

THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL

**ROME
1-2 DECEMBER 1975**

Documents in the dossier include:

The European Council in Rome

Includes preparatory work, conclusions, follow up statements
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European Community Members to Issue EC Citizens a "European Passport"
European Community Background Information No. 41/1975
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Declaration of Rambouillet

17 November 1975
Department of State Bulletin, December 8, 1975

1. The European Council in Rome

1101. The European Council, consisting of the Heads of Government of the Nine Member States met in Rome on 1 and 2 December. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs and the Commission were also present.

Decisions were reached, the most important of which concerned the Community's representation by one delegation at the North-South Conference, establishment of May-June 1978 as the date for election to the European Parliament, issue of a uniform European passport from 1978, the policy aspect of Community financing, and the controls to be applied in that area. The Council also took a hard look at the Community's economic and social situation (with the Rambouillet Summit¹ and the Brussels Tripartite Conference² in mind) and European Union (statement of Mr Tindemans, the Belgian Premier). All these matters were covered in a summary of conclusions issued by the Chair after the Rome meeting.

European Council Summit Meetings

1102. The meeting which has just ended is the third since the deliberations of the Heads of Government when they assembled in Paris on 9 and 10 December 1974.³ Glancing further back, the first year of this new practice highlights its specific features and originality.

Unlike the Summits at The Hague (1 and 2 December 1969), in Paris (19 and 20 October 1972) and Copenhagen (14 and 15 December 1974), and again unlike the meeting of Heads of Government in December 1974, which was new in 'style', the establishment of what was soon termed the 'European Council', was a response to clear-cut *problems*.

The Communiqué issued in Paris on 10 December spelt these out:

'Recognizing the need for an overall approach to the internal problems involved in achieving European unity and the external problems facing Europe, the Heads of Government consider it essential to ensure progress and overall consistency in the activities of the Communities and in the work on political cooperation.'

In *practical* terms, and to attain these objectives, the Paris communiqué indicated:

The Heads of Government have therefore decided to meet, accompanied by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, three times a year and, whenever necessary, in the Council of the Communities and in the context of political cooperation.

The administrative secretariat will be provided for in an appropriate manner with due regard for existing practices and procedures.

In order to ensure consistency in Community activities and continuity of work, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, meeting in the Council of the Community, will act as initiators and coordinators. They may hold political cooperation meetings at the same time.

These arrangements do not in any way effect the rules and procedures laid down in the Treaties or the provisions on political cooperation in the Luxembourg and Copenhagen Reports. At the various meetings referred to in the preceding paragraphs the Commission will exercise the powers vested in it and play the part assigned to it by the above texts.³

What was soon to be known as the 'European Council', was born. Since then it has met in accordance with the terms adopted by the Heads of Government, in Dublin (10 and 11 March), Brussels (16 and 17 July) and lately in Rome (1 and 2 December).

¹ The full text of the Rambouillet Declaration is reproduced in Part 3: Documentation.

² Points 1201 to 1205.

³ Bull. EC 12-1974, point 1104.

The Rome Meeting

1103. The European Council met in the Palazzo Barberini, which dates back to the XVIIIth century. It was chaired by Mr Aldo Moro, President of the Council, Italy, and Chairman of the European Council. The other eight Heads of Governments were all present: Mr Léo Tindemans (Belgium), Mr Anker Jørgensen (Denmark), Mr Helmut Schmidt (Federal Republic of Germany), Mr Giscard d'Estaing (France), Mr Liam Cosgrave (Ireland), Mr Gaston Thorn (Luxembourg), Mr Joop den Uyl (Netherlands), Mr Harold Wilson (United Kingdom). All were assisted by their Foreign Ministers, except for Denmark, whose Minister for External Economic Relations was in attendance, Belgium (Mr Van Elslande was absent) and Luxembourg, where Mr Thorn covered both functions. In the case of Belgium and Luxembourg, the Head of Government was accompanied by a senior official. The Commission was represented by President Ortoli and Vice-President Haferkamp.

The European Council met in restricted session; the national or Community officials were not present at their discussions. At one point the Heads of Government called in the President of the Commission.

The Council first talked of economic and social problems: the conclusions to be drawn from the Rambouillet Summit, the Community's economic and social situation, and the Brussels Tripartite Conference. It then considered the election of Parliament, the 'European Passport', budgetary matters, and European Union. It devoted most of its second day to the Conference on International Economic Cooperation (North-South).

The Commission played an active part in the discussions, and in preparing conclusions. This was particularly so in regard to the North-South dialogue and the common energy policy commitments where the final decision for single Community representation was taken on the strength of a text proposed by President Ortoli.

The results

1104. The Ministers' decisions and discussions were covered in a 'summary of conclusions', drawn up on the authority of the Chairman. There follows the published text:

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 has 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 expendi-

ture 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 Subcommittee.

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 taken place to date 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 multiannual 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.'

