

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

PRESS RELEASES

PRESIDENCY: FRANCE

JULY-DECEMBER 1989

Meetings and press releases December 1989

Meeting number	Subject	Date
1375 th	Telecommunications	7 December 1989
1376 th	Agriculture	11-12 December 1989
1377 th	Education	14 December 1989
1378 th	Research	15-16 December 1989
1379 th	Economics/Finance	18 December 1989
1380 th	Fisheries	18-10 December 1989
1381 st	General Affairs	18-19 December 1989
1382 nd	Internal Market	21-22 December 1989

PRESS RELEASE

10479/89 (Presse 235)

1375th Council meeting

- Telecommunications -

Brussels, 7 December 1989

President: Mr Paul QUILES

Minister for Posts,
Telecommunications and Space
of the French Republic

Italy

Mr Oscar MAMMI

Minister for Posts and
TelecommunicationsLuxembourg

Mr Alex BODRY

Minister for Posts,
Telecommunications and InformaticsNetherlands

Mr C.R. van BEUGE

Deputy Permanent Representative

Portugal

Mr João de OLIVEIRA MARTINS

Minister for Public Works, Transport
and Communications

Mr Eduardo CORREIA MATOS

State Secretary for External Transport
and CommunicationsUnited Kingdom

Mr Eric FORTH

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State,
Department of Trade and Industry
(Industry and Consumer Affairs)Commission

Sir Leon BRITTAN

Vice-President

Mr Filippo Maria PANDOLFI

Vice-President

COMPLETION OF THE INTERNAL MARKET IN TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES

After a comprehensive discussion based on a Presidency draft for an overall compromise on the liberalization of telecommunications services and open network revision, the Council arrived at political agreement on a common position concerning the proposal for a Directive on open network provision (ONP). The Council thus took a decisive step towards the establishment of an open telecommunications market.

On the first point, it should be noted that the Commission has adopted a Directive based on Article 90(3) of the Treaty with regard to competition in all markets in telecommunications services.

With the proposal for a framework Directive on open network provision, the aim is to lay down the ground rules for harmonization of the conditions of access to and use of public telecommunications networks and/or services.

Under the overall compromise, "the Council:

- notes that a large majority of delegations express their agreement with the content of the amendments made by the Commission to Articles 3 and 10 and the recitals of its Directive on competition in markets in telecommunications services enabling the Council to adopt the ONP Directive as part of an overall compromise, while some delegations continue to have reservations on that content;
- welcomes the spirit of co-operation shown between the Commission and the Member States, which has made possible a significant step forward in the completion of the internal market in telecommunications services;

- notes that a large majority of Member States nevertheless dispute the legal basis chosen by the Commission for its Directive and reaffirms that Article 100a provides the appropriate basis for implementing the aims set out in the Commission's Green Paper and the Council Resolution of 30 June 1988".

NEW FORMS OF COMMUNITY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACTION IN THE FIELD OF
BROAD-BAND INTEGRATED TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The Council adopted the following statement:

Council statement

The Council reaffirms the importance that must be given to developing broad-band integrated communications in Europe and stresses the need to pursue research efforts at European level in order to provide transnational integrated services, without prejudice to the decisions to be taken in connection with the R&D framework programme (1990-1994).

The Council invites the Commission to set up a working party composed of representatives of the Member States, which could, if necessary, call on the services of experts, the task of which would be:

- to study the possibility of establishing an appropriate structure to pursue the Community research and development programmes in the field of broad-band telecommunications, by making use for example of the provisions contained in Article 130a of the Treaty of Rome, thus facilitating concerted action among telecommunications operators, manufacturers and users, in order to prepare for the introduction of broad-band communications services throughout the Community;

- to define the advantage and role of such a structure in implementing the R&D framework programme projects adopted by the competent Council bodies.

Furthermore, with this in mind, the Council welcomes with interest the suggestion by network operators within CEPT that the establishment of a European research and Strategic Planning Institute (EURESCOM) in the field of telecommunications be considered.

The Council acknowledges that each initiative has its own specific characteristics and would stress the importance of ensuring that the activities carried out in this field both by the Community and the CEPT are closely co-ordinated in order to make optimal and complementary use of available resources.

The Council requests the Commission to report to it on this basis before the Telecommunications Council scheduled for April 1990.

PUBLIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS CONTRACTS

The Council discussed the telecommunications aspects of the proposal for a directive on the procurement procedures of entities operating in the "excluded sectors" (telecommunications, water, energy and transport),

That proposal is designed to introduce a flexible system of procedures for the award of works, supply and software service contracts, while ensuring compliance with the principles of non-discrimination and transparency.

Delegations raised some aspects relating in particular to thresholds for application, reference to European standards in the telecommunications sector and relations with third countries.

The proposal is on the agenda for the next Internal Market Council meeting, on 21 December 1989.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONSFisheries

The Council adopted the Decision on the conclusion of an Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters concerning the temporary extension from 8 August 1989 to 31 December 1989 of the Protocol to the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Government of the Republic of Guinea on fishing off the coast of Guinea.

Agriculture

The Council adopted the Regulation on the total alcoholic strength by volume and the total acidity of certain imported quality wines and repealing Regulation (EEC) No 2931/80. This is to enable certain wines originating in Hungary and Switzerland to be imported into the Community.

Commercial policy

The Council adopted the Regulation opening and providing for the administration of an autonomous Community tariff quota for newsprint (1989) and extending this quota to include other types of paper (50 000 tonnes duty-free).

The Council went on to adopt Regulations opening, allocating and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas for 1990 for

- prepared and preserved sardines of the type *Sardina pilchardus*, originating in Morocco (17 500 tonnes duty-free)
- fresh or dried hazelnuts, shelled or not, originating in Turkey (25 000 tonnes duty-free).

High-Definition Television

Following substantive agreement on 7 November, the Council adopted the Decision on the common action to be taken by the Member States with respect to the adoption of a single world-wide High Definition Television production standard by the Plenary Assembly of the International Radio Consultative Committee (CCIR) in 1990. (see press release 9587/89 (Presse 196) of 7.XI.89).

PRESS RELEASE

10482/89 (Presse 238)

1376th Council meeting
- Agriculture -
Brussels, 11 and 12 December 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 Walter KITTEL State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and
Forestry

Greece

Mr Stavros DIMAS Minister for Agriculture

Spain

Mr Jesus ARANGO Secretary-General responsible for
Structures, Ministry of
Agriculture

France

Mr Henri NALLET Minister for Agriculture

Ireland

Mr Joe WALSH State Secretary,
Department of Agriculture and Food

Italy

Mr Calogero MANNINO

Minister for Agriculture

Mr Paolo BRUNO

Under-Secretary of State for Health

Luxembourg

Mr René STEICHEN

Minister for Agriculture and Viticulture

Netherlands

Mr Gerrit BRAKS

Minister for Agriculture

Portugal

Mr Arlindo CUNHA

Deputy State Secretary
to the Minister for Agriculture,
Fisheries and FoodUnited Kingdom

Mr John Selwyn GUMMER

Minister for Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food

Mr David CURRY

Parliamentary Secretary,
AgricultureCommission

Mr R. MAC SHARRY

Member

ADJUSTMENT OF THE AGRICULTURAL STRUCTURES POLICY

Further to the political agreement on the adjustment of the agricultural structures policy reached at the last Agriculture Council meeting in November, the Council formally adopted the Regulation directed towards expediting the adjustment of agricultural production structures.

Final adoption of the Regulations on:

- improving the processing and marketing conditions for agricultural products, and
- improving the processing and marketing conditions for forestry products respectively,

will be effected at a later date, once the formal conditions for adoption have been met.

SCRUTINY OF TRANSACTIONS FORMING PART OF THE SYSTEM OF FINANCING BY THE EAGGF GUARANTEE SECTION

On the basis of a Presidency compromise, the Council agreed a political position in favour of a regulation introducing a posteriori scrutiny of the accounts of undertakings which are recipients or liable in the context of EAGGF Guarantee Section financing, in order to combat fraud and irregularities more efficiently.

This Regulation provides for the gradual strengthening of the minimum number of compulsory checks and for Community co-financing for additional expenditure incurred by the Member States in strengthening the controls.

At the end of its discussion the Council instructed the Special Committee on Agriculture to draft the final text of the Regulation, after receiving the Commission proposal as amended in the light of the Opinion of the European Parliament, so that the Regulation could be formally adopted in the near future.

MONITORING OF THE PAYMENT OF THE AMOUNTS GRANTED ON EXPORT OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

The Council resumed its proceedings on the proposal laying down detailed procedures for monitoring exports of agricultural products which give rise to the payment of a refund or other amount linked with export transactions.

It continued its discussions on the basis of a Presidency compromise which suggested certain guidelines with a view to providing the desired flexibility, namely:

- introduction of a 5% rate of physical checks to be applied per customs office and per product sector, taking particular situations into account;
- possible strengthening of scrutiny in sensitive sectors;
- introduction of a two-year transitional period to enable Member States to adjust their administrative organization progressively.

At the end of its discussions the Council noted that - subject to certain information to be supplied by the Commission regarding the criteria it intends to adopt for evaluating the financial consequences of failure to fulfil the obligations under the Regulation and to a number of technical details on one or other aspect requested by several delegations - a large majority was in favour of

the Presidency compromise, which was an adequate basis for legal/linguistic finalization of the text of the Regulation.

Through its favourable positions on this Regulation and on the previous one, concerning the a posteriori scrutiny of accounts, and by the "A" item adoption of the Regulation introducing the obligation to draw up an annual inventory of intervention stocks, the Council completed the most important part of the new policy on combating fraud in the agricultural sector.

CHEMICALLY PURE FRUCTOSE (LEVULOSE)

Pending receipt of the Opinion of the European Parliament, the Council held a preliminary exchange of views on the Commission proposals to redress the situation on the Community levulose market.

A technical examination of those proposals was deemed necessary, so the Council instructed the Special Committee on Agriculture to continue its work on the matter.

SHEEPMEAT/GOATMEAT

On the basis of a compromise, the Council signified its agreement to a Regulation defining lambs fattened as heavy carcasses so as to allow a distinction to be drawn between producers of light lambs and heavy lambs within a mixed farm.

The definition is as follows:

Lambs fattened as heavy carcasses are lambs:

- which have been the subject, after weaning, of a prior declaration of being sent for fattening in batches that can be monitored;
- identified on that occasion by marking or any other form offering identical safeguards;
- which satisfy the following conditions:
 - = minimum fattening period: 45 days,
 - = minimum average weight of each batch after fattening: 25 kg live weight per lamb.

Derogations could be granted in respect of lambs belonging to a limited number of meat breeds reared in geographically clearly defined regions.

The Commission will examine the effects of this 25 kilo limit before the end of 1990 and will, if necessary, submit appropriate proposals to the Council.

VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY AND ARGENTINA AND AUSTRALIA ON TRADE IN MUTTON, LAMB AND GOATMEAT

The Council agreed by a qualified majority to the Decision on adjustments to the voluntary restraint agreements between the European Economic Community and Argentina, on the one hand, and Australia on the other hand, on trade in mutton, lamb and goatmeat.

The substance of the Agreements may be summarized as follows:

For Argentina

The quantities to be imported have been reduced to 19 000 tonnes, with the introduction, for chilled meat, of a ceiling of the following maximum quantities:

- 1 000 tonnes for 1989,
- 1 200 tonnes for 1990,
- 1 400 tonnes for 1991,
- 1 600 tonnes for 1992.

A price-monitoring system has been established, to ensure in particular a balanced price relationship between imported and domestic products.

The level of the levies which had been set autonomously has been suspended at zero for the duration of the arrangement, subject to compliance with the conditions laid down under the price-monitoring system.

The Agreement has been concluded for a period of four years.

Specific quantities have been set for imports into France and Ireland.

For Australia

The quantity to be imported has been set at 17 500 tonnes, with the following ceilings on tonnages of chilled meat:

- 1 500 tonnes for 1989,
- 2 000 tonnes for 1990,
- 2 500 tonnes for 1991,
- 3 000 tonnes for 1992.

A price surveillance system has been introduced, to ensure in particular a balanced price relationship between imported and domestic products.

The level of levies which had been set autonomously has been suspended at zero for the duration of the arrangement, subject to compliance with the conditions laid down under the price surveillance system.

The Agreement has been concluded for a period of four years.

Specific quantities have been set for imports into France and Ireland.

GRANTING OF AID FOR SKIMMED MILK PROCESSED INTO CASEIN OR CASEINATES

The Council adopted a Regulation extending for 3 months - until 31 March 1990 - the provisions in force concerning the limit on the granting of aid for skimmed milk processed into casein or caseinates for certain specific uses.

MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS UNDER THE GATT (AGRICULTURAL ASPECT)

With a view to the submission before the end of the year of a comprehensive document on the continuation of the multilateral trade negotiations on agriculture in Geneva, the Council held a detailed, fruitful exchange of views on the various issues arising with regard to finalizing the Community position. It will be for the Council, which is to meet on 18 and 19 December 1989, to take a final decision on the position to be adopted by the Community.

VETERINARY CHECKS IN INTRA-COMMUNITY TRADE

On the basis of a compromise, the Council unanimously adopted a Directive concerning veterinary checks in intra-Community trade.

This Directive dovetails in practical terms with the indispensable measures to be taken for completion of the internal market and responds to the invitation from the European Council in Strasbourg on 8 and 9 December 1989 to make swift progress in the veterinary field.

Its purpose is to abolish, by 1 January 1992 at the latest, veterinary checks when the Community's internal borders are crossed, with emphasis placed on the checks to be carried out at the place of dispatch and the place of destination. However, taking into account the maintenance of various health situations within the Community and the lack of uniform rules governing imports, documentary control of the origin of products may be maintained until 31 December 1992.

Its application is directed towards products of animal origin, trade in which is subject to Community rules, and certain products of animal origin which come under Annex II to the Treaty, the production or trade conditions for which have not yet been harmonized.

As regards intra-Community trade in live animals, the question of abolishing border checks has had to be set aside for the time being, pending a forthcoming decision on the rules for combating foot and mouth disease inter alia.

Lastly, emphasis was placed on the link between the abolition of checks in intra-Community trade and the determination of uniform rules governing checks and checking points at external frontiers.

The Directive as a whole will have to be reviewed by 1 October 1992 in the light of developments in the health situation in the Community and of progress made towards the harmonization of laws.

USE OF GROWTH STIMULANTS IN STOCK-BREEDING (BETA-BLOCKERS)

The Council took note of a note from the Presidency concerning Community harmonization of the use of growth stimulants in stock-breeding.

The Council was unanimously in favour of such harmonization and asked the Commission to submit proposals on the matter at the earliest opportunity.

EEC-ACCEPTED PLANT PROTECTION PRODUCTS

Pending the Opinion of the European Parliament, the Council noted the progress made in the proceedings on the proposal for a Directive aimed at setting up a harmonized Community procedure for authorizing the placing of plant protection products on the market. The products concerned are chemical substances used as pesticides and micro-organisms and viruses used in the fight against plant pests and diseases.

At this stage, certain technical aspects require more detailed examination.

