

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

PRESS RELEASES

PRESIDENCY: SPAIN

JANUARY-JUNE 1989

Meetings and press releases January-February 1989

Meeting number	Subject	Date
1294 th	Agriculture	23-24 January 1989
1295 th	General Affairs	23 January 1989
1296 th	Economics/Finance	13 February 1989
1297 th	Agriculture	13-14 February 1989
1298 th	General Affairs	20 February 1989
1299 th	Fisheries	23 February 1989
1300 th	Internal Market	27 February 1989



COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT



PRESS RELEASE

4164/89 (Presse 5)

1294th Council meeting
- Agriculture -
Brussels, 23 and 24 January 1989

President:

M. Carlos ROMERO HERRERA

Minister for Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food
of the Kingdom of Spain

Presse 5 - G

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

Belgium

Mr Paul DE KEERSMAEKER
State Secretary for European Affairs
and Agriculture

Denmark

Mr Laurits TOERNAES
Minister for Agriculture

Germany

Mr Ignaz KIECHLE
Federal Minister for Food,
Agriculture and Forestry

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

Greece

Mr Yannis POTTAKIS
Minister for Agriculture

Spain

Mr Carlo ROMERO HERRERA
Minister for Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food

Mr. Vicente ALBERO
President of the Fund for the Regulation
of Agricultural Production and Prices
(FORPPA)

France

Mr Henri NALLET
Minister for Agriculture

Ireland

Mr Michael O'KENNEDY
Minister for Agriculture

Italy

Mr Calogero MANNINO

Minister for Agriculture

Luxembourg

Mr Marc FISCHBACH

Minister for Agriculture and Viticulture

Mr René STEICHEN

State Secretary for Agriculture

Netherlands

Mr E. PIERHAGEN

Deputy Director-General,
Ministry of AgriculturePortugal

Mr Arlindo CUNHA

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

Mr John McGREGOR

Minister for Agriculture

Commission

Mr R. MACSHARRY

Member

At this meeting the Council concentrated mainly on the package of proposals on which it had not been possible to reach overall agreement at the December meeting.

The issues involved concerned:

- income support
- beef and veal
- SLOM
- agri-monetary measures
- nut-growing
- arrangements applicable to small producers of cereals.

In the final stage of its discussions, on the basis of an overall compromise proposal from the Presidency which the Commission was able to endorse, the Council reached a political agreement by a qualified majority on a common approach, although it will have to continue its discussions on certain proposals on which the European Parliament has yet to give its Opinion in order to adopt the necessary final decisions.

The outcome of the Council's discussions on this package are set out below:

Agricultural income aid

Guidelines agreed:

Member States may grant direct income aid to support adjustment efforts by farms which are facing difficulties because of new market conditions and which, owing to their economic and structural situation, are unable to carry through the adjustment process on their own.

The aid may help to:

- keep income at reasonable levels during adjustment processes affecting farm structure, organization or management;
- soften the effect on income of farms' financial obligations;
- support agricultural income levels where farmers are trying to diversify out of agriculture.

In this way, the above aid may also help to maintain socio-economic equilibrium in a region.

Direct income aid may be granted to farmers on the following conditions:

1. For implementation of the scheme Member States must draw up a framework programme (PAIA) responding to the reform of the agricultural policy and the adaptation of the common market organizations, and laying down detailed rules and defining the socio-economic conditions which may trigger the grant of aid. Under the detailed rules, there must be a link between the amount of aid granted and the prejudicial effects of market adjustment. The aid granted must be degressive and may not be determined on the basis of the prices and/or volume of production. Member States will exclude households from the scope of the programme where farming represents a non-significant part of their revenue. Where the aid is aimed either at reducing the debt burden or improving the management of farms, the amounts of aid concerned may be capitalized. The framework programme will not become operational until it has been approved by the Commission. The Commission will look for conformity of the national programme with the constraints laid down by the Community Regulation, in particular the link between the amount of the aid and the actual prejudice suffered, so as to avoid distortions of competition between producers. When the conditions laid down in the PAIA are met, Member States may trigger the scheme on a national, regional or sectoral basis.

2. Farmers who have adequate financial resources, despite market adjustments, will not be included in the scheme. Thus, a farm will not be eligible for aid if the overall income (agricultural and non-agricultural) of the farmer and members of his family working on the holding is in excess of a given threshold. This threshold will be set by the Member States, bearing in mind existing national provisions for similar measures and the implementation framework specified (flat-rate aid, aid established on an individual basis, allowance for the debt burden, etc.); under no circumstances may it exceed 70% of the national gross domestic product or 90% of regional GDP per member of the working population.
3. Where a flat-rate level of aid has been set for a country, region or sector, Member States may vary the amount to be paid to individuals according to objective criteria pertaining to the farm (UAA, standard gross margin, etc.).
4. Where the level of aid has been set on an individual basis, by means of accounting data, the concept of net income may be used, particularly where Member States are using the scheme to reduce the debt burden.
5. The maximum aid will be set as a proportion of national or regional income but may not exceed a ceiling which will be set at an absolute figure for all the Member States. That figure will be 2 500 ECU per MWU.
6. The measure will be transitional. PAIAs may be submitted within a period of four years from adoption of the Regulation. Aid may not be granted to a given recipient for more than a maximum of 5 years.
7. The maximum amount will be 1 000 ECU per MWU. Only main-occupation farmers will be eligible, for a maximum of 2 MWU per holding.
8. The eligible amount of aid will be reduced gradually by 15% per year.
9. The rate of the Community contribution to co-financing of the aid will be 70% of the eligible amount in all the less developed regions (objective No 1 of the reform of the funds). It will be 25% in all other regions; an intermediate rate could be established for certain areas classified as regions 5b.
10. In conformity with the conclusions of the European Council of 11/15 February 1988 in Brussels, a special budget line is created for revenue aids and its ceiling is fixed at 300 million ECU in 1992.
11. The third paragraph of Article 93(2) of the Treaty will continue to apply.

The Council instructed the Special Committee on Agriculture to finalize the Regulation on the basis of the abovementioned guidelines so that it could be formally adopted at a forthcoming meeting.

BEEF AND VEAL (REFORM OF THE SCHEME)

The main points of the approach agreed are as follows

As regards buying-in, it was decided that as from 3 April 1989 purchases will be made by tender, with a ceiling of 220 000 tonnes on quantities bought per year for the entire Community. The Council will review this maximum quantity of 220 000 tonnes before 1 April 1991 in the light of experience and market prospects.

