

Letter from the European Economic Council to Sean Lemass (23 October 1962)

Caption: On 23 October 1962, Emilio Colombo, President-in-Office of the Council of Ministers of the European Communities, agrees to the request made by the Irish Government for negotiations on Ireland's membership of the European Communities to begin post-haste.

Source: Western European Union Assembly-General Affairs Committee: A retrospective view of the political year in Europe 1962. March 1963. Paris: Western European Union Assembly-General Affairs Committee.

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Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that at its meeting on 22nd-23rd October 1962, the Council of Ministers of the EEC reached a decision on the request of the Irish Government to open negotiations for accession to the Treaty of Rome under the provisions of Article 237 of that Treaty.

I am happy to inform you that the Council of Ministers agreed unanimously to this request.

The date for opening negotiations will be arranged through diplomatic channels by common agreement between the Irish Government and the Governments of the Member States of the European Economic Community.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) E. Colombo