European Communities

President of the Commission Jacques Delors





Jacques Delors, a French national born in 1925, has been President of the Commission of the European Communities since January 1985. He has combined a number of careers — banker, public servant, academic and politician. He was Economics and Finance Minister of France from 1982 to 1984.

As President of the Commission, Mr. Delors has been a powerful force for the reform and revitalization of the European Community (EC). His Presidency has seen initiatives such as Europe 1992 — a program to remove all remaining internal barriers to the free flow of goods, services, people and capital by 1992. Mr. Delors has also maintained a strong and direct interest in monetary affairs; he is seeking stronger central economic coordination within the Communities to complement the Europe 1992 program.

Mr. Delors will be accompanied by Willy De Clercq, Commissioner for External Relations and Trade Policy; Peter Schmidhuber, Commissioner for Economic Affairs; and Pascal Lamy, his Personal Representative and Chef de Cabinet.

The European Communities

The European Communities are a supranational entity joining 12 member states in three Communities (the European Economic Community or Common Market; the Coal and Steel Community; and the Atomic Energy Community); they are known collectively as the European Community, or EC. The current members are France, Italy, the FRG, the United Kingdom, Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands, Greece, Ireland, Spain, Portugal and Luxembourg. These countries have yielded certain sovereign powers to the EC, notably external and internal trade, agriculture and fisheries.

The two bodies most closely involved in running the EC are the Commission of the Economic Communities — its executive branch; and the Council — made up of Ministers from the member states. The Presidency of the Council is held for six months on a rotational basis by one of the member states; as the FRG now holds the Presidency, Chancellor Kohl will attend the Summit as President of the European Council as well as head of government of the FRG. While the Commission has the