

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

PRESS RELEASES

PRESIDENCY: LUXEMBROUG

JANUARY-JUNE 1991

Meetings and press releases June 1991

Meeting number	Subject	Date
1492 nd	Telecommunications	3 June 1991
1493 rd	Health	4 June 1991
1494 th	Economics/Finance	3 June 1991
1495 th	Culture	7 June 1991
1496 th	Economics/Finance	10 June 1991
1497 th	Environment	13-14 June 1991
1498 th	General Affairs	17-18 June 1991
1499 th	Transport	17 June 1991
1500 th	Agriculture	18 June 1991
1501 st	Internal Market	18 June 1991
1502 nd	Transport	20-21 June 1991
1503 rd	Economics/Finance	24 June 1991
1504 th	Social Affairs/Youth	25-26 June 1991
1505 th	Agriculture	26-27 June 1991

PRESS RELEASE

6567/90 (Presse 76)

1492nd Council meeting

- Telecommunications -

Luxembourg, 3 June 1991

President: Mr Alex BODRY

Minister for Posts and
Telecommunications of the
Grand Duchy
of Luxembourg

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Italy

Mr Francesco TEMPESTINI

State Secretary for Posts and
Telecommunications

Luxembourg

Mr Alex BODRY

Minister for Posts and
Telecommunications

Netherlands

Mrs Hanja MAIJ-WEGGEN

Minister for Transport and Public Works

Portugal

Mr Carlos Silva COSTA

State Secretary for Transport and
Telecommunications

United Kingdom

Mr Edward LEIGH

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

Commission

Mr Filippo Maria PANDOLFI
Mr Jean DONDELINGER

Vice-President
Member

DIGITAL EUROPEAN CORDLESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The Council adopted a Directive and a Recommendation on the co-ordinated introduction of digital European cordless telecommunications ⁽¹⁾ in the Community, the aim of which is to ensure that such technology, offering a whole range of mobile communications (cordless telephones for residential use, telepoint services, cordless PABXS, on-site cordless data) is implemented by 1992.

The Recommendation on the co-ordinated introduction of DECT in the Community, aims to direct and accelerate the efforts by the Member States, telecommunications administrations and industry to identify a common solution. It is based on work carried out by the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI), which has undertaken to formulate by the end of 1991 a European telecommunications standard taking account of the safety of users and the need for Europe-wide interoperability and enabling users provided with a service based on DECT technology to gain access to the service in any other Member State, where appropriate.

The purpose of the Directive is to make available in due course, in a co-ordinated manner, common frequencies for DECT throughout the Community. The frequency band concerned (1880-1900 MHz) will, following a Recommendation by the European Conference for Posts and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT), be set aside by the Member States for digital European cordless telecommunications. In accordance with the CEPT's Recommendation, DECT will take precedence over other services in that band and will be protected within it.

(1) DECT: Digital European Cordless Telecommunications

TEDIS PROGRAMME

The Council held a detailed discussion on the proposal for a Decision establishing the second phase of the TEDIS programme (Trade Electronic Data Inter-change system).

The second phase of the TEDIS programme, due to last for three years from 1 July 1991, is to continue work begun during the first phase (1988-1990), while extending the scope of activities in particular to standardization of EDI messages, EDI needs as regards telecommunications and sectoral and intersectoral projects involving the private sector and, where appropriate, some administrations.

At the close of the discussion, the Council noted that there was wide agreement on the substance of the programme. It instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to re-examine the budgetary aspects of the plan with a view to having the programme adopted by the end of the month.

SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS - INTERIM REPORT

The Council was briefed by Vice-President PANDOLFI on the outcome of the consultations which the Commission had held with the various sectors of industry and international organizations on the aims of the Green Paper on satellite communications submitted by the Council on 14 December 1990; The Council noted with interest the information in the interim report and encouraged the Commission to submit its final report in the near future in the hope that it would lead to specific proposals for legislation.

In this connection, the Commission intended to submit to the Council:

- a text extending the coverage of the Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States concerning telecommunications terminal equipment, including the mutual recognition of their conformity; to all transmit/receive satellite earth stations and receive-only satellite stations connected to the public switched telephone network;
- a draft Directive setting up a Community framework for the mutual recognition of licences for satellite terminal networks, laying down the operating conditions for such systems at the European level and the conditions governing the operation of hub stations;
- a draft Decision to strengthen frequency co-ordination for satellite communications;
- proposals for measures in support of the European satellite industry, particularly in the area of satellite terminals:
 - = increased support for the ETSI standardization programme in this area,
 - = focussing the relevant Community research programmes on the short-term effects with a view to supporting specifically European capacities as regards the technology of very small aperture terminals and networks (VSAT),
 - = proposal for satellite communications technologies in transnational Community programmes linked to the networks (in particular the ENS programme).

HIGH-DEFINITION TELEVISION - PRESIDENCY CONCLUSIONS

The Council heard a statement by Vice-President PANDOLFI on progress with the development of HDTV in Europe.

In particular, Mr PANDOLFI informed the Council of the discussions held with the various parties involved in the development of HDTV (producers, satellite and cable operators, receiving equipment industry) with a view to the conclusion of an agreement and the setting up of a consortium to enable HD Mac to be introduced in future as the HDTV market standard; Mr PANDOLFI also informed the Council of the discussions under way at the Commission on the legislative framework which it would be necessary to introduce on the expiry of Directive 86/529/EEC in order to develop D2 Mac as an intermediate standard; this would have to be appraised in conjunction with the agreement concluded with the parties concerned.

The Council noted with interest the information from Vice-President PANDOLFI and held a detailed discussion on the future development of HDTV in Europe, laying particular stress on the need to maintain the parallel approach followed by the Commission based on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) concluded with the parties concerned; the adoption of a new Directive on a Community standard for HDTV appeared to be closely linked with the conclusion of such an agreement.

The Council encouraged the Commission to continue its negotiations in that spirit, with the aim of obtaining an agreement between all the parties concerned which would permit the future development of the HDTV standard, including the best intermediate stages for achieving it on terms which were compatible with market developments and the interests of consumers as well as the interests of Community industry. The Council and the Commission felt that such agreement was essential for the commercial success of a European HDTV standard.

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The Council asked the Commission to inform it as soon as possible of the development of these negotiations and to submit appropriate proposals reflecting the overall approach described above.

POSTAL SERVICES

The Council took note of the information supplied by Vice-President PANDOLFI on progress with the production of a Green Paper on postal services which the Commission intended to submit by the end of June 1991.

SINGLE INTERNATIONAL TELEPHONE ACCESS CODE

The Council noted that the Commission had submitted a draft Decision on the harmonization of the international telephone access code in the Community.



MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Textiles

The Council adopted the Decision on the conclusion of the agreement between the European Economic Community and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on trade in textile products negotiated by the Commission and already provisionally applied since 1 January 1990.

Relations with Mediterranean countries

The Council adopted the Regulations opening and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas for

- apricot pulp originating in Turkey (1991/1992);

- cut flowers and flower buds, fresh, originating in Cyprus, Israel, Jordan and Morocco (1991/1992).

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

6568/91 (Presse 77)

1493rd meeting of the Council
and the Ministers for Health,
meeting within the Council

Luxembourg, 4 June 1991

President: Mr Johny LAHURE

Minister for Health
of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

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

Belgium:

Mr Robert DELIZEE
State Secretary for Health and Policy on
the Disabled, attached to the Minister
for Social Affairs

Denmark:

Mrs Ester LARSEN
Minister for Health
Mr Joergen VARDER
State Secretary for Health

Germany:

Mr Baldur WAGNER
State Secretary, Federal Ministry of
Health

Greece:

Ms Marietta
YIANNAKOU-KOUTSIKOU
Minister for Health

Spain:

Mr Julián GARCIA VALVERDE
Minister for Health and Consumer
Affairs

France:

Mr Jean CADET
Deputy Permanent Representative

Ireland:

Mr Rory O'HANLON
Minister for Health

Italy:

Mr Franco DE LORENZO
Minister for Health

Luxembourg

Mr Johny LAHURE
Minister for Health

Netherlands

Mr H.J. SIMONS
State Secretary for Welfare, Health and
Cultural Affairs

Portugal

Mr Arlindo DE CARVALHO

Minister for Health

United Kingdom

The Baroness HOOPER

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State,
Department of Health

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° °

Commission

Ms Vasso PAPANDEOU

Member

EUROPE AGAINST CANCER

The Ministers discussed the implementation of the "Europe against Cancer" programme in the light of:

- a working document from the Commission on the progress of this programme after the first year of application of the second action plan 1990-1994; and
- a note by Professor TUBIANA, Chairman of the Committee of Cancer Experts.

The second action plan (1990-1994) under the "Europe against Cancer" programme, adopted on 17 May 1990, covers some forty fields of action which are based largely on those of the first plan from 1987 to 1989 and concern cancer prevention, information and health education, training of members of the health professions and research.

In the course of today's discussion, the Commissioner Mrs PAPANDREOU presented her new proposal for a Directive concerning a total ban on the commercial advertising of tobacco and tobacco products away from the points of sale, which should be examined by the Council in the coming months.

At the end of the discussion on the "Europe against Cancer" programme, the President drew the following conclusions:

The President,

"TAKING ACCOUNT OF THE FACT that the Ministers have reaffirmed their support for the various measures in the programme,

NOTES various subjects raised by Ministers with a view to having them examined during the years to come;

EMPHASIZES more especially the following points:

1. In the general context of prevention, health education at school is a particularly important measure; it should form an integral part of all school curricula, and teaching staff should be prepared for this task.
2. A total ban on the direct and indirect advertising of tobacco products should come into force as soon as possible.
3. Alcohol advertising should draw attention to the dangers of alcohol abuse and should not be aimed at young people or those engaged in sport.
4. An increase in the prices of both tobacco products and alcoholic drinks should be envisaged. To this end, a harmonized rate of excise duty should be set at a fairly high level, subject to application of the principle of subsidiarity, with individual Member States being allowed the option of incorporating in the excise duty specific components having aims relating to health policy. Such components will not however give rise to further Community harmonization.
5. Tobacco products and alcoholic drinks should be excluded from the consumer price index so that a pricing policy aimed at an increase can be made operational.
6. The ban on smoking in public places, at workplaces and on public transport should be regulated in order to avoid the harmful effects of passive smoking.
7. Screening programmes should meet well-defined quality and efficiency criteria.
8. The drawing up and generalized use of cancer registers, subject to the demands of personal data protection, are essential for epidemiological surveillance and the evaluation of programmes to combat cancer.
9. Training in oncology for health staff should be developed in order to increase the effectiveness of early screening and the quality of diagnoses and treatment.
10. The quality control of cancer treatment should be developed.
11. Research on physical and chemical agents presumed to be carcinogenic should be promoted, and regulations to reduce environment-related risks should be developed.

12. The subsidizing of tobacco crops in the Community and export subsidies for tobacco products in developing countries should be gradually reduced.

CONSIDERS that these options call for an increase and, where appropriate, a redirection of the budgetary resources allocated to the "Europe against Cancer" programmes and for closer involvement by the Member States in the management of this programme."



EUROPE AGAINST AIDS

The Council and the Health Ministers meeting within the Council adopted a Decision establishing a plan of action in the framework of the 1991-1993 "Europe against AIDS" programme.

The annual appropriations allocated for the activities will be adopted within the budgetary procedure. The amount of the Community contribution deemed necessary for implementing the action covered by the programme for 1991 to 1992 is ECU 6 million. The Commission has provided for an amount of ECU 9 million for the total duration of the programme.

In close co-operation with the competent authorities of the Member States, and in collaboration with the international organizations active in this area, such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Council of Europe, the Commission is responsible for implementing this plan, which covers ten fields, namely:

- assessment of the knowledge, attitudes and behaviour of the general public and target groups;
- informing and increasing the awareness of the public and certain target groups;
- health education for young people;
- prevention of HIV transmission;
- social support, counselling and medical treatment;
- estimating the cost of managing HIV infection;

- gathering data on HIV/AIDS;
- enhancement of human resources;
- measures to combat discrimination against HIV-infected persons and persons close to them;
- research and international co-operation.

An Advisory Committee composed of representatives of the Member States will assist the Commission in the implementation of the programme. The duties of the Committee will in particular be:

- to examine projects and measures involving co-financing from public funds;
- to co-ordinate, at national level, projects partly financed by non-governmental organizations.

The Commission is required to submit a report to the Council and the Health Ministers of the Member States during the second half of 1992 with the aim of assessing the effectiveness of the action which has been undertaken.

ACTION TO COMBAT THE USE OF DRUGS

The Council of the European Communities and the Ministers for Health of the Member States, meeting within the Council, adopted the following declaration:

"Having regard to the Resolution of the Council and of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, of 3 December 1990 on Community action to combat the use of drugs, including the abuse of medicinal products, particularly in sport, and pending swift implementation of the action called for;

Emphasizing the importance, in such action, of preventive and educational measures as advocated by the Anti-Doping Convention of the Council of Europe; mindful of the need for complementary action and close co-operation with the ministers responsible for sport,

- REITERATE their concern over drug use in sport and once more warn against the serious consequences for the health of sportsmen and women and against the harmful effects that such practices may have on the population in general and young people in particular;

- CALL UPON the governmental and non-governmental bodies involved in the forthcoming Olympic Games in Albertville and Barcelona to pursue the efforts started and to take all necessary steps to see that athletes train, and events are conducted, honestly and fairly without the use of drugs;

AND APPEAL TO

- all competitors in national and international competitions, and particularly in the Olympic Games to be held within the Community, to undertake - in accordance with the Olympic charter - as an example to all sportsmen and women, and in particular to young people, not to resort to drugs or to abuse medicinal products when training for, and taking part in, these sporting events."

LABELLING OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS OTHER THAN CIGARETTES

By way of preparation, and without prejudice to the European Parliament's Opinion expected in June, the Council held a policy debate on the proposal for a Directive relating to the labelling of tobacco products other than cigarettes and the ban on the marketing of certain tobaccos for oral use. It gave a favourable response to the guidelines contained in the compromise text from the Presidency.

The draft Directive constitutes the supplement provided for in Directive 89/622/EEC, which was adopted in 1989 and mainly concerned cigarettes.

The Council stated that it would take a decision on the proposal after it had been apprised of the Opinion of the European Parliament.

REDUCING DRUG DEMAND

The Council of the European Communities and the Ministers for Health of the Member States, meeting within the Council, adopted the following conclusions:

"Further to their previous Resolutions and Conclusions and, in particular, their Conclusions of 3 December 1990 on reducing demand for narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

In view of the social and health objectives contained in the European Plan to Combat Drugs, approved by the European Council on 13 and 14 December 1990,

Having noted the proceedings of the ad hoc Working Party on Drug Abuse in accordance with the aforementioned Resolutions and Conclusions, as requested by the European Committee on the fight against drugs (CELAD),

CONSIDER that both the policies implemented by the Member States and the action pursued at Community level with a view to reducing drug demand should be regularly monitored;

CONSIDER that the regular report on actions to reduce drug demand - which the Commission has been requested to draw up in collaboration with the Member States - should include additional activities by the Commission in this area;

SUGGEST that the Member States supply appropriate information for the report to show in particular the following social and health aspects:

- prevention strategies and structures;
- type, extent and trend of drug demand and drug addiction;

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- strategies and structures for receiving and treating drug addicts;
 - strategies and structures for social and occupational rehabilitation of drug addicts;
 - methods used for assessing these strategies and results obtained,
- and, as far as possible, details of the human and financial resources used;

Again STRESS the need to that end to improve on solid bases the qualitative and quantitative comparability of the data available in order to allow effective monitoring and action at Community level in the field of drug demand reduction;

EXPRESS their positive assessment of the first stage of the feasibility study submitted by the Commission on a European Drugs Monitoring Centre and consider that such a Centre would be a useful contribution towards achieving the aforementioned aims."

TEXTS ON HEALTH MATTERS ADOPTED SINCE 1989

The Council and the Ministers for Health meeting within the Council updated the inventory of the texts adopted by the Council of Health Ministers by approving conclusions containing the list of decisions taken since 1989. These conclusions supplement those adopted in 1989 and the list of texts on public health matters adopted since 1986 which was annexed to them.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

1494th meeting of the Council

- Economic and Financial Affairs -

Luxembourg, 3 June 1991

President: Mr. Jean-Claude Juncker
Minister for Finance, Luxembourg

The official press release was unavailable. The agenda for the meeting has been reproduced from the Bulletin of the European Communities, No. 6-1991.

1494th meeting

1.7.4. Economic and financial affairs
(Luxembourg, 3 June).

- Previous meeting: Bull. EC 4-1991, point 1.7.2.

President: Mr Juncker, Luxembourg Minister for Finance.

Commission: Mrs Scrivener.

