

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

PRESS RELEASES

PRESIDENCY: ITALY

JANUARY-JUNE 1980

Meetings and press releases May-June 1980

Meeting number	Subject	Date
633 rd	Foreign Affairs	5-6 May 1980
634 th	No record of a meeting	
635 th	Agriculture	6-7 May 1980
636 th	No record of a meeting	
637 th	Energy	13 May 1980
638 th	Economics/Finance	27 May 1980
639 th	Agriculture	28-30 May 1980
640 th	Foreign Affairs	29-30 May 1980
641 st	Economics/Finance	9 June 1980
642 nd	Labour/Social Affairs	9 June 1980
643 rd	Fisheries	16 June 1980
644 th	Agriculture	17 June 1980
645 th	Budget	17-18 June 1980
646 th	Justice	19 June 1980
647 th	Transport	24 June 1980
648 th	Education	27 June 1980
649 th	Environment	30 June – 1 July 1980
650 th	No record of a meeting	

PRESS RELEASE

6859/80 (Presse 58)

633rd Council meeting

- Foreign Affairs -

Brussels, 5/6 May 1980

President: Mr Emilio COLOMBO,
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Italian Republic

5/6.V.80

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

Belgium:

Mr Henri SIMONET Minister for Foreign Affairs

Denmark:

Mr Niels ERSBØLL State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Germany:

Mr Klaus von DOHNANYI Minister of State,
Federal Ministry for Foreign Affairs

France:

Mr Jean FRANCOIS-PONCET Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Pierre BERNARD-REMOND State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ireland:

Mr Brian LENIHAN Minister for Foreign Affairs

Italy:

Mr Emilio COLOMBO Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Guiseppe ZAMBERLETTI State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

5/6.V.80

Luxembourg:

Mr Gaston THORN

Vice-President of the
Government,
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Netherlands:

Mr D.F. van der MEI

State Secretary for
Foreign Affairs

United Kingdom:

Sir Ian GILMOUR

Lord Privy Seal

Mr Cecil PARKINSON

Minister of State,
Department of Trade

Commission:

Mr François-Xavier ORTOLI

Vice-President

Mr Wilhelm HAERKAMP

Vice-President

Mr Lorenzo NATALI

Vice-President

Mr Claude CHEYSSON

Member

Mr Christopher TUGENDHAT

Member

FOLLOW-UP TO THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL

The Council held a general discussion on the organization of the proceedings concerning the items to be examined as a follow-up to the European Council meeting on 27 and 28 April 1980 in Luxembourg; it agreed on arrangements for the further consideration of all the remaining outstanding problems.

TURKEY

In accordance with the joint conclusions adopted by the EEC-Turkey Association Council on 5 February last, the Council continued its deliberations concerning the revival of the Association in great detail.

Preparation for the next Ministerial meeting of the Association Council (the date of which is still to be decided upon by common agreement) will continue internally in the Permanent Representatives Committee and in collaboration with the Turkish delegation in the Association Committee.

ACP-EEC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

The Council prepared the position to be adopted in the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers, which is to hold its fifth meeting in Nairobi on 8 and 9 May next.

At the meeting in Nairobi the ACP-EEC Ministers will examine the last remaining outstanding questions concerning the implementation of the first ACP-EEC Convention of Lomé. They will then consider the interim measures adopted last January and February by the ACP-EEC Committee of Ambassadors to cover the period between the expiry of the Convention of Lomé I (1 March 1980) and the entry into force of the second ACP-EEC Convention of Lomé. The Ministers will finally consider questions concerning the implementation of the second Lomé Convention, as effectively and speedily as possible.

The Community Ministers considered the Community position on all these questions in close collaboration with the Commission.

RELATIONS WITH THE ANDEAN PACT COUNTRIES

The Council adopted negotiating directives with a view to the conclusion of a co-operation agreement with the Andean Pact countries (Ecuador, Bolivia, Colombia, Peru, Venezuela).

That decision was a follow-up to the meeting at Ministerial level with the Andean Pact countries held in Brussels on 5 May 1980 (see Press Release 6858/80 (Presse 57) of 5 May 1980).

