



EUROPE DAY

9 MAY



The Daily Star

Special Supplement May 9, 1996

Planning & Design : Creation

EUROPE DAY

On 9 May 1950 the first move was made towards the creation of what is now known as the European Union.

In Paris that day, against the background of the threat of a Third World War engulfing the whole of Europe, the French Foreign Minister Robert Schuman read the following declaration.

'World peace cannot be safeguarded without creative efforts equal to the dangers which exist to world peace. By the pooling together of basic production processes and the setting-up of a new High Authority whose decisions will link France, Germany and the other countries which will accede, this proposal will bring to pass the first concrete steps of a European Federation which is indispensable to the preservation of peace.'

What he proposed was the creation of a supranational European institution, charged with the management of the coal and steel industry, the very sector which was, at that time, the basis of all military power. The countries which he called upon had almost destroyed each other in a dreadful conflict which had left after it a sense of material and moral desolation.

Everything, therefore, began that day. That is why during the Milan Summit of EU leaders in 1985 it was decided to celebrate 9 May as 'Europe Day'.

Every country which democratically chooses to accede to the European Union endorses its fundamental values of peace and solidarity.

These values find expression through economic and social development embracing environmental and regional dimensions which are the guarantees of a decent standard of living for all citizens.

While Europe as such has existed for centuries, the elements which united it, in the absence of rules and institutions, have in the past been insufficient to prevent the most appalling tragedies.

The integration of Europe will not come about in one day or even in a few decades. Deficiencies are still numerous and there are evident imperfections. The project which was begun just after the Second World War is still very new. In the past, efforts at European union were based on domination of one group over another. These attempts could not last, because those

conquered had only one aspiration: to regain their freedom. Today's ambition is completely different: to build a Europe which respects freedom and the identity of all of the people which compose it. Only by uniting its peoples can Europe control the mastery of its destiny and develop a positive role in the world.

The European Union is at the service of its citizens. While keeping their own specific values, customs and language, European citizens should feel at ease in the 'European home'. Europe Day represents the very best of what it means to be European.

The European Union was founded by six countries—Belgium, Germany, France, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands—the Community enlarged with the accession of Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom in 1973, followed by Greece in 1981 and Spain and Portugal in 1986. In 1990, the Community welcomed the new Länder of eastern Germany. In 1995, the Community became the European Union and was further enlarged with the accession of Austria, Finland and Sweden.

MESSAGE

The 9th May — Europe Day — recalls the Declaration by Robert Schuman in 1950 which showed the countries of Western Europe the way to banish forever the spectre of war. The process of regional integration which this set in train led to the European Union we know today. We believe that Schuman's appeal for reconciliation and his practical proposals for achieving it have lost none of their significance in the 46 years since the Declaration was made.

Formed originally with six Member States, successive accessions to the EU — most recently those of Austria, Finland and Sweden in January 1995 — have brought its membership to fifteen. Many other countries want to join. Clearly regional integration remains a dynamic ideal in Europe, with the new concept of Union citizenship, common foreign and security policies and the goal of economic and monetary union by the end of the century.

This year, the Union returns to the institutional drawing-board. On 29 March, an Inter-Governmental Conference convened to start preparations for further enlargement and integration. The Conference will decide how to reform the institutions so that the EU can admit more members without becoming unmanageable.

For the European Commission, enlargement is both a political imperative and an important opportunity. Well prepared and conducted, the accession of the new democracies will strengthen peace and stability in Europe. It will symbolise the unification of a continent divided in the aftermath of the last war, restoring the people of eastern and central Europe to their rightful place in the European family.

Europe Day is a celebration of that family's achievements and aspirations. High among these are its vital relationships with its international partners, in trade and investment, technology transfer and development cooperation, democracy and human rights.

Through its liberal trade arrangements, the EU has become Bangladesh's biggest export market and also has a substantial grant-based development programme in this country. I would like to reaffirm to the people of Bangladesh the continued support of the EU in their efforts to strengthen their democratic institutions, improve their economic well-being and promote regional cooperation.

