



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

19 July 1984

Dear Charles,

European Community: Appointment of M. Delors

The Irish Government this morning announced that Heads of State and Government of the Community had reached agreement that M. Delors should be appointed President of the next Commission.

The Foreign Secretary recommends that we should warmly welcome M. Delors' appointment on the following lines:

"M. Delors is a man of outstanding ability. He is very well qualified for the post and we warmly welcome his appointment. His distinguished background in dealing with economic and budgetary issues will be a major asset to the Community".

I also enclose some additional notes for supplementaries on which the Prime Minister might wish to draw if questions are asked in the House this afternoon.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretary to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours ever,

Colin Budd

(C R Budd)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

TF
Press



SURELY IT IS NOT THE TURN OF THE FRENCH?

It had been expected that the Germans might put forward a candidate on this occasion. Both they and the Italians decided not to do so. The choice was therefore between the candidates who were actually in the field. The main requirement was that the job should go to someone of outstanding ability.

WHY NOT A BRITISH CANDIDATE?

Britain held the Presidency last time round (1977-1981). It would not have been appropriate for us to put forward a candidate again so soon.

WHAT ABOUT M. DAVIGNON?

M. Davignon was another very highly qualified candidate for the post. However, to be appointed, he would have needed wider support than he apparently received.

A GERMAN CANDIDATE NEXT TIME ROUND?

The President of the Commission is appointed for two years. His appointment may be renewed. A decision on renewal of M. Delors' appointment, or of the appointment of a successor, will be taken by Heads of Government at the time.

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NEXT PRESIDENT OF THE COMMISSION:
TELECON HALLETT/WALL (ECDI)

1. THE TAOISEACH'S DEPARTMENT ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT
THIS MORNING:-

BEGINS

THE TAOISEACH, DR GARRET FITZGERALD, TD, IN HIS CAPACITY AS PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MANDATE GIVEN TO HIM BY THE HEADS OF STATE OR GOVERNMENT AT THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL IN FONTAINEBLEAU, HAS HAD CONSULTATIONS WITH HIS COLLEAGUES ABOUT THE APPOINTMENT OF A NEW PRESIDENT OF THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES AS FROM JANUARY, 1985. FOLLOWING THESE CONSULTATIONS, THE HEADS OF STATE OR GOVERNMENT OF THE TEN MEMBER STATES OF THE COMMUNITIES HAVE AGREED TO THE APPOINTMENT OF M. JACQUES DELORS TO THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT OF THE COMMISSION.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL WILL AVAIL OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEEK THE OPINION OF THE ENLARGED BUREAU OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ON THE AGREEMENT REACHED BY THE HEADS OF STATE OR GOVERNMENT ON THE APPOINTMENT OF M. DELORS.

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From the Private Secretary

20 July 1984

Next President of the EC Commission

Thank you for your two letters of 18 July and your letter of 19 July summarising developments.

The Prime Minister has noted these.

(C.D. Powell)

Colin Budd, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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