Main items

Abolition of fiscal frontiers: discussed.

Understanding on guidelines for export credit: exchange of views.

PRESS RELEASE

6575/91 (Presse 84)

1495th meeting of the Council
and of the Ministers responsible for Cultural Affairs
meeting within the Council

Luxembourg, 7 June 1991

President: Mr René STEICHEN,

Minister with responsibility
for Cultural Affairs of the
Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

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

Belgium

Mr Valmy FEAUX	Chairman of the Executive of the French-speaking Community and Minister with responsibility for Culture
Mr Patrick DEWAELE	Minister for Culture (Flemish Community)
Mr Bernd GENTGES	Minister for Culture (German-speaking Community)

Denmark

Mrs Grethe ROSTBØLL	Minister for Culture
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Germany

Mr Hans-Werner LAUTENSCHLAGER	State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mrs Mariane TIDICK	President of the Conference of Ministers for Cultural Affairs of the Länder

Greece

Mr Tzannis TZANNETAKIS	Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Culture
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Spain

Mr Jordi SOLE TURA	Minister for Culture
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France

Mr Jack LANG	Minister for Culture
Mr Georges KIEJMAN	Minister with responsibility for Communication

Ireland

Mrs Maire GEOGHEGAN-QUINN	Minister of State for EEC Matters
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Italy

Mr Luigi COVATTA

State Secretary for Cultural Assets

Luxembourg

Mr René STEICHEN

Minister with responsibility for
Cultural Affairs

Netherlands

Mrs Hedy D'ANCONA

Minister for Culture

Portugal

Mrs Maria N. CORREIA GUEDES

Deputy State Secretary for Culture

United Kingdom

Mr Timothy RENTON

Minister for the Arts

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Commission

Mr Jean DONDELINGER

Member

COPYRIGHT AND NEIGHBOURING RIGHTS

The Minister adopted the following conclusions:

"THE MINISTERS FOR CULTURE MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL,

referring to the "Green Paper on copyright and the technological challenge" published by the Commission in 1988 for discussion by the Member States and the professional circles concerned,

bearing in mind their wish expressed both at the informal meeting of Culture Ministers on 2 November 1989 at Blois and in the Council on 19 November 1990, that the Commission should propose a comprehensive discussion of questions concerning the rights of authors, artists and producers in the Community, taking into account the completion of the single market on 1 January 1993,

recalling their opinion that the matter of cultural goods and services cannot be addressed in the Community without taking into account their specific nature,

consequently voicing their concern that the completion of the single market should not constitute a threat to cultural identities and to the rich diversity of Europe and that, taking into account the cultural dimension of copyright, internal harmonization at Community level in this area should be implemented only in areas affecting the establishment or functioning of the common market,

considering that the Commission, when approving on 5 December 1990 its work programme in the matter of copyright and neighbouring rights in the form of a communication entitled "Follow-up to the Green Paper", opens up real opportunities in this field for the completion of the single market,

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having taken note of the first three documents put forward by the Commission:

- the proposal for a Council Decision concerning the accession of the Member States to the Berne Convention (Paris Act of 24 July 1971) and the Rome International Convention of 26 October 1961,
- the proposal for a Directive on rental right, lending right and on certain related rights,
- the consultative document entitled "Broadcasting and copyright in the internal market", on cable and satellite broadcasting,

welcome the overall approach to the harmonization of copyright and neighbouring rights adopted by the Commission in its work programme,

express their satisfaction that the Commission has clearly demonstrated its will to seek, with a view to the single market, a high level of protection for authors, artists and producers in the whole Community,

point out that concern with the cultural industries should not cause to be relegated to a secondary level the giving of priority attention to the specific problems encountered by professionals,

point out further that the free movement of goods should at no time detract from moral rights and rights to beneficial economic use associated with the different forms of presentation of works to the public,

request that in connection with the harmonization of copyright and similar rights and while respecting the provisions of the Treaty of Rome, the capacity

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of Member States to preserve the balance of creative and artistic activity, particularly in limited geographical or linguistic distribution areas, should not be jeopardized,

request that allowance should be made for the consequences which the adoption of normative measures would have on the conditions of the exercise of the rights granted for the holders of these rights,

invite the Commission to make, as quickly as possible, a study of the conditions of the administration of these rights,

request that in negotiations with third parties (in particular the European Economic Area and countries of Central and Eastern Europe, without neglecting the other regions of the world), the cultural content of copyright and neighbouring rights should be taken into account,

invite the Commission to seek greater co-operation with the Council of Europe in this field."

TRAINING OF ARTS ADMINISTRATORS

The Council and the Ministers for Culture adopted the following Resolution:

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

Having regard to their Resolution of 27 May 1988 which singled out training in the arts field as one of four priority sectors,

Having regard to the plan of action proposed by the Commission in its communication on vocational training in the arts field, as well as their conclusions of 19 November 1990 on that subject,

Whereas the extension of the sphere of cultural activity, the closer relationship brought about with the economic aspects of development and the diverse levels at which it must be carried out and sustained (regional, inter-regional, transfrontier, as well as national and international), generate a need for improved training for all those involved in the promotion of the arts,

Convinced that, in addition to institutions and organizations, those involved in the promotion of the arts, especially in arts administration and management, will have an important part to play, following the impetus provided by political leaders, in European cultural co-operation in the years to come and that for this reason special attention must be paid to their training,

Recognizing the efforts already made in this area both by national authorities and international organizations such as the Council of Europe and UNESCO,

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Aware of the need to develop active co-operation in this area with third countries, including those of Central and Eastern Europe, as envisaged in the draft Association Agreements with those countries and in the PHARE Programme,

Wishing to see further development of the part already taken by the training of arts administrators in Community programmes such as ERASMUS,

EMPHASIZE the importance which they attach to the training of arts administrators,

AGREE to give active encouragement under existing programmes to initiatives in this area at European level, involving:

- the exchange and circulation of information about such training,
- the mobility of arts administrators,
- networks of training centres for arts administrators,

CALL UPON the Commission:

to co-operate more closely with the Council of Europe and UNESCO so as to develop concrete measures to strengthen the European dimension of such training."

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TEMPORARY ENTRY OF EUROPEAN ARTISTS INTO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The Ministers adopted the following Resolution:

"THE MINISTERS FOR CULTURE, MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL,

Considering that the freedom of movement of performing artists both within and outside the frontiers of the Community is an essential condition for the development of their careers;

Bearing in mind the reform of temporary immigration procedures adopted by the United States Congress on 27 October 1990 which deals in particular with the granting of entry visas to performing artists;

Concerned that in establishing measures for implementing this law, the American Administration should take account of the wish expressed by many artists, organizers of events and others in the entertainment industry for greater flexibility, simplification and speeding-up of the procedures for granting visas;

Recalling that the Member States of the Community have always accorded favourable treatment for access to their territory to nationals of the United States, and in particular to their artists;

Acknowledge the intention of the Government of the United States to clarify and relax the conditions for granting temporary visas to performing artists;

Request that from the outset of the preparatory stage for implementing the new law of 27 October 1990, the Government of the United States show due consideration for the proposals and wishes expressed by the sector concerned in the European Community;

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Hope that by this means the Government of the United States will play its role in the development of a genuine world market for the live performing arts, distinguished by the requisite spirit of reciprocity, in particular between the United States and the European Community;

Invite the Commission to take account of this common concern and of any approaches made by Member States to the Government of the United States."

PROTECTION OF NATIONAL TREASURES OF ARTISTIC, HISTORIC OR ARCHAEOLOGICAL VALUE
AFTER 1992

The Council heard a communication from Mr DONDELINGER, Member of the Commission, on the Commission's intention to submit to the Council in the coming weeks texts regarding the protection of national treasures of artistic, historic or archaeological value after 1992 ⁽¹⁾.

These are a draft Directive on the restitution of cultural objects illicitly exported to other Member States and a draft Regulation on controls on cultural objects at the Community's external frontiers.

The Council took note of the Commissioner's account of the proposals to be submitted, and of the Commission's reaffirmed intention of proceeding with proper regard for the powers of the Member States in accordance with Article 36 of the Treaty.

In addition, the French Government had offered to organize a symposium in Paris from 26 to 28 June on closer co-operation between the Member States and with the Commission in the field of national treasures. The Council thanked the French Government for its initiative, the results of which would be examined with interest by the Council's Committee on Cultural Affairs.

(1) See Press Release 9860/90 (Presse 187) of 19 November 1990 (pages 4 and 5): Conclusions of the Council and the Ministers for Culture meeting within the Council on the protection of national treasures of artistic, historic or archaeological value after 1992.

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PROMOTION OF BOOKS AND OF READING

The Council and the Ministers took note of an interim report by the Commission on the implementation of the Resolution of 18 May 1989 concerning the promotion of books and of reading ⁽¹⁾ and asked the Commission to intensify its efforts in this area, taking the fullest possible account of the comments made by delegations during the discussion.

The Council and the Ministers instructed the Committee on Cultural Affairs to continue to monitor the actions concerned.

NEW PRIORITY PROJECTS IN THE CULTURAL FIELD

The Council and the Ministers heard a communication from Mr DONDELINGER, Member of the Commission, on new priority projects in the cultural field, on which the Commission will shortly be submitting a communication to the Council.

(1) See Press Release 6612/89 (Presse 84).

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EUROPEAN CITY OF CULTURE AND EUROPEAN CULTURAL MONTH

The Ministers took stock of recent developments in connection with the European City of Culture and the European Cultural Month.

They were briefed on current contacts with the representatives of Cracov, Graz and Budapest with a view to holding a European Cultural Month in these cities in 1992, 1993 and 1994 respectively. The possibility that Prague might be a candidate for this event in 1995 was mentioned.

The Ministers heard an account from the Irish delegation of the initial results of the "European City of Culture" events which were currently under way in Dublin.

The Ministers noted the request from the Greek delegation, in anticipation of the new designations which might be made at the meeting of the Council and the Ministers in the first half of 1992, that Thessaloniki be designated European City of Culture for 1997.

The President informed Ministers that the Permanent delegation of Turkey to the European Communities had made known its Government's wish that Istanbul be named as European City of Culture for 1997, 1998 or a subsequent year.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE THEATRE IN EUROPE

The Ministers adopted the following Resolution:

"THE MINISTERS FOR CULTURE MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL,

Recognizing that the performing arts, including the theatre, are one of the most important expressions of the cultural life and democratic development of our societies and illustrate the fact that culture is a permanent exchange between those who create, and therefore their works, and men and women who feel the need for cultural experience transcending the logic of daily life,

Aware that the economic base of most theatres in the European Community is precarious but that a dynamic theatrical scene, while an end in itself, is also a source of valuable material for the cinema and television,

Conscious of the fact that in the Solemn Declaration on European Union (Stuttgart, June 1983) the Heads of State or Government advocated joint activities in the dissemination of culture and more extensive contacts between writers and artists of the Member States, and wider dissemination of their works,

Aware that the theatre is closely bound up with the life of local, regional and national communities and that the European Community can take a hand only in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity and of respect for the different cultural identities,

Express their determination to encourage the theatre in Europe and to enhance its European dimension by examining jointly in the context of new priorities for action in the cultural sphere as a whole a series of measures relating to:

- (a) greater mobility for professional theatrical performers and productions;
- (b) communication and artistic development between the various European theatres and between those working in them, in the first place through intergovernmental co-operation;
- (c) translation of dramatic works, involving two types of measure to help make production more accessible: written summaries, simultaneous interpretation, sub-titling or over-titling on the one hand and the translation of quality dramatic works on the other.

The pilot project for financial aid for the translation of contemporary literary works, launched by the Commission in 1989, should cater to a greater degree for the translation of dramatic works of high quality;

- (d) training at European level, by means of exchanges, workshops, traineeships and/or other initiatives;
- (e) information and communication, which are the linchpins of the theatrical professions; a number of bodies already play a vital role in exchanges and understanding within the theatre community. Encouragement should be given to these initiatives and a study made of ways of stepping up exchanges of information, both national and Community, in the professional arts sector;

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(f) other initiatives, such as writing for and working in the theatre, experimental theatre, theatre for and by children and theatre for and by young people, video-making around theatre performances and widening of the audience;

Call on the Commission, taking into account other programmes established by the Community and working in co-operation with the Council of Europe and European organizations of theatre professionals, to support preparatory work in this area and, in co-operation with the Committee on Cultural Affairs, report to the Ministers on possible measures."

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The Greek delegation also proposed that an International Theatre Research Centre be set up in each Member State, its main purpose being to provide a base where the theory and practice of the theatre could be studied scientifically, and which would serve students of the subject.

The Italian delegation suggested that 1993 be declared European Year of the Theatre, it being the bicentenary of the death of Carlo GOLDONI.

The Ministers instructed the Committee on Cultural Affairs to consider these two suggestions.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Research

Following the three Institutions' formal approval of the inter-institutional political compromise of Strasbourg on 17 April, the Council adopted the decisions on five specific RTD programmes (1990-1994) in the following fields ⁽¹⁾:

- Marine science and technology
- Environment
- Life sciences and technologies for developing countries
- Telematic systems in areas of general interest
- Communications technologies.

The final adoption of these 5 specific programmes, involving a sum of ECU 1 334,49 million out of an overall financial envelope of ECU 5 700 million, is an important step towards implementing the third framework programme (1990-1994) regarding Community research and technological development programmes.

(1) See Press Releases 4863/91 (Presse 26) of 3.3.1991 for the communications technologies programme and 11028/90 Presse 238 of 21.12.1990 for the other four programmes.

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 Anders FOGH RASMUSSEN Minister for Economic Affairs

Germany:

Mr Horst KÖHLER State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs

Mr Franz-Christoph ZEITLER State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Finance

Greece:

Mr Eythymios CHRISTODOULOU Deputy Minister for Economic Affairs

Spain:

Mr M. Carlos SOLCHAGA CATALAN Minister for Economic Affairs and Finance

Mr Pedro PEREZ State Secretary for Economic Affairs

Mr Carlos WESTENDORP Y CABEZA State Secretary for European Affairs

France:

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

Mrs Elisabeth GUIGOU Minister for European Affairs

Ireland:

Mr Albert REYNOLDS Minister for Finance

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Italy:

Mr Guido CARLI	Minister for the Treasury
Mr Rino FORMICA	Minister for Finance
Mr Emilio RUBBI	State Secretary for the Treasury

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean-Claude JUNCKER	Minister for Finance
Mr Robert GOEBBELS	Minister for Economic Affairs

Netherlands:

Mr W. KOK	Minister for Finance
Mr Marius van AMELSVOORT	State Secretary for Finance
Mr P. DANKERT	State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Portugal:

Mr José de OLIVEIRA COSTA	State Secretary for Fiscal Affairs
Mr Carlos TAVARES	State Secretary, Treasury

United Kingdom:

Mr Norman LAMONT	Chancellor of the Exchequer
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Commission:

Mr Henning CHRISTOPHERSEN	Vice-President
Mrs Christiane SCRIVENER	Member

INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE ON EMU

In the light of a report from the Chairman of the Working Party of Personal Representatives, the IGC held a broad discussion on basic EMU issues which emerged during the preparatory discussions, namely the achievement of economic convergence, economic and social cohesion, the content of and the conditions for moving to the transitional and final stages, and certain institutional issues relating to the functioning of the Union.

The discussion gave the Ministers an opportunity to define their positions on all those issues. They expressed their appreciation of the considerable progress achieved in the first half of the year, due to the Luxembourg Presidency's efforts.

Today's discussion and the outcome of the preparatory discussions held since the beginning of the year will enable the Presidency to identify the topics to be referred to the European Council in late June.

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ABOLITION OF FISCAL FRONTIERS

The Council continued its discussions on the abolition of fiscal frontiers - VAT and excise duties - on the basis of draft Presidency conclusions amended in the light of the proceedings on 3 June.

The Presidency proposed to continue discussions on the subject at an additional meeting on 24 June.

MEASURES TO HELP CENTRAL AND EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

After noting that other G24 countries or third countries had announced that they would contribute an amount equivalent to that proposed by the Community to the operation to support the balance of payments of Hungary and Bulgaria, the Council agreed to the Decisions on granting ECU 180 million to Hungary and ECU 290 million to Bulgaria as medium-term financial assistance. Those Decisions will be formally adopted in the near future, after the texts have been finalized.

With regard to aid for Romania, after noting that the conditions for a final decision had not yet been met - the contributions announced by other G24 countries were inadequate -, the Council decided to continue discussing medium-term assistance for that country at its meeting on 8 July.

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Discussion of the agenda items relating to "EIB actions outside the Community" and "controls and formalities applicable to the cabin and checked baggage of intra-Community air and sea passengers" was postponed.

