

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

PRESS RELEASES

PRESIDENCY: FRANCE

JULY-DECEMBER 1989

Meetings and press releases July-September 1989

Meeting number	Subject	Date
1337 th	Economics/Finance	10 July 1989
1338 th	General Affairs	17-18 July 1989
1339 th	Internal Market	18 July 1989
1340 th	Agriculture	24-26 July 1989
1341 st	Budget	28 July 1989
1342 nd	No record of meeting	
1343 rd	Research	18 September 1989
1344 th	Internal Market	18 September 1989
1345 th	Environment	19 September 1989
1346 th	Agriculture	25-26 September 1989
1347 th	Industry	26 September 1989
1348 th	Social Affairs	29 September 1989

PRESS RELEASE

7639/89 (Presse 128)

PROVISIONAL VERSION

1337th Council meeting

- Economic and Financial Affairs -

Brussels, 10 July 1989

President: Pierre BEREGOVOY

Ministre d'Etat

Minister for Economic and Financial Affairs
and the Budget of the French Republic

The Governments of the Member States and the Commission of the European Communities were represented as follows:

Belgium:

Mr Philippe MAYSTADT Minister for Finance

Denmark:

Mr Niels HELVEG PETERSEN Minister for Economic Affairs

Mr Jens THOMSEN State Secretary,
Ministry of Finance

Germany:

Mr Hans TIETMEYER State Secretary, Federal Ministry
of Finance

Mr Otto SCHLECHT State Secretary, Federal Ministry of
Economic Affairs

Greece:

Mr Sotiris CHATZIGAKIS Deputy Minister for Economic Affairs

Spain:

Mr Carlos SOLCHAGA CATALAN Minister for Economic Affairs and
Finance

France:

Mr Pierre BEREGOVOY Ministre d'Etat, Minister for Economic
and Financial Affairs and the Budget

Ireland:

Mr Noel TREACY Minister of State at the Department of
Finance

Italy:

Mr Giuliano AMATO Minister for the Treasury

Luxembourg:

Mr Jacques POOS Minister for Economic Affairs

Netherlands:

Mr O.C.R. RUDING

Minister for Finance

Portugal:

Mr Carlos TAVARES

State Secretary for the Treasury

United Kingdom:

Mr Nigel Lawson

Chancellor of the Exchequer

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o

o

Commission:

Mr Jacques DELORS

President

Mr Henning CHRISTOPHERSEN

Vice-President

o

o

o

Also present:

Mr Dmetrios J. CHALIKIAS

Chairman of the Committee of
Governors of the Central Banks

Mr Bernhard MOLITOR

Chairman of the Economic Policy
Committee

Mr Mario SARCINELLI

Chairman of the Monetary Committee

MULTILATERAL SUPERVISION

On the basis of two reports drawn up by Mr CHRISTOPHERSEN, Vice-President, on the one hand, and by Mr SARCINELLI, Chairman of the Monetary Committee, on the other, and in the presence of Mr CHALIKIAS, Chairman of the Committee of Governors of the Central Banks, the Council conducted for the first time "an exercise in multilateral supervision" and examined - in restricted session - the economic situation of the Community and of each of the Member States.

The President of the Council described the exercise as frank and direct and said that the Council intended repeating the exercise at appropriate intervals in the presence of the Governors of the Central Banks.

CONCLUSIONS OF THE COUNCIL CONCERNING THE COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION ON THE ECONOMIC SITUATION IN THE COMMUNITY

The Council proceeded to the second examination of the economic situation in the Community, in accordance with Article 3 of the "convergence" Decision of 1974.

The Council shares the broad outline of the analysis made by the Commission in its communication dated 28 June 1989. In the light of the conclusions of the Madrid meeting of the European Council, it notes with interest the more explicit nature of the positions taken by the commission and hopes that this could lead to greater effectiveness in the co-ordination of economic policies.

The Council is of the opinion that the economic policy orientations, agreed in the annual economic report 1988/1989 and confirmed in its examination of the economic situation in March, remain valid.

However, the maintenance in the medium term of the positive results attained in the areas of growth, employment and investment requires that, while the external environment appears to be less favourable, everything must be done to fight the inflationary expectations and to avoid them being incorporated into wage cost developments. It is equally essential, with regard to the internal market, that the efforts undertaken towards greater economic convergence are not relaxed and that they are intensified in the areas of external and budgetary balances.

In this area of budgetary policy, the Council notes that a consensus can be established on some lines of conduct in the medium term: the non-monetary financing of public deficits, the stabilization or reduction of debt, the control of the expansion in expenditure, the search for an expenditure and receipts structure more favourable to supply conditions.

The Council shares the opinion of the Commission according to which the implementation of these lines of conduct implies an immediate rigorous orientation of budgetary policies in the whole Community. It is important, in particular, that the improvement in economic conditions is put to good use in Belgium, the Netherlands, Ireland, Italy and Portugal to actively pursue the efforts engaged in towards a reduction of budgetary imbalances and the relative level of public debt. Resolute action in this direction needs to be rapidly undertaken in Greece.

PRESS RELEASE

7969/89 (Presse 133)

1338th Council meeting

- General Affairs -

Brussels, 17 and 18 July 1989

President: Mr Roland DUMAS

Minister of State
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the French Republic

The Governments of the Member States and the Commission of the European Communities were represented as follows:

Belgium:

Mr Mark EYSKENS Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Paul DE KEERSMAEKER State Secretary for European Affairs

Denmark:

Mr Jørgen ØRSTRØM MØLLER State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Germany:

Mr Hans-Dietrich GENSCHER Minister for Foreign Affairs
Ms Irmgard ADAM-SCHWAETZER Minister of State,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Greece:

Mr George PAPOULIAS Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs

Spain:

Mr Pedro SOLBES MIRA State Secretary for Relations with
the European Communities
Mr Apolonio RUIZ LIGERO State Secretary for Trade

France:

Mr Roland DUMAS

Minister of State,
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mrs Edith CRESSON

Minister for European Affairs

Mr Jacques PELLETIER

Minister for Co-operation and
DevelopmentIreland:

Mr Gerard COLLINS

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Italy:

Mr Renato RUGGIERO

Minister for Foreign Trade

Mr Giovanni MANZOLINI

State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Luxembourg:

Mr Jacques F. POOS

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Netherlands:

B.J.M. Baron van VOORST tot VOORST

State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign AffairsPortugal:

Mr Joao de EUS PINHEIRO

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Vitor MARTINS

State Secretary for European
Integration

United Kingdom:

Sir Geoffrey HOWE

Secretary of State for Foreign and
Commonwealth Affairs

Mr Christopher PATTEN

Minister for Overseas Development

Ms Lynda CHALKER

Minister of State, Foreign and
Commonwealth OfficeCommission:

Mr Jacques DELORS

President

Mr Frans H.J.J. ANDRIESEN

Vice-President

Mr Martin BANGEMANN

Vice-President

Mr Manuel MARIN

Vice-President

Mr Jean DONDELINGER

Member

Mr Ray MAC SHARRY

Member

FOLLOW-UP TO THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL IN MADRID

The Council held an exchange of views on questions arising concerning the follow-up to the conclusions of the European Council in Madrid on economic and monetary union, both as regards preparation of the measures necessary for the launch of the first stage on 1 July 1990 and the preparatory work for the convening of an intergovernmental conference to map out the subsequent stages.

On this subject, the Council was firstly informed by President DELORS of the Commission's timetable on this matter for the coming months.

It then turned its attention in particular to its role as general co-ordinator for the preparation of the discussions at the next meeting of the European Council on this subject. The Presidency will very shortly be submitting appropriate proposals.

CONCLUSIONS ON POLAND AND HUNGARY

The Council held an exchange of views on the situation in Poland and Hungary, particularly in the light of the discussions at the Seven-Nation Summit held in Paris from 14 to 16 July 1989.

The Council welcomed the course of action envisaged by the Commission in the framework of the concerted international measures sought by the Summit on food supply, trade and economic and technical co-operation, and made some suggestions along these lines.

For the immediate future, the Council, conscious of the urgency of supplying food aid to Poland, took note of the Commission's intention of laying before it at the earliest opportunity a proposal for a Regulation permitting the use of Community intervention stocks for this purpose, which would be submitted without delay to the Council of Agriculture Ministers.

It asked the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine this proposal as a matter of urgency, so that it could be adopted as quickly as possible and at any event before the end of the month.

AUSTRIA'S REQUEST FOR ACCESSION TO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

The Council was informed by its President of the receipt that day of three letters from the Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs requesting accession to the European Communities for his country.

The Presidency asked the Permanent Representatives Committee to prepare at its next meeting on 20 July a Council Decision on the implementation of the procedures provided for by the Treaties, which will be submitted to the written procedure.

NEGOTIATIONS ON THE NEW ACP-EEC CONVENTION

The Council discussed a number of issues - Trade, Stabex, Sysmin, Raw materials, Geographical cover - in preparation for the 4th ministerial negotiating session due to take place in October.

EMERGENCY AID FOR ARGENTINA

The Council took note of a statement by the Italian delegation on emergency food aid for Argentina.

CONCLUSIONS ON RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES

The Council heard a report from the Commission on developments in relations with the United States.

The Council noted with satisfaction the co-operation relations established with the US Administration, but deplored the persistence of certain problems deriving from the unilateral nature of the provisions of the Trade Act.

Regarding in particular the conflict on oilseeds, the Council approved the approach put forward by the Commission, involving the opening of consultations under Article XXIII-1 of the GATT.

With regard to the conflict on hormones, the Council noted that while some of the unilateral measures affecting Community interests had been withdrawn, the majority of them remained in force, even though the practical conditions for restoring a trading pattern had been defined by joint agreement. Referring to its previous positions on this point, the Council urged the US authorities to put an end to a situation which was unjustifiable on all counts and called on the Commission to persevere in its attempts to achieve this objective and to report back in September so as to enable it to adopt the appropriate arrangements.

TELEVISION WITHOUT FRONTIERS

The Council discussed this matter in accordance with the brief it had been given by the European Council to continue work on the "Television without frontiers" Directive so that it could be adopted within the time-limit laid down in the procedure for co-operation with the European Parliament.

At the end of its discussion, it noted that it was not at this stage in a position to achieve the qualified majority needed to take a decision on the re-examined proposal submitted to it by the Commission following the deliberations of the European Parliament on the Council's joint position of 13 April 1989.

The Council therefore agreed to ask the European Parliament for a one-month extension of the time-limit laid down in the co-operation procedure. The Presidency - in co-operation with the Commission - would use this extension of the deadline until 6 October to seek a solution which would permit the Council to act in accordance with the abovementioned brief from the European Council.

AUDIOVISUAL SECTOR CONCLAVE

The Council took note of a communication from the Presidency on the progress of preparations for the Audiovisual Sector Conclave due to take place in Paris from 30 September to 3 October.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONSCustoms Union

The Council adopted the Regulation repealing and replacing Regulation No 4192/88 opening and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for certain grades of magnesium intended for the nuclear industry - increase of quota by 150 tonnes to 850 tonnes.

Anti-dumping

The Council adopted Regulations:

- extending for a maximum of two months the provisional anti-dumping duty on imports of calcium metal originating in the People's Republic of China and the Soviet Union

- amending Regulation No 1282/81 imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of vinyl acetate monomer originating in the United States of America (change of name of a company: US Industrial Chemicals Co. becomes Quantum Chemical Corporation, USI Division).

Textiles

The Council adopted by a qualified majority the Decision approving the agreement with Turkey on trade in clothing products.

The Council also adopted the Decision on the provisional implementation of the agreed minute amending the Supplementary Protocol to the Co-operation Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia on trade in textile products.

GATT

Further to commitments made by the Community at the Mid-Term Review, the Council adopted a Regulation aimed at abolishing as of 1 July 1989 certain quantitative restrictions applied by the Member States in the field of tropical products. This measure is complementary to the decision already taken by the Council on tariff concessions (see OJ No L 169, 19.6.1989).

The Council authorized the Commission to take part in the negotiations on the accession of Bolivia and Paraguay to GATT.

The Council adopted the Decision on the conclusion of the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Austria adapting the Agreement of 20 September 1977 concerning certain types of cheese negotiated under Article XXVIII of GATT.

Relations with Malta

The Council adopted the Regulation on the implementation of Decision 1/89 of the EEC-Malta Association Council amending, as a consequence of the introduction of the Harmonized System, Protocol No 2 concerning the definition of the concept of "originating products" and methods of administrative co-operation.

Taxation

The Council adopted the eighteenth Directive on the harmonization of the laws of the Member States relating to turnover taxes - abolition of certain derogations provided for in Article 28(3) of the sixth Directive, 77/388/EEC (see Press Release 7428/89 (Presse 119 - G) of the ECO/FIN Council on 19 June 1989).

