

# Communiqué issued by the Council of the European Communities (19 December 1967)


**Caption:** On 19 December 1967, following the meeting of the Six in Brussels, the Council of the European Communities issues a communiqué reporting on the Council’s failure to reach agreement on the continuation of the accession negotiations.

**Source:** Bulletin of the European Communities. January 1968, n° 1. Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities. "Councils meetings of 18-19 Decembers 1967", p. 8-9.

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**Last updated:** 01/03/2017



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(1) Considering the objectives laid down in the Preamble to the Treaty of Rome, and considering the tasks falling to the Member States pursuant to Article 5, which provides that they shall abstain from any measures which could jeopardize the attainment of the objectives of the Treaty, the Council of the European Communities, meeting at Brussels on 19 December, noted that no Member State has raised any fundamental objection to the enlargement of the Communities. When noting this fact, the Council assumed that the new member states would fully accept the Treaties and the decisions adopted by the Community.

One Member State, however, expressed the opinion that this enlargement would profoundly alter the nature of the Communities, and the methods of administering them.

(2) All the Member States were of the opinion that the restoration of Great Britain's economic and monetary situation is of fundamental importance to the question of its accession. Several Member States, while fully in favour of re-establishing Great Britain's economic equilibrium, do not think that the British economy must necessarily be completely re-established at the moment of Great Britain's accession.

(3) All the Member States recognized that, particularly since 18 November 1967, Great Britain has put into operation measures intended to consolidate its economic, financial and monetary situation. All the Member States noted that the process of re-establishing the British economy will take a certain time.

(4) The Commission expressed the opinion that it would be advisable to open negotiations in the most appropriate form with the States which have presented requests for accession, in order to undertake the necessary further examination of the problems pointed out in its opinion of 29 September 1967 addressed to the Council, and to examine whether solutions exist which make it possible to satisfy the conditions necessary for ensuring the cohesion and vitality indispensable to an enlarged Community.

(5) Five Member States agreed with the Commission's point of view.

They expressed their desire for the immediate opening of negotiations for the accession of Great Britain, Denmark, Ireland and Norway, so that these negotiations might be undertaken in parallel with the re-establishment of Great-Britain's economic situation.

One Member State considered that the re-establishment of the British economy must be completed before Great Britain's request can be reconsidered.

(6) For this reason, there was no agreement in the Council at this stage on the next step to be taken.

The President of the Council was instructed to inform the countries in question accordingly.

(7) The requests for accession presented by the United Kingdom, Ireland, Denmark and Norway, and also the letter from the Swedish Government, remain on the Council's agenda.