Purchases by tender will be triggered when:

- the Community market price is less than 88% of the intervention price
- the market price in the Member State is less than 84% of the intervention price.

In the event of an abnormal market situation, the Commission can resort to public intervention buying of additional quantities. This safety net operates as follow

- if, in at least three Member States or regions, as defined in the common organization of the market, which account for at least 55% of male bovine animal production, the market price of the carcasses of these animals falls below 80% of the intervention price, the Commission will trigger the intervention scheme for the Member States concerned and all offers of 80% or less of the intervention price will be accepted,
- if the average Community price falls below 78% of the intervention price for a particular category, the Commission will trigger the intervention scheme and all offers of less than 80% of the intervention price will be accepted.

With respect to the various premium schemes, it was decided that:

- the calving premium
 - the variable slaughter premium
- will not be renewed.

However, the following will be maintained:

- the suckler cow premium. The amount of this premium has been increased from 25 to 40 ECU per cow. Member States may grant an additional national premium of 25 ECU per cow. In the case of Greece, Ireland and Northern Ireland 20 ECU of the additional premium will be financed by the EAGGF.

- the special premium for male bovine animals. This is 40 ECU per animal with a ceiling of 90 head and is granted only once in the life of an animal over 9 months old. A Member State may fix a minimum age of 12 months. This premium may be paid either to the farm or at the time of slaughter, although it must in any event ultimately benefit the producer. In the event of the premium being paid at the time of slaughter, sample checks will be carried out. The operation of the option involving payment at the time of slaughter will be reviewed before 1 April 1991.

ADJUSTMENT OF THE MILK QUOTA SCHEME (SLOM) AND RELATED MEASURES

Continuing its discussions in the quest for a solution to the problem of the allocation of SLOM quotas following the judgment by the Court of Justice, the Council reached a consensus on the basis of the following points:

1. The right of a SLOM producer is unconditional but limited.
2. SLOM producers constitute a sui generis category which should be defined in a new Article 3a.
3. The quota will be allocated from an increase in the Community reserve limited to 600 000 tonnes. This quantity will be distributed to eligible producers through the medium of national reserves without, however, any obligation to allocate under the SLOM arrangements from existing national reserves.

4. The following criteria will be applied to determine which producers are entitled to a quota:
- (a) maintenance after 31 December 1983 of the obligation not to market milk except that, in the case of a Member State where it is not part of the normal pattern to produce a significant proportion of milk in the autumn and winter months, the date of 1 October 1983 may be used;
 - (b) compliance with the commitments associated with total or partial collection of the premium under Regulation (EEC) No 1078/77;
 - (c) request submitted within a period of three months from the publication of the Regulation;
 - (d) the producer is not yet in possession of a quota unless it had been obtained by renting, inheritance, purchase or other similar transfer of a holding or by temporary transfer under Article 5c(1a) of Regulation No 804/68; producers who have received quotas under the provisions of Articles 3 and 4 of Regulation No 857/84 are also eligible for an allocation, which will be reduced by the amount of the quota received under the provisions of these Articles;
 - (e) the producer can prove to the satisfaction of the national authorities that his holding is capable of producing the total quantity of milk requested.
5. The quota allocated will be 60% of the quantity for which entitlement to the premium was maintained.

6. SLOM producers are not subject to the additional levy for quantities produced prior to the allocation of the SLOM quota which do not exceed that quota. Amounts already collected will be refunded from the EAGGF budget up to the level of the quota allocated.

7. The SLOM quota is granted under the following conditions:

(a) the quota is granted ad personam until the end of the eighth period at least until that date, it may not be disposed of either temporarily or definitively, in whole or in part; it may, however, be transferred by inheritance or transfer operations similar to inheritance. In the event of the sale or letting of the holding or of definitive, total and spontaneous cessation of production, the quota will be returned to the Community reserve. It will not be eligible for any abandonment premium;

(b) the quota is granted:

- provisionally, on the basis of eligibility of the request;
- definitively, after a period of two years if the producer can prove to the satisfaction of the national authorities that he has become an active producer, at the level of at least 80% of his quota allocation. This level will be assessed taking account of developments in the rhythm of production on the producer's holding, seasonal conditions, and any exceptional circumstances.

8. The Commission will distribute the quotas in proportion to the applications which fulfil the criteria set out in paragraph 4 to the satisfaction of the Commission. If total applications fall short of, or exceed, the increase in the Community reserve, the Commission will make an appropriate proposal consistent with paragraph 5.
9. The Commission proposals on the price of butter and on the co-responsibility levy are approved with effect from 1 April 1989. The amendment to Article 4a is accepted for the first two years during which the quota system was applicable in each Member State.

The Council instructed the Special Committee on Agriculture to finalize the Regulations relating to these measures so that they could be formally approved at a forthcoming meeting.

AGRI-MONETARY MEASURES

The Council agreed on the proposal for an adjustment in the green rates in Greece, leading to a reduction in the negative real monetary gap of 6 points from 30 January 1989, in the light of the especially large monetary gaps in Greece.

This measure falls within the context of the decisions on the 1988-1989 price package, which provided for appropriate action to be taken for Greece in order to maintain the movement initiated in its favour when these decisions were taken.

The Council agreed to abolish negative MCAs for pigmeat in Ireland from 30 January 1989 by making a minimum devaluation in the green rate for the Irish pound applied in this sector in addition to the dismantling of the monetary gap decided on in July 1988.

When decisions were taken on prices for the 1988-1989 marketing year, it was agreed that in the beef and veal sector dismantling of the negative real monetary gaps would be decided when the reform of the common organization of the markets was definitively adopted.

This reform was agreed in principle and the Council decided that the monetary gaps in this sector ⁽¹⁾ should be dismantled as from 27 February 1989 when the reform will be definitely adopted.

(1) 0,5 point B/L/E/UK
1,0 point DK
1,5 point F
1,5 point IRL
2,5 points I

NUT-GROWING

At this stage the Council adopted a favourable attitude on a series of measures aimed at increasing the competitiveness of these products. In addition to the aid provided for by Regulation No 1035/72, additional encouragement would be given to the formation of producers' organizations and their role in production and marketing would be strengthened. For this purpose, aid, the cost of which would be partly borne by the EAGGF, would be granted for:

- the formation of groups for two years,
- the initial creation of a revolving fund,
- varietal conversion and marketing modernization,
- promotion measures.

