

CONCLUSIONS OF THE PRESIDENCY
ON THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE
EUROPEAN COUNCIL

STUTTGART - 17 to 19 JUNE 1983

Economic Recovery

The European Council considers that the prospects for sustained and non-inflationary economic recovery should be reinforced by developing and defining more precisely the action initiated Community-wide, and thus providing the Community's contribution to the implementation of guidelines adopted by the OECD Council of Ministers.

In this context the need to sustain the effort to promote the level of employment and productive investment was emphasized.

The European Council therefore requests the Commission, within the coming months:

- to prepare a detailed analysis of the nature and extent of the recovery and what the authorities are already doing to support, consolidate and accelerate it;
- to make full use of Community financial instruments in a coordinated manner to sustain and consolidate the economic recovery;
- on this basis, to indicate what new factors the Member States and the Community can bring forward to underpin the recovery, as and when necessary.

Youth employment

The European Council expresses its profound anxiety in the face of a situation where more than 4.5 million young people in the Community are without jobs, including more than one and a half million who have been unemployed for more than a year.

It takes note of the importance of the Member States embarking upon sustained action in this area forthwith.

It welcomes with satisfaction the decisions of the Council on the reform of the European Social Fund, which will allow a high degree of priority to be given to the fight against youth unemployment.

The resources of the Fund will be directed to those countries and regions where unemployment, and in particular youth unemployment, is at its highest.

It further welcomes the resolutions on vocational training in the eighties and on vocational training measures in relation to the introduction of new information technologies.

The European Council expects of these Community measures as speedy and lasting an effect as possible and stresses how important it is that the Member States should, as a concomitant measure, persevere in the efforts that they themselves have undertaken.

It calls upon the competent Community bodies actively to pursue consideration of the Commission's communication on the promotion of youth employment together with the memorandum on the reduction and readjustment of working time.

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INTERNAL MARKET

The European Council notes that progress has been made in the strengthening of the internal market since the mandate given at Copenhagen, particularly on information procedures for standards, which has been identified as a key question, and on company law (with the adoption of the 7th directive on consolidated accounts).

It regrets, however, that further progress on the other key questions, (certification for third country products and frontier formalities), has not yet been forthcoming.

It in particular calls on the Council at its session of 21 June to make every effort to settle as many of the outstanding internal market matters as possible, as well as the equally relevant question of the reinforcement of the trade policy instruments. Appropriately constructive national positions will be worked out so that this aim is achieved .

Completion of the internal market must remain a priority aim; the measures decided at Copenhagen constitute only a first step in this direction; work must therefore continue inter alia on the removal of the various forms of distortion of competition that still exist, including trade barriers in the form of differences between national standards, as well as in the services sector.

STEEL POLICY

Given the urgency of reaching agreement on the Community's steel policy for the time after 30th June 1983 the European Council expressed the hope that the Council will arrive at an agreement on this question.

Transport policy

The European Council emphasizes the importance of transport policy in completing the internal market. It notes with interest the ideas expounded in the memorandum submitted by the Netherlands Government. It asks the Council of Transport Ministers to continue the effort recently manifested in the concrete results achieved by the Council, thus testifying to the importance which this policy assumes for the Community.

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ENVIRONMENT

The European Council underlines the urgent necessity of accelerating and reinforcing action at national, Community and international level aimed at combatting the pollution of the environment. It underlines in particular the acute danger threatening the European Forest areas, which calls for immediate action.

The European Council welcomes in this connection the Memorandum from the Federal German Government and the Commission communication which illustrates the urgency of the question and the necessity to take coordinated and effective initiatives both within the Community and internationally, particularly within the ECE, if an irreversible situation is to be avoided. It calls on the Environment Council to pursue its work on the different specific dossiers relevant to this problem and examine relevant initiatives proposed by the Commission, with a view to rapid significant progress.

The European Council also welcomed the conclusions of the Environment Council on the special case of lead in petrol. It emphasised the importance of reducing the amount of lead in the Environment and called for progress which may lead to the use of leadless petrol.

UNCTAD VI

The European Council regards the Sixth United Nations Trade and Development Conference (UNCTAD VI) in Belgrade as a very important event in the North/South Dialogue in 1983. The Conference is being held against the background of a difficult economic situation, particularly in many developing countries. The Community is participating in the Belgrade negotiations in a spirit of co-operation and readiness to discuss. The European Council agrees that it has special responsibility for maintaining and improving the marketing opportunities of the developing countries. This will be given concrete shape by means of a policy directed at growth and at maintaining and reinforcing the open nature of the Community. The European Council expects the Conference to contribute to strengthening confidence in the world economic recovery and to the promotion of development in the Third World. The Community will make a constructive contribution to that end.

COMPENSATION FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM

The European Council agreed on compensation for the United Kingdom for 1983.

Greek Memorandum

The European Council is conscious of the special economic and social problems faced by Greece and the difficulties which these create in the process of integrating Greece into the European Communities.

The European Council agrees that the Community should play its part in helping to overcome these difficulties.

It welcomes in this connection the detailed and constructive examination of these problems undertaken by the Commission and the two communications which have resulted from this work. The communications clearly indicate that solutions can be found in the Community framework in order to permit the integration of Greece into the Community system in a harmonious and mutually beneficial manner.

It welcomes the fact that the Commission intends shortly to submit specific proposals (including their financial aspects) in various sectors complementing its earlier proposals. It invites the Council to examine these proposals with a view to concrete decisions before the next European Council.