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MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Money laundering

The Council finally adopted the Directive on prevention of the use of the financial system for the purpose of money laundering, after the European Parliament had stated its position under the co-operation procedure and the Commission had submitted its re-examined proposal.

It should be remembered that on 17 December 1990 the Council reached an agreement in principle on all the problems raised by the proposal and adopted its common position on 14 February 1991 on the formally finalized texts.

The Council's proceedings, which started on 23 March 1990 immediately after the submission of the Commission proposal, were thus concluded within a short period of time, despite the extent of the problems to be resolved.

Those problems fall within the general domain and the context of international initiatives, in particular the UN Convention (Vienna, December 1988), the recommendations made in February 1990 by the Financial Action Task Force set up by the G-7 Summit (Paris, July 1989) and the Council of Europe Convention (Strasbourg, November 1990) which all aim among other things, at combating the laundering of money from unlawful activities such as drug trafficking, organized crime and terrorism.

The Council has thus responded to the appeals made by the Dublin and Rome European Councils, which stressed the need for the proceedings on this matter to be concluded swiftly.

The Directive, which will have to be transposed into the national law of the 12 Member States, aims at preventing the European financial area created by previous Directives from being used for laundering money derived from criminal activities. It covers credit and financial institutions, including life assurance.

The Member States' legislation must provide for a series of measures such as identification of customers and beneficial owners, co-operation between credit and financial institutions and the authorities responsible for combating money laundering, establishment of the legal conditions for such co-operation and the obligation for the institutions concerned to establish internal control procedures.

The setting-up of a Contact Committee is provided for, the functions of which will be to contribute to the harmonized implementation of the Directive through regular consultations between persons responsible for prudential supervision of financial institutions and to examine the desirability of including professions other than those referred to at this stage, if their activities could be used for money laundering.

The publication of the Directive in the Official Journal of the European Communities will be accompanied by a statement by the representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, giving a reminder of the commitments entered into by the Member States at international level (the United Nations Convention of 19 December 1988 and the Council of Europe Convention of 8 November 1990).

That statement emphasizes that the wording of the description of money laundering in the Directive is derived from the relevant provisions of the above Conventions and it includes the commitment to take all necessary steps by 31 December 1992 at

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the latest to enact criminal legislation enabling them to comply with their obligations under the aforementioned instruments.

Article 2 of the Directive stipulates that Member States must ensure that money laundering is prohibited and Article 14 requires that appropriate measures be taken to ensure full application of all the provisions of the Directive, in particular determination of the penalties to be applied for infringement of the measures adopted pursuant to the Directive.

The Directive enters into force on 1 January 1993.

One year after that date, the Commission will draw up a report on the implementation of the Directive and submit it to the European Parliament and the Council. It will subsequently make a report whenever necessary and at least at three-yearly intervals.

Fisheries

The Council adopted a Decision on the extension from 1 July 1991 to 31 December 1993, and amendments to, the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Notes between the United States and the EEC concerning fisheries off the coasts of the United States.

That Agreement, signed in Washington on 1 October 1984, gives Community fishermen access to surplus stocks in United States waters.

The Agreement, which does not have any impact on the Community budget but entails certain obligations for Community shipowners, envisages some co-operation between

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the Community and the United States, in particular with regard to the conservation of certain fishery resources.

The Council also adopted a Regulation opening and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for certain eels. A zero-rated amount of 5 000 tonnes for the period 1 July 1991 to 30 June 1992 is concerned.

Agricultural policy

The Council adopted Regulations

- amending Regulation (EEC) No 1035/72 on the common organization of the market in fruit and vegetables as regards quality standards. That Regulation provides that the net weight of the product be included in the information required in the context of quality standards. However, if the number of items is usually indicated on the label, indication of that number is also allowed. These rules are identical to those laid down by Directive 79/112 on the labelling of foodstuffs;
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 1037/72 laying down general rules for granting and financing aid for hop producers. That amendment makes it possible for aid to hop producers to be granted also for areas in which experimental varieties are grown;
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 1784/77 concerning the certification of hops. The existing provisions concerning the certification of hops have been amended to take account of commercial practice.

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After concluding the co-operation procedure with the European Parliament, the Council also adopted a Regulation laying down general rules on the definition, description and presentation of aromatized wines, aromatized wine-based drinks and aromatized wine-product cocktails (see press release No 10522/90 Presse 217 of 10/11 December 1990).

Appointment

The Council adopted a Decision appointing the members of the Advisory Committee of the Euratom Supply Agency.



COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

6779/91 (Presse 90)

1497th Council meeting

- Environment -

Luxembourg, 13 and 14 June 1991

President: Mr Alex BODRY,
Minister for the Environment
of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

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

Belgium

Mrs Miet SMET State Secretary for the Environment

Denmark

Mr Pir Stig MØLLER Minister for the Environment

Mr Leo BJØRNESKOV State Secretary for the Environment

Germany

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

Mr Clemens STROETMANN State Secretary, Federal Ministry of
the Environment, Nature Conservation
and Reactor Safety

Greece

Mr Vassilis KORKOLOPOULOS Secretary-General for the Environment

Spain

Mr Vincente ALBERO State Secretary, Ministry of the
Environment

France

Mr Brice LALONDE Ministre d'Etat with responsibility for
the Environment

Ireland

Mr Padraig FLYNN Minister for the Environment

Italy

Mr Enrico PIETROMARCHI Deputy Permanent Representative

Luxembourg

Mr Alex BODRY

Minister for the Environment

Netherlands

Mr J.G.M. ALDERS

Minister for Housing, Planning and
the Environment

Portugal

Mr Carlos BORREGO

Minister for the Environment and
Natural Resources

Mr José MACARIO CORREIA

State Secretary for the Environment

United Kingdom

Mr David TRIPPIER

Minister of State,
Department of the Environment (Minister
for the Environment and Countryside)

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Commission

Mr Carlo RIPA DI MEANA

Member

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IMPORTATION OF CERTAIN FURS

The Council agreed ⁽¹⁾ on a proposal for a Regulation prohibiting the use of leghold traps in the Community and the importation into the Community of pelts and manufactured goods of certain wild animal species from countries which catch them by means of leghold traps or trapping methods which do not meet international humane trapping standards.

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

It provides for a ban on the use of leghold traps ⁽²⁾ in the Community by 1 January 1995.

Furthermore, the importing into the Community of furs of 13 animal species and 22 categories of goods will be prohibited as from 1 January 1995, unless the Commission, assisted by a committee of representatives of the Member States, has determined that, in the country where the pelts originate:

- there are adequate administrative or legislative provisions in force to prohibit the use of the leghold trap in its territory; or

(1) In the case of one delegation, this agreement was given subject to completion of internal consultations.

(2) For the purposes of this Regulation, "leghold trap" means a trap designed to restrain or capture an animal by means of jaws which close tightly upon one or more of the animal's limbs, thereby preventing the limb or limbs from escaping from the trap.

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- the trapping methods used in its territory for the species concerned meet internationally humane trapping agreed standards.

The import prohibition will be suspended for one year, expiring on 31 December 1995, if the Commission, assisted by the same Committee, is able to determine before 1 July 1994, as a result of a review undertaken in co-operation with the competent authorities of the countries concerned, that sufficient progress is being made in developing humane methods of trapping in their territory.

Countries exporting or re-exporting to the Community after 1 January 1995 any of the goods referred to in the Regulation, inasmuch as they incorporate pelts of the relevant species, shall certify that such pelts originate in a country which has modified its laws in line with the Regulation, or in respect of which the import ban is suspended.

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PROTECTION OF NATURAL HABITATS

The Council held a wide-ranging debate on the proposal for a Directive on the conservation of natural and semi-natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.

The purpose of this proposal is to adopt a consistent Community policy on the protection of wildlife, taking as the point of departure existing Community legislation (Directive on Wild Birds) and the relevant international agreements, notably the Berne Convention on the conservation of European wildlife and natural habitats.

Having noted that substantial progress had been made, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its work, concentrating on the two main problems which remain to be resolved, namely: the financing arrangements provided for by the proposal and powers to designate areas to be protected.

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ACTION BY THE COMMUNITY RELATING TO NATURE CONSERVATION (ACNAT)

The Council reached an agreement ⁽¹⁾ on the substance of the proposal for a Regulation on action by the Community relating to nature conservation (ACNAT). The Regulation will finally be adopted at a forthcoming Council meeting after the final editing of the text.

The purpose of this Regulation is to create a specific financial instrument for projects relating to the maintenance or re-establishment of biotopes or habitats of Community importance, and the implementation of measures to conserve or re-establish endangered species.

It should be noted that the 1987 Regulation on action by the Community relating to the environment (ACE) expires on 30 July 1991.

The Community's contribution to the actions implemented in the framework of the ACNAT Regulation, applicable for two years, is to be ECU 50 million (ECU 25 million per year).

The Community's financial support may represent, normally, not more than 50% of the cost of projects and, exceptionally, not more than 75% of the cost of projects concerning biotopes or habitats of species threatened with extinction, habitats in danger of disappearance in the Community, or populations of species threatened with extinction.

(1) In the case of one delegation, this agreement was given subject to the completion of internal procedures.

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A committee consisting of the representatives of the Member States will assist the Commission in applying this Regulation, which may be extended or amended by the Council voting unanimously, on a proposal from the Commission.

POLLUTION CAUSED BY NITRATES

The Council reached an agreement on the substance of the Directive concerning the protection of fresh, coastal and marine waters against pollution caused by nitrates from diffuse sources (of agricultural origin). The Directive will be finally adopted at a forthcoming Council meeting, after final editing of the text.

In order to reduce and prevent this type of pollution, the Directive establishes standards for the spreading of nitrogen compounds on land and certain land management practices, with a view to:

- (a) reducing nitrate concentrations in affected freshwaters, whether surface or subterranean, to a level which does not impede the legitimate uses of such waters, and preventing nitrate concentrations in other freshwaters from exceeding this level;
- (b) improving the quality of surface, coastal, marine and estuarial waters affected by eutrophization and preventing eutrophization of the remainder of such waters.

The Directive defines the criteria for identifying the waters affected, and the mechanisms for designating vulnerable zones.

Among the measures to be taken in the vulnerable zones, the Directive fixes a limit value of 170 kg of nitrates per hectare for the spreading of manure.

However, a limit value of 210 Kg/N per hectare will be accepted during an initial period of four years.

Higher values may be permitted in certain duly justified circumstances, provided that the objectives of the Directive are respected.

In order to ensure a general level of protection against pollution for all waters, the Directive provides for the establishment of codes of good agricultural practice on a voluntary basis. These codes will be the subject of programmes of training and information for Community farmers.

In accordance with the "polluter pays" principle, Member States may, in conformity with the Treaty, take such measures as they judge necessary for the purposes of achieving the aims of the Directive, including the setting up of financial instruments to finance or encourage environmentally-friendly methods of manure treatment and use.

In the case of trans-frontier nitrate pollution, the Member States concerned must consult each other in order to determine what measures should be taken.

The Member States must comply with the requirements laid down in the Directive within two years of its notification.

ACTION TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT IN THE COASTAL AREAS AND COASTAL WATERS OF THE IRISH SEA, NORTH SEA, BALTIC SEA AND NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC OCEAN (NORSPA)

The Council held a first policy debate on the proposal for a Regulation on action to protect the environment in the Community's northern waters (NORSPA). The Opinion of the European Parliament on this proposal is pending.

Similar action has already been taken in the Mediterranean region through Council Regulation (EEC) No 563/91, adopted on 4 March 1991, on the MEDSPA operation.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to press ahead with its examination of this proposal in the light of the European Parliament's Opinion, in order to reach an agreement as soon as possible.

CREATION OF A FINANCIAL INSTRUMENT FOR THE ENVIRONMENT (LIFE)

The Council took note of progress in the preliminary proceedings concerning the proposal for a Regulation establishing a financial instrument for the environment (LIFE).

The European Parliament's Opinion on this proposal is pending.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to press ahead with its examination of this proposal in the light of the European Parliament's Opinion, in order to reach an agreement as soon as possible.

ECO-LABEL

The Council held its first policy debate on the proposal for a Regulation on a Community award scheme for an eco-label.

The European Parliament's Opinion on this proposal is still pending.

The purpose of this proposal is to establish a Community eco-label award system to promote the design, production, marketing and use of ecological products, i.e. products which have an overall environmental impact significantly lesser than that of other products in the same category.

Discussions concentrated on the procedures for awarding the label, and the establishment of categories of products and criteria.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to press ahead with its examination of this proposal in the light of the European Parliament's Opinion, in order to reach an agreement as soon as possible.

MOTOR VEHICLE POLLUTION

After the co-operation procedure with the European Parliament the Council reached a substantive agreement that it would soon be adopting definitively a new Directive, after finalization of the texts, on measures to be taken against air pollution from motor vehicles.

The content of this agreement corresponds essentially to the common position adopted by the Council on 4 March 1991 on that Directive the purpose of which is to consolidate the requirements of the European Community relating to emissions of air pollutants from passenger cars.

Accordingly:

- the following limit values will be applied:

= "type-approval" values:

CO :	2,72 g/km
Hc + Nox:	0,97 g/km
particles (diesel engine)	0,14 g/km

These values will be applied:

= from 1 July 1992 for new types of cars,

= from 31 December 1992 for all new cars.

- these air pollution emission limit values are based on an improved European test procedure including an extra-urban driving sequence.

- these measures are supplemented by requirements relating to the evaporation of the fuels used by cars and the durability of the anti-pollution devices with which they are equipped.

The Directive also lays down that before 31 December 1993, the Council, taking into account technical progress, will rule on a further reduction in limit values. The reduced limit values will not apply before 1 January 1996 as far as type-approval is concerned; the reduced values may, however, serve as a basis for tax incentives as from the date of adoption of the new Directive.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Common agricultural policy

Following the agreement reached at the agriculture meeting on 21 to 24 May 1991 on farm prices and related measures for the 1991/1992 marketing year (see Press Release 6216/91 Presse 69), the Council adopted the following Regulations which give legal form to the political agreement:

Cereals

- introducing a temporary set-aside scheme for arable land for the 1991/1992 marketing year
- fixing the monthly price increases for cereals, wheat and rye flour and wheat groats and meal for the 1991/1992 marketing year
- fixing the production aid for certain cereals sown in the 1991/1992 marketing year
- fixing the overall amount of the aid granted to small producers under the co-responsibility arrangements in the cereals sector
- fixing the aid for small producers of certain arable crops sown in the 1991/1992 marketing year
- fixing the production aid for certain varieties of high-quality flint maize sown in the 1991/1992 marketing year

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- fixing the minimum price for potatoes to be paid by the starch manufacturer to the potato producer for the 1991/1992 cereals marketing year
- fixing rice prices for the 1991/1992 marketing year
- fixing the monthly price increases for paddy rice and husked rice for the 1991/1992 marketing year
- fixing the amount of the production aid for certain varieties of rice sown in the 1991/1992 marketing year
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 3659/90 on products subject to the supplementary trade mechanism during the second stage of Portuguese accession

Sugar

- concerning the alignment of the sugar and beet prices applicable in Spain on the common prices
- fixing, for the 1991/1992 marketing year, certain sugar prices and the standard quality of beet
- fixing, for the 1991/1992 marketing year, the derived intervention prices for white sugar, the intervention price for raw sugar, the minimum prices for A and B beet, the threshold prices, the amount of compensation for storage costs and the prices to be applied in Spain and Portugal

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- laying down general rules on the marketing of preferential sugar in the Community for the 1989/1990, 1990/1991 and 1991/1992 marketing years

Olive oil - oilseeds

- amending Regulation No 136/66/EEC on the establishment of a common organization of the market in oils and fats
- fixing the production target price, the production aid and the intervention price for olive oil for the 1991/1992 marketing year as well as the maximum guaranteed quantity
- fixing the target prices and intervention prices for rape and sunflower seed for the 1991/1992 marketing year
- fixing the monthly increases in the target price, the intervention price and the intervention buying-in price for rapeseed and sunflower seed for the 1991/1992 marketing year
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 1491/85 laying down special measures in respect of soya beans
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 2194/85 adopting general rules concerning special measures for soya beans
- fixing the guide price for soya beans for the 1991/1992 marketing year
- fixing the minimum price for soya beans for the 1991/1992 marketing year

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- fixing the guide price for flax seed for the 1991/1992 marketing year
- fixing the aid for hemp seed for the 1991/1992 marketing year

Protein crops - dried fodder

- amending Regulation (EEC) No 1431/82 laying down special measures for peas, field beans and sweet lupins
- fixing, for the 1991/1992 marketing year, the activating threshold price for aid, the guide price and the minimum price for peas, field beans and sweet lupins
- fixing, for the 1991/1992 marketing year, the monthly increases in the activating threshold price, the guide price and the minimum price for peas and field beans
- fixing the guide price for dried fodder for the 1991/1992 marketing year