NEW COUNCIL BUILDING

After discussing the reasoned opinion to be given by the Council to the Belgian Government on the preliminary plans for a new building, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to finalize the text of its opinion.

OTHER DECISIONS

Aid for non-associated developing countries

The Council gave its consent to two aid projects to help Nicaragua and Thailand.

The project to help Nicaragua consists mainly in making available to the Nicaraguan Government, for three years, ten experts to collaborate on rural and regional planning and certain practical rural development measures.

The project to help Thailand is intended to encourage the formation and development of co-operatives as part of rural development, notably by training staff and providing technical equipment.

Export credits

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Decision on the stand to be adopted by the Community at the international negotiations on the amendment of the Arrangement on Guidelines for Officially Supported Export Credits. (See Press Release 6504/80 of 21 April 1980).

Food Aid

The Council agreed to a food aid project to help Nicaragua, in the form of 3,400 tonnes of white maize, 1,000 tonnes of rice, 1,000 tonnes of milk powder, and other commodities (red beans, cotton or sunflower seeds, oils, children's food, etc) up to an amount of 3.5 MEUA. The project also includes exceptional aid of 1,000 tonnes of rice and 600 tonnes of red beans to support Nicaragua's campaign to end illiteracy.

Customs union

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Regulations amending Council Regulation No 2841/79, of 11 November 1979, on the temporary total suspension of the Common Customs Tariff duties for certain types of electronic memories falling within subheading ex 85.21 D II.

Energy Policy

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 1893/79 introducing registration for crude oil and/or petroleum products (extending the period of validity to 31 December 1980).

Fisheries Policy

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

- amending Council Regulation (EEC) No 679/80 of 18 March 1980 laying down certain interim measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources off the West Greenland coast applicable to vessels flying the flag of Canada or under charter to companies registered in Canada;
- laying down for 1980 certain interim measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources applicable to vessels flying the flag of Sweden.

Appointments

On a proposal from the Luxembourg Government, the Council appointed Mr Pierre GALLET, Fédération des Employés Privés, as a full member of the Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work, in place of the full member Mr Gustave SABUS, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which runs until 22 November 1981.

On a proposal from the United Kingdom Government, the Council also appointed Mr W.A. ROOKE and Mr H.G. STURMAN, as members of the Advisory Committee of the Euratom Supply Agency, in place of Mr R. NICHOLS and Mr G. WYNN respectively, who have resigned, for the remainder of their terms of office, which run until 28 March 1981.

No record of a 634th meeting.

PRESS RELEASE

6860/80 (Presse 59)

635th Council meeting

- Agriculture -

Brussels, 6 and 7 May 1980

President: Mr Giovanni MARCORA,
Minister for Agriculture and Forestry
of the Italian Republic

6/7.V.80

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

Belgium:

Mr Albert LAVENS Minister for Agriculture and
Small Firms and Trades

Denmark:

Mr Poul DALSGER Minister for Agriculture

Germany:

Mr Joseph ERTL Federal Minister of Food,
Agriculture and Forestry

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

France:

Mr Pierre MEHAIGNERIE Minister for Agriculture

Ireland:

Mr Ray MacSHARRY Minister for Agriculture

Italy:

Mr Giovanni MARCORA Minister for Agriculture and
Forestry

Mr Ferruccio PISONI State Secretary,
Ministry of Agriculture and
Forestry

Luxembourg:

Mr Camille NEY

Minister for Agriculture,
Viticulture, Water and Forestry

Netherlands:

Mr Gerrit BRAKS

Minister for Agriculture

United Kingdom:

Mr Peter WALKER

Minister for Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food

Mr Alick BUCHANAN-SMITH

Minister of State,
Ministry of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food

Commission:

Mr Finn Olav GUNDELACH

Vice-President

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AGRI-MONETARY MEASURES

The Council signified its approval of the amendments proposed by the Commission as regards the green rates for the Italian lira and the French franc, with a view to fixing them at the same level as their respective central rates.

