

Letter from Jacques Delors to Marcelino Oreja (Brussels, 16 June 1987)

Caption: On 16 June 1987, the arrangement between the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe and the Commission of the European Communities, intended to strengthen cooperation between the two organisations, takes the form of an exchange of letters. This is the letter from Jacques Delors, President of the Commission of the European Communities, to Marcelino Oreja, Secretary-General of the Council of Europe.

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Brussels, 16 June 1987

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of today's date concerning cooperation between the Council of Europe and the European Community.

I should like you to know that the Commission of the European Communities shares the conviction of the Committee of Ministers that European solidarity will be strengthened by the consolidation and intensification of cooperation between the Council of Europe and the European Community, which are the essential institutions of European construction ; it has expressed its determination to promote closer cooperation between the two institutions with the aim of achieving progress in cooperation within the largest possible European framework, while fully respecting the differences in their nature and procedures.

The Commission warmly welcomes the provisions that the Committee of Ministers has agreed to adopt in accordance with the report you submitted, in order to facilitate participation by the Community in the work of the Council of Europe, and notes its contents.

In addition, having regard to the results of our contacts, and in the desire to act in a pragmatic manner without creating new bureaucratic structures, I am pleased to inform you, on behalf of the Commission of the European Communities, that I approve the measures described in your letter and set out below, which without prejudice to the subsequent conclusion of a general agreement with the European Community, will take the place of those set out in the arrangements entered into on 18 August 1959 by exchanges of letters between the Secretary General of the Council of Europe and the Presidents of the Commissions of the European Economic Community and of the European Atomic Energy Community.

A. As regards relations between the Committee of Ministers and the Commission of the European Communities :

1. The Commission will forward to the Committee of Ministers the annual general report specified in Article 18 of the Treaty establishing a Single Council and a Single Commission of the European Communities. The Commission will be sent the Committee of Ministers' statutory reports and the reports which the Secretary General of the Council of Europe submits to the Committee of Ministers on the progress of European cooperation.
2. The Committee of Ministers may invite the Commission to participate in its discussions on the progress of European cooperation, as well as on any other question of mutual interest.
3. The Commission may be invited to arrange to be represented and participate at meetings of the Ministers' Deputies dealing with questions of mutual interest.
4. The Committee of Ministers may address to the Commission any comments it may have to make on the reports submitted by the Commission or on any other question of mutual interest.
5. The Secretary General of the Commission will participate, as a general rule once a year, in an exchange of views with the Ministers' Deputies in order to take stock of the state of cooperation between the Council of Europe and the Community.

B. As regards relations between the Secretary General of the Council of Europe and the Commission of the European Communities :

1. The Secretary General and the Commission will consult each other whenever necessary on questions of mutual interest. This consultation should as far as possible aim at coordination and the concerting of efforts,

joint activities and the widest possible application of the content of instruments and other documents adopted by either side.

2. High-level meetings between officials of the Council of Europe Secretariat and of the Commission will be arranged as required to examine questions of mutual interest in specific fields, to obtain information on each other's programmes, to take stock of the state of cooperation, and, possibly, to identify projects which might suitably be carried out in common, together with a timetable and a financial plan for their implementation. Such meetings will be organized periodically in particular in the fields of legal affairs, social and health matters, education and culture, and heritage and environment, without prejudice to the possibility of convening similar meetings in other fields of mutual interest.

3. The Commission will, if appropriate, invite representatives of the Council of Europe Secretariat to participate as observers in the work of its committees of experts and advisory groups for the consideration of points of mutual interest.

4. The Secretary General of the Council of Europe and the Commission will take suitable measures to ensure close liaison and cooperation between officials of the two institutions working in fields of mutual interest. For this purpose a senior official will be appointed by each side to follow the progress of cooperation between the two institutions and ensure liaison in this respect.

Please accept, Sir, the assurance of my highest consideration.

Jacques DELORS

*President of the Commission
of the European Communities*