At the end of its discussion the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its work on the basis of the approach hitherto followed by the Working Party, so that the Council could adopt the Directive once it received the European Parliament's Opinion.

THE PRESIDENT'S TALKS WITH THE POLISH AUTHORITIES

The Council noted with interest the information supplied by the President on his recent talks with the Polish authorities relating in particular to Polish agriculture and the assistance at present provided to that sector and to be provided to it in future.

FORESTS

The President briefed the Council on the 17th World Forestry Congress, to be held in Paris in September 1991, and on a pan-European ministerial meeting on the protection of forests to be held in Strasbourg in the Autumn of 1990.

NON-FOOD USE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

The Council took note of the submission by the Commission of a report on the non-food use of agricultural products, accompanied by a proposal for amending the set-aside arrangements.

ORGANIC PRODUCTION

The Council took note of the presentation by the Commission of its proposal for a Regulation on the organic production of agricultural products and of its presentation relating to agricultural products and foodstuffs.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONSOther decisions in the field of the common agricultural policy

The Council adopted the Regulations:

- amending Regulation No 3247/81 on the financing by the EAGGF Guarantee Section of certain intervention measures, particularly those involving the buying-in, storage and sale of agricultural products by intervention agencies.

The purpose of this Regulation is to strengthen the financial regulation of public storage by introducing the obligation to draw up an annual physical inventory of all products in intervention in the form of public storage.

- amending Regulation No 1678/85 fixing the conversion rate to be applied in agriculture (Spain and Portugal).
- repealing Regulation No 353/79 laying down the conditions for coupage and wine-making in free zones.
- amending Regulation No 2392/89 laying down general rules for the description and presentation of wines and grape musts.

The purpose of this Regulation is to amplify the rules governing the inclusion of certain specific particulars on wine labels.

- amending Regulation No 2390/89 laying down general rules for the import of wines, grape juice and grape must.

- amending for the third time 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 No 337/79.

These last two Regulations are directed in particular towards extending, until 31 July 1990, certain facilities for the importation and for the recognition of oenological processes granted to wines originating in the United States.

- amending Regulation No 2915/79 determining the groups of products and the special provisions for calculating levies on milk and milk products.

This Regulation reduced the rate of import levy on "Halloumi" cheese traditionally produced in Cyprus.

- amending Regulation No 2967/89 relating to the import of New Zealand butter into the United Kingdom on special grounds.
- laying down derogating provisions as regards storage contracts for olive oil in Greece, Spain and Portugal and as regards the definition of olive oil intended for export.
- opening and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for frozen beef and veal covered by CN code 0202 and products covered by CN code 0206 29 91 (1990).

The quota is 53 000 tonnes at a fixed 20% duty.

- opening a Community tariff quota for frozen thin skirt of bovine animals falling within CN code 0206 29 91 (1990).

The quota is 1 500 tonnes at a fixed 4% duty.

- opening a Community tariff quota for high-quality fresh, chilled or frozen meat of bovine animals covered by CN codes 0201 and 0202 and for products covered by CN codes 0206 10 95 and 0206 29 91 (1990).

The quota is 34 300 tonnes at a fixed 20% duty.

- opening a Community tariff quota for frozen buffalo meat falling within CN code 0202 30 90 (1990).

The quota is 250 tonnes at a fixed 20% duty.

- amending Regulations Nos 1787/89 and 1788/89 opening and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas for animals of certain mountain breeds.

This amendment to the system was rendered necessary by experience acquired in its administration.

In addition, further to the guidelines adopted by the Agriculture Council in November 1989 on the package of proposals for resolving certain specific problems

regarding the operation of the milk-quota system, the Council formally adopted the following Regulations relating to those measures:

- amending Regulation No 857/84 adopting general rules for the application of the levy referred to in Article 5c of Regulation No 804/68 in the milk and milk products sector;
- amending Regulation No 804/68 on the common organization of the market in milk and milk products;
- establishing, for the period running from 1 April 1989 to 31 March 1990, the Community reserve for the application of the levy referred to in Article 5c of Regulation No 804/68 in the milk and milk products sector;
- amending Regulation No 775/87 temporarily withdrawing a proportion of the reference quantities mentioned in Article 5c(1) of Regulation No 804/68 on the common organization of the market in milk and milk products;
- fixing, with effect from 1 March 1990, the intervention price for butter and skimmed-milk powder.

In order to meet the concern expressed by the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission agreed to consolidate the Regulations on milk quotas in the very near future.

1990 budget procedure

Further to the negotiations between the President of the Council and representatives of the European Parliament on a number of essential amendments to the 1990 budget - in particular aid to Poland and Hungary and letter of amendment No 2 (agricultural surplus from the preceding financial year) - the Council approved, for its part, the terms of the agreement reached in those negotiations and also signified its agreement to the Commission proposal to revise the financial prospects for 1990 as regards aid to Poland and Hungary.

Environment

The Council adopted the Decision on the acceptance by the Community of an OECD Decision/Recommendation on the control of transfrontier movements of hazardous wastes.

This OECD Decision/Recommendation aims at encouraging OECD Member States to sign and ratify the Basel Convention as soon as possible, to provide technical assistance and training in the field of waste management and to co-operate further in harmonizing the notification systems and procedures for the control of transfrontier movements of hazardous wastes.

Relations with the EFTA countries

The Council adopted the Decision authorizing the Commission to negotiate on behalf of the Community an Agreement with the Principality of Liechtenstein establishing co-operation in the field of training in the context of the implementation of COMETT II.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

10729/89 (Presse 243)

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1377th meeting of the Council
and the Ministers for Education

Brussels, 14 December 1989

President: Mr Lionel JOSPIN

Ministre d'Etat,
Minister for Education,
Youth and Sport
of the French Republic

Ireland:

Mrs Mary O'ROURKE

Minister for Education

Italy:

Mr Antonio RUBERTI

Minister for Scientific Research and
Technology

Luxembourg:

Mr Marc FISCHBACH

Minister for Education

Netherlands:

Mr Jo RITZEN

Minister for Education and Science

Portugal:

Mr Roberto CARNEIRO

Minister For Education

United Kingdom:

Mr John MacGREGOR

Secretary of State for Education and Science

Commission:

Mrs Vasso PAPANDEOU

Member

ERASMUS PROGRAMME

The Council adopted the Decision amending the ERASMUS programme for 1990 to 1994.

The programme includes four types of action:

- Establishment and operation of a European University Network;
- ERASMUS student grants scheme;
- Measures to promote mobility through the academic recognition of diplomas and periods of study;
- Complementary measures to promote student mobility in the Community.

The Council welcomed the success of the first phase of the programme, launched in 1987, whose main aim was to increase the mobility of university students through inter-university co-operation.

It made a number of changes based on experience, particularly as regards extending the programme to students engaged in doctoral studies, preparing students in the language of the host country and the criteria for allocating money for grants between Member States. It was stipulated that the ERASMUS programme did not cover research and technological development activities, since exchanges between researchers were covered by the recently-adopted SCIENCE and SPES programmes.

The Council set the amount deemed necessary for the first three years at ECU 192 million.

The Council was also favourably disposed to opening up the ERASMUS programme to the EFTA countries, without prejudice to a Community initiative directed towards the Eastern European countries in the field of education and training.

TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND INITIAL TRAINING

The Council and the Ministers for Education, meeting within the Council, adopted the following conclusions:

CONCLUSIONS
OF THE COUNCIL AND THE MINISTERS FOR EDUCATION
MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL
ON TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION
AND INITIAL TRAINING

"THE COUNCIL AND THE MINISTERS FOR EDUCATION, MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL,

convinced that the scale of technological change, developments in vocational qualifications and acute employment problems place technical and vocational education and training at the centre of the Member States' education policies;

aware that the completion of the internal market as a result of the Single Act signed in 1986 will inevitably accentuate the interdependence of the Member States' economies and increase the need for young people with high-quality vocational training who are capable of meeting developments on the labour market;

concerned to encourage professional success, to assist the integration of young people into society and to promote genuinely equal opportunities for students of both sexes in vocational training and employment;

persuaded that better quality technical and vocational education in the Member States will help to reduce regional disparities in the European Community;

observing that to meet common concerns such as the place to be given to general training in technical and vocational education, the need to provide all young people of a given age-group with a minimum of qualifications required for entry into working life, the necessity for broad-based training to encourage professional mobility among young people, and the desire to strengthen links between teaching establishments and companies, the Member States have drawn up national policies suited to their individual education systems;

aware that existing Community programmes do not necessarily offer all the forms of mobility which would be sufficient to take account of the specific situation and needs of young people in relation to technical and vocational education and training;

convinced that, while respecting the cultural and linguistic diversities of each Member State and on the basis of the principle of the subsidiary nature of European Community action, Community co-operation can help the Member States to adapt technical and vocational education and training to new economic, social and cultural challenges;

having taken note of the Commission communication on guidelines for the medium term (1989-1992), and in particular sections II (initial and continuing vocational training) and IV (education and training for technological change);

having, at their meeting on 6 October 1989, held a first exchange of views,

I. STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ISSUES AT STAKE IN TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING AT NATIONAL AND EUROPEAN LEVEL

On the eve of the completion of the internal market, in the context of their respective educational and training policies and their constitutional structures, the Member States are pursuing the following common objectives:

- . to provide each individual with a basic qualification giving him or her an entry into the world of work;
- . to provide all young people who so wish with one or, if possible, two years or more of vocational training in addition to their compulsory full-time schooling;
- . to ensure that education and training systems are constantly kept up to date so as to prepare young people for tomorrow's occupations;
- . to ensure that these new skills confer on the future protagonists in the economy a polyvalence which will facilitate their professional adaptation, whatever their level of responsibility in the firm or whatever their sector of activity (goods, services, administration, industry);
- . to prepare the wage-earners of the future for greater mobility within companies, between companies, between countries.

Examination of the policies adopted by the Member States highlights the diversity of the methods of action which may be employed:

- . the establishment of pre-apprenticeship measures or additional schemes for solving the difficulties impeding entry into working life;

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- . the implementation of training strategies enabling the level of qualification to be raised and the degree of adaptability to future developments to be increased, and preparing individuals to "learn how to learn";
- . the quest for a close link between initial and continuing training notably as regards content, establishments, persons trained (young people and adults), teachers and instructors;
- . the strengthening of collaboration between teachers, instructors, parents and local authorities and the development of a genuine partnership with technical and vocational training institutions, and employers' and trade-union bodies.

For its part, the EEC, in co-operation with the various competent national bodies, has for some years been implementing co-operation on technical and vocational education.

This co-operation took more substantial shape with the programme on the transition of young people from school to working life, the main achievement of which was to set up pilot projects on topics connected with vocational training, co-financed by the Community.

It was supplemented by programmes such as PETRA, ARION, EUROTECHNET and IRIS programmes on vocational training.

The COMETT and LINGUA programmes also enable exchanges to be financed in technical and vocational education. Finally, for its part, CEDEFOP is organizing study visits for specialists in vocational training.

Nonetheless, although much has been done, co-operation still requires further development.

It does not genuinely promote the mobility of a large section of young people in technical and vocational education and training. In particular, measures could be proposed by the Commission in an endeavour to increase the mobility of young people who:

- . are in initial training;
- . are receiving technical and vocational training in a specialized branch;
- . are following a course of study in a teaching establishment and/or with a company.

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II. THEREFORE ASK THE COMMISSION TO PROPOSE WAYS IN WHICH CO-OPERATION CAN BE ACHIEVED IN THIS AREA

The Commission should as soon as possible make an inventory evaluating all current Community programmes with a direct or indirect bearing on technical and vocational education and training.

On the basis of this evaluation, in the interests of sound management and respecting the principle of subsidiarity, the Commission is asked to prepare proposals within the budgetary resources of the Community for measures to adapt and reinforce existing programmes and to implement a package of specific measures.

These new forms of closer co-operation should rely on the support of networks of establishments in the different Member States which, in collaboration with the various partners involved, would determine the practical shape of their co-operation, which could be geared to different groups or institutions:

(a) young people:

They could be given the opportunity to acquire practical experience in other Member States through:

- promotion of training periods abroad during which young people would attend an establishment of an equivalent level in another Member State,
- organization of periods of employment with other young people in the same field for the purposes of studying specific topics or carrying out joint technical projects,
- inclusion in their training of industrial and commercial training courses in foreign firms.

(b) teachers and instructors:

Their expectations in initial and continuing training could be met by organizing:

- scientific and technical training courses;
- teacher-training schemes;
- exchanges of experience.

(c) educational administrators:

Co-operation activities could:

- promote better knowledge of education systems and of current major reforms by means of study trips, exchanges of experience, drafting of joint discussion papers, assessment of experimental projects carried out jointly or the production and distribution of teaching materials;
- develop at European level existing national co-operation between management and labour and research bodies;
- organize joint campaigns to promote technical and vocational education channels, in particular to achieve better treatment for female students.

(d) training establishments and management and labour and trade-union bodies:

To enable them to play their full part in such co-operation,

- links could be facilitated between establishments or between establishments and firms at European level by drawing up and circulating clear information concerning training and qualifications;
- encouragement could be given to the setting up of European technological transfer networks between teaching establishments and firms with a view to developing the regional and European economy.

By thus promoting mutual information on the various education systems, by facilitating comparability of qualifications and better mutual knowledge of professional qualifications while respecting the individuality of each country, by developing contacts between the various partners in the education system, by promoting a Europe with geographical and professional mobility, these measures could help prepare future workers, employees, technicians and managerial staff for the new requirements of the Europe of 1993."

RELATIONS WITH EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The Council and the Ministers for Education adopted the following conclusions:

- "1. The Community and its Member States expressed their desire to strengthen co-operation with Central and Eastern European countries which intend to base themselves on the principles of democracy, pluralism and the rule of law.
2. The fields of education and training are of particular importance in this respect, both in order to develop closer links between the Community and those countries and in order to assist them in implementing the reforms initiated.
3. The Council and the Ministers for Education took note of the conclusions of the Strasbourg European Council in which the Council of Ministers was instructed to:
 - take the appropriate decisions to allow nationals of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe to take part in a number of educational and training programmes similar to Community programmes,
 - take, at the beginning of 1990, the requisite decisions for the setting up of a European Vocational Training Foundation.
4. The Ministers welcomed the meeting they had already had with the Hungarian and Polish Ministers for Education.

5. They took note of the Commission's intentions in this area. They stressed that the detailed arrangements to be adopted, on the basis of Commission proposals, would have to take the utmost account of the needs expressed by those involved, of the bilateral action already undertaken and of the aim of ensuring that the Community's effort had the greatest possible effect.
6. They emphasized that decisions should be taken as a matter of extreme urgency so that specific measures might be initiated as soon as possible.
7. The Council and the Ministers for Education will continue to monitor the introduction of these measures with the greatest attention."