SMALL PRODUCERS OF CEREALS

As regards the general rules applicable to small producers, the Council agreed basically to maintain the rules in force for the 1988/1989 marketing year for three marketing years.

As regards, in particular, the definition of small producers, the Council thought it should be for the Member States to decide which farmers are to be so considered. In this context the Member States will take account in particular of the area given over to the cultivation of cereals and/or the utilized agricultural area and/or the amount cereals contribute to the earnings of the holdings.

This Regulation will be formally adopted at a forthcoming Council meeting once the texts have been finalized.

The 220 MECU making up the total amount of aid intended for small producers as compensation for the co-responsibility levy will be apportioned between Member States by the Commission under the Management Committee procedure in the light of sales by producers marketing a maximum of 25 tonnes.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDASPECIFIC MEASURE FOR CERTAIN GRAIN LEGUMES

The Council discussed the proposal for a specific measure for certain grain legumes, on which the European Parliament's Opinion is awaited.

The Council was favourably disposed to the introduction of a system of aid per hectare for the products in question which would make it possible to take account of the particular difficulties encountered by the producers in question.

The Council, which will take a decision on this proposal once the European Parliament had delivered its Opinion, in the meantime instructed the Special Committee on Agriculture to prepare a text in keeping with this approach.

GENERAL RULES FOR THE IMPORT OF WINES, GRAPE JUICE AND GRAPE MUST

The Council agreed to the proposal extending until 31 July 1989 the derogations on imports into the Community of vine products from which the United States benefit with regard to the presentation of certificates of origin and conformity as well as analysis reports.

The aim of this extension is to contribute to the smooth progress of the consultations taking place with the United States on certain commercial aspects in the wine sector, including better protection of the geographical names used to describe Community wines.

EXCEPTIONAL EMERGENCY MEASURE FOR THE LESS-FAVOURED AREAS OF PORTUGAL

The Council examined the proposal (on which it is awaiting the European Parliament's Opinion) introducing a special emergency measure as a result of the exceptionally adverse climatic conditions in Portugal in the first half of 1988. Under this measure, the Community will make a financial contribution of 20 MECU to agricultural holdings in the less-favoured areas of Portugal in the form of an addition to the compensatory allowances to be paid in 1989.

The Council, which was favourably disposed to this proposal, will resume its examination of the matter as soon as it has received the European Parliament's Opinion and will then formally adopt the Regulation.

PRICES OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND RELATED MEASURES (1989-1990)

The Council heard an introductory statement by Mr MAC SHARRY, Member of the Commission, on the proposals on agricultural prices and on certain related measures for the marketing year 1989-1990.

The Council will commence its examination of these proposals at its next meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS


Other agricultural decisions

Following the substantive agreement reached at its Internal Market meeting on 22 December 1988, the Council formally adopted a common position on a Council Directive on the official control of foodstuffs.

Further to the substantive agreement reached at its Agriculture meeting in December 1988, the Council formally adopted a common position with a view to the adoption of a Council Regulation laying down general rules on the definition, description and presentation of spirit drinks.

The Council also formally adopted Regulations:

- amending Regulation No 1581/86 laying down general rules for intervention on the market in cereals as regards the conditions under which products may be sold for supply as Community food aid;
- extending until 31 December 1989 Regulation No 3310/75 on agriculture in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.



COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT



PRESS RELEASE

4163/89 (Presse 4)

1295th Council meeting

- General Affairs -

Brussels, 23 January 1989

President: Mr Francisco FERNANDEZ ORDOÑEZ

Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Kingdom of Spain

PRESS RELEASE

Brussels, 3 February 1989
4163/89 (Presse 4) corrigendum

corrigendum
to the press release from the
1295th Council meeting General Affairs
- Brussels, 23 January 1989 -

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS, Appointments, page III

The text concerning the Court of Auditors is incorrect: the Council's decision on the replacement of Mr BRIXTOFTE, member of the Court of Auditors, at that stage concerned the consultation of the European Parliament; the decision on the appointment will not be taken until the Parliament has delivered its Opinion.

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 Knud-Erik TYGESEN State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Germany:

Mrs Irmgard ADAM-SCHWAETZER Minister of State,
Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Greece:

Mr Theodoros PANGALOS Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs

Spain:

Mr Francisco FERNANDEZ ORDOÑEZ Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Pedro SOLBES MIRA State Secretary for Relations with the
European Communities

Mr Apolonio RUIZ LIGERO State Secretary for Trade

France:

Mr Roland DUMAS Ministre d'Etat,
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Ireland:

Mr Brian LENIHAN	Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mrs Maire GEOGHEGAN-QUINN	Minister of State for European Affairs

Italy:

Mr Giulio ANDREOTTI	Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Renato RUGGIERO	Minister for Foreign Trade

Luxembourg:

Mr Jacques F. POOS	Minister for Foreign Affairs
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Netherlands:

Mrs Y.M.C.T. van ROOY	Minister for Foreign Trade
B.J.M. Baron van VOORST tot VOORST	State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Portugal:

Mr Joao de DEUS PINHEIRO	Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Vitor MARTINS	State Secretary for European Integration

United Kingdom:

Mrs Lynda CHALKER

Minister of State,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Commission:

Mr Jacques DELORS
Mr Frans H.J.J. ANDRIESSEN
Mr Abel MATUTES

President
Vice-President
Member

UNITED STATES - HORMONES: COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

The Council took stock of the situation. It took note of the practical arrangement reached with the United States regarding a period of grace until 31 January 1989 for goods despatched by either side before 1 January 1989. It also noted applications made by American producers to export to the Community beef and veal meeting the criteria of Community legislation and it encouraged the Commission to conclude its examination of these applications rapidly.

The Council called upon the Commission to continue the action initiated in GATT seeking condemnation of the unilateral retaliatory measures introduced by the United States in breach of the rules of the General Agreement. It called upon the Commission also to continue bilateral efforts with the American authorities to reach an amicable settlement to the dispute. The Council invites the new United States Administration to suspend the unilateral measures in the meantime.

The Council approved the revised list of Community counter-measures taking account of the reduced volume of trade affected by the American measures. These counter-measures consist in raising customs duties to 100% for walnuts in shell and the following dried fruit: apricots, peaches, prunes, apples and pears, papaws, fruit salads.

The Council will take stock of the situation at its session on 20 February and the counter-measures will be put into effect unless there is satisfactory progress in GATT or in bilateral negotiations with the United States.

RELATIONS WITH THE EFTA COUNTRIES

The Council took stock of relations with the EFTA countries, on the basis of an oral report from the Commission.

