

## Conclusions of the Brussels European Council (12 and 13 July 1976)

**Caption:** In January 1975, the European Parliament adopts a draft agreement on the election of Members of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage. On the basis of this draft, and after overcoming various differences of opinion, the Heads of State or Government reach an agreement at their meeting on 12 and 13 July 1976.

**Source:** European Council. European Council on 12 and 13 July 1976 – Conclusions drawn up by the Presidency. Brussels: 22.07.1976. 5 p. [http://www.european-council.europa.eu/media/849707/bruxelles\\_july\\_1976\\_\\_eng\\_.pdf](http://www.european-council.europa.eu/media/849707/bruxelles_july_1976__eng_.pdf).

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**Publication date:** 19/12/2013

Brussels, 22 July 1976

REVISED VERSION

EUROPEAN COUNCIL ON 12 AND 13 JULY 1976

CONCLUSIONS DRAWN UP BY THE PRESIDENCY

1. Election of the members of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage

The European Council agreed that the number and distribution of seats in the European Parliament which is to be elected by direct universal suffrage in 1978 should be as follows:

Luxembourg	6
Ireland	15
Denmark	16
Belgium	24
Netherlands	25
France	31
Italy	31
United Kingdom	31
Germany	31
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The European Council also took note of a statement by the Federal Chancellor on the application to Land Berlin of the Act introducing election of the members of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage.

The United Kingdom and Danish Prime Ministers confirmed the statements they made at the European Council meeting in Rome on 1 and 2 December 1975.

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The European Council asked the Council to take an overall decision on the election of the members of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage before the end of July 1976.

2. Mr TINDEMANS'S Report

The European Council asked the Ministers for Foreign Affairs to continue the examination of Mr TINDEMANS'S Report, including Chapter V concerning the strengthening of the Institutions, in preparation for its next meeting.

3. The economic and social situation in the Community

There was broad agreement within the European Council on the assessment to be made of the economic situation. This is characterized by a clear conjunctural recovery and the European Council expects that this recovery will persist in 1977. However, account must be taken for some time to come of a relatively high level of unemployment, which will continue to require particular attention in a number of Member States. It will continue to be necessary to stimulate productive investments until further notice. Policy on budget deficits and on the creation of liquidity will require particular attention in the short term in order to prevent a resumption of inflationary tendencies. With this in view, endeavours should be made to hold an economic and financial Council this month in order, among other items, to discuss the Commission's document of 23 June 1976 and to prepare the practical conclusions to be drawn.

The European Council agrees on the necessity of increased convergence of economic and monetary policies, recognizing that agreements concerning exchange rates are meaningful only if they are supported by a co-ordinated policy. In this connection the European Council has noted the results of the most recent tripartite Conference with approval. The Council congratulates the Commission on the way in which preparations for this conference were made and supports the conclusions adopted on that occasion.

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It considers that the system of tripartite Conferences should be pursued, and urges the Commission to continue the dialogue with both sides of industry in the Community.

#### 4. Puerto Rico

The European Council agrees that should a conference such as the recent one in Puerto Rico be held again:

- (a) The Member States of the Community will consult each other beforehand, as early as possible, notably on the manner in which the Community's interests are to be promoted.
- (b) Where such conferences deal with questions falling within the competence of the Community, the Community procedures and obligations must be respected whatever the circumstances.

#### 5. Extension of the Community's fishing limits

The European Council, having taken note of the work carried out at the United Nations Law of the Sea Conference and noting an increasing trend towards the extension of fishing limits to 200 miles without awaiting the conclusions of this Conference, expresses its determination to protect the legitimate interests of Community fishermen.

To this end, it invites the Council, at its meeting on 20 July 1976, to give consideration to a declaration of intent by the Member States of the Community on the extension of the fishing limits of the Community to 200 miles.



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## 6. Appointment of Mr Roy JENKINS

The Heads of Government noted that the United Kingdom Government has proposed that Mr Roy JENKINS be appointed a member of the Commission from 6 January 1977. They stated that when the time comes, they intend, in accordance with the provisions of the Treaty, to support his appointment as President of the new Commission which will take office on that date.

## 7. Declaration by the European Council on International Terrorism

1. The Member States of the European Communities hereby declare that they regard the inhuman practice of taking hostages for the purpose of putting pressure on Governments, for whatever political or non-political ends and for whatever motives, as completely unacceptable.
2. It is in the interests of all Governments resolutely to oppose such methods. It is in the interests of all Governments to co-operate in combating the evil of terrorism.
3. Recent events have shown once again that no country, no people and no Government can hope to be spared acts of terrorism, kidnappings and hijackings directed against its citizens and interests unless all countries agree on effective measures.
4. In this connection the Member States of the European Communities declare that they are determined to co-operate with other countries in setting up effective world-wide measures to eradicate and prevent international terrorism, kidnappings and hijackings. Member States undertake to prosecute or to extradite those who engage in the taking of hostages.

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5. The Heads of Government take note of the decisions which the Ministers for the Interior and Justice of the Member States have already taken in this matter in response to the request made at the European Council held on 1 and 2 December 1975 in Rome, and ask these Ministers to continue their activities.
  6. More particularly, the Heads of Government ask their Ministers for Justice to set up a convention under which the nine Member States undertake to prosecute or extradite those who engage in the taking of hostages. They shall ensure that as many countries as possible accede to that convention.
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