Finance

Further to the basic consensus reached on 19 June 1989, the Council approved a joint guideline on the proposal for a Regulation amending the Financial Regulation of 21 December 1977 applicable to the general budget of the European Communities (see Press Release 7428/89 (Presse 119 - G) of the ECO/FIN Council on 19 June 1989).

Radioactive contamination

Further to the discussion it had on this subject at its meeting on 22 May this year, the Council adopted two Regulations:

- the first, based on Article 31 of the Euratom Treaty, amends and supplements Regulation (Euratom) No 3954/87 of 22 December 1987 laying down maximum permitted levels of radioactive contamination of foodstuffs and of feedingstuffs following a nuclear accident or in any other case of radiological emergency. From now on, maximum permitted levels are also laid down for baby foods and liquid foodstuffs. The Regulation also defines the procedure to be followed for establishing levels for feedingstuffs;
- the second Regulation, based on Article 113 of the EEC Treaty, stipulates that foodstuffs and feedingstuffs may not be exported if their radioactive contamination exceeds the maximum permissible levels which have been made applicable within the Community.

This represents a new step forward in the ongoing strengthening of provisions putting into effect Article 2(b) of the Euratom Treaty, also taking into account the possible consequences for exports.

Research

The Council adopted the Decision adopting a research and training programme for the European Atomic Energy Community in the field of remote handling in nuclear hazardous and disordered environments (1989-1993) TELEMAN (see Press Release 7324/89 (Presse 112 - G) from the Internal Market Council on 14 June 1989).

The Council took note of the conclusions of the Commission report on the review of the operation of the Management and Co-ordination Advisory Committees (CGCs).

Agriculture

The Council adopted the Regulation fixing an intervention threshold for oranges in Spain for the 1988/1989 marketing year.

The threshold is fixed at 15% of the average production for fresh consumption over the past five marketing years. If this threshold is exceeded, the institutional prices applicable in Spain for the 1989/1990 marketing year will be reduced by 1% per excess tranche of 18 100 tonnes.

Public works contracts

The Council adopted the Directive amending Directive 71/305/EEC concerning co-ordination of procedures for the award of public works contracts (see Press Release 7324/89 (Presse 112 - G) from the Internal Market Council of 14 June 1989).

Transport

The Council adopted the Directives:

- aimed at improving road safety by obliging Member States to take the necessary measures to ensure compliance with a minimum tread depth of 1,6 mm for tyres of passenger-carrying vehicles with a maximum of nine seats and goods vehicles with a maximum weight not greater than 3,5 tonnes;
- amending Directive 85/3/EEC on the weights, dimensions and certain other technical characteristics of certain road vehicles with a view to setting the expiry date for derogations granted to Ireland and the United Kingdom under that Directive;
- amending Directive 85/3/EEC on the weights, dimensions and certain other technical characteristics of certain road vehicles with a view to fixing certain authorized maximum dimensions for articulated vehicles;
- amending Directive 78/546/EEC on statistical returns in respect of carriage of goods by road, as part of regional statistics;
- amending Directive 83/416/EEC concerning the authorization of scheduled inter-regional air services for the transport of passengers, mail and cargo between Member States.

(For all these Directives, see Press Release 7086/89 (Presse 101 - G) from the Transport Council on 2 June 1989).

The Council and the Ministers meeting within the Council adopted the Resolution on air traffic system capacity problems and measures to be taken to resolve them (see Press Release 7086/89 (Presse 101 - G) from the Transport Council on 2 June 1989).

Environment

The Council adopted the Directive amending, in respect of European standards for emissions from cars below 1,4 litres, Directive 70/220/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to measures to be taken against air pollution by emissions from motor vehicles (see Press Release 7087/89 (Presse 102 - G) from the Environment Council on 8/9 June 1989).

Health

The Council and the Ministers meeting within the Council adopted the Resolution on banning smoking in places open to the public (see Press Release 6550/89 (Presse 81) from the Health Council on 16 May 1989).

Social affairs

The Council adopted:

- the Decision establishing a medium-term Community Action Programme concerning the economic and social integration of the economically and socially less privileged groups in society;

- the Regulation amending Regulation No 1408/71 on the application of social security schemes to employed persons and to self-employed persons and their families moving within the Community and amending Regulation No 574/72 fixing the procedure for implementing Regulation No 1408/71.

(See Press Release 7189/89 (Presse 109 - G) from the Social Affairs Council on 12 June 1989).

Convention on Tourism

The Council adopted the Decision authorizing the Commission to participate on behalf of the Community in negotiations within the World Tourism Organization with a view to drawing up a Convention facilitating travel and tourism, which will be open for accession by the Community and its Member States.

Appointment

On a proposal from the Belgian Government, the Council appointed Mr Willy WALDACK as a member of the Economic and Social Committee to replace Mr Armand COLLE, who has resigned, for the remainder of his term of office, which runs until 20 September 1990.

PRESS RELEASE

7970/89 (Presse 134)

1339th Council meeting

- Internal Market -

Brussels, 18 July 1989

President: Mrs Edith CRESSON

Minister for European Affairs
of the French Republic

Italy:

Mr Antonio LA PERGOLA

Minister for Community Politics

Luxembourg:

Mr Robert GOEBBELS

Minister for Economic Affairs

Mr Georges WOHLFART

State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Netherlands:

B.J.M. Baron van VOORST tot VOORST

State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Portugal:

Mr Vitor A.M. da COSTA MARTINS

State Secretary for European
IntegrationUnited Kingdom:

Mr Francis MAUDE

Under-Secretary of State,
Department of Trade and
IndustryCommission:

Mr Martin BANGEMANN

Vice-President

Sir Leon BRITTAN

Vice-President

Mrs Christiane SCRIVENER

Member

STATUTE OF THE EUROPEAN COMPANY

The Commission presented to the Council the new proposal which it had adopted on the Statute of the European Company.

The purpose of the proposal is to enable undertakings established within the European Community to select an appropriate structure for co-operation in the light of the forthcoming internal market, thus making them more competitive vis-à-vis their external competitors while ensuring that workers are consulted on, or at least, informed of strategic company decisions.

The proposed Statute of the European Company would exist side-by-side with other forms of company in accordance with national law. It would thus offer undertakings an additional choice.

As far as tax arrangements are concerned, the proposal provides that losses borne by the subsidiaries of a European company in another Member State may be deducted from the latter's profits. On the other hand, those subsidiaries of a European company with independent legal personality would be subject to the tax laws of the Member State in which they were established.

After a preliminary discussion, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to begin work so that it could identify the major political approach to the forthcoming Statute by the end of the year.

DIRECTIVE ON SOFTWARE

The Council heard a presentation from the Commission of a proposal for a Directive on the legal protection of computer programs and conducted a preliminary exchange of views.

The aim of this proposal is to ensure an adequate level of protection for computer programs and thus encourage programs being devised within the Community. To achieve that end, it is proposed that the Directive harmonize certain aspects of national legislation on copyright as applicable to literary works.

After noting delegations' positive attitude to this proposal, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to expedite work, its goal being to approve a common position on the proposal by the end of the year.

PUBLIC PROCUREMENT - EXCLUDED SECTORS

The Council conducted a preliminary discussion on the amended proposal for a Directive on public procurement in sectors hitherto excluded: water, energy, transport and telecommunications.

It will be recalled that the Council recently adopted two major amendments to the Directives concerning the procedures for the award of public works and supplies contracts, as well as a common position on the supervision of and procedures for redress in connection with such contracts.

The aim of the new proposal is to make procedures for the award of public works and supplies contracts in the excluded sectors more transparent by ensuring that entrepreneurs in all Member States can take part on an equal footing. To that end, and in order to accommodate individual circumstances, it lays down a flexible system of procedures. Furthermore, the proposal also applies in principle to non-public awarding entities which have special rights or exclusivity granted by public authorities and which operate in the excluded sectors.

A proposal for a Directive on the supervision of and means of redress for contracts covered by this Directive is being prepared by the Commission.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to expedite work so that it could adopt its common position on the Directive by the end of the year.

RIGHT OF RESIDENCE

The Council conducted a policy debate on the three new proposals recently submitted by the Commission for Directives on the right of residence. It will be recalled that, at the Council meeting on the Internal Market on 3 May 1989, the Commission had decided to withdraw the proposal on the general right of residence.

The aim of these proposals is to grant the right of residence to three different groups of citizens in the Member States which do not yet have that right: students, retired people and other categories.

The Council, which considered that the Commission proposals were of major political importance, instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to give every priority to examining the proposals, and to have them put on the agenda for the Council meeting on the Internal Market on 18 September (additional meeting). The Opinion of the European Parliament had, in the meantime, been requested.

COMMUNITY PATENTS

The Council discussed the possibility of convening a Conference for the conclusion of the Agreement relating to Community patents.

The Council decided to return to this matter at its meeting on 18 September on the basis of a document to be drawn up by the Commission to enable the Council to reach a decision.

CONTROL OF CONCENTRATIONS BETWEEN UNDERTAKINGS

The Council discussed in detail the proposal for a Regulation on the control of concentrations between undertakings.

At the end of its discussion, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to proceed with work on the basis of the following guidelines which were not binding on any delegation but which might constitute a basis for an overall compromise:

- For a trial period, thresholds for concentrations covered by the Regulation could be fixed as follows:
 - = principal threshold: turnover of ECU 5 000 million
 - = "de minimis" threshold: between ECU 200 and 300 million
 - = single-country threshold: 2/3 of total turnover achieved in one Member State.

The duration of the trial period and arrangements for its review would be examined by the Permanent Representatives Committee.

- The Committee was, moreover, instructed, in conjunction with the Commission, to try to solve the problem of the application of Articles 85 and 86 of the Treaty to concentrations falling below the thresholds adopted, and that of the criteria for appraising concentrations; such criteria, while based on the

Commission proposal, should take account of the arguments adduced by the Ministers.

- The Committee was instructed to finalize a text setting out guidelines on the information which the Commission should give to the undertakings concerned on its attitude to the concentrations of which it was notified.

The Council agreed to resume discussions on this item at its next meeting on 18 September.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Dangerous substances and preparations

Further to the consensus reached at its meeting on 14 June 1989, the Council adopted its common position with a view to the adoption of an amendment to the Directive amending Directive 76/769/EEC on the approximation of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States relating to restrictions on the marketing and use of certain dangerous substances and preparations, in order to improve the procedures for the technical adaptation of the Annexes (see Press Release No 7324/89 Presse 112 on the Council meeting on the Internal Market on 14.VI.89).

Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN)

The Council adopted a Resolution on the strengthening of the co-ordination for the introduction of the Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) in the European Community up to 1992 (see Press Release No 6001/89 Presse 67 on the Council meeting on Telecommunications on 27.IV.89).

Insider dealing

Following the agreement in principle reached at its meeting on 19 June 1989, the Council adopted its common position preparatory to adoption of the Directive co-ordinating regulations on insider dealing (see Press Release No 7428/89 Presse 119 on the Council meeting on Economic and Financial Affairs on 19.VI.89).

Fisheries

The Council adopted

- the Regulation amending for the eighth time Regulation (EEC) No 3094/86 laying down a technical adaptation of the length of beams used by beam trawlers;
- the decision concerning the acceptance by the Community of a supplementary quota of 8 000 t of capelin offered by Greenland for 1989 off East Greenland against financial compensation.

ECSC

The Council granted its assent pursuant to Article 56(2)(a) of the ECSC Treaty in respect of

- Vereinigte Aluminium-Werke A.G. (VAW)
(Federal Republic of Germany)
- Interbanca S.p.A. (Italy)
- COB Banque d'épargne S.C. (Belgium)
- Bayerische Vereinsbank A.G. (Federal Republic of Germany)
- Karstadt A.G., Essen (Federal Republic of Germany).

Appointments

The Council replaced respectively

- a member and an alternate member on the Advisory Committee on Pharmaceutical Training
- a member and an alternate member on the Advisory Committee on Education and Training in the field of Architecture
- an alternate member on the Advisory Committee on Freedom of Movement for Workers
- a member and an alternate member on the Advisory Committee on Social Security for Migrant Workers.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

8089/89 (Presse 137)

1340th Council meeting
- Agriculture -
Brussels, 24 to 26 July 1989

President:

Mr Henri NALLET

Minister for Agriculture
of the French Republic

The Governments of the Member States and the Commission of the European Communities were represented as follows:

Belgium

Mr Paul DE KEERSMAEKER State Secretary for European Affairs and
Agriculture

Denmark

Mr Laurits TOERNAES Minister for Agriculture

Germany

Mr Ignaz KIECHLE Federal Minister for Food, Agriculture and
Forestry

Mr Walter KITTEL State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and
Forestry

Greece

Mr Stavros DIMAS Minister for Agriculture

Spain

Mr Carlos ROMERO HERRERA Minister for Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food

France

Mr Henri NALLET Minister for Agriculture

Ireland

Mr Michael O'KENNEDY Minister for Agriculture and Food

Italy

Mr Calogero MANNINO

Minister for Agriculture

Luxembourg

Mr René STEICHEN

Minister for Agriculture and Viticulture

Netherlands

Mr Gerrit BRAKS

Minister for Agriculture

Portugal

Mr Alvaro BARRETO

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

United Kingdom

Mr John MacGREGOR

Minister for Agriculture

°
° °Commission

Mr R. MAC SHARRY

Member

COMMON ORGANIZATION OF THE MARKET IN SHEEPMEAT

The Council resumed its discussion on reform of the sheepmeat and goatmeat sectors on the basis of a compromise solution submitted by the Presidency.