The devaluation of the French green rate by 1.336% results in the following rate:

$$1 \text{ FF} = 0.171028 \text{ Ecu} / 1 \text{ Ecu} = 5.84700 \text{ FF}$$

This devaluation does not change the situation of the monetary compensatory amounts, which since the Council Decision of 27 March 1980, are not applied to the French franc, since the exemption provided for by Community regulations takes account of the difference between the green rate and the central rate.

The 3.523% devaluation of the Italian green rate brings down the MCAs by 2.6 points and results in the following rate:

$$100 \text{ Italian lira} = 0.0863714 \text{ Ecu} / 1 \text{ Ecu} = 1.15779 \text{ Italian lira}$$

These amendments will take effect as of 12 May 1980 in the milk, beef and veal and pigmeat sectors, and at the beginning of the 1980-1981 marketing years for the other sectors.

However, with regard to the Italian lira, the devaluation in the pigmeat sector (-3.523%, reducing the MCAs by 3.8 points) as from 12 May will result in a green rate of 100 Italian lira = 0.0909533 Ecu. A second adjustment (already decided by the Council in December 1979) will be made on 1 November 1980 to bring the green rate down to the central rate, namely 100 Italian lira = 0.0863714 Ecu.

1980/1981 AGRICULTURAL PRICES AND RELATED MEASURES

The Council held a detailed exchange of views on the further decisions to be taken following the conclusions which it reached at its meeting on 27 April and which it forwarded to the European Council on 28 April.

The exchange of views revealed broad agreement on most of the questions. However, on a limited number of questions, the Council worked out basic guidelines, and instructed the Special Committee on Agriculture to carry out a more detailed technical examination of the points still unresolved and to report back to the Council at its next meeting. However, the United Kingdom delegation wished to confirm the general reservation which it had expressed on the level of prices.

The Council finally agreed to take the necessary decisions on agricultural prices and related measures at its next meeting on 28 and 29 May 1980.

SHEEPMEEAT

The Council continued its discussions on the Commission proposal for the common organization of the market in sheepmeat. It agreed to take the necessary decision on this matter at its next meeting in the light of an examination of the technical aspects of this dossier by the Special Committee on Agriculture.

Other Agricultural decision

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Directive amending Directive 74/63/EEC on the fixing of maximum permitted levels for undesirable substances and products in feedingstuffs.

No record of a 636th meeting.

PRESS RELEASE

6911/80 (Presse 63)

637th meeting of the Council

- Energy -

Brussels, 13 May 1980

President: Mr Antonio BISAGLIA,
Minister for Industry of the
Italian Republic

13.V.80

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

Belgium:

Mr Paul NOERDAEME

Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

Denmark:

Mr Gunnar RIBERHOLDT

Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Germany:

Otto Count LAMBSDORFF

Federal Minister for Economics

France:

Mr André GIRAUD

Minister for Industry

Ireland:

Mr George COLLEY

Minister for Energy

Italy:

Mr Antonio BISAGLIA

Minister for Industry

Mrs Maria MAGNANI NOYA

State Secretary,
Ministry of Industry

13.V.80

Luxembourg:

Mr Josy BARTHEL

Minister for Energy

Netherlands:

Mr G.M.V. van AARDENNE

Minister for Economic Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr David HOWELL

Secretary of State for Energy

Commission:

Mr Guido BRUNNER

Member

COMMUNITY ENERGY OBJECTIVES FOR 1990 AND CONVERGENCE OF
THE POLICIES OF THE MEMBER STATES

The Council approved the substance of the following
Resolution:

"THE COUNCIL,

Having taken note of the communication from the Commission
on "Community Energy Objectives for 1990 and Convergence
of the Policies of the Member States",

Having taken note of the Opinion of the European Parliament,

Having regard to its Resolution of 17 September 1974,
17 December 1974 and 13 February 1975 ⁽¹⁾;

Having regard to the conclusions reached by the European
Council in July 1978, March 1979 and June 1979, fixing
the following objectives for 1985:

- to reduce the degree of Community dependence on imported
energy to 50%;
- to reduce to 0.8 the ratio between the rate of growth of
energy consumption and the rate of growth of gross domestic
product;
- to limit oil consumption;
- to limit net Community imports of oil to an annual level
not exceeding that attained in 1978 (472 million tonnes);

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 153, 9.7.1975, pages 1, 2 and 6.

