





RESTRICTED

*Euro 901.*

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

7 February 1980

#### DESIGNATION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

1. The guidance in paragraph 2-4 below has been approved by the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary and the Prime Minister and should be followed throughout the Civil Service.

2. Strictly speaking, there are legally three separate European Communities (the European Coal and Steel Community, the European Economic Community and the European Atomic Energy Community) founded on three separate Treaties. The Merger Treaty of 1965 created a Commission of the European Communities and a Council of the European Communities (the Assembly of 'Parliament' having become common to the three Communities in 1957) but the Communities themselves were not merged. All these terms are still used in formal, legal acts.

3. However, the EC Council has formally endorsed the use of the term 'the European Community' for most other purposes. This practice has also been adopted within the UK Government.

4. For general use, therefore, 'the European Community' is the most appropriate term. From a political point of view in Europe it is better than the 'European Economic Community', the 'EEC' or the 'Common Market', which sound to our partners restrictive and limiting in spirit, if not in fact.

5. The appropriate abbreviation for the European Community is 'the EC'. The abbreviation should be used instead of 'the EEC' unless there is a specific, legal reason for referring to the European Economic Community as such.

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY DEPARTMENT (ECD)

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

(Enquiries: 233 5701)

RESTRICTED





10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

9 January 1980

Dear Robin,

Designation for the European Community

The Prime Minister has seen George Walden's letter to me of 4 January on this subject. She agrees that we should in general use the term "The European Community" rather than the alternatives mentioned in your letter. She also agrees that the BBC and the other media should be encouraged to use the term. She expresses the hope that in talking to the BBC and the others we will avoid sounding excessively pompous on the subject.

I am sending copies of this letter to the recipients of George Walden's letter under reference.

Yours ever

Richard Alexander

R.J.M. Lyne, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Encl  
JAH/JS

JS





Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

4 January 1980

(1)

*No objection - but I  
still like the term  
'Common Market'!*

*Prime Minister*

*I assume you would have no  
objection to A.*

*Dear Michael,*

Designation of the European Community

The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary has noticed that Ministers have used a variety of titles for the European Community: the European Community, the European Economic Community, the Communities. You might like this short note on the law and practice.

Strictly speaking, there are legally three separate European Communities (the European Coal and Steel Community, the European Economic Community and the European Atomic Energy Community) founded on three separate Treaties. The Merger Treaty of 1965 created a Commission of the European Communities and a Council of the European Communities (the Assembly or "Parliament" having become common to the three Communities in 1957) but the Communities themselves were not merged. All these terms are still used in formal, legal acts.

However, the Council has formally endorsed the use of the term "the European Community" for most other purposes. This practice has also been adopted within the UK Government.

For general use, therefore, "the European Community" is the most appropriate term. From a political point of view in Europe it is better than the "European Economic Community", the "EEC" or the "Common Market", which sound to our partners restrictive and limiting in spirit, if not in fact.

A / Provided the Prime Minister and Home Secretary have no objection, we will also encourage the BBC and other media to use the term "the European Community".

*- I hope we shall sound  
personable about it*

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries of the other members of OD(E) and of the Paymaster General and to the Secretary to the Cabinet.

*For ever  
G. G. H.*  
(G G H Walden)

M O'D B Alexander Esq  
10 Downing Street



- 4 JAN 1980





