

Statement by Jens Otto Krag in the Danish Parliament (3 August 1961)

Caption: On 3 August 1961, Jens Otto Krag, Danish Foreign Minister, urges the Folketing to authorise the government to open negotiations with the Six on Denmark's accession to the European Economic Community (EEC).

Source: Bulletin of the European Economic Community. Dir. of publ. European Economic Community. September-October 1961, n° 9-10. Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities.

Copyright: All rights of reproduction, public communication, adaptation, distribution or dissemination via Internet, internal network or any other means are strictly reserved in all countries.

The documents available on this Web site are the exclusive property of their authors or right holders.

Requests for authorisation are to be addressed to the authors or right holders concerned.

Further information may be obtained by referring to the legal notice and the terms and conditions of use regarding this site.

URL: http://www.cvce.eu/obj/statement_by_jens_otto_krag_in_the_danish_parliament_3_august_1961-en-37add6a9-5545-46d0-a0a5-3f0bd02f1684.html

Publication date: 24/10/2012

Statement by Jens Otto Krag in the Danish Parliament (3 August 1961)

"Denmark has always maintained only a single market organization which covered both of our principal outlets, Germany as well as the United Kingdom, could satisfy our commercial needs.

"Such a unified market would enable us to avoid the discriminatory treatment to which our exports would inevitably be subjected as a result of a permanent division of Europe into two market groupings - a division which would have harmful repercussions on all sectors of Denmark's economic life.

"It is evident, therefore, that Denmark must join a new extended common market. The question is: how soon and in what form? Seeing that the negotiations between the United Kingdom and the Six are likely at a very early stage to be concerned with a common European agricultural plan which would cover also the market and the farming industry of the United Kingdom, as well as the question of Commonwealth exports to that market - partly in competition with Danish agricultural exports - there can be no doubt that Denmark's application for admission should be submitted at the same time as the British application as far as possible, aiming - like the British application - at negotiations for full membership with such rights and such commitments as this would imply.

"In the light of the considerations I have explained here the Government has indicated ... that Denmark will approach the European Economic Community in the same way as the United Kingdom, applying for negotiations to be opened with a view to Denmark's admission into the Community on terms which take account of the special needs of the various sectors of our economic life and of the Danish community as a whole, including Greenland and the Faroe Islands.

"The Government declaration by which the United Kingdom and Denmark have indicated their desire for admission into the European Economic Community are clear and concise. The declarations make it clear that the applicant countries want to join the European co-operation with the obligations, the responsibilities and the rights which this co-operation involves, and that the applicant countries aim at strengthening this co-operation.

"A watering down of the Rome Treaty will not be accepted. Major amendments of the Treaty will hardly be accepted either, even if certain adjustments will be inevitable. The main points to be negotiated will be the special protocols which each individual country will need for its accession, similar to those already set up for the original Members.

"The Danish problems to be solved in the course of these negotiations are very far reaching. Anticipating the present developments, the Government initiated examinations already a couple of months ago in order to determine as far as possible, - prior to negotiations with the Six - the scope of such provisions and to ascertain also in what cases special provisions would be necessary or desirable for Denmark and what changes in Danish legislation they may involve. These studies, which have reached a fairly advanced stage, will be completed before 1 September 1961.

"It is essential for Denmark to retain full employment, to expand our exports, to continue the development of our industries, to avoid impeding the growth of our standard of living, to continue the improvement of social benefits or - in other words - to ensure that economic growth can be achieved under the best possible conditions in our country.

"The Government is of the opinion that our high social standards will not be jeopardized by our joining the extended Common Market.

[...]

"To Danish enterprise the access to a wider European Market will open up new perspectives, which a small isolated market could never offer.

"The Government finds it essential that the Folketing as well as the various sectors of economic life should be enabled to follow the coming negotiations as closely as possible. In the view of the Government the best way to keep Parliament informed will be to set up a parliamentary committee; the various trade organizations can best be informed by following the existing method of holding regular meetings in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

"I want to emphasize that even if our admission to the European Economic Community will have far-reaching repercussions in economic and political fields, we find it essential that we should preserve our previous relations with outside countries in these fields.

"Denmark's accession cannot be effected until the results of the negotiations have been submitted to the Folketing and have been approved by the latter in accordance with the rules of the Constitution.

"We realize that the road on which we are now taking the first step will give rise to concern, but the Government is convinced that these developments also open up new perspectives and can create new possibilities for our country in the present and future changes of economic, technical and political conditions."