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Measures to combat failure at school

The Council and the Ministers for Education, meeting within the Council, adopted the following Resolution on measures to combat failure at school:

**RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL AND THE MINISTERS FOR EDUCATION,
MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL,**

on measures to combat failure at school

"THE COUNCIL AND THE MINISTERS FOR EDUCATION, MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL,

Convinced that the raising of the general level of education is one of the principal preconditions for economic, social and cultural development and for the true operation of a democracy, and that proper education should enable every individual to achieve independence, become a good citizen and find a place in society and in the world of work;

Noting that failure at school is still affecting too many pupils in Europe, particularly children from socially and culturally under-privileged groups; that this is a serious problem, both for the individual and collectively; that it leads to an individual failure in psychological and social terms and results in a high economic cost for Member States and for the Community;

Convinced of the need for reinforcement of the means employed to combat failure at school, by aiming for the best possible development of each child's capabilities;

Aware that the development of the multicultural dimension in educational systems would allow failure at school to be combated more effectively;

Taking account of:

- the Resolution of 9 February 1976 comprising an action programme in the field of education and more particularly the section concerning the achievement of equal opportunity for free access to all forms of education;
- the conclusions of the Council and of the Ministers for Education, meeting within the Council, of 14 May 1987 on failure at school and the fight against illiteracy;
- the results of the pilot projects conducted as part of the programmes on young people's transition from education to working life;

Noting:

- the Commission communication on Education and Training in the European Community - Medium-Term Guidelines (1989-1992);
- the study made at the request of the Commission on success and failure at school in Europe, highlighting the links between social and cultural background and educational success as well as the multi-dimensional aspect of action to be taken to reduce failure at school,

HAVE ADOPTED THIS RESOLUTION:

1. The Member States, in the framework of their educational policies and constitutional structures, will make every effort to combat failure at school intensively and to develop their action in one or other of the following directions:
 - 1.1. gaining greater knowledge of the phenomenon and of its causes, whether or not these are related to the educational system;
 - 1.2. diversifying the strategies and methods proposed;
 - 1.3. strengthening of pre-primary education, which contributes to a better subsequent performance at school, particularly in the case of children from disadvantaged backgrounds;
 - 1.4. adapting the working of school systems, in particular by:
 - renewing content, back-up and methods of teaching and assessment;
 - implementing differentiated education;
 - improvement and diversification of timetabling;
 - reducing structural or functional breakdowns, by:
 - . decompartmentalization and interdisciplinary teaching,
 - . educational continuity from one class to another and from one cycle to another,
 - . better guidance of pupils depending on their wishes and aptitudes,
 - . organization of "bridges" between different courses;

- introduction of possibilities of individual assistance (support, tutoring);
 - diversification of forms of excellence, of equivalent level, at the end of compulsory schooling or at the end of the secondary cycle and of paths leading to the corresponding certificates;
 - staff working in teams;
 - better initial and continuing training of staff, as well as general support in their task as teachers;
 - improving the administration of schools;
 - development of teaching of the languages and cultures of children of Community and foreign origin;
- 1.5. increasing
- the attention paid by schools to the cultural, social and economic context;
 - the receptiveness of schools to their environments;
 - the points of contact with society and working life;
- 1.6. arranging for curricular and extra-curricular activities to complement each other, taking particularly into account factors influencing school results (health, family, sports, leisure activities);
- 1.7. selectively increasing educational resources (curricular and extra-curricular) aimed at the least-favoured sections of the public by means of:
- better qualified staff,
 - greater material resources;
- 1.8. mobilizing education managers and all those with responsibility at local level in a collective effort;
- 1.9. circulating information on methods of action and practical achievements;
- 1.10. initiating or intensifying specific training of those concerned, whether or not they belong within the educational system.

2. The Council and the Ministers for Education, meeting within the Council, hereby take note that the Commission will:

- give wide circulation to the study on success and failure at school in Europe once its final form has been decided on;
- submit as soon as possible the complete report on failure at school in the Community requested by the Council and the Ministers for Education, meeting within the Council, in their conclusions of 14 May 1987;
- give all necessary assistance and play its full part as a catalyst in co-operation.
The Commission's proposals in this respect will be examined by the Education Committee.

In this connection, so as to contribute to Member States' action on the question of failure at school, measures could be envisaged at Community level in the following areas:

- Organization of exchanges of information between Member States on current policies and practices:
 - . those responsible for education should be more familiar with the policies applied in the Member States. They could usefully, at colloquia and working meetings, compare experiments conducted in the twelve countries with a view to benefiting from them at the individual national level;
 - . teachers, researchers and others concerned might also take part in field-study visits to gain knowledge of innovative methods used in the various countries.
- Conducting of detailed studies by experts:
 - . case studies concerning situations representative of the typical trends of educational policies of the Member States,
 - . thematic studies across the Member States."

European Schools

The Council and the Ministers for Education, meeting within the Council, then adopted conclusions on a possible change in the Statute of the European Schools and on the utilization of their pedagogical experience.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

10900/89 (Presse 246)

ood/LG/er

1378th meeting of the Council

- RESEARCH -

Brussels, 15 and 16 December 1989

President:

Mr Hubert CURIEN

Minister for Research
and Technology
of the French Republic

Luxembourg:

Mr René STEICHEN

Minister responsible for Scientific Research

Netherlands:

Mr P.C. NIEMAN

Ambassador, Permanent
Representative

Portugal:

Mr Luis VALENTE DE OLIVEIRA

Minister for Planning and Territorial
Administration

Mr José SUCENA PAIVA

State Secretary for Science and Technology

United Kingdom:

Mr Douglas HOGG

Minister for Industry and Enterprise

Commission:

Mr Filippo Maria PANDOLFI

Vice-President

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

The Council continued its discussion of the proposal for a Decision concerning a framework programme for research and technological development in the period 1990 to 1994. Following lengthy discussion, it reached political agreement on the basis of a Presidency compromise.

The compromise provides for a total of ECU 5 700 million, broken down as follows:

- ECU 2 500 million for 1990-1992;

- ECU 3 200 million for the financing in 1993 and 1994 of activities begun in the period 1990 to 1992. If this amount is covered by any financial perspective fixed for 1993 and 1994, it is deemed to be confirmed. In any other circumstances, the Council should as soon as possible take, in accordance with the Treaty, the decisions deemed necessary to ensure the continuity of the present framework programm.

During the third year (1992), the Commission will assess the programme's progress by reference to a number of criteria, and will in particular carry out an overall evaluation. After the Council has examined its findings, the Commission will submit to it appropriate proposals for a revision of the framework programme.

The Commission considers the cost of the measures which, following this revision, might be carried out in 1993 and 1994 could amount to at least ECU 2 000 million.

The framework programme is broken down into the following activities:

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	in million of ECU		
	1990-1992	1993-1994	TOTAL

I. ENABLING TECHNOLOGIES

1. Information and communications technologies	974	1 247	2 221
- Information technologies	1 352		
- Communications technologies	489		
- Development of telematics systems of general interest	380		
2. Industrial and materials technologies	390	498	888
- Industrial and materials technologies	748		
- Measurement and testing	140		

II. MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

3. Environment	227	291	518
- Environment	414		
- Marine Sciences and technologies	104		
4. Life sciences and technologies	325	416	741
- Biotechnology	164		
- Agricultural and agro-industrial research (1)	333		
- Biomedical and health research	133		
- Life sciences and technologies for developing countries	111		
5. Energy	357	457	814
- Non-nuclear energies	157		
- Nuclear fission safety	199		
- Controlled nuclear fusion	458		

III. MANAGEMENT OF INTELLECTUAL RESOURCES

6. Human capital and mobility	227	291	518
- Human capital and mobility	518		
TOTAL	2 500	3 200	5 700

(5 700) (2) (3)

(1) including fisheries.

(2) including ECU 57 million for the centralized action of dissemination and exploitation provided for in Article 4, drawn proportionally from each activity.

(3) including ECU 180 million for 1990-1992 and ECU 370 million for 1993-1994 for the Joint Research Centre.

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The Council also adopted the following statement:

"As pointed out by the European Council meeting in Strasbourg, the Community and its Member States intend to support those Central and East European countries which have taken the path of democratic change.

Under its research policy, the Community can, through greater co-operation, make an additional contribution to the establishment of sound, prosperous economies and to the strengthening of freedom, pluralism, democracy and progress in those countries.

In that spirit, the Research Council states its willingness to consider arrangements for closer co-operation with those countries in the research field.

It considers that priority should be given to co-operation in areas of direct concern to the population, such as the environment and health, and also to initiatives aimed at developing exchanges and free movement of scientists.

It calls on the Commission to take account of these guidelines in the communication which it is to submit on co-operation with third countries in the research field."

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HEALTH: HUMAN GENOME ANALYSIS

The Council adopted a common position on a specific research and technological development programme in the field of health: Human Genome Analysis (1990-1991) with an allocation of ECU 15 million.

The objectives of the programme are as follows:

- to develop and disseminate the basic technologies concerning the study of the human genome, with the intention of improving knowledge of matters of medical importance;
- to increase the resolution of the human genetic map and improve the physical map by the creation of ordered clone libraries, as a basis for locating genes of medical importance on chromosomes and for a better general understanding of gene function;
- to organize networks and co-ordination, on a European and international scale, of researchers from all disciplines working in this field.

Achievement of the abovementioned goals requires the undertaking at Community level of action aimed at:

- filling some existing gaps in scientific and technological knowledge;
- encouraging co-operation between European research establishments with a view to further the development of existing technologies while promoting all research sectors capable of generating new lines of research.

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Simultaneously, measures must be taken to promote co-operation between the Community programme and similar ones developed in third countries or by international organizations.

The Commission will also see to it that there is wide-ranging and in-depth discussion of the ethical, social and legal aspects of human genome analysis. It will submit to the European Parliament and to the Council an annual report, possibly with legislative recommendations. To that end, the Commission will obtain advice from experts in different fields of science (including medicine), law, philosophy and ethics, together with representatives of patients' associations.

The financial allocation will be broken down as follows:

	<u>millions of ecus</u>
Improvement of the human genetic map	3,3
Physical mapping (ordered clone libraries)	3,4
Data processing and data bases	2,2
Improvement of the methods and basis for the study of the human genome	2,2
Training	1,9
Ethical, social and legal aspects	1,0
Management and staff	1,0
TOTAL	15,0

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MANAGEMENT AND STORAGE OF RADIOACTIVE WASTE

The Council formally adopted an R&D programme in the field of management and storage of radioactive waste (1990-1994) with an allocation ECU 79,6 million.

The programme is aimed at perfecting and demonstrating a system for managing radioactive waste, including unprocessed irradiated fuel where this is considered as waste, which will ensure, at the various stages, the best possible protection of man and the environment. In particular, research will be continued on the characterization and description of the various barriers considered, both engineered and natural (geological), and the findings will be used to evaluate the long-term safety of this waste disposal concept.

The funds allocated will be distributed as follows:

millions of ecus

Part A: Waste management and associated R&D projects

- Studies of management systems	5,4
- Treatment of waste	7,5
- Safety of the multi-barrier system of geological disposal	39,2

Part B:

- Construction and/or operation of underground facilities open to Community joint activities	27,5
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MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Second Directive on credit institutions

The Council adopted a second Council Directive on the co-ordination of laws, regulations and administrative provisions relating to the taking up and pursuit of the business of credit institutions since the European Parliament had now reached a decision under the co-operation procedure and the Commission had submitted its re-examined proposal.

It should be noted that the Council adopted its common position on the draft of this Directive on 19 June 1989 and subsequently forwarded it to the European Parliament.

The Directive lays down the general framework for the co-ordination of banking legislation and expands on the first Directive adopted in 1977 so as to serve as a basis for the implementation of other more specialized instruments such as the recently adopted Directive (17 April 1989) on the own funds of credit institutions, the Directive establishing a Community solvency ratio (on which the Council is required to take a final decision on 18 December 1989) and the 1987 Recommendations regarding large exposures and the introduction of deposit-guarantee schemes.

All these measures are designed to provide, by the end of 1992 at the latest, a homogeneous structure for the financial services market by removing as many as possible of the disparities in national treatment and the differences in conditions of competition.

The authorization given by the competent authority of the headquarters Member State will have Community-wide application and will allow a credit institution to set itself up in the Community and provide services there without needing to subject itself to a further authorization procedure.

It is the authorities in the headquarters State which have to check on the institution's solvency. However, the institution may no longer site its headquarters in a State of mere convenience: it must actually operate there. The authorities in countries which are host to branches and services, once they are apprised of their arrival, play a complementary role inasmuch as they now need only ensure that the rules which protect the general good are complied with (according to the Court of Justice's strict interpretation), such as the protection of savings, or assume monetary policy responsibilities.

The Directive lays down a set of conditions to govern the authorization of banks such as the requirement of a minimum initial capital of ECU 5 million. However, it also makes provision for a range of specific adjustments to these rules to assist small undertakings and those already in existence when these standards are adopted, lowering the limit to ECU 1 million.

The Directive establishes the principle, subject to a certain elasticity, of a limit on the holdings a credit institution may have in a non-financial institution. It restricts holdings in another institution to 15% of its own funds and to 60% of all its holdings.

It also makes subject to rules on the provision of information the acquisition of a holding in the capital itself of credit institutions by natural or legal persons taking up, abandoning or amending a shareholding position.

It establishes the possibilities for negotiating with third countries so as to promote principles of free and equal competition and makes it possible to combat certain forms of treatment which de facto or de jure put Community institutions at a disadvantage as compared with institutions from third countries which

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continue to practise such discriminatory treatment despite the fact that the Community has welcomed their nationals.

Finally, the Directive lays down strict rules concerning the professional secrecy binding the authorities responsible for applying the Directive which to that end have been authorized to send each other information solely for the prudential supervision of credit institutions.

Insurance

Following the substantive agreement reached at its (Internal Market) meeting on 23 and 24 November, the Council adopted its common position on the Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to insurance against civil liability in respect of the use of motor vehicles (see Press Release 10023/89 Presse 218 of 23/24.XI.1989).

Customs Union

The Council adopted Regulations:

- opening and providing for the administration of autonomous Community tariff quotas for certain agricultural and chemical products (1990);
- amending Regulation No 1135/88 concerning the definition of the concept of "originating products" and methods of administrative co-operation in trade between the customs territory of the Community, the Canary Islands, Ceuta and Melilla;

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- increasing the volume of the Community tariff quota opened for 1989 for a certain form of polyvinylpyrrolidone;
- opening and providing for the administration of autonomous tariff quotas for coffee, not roasted and not decaffeinated and for cocoa beans, whole or broken (1990).

PRESS RELEASE

10902/89 (Presse 248)
non/MI/cc

1379th Council meeting

- Economic and Financial Affairs -

Brussels, 18 December 1989

President: Mr 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

Germany:

Mr Theo WAIGEL Federal Minister for Finance

Mr Hans TIETMEYER State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Finance

Greece:

Mr George YENNIMATAS Minister for Economic Affairs

Spain:

Mr José BORRELL FONTELLES State Secretary, Ministry of Finance

Mr Pedro PEREZ State Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs

France:

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

Ireland:

Mr Albert REYNOLDS Minister for Finance

Italy:

Mr Guido CARLI

Minister for the Treasury

Mr Rino FORMICA

Minister for Finance

Luxembourg:

Mr Jacques SANTER

Prime Minister, Minister for the
Treasury

Netherlands:

Mr W. KOK

Minister for Finance

Mr Piet DANKERT

State Secretary, Ministry of
Foreign Affairs

Mr M.J.J. VAN AMELSVOORT

State Secretary, Ministry of
Finance

Portugal:

Mr Carlos TAVARES

State Secretary, the Treasury

United Kingdom:

Mr John MAJOR

Chancellor of the Exchequer

Commission:

Mr Jacques DELORS

President

Sir Leon BRITTAN

Vice-President

Mr Henning CHRISTOPHERSEN

Vice-President

Mrs Christiane SCRIVENER

Member

Mr Karl VAN MIERT

Member

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non/MI/cc

ECONOMIC SITUATION IN THE COMMUNITY

The Council carried out a second multilateral surveillance exercise, which enabled it to have a wide-ranging and thorough discussion of the economic situation in the Community.