Michael Drury
Ambassador
Head of Delegation of the European Commission

ONGOING EU-FUNDED PROJECTS IN BANGLADESH

	EU CONTRIBUTION MILLION ECU
I. TOTAL FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION	
AGRICULTURE	20.40
Cereal Seeds II	10.00
CARE NOPEST	6.00
Counterpart fund/loan repayment accrued from livestock/tea	4.40
FOOD SECURITY	141.51
Improvement of Grain Storage	15.00
Food Aid under IFADEP	122.43
Other ongoing food aid (Through NGOs)	1.17
Rehabilitation Food Storage/handling systems in Ch/Chu	2.91
IRRIGATION	78.50
BWDB System Rehabilitation	13.50
National Minor Irrigation Development	65.00
FLOOD CONTROL/FLOOD ACTION PLAN	37.18
River Survey Project	12.60
Jamuna-Dhaleswari Left Bank Studies	4.00
Coastal embankment Rehabilitation Project	15.00
Flood Control and Drainage IV	2.08
Cyclone Protection II Priority Works	3.50
REHABILITATION / RECONSTRUCTION	44.70
Primary Schools cum Cyclone Shelters	22.32
Post Flood Rehabilitation II	22.38
POVERTY ALLEVIATION	99.50
Rangpur Region Rural Development	28.50
Adarsha Gram Cluster Village Project	11.00
Integrated Food Assisted Dev. Prog. (TA)	30.00
PROSHIKA : Poverty Alleviation Phase V	30.00
SOCIAL SECTOR DEVELOPMENT	88.15
Thana Health Services functional Improv. Pilot Project	18.75
Contraceptive supply	24.00
Promote : Female Secondary Schools Teachers	36.00
GSS III : Education and Social Mobilisation	9.40
OTHER ACTIONS UNDER FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL COOP	3.76
Tourism (Regional)-estimate for Bangladesh	1.66
Economic cooperation	0.75
S & T Cooperation	0.35
II. OTHER AREAS (estimates)	40.76
Complex (Tea + Jute)	24.00
HIV/AIDS	0.70
Drugs Abuse Control (UNDCP+NGO)	1.80
NGO Cofinancing (indicative-EC Contribution)	4.86
Refugees	7.10
Humanitarian and emergency Aid (ECHO)	2.30
TOTAL ONGOING PROJECTS	553.46
	MILLION ECU

THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ASIA

Asia matters to Europe today as it did in the days of the spice trade and the silk road. It matters for the obvious economic reasons. Asia accounts for half the world's population and a quarter of its production. The European Union, with its worldwide economic interests, cannot afford to neglect Asia and still maintain a leading role in the world economy.

Asia also matters politically. The growing economic weight of Asia is reinforcing its weight on the international political scene. It is in the EU's interest to help Asia play a more prominent role on the world stage.

But the reverse is also true: Europe matters to Asia. Many Asians want a stronger European presence in Asia, at both the economic and political levels. Acting on an Asian proposal, the 15 EU countries and 10 Asian countries, including China, South Korea and Japan, have agreed to hold their very first summit meeting in Thailand in 1996.

In 1994 the European Commission responded to the dramatic changes in Asia with guidelines for a new Asia strategy, based on a partnership of equals. This was approved by the European Parliament, and endorsed by the European Council, within a matter of months.

The EU is working to strengthen its economic relations with Asia on the basis of mutual interest; to contribute to peace and stability in Asia through a broader and deeper political dialogue and to continue its development assistance to the poorer countries and regions of Asia.

Tariff preferences
Under the EU's generalized system of preferences (GSP), the exports of developing countries in Asia and Latin America have been entering the European market either duty-free or at preferential (i.e. reduced) rates since 1971. Asian countries accounted for some 80% of all EU imports which received GSP treatment in 1993. China, the most important beneficiary, and ASEAN each accounted for some 30% of the total, SAARC for 12%.

