

**Press release**

Barcelona Central Council (June 1997)

The Central Council of the European League for Economic Co-operation, meeting in Barcelona on 20 June 1997, on the invitation of Mr. Lorenzo Gascon, Chairman of the Spanish section of the League:

Expressed its deep concern about the present state of the construction of a united Europe. It underlines the need to give continuous attention to the need to further the greatest possible degree of European integration. Although the Amsterdam European Council was partly successful, a number of threats now confront us. It considers that the failure to reach agreement on institutional reforms places the European Union in a position in which risks delaying the enlargement can take place before the necessary deepening of the Union's institutional functioning has been achieved. It notes, with anxiety, the emergence of centrifugal forces which affect even those member states that have been, until now, the most enthusiastic partisans of European integration.

Reacting to this situation the Central Council reaffirms its full support for relaunching the dynamics of European integration. It notes with approval the decisions taken at Amsterdam to confirm the stability pact on employment policy. This is especially important in view of obtaining the support of European citizens and in motivating them. It calls for the rapid completion of monetary Union and of the single currency, which is an essential catalysor for the strategy of European unification. It calls on the member governments to transcend, in the spirit of the founding fathers, national egoism and to commit themselves to advancing the cause of a truly united Europe.

Finally the Council agreed to the Resolution adopted on 19th June by the League's Mediterranean Commission during a symposium on the European dimension of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership. It considers that the development of a Mediterranean policy, complementary to the enlargement of the European Union, to the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, based on a relationship of partnership, which favours the development of trade and private investment will also strengthen peace and security in the Mediterranean region. To help to arrive at this target, it emphasises the possibility of increased co-operation opened up by the Amsterdam meeting of the European Council.

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