

77.560.2-vT/RK

Brussels, February 14, 1990

Visit of Commissioner Carlo Ripa di Meana to Berne, February 12, 1990

1. Ripa di Meana (R) stayed only a few hours in Berne. He had a luncheon and a two hours talk with Federal Councillor Flavio Cotti (interior affairs including environment) and a short contact with Federal Councillor Adolf Ogi (transport, energy and communications).
2. On the **European Environment Agency**, R holds further delay likely. If no compromise is found between positions of Council and Parliament, the Commission may consider withdrawing its proposal. R repeatedly stated his support for a full and equal participation of EFTA countries in the Agency. This enlargement could be negotiated immediately after a final EC-decision is taken. EC ministers for environmental affairs will discuss this aspect at their informal meeting in Ireland at the end of April.
3. R considers likely that the EC-EFTA ministerial conference will be held after the change of Presidency (Italy/Switzerland). He indicated the following points as likely items for the agenda:
 - environmental aspects of assistance to countries in Central and Eastern Europe,
 - participation of EFTA-countries in Environment Agency,
 - environmental aspects of ongoing EES negotiations,
 - specific items such as clean lorry.
4. Within the **Noordwijk process** the Commission plans to organize a seminar on biotechnology and testing.
5. R repeatedly stated - including in his press conference - that in the context of the current **negotiations on a EES**, the Community did not seek to oblige EFTA countries to lower their environmental standards.
6. Other items include:
 - R plans to propose creation of a **European Environment Fund** (in line with existing EC structural funds). The proposal should be ready by 1991 to be set up in 1992. It will be open to EFTA countries.
 - The Commission is working on a system of **fiscal (dis)incentives** in support of environmental objectives (Umwelt-Lenkungsabgaben).
 - R gave details on the Commission's work on the "clean and silent lorry".



Benedict von Tscharner

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to : Austrian Mission, attn. : Ambassador Wolfgang WOLTE
Finnish Mission, attn. : Ambassador Leif BLOMQUIST
Icelandic Mission, attn. : Ambassador Einar BENEDIKTSSON
Norwegian Mission, attn. : Ambassador Eivinn BERG
Swedish Mission, attn. : Ambassador Stig BRATTSTROEM
EFTA, Brussels Office, attn. : Mr. Christoph QUERNER

re.: 77.560.2-vT/RK

message : Visit of Commissioner Carlo Ripa di Meana (R) to Berne

As promised, I am sending you a short report on talks between R and Federal Councillors Flavio Cotti and Adolf Ogi on Monday, February 12, 1990.

encl. : 1

BEST REGARDS !

sig. : Benedict von Tscharner

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'B. von Tscharner'.