After long consideration, the Council, by a qualified majority, reached a political agreement on this compromise solution, which had been supported by the Commission from the outset.

The approach adopted aims to achieve in the final stage - at the latest by 1 January 1993 - a single market comprising a system of premiums based on the two dominant types of production in the Community. On the one hand, there is sheepmeat production resulting in heavy lambs and on the other sheepmeat production connected with milk and producing light lambs. A distinction will ultimately be made not between areas (or regions) but between systems of production, with different methods being used to calculate the compensatory premium.

This approach will make it easier to achieve the objective of creating unified arrangements throughout the Community. Certain transitional provisions have been provided for to enable the various regions to adjust to the new arrangements.

The main points of the agreement are set out below:

1. Unification of the arrangements

Unification of the arrangements will be implemented throughout the Community in time for the 1993 marketing year at the latest, as follows:

- 1.1. In all the Member States a Community standard quality quotation will be instituted. This standard quality will be defined as the most widespread production, on average throughout the Community, for flocks specialized in the production of sheepmeat, producing heavy lambs.
- 1.2. All Member States have introduced, to the Commission's satisfaction, a mechanism for differentiating between producers of heavy lambs and producers of light lambs. A producer of light lamb is to be understood as any sheep farmer marketing sheep's milk or milk products based on sheep's milk. All other sheep farmers are to be understood as producers of heavy lambs.
- 1.3. A single income loss will be calculated. This will be defined as the difference between the basic price and the Community average market price for the Community standard quality weighted by the total production of the quotation areas.

Two technical coefficients will be calculated, corresponding to the production of heavy or light lambs, on the basis of the average yield of sheepmeat per ewe in each category. The technical coefficient applicable to the production of heavy lambs will be determined from statistics compiled by the Commission under the procedure in force (Management Committee). The technical coefficient applicable to the production of light lambs and goats will represent 70% of the technical co-efficient corresponding to the production of heavy lambs.

Every producer will receive for his ewes, within the limits laid down in point 3.1 below, the premium calculated for the category into which he falls.

However, a producer marketing sheep's milk or sheep's milk products will, if he can prove that at least 40% of the lambs born on his farm have been fattened as heavy carcasses, be able to receive the premium for the heavy category, in proportion with the structure of his carcass production.

2. Transitional provisions

2.1. 1990 marketing year

For the 1990 marketing year, subject to the special provisions laid down in the last paragraph of point 2.3, there will be four regions:

- Great Britain
- the rest of Northern Europe
- Italy and Greece
- Spain and Portugal.

The ewe premium will be calculated on the basis of the real average income loss for the region concerned. This income loss (or, in economic terms, the difference between the basic price and the production-weighted average market price) will be converted into a ewe premium using the average technical coefficient of the region.

This technical coefficient will be determined from statistics compiled by the Commission under the procedure in force (Management Committee).

The special provisions applied until the last marketing year for Italy and Greece, on the one hand, and for Spain and Portugal, on the other, will be maintained until the end of the 1990 marketing year. However, these provisions may be applied, at the request of the Member States concerned, until the end of the 1992 marketing year.

For the 1990 marketing year, the Member States containing the new regions 3 (Italy and Greece) and 4 (Spain and Portugal) which have established, to the Commission's satisfaction, the mechanism for differentiating between producers of heavy lambs and producers of light lambs, will be eligible

- in the case of their producers of heavy lambs, for the premium paid in region 2 (rest of Northern Europe),

- in the case of their producers of light lambs, for a premium derived from the preceding premium by applying the specific 70% coefficient as defined in the second paragraph of point 1.3.

2.2. 1991 and 1992 marketing years

The Community standard quality quotation will be instituted in all Member States by 1 January 1991 at the latest, as described in point 1.1 above.

The mechanism for differentiating between producers of heavy lambs and producers of light lambs will be instituted in all Member States by the 1991 marketing year at the latest, as described in point 1.2 above.

The premiums will be calculated as described in point 1.3 above. For as long as the variable premium remains in existence, this calculation will be made separately for Great Britain and the rest of the EEC, in the way described in point 2.3 below.

2.3. Elimination of the variable premium

The variable premium will be gradually phased out. In so doing, the method of calculating the variable premium will be maintained, but the amount actually paid will gradually decrease.

The separate stabilizers, for Great Britain and the rest of the EEC, will gradually be merged into a single stabilizer for the whole of the Community, proportionately with the effective dismantling of the variable premium during each marketing year.

Income losses for the Great Britain region (before deduction of the variable slaughter premium) and for the rest of Northern Europe, or, where appropriate, for the rest of Europe, and the corresponding technical coefficients will be gradually merged in a single income loss and common technical coefficients, proportionately with the effective dismantling of the variable slaughter premium during each marketing year.

While the variable slaughter premium will be applicable in Great Britain, the income loss and technical coefficients applicable in Ireland and Northern Ireland will be calculated on the basis of the statistical data collected in that region and gradually merged with those applicable in the rest of Northern Europe or, where appropriate, the rest of Europe.

3. Common provisions

3.1. Headage limits

The ewe premium will be paid at the full rate for up to 500 ewes per farm for the lowland areas and for 1 000 ewes for the less-favoured and mountain areas.

In the case of producer groups, associations or other forms of co-operation between producers, the limits defined above will be applied individually to each of the member farmers.

Beyond the above limits, the premium paid per ewe will be limited to 50% of the full rate.

3.2. Private storage and intervention

Intervention will be abolished as from 1 January 1990.

In order better to support market prices in the Community, the system of private storage for sheepmeat will be adjusted so that it can act as a "safety net", in the following manner:

- possible opening by the Commission of private storage if the Community market price and the market price in a region falls below 90% of the seasonally adjusted basic price;
- possible opening by the Commission of private storage by tender if those market prices fall below 85% of the seasonally adjusted basic price;
- the Commission must open up private storage to the tendering procedure in any region or regions where the market price falls below 70% of the seasonally adjusted basic price.

The use of tendering will enable the Commission to determine precisely the quantities it wants to store and to indicate the appropriate level of aid, so that the system functions effectively.

Private storage will operate on the basis of the quoted regions and cuts will be allowed.

3.3. Payments on account

Member States will be authorized to make, on the basis of Community funding, one half-yearly payment on account to all producers before the end of each half-year, equivalent to 30% of the compensatory sheepmeat premium that has been set on the basis of an estimate prepared by the Management Committee of

the income loss forecast for the whole of the marketing year.

3.4. Eligible ewe

The current definition of an eligible ewe will be retained pending new proposals from the Commission.

3.5. Agri-monetary

The Commission will closely follow the development of any monetary discrepancies in the sheepmeat sector and their effects on the market situation and will, if necessary, submit appropriate proposals to the Council.

4. Price monitoring

The Council requests the Commission, together with the third countries concerned, to examine the possibility of fixing the threshold that triggers monitoring arrangements at 55% of the representative market price under the CMO for Member States which have joined in the unified arrangements.

5. Stabilizers

The Council notes that the Commission, as provided for in the conclusions of the European Council of February 1988, intends to submit suitable proposals for stabilizers before the start of the next marketing year.

The Regulation will be formally adopted after legal and linguistic editing of the texts.

VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY AND
NEW ZEALAND ON TRADE IN MUTTON, LAMB AND GOATMEAT

The Council reached agreement by a qualified majority on the adaptation to the voluntary restraint agreement between the European Economic Community and New Zealand on trade in mutton, lamb and goatmeat.

The main points of the agreement may be summarized as follows:

The quantity to be imported is reduced to 205 000 tonnes.

A maximum quantity of 6 000 tonnes of chilled products is fixed for the first year, on the understanding that this quantity will be increased by 1 500 tonnes per annum for the following three years.

A system of price surveillance is established, ensuring, inter alia, a balanced relationship between prices of imported products and those of the internal market.

The levies set autonomously are suspended at zero for the duration of the arrangement, subject to observance of the conditions fixed in the context of the price surveillance system.

The agreement is concluded for four years.

Specific quantities are laid down for import into France and Ireland.

IMPORT OF NEW ZEALAND BUTTER INTO THE UNITED KINGDOM

The Council agreed to extend once more on a temporary basis the existing provisions relating to the arrangements for the import of New Zealand butter into the United Kingdom on special terms.

The extension will apply from 1 August to 30 September 1989. The quantity which may be imported from 1 January to 30 September 1989 on the same terms as before will therefore be 55 875 tonnes.

OPERATION OF THE QUOTA SYSTEM IN THE MILK SECTOR

In April 1989, when the prices package was agreed, the Council asked the Commission to make an in-depth study of the milk quotas system and, where appropriate, to make suitable proposals to resolve certain specific problems in the various Member States.

Pending receipt of the European Parliament's Opinion, the Council carried out an initial study of the proposals submitted by the Commission, which are intended for the most part to resolve certain specific problems, in particular those of young producers, newly-established producers, small producers with non-viable quotas and producers with a development plan.

In order to deal with these problems, it is proposed that the Community reserve be increased by 1%, thus enabling each Member State to be allocated 1% of its guaranteed total quantity as a supplement.

To enable the guaranteed total quantity available to be adhered to, provision is being made for 1% of the 5,5% of the guaranteed quantities suspended in the past to be transformed into a definitive reduction.

It is also proposed that the right to compensation for suspended guaranteed quantities be restricted to producers who comply with their quota; in return, the amount of individual compensation will be increased to remain overall within the same limits as those laid down for compensation of the 5,5% mentioned above.

The Council congratulated the Commission on presenting this report, together with the proposals, within the time limit set.

At the end of its discussion, the Council noted the advantages of the Commission proposal and recalled the comments by some delegations which asked for a more detailed technical examination of the texts. It therefore asked the Special Committee on Agriculture to continue its work on this subject, particularly the technical aspects, and to report back in time for its next meeting, to enable the proposed Regulations to be adopted after receipt of the European Parliament's Opinion.

APPLICATION OF THE COMMUNITY SET-ASIDE SCHEME FOR ARABLE LAND

In accordance with the decisions taken when the prices package was agreed in April 1989, the Commission sent the Council a report, together with a proposal, concerning the application of the set-aside scheme.

The Council took note of the report, which establishes that at this stage the results of the application of the scheme are not yet those which were anticipated, and also noted the comments made by the delegations during the discussion.

The Council unanimously recognized the need for the set-aside scheme to be applied more vigorously and more equally in all the Member States and, in certain cases, for the premium per hectare to be raised.

As for the proposal, the Council noted, pending receipt of the European Parliament's Opinion, that the "adequate publicity" aspect was regarded favourably. This entailed Member States setting up an adequate publicity campaign to spread awareness of the opportunities afforded by the scheme as widely as possible among farmers.

With regard to the other detailed arrangements provided for in the proposal, such as the increase in the rate of EAGGF aid, the Council instructed the Special Committee on Agriculture to continue studying these and to report back.

DROUGHT

The Council discussed the consequences of the current drought in several regions of the Community, particularly for some plant crops and for stock-farming.

The Council took note of the Commission's intention of studying the situation case by case and of looking into ways and means to give the necessary aid.

ADDITIONAL CO-RESPONSIBILITY LEVY IN THE CEREALS SECTOR

The Council heard all the delegations express misgivings about the application of the additional co-responsibility levy system.

After stating that there was still uncertainty regarding harvest statistics, the Commission stated that it would attempt to provide the Council with information on the subject as soon as possible.

EMERGENCY MEASURE TO ASSIST POLAND

Following the Paris Summit and the conclusions of the General Affairs Council on 17 and 18 July on Poland, the Council on 20 July received a proposal for a Regulation on an emergency measure for the free supply of certain agricultural products to Poland.

At the same time, the Council received information from the Commission on the products and quantities which might be included in the measure.

The Council decided to adopt the Regulation enabling the Commission to implement the measure in accordance with the Management Committee procedure, either by making use of intervention stocks or by making available products to be disposed of following buying-in operations.

The Council and the Commission stated that, at this stage, they intended a one-off emergency measure for Poland, involving the following approximate quantities:

- 500 000 tonnes of wheat of breadmaking quality;
- 300 000 tonnes of feed-grain (maize, barley, rye);

- 10 000 tonnes of beef and veal;
- 5 000 tonnes of olive oil;
- 20 000 tonnes of citrus fruit.

