

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

PRESS RELEASES

PRESIDENCY: FRANCE

JANUARY-JUNE 1979

Meetings and press releases January-March 1979

<b>Meeting number</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Date</b>
560 <sup>th</sup>	Foreign Affairs	15 January 1979
561 <sup>st</sup>	Agriculture	5-6 February 1979
562 <sup>nd</sup>	Foreign Affairs	5-6 February 1979
563 <sup>rd</sup>	Agriculture	12 February 1979
564 <sup>th</sup>	Economics/Finance	19 February 1979
565 <sup>th</sup>	Fisheries	19 February 1979
566 <sup>th</sup>	Transport	20 February 1979
567 <sup>th</sup>	Agriculture	5-6 March 1979
568 <sup>th</sup>	Foreign Affairs	5-6 March 1979
569 <sup>th</sup>	Economics/Finance	19 March 1979
570 <sup>th</sup>	Budget	22 March 1979
571 <sup>st</sup>	No record of this meeting	
572 <sup>nd</sup>	Agriculture	26/27-29/39 March 1979
573 <sup>rd</sup>	Energy	27 March 1979

PRESS RELEASE

560th meeting of the Council

- Foreign Affairs -

Brussels, 15 January 1979

President: Mr Jean FRANCOIS-PONCET  
Minister for Foreign Affairs  
of the French Republic



Italy:

Mr Angelo-Maria SANZA

Deputy State Secretary,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean DONDELINGER

Ambassador,  
Permanent Representative

Netherlands:

Mr D.F. van der MEI

State Secretary for Foreign  
Affairs

United Kingdom:

Dr David OWEN

Secretary of State for Foreign  
and Commonwealth Affairs

Mr Frank JUDD

Minister of State,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

The Commission:

Mr Roy JENKINS

President

Mr François-Xavier ORTOLI

Vice-President

Mr Wilhelm HAFERKAMP

Vice-President

Mr Finn Olav GUNDELACH

Vice-President

Mr Lorenzo NATALI

Vice-President

Mr Christopher TUGENDHAT

Member

Mr Antonio GIOLITTI

Member

Mr Claude CHEYSSON

Member

RELATIONS WITH YUGOSLAVIA

The Council noted that the finalization of the new negotiating directives to be given to the Commission with a view to the conclusion of the new agreement planned with Yugoslavia was being actively pursued in the Permanent Representatives Committee.

The Council stressed in this connection the importance which it attached to being able to adopt the essential aspects of these directives at its next meeting so that the Commission might, at an early date, start the negotiations with a view to the conclusion of the agreement.

EFFECTS OF ENLARGEMENT ON THE MEDITERRANEAN

After discussing this subject, the Council asked the Commission to pursue actively the study of the effects of enlargement on the economies of the Mediterranean countries which had association or co-operation agreements with the Community.

MATTERS OUTSTANDING

The Council took stock of the main problems outstanding within the Council constituted otherwise than as the Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs.

It began by discussing the procedural arrangements for dealing with the agri-monetary problems which have to be solved for the EMS to come into force.

The Council also considered the situation regarding the budgetary procedure, and it instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine the problems that existed and to report back as soon as possible.

With regard to fisheries problems, it was noted that the Fisheries Council would resume its discussions shortly.

WORK PROGRAMME

With a view to the efficient and rational organization of its proceedings over the next two months, the Council drew up provisional agendas for its meetings on 6 February and 6 March.

CONCILIATION PROCEDURES

The Council discussed the progress made in the conciliation procedures concerning

- regional policy
- financial and technical aid to the non-associated developing countries.

The Council requested the President to continue the talks with the European Parliament in the light of those discussions.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision appointing the Members of the Management Board of the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training for the period from 15 January 1979 to 14 January 1982:

I. GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES

Belgium	Mr Jean DEQUAN
Denmark	Mr Niels HUMMELUHR
Germany	Mr Horst LEMKE
France	Mr Claude BLONDEL
Ireland	Mr John A. AGNEW
Italy	Dr Nicola FIORE
Luxembourg	Mr Nicholas ESTGEN
Netherlands	Mr A.H. KOELINE
United Kingdom	Dr R.M. JOHNSON

II. REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EMPLOYEES' TRADE-UNION ORGANIZATIONS

Belgium	Mr G. SAUVAGE
Denmark	Mr J. HANSEN
Germany	Mrs M. WEBER
France	Mr R. LEBESCOND
Ireland	Mr P. KENNEDY
Italy	Mr R. VERCELLINO
Luxembourg	Mr Jean REGENWETTER
Netherlands	Mr P.H. HUGENHOLTZ
United Kingdom	Mr F. JARVIS

III. REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EMPLOYERS' PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Belgium	Mr Francis BUCHET
Denmark	Mr Erik TØTTRUP
Germany	Mr Helmut BRUMHARD
France	Mr Yves CORPET
Ireland	Mr Tony BROWN
Italy	Mr Vincenzo ROMANO
Luxembourg	Mr MÜLLER
Netherlands	Mr Jan WESTERHUYNS
United Kingdom	Mr William G.T. THORPE

The Council also adopted the Decision appointing the Members and Alternates of the Advisory Committee on Training in Nursing (1979/1982):

A. EXPERTS FROM THE PRACTISING PROFESSION

	<u>Member</u>	<u>Alternate</u>
Belgium	Mr Ludo GEENAN	Mr Jacques VANDENSCHRIK
Germany	Mrs Rosemarie WEINRICH	Mrs Irene MÜLLER
Denmark	Mrs Inge ANDERSEN	Mrs Greta AHLSTRØM
France	Mr DEFRASNE	Mrs Ferrua MUYL
Ireland	Miss T.C. TAAPPE	Mr Michael O'Connor
Italy	Mrs Liliana FIORI	Mrs Margherita MEINERI
Luxembourg	Mr Victor CHRISTOPHE	Mr Julien HEYARD
Netherlands	Mrs A.J. LEVERT	Mrs J. VINK
United Kingdom	Miss S.M. QUINN	Mrs M. FERGUSON

B. EXPERTS FROM THE ESTABLISHMENTS PROVIDING TRAINING IN NURSING

	<u>Member</u>	<u>Alternate</u>
Belgium	Mrs Liliane MOTTE	Mrs Marthe DERVOIGNE
Germany	Mrs Lore KROEKER	Mr Holger LIEBSCH
Denmark	Mrs Birthe KOFOED- HANSEN	Mrs Ida ANDERSEN
France	Miss M.L. BADOUAILLE	Miss Yvonne SIBIRIL
Ireland	Miss I. LEYDEN	Mr F. DOOLEY
Italy	Mrs Maria Rita PREITI CECCACCI	Mrs Michela RIZZELLO
Luxembourg	Mr René GRUNEISEN	Miss Josée THILL
Netherlands	Mr W.J. SMEETS	Mrs J. HEITINK
United Kingdom	Miss S. COLLINS	Mr J.J. WALSH

C. EXPERTS FROM THE COMPETENT AUTHORITIES OF THE MEMBER STATES

	<u>Member</u>	<u>Alternate</u>
Belgium	Mrs SIMOENS-DESMET	Mrs Madeleine DRAPS
Germany	Mr Wolfgang KEHM	Mr J. FEMMER
Denmark	Mrs Inger Margrethe MADSEN	Mr Niels BENTSEN
France	Mr Pierre DENOIX	Mr Pierre LABROUSSE
Ireland	Miss E. O'DWYER	Miss K. KEANE
Italy	Mr Francesco POLIZZI	Mrs Agata MARCHETTI
Luxembourg	Mr Guy BOSSELER	Miss Danielle SCHOL
Netherlands	Mrs J.J. von NORDHEIM	Mr J.C.J.M. MONDEN
United Kingdom	Mrs B. NICOLAS	Miss M. AULD

PRESS RELEASE

561st Council meeting

- Agriculture -

Brussels, 5 and 6 February 1979

President: Mr Pierre MEHAIGNERIE  
Minister for Agriculture for  
the French Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr Antoine HUMBLET                      Minister for Agriculture and  
the Middle Classes

Denmark:

Mr Niels Anker KØFOED                      Minister for Agriculture

Germany:

Mr Joseph ERTL                              Federal Minister for Food,  
Agriculture and Forestry

Mr Hans-Jürgen ROHR                      State Secretary,  
Federal Ministry of Food,  
Agriculture and Forestry

France:

Mr Pierre MEHAIGNERIE                      Ministry for Agriculture

Mr Jacques FOUCHIER                      State Secretary,  
Ministry of Agriculture

Ireland:

Mr Jim GIBBONS                              Minister for Agriculture

Italy:

Mr Giovanni MARCORA                      Minister for Agriculture

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean HAMILIUS

Minister for Agriculture  
and Viticulture

Mr Albert BERCHEM

State Secretary,  
Ministry of Agriculture

Netherlands:

Mr A.P.J.M.H. van der STEE

Minister for Agriculture  
and Fisheries

United Kingdom:

Mr John SILKIN

Minister for Agriculture,  
Fisheries and Food

The Commission:

Mr Finn Olav GUNDELACH

Vice-President

AGRICULTURAL PRICES 1979/1980

The Council noted the Commission's proposals concerning agricultural prices for 1979/1980 and related measures, and an oral statement on those proposals by Mr GUNDELACH, Vice-President of the Commission, on which an initial exchange of views was held.