Textiles

- fixing the guide price for unginne cotton for the 1991/1992 marketing year
- fixing the maximum guaranteed quantity of cotton and the minimum price for unginne cotton for the 1991/1992 marketing year
- fixing the amounts of aid for fibre flax and hemp and the amount withheld to finance measures to promote the use of flax fibre for the 1991/1992 marketing year

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- fixing the amount of aid in respect of silkworms for the 1991/1992 rearing year

Fruit and vegetables

- fixing, for the 1991/1992 marketing year, certain prices and other amounts applicable in the fruit and vegetable sector
- amending Regulations (EEC) Nos 1035/72, 2240/88 and 1121/89 as regards the intervention thresholds mechanism in the fresh fruit and vegetables sector

Wine

- amending Regulation (EEC) No 822/87 on the common organization of the market in wine
- fixing the guide prices for wine for the 1991/1992 wine year
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 358/79 as regards sparkling wines produced in the Community as defined in point 15 of Annex I to Regulation (EEC) No 822/87 and Regulation (EEC) No 4252/88 on the preparation and marketing of liqueur wines produced in the Community

Tobacco

- amending Regulation (EEC) No 727/70 on the common organization of the market in raw tobacco
- fixing, for the 1990 harvest, the norm and intervention prices and the premiums granted to purchasers of leaf tobacco, the derived intervention prices

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for baled tobacco, the reference qualities, the production areas and the guaranteed maximum quantities and amending Regulation (EEC) No 1331/90

Seeds

- fixing the amounts of aid for seeds for the 1992/1993 and 1993/1994 marketing years
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 2358/71 on the common organization of the market in seeds

Milk and milk products

- amending Regulation (EEC) No 804/68 on the common organization of the market in milk and milk products
- fixing the target price for milk and the intervention prices for butter, skimmed-milk powder and Grana Padano and Parmigiano Reggiano cheeses for the 1991/1992 milk year
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 1079/77 in respect of the co-responsibility levy on milk and milk products
- fixing the threshold prices for certain milk products for the 1991/1992 milk year
- modifying the buying-in arrangements for butter and skimmed-milk powder laid down in Regulation (EEC) No 777/87

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- amending Regulation (EEC) No 857/84 adopting general rules for the application of the levy referred to in Article 5c of Regulation (EEC) No 804/68 in the milk and milk products sector
- establishing, for the period running from 1 April 1991 to 31 March 1992, the Community reserve for the application of the levy referred to in Article 5c of Regulation (EEC) No 804/68 in the milk and milk products sector
- fixing compensation with regard to the reduction of the reference quantities referred to in Article 5c of Regulation (EEC) No 804/68 and compensation for the definitive discontinuation of milk production
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 1336/86 fixing compensation for the definitive discontinuation of milk production
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 857/84 adopting general rules for the application of the levy referred to in Article 5c of Regulation (EEC) No 804/68 in the milk and milk products sector (SLOM)

Beef and veal

- amending Regulation (EEC) No 805/68 on the common organization of the market in beef and veal
- fixing the guide price and the intervention price for adult bovine animals for the 1991/1992 marketing year

Sheepmeat and goatmeat

- amending Regulation (EEC) No 3013/89 on the common organization of the market in sheepmeat and goatmeat

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- fixing the basic price, the guide level and the seasonal adjustments to the basic price and the guide level for sheepmeat for the 1992 marketing year
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 1323/90 as regards the amount of the specific aid for sheep and goat farming from the 1992 marketing year onwards

Pigmeat

- fixing the basic price and the standard quality for pig carcasses for the period 1 July 1991 to 30 June 1992

Agri-monetary measures

- amending Regulation (EEC) No 1678/85 fixing the conversion rates to be applied in agriculture

The Council also adopted a Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 426/86 on the common organization of the market in products processed from fruit and vegetables. The main changes were amendments in the Annexes to some of the combined nomenclature code, and certain other technical points.

PRESS RELEASE

7021/91 (Presse 105)

1498th Council meeting

- General Affairs -

Sixth ministerial meeting of the IGC on Political Union

Brussels: 17 and 18 June 1991

President: Mr Jacques F. POOS
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

17/18.VI.91

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

Belgium:

Mr Mark EYSKENS	Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Paul DE KEERSMAEKER	State Secretary for European Affairs
Mrs A.M. LIZIN	State Secretary for Europe 1992, attached to the Minister for Foreign Trade

Denmark:

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

Germany:

Mrs Ursula SEILER-ALBRING	Minister of State, Foreign Affairs
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Greece:

Mr Antonios SAMARAS	Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Georges PAPASTAMKOS	State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Spain:

Mr Francisco FERNANDEZ ORDÓÑEZ	Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Carlos WESTENDORP	State Secretary for Relations with the European Communities

France:

Mr Roland DUMAS	Ministre d'Etat, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mrs Elisabeth GUIGOU	Minister for European Affairs

Ireland:

Mr Gerard Collins Minister for Foreign Affairs

Italy:

Mr Gianni DE MICHELIS Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Claudio VITALONE State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Luxembourg:

Mr Jacques F. POOS Minister for Foreign Affairs

Netherlands:

Mr H. VAN DEN BROEK Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Piet DANKERT State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Portugal:

Mr João de DEUS PINHEIRO Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Vitor MARTINS State Secretary for European Integration

United Kingdom:

Mr Douglas HURD Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs

Mr Tristan GAREL-JONES Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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Commission:

Mr Jacques DELORS President
Mr F.H.J.J. ANDRIESEN Vice-President
Mr Antonio CARDOSO E CUNHA Member

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INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE ON POLITICAL UNION

At the sixth ministerial meeting of the IGC on Political Union the Ministers first examined the new wording of the common provisions and final provisions of the Treaty on Union tabled by the Presidency following the Ministers' discussion on the structure of the Treaty at the informal meeting in Dresden.

On the basis of the new versions of the texts tabled by the Presidency, the Ministers also held a second reading of the institutional provisions and provisions concerning Community powers.

The Presidency stated that during the week (Thursday) it would submit a full text of the draft Treaty covering both the part on Political Union and that on Economic and Monetary Union. That text would be discussed in a "conclave" on Sunday 23 June in Luxembourg to which the Presidency had invited the Ministers with a view to preparing for the European Council's discussions on the subject.

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PREPARATION FOR THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL

On the basis of information supplied by the Presidency concerning the European Council's programme of work in Luxembourg on 28 and 29 June, the Ministers reviewed the various topics which could be discussed by the Heads of State and Government.

In addition to the main subjects which have come up during the proceedings of the Intergovernmental Conferences on Political Union and Economic and Monetary Union, those discussions will deal with progress on establishing the internal market, and a series of issues connected with international problems, in particular the Iraq peace process, the negotiations in the Middle East, the situation in the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia, developments in South Africa, the issue of arms exports, etc.

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EUROPEAN ENERGY CHARTER - CONCLUSIONS

The Council reached the following conclusions with regard to participation in the Charter:

- . all European Countries, including the USSR, and the non-European countries of the Group of 24 will be invited to negotiate the Charter.
- . The OECD, the World Bank, the EIB, the EBRD, the IEA and the IAEA will participate in the discussions as observers, together with any Maghreb and Gulf countries which so wish.
- . Subsequent accession to the Charter and the Protocols may be envisaged for other third countries, in particular those which have concluded agreements with the Community.

The Council confirmed the procedural suggestions for organizing the Conference which will be submitted to the other participating countries, and the arrangements for participation in the Conference by the Community and its Member States.

The Conference will open with a preparatory meeting in Brussels on 15 July, with the aim of the Charter's adoption in December 1991 at a final meeting at ministerial level.

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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE USSR

The Council discussed the draft Regulation concerning technical assistance for the USSR. The discussions enabled consensus to be noted on the draft, involving implementation of the political decision taken by the European Council in Rome, providing for such assistance to be granted in the field of public and private-sector management training, financial services, energy, transport and food distribution, which must be the subject of a concrete programme focusing on specific projects and which may receive overall support of ECU 400 million in 1991 and an amount to be established for 1992, to be mobilized in instalments, as the projects are executed.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to finalize the examination of the draft in the light of the Parliament's Opinion, with a view to its approval as soon as possible.

RELATIONS WITH JAPAN

On the basis of a report by Mr ANDRIESEN, Vice-President of the Commission, the Council reviewed the progress of negotiations with regard to the draft joint declaration on relations between the Community and its Member States and Japan.

The Council asked the Presidency and the Commission to continue the negotiations with the Japanese side in the light of the Ministers' discussions, with the objective of arriving as soon as possible at a text satisfactory to both sides, with regard to both the political and the economic part.

It will be remembered that the formal adoption of the declaration by the two sides is scheduled for 18 July, on the occasion of the visit to the Hague by Mr KAIFU, Prime Minister of Japan.

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NEGOTIATIONS WITH EFTA FOR A EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA

The Council devoted its discussions on Tuesday to preparing the Community position on negotiations with EFTA for creating a European Economic Area.

The negotiations, which started in the afternoon and continued throughout the evening, concluded with a political agreement. On the basis of the results recorded at ministerial level, the high-level EEC/EFTA working party was instructed to finalize the details of the points of agreement.

The Presidency and the Commission of the European Communities will hold another meeting with the Austrian Presidency and the EFTA Member States in Salzburg on Tuesday 25 June to note substantive agreement on aspects of the EEA Agreement and to present the overall outcome of the negotiations on that occasion.

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DETAILED RULES FOR ADJUSTING THE REMUNERATION OF EUROPEAN COMMUNITY OFFICIALS

The Council mandated its President to enter into negotiations with the representatives of the staff of the European Communities with regard to future rules to be applied for adjusting the remuneration of European Community officials.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Relations with the Soviet Union

- Agreements for co-operation between EURATOM and the USSR

The Council adopted a Decision authorizing the Commission to negotiate a set of three Agreements for co-operation between the European Atomic Energy Community and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in the fields of:

- = controlled nuclear fusion,
- = nuclear safety,
- = matters connected with the exchange of nuclear materials between the Parties.

The general purpose of the Decision is to give effect to the forms of co-operation provided for by the EEC-EURATOM/USSR Agreement on trade and commercial and economic co-operation, which entered into force on 1 April 1990.

With regard to controlled nuclear fusion, the objective of the Agreement to be negotiated in this context must be to maintain and intensify co-operation between EURATOM and the USSR in the fields covered by their respective fusion programmes. Such co-operation could in particular fall within the framework of activities connected with ITER.

With regard to the Agreement to be negotiated in the field of nuclear safety, the objective of the co-operation established in that field will be to contribute, on the basis of mutual benefit, to the definition and application of scientifically warranted and internationally accepted safety guidelines, as set out in the EEC-EURATOM/USSR Co-operation Agreement.

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The Agreement to be negotiated on matters connected with the exchange of nuclear materials will relate to transfers of nuclear materials for peaceful use, in compliance with the principle of free movement of such materials within the Community, at market-related prices.

- Credit guarantee for exports of agricultural products and foodstuffs

The Council adopted a Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 599/91 introducing a credit guarantee for exports of agricultural products and foodstuffs from the Community to the Soviet Union.

At the recipient country's request, the new Regulation alters the conditions for the reimbursement of the loans originally provided for in order to take account of commitments entered into previously.

EEC-Israel relations

The Council approved three draft Decisions to be adopted by the EEC-Israel Co-operation Council in the origin sector, namely:

- Decision No 1/91 of the EEC-Israel Co-operation Council amending, as a consequence of the introduction of the Harmonized System, the Protocol concerning the definition of the concept of "originating products" and methods of administrative co-operation;
- Decision No 2/91 of the EEC-Israel Co-operation Council amending, on account of the accession of Spain and Portugal to the European Communities, the Protocol concerning the definition of the concept of "originating products" and methods of administrative co-operation;

- Decision No 3/91 of the EEC-Israel Co-operation Council again amending Articles 6 and 17 of the Protocol concerning the definition of the concept of "originating products" and methods of administrative co-operation.

4th Financial Protocols with Jordan, Lebanon and Syria

The Council approved the outcome of the negotiations on the 4th Financial Protocols with Jordan, Lebanon and Syria and decided to sign those Protocols, subject to their approval.

International Coffee Agreement

The Council adopted the Decision concerning notification of the acceptance by the Community of the 1983 International Coffee Agreement as extended to 30 September 1992.

Relations with the ACP States

- extension of transitional measures

The Council recorded the Community's agreement to the draft Decision of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers extending - until the entry into force of the Fourth ACP-EEC Convention or until 30 September 1991 at the latest - Decision No 2/90 of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers on the transitional measures to be applied from 1 March 1990.

At the same time, it extended the validity of the Community Regulation on the application of that Decision.

Austria

- renewal of the tariff quotas for quality wines

The Council adopted a Regulation opening, for the period from 1 July 1991 to 30 June 1992, two zero-rated quotas, the first for quality wines (quota volume: 85 000 hl) and the second for sparkling wines (quota volume: 2 000 hl).

The Regulation implements the undertaking entered into by the Community in the Agreement which it concluded with Austria in December 1988.

Measures concerning the Canary Islands, Madeira and the Azores

The Council adopted joint guidelines concerning the following acts:

- the Regulation on the application of the provisions of Community law to the Canary Islands (POSEICAN),
- the Decision setting up a programme of options specific to the remote and insular nature of the Canary Islands (POSEICAN), and
- the Decision setting up a programme of options specific to the remote and insular nature of Madeira and the Azores (POSEIMA),

and agreed to forward them to the European Parliament.

Those acts are due to be formally adopted at the Council meeting on 25 and 26 June (Labour and Social Affairs).

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

1499th meeting of the Council

- Transport -

Luxembourg, 17 June 1991

President: Mr. Robert Goebbels
Minister for Transport, Luxembourg

The official press release was unavailable. The agenda for the meeting has been reproduced from the Bulletin of the European Communities, No. 6-1991.

1499th meeting

1.7.9. Transport (Luxembourg, 17 June).

- Previous meeting: Bull. EC 3-1991, point 1.7.8

President: Mr Goebbels, Luxembourg Minister for Transport.

Commission: Mr Van Miert.

Sole item

Problems associated with transit: discussed.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

7020/91 (Presse 104)

1500th Council meeting
- Agriculture -
Luxembourg, 18 June 1991

President:

Mr René STEICHEN
Minister for Agriculture
of the Grand Duchy of
Luxembourg

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Italy:

Mr Giovanni GORIA

Minister for Agriculture

Luxembourg:

Mr René STEICHEN

Minister for Agriculture and
Viticulture

Netherlands:

Mr Piet BUKMAN

Minister for Agriculture,
Nature Conservation and
Fisheries

Portugal:

Mr Arlindo CUNHA

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and
Food

United Kingdom:

Mr David CURRY

Parliamentary Secretary, Agriculture

Commission:

Mr Ray MAC SHARRY

Member

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FARM PRICES AND RELATED MEASURES 1991/1992

The Council concluded its discussions on the package of prices and related measures for the 1991/1992 farm year (see press release 6216/91 Presse 69 of 21, 22, 23 and 24 May 1991) by fixing, following receipt of the European Parliament's Opinion, the prices applicable in the cereal sector (see details attached) and the amount of the aid for durum wheat.

For common wheat, barley, rye, maize and grain sorghum, the intervention prices for the previous marketing year have been retained.

The intervention price for durum wheat was reduced by 3,5%. This reduction was partially offset by an increase in aid, namely

= ECU 181,88 per hectare for the Community with the exception of Spain (instead of ECU 171,43);

= ECU 146,43 per hectare for Spain (instead of ECU 110,88).

The aid is granted in regions of traditional production.

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With respect to the amendment to the amount of the aid to improve the quality and marketing of nuts and locust beans, the Council instructed the Special Committee on Agriculture to examine certain technical aspects of the dossier in greater detail before a final decision was reached.

ANNEX

	(in ECU/t)		(in ECU/t)
COMMON WHEAT		MAIZE	
Intervention price ⁽¹⁾		Intervention price	168,55
- Community, except Portugal	168,55		
- Portugal	210,80		
Target price for RYE	233,26	Common target price	212,33
		GRAIN SORGHUM	
Intervention price ⁽²⁾	160,13	Intervention price	160,13
Common target price	212,33	Common target price	212,33
BARLEY		DURUM WHEAT	
Intervention price	160,13	Intervention price	
		- Community, except Spain	227,70
		- Spain	216,48
Common target price	212,33	Target price	277,21

(1) Increase of ECU 3,37 per tonne for common wheat of breadmaking quality which meets the specific quality requirements laid down in Regulation (EEC) No 1570/77.

(2) Increase of ECU 4,22 per tonne for rye of breadmaking quality which meets the specific quality requirements laid down in Regulation (EEC) No 1570/77.