Consideration may be given to the inclusion of other products.

The cost is estimated at ECU 110 million, to which will be added a sum of ECU 15 to ECU 20 million for transport costs. This expenditure will be met out of the EAGGF, Guarantee Section, for the financial years 1989 and 1990.

The Commission will report back before 31 December 1990 on the implementation of the measure.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONSOther decisions relating to the common agricultural policy

The Council adopted the Regulations:

- amending Regulation No 354/79 laying down general rules for the import of wines, grape juice and grape must
- amending Regulation No 1873/84 authorizing the offer or disposal for direct human consumption of certain imported wines which may have undergone oenological processes not provided for in Regulation (EEC) No 337/79.

These amendments are designed to extend until 31 December 1989 certain concessions relating to import and to the recognition of oenological processes, which have been granted to wines originating in the United States.

- on general rules for the classification of vine varieties
- laying down general rules for the import of wines, grape juice and grape must
- defining certain products of the wine sector falling within Combined Nomenclature codes 2009 and 2204, and originating in third countries
- laying down general rules for the description and presentation of wines and grape musts.

These four Regulations are designed to achieve legislative consolidation of the wine Regulations Nos 347/79, 354/79, 339/79 and 355/79.

- amending Regulation No 3247/81 in respect of the financing of the costs of disposal provided for in Article 37(2) of Regulation (EEC) No 822/87
- opening and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for Chinese cabbages originating in the Canary Islands (1989).

This Regulation adjusts the import duty, on quantities imported under the quota according to the timetable provided for in the Act of Accession.

- amending Regulation No 1117/78 on the common organization of the market in dried fodder.

The aim of this amendment is to increase aid for fodder which is sun-dried in Spain, since the present level does not ensure competitiveness with fodder which is artificially dehydrated.

- amending Regulation No 1316/86 adopting certain conditions regarding the application in Portugal of Regulation (EEC) No 797/85 on improving the efficiency of agricultural structures.

This Regulation extends for three years, from 1 September 1989, the derogations laid down for Portugal.

The Council also adopted the Decision introducing Community measures to set up pilot projects for the control of rabies with a view to its eradication or prevention. These measures - for which Community financial aid has been earmarked - will apply for a three-year period.

Fisheries policy

The Council adopted the Regulation amending for the second time Regulation No 4194/88 banning herring-fishing in the Celtic Sea between 1 and 16 November 1989 and increasing the TAC of cod in ICES divisions VIIb,c,d,e,f,g,h,j and k, VIII, IX and X AND CECAF division 34.1.1.

Credit institutions

Following the agreements on substance made at the meeting of the Economic and Financial Affairs Council on 19 June 1989 (see Press Release 7428/89 (Presse 119)), the Council formally adopted the common positions with a view to the adoption of:

- the second Directive on the co-ordination of laws, regulations and administrative provisions relating to the taking-up and pursuit of the business of credit institutions and amending Directive 77/780/EEC
- the Directive on a solvency ratio for credit institutions,

which will be forwarded immediately to the European Parliament under the co-operation procedure.

Customs union

The Council adopted the Regulations:

- opening and providing for the administration of an autonomous Community tariff quota for aniline (5 000 tonnes at zero duty for the period up to 31 December 1989);

- increasing (from 600 to 1 100 tonnes) the Community tariff quota for 1989 opened by Regulation No 4186/88 for certain flat-rolled products.

Relations with the EFTA countries

The Council adopted the common position on the draft Decisions of the EEC-EFTA Joint Committees altering the limits expressed in ecus in Article 8 of Protocol 3 concerning the concept of "originating products" and methods of administrative co-operation.

Textiles

The Council adopted the Regulations on the provisional application of the Agreed Minutes amending the Agreements between the European Economic Community and, respectively,

- the Kingdom of Thailand,
- the Islamic Republic of Pakistan,
- the Republic of India,
- Hong Kong,

on trade in textile products.

Computerized reservation systems (CRSs)

The Council adopted the Regulation on a code of conduct for computerized reservations systems (CRSs) used for scheduled air passenger services (see Press Release 7086/89 (Presse 101)) of Transport Council of 5 June 1989.

Public contracts

The Council adopted the common position with a view to the adoption of the Directive on the application of redress procedures regarding the award of public supply and public works contract, which is designed to facilitate compliance with Community rules in this area (see Press Release 7324/89 (Presse 112) of Internal Market Council of 14 June 1989).

Appointments

On a proposal from the French Government, the Council appointed Mr Charles PELLETIER a member of the Economic and Social Committee to replace Mr Jean-Claude CLAVEL, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which runs until 20 September 1990.

The Council also replaced:

- two members of the Advisory Committee on Freedom of Movement for Workers
- one member and one alternate of the Advisory Committee on Vocational Training
- one member of the Advisory Committee on Social Security for Migrant Workers.

PRESS RELEASE

8090/89 (Presse 138)

1341st Council meeting

- Budget -

Brussels, 28 July 1989

President: Mr Michel CHARASSE
Minister attached to the Ministre d'Etat,
Minister for Economic Affairs,
Finance and the Budget,
with responsibility for the
Budget of the French Republic

The Governments of the Member States and the Commission of the European Communities were represented as follows:

Belgium

Mrs Wiviana DE MEESTER State Secretary for Finance

Denmark

Mr Jørgen ØRSTRØM MØLLER State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Germany

Mr Hans TIETMEYER State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Finance

Greece

Mr Sotiris HATZIGAKIS Deputy Minister for Economic Affairs

Spain

Mr José BORRELL State Secretary for Finance

France

Mr Michel CHARASSE Minister attached to the Ministre d'Etat,
Ministry of Economic Affairs,
Finance and the Budget, with responsibility
for the Budget

Ireland

Mr Brendan DALY Deputy Minister at the Department of Finance

Italy

Mr Enrico PIETROMARCHI

Deputy Permanent Representative

Luxembourg

Mr Jean-Claude JUNCKER

Minister for the Budget

Netherlands

B.J.M. Baron van VOORST
tot VOORST

State Secretary, Ministry of
Foreign Affairs

Portugal

Mr Rui ALVAREZ CARP

State Secretary for the Budget

United Kingdom

The Earl of CAITHNESS

Paymaster General

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Commission

Mr Peter SCHMIDHUBER

Member

1990 BUDGET PROCEDURE

Before embarking on an examination of the preliminary draft general budget for 1990, the Council met a European Parliament delegation headed by its President Mr Enrique BARON CRESPO and comprising Mr von der VRING, Chairman of the Committee on Budgets, Mr PRICE, Chairman of the Committee on Budgetary Control, Mr CORNELISSEN, second Deputy Chairman of the Committee on Budgets, Mr TOMLINSON, Rapporteur on Section III of the Budget, Mr BLOT, Mr COLOM I NAVAL, Mr LAMASSOURE, Mr PASTY and Mr SAMLAND, Members of the Committee on Budgets.

At that meeting, participants were able to give their opinions on the main problems and the priorities to be adopted in drawing up the draft budget for 1990.

The Council and Parliament representatives confirmed that they very much supported the Inter-institutional Agreement and welcomed the improvement in the budget procedure which had resulted from the Agreement and compliance with it.

They also stressed the importance of continuing to fully observe budgetary restraint in the case both of agriculture and all areas of budget management.

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The Council then embarked on a first reading of the 1990 budget. Following its discussions, the Council established the draft budget for 1990 and this will be forwarded to the European Parliament in the course of the budget procedure; the President of the Council will be presenting this draft at the plenary session of the European Parliament on 12 September 1989.

The main elements in the draft are as follows:

OVERALL AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE RESULTING FROM THE COUNCIL'S DISCUSSIONS (in MECU - provisional figures rounded off)

Commitment appropriations (CA)	48.194
Payment appropriations (PA)	46.138

including non-compulsory expenditure of:

CA	16.251
PA	14.222

The breakdown of appropriations is as follows (in MECU - provisional figures rounded off)

	CA	PA
EAGGF Guarantee	26.522,00	26.522,0
EAGGF Guidance	1.700,0	1.651,5
Set-aside and income aid	225,0	225,0
Depreciation of agricultural stocks	1.470,0	1.470,0
Monetary reserve	1.000,0	1.000,0
Regional Fund (ERDF)	5.408,0	4.704,5
Social Fund (ESF)	4.075,0	3.322,0
PEDIP (Specific industrial development programme for Portugal)	108,0	101,0
IMPs (Integrated Mediterranean programmes)	344,0	303,0
Research (Framework programme)	1.533,0	1.298,7
Other policies	2.500,0	2.241,0
comprising: Food aid	497,6	499,8
Aid to Latin America and Asia	375,6	245,2
Administration - Commission	1.492,0	1.492,0
- Other Institutions	815,8	815,8
Refunds to Member States	2.381,0	2.381,0

The Council also adopted the following positions on certain specific points; accordingly:

- on measures to combat fraud, the Council entered MECU 70 in the budget comprising MECU 40 under heading B 382 (CE), MECU 21 under heading B 298 (CE) and MECU 9 under heading A 353 (NCE);
- on staff, the Council agreed to instruct the Permanent Representatives Committee to submit a draft joint text drawn up in agreement with the Commission and asking the Court of Auditors, pursuant to Article 206a(4) of the EEC Treaty, to carry out an audit in respect of staff of the Council and the Commission;
- on food aid, the Council in the main supported the Commission and agreed to almost all the commitment appropriations proposed in the preliminary draft budget; by way of a reserve, it entered in Chapter 100 MECU 26 in commitment appropriations and MECU 11 in payment appropriations.

The European Parliament will hold a first reading of the budget at its part-session from 23 to 27 October 1989.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONSContinuation of ACP-EEC negotiations for the renewal of the ACP-EEC Convention

The Council defined the Community position on five of the main chapters of negotiations in preparation for the forthcoming ACP-EEC Convention, namely: trade, STABEX, SYSMIN, commodities and the geographical scope of the future Convention. On these bases, the Commission will continue negotiations with the ACP partners in preparation for the fourth ministerial negotiating session planned for 10 and 12 October 1989.

Industrial policy

The Council adopted:

- the Resolution on the development of the Community mining industry,
- the Decision relating to the improvement of the business environment and the promotion of the development of enterprises, in particular of small and medium-sized enterprises, in the Community.

(See Press Release 7429/89 Presse 120 - Industry Council on 21 June 1989).

Good laboratory practice

The Council adopted the Decision on the acceptance by the EEC of an OECD Decision/Recommendation on compliance with principles of good laboratory practice.

Customs Union

The Council adopted the Regulation amending Regulation No 2763/83 as regards arrangements for processing under customs control.

Education

The Council adopted the Decision establishing an action programme to promote the knowledge of foreign languages in the European Community (see Press Release 6614/89 Presse 86 - Education Council of 22 May 1989).

Common agricultural policy

The Council adopted the Regulation amending Regulation No 1277/84 laying down general rules for the system for production aid for processed fruit and vegetables..

Fisheries policy

The Council adopted the Regulations:

- opening and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for herring, fresh or chilled, originating in Sweden (20.000 tonnes at zero duty for the period from 15 September 1989 to 14 February 1990)
- amending Regulation No 3951/88 reducing, in order to conserve stocks, the Community catch possibilities for cod stocks for 1989 from 84.000 tonnes to 58.000 tonnes in the Regulatory Area as defined in the NAFO Convention
- introducing an additional quota for 1989 of 8.000 tonnes of capelin for Denmark in Greenland waters.

The Council also adopted the Decisions on:

- the conclusion of the Fisheries Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters concerning the provisional application of the Protocol defining the fishing opportunities and the financial contribution provided for by the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Democratic Republic of Madagascar on fishing off Madagascar for the period from 21 May 1989 to 20 May 1992. This Agreement provides for an increase from 40 to 45 licences for fishing for tuna as well as joint experimental campaigns for fishing for shellfish;
- the conclusion of the Fisheries Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters on the provisional application of the Protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and financial contribution provided for in the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Government of the People's Republic of Angola for the period from 3 May 1989 to 2 May 1990. This Agreement lays down a maximum for Community fishing of 5.000 tonnes of shrimps per annum, the activity of 28 ocean refrigerated tuna-fishing vessels and, by way of experiment, three demersal trawlers and two surface long-liners.

Environment

The Council took note of a Commission communication concerning Community participation in the Conference on the revision of the Montreal Protocol on substances that deplete the ozone layer.