Elections to the European Parliament

'The European Council is 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 is 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 cooperation

I. *Basic problems*

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

II. *Procedure*

(a) The Community will be represented by a single delegation at the conference on international economic co-operation.

(b) The Presidents of the Council and the Commission will act as spokesman for the Community.

During the ministerial conference, the Chairman of the Community delegation will be able to invite the representatives of two Member States to submit further comments in the light of their experience and in accordance with the mandate adopted.

(c) In each commission, the spokesmen for the Community shall be assisted by a Community delegation comprising representatives of the Member States.

(d) It may be agreed in the framework of the

Community co-ordination procedure that a member of the Communities' delegation be invited by the Chair to comment on specific questions in the context of the mandate. These statements shall not conflict with the agreed Community position.

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

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.'

The European Council also discussed the problems posed by the shortage of oil and steps to be taken in that connection. It also considered the compilation of the list of industrialized countries who should be invited to attend the North-South Conference.

Community reactions

1105. The results of the Rome meeting were the subject of largely favourable comment. The initial Community reactions were as follows:

Commission

1106. Following the Commission meeting of 3 December, the Spokesman declared in substance the following day:

President Ortoli and Vice-President Haferkamp who represented the Commission in Rome, summarized at the Commission meeting the results obtained and the course of the Council's work.

The Commission was pleased that three big advances had been secured:

- (i) direct election to Parliament, which was highly significant politically and an expression of the unanimous resolve to push on the construction of Europe;
- (ii) in keeping with the Commission's proposals, the European Council agreed to accord budget issues their true political stature;
- (iii) the Community's single representation in Paris at the Conference on International Economic Cooperation, was of the utmost political and institutional importance; it strengthened the Community's authority and credibility, and its determination to win through to a common energy policy.

Yesterday the Commission and today the Energy Committee started to appraise moves in that direction, bearing in mind the next critical dates (Council meeting of 9 December and IEA meeting on 18 and 19 December).

Mr Spinelli said:

'In deciding that elections to the European Parliament will take place on a single date in 1978, the Heads of Government, seventeen years after the Treaty of Rome took effect, have finally yielded in the long battle, waged on a wide popular front, to democratize the Community.

The elections can be a milestone of Community history because, by politically revitalizing integration, they will help to break up the collusion of bureaucracies and finally involve the citizens in the construction of Europe.'

European Parliament

1107. Mr Georges Spénale, President of the European Parliament, made the following statement on the outcome of the European Council meeting:

'The commitment by seven Heads of State or Government of the European Community to direct elections to the European Parliament in May-June 1978 is unquestionably one of the most positive results of the European Council in Rome.

The two countries not yet committed to that date do not oppose the principle of European elections. It is quite probable therefore, that they will come round to the same position by 1978. This seems all the more likely in that these two countries have a great parliamentary tradition and have consistently pressed for greater democracy in the Communities.

The European Parliament continues to attach great importance to the organization of European elections on the same date in all Community countries, for political and psychological reasons.

At all events, the European Council's commitment to direct elections must be the signal for a general mobilization of political forces and public opinion in all the countries concerned. There is a considerable amount of preparatory work to be done if these elections are to be held in time. The "count-down" starts today!

The Council of Ministers of the European Community must now adopt the draft convention submitted to it by the European Parliament.

The decision on single representation for the European Community at the North-South dialogue is, of course, the other encouraging feature of this European Council.

This decision averts a grave threat to Community solidarity in a field which is vital to Europe's future.

Finally the creation of a European Passport in 1978, year of the elections by universal suffrage, should be welcomed. These two measures on different but complementary fronts, will create a stronger sense of European identity.'

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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BACKGROUND NOTE

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EUROPEAN COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO ISSUE EC CITIZENS A "EUROPEAN" PASSPORT

American collectors of passport stamps will soon have to find a new hobby -- or travel to other parts of the world than the European Community.

The Community's nine member countries have decided to replace national passports with a single type of European passport by 1978 as the first step toward a passport union. Once this union has been completed, citizens of the "Nine" will be able to travel from one end of the Community to the other without passing through customs. For Americans, it will mean a single customs check on entering the first Community country visited and one on leaving the last -- two passport stamps instead of 14. (Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg have already ended passport checks.)

European passports could be in use soon, because this change needs legislation only in Germany. Other parts of the passport union will take longer to work out, because they will take changes in national laws setting conditions of entry, length of stay, and checks of luggage, currency, and cars. Eventually, the Nine will have to negotiate agreements with non-member countries to treat every holder of a European passport the same, regardless of nationality.

The passport decision was made at a meeting of the Community members' heads of State or Government, foreign ministers, and EC officials in Rome on December 1-2. The group, known as the "European Council," also discussed

- the election of the Community's Assembly, known as the "European Parliament," by direct universal suffrage
- the Community's economic and social condition
- the Community's budget and financial arrangements
- the December 16 Paris Conference on International Economic Cooperation
- a report, due by the end of this month, on building a full "European Union."