PRESS RELEASE

7018/91 (Presse 102)

1501st Council meeting
- INTERNAL MARKET -
Luxembourg, 18 June 1991

President: Mr Georges WOHLFART
State Secretary
for Foreign Affairs and
Foreign Trade
of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

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

Belgium:

Mr Paul DE KEERSMAEKER State Secretary for European Affairs

Denmark:

Mrs Anne-Birgitte LUNDHOLT Minister for Industry

Mr Christophe BO BRAMSEN State Secretary for Industry

Germany:

Mr Johan EECKHOFF State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs

Greece:

Mr Sotirios HATZIGAKIS Deputy Minister for Trade

Spain:

Mr Carlos WESTENDORP State Secretary for Relations with the European Communities

France:

Mr Jean CADET Deputy Permanent Representative

Ireland:

Mr Desmond J. O'MALLEY Minister for Industry and Commerce

Italy:

Mr Pierluigi ROMITA Minister for Community Policies

Luxembourg:

Mr Georges WOHLFART State Secretary for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade

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Netherlands:

Mr Piet DANKERT

State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Portugal:

Mr Vitor MARTINS

State Secretary for European
Integration

United Kingdom:

Mr John REDWOOD

Minister of State,
Department of Trade and
Industry (Minister for Corporate
Affairs)

Mrs Gillian SHEPHARD

Minister of State, Treasury

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Commission:

Mr Martin BANGEMANN

Vice-President

Sir Leon BRITTAN

Vice-President

Mr Antonio CARDOSO E CUNHA

Member

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REMEDIES: WATER, ENERGY, TRANSPORT AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS SECTORS

The Council reached unanimous agreement in principle on the proposal for a Directive co-ordinating the laws, regulations and administrative provisions relating to the application of Community rules on procurement procedures in the water, energy, transport and telecommunications sectors.

A general Directive opening up such procurement to competition was adopted by the Council in September 1990.

The new Directive is designed to ensure the availability at both national and Community level of swift, effective remedies under procurement procedures in these sectors.

The proposal's main provisions are for:

- remedies to be introduced by Member States, including the awarding of damages;
- an attestation procedure which purchasing entities will be able to follow;
- a corrective mechanism strengthening the Commission's scope for action in cases involving a clear and manifest infringement;
- a conciliation procedure at Community level.

Member States will have to adopt the measures needed to comply with the Directive by 1 January 1993, except for Spain, Portugal and Greece, in whose case the measures are to be adopted later.

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The proposal will be submitted to one of the Council's forthcoming meetings for formal adoption of its common position.

BAGGAGE CONTROLS IN INTRA-COMMUNITY FLIGHTS AND SEA CROSSINGS

The Council adopted, by a qualified majority, a common position on the Regulation concerning the elimination of controls and formalities applicable to the cabin and checked baggage of passengers taking an intra-Community flight and the baggage of passengers making an intra-Community sea crossing.

This measure is due to come into effect on 1 January 1993, at the same time as the completion of the internal market.

However, for the purposes of preventing criminal activities, particularly with regard to terrorism, drugs and trafficking in works of art, Member States will be able to carry out controls in connection with prohibitions or restrictions, provided that they are compatible with the three Treaties establishing the European Communities. Security checks on baggage will, of course, also be unaffected.

The Regulation contains, in particular, special provisions concerning where controls are to be carried out in the case of air transport comprising a number of successive flights, partly within the Community and partly outside it.

By 1 October 1992, the Council is to review the Regulation on the basis of a Commission progress report on the harmonization of provisions concerning the

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completion of the internal market required for the proper application of the Regulation, particularly those on the discontinuation of duty-free allowances for passengers in intra-Community transport.

SECOND GENERAL SYSTEM FOR THE RECOGNITION OF PROFESSIONAL OR VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The Council held a detailed discussion on the proposal for a Directive on a second general system for the recognition of professional or vocational education and training. That Directive is designed to supplement the first general system, which established the recognition of diplomas in the context of regulated professions requiring a university-level course of at least three years' duration (Directive 89/48/EEC).

The new Directive provides for a parallel system of recognition for regulated professions and occupations requiring either a post-secondary course of less than three years' duration ("diploma") or a course of secondary studies ("certificate").

It also provides for link-ups between the two systems in order to cover occupations coming under the first system in one Member State and under the second system in another.

Discussions in the Council confirmed some majority approaches on key points in the Directive, an outcome which should pave the way for overall agreement in the next few months.

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ANNUAL ACCOUNTS AND CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNTS OF INSURANCE UNDERTAKINGS

The Council reached agreement in principle, by a qualified majority, on the proposal for a Directive on the annual accounts and consolidated accounts of insurance undertakings.

Directive 78/660/EEC (Fourth Council Directive on the annual accounts of certain forms of company) stipulated that, pending further co-ordination, Member States would not be required to apply its provisions to banks or to insurance undertakings. Banks and other financial institutions were dealt with in Directive 85/635/EEC and so the purpose of the new Directive is to plug this last major gap in Community accounting law by laying down harmonized rules in the insurance field. The Directive is also to enable the provisions of Directive 83/349/EEC on consolidated accounts to be applied, with the necessary adjustments, to the annual accounts of insurance undertakings.

The proposal thus represents a substantial step forward in Community legislation, both on accounting and on insurance. By establishing greater transparency and comparability of accounts, the Directive will contribute significantly to the creation of a single market in insurance.

The proposal will be submitted to one of the Council's forthcoming meetings for adoption of its common position.

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INSURANCE COMMITTEE

Pending receipt of the European Parliament's Opinion, the Council discussed the proposal for a Directive setting up a single Insurance Committee. Broad agreement emerged on the setting-up of the Committee with the task of considering any matters in connection with the application of Community provisions concerning the insurance sector and in particular the Directives on direct insurance.

The Council is to examine the proposal again in the light of the European Parliament's Opinion, once delivered.

STATISTICS RELATING TO THE TRADING OF GOODS BETWEEN MEMBER STATES

The Council adopted, by a qualified majority, a common position on the Regulation introducing a permanent system for compiling statistics (INTRASTAT) following the abolition of physical borders, as from 1 January 1993, and hence of the customs base from which statistics on trade in goods are traditionally obtained.

The new system to provide statistics on trade in goods between Member States is based on the principle of gathering the necessary data directly from the consignors and consignees of such goods.

Use is to be made of methods and techniques that will produce exhaustive, reliable and up-to-date information, while cutting down formalities and reducing the burdens on businesses.

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TRANS-EUROPEAN NETWORKS

The Council again discussed the draft Resolution on a programme of action concerning major trans-European networks. As the question of financing arrangements still gave rise to difficulties, the Council decided to return to this at a future meeting.

It should be pointed out that the Council adopted a Resolution on the matter in January 1990 and in December 1990 received a communication from the Commission containing a programme for the creation of major trans-European networks.

SWEETENERS FOR USE IN FOODSTUFFS

The Council held an initial discussion on the proposal for a Directive on sweeteners for use in foodstuffs.

The purpose of the proposal is to draw up, under Article 3 of Directive 89/107/EEC on food additives authorized for use in foodstuffs intended for human consumption, a list of additives authorized for use and the conditions under which they may be used in foodstuffs.

This forms the first instalment of the comprehensive Directive called for by Directive 89/107/EEC, to be followed by other proposals to supplement and update Community legislation on additives in the context of completing the internal market.

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The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue with examination of the proposal in the light of discussions in the Community Scientific Committee and to take into account the Council's guidelines on the question of German beers and sales descriptions.

SUPPLEMENTARY PROTECTION CERTIFICATE FOR MEDICINAL PRODUCTS

The Council took note of an interim report by the Presidency on the proposal for a Regulation concerning the creation of a supplementary protection certificate for medicinal products.

The Regulation is designed to improve legal protection in the Member States for patented medicinal products, for which the present marketing authorization system in practice shortens such protection (the date of lodging the patent application being taken).

The introduction of a supplementary protection instrument taking effect immediately after expiry of the patent would place the pharmaceutical industry established in Member States in a similar situation to that obtaining in some non-Member States.

ACQUISITION AND POSSESSION OF WEAPONS

The Council finally adopted the Directive on control of the acquisition and possession of weapons.

The purpose of the Directive is to lay down rules on control within Member States with a view to the removal of police controls on the possession of weapons when crossing Community borders. Common rules are laid down at Community level, though Member States will be allowed to adopt more stringent legislation.

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Under the Directive:

- each Member State is to make the pursuit of the activity of dealer within its territory conditional upon authorization. Application will be examined on the basis of at least a check on the private and professional integrity of the dealer or, in the case of a legal person, the person who directs the undertaking;
- each dealer is to keep a register in which information concerning all firearms classified in categories A, B or C (A: prohibited to the public; B: subject to authorization; C: subject to declaration; D: unrestricted) received or disposed of by him will be recorded, including such particulars as enable the weapon to be identified, in particular its type, make, model, calibre and serial number and the names and addresses of the supplier and the person acquiring the weapon;
- Member States will allow the acquisition and possession of firearms classified in category B (requiring authorization) only by persons who have good cause and who are:
 - = 18 years old or more, except for hunting or target-shooting;
 - = mentally and physically fit to do so;
 - = not likely to be a danger to public order or to public safety;
- no-one will be able to acquire a firearm classified in category B within the territory of a Member State unless that Member State has so authorized him. No such authorization may be given to a resident of another Member State without the latter's prior agreement (which may take the form of an entry on a European firearms pass);

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- Member States are to provide for the compulsory declaration of all firearms classified in category C (subject to declaration) at present held within their territories but not previously declared within one year of the entry into force of the national provisions transposing the Directive;
- each Member State is to prohibit the handing over of firearms and ammunition within its territory, whether by a dealer or by any other person, to a person who is not resident in the Member State in question unless:
 - = the latter person has been authorized himself to effect a transfer to his country of residence;
 - = or he intends to be in possession of the firearm in the Member State of acquisition (provided that he fulfils the legal conditions for possession in that Member State);
- rules are to be laid down on formalities for the movement of weapons within the Community;
- rules will be more flexible in the case of hunters and marksmen.

DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES

The Council finally adopted the tenth and eleventh amendments to Directive 76/769/EEC on restrictions on the marketing and use of dangerous substances.

The tenth amendment prohibits, by means of negative lists:

- the use of cadmium in three areas of use: pigments, stabilizers and treatment of certain surfaces;

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- the placing on the market of finished products or components of products included in the negative lists for pigments and stabilizers if the cadmium content exceeds 0,01% by mass.

The situation is to be reassessed within three years of the Directive's implementation.

The eleventh amendment restricts the marketing and use of three substances bearing the trade names Ugilec 141, Ugilec 121 or 21 and DBBT respectively:

- in the first case, marketing and use are prohibited, though with a very limited number of exceptions;
- in the other two cases, marketing and use are prohibited entirely straight away.

STATUTE FOR A EUROPEAN COMPANY

The Council took note of progress with the two proposals for a Regulation on the Statute for a European company and a Directive complementing it with regard to the involvement of employees.

These proposals supersede the earlier 1970 and 1975 proposals and follow the memorandum submitted in July 1988.

The Presidency report showed that the two years' intensive discussions ending with the current Presidency have enabled the obstacles to the adoption of a Statute for a European company to be pinpointed and a number of them removed already by simplifying the text under discussion.

The Presidency believes that it should be possible for consideration of the amended proposals submitted by the Commission in May 1991 to be successfully completed on a time scale compatible with the completion of the internal market.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WHITE PAPER ON THE COMPLETION OF THE INTERNAL MARKET

- Commission report

On the basis of the 6th Commission report on the implementation of the White Paper on the completion of the internal market, following the practice adopted under the Italian Presidency, the Council reviewed internal market completion. It noted with satisfaction that progress had been maintained and that, in view of the decisions taken at this meeting, about 3/4 of the proposals listed in the White Paper had already been or were about to be adopted.

The incoming Netherlands Presidency stated that the completion of the single market was still and would remain a top priority in its work programme.

Members of the Council reaffirmed their commitment to do their utmost to ensure that the 1992 target was met.

The Council also took note of progress in transposing Community measures into national law, in respect of which the Commission report showed that there had been an improvement compared with the previous situation.

Members of the Council reiterated their resolve to see that the measures to be transposed were indeed implemented and to step up their efforts in this respect.

- General progress report

On the basis of the Presidency report, the Council took stock of ongoing work on matters not yet submitted to the Council for discussion.

The Council welcomed:

- the co-operation of the European Parliament, which had in particular at its June part-session delivered many Opinions enabling progress to be made on a number of important matters;
- the possibility that a number of proposals on which significant progress had been made were now very close to adoption.

REVISION OF THE ACTION PROGRAMME FOR SMEs

Under the revision of the action programme for small and medium-sized enterprises, the Council decided to release ECU 25 million in addition to the ECU 110 million already provided for under the programme.

At the Industry Council meeting on 29 April 1991, that decision had depended on the Commission providing information on activities to assist craft industry and SMEs (see press release 5812/91 (Presse 55)).

PRESS RELEASE

7141/91 (Presse 118)

1502nd Council Meeting

- TRANSPORT -

Luxembourg, 20 and 21 June 1991

President: Mr Robert GOEBBELS,
Minister for Transport
of the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg

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

Belgium:

Mr Jean-Luc DEHAENE Deputy Prime Minister and
Minister for Communications

Denmark:

Mr Kaj IKAST Minister for Transport
Mrs Anne-Birgitte LUNDHOLT Minister for Industry

Germany:

Mr Wilhelm KNITTEL State Secretary, Federal Ministry
of Transport

Greece:

Mr Aristotelis PAVLIDIS Minister for Merchant Shipping

Spain:

Mr José BORRELL Minister for Public Works and
Transport

France:

Mr Paul QUILES Minister for Infrastructure,
Housing, Transport and Space

Mr Jean-Yves LEDRIAN State Secretary for the Sea

Ireland:

Mr John P. WILSON Tanaiste and Minister for the
Marine

Mr Séamus BRENNAN Minister for Tourism, Transport
and Communications

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Italy:

Mr Carlo BERNINI

Minister for Transport

Luxembourg:

Mr Robert GOEBBELS

Minister for Transport

Netherlands:

Mrs Hanja MAIJ-WEGGEN

Minister for Transport and
Public Works

Portugal:

Mr Jorge MENDES ANTAS

State Secretary, Ministry of
Transport

United Kingdom:

Mr Malcolm RIFKIND

Secretary of State for Transport

Mr Christopher CHOPE

Minister of State, Department of
Transport, (Minister for Roads
and Traffic)

Commission:

Mr Karel VAN MIERT

Member

LAND TRANSPORT

AGREEMENT WITH YUGOSLAVIA

The Council agreed in principle on the conclusion of the Agreement between the Community and Yugoslavia in the field of transport initialled on 25 March 1991.

It also authorized the signing of that Agreement ⁽¹⁾, subject to final approval as soon as the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee had delivered their Opinions.

The purpose of the Agreement, which has been concluded for a period of 10 years, is to promote co-operation between the EEC and Yugoslavia in the field of transport, in particular with respect to transit traffic, and, to that end, to ensure the co-ordinated development of transport between and through the territory of the two contracting parties.

The Agreement provides for a cumulative increase of 5% per annum in the total number of authorizations valid for 1991 for the Member States of the Community as from 1 January 1992 ⁽²⁾.

The text of the Agreement also includes provisions to encourage rail transport and combined transport (increased co-operation between railways, inclusion of the Yugoslav railways in the Community railways computer system, better organization of combined transport, etc.).

(1) The signing will take place on Monday 24 June in Brussels.

(2) In the case of Greece, this calculation will be made on the basis of an increase of one third in the number of transit authorizations for 1991 (the number of authorizations will increase from 30 000 in 1990 to 40 000 in 1991).

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The Council also asked the Commission to submit as soon as possible proposals regarding the allocation within the Community of the additional authorizations granted under the Agreement.

- 3rd EEC-Yugoslavia Financial Protocol

The Council also authorized the signing ⁽¹⁾ of the 3rd EEC-Yugoslavia Financial Protocol, which provides for the Community funding of projects aimed at furthering Yugoslavia's economic development, in the form of European Investment Bank loans totalling ECU 730 million, over a period expiring on 30 June 1996.

Out of this ECU 730 million, ECU 580 million will be used to fund projects concerning transport infrastructures, including development of the main road and rail transit route between the Austrian border and the Greek border.

The remaining ECU 150 million will be used to fund other development projects, in particular in the industrial, environmental, telecommunications and energy sectors.

NEGOTIATIONS WITH AUSTRIA AND SWITZERLAND

The Council decided to renew the Commission's brief in respect of the negotiations with Austria and Switzerland on transit.

The brief will remain in force until the Agreement on the European Economic Area (EEA) is initialled.

