

Final communiqué of the Paris Summit: extract concerning Britain's continued membership of the EEC (9 and 10 December 1974)

Caption: Meeting in Paris on 9 and 10 December 1974, the Heads of State or Government of the Nine, at the insistence of the United Kingdom, acknowledge the existence of an 'unacceptable situation' and instruct the Community institutions to draw up a correcting mechanism.

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Meeting of heads of Government of the Community (Paris, 9 and 10 December 1974)

Communiqué

[...]

Britain's membership of the Community

34. The Prime Minister of the United Kingdom indicated the basis on which Her Majesty's Government approached the negotiations regarding Britain's continued membership of the Community, and set out the particular issues to which the Government attached the highest importance.

35. The Heads of Government recall the statement made during the accession negotiations by the Community to the effect that '... if unacceptable situations were to arise, the very life of the Community would make it imperative for the institutions to find equitable solutions'.

36. They confirm that the system 'own resources' represents one of the fundamental elements of the economic integration of the Community.

37. They invite the institutions of the Community (the Council and the Commission) to set up as soon as possible a correcting mechanism of a general application which, in the framework of the system of 'own resources' and in harmony with its normal functioning, based on objective criteria and taking into consideration in particular the suggestions made to this effect by the British Government, could prevent during the period of convergence of the economies of the Member States, the possible development of situations unacceptable for a Member State and incompatible with the smooth working of the Community.