

MESSAGE FROM
THE PRIME MINISTER
FOR THE
CONSERVATIVE GROUP FOR EUROPE'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE

On the occasion of your Annual Conference, I send you my warmest good wishes.

I know that the Conservative Group for Europe has had a most active year, and the success of your membership drive at a difficult time for Britain and the Community is praiseworthy indeed.

~~We must never allow those who would seek to take us out of the Community to gain ascendancy. This Government is firmly committed to staying in.~~
There are clear advantages in our Membership and there is no realistic option for us outside ~~the~~ Community. As a member of the Ten, we can help forge new policies that benefit us, change those policies which need reform, and play a full part in control over the direction in which the Community is moving. Our approach will be constructive. The Budget agreement we reached with our partners last year was a major step forward. Much remains to be done. The next few years will offer important opportunities to improve European policies in the United Kingdom and Community interest.

L of the Community,

It is vital that we do not let those opportunities slip, and I know that I can count on the Conservative Group for Europe to promote our cause with determination and vigour.

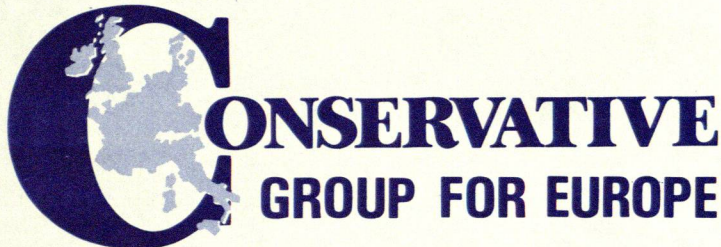
February 1981

Patrons;

Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP
Rt Hon Harold Macmillan OM FRS
Rt Hon Lord Home of the Hirsell KT
Rt Hon Lord Duncan-Sandys CH
Lord Chelwood MC DL
Rt Hon Lord Carrington KCMG MC
Rt Hon Geoffrey Rippon QC MP

Vice-Presidents:

Sir Gilbert Longden MBE
Mr James Scott-Hopkins MEP
Mr Jim Spicer MEP MP



President: Rt Hon Edward Heath MBE MP
Chairman: Mr Hugh Dykes MP

Deputy Chairman:
Miss Beryl Goldsmith

Vice-Chairmen:
Mr David Hunt MBE MP
Mr Peter Price MEP
Mr Frank Richardson

Hon. Treasurer:
Mr Peter Smith

Registered Office:
Europe House Club
1A Whitehall Place
London SW1A 2HA
Tel: 01-839 6622

P.O.
R14

12 February, 1981

Dear Prime Minister,

Last year you very kindly sent a message which was much appreciated by all our members attending our Annual Conference at the Brandon Hall Hotel, near Coventry.

Our Annual Conference this year will take place next weekend, 20/22 February, at the same venue, and I write once again to ask if you would be kind enough to send a message of encouragement to our members.

The Conservative Group has had a very active year, including a membership drive which has produced better results than we dared to hope for. WE appreciate that it has been a difficult year for Britain and the Community, and we shall be discussing prospects for British initiatives during our term of office in the second half of 1981.

I do hope you will feel able to let me have a message which can be read out. The Foreign Secretary has been most helpful over the planning of the Conference, as he was with our membership drive, as you will see from the enclosed recruiting leaflet.

In advance of the Conference, I send you our good wishes for a successful visit to Washington.

Yours sincerely,

Beryl M. Goldsmith
Deputy Chairman

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP.,
Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury,
10 Downing Street,
LONDON, S.W.1.

THE PRIME MINISTER:

"It is wholly in our interest to be in and remain in the EEC and to be part of the biggest trading block in the world . . ."

29 April 1980
London

"Europe needs a sound economic base if it is to resume its rightful place as the master of its own destiny and an arbiter of world affairs . . . I want to build a solid and weatherproof European structure well able to resist the storms which lie ahead."

19 September 1980
Bordeaux

AIMS AND OBJECTS OF THE CGE

To work for a politically united Europe.

To promote . . . knowledge and understanding of Europe within the Conservative Party and the country at large.

To work closely with the Conservative Party Organisation.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

I wish to join the Conservative Group for Europe (which incorporates membership of The European Movement) and enclose annual subscription of £ (minimum £5). I understand I shall receive a bi-monthly mailing and full information of CGE activities.

Name

Address

.....

Tel. No.:

Cheques to be made out to Conservative Group for Europe, 1a Whitehall Place, London, SW1A 2HA.

CONSERVATIVE GROUP FOR EUROPE

President: Rt Hon Edward Heath MBE MP
Chairman: Mr Hugh Dykes MP

Patrons:

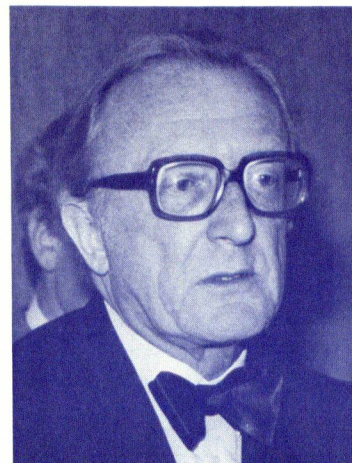
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Rt. Hon. Lord Carrington, KCMG., MC., Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and Patron of the Group, writes:

"I commend the Group to all members of the party and welcome their initiative in encouraging influential members within constituency associations to join them

This initiative will help to ensure a much wider circulation of information about the European Community and to provide the facts to counter the often misleading coverage which the European Community receives. The Government is determined to make a success of our membership of the Community and an important aspect of this is to ensure that the party from the grass roots upwards is accurately informed.