Commercial policy

The Council adopted Regulations opening and providing for the administration of:

- Community tariff quotas for Chinese cabbages and "Iceberg" lettuce originating in Morocco and Cyprus, as follows:

Chinese cabbages: - Morocco: 100 tonnes at a duty rate of 9.5% for the period 1 November to 31 December 1989

- Cyprus : 110 tonnes at a duty rate of 12.3% for the period 1 November to 31 December 1989

"Iceberg" lettuce: - Morocco: 100 tonnes at duty rates of 12.3% for the period 1 to 30 November 1989 and 7.8% from 1 to 31 December 1989

- Cyprus: 110 tonnes at duty rates of 12.3% for the period 1 to 30 November 1989 and 10.6% from 1 to 31 December 1989

- Community tariff quotas for cut flowers and flower buds, fresh, originating in Morocco, Jordan, Israel and Cyprus (Morocco: 300 tonnes, Jordan: 50 tonnes and Israel: 17.000 tonnes at duty rates of 8.5% for the period 1 November to 31 December 1989, 6.3% from 1 January to 31 May 1990 and 9% from 1 June to 31 October 1990; Cyprus: 57.5 tonnes at duty rates of 13.9% from 1 November to 31 December 1989, 12.4% from 1 January to 31 May 1990 and 17.5% from 1 June to 31 October 1990)

- a Community tariff quota for certain wines with a registered designation of origin originating in Tunisia (58.333 tonnes at a zero rate of duty for the period 1 November 1989 to 31 December 1990).

EEC-Cyprus relations

The Council approved, as regards the Community side, the Decision of the EEC-Cyprus Association Council derogating from the provisions concerning the definition of the concept of "originating products" laid down in the Agreement establishing an association between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Cyprus.

Tropical products

The Council adopted a Regulation relating to the implementation of the Community offer concerning manioc and similar products for the LLDCs. This Regulation supplements the undertakings given during the Mid-Term Review in the field of tropical products, and follows up the Regulations already adopted on the subject (implementation of tariff concessions and abolition of certain quantitative restrictions).

Japan - quantitative restrictions

The Council adopted a Regulation on the abolition of certain national quantitative restrictions following on the arrangement agreed with Japan in March 1989.

ECSC

The Council gave its assent, pursuant to Article 55(2)(c) of the ECSC Treaty, to the grant of financial aid for a joint research programme on safety in the coal and steel industries.

Appointments

The Council appointed members and alternate members of the Committee of the European Social Fund.

It also replaced a member of the ECSC Consultative Committee who had resigned.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

No record of a 1342nd meeting.

PRESS RELEASE

8499/89 (Presse 154)

1343rd meeting of the Council

- RESEARCH -

Brussels, 18 September 1989

President: Mr Hubert CURIEN
Minister for Research
and Technology
of the French Republic

Presse 154 - G

The Governments of the Member States and the Commission of the European Communities were represented as follows:

Belgium:

Mr Pierre CHEVALIER State Secretary for Science Policy, attached
to the Minister for Science Policy

Denmark:

Mr Esper LARSEN Ambassador, Permanent Representative

Germany:

Mr Heinz RIESENHUBER Federal Minister for Research and Technology

Greece:

Mr Michail PAPAKONSTANTINOU Minister for Industry, Energy and Technology

Spain:

Mr Javier SOLANA MADARIAGA Minister for Education and Science

Mr Juan Manuel ROJO ALAMINOS State Secretary for the Universities and
Research

France:

Mr Hubert CURIEN Minister for Research and Technology

Ireland:

Mr Michael SMITH Minister for Science and Technology

Italy:

Mr Antonio RUBERTI

Minister for Universities, Scientific Research
and TechnologyLuxembourg:

Mr René STEICHEN

Minister responsible for Cultural Affairs and
Scientific ResearchNetherlands:

Mr R.W. de KORTE

Minister for Economic Affairs

Portugal:

Mr Luis VALENTE DE OLIVEIRA

Minister for Planning and
Territorial AdministrationUnited Kingdom:

Mr Douglas HOGG

Minister for Industry and Enterprise

Commission:

Mr Mario PANDOLFI

Vice-President

FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME FOR RESEARCH AND
TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT (1990-1994)

The Council held a detailed policy discussion on the proposal for a Decision which the Commission submitted to it in August concerning a new framework programme of Community activities in the field of research and technological development for the period 1990 to 1994.

In order to set the direction of the debate, the President had put a number of questions to the Council concerning:

- the nature of the new five-year framework programme and how it linked in with the preceding programme;
- the interlinking of the scientific and technical programming with the financial data in the inter-institutional agreement;
- the dual decision mechanism proposed for each of the specific programmes in connection with the review of the framework programme to take place in 1992;
- the structure of the framework programme covering a limited number of specific programmes and the responsibilities which should therefore devolve upon the Committees responsible for assisting the Commission in implementing these programmes;
- the measures proposed for the dissemination and exploitation of research results.

At the close of the debate, the President noted that the discussions had been most fruitful and that delegations were unanimous in wishing to progress towards a decision defining the new framework programme for the period 1990 to 1994, on the understanding that the programme would be revised in 1992 in order to

determine precisely what action should be taken in 1993 to 1994, in accordance with the same decision-making rules as had been adopted for the initial framework programme, and in compliance with the budgetary procedure.

The President also pointed out that the debate had highlighted a number of points which needed to be examined in greater depth, namely:

- concentration on six lines of activities requiring additional information on the content and financial breakdown of these activities;
- the need to ensure continuity between the specific programmes currently under way (37) and those arising out of the new framework programme;
- the scope of the revision of the framework programme in 1992;
- the improvements to be made to programme management;
- the role of the framework programme from the point of view of the aim of economic cohesion within the Community and the need to ensure the participation of small and medium-sized undertakings and of universities and research centres at every level.

Regarding these problems, the Council noted that the Commission would be submitting two working documents in time for the next meeting at the beginning of October of the Scientific and Technical Research Committee (CREST) giving

- its written reactions to the evaluation report concerning the current framework programme presented by five independent experts

and

- additional information on the content and indicative breakdown of the financial amounts deemed necessary for the six activities proposed.

In conclusion, with a view to preparing its discussion on the subject on 17 October 1989 the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine the budgetary and institutional aspects in depth and instructed CREST to examine the scientific and technical aspects.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONSRelations with the EFTA countries

The Council adopted the Regulations on the implementation of Decisions No 1/89 and No 2/89 of the EEC-EFTA Joint Committees amending Protocol No 3 concerning the definition of the concept of originating products and methods of administrative co-operation and establishing provisions for the implementation of the Joint Declaration annexed to Decision No 1/88 of the EEC-EFTA Joint Committees.

Environment

The Council adopted the Decision authorizing the Commission to take part, on behalf of the Community, in the negotiations on the adoption by the International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine against Pollution of draft Recommendations to the Contracting Parties intended to supplement, in respect of certain organochlorine compounds, Annex IV to the Convention for the Protection of the Rhine against Chemical Pollution.

Appointments

The Council replaced:

- a member of the European Social Fund Committee

- a member of the Advisory Committee on the Training of Midwives.

PRESS RELEASE

8500/89 (Presse 155)

1344th meeting of the Council

- INTERNAL MARKET -

Brussels, 18 September 1989

President: Mrs Edith CRESSON

Minister for European Affairs
of the French Republic

The Governments of the Member States and the Commission of the European Communities were represented as follows:

Belgium:

Mr Paul DE KEERSMAEKER State Secretary for European
Affairs and Agriculture

Denmark:

Mr Neils Henrik SLIBEN Deputy Permanent Representative

Germany:

Mr Helmut HAUSSMANN Federal Minister for Economic Affairs

Greece:

Mr D. DANILATOS Secretary-General, Ministry of Trade

Spain:

Mr Pedro SOLBES State Secretary for Relations with
the European Communities

France:

Mrs Edith CRESSON Minister for European Affairs

Mrs Véronique NEIRETZ State Secretary for Consumer Affairs

Ireland:

Mr Terry LEYDEN Minister of State at the Department
of Industry and Commerce

Italy:

Mr Pierluigi ROMITA

Minister for Community Policies

Mr Adolfo BATTAGLIA

Minister for Industry

Luxembourg:

Mr Georges WOHLFART

State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Netherlands:

B.J.M. Baron van VOORST tot VOORST

State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Portugal:

Mr Vasco VALENTE

Deputy Permanent Representative

United Kingdom:

Mr John REDWOOD

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State,
Department of Trade and IndustryCommission:

Mr Martin BANGEMANN

Vice-President

Sir Leon BRITTAN

Vice-President

CONTROL OF CONCENTRATIONS

The Council held a detailed debate on the key points in the draft Regulation on control of concentrations, on the basis of a Presidency compromise.

Following the debate the President summarized the outcome of the discussion as follows:

- The Council agreed to seek a final decision at the meeting to be held on 10 October 1989.
- It welcomed the broad outlines of the compromise submitted by the Presidency as the basis for a global solution.
- On the question of thresholds, the Council did not reach a final agreement, but established a consensus on the principle of a four-year transitional period, at the end of which a decision would be taken on a revision.
- Nearly all the delegations could agree to ECU 5 000 million as a starting point for the transitional period.
- The Commission reaffirmed its intention to propose a downward revision.
- Following a proposal from the Netherlands, there emerged a broad consensus in favour of empowering the Commission, in view of the high level of the thresholds, to intervene in respect of concentrations even below the thresholds, if they affected trade between Member States and threatened competition. This right to intervene would be reviewed at the same time as the thresholds.

- Regarding the criteria, it was generally agreed that the Presidency's text provided a basis for agreement.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to clarify the exact terms of the compromise and to settle the other questions outstanding in the compromise and in the draft Regulation (most importantly, Articles 3 and 5).

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNAL MARKET

The Council heard an introduction by Vice-President BANGEMANN of a Commission communication on implementation of the legal acts required to build the single market. The communication contained a general appraisal of progress in putting the White Paper into practice and took stock of the transposal and implementation of the directives pertaining to the single market.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to report back to it at a forthcoming meeting on ways to improve the situation.

COMMUNITY PATENT

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

1. The Council is conscious of the political necessity of respecting the 1993 objective for the introduction of the Community patent, which constitutes an important element in the completion of the internal market.
2. The Council has agreed that a Conference of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States will be convened by the Presidency in Luxembourg from 11 to 15 December 1989 with the aim of drawing up the definitive text of the Agreement relating to Community patents, which will be open for signing by the twelve Member States at the end of the Conference.

The Conference will have to settle the two technical problems which remained unresolved at the Luxembourg Conference of 1985, namely the scale for the distribution between the Member States of revenue from charges on Community patents and the arrangements concerning translations and publication of Community patents, and it will also have to resolve the problems posed by conclusion of the Agreement for Spain and Portugal, as a result of the obligations devolving upon these two countries by virtue of their accession to the Communities. The entry into force of the Agreement will be subject to ratification by the twelve Member States.

3. Taking into account the aim of introducing the Community patent on 1 January 1993 and the risk that the difficulties which have hitherto prevented the 1975 Community Patent Convention from being ratified by certain Member States may not be resolved by that date, a Protocol worded as follows will have to be adopted:

"If by 31 December 1991 the Agreement has not entered into force, a Conference of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States is authorized to fix the number of Member States which must ratify the Agreement for it to enter into force."

The Protocol itself will come into force after ratification by the twelve Member States of the European Communities.

4. The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to prepare for the Conference to be held from 11 to 15 December 1989 and in particular to prepare basic drafts on which the Conference would be asked to decide.

RIGHT OF RESIDENCE

The Council referred to the three proposals for directives on the right of residence and instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its work, with a view to reporting to the Council at its next meeting on 10 October 1989.

EEC-SWITZERLAND INSURANCE AGREEMENT

The Council agreed to enter this question as an "A" item on the agenda for its next meeting, scheduled for 26 September 1989.

EQUIVALENCE OF DIPLOMAS OF A LEVEL LOWER THAN 3 YEARS' POST-SECONDARY

The Council agreed to postpone examination of this item until its next meeting, scheduled for 10 October 1989.

CERTIFICATION AND TESTS

The Council agreed to defer this item until its next meeting, on 10 October 1989.

VARIOUS DECISIONS

Signing of the EEC-Poland Agreement

The Council approved the results of the negotiations conducted by the Commission with Poland with a view to conclusion of an agreement on trade and on economic and commercial co-operation, and decided to proceed with the signing of the Agreement subject to its conclusion.

The signing is to take place in Warsaw on Tuesday, 19 September 1989.

Anti-dumping

The Council adopted the Regulation imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of calcium metal originating in the People's Republic of China (21,8%) and the Soviet Union (22,0%) and definitively collecting the provisional anti-dumping duty imposed on such imports.

Trade Agreements

The Council adopted the Decision authorizing extension or tacit renewal of certain trade agreements concluded between Member States and third countries.

Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods

The Council adopted the Decision accepting, on behalf of the Community, the Resolution of the Inland Transport Committee of the Economic Commission for Europe (UN) concerning technical assistance measures for the implementation of the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods (Resolution No 230 of 4.2.1983).

