

SPECIAL EDITION



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

ACTIVITIES



EUROPEAN COUNCIL
Edinburgh,
11-12 December 1992

3/S-92

EUROPEAN COUNCIL IN EDINBURGH
11-12 DECEMBER, 1992

CONCLUSIONS OF THE PRESIDENCY

PART A

SN 456/92
PART A

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Introduction

1. The European Council met in Edinburgh on 11-12 December 1992 to discuss the central problems on the Community's agenda. The meeting was preceded by an exchange of views between the members of the European Council and the President of the European Parliament on the various issues of the agenda.

2. The European Council agreed on solutions to a very wide range of issues which are essential to progress in Europe. This paves the way for a return to confidence by its citizens in European construction which will contribute to the recovery of the European economy.

In particular the European Council reached agreement on the following major issues:

- The problems raised by Denmark in the light of the outcome of the Danish referendum on 2nd June 1992 on the Maastricht Treaty,
- Guidelines to implement the subsidiarity principle and measures to increase transparency and openness in the decision making process of the Community,
- The financing of Community action and policies during the rest of this decade,
- The launching of enlargement negotiation with a number of EFTA countries,
- The establishment of a plan of action by the Member States and the Community to promote growth and to combat unemployment.

Treaty on European Union - state of the ratification process

3. The members of the European Council reaffirmed their commitment to the Treaty on European Union. Ratification is necessary to make progress towards European Union and for the Community to remain an anchor of stability in a rapidly changing continent, building on its success over the last four decades.

4. Having reviewed the state of the ratification process the European Council agreed to the texts set out in Part B of these Conclusions concerning the issues raised by Denmark in its memorandum "Denmark in Europe" of 30 October 1992. This will create the basis for the Community to develop together, on the basis of the Maastricht Treaty, while respecting, as the Treaty does, the identity and diversity of Member States.

Subsidiarity

5. On the basis of a report from Foreign Ministers the European Council agreed the overall approach, set out in Annex 1, to the application of the subsidiarity principle and the new Article 3b. The European Council invited the Council to seek an inter-institutional agreement between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission on the effective application of Article 3b by all institutions. The European Council discussed this aspect with the President of the European Parliament. It welcomed the ideas in the draft of an Inter-Institutional Agreement presented by the European Parliament.

6. The European Council received a report from the President of the Commission on the first fruits of the Commission's review of existing and proposed legislation in the light of the subsidiarity principle. These examples are set out in Annex 2. The European Council noted the Commission's intention to withdraw or amend certain proposals and to make proposals for the amendment of items of existing legislation. It looks forward to the final report on the review of existing legislation, which the Commission will prepare for the European Council in December 1993.

Openness and transparency

7. The European Council reaffirmed its commitment at Birmingham to a more open Community and adopted the specific measures set out in annex 3.

The conclusion with regard to access to the work of the Council will be reviewed at the end of 1994.

The European Council welcomed the measures the Commission has recently decided to take in the field of transparency. These include producing the annual work programme in October, to allow for wider debate including in national parliaments; seeking closer consultation with the Council on the annual legislative programme; wider consultation before making proposals, including the use of green papers; making Commission documents public in all Community languages; and attaching higher priority to consolidation and codification of legal texts.

The European Council reconfirmed its invitation at Birmingham for the Commission to complete by early next year its work resulting from the declaration in the Maastricht Treaty on improving access to the information available to it and to other Community Institutions.

Accession of new Member States to the Union

8. The European Council in Lisbon agreed that official negotiations with EFTA countries seeking membership of the Union will be opened immediately after the Treaty on European Union is ratified and the agreement has been achieved on the Delors II package.

Given the agreement reached on future financing and the prospects for early ratification of the Treaty on European Union by all Member States, the European Council agreed that enlargement negotiations will start with Austria, Sweden and Finland at the beginning of 1993. These negotiations will be based on the general negotiation framework of which the General Affairs Council took note on 7 December. They will be transformed into negotiations under Article O of the Treaty on European Union once it enters into force, and can only be concluded once the Treaty on European Union has been ratified by all Member States. The conditions of admission will be based on the acceptance in full of the Treaty on European Union and the "acquis", subject to possible transitional measures to be agreed in the negotiations. The European Council invited the Council of Ministers to take decisions on the opening of negotiations on the same basis with Norway as soon as the Commission's opinion on its application is available. Negotiations will to the extent possible be conducted in parallel.

It invited the Commission, in preparing its Opinion on the Swiss application, to take into account the views of the Swiss authorities following the 6 December referendum on the EEA agreement. It welcomes the contacts now underway with the EFTA countries to identify the next steps in proceeding with the agreement.

GATT

9. The European Council welcomed the resumption of negotiations in Geneva on the GATT Uruguay Round. It reaffirmed its commitment at Birmingham to an early, comprehensive and balanced agreement and called on all the parties to complete the negotiations accordingly. It noted that the final package must be judged as a whole.

Promoting Economic Recovery in Europe

10. The European Council heard a report from the President of the Commission about the economic situation. It discussed the prospects for growth and the rise in unemployment. It agreed to carry forward the action and initiatives set out in the declaration in Annex 4.