The Council agreed to continue its discussion of these matters at its forthcoming meetings. It submitted the proposals to the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee for Opinions, and instructed the Special Committee on Agriculture to carry out a technical analysis of the various proposals in question with a view to the preparation of the necessary decisions within the allotted time.

DRAINAGE IN IRELAND AND NORTHERN IRELAND

The Council agreed to the Directive on the programme for promotion of drainage in catchment areas on both sides of the border between Ireland and Northern Ireland.

By this measure, the Community will be making a financial contribution representing 50% of the cost of the joint arterial drainage programme in cross-border areas (estimated cost of 15.1 MEUA over 5 years). The purpose of this programme, which is to be presented jointly by Ireland and the United Kingdom, is to improve the hydraulic situation in border areas which are particularly handicapped from an agricultural point of view and thus to influence a fundamental aspect of the structural development of those areas, to produce a rapid and lasting effect on farm incomes.

GRAPE JUICE, BRITISH AND IRISH WINES

The Council discussed the proposal for a Regulation amending Regulation No 816/70 relating to the market in wine, with a view to granting aid for the purchase and use of musts and concentrated musts originating in the Community, for the manufacture of grape juice and British and Irish wines.

At the close of its discussion, the Council agreed to instruct the Special Committee on Agriculture to continue its discussions in the light of today's debates and of the Opinions shortly to be received from the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee.

POTATOES

After discussing various matters outstanding in connection with the common organization of the market in potatoes - in particular producer groups and the arrangements to be made for new and ware potatoes - the Council agreed to instruct the Special Committee on Agriculture to expedite its examination of this dossier and to report back to the Council for its next meeting on agricultural questions.

ETHYL ALCOHOL

The Council took note of the report from the Special Committee on Agriculture on the amended proposal for a Regulation on the common organization of the market in ethyl alcohol of agricultural origin and additional provisions for certain products containing ethyl alcohol.

In this connection, it noted that the Commission intended to submit proposals for amendments in this connection by 1 April 1979 and the Council agreed to take up this matter again at that time.

APPLES AND PEARS

The Council agreed to the Regulation amending Regulation 1035/72 on the common organization of the market in fruit and vegetables. This amendment lays down provisions on pre-emptive withdrawals of apples and pears by producers' organizations as a means of securing better control of the market in cases where there is a risk of a serious collapse in prices. This measure will be applicable until 30 June 1982.

The Commission stated its willingness to examine a system for preventing any speculation which might result from the existing intervention arrangements, and to make suitable proposals.

CALCULATION OF THE SLUICE-GATE PRICE FOR PIG CARCASSES

The Council confirmed its agreement in principle to the proposal for a Regulation amending the standard amount representing overhead costs for the purpose of calculating the sluice-gate price for pig carcasses.

However, mention was made here of the political aspect of any change in the coefficients used in calculating the monetary compensatory amounts applicable to pigmeat, and the Commission announced its intention of submitting a report on this question to the Council as soon as possible. The Council accordingly agreed to resume discussion of this matter at one of its forthcoming meetings.

AGRI-MONETARY QUESTIONS

The Council held a wide-ranging exchange of views on the agri-monetary measures, taking as a basis the Resolution adopted by the European Council on 5 and 6 December last and Commission proposals on the subject.

The Council's discussions enabled delegations to clarify their respective points of view. The Council concluded by agreeing to discuss the matter further at its next meeting on 12 February 1979.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Other agricultural decisions

In the field of agricultural structures, the Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities,

- the Regulation on a common measure for forestry in certain dry Mediterranean zones of the Community
- the Regulation on the development of agricultural advisory services in Italy
- the Directive on the programme for the acceleration and guidance of collective irrigation works in Corsica
- the Directive on the flood protection programme in the Hérault valley.

The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities,

- the Regulations consolidating the acts adopted in the wine sector
- the Regulation extending Regulation (EEC) No 2862/77 on levies applicable to imports of certain adult bovine animals and beef from Yugoslavia
- the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 1696/71 on the common organization of the market in hops as regards the verification of the equivalence of attestations accompanying hops imported from non-member countries
- the Directive amending Directive 75/726/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States concerning fruit juices and certain similar products
- the Regulation on the procedure for amending the tariff nomenclature used for agricultural products.

The Council also took note of the Commission report on the experience gained in the surveys and estimates to be made by the Member States in the field of pig production.

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The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision concerning further directives for the Commission with a view to the negotiation of a fisheries agreement with Tunisia.

#### Relations with the ACP States

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulations concerning the application of Decisions No 4/78 and No 5/78 of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers derogating from the definition of the concept of "originating products" to take account of the special situation of Kenya and Malawi as regards certain items of fishing tackle (fishing flies).

It also approved, for the Community's part, the draft Decision of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers derogating from the concept of "originating products" to take account of the special situation of Mauritius with regard to its production of canned tuna.

Other decisions

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Recommendation on the reduction of energy requirements for buildings in the Community, on the substance of which it had recorded its agreement at the Council meeting on 21.XII.1978 (See Press Release 1492/78 (Press 176) of that date).

The Council gave the assents requested under Articles 56(2)(a) of the ECSC Treaty regarding the grant of conversion loans to

- the Compagnie Française d'Entreprises métalliques, France
- Torfaen Borough Council, United Kingdom
- West Glamorgan County Council, United Kingdom.

Appointments

On a proposal from the Danish Government, the Council appointed Mr Jørgen HANSEN, Konsulent, Landsorganisationen i Danmark, and Mr Keld ANDERSEN, Konsulent, Landsorganisationen i Danmark, member and alternate member respectively of the Advisory Committee on Vocational Training in place of Mr Niels ENEVOLDSEN, member, and Mr Jørgen HANSEN, alternate member, who have resigned, for the remainder of their terms of office, which run until 15 October 1980.

On a proposal from the German Government, the Council also appointed Mr Werner ELSNER, Leiter des Referates für Alterssicherung und Rehabilitation in der Abteilung Sozialpolitik des Bundesvorstandes des DGB, full member of the Advisory Committee on Social Security for Migrant Workers in place of Mr Reinhold KONSTANTY, full member, who has resigned, until such time as the Committee is renewed.

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COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES  
GENERAL SECRETARIAT



PRESS RELEASE

562nd Council meeting

- Foreign Affairs -

Brussels, 5 and 6 February 1979

President: Mr Jean FRANCOIS-PONCET

Minister for Foreign Affairs  
of the French Republic



Luxembourg:

Mr Gaston THORN

President of the Government,  
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Netherlands:

Mr D.F. van der MEI

State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr John SMITH

Secretary of State for Trade

Mr Frank JUDD

Minister of State,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Commission:

Mr Roy JENKINS

President

Mr Wilhelm HAFERKAMP

Vice-President

Mr Lorenzo NATALI

Vice-President

Mr Claude CHEYSSON

Member

Mr Guido BRUNNER

Member

Viscount Etienne DAVIGNON

Member

Mr Christopher TUGENDHAT

Member

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GATT MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

The Council heard an oral interim report from the Commission on progress in the negotiations to date, and held an exchange of views during which the delegations stated their positions on the various aspects of those negotiations.

The Council requested the Commission to continue its efforts to ensure that rapid progress was made on the matters still outstanding and that a substantial and more evenly balanced overall outcome was obtained, with particular emphasis on quality.

On the basis of an overall report which the Commission intends to submit, the Council proposes to state a position at its meeting on 6 March 1979 regarding the substance of the multilateral trade negotiations as a whole.

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PROBLEMS STILL OUTSTANDING

The Council continued its discussions on the problems waiting to be examined by the Council meeting in a composition other than that of Foreign Affairs Council and devoted its attention in particular to the questions raised by the future organization of budgetary work within the Council and to the problems relating to the 1979 budget.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its discussions on both aspects in the light of today's Council debates and to report back as soon as possible.

With regard to the agri-monetary problems which had to be resolved before the European Monetary System could enter into force, the Council noted that the Ministers for Agriculture were debating the issue in a meeting going on at the same time.

CONSULTATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

The Council examined the questions still outstanding in connection with the conciliation procedure with the European Parliament on the granting of financial and technical aid to the non-associated developing countries. It established the main points of a joint position, to be finalized by the Permanent Representatives Committee. The Council will accordingly propose to the European Parliament that the next meeting of the Conciliation Committee be held on 6 March 1979.

RELATIONS WITH YUGOSLAVIA

The Council adopted additional Directives on the basis of which the Commission will continue the negotiations started in 1978 with Yugoslavia for the conclusion of a new agreement with that country.

ROMANIA

The Council reached agreement on the main aspects of a brief for the opening of negotiations with Romania.

EEC-ACP NEGOTIATIONS

The Council heard a statement by Mr CHEYSSON on the progress made in the negotiations with the ACP States and on the work to be carried out within the Community in this field.

The Council took note of this statement and agreed to continue its discussions on this subject at its meeting on 6 March 1979.

