



Prime Minister

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

8 June 1979

*This looks all right, but I think it might be safer to try to get "convergence" (which for us means budgetary inequities) promoted to first place in Item 3. Agree? Yes ok. 11/6*

Dear Bryan,

Preparations for the European Council, Strasbourg,  
21/22 June

I enclose a note showing the themes that the French Presidency have now proposed for discussion at the European Council. You will see that they have made clear their intention that energy should be the principal subject of the Council. But they have also made specific allowance for a discussion of convergence under the theme "economic and social situation in the Community". Their proposal thus appears to take account of the Prime Minister's discussion with President Giscard in Paris on 5 June recorded in your letter of 6 June though we cannot expect the French to give any public indication of that kind at least until after their European Elections on Sunday 10 June.

This outline agenda will be reviewed at the Foreign Affairs Council on 12 June. The Lord Privy Seal, who will be representing the United Kingdom, would propose to express general agreement with the Presidency's proposals. In particular, while agreeing with the need to make energy the main subject of the Council, he would stress the importance for the Council to face up to the main problems which arise under the heading of "convergence".

I should be grateful to know whether the Prime Minister is content with these preparations.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Martin Vile (Cabinet Office).

Yours etc

*Paul*

P Lever

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**TO:**

Your Reference

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**SUBJECT:** EUROPEAN COUNCIL, STRASBOURG, 21/22 JUNE, 1979  
 THEMES PROPOSED FOR DISCUSSION BY THE FRENCH  
 PRESIDENCY

.....In Confidence

CAVEAT.....

1. Direct Elections

The Council might mark the event by making some kind of courtesy declaration.

2. Energy

This would be the principal subject of the Council.

3. Economic and Social Situation

- (i) Employment
- (ii) Convergence
- (iii) Co-ordination of Economic Policies
- (iv) EMS
- (v) Preparations for the Tokyo Summit

*(including EEC/Japan)*

Enclosures—flag(s).....

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*Euro. Policy*  
*File 216*

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

12 June 1979

PREPARATIONS FOR THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL,  
21/22 JUNE

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Thank you for your letter of 8 June (which did not reach this office until 14.30 on 11 June) about the Agenda for the Meeting of the European Council in Strasbourg on 21/22 June.

The Prime Minister has seen your letter and is content with the preparations which are being made for the Council Meeting. So far as the draft Agenda is concerned, the Prime Minister's only suggestion is that, under Item 3 ("Economic and Social Situation") "Convergence" should be promoted to first place, above "Employment".

I am sending a copy of this letter to Martin Vile (Cabinet Office).

B. G. CARTLEDGE

Paul Lever, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

*GB*

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