

## Statement by the European Council in Brussels on the CSCE (17 July 1975)

**Caption:** On 17 July 1975, following the Brussels European Council, the Nine reiterate their support for the Helsinki diplomatic process and encourage participants in the CSCE to put the new policy of East-West détente into practice.

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## Statement by the European Council on the CSCE

1. Viewing the final stage of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the European Council is glad to find that after two years of negotiation, thirty-five countries of Europe and North America have succeeded in defining the guidelines for their future relations.
2. The Conference was marked by the concerted contribution made by the member countries of the Community, in accordance with the intention expressed by their Heads of Government meeting in Paris on 22 October 1972, just before the consultations opened in Helsinki. The Helsinki and Geneva negotiations afforded the Nine the opportunity to take up a common task which became a shining example of constructive cooperation; they also showed that the process of growing unity in which the Community countries embarked, fully aware of their responsibilities to history, has now reached the stage of maturation.
3. The convening of the Conference was possible as a result of the improved relations between the States of Europe, deriving from the quadripartite Agreement on Berlin and the Treaty between the two States of Germany. Nevertheless, this improvement has not eliminated the differences between the ideologies and the political, economic and social systems. These emerged in the discussions of the Conference and in certain instances, particularly on those issues involving the movement of individuals, ideas and information, were the reason why it was not possible to go further. But it is of great importance that a searching debate could be initiated on many aspects of the relations between the participating States, and that on each of these, it was possible to affirm the common principles of conduct and to express, in the most practical possible way, the States' intention to allow and to foster the development, all over Europe, and therefore in Berlin also, of cooperation, trade and contacts in which individuals will be given major consideration.

Among the principles voiced, each one of which is to be interpreted mindful of the others, the Conference confirmed both the inviolability of frontiers and the possibility of changing them, in compliance with international law, by peaceful means and through agreement.

4. The European Council believes that the substance of the Final Act is a milestone on the road of *détente*, whose true significance can be gauged only in terms of the effective application, on the part of each participating State, of all the principles reaffirmed, and of the action agreed. For their part, the Nine are resolved to adhere to the principles voiced by the Conference and to take any measures in their power to ensure that as far as they are concerned, the conclusions are put into practice. Thus the climate of mutual trust could be established which would allow the barriers to be opened in order to bring the peoples more closely together.

Moved by the firm hope that implementing the conclusions of the CSCE will lead to a real improvement in relations between the States taking part in the Conference, the Nine feel that, on such a basis, continuation of the multilateral dialogue instituted by the CSCE will be of value in the future. They declare themselves already resolved to cooperate towards this in the positive spirit which inspired their contribution to the work of the Conference.

5. The Nine recognize that the Conference made it possible to affirm in principle and emphasize in fact the close links between security and cooperation in Europe and security and cooperation in the Mediterranean. Convinced of the need for *rapprochement* and a fruitful dialogue between the Community, with its member countries, and the non-European Mediterranean countries, they declare themselves resolved to develop their relationships with those countries and to pursue the major efforts already made in this respect.
6. The Member States of the Community continue to adhere to their resolve to pursue their efforts for closer and closer unity between themselves, to strengthen their relations in all fields with the other participating States.

They reaffirm their conviction that the progress which they make towards their unification will foster the development of cooperation in Europe; they will thus be able to make a better contribution to the further process of *détente* and constructive dialogue in Europe and the world.