



MINISTER-PRESIDENT

Nr.: 268077

The Hague, 17 February 1978.

*Dear Minister Jørgensen,*

In your letter of 2 February you put forward a suggestion concerning the organization of the European Council meeting to be held in Copenhagen on 7 and 8 April. To allow more time for informal discussion, you propose that after the luncheon given by Her Majesty the Queen of Denmark on 7 April, the heads of state or government should meet separately from the foreign ministers. The heads of state or government would then hold informal talks whilst the foreign ministers would continue to prepare for the session of the European Council in its traditional form on 8 April (should this be necessary) or deal with political matters which do not need to be discussed by the Council.

Whilst recognizing the value of informal discussions between the heads of state or government of the Member States of the European Communities, I believe there is one important objection to the proposal that within the European Council meetings between the heads of state or government should be held separately from those of the foreign ministers.

It was decided at the conference of heads of state or government in Paris on 9 and 10 December 1974 that they should hold three meetings a year together with the foreign ministers. The decision to set up the European Council therefore explicitly stated that the meetings should be attended by the heads of government and the ministers

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His Excellency Mr. Anker Jørgensen  
Prime Minister of Denmark  
Copenhagen



for Foreign Affairs of the Member States of the Communities. This was a major condition of the Netherlands' acceptance of the institution of the European Council and the considerations which played a part in decisionmaking on the institution of the European Council at that time carry just as much weight with me.

Therefore, I would like to advocate that the arrangements regarding the organization of the European Council made by the Council on 29 and 30 June last year continue to be fully interpreted in accordance with the decision of the Paris conference in December 1974.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Andries van Agt', written in a cursive style.

Andries van Agt



## MINISTERIE VAN BUITENLANDSE ZAKEN

PLEIN 23 — 'S-GRAVENHAGE — TEL. 614941

Agenda No.:

Dag:

Aan: *9/13/100 Europese Raad*  
Haren Majesteits Buitengewoon  
en Gevolmachtigd Ambassadeur *7/8 april '78*Verzonden  
teBonn, Brussel, Dublin, Londen,  
Luxemburg, Parijs en Rome.

Dienstonderdeel: Directie Integratie Europa

Datum: 2 maart 1978

Onderwerp: Deense suggestie m.b.t.  
Europese Raad

Kenmerk: DIE/61416

Ik moge U hierbij doen toegaan afschriften van de brief van de Deense Minister President in zijn kwaliteit van voorzitter van de Europese Raad aan de Minister President, inzake de organisatie van de Europese Raad en van het antwoord van deze laatste aan Minister Jørgensen.

Ik zou het op prijs stellen indien U aan de hand van deze antwoordbrief het Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken te Uwent zou willen inlichten omtrent het Nederlandse standpunt m.b.t. de Deense suggesties. U kunt daarbij een afschrift van de Nederlandse antwoordbrief overhandigen.

DE MINISTER VAN BUITENLANDSE ZAKEN,  
Voor de Minister,  
De Chef der Directie Integratie Europa,

