

'Greece applies for accession to the EEC' from Le Figaro (13 June 1975)


Caption: On 13 June 1975, French newspaper Le Figaro comments on the official application made by Greece for accession to the European Communities and outlines the difficulties in terms of its agricultural system and budgetary matters.

Source: Le Figaro. 13.06.1975. Paris: Le Figaro. "Athènes demande son adhésion à la C.E.E.", auteur:Gerson, Harry; Paolini, Harry , p. 4.

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http://www.cvce.eu/obj/greece_applies_for_accession_to_the_eec_from_le_figaro_13_june_1975-en-67820095-fff7-4a23-859c-5862f4eab3od.html

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Greece applies for accession to the EEC

Brussels

From our special correspondents

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Greece would like to become the European Community's tenth Member State. Early on Thursday morning in Brussels, the Greek Government's ambassador to the EEC, Mr Staphatos, presented an official application for accession to the Permanent Representative of Ireland, the country which currently holds the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities. Following tradition, Mr Staphatos afterwards visited Mr François-Xavier Ortoli, President of the European Commission, in order to relaunch the procedure.

Meanwhile, Mr Karamanlis invited the ambassadors of all nine of the Common Market's Member States to attend a meeting today at which he would announce to them the decision of the Greek Government.

The news surprised no one; since their return to power, Mr Konstantin Karamalis and his Cabinet have seized every opportunity to make their commitment to the European Community known to the other Member States.

Will Greece soon become the tenth Member State of the EEC? It is the other nine Member States who will take the decision, and it is hard to see how they could justify refusing Greece entry. Greece now fulfils all membership requirements: it is 'European', it has recognisably democratic political institutions, and, finally, it has reached an adequate level of economic development. Everything points to the conclusion that accession negotiations will be opened between the Greek Government and the EEC.

Agricultural issues

It is precisely these negotiations, however, that could well lead to a lengthy delay before Greece can join the Common Market. Difficulties might well arise concerning agricultural issues and their financial implications; these already form the main bone of contention between the nine current Member States.

If Greece were to become a member of the Common Market, it would make the difficulties that have already arisen regarding fruit, vegetables and wine even more acute and might well appear to some countries, such as Germany, to be a potential source of a further increase in the cost of the common agricultural policy.

To Greece's most ardent supporters, these obstacles, despite being of a different nature, should not prove any more difficult to overcome than those that arose when the United Kingdom joined. The question raised today in Brussels was whether Turkey, which has always strived to prove itself to be just as 'European' as Greece, would not, sooner or later, try to follow its neighbour's example.