

By the beginning of 1977 it was becoming increasingly evident that in light of developments in the international economic environment since the Puerto Rico Summit, as well as the fact of changes in leadership in several industrialized countries, there would be advantage in a further high level meeting to discuss the major economic issues of the day. In addition, issues of importance had arisen in several international fora on North-South relations and trade, which seemed to merit the attention of the leaders of the industrialized democracies.

Late in February, British Prime Minister James Callaghan broached the question of convening an economic summit in London in early May, and gained the concurrence of the leaders of Canada, Federal Republic of Germany, France, Italy, Japan, and the United States. It was subsequently agreed that the President of the Commission of the European Communities would also attend, because of the number of issues to be addressed which fall within the competence of the EC Commission.