



PM/84/112

PRIME MINISTER

European Community: Industrial Standards and Removing
Barriers to Collaboration between Enterprises

1. OD(E) under my chairmanship has considered an interim report from officials about ways in which we might improve trading prospects within the Community through action on industrial standards and by removing barriers to collaboration between commercial and industrial enterprises. This was in response to your Private Secretary's minute of 11 May to the Secretary to the Cabinet instructing him to arrange for consideration of possible initiatives, especially in the fields of standards and industrial collaboration, which the United Kingdom could take in the Community once the reform of the Community's financing had been settled.

2. OD(E) agreed that it was very much in the United Kingdom's interest to press forward with work in the Community to eliminate the barriers caused by differing national standards. As regards industrial collaboration, while OD(E) agreed on the desirability of removing the obstacles to collaboration, they also agreed that the United Kingdom should not support moves to give Community subsidies to firms to persuade them to collaborate when they would not otherwise choose to do so.

3. Officials were instructed to do further work on the various proposals and to submit a revised paper to OD(E) when they had done so. I therefore propose to put forward a fuller report on possible initiatives which we might take once the

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further work by officials has been considered by OD(E).

4. I am copying this minute to all those who attended the OD(E) meeting and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'G. Howe', written in a cursive style.

(GEOFFREY HOWE)

Foreign and Commonwealth Office
4 July 1984

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PRIME MINISTER

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY: INDUSTRIAL STANDARDS
AND REMOVING BARRIERS OF COLLABORATION BETWEEN ENTERPRISES

Please see the note from Geoffrey Howe attached.

This is the response to your request for an initiative at Fontainebleau which would be a contribution to the relaunch of the Community and in the real interests of the UK.

The first effort by officials was feeble. It is now a matter of working up something better for the European Council. If you agree, I propose to reply emphasising the importance you attach to having concrete and substantial proposals of obvious benefit to Britain.

C.D.P.

Yes - Thank you

MS

4 July 1984

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cc CO
NIO
DTI
LOD
WPSO
MAFF
HMT
MJ
be PC

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

5 July 1984

Dear Roger,

European Community: Industrial Standards and
Removing Barriers of Collaboration between
Enterprises

The Prime Minister has noted the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary's minute (PM/84/112) on this subject.

The Prime Minister is disappointed with the rather meagre results of this exercise so far. She hopes that concrete and substantial proposals of obvious benefit to Britain can be prepared in good time for presentation as a British initiative, perhaps at the next European Council.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries of members of OD(E) and to Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

*yours sincerely,
C.D. Powell*

C.D. Powell

R.B. Bone, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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