



**PRESSE-MEDDELELSE · MITTEILUNG AN DIE PRESSE  
ΑΝΑΚΟΙΝΩΣΗ ΓΙΑ ΤΟΝ ΤΥΠΟ · INFORMAZIONE ALLA STAMPA · MEDEDELING AAN DE PERS**

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Declaration of Poul DALSAGER

The decisions which were taken by the Council in the early hours of this morning were good and wise decisions. Of course, in a compromise package, the result of long and difficult negotiations, no-one obtains complete satisfaction. But the Commission welcomes these decisions for three reasons :

- First, the Council has accepted practically without change the Commission's original proposals for common prices. They were good proposals. They are good decisions.
  
- Second, the Council has accepted all our main proposals for guarantee thresholds. That means a reduction in prices for the products where the guarantee thresholds for last year were exceeded - milk, cereals, colza. It means also the fixing of realistic thresholds for the coming year.
  
- Third, the problem of monetary compensatory amounts has been solved by an effort on all sides. Despite the increase in MCAs which resulted from the EMS changes in March, we have made another big step in dismantling.

In all three respects, the Commission has played a major role. We are satisfied with the results.

What is more, the decisions are good news for the farmer, the consumer and the taxpayer :

- For the farmer, the price increases are fair and reasonable, taking account of the difficult market situation, and of the high volume of production in many sectors - which has also contributed, by the way, to a good income result in the past year. The average increase in prices in ECU is about 4 %, and the average increase in national money, compared with last year's decisions, is about 7 %. The Commission naturally regrets that these decisions were not taken by 1st. April, but nevertheless they will now permit agriculture in Europe to continue on a sound path. For several countries (Greece, Italy, France and Ireland) there are green devaluations, which will add to the price increases in those countries. For the countries with special difficulties we have also included a series of structural measures to assist their agriculture. To cite only some examples :

- For Italy, there is to be a Community contribution of 60 million ECU to measures to help animal producers; a further Community payment of 20 million ECU for aids in the areas affected by earthquake; and transfers of intervention stocks of cereals and milk powder from other member states.
- For Greece, there are to be 6 million ECU from Community funds for the development of advisory services, and 6 million ECU for the launching of agricultural irrigation.
- For Ireland, the measures for encouraging beef production are to be prolonged, with a cost to Community funds of 10 million ECU.

In addition, for many Mediterranean products price increases higher than the norm have been made.

- For the consumer, the maximum impact on food prices of these increases will be less than 3 % on average in the Community. We have increased the consumer subsidy for butter by 13 %, which will help to give priority to our own consumers in disposing of the surpluses.
- For the Community budget, the impact of this final compromise package is modest - in fact, very little more than the Commission's original proposals in December. The net additional expenditure from the budget is estimated at about 435 million ECU in 1983, and about 745 million ECU in 1984.

Those are the main points of the decisions which were taken this morning. Of course, there are further points of detail, which were the subject of long negotiations. But let me emphasise this. The Council of Ministers - the agriculture Ministers - have shown that even in a difficult time, they can meet the political challenge. They need the help of the Commission - and I am proud to have given that help. Together, we have succeeded today in safeguarding and adapting the agricultural policy not only for the next 12 months, but for the longer term.