

ECB-APUBLIC

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The second quotation comes from an article by Samuel Brittan, published in the Financial Times under the heading "The case for the Italian band", on 16/11/78, immediately after the Basle meeting referred to above.

"The Italian transitional formula... could serve UK interests extremely well. Even at this late hour the British Government should be asked to think again about its outright rejection of the idea, for a wider band could provide a formula by which the UK and Italy could both join the EMS... There is now a common Anglo-Italian economic sickness. When there is just asking a question mark over whether an aircraft will be allowed to take off from Rome and whether it will be allowed to land at Heathrow, neither country can afford superiority feelings at the expense of the other. To the post-war British generation the British Empire was much a thing of the past as the Roman Empire to present day Italian."

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