Whereas adequate and secure energy availability on a satisfactory economic basis is a prerequisite for the pursuit of the Community's economic and social objectives;

Whereas it is essential that the Community make more progress in the priority areas such as energy saving, the rational use of energy and the reduction of oil consumption and imports;

Whereas it is necessary

- for the Community to have a general picture of Member States' energy policies up to 1990;
- for the Community to be in a position to assess the convergence of national policies with Community objectives;
- 1. affirms that the Community should step up its efforts to save energy and reduce its oil consumption and imports;
- 2. requests the Member States to submit to the Commission each year their energy policy programmes up to 1990;
- 3. requests the Commission to assess these programmes, using appropriate indicators, if necessary, in order to determine their convergence with the Community's energy policy objectives.

The Commission will base its examination on the following guidelines for the Community as a whole:

- to reduce to 0.7 or less the average ratio for the whole Community of the rate of growth in gross primary-energy consumption to the rate of growth of the gross domestic product;
 - to reduce oil consumption in the Community to a level of approximately 40% of gross primary-energy consumption in 1990;
 - to cover 70 to 75% of primary-energy requirements for the production of electricity by means of solid fuels and nuclear energy;
 - to encourage the use of renewable energy sources so as to increase their contribution to the Community's energy supplies;
 - to pursue an energy-pricing policy geared to attaining Community energy objectives ⁽¹⁾;
4. requests the Commission to submit annual reports and to make any recommendations and proposals aimed at increasing the convergence of the Member States' energy policies, ensuring that the Community's objectives are achieved and adapting them to economic trends and long-term energy supply conditions."

(¹) This policy would have to be based on established principles, as set out in the Annex to the Council Resolution of today's date concerning new lines of action by the European Community in the field of energy saving.

NEW LINES OF ACTION BY THE COMMUNITY IN THE FIELD OF ENERGY
SAVING

The Council approved the substance of the following
Resolution:

"THE COUNCIL,

Having taken note of the communication from the Commission
entitled "Third Report on the Community's programme for
energy saving",

Having regard to the Council Resolution of 17 December 1974
on Community energy policy objectives for 1985 and a Community
action programme for the rational use of energy; having regard
to the conclusions of the Heads of State and of Government
of the European Community meeting on 6 and 7 July 1978 and
on 12 and 13 March 1979, which reaffirmed and enlarged the
scope of the objectives for the rational use of energy for
1985,

Having regard to the need to determine objectives for 1990
for the Community energy-saving programme,

Whereas the Member States and the Community as a whole have
in general made good progress towards attaining the objectives
set for 1985;

Whereas, however, all the Member States must contribute to
the achievement of the Community objectives by the adoption
of comparable energy-saving programmes; with due regard for
the individual circumstances of each Member State;

Whereas co-ordination of the programmes of the Member States
and, where necessary, of specific actions at Community level
can contribute to better results in conformity with the
Treaties,

1. APPROVES the objective of progressively reducing the average ratio for the whole of the Community between the rate of growth in gross primary-energy consumption and the rate of growth in the gross domestic product to 0.7 or less by 1990;
2. AGREES that Member States should, where this proves necessary, adapt their energy-saving programmes so that by the end of 1980 each Member State has an energy-saving programme covering all the main sectors of energy use and an appropriate energy-pricing policy. In order to produce comparable effects, these programmes should be based on energy-pricing guidelines and measures recommended in the basic programme set out in the Annex to this Resolution. They must, however, be adapted to the specific priorities and conditions in the Member States;
3. AGREES that work must be speeded up, particularly in international organizations, on the technical specification of methods for measuring energy consumption and on performance standards, especially those relating to heat generators and domestic appliances;
4. INVITES the Commission, on the basis of the information provided by the Member States, to keep it abreast of progress made with national energy-saving programmes and calls upon the Commission to report to it on progress made towards attaining Community energy-saving targets."