Fertilizers

The Council adopted the Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States supplementing and amending Directive 76/116/EEC in respect of the trace elements boron, cobalt, copper, iron, manganese, molybdenum and zinc contained in fertilizers.

PRESS RELEASE

8501/89 (Presse 156)

1345th meeting of the Council

- Environment -

Brussels, 19 September 1989

President: Mr Brice LALONDE

State Secretary
for the Environment of the
French Republic

PRESS RELEASE

Brussels, 28 September 1989

8501/89 (Presse 156)

COR 1 (en)

CORRIGENDUM

Subject: 1345th meeting of the Council (Environment)

- Press release

On page 15 of the press release, under the heading "Preparation for the CSCE meeting on the protection of the environment", the third indent of the second paragraph should read as follows:

"- pollution of transboundary water courses and international lakes".

The Governments of the Member States and the Commission of the European Communities were represented as follows:

Belgium:

Mrs Miet SMET State Secretary for the Environment

Denmark:

Mr Mogens BUNDGAARD-NIELSEN State Secretary for the Environment

Germany:

Mr Klaus TOEPFER Federal Minister for the Environment,
Nature Conservation and Reactor Safety

Greece:

Mr Sotiris KOUVELAS Minister for the
Environment,
Regional Planning and Public Works

Spain:

Mr Javier SAENZ COSCULLUELA Minister for Public Works and Town
Planning

France:

Mr Brice LALONDE State Secretary for the Environment

Ireland:

Mr Pdraig FLYNN Minister for the Environment

Italy:

Mr Giorgio RUFFOLO

Minister for the Environment

Luxembourg:

Mr Alex BODRY

Minister for the Environment

Netherlands:

Mr E.H.T.M. NIJPELS

Minister for Housing, Planning and
the EnvironmentPortugal:

Mr Luis VALENTE DE OLIVEIRA

Minister for Planning and Territorial
Administration

Mr José MACARIO CORREIA

State Secretary for the Environment

United Kingdom:

Mr Christopher PATTEN

Minister for the Environment

o

o

o

Commission:

Mr Carlo RIPA DI MEANA

Member

GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS

When the Council had discussed this question the President noted that a qualified majority had reached political agreement on the proposal for a Directive on the deliberate release to the environment of genetically modified organisms.

This Directive and that on the contained use of genetically modified organisms adopted last June are intended to create a coherent framework for the development of biotechnology in the Community in secure conditions.

This Directive is intended to ensure that genetically modified organisms (GMOs) are used in the natural environment under conditions of complete safety. It establishes procedures for notification and approval on a case-by-case basis, which differ according to whether the release is effected for research and development purposes or in products intended for placing on the market.

EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

The Council held an initial discussion on a proposal for a Regulation on the establishment of the European Environment Agency and the European Environment Monitoring and Information Network.

The purpose of the proposal is to establish a European Environment Agency which would be the central point of a Community environmental information network. The purpose of the network, which would consist of the Agency and national centres, would be to provide independent, objective and complete information on the state of the environment so that ecological problems could be evaluated scientifically.

From the discussion it became apparent that all delegations were very much in favour of the proposal and it was possible to make certain key features more specific, such as the status and functions of the Agency and the arrangements for participation by third countries.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to complete its proceedings on the matter so that the Council could adopt the Regulation if possible at its next meeting in November, once the European Parliament had delivered its Opinion.

AMENDMENT OF DIRECTIVE 75/442/EEC ON WASTE

The Council heard Mr RIPA DI MEANA, Member of the Commission, present a new Commission communication on a Community strategy for the management of waste.

The Council then held a discussion on a proposal for the amendment of Directive 75/442/EEC on waste.

The purpose of that proposal is principally:

- to make Directive 75/442/EEC into a framework Directive;
- to introduce new definitions of the terms "waste" and "elimination";
- to strengthen certain priorities, in particular the promotion of clean technologies and recyclable and reusable products;
- to introduce a procedure for the adaptation to technical progress of the Annexes to the Directive.

Following the discussion, which covered, inter alia, the scope of the Directive and its legal basis, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its proceedings on the matter and also requested the Commission to submit new proposals to it in the light of the discussion.

THE REDUCTION OF TECHNOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HAZARDS

The Council adopted the following Resolution:

THE COUNCIL:

1. NOTES that the safety reports concerning hazardous industrial activities covered by Article 5 of Directive 82/501/EEC were to be completed by manufacturers by 8 July 1989; EMPHASIZES that safety reports are an appropriate means of ensuring that the safety of hazardous installations is adequately investigated and all the relevant safety measures are taken in order to prevent major accidents and to curtail their impact on man and the environment; INVITES the Commission to work with the Member States towards mutual understanding and harmonization of national principles and practices regarding safety reports;

2. OBSERVES that accidents such as BHOPAL and MEXICO CITY demonstrated the hazard which arises when dangerous sites and dwellings are close together; RECOGNIZES the importance of controls on land-use planning when new installations are authorized and when urban development takes place around existing installations; CONSIDERS it necessary to include this concern among the obligations laid down by Directive 82/501/EEC (the "SEVESO Directive"), and INVITES the Commission to investigate ways of doing so as soon as possible;

3. EMPHASIZES the importance of keeping the public actively informed on industrial hazards; NOTES with satisfaction the work carried out at the European Conference organized at Varese (Italy) in May 1989; INVITES the Commission, inter alia on the basis of that work, to draft a practical guide to facilitate implementation of the second amendment of Directive 82/501/EEC on the major-accident hazards of certain industrial activities;
4. CONFIRMS the desirability of pooling the experience gained from industrial accidents which have occurred within the EEC; NOTES that uncertainty remains as to the level of the accidents to be examined; RECOMMENDS the use, for reference purposes and for a trial period of two years, of the accident gravity scale drawn up by the committee of competent authorities responsible for implementing Directive 82/501/EEC; NOTES the relevant technical contribution made by the Joint Research Centre and INVITES the Commission to review the accident gravity scale in the light of the outcome of that trial period, and to submit a proposal on appropriate developments;
5. RECOGNIZES that the transport of dangerous substances is a matter for concern as regards environmental protection, safety and the safeguarding of human life; REITERATES the need to establish a common risk prevention approach as regards the transport of dangerous substances and waste; WISHES this approach to fulfil the conditions for full realization of the objective of a single market in transport;

6. CONSIDERS that effective implementation of the agreements of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe on the transport of dangerous substances would improve environmental protection; CONSIDERS furthermore that it would be opportune, particularly with a view to completion of the internal market, to review, by an appropriate procedure, the whole of Community legislation having implications for the transport of dangerous substances and waste (rules on transport, on hazardous materials, and on fixed loading, unloading or storage installations) so that the Commission can make any appropriate proposals on the matter, bearing in mind existing international agreements and conventions;
7. INVITES the Member States to examine the draft amendment to Annex 3 of the MARPOL Convention, the purpose of which is to introduce an obligation for ships to deposit their bills of lading or other appropriate documents in the port of departure;
8. ENCOURAGES the Member States to take part in the work in progress within the International Maritime Organization on the securing of cargoes and, within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control, to examine the possibility of strengthening controls on operational arrangements such as the securing of cargoes;
9. INVITES the Member States more generally, both as flag States responsible for their vessels complying with international agreements, and as port States co-operating under the Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control, to step up their efforts to see that the standards laid down under the aegis of the International Maritime Organization are increasingly observed;

10. REITERATES the absolute necessity of being able to call on a considerable number of agencies capable of effective intervention in the event of accidental marine pollution and asks the Commission to take the appropriate steps to increase co-operation between Member States' competent authorities still further;
11. EMHASIZES the need to increase knowledge through studies and by appropriate research into the behaviour of chemicals and hydrocarbons in water, and into cleaning techniques and asks the Commission to pay special attention to these matters in its annual programme of studies, pilot projects and training;
12. INVITES the Member States to play a full part in the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (1990-1999) decided by the United Nations and in this connection asks the Commission, in conjunction with the Member States, to start looking into the prevention of natural hazards in the Community, particularly those associated with earthquakes, forest fires and floods;
13. WELCOMES the measures taken regarding technological and natural hazards in the proposals for the 5th STEP and EPOCH research programme; HOPES that the review of the Communities' Framework Programme of Research will afford an opportunity to reappraise research activities in the area of technological and natural hazards and that safety aspects will be taken into account in all Community research programmes, particularly with reference to transport and biotechnology.

CONSERVATION OF TROPICAL FORESTS

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

"The Council noted the willingness of the Member States to promote, through the implementation of policies and the use of Community instruments, the development of extensive co-operation to achieve the necessary conservation and restoration of the tropical forest.

In this connection, the Member States will support the action undertaken by the tropical forest countries, notably in the context of the FAO's Tropical Forest Action Plan and in the ITTO. They stress the need to give increased priority to maintaining a better balance between exploitation and the process of developing and renewing tropical forests.

The Council calls upon the Commission as of now to ensure that this priority is duly registered, particularly in the context of the new ACP-EEC Convention currently under negotiation, in order to help the ACP countries to devise systems for the sustainable management of the resources of the tropical forest, including its genetic potential.

To that end, the Council invites the Commission to support programmes and projects which will help to sustain tropical forest resources and to avoid funding those which might damage them and to explore all the possibilities of reinforcing the Community's capacity to act in this field.

It recommends the use of other co-operation instruments, particularly the agreements with the Asian and Latin American countries, which can help to achieve this objective.

It also recommends that the revised framework programme for research should contain specific aspects relating to the tropical forests and provide for appropriate funding.

The Council also noted the support of the Member States for the adoption of international codes of conduct to promote the principle of sustainable development of tropical forest resources and to protect threatened species. The drafting of such codes of conduct could be entrusted to the ITTO in particular.

The Council instructs the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue the examination of the Commission's communication with a view to preparing a detailed Resolution for the Council's meeting on 28 November."

PROTECTION OF ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

THE COUNCIL:

- takes note of the Commission communication and the proposal for a Council Decision;
- agrees that the Community should back the proposal to transfer the African elephant (*Loxodonta africana*) from Appendix II to Appendix I of the Convention;
- instructs the Community co-ordination group at the Conference to be held in Lausanne from 9 to 20 October 1989 to define common positions in the course of consultation meetings in the light of the exchange of information and of views which will take place on the spot, as well as of the points contained in the Annex to the Commission proposal and the work already carried out by the Council on the matter;
- instructs the Presidency, in conjunction with the Commission and the Member States, to present at the Conference the Community positions on matters within Community competence;

- notes that, in the event of serious difficulties in elaborating Community positions arising at the Conference, those difficulties will be referred to it before any final position is adopted;
- notes that, in the light of the decisions taken at the Conference, the Commission will submit a report to it, possibly accompanied by appropriate proposals for the amendment of Council Regulation (EEC) No 3626/82;
- agrees to inform the European Parliament of the substance of these conclusions.

PREPARATION FOR THE CSCE MEETING ON THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

The Council reached agreement on the broad lines of the Community position for the CSCE meeting to be held in Sofia from 16 October to 3 November 1989.

The subjects to be discussed at that meeting are as follows:

- prevention and control of the transboundary effects of industrial accidents;
- management of potentially hazardous chemicals;
- pollution of transboundary water courses, international lakes and coastal areas;
- exchange of information, etc.

The Community position will be adopted at an on-the-spot co-ordination meeting.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

8595/89 (Presse 160)

1346th Council meeting
- Agriculture -
Brussels, 25 and 26 September 1989

President: Mr Henri NALLET

Minister for Agriculture
of the French Republic

Presse 160 - G

The Governments of the Member States and the Commission of the European Communities were represented as follows:

Belgium

Mr Paul DE KEERSMAEKER State Secretary for European Affairs and
Agriculture

Denmark

Mr Laurits TOERNAES Minister for Agriculture

Germany

Mr Ignaz KIECHLE Federal Minister for Food, Agriculture and
Forestry

Mr Walter KITTEL State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and
Forestry

Greece

Mr Stavros DIMAS Minister for Agriculture

Spain

Mr Carlos ROMERO HERRERA Minister for Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food

France

Mr Henri NALLET Minister for Agriculture

Ireland

Mr Michael O'KENNEDY Minister for Agriculture and Food

Mr Joe WALSH Minister of State at the
Department of Agriculture

COMMON ORGANIZATION OF THE MARKET IN SHEEPMEAT AND GOATMEAT

After settling the last few problems, the Council formally adopted, by a qualified majority, the Regulation on the reform of the common organization of the market in sheepmeat and goatmeat, on which political agreement had been reached on the basis of the compromise at the Council meeting in July 1989 (see Press Release 8089/89 Presse 137, 24 to 26 July 1989).

VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE EEC AND NEW ZEALAND ON TRADE IN MUTTON, LAMB AND GOATMEAT

Following the agreement reached last July, the Council formally adopted the Decision concerning the adaptation of the voluntary restraint agreement between the European Economic Community and New Zealand on trade in mutton, lamb and goatmeat (see Press Release 8089/89 Presse 137, 24 to 26 July 1989). Thanks to the efforts made to achieve a consensus by all delegations, this Decision was adopted unanimously.

