

Communiqué issued by the Commission of the European Communities (20 December 1967)


Caption: On 20 December 1967, the European Commission calls on the Six to reach agreement on the continuation of the negotiations for the United Kingdom's accession to the EEC following the disagreement that occurred the previous day in the Council.

Source: Bulletin of the European Communities. January 1968, n° 1. Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities. "x", p. 9.

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“The Commission deeply regrets the Council’s failure to reach agreement on what steps should be taken to deal with the applications for membership of the Communities made by a number of European countries, in particular the United Kingdom.

Whatever difficulties of substance may have arisen, the Commission still believes that the countries concerned must be given a hearing and that the Communities should negotiate with them in order to ascertain whether solutions acceptable to all can be found.

The Commission, faithful to the letter and the spirit of its report to the Council, has spared no effort to convince all the Member States that a solution should be sought which will reconcile the various views advanced.

This being so, the Commission appeals to all concerned to keep the consequences of the present disagreement within the narrowest possible limits. More than ever before, efforts in the field of European integration will have to be pursued tenaciously, and opportunities must be sought of resuming the course, temporarily abandoned, of expanding the Communities. The Commission will do its utmost to help towards the attainment of these objectives.”