



3 MFS

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

8 April 1982

*Herbert Morrison*

Thank you for your letter of 26 March about the European Council meeting on 29/30 March.

Most of the meeting was devoted to a discussion of the economic and social situation, including the problem of unemployment, particularly among young people, which affects all the Member States. I enclose a copy of the conclusions issued after the Council by the Belgian Presidency. You will see that we were all concerned at the level of productive investment in Europe. We discussed the role that the Community could play in the development of information technology and the important role of small businesses in providing new jobs. I stressed the need for greater freedom of trade between the Member States in the services sector. The Council called on both sides of industry to contribute to achieving the objectives of promoting productive investment and of controlling the evolution of all production costs.

Paragraph 7 of the conclusions refers to various measures to be taken by the Member States in connection with unemployment, particularly to assist young people entering the labour market, and requests the Council of Ministers to report back to the European Council at the end of this year. We in the UK Government are very willing to consider with our Community

/colleagues

*Handwritten signature*



colleagues and with the representatives of the social partners any measures which can usefully be undertaken at Community level to help reduce unemployment and which are consistent with the aim of maintaining competitiveness and reducing inflation. The Council conclusions usefully underlined the link between these two aims in stating that all the Community countries had the same interests in combating unemployment and restoring economic growth while preserving monetary stability and ensuring the competitiveness of their economies.

Yours sincerely

Lionel Murray

---

The Right Honourable Lionel Murray, O.B.E.