It went on to adopt the substance - in accordance with the "convergence" decision of 1974 - of the annual economic report and laid down the economic-policy guidelines to be followed in the Community.

The annual economic report will be formally adopted before the end of the year after the text has been finalized.

FOLLOW-UP TO THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL

Further to the conclusions of the European Council in Strasbourg with regard to economic and monetary union, the Council noted that the Commission intended to submit before 1 April 1990 a composite paper on all aspects of the achievement of economic and monetary union which would take into account all available analyses and contributions.

The Council invited the Monetary Committee to continue its work on the achievement of economic and monetary union and to report back to it again before 1 April 1990.

The Council will carry out an initial examination of these two reports at its next informal meeting scheduled for 30 March and 1 April 1990.

FIRST STAGE OF ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION

Noting that the European Parliament had not yet delivered its Opinion on the two draft decisions concerning the first stage of EMU, the Council agreed to return to this issue at its next meeting on economic and financial affairs in February 1990.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR CENTRAL AND EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

After a preliminary exchange of views on the Commission's proposal concerning the granting of medium-term financial assistance to Hungary, the Council instructed the Monetary Committee to examine the proposal and to report back to it for its meeting in February 1990.

The Council also noted that satisfactory progress had been made with the work of setting up a European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

ABOLITION OF FISCAL FRONTIERS

Further to the conclusions of the European Council in Strasbourg inviting it to supplement the arrangement agreed on in the field of indirect taxation "by the elements which will be essential in particular to enable the progressive approximation of VAT rates", the Council continued its deliberations on this point. At the close of its discussions, the President drew the following conclusions:

"The abolition of restrictions on purchases by individuals (1st subparagraph of point 8 of the conclusions of the ECOFIN Council on 13 November 1989), allowing market forces to operate fully inevitably means that States will have to approximate their rates. If the consequences are to remain manageable for all, this approximation must be co-ordinated and balanced. The States therefore

agree that it is necessary as of now to avoid increasing the divergences between their VAT rates and that the normal rate they apply to most goods and services should not, between now and 1 January 1993;

- be reduced if it is less than 14%, nor raised if it is greater than 20%;

- be reduced below 14% nor raised above 20%, if it falls between 14% and 20%.

The taxation of intra-Community trade in the country of destination and special treatment applied to certain classes of transaction (points 1 to 5 of the conclusions of the ECOFIN Council of 13 November 1989) must enable most distortions of competition to be prevented. The expected effect of the abolition of frontiers in each member country should, however, be evaluated more accurately on the basis of the overall solution adopted by the Council and with due regard for future developments in the economic situation within the Community. In this connection, Member States will seek agreement between now and 31 December 1991 on a range of rates or, possibly, a minimum rate applicable on 1 January 1993 within the limits proposed by the Commission for the normal rate.

The reduced rates will be reserved in particular for essential goods and services meeting a social or cultural policy objective and will be jointly defined. In order to prevent distortions of competition and to continue the process of harmonization, the Council will - before 31 December 1991 - decide on the scope of the reduced rates which Member States will be able to apply and on the 1 January 1993 level. It will also decide on the products which can continue to be zero-rated without this entailing distortions of competition among Member States."

TAXATION OF SAVINGS

The Council continued its deliberations on the taxation of savings. At the close of the discussions, the President noted that eleven delegations approved the following conclusions:

THE COUNCIL,

With reference to the declaration of the European Council in Madrid to the effect that it is necessary to ensure that the liberalization of capital movements does not facilitate tax evasion, and the instructions given to the Council to find a satisfactory solution to the problem of taxation of savings in order to reach agreement before 1 July 1990,

has agreed on a series of measures designed to

- improve mutual assistance between the Member States, while ensuring that the obligations incumbent upon the competent authorities and the persons concerned are in proportion to the seriousness of the presumed evasion and to the significance of the amounts in question;
- extend mutual judicial assistance;
- adjust certain national measures;
- step up co-operation with countries which are not members of the Community.

A. On the question of mutual assistance

The Council,

1. in the interests of increasing the effectiveness of mutual assistance, considers that taxes on inheritances and gifts must be included within the scope of Council Directive 77/799/EEC of 19 December 1977;
2. points out that
 - the State to which the request is made must supply the information requested where it is able to obtain the same information for its own purposes;
 - assistance may not be refused on the grounds that there is no fiscal interest on the part of the State requested or that the tax for the correct establishment of which the information is requested does not exist in this Member State;
3. considers it necessary, specifically in cases of exchanges of information on request, to remove the obstacle to exchanges of tax information constituted by the administrative practice of the requested Member State where there are specific grounds for supposing that significant financial assets have been transferred to this State without those assets or the income or capital gain arising from them having been declared, if this is required, for taxation purposes in the requesting State;
4. asks the Member States, before 1 July 1990, to take measures enabling them to supply information in specific cases in which evidence of serious evasion is put forward by the authority making the request, even if the requested State is unable to obtain information from the financial institutions for its own purposes.

However, where Member States do not consider it possible to provide this information under the heading of mutual assistance, the mutual judicial assistance procedure may be applied for a transitional period of 2 years provided it can achieve the same tangible results as the procedure referred to in the preceding paragraph.

5. instructs the Commission to monitor the effective application of mutual assistance by the Member States and to submit a report on this matter to it every two years and for the first time on 31 December 1991, accompanied by the proposals which it deems necessary for improving procedures and for defining the concepts of significant assets and serious evasion mentioned in points 3 and 4 above;
6. calls on the Commission to propose to it before 31 December 1989 the amendments to be made, where necessary to Directive 77/799/EEC, in the hope that these amendments can be finalized and adopted as soon as possible and in any event before 1 July 1990.

B. On the question of mutual judicial assistance

The Council

7. requests those Member States which have not yet done so to sign and ratify as soon as possible the Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters and the Additional Protocol on Tax Offences concluded in the framework of the Council of Europe.

C. On the question of national measures

The Council

8. refers to Article 4 of the Council Directive of 24 June 1988 which allows the Member States to take all requisite measures to prevent infringements of their laws and regulations, inter alia in the field of taxation, and to lay down procedures for the declaration of capital movements, provided that application of those measures and procedures does not have the effect of impeding capital movements carried out in accordance with Community law;
9. recalls that in some Member States such measures and procedures are implemented through a generalized system of statutory reporting from financial institutions;
10. considers it useful to require explicit assurance by taxpayers that any income from savings has been correctly declared;
11. calls on the Member States to ask interest-paying agents to remind recipients that such income may be declarable.

D. On the question of international co-operation

The Council,

12. considering that an improvement of international co-operation (non-member countries and offshore financial centres) must go hand in hand with the strengthening of co-operation between the Member States,

- calls on the Member States actively to seek means of stepping up mutual judicial assistance, co-operation on tax matters and mutual assistance with the principal non-member countries, both on a bilateral basis and, with the Commission, in the appropriate multilateral frameworks, in particular by undertaking within the OECD and the IMF an examination of the conditions for fair competition on the capital market and between financial markets both in Europe and in the rest of the world, including the issue of strengthening the means of combating evasion;

 - instructs the Commission to take stock of work done in the framework of international co-operation and to submit a report to it by 31 December 1991;

 - calls upon those Member States in whose territory offshore financial centres are situated or which have special relations with them to pass on the Council's conclusions to the competent authorities of such financial centres and to make every effort to encourage them to provide the Member States, in the event of tax evasion, with administrative and judicial assistance equivalent to that provided for between Member States under these Council conclusions.
13. The Council agrees, in the light of the first Commission report, with particular reference to the progress made with offshore financial centres, to re-examine the conditions for increasing administrative assistance among Member States not later than 31 December 1992.

TAKEOVER AND OTHER GENERAL BIDS

The Council held an initial policy debate on the proposal for a 13th Directive on company law concerning takeover and other general bids.

It noted that a considerable amount of work had been done during the first half of the year, which had already made it possible to examine in more detail a number of basic questions, such as:

- the scope of the Directive,
- the general principles on which the Directive and the activities of the supervisory authorities must be based,
- the restriction of the powers of the board of the offeree company during the period of the bid,
- litigation,
- informing representatives of the employees of the offeree company.

The Council's discussions today concentrated on the problem of the obligation to make a bid and the criteria for triggering such an obligation.

The obligation to make a bid was, in the opinion of the Commission and of a large majority of delegations, a basic feature of the Directive from the viewpoint of equal treatment for shareholders in a company which must be protected in particular when a change occurred in the control of that company.

Finding that there was a majority in favour of the idea of a Directive with as limited a scope as possible, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its discussions and to submit a full report to it on the whole Directive as soon as possible.

SOLVENCY RATIO

Following the substantive agreement reached in the ECOFIN Council on 19 June, the Council adopted - after the European Parliament had given its Opinion under the co-operation procedure and the Commission had submitted its re-examined proposal - the Directive on a solvency ratio which constitutes the counterpart to the second banking Directive adopted on 15 December and the Directive on the own funds of credit institutions adopted on 17 April 1989.

The main elements are now present for mutual recognition of the authorizations issued by the national authorities on harmonized bases and for co-ordinated supervision avoiding all distortion of treatment.

The Directive provides for the weighting of assets and off-balance-sheet items of credit institutions in keeping with the degree of credit risk and a ratio of 8%, which means that institutions will have to increase their level of capital. The Community is pursuing its efforts to extend co-ordination in the near future to interest-rate and foreign-exchange risks and to other market risks such as those arising from open positions. At this meeting the Council solved certain problems concerning obligations in the property sector.

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The Directive should produce its effects at the same time as the other Directives concerning financial services and should enter into force by 31 December 1992 at the latest.

NCI AND EURATOM LOANS

The Council discussed the Commission proposals concerning NCI V and the increase in the ceiling on EURATOM loans. Following the discussion the President noted that the Council had been unable to achieve the unanimity required for the approval of these two decisions.

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MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS.

Relations with the Soviet Union

The Council

- agreeing to the text of the Agreement between the Community and the USSR on trade and commercial and economic co-operation, decided to sign the Agreement subject to its being concluded (the signing took place that day - see Press Release 10948/89 Presse 251),
- approved the bilateral textile agreement the Commission had just negotiated and adopted, pending the formal conclusion of the agreement, the decision allowing its provisional application from 1 January 1990.

Relations with the EFTA countries

The Council

- approved the outcome of the negotiations with the EFTA countries concerning the opening of COMETT II to those countries and authorized its President to sign the Agreements,
- decided to sign, subject to its being concluded, the Agreement establishing a procedure for the exchange of information in the field of technical regulations between the Community, of the one part, and the EFTA countries, of the other part.

(The signing of these Agreements took place on the morning of 19 December - see Press Releases 10950/89 Presse 253 and 10951/89 Presse 254.)

Customs union

The Council adopted the Regulation amending Regulation No 2658/87 on the tariff and statistical nomenclature and on the Common Customs Tariff (extension of the validity of the Regulation to 31 December 1990).

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

10947/89 (Presse 250)

art/MM/et

1380th Council meeting

- FISHERIES -

Brussels, 18 and 19 December 1989

President: Mr Jacques MELLICK

Minister attached to the
Minister for Transport and
Maritime Affairs of the
French Republic, with
responsibility for Maritime
Affairs

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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

Denmark:

Mr Kent KIRK Minister for Fisheries

Mr Thomas LAURITSEN State Secretary, Ministry for Fisheries

Germany:

Mr Wolfgang von GELDERN State Parliamentary Secretary at the Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Forestry

Greece:

Mr Nikolaos PSYLLAKIS Secretary-General, Ministry of Agriculture

Spain:

Mr José LOIRA RUA Secretary-General for Fisheries

France:

Mr Jacques MELLICK Minister attached to the Minister for Transport, with responsibility for Maritime Affairs

Ireland:

Mr John P. WILSON Minister for the Marine

Mr Michael NOONAN Minister of State at the Department of the Marine

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Italy:

Mr Carlo VIZZINI

Minister for Merchant Shipping

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean-Marc HOSCHEIT

Embassy Secretary at the
Permanent Representation

Netherlands:

Mr Gerrit BRAKS

Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries

Portugal:

Mr Alvaro BARRETO

Minister for Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food

Mr Manuel OLIVEIRA GODINHO

State Secretary for Fisheries

United Kingdom:

Mr John GUMMER

Minister of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food

Mr David CURRY

State Secretary at the Ministry of
Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Lord SANDERSON

Minister of State at the
Scottish Office

Commission:

Mr Manuel MARIN

Vice-President

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TACs AND QUOTAS FOR 1990

After detailed discussions and on the basis of a compromise prepared by the Commission and the Presidency, the Council adopted by a qualified majority the Regulation fixing, for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks, the total allowable catches for 1990 and certain conditions under which they may be fished. These totals are set out in the Annex.

The Council and the Commission took note of the scientific work embarked upon with a view to achieving a better assessment of conservation measures to be implemented in certain Spanish and Portuguese coastal zones.

In the light of the results of that work and no later than 31 October 1990 the Commission will submit to the Council its proposals regarding technical conservation measures in the zones concerned and they have noted that in the interval the rules at present applicable will be maintained.

The Council noted the Commission's intention, with a view to the ACFM meeting next May, of submitting to the Council any appropriate proposal for the adjustment of TACs, in particular for sole and herring.

The Council took note of a Commission statement to the effect that

"The worrying situation of several demersal stocks, in the North East Atlantic in particular, requires a very significant reduction in fishing, to be carried out gradually in order to minimize the resultant economic and social disruption.

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The adaptation of fishing capacities by means of multiannual guidance programmes must make it possible in the long term to overcome the difficulties caused by the continuous deterioration in spawning stocks.

In order not to jeopardize the achievement of these objectives it would appear to be necessary in the immediate future to employ support measures intended to alleviate the burden of constraints and redirect the activities of the undertakings most affected by this situation".

These measures include in particular:

- the creation of a "short-term reserve" to prevent the premature closure of certain fisheries;
- measures involving temporary cessation by fishing fleets, as well as measures concerning definitive cessation;
- new impetus for structural measures concerning experimental fisheries;
- the promotion of temporary associations of undertakings;
- campaigns to promote an improvement in the quantities of certain species consumed;
- efforts to redirect haddock fishing to whiting fishing.

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ANNUAL FISHERIES ARRANGEMENTS RESULTING FROM THE ACT OF ACCESSION OF
SPAIN/PORTUGAL

The Council adopted by a qualified majority a Regulation fixing, for 1990, certain measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources, applicable to vessels flying the flag of one of the ten Member States, in the waters of Spain.