(1) The signing will take place on Monday 24 June in Brussels.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE COMMUNITY RAILWAYS

The Council agreed on the substance of a draft Directive on the development of the Community railways.

The purpose of the Directive is, inter alia, to introduce greater clarity into the relationship between the railways and the State and to guarantee respect for the independence and commercial interests of railway undertakings.

It contains a series of measures to enable railway undertakings to derive the full benefit from the technical advantages of rail by making it possible for them to carry out their activities in accordance with commercial principles.

The Directive applies to railway undertakings which are or will be established in a Member State, except for railway undertakings whose activity is limited to operating urban, suburban or regional services alone.

The Directive provides for:

- reform of the financial structure of railway undertakings;
- separation of the management of railway infrastructure from the operation of transport services, with compulsory separation of the accounts and optional organic or institutional separation;
- contribution by railway undertakings and international groupings of such undertakings to the funding of the railway infrastructure used by means of the payment of a fee to the manager of the infrastructure;

- a right of access to a Member State's national railway infrastructure, in accordance with the necessary arrangements agreed with the manager of the infrastructure used in order to settle matters of regulation and safety relating to the transport services concerned mentioned below:
 - = the right for any international grouping of railway undertakings (made up of at least two railway undertakings established in different Member States) to have access to and to transit via the Member States where the railway undertakings constituting it are established, and transit rights in the other Member States for the provision of international transport services between the Member States where the undertakings constituting the grouping are established;
 - = a right of access for "private" railway undertakings covered by the Directive to the infrastructure of the whole of the Community for the purposes of operating international services for the combined carriage of goods.
- the Commission to submit a report to the Council before 1 January 1995 on the implementation of the Directive, accompanied, if necessary, by appropriate proposals on further Community action for the development of the railways, in particular with respect to the international carriage of goods.

PUBLIC SERVICE IN TRANSPORT BY RAIL, ROAD AND INLAND WATERWAY

The Council adopted an amendment to Regulation (EEC) No 1191/69 on action by Member States concerning the obligations inherent in the concept of a public service in transport by rail, road and inland waterway.

While maintaining the principle of the termination of public-service obligations laid down by the regulation submitted, the Council considered that, in certain circumstances, the public interest might warrant the maintenance of transport services even in the absence of adequate commercial profitability for the operator.

Thus the Council agreed that, in order to guarantee respect for the independence and commercial interests of transport undertakings, the competent authorities of a Member State should have the option of negotiating, within the framework of a contract, the conditions and arrangements for providing such services. Such conditions and arrangements are laid down by the Regulation.

However, the Regulation lays down that, for the purposes of supply of certain services or in the interests of certain social categories of passenger, the Member States should retain an option to maintain or impose certain public-service obligations.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A EUROPEAN COMBINED TRANSPORT NETWORK AND THE CONDITIONS
REQUIRED FOR ITS SMOOTH OPERATION

The Council took note of a progress report from the Commission on the work of the High-Level Working Group on the establishment of a European combined transport network and the conditions required for its smooth operation.

At its meeting on 30 October 1990, the Council adopted a Resolution on this subject. In that Resolution, the Council invited the Commission to set up a high-level working group and to submit a report before 1 June 1991.

The report gives an account of the work done so far and gives initial recommendations, and states the Commission's intention of submitting a general plan for combined transport to the Council before 31 December 1991.

COMMON RULES FOR THE INTERNATIONAL CARRIAGE OF PASSENGERS BY COACH AND BUS

The Council held an exchange of views on the proposal for a Regulation on common rules for the carriage of passengers by coach and bus.

With a view to implementing a judgment of the Court of Justice of 1985, the proposal is designed to amend the existing Community regulations governing occasional services, shuttle services and regular services, by applying to these types of transport the principle of freedom to provide services, thereby guaranteeing transport undertakings in all Member States access to the international passenger transport market without discrimination on grounds of nationality or place of establishment.

Following the Council's exchange of views, a general approach emerged in favour of the broad outlines of a compromise worked out by the Presidency.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its examination of this dossier in the light of the approach which had emerged.

FISCAL HARMONIZATION IN THE FIELD OF ROAD TRANSPORT

The Council took note of the progress that had been made in the discussions on fiscal harmonization in the field of road transport, with a view to the meeting of the ECOFIN Council scheduled for 24 June 1991.

In response to the instructions given by the Rome European Council on 14 and 15 December 1990, the Council must decide to adopt a coherent Community approach on the question of the taxation of road transport, to be implemented at the same time as the process of liberalization of activities in this sector.

ROADWORTHINESS TESTS FOR MOTOR VEHICLES - EXTENSION TO PRIVATE CARS

The Council adopted by qualified majority an amendment to Directive 77/143/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to roadworthiness tests for motor vehicles and their trailers, in order to extend its scope to private cars.

Pursuant to this decision, such a test is compulsory four years after the date on which the vehicle was first registered, and thereafter every two years.

The amended Directive will enter into force not later than two years after its notification.

It provides for the possibility of applying the derogations contained in Directive 77/143/EEC until 1 January 1994. However, in Member States where there is no system of vehicle testing comparable to that intended by this Directive as at 31 December 1991, the derogations may be granted until 1 January 1998.

DRIVING LICENCE

The Council reached agreement on the substance of a Directive on the driving licence, the aim of which is in particular to ensure mutual recognition throughout the Community of licences issued by a Member State whatever the State of residence of the holder ⁽¹⁾.

This directive will be adopted formally in the near future after final legal and linguistic editing of the texts.

Pursuant to this Directive, the holder of a driving licence issued by a Member State would no longer be required, when transferring his residence to another Member State, to exchange his licence for a licence of the host Member State.

The entry into force of this Directive is scheduled for 1 July 1996; on that date the first Community Directive on this subject (80/1263/EEC), which established a Community model national licence and the exchange of licences by holders transferring their place of residence or place of employment from one Member State to another, will be repealed.

(1) One delegation tabled a provisional reservation.

This new Directive provides for the adaptation of the Community model national licence established by Directive 80/1263/EEC to take account, inter alia, of the harmonization of categories and sub-categories of vehicles and to make licences more readily comprehensible both inside and outside the Community.

The Directive also lays down:

- the minimum requirements for the issue of a driving licence in order to meet road-safety requirements;
- the definition of the knowledge, skills and behaviour connected with driving motor vehicles, and the structure of the driving test based on these concepts;
- the redefinition of minimum standards of physical and mental fitness for driving such vehicles;
- specific provisions to make it easier for physically handicapped persons to drive vehicles.

Member States may continue to apply their national provisions on the withdrawal, suspension and cancellation of driving licences to all licence holders having acquired normal residence on their territory.

COMUNITY PROGRAMME ON ROAD SAFETY

The Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, adopted the following Resolution on the implementation of a Community programme on road safety:

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"THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES AND THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES, MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL,

Having regard to the European Parliament's Resolution of 13 March 1984 on the introduction of a programme of Community measures to promote road safety ⁽¹⁾ and the Resolution of the Council and of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the European Communities, meeting within the Council, of 19 December 1984 ⁽²⁾ relating in particular to 1986 as Road Safety Year in the Community;

Having regard to the European Parliament's 1987 report on Road Safety Year;

Having regard to the Commission communication to the Council of 9 January 1989 entitled "Road safety: a priority for the Community";

Whereas road traffic must be expected to increase, in particular following the completion of the internal market in 1992;

Whereas the human suffering and the social cost of road accidents that each year cause more than 50 000 deaths and more than 1 500 000 injuries are unacceptable not only from the moral and political but also from the economic and social points of view;

Whereas, in this situation, a special effort must be made to improve road safety in all sectors pertinent to the prevention of road accidents, including vehicle manufacture and equipment;

(1) OJ No C 104, 16. 4.1984, p. 38.

(2) OJ No C 341, 21.12.1984, p. 1.

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Whereas action should be taken at Community level to intensify national measures, where joint action is likely to be more effective than measures taken on an individual, unco-ordinated basis by the Member States,

REAFFIRM the importance of improving transport safety, particularly road safety;

REQUEST the Commission to draw up and implement a Community programme of practical measures designed to put into effect new common initiatives and compare existing national experience in the different fields of action and research in the campaign against road accidents and the consequences for the victims of such accidents;

REQUEST the Commission to form a high-level working party of representatives of the Governments of the Member States to define the objectives of, and the detailed arrangements for implementing, this programme, taking into account previous measures and studies as well as initiatives currently being carried out in this area;

CONSIDER that such a working party should undertake a cost-benefit analysis of the measures to be included in the programme;

REQUEST the Commission to submit a report to the Council by December 1991, accompanied, if appropriate, by initial proposals for the implementation of the programme from 1992."

COMPULSORY USE OF SAFETY BELTS IN VEHICLES OF LESS THAN 3,5 TONNES

The Council held an exchange of views on a proposal for a Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the compulsory use of safety belts in vehicles of less than 3,5 tonnes.

The aim of the proposal is to introduce in all Member States uniform rules for the compulsory use of safety belts, which should be introduced:

- for the front and rear seats of vehicles of category M1 (vehicles used for the carriage of passengers and having no more than nine seats), and
- for the front seats of vehicles of categories M2 and N1 (minibuses and lorries of up to 3,5 tonnes).

The Commission also submitted an amendment to its proposal with a view to including provisions relating to restraint systems for children. The European Parliament has not yet delivered an Opinion on this amendment.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its examination of the subject on the basis of the progress made during the discussion, and in the light of the Opinion of the European Parliament.

LIBERALIZATION OF CABOTAGE ON INLAND WATERWAYS

The Council reached a very broad agreement on an outline compromise enabling adoption in the near future of a Regulation laying down the conditions under which non-resident carriers may transport goods or passengers by inland waterway within a Member State (cabotage).

The compromise provides that cabotage on the Community's inland waterways will be liberalized as from 1 January 1993.

The liberalization of cabotage concerns both goods and passenger transport.

However, the following derogations are provided for:

- the Regulation will apply only from 1 January 1995 to transport operations between ports situated within the Länder of Brandenburg, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt and Thuringia, as well as Berlin;
- until 1 January 1995, France will be able to restrict cabotage to two trips on the direct return journey following on from an international goods or passenger transport operation;
- until 1 January 1995, the Federal Republic of Germany will be able to restrict cabotage to one single trip on the direct return journey following on from an international goods or passenger transport operation.

It has been laid down that the Member States will not introduce new restrictions on the freedom actually achieved on the entry into force of the Regulation in respect of freedom to provide services.

The Commission also undertook to examine from the standpoint of Community legislation the position regarding the "tour de rôle" system in force in Belgium, France and the Netherlands, and the system of compulsory tariffs in force in Germany. It will submit a report on these matters, together with proposals if appropriate, by 1 January 1993.

SHIPPING

LIBERALIZATION OF MARITIME CABOTAGE

The Council held a detailed policy debate on a draft Presidency compromise concerning a Regulation applying the principle of freedom to provide services to maritime transport with Member States (cabotage).

It instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its examination of this dossier in the light of the debate.

LORAN-C RADIO-NAVIGATION SYSTEM

Pending the Opinion of the European Parliament, the Council held an exchange of views on the proposal for a Decision on the LORAN-C radio-navigation system. (1)

The aim of the proposal is to encourage Member States to participate in regional agreements to establish a LORAN-C radio-navigation system covering the whole of

(1) The LORAN-C system is a land-based radio hyperbolic position-fixing system. The system is based upon measurements in the difference in time of arrival of pulses of radio frequency energy radiated by a chain of synchronized transmitters separated by a distance of a hundred miles.

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Western, Southern and Central Europe which may be used by ships, aircraft and land vehicles, on the basis of stations provided free of charge by the U.S. Coastguard and those installed in France.

AIR TRANSPORT

HARMONIZATION OF TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES APPLICABLE TO CIVIL

AIRCRAFT

Pending the Opinion of the European Parliament, the Council held a policy debate on a draft Regulation on the harmonization of technical requirements and procedures applicable to civil aircraft, drawn up on the basis of a Commission proposal.

The aim of the proposal is to harmonize the technical rules and administrative procedures relating to airworthiness, operational approval and maintenance of aircraft, engines and other aircraft equipment through the incorporation into Community legislation of the Joint Requirements (JARs) developed by the Joint Aviation Authorities (JAA) ⁽¹⁾.

This proposal is one of the accompanying measures announced by the Commission in June 1989 when it submitted its communication on the second phase of liberalization of air transport in the Community.

(1) An organization set up under the auspices of the European Civil Aviation Conference (ECAC).

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The Council discussed, inter alia, the machinery for incorporating the JARs into Community legislation (common rules and procedures) and the type of committee which should assist the Commission for the purposes of amending the existing JARs.

At the end of the discussion, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its examination of this dossier in the light of the European Parliament's Opinion and the Council's discussion.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Facilitation of physical inspections and administrative formalities in respect of the carriage of goods

The Council adopted a Directive amending Directive 83/643/EEC of 1 December 1983 on the facilitation of physical inspections and administrative formalities in respect of the carriage of goods between Member States. The purpose of the amendment is to see that:

- the Member States take the necessary measures to ensure that, in the course of a transport operation, the various inspections and formalities are carried out without delay, as quickly as possible and
 - = as far as possible, in the same place and preferably at the place of departure and/or destination of the goods;
 - = as regards inspections, by means of spot checks, except in duly justified circumstances;
- the minimum period of opening of the most important inspection offices within the Member States should be increased, in order to facilitate the carrying out of the inspections and formalities at the place of departure or destination of the goods.

EEC-Switzerland Agreement (insurance)

The Council adopted a Decision, a Directive and a Regulation concerning an Agreement between the Swiss Confederation and the European Economic Community on direct insurance other than life assurance.

An overall agreement on the text of the Agreement and on the three instruments was reached in September 1989 and the Agreement was signed, subject to approval, in Luxembourg on 10 October 1989.

Approximation of laws relating to machinery

Following the co-operation procedure with the European Parliament, the Council adopted a Directive amending Directive 89/392/EEC concerning machinery with a mobility or lifting function.

The new Directive starts out from the principle that machinery in respect of which specific risks exist due either to their mobility or to their capability of lifting loads, or to both these factors together, must comply both with the general health and safety requirements prescribed by Directive 89/392/EEC and with the health and safety requirements associated with these specific risks.

Transitional arrangements have been provided for enabling Member States to authorize the placing on the market and putting into service of machinery manufactured in accordance with the national rules in force on 31 December 1992.

Vocational training of customs officials (MATTHAEUS Programme)

The Council adopted a Decision on the adoption of a programme of Community action on the subject of the vocational training of customs officials (MATTHAEUS Programme).

This Decision forms part of the action undertaken to strengthen the customs union in the context of the establishment of the internal market. The MATTHAEUS programme aims to ensure, inter alia by means of exchanges of customs officials and training seminars, that customs legislation is uniformly and effectively applied at the Community's external border.

The programme is a follow-up to the pilot scheme of exchanges of officials implemented by the Commission in 1990, in which 578 officials took part.

The MATTHAEUS Programme will enable 1 200 officials to take part in an exchange by the end of 1993 and will constitute an initial step towards the creation of a European customs structure within which officials would be interchangeable.

Fisheries

The Council adopted a Decision authorizing the Portuguese Republic to extend until 7 March 1992 the Agreement on mutual fishery relations with the Republic of South Africa.

Appointments

The Council

- appointed members and alternate members of the Advisory Committee on Education and Training in the Field of Architecture and
 - replaced:
 - = an alternate member of the Advisory Committee on Nursing Training;
 - = a member and two alternate members of the Advisory Committee on the Training of Dental Practitioners.
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COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

1503rd meeting of the Council

- Economic and Financial Affairs-

Luxembourg, 24 June 1991

President: Mr. Jean-Claude Juncker
Minister for Finance, Luxembourg

The official press release was unavailable. A summary of the meeting has been reproduced from the Bulletin of the European Communities, No. 6-1991.

1503rd meeting

1.7.13. Economic and financial affairs
(Luxembourg, 24 June).

- **Previous meeting:** point 1.7.4 of this Bulletin

President: Mr Juncker, Luxembourg Minister for Finance.

Commission: Mrs Scrivener.

Main item

Abolition of fiscal frontiers: conclusions adopted (→ point 1.2.5).

Removal of tax frontiers

1.2.5. Council agreement on VAT and excise duties.

• References:

Council conclusions on the abolition of tax frontiers: Bull. EC II-1989, point 2.1.27

Conclusions of the Rome II European Council: Bull. EC 12-1990, point I.11

Council conclusions on the new excise-duty arrangements: Bull. EC 12-1990, point 1.3.5

Council conclusions on the transitional VAT arrangements: Bull. EC 3-1991, point 1.2.4

Agreement reached by the Council on 24 June. The Council arrived at a comprehensive and unanimous political agreement on VAT and excise duties. This agreement covers both the VAT and excise-duty arrangements after 1992, when there will no longer be frontier checks, and the approximation of indirect tax rates (VAT and a number of excise duties). It will have to be followed up by the Council's adoption of the appropriate legal instruments over the next few months.