It was pleased to note that substantial progress had been made towards creating the European economic area provided for in the Luxembourg Declaration, and with the current work programme.

The Council confirmed its determination to extend and strengthen co-operation with the EFTA partners, in line with the conclusions of the European Council in Rhodes.

It called upon the Permanent Representatives Committee, together with the Commission, to keep a careful watch on the current discussions and provide them with the necessary stimulus.

The Presidency informed members of the Council that it intended to organize a meeting between the Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the EEC and EFTA in Brussels on 20 and 21 March 1989.

FINANCIAL PROTOCOLS WITH CYPRUS AND MALTA

The Council adopted Decisions authorizing the Commission to negotiate with Cyprus and Malta the conclusion of a Third Financial Protocol between these countries and the European Economic Community and laying down negotiating directives for the purpose.

VOTING RIGHTS FOR COMMUNITY NATIONALS IN LOCAL ELECTIONS IN THEIR MEMBER STATES
OF RESIDENCE

The Council heard a statement by the President drawing the attention of the Member States to the political importance of this issue in making the people of Europe aware that Europe was moving forward.

The Council agreed that examination of the Commission proposal for a Directive on the subject should begin as soon as the European Parliament's Opinion had been received, so that it could be discussed at the Council's meeting in May.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONSTrade Policy

- Trade agreements

The Council adopted a Decision authorizing extension or tacit renewal of certain trade agreements concluded between Member States and third countries (4th tranche 1988).

- Anti-dumping

The Council adopted Regulations

= extending - for a maximum of two months from 4 February 1989 - the anti-dumping duty on imports of paint, distemper, varnish and similar brushes originating in the People's Republic of China;

= imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of copper sulphate originating in Bulgaria and the Soviet Union.

The rate of duty is equal to the following percentages of the free-at-Community-frontier price for:

. Bulgaria	58%
. Soviet Union	56%

OECD - negotiations concerning good laboratory practice

The Council authorized the Commission to participate, on behalf of the Community, in the negotiations within the OECD on a Decision-Recommendation on Compliance with Principles of Good Laboratory Practice, and approved directives for the purpose.

Iron and steel: external aspects 1989

The Council authorized the Commission to conduct negotiations on the external aspects of steel for 1989 and adopted negotiating directives for the purpose.

Research

The Council adopted a Decision approving the conclusion by the Commission of the Agreement for co-operation between the EAEC and the Government of Japan in the field of controlled thermonuclear fusion.

Appointments

- Economic and Social Committee

Acting on proposals from the French and Netherlands Governments respectively, the Council appointed Mr Joel DECAILLON in place of Mr André DUNET and Mr G.W.M. LUSTENHOUWER in place of Dr L.N. GORIS for the remainder of their terms of office, which run until 20 September 1990.

- Court of Auditors

Acting on a proposal from the Danish Government, the Council appointed Mr Ole WARBERG as member of the Court of Auditors in place of Mr BRIXTOFTE with effect from 18 April 1989 and for the remainder of the latter's term of office.

- Other appointments

The Council adopted a Decision renewing the Advisory Committee on Freedom of Movement for Workers.

The Council also took Decisions on the replacement of two members - one has died and the other has resigned - of the Euratom Supply Agency Advisory Committee for the remainder of their terms of office, which run until 28 March 1989.



COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT



PRESS RELEASE

4670/89 (Presse 17)

1296th Council meeting
- Economic and Financial Affairs -
Brussels, 13 February 1989

President: Mr Carlos SOLCHAGA CATALAN,
Minister for Economic Affairs and Finance
of the Kingdom of Spain

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 Gerhard STOLTENBERG Minister for Finance

Mr Hans TIETMEYER State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Finance

Greece:

Mr Panayotis ROUMELIOTIS Minister for Economic Affairs

Spain:

Mr Carlos SOLCHAGA CATALAN Minister for Economic Affairs and Finance

Mr Pedro PEREZ State Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs

France:

Mr Pierre BEREGOVOY Minister for Economic Affairs, Finance and the Budget

Ireland:

Mr Albert REYNOLDS Minister for Finance

Italy:

Mr Giuliano AMATO Minister for the Treasury

Mr Emilio COLOMBO Minister for Finance

Luxembourg:

Mr Jacques POOS Minister for Economic Affairs and the Self-Employed

Netherlands:

Mr O.C.R. RUDING

Minister for Finance

Mr H.E. KONING

State Secretary for Finance

Portugal:

Mr Miguel CADILHE

Minister for Finance

United Kingdom:

Mr Peter LILLEY

Economic Secretary, Treasury

Commission:

Mr Henning CHRISTOPHERSEN

Vice-President

Mrs Christiane SCRIVENER

Member

TAXATION OF SAVINGS

First of all, Mrs SCRIVENER, member of the Commission, presented the main points of the proposals on taxation of savings which the Commission adopted on 8 February.

The Council held a first exchange of views on these proposals, during which the delegations indicated their basic approaches on the subject.

Following this discussion, the Council gave instructions for an ad hoc Working Party composed of senior officials responsible for taxation and liberalization of capital movements to examine the Commission proposals. This Working Party will report to the Permanent Representatives Committee in sufficient time for it to prepare for the Council discussion on the subject at its meeting on 17 April.

OTHER DECISIONS IN THE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL FIELDHarmonization of the compilation of Gross National Product at market prices
(GNPmp)

Further to the agreement on substance reached at its meeting on 24 June 1988 and the entry into force on 1 February 1989 of the Decision on the own resources of the Communities, the Council formally adopted the Directive on the harmonization of the compilation of Gross National Product at market prices.

This Directive is a response to the fact that the own resources Decision, which has just entered into force, creates an additional own resource of the Communities based on the Member States' gross national products and that its application calls for increased comparability and reliability of the aggregate amount involved.

Furthermore, the completion of the internal market will increase the need for comparable data on the GNPmp aggregate and its components, which will also be important analysis factors for the co-ordination of economic policies.

The conceptual and practical comparability of the GNPmp data is ensured by compliance with the relevant definitions and accounting rules of the European System of Integrated Economic Accounts (ESA) and by the collation of basic data and the application of assessment procedures according to harmonized rules.

Publication of annual accounting documents of branches of credit and financial institutions

Following the adoption of a common position at its Internal Market meeting on 7 June 1988 and after the co-operation procedure had taken its course, the Council adopted the Directive on the obligations of branches established in a Member State of credit and financial institutions having their head offices outside that Member State regarding the publication of annual accounting documents.

