

Prime Minister
Jan P. Syse

Meeting of EFTA Heads of Government

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A new European architecture

Mr. Chairman, dear colleagues,

Creating a European Economic Space means bringing the economies of 19 countries closer together. It means giving our business and industry the right to participate on equal terms; in a mobilization of economic resources and creativity embracing all of Western Europe.

At the same time it means much more. For 30 years, EFTA formed part of our common European architecture. Now, the European Economic Space must form part of the new European order. That new architecture must respond to fresh opportunities and meet today's challenges. Challenges - such as linking a united Germany firmly inside the Western structures and cooperation - such as meeting the Baltic aspiration for independence - and such as responding to the serious threat to our common environment. Our efforts form part of this wider endeavour.

Our economic space has to be one of dynamism. One that encourages trade and competition. We will lift barriers. We will encourage technological progress, we will combat inefficiencies. A dynamic European Economic Space will demonstrate that the secret of competitive advantages is to compete. Cooperation among Governments help create the necessary framework. Competition between companies create the values. One of my favourite Europeans, Helmut Schmidt said: Markets are like parachutes. They only function when open.

In the months ahead, we will focus on the details of the new negotiations - between the EFTA and the European Community. But we must also keep that wider perspective firmly in mind.

For years our ambition has been to overcome the painful division of Europe. Today, that ambition is within reach. Now we must even go further. We must come to grips with tension and strife that reach far back in the history of our continent. That is indeed a formidable task.

We do hold one trump card over previous attempts to reorganize Europe's political landscape; a number of structures of European cooperation are in place. They are at our disposal. They must be fully used; also to keep us away from the unstable environment and shifting Alliances of Europe's past.

The European Community will be one such pillar, no matter if we belong to it or not. Some predicted that the opening of Europe would make the Community slow down in its efforts. They were wrong. The process of economic integration goes forward. It does so with vigour and determination. The process of political integration is taking shape. I strongly welcome these development. More economic integration is a contribution to a stable Europe. More political integration is a contribution to a democratic Europe.

It is the view of my Government that NATO will be another essential pillar. It has oriented the United States away from isolationism. It has brought us a lasting American commitment to European security. We will continue to need that commitment. It will remain a basic element of European equilibrium. Not as a contribution to the sharp military confrontation of the past, but as a contribution to our common stability in the future.

The roles of NATO and the European Community will evolve. NATO is redefining its role. But both organizations will be needed, as pillars of stability and as vehicles for change.

They will, however, only carry parts of the burden. Europe opens up. This must also be reflected in the way we shape our common European institutions. The Norwegian Government believes that the CSCE should be an important framework for the construction of a new European order. It cannot become the main vehicle for economic integration in Europe. This we all know. Nor can it carry the burden of European security in the full sense. That is clear. But security is more than a matter of battalions - as economic integration is more than trade. Security is essentially a matter of politics. A European architecture in which free, democratic and prosperous countries find a place together is the most vital prerequisite for security.

We will, therefore, need a firm political structure, to serve as a framework for a dialogue covering all of Europe - and our North American partners. The CSCE Summit should take the first decisive steps. We need regular Summits at the European level. And we need a continuous dialogue among Foreign Ministers. A more permanent structure must gradually be put in place.

Our European dialogue must be wide in scope. There is no reason why - for instance - ministers of trade, industry, justice or environment should not be increasingly engaged. On the contrary, there is an undisputable need for a stronger involvement. They should come together more regularly, as a wider European Council of Environment, of Trade and of Industry.

The environmental challenge is of particular concern to my Government. For the pollutants Europe was never divided. Political and physical barriers never stopped them from

crossing national borders. But they prevented efficient political counter measures.

If the military threat has diminished, the environmental threat is growing. It must be more urgently attacked. A regional environmental strategy is required. And the opening of Europe has made it possible to act.

At the recent Bergen Conference I made two proposals to this effect:

First, that the CSCE Summit should start the elaboration on a new decision making machinery for environmental policies. These efforts could be carried out in close cooperation with the Economic Commission for Europe and the newly created European Environmental Agency. Our aim should be to set up a structure, which would decide on regional measures, push them forward and secure their implementation as parts of a comprehensive strategy. Today, our efforts are fragmented and spread across a variety of different bodies and conferences. They must be brought closely together.

Second, that the CSCE-countries elaborate a binding environmental "code of conduct", to reflect the basic fact that we are dealing with a common environment, not with ours and yours. This code of conduct should include regular reviews of environmental policies, as we do with our economic policies within the OECD. And it should include measures of information and of monitoring to ensure the implementation of efficient and internationally agreed policies.

I take this opportunity to ask for your support - and for your participation - in further elaborating our proposals and in securing that the CSCE Summit acts upon them.

Europe is becoming one. That means giving the European

multiplicity an opportunity to prosper - accross the continent. Politically, economically and culturally.

The Nordic dimension is a contribution to that multiplicity. A few years ago the European Community was extended towards the South. Now it opens towards the East. The Nordic input must be strengthened. I am convinced that this is possible, even today, within the framework of our present European policies.

The neutral countries also form part of the European multiplicity. In the past they have played important roles. They have given their distinct contribution to stability. And they have acted as bridge-builders, between East and West. Now, there are fewer bridges to build. Their roles - as ours - are being redefined. But their contribution will still be required. Creating a new European architecture is a matter where all must be fully involved.

We will need a vision of where to go. But also the instruments with which to get there. We must fix our eyes on the horizon, but keep our feet firmly on the ground. As we proceed unpredictability will be a faithful companion. New partnerships will be forged. But old friendships must not be neglected. Ours is such a friendship. Let us protect it and bring it forward as a valuable contribution to a stable and prosperous continent.

In the present European situation, there are a number of worries. I have, however, always learned that the reason why worry kills more people than work is that more people worry than work.

So let us go to work!