

Joint Declaration by Portugal and the EEC (Dublin, 24 October 1984)

Caption: On 24 October 1984, in Dublin, Garrett FitzGerald, Irish Prime Minister and President-in-Office of the Council of the European Communities, Mário Soares, Portuguese Prime Minister, and Lorenzo Natali, Vice-President of the European Commission responsible for Enlargement, sign a Joint Declaration in which they express their wish for Portugal's accession to the European Communities to take effect on 1 January 1986.

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1. On 28 March 1977 the Portuguese Government submitted a formal request that Portugal be admitted to full membership of the European Communities.

On 6 June 1978 the Council of Ministers of the European Economic Community gave a unanimously favourable reply to the Portuguese request. That decision implemented the call by the founding members, in the preamble to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, for other European nations which shared their ideal to join them in the common effort to defend peace and freedom.

Both sides recognized that enlargement would reinforce the political unity of Europe, increase its influence in the world and bring about the economic and social development which Portugal so rightly desires.

2. The negotiations in preparation for Portugal's accession to the Communities began on 17 October 1978. Being aware of the level of economic and social development in Portugal and of the need to safeguard the Community's capacity for internal and external development, the negotiators had and will have to seek the most appropriate solutions to all the problems arising in the context of the balanced and harmonious integration of Portugal into the Community.

3. Both the Community and Portugal are now in a position to state that there is agreement on a large number of chapters in the negotiations. As regards certain major chapters still under discussion, the two parties are determined to reach mutually satisfactory negotiated conclusions in the very near future.

This situation and the political will expressed by both sides for enlargement of the Communities makes it possible to acknowledge the irreversibility of the process of Portuguese integration into the European Communities.

4. Without prejudice to the powers of the national parliaments, the firm objective is that the future enlargement of the Community should become reality on 1 January 1986, a date whose political and economic significance has been fully recognized.