(See Press Release 6635/88 Presse 78)

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Anti-dumping

The Council adopted a Regulation repealing Regulation (EEC) No 3205/88 concerning certain photocopiers assembled in the Community by Konica Business Machines Manufacturing GmbH.

This decision follows the acceptance by the Commission of the undertaking offered by Konica giving satisfactory guarantees regarding its operations in the Community.

Iron and steel

The Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, adopted the Decision on the opening of a zero-duty tariff quota for Spain for flats of silicon electrical steel coming from third countries for the period 1 January to 30 June 1989 (CN code ex 72251099).

The Council gave its assent, in accordance with the second paragraph of Article 54 of the ECSC Treaty, for partial financing of the building of a new line for a high-speed train service between Paris and Brest, Quimper, Le Croisic, La Rochelle, Toulouse, Tarbes and Hendaye ("TGV Atlantique" project).

Research

Following the adoption of a common position on 17 November 1988 (see Press Release 9343/88 Presse 173), approved by the European Parliament under the co-operation procedure on 18 January 1989, the Council adopted the Decision on a European stimulation plan for economic science (1989-1992)(SPES).

Civil protection

The Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, adopted the Resolution on new developments in Community co-operation on civil protection (which appeared in Press Release 8880/88 Presse 160 of 4.XI.88).

Health and Safety of Workers - new framework Directive

Following the approval as regards substance given at its Social Affairs meeting on 16 and 17 December 1988, the Council formally adopted the common position with a view to the adoption of a Directive on the introduction of measures to encourage improvements in the safety and health of workers at the workplace (see Press Release No 10222/88 Presse 211).

Appointments

- Economic and Social Committee

On a proposal from the German government, the Council appointed Mr Günther LAPPAS a member of the Economic and Social Committee in replacement of Mr Willy LOJEWSKI, a member who has resigned, for the remainder of Mr LOJEWSKI's term of office, which runs until 20 September 1990.

- Scientific and Technical Committee

The Council adopted the Decision appointing the members of the Euratom Scientific and Technical Committee for the period 1 April 1988 to 31 March 1993.

- Other appointments

The Council took decisions replacing members of

- the ECSC Consultative Committee
- the Advisory Committee on Social Security for Migrant Workers
- the Advisory Committee on Vocational Training
- the Advisory Committee on Freedom of Movement for Workers
- the Advisory Committee on Pharmaceutical Training
- the Advisory Committee on Nursing Training.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

4435/89 (Presse 15)

1297th Council meeting
- Agriculture -
Brussels, 13 and 14 February 1989

President: Mr Carlos ROMERO HERRERA
Minister for Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food
of the Kingdom of Spain

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 Yannis POTTAKIS Minister for Agriculture

Spain

Mr Carlo ROMERO HERRERA Minister for Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food

Mr Vicente ALBERO President of the Fund for the Regulation
of Agricultural Products and Prices
(FORPPA)

France

Mr Henri NALLET Minister for Agriculture

Ireland

Mr Michael O'KENNEDY Minister for Agriculture and Food

Italy

Mr Calogero MANNINO

Minister for Agriculture

Luxembourg

Mr Marc FISCHBACH

Minister for Agriculture and Viticulture

Netherlands

Mr Gerrit BRAKS

Minister for Agriculture

Portugal

Mr Alvaro BARRETO

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Mr Arlindo CUNHA

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

Mr John McGREGOR

Minister for Agriculture

Mr Richard RYDER

Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of
Agriculture, Fisheries and FoodCommission

Mr R. MACSHARRY

Member

PRICES FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND RELATED MEASURES 1989/1990

The Council held an initial discussion on the Commission proposals on the prices for agricultural products and on certain related measures for the 1989/1990 marketing year.

This general discussion enabled delegations to air their initial reactions to the proposals.

The Council instructed the Special Committee on Agriculture to carry out a detailed study, sector by sector, to enable the Council to continue its discussion at its March meeting.

EXTENSIFICATION OF PRODUCTION

The Council examined the proposal on extensification of production, on which the Opinion of the European Parliament was awaited.

Following this discussion, it established that the political tendency was broadly in favour of a compromise text from the Presidency.

The Council will resume its examination of this question after receiving the European Parliament's Opinion.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Own resources

Following the discussions of the Ecofin Council on 12 December 1988, the Council approved two joint guidelines on proposals for Regulations:

- on the definitive uniform arrangements for the collection of own resources accruing from value added tax (VAT)
- implementing Decision 88/376/EEC on the system of the Communities' own resources.

These joint guidelines will be forwarded to the European Parliament as part of the decision-making procedure.

(see Press Release 10149/88 of 12 December 1988).

Customs Union

The Council formally adopted the Regulation totally or partially suspending certain customs duties applicable - under the Act of Accession - by the Community of Ten to imports from Spain.



COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT



PRESS RELEASE

4860/89 (Presse 22)

1298th Council meeting

- General Affairs -

Brussels, 20 February 1989

President: Mr Francisco FERNANDEZ ORDOÑEZ
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Kingdom of Spain

Ireland:

Mr Brian LENIHAN Minister for Foreign Affairs

Italy:

Mr Renato RUGGIERO Minister for Foreign Trade

Mr Gilberto BONALUMI State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Luxembourg:

Mr Jacques F. POOS Minister for Foreign Affairs

Netherlands:

Mr H. van den BROEK Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mrs Y.M.C.T. van ROOY Minister for Foreign Trade

Baron van VOORST tot VOORST State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Portugal:

Mr Joao de DEUS PINHEIRO Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Vitor MARTINS State Secretary for European Integration

United Kingdom:

Sir Geoffrey HOWE

Secretary of State for Foreign and
Commonwealth Affairs

Mrs Lynda CHALKER

Minister of State, Foreign and
Commonwealth Office

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° °

Commission:

Mr Jacques DELORS

President

Mr Frans H.J.J. ANDRIESSEN

Vice-President

Mr Manuel MARIN GONZALEZ

Vice-President

Mr Ray MAC SHARRY

Member

Mr Abel MATUTES

Member

UNITED STATES: HORMONES - Conclusions of the Council

The Council took stock of the situation regarding the dispute over hormones with the United States both at multilateral level in GATT and at the level of bilateral contacts with the new United States Administration.

The Council took note of the Commission report on the consultations it had held in Washington on 17 and 18 February 1989 and expressed its appreciation of the results of those consultations and of the efforts made by Mr ANDRIESEN and Mr MAC SHARRY.