The Council also adopted (see "Miscellaneous decisions" in this press release) the two other Regulations concerning Portugal.

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NORWAY

The Council adopted by a qualified majority the Regulations:

- allocating certain quotas between Member States for vessels fishing in the Norwegian Exclusive Economic Zone and the fishing zone around Jan Mayen;
- laying down, for 1990, certain measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources applicable to vessels flying the flag of Norway.

The first Regulation involves in particular the allocation to the Community of quotas in Norwegian waters as follows:

- 3 750 tonnes of Norwegian Arctic cod;
- 480 tonnes of Norwegian Arctic haddock;
- 3 000 tonnes of redfish

SWEDEN

The Council adopted by a qualified majority three Regulations:

- laying down, for 1990, certain measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources applicable to vessels flying the flag of Sweden;
- allocating, for 1990, certain quotas among the Member States for vessels fishing in Swedish waters;
- allocating, for the remainder of 1989, an additional quota of 5 000 tonnes of herring among the Member States for vessels fishing in Swedish waters.

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FAROE ISLANDS

The Council adopted by a qualified majority the Regulations:

- allocating, for 1990, certain quotas among the Member States for vessels fishing in Faroese waters;

- laying down, for 1990, certain measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources applicable to vessels registered in the Faroe Islands.

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GREENLAND

Subject to the Opinion of the European Parliament, the Council agreed in principle on the Regulation concluding a new Fisheries Protocol between the EEC and Greenland covering the next five years and ordered the provisional application of that Protocol from 1 January 1990.

The Council also adopted by a qualified majority the Regulation allocating, for 1990, Community catch quotas in Greenland waters.

The Community has obtained a better return in the context of this new Protocol in that the annual financial compensation fixed at ECU 34,25 million involves an increase of 7 500 tonnes of cod and 30 000 tonnes of capelin, and a reduction by an unused part of redfish (11 000 tonnes).

As regards shrimp, the Protocol provides for the transfer of the Community quota from the Western stock to the Eastern stock. That transfer will be made gradually over three years. Greenland has agreed to offset that transfer by an additional quantity of 125 tonnes of shrimp in 1992 and 175 tonnes in 1993 and 1994.

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NORTH-WEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES ORGANIZATION (NAFO)

The Council adopted by a qualified majority the Regulation fixing, for 1990, quotas for the NAFO Regulatory Area.

Those quotas are fixed at the following levels:

<u>Species</u>	<u>AREA</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Cod	NAFO 2J + 3KL	32 000
Cod	NAFO 3NO	7 000
Cod	NAFO 3M	-
Redfish	NAFO 3M	12 000
Redfish	NAFO 3LN	6 000
American plaice	NAFO 3M	500
American plaice	NAFO 3LNO	500
Witch	NAFO 3NO	1 200
Yellowtail flounder	NAFO 3LNO	200
Capelin	NAFO 3NO	740
Squid	NAFO subarea 3+4	p.m.

MEASURES FOR THE CONSERVATION OF FISHERY RESOURCES

The Council adopted by a qualified majority the Regulation amending the conservation standards in force. Those amendments include:

- in the case of Norway lobster, the introduction of the possibility of using selective twin-codend trawls, the lower of 50 mm mesh and the upper of 65 mm. Where non selective trawls were used, the mesh would have to be increased to 55 mm;
- the increase in the minimum size for bass in regions 2 and 3;
- the reduction of the minimum landing sizes for little sole and megrim in region 3;
- the alteration of the border regarding mesh size in the Northern part of the Firth of Clyde.

The Council and the Commission agreed that the worrying situation of certain demersal stocks, particularly in the North Sea, required conservation measures appropriate to the circumstances.

They felt that amendments to existing rules should be implemented as part of a general approach, in particular as regards minimum mesh sizes, minimum landing sizes and discards. In that connection they instructed the Working Party of Senior Officials to accelerate the detailed discussions already begun in this area and report back before 1 June 1990.

In the light of the conclusions of these proceedings the Commission will submit appropriate proposals to the Council no later than 31 July 1990.

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TARIFF QUOTAS

The Council adopted by a qualified majority the Regulation opening and providing for the administration of autonomous Community tariff quotas for certain fisheries products for 1990. Entry into force is scheduled for 1 April.

This Regulation provides for the possibility of importing a total quantity of 130 500 tonnes of twelve species of fish at reduced rates of duty ranging from 3.7% to 10%.

The Regulation is essentially intended to ensure supplies for processing industries at prices that will enable them to be competitive without, however, harming the interests of Community fishermen.

A complete list of the quotas is given in Annex.

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PARTIAL SUSPENSION OF CUSTOMS DUTIES

The Council adopted by a qualified majority the Regulation partially suspending the autonomous Common Customs Tariff duties at 11% on:

CN CODE	Description
ex 0304 20 57	Fillets and other meat of hake
ex 0304 90 47	(Merluccius spp. except for Merluccius merluccius, Merluccius bilinearis and Merluccius carpensis) in industrial blocks, deep frozen, for processing
ex 0304 20 85	Fillets of Alaska pollack (Theragra chalcogramma), in industrial blocks, frozen, for processing

All measures valid from 1 April to 31 December 1990.

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PROCESSING AND MARKETING OF FISHERY AND AQUACULTURE PRODUCTS

The Council adopted the Regulation on the improvement of the conditions under which fishery and aquaculture products are processed and marketed.

As a result of the reform of the Structural Funds, Regulation No 355/77 on the processing of agricultural and fishery products will be repealed on 31 December 1989. Accordingly, the purpose of this proposal is to implement a special Regulation on the improvement of the conditions under which fishery and aquaculture products are processed and marketed which takes account both of the objectives of the reform of the Structural Funds, in particular of the concentration of the measures implemented in certain regions of the Community, and of the specific nature of the fisheries sector, and in particular of the link to be established with Regulation No 4028/86 on Community measures for improving and adapting structures in the fisheries and aquaculture sector.

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RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION

The Council discussed relations between the Community and the USSR as regards the conclusion of a fisheries agreement.

At the close of that discussion the Council invited the Commission to explore possible ways and means of reaching agreement.



ANNEX I

TACs BY STOCK AND BY AREA
FOR 1990 - COMMUNITY SHARES

SPECIES	ZONE	1990 TAC	COMMUNITY SHARE IN 1990 (tonnes)
Herring	III a	p.m. (2)	p.m. (2)
Herring	III b,c,d (1)	38 000	33 450
Herring	II a (1), IV a,b	385 000	260 150
Herring	IV c, VII d	30 000	30 000
Herring	V b (1), VI a North, VI b	75 000	66 910
Herring	IV a South, VII b,c	27 500	27 500
Herring	VI a Clyde	2 600	2 600
Herring	VII a	7 000 (x)	7 000
Herring	VII e,f	500 (x)	500
Herring	VII g,h,i,k	17 500	17 500
Sprat	III a	60 000 (x)	42 750

(x) Precautionary TAC

(1) EC Zone

(2) These quantities will be fixed after the consultations to be held with Norway and Sweden on the trilateral arrangements for fishing in Skagerrak and the Kattegat in the light of existing scientific opinion.

SPECIES	ZONE	1990 TAC	COMMUNITY SHARE IN 1990 (tonnes)
Sprat	III b,c,d (1)	17 000	15 000
Sprat	II a (1), IV (1)	59 000 (x)	53 000
Sprat	VII d,e	12 000 (x)	12 000
Anchovy	VIII	30 000 (x)	30 000
Anchovy	IX, X, CECAF (1)	9 000 (x)	9 000
Salmon	III b,c,d (1)	800 (x)	780
Capelin	II b Svalbard		0
Cod	II b Svalbard	5 280	5 280
Cod	III a Skagerrak	21 000	17 325
Cod	III a Kattegat	8 500	5 125
Cod	III b,c,d	73 500	71 850
Cod	II a (1) IV	105 000	98 270

(x) Precautionary TAC

(1) EC Zone

SPECIES	ZONE	1990 TAC	COMMUNITY SHARE IN 1990 (tonnes)
Cod	V b (1), VI, XII, XIV	16 000	16 000
Cod	VII b,c,d,e, f,g,h,j,k, VIII, IX, X CECAF (1)	24 000	24 000
Cod	VII a	15 300	15 300
Haddock	III a, III b, c,d (1)	10 000 (x)	8 630
Haddock	II a (1), IV	50 000	41 700
Haddock	V b (1), VI, XII, XIV	24 000	24 000
Haddock	VII, VIII, IX X, CECAF (1)	6 000 (x)	6 000
Saithe	II a (1), III a, III b, c,d (1), IV	120 000	67 600
Saithe	V b (1), VI, XII, XIV	29 000	29 000
Saithe	VII, VIII, IX X, CECAF (1)	14 000 (x)	14 000

(x) Precautionary TAC

(1) EC Zone

SPECIES	ZONE	1990 TAC	COMMUNITY SHARE IN 1990 (tonnes)
Pollack	V b (1), VI, XII, XIV	1 100 (x)	1 100
Pollack	VII	14 000 (x)	14 000
Pollack	VIII a,b	2 600 (x)	2 600
Pollack	VIII c	800 (x)	800
Pollack	VIII d	50 (x)	50
Pollack	VIII e	100 (x)	100
Pollack	IX, X, CEEAF (1)	450 (x)	450
Norway pout	II a, (1) III a, IV (1)	200 000 (x)	171 000
Blue whiting	II a (1) IV (1)	90 000	50 000
Blue whiting	V b (1), VI, VII	510 000	284 500
Blue whiting	VIII a,b,d	26 500 (x)	26 500
Blue whiting	VIII e	1 000 (x)	1 000
Blue whiting	VIII c, IX, X, CEEAF (1)	50 000 (x)	50 000
Whiting	III a	17 000 (x)	15 080

(x) Precautionary TAC

(1) EC Zone

SPECIES	ZONE	1990 TAC	COMMUNITY SHARE IN 1990 (tonnes)
Whiting	II a (1), IV	125 000	55 480
Whiting	V b (1), VI XII, XIV	11 000	11 000
Whiting	VII a	15 000	15 000
Whiting	VII b,c,d,e, f,g,h,j,k	24 000	24 000
Whiting	VIII	5 000 (x)	5 000
Whiting	IX, X, CECAF (1)	2 640 (x)	2 640
Hake	III a, III b, c, d (1)	1 300 (x)	1 300
Hake	II a (1) IV (1)	2 310	2 310
Hake	V b (1), VI, VII, XII, XIV	38 890	38 890
Hake	VIII, a,b,d,e	24 600	24 600
Hake	VIII c, IX, X, CECAF (1)	20 000 (x)	20 000
Horse mackerel	II a (1) IV (1)	40 000 (x)	40 000

(x) Precautionary TAC

(1) EC zone

SPECIES	ZONE	1990 TAC	COMMUNITY SHARE IN 1990 (tonnes)
Horse mackerel	V b (1), VI, VII, XII, XIV	162 500 (x)	155 500
Horse mackerel	VIII a,b,d,e	37 500 (x)	37 500
Horse mackerel	VIII c	21 000	21 000
Horse mackerel	IX, X, CECAF (1)	34 000	34 000
Mackerel	II a (1), III a, III b,c,d (1) IV	45 200	12 800
Mackerel	II, V b (1) VI, VII, VIII a,b, d,e, XII, XIV	349 200	330 750
Mackerel	VIII c, IX, X, CECAF (1)	36 570 (x)	36 570
European plaice	III a Skagerrak	11 000 (x)	110 340
European plaice	III a Kattegat	2 000	1 800
European plaice	III b,c,d (1)	3 000 (x)	3 000
European plaice	II a (1) IV	180 000	176 900

(x) Precautionary TAC

(1) EC zone

SPECIES	ZONE	1990 TAC	COMMUNITY SHARE IN 1990 (tonnes)
European plaice	V b (1), VI XII, XIV	2 000 (x)	2 000
European plaice	VII a	5 100	5 100
European plaice	VII b,c	200 (x)	200
European plaice	VII d,e	10 700	10 700
European plaice	VII f,g	1 900	1 900
European plaice	VII h,j,k	1 500 (x)	1 150
European plaice	VIII, IX, X, CECAF (1)	700 (x)	700
Common sole	III a, III b, c,d (1)	500	500
Common sole	II, IV	25 000	25 000
Common sole	V b (1), VI XII, XIV	130 (x)	130
Common sole	VII a	1 050	1 050
Common sole	VII b,c	60 (x)	60
Common sole	VII d	3 850	3 850

(x) Precautionary TAC

(1) EC zone

SPECIES	ZONE	1990 TAC	COMMUNITY SHARE IN 1990 (tonnes)
Common sole	VII e	900	900
Common sole	VII f,g	1 200	1 200
Common sole	VII h,j,k	720 (x)	720
Common sole	VIII a,b	5 200	5 200
Common sole	VII c,d,e, IX, X, CECAF (1)	1 860 (x)	1 860
Mergrim	V b (1), VI, XII, XIV	4 840 (x)	4 840
Mergrim	VII	15 880 (x)	15 880
Mergrim	VIII a,b,d,e	2 220 (x)	2 220
Mergrim	VIII c, IX, X, CECAF (1)	13 000 (x)	13 000
Anglerfish	V b (1), VI, XII, XIV	8 600 (x)	8 600
Anglerfish	VII	33 080 (x)	33 080
Anglerfish	VIII a,b,d	9 910 (x)	9 910
Anglerfish	VIII e	100 (x)	100

(x) Precautionary TAC
(1) EC zone

SPECIES	ZONE	1990 TAC	COMMUNITY SHARE IN 1990 (tonnes)
Anglerfish	VIII c, IX, X, CEEAF (1)	12 000 (x)	12 000
Shrimps	French Guiana	4 100	3 800
Deep-water prawn	III a Skagerrak	3 100 (x)	3 100
Norway lobster	V b (1), VI	16 000 (x)	16 000
Norway lobster	VII	26 000 (x)	26 000
Norway lobster	VIII a,b	7 500 (x)	7 500
Norway lobster	VIII c	800 (x)	800
Norway lobster	VIII d,e	50 (x)	50
Norway lobster	IX, X, CEEAF (1)	4 720 (x)	4 720

(x) Precautionary TAC

(1) EC zone

Quotas

ANNEX II

	NC Code	Description	Quota quantity	Rate of duty
1	ex 0302 50 ex 0302 69 35 ex 0303 60 ex 0303 79 41	Cod (Gadus morhua, Gadus ogac, Gadus macrocephalus) and fish of the species Boreogadus saida, excluding livers and roes, fresh, chilled or frozen and intended for processing (a)(b) (Cod fresh, chilled or frozen)	40 000	3.7%
2	ex 0302 63 00 ex 0303 73 00	Coalfish (Pollachius virens) excluding livers and roes, fresh, chilled or frozen and intended for processing (a)(b) (Saithe fresh, chilled or frozen)	15 000	3.7%
3	ex 0302 62 00 ex 0303 72 00	Haddock (Melanogrammus aeglefinus), excluding livers and roes, fresh, chilled or frozen and intended for processing (a)(b) (Haddock fresh, chilled or frozen)	10 000	3.7%
4	0305 62 00 0305 69 10	Cod (Gadus morhua, Gadus ogac, Gadus macrocephalus) and fish of the species Boreogadus saida, salted or in brine but not dried or smoked (Wet-salted cod)	53 000	7%
5	0305 51 10 0305 59 11	Cod (Gadus morhua, Gadus ogac, Gadus macrocephalus) and fish of the species Boreogadus saida, dried but not salted or smoked (Cod, dried, not salted)	800	10%
6	ex 0305 30 11 ex 0305 30 19	Fillets of cod (Gadus morhua, Gadus ogac, Gadus macrocephalus) and of fish of the species Boreogadus saida, dried, salted or not (Fillets of cod, dried, salted or not)	1 200	11%
7	ex 0306 13 10 ex 0306 23 10	Shrimps of the species Pandalus borealis, in shell, fresh, chilled or frozen and intended for processing (a)(b) (Shrimps, fresh, chilled or frozen)	5 000	7%
8	ex 0305 30 90	Fillets of coalfish (Pollachius virens), salted, intended for processing (a)(b) (Fillets of saithe, salted)	3 500	10%
9	ex 0302 21 10 ex 0303 31 10	Lesser or Greenland halibut (Reinhardtius hippoglossoides), fresh, chilled or frozen and intended for processing (a)(b) (Halibut, fresh, chilled or frozen)	2 000	4%

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Fisheries

The Council adopted

- the Decision amending Decision 87/278/EEC on a Community financial contribution to the development of the monitoring and supervision facilities necessary for applying the Community arrangements for the conservation of fishery resources.