EURATOM-AUSTRALIA RELATIONS

The Council continued its examination of the problems arising in connection with the draft Decision giving the Commission directives for the negotiation of an Agreement between EURATOM and Australia on nuclear transfers. It was agreed that this matter would appear on the agenda for the forthcoming meeting on 6 March.

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON PHYSICAL PROTECTION

The Council examined the questions posed by the Commission communication on Community participation in the negotiation in Vienna of the International Convention on Physical Protection.

Pending the early definition of a negotiating brief, the Council accepted a provisional procedure for Commission participation in the discussions at present going on in Vienna.

Inter alia, it stated that the Commission might negotiate the inclusion in the Convention of a clause permitting Community accession.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Regional policy

The conciliation procedure with the European Parliament having been completed, the Council adopted the following texts:

- Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 724/75 establishing a European Regional Development Fund;
- Resolution concerning the guidelines for Community regional policy;
- Decision amending Decision 75/185/EEC setting up a Regional Policy Committee;
- Decision amending Decision 74/120/EEC on the attainment of a high degree of convergence of the economic policies of the Member States of the European Economic Community.

See also the summary in the Press Release of 26 and 27 June 1978, reference No 830/78 (Presse 89).

External relations

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

The Council also adopted the Decision authorizing the Commission to open negotiations with Israel for the conclusion of an agreement amending certain provisions of the 1975 EEC-Israel Agreement.

The Council agreed to a first series of financing projects for countries in the Mediterranean basin, to be carried out partly by the Commission and partly by the European Investment Bank; as regards the latter, the Council's approval concerns the interest subsidy element.

#### Approximation of laws

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, a Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States concerning electrical equipment for use in potentially explosive atmospheres employing certain types of protection.

#### Appointment

By decision of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of 6 February 1979

- Mr Thymen KOOPMANN<sup>(1)</sup> was appointed judge at the Court of Justice of the European Communities for the period 1 April 1979 to 6 October 1982 in place of Mr A. DONNER, who had submitted his resignation with effect from 1 April 1979.

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<sup>(1)</sup> A brief curriculum vitae is annexed.

6.II.79

ANNEX

Maitre Thymen KOOPMANS

born 11 August 1929

married

1953	Doctorate in Dutch Law at the University of Amsterdam;
1953 - 1956	Barrister and solicitor in Haarlem;
1 February 1956 - 12 February 1962	Successively: Temporary Assistant Attaché, Attaché, Principal Attaché at the Ministry of Justice;
12 February 1962 - 1 May 1965	Legal Adviser at the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Communities in Brussels;
1 May 1965 - 12 September 1978	Professor at the University of Leyden;
12 September 1978 to the present day	Adviser to the Hoge Raad der Nederlanden (the Netherlands Supreme Court of Appeal)

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PRESS RELEASE

563rd meeting of the Council

- Agriculture -

Brussels, 12 February 1979

President: M. Pierre MEHAIGNERIE,  
Minister for Agriculture  
of the French Republic



Luxembourg:

Mr Jean HAMILIUS

Minister for Agriculture and  
Viticulture

Mr Albert BERCHEM

State Secretary,  
Ministry of Agriculture

Netherlands:

Mr A.P.J.M.M. van der STEE

Minister for Agriculture and  
Fisheries

United Kingdom:

Mr John SILKIN

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries  
and Food

Commission:

Mr Finn Olav GUNDELACH

Vice-President

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AGRI-MONETARY QUESTIONS

The Council continued the examination of agri-monetary questions which it had begun at its previous meeting. It agreed to resume its discussion of this item at its next meeting to be held on 5 March.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Agreement on Cocoa

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Decision concerning the conclusion of the second International Cocoa Agreement (1975). The President of the Council will deposit the instrument of approval provided for in Article 66 of the Agreement.

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PRESS RELEASE

564th Council meeting

- Economics/Finance -

Brussels, 19 February 1979

Chairman: Mr René MONORY

Minister for Economic Affairs  
of the French Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr Gaston GEENS Minister for Finance

Denmark:

Mr Kurt HANSEN State Secretary,  
Ministry for Economic Affairs

Germany:

Mr Hans MATTHOFER Federal Minister for Finance  
Mr Otto SCHLECHT State Secretary,  
Federal Ministry for Economic  
Affairs

France:

Mr René MONORY Minister for Economic Affairs

Ireland:

Mr George COLLEY Deputy Prime Minister,  
Minister for Finance

Italy:

Mr Filippo PANDOLFI Minister for the Treasury

Luxembourg:

Mr Jacques POOS Minister for Finance

The Netherlands:

Mr F.H.J.J. ANDRIESSEN Minister for Finance

The United Kingdom:

Mr Denis HEALEY Chancellor of the Exchequer

The Commission:

Mr François-Xavier ORTOLI Vice-President

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Also participating in the Council proceedings were:

Mr J. van YPERSELE de STRIHOU Chariman of the Monetary Committee

Mr C. de STRYCKER Chairman of the Committee of the Governors of the Central Banks

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ECONOMIC SITUATION

The Council held an exchange of views on the economic situation in the Community, during which the members of the Council outlined in particular the latest economic developments in their respective countries.

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND INTERIM COMMITTEE

The Council agreed on the statement which the President will make on behalf of the Community at the next meeting of the International Monetary Fund Interim Committee, scheduled for 7 March next in Washington.

INTEREST RATE SUBSIDIES FOR CERTAIN LOANS FOR STRUCTURAL PURPOSES

The Council heard a brief introduction by Vice-President ORTOLI on the Commission's proposal for a Regulation relating to interest rate subsidies for certain loans for structural purposes. This instrument was envisaged by the European Council on 5 December 1978 in its Resolution on the establishment of the European Monetary System.

Several members of the Council voiced their initial reactions to the Commission proposal. The Council will examine this proposal after it has received the European Parliament's Opinion, which is expected in March; technical examination of the dossier will be started in the meantime.

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PRESS RELEASE

565th Council meeting

- Fisheries -

Brussels, 19 February 1979

President: Mr Joël LE THEULE  
Minister for Transport  
of the French Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr Antoine HUMBLET

Minister for Agriculture and  
Small Firms and Trades

Denmark:

Mr Svend JAKOBSEN

Minister for Fisheries

Mr Jørgen HERTOFT

State Secretary,  
Ministry of Fisheries

Germany:

Mr Hans-Jürgen ROHR

State Secretary,  
Federal Ministry of Food,  
Agriculture and Forestry

France:

Mr Jöel LE THEULE

Minister for Transport

Ireland:

Mr Brian LENIHAN

Minister for Fisheries

Italy:

Mr Vito ROSA

State Secretary for Shipping

Luxembourg:

Mr Joseph WEYLAND

Deputy Permanent Representative

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Netherlands:

Mr A. DE ZEEUW

Director General, Ministry for  
Agriculture and Fisheries

United Kingdom:

Mr John SILKIN

Minister for Agriculture,  
Fisheries and Food

Mr Hugh BROWN

Parliamentary Under-Secretary  
of State, Scottish Office

Commission:

Mr Finn Olav GUNDELACH

Vice-President

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FISHERIES POLICY

Internal aspects

The Council resumed the discussion begun at its meeting on 23 and 24 November 1978 and examined in further detail the series of measures proposed by the Commission regarding the internal aspects of the common fisheries policy. In the course of this examination it worked out a number of guidelines for subsequent discussions, in particular regarding structural measures (ad hoc measures for restructuring the inshore fishing industry for 1979).

External aspects

The Council examined in greater detail a number of questions regarding the external aspects of the fisheries policy and noted that it was not yet in a position to sign the agreements negotiated with Norway, Spain and Canada, nor to conclude those already signed with the Faroe Islands and Sweden.

The Council also noted the Commission report on the progress of the negotiations of outline fisheries agreements with a number of African countries, namely Mauritania, Senegal, Guinea-Bissau, Cape Verde and Tunisia.

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The Council agreed in principle to the arrangements applicable until 31 March 1979 to vessels registered in the Faroe Isles or flying the flag of Norway or Sweden.

The final texts on those arrangements are to be prepared by the Permanent Representatives Committee so that they can be formally adopted by the Council as soon as possible.

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After taking note of the Commission's report on its consultations with Norway, Sweden and Canada, the Council agreed to instruct the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue examining questions arising from the setting of Community catch quotas in connection with the management of stocks common to the Community and each of these third countries, so that a decision can be taken in due course.

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To conclude, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to give further examination to the Recommendation concerning Community financial participation in the costs of breeding salmon in the Baltic.

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MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Agricultural decisions

The Council noted the 7th Financial Report on the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund, 1977, Guarantee and Guidance Sections.

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Regulations amending Regulation (EEC) No 1035/72 as regards intervention arrangements for apples and pears.

Food aid

The Council approved the inclusion of new countries (Uganda as regards butteroil and Cyprus as regards cereals) in the lists of recipients of aid granted through the WFP under the 1978 programme.

Mediterranean policy

The Council approved three financing projects (established by the European Investment Bank) for countries of the Mediterranean basin, namely Greece (irrigation in Crete and an industrial-zone project) and Malta (improvement and development of the Grand Harbour of Valetta).

Social policy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation on the organization of a sample survey of manpower in spring 1979.