GUIDELINES FOR A BASIC ENERGY--SAVING PROGRAMME
RECOMMENDED TO EVERY MEMBER STATE
OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

(ANNEX TO THE PRECEDING RESOLUTION)

A. ENERGY PRICING

Energy pricing should be based on the following principles:

- (i) consumer prices should reflect representative conditions on the world market, taking account of longer-term trends;
- (ii) one of the factors determining consumer prices should be the cost of replacing and developing energy resources;
- (iii) energy prices on the market should be characterized by the greatest possible degree of transparency.

Publicity about energy prices and the cost to the consumer of energy used by appliances and installations should be as widespread as possible.

B. MEASURES TO ENCOURAGE THE RATIONAL USE OF ENERGY

The following measures are recommended:

1. Energy saving in the home

- A Substantial upward revision of compulsory minimum performance requirements for new housing and heating systems;
- Regulations to ensure individual metering, billing and control of heating systems in multi-occupied buildings;
- Performance standards and control of servicing of heating systems;
- Publicity campaigns and advice centres for energy saving in the home;
- Financial aid for any necessary conversion of existing houses, an exemplary programme for dwellings in public ownership;
- Labelling to indicate the energy consumption of domestic appliances.

2. Energy saving in industry

- Energy consumption accounts, especially in industries consuming large volumes of energy;
- Financial aid for small and medium-sized businesses, publicity campaigns;

- Financial and tax aid to encourage investment to save energy;
- Financial aid for the commercial promotion of new energy-saving technologies, equipment or methods (demonstration projects).

3. Energy saving in agriculture

- Promotion of the use of energy-saving agricultural machinery for the transport and processing of crops, awakening users to the possibility of making better use of existing machinery and to the existence of energy-saving techniques of cultivation, and training them accordingly;
- Rational use of chemical fertilizers;
- Better use of locally available alternative energy sources to heat farm buildings and glass houses.

4. Energy saving in offices, commerce

- An exemplary public-sector programme;
- Compulsory minimum performance standards for new offices;
- Performance standards and control of servicing of heating, cooling and ventilation systems.

5. Energy saving in transport

- Information and publicity campaigns;
- Implementation of a standard method of measuring the fuel consumption of vehicles;
- If necessary, implementation of measures to ensure that new vehicles sold within the Community comply with voluntary targets for lower fuel consumption announced by car manufacturers in the Community;
- Collecting such available national data as will enable progress towards these voluntary targets to be examined at Community level.

6. Energy production

- Measures to encourage the rational use of heat resulting from the generation of electrical energy and from industrial processes, as well as the development of heat-distribution networks.

7. Information and education

- Publicity drives on energy saving;
- Educational programmes in schools, technical colleges and universities and vocational-retraining programmes.

8. Sustained efforts in research, development and demonstration

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ENERGY SITUATION

The Council discussed the energy situation in the Community and throughout the world.

Following its discussions the Council noted that, taking account of the information supplied by the Member States for the first quarter of 1980 and if the trend that had hitherto emerged in crude oil imports were confirmed, the 1980 targets for net oil imports would be complied with.

In the light of the energy situation in the Community and worldwide and the uncertain supply prospects, the Council noted the analysis made by the Commission and stressed the need for a Community strategy based on the following guidelines:

- the Community's dependence on oil should be reduced;
- the Community should make an immediate and tangible contribution to the stabilization of the world oil market;
- the Community system for meeting emergencies should be perfected.

SHORT-TERM OIL-SUPPLY PROBLEMS

The Council held an initial discussion on the Commission communication concerning measures to mitigate the effects of short-term oil-supply problems.

At the close of its discussion, the Council requested the Commission to carry out an early examination of the following problems:

- discouraging oil companies from making purchases at excessive prices;
- consultation between the Member States on stock-management and pricing policy so as to achieve consistent prices;
- speedy exchanges of information particularly on transactions at abnormal prices;
- oil-sharing in the Community when the difference between supply and demand falls below 7%;
- measures to increase Community production of hydrocarbons in the event of a shortage, as desired by the European Council.

