



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

16 March, 1984

Transport Liberalisation in
the European Community

Thank you for your letter of 15 March.

The Prime Minister has approved the draft reply, enclosed with your letter, to Dr. Lubbers' letter of 6 March. I should be grateful if you could arrange for the text to be delivered in the Hague today.

A. J. COLES

R. B. Bone, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Prime Minister.

London SW1A 2AH

15 March 1984

Agree reply to

Dr. Lubbers letter?

John Johnson

A.S.C. 15/3.

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Duncan

Letter from the Prime Minister of the Netherlands:
Transport Liberalisation in the European Community

Thank you for your letter of 9 March enclosing one from Dr R F M Lubbers, Prime Minister of the Netherlands, who has written in identical terms to all Community Heads of Government.

I attach a draft reply, agreed with the Department of Transport.

As you will recall from the correspondence resting with your letter of 11 January on European Community transport issues, the Prime Minister has agreed that we should press for progress on transport liberalisation in the run up to the European Council of 19/20 March. During the visit of Mr Lubbers on 2 March, the Netherlands Foreign Minister left us with an advance copy of Mr Lubber's letter. We subsequently encouraged the Netherlands Foreign and Transport Ministries to ensure that the letter was despatched, since we entirely share Mr Lubber's objective - to reach agreement in the Community this year on the phased abolition of all road haulage quotas. Several Member States (eg Germany, France and Italy) are reluctant to agree to the adoption of a helpful Commission proposal leading to the abolition of all quotas within five years. We expect Mr Lubbers to raise this issue during discussion of new policies at the European Council; the new policies brief for the Council invites the Prime Minister to weigh in to support.

Enforce
Budget 1982

If you agree, we would propose to telegraph the reply to The Hague for onward transmission.

Copies of this letter and its enclosure go to the Private Secretaries to the Secretaries of State for the Environment, Trade and Industry, Transport and to Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

(R B Bone)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

DRAFT: minute/letter/teleletter/despatch/note

TYPE: Draft/Final 1+

FROM: Prime Minister

Reference

DEPARTMENT:

TEL. NO:

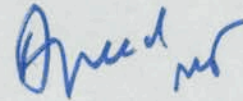
SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

TO: Dr R F M Lubbers
Prime Minister of the Netherlands

Your Reference

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Restricted
- Unclassified

Copies to:



PRIVACY MARKING

SUBJECT:

.....In Confidence

I was very glad to receive your letter of 6 March 1984 about the liberalisation of transport services in the European Community.

CAVEAT.....

We need to make rapid progress on this important element of our work for the completion of the Community's internal market, including the achievement of free exchange of services. I am glad that Geoffrey Howe and Hans van den Broek were able to cooperate closely together at this week's Foreign Affairs Council in pressing the French to include appropriate language on transport policy in the European Council conclusions. I look forward to working with you at next week's European Council to secure that objective.

I should like to see a firm commitment to abolish all lorry quotas after a five year transitional period. I should also like to see the Community make a commitment to real progress on liberalisation of air transport services, and the preservation of free competition in shipping. I hope to have an opportunity to mention these points at the European Council and that it can be agreed that they should be followed up substantially at the Transport Council meeting on 22 March and 10 May. Heads of Government could then review progress at the European Council in June.

Enclosures—flag(s).....

Euro PSI PT17

Euro Council Meeting

BRUSSELS



15 MAR 1984