

Statement by Franco Maria Malfatti (Brussels, 21 January 1972)

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The entry of the United Kingdom, Ireland, Denmark and Norway into the European community marks the completion of the process started more than ten years ago to give full meaning and dimension to European unity. These ten democratic countries, among the most developed in the world, that will make up the enlarged community, have as their common task not simply the improvement of the quality of life of their populations, they have also a real possibility to contribute to freedom, security, progress and peace on a world scale. To reach this goal we must maintain those achievements which, by so much effort, we have already accomplished in the six and must go forward and complete the economic integration and political unification of our new enlarged community. For the last quarter of the century Europe has chosen unity and solidarity in the quality of rights and duty there by rejecting domination and weakness. She has chosen to work as a community and now, more than ever before, we must straighten the community framework and its democratic foundations. We must show ourselves worthy of the clear responsibilities which face us and of the immense feeling of hope that the signature of the acts of memberships arouse us in all the countries of the community.