The Commission was requested to submit the results of its work to the Council by September.

TRANSPARENCY OF THE OIL MARKET

After discussing the problems arising in connection with the transparency of oil markets, the Council reaffirmed the importance of a policy aimed at discouraging excessive oil prices. It was agreed that the current Community information system and exchanges of information between the Member States and the Commission would continue to be applied and, where applicable, perfected.

The better to attain the above objective, the Commission was asked to carry out further studies on a speedy, direct and effective exchange of information on oil transactions at excessive prices.

COMMUNITY INITIATIVE ON ENERGY

The Community discussed for the first time the Commission communication entitled "Community initiative on energy".

The Council took note of the Commission's intention of submitting a report on Member States' investment programmes at one of the Council's forthcoming meetings and asked the Commission to submit for its examination the outline of a consistent overall energy policy. The Council emphasized that the financial aspects would have to be examined when the time came, and in the light of such a policy only.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Energy policy

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Council Decision approving the conclusion by the Commission of the Subsidiary Arrangements supplementing the Agreement between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the European Atomic Energy Community and the International Atomic Energy Agency for the application of safeguards in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in connection with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Research policy

The Council gave the assents requested by the Commission in respect of three coal research projects (ECSC Treaty) concerning:

- a coal research programme in the field of mining engineering;
- a coal research programme in the field of product beneficiation in the mining industry;
- the abstracting and translation of technical literature on coal.

Relations with Cyprus

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Regulation opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for new potatoes, falling within subheading 07.01 A II b) of the Common Customs Tariff originating in Cyprus (60,000 tonnes from 16 May until 30 June 1980, with partial suspension of the CCT at 9.4%).

Relations with Romania

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision on the opening, in accordance with Decision 75/210/EEC, of an additional quota for imports into Italy of synthetic rubber originating in Romania (500 tonnes for 1980).

Commercial policy: textiles

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation concerning common import arrangements for certain jute products originating in Bangladesh.

Environmental policy

The Council decided to sign on the part of the Community the Protocol to the Barcelona Convention (of 1976) for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution from land-based sources.

Agricultural policy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation derogating from Regulation (EEC) No 516/77 on the common organization of the market in products processed from fruit and vegetables.

PRESS RELEASE

LIBRARY

7329/80 (Presse 70)

638th Council meeting
- Economic and Financial Affairs -
Brussels, 27 May 1980
President: Mr Filippo PANDOLFI,
Minister for the Treasury
of the Italian Republic

27.V.80

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

Belgium:

Mr R. HENRION

Minister for Finance

Denmark:

Mr Ivar NØRGAARD

Minister for Economic Affairs

Germany:

Mr Manfred LAHNSTEIN

State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Finance

France:

Mr René MONORY

Minister for Economic Affairs

Ireland:

Mr Michael O'KENNEDY

Minister for Finance

Italy:

Mr Filippo PANDOLFI

Minister for the Treasury

27.V.80

Luxembourg:

Mr Jacques SANTER
Mr Ernest MÜHLEN

Minister for Finance
State Secretary, Ministry
of Finance

Netherlands:

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

Minister for Finance

United Kingdom:

Sir Geoffrey HOWE

Chancellor of the Exchequer

Commission:

Mr François-Xavier ORTOLI
Mr Christopher TUGENDHAT

Vice-President
Member

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CONVERGENCE AND BUDGETARY QUESTIONS

In preparation for the Council on General Affairs, which is to meet on 29 and 30 May 1980 and will discuss the problem of the British contribution to the Community budget, the Council held a detailed and useful exchange of views on the new tables of figures concerning Community revenue and expenditure for the years 1980, 1981 and 1982 submitted by the Commission.