Research

The Council gave the assent requested by the Commission pursuant to Article 55(2)(c) of the ECSC Treaty on two Community coal research programmes on mining techniques and obtaining the best return on products.

The Council noted that the Commission intended to sign the International Energy Agency (IEA) Implementing Agreement for the establishment of a Biomass Conversion Technical Information Service. It also noted that the Commission intended to take part in Annexes IV and V of the IEA Implementing Agreement for a research and development programme on the production of hydrogen from water.

19.11.1979

### Relations with the OCT

The Council adopted in the Communities' official languages the Decision on the application to the export earnings of the Gilbert Islands, the Solomon Islands and Tuvalu for 1975 of the system for the stabilization of export earnings provided for in Council Decision 76/568/EEC of 29 June 1976.

### Customs Union

The Council adopted in the Communities' official languages the Regulation opening, allocating and administering a Community tariff quota of 80,000 tonnes for ferro-chromium containing not less than 4% by weight of carbon, falling within subheading ex 73.02 E I of the Common Customs Tariff, and extending the benefit of this quota to certain imports of ferro-chromium containing a quantity of between 3 and 4% by weight of carbon (1979).

### ECSC Decision

The Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the European Coal and Steel Community, meeting within the Council, adopted in the Communities' official languages the Decision on certain measures to be applied, in respect of State-trading countries, to trade in iron and steel products covered by the ECSC Treaty, including pig iron, cast iron and high carbon ferro-manganese.

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PRESS RELEASE

566th Council meeting

- Transport -

Brussels, 20 February 1979

President: Mr Joël LE THEULE,  
Minister for Transport  
of the French Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr Jos CHABERT Minister for Transport

Denmark:

Mr Arne CHRISTIANSEN Minister for Commerce

Germany:

Mr Heinz RUHNAU State Secretary,  
Federal Ministry of Transport

France:

Mr Joël LE THEULE Minister for Transport

Ireland:

Mr Pádraig FAULKNER Minister for Tourism and  
Transport

Italy:

Mr Vittorino COLOMBO Minister for Transport and  
Shipping

Luxembourg:

Mr Joseph WEYLAND Deputy Permanent Representative

Netherlands:

Mr D.S. TUINMAN

Minister for Transport, Water  
Control and Public Works

Mrs N. SMIT-KROES

State Secretary,  
Ministry of Transport, Water  
Control and Public Works

United Kingdom:

Mr William RODGERS

Secretary of State for  
Transport

Mr John SMITH

Secretary of State,  
Department of Trade

Commission:

Mr Richard BURKE

Member

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR LINER CONFERENCES

The Council examined in detail the proposal for a Regulation concerning the Member States' accession to the United Nations Convention on a Code of Conduct for Liner Conferences.

In the course of its discussions the Council sought a common position on this subject which would make it possible on the one hand to take account as far as possible of the developing countries' wishes concerning access to liner conferences and cargo-sharing, and on the other to preserve, both amongst the shipping companies of the Community and amongst the member countries of the OECD, commercial arrangements for cargo-sharing among conference member companies.

At the close of its discussion, the Council established that although considerable progress had been made towards an overall compromise, final agreement on this matter was not possible at this stage. The Council agreed to return to this matter in the near future in the light of the work to be done by the Commission in the meantime.

### PROCEDURES FOR SHIP INSPECTION

The Council examined the proposal for a Decision rendering mandatory certain procedures for ship inspection forming the subject of Resolutions of the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO) and agreed that further thought needed to be given to the problems raised by this proposal. It therefore agreed to return to the matter at a forthcoming meeting.

### NOISE EMISSION FROM SUBSONIC AIRCRAFT

The Council examined the proposal for a Directive on the limitation of noise emission from subsonic aircraft and agreed that further thought needed to be given to the legal, industrial and environmental implications of the proposal. It therefore agreed to return to it at a forthcoming meeting.

### MOTOR VEHICLE DRIVING LICENCES

The Council made a thorough examination of the amended proposal for a Directive on the harmonization of the laws relating to motor vehicle driving licences and pinpointed the last remaining questions at issue.

In conclusion, the President noted that a more detailed study of road safety statistics, which the Commission will be submitting to the Council in the very near future, could open up new prospects of a solution to the problems which the subject still raises, and the Council agreed to instruct the Permanent Representatives Committee to study the matter.

### SAFETY AT SEA

The Council noted a statement by the French delegation on safety at sea aimed at encouraging Community involvement in this area, together with draft Directives concerning

- minimum standards on the Member States' merchant ships (age, health, qualifications of the crew, etc.)
- minimum conditions for the exercise of the profession of merchant seaman (equal treatment, maximum duration of work, leave)
- minimum protection with regard to the dismissal of merchant seamen.

The Council agreed to instruct the Permanent Representatives Committee to follow up the French delegation's initiative by studying the proposals on the subject.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities,

- the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 3088/78 as regards the periods of application for the 1978/1979 marketing year of the representative market prices and threshold prices for olive oil;
  - the Regulation amending for the sixth time Regulation (EEC) No 1163/76 on the granting of a conversion premium in the wine sector.
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PRESS RELEASE

567th meeting of the Council

- Agriculture -

Brussels, 5 and 6 March 1979

President: M. Pierre MEHAIGNERIE,  
Minister for Agriculture  
of the French Republic



Luxembourg:

Mr Jean HAMILIUS

Minister for Agriculture and  
Viticulture

Mr Albert BERCHEM

State Secretary,  
Ministry of Agriculture

Netherlands:

Mr A.P.J.M.M. van der STEE

Minister for Agriculture and  
Fisheries

United Kingdom:

Mr John SILKIN

Minister for Agriculture,  
Fisheries and Food

Commission:

Mr Finn Olav GUNDELACH

Vice-President

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PIGMEAT

Following a number of statements regarding the difficulties experienced at French frontiers when importing pigmeat, the Council took note of the firm intention of the Government of the French Republic to resolve the situation as soon as possible, so as to ensure freedom of movement.

CONSUMER REPRESENTATION

Before commencing the discussions on the agricultural prices for the coming year, the President of the Council met a delegation of representatives from the European Bureau of Consumers' Unions.

The exchange of views covered in particular the level of prices, the security of supplies and consumer participation in the formulation of the common agricultural policy.

AMOUNT ALLOTTED TO THE EAGGF GUIDANCE SECTION

The Council discussed the proposal for a Regulation raising the ceiling for the expenditure of the EAGGF Guidance Section for the next 5 years 1980 to 1984.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its work on the matter in the light of the day's discussions to enable the Council to act at an early date.

NEW POTATOES

The Council took note of the progress of work on the proposal for a common organization of the market in potatoes, in particular new potatoes, and requested the Special Committee on Agriculture to speed up its discussions so that the Council might take a decision at its next meeting scheduled for 26 and 27 March.

MAIZE SEED

The Council took note of the Commission's intention of carrying out a detailed study of the problems connected with maize-seed imports and possibly of submitting proposals on the matter in the Management Committee framework in the near future.

AGRI-MONETARY QUESTIONS

Following detailed discussions, the Council reached a broad consensus on many features of a series of agri-monetary measures.

In the first place, this consensus concerned the approach to be adopted with regard to the dismantling of the existing monetary compensatory amounts and the advisability of taking action on the conclusions to be drawn by the Council from the report expected from the Commission on the calculation of monetary compensatory amounts for certain products, and particularly pigmeat. There is agreement in principle, moreover, on the introduction of a 1% franchise for positive monetary compensatory amounts.

Most delegations also agreed on the approach to be adopted regarding new monetary compensatory amounts.

Finally, the Council signified its agreement in principle to a series of devaluations of four "green" rates, namely:

FF - 3.6%, £ - 5%, Lit. - 5%, Irish £ - 0.5%.

On the understanding that these measures will enter into force at the same time as those referred to in the foregoing paragraphs, the Council considers that it should arrive at a satisfactory conclusion of the dossier as a whole at its next meeting.

1979/1980 AGRICULTURAL PRICES

As part of a substantive examination of the Commission's proposals on the fixing of prices for certain agricultural products and related measures, the Council discussed in depth the milk co-responsibility levy.

This enabled delegations to compare experience in the milk sector and try to find bases for a compromise around the proposals concerned.

The Council concluded by recording a favourable reaction to the principle of applying the levy in connection with agricultural prices for the next marketing year and instructed the Special Committee on Agriculture to look into various aspects of the matter further so that the Council could reach a fully informed decision at its next meeting.

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The other items on the Council's agenda were postponed until the next agriculture meeting, due to be held on 26 and 27 March 1979.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Other agricultural decisions

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Directive amending Directive 77/504/EEC on pure-bred breeding animals of the bovine species.

The Council also adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Regulation on direct co-operation between the competent bodies in the Member States regarding the downgrading of quality wines produced in specified regions.

Emergency aid

As a result of the considerable increase in the number of South-East Asian refugees, the Council decided to make a financial contribution to the aid programme organized by the UNHCR with the intention of supplying the immediate needs of refugees in their host countries. In view of the amount of the appropriations available under Article 950 of the 1979 budget (Community aid to disaster victims), the aid envisaged amounts - as a first instalment - to 1 MEUA.