CONTINUED IMPORT OF NEW ZEALAND BUTTER INTO THE UNITED KINGDOM

The Council adopted the Regulation relating to the continued import of New Zealand butter into the United Kingdom on special terms.

This Regulation lays down the quantities which may be imported into the United Kingdom over 4 years (1989-1992) with a special reduced levy of 45,83 ECU/100 kg.

The quantities provided for are as follows:

- 64 500 tonnes for 1989
- 61 340 tonnes for 1990
- 58 170 tonnes for 1991
- 55 000 tonnes for 1992.

PAYMENT ON ACCOUNT OF THE EWE PREMIUM FOR THE 1989 MARKETING YEAR

By a Decision taken unanimously pursuant to the third subparagraph of Article 93(2) of the Treaty, the Council authorized the French Government to grant a payment on account of the ewe premium to all producers of sheepmeat and goatmeat, in the form of aid of an amount equivalent to half the estimated premium for the 1989 marketing year.

RATES OF REIMBURSEMENT FOR THE SET-ASIDE OF ARABLE LAND

Pending the European Parliament's Opinion, the Council agreed to endorse a compromise solution submitted by the Presidency and taken up by the Commission concerning the adjustments to be made to the rates of reimbursement by the EAGGF to Member States for expenditure incurred concerning compensation paid for land set aside as from 1 July 1989.

The rates would be as follows:

- 60% for that portion of the premiums from 0 to 300 ECU/ha.
- 25% for that portion of the premiums from 300 to 600 ECU/ha.

The Council will continue its examination of the Commission proposal at its next meeting, in the light of the European Parliament's Opinion, and will then adopt it formally.

OPERATION OF THE QUOTA SYSTEM IN THE MILK SECTOR

Pending the European Parliament's Opinion, the Council resumed its discussion on the proposals aimed at solving specific problems arising in the operation of the milk quota system.

These are intended mainly to:

- improve the operation of the quota system through closer compliance with the guaranteed global quantities, thereby ensuring a closer relationship between deliveries and quotas available;
- resolve a number of problems affecting various categories of producers (special cases) which had not been adequately catered for in all Member States;
- help those Member States which had not succeeded in resolving certain problems encountered in the implementation of the system.

In general, most delegations welcomed the principles underlying the Commission proposals although some delegations wanted a number of amendments made to the texts.

Accordingly, the Council instructed the Special Committee on Agriculture to continue its discussions on the topic and to report back to it for its next meeting in October.

ADJUSTMENT OF THE AGRICULTURAL STRUCTURES POLICY

Following the decisions taken on reforming the Structural Funds, and pending the European Parliament's Opinion, the Council held an initial policy debate on the proposals aimed at adjusting the various measures financed by the EAGGF Guidance Section so that they may carry out in full the specific task of speeding up the adjustment of agricultural structures by means of horizontal measures throughout the Community (Objective 5(a)).

The Council's discussions focused more particularly on the proposal for an amendment to Regulation 797/85 on improving agricultural structures, and which concerns in particular:

- the scope of the material improvement plans;
- the vocational training of farmers;
- determining Community co-financing rates;
- compensatory allowances in less-favoured areas;
- aid for environmentally sensitive areas;
- monitoring provisions.

The proposal to improve the processing and marketing of agricultural and forestry products was also examined.

At the end of this initial discussion, the Council evolved constructive guidelines to enable the Special Committee on Agriculture to continue its work fruitfully and to prepare the Council's proceedings for its forthcoming meetings.

EMERGENCY MEASURES AS A RESULT OF THE CONSEQUENCES OF DROUGHT

The Council took note of the information provided by the Commission on the measures it intends to take in response to France's request, as a result of the very serious consequences of the drought which this year has ravaged a large part of that country.

It also took note of the requests for Community level intervention sent to the Commission by other Member States also affected by drought.

All delegations expressed their solidarity with regard to the measures the Commission will take to help France. The Commission also undertook to examine rapidly the other requests submitted to it.

SOMATOTROPIN (BST)

The Council heard the Commission present the main features of its report on the question of the use of bovine somatotropin (a substance derived from hormones capable of increasing substantially the yield of dairy herds).

Pending completion of the studies now being carried out, the Commission thought it advisable not to authorize the use of this substance, except for experimental purposes, until the end of 1990, which in the Commission's view does not in any way prejudice the decisions to be taken later.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONSOther decisions in the field of the common agricultural policy

The Council adopted the Regulations amending Regulations:

- No 136/66 on the establishment of a common organization of the market in oils and fats;
- No 591/79 laying down general rules concerning the production refund for olive oils used in the manufacture of certain preserved foods.

The aim of these two Regulations is to supplement the list of categories of preserved foods eligible for the production refund arrangements for olive oil used in the manufacture of such foods by including preserved crustaceans and molluscs.

The Council also adopted the Regulations:

- amending Regulation No 1307/85 authorizing Member States to grant a consumption aid for butter.

The aim of this amendment is to extend the aid arrangements laid down by this Regulation for the 1989/1990 marketing year;

- extending Regulation No 1832/85 amending Regulation No 2036/82 adopting general rules concerning special measures for peas, field beans and sweet lupins.

The aim of this Regulation is to extend the transitional measures provided for in Regulation No 1832/85 in order to solve operation adaptation problems following the introduction of the identification procedure in 1986 and 1987;

- establishing Community supervision for the imports of certain agricultural products originating in the Canary Islands (1990).

The aim of this Regulation is to renew the tariff measures provided for in 1987 (Regulation No 1391/87) for 1990.

In addition, the Council adopted the Decisions:

- amending the seventh Decision, 85/355/EEC, on the equivalence of field inspections carried out in third countries on seed-producing crops and the seventh Decision, 85/356/EEC, on the equivalence of seed produced in third countries.

The aim of these amendments is to extend the equivalence granted to Norway and Australia until 30 June 1990;

- designating and laying down the functions of a Reference Laboratory for the identification of foot-and-mouth disease virus.

In application of Article 11 of Directive 85/511/EEC introducing measures for the control of foot-and-mouth disease, the aim of this Decision is to designate the Institute for Animal Health, Pirbright Laboratory, Surrey, England as a Reference Laboratory.

The Council also adopted the Directive on animal health conditions governing intra-Community trade in and importation from third countries of embryos of domestic animals of the bovine species.

Appointments

The Council replaced an alternate member of the Advisory Committee on Pharmaceutical Training.

PRESS RELEASE

8596/89 (Presse 161)

1347th Council meeting

- Industry -

Brussels, 26 September 1989

President: Mr Roger FAUROUX

Minister for Industry and Town
and Country Planning
of the French Republic

Presse 161 - G

8596/89 (Presse 161 - G)

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The Governments of the Member States and the Commission of the European Communities were represented as follows:

Belgium

Mr Willy CLAES Minister for Economic Affairs

Denmark

Mr Nils WILHJELM Minister for Industry

Germany

Mr Dieter von WUERZEN State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs

Greece

Mr Constantinos LYBEROPOULOS Ambassador, Permanent Representative

Spain

Mr Claudio ARANZADI Minister for Industry and Energy

France

Mr Roger FAUROUX Minister for Industry and Town and Country Planning

Mr François DOUBIN Minister for Trade and Craft Trades

Ireland

Mr Desmond O'MALLEY Minister for Industry and Commerce

Italy

Mr Carlo FRANCANZANI

Minister for State Holdings

Luxembourg

Mr Robert GOEBBELS

Minister for Economic Affairs,
Transport and Public Works

Netherlands

Mr Ch.R. van BEUGE

Ambassador, Permanent Representative

Portugal

Mr Alves MONTEIRO

State Secretary for Industry

United Kingdom

Mr Douglas HOGG

Minister of State, Department of Trade
and Industry (Minister for Industry and
Enterprise)

Commission

Mr Martin BANGEMANN

Sir Leon BRITTAN

Mr Antonio CARDOSO E CUNHA

Vice-President

Vice-President

Member

ITALIAN PUBLIC STEEL SECTOR

The Council examined the Commission proposal of 16 June 1989 to postpone certain dates in Commission Decision 89/218/ECSC of 23 December 1988 on the Italian public steel sector.

A very substantial majority of Member States considered that this issue needed to be resolved swiftly and were in favour of the Commission proposal.

The Italian Government was asked to review its position and give its agreement as soon as possible so that the Council could take a unanimous decision in favour of the Commission proposal.

SITUATION ON THE IRON AND STEEL MARKET

The Council took note of a statement by Mr BANGEMANN, analysing the state of and prospects for the iron and steel market: in the present favourable general economic circumstances, production was steadily expanding due to the increased demand experienced to different degrees by the main industrial sectors using iron and steel, such as the automotive, building and shipbuilding industries. Mr BANGEMANN nevertheless emphasized that there should be no let up on the restructuring and modernizing measures already undertaken since, in the longer term, the Commission's earlier forecasts were still valid.

The Council asked the Commission to keep it regularly posted of developments in the situation in this key industrial sector.

RELATION WITH THE UNITED STATES - TRADE IN IRON AND STEEL PRODUCTS

The Council was informed by the Commission of progress in the exploratory talks being held with the United States.

The Council asked the Commission to continue soundings with the American authorities during the next few days to ascertain whether the United States Administration was prepared to make a significant move towards liberalizing the steel sector, as President BUSH had announced on 25 July 1989. The Council noted that the Commission would report back to its meeting on General Affairs on 3 October.

DEVELOPMENT OF SUBCONTRACTING IN THE COMMUNITY

On the basis of a Commission communication, the Council held a policy debate on questions relating to the development of sub-contracting in the Community. At the end of the discussions it adopted the following Resolution:

"THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Whereas the Council adopted on 3 November 1986 a Resolution concerning the action programme for small and medium-sized enterprises, and in July 1989 a Decision relating to the improvement of the business environment and the promotion of the development of enterprises, in particular of small and medium-sized enterprises in the Community;

Whereas, following communications on an enterprise policy for the Community and on "strengthening co-operation between European firms: a response to the 1992 internal market deadline", the Commission has sent to the Council a communication on the development of subcontracting in the Community;

Whereas subcontracting is becoming a strategic choice for enterprises as part of their policy to make increased use of external resources;

Whereas, the completion of the single market in 1992, by offering to enterprises wider market opportunities, will enable a more systematic recourse to cross-border subcontracting and, by reinforcing intra-Community competition, will emphasize structural changes in subcontracting relations;

Whereas the improvement of the enterprise environment is a major factor for the cross-border development of subcontracting;

Whereas access to appropriate and pertinent information and the improvement of communications are particularly important for establishing cross-border subcontracting relationships;

Whereas the adjustment to new demands for competitiveness gives rise to a change in relations between main contractors and subcontractors and will therefore call for special efforts on the part of each partner, in particular as regards the scheduling of orders, the organization of contractual relations, adjusting to new technologies and the development of customer diversification policies;

NOTES with interest the Commission's action so far, and in particular its promotion of cross-border subcontracting;

CALLS upon the Commission to pursue, in concert with the Member States, its general role of instigating, initiating and co-ordinating measures aimed at creating a propitious environment for subcontracting;

ENCOURAGES, in addition to the projects undertaken in the Member States, initiatives to improve the flow of information and communication between main contractors and subcontractors, in particular the continuation of work on multilingual sectoral terminologies and the improvement of the systems to assist in the search for partners;

WELCOMES the possibility of setting up a European Information Centre on Subcontracting and requests the Commission to continue its work, in close collaboration with concerned professional organizations and with the Member States;

STRESSES the importance of promoting more balanced relationships between main contractors and subcontractors and of promoting similarly European subcontracting to third country enterprises;

CONSIDERS that an improvement of the legal framework for subcontracting should be brought about for example by a careful examination of the problem of payment periods and that the special case of public procurement must be studied in depth;

WISHES to be kept informed of the progress of the Commission's work on the development of subcontracting in the Community."

THE ROLE OF CRAFT INDUSTRY AND OF VERY SMALL UNDERTAKINGS IN THE COMMUNITY

Following an introductory statement by Mr CARDOSA E CUNHA, the Council discussed the role of craft industry and of very small undertakings in the Community. This debate formed part of the overall approach on small and medium-sized undertakings, a definition of which has been promised by the Community, and gave delegations an opportunity to state their views on this particular aspect to help pinpoint the special problems facing very small undertakings in the craft industry.

Closing the discussions, the President noted the importance which all delegations placed on this category of undertaking. The Council called upon the Commission to give further thought to the matter in the light of the opinions expressed by the Member States at the meeting and to report back at a forthcoming meeting.