In 1995 the EU revised its GSP scheme for manufactured products, in an attempt to spread its benefits more widely. It does this through a 'graduation' mechanism, under which the more competitive developing countries will start to lose GSP benefits for those product sectors for which they no longer need them. But the effect on their exports will be gradual, and likely to be off-set by their general dynamism.

European Community Investment Partners

ECIP is a simple, quick and efficient financial instrument which offers 5 financing facilities to support the successive stages of joint venture investment creation in the developing countries of Asia, Latin America, the Mediterranean and South Africa (ALAMEDSA). ECIP specifically aims at small and medium sized companies, but large companies can also benefit if their projects are particularly interesting for the development of the host countries.

ECIP is an established EC financing instrument which has been operating since 1988. Over 1,500 actions for ECIP financing of over 173 million ECU have been approved for ECIP financing between 1988 and 1995.

ECIP is managed from Brussels by the European Commission in a decentralised way through its network of ECIP financial institutions (FI) and investment promotion agencies. The involvement of these institutions in the joint ventures right from the start reinforces the ongoing commercial and financial viability of the projects.

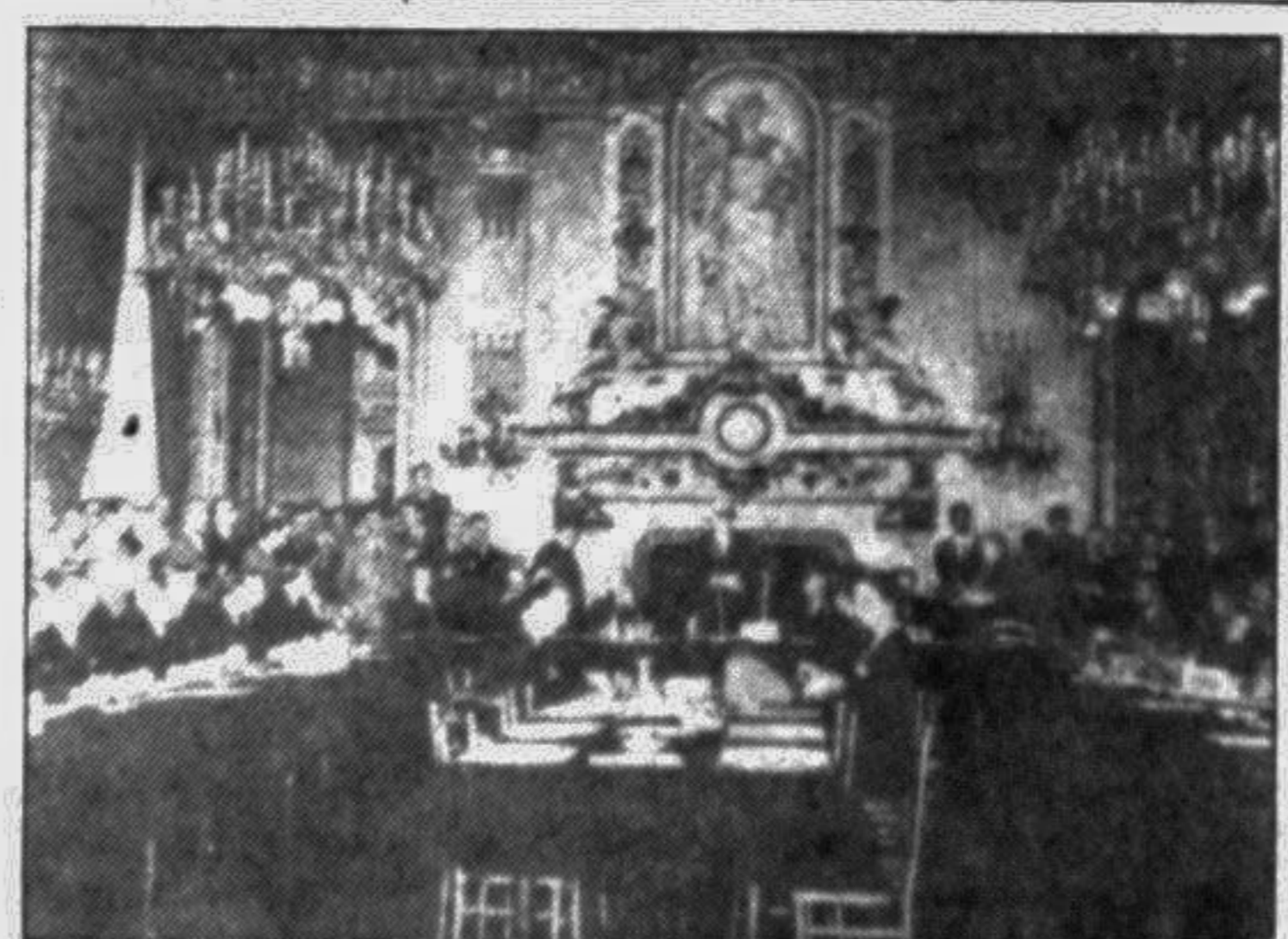
Applications for financing under Facilities 2, 3 and 4 must be made through one of the financial institutions (FIs) in the ECIP network. Applications for Facility 1 for identification of projects and partners may be made by the beneficiary organisation directly to the EC or through an ECIP Financial Institution. Applications for Facility 1B regarding the preparation of a privatisation, or a Build Operate Transfer (BOT) or a Build Operate Own (BOO) scheme in private infrastructure, utilities or environmental services may be made by ALAMEDSA governments or public agencies either directly to the Commission or through an FI.