Restructuring of the iron and steel industry

The Council gave the assents requested by the Commission pursuant to Article 56(2)(a) of the ECSC Treaty concerning

- Forges et Boulonneries d'Ars-sur-Moselle, France
- Villeroy et Boch, Luxembourg
- Thyssen (GB) Ltd., United Kingdom.

Appointments

On a proposal from the Belgian Government, the Council appointed Mr M. ANDRE, administrateur général at the Office National de l'Emploi, a full member of the Committee of the European Social Fund in place of Mr R. ETIENNE, full member, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, i.e. until 16 April 1980.

The Council also appointed, on a proposal from the German Government, Dr.-Ing. e.h. Günther NIEHAGE, Mitglied des Vorstandes der Vereinigten Elektrizitätswerke Westfalen Aktiengesellschaft, a member of the ECSC Consultative Committee in place of Mr H. MANDEL, who has died, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, i.e; until 15 October 1980.

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PRESS RELEASE

568th meeting of the Council

- Foreign Affairs -

Brussels, 5 and 6 March 1979

President: Mr Jean FRANCOIS-PONCET

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the  
French Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr Henri SIMONET	Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Marc EYSKENS	State Secretary for the Budget

Denmark:

Mr Henning CHRISTOPHERSEN	Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Niels ERSBØLL	State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Germany:

Otto Graf LAMBSDORFF	Federal Minister for Economic Affairs
Mr Klaus von DOHNANYI	Minister of State, Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs

France:

Mr Jean FRANCOIS-PONCET	Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Jean-François DENIAU	Minister for Foreign Trade
Mr Pierre BERNARD-REYMOND	State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ireland:

Mr Michael O'KENNEDY	Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr David ANDREWS	Minister of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mr Raymond McSHARRY	Minister of State at the Department of Finance

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Italy:

Mr Arnaldo FORLANI	Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Angelo-Maria SANZA	Deputy State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mr Francesco REBECCHINI	Deputy State Secretary Ministry of State Holdings

Luxembourg:

Mr Gaston THORN	President of the Government, Minister for Foreign Affairs
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Netherlands:

Mr C.A. van der KLAUW	Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr G.M.V. van AARDENNE	Minister for Economic Affairs
Mr D.F. van der MEI	State Secretary for Foreign Affairs
Mr K.H. BEYEN	State Secretary for Economic Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr Frank JUDD	Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Mr Joel BARNETT	Chief Secretary to the Treasury

Commission:

Mr Roy JENKINS	President
Mr François-Xavier ORTOLI	Vice-President
Mr Wilhelm HAPERKAMP	Vice-President
Mr Lorenzo NATALI	Vice-President
Mr Claude CHEYSSON	Member
Mr Guido BRUNNER	Member
Mr Raymond VOUEL	Member
Mr Richard BURKE	Member
Viscount Etienne DAVIGNON	Member
Mr Christopher TUGENDHAT	Member

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GATT MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

The Council had before it a Commission report on the final stage of the GATT multilateral trade negotiations, setting out the results achieved in the main areas of negotiation and asking the Council to give a favourable reaction to the package.

The Council engaged in detailed discussions, with individual delegations giving their own assessments of the package.

Following its discussions the Council found itself as yet unable to state its attitude and agreed to do so at its April meeting.

PREPARATION FOR UNCTAD V

The Council reached agreement on a number of general principles to guide the Community in the various negotiations which will be taking place as part of the North/South Dialogue before Manila and in preparations for UNCTAD V.

The Council is to finalize the Community's substantive position on the various agenda items for UNCTAD V at its April meeting, and possibly in May as well.

COMMON FUND

Common position for the resumption of the United Nations Conference (Geneva, 12-16 March 1979)

The Council approved the general guidelines drawn up to assist the Community negotiators in consultations within Group B and in the UNCTAD Negotiating Conference proceedings in Geneva from 12 to 16 March 1979.

ROMANIA

The Council heard a report by the Commission on the outcome of the first stage of negotiations with Romania on 27 February and 2 March 1979.

EURATOM-AUSTRALIA NEGOTIATIONS

The Council held a short discussion of the problems entailed in the negotiating brief for the Commission for a Euratom-Australia Agreement.

The Council noted that work was going ahead on a solution to the problems and agreed to discuss the matter again at another meeting in the near future.

BUDGETARY PROBLEMS OUTSTANDING

On the occasion of the presentation by the Commission of preliminary draft supplementary and amending budget No 1/79, a meeting took place, in the context of the budgetary procedure, between the Council and a delegation from the European Parliament composed of Mr SPENALE (Vice-President), Mr LAGNE (Chairman of the Committee on Budgets), Mr AIGNER and Mr BANGEMANN (Vice-Chairmen of that Committee), Mr SHAW, Mr RIPAMONTI and Mr SPINELLI (Members of the Committee on Budgets).

This meeting enabled the delegation from the European Parliament to bring to the Council's attention the Parliament's initial reactions to the preliminary draft supplementary and amending budget and the general questions raised by it.

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The Council then held a discussion on, firstly, preliminary draft supplementary and amending budget No 1/79 and, secondly, the draft text concerning the procedure to be followed in future for the examination of the budget within the Council.

The Council agreed to continue its discussions on the matter at a meeting on budgetary questions to be held on Tuesday 20 March.

ACP-EEC NEGOTIATIONS

As part of preparations for the Ministerial Negotiating Conference in Freeport (Bahamas) from 22 to 24 March to draw up the new ACP-EEC Convention, the Council discussed in depth all the topics currently up for negotiation.

Mr CHEYSSON, Member of the Commission, reported on the negotiations being conducted by the Commission on the basis of the Council's directives and described the problems encountered.

On the basis of intensive work by the Permanent Representatives, the Council adopted a number of supplementary directives on the vexed, but highly important, technical question of the rules of origin and on adjustments to the STABEX export earnings stabilization system.

The Council also considered in detail the positions to be taken up by the Community at the meeting, particularly on trade arrangements and financial and technical co-operation.

On a number of other questions, the Council noted that the matters concerned - as for example the arrangements to be adopted for the export of mineral products, in particular copper - required even more detailed examination both from the technical and political points of view, and it accordingly instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue with their preparation so as to enable the EEC Council which is to meet in the Bahamas on 22 March prior to the opening of the negotiating Conference, to approve, if possible, the positions which the Community would be adopting in the ACP-EEC Ministerial Conference.

The President of the Council was able to record that considerable progress had been made during this Council meeting, which indicated that the negotiations would continue at a faster pace and could be concluded by the planned deadline.

ACCESSION OF ST LUCIA TO THE LOME CONVENTION

The Council signified the agreement in principle of the European Economic Community to a draft Decision of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers approving the accession of St Lucia, a former United Kingdom territory which became independent on 22 February 1979, to the ACP-EEC Convention of Lomé.

When the ACP States have also agreed to the draft Decision at the meeting of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers on 22 March 1979 in the Bahamas, and once St Lucia has deposited its act of accession, that country will accede to the Lomé Convention as the 57th State to have done so.

To ensure that St Lucia does not lose certain benefits, particularly of a financial nature, to which it is entitled under the association of the overseas countries and territories with the Community, the Council also signified its agreement to a Decision on the provisional application to St Lucia, after its independence, of the arrangements provided for in Decision 76/568/EEC relating to that association.

GREECE

The Council examined a number of questions which remain unresolved in the accession negotiations with Greece, in preparation for the forthcoming meeting of the Conference at Ministerial Level between the European Communities and Greece.

TURKEY

The Council held an initial exchange of views on the recent Commission communication concerning the development of the EEC-Turkey Association, which, it will be remembered, covers four major aspects; customs union, social affairs, agriculture and financial aid to Turkey.

The Council defined the first preliminary guidelines on a number of questions arising in this context, which are of importance to the continuation of the discussions.

The Council asked the Permanent Representatives Committee to expedite its work on this matter and submit all of the questions concerning the development of the Association to it for decision at its next meeting at the beginning of April.

The Council also adopted the Decision concluding the 3rd EEC-Turkey Financial Protocol, signed on 12 May 1977, which provides for an amount of 310 MEUA to be made available to Turkey for the period until 31 October 1981.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL

In accordance with the general instructions given to it by the European Council in this connection, the Council prepared the issues likely to appear on the agenda for the next meeting of the European Council to be held on 12 and 13 March 1979.

IRON AND STEEL PROBLEMS

The Council continued its discussions on the assent requested by the Commission to its draft Decision establishing Community rules for specific aids to the steel industry.

Following the Council's discussions in December which resulted in a Resolution on this subject, the Commission had amended its draft Decision in order to take into account the principles contained in that Resolution.

After the discussions, which enabled delegations to state their positions on this draft Decision more explicitly, the Council noted that certain delegations still encountered difficulties and asked the Commission to resume its examination of its draft in collaboration with those delegations in order to resolve the difficulties. It was agreed that the Council would return to this matter at its next meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Relations with the Mediterranean countries

The Council also adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Regulations implementing

- Decision No 1/78 of the EEC-Israel Joint Committee
- Decision No 3/78 of the EEC-Tunisia Co-operation Council amending the Protocols concerning the definition of the concept of "originating products" and methods of administrative co-operation in the EEC-Israel and EEC-Tunisia Agreements.

