

EUROPEAN COUNCIL, DUBLIN, 3 - 4 DECEMBER 1984
CONCLUSIONS

Economic and Social Situation

The European Council welcomed the priority given to the problem of unemployment in the Commission's recently published Annual Economic Report. It, therefore, supports the balanced guidelines in the Report, which embodies a consistent economic policy framework for improving supply and demand conditions; and it considers that these guidelines should be speedily implemented. In particular it agreed that the Council, in its appropriate formations:

- should initiate a review of manpower policy to reorientate training towards sectors where labour will be needed, take steps to encourage job mobility and foster enterprise, especially amongst the young;
- should take steps to complete the Internal Market, including implementation of European standards;
- should pursue and accelerate its consideration of measures to achieve a greater role for the ECU and develop and strengthen the European Monetary System, on the basis of the relevant Commission Communications;
- should implement without delay the firm political commitments agreed by the European Council at its meetings of Brussels and Fontainebleau in the field of transport policy;
- should adopt further measures to strengthen the technological base of the Community and restore competitiveness; to this end, the Commission is asked to submit an appropriate draft action programme to the next European Council.

The European Council agreed that the Community and the Member States should take measures, including concertation of economic policies, designed, in the words of the Preamble to the Rome Treaty, to reduce the differences existing between the various regions and the backwardness of the less favoured regions.

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In regard to any possible faltering of the European and world recovery of output and employment, the European Council also asked the ECO/FIN and the Commission to keep external developments under continuous review. It requested them to report back to its meeting in March on what measures might be appropriate for the Community or may already have been initiated to assure the objective of a progressive increase in the actual and potential growth rate for the Community to the benefit of employment.

Environment

The European Council asked Environment Ministers at their Council Meeting on 6 December to make every effort to reach agreement on the guidelines for a Community Policy on the reduction of lead in petrol and vehicle emissions.

The Council agreed to have a substantive discussion on environmental issues at their next meeting in March 1985.

Ad Hoc Committee on Institutional Affairs

The European Council has taken note of the interim report by the Ad Hoc Committee on Institutional Affairs. It recognized its great quality and the need for the Committee to continue its work with a view to securing the maximum degree of agreement. The Council agreed that the interim report should be published.

The European Council, for its next meeting in March 1985, has asked the Committee to complete its work and submit a report which, after preliminary consideration at that meeting, will be the main subject of the European Council in June, 1985.

Ad hoc Committee on a People's Europe

The European Council noted with interest the interim report of this Committee and requested the Committee to make a further report to the European Council next March.

Council Report on European Union

The European Council approved the annual Report on European Union. This Report will be forwarded to the European Parliament as provided for in the Solemn Declaration on European Union.

Famine in Africa

In the face of the serious difficulties currently being experienced by many countries of Africa, especially those, like Ethiopia or the Sahel countries, which are suffering the effects of an unprecedented drought and the ravages of malnutrition and famine, the European Council stresses the urgency of taking concerted international action.

The European Council believes that the total to be provided by the Community and its Member States between now and the next harvest should be 1.2 million tonnes.

The Commission, after consultation with Member States to establish the amount of grain that will be provided by Member States, will make a proposal to the Council with respect to any additional Community effort that may be needed to attain the figure of 1.2 million tonnes and the European Council invites the Council of Ministers to take any necessary decisions on the basis of such a Commission proposal in order to secure the achievement of the 1.2 million total. The European Council appeals to other donor countries to match this effort by the Community and its Member States in order that the total need of these States, currently estimated at 2 million tonnes, will be met.

It stresses the need for urgent action to avoid threatened shortfall in the months immediately ahead.

It notes the need for improved co-ordination between the Community, its Member States, other donors, and non-governmental organisations, in order to increase the efficiency and pace of implementation of emergency aid measures and invites the Commission to initiate action in this regard.

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The European Council acknowledges the need to undertake urgent action to speed up and support the recovery and rehabilitation process in African countries and to provide the Community's active support for their efforts to achieve self-sufficiency and security in food; also in implementing long-term operations to combat drought and desertification.

The European Council emphasises the will of the Ten, in all international negotiations, to support initiatives to strengthen solidarity between the industrialised countries and the countries of the Third World and thus to foster development.

It welcomes the declaration on the Critical Economic Situation in Africa just adopted by the U.N. General Assembly.

It notes with satisfaction the successful conclusion of the negotiations for the renewal of the Lome Convention which links the European Community, its Member States, and the African Caribbean and Pacific States. The fact that the progress achieved so far has been consolidated bears witness to the strength and vitality of this co-operation.

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