

European Community NEWS

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EUROPEAN COMMUNITY INFORMATION SERVICE 2100 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037 Telephone: (202) 872-8350
277 Park Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017 Telephone: (212) 371-3804

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EC PARLIAMENTARIANS MEET PRESIDENT FORD

The delegation of the European Parliament and the House Foreign Affairs Committee held joint public hearings on multinational corporations and on the situation in Greece, September 17-18 in Washington. The meetings were hailed by Members of Congress as "unprecedented." The 16 member European delegation wound up four days of talks with Congressional and Executive Branch leaders by meeting with President Gerald R. Ford at the White House, September 18. The visit was the sixth official exchange between representatives of Congress and the Parliament. Pierre-Bernard Couste, Chairman of the EC delegation said "the level of understanding at these frank and stimulating talks was higher than ever before."

EC-US-JAPAN TALKS ON EXPORT CREDITS

Representatives of the United States, the European Community, and Japan renewed negotiations for a "gentlemen's agreement" on export credit policies, September 10-11 in Brussels. The pact would harmonize US, EC, and Japanese credit policies to avoid undercutting of bidding with other countries, particularly the Soviet Union. The chief aim is to set a minimum interest rate and maximum credit duration. In a September 11 press conference in Brussels, US

Treasury Undersecretary Jack Bennett expressed confidence that an accord could be reached, possibly at the next meeting, tentatively scheduled for early October.

COMMISSION PROPOSES 1975 EC BUDGET DRAFT

A budget of nearly 7 billion units of account (UA) for the European Community in 1975 was proposed to the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament by the Commission this month. (One UA equals \$1.20635 at current rates.) The EC budget for 1974 was nearly UA 5.1 billion. The Commission's allocation (over 98 per cent of the total) would be increased 37 per cent from UA 4.997 billion last year to UA 6.852 billion.

As of January 1975, 57 per cent of the budget will be financed through EC resources -- coming mostly from customs and levy duties collected by the original EC-6 will be paid directly to the Community. Britain, Ireland, and Denmark will follow suit in 1978.

ORTOLI TO VISIT NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON

Francois-Xavier Ortoli, President of the Commission of the European Communities will visit New York and Washington September 25-29. On September 26 in New York, Ortoli will address the Inter-Alpha Group of Banks an organization of seven major European Banks. He will also meet briefly with US Administration officials in Washington to discuss US-EC relations, September 27.

**ORTOLI CRITICIZES
LACK OF EC SOLIDARITY**

Without progressive development of Community institutions, "we will kill off any faith in Europe that still remains and also all its creative capacity and dynamism," Commission President Francois-Xavier Ortoli said in Mainz, Germany on September 13. Addressing the Association of European Journalists, Ortoli said a lack of solidarity among EC countries had halted European integration and undercut attempts to establish common energy, regional development, and economic and monetary policies. Failure of the Nine to act as a unit, he predicted, will undermine Europe's role in any future cooperation with the United States and Japan on international questions.

**EC NEEDS HEAVY
BRITISH COAL OUTPUT**

A revived and increasingly productive British coal industry can play an important role in the European Community's energy policy over the next ten years, Commission member Henri Simonet told the executive committee of the National Union of Mineworkers in London,

September 12. Simonet, (responsible for energy matters) said British coal output should grow to 150 million tons annually by 1985 to compensate for a cutback in the other EC members' coal industries. The EC energy policy calls for maintaining European coal production at current levels (about 250 million metric tons annually) through 1985, to help reduce dependency on oil and other energy resource imports.

**EC AID FOR BANGLADESH,
POSSIBLE TRADE ACCORD**

Bangladesh and the European Community moved closer toward a trade cooperation agreement, this week. Bangladesh Foreign Minister Kamal Hossain's request for such an accord was received favorably by Commission President Francois Xavier-Ortoli and Commissioners Claude Cheysson and Finn Olav Gundelach on September 14 in Brussels. The Commission will reach a final decision in the near future.

Hossain was also assured by Cheysson that EC shipments of nearly 70,000 tons in emergency food aid will be sent to the flood stricken areas in Bangladesh by early October.

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