It noted that the terms resulting from the Washington talks were a step in the right direction which should make it possible to reach a solution consistent with Community law.

The Council also noted the preliminary results of the multilateral action initiated by the Community within GATT.

The Council confirmed its conclusions of 23 January 1989. In particular, it requested the Commission to continue the action initiated in GATT to have the United States' unilateral measures condemned, and to continue its efforts at bilateral level to find an amicable settlement to the dispute. It once again called upon the United States Administration to suspend application of the unilateral measures.

The Commission will keep the Council abreast of developments in the situation.

EXPORT OF CERTAIN CHEMICAL PRODUCTS

The Council adopted a Regulation making the export of 8 chemical products subject to a prior authorization to be issued by the competent authorities of the Member States. Such authorization must be refused if there is reason to believe that the products under consideration will be used for the development or production of chemical weapons or that there is a risk of their being delivered directly or indirectly to belligerent countries or to areas of serious international tension.

The products involved are:

	C CN
1. Thiodiglycol	2930 90 90
2. Phosphorus Oxychloride	2812 10 10
3. Dimethyl Methyl Phosponate	2931 00 00
4. Methyl Phosphonyl Difluoride	2931 00 00
5. Methyl Phosphonyl Dichloride	2931 00 00
6. Dimethyl Phosphite	2920 90 90
7. Phosphorus Trichloride	2812 10 10
8. Trimethyl Phosphite	2920 90 90

The content of this list may be re-examined if necessary.

This Regulation, which is based on a Commission proposal, ensues from a consensus reached in Political Co-operation (in particular at the meeting of Ministers for Political Co-operation in Madrid on 14 February 1989) that it is necessary to take urgent measures to control the export of certain chemical products which could be used for the production of such weapons.

It should be noted that, at the international conference on chemical weapons which took place in Paris from 7 to 11 January 1989 the Member States of the European Economic Community strictly condemned the use of chemical weapons and underlined their commitment to the early conclusion of a global, comprehensive

and verifiable convention on the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and on their destruction.

The Regulation does not change the scope for Member States to carry out, in accordance with the Treaty, other export and transit control activities designed to prevent the development, production, stockpiling and proliferation of chemical weapons.

The Regulation will enter into force on the day of its publication in the Official Journal of the European Communities, i.e. on 22 February 1989.

RELATIONS WITH TUNISIA

The Council prepared for the 4th meeting of the EEC-Tunisia Co-operation Council, which was held at the beginning of that same afternoon.

PREPARATION OF THE Vth EEC-CENTRAL AMERICA MEETING (SAN PEDRO SULA, 27 AND 28.II.1989)

The Council agreed on the common position for the forthcoming EEC-Central America Ministerial Conference in San Pedro Sula, the major political significance of which it emphasized.

FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION WITH THE LATIN AMERICAN AND ASIAN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

The Council noted that the Commission would shortly be submitting to it a report on financial and technical co-operation with the Latin American and Asian developing countries covering the period 1976 to 1988.

The report will be examined by the Permanent Representatives Committee as soon as it is received, with a view to preparing the discussions of the next Development Council meeting in May 1989.

RENEWAL OF THE ACP-EEC CONVENTION

The Council noted a report from the Presidency and information provided by Vice-President MARIN on the conduct and results of the ministerial negotiating meeting on the renewal of the ACP-EEC Convention, held in Brazzaville on 16 and 17 February 1989.

RELATIONS WITH POLAND

The Council adopted the Decision authorizing the Commission to negotiate a trade and commercial and economic co-operation agreement between the European Economic Community and the People's Republic of Poland.

RELATIONS WITH BULGARIA

The Council adopted the Decision authorizing the Commission to negotiate a trade and commercial and economic co-operation agreement between the European Economic Community and the People's Republic of Bulgaria.

RELATIONS WITH THE USSR AND THE COUNTRIES OF EASTERN EUROPE

At the initiative of the Belgian delegation and taking into account a Commission discussion paper submitted to the European Council in Rhodes, the Council held a policy debate on the co-ordination of the various aspects of co-operation with the USSR and the other countries of Eastern Europe.

After noting the Commission's intention to submit a new document on the subject to it in the near future, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue preparing the issue and to report to it in due course.

RELATIONS WITH THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

At the initiative of the Netherlands delegation, the Council held a preliminary discussion on strengthening the Community's links with the Council of Europe.

It agreed to continue its discussions on the subject at its meeting on 20 March on the basis of a document which the Commission would be forwarding to it in due course.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONSRelations with the Gulf States

The Council adopted the Decision concerning the conclusion of the Co-operation Agreement between the European Economic Community, of the one part, and the countries parties to the Charter of the Co-operation Council for the Arab States (the State of the United Arab Emirates, the State of Bahrain, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Sultanate of Oman, the State of Qatar and the State of Kuwait), of the other part, signed in Luxembourg on 15 June 1988.

Imports of Mediterranean agricultural products

The Council adopted the Regulations:

- on the procedure to be applied to certain agricultural products originating in various Mediterranean third countries;
- establishing Community surveillance for imports of certain agricultural products originating in Cyprus, Yugoslavia, Egypt, Jordan, Israel, Tunisia, Syria, Malta and Morocco (1989).

These two Regulations are aimed at ensuring the proper management of the import arrangements laid down for certain agricultural products in the Additional Protocols to the Mediterranean Agreements. The arrangements provide for the progressive reduction of certain duties applied to those products, subject, for some of them, to a reference quantity which, in the event of difficulties on the Community market or of an overrun of the reference quantity, may be transformed into tariff quotas.

The Regulations basically introduce two control instruments: a Community surveillance system whereby the Member States submit import statistics to the Commission and the establishment by the Commission, on the basis of data collated by the Member States, of a review, by product and by country, of trade flows in the products concerned.

Relations with Canada: Liquor Boards Agreement

The Council adopted the Decision on the conclusion of an Agreement between the European Economic Community and Canada concerning trade and commerce in alcoholic beverages.

This Agreement incorporates the settlement reached by the Community and Canada on 17 December 1988 in the light of the findings and conclusions of the GATT Panel on Import, Distribution and Sale of Alcoholic Drinks by Canadian Provincial Marketing Agencies.

Textiles

The Council adopted three Decisions concerning the provisional application of the Agreed Minutes amending the Agreement between the European Economic Community and

- the Republic of India
- the Kingdom of Thailand
- the Republic of the Philippines

respectively on trade in textile products.

