

PRESS RELEASE

The President of the European Parliament, Emilio Colombo, has made the following statement :

It is with great satisfaction that I learn that the European Council, meeting today in Copenhagen, has given the commitment that the definitive date for the direct elections by universal suffrage to the European Parliament will be fixed for the period 7 - 10 June 1979.

This commitment meets the wish which the European Parliament has on several occasions communicated to the governments.

I should like to emphasize the importance of this commitment which will transform the European Community into the Europe of the people.

Europe, with a Parliament elected by direct universal suffrage, will have received a new stimulus towards its union. This will help to solve the grave problems we are at present facing in the economy and the social sector.

The commitment made today will set in motion the procedure and the European Parliament will deliver its opinion at the earliest opportunity.