



SUBJECT

cc Ops
Master

Copenhagen, April 5, 1984.

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T54^{AA}/84

Dear Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher,

As you will know, the terms of office of the members of the Commission of the European Communities expire on 5 January 1985.

The Danish Government has decided to nominate Mr. Henning Christophersen, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance, as candidate for the Post as president of the new Commission.

Mr. Henning Christophersen was Minister for Foreign Affairs from 1978 to 1979, and has been Minister for Finance and Deputy Prime Minister in my government since 1982. He has been a Liberal Member of the Folketing (parliament) since 1971 and, since 1977, Chairman of the Liberal Party.

As Denmark's foreign minister as well as within the Federation of Liberal and Democratic parties in the European Communities, Mr. Christophersen has been committed to and played an active role in the European cooperation. During the Danish EC presidency in the second half of 1982, he presided over the Council in various compositions.

The Danish Government considers that Mr. Christophersen is extremely well qualified, both politically and professionally, to discharge the duties entrusted to the president of the Commission.

I enclose for your information the curriculum vitae of Mr. Henning Christophersen.

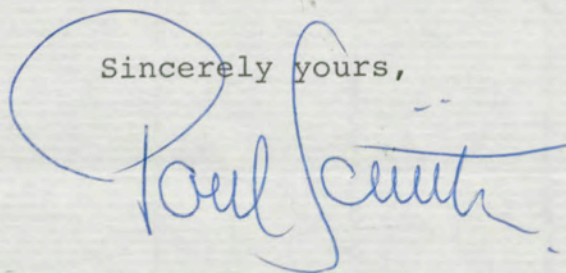
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As you will know, Denmark is one of the few Member States of the European Communities which have not yet held the Commission presidency.

The Danish Government's decision to nominate Mr. Henning Christophersen for the presidency is a manifestation of the weight we attach to that post and of our wish to preserve the Commission as a politically important institution with the aim of advancing the development of the European Communities.

I should be gratified to have your Government's support for Mr. Henning Christophersen's candidature.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "P".

Enclosed: CURRICULUM VITAE of Mr. Henning Christophersen

Mrs. Margaret Thatcher
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain
and Northern Ireland

CURRICULUM VITAE

Henning Christophersen, born 8. November 1939 in
Copenhagen. Married to Jytte Christophersen. 3 children.

Graduated in economics from Copenhagen University,
1965.

Head of the economic division of the Danish Federation
of Crafts and Smaller industries, 1965-70.

Economics reporter for the periodical NB 1970-1971 and
for the weekly newspaper WEEKENDAVISEN 1971-1978.

Elected to the Folketing (parliament) 1971.

Member of the parliamentary finance committee
1972-1976, vice-chairman 1975.

Political spokesman of the Liberal MPs 1973-1978.

Chairman of the parliamentary foreign affairs committee
1979-1981.

Member of the Nordic Council 1981-1982.

National auditor 1976-1978.

Vice-chairman of the national organisation of the
Liberal Party 1972.

Acting national chairman of the Liberal Party 1977
and chairman 1978.

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Minister for Foreign Affairs in the Anker Jørgensen
Cabinet III 1978-1979.

Chairman of the Liberal Party parliamentary group
1979-1982.

Minister for Finance and Deputy Prime Minister in
the Poul Schlüter Cabinet since 1982.

Chairman of the ECO/FIN-Council during the Danish EC
presidency in the second half of 1982.

Author of books and articles on political and economic
subjects.

Qz.03685

MR COLES

MR $\frac{16}{4}$
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PRESIDENCY OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION: LETTER FROM THE
DANISH PRIME MINISTER

The Danish Ambassador called on me this afternoon, at his request, and handed over for the Prime Minister the attached letter from the Danish Prime Minister seeking support for Mr Henning Christophersen as candidate for the Presidency of the European Commission from January 1985. I said only that the United Kingdom Government had not yet taken a view on the next President of the Commission and that the Danish Prime Minister's letter would be considered.

BF |
The Foreign and Commonwealth Office have a copy of this letter and will be letting you have directly their advice.

I am sending a copy to Roger Bone (FCO) and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

D F Williamson

D F WILLIAMSON

16 April 1984