

Letter from Wilfried Martens to Gaston Thorn (Brussels, 2 August 1982)

Caption: On 2 August 1982, Wilfried Martens, the Belgian Prime Minister, informs Gaston Thorn, President of the European Commission, of Belgium's political support for the enlargement process, despite the institutional and budgetary implications thereof.

Source: Archives historiques de l'Union européenne, Florence, Villa Il Poggiolo. Dépôts, DEP. Emanuele Gazzo, EG. Elargissement de la Communauté. Adhésion à la Communauté européenne de l'Espagne et du Portugal, 23/06/1982 - 19/02/1985, EG 128.

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Mr Gaston Thorn
President of the Commission of the
European Communities

Brussels, 2 August 1982

Mr President,

I refer to your communication dated 14 July regarding the instructions given by the European Council of 28/29 June to the Commission to draw up a list of the difficulties that will arise for Community policies and for each of the Member States as a result of enlargement and to draft appropriate proposals.

As a consequence of enlargement, Belgium, like other Member States, now faces a number of sectoral and specific difficulties. We consider, however, that appropriate solutions could be found to them during the accession negotiations, in the form of transitional measures to be agreed with each of the two applicant countries. We do not, therefore, see any need to carry out a preliminary and specific in-depth study in this regard.

My country is more concerned with the broader implications of enlargement, in that an enlarged Community will have to strengthen its decision-making powers in accordance with the Treaties, develop Community policies and guarantee the financing thereof under appropriate conditions. I know that the Commission shares these concerns, and we eagerly await the outcome of the ongoing discussions on this subject in your institution.

May I take this opportunity to reiterate that Belgium attaches great political importance to the accession of Spain and Portugal and to confirm that we intend to play an active part in the negotiations, in the same spirit that inspired the Belgian Presidency's endeavours during the first half of 1982.

Yours sincerely,

Wilfried Martens