VAT

Standard rate of VAT

Unanimous agreement was reached on the following Council conclusion:

'The Member States declare that, as from 1 January 1993, they will apply a standard rate of VAT not lower than 15%.'

The question of the legal implementation of this political agreement is the subject of two statements annexed to the Council minutes.

As a result of this agreement, all higher rates of VAT, which currently exist in a number of Member States, will be abolished as from 1 January 1993.

Reduced rates, extra-low rates and zero-rating

Alongside the standard rate of VAT, Member States will have the option of applying one or two reduced rates, not lower than 5%, the scope of which will be defined on the basis of a list of goods and services to which a reduced rate can be applied.

Under the transitional arrangements Member States will have the option of retaining

their existing extra-low rates and zero-rating.

Changeover from the transitional to the definitive arrangements

In accordance with the objective set in Article 4 of the first VAT Directive of 11 April 1967, it has been agreed to replace the transitional arrangements, in principle on 1 January 1997, by definitive tax arrangements based on the principle of taxation in the country of origin.

Accordingly, before 31 December 1994, the Commission will submit to the Council a report on the operation of the transitional arrangements together with proposals on the definitive arrangements.

Excise duties

The agreement of 24 June supplements the measures already adopted regarding the arrangements for the movement and control of products subject to excise duties in the large frontier-free market.

On the question of the approximation of rates, the Council has agreed on a number of minimum rates for:

(i) petroleum products (leaded petrol, unleaded petrol, road diesel oil, heating gas oil, heavy fuel oil);

(ii) alcoholic beverages (beer, still and sparkling wines subject to a study to be carried out by the Commission on the arrangements for the free movement of wine after 1992), except for spirits and intermediate products. Special measures have been adopted to help small wine-producers, small breweries and small distilleries;

(iii) manufactured tobacco (cigarettes).

The agreement reached on diesel fuel goes a long way towards carrying out the European Council's mandate to prevent distortion of competition in the road haulage industry.

Finally, although not forming an integral part of the approximation arrangements applicable as from 1 January 1993, the tar-

get rates proposed by the Commission will remain reference rates, with the Member States undertaking to use these rates as a basis each time they amend their rates.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

7142/91 (Presse 119)

1504th Council meeting
- SOCIAL AFFAIRS/YOUTH -
Luxembourg, 25 and 26 June 1991

Presidents: Mr Jean-Claude JUNCKER
Minister for Labour
of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg
(Social affairs)
Mrs Mady DELVAUX-STEHRÉS
State-Secretary for Youth
of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg
(Youth)

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SOCIAL POLICY

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

Belgium:

Mr Luc VAN DEN BRANDE Minister for Employment and Labour

Denmark:

Mr Knud E. KIRKEGAARD Minister for Labour

Mr Henrik HASSENKAM State Secretary, Ministry of Labour

Germany:

Mr Horst GUENTHER Parliamentary State Secretary to the Federal
Minister for Labour and Social Affairs

Mr Werner CHORY State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Women

Greece:

Mr Jaris CARABARBOUNIS Deputy Permanent Representative

Spain:

Mr Luis MARTINEZ NOVAL Minister for Labour

France:

Mrs Martine AUBRY Minister for Labour, Employment and Vocational
Training

Mr Laurent CATHALA State Secretary, Ministry of Social Security, with
responsibility for the family and handicapped
persons

Ireland:

Mr Bertie AHERN Minister for Labour

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SOCIAL POLICY

FORM OF PROOF OF AN EMPLOYMENT RELATIONSHIP

The Council, without prejudice to the Opinion of the European Parliament, held a preliminary policy debate on the proposal for a Directive on a form of proof of an employment relationship and was generally in favour of this proposal.

The purpose of this proposal is to provide all employees not already covered by a written contract of employment or a letter of appointment with a written declaration containing information on their working conditions.

The Council decided that it would not act on this item until it had received the Opinion of the European Parliament.

PROTECTION OF PREGNANT WOMEN

The Council discussed certain aspects of the proposal for a Directive concerning the protection at work of pregnant women.

This proposal, which is a follow-up to the action programme for implementation of the Community Charter of basic social rights for workers, has the aim of protecting the health and safety of female workers, while safeguarding the principle of equal opportunities for men and women.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue examining this proposal.

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SOCIAL POLICY

ORGANIZATION OF WORKING TIME

The Council decided that it would examine the proposal for a Directive on the organization of working time at a forthcoming meeting.

The Permanent Representatives Committee would continue examining this proposal with a view to submitting it for Council agreement.

EUROPEAN YEAR OF SAFETY, HYGIENE AND HEALTH PROTECTION AT WORK (1992)

The Council recorded its agreement to an action programme for the European Year of Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work (1992).

This programme will be formally adopted in the near future following finalization of the texts.

The amount deemed necessary to carry it out has been fixed at ECU 12 million ⁽¹⁾ and the programme provides for co-ordinated activities to be undertaken by the Community, the Member States and the social partners in order to:

- bring out, in the context of the internal market, the importance of the social and economic aspects of problems relating to safety, hygiene and health at work;

(1) The European Year will begin on 1 March 1992 and will end on 28 February 1993.

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- make young people who are about to embark on working life, workers and employers more aware of the safety, hygiene and health risks at the workplace and of what can be done about them.

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MEDICAL TREATMENT ON BOARD VESSELS

The Council recorded its agreement to a common position on the proposal for a Directive on medical treatment on board vessels.

This common position will be formally adopted in the near future following finalization of the texts.

The Directive, which is a comprehensive response to the need to provide measures to protect crew members from ill effects to their health arising from accidents or illnesses occurring on board, has the following principal objectives:

- to encourage the harmonization of the medical equipment and medicines in the medicine chests of merchant ships flying the flag of a Member State, in a way which takes account of the possibility of receiving medical assistance by radio;
- to provide for and ensure the presence on board of specific compulsory medical supplies which must be carried on such vessels when they have dangerous substances loaded on board;
- to promote the introduction of a system providing medical data on seamen.

The approved text requires the presence of a doctor on board any vessel which has a crew of a hundred or more workers and is making an international trip lasting more than three days.

The Member States will have to comply with the provisions of the Directive by 31 December 1995.

SOCIAL POLICY

NON-STANDARD EMPLOYMENT

Following completion of the co-operation procedure, the Council adopted the Directive, based on Article 118a of the Treaty, supplementing the measures to encourage improvements in the safety and health at work of workers with a fixed-duration employment relationship or a temporary employment relationship.

The purpose of the Directive is to ensure that workers with a fixed-duration employment contract and temporary workers are afforded, as regards safety and health at work, the same level of protection as that of other workers in the user undertaking and/or establishment.

The Directive will apply to:

- (a) employment relationships governed by a fixed-duration contract of employment concluded directly between the employer and the worker, where the end of the employment contract is established by objective conditions such as: reaching a specific date, completing a specific task or the occurrence of a specific event;
- (b) temporary employment relationships between a temporary employment business which is the employer and the worker, where the latter is assigned to work for and under the control of an undertaking and/or establishment making use of his services.

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SOCIAL POLICY

ACTION PROGRAMME FOR THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING OF YOUNG PEOPLE AND THEIR
PREPARATION FOR ADULT AND WORKING LIFE (PETRA)

The Council recorded its agreement to the Decision on the second stage of an action programme for the vocational training of young people and their preparation for adult and working life (PETRA).

This Decision will be formally adopted in the near future following finalization of the texts.

The amount deemed necessary for carrying out this programme, which will last for three years from 1 January 1992, was fixed at ECU 177,4 million, including ECU 29 million for 1992. It is intended for young people less than 28 years of age who are in one of the following categories:

- young people engaged in initial training;
- young workers who have a job or are on the labour market and already have initial vocational training or practical working experience;
- young people who have finished initial vocational training and are involved in further training to supplement the former.

30% of the appropriations available are to be used in the first instance for young people in the last two categories.

The PETRA programme will support and supplement, through measures at Community level, the policies and activities of the Member States aimed at ensuring that

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all young people in the Community who so wish receive at least one or, if possible, two more years' initial vocational training in addition to their full-time compulsory education.

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The programme is also intended to:

- supplement and back-up the policies of the Member States in order to raise the standards and quality of initial vocational training, diversify vocational training provision so as to offer choice for young people of different levels of ability, and enhance the capacity of vocational training systems to adapt to rapid economic, technological and social change;
- add a Community dimension to vocational qualifications, in order to contribute to the comparability of these qualifications between the Member States;
- stimulate and support practical co-operation and the development of training partnerships transnationally between training providers, industry and other promoters of local and regional development;
- develop opportunities for young people to benefit from periods of vocational training or work experience in other Member States;
- promote Community co-operation in the field of vocational information and guidance.

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OTHER DECISIONS IN THE SOCIAL FIELD

Freedom of movement of workers between Spain and Portugal and the other Member States

The Council adopted a Regulation on the transitional period for the freedom of movement of workers between Spain and Portugal and the other Member States.

Pursuant to this Regulation, the end of the transitional period is fixed, except in the case of Luxembourg, at 31 December 1991 instead of 31 December 1992 as stated in the Acts of Accession.

For Luxembourg, the measures derogating from freedom of movement for workers will cease to apply at 31 December 1992, instead of 31 December 1995.

When adopting this Regulation, the Council took the view in the light of a Commission report that establishing freedom of movement for workers in the Member States was not likely to result in any deterioration of the various national labour markets.

Directive on asbestos

Following completion of the procedure for co-operation with the European Parliament, the Council adopted a Directive on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to asbestos at work (second individual Directive within the meaning of Article 8 of Directive 80/1107/EEC).

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The instrument adopted, which amends Directive 83/477/EEC, provides for better protection of workers against the serious risks arising from exposure to asbestos fibres at work, and in particular more stringent action levels and limit values (chrysotile: 0,20 and 0,60 fibres per cm³ respectively; other forms of asbestos, 0,10 and 0,30 fibres per cm³ respectively).

It should be noted that with a view to improving the protection of workers, a review of the whole of Directive 83/477/EEC is planned before 1 January 1996.

Social security of migrant workers

The Council adopted a Regulation amending Regulation No 1408/71 on the application of social security schemes to employed persons, to self-employed persons and to members of their families moving within the Community.

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YOUTH

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

Belgium:

Mr Valmy FEAUX	Chairman of the Executive of the French-speaking Community and Minister with responsibility for Culture
Mr Patrick DEWAELE	Minister for Culture (Flemish Community)
Mr Bernd GENTGES	Minister for Culture (German-speaking Community)

Denmark:

Mrs Grethe ROSTBØLL	Minister for Cultural Affairs
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Germany:

Mr Peter HINTZE	Parliamentary State Secretary to the Federal Minister for Women and Youth
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Greece:

Mr Michalis SIOPSIS	Secretary-General for Youth
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Spain:

Mrs Maltilde FERNANDEZ	Minister for Social Affairs
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France:

Mrs Frédérique BREDIN	Minister for Youth and Sport
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YOUTH

Ireland:

Mr Frank FAHEY

Minister of State at the Department of
Education with special responsibility for
youth and sport

Italy:

Mr E. PIETROMARCHI

Deputy Permanent Representative

Luxembourg:

Mrs Mady DELVAUX-STEHRÉS

State Secretary for Health, Social
Security, Physical Education, Sport and
Youth

Netherlands:

Mrs Hedwig D'ANCONA

Minister for Welfare, Health and Cultural
Affairs

Portugal

Mr Antonio FERNANDO COUTO DOS SANTOS

Minister attached to the Prime Minister,
with responsibility for youth

United Kingdom

Lord ULLSWATER

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State,
Department of Employment

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Commission:

Mr Vasso PAPANDEOU

Member

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YOUTH

YOUTH FOR EUROPE PROGRAMME

The Council recorded its agreement to a proposal launching the second phase of the "Youth for Europe" programme, to promote youth exchanges and mobility in the Community.

This programme will be formally adopted in the near future following finalization of the texts.

The amount deemed necessary for Community financing of this new phase is ECU 25 million for the whole duration of the programme (from 1 January 1992 to 31 December 1994), including ECU 10 million for 1992.

The programme provides for direct support ⁽¹⁾ for project-centred youth exchanges and mobility on the basis of joint projects within the Community involving groups of young people between the ages of 15 and 25 years from two or more Member States.

Aid will also be allocated on an experimental basis to help transnational projects to enable young people to participate in voluntary service activities in the educational, social, cultural or environmental-protection fields.

The programme further provides for the continuation of Community aid to promote short study visits, further training and pilot projects for youth workers.

(1) Financial aid may not exceed 50% of the total expenditure involved (travel and programme). However, in the case of disadvantaged young people, such aid may be as much as 75% of the total amount.

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INFORMATION FOR YOUNG EUROPEANS

The Council took note of a Commission communication concerning information for young Europeans and the latter's intention of submitting a programme of information for young people at Community level.

It instructed the ad hoc Working Party on Youth to examine the Commission communication.

It requested the Commission to take account of comments made by the Ministers and the delegations within the ad hoc Working Party on Youth when drawing up its programme of information for young people.

PRIORITY ACTIONS IN THE YOUTH FIELD

The Council and the Ministers meeting within the Council adopted a Resolution aimed at developing four priority actions in the youth field, concerning:

- intensification of co-operation between structures responsible for youth work;
- information for young people;
- stimulating the initiative and creativity of young people;
- co-operation on the training of youth workers, particularly with regard to the European dimension.

The text of the Resolution is given below:

YOUTH

RESOLUTION
OF THE COUNCIL AND OF THE MINISTERS
MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL

on priority actions in the youth field

of 26 June 1991

THE COUNCIL AND THE MINISTERS MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL:

NOTE the Commission memorandum entitled "Young people in the European Community" and stress the importance of action which the Community already undertakes in favour of young people;

EXPRESS their intention, in the face of the challenge arising from the completion of the European single market, to intensify their co-operation in the field of youth, so as to reinforce young people's consciousness of belonging to Europe and take account of their wish to play a positive role in the building of the European Community;

EXPRESS their satisfaction with what has been done to achieve mobility for young people under the "Youth for Europe" programme and expect to receive the results of assessment of the programme at European level. They further affirm the wish, on the basis of experience acquired in the framework of the programme, to intensify co-operation on exchanges and mobility of young people with the EFTA countries, with the Central and Eastern European countries and in the context of the North-South dialogue;

AGREE to develop four priority actions in the youth field, concerning:

- intensification of co-operation between structures responsible for youth work,
- information for young people,
- stimulating the initiative and creativity of young people,
- co-operation on the training of youth workers, particularly with regard to the European dimension.

Details of these actions are set out in the Annex. They should be applied by the Member States taking into account their structures in the youth sector and should benefit from the rich diversity of their traditions and experience in this field. The Commission is invited to support these actions with due respect for subsidiarity of action at Community level and within the limits of the powers, means and resources at its disposal;

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EMPHASIZE the need to strengthen co-operation with the Council of Europe in the field of youth;

EMPHASIZE the importance of active participation by young people and youth organizations in actions which concern them and recognize the need to enable them to co-operate at European level. They invite the Commission to examine the best means of extending such co-operation and agree to maintain appropriate contacts with youth organizations at European level and with the Youth Forum;

INSTRUCT the ad hoc Working Party on Youth to follow the work dealing with the priority actions and invite the Commission to submit biennial reports to the Council and the Ministers and to the European Parliament from 1 January 1994, on the results and on possible ways and means to achieve further development.



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YOUTH

ANNEX

PRIORITY ACTIONS IN THE FIELD OF YOUTH

1. Intensification of co-operation between structures responsible for youth work in the Member States

The Council and the Ministers agree to intensify and strengthen co-operation between structures responsible for youth work in the Member States. They call on the Commission, taking account of existing programmes, to promote measures to that end, in particular:

- study visits by youth leaders (at local, regional and national level);
- conferences permitting regular comparison of experience and exchanges of ideas between youth leaders;
- joint studies and research, by Member States and at Community level on the situation of young people in the European Community, on the impact on young people of completion of the internal market, and on the priority actions determined by this Resolution;
- continuation of the co-ordination of national youth cards, along the lines set out in their conclusions of 6 October 1989 on youth cards in Europe.

II. Information for young people

The Council and the Ministers recognize the importance of this area and take note of the Commission communication. They instruct the ad hoc Working Party on Youth to examine that communication in the overall context of information provision for young people and of the various relevant initiatives. They invite the Commission, if appropriate on the basis of those discussions, to submit a Community action programme on information for young people. In this context, they take note of the work of the EURO-YOUTH Group.