In addition, the Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Regulation concerning the conclusion of the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters relating to Article 9 of Protocol No 1 to the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the State of Israel and concerning the import into the Community of preserved fruit salads originating in Israel (1979).

Right of establishment and freedom to provide services

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the first Directive on the co-ordination of laws, regulations and administrative provisions relating to the taking up and pursuit of the business of direct life assurance (see press release 1476/78 (Presse 174) of 18/19.XII.1978).

The Council also adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Directive co-ordinating the conditions for the admission of securities to official stock exchange listing (see press release 1476/78 (Presse 174) of 18/19.XII.1978).

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COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES  
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

569th Council meeting

- Economic and Financial Questions -

Brussels, 19 March 1979

President: Mr René MONORY  
Minister for Economic Affairs  
of the French Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr Gaston GEENS Minister for Finance

Denmark:

Mr Jakob Esper LARSEN Deputy Permanent Representative

Germany:

Mr Manfred LAHNSTEIN State Secretary,  
Federal Ministry for Finance

Mr Otto SCHLECHT State Secretary,  
Federal Ministry for  
Economic Affairs

France

Mr René MONORY Minister for Economic Affairs

Ireland:

Mr George COLLEY Deputy Prime Minister,  
Minister for Finance

Mr Martin O'DONOGHUE Minister for Economic Planning  
and Development

Italy:

Mr Filippo PANDOLFI Minister for the Treasury

Luxembourg:

Mr Jacques POOS

Minister for Finance

Netherlands:

Mr J.H. LUBBERS

Ambassador,  
Permanent Representative

United Kingdom:

Mr Denis HEALEY

Chancellor of the Exchequer

Commission:

Mr François-Xavier ORTOLI

Vice-President

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Before starting its meeting, the Council observed one minute's silence in memory of Jean Monnet, one of the founding fathers of the Communities, and of Per Haekkerup who was active in the Council for many years.

FOLLOW-UP TO THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL MEETING ON 12 AND 13 MARCH 1979

1. Following the deliberations of the European Council on the economic and social situation, the Council invited the Commission to submit a report on the implications for the economic prospects of the Community of the current problems on the crude oil market.
2. The Council also asked the Commission to submit to it proposals to strengthen the means of co-ordinating economic policies, also taking into account the suggestions made by the Netherlands delegation to the European Council.
3. As regards the convergence of economic performances, it should be pointed out that the European Council invited the Council and the Commission to examine in depth how the Community could make a greater contribution, by means of all its policies taken as a whole, to achieving greater convergence of the economies of the Member States and to reducing the disparities between them.

To this end, the European Council asked the Council to examine, in the light of the guidelines set forth in the Presidency's conclusions, what action should be taken on the proposals contained in the communication which the Commission submitted to it in this connection (utilization of financial instruments and increased convergence of economic performances) and to submit a report at the next meeting of the European Council.

Following a broad exchange of views on the implementation of this brief, the Council invited the Policy Co-ordination Group on Economic and Financial Policies to continue examining these problems and to report to it, if possible for its next meeting scheduled to take place on 23 April.

### ECONOMIC SITUATION IN THE COMMUNITY

The Council then made its first quarterly examination of the economic situation in the Community in accordance with Article 2 of the "Convergence" Decision of 18 February 1974. In conclusion, the Council noted that the guidelines contained in the 1978/1979 annual report should not be amended for the time being.

### INTEREST REBATES

Pending receipt of the European Parliament's Opinion expected for the April meeting, the Council held a brief preliminary exchange of views on the proposal for a Regulation concerning interest rebates on certain loans granted in connection with the European monetary system.

FIRST TRANCHE OF BORROWINGS TO PROMOTE INVESTMENT WITHIN  
THE COMMUNITY

Mr ORTOLI, Vice President of the Commission, made a statement to the Council when submitting the proposal for a decision authorizing a first tranche of borrowings to promote investment within the Community which the Commission has just submitted to the Council and on which the European Parliament will be consulted.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Mediterranean policy

The Council agreed on a series of financing proposals for countries of the Mediterranean basin, concerning:

- the Meghreb/Mashreq countries as a whole
  - = General authorization for the financing of technical co-operation and trade and industrial promotion projects by the accelerated procedure;
  - = Financing of the programme of participation in international trade events in 1979/1980.
- Jordan
  - = Appropriations for small farmers
- Egypt
  - = Studies for a programme of land improvement in the Hamoul District in the Nile Delta;
  - = Studies for the improvement of installations for storing agricultural production equipment in the Daqahlia Governorate - Nile Delta.
- Tunisia
  - = Multiannual training (1971-1981) for the Office National d'Assainissement (ONAS) (National Improvement Office);
  - = Assistance for the Centre National universitaire de documentation scientifique et technique (National University Scientific and Technical Documentation Centre) - Ministry of National Education.
- Syria
  - = Aleppo-Tall-Kojak road project (EIB project).

The Council also adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, a Regulation derogating from certain provisions concerning the definition of the concept of "originating products" contained in the Agreement on Co-operation between the European Economic Community and the Kingdom of Morocco.

### Emergency aid

The Council agreed on two emergency aid projects intended:

- for UNHCR under a programme of aid for refugees in Southern Africa (Angola and Mozambique) amounting to 300,000 EUA;
- for Caritas Germanica for the purchase of the necessary equipment for the victims of a recent cyclone in Northern Mozambique amounting to 80,000 EUA.

### Commodities

The Council agreed on the Community's participation in the negotiation of a new International Olive Oil Agreement and on the 5th extension of the 1971 International Cereals Agreement, comprising both the Wheat Trading Convention and the Food Aid Convention.

### Research policy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Decision concluding an agreement on a concerted action project in the field of treatment and use of sewage sludge (COST Project 68a).

### Appointment

On a proposal from the United Kingdom Government, the Council appointed Mr G. WYNN member of the Advisory Committee of the Euratom Supply Agency in place of Miss B. McLEAN, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, i.e. until 28 March 1979.

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PRESS RELEASE

570th meeting of the Council

- Budget -

Brussels, 22 March 1979

President: Mr Maurice PAPON

Minister for the Budget  
of the French Republic

PRESS RELEASE

Brussels, 23 March 1979

5762/79 (Presse 31) Corr. 1

C O R R I G E N D U M

to Press Release

5762/79 (Presse 31) of 22.III.79

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The top half of page 4 should read as follows:

"The Council adopted the following measures in respect of the draft budget for 1979:

- measures under the European Monetary System intended to reduce the economic disparities within the Community (interest relief grants of 200 MEUA; financial compensation of 45.4 MEUA);
- an amendment of the amount allocated to the Regional Fund.

Following this decision, the Council signified its agreement on a decision on the new maximum rate applicable to non-compulsory expenditure (27.27%).

These decisions will be forwarded to the European Parliament very shortly."

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

Belgium:

Mr Mark EYSKENS State Secretary for the Budget

Denmark:

Mr Niels ERSBØLL State Secretary,  
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Germany:

Mr Manfred LAHNSTEIN State Secretary,  
Federal Ministry for Finance

France:

Mr Maurice PAPON Minister for the Budget

Ireland:

Mr Raymond McSHARRY Minister of State at the  
Department of Public Service

Italy:

Mr Pietro CALAMIA Deputy Permanent Representative

Luxembourg:

Mr Joseph WEYLAND Deputy Permanent Representative

Netherlands:

Mr C.A. van der KLAUW

Minister for Foreign Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr Denzil DAVIES

Minister of State to the  
Treasury

Commission:

Mr Christopher TUGENDHAT

Member

BUDGETARY MATTERS

The Council drew up the draft of the first supplementary and amending budget for the financial year 1979, which mainly involved:

- measures under the European Monetary System intended to reduce the economic disparities within the Community (interest relief grants of 200 MEUA; financial compensation of 45.4 MEUA);
- an amendment of the amount allocated to the Regional Fund.

Following this decision on the draft supplementary and amending budget, the Council signified its agreement on a decision on the new maximum rate applicable to non-compulsory expenditure (27.27%).

The draft budget as approved and the decision on the new maximum rate will be forwarded very shortly to the European Parliament.

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The Council also held a thorough exchange of views on the internal procedure it was to follow when examining the amendments to the draft budget and when fixing the maximum rate.

At the close of the discussion, eight delegations undertook to apply the provisions of the attached text in connection with the budgetary procedure:

"I. The Council would recall that Articles 78 ECSC, 203 EEC and 177 EURATOM stipulate that during the budget procedure the institutions of the Communities are bound to respect the maximum rate established by the Commission, subject to the special provisions laid down in paragraph 9 of each of those Articles.

II. To this end, the Council hereby agrees for its part to act formally pursuant to the first subparagraph of Article 203(5) only after it has satisfied itself that there is a qualified majority among its members in favour of deciding, if necessary, on a new rate within the meaning of the last subparagraph of Article 203(9).