This amendment extends the period of application of Decision 87/278/EEC until 31 December 1990;

- in the context of the annual fishing arrangements arising out of the Act of Accession of Spain and Portugal, two Regulations fixing, for 1990, certain measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources, applicable to vessels flying the flag of
 - = a Member State, other than Spain and Portugal, in waters falling under the sovereignty or within the jurisdiction of Portugal;
 - = Portugal, in waters falling under the sovereignty or within the jurisdiction of a Member State other than Spain and Portugal;
- the Regulation laying down, for 1990, certain measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources applicable to vessels flying the flag of certain non-member countries in the 200-nautical-mile zone off the coast of the French department of Guyana;
- the Decision concluding the Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters on the provisional application of the Protocol laying down the fishing possibilities and the financial compensation provided for in the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Government of the Republic of Guinea Bissau on fishing off the coast of Guinea Bissau for the period from 16 June 1989 to 15 June 1991.

Agriculture

The Council adopted the Regulations

- amending Regulation (EEC) No 2601/69 laying down special measures to encourage the processing of mandarins, satsumas, clementines and oranges.

This amendment fixes the same system for the calculation of the financial compensation for oranges as for the financial compensation for lemons processed into juice;

- amending, with reference to Spain, Regulation (EEC) No 4007/87 extending the period referred to in Articles 90(1) and 257(1) of the Act of Accession of Spain and Portugal.

This amendment extends until 31 December 1990 for Spain the period during which the Commission can adopt transitional measures that appear to be necessary to facilitate transition from the system existing in Spain before accession to the system resulting from the application of the common organization of the markets.



COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

10903/89 (Presse 249)

kin/MM/mbm

1381st Council meeting

- General Affairs -

Brussels, 18 and 19 December 1989

President: Mr Roland DUMAS

Ministre d'Etat,
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the French Republic

18/19.XII.89

kin/MM/mbm

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 Robert URBAIN	Minister for Foreign Trade
Mr Paul DE KEERSMAEKER	State Secretary for European Affairs

Denmark:

Mr Uffe ELLEMANN-JENSEN	Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Jørgen ØRSTRØM MØLLER	State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Germany:

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

Greece:

Mr Ioannis POTTAKIS	Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs
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Spain:

Mr Francisco FERNANDEZ ORDÓÑEZ	Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Apolonio RUIZ LIGERO	State Secretary for Trade

France:

Mr Roland DUMAS	Ministre d'Etat, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mrs Edith CRESSON	Minister for European Affairs

Ireland:

Ms Máire GEOGHEGAN-QUINN	Minister of State at the Department of the Taoiseach with special responsibility for EEC matters
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Italy:

Mr Renato RUGGIERO Minister for Foreign Trade

Mr Claudio VITALONE State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Luxembourg:

Mr Jacques F. POOS Minister for Foreign Affairs

Netherlands:

Mr H. van den BROEK Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Piet BUKMAN State Secretary for Economic Affairs

Mr Piet DANKERT State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Portugal:

Mr João de DEUS PINHEIRO Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Vitor MARTINS State Secretary for European Integration

United Kingdom:

Mr Douglas HURD Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs

Mr William WALDEGRAVE Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Commission:

Mr Jacques DELORS	President
Mr Frans H.J.J. ANDRIESEN	Vice-President
Mr Ray MacSHARRY	Member
Mr Abel MATUTES	Member
Mrs Christiane SCRIVENER	Member

UNITED STATES - COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

1. After taking note of the Joint Declaration which emerged from the recent meeting between the Commission and a United States ministerial delegation, the Council welcomed the support, recently renewed by the President of the United States, for the process of European integration and its strengthening and the recognition of the Community's role as an element of stability in current developments in Europe.

The Council confirmed the importance which, for its part, it also attaches, particularly in present circumstances, to the strengthening of co-operation relations with the United States.

2. This climate should also have a favourable impact on bilateral trade relations and on the strengthening of the multilateral trade system, the balance of rights and obligations of the different partners being restored.
3. The Council also took stock of progress on two specific dossiers.

The Council expressed its willingness to accept the conclusions of the GATT Panel concerning Community aid in the oilseeds sector and to adapt Community rules when implementing the results of the Uruguay Round, subject to the United States' agreement to those conclusions, without prejudice to the comments to be made by the Community on the findings and provided that the United States forgoes unilateral measures against the Community, in accordance with the Panel's conclusions and in compliance with GATT rules.

The Council also noted that progress on the hormones dossier was unsatisfactory, and pointed to the illegality, vis-à-vis GATT, of the unilateral measures taken by the United States, which must therefore be withdrawn.

RELATIONS WITH JAPAN - INTERNAL CAR MARKET - COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

The Council

- took note of the Commission communication on a large internal car market;
- noted the particular importance of this dossier and stressed what was at stake for the Community in the industrial, social, foreign trade and completion of the internal market sectors;
- instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine the communication in detail so that the Council could define its overall position in the near future.

18/19.XII.89

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URUGUAY ROUND - COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

1. After holding a wide-ranging exchange of views on the Commission communication on agriculture, the Council noted, in the light of the viewpoints expressed by delegations and the clarifications and assurances given by the Commission, that the document could be submitted to the GATT Negotiating Group on Agriculture as the Community contribution.
2. The Council noted that the Commission would ensure that the basic principles underlying the CAP would be safeguarded and that the Community's position was still based on the aim of reducing overall support.
3. The Council agreed to return to the Uruguay Round dossier in the near future at which point it would carry out a comprehensive examination of the situation and the prospects for the negotiations.

18/19.XII.89

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FOLLOW-UP TO THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL

The Council reviewed the items in the conclusions of the Strasbourg European Council containing briefs both for the General Affairs Council and for several specialized Councils.

With regard to the tasks directly entrusted to it, the Council pointed out that rapid progress needed to be made on a number of dossiers concerning external relations, in particular relations with the Central and Eastern European, EFTA and Mediterranean countries. On an internal level, the Council noted the co-ordinating and collating role conferred on it in the work to be carried out with a view to the Conference on Economic and Monetary Union. Basically, it will be for the Irish Presidency to organize proceedings concerning the different subjects.

In respect of the free movement of persons, the Council referred in particular to the request made to the Commission for a list of national policies concerning right of asylum and immigration.

The Presidency also gave the Council a progress report on the setting up of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. The Council noted that a first meeting at expert level was scheduled for 15 January 1990.

RELATIONS WITH THE GULF STATES

The Council approved the directives for the negotiation of a Trade Agreement between the EEC and the customs union to be set up by the Gulf States with a view to supplementing the Co-operation Agreement between the Community and the Countries Parties to the Charter of the Co-operation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, signed on 15 June 1988 in Luxembourg.

RELATIONS WITH ARGENTINA

The Council agreed to the draft negotiating directives for an agreement on trade and economic co-operation between the Community and Argentina.

EEC-ANDORRA RELATIONS

The Council was informed by Commissioner MATUTES that negotiations with the Principality of Andorra for the conclusion of a customs union agreement had been successfully completed.

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FRENCH OVERSEAS DEPARTMENTS

The Council agreed on two Decisions concerning the French Overseas Departments:

- one establishing a Programme of options specific to the remote and insular nature of those Departments (POSEIDOM);
 - the other concerning the dock dues arrangements in the French Overseas Departments.
1. The POSEIDOM programme will cover a multiannual period, with the implementation having in principle to be carried out by 31 December 1992 through the adoption of the necessary acts.

The specific aims of the programme are to:

- make possible the realistic integration of the FOD into the Community by establishing an appropriate framework for the application of common policies in those Departments;
- help the FOD catch up economically and socially with a view to the completion of the internal market by 31 December 1992, through co-ordinated and concentrated action involving the Structural Funds, the European Investment Bank (EIB) and other existing financial instruments; measures adopted by national authorities must be integrated with such action.

It provides for the maintenance, extension or adaptation of the Community measures already adopted for the FOD and new measures which must take account of the specific characteristics of the FOD and the need to make their economic and social development possible.

In practice, the main activities, apart from assistance in connection with the new provisions concerning the Structural Funds, involve:

- measures to improve the air service,
- ad hoc measures for agricultural productions of special interest to the FOD, and for rum,
- measures to facilitate supplies to local markets of products for livestock farming and for human consumption.

Finally, specific measures will be implemented to encourage and facilitate regional co-operation with the ACP States and the OCT situated in the same geographical areas as the FOD.

2. The Decision on dock dues lays down that the French authorities will take, by 31 December 1992 at the latest, the necessary measures for the dock dues arrangements at present in force in the FOD to apply to all products whether imported into or produced in the FOD.

It provides for the revenue from this tax to be put to use by the competent authorities of each FOD in such a way as to encourage as effectively as possible the economic and social development of each FOD.

In the light of the specific constraints of the FOD and with a view to attaining the objective of their economic and social development, partial or total exemptions from the tax, according to economic requirements, may be authorized for local production activities for a period of not more than ten years from the date of introduction of the system.

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Before this period expires, the situation will be re-examined by the Council on the basis of a report and of any proposals from the Commission.

These Decisions should be formally adopted shortly, once the texts have been finalized, so that they can enter into force on 1 January 1990.

GDR

The Commission submitted to the Council proposals for directives for the negotiation with the GDR of an agreement on trade and commercial and economic co-operation.

With reference to the conclusions of the Strasbourg European Council regarding the GDR ⁽¹⁾, the Council noted there was agreement in principle on the negotiation of such an agreement with the GDR and instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to finalize the negotiating directives so that they could be formally adopted before the end of the year.

TURKEY

Following an initial exchange of views, and in the light of statements by the various delegations, the Council took note of the Commission's opinion - delivered in accordance with the Treaties - on Turkey's application for accession. The Commission's opinion and suggestions will be studied in detail, bearing in mind the importance to the Community of the special relations it has established with Turkey on the basis of the Ankara Agreement signed in 1963.

(1) Par. IV B. 1.: "The Council will, as soon as possible, instruct the Commission to negotiate a Trade and Co-operation Agreement with the GDR to be concluded during the first half of 1990."

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Poland/Hungary

The Council adopted the Regulation on economic aid to the Republic of Hungary and the Polish People's Republic. The aim is to fix the detailed rules for implementing the project involving ECU 300 million earmarked for the period expiring on 31 December 1990 on which a decision was taken in principle on 27.XI.89 (see Press Release of General Affairs Council - 10180/89 Presse 222).

GATT

The Council adopted

- the Decision concerning the conclusion of the Protocol of Accession of Bolivia to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade;
- the Regulations
 - = amending Regulation No 430/87 on arrangements applicable to imports of manioc and similar products (coming under CN codes 0714 10 10, 0714 10 90 and 0714 90 10) originating in certain third countries.

The aim of the amendment is to fix the ceiling on the levy at 6% ad valorem for certain specific quantities of imports of manioc and similar products from third countries and countries not members of GATT.

- = amending Regulation No 1471/88 as regards imports of sweet potatoes intended for uses other than human consumption, originating in the People's Republic of China for 1990.

The amendment is intended to maintain at the 1989 level (60 000 tonnes) the quota for sweet potatoes originating in China and intended for uses other than human consumption, which will qualify for zero-duty import arrangements in 1990.

Textiles

The Council adopted the Decision on the provisional application of an Agreed Minute amending the Agreement between the European Economic Community and Hong Kong on trade in textile products.

Generalized scheme of preferences

Following the political agreements reached in particular at its meetings on 6 and 27 November, the Council adopted Regulations:

- implementing the provisions of the Community's generalized scheme of preferences for 1990 in respect of various sectors, viz.:
 - = certain industrial products originating in developing countries;
 - = certain agricultural products originating in developing countries;
 - = certain textile products originating in developing countries;
- reducing, for 1990, the levies on certain agricultural products originating in developing countries.

and

- the Decision of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the ECSC applying generalized tariff preferences for 1990 in respect of certain steel products originating in developing countries.

Anti-dumping

The Council adopted the Regulation extending for two months at most the provisional anti-dumping duty on imports of potassium permanganate originating in Czechoslovakia.

Social affairs

The Council adopted the Decisions:

- establishing an action programme to promote innovation in the field of vocational training resulting from technological change in the European Community (EUROTECNET)
(See Press Release of the Social Affairs Council on 30.XI.89 - 10309/89 Presse 228);
- concerning the further development of the HANDYNET system - computerized information system on disability questions - in the context of the HELIOS programme which gives priority to activities which complete and put into operation the HANDYAIDS module on technical aids for persons affected by impaired motor, visual, hearing, mental or communication faculties.

Appointment

The Council replaced a full member of the European Social Fund Committee.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

11045/89 (Presse 255)

kis/AM/jup

1382nd Council meeting
- INTERNAL MARKET -
Brussels, 21 and 22 December 1989

President: Mrs Edith CRESSON

Minister for European Affairs
of the French Republic

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Italy:

Mr Pierluigi ROMITA

Minister for Community Policies

Luxembourg:

Mr Thierry STOLL

Deputy Permanent Representative

Netherlands:

Mr Ch. R. van BEUGE

Deputy Permanent Representative

Portugal:

Mr Vitor MARTINS

State Secretary for European
Integration

United Kingdom:

Mr John REDWOOD

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of
State, Department of Trade and
Industry

Mr David MacLEAN

Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry
of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Commission:

Mr Martin BANGEMANN

Vice-President

Sir Leon BRITTAN

Vice-President

Mr Antonio CARDOSO E CUNHA

Member

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CONTROL OF CONCENTRATIONS BETWEEN UNDERTAKINGS

The Council adopted a Regulation on the control of concentration operations between undertakings.

