

Conclusions of the Milan European Council: extract on the completion of the internal market (28 and 29 June 1985)

Caption:

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Milan European Council (28 and 29 June 1985) Conclusions of the Presidency

[...]

Completion of the internal market

The Council welcomed the white paper on completing the internal market, submitted at its request by the Commission.

1. It instructed the Council to initiate a precise programme of action, based on the white paper and the conditions on the basis of which customs union had been brought about, with a view to achieving completely and effectively the conditions for a single market in the Community by 1992 at the latest, in accordance with stages fixed in relation to previously determined priorities and a binding timetable.

Progress towards this objective should be both gradual and visible and the European Council therefore requested the Commission to submit its proposals swiftly and the Council to ensure that they were adopted within the deadlines established in the timetable.

The following fields and measures were considered to be of high priority:

- (i) the removal of physical barriers to the free movement of goods within the Community;
- (ii) the removal of technical barriers to the free movement of goods within the Community (in particular the adoption of common or compatible standards for major new technologies in order to open up public purchasing and satisfy the needs of the economy);
- (iii) the creation of a free market in the financial services and transport sectors;
- (iv) the creation of full freedom of establishment for the professions;
- (v) the liberalization of capital movements.

In deciding on the above measures the Community will make every effort to ensure that the creation of a single free market contributes to furthering the more general objectives of the Treaty including those of harmonious development and economic convergence.

2. As regards the method: application whenever the situation permits of the principle of the general equivalence of the Member States' legislative objectives and of its corollaries: the fixing of minimum standards, mutual recognition and monitoring by the country of origin; an undertaking on the part of the Member States not to take measures, throughout the realization of the programme, that would have the effect of delaying the Community's achievement of the above objective.

3. As regards the approximation of VAT and excise duties, the European Council invited the Council of Ministers for Financial Affairs to examine on the basis of the white paper any measures which might be necessary for the achievement of the objective of a single market and the possible timetable for the application of those measures.

4. The Council of Ministers was asked to study the institutional conditions in which the completion of the internal market could be achieved within the desired time limits.

[...]