Anti-dumping

The Council adopted the Regulation imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of urea originating in the United States of America or Venezuela and amending Council Regulation (EEC) No 3339/87.

At the same time it was noted that the Commission could, pursuant to Articles 9 and 10 of the basic Regulation (No 2423/88 of 11 July 1988), accept the undertakings given by Austria, Hungary, Malaysia and Romania, in the context of anti-dumping proceedings as regards imports of urea from those countries.

Steel

The Council gave its assent under the second paragraph of Article 54 of the ECSC Treaty to the granting of a global loan to the Istituto Mobiliare Italiano (IMI) for the financing of investment programmes which contribute to facilitating the marketing of Community steel.

Agriculture

The Council adopted the Decisions:

- introducing a Community financial measure for the eradication of Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP) in Portugal. The main objective of this Decision is to reduce the period for the eradication of this disease;
- extending certain provisions on the supply of milk and milk products at a reduced price to cover Portugal.

This Decision will enable Portugal to participate in a number of measures adopted under the common organization of the market in those products in favour of certain categories of persons.

Appointment

The Council adopted a Decision replacing a member of the Advisory Committee on Vocational Training.





COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT



PRESS RELEASE

4862/89 (Presse 24)

1299th Council meeting

- FISHERIES -

Brussels, 23 February 1989

President: Mr Carlos ROMERO HERRERA

Minister for Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food of the
Kingdom of Spain

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 Lars P. GAMMELGAARD Minister for Fisheries

Mr Thomas LAURITSEN State Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries

Germany:

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

Greece:

Mr Elias LYMBEROPOULOS Deputy Permanent Representative

Spain:

Mr Carlos ROMERO HERRERA Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

France:

Mr Jacques MELLICK Minister for the Sea (Ministry of Transport)

Ireland:

Mr Pat GALLAGHER Deputy Minister for the Marine

Italy:

Mr Giovanni PRANDINI

Minister for Merchant Shipping

Luxembourg:

Mr Thierry STOLL

Deputy Permanent Representative

Netherlands:

Mr Gerrit BRAKS

Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries

Portugal:

Mr Manuel OLIVEIRA GODINHO

State Secretary for Fisheries

United Kingdom:

Mr Donald THOMPSON

State Secretary at the Ministry of
Agriculture

Commission:

Mr Manuel MARIN

Vice-President

TARIFF QUOTAS

The Council adopted by a qualified majority a Regulation opening and providing for the administration of autonomous Community tariff quotas for certain fishery products for 1989. Entry into force is scheduled for 1 April 1989.

This Regulation makes provision for the possible import of a total of 176 000 tonnes of twelve species of fish at reduced rates of duty ranging from 3,7% to 10%.

The aim of the Regulation is essentially to ensure supplies for the processing industry, at prices enabling it to cope with competition, without jeopardizing the interests of Community fishermen.

The quotas provided for are lower than in 1988 given the glut of fish on the international market.

A full list of the quotas is set out in the Annex.

MONITORING OF FISHING ACTIVITIES - COMMUNITY FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION

The Council held a preliminary policy debate on a Commission proposal for a Community financial contribution towards expenditure incurred by Member States on the monitoring of fishing activities.

The aim of the proposal is to improve the effectiveness of the monitoring systems at Community level.

The Community financial contribution would be ECU 150 million for the next five years.

Having concluded its debate, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its discussions so that a decision could be taken at the next Council meeting on 21 June 1989 and in any event once the European Parliament had delivered its Opinion on the matter.

GREENLAND

The Council adopted a Decision authorizing the Commission to accept Greenland's offer of an additional catch quota of 4 000 tonnes of cod from the Western stock (NAFO zone 1) for 1989.

In return for these catch possibilities, the Community is to pay financial compensation of ECU 981 880.

SOVIET UNION

The Council discussed fishery relations between the Community and the Soviet Union with a view to a resumption of the negotiations for a Fisheries Agreement.

UNITED STATES

The Council adopted a Decision extending the Fisheries Agreement between the Community and the United States until 1 July 1991.

This Fisheries Agreement will allow some 20 000 tonnes of mackerel to be fished in 1989 off the coast of the United States subject to the payment of fees by the owners of the vessels and the implementation of a technical and trade co-operation programme.

MEASURES APPLICABLE TO VESSELS FLYING THE JAPANESE FLAG IN PORTUGUESE WATERS

The Council adopted the Regulation extending for the period 1 March to 30 June 1989 the arrangements applicable to Japanese vessels fishing for tuna in Portuguese waters.

As compared with those in force, the new arrangements adopted involve a reduction in the fishing areas, the number of licenses and the total allowable catches.

The counter-concession given by Japan takes the form of a scientific, technical and economic co-operation programme.

23.II.89

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Other fisheries Decision

The Council adopted a Decision authorizing the Commission to negotiate the establishment of a regional organization for the conservation of Indian Ocean tuna and to secure Community membership of the organization.

Research

Following completion of the co-operation procedure, the Council adopted a Decision on a first multi-annual programme (1988-1993) for biotechnology-based agro-industrial research and technology development (ECLAIR - European Collaborative Linkage of Agriculture and Industry through Research).

(See press release following the Research Council meeting on 17 November 1988 - page 12, 9343/88 (Presse 173) - summary of the common position).

ANNEX

	CN Code	Description	Volume	Rate of duty
1.	ex 0304 20 99 ex 0304 90 99	Filletts and fish meat of <u>Alaska pollack</u> frozen, for processing (a) (b)	21 000	10%
2.	ex 0304 20 57 ex 0304 90 47	Filletts and fish meat of <u>hake</u> frozen, for processing (a) (b)	26 000	10%
3.	ex 0302 50 ex 0302 69 35 ex 0303 60 ex 0303 79 41	<u>Cod</u> and fish of the genus <u>Boreogadus</u> <u>saida</u> , excluding livers and roes, presented fresh, chilled or frozen, for processing (a) (b)	40 000	3,7%
4.	ex 0302 63 00 ex 0303 73 00	<u>Coalfish</u> excluding livers and roes, presented fresh, chilled or frozen, for processing (a) (b)	15 000	3,7%
5.	ex 0302 62 00 ex 0303 72 00	<u>Haddock</u> excluding livers and roes, presented fresh, chilled or frozen, for processing (a) (b)	9 000	3,7%
6.	ex 0304 20 19 ex 0304 90 10	Filletts and fish meat of <u>pike</u> , frozen, for processing (a) (b)	500	5%
7.	ex 0304 20 21 ex 0304 20 29 ex 0304 90 35 ex 0304 90 38 ex 0304 90 39	Filletts and fish meat of <u>cod</u> and fish of the species <u>Boreogadus</u> <u>saida</u> , frozen, for processing (a) (b)	8 000	10%
8.	0305 62 00 0305 69 10	<u>Cod</u> and fish of the species <u>Boreogadus</u> <u>saida</u> , salted or in brine but not dried or smoked	49 000	6%
9.	0305 51 10 0305 59 11	<u>Cod</u> and fish of the species <u>Boreogadus</u> <u>saida</u> , dried but not salted or smoked	1 000	10%
10.	ex 0305 30 11 ex 0305 30 19	Filletts, dried, whether or not salted, of <u>cod</u> and of fish of the species <u>Boreogadus</u> <u>saida</u>	500	10%
11.	ex 0306 13 10 ex 0306 23 10	Shrimps and prawns of the species <u>Pandalus borealis</u> , in shell, fresh, chilled or frozen, intended for processing	2 000	4%
12.	ex 0305 30 90	Filletts of <u>coalfish</u> , salted, for processing (a) (b)	4 000	10%



COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT



PRESS RELEASE

4671/89 (Presse 18)

1300th Council meeting

- Internal Market -

Brussels, 27 February 1989

President: Mr Pedro SOLBES

State Secretary for Relations
with the European Communities
of the Kingdom of Spain

27. II. 89

United Kingdom:

Mr Francis MAUDE

Under-Secretary of State,
Department of Trade and Industry

o

o

o

Commission:

Mr Martin BANGEMANN
Mr Jean DONDELINGER
Mrs Christiane SCRIVENER

Vice-President
Member
Member

EMULSIFIERS, STABILIZERS, THICKENERS AND GELLING AGENTS

The Council agreed in principle on a common position concerning a Directive amending Directive 74/329 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to emulsifiers, stabilizers, thickeners and gelling agents for use in foodstuffs.

This amendment extends the period of validity of Annex II to the Directive until 31 December 1991, i.e. it allows the use of the substances listed therein (Karaya gum, polysorbates and oxydized soya bean oil) at national level.

It is envisaged that these substances will be transferred to Annex I when the Council adopts the new version of Annex I containing a complete positive list of the substances authorized for use at Community level, which will be drawn up in accordance with the framework Directive on additives adopted on 21 December 1988.

BROADCASTING (TV WITHOUT FRONTIERS)

The Council discussed in depth a proposal for a Directive on broadcasting prior to the meeting of the European Council in Rhodes on 2 and 3 December 1988.

The European Council stressed that "it is extremely important to strengthen efforts to develop Europe's audiovisual capacity, whether with regard to the free movement of programmes ... or to a policy of encouraging creativity, production and broadcasting", and considered it "important that the Community's efforts should be deployed in a manner consistent with the Council of Europe Convention".

At the close of the discussion, during which positions on cultural objectives were brought closer together, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue discussing the Directive so that the Council would be able to decide on all the main questions outstanding at an extraordinary meeting on 13 March 1989.

MOVEMENT WITHIN THE COMMUNITY OF GOODS FOR TEMPORARY USE

The Council adopted a common position on the Regulation amending Regulation 3/84 introducing arrangements for movement within the Community of goods sent from one Member State for temporary use in one or more other Member States.

The purpose of the Regulation is to renew Regulation No 3/84, to extend its scope and to simplify procedure.

Regulation No 3/84 already provided for replacement of the ATA international carnet by a more easily obtained Community carnet and removed the requirement to deposit a security. After a three-year experimental period which ended on 30 June 1988, the Commission submitted to the Council a very favourable report on the new arrangements.

The new Regulation accordingly makes provision for an extension of the goods covered; in fact virtually the only exclusions are goods to which other rules apply (e.g. means of transport), or which are taxed differently in different Member States (e.g. made-up articles of fur).

The new Regulation introduces even simpler procedures which should facilitate the movement of goods in preparation for the completion of the Internal Market in 1992 when all these formalities are to be removed.

REMOVAL OF PHYSICAL FRONTIERS

The President submitted a report on the free movement of persons and the removal of physical frontiers.

The European Council in Rhodes, when taking stock of the process of completing the Internal Market, had called upon the Council to intensify its efforts in all areas where progress was slow, including the free movement of persons. It asked each Member State to appoint a co-ordinator.

Further to those instructions, the Presidency organized a first meeting of co-ordinators on 22 February 1989, with Mr BANGEMANN, Vice-President of the Commission, in attendance.

The Council took note of the working method and programme of the co-ordinators and will be kept informed of their proceedings.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONSAnti-dumping

The Council adopted:

- the Regulation imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of certain video cassette recorders originating in Japan (or exported by Orion) (13% of the net free at Community frontier price before duty) and the Republic of Korea (23,7% of the net free at Community frontier price before duty) and definitively collecting the provisional duty;
- the Decision accepting undertakings relating to the proceedings concerning video cassette recorders by Korean (Samsung Electronic Co. Ltd,) Goldstar Electric Co Ltd, Daewoo Electronics Co. Ltd) and Japanese Funai exporters and terminating the proceedings with regard to these exporters;
- the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 2735/88 repealing Regulation (EEC) No 1021/88 in respect of certain electronic scales assembled in the Community by TEC (UK) Ltd.

Commercial policy

The Council adopted the Decision authorizing the automatic renewal or maintenance in force of provisions governing matters covered by the common commercial policy contained in the friendship, trade and navigation treaties and similar agreements concluded between Member States and third countries.

Relations with Norway

The Council adopted the Regulation opening and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas for cod and fish of the species *Boreogadus saida*, dried, salted or in brine, originating in Norway (1989).

Relations with Malta

The Council adopted the Decisions on the conclusion of:

- the Protocol to the Agreement establishing an Association between the EEC and Malta consequent on the accession of the Kingdom of Spain and the Portuguese Republic to the Community;
- the supplementary Protocol to that Agreement.

Relations with Yugoslavia

The Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the ECSC, meeting within the Council, formally adopted the Decision and the negotiating directives for an Additional Protocol to the ECSC-Yugoslavia Agreement.

Agriculture

The Council adopted the Regulation instituting an exceptional emergency measure for less-favoured areas in Portugal (see Press Release 4164/89 Presse 5 of 23/24 January 1989).

Appointments

The Council decided to replace members of:

- the ECSC Consultative Committee;
 - the Advisory Committee on Pharmaceutical Training.
-