One of the objectives for the establishment of the common market which the Treaty sets the Community is "the institution of a system ensuring that competition is not distorted". That system is essential for the completion of the internal market planned for 1992, given that the dismantling of internal borders is resulting and will continue to result in major corporate restructuring in the Community, particularly in the form of concentrations.

This Regulation treats this development as a healthy one in principle, since it meets the requirements of dynamic competition and is capable of increasing the competitiveness of European industry, improving the conditions of growth and in the long run raising the standard of living in the Community.

Nevertheless, the Council considers it essential to ensure that the process of restructuring does not result in lasting damage to competition. To this end, it is laying down provisions governing those concentrations which may significantly impede effective competition in the common market or in a substantial part of it. The new legislation also takes account of the fact that Articles 85 and 86 of the EEC Treaty are not sufficient to cover all operations which may prove to be incompatible with the system of undistorted competition envisaged in the Treaty.

The Regulation gives the Commission the power to take decisions establishing whether or not concentrations with a Community dimension are compatible with the common market.

A concentration, whether a merger of several undertakings or the gaining of control of a number of undertakings, has a Community dimension when:

- (a) the aggregate worldwide turnover of all the undertakings concerned is more than ECU 5 000 million, and
- (b) the aggregate Community-wide turnover of each of at least two of the undertakings concerned is more than ECU 250 000 000,

unless each of the undertakings concerned achieves more than two-thirds of its aggregate Community-wide turnover within one and the same Member State.

The thresholds, as well as certain other instruments in the Regulation, will be revised by the Council on a proposal from the Commission before the end of the fourth year following that of the adoption of this Regulation.

The Commission's appraisal of whether or not a concentration is compatible will be based on criteria laid down by the Regulation. The Commission must declare compatible with the common market those concentrations which do not create or strengthen a dominant position as a result of which the maintenance or development of effective competition would be significantly impeded in the common market or in a substantial part of it; if the opposite is true, then it must declare them incompatible with the common market.

In order to ensure effective monitoring, undertakings will be obliged to give prior notification of concentrations with a Community dimension. If there is no doubt about their compatibility with the common market, the Commission will formally declare them compatible. If, however, it finds that a concentration

which has been notified raises serious doubts as to its compatibility with the common market, it will decide to initiate proceedings, which should normally be completed within a maximum of four months.

National authorities will have the power to authorize operations which do not have a Community dimension. However, under this Regulation a Member State may ask the Commission to intervene in respect of such an operation in order to guarantee effective competition on its territory.

In addition, the Commission may refer a notified concentration with a Community dimension to the competent authorities of the Member State concerned in certain circumstances, namely when a concentration threatens to create barriers to competition on a specific market within a Member State, be it a substantial part of the common market or not.

The Regulation also makes provision for the Commission to make proposals to the Council for measures in relation to third countries, if on the basis of information from the Member States the Commission finds that Community undertakings are encountering general difficulties on the markets of third countries.

In order to protect legitimate interests, Member States may apply national legislation on competition under certain circumstances. Legitimate interests means public security, caution rules and the plurality of the media.

The Regulation will enter into force nine months after the adoption of the position, that is on 21 September 1990, in order to allow the undertakings concerned, the authorities and the social partners enough time to become familiar with the new system.

RIGHT OF RESIDENCE

Subject to further consultation of the European Parliament, the Council arrived at a political agreement on the content of the three Directives on right of residence. The Directives, which should enter into force by 30 June 1992, represent a crucial step towards the free movement of citizens throughout the Community.

Their main provisions are as follows:

Right of residence for non-active persons

Member States shall grant the right of residence to nationals of Member States who do not enjoy this right under other provisions of Community law and to members of their families provided that they themselves and the members of their families are covered by sickness insurance in respect of all risks in the host Member State and have sufficient resources to avoid becoming a burden on the social security system of the host Member State during their period of residence.

The right of residence shall remain for as long as beneficiaries of that right fulfil the conditions laid down in this Directive.

Right of residence for employees and self-employed persons who have ceased their occupational activity

Member States shall grant the right of residence to nationals of Member States who have pursued in the Community an activity as an employee or self-employed person and to members of their families provided that they are recipients of an invalidity or early retirement pension, or old age benefits, or of a pension in respect of an industrial accident or disease of an amount sufficient to avoid

becoming a burden on the social security system of the host Member State during their period of residence and are covered by sickness insurance in respect of all risks in the host Member State.

The right of residence shall remain for as long as beneficiaries of that right fulfil the conditions laid down in this Directive.

Right of residence for students

The Member States shall take the necessary measures to facilitate the exercise of the right of residence in order to guarantee access to vocational or professional training in a manner free from discrimination. Accordingly they shall recognize the right of residence of any student who is a national of a Member State and who does not enjoy this right under other provisions of Community law, and of the student's spouse and dependent children, where the student vouches to the relevant national authority by means of a declaration or by such alternative means as the student may choose that are at least equivalent, that he has sufficient resources to avoid becoming a burden on the social security system of the host Member State during their period of residence provided that the student is enrolled in a recognized educational establishment for the principal purpose of following vocational or professional training courses there and that they are covered by sickness insurance in respect of all risks in the host Member State.

The right of residence shall be restricted to the duration of the course of studies in question.

This Directive shall not establish any entitlement to the payment of maintenance grants by the host Member State on the part of students benefiting from the right of residence.

MAJOR TRANS-EUROPEAN NETWORKS

At the close of its discussions on this item of the agenda, the Council reached agreement on the following Resolution:

RESOLUTION ON TRANS-EUROPEAN NETWORKS

Having regard to the Treaty,

Considering the conclusions of the Strasbourg European Council on 8 and 9 December 1989 with regard to this area,

Considering that the process of the completion of an area without frontiers provided for in Article 8a of the Treaty has reached a stage of irreversibility,

Considering that citizens, businesses and administrations must be able to use communication infrastructures which enable them to encourage free movement within the Community,

Considering that the development of trade and the movement of persons and the requirements of economic and social cohesion may necessitate the improvement and extension of communication networks, including the creation of networks where none at present exist,

Considering that, insofar as infrastructures are currently planned and developed principally at national level it is necessary to solve the problems of compatibility and inter-operability which may affect their efficiency, inter alia by the development, where appropriate, of standards,

Considering that, in a number of sectors, infrastructure networks are provided by competing private sector operators, and that the Commission should take account of this in its proposals,

Considering that particular infrastructure projects need to be evaluated against firm criteria, including their economic viability, respect for the natural environment, the special attention which needs to be paid to the situation of the peripheral regions in the context of economic and social cohesion and the possible effects on free circulation,

Considering that Community projects which have already been adopted or are being implemented should not be impaired,

the Council has adopted the following Resolution:

1. The Council considers that special priority should be given, paying particular attention to situations arising at the Community's limits in the context of economic and social cohesion, to the development and inter-connection of trans-European networks, notably in the areas of air traffic control, energy distribution, transport infrastructure and in particular the most efficient surface communications links, and telecommunications, in particular the linking of the main Community conurbations by broad-band telecommunications networks, and the implementation of existing Community training programmes.
2. The Council invites the Commission to submit to it, before the end of 1990, a work programme and proposals for appropriate measures, taking into account the possibility of extending such action to the whole of the Community and without prejudice to the distribution of work among the various formations of the Council. The Commission will submit an initial progress report during the first half of 1990.

The Council notes that the Commission intends to organize its future work programme around the following points:

- verification as to whether Community intervention is justified or whether projects should rather be carried out by other public or private bodies;
 - the establishment of a timetable for completion;
 - the identification of any obstacles and shortcomings;
 - the evaluation of financing problems; and
 - the provision, if needed, of a consultation procedure to precede the establishment of projects.
3. The Commission will convene, whenever necessary, a working party comprising the persons responsible designated by each Member State to co-ordinate the work on the realization of trans-European networks.

The Council considers that the preparation of this programme entails broad consultation with a view to drawing up the report which the Commission is to submit before the end of the first half of 1990.

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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LEGAL ACTS REQUIRED TO BUILD THE SINGLE MARKET

The Council held an exchange of views on the Commission communication concerning the implementation of the legal acts required to build the single market, at the close of which it drew the following conclusions:

"THE COUNCIL

- considers that the completion of the single market in accordance with the objectives laid down in the Treaty presupposes not only the adoption of all the Community measures planned for that purpose but also the adoption, within the prescribed time-limits, of implementing measures in the Member States;
- notes the concern expressed by the Commission in its communication of 7 September 1989 at delays in adopting these measures;
- welcomes the additional information which the Member States have supplied, at the Commission's request, on the stage reached in their respective timetables;
- welcomes, too, the exchange of views and experience to which the Commission's enquiries gave rise on the general problems arising and the solutions found to them in the various Member States;
- considers it desirable that all the Member States continue this clarification and exchange of experience in their dialogue with the Commission so that constant track can be kept, in particular, of the enactment of Directives in national law, also taking account of implementation of the judgments of the Court of Justice, in order to obviate any delay in completion of the single market;
- welcomes the Commission's intention to take all necessary steps to that end, and in particular:

- . to ensure, for the benefit of the Member States and businesses, constant transparency of measures to enact Community rules in national law;

The Council considers in particular that systematic dissemination of such measures is necessary.

Here it notes with satisfaction the creation of the INFO 92 base and hopes that it will be made more easily accessible to the widest possible public.

- . to co-operate as necessary with Member States in examining plans for national measures for the enactment of Community legislation in national law in good time.

In the areas covered by the "new approach" this co-operation would include a look at the progress made in adopting European standards and setting up at national level, where necessary and possible, a system of certification, monitoring and market surveillance.

- proposes, at least once a year on the basis of regular information from the Commission, to:

- = examine the stage reached in implementing the various instruments for completing the internal market;

- = hold further exchanges of views and experience on the problems arising in this area and the solutions to be applied."

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STATUTE FOR A EUROPEAN COMPANY

The Council held a brief exchange of views on the progress made on the proposals for a Regulation and an additional Directive on the Statute for a European Company submitted by the Commission on 25 August 1989.

The proposals replace the earlier proposals submitted in 1970 and 1975 and follow on from the memorandum forwarded in July 1988.

Under the proposals, the adoption of the Statute, while remaining optional, would give undertakings the opportunity of resorting to a structure directly based on Community law. Provision has been made for extensive reference to the Directives already adopted in connection with companies or to those on which negotiations appear to be well advanced, and to the law of the State of registered office.

After noting that discussions had been proceeding at a steady rate and in a constructive spirit, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to step up the pace so that it could make progress on this dossier at its forthcoming meetings.

BUSINESSES IN THE "ECONOMIE SOCIALE" SECTOR AND EUROPE'S FRONTIER-FREE MARKET

The Council held an exchange of views on the Commission communication entitled "businesses in the Economie Sociale sector and Europe's frontier-free market".

This communication:

- defines and describes the Economie Sociale sector by giving a brief overview of the branches in which its enterprises are active in all Member States
- identifies the prospects opening up for enterprises in this sector in the Europe of 1992 and shows to what extent they are taken into account in Community policies
- adumbrates the framework for Community action to ensure that enterprises in this sector enjoy access to the frontier-free market on the same footing as other enterprises.

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PROCUREMENT PROCEDURES OF ENTITIES OPERATING IN THE WATER, ENERGY, TRANSPORT AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS SECTORS

On the basis of an overall compromise proposal by the Presidency, the Council held an in-depth discussion on essential questions arising with regard to this important Directive opening up markets hitherto excluded from Community legislation on public contracts to genuine competition throughout the Community.

The discussions centred in particular on the scope and the provision made for different treatment for certain areas because of their specific nature, the dates of transposition and application accompanied by transitional provisions for some Member States, and the external aspect, namely the possible introduction of special provisions for the award of supply contracts when the bid includes products manufactured outside the Community or originates from a third country which does not allow Community businessmen access to its market.

At the close of the discussion, the President noted that clarifications had been made and substantial progress achieved on all the above issues thanks to the extremely constructive co-operation of all the delegations, but that some delegations still needed to consider in particular the content of the Article on the external aspect.

The Council will therefore be able to continue its discussions on the matter under the Irish Presidency on the basis of the guidelines which emerged on this occasion, deriving from the compromise proposals submitted by the Presidency and the Commission. With this in view, the Permanent Representatives Committee was instructed to press on swiftly with its preparation of the dossier.

APPROXIMATION OF THE LAWS ON ACTIVE IMPLANTABLE ELECTROMEDICAL DEVICES

The Council arrived at a common position on the substance of an initial proposal on medical devices, aiming to contribute to the achievement of a single market in these devices.

The proposal relates to medical devices using a source of energy and implanted in the human body, of which the best known example is the pacemaker.

CERTIFICATION

The Council held a discussion on harmonizing conformity assessment. At the close of the discussion, the Council:

- adopted a resolution on a global approach to conformity assessment (set out below),
- arrived at a joint guideline on the substance of a draft Decision on which the Opinion of the Parliament is awaited.

The Decision stipulates that the procedures for conformity assessment which are to be used in the technical harmonization directives relating to the marketing of industrial products will be chosen from among the modules listed in the Decision and in accordance with the criteria set out therein.

The Decision considers that the introduction of harmonized methods for the assessment of conformity and the adoption of a common doctrine for their implementation are likely to facilitate the adoption of future technical harmonization directives concerning the placing on the market of industrial products and thus be conducive to the completion of the internal market by 31 December 1992.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION on a global approach to conformity assessment

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

RECALLING its Resolution of 7 May 1985 on a new approach to technical harmonization and standards in which it stated that the new approach should be accompanied by a policy on the assessment of conformity;

RECALLING the objectives of the Single European Act, including the strengthening of economic and social cohesion;

STRESSES the importance of a global approach in this area, as outlined by the Commission in its communication of 15 June 1989, with the aim of creating the conditions which will enable the principle of mutual recognition of proofs of conformity to operate in both the regulatory and the non-regulatory sphere;

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION the basic lines of that approach;

HEREBY ADOPTS the following guiding principles for a European policy on conformity assessment:

- a consistent approach in Community legislation should be ensured by devising modules for the various phases of conformity assessment procedures and by laying down criteria for the use of those procedures, for the designation and notification of bodies under those procedures, and for use of the CE mark;
- generalized use of the European standards relating to quality assurance (EN 290000) and to the requirements to be fulfilled by the abovementioned bodies concerned (EN 450000), the setting up of accreditation systems and the

use of techniques of intercomparison should be promoted in all Community Member States as well as at Community level;

- the promotion of mutual recognition agreements on certification and testing between bodies operating in the non-regulatory sphere is essential for the completion of the internal market; the setting-up of a flexible, unbureaucratic testing and certification organization at European level with the basic role of promoting such agreements and of providing a prime forum within which to frame them should significantly contribute to the furtherance of that objective;
- possible differences in levels of development in the Community and in industrial sectors with regard to quality infrastructure (especially calibration and metrology systems, testing laboratories, certification and inspection bodies, and accreditation systems) such as are likely to have an adverse effect on the operation of the internal market should be studied with a view to the preparation of a programme of Community measures, possibly including budgetary measures, as soon as possible;
- in its relations with third countries the Community will endeavour to promote international trade in regulated products, in particular by concluding mutual recognition agreements on the basis of Article 113 of the Treaty in accordance with Community law and with the Community's international obligations, while ensuring in the latter case that:
 - . the competence of the third country bodies is and remains on a par with that required of their Community counterparts;

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the mutual recognition arrangements are confined to reports, certificates and marks drawn up and issued directly by the bodies designated in the agreements;

in cases where the Community wishes to have its own bodies recognized, the agreements establish a balanced situation with regard to the advantages derived by the parties in all matters relating to conformity assessment for the products concerned.

