

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL

SUMMARY OF THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE MEETING OF THE
EUROPEAN COUNCIL HELD IN ROME ON 1 AND 2 DECEMBER 1975

The economic and social situation

The European Council discussed the development of the economic and social situation in the Community and again stressed the need for close co-ordination to be maintained between the economic policies of the Member States in order to consolidate the economic recovery which seems to have begun and to improve the present level of employment.

The European Council confirms the broad lines which emerged at the July meeting in Brussels and which were echoed in the declaration issued after the Rambouillet Summit, concerning the desirability of closer international co-operation and of a constructive dialogue among all the countries concerned to overcome current economic problems.

The European Council noted with satisfaction the follow-up to the Tripartite Conference held in Brussels on 18 November and the decision to instruct the Commission of the European Communities, in contact with both sides of industry, to study the main problems discussed and to prepare a report with a view to a future meeting of that Conference.

COMMUNITY BUDGET AND FINANCING

The European Council carried out a thorough examination of the problems connected with the supervision of Community expenditure and the Community's budget policy.

The Council agreed on the need for more effective financial control over Community expenditure and stated that it was in favour of the suggestions made by the Heads of Government of the United Kingdom, the Federal Republic of Germany and Ireland and the proposals of the Commission being examined expeditiously.

The President of the Council and the President of the Commission were invited to make contact with the President of the European Parliament with a view to examining the role which that Institution might play in controlling Community expenditure by means of a Committee or Sub-Committee.

The Heads of Government agreed to make every effort to ensure the early completion of the procedure for the ratification of the Treaty setting up a European Court of Auditors signed on 22 July last in Brussels, with a view to enabling the Court to commence activities during 1976.

The European Council noted with satisfaction the information communicated by the President of the Commission regarding the strengthening which had already taken place in the powers of the Member of the Commission responsible for the budget, without prejudice, however, to the principle of the collective responsibility of the Commission as laid down in the Treaties.

With reference to the agreement reached at Villa Marlia and formally adopted by the Council meeting in Brussels on 5 and 6 November regarding the annual joint meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Ministers for Finance to carry out an overall assessment of Community budget problems, the European Council

considers that discussions at such meetings should concentrate on general Community policy, ensure greater consistency as regards policies to be followed and budget decisions and allow better distribution of Community resources to be achieved by means of the gradual introduction of multi-annual expenditure forecasts. The discussion relating to next year should take place, on the basis of a Commission communication, before the end of April.

The European Council noted the Commission's intention to submit to the Council proposals concerning the use of the European unit of account in the Community budget.

BUDGET OF THE COMMUNITIES FOR 1976

(Internal document)

The European Council took note of the wish expressed by certain Heads of Government that, while respecting the budget procedure and the powers conferred on the European Parliament by the Treaties, the Council (Ministers for Finance) should, at its forthcoming meeting on 3 December, be guided by considerations of economy when examining the amendments made to the draft budget by the European Parliament.

ELECTIONS TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

The European Council agreed that elections to the European Parliament shall take place on a single date in May or June 1978.

Any country which at that date is unable to hold direct elections shall be allowed to appoint its representatives from amongst the elected members of its national parliament.

The European Council noted Mr WILSON's statement that the United Kingdom Government required a further period for internal consultations before adopting a final position regarding the date fixed, and the conditions set by Mr JØRGENSEN for direct elections to the European Parliament in Denmark.

The European Council instructed the Council of Ministers to continue examination of the problems encountered and to submit a report which will enable the text of the Convention on elections to the European Parliament to be finalized at the next European Council.

PASSPORT UNION

The European Council agreed on the introduction of a uniform passport which may be issued as from 1978.

To that end, the European Council asks the Council (Ministers for Foreign Affairs) to resolve all outstanding questions in this area.

The European Council also asks the Council (Ministers for Foreign Affairs) to continue work on the abolition of frontier controls and on the harmonization of conditions of entry into and abode in the Member States.

COMMUNICATION FROM MR TINDEMANS

ON THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF HIS MISSION

The European Council heard a statement by Mr TINDEMANS, Prime Minister of Belgium, on the accomplishment of his mission of preparing a report on European Union. As agreed, a copy of this report will be sent to all Governments before the end of the year.

CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION

I. Substance

The Commission will propose and the Council will decide as soon as possible appropriate mechanisms to protect and ensure the development of alternative sources of Community energy, on reasonable economic conditions - and to encourage conservation in the use of energy.

II. Procedure

- (a) In the conference on international economic co-operation the Community will be represented by a single delegation.
- (b) The spokesman of the Community will be the presidency of the Council and the Commission.

During the ministerial conference, the Chairman of the Community delegation will have the possibility of inviting the representatives of two Member States to submit additional statements in the light of their experience and in accordance with the mandate adopted.

- (c) In each Commission, the spokesmen of the Community will be assisted by a Community delegation comprising representatives of the Member States.
- (d) In the framework of the Community co-ordination procedure it may be agreed that a member of the Community delegation be invited by the Presidency to comment on specific questions in the context of the mandate.

Such statements will not conflict with the agreed Community position.

- (e) As the dialogue proceeds, the mandate will be further elaborated in accordance with the Community procedure.

The European Council also drew up the following statement which it was agreed should not be made public:

"The European Council recognizes the need for solidarity in a situation of oil shortage. The Council will take the appropriate measures to this end on the basis of the Commission proposals".

As regards the choice of the other industrialized countries, the Community was unanimously in favour of Canada, Australia, Switzerland and Sweden and there was a majority in favour of Spain.

The Heads of Government unanimously agreed to propose to the other industrialized countries that Canada should act as co-chairman of the conference.

OTHER BUSINESS

The European Council adopted a proposal by the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom that Community Ministers for the Interior (or Ministers with similar responsibilities) should meet to discuss matters coming within their competence, in particular with regard to law and order.