

**9- An extract of the presidency conclusions: Amsterdam European Council,
16 and 17 June 1997**

PRESIDENCY CONCLUSIONS

ENLARGEMENT

The European Council notes that, with the successful conclusion of the Intergovernmental Conference, the way is now open for launching the enlargement process in accordance with the conclusions of the Madrid European Council.

It welcomes the Commission's intention to present by mid-July its opinions on the accession applications as well as a comprehensive communication ("Agenda 2000") covering the development of Union policies including the agricultural and structural policies, the horizontal questions related to enlargement and finally the future financial framework beyond 1999.

The European Council notes that the Commission in its Agenda 2000 communication will draw the main conclusions and recommendations from the opinions and give its views on the launching of the accession process including proposals on reinforcing pre-accession strategy and further developing pre-accession assistance building on ongoing reforms of PHARE.

The European Council invites the Council (General Affairs) to examine in depth the Commission's opinions as well as its Agenda 2000 communication and present a comprehensive report to the European Council at its December meeting in Luxembourg.

At that meeting, the European Council, with a view to enabling the actual opening of negotiations as soon as possible after December 1997, will take the necessary decisions on the overall enlargement process including practical arrangements for the initial phase of negotiations and the reinforcement of the Union's pre-accession strategy as well as other possible means to strengthen cooperation between the EU and all applicant countries.