Internal Market

11. The European Council noted with particular satisfaction that the White Paper programme for creating the Internal Market will in all essential respects be successfully completed by 31 December 1992. This is a historic moment for the Community, marking the fulfilment of one of the fundamental objectives of the Treaty of Rome. The large Single Market is an irreversible achievement. It will offer consumers more choice and lower prices; it will help job creation and will sharpen the international competitiveness of business in Europe. The Community will remain open to world trade and investment.

12. The European Council noted that since 1985 over 500 internal market measures have been agreed, including nearly all those in the original White Paper. It paid tribute to the vital role played by the Commission in initiating this programme and to the constructive cooperation on it between the Council and the European Parliament. The decision-making procedures introduced by the Single European Act have proved indispensable for the timely completion of the programme.

13. Work on the Single Market programme has covered a wide canvas opening up public purchasing, liberalising transport and financial services, improving Community-wide acceptance of product standards removing non-tariff barriers, and making it easier for people to work throughout the Community.

14. The European Council welcomed the agreements recently reached on indirect tax measures, investment services and cultural goods and airport slot allocation, as well as the commitment by all Member States to abolish systematic frontier controls on goods by 1 January 1993, respecting Article 28 of the European Single Act. The European Council recognized that the internal market will remain a dynamic process, and that it must be adapted and improved to keep pace with changing circumstances.

15. The European Council considered that accurate and timely transposition of Community measures by Member States is essential to secure the full benefits of the internal market.

16. Recalling its Lisbon conclusions, the European Council stresses the need to ensure that the internal market works to the benefit of all the Community's citizens and enterprises. It therefore welcomes the Resolutions adopted at the 10 November Internal Market Council and the 24 November Industry Council identifying the priorities and practical steps necessary to ensure that the internal market works fairly and effectively and without undue burdens on business, notably small and medium-sized enterprises. It also welcomed the Commission's recent response to the important recommendations of the high level group under Mr Peter Sutherland. It invited the Council to continue to urge work on these issues.

Free Movement of Persons

17. The European Council has had to take note of the fact that free movement of persons within the Community, in accordance with Article 8a of the Treaty of Rome, cannot be completely assured on 1st January 1993.

18. The work necessary to achieve this result without creating dangers for public security and compromising the fight against illegal immigration, although having progressed, is still under way. Further progress is needed in particular to complete the ratification process of the Dublin Asylum Convention, to conclude the External Frontiers Convention and to complete negotiations on a Convention on the European Information System.

19. However, noticeable changes benefitting travellers will occur during the course of next year:

- thus, the Member States of Schengen will put into effect this agreement during 1993, as soon as the preconditions for its implementation are fulfilled. In this group of States, the abolition of controls will be effective from that date at internal land, maritime and air frontiers;
- other Member States have made known their intention to take various measures to lighten controls at borders on nationals of Member States of the Community.

20. Reaffirming its commitment to the full and rapid implementation of Article 8a, the European Council has invited the competent Ministers to accelerate their work and has decided to come back to this issue at the next meeting of the European Council on the basis of a report from the Ministers.

Justice and Home Affairs

21. The European Council noted the work of the co-ordinators' Group on the implementation of the justice and home affairs pillar of the Treaty on European Union. It requested the Group to ensure that detailed plans are taken forward for the development of communication systems and other preparations.

22. The European Council welcomed the progress made by the Ministers with responsibility for Immigration under the work programme on immigration and asylum, and in particular the agreement in principle at their London meeting of Resolutions on Manifestly Unfounded Asylum Applications, and on Host Third Countries.

23. The European Council noted with approval the report of CELAD on its past work, and its report on the co-ordination of drugs issues and its future role.

24. The European Council noted the Report of the Trevi Ministers and looked forward to the early establishment of the Europol Drugs Unit.

Migration

25. Deeply concerned by the intensification of episodes of intolerance, which it has strongly condemned, the European Council has underlined that there must be no room for racism and xenophobia in today's Europe, and has reiterated its determination to oppose such attitudes with renewed vigour.

The European Council stressed the importance of protecting all immigrants from racist attacks and implementing fully their policies for integrating legal immigrants. It expressed its deep concern at acts of aggression against foreign immigrants. It deplored the fact that, precisely at a time when the divisions in Europe are ceasing to exist, the general trend towards the greater unity of our continent is

marred by such acts. It is convinced that vigorous and effective measures must be taken, throughout Europe, to combat this phenomenon, both through education and legislation.

The European Council agreed the declaration in Annex 5.

Size of the European Parliament

26. The European Council agreed - based on the proposal of the European Parliament - on the following numbers of members of the European Parliament, from 1994, to reflect German unification and in the perspective of enlargement:

Belgium	25
Denmark	16
Germany	99
Greece	25
Spain	64
France	87
Ireland	15
Italy	87
Luxembourg	6
Netherlands	31
Portugal	25
United Kingdom	87
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TOTAL	567

The necessary legal texts will be prepared for adoption in due course.

Seats of the Institutions

27. On the occasion of the European Council Member States reached agreement on the seats of the European Parliament, the Council, the Commission, the Court of Justice and the Court of First Instance, the Economic and Social Committee, the Court of Auditors, and the European Investment Bank. The formal decision is set out in Annex 6.