To this end, it hereby adopts the following procedure for examining the budget:

- (a) If the draft budget as established by the Council after its first reading exceeds the maximum rate, the Council will vote on the new rate thereby produced before forwarding the draft to the Assembly.
- (b) During its discussion on the amended draft budget, the Council will make a preliminary examination of all the amendments. At the end of this examination it will vote on the amendments which it has ascertained it is able to reject.

If the total of the unrejected amendments would involve exceeding the maximum rate established, the Council will examine whether there is a qualified majority among its members in favour of increasing that rate accordingly, having regard, where appropriate, to the fourth subparagraph of Article 203(9).

If the rate which it chooses is incompatible with the total of the unrejected amendments, the Council will, by determining its priorities, where possible, among these amendments, endeavour to reconcile its positions on the individual amendments with the maximum rate on which it can agree.

In this endeavour, the Council will take account of the need for the Community to play a supporting role, as part of increased solidarity, in order to achieve better convergence and a harmonious development of the economies.

Within the 15-day period laid down in Article 203(5) of the Treaty, the Council will reject or modify those amendments which it cannot bring within the limits of the maximum rate on which it agrees at the end of the examination, where necessary and as a last resort by making a proportional reduction in each of the amendments still under discussion.

- c) If the maximum rate which the Council has chosen exceeds the maximum rate established, the Council will propose this new rate to the Assembly, thus initiating the procedure provided for in the last subparagraph of Article 203(9)."
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## 571<sup>th</sup> Council meeting

There is no record for this meeting and no record in the Bulletin of the European Communities that it took place.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES  
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

572nd meeting of the Council

- Agriculture -

Brussels, 26/27 and 29/30 March 1979

President: M. Pierre MEHAIGNERIE,  
Minister for Agriculture  
of the French Republic

27.III.79

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

Belgium:

Mr Antoine HUMBLET                      Minister for Agriculture and  
Small Firms and Traders

Denmark:

Mr Niels Anker KØFOED                    Minister for Agriculture  
Mr Hans-Joergen KRISTENSEN            State Secretary,  
Ministry of Agriculture

Germany:

Mr Joseph ERTL                            Federal Minister for Food,  
Agriculture and Forestry  
Mr Hans-Jürgen ROHR                    State Secretary,  
Federal Ministry of Food,  
Agriculture and Forestry

France:

Mr Pierre MEHAIGNERIE                    Minister for Agriculture  
Mr Jacques FOUCHIER                    State Secretary,  
Ministry of Agriculture

Ireland:

Mr Jim GIBBONS                            Minister for Agriculture

Italy:

Mr Giovanni MARCORA                    Minister for Agriculture

27.III.79

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean HAMILIUS

Minister for Agriculture and  
Viticulture

Mr Albert BERCHEM

State Secretary,  
Ministry of Agriculture

Netherlands:

Mr A.P.J.M.M. van der STEE

Minister for Agriculture and  
Fisheries

United Kingdom:

Mr John SILKIN

Minister for Agriculture,  
Fisheries and Food

Mr Gavin STRANG

Parliamentary Secretary,  
Ministry of Agriculture,  
Fisheries and Food

Commission:

Mr Finn Olav GUNDELACH

Vice-President

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1979/1980 AGRICULTURAL PRICES AND AGRI-MONETARY MEASURES

The Council noted that at the current stage circumstances did not enable it to reach the required consensus on the whole range of price proposals and related measures for the 1979/1980 marketing year. In order to allow itself additional time for consideration, it agreed to extend the marketing years for beef and veal, milk products and dried fodder until the end of June, and the basic and buying-in prices for fruit and vegetables for May and June 1979.

The Council also adopted the Regulation on the consequences of the European monetary system in the context of the common agricultural policy, introducing the European unit of account (EUA) with effect until 30 June 1979.

Finally, the Council adopted the Regulations applying the devaluations of the green rates already decided in principle at its last meeting concerning the Italian lira (- 5%), the pound sterling (- 5%), the French franc (- 5% with - 5% in advance for pigmeat) and the Irish pound (- 0.3%). As regards the Italian lira, a further 4% devaluation of the green rate will be applied when fixing the agricultural prices for the 1979/1980 marketing year.

The Council also extended until 31 December 1979 the application to Italy of Article 2a of Regulation 974/71 (payment by the exporting Member State of the monetary compensatory amounts to be paid by the importing Member State).

### IMPORTS OF MANIOC INTO THE COMMUNITY

Vice-President GUNDELACH reported to the Council on his journey to Thailand, during which he had exploratory conversations with the Thai authorities regarding manioc exports from that country into the Community. The Council took note of the results of these preliminary talks and instructed the Special Committee on Agriculture to continue examining the questions raised.

### WATER CONTENT OF CHICKENS, HENS AND COCKS

The Council deferred until 1 January 1980 the full entry into force of Regulation (EEC) No 2967/76 (published in Official Journal No L 339, 8.12.1976) laying down common standards for the water content of frozen and deep-frozen chickens, hens and cocks. Pending that date, the Council decided to seek agreement on the method to be used for determining the water content and instructed the Special Committee on Agriculture to continue its examination of the matter.

### MARKETING OF FEEDINGSTUFFS

The Council signified its agreement in principle to the Directive on the marketing of feedingstuffs (section on compound feedingstuffs), which is aimed at co-ordinating national marketing practices, for example as regards labelling and packaging.

This Directive is an essential complement to the Directive on the marketing of straight feedingstuffs adopted by the Council on 23 November 1976.

POTATOES

After a detailed exchange of views on the proposal on the common organization of the market in potatoes, the Council was unable to reach a conclusion on this complicated matter at this stage.

The import aspects of new potatoes from Cyprus will appear on the agenda of the Foreign Affairs Council at its meeting in Luxembourg on 2 and 3 April next.

## Agricultural decisions

The Council adopted in the official languages of the European Communities,

- the Regulations
  - = laying down general rules concerning the production refund for olive oils used in the manufacture of certain preserved foods
  - = amending Regulation No 136/66/EEC on the establishment of a common organization of the market in oils and fats (correction of an error in the calculation of aid for the consumption of olive oil)
  - = adopting the list of regions where aid to hop producers will be granted only to recognized producer groups
- the Directive on the programme to speed up the conversion of certain areas under vines in the Charentes department
- the Regulation laying down supplementary measures to adjust wine growing potential to market requirements in certain Community regions and amending Regulation (EEC) No 1163/76
- the Decision amending Decision 76/557/EEC regarding the inclusion of certain disaster-stricken communes in Italy among the mountain areas, within the meaning of Directive 75/268/EEC on mountain and hill farming and farming in certain less-favoured areas.

The Council approved the statement on the protection of designations and indications of origin in the context of discussions on the amendment of the Paris Convention.

Fisheries policy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the European Communities,

- the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 1852/78 on an interim common measure for restructuring the inshore fishing industry (extension for 1979 with slight alterations)
- the Regulations laying down the fishing arrangements applicable to the vessels of Spain, the Faroe Islands, Norway and Sweden from 1 April 1979.

Commercial policy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the European Communities,

- the Regulations temporarily suspending the autonomous Common Customs Tariff duty on
  - = epoxyethylbenzene (oxide of styrene) falling within subheading ex 29.09
  - = certain qualities of magnesium oxide falling within subheading ex 25.19 A
- the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 2133/78 imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on kraft liner paper and board originating in the United States of America (extension of Nimex code 48.01-14)
- the Regulation opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for 62,500 hectolitres of certain wines having a registered designation of origin, falling within subheading ex 22.05 C of the Common Customs Tariff, originating in Morocco (1 April 1979 to 30 June 1980)
- the Regulation opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for 2,300 tonnes of carrots falling within subheading ex 07.01 G II of the Common Customs Tariff, originating in Cyprus (1 April 1979 to 15 May 1979).

Other decisions

Within the context of the EEC-Greece Association, the Council agreed on behalf of the Community to the extension until the end of 1979 of Protocol No 10 annexed to the Athens Agreement.

The Council agreed to the supplementary negotiating directives for the Commission within the context of the preparations for the resumption of the United Nations Conference for the negotiation (from 27 March to 12 April 1979 in Geneva) of an International Agreement on rubber.

[REDACTED]

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES  
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

[REDACTED]

PRESS RELEASE

573rd Council meeting

- Energy -

Brussels, 27 March 1979

President: Mr André GIRAUD,  
Minister for Industry  
of the French Republic



27.III.79

Netherlands:

Mr G.M.V. van AARDENNE

Minister for Economic Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr Tony BENN

Secretary of State for  
Energy

Mr Jesse DICKSON MABON

Minister of State for Energy

Commission:

Mr Guido BRUNNER

Member

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SITUATION ON THE OIL AND ENERGY MARKET

In the light of the conclusions of the European Council meeting on 12 and 13 March 1979 and on the basis of the analysis of the world and Community energy situation carried out by the Commission in its communication of 20 March 1979, the Council agreed:

- to implement the specific measures needed to attain the objectives of limiting oil consumption in 1979 to 500 million tonnes and of limiting oil imports in 1985 to their level in 1978;
- to give urgent priority to examining the other measures already proposed by the Commission which are necessary for attaining the Community's medium and long-term energy objectives;
- to examine the development and application of effective and convergent energy policies in the Community;
- to examine, on the basis of proposals to be made by the Commission, new Community objectives for 1990 with a view to their forthcoming adoption;
- to discuss the best means for improving the Community's relations in the energy field with producing countries and other third countries.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE MEETING OF THE  
EUROPEAN COUNCIL ON 12 AND 13 MARCH 1979

- Guidelines for the Community energy policy

The Council,

noting that the Member States have in many fields undertaken measures whose objectives are comparable and that it would be desirable to highlight these convergent efforts;

noting also that an examination of national policies and measures might contribute to the approximation of the measures adopted by the Member States and to greater consistency at Community level, in particular by establishing overall objectives and common indicators;

being of the opinion that it is essential to itemize the means employed in order to co-ordinate them and, where it seems useful to harmonize or supplement them at Community level;

has to this end requested the Commission to carry out a comparative study of national policies, including pricing policies and transparency of the market, and to submit to it on that basis new guidelines and proposals in time for its next meeting,

has agreed that the following matters should be examined as a matter of priority:

- energy saving;
- development of Community resources (coal, hydrocarbons, alternative energy sources);
- production of electricity of nuclear origin;
- use of coal in power stations and industry.