The ECIP financial institutions are commercial, merchant or development banks.

For example, all the EU member states' development banks are in the ECIP network and they play a key role in running the scheme. But the membership of the network is open to any bank, subject to the opinion of the Commission and the Council's ALA/Mediterranean Committee. The network of FIs represents one of the distinctive features of the ECIP scheme; namely, its decentralised mode of operation which emphasises subsidiarity. The presence of FIs in the ALAMEDSA countries helps local businesses seeking to attract foreign investment to gain access to ECIP through an institution close to their place of business.

In contrast to most cooperation instruments, ECIP is market-driven. The success of ECIP has shown that it replies to a need both of the developing countries and of European operators. Business appreciates the decentralised character of the instrument, its scope (all the phases of an investment project are covered), its flexibility and its rapidity of operation. In addition, the joint venture nature of the projects supported by ECIP reinforces their development impact by encouraging transfers of technology and know-how, and creating export opportunities for the host countries. ECIP reinforces the image and role of EU business in Asia, Latin America, the Mediterranean and South Africa.

If you are interested to obtain the full information package of ECIP comprising the list of financial institutions, application forms, and the user's Guide please contact: Bangladesh Shilpa Bank, BSB Bhaban, Dhaka or Delegation of the European Commission, House 7, Road 84, Gulshan, Dhaka.



9 May 1950: the Schuman Plan is made public



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Fax: (880-2) 956.3980
Telex: 642433 SGS BJ
Cable: SUPERVISE.

SGS LABORATORY

Globe Chamber (1st Floor)
104, Motijheel C/A
P.O. Box-197
DHAKA.
Tel: 955.2125/956.0101
Fax: (880-2) 956.3980
Telex: 642433 SGS BJ
Cable: SUPERVISE.

SGS BANGLADESH LIMITED

"A. MAJID ARCADE"
1376/A C.D.A Avenue
East Nasirabad (ASIAN HIGHWAY)
P.O. Box-496
CHITTAGONG.
Tel: (031) 651180/651282/651333
Fax: (031) 650156
Telex: 66245 SGS BJ
Cable: SUPERVISE.

SGS BANGLADESH LIMITED

20, Ahsan-Ahmed Road
P.O. Box-20
KHULNA.
Tel: (041) 22376/21825
Fax: (041) 61258
Telex: 633338 SGS BJ
Cable: SUPERVISE.

SGS BANGLADESH LIMITED

Sunderban Hotel Extension
Madrasah Road-Holding No.69
MONGLA-Bagerhat.
Tel: (880-402) 570
Fax: (041) 61258
Telex: 633338 SGS BJ
Cable: SUPERVISE.