EXTENSION OF PHARMACEUTICAL PATENTS

The Council took note of a statement by Mr BANGEMANN in which he said that, before the end of the year the Commission intended submitting to the Council a proposal for "restoration" measures (prolonging periods of protection) of patents for pharmaceutical products in view of the need to protect innovation and research in the field in order to safeguard the competitiveness of Community industries.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

ECSC

The Council gave its assent in accordance with the second paragraph of Article 54 of the ECSC Treaty to the grant of a global loan to the EFIBANCA - Ente Finanziario Interbancario SpA for financing investment programmes which assist the marketing of Community steel.

The Council also gave its assent to a draft Commission Decision establishing the delivery levels of ECSC steel products of Portuguese origin onto the rest of the Community market, excluding Spain.

EEC-Switzerland insurance agreement

The Council authorized its President to proceed with the signing, subject to approval, of the Agreement between the Swiss Confederation and the European Economic Community on direct insurance other than life assurance.

At the same time, the Council decided under the co-operation procedure to consult the European Parliament forthwith on the proposal for a decision on the conclusion of the Agreement, and on the proposal for a Directive on the implementation of the Agreement by the Community and on the proposal for a Regulation laying down particular provisions for defining the Community's position within the Joint Committee set up under the Agreement. It also requested the Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee.

The Council asked the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee to deliver their Opinions in November so that the Council could adopt its common position on these proposals by the end of the year.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

8773/89 (Presse 165)

1348th Council meeting

- SOCIAL AFFAIRS -

Brussels, 29 September 1989

President: Mr Claude EVIN

Minister for Solidarity
and for Health and Social Security
of the French Republic

Presse 165 - G

The Government of the Member States and the commission of the European Communities were represented as follows:

Belgium

Mr Ph. BUSQUIN Minister for Social Affairs

Denmark

Mr Aase OLESEN Minister for Social Affairs

Germany

Mr Wolfgang VOGT Parliamentary State Secretary to
the Federal Minister for Labour and
Social Affairs

Greece

Mr J. VARTHOLOMEOS Secretary-General, Ministry of
Health, Social Welfare and Social
Security

Spain

Ms Matilde FERNANDEZ Minister for Social Affairs

France

Mr Claude EVIN Minister for Solidarity and for
Health and Social Security

Mrs Hélène DORLHAC State Secretary for the Family
(Ministry of Solidarity)

Mr Michel GILLIBERT State Secretary for the Disabled
(Ministry of Solidarity)

Ireland

Mr Michael WOODS Minister for Social Affairs

Italy

Mr Ugo GRIPPO State Secretary, Ministry of Labour

Luxembourg

Mr Fernand BODEN

Minister for Family Affairs,
Solidarity, Women and Senior
Citizens

Mrs Mady DELVAUX-STEHRES

State Secretary for Social
Security, Health, Sport and Youth

Netherlands

Mr Ch. R. van BEUGE

Deputy Permanent Representative

Portugal

Mr José Albino da SILVA PENEDA

Minister for Labour and Social
Security

United Kingdom

Mrs Gillian SHEPHARD

Secretary of State, Department of
Social Security

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Commission

Mrs Vasso PAPANDREOU

Member

SOCIAL PROTECTION

At the close of a wide-ranging debate which the Council held on questions concerning the future of social protection from the point of view of the Internal Market, the President noted that all the Member States acknowledged the importance of social protection in the lives of European citizens.

He noted too that the Member States of the Community faced the same problems in the conduct of their social policies.

On these bases, the President noted very broad agreement on three main lines of approach:

1. Improve the rules governing the co-ordination of social protection schemes with a view to eliminating all obstacles to the free movement of workers and more generally, persons in the Community.

This improvement should principally concern students and additional retirement schemes.

The Commission should be encouraged to continue working to achieve that end.

2. Strive jointly to achieve three objectives concerning complementary welfare, which is not confined to retirement schemes:
 - guarantee, under the heading of complementary welfare, the acquired rights of persons moving from one Member State to another

- organize conditions of fair competition among the different arrangements which complementary welfare schemes can provide in the Member States
- finally, implement a minimum corpus of common rules guaranteeing insured persons free access to complementary welfare cover.

The Commission was accordingly invited speedily to extend its work to cover the guarantees such complementary welfare would provide.

3. Develop co-operation among Member States to improve their mutual knowledge of their social protection systems and to promote as far as possible the adoption of convergent national solutions on the subject.

To that end, the senior officials of the Member States will conduct, together with the Commission, regular exchanges of information and views on the future prospects for social protection; these could be given a first review by the Council under the Irish Presidency.

Naturally, this approach is not designed to bring about a standardization of social protection rules and must comply in full with the procedures for drafting these rules in the different Member States.

COMBATING SOCIAL EXCLUSION

The Council and Ministers for Social Affairs meeting within the Council held a debate on the problem of combating social exclusion on the basis of a note from the Presidency.

At the close of the debate, they approved the following resolution:

RESOLUTION
OF THE COUNCIL AND THE MINISTERS FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS
MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL
on combating social exclusion

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES AND THE MINISTERS FOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS,
MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL,

1. Recall the efforts already undertaken by the Community and the Member States to combat poverty and to promote the economic and social integration of economically and socially disadvantaged groups of people, demonstrated specifically in the adoption of the third programme to combat poverty.

Emphasize that combating social exclusion may be regarded as an important part of the social dimension of the internal market;

2. Note that the process of social exclusion is spreading in a number of fields, resulting in many different types of situation affecting various individuals and groups of people in both rural and urban areas;
3. Note that the reasons for this process lie in structural changes in our societies and that, of these, difficulty of access to the labour market is a particularly decisive factor;
4. Urge the need for economic development policies to be accompanied by integration policies of a specific, systematic and coherent nature;

5. Affirm that the existence of a series of measures guaranteeing adequate services and resources adapted to the situation of each individual is a fundamental factor in combating social exclusion;
6. Emphasize that social exclusion is not simply a matter of inadequate resources, and that combating exclusion also involves access by individuals and families to decent living conditions by means of measures for social integration and integration into the labour market;
7. Accordingly request the Member States to implement or promote measures to enable everyone to have access to:
 - education, by acquiring proficiency in basic skills,
 - training,
 - employment,
 - housing,
 - community services,
 - medical care;
8. Point in this connection to the effectiveness of co-ordinated, coherent development policies based on active participation by local and national bodies and by the people involved;
9. Undertake to continue and, as necessary, to step up the efforts undertaken in common as well as those made by each Member State, and to pool their knowledge and assessments of the phenomena of exclusion;
10. Consequently call on the Commission:
 - taking account of the studies which exist or are still in progress, to study, together with the Member States, the measures they are taking to combat social exclusion;
 - to report on the measures taken by the Member States and by the Community in the spheres covered by this Resolution within three years of its adoption.

DEMOGRAPHY AND FAMILY POLICIES

The Council and Ministers responsible for Family Affairs, meeting within the Council, examined the Commission communication on family policies further to the meetings of the European Council (General Affairs) on 29 February 1988.

At the close of this examination, they approved the following conclusions:

CONCLUSIONS

OF THE COUNCIL AND THE MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR FAMILY AFFAIRS,
MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL,
regarding family policies

- I. The last decades have been marked by profound demographic and socio-economic changes.

No Community country is immune, even if the changes take place with certain time lags and at different rates.

The demographic outlook raises the question of Europe's political, economic and cultural future in the world.

- II. In short, the demographic trend is characterized by a lower fertility rate and an increase in life expectancy resulting in an ageing population, which will decline in the long term.

This change in age structure of the population will be accompanied by a change in family structure, a result of the decline in marriage and of the increase in the number of divorces.

The restructuring of the labour market, changes in working conditions and the increase in female employment are the principal factors in this new economic landscape.

- III. In view of the impact of these economic and demographic changes on the family, it is important to ask what are the prospects for and the objectives and methods of Community action at family level.

The legitimacy of such Community interest is based less on ideological grounds than on the acknowledgement of such objective facts as the economic role of the family, the responsibility of families in bringing up children, the importance of the family as the touchstone for solidarity between generations, the irreversible desire for equality between men and women and the wish of women to have complete access to working life in order to provide the family with a suitable environment in which it can develop harmoniously and in which its members can flourish, with due regard for freedom of choice in the number of their children.

Community action will have to be pragmatic in order to respect the special features of different national policies already created and the varying socio-economic contexts in which such policies operate.

- IV. In this context, the following activities will be started or continued at Community level:

1. continuation of information actions, particularly through the production and presentation of regular information on demography and measures concerning families (household structure, female employment rates, trend in birthrates, etc.), using to that effect the network of experts already set up by the Commission as well as thematic studies;
2. inclusion of the family dimension in the establishment of appropriate Community policies, for example in the freedom of movement of persons and equality between men and women;

3. a regular exchange of information and views at Community level on major themes of common interest as regards family policy and demography, with particular emphasis on:
 - (a) the impact of other Community policies on the family;
 - (b) measures making it possible to implement policies on equal opportunities for men and women, in particular access for women to the labour market;
 - (c) measures in favour of families, including measures tailored to the characteristics or difficulties of some families,taking account of activities in other international organizations, to avoid any duplication of effort.

V. The activities would be monitored by:

1. regular assessment of the measures taken through regular consultation between the Commission and:
 - the working party of senior national officials with responsibility for family affairs;
 - organizations representing families at Community level on the basis of representative pluralist criteria;
2. periodic assessment in the Council.

SOCIAL SECURITY FOR MIGRANT WORKERS:PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION AMENDING REGULATIONS (EEC) Nos 1408/71 and 574/72(FAMILY BENEFITS)

The Council examined the compromise proposal submitted by the Presidency with a view to breaking the deadlock in the discussions on the present proposal, which is designed to bring about a uniform solution for all Member States as regards the payment of family benefits, as laid down in Article 99 of Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71, by making the country-of-employment principle generally applicable.

The President noted a general consensus on the Presidency's compromise proposal which also received the support of the Commission.

The Council agreed to return to this point at its meeting on 30 October with a view to arriving at a unanimous agreement on the compromise.

THE HANDICAPPED

The Council held a political debate on the basis of an introductory note from the Presidency containing proposals for a global European policy to assist the handicapped and the disabled.

At the close of the debate, the President emphasized the broad agreement reached on the need for:

- the twelve Member States and the Community to take account of the special situation of handicapped persons;
- a global policy to co-ordinate all measures affecting the daily lives of handicapped persons: education, housing, transport, lesiure;
- account to be taken in the different Community policies of the specific needs of the handicapped;
- a procedure for following up and giving impetus to these actions.

He concluded that the Commission should be able to make proposals on these points which could be examined in an ad hoc Working Party. Initially, this Working Party could continue the exchange of information initiated by the Council today.

EUROPEAN CARD FOR PROVISION OF IMMEDIATE CARE

The Council examined the note from the Presidency concerning a draft European card for provision of immediate care, intended to facilitate the provision of health care during a stay in another Member State of the Community.

At the close of the examination, the Council approved the following conclusions:

COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

whereas it is important to promote freedom of movement for insured persons by any means capable of simplifying their everyday life when travelling within the Community;

whereas, to this end, access to the benefits offered by Community provisions on social security should be made easier;

whereas this objective could be attained, in particular by establishing a harmonized European social insurance card, using media that may change in line with modern administrative techniques;

whereas in 1983 the Commission considered simplification of the procedures required for provision of health care during a stay abroad;

whereas, as the first stage, access to treatment required during temporary stays in a Member State other than the competent State could be improved and simplified forthwith by taking existing national social insurance cards into account,

1. requests the Commission, with the long-term aim of establishing a European card for provision of immediate care, to conduct a survey initially of procedures whereby Member States could recognize national social insurance cards issued by other Member States.

This should enable cardholders staying temporarily in a Member State other than the competent Member State to have access, on the terms laid down by Article 22(1)(a) of Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71, to urgently needed treatment, on presentation of their national insurance card or form E 111;

2. is in favour, as of now, of any experiments in mutual recognition of national social insurance cards that Member States may engage in.

EUROPEAN COLLOQUIA

The Council took note of a statement by the French delegation to the effect that the French Government, assisted by the Commission, would be organizing the following European colloquia:

- Family and vocational strategies of women in the EEC (Paris, 27 and 28 November 1989);
- Families in a Europe without frontiers (Paris, 4 and 5 December 1989).

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONSCoffee Agreement

The Council adopted the Decision on notification of application by the Community of the International Coffee Agreement 1983 as extended until 30 September 1991.

Research: EC-Iceland relations

The Council adopted the Decision on the conclusion on behalf of the European Economic Community of the Framework Agreement for scientific and technical co-operation between the European Communities and the Republic of Iceland.

Fisheries

The Council adopted the Decision on the conclusion of the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters concerning the provisional application of the Protocol establishing for the period from 27 June 1989 to 26 June 1992 the fishing rights and financial compensation provided for in the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Government of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea on fishing off the coast of Equatorial Guinea.
