

Statement by Pierre Werner: extract on the enlargement of the Communities (The Hague, 1 December 1969)

Caption: In an address to the European Summit in The Hague on 1 December 1969, Pierre Werner, the Luxembourg Prime Minister, emphasises the need to open accession negotiations as quickly as possible with a view to enlarging the Communities.

Source: Bulletin of the European Communities. Dir. of publ. Commission of the European Communities. February 1970, n° 2. Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities. "Speech by Pierre Werner (1 December 1969)", p. 49-50.

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[...]

Enlargement

We are very pleased that there now seems to be a general feeling that the enlargement of the Community is desirable and not synonymous with weakening.

Negotiations with the applicants should therefore open as soon as possible, the Community negotiating from a joint approach to the problems raised by their admission, as has been the practice in negotiations of all kinds between the Community and non-member countries.

A decision must be taken before the end of the year on the completion of the Common Market and the changeover to the definitive period. Once this has been done the Community should arrive at a joint position, based notably on the Commission's opinions, during the early months of the New Year.

The final communiqué of the Hague Conference should also affirm that we are determined to open negotiations as soon as the Community has fixed its attitude to the problems posed by the membership applications by approving a negotiating mandate.

[...]