WC2N 4HG. Tel: 071 240 1719.

European Movement. Meeting 17 December at the offices of the European Parliament. 6.30pm. Speaker Bill Jordan, Secretary General of the AEU who will talk on Europe, Trade Unions and the Social Dimension. Details: 071-839 6622.

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| Social Affairs Council | 26 November 1990 | Brussels |
| Industry Council | 26 November 1990 | Brussels |
| Telecommunications Council | 27 November 1990 | Brussels |
| Tourism Council | 29 November 1990 | Brussels |
| Eco/Soc Plenary Session | 28 - 29 November 1990 | Brussels |
| Health Council | 3 December 1990 | Brussels |
| ECO/FIN Council | 3 December 1990 | Brussels |
| General Affairs Council | 4 December 1990 | Brussels |
| Internal Market Council | 13 December 1990 | Brussels |

Our next briefing will be on Thursday 29 November at 11.30 am.