I hope that this new membership drive of the Conservative Group will receive the substantial response it deserves."

I believe I can best indicate the sort of activities we undertake by inviting you to read the Annual Report (1979-80) presented on 2 July 1980. Through a regular bi-monthly mailing, members of the Group also receive facts and information about the Community and Britain's continuing role as a full supporter of European integration. I hope you will join us.

HUGH DYKES, MP
Chairman

GENERAL ACTIVITIES

Experience has shown that the Supper Meetings which have been organised over the last two years have proved highly successful. The pattern of combining a political and social evening has appeared to be just right, and we have been delighted with the steady support for such evenings. Among speakers we have welcomed have been the President of the CGE, Edward Heath (June); Minister of Agriculture, Peter Walker (October); Minister of State at the Foreign Office, Douglas Hurd (April); and a leading Giscardien Member of the European Parliament, Yves Galland (May). In addition Members of the European Parliament formed a most interesting panel at the October meeting. I cannot over-emphasise the value of these informal evenings when members have an opportunity of meeting and discussing current domestic and European issues in a friendly and encouraging atmosphere.

SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

In August one of our Buckinghamshire members organised a party to the Albert Hall to hear a superb concert given by the European Community Youth Orchestra.

In November, the Foreign Secretary, Lord Carrington, with Lady Carrington, were our guests at a 'Victory Dinner' at St. Ermin's Hotel. There were some 200 people present, including Jim Scott-Hopkins, Leader of the European Democratic Group in the European Parliament, and Mrs. Scott-Hopkins, Lord and Lady Duncan Sandys, Sir Anthony and Lady Royle, Maurice Macmillan and the Hon. Mrs. Macmillan, the Ambassadors or their representatives of all the Nine Community countries, as well as the three applicant States, and many other distinguished guests and supporters. That Lord Carrington could spare an evening to address us in the middle of the crucial Zimbabwe/Rhodesia talks at Lancaster House, was something we appreciated very much.

The new decade was celebrated with a Wine and Cheese Party, hosted by our President, Edward Heath, at St. Stephen's Club, in the course of which Mr. Heath made a major speech which was widely reported.

A month later just on 100 members participated in a full Weekend Conference at the Brandon Hall Hotel, just outside Coventry. This was a huge success. The theme, 'The 1980s — The Dangerous Decade', was adequately reflected in the imaginative programme organised, concentrating as it did on Western security and

defence, foreign policy, energy and communication. Among the speakers were Foreign Office Minister of State Peter Blaker MP, Madron Seligman and John Osborn from the European and Westminster Parliaments respectively, and Alan Watson, until recently Head of the Radio and Television Directorate at the Commission in Brussels. Christian Democrat Member of the German Bundestag, Gerhard Kunz, was a welcome guest speaker at the Saturday dinner. Furthermore, we recall the excellent lecture delivered by Julian Critchley, MP on Western security and defence.

This was the third Brandon Hall Conference held, and plans are already in hand for the fourth in February 1981.

We have organised one or two important gatherings at the House of Commons for our parliamentary colleagues, and CGE members and parliamentarians joined for an interesting exchange of views in April.

In the course of the year, Michael Niblock and Michael Fallon prepared, and presented at the Brandon Hall Conference, a paper on Industry and Europe. Currently a study group is looking at the problems of a joint transport policy. I hope that additional study efforts will be possible in the year ahead.

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

The Group was represented at several European conferences, including Madrid (October); Strasbourg (March) and the Congress of Europe in Paris in May.

THE EUROPEAN MOVEMENT

As an integral part of the Movement, we have continued to work closely with the Officers and Director. We were delighted that Basil de Ferranti was elected Chairman of the Movement at the November Annual Congress, and that our Deputy-Chairman, Beryl Goldsmith, became the first woman to be elected an officer. Members of the CGE have played an active and constructive role and are conscientious attenders at meetings of the Movement's Executive Committee and National Council. We are grateful for the financial and other assistance we receive from the Movement, which enables us to continue our work.

THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY

We have continued to enjoy a cordial and constructive relationship with the officers and officials at Central Office, and welcome them to our meetings. Individual members of the CGE play an active role within their local Conservative Associations, and specifically the Euro-Constituency Councils set up after elections to the European Parliament.

THE FUTURE

The year has been a satisfactory and harmonious one. The teamwork and co-operation achieved has been notable and we look forward to an even busier year ahead with a drive for new members a priority, alongside the part we must play towards achieving a greater understanding within the Conservative Party, of the benefits of membership of the European Community.