The Commission is requested to submit recommendations to the Council as soon as possible for detailed negotiating directives under Article 113 of the Treaty.

The Council also calls on the Commission to prepare the measures necessary to put this Resolution into practice.

DIRECT LIFE ASSURANCE

On the basis of an overall compromise proposal, the Council reached a policy agreement, subject to the Opinion of the European Parliament, on the whole of the second Directive on the co-ordination of rules governing direct life assurance.

The purpose of this Directive is to supplement the "first" Directive on life assurance (Directive 79/267/EEC) and to facilitate the effective exercise of the freedom to provide services in this area, thereby granting policy-holders the full freedom to have recourse to as wide a market as possible. This proposal for a Directive is the counterpart to the "other than life" Directive adopted by the Council on 22 June 1988.

As for the main content of the Directive, it:

- lays down specific provisions relating to the taking-up and pursuit of activities by way of freedom to provide services, providing for two different sets of rules according to whether the initiative comes from the insurer or the policy-holder;
- stipulates the powers and means of supervision available to the supervisory authorities with regard to activities by way of provision of services;
- in order to protect the policy-holder, provides for a right to cancel the contract during a fixed period after its conclusion;
- given the extension of its field of application to group assurance and the need to guarantee the independence of brokers in all the Member States, provides for the possibility of differential application as between group assurances on the one hand and the free provision of services through brokers on the other;
- in order to avoid sources of distortion of competition, the tax rules applicable are those of the Member State of the commitment, i.e. that of the policy-holder.

Specific transitional provisions are laid down for certain Member States for which the Directive is particularly onerous, in view of their economic situation.

LEGAL PROTECTION OF COMPUTER PROGRAMS

The Council had a policy debate on a proposal for a Directive on the legal, protection of computer programs.

This proposal provides that the Member States shall grant copyright protection to computer programs as literary works.

Points raised in the discussion were concerned with:

- the extent of protection with regard to the specification of interfaces, and
- the analysis of programs without the consent of the right holder (reverse engineering).

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to proceed with its discussions.

With regard to the two specific points above, it asked the Commission to carry out an in-depth study to provide full information on which it could base its decision.

PACKAGE TRAVEL

The Council adopted a common position on the substance of an amended proposal for a Directive on package travel including package holidays and package tours.

This proposal harmonizes national provisions on essential aspects of this subject, with the aim of encouraging the free circulation of packages and avoiding distortions of competition between operators established in different countries, thereby also improving consumer protection; in particular, it provides that:

- the description of the package given in the brochure supplied by the organizer or the retailer to the consumer must indicate in an understandable and accurate manner both the price and certain key information. These particulars are binding on the organizer or the retailer;
- the contract must contain all the clauses which are essential for the package under consideration; a list of such clauses, which are to be supplied to the consumer before the conclusion of the contract, is annexed to the Directive. The prices laid down in the contract shall not be subject to revision except on the conditions stipulated by the Directive and under no circumstances any later than 20 days before departure;
- the organizer and/or retailer party to the contract must be responsible to the consumer for ensuring the satisfactory fulfilment of the obligations arising from the contract whether such obligations are to be fulfilled by themselves or by other providers of services,
- the organizer and/or retailer party to the contract must provide sufficient evidence of ability, in the event of insolvency, to refund money paid over and to repatriate the consumer.

The Member States will have to comply with the provisions of the Directive by 31 December 1992.

NUTRITION LABELLING

The Council reached a substantive agreement on a common position concerning a proposal for a Directive on nutrition labelling rules for foodstuffs intended for sale to the ultimate consumer.

The proposal follows on from the "Communication on the completion of the Internal Market: Community legislation on foodstuffs" and is intended to improve consumer information and prevent barriers to trade caused by differences in nutrition labelling in the different Member States.

The proposal introduces specific rules which must be applied by manufacturers when they employ nutrition labelling and which would:

- provide a uniform and stable framework for national information and education programmes
- prevent consumers from being misled
- contribute, through general compatibility with the Codex, to a reduction in the costs borne by manufacturers exporting to non-member countries.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue studying a second Directive on the introduction of compulsory nutrition labelling of foodstuffs intended for sale to the ultimate consumer.

FOODS AND FOOD INGREDIENTS TREATED WITH IONIZING RADIATION

The Council discussed a proposal for a Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States concerning foods and food ingredients treated with ionizing radiation.

The proposal is intended to ensure the free movement of products treated with ionizing radiation while guaranteeing a high degree of protection to the consumer.

To achieve this, it is based on the following principles:

- only categories of foods which appear on a positive list may be subjected to treatment with ionizing radiation,
- the ionization units for foods must be subject to prior authorization by the responsible authorities, as designated by each Member State,
- the installations and procedure and the foods treated with ionizing radiation must be subject to official controls,
- irradiated foods must comply with specific labelling rules requiring detailed information,
- irradiated foods from third countries may be admitted into the Community provided that they comply with the provisions of the Directive.

After noting that there were still differences of opinion over the substance and the whole principle of the Directive, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its discussions with the aim of finding a basic compromise for future deliberations in the Council.

VETERINARY MEDICINAL PRODUCTS

Pending receipt of the European Parliament's Opinion, the Council noted that there was a general policy position in favour of a proposal for a Regulation laying down a Community procedure for the establishment of maximum residue limits of veterinary medicinal products in foodstuffs of animal origin.

The proposal is intended to set limits for residues considered to be without any toxicological hazard for human health as expressed by the acceptable daily intake (ADI), or on the basis of a temporary ADI that utilizes an additional safety factor. It also takes into account other relevant public health risks as well as food technology aspects.

RECOGNITION OF PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The Council reviewed the progress of discussions on the proposal for a Directive on a second general system for the recognition of professional education and training.

The proposal concerns all regulated professions which are not covered by a specific Directive or by the first general system for the recognition of higher education diplomas (Directive 89/48/EEC).

The Presidency stated that it attached great importance to this proposal as it was a key element in the completion of the internal market and the People's Europe.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representative Committee to expedite the examination of this dossier.

The Representatives of the Governments of the Member States which had not hitherto signed the instruments opened for signing in Luxembourg on 15 December 1989 at the conclusion of the Conference on the Community Patent signed them at the present meeting. The instruments involved were:

- the Agreement relating to Community patents
- the Protocol on a possible modification of the conditions of entry into force of the Agreement relating to Community Patents
- a Joint Declaration by the Governments of the Member States.

(See Press Release 10901/89 Presse 247)

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Relations with the German Democratic Republic

The Council adopted a Decision authorizing the Commission to negotiate an Agreement between the EEC and the GDR on trade and commercial and economic co-operation.

Relations with the EFTA countries

The Council adopted Decisions concluding agreements between the EEC, the Republic of Austria, the Republic of Finland, the Republic of Iceland, the Kingdom of Norway, the Kingdom of Sweden and the Swiss Confederation on trade electronic data interchanging using the communications networks (TEDIS).

Relations with Czechoslovakia

The Council adopted a Regulation implementing certain provisions of the EEC-Czechoslovakia Agreement with a view to transferring Annexes I, II and III to the Combined Nomenclature and abolishing certain quantitative restrictions under Articles 4 and 5 of the Agreement.

Relations with Yugoslavia

The Council adopted Regulations implementing

- Decision No 3/89 of the EEC-Yugoslavia Co-operation Council of 27 November 1989 amending, as a consequence of the introduction of the Harmonized System, Protocol No 3 concerning the definition of the concept of "originating products" and methods of administrative co-operation

- Decision No 4/89 of the EEC-Yugoslavia Co-operation Council of 27 November 1989 amending, on account of the accession of Spain and Portugal to the European Communities, Protocol No 3 concerning the definition of the concept of "originating products" and methods of administrative co-operation.

Chernobyl accident - Imports of agricultural products

The Council decided to extend for three months Regulation No 3955/87 on the conditions governing imports of agricultural products originating in third countries following the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power-station, which expired on 30 December 1989.

Other decisions concerning the Internal Market

Technical barriers

The Council adopted

- a Directive amending Directive 75/106/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the making-up by volume of certain pre-packaged liquids
- a Directive amending for the eighth time 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
- a Directive amending Directive 76/769/EEC relating to restrictions on the marketing and use of certain dangerous substances and preparations (Committee procedure)

- a Directive amending for the fifth time Directive 76/768/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to cosmetic products (Committee procedure)

- a Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to personal protective equipment. This Directive aims to lay down the conditions for placing on the market and free movement within the Community together with the essential requirements which PPE must satisfy in order to preserve the health and ensure the safety of users. This is the sixth Directive based on the Resolution of 3 May 1985 on a new approach to technical harmonization

- Directives:
 - = amending Directive 77/536/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the roll-over protection structures of wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors

 - = amending Directive 87/402/EEC on roll-over protection structures mounted in front of the driver's seat on narrow-track wheeled agricultural and forestry tractors

 - = amending Directive 86/298/EEC on rear-mounted roll-over protection structures for narrow-track wheeled agricultural and forestry tractors

- common positions with a view to the adoption of Directives:
 - = on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to appliances burning gaseous fuels (see Internal Market Press Release of 23/24.XI.89 - 10023/89 Presse 218)

 - = on the harmonization of the laws of the Member States relating to non-automatic weighing instruments (see Internal Market Press Release of 23/24.XI.89 - 10023/89 Presse 218 - agreement as to substance)

Public contracts

The Council adopted a Directive on the co-ordination of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions relating to the application of rules on procedures for the award of public supply and public works contracts.

The aim of the Directive is to ensure compliance with Community provisions relating to public contracts with a view to such contracts being opened to Community competition.

The Directive provides for contractors and suppliers to have effective review procedures making it possible to punish, at any stage in the procedure for awarding the contract, any illegalities which may be committed in relation to Community rules on public contracts by a contracting authority.

Company law

The Council adopted

- the eleventh Directive on the harmonization of disclosure requirements in respect of branches opened in a Member State by certain types of company governed by the law of another Member State

In order to protect persons who deal with companies through the intermediary of branches, the Directive regulates the disclosure required in the State where the branch is located. In addition to the basic information on the branch itself, including address and activities, the Directive refers in respect of the other information - entry in the commercial register, name and legal form of the company, its representation, accounting documents, etc. - to the data to be published by the parent company in accordance with the rules applying to companies under Directive 68/151/EEC.

- the twelfth Directive on company law concerning single-member private limited-liability companies

The aim of the Directive is to encourage the creation and development within the Community of small and medium-sized undertakings through the introduction at Community level of single-member limited-liability companies or single-member limited-liability undertakings.

French overseas departments

- Decisions

- = establishing a Programme of options specific to the remote and insular nature of the French overseas departments - POSEIDOM

- = on the DOCK DUES arrangements in these departments

Commercial policy

The Council adopted

- the common positions with a view to the adoption of Regulations

- = on the information provided by the customs authorities of the Member States concerning the classification of goods in the Combined Nomenclature

- = amending Regulation (EEC) No 1031/88 determining the persons liable for payment of a customs debt

- a Regulation on the security to be given to ensure payment of a customs debt

This Regulation lays down the provisions on the security which may be required of persons by whom a customs debt has been or may be incurred with a view to ensuring payment of the debt.

Among other things it lays down the rules on the manner in which the security may be given, the forms of security and the conditions for releasing the security. It thus completes the whole range of measures already adopted at Community level concerning customs debt: definition of the customs debt of the person making the customs declaration, the debtor, the entry of the debt in the accounts.

Economic and financial questions

Following the substantive agreement reached by the ECOFIN Council on 18 December 1989, the Council adopted a Decision adopting the 1989-1990 annual report on the economic situation in the Community and establishing economic policy guidelines to be followed in the Community in 1990.

The Council went on to adopt a Decision authorizing the French Republic to apply the sixth Directive 77/388/EEC on the harmonization of the laws of the Member States relating to turnover taxes.

Agriculture

The Council adopted Regulations

- fixing, for 1990, the quota (312 tonnes) applicable for imports into Portugal of certain live swine from the Community as constituted on 31 December 1985.
- on scrutiny by the Member States of transactions forming part of the system of financing by the Guarantee Section of the European Agricultural Guidance and

Guarantee Fund and repealing Directive 77/435/EEC. A policy guideline was established on this subject at the last Agricultural Council meeting on 11 and 12 December (see Press Release 10482/89 Presse 238).

- extending, until 31 January 1990, Regulation (EEC) No 3310/75 on agriculture in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

Telecommunications

The Council adopted its common position on the Directive on the establishment of the internal market for telecommunications services through the implementation of open network provision (ONP) (see Telecommunications Press Release of 7.XII.89 - 10479/89 Presse 235 - political agreement).

Transport

The Council adopted Regulations

- on the elimination of controls performed at the frontiers of Member States in the field of road and inland waterway transport (see Internal Market Press Release of 23/24.XI.89 - 10023/89 Presse 218 - agreement as to substance)
- on the fixing of rates for the carriage of goods by road between Member States
- laying down the conditions under which non-resident carriers may operate road haulage services within a Member State (cabotage) (see Transport Council Press Release of 4/5.XII.89 - 10311/89 Presse 230 - agreement on substance)

and

- the Directive on vocational training for certain drivers of vehicles carrying dangerous goods by road (see Transport Council Press Release of 4/5.XII.89 - 10311/89 Presse 230 - Adoption as to substance)

Health

The Council and the Ministers for Health of the Member States of the ECSC adopted the Resolution on the fight against AIDS.

ECSC

The Representatives of the Governments of the Member States adopted Decisions on

- certain measures to be applied, in respect of State-trading countries, to trade in iron and steel products covered by the ECSC Treaty
- the opening of two zero-duty tariff quotas for flat-rolled products of silicon-electrical steel for Spain
- the opening of a zero-duty tariff quota for flat-rolled products of silicon-electrical steel for the Federal Republic of Germany
- the opening of a zero-duty tariff quota for flat-rolled products of silicon-electrical steel for Benelux

Assent

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

- Mediocredito Lombardo (Italy)
- Coca-Cola & Schweppes Beverages Ltd (United Kingdom)
- Welsh Development Agency (United Kingdom)
- Investors in Industry (United Kingdom)
- Banque Bruxelles Lambert (Belgium)
- Barclays Bank PLC (United Kingdom)
- Bank für Gemeinwirtschaft A.G. (FRG).

Appointments

The Council appointed Mr ANDROUTSOPOULOS, Mr CAREY, Mr FRIEDMANN, Mr MIDDELHOEK, Mr STRASSER, Mr THOSS as members of the Court of Auditors for the period from 21 December 1989 to 20 December 1995 inclusive.

The Council then replaced

- three members of the ECSC Consultative Committee
- an alternate member of the Committee of the European Social Fund, and
- two full members of the Advisory Committee on Vocational Training.