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III. Stimulating the initiative and the creativity of young people

Beyond the field of specific vocational training for the young, the Council and the Ministers agree on the value of supporting, on an experimental basis, pilot projects by young people, e.g. cultural and social projects, and projects to protect the environment or preserve the heritage, as well as educational projects outside the scope of formal education and those aimed at strengthening the economic, social and cultural cohesion of local communities. They call on the Commission to disseminate and support at European level innovatory projects which involve interesting methods, are managed by young people themselves and are of importance to young people in other Member States.

IV. Co-operation on the training of youth workers, particularly with regard to the European dimension

The Council and the Ministers wish to promote a European dimension in the training of youth workers. They call on the Commission to provide support for action by the Member States in their initiatives geared to:

- activities (including studies, seminars, study visits) which permit exchanges of experience and information between those responsible for training youth workers in different Member States and/or make it easier for youth workers to use their qualifications in other Member States;
- setting up and developing transnational and European links between institutions and bodies involved in the initial or further training of youth workers.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

7144/91 (Presse 121)

1505th Council meeting
- Agriculture -
Luxembourg, 26 and 27 June 1991

President:

Mr René STEICHEN

Minister for Agriculture
of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

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

Belgium:

Mr Lode WILLEMS Deputy Permanent Representative
Mr Joseph CARMELIET Director-General, Ministry for
Agriculture

Denmark:

Mr Laurits TOERNAES Minister for Agriculture
Mr Nils BERNSTEIN State Secretary 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 Michaelis PAPACONSTANTINOU Minister for Agriculture

Spain:

Mr José BARREIRO Secretary-General for Agricultural
Production and Markets,
Ministry for Agriculture

France:

Mr Claude CHEREAU Director-General,
Ministry for Agriculture

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Ireland:

Mr Michael O'KENNEDY Minister for Agriculture and Food

Italy:

Mr Maurizio NOCI State Secretary for Agriculture

Luxembourg:

Mr René STEICHEN Minister for Agriculture and
Viticulture

Netherlands:

Mr Piet BUKMAN Minister for Agriculture,
Nature Conservation and Fisheries

Mr Gingis GABOR State Secretary for Agriculture

Portugal:

Mr Arlindo CUNHA Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries
and Food

United Kingdom:

Mr David CURRY Parliamentary Secretary, Agriculture

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Commission:

Mr Ray MAC SHARRY Member

Much of this meeting was devoted to an examination of proposals in the veterinary field, several of which come within the framework of the implementation of the White Paper on the completion of the internal market.

The agreements reached at the meeting bring to 13 the number of Directives in this area adopted during the first six months of 1991, which is a noteworthy contribution towards the completion of the internal market by 1993.

BIVALVE MOLLUSCS (health rules)

The Council agreed on the Directive adopting the health rules governing the production and marketing of live bivalve molluscs (mussels, oysters, clams, etc...) intended for direct human consumption or processing before consumption.

These products require special attention owing to their particular method of production and consumption.

The Directive lays down the obligations to be met by both professionals and the competent authorities and prescribes the measures to be taken to ensure that the end product is fit for human consumption. This means, in particular, surveillance of the waters in which molluscs are found and the obligation to purify, recultivate or process them.

The Directive covers marketing throughout the Community and fixes a procedure designed to ensure that third country products are produced and marketed under conditions equivalent to those applied in the Community.

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The rules and principles applying to veterinary checks on trade between Member States or on imports from third countries are applicable to this sector.

The Member States must comply with this Directive by no later than 1 January 1993. In certain special circumstances, however, limited temporary derogations are laid down for establishments unable to comply with all the rules as at the prescribed date.

The Directive will be formally adopted at a later Council meeting, following finalization of the texts.

PRODUCTION AND MARKETING OF FISHERY PRODUCTS

The Council agreed on the Directive laying down uniform health rules governing the production and marketing of fishery products with a view to public health protection.

These rules are to be complied with by both industrial operators and traders during the various production and marketing stages and will permit the free movement of all fishery products.

The competent authority will approve and draw up a list of establishments fulfilling the provisions of this Directive.

Community control measures will be taken to ensure uniform application in all Member States of the standards laid down in this Directive.

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In order to ensure harmonious functioning of the single market, the measures will need to be applied in the same way to both domestic market and intra-Community trade.

A procedure is laid down for ensuring that third country products are produced under the same conditions as those applied in the Community.

The control rules and principles adopted by the Council as part of the decision to abolish veterinary checks at borders between the Member States, together with the rules on veterinary checks to be complied with for imports from third countries, are applicable to these products.

The Council will formally adopt the Directive once the texts have been finalized.

FRESH POULTRYMEAT (HEALTH CONDITIONS)

The Council adopted the Directive harmonizing the health rules governing intra-Community trade in and third country exports of fresh poultrymeat. This Directive also lays down certain requirements for preventing the spread of major contagious diseases, in particular Newcastle disease.

In the case of imports from third countries, poultrymeat must, in particular, come from third countries, or parts of third countries, featuring on a list drawn up by the Commission on the basis of certain health criteria and must be both

certified free of fowl influenza and Newcastle disease and accompanied by a certificate drawn up by an official veterinarian in the exporting third country.

All the provisions applicable to trade in live poultry and poultrymeat will enter into force on 1 May 1992.

VETERINARY CHECKS FOR ANIMALS FROM THIRD COUNTRIES

The Council agreed on the Directive laying down the principles relating to the organization of veterinary checks for animals introduced into the Community from third countries.

Adoption of this Directive follows the Council's undertaking, entered into at the time of adoption of Directive 90/425/EEC on the abolition at borders of veterinary and zootechnical checks applicable in intra-Community trade in certain live animals with a view to the completion of the internal market, to lay down the general principles for imports of such animals from third countries.

The Directive adopts the following general principles:

- documentary check on introduction into Community territory;
- identity check and physical check at an inspection post close to the point of entry;
- after these checks, trade in these animals will be subject to the same arrangements as trade in Community animals.

General rules are also laid down for, in particular, the approval and control of inspection posts, quarantining, the organization of follow-up checks and the settlement of disputes.

Community financial participation may be granted in accordance with the procedure laid down in Council Directive 90/424/EEC on expenditure in the veterinary field.

Both the introduction of uniform veterinary checking arrangements for all imports from third countries (animals and products of animal origin) and the abolition of checks at intra-Community borders will apply from 1 July 1992.

The Directive will be formally adopted once the texts have been finalized.

- HEALTH RULES FOR THE PRODUCTION AND MARKETING OF FRESH MEAT

- DEROGATIONS FROM THESE SPECIFIC COMMUNITY HEALTH RULES

The Council reached overall agreement on the above two Directives.

The aim of the first is to establish harmonized health rules for the production and marketing of all fresh meat produced in the Community by extending generally to production reserved for national markets the principles governing

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intra-Community trade (Directive 64/433/EEC). Meat health conditions would thus be made uniform at all slaughterhouses and cutting establishments.

This Directive also lays down a procedure for approving slaughterhouses and cutting establishments, together with a Community inspection procedure for ensuring that the prescribed approval conditions are met.

In the case of low-capacity establishments, however, approval may be on the basis of simplified structural and infrastructural criteria, with due regard for the hygiene rules laid down in the Directive.

The above measures will apply from 1 July 1992.

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The second Directive lays down the general and particular conditions applicable to the implementation of limited temporary derogations from specific Community health rules.

Certain establishments operating prior to 1 January 1992 may experience difficulty in complying with the deadline for these health rule requirements. Arrangements are therefore prescribed enabling the Commission, on a justified request from a Member State, to grant limited temporary derogations to take account of certain local situations or to prevent the sudden closure of certain establishments.

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The deadline for these derogations is set for 1 January 1996.

Both Directives will be formally adopted at a later Council meeting, following finalization of the texts.

PLANT-PROTECTION PRODUCTS

The Council agreed on the Directive on the marketing of EEC-accepted plant-protection products.

This Directive, which is included in the Commission's White Paper on the completion of the internal market, sets out to establish a harmonized procedure for the authorization of plant-protection products to be used for the protection of plants and plant products against harmful organisms and weeds.

It is therefore planned to:

- establish a Community positive list of active substances the use of which entails no risk to human and animal health or the environment;
- make the Member States competent in the first instance for the local acceptability, harmlessness, effectiveness and environmental effect of preparations containing the active substances on the Community list;
- establish the principle of the mutual recognition of national plant-protection product authorizations in order to ensure the free movement of such products and of the plants or plant products treated.

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The Directive will be implemented within 2 years of the date of notification.

Formal adoption will take place once the text has been finalized.

QUALITY OF FOODSTUFFS

Pending the Opinion of the European Parliament, the Council conducted an initial discussion of the Commission proposals on the quality of foodstuffs.

These proposals follow on from the favourable reaction expressed at two informal meetings of Ministers for Agriculture in 1989 to initiatives to be taken in the field of quality policy. Their aim is to:

- promote the quality of foodstuffs and
- establish a framework for a system of protection for agricultural products and foodstuffs having a geographical designation.

The Council dealt more particularly at this point with three basic issues, viz:

- the definition of the concept of specific features,
- the reservation of proprietary sales names and
- the types of geographical names to be protected.

It went on to instruct the SCA to continue discussing the guidelines emerging from today's talks.

URUGUAY ROUND - AGRICULTURE

The Council heard a statement from the Commission summarizing the situation with the Uruguay Round.

Mr Mac Sharry informed the Council that the technical discussions having commenced at Geneva in February were now completed and that the Director-General of GATT, Mr Dunkel, had submitted a new working paper on 24 June designed to speed up the negotiations which would be taking place over the coming weeks.

He re-affirmed the Commission's intention to continue to play an active role in the discussions on the basis of the Community offer.

The Council confirmed its determination to help seek a solution based on an overall approach consistent with the basic principles of the Common Agricultural Policy.

This item will again be on the agenda for the next Council meeting, the Council having expressed its wish to be associated in full with the development of the negotiations.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Other Decisions regarding agricultural policy

The Council adopted

- the Directive amending Directive 64/432/EEC as regards the diagnosis of bovine brucellosis and enzootic bovine leukosis.

In the light of new scientific knowledge and evolving techniques, this Directive is designed to permit the use of new tests (ELISA) for diagnosing and combating bovine brucellosis and the adjustment of detection tests for enzootic bovine leukosis.

- Regulations opening and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for the period 1 July 1991 to 30 June 1992, at a 4% duty rate, for:

= 42 600 head of heifers and cows other than those intended for slaughter, of certain mountain breeds falling under sub-headings ex 01.02 90 10, 01.02 90 31 and 01.02 90 33 of the Combined Nomenclature;

= 5 000 head of bulls, cows and heifers, other than those intended for slaughter, of certain alpine breeds falling under sub-headings ex 01.02 90 10, 01.02 90 31, 01.02 90 33 and 01.02 90 35 of the Combined Nomenclature.

- the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 985/68 laying down general rules for intervention on the market in butter and cream. This amendment covers a change regarding the classification of top quality butter in Denmark;

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- the Decision on the conclusion of the Wheat Trade Convention, 1986, and the Food Aid Convention, 1986, constituting the International Wheat Agreement, 1986, as extended until 30 June 1993.

Measures concerning the Canary Islands, Madeira and the Azores

The Council adopted

- the Regulation on the application of the provisions of Community law to the Canary Islands;
- the Decision setting up a programme of options specific to the remote and insular nature of the Canary Islands (POSEICAN);
- the Decision setting up a programme of options specific to the remote and insular nature of Madeira and the Azores (POSEIMA).

All of these acts are intended to resolve the specific problems arising in the case of these outlying Community regions.

1. The basic aim of the Canaries Regulation is to apply the Community provisions to the Islands, in respect of which derogations had been provided for in the Act of Accession, while introducing certain adjustments to take account of their special features.

As regards agriculture, the CAP will apply to the Canaries under conditions broadly similar to those provided for in the case of mainland Spain, with due regard for the special features of Canary Island products and provision for special supply arrangements. The provisions of the Act of Accession relating to bananas remain applicable.

The common fisheries policy will also apply, with certain special provisions and accompanying structural measures.

In the tax field, the Canaries will remain outside the scope of the common VAT arrangements and Spain is authorized not to apply to the Canaries the current Community Directives on excise.

The Spanish authorities are also authorized to submit products introduced into or made in the Canary Islands to a special tax, known as APIM, as laid down in the Regulation. The level of these taxes will be gradually reduced from 1996 until the tax is abolished at the end of the year 2000. During this period, total or partial exemptions may be granted in the case of local production, in accordance with a set procedure and timetable.

In the field of trade policy, the Common Customs Tariff will apply in full to the Canary Islands from 31 December 2000. Beyond that date, exceptions will still be possible in the case of certain sensitive products.

The CCT rates will be introduced gradually over a transitional period ending on 31 December 2000; 30% up until 31 December 1992 and with an annual increase thereafter until rates are totally aligned on the CCT.

The "arbitrio insular-tarifa especial" tax provided for in the Act of Accession and applying to products supplied from other parts of the Community will, in principle, disappear on 31 December 1992. However, the Council may, by a qualified majority, authorize the application of this tax to certain sensitive products until 31 December 2000.

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As a general provision, the Regulation contains a safeguard clause and the instruction to the Commission to adopt necessary measures to prevent deflection of trade.

2. The provisions of the Canaries Regulation are supplemented by those of the POSEICAN Decision, both acts being closely linked. POSEICAN establishes a framework programme similar to that already adopted for the OCT (POSEIDOM) and that, adopted on the same day, in respect of Madeira and the Azores (POSEIMA).

The aims of POSEICAN are to:

- ensure the realistic integration of the Canary Islands into the Community, in view of their special circumstances, adjusting the application of common policies where necessary;
- ensure the full involvement of the Canary Islands in the dynamic of the internal market, by making optimum use of existing Community regulations and instruments;
- assist the Canary Islands to catch up economically and socially, principally through the financing of the specific measures contained in this Decision.

The legal acts - to be adopted by the Council or by the Commission, as the case may be - required for the implementation of POSEICAN must be adopted by the end of 1992.

Three types of measures are involved, different in nature but applied in a co-ordinated manner:

- the application of common policies in the Canary Islands will have to take account of the special characteristics of the Islands and promote their economic and social development, particularly in the fields of social

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matters, transport, research and technological development and protection of the environment;

- measures intended to alleviate the impact of the additional costs involved in maintaining supplies of agricultural products resulting from the remote and insular nature of the Canary Islands may, in principle, be applied to all essential agricultural products for consumption or processing in the archipelago, taking into account local production and traditional trade flows and supplies of products from other parts of the Community; POSEICAN also lays down specific measures for such products as potatoes, olive oil, tobacco and meat.
- specific measures in support of various forms of Canary Island production, such as: marketing aids, structural aids, financing of studies or other with particular reference to tropical fruit and vegetables, live plants and flowers; special measures are also planned for potatoes, the milk sector and meat-based products.

The financial means for implementing the programme measures relating to agricultural structures are defined in the context of the annual budgetary procedures.

Finally, POSEICAN provides for a reinforced system of aid over five years to encourage the setting up of fishery producers' organizations.

3. The POSEIMA Decision, like POSEICAN and POSEIDOM, is in response to the same Community concern for these outlying regions.

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The programme is based on the same general principles as those outlined above; for the POSEICAN programme, i.e. the application of common policies in the Azores and Madeira will also have to take account of the special characteristics of these islands and promote their economic and social development, particularly in the fields of social matters, transport, fisheries, taxation, research and technological development and protection of the environment.

Similarly, Community regulations in the field of indirect taxation - VAT and excise duty - will have to take account of the special characteristics of the Azores and Madeira.

More especially in the field of transport, the Community and Portugal undertake to put in hand the measures needed to develop air communications.

With regard to the specific measures to mitigate the effects of the geographical situation, POSEIMA lays down measures intended to alleviate the impact of the additional costs involved in maintaining supplies of agricultural products, in principle in the case of all products but more especially in the case of sugar, breeding animals, compound feedingstuffs and concentrated musts for the production of Madeira wines.

Specific measures are also laid down to compensate for the extra cost of supplying oil and to encourage supplies of steel products at reasonable prices.

Measures to encourage production in Madeira and the Azores are aimed particularly at tropical products, fruit and vegetables, flowers and live plants and, more particularly, potatoes, sugar cane, certain types of grape, traditional livestock products, sugar beet and tobacco; POSEIMA also

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prescribes measures in support of fishery products.

Finally, measures to assist small craft businesses are planned.

The financial means for implementing the measures relating to agricultural structures, energy and the small craft business sector will be defined in the context of the annual budgetary procedures.

Environment

The Council adopted the Council Directive amending Directive 70/220/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to measures to be taken against air pollution by emissions from motor vehicles (see Environment Council, 6779/91 (Presse 90) of 13 and 14 June 1991, page 13).