- Monitoring of the oil market

In accordance with the conclusions of the European Council, the Council examined the measures to improve information on the quantities and prices of oil and petroleum products imported into the Community.

In this connection, it noted with satisfaction the Commission decision to collect each month the information referred to in the Council Directive 76/491 of 4 May 1976 regarding a Community procedure for information and consultation on the prices of crude oil and petroleum products in the Community. The Council asked the Commission to submit regular short-term forecasts concerning the supply structure.

The Council asked the Commission to prepare as a matter of urgency any improvements which could be made to this information in particular on the following points: original grades of the crude oil, loading dates and component data in the price of oil and petroleum products (in particular loading price and freight). It asked the Commission to submit proposals as soon as possible.

The Council also asked the Commission to resume immediately its monitoring of the operations of the various free markets, particularly Rotterdam, and to submit a report as soon as possible and in any case by the end of the year.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to follow the progress of the Community work so that the necessary decisions could be finalized before the next meeting.

- Long-term outlook

The Council

- requests the Working Party on Energy, meeting at Senior Official level, to include in its proceedings at an early date the long-term outlook for trends in supply and demand in the world petroleum market, while taking due account of the examination of this matter by other bodies in producer and consumer countries and to report back to it at its next meeting to be held in April;
  
- affirms its intention of considering further the detailed arrangements for opening a dialogue with producer countries on this long-term outlook, within the framework of the guidelines adopted by the European Council at its meeting on 12 and 13 March 1979.

-- Community crisis arrangements

In accordance with the conclusions reached by the European Council at its meeting on 12 and 13 March 1979 instructing the relevant Community Institutions to finalize the Community crisis arrangements, the principles of which were adopted in 1977, the Council examined the problems arising in this area.

As regards the introduction of detailed rules implementing Decision 77/706 concerning the reduction of consumption of petroleum and petroleum products, the Council noted that the Commission would adopt its implementing decision before the next Council meeting on energy, taking into account the comments made by various delegations.

-- Limitation of oil consumption

The Council

- held a discussion on on the practical means to be employed in order to reduce the Community's consumption of oil and petroleum products to 500 million tonnes in 1979, in accordance with the conclusions of the European Council;

- recalled that, with regard to energy saving, the new measures taken at national or Community level must not adversely affect the level of economic activity in the Member States and will therefore be aimed particularly at the consumption of energy by Government departments and public authorities, heating of business and residential premises and at a more rational use of energy by motor vehicles. The price policies of the Member States must be designed to contribute to the attainment of these objectives;
  
- agreed that the document submitted by the Commission's departments on this subject appeared to constitute a basis for defining programmes likely to arrive at the reduction of oil consumption decided by the European Council;
  
- took note of the fact that all the Member States were prepared to apply some of these measures, in the light of their national situations, and to examine these measures with a view to the next meeting of the Energy Council;
  
- will ensure, on that occasion, in accordance with the conclusions of the European Council, that the Member States' policies are comparable, with particular reference to the efforts which they make to contribute to the solution of the current difficulties. It will carry out the desired harmonization and will determine any additional means of intervention which might be applied at Community level.

DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS FOR ENERGY SAVING AND ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES

The Council agreed to adopt at a forthcoming meeting, following legal/linguistic finalization,

- 3 implementing regulations for geothermal energy, solar energy and the gasification and liquefaction of solid fuels;
- 2 regulations fixing ceilings for Community expenditure on projects concerning energy saving and alternative energy sources.

It also approved the Commission decisions granting financial support totalling,

- 21 MEUA for 53 demonstration projects in the field of energy saving;
- 28 MEUA for more than 30 demonstration projects in the field of alternative energy sources.

27.III.79

PROGRESS MADE IN WORK CONCERNING THE PROPOSALS ON COAL

- Use of coal

(a) The Council requested the Commission to submit, as quickly as possible, a report:

- on the measures already taken, or in preparation, by the Member States and by the Community to promote the use of coal for the generation of electricity and for other uses, in particular industrial;
- on the results of these measures for each Member State;
- on the progress likely to be achieved and the national or Community legislative or financial measures which might produce such progress.

(b) On this basis, the Working Party on Energy should, for the next Council meeting:

- report on the search for greater convergence, where necessary, of national policies;
- re-examine the conditions for granting Community loans to investments for the use of coal and for giving Community assistance to demonstration projects and to research and development concerning coal consumption;
- continue the examination of the draft Regulation on Community aid to investments for the construction of coal-fired power stations.

The Working Party on Energy should endeavour to arrive at a joint reply to the question of the need for such aid and the procedural details thereof, by replying in particular to the questions raised by the Presidency at the Council meeting on 21 December 1978, and by studying the objective criteria on which such aid could be granted.

- (c) The Council recalled that these efforts could not be undertaken separately without studying at the same time policies for the development of Community resources of hydrocarbons, nuclear energy and alternative energy.

- Community coal supplies

= Community coal

Community production is of strategic importance for the Community's supplies:

- (a) It is, first of all, desirable that an analysis be made, at Community level, of national policies to bring out the common features and the limits - notably economic - on the Member States' and the Community's action in this field.

A Commission report should therefore be submitted to the next Council meeting on this issue, as for other types of energy production in the Community.

(b) The Working Party on Energy should, in addition, continue examining the Commission proposals concerning intra-Community trade in coking coal and steam coal <sup>(1)</sup>, by replying in particular to the questions raised by the Presidency in December 1978. The Commission should, in particular, provide the Working Party with all the necessary information to enable it to assess the present level of transport cost differentials in the Community, according to production requirements, for any given market.

= The Community's external coal supplies

The Commission and the Working Party on Energy should put the Council in a position to discuss this topic.

The Commission will draw up a report on the various national approaches, within the Community, regarding coal imports and submit a study on the present situation of and the prospects of development for the coal market.

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<sup>(1)</sup> The Commission representative promised to submit amendments to these proposals taking account of the views expressed by certain delegations, in particular the Italian delegation.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR HYDROCARBON EXPLORATION PROJECTS

The Council examined the problems arising in connection with the framework Regulation on support for joint hydrocarbon exploration projects. It noted that the fact that several Member States had upheld general reservations did not enable it at this juncture to reach a positive conclusion either on this framework Regulation or on any specific projects.

EXTERNAL MEASURES BY THE COMMUNITY

Having taken note of the progress made by its relevant subordinate bodies as regards the Commission communication entitled "Aspects of external measures by the Community in the energy sector" and having noted that the Commission had just submitted a communication on the initial measures for co-operation in the energy field with certain developing countries, the Council agreed to hold a detailed examination of these communications at its meeting on energy scheduled for April.

NUCLEAR PROBLEMS

The Council heard a statement by the Commission representative on:

- a Community action plan for radioactive waste;
- the aspects of a Community strategy concerning the reprocessing of irradiated nuclear fuels and a draft Council Decision setting up an ad hoc Committee on the Reprocessing of Irradiated Nuclear Fuels;
- the fast breeder reactor option in the Community context - justification, achievements, problems and future action.

The Council agreed to resume its examination of the problems still outstanding in these areas at its meeting on energy scheduled for June.

INDICATION BY LABELLING OF THE ENERGY CONSUMPTION OF  
DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

After noting that

- the Directive on the indication by labelling of the energy consumption of domestic appliances, and
- the Directive applying to electric ovens the Council Directive on the indication by labelling of the energy consumption of domestic appliances

no longer posed any problems, agreed to adopt the relevant texts following legal/linguistic finalization after the Economic and Social Committee has delivered its Opinion.

## OTHER DECISIONS

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities,

- the Directive amending Directive 76/579/Euratom laying down the revised basic safety standards for the health protection of the general public and workers against the dangers of ionizing radiation
- the two decisions adopting research programmes for EURATOM on
  - = decommissioning of power plants, and
  - = safety in thermal water reactors (indirect nuclear action).

## Appointments

On a proposal from the Belgian Government, the Council appointed Mr M. RENIERS a member of the Advisory Committee of the Euratom Supply Agency in replacement of Mr R. VANDAMME, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, i.e. until 28 March 1979.

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