PRESS RELEASE

7432/80 (Presse 71)

639th Council meeting

- Agriculture -

Brussels, 28, 29 and 30 May 1980

President:

Mr Giovanni MARCORA,
Minister for Agriculture and Forestry
of the Italian Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr Albert LAVENS Minister for Agriculture and
Small Firms and Trades

Denmark:

Mr Poul DALSAGER Minister for Agriculture

Germany:

Mr Joseph ERTL Federal Minister of Food,
Agriculture and Forestry

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

France:

Mr Pierre MEHAIGNERIE Minister for Agriculture

Mr Jacques FOUCHIER State Secretary,
Ministry of Agriculture

Ireland:

Mr Ray MacSHARRY Minister for Agriculture

Italy:

Mr Giovanni MARCORA Minister for Agriculture and
Forestry

Mr Ferruccio PISONI State Secretary,
Ministry of Agriculture and
Forestry

28/29.V.80

Luxembourg:

Mr Camille NEY

Minister for Agriculture,
Viticulture, Water and Forestry

Netherlands:

Mr Gerrit BRAKS

Minister for Agriculture

United Kingdom:

Mr Peter WALKER

Minister for Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food

Mr Alick BUCHANAN SMITH

Minster of State,
Ministry of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food

Commission:

Mr Finn Olav GUNDELACH

Vice-President

AGRICULTURAL PRICES 1980/1981 AND RELATED MEASURES

The Council reached provisional agreement on the overall agricultural package, (prices, related measures, sheepmeat), on the understanding that this agreement would be automatically confirmed once agreement on the budget was confirmed.

The Council decided to approve by the written procedure, with 20.00 hours on 31 May 1980 as the deadline, a series of 16 Regulations a list of which is annexed and which must enter into force on 1 June 1980.

Briefly, the main features of the agreement on prices are as follows:

- increases of between 5.5% and 7% in prices other than the price of milk, which is to be increased by 4% (2.5% for butter and 5.3% for skimmed-milk powder);
- fixing of the amount of the co-responsibility levy in the dairy sector at 2.0%, reduced by 0.5% in certain exceptional cases;
- retention of the existing arrangements in the sugar sector for a further year;
- reduction in positive monetary compensatory amounts by 1 point in the Federal Republic of Germany and 0.2 point in the Benelux countries;
- increased budgetary costs for the EAGGF of the order of 500 MEUA in 1980 and 1,000 MEUA in a full year.

The Council recorded its agreement on the Commission proposals regarding the common organization of the markets in sheepmeat and fixed the basic prices, intervention prices and reference prices for sheepmeat for the 1980/1981 marketing year.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Other agricultural decisions

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

- amending Annex IV to Regulation (EEC) No 516/77 on the common organization of the market in products processed from fruit and vegetables;
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 1035/72 on the common organization of the market in fruit and vegetables;
- fixing the basic and buying-in prices for apples for June 1980;
- fixing a carry-over payment for common wheat, rye and maize remaining in stock at the end of the 1979/1980 marketing year;
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 564/80 laying down general rules on distillation operations for table wines for which the delivery contract must be approved before 15 April 1980.

ECSC

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

Relations with the EFTA countries

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities, Regulations relating to the conclusion of Agreements in the form of exchanges of letters on the amendment of the Agreements between the European Economic Community and

- the Republic of Austria
- the Swiss Confederation

on the application of the rules on Community transit and to the implementation in the Community of Decision No 3/79 of the Joint Committees set up under those Agreements.

Export credits

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision extending until 30 November 1980 the validity of the Decision of 4 April 1978 on the application of certain guidelines in the field of officially supported export credits and the Decision of 10 December 1979 concerning the conclusion of the OECD Understanding on export credits for ships.

Food aid

The Council signified its agreement to the Community's food aid programme for 1980, involving:

720,500 tonnes of cereals (135 MEUA at internal prices)

150,000 tonnes of skimmed-milk powder (196 MEUA at internal prices)

45,000 tonnes of butteroil (160 MEUA at internal prices).

This programme, which repeats the 1979 quantities, might be increased in the light of the appropriations earmarked for food aid under the 1980 budget, the procedure for the adoption of which has not yet been completed.

Financial aid for Nepal

The Council signified its agreement to a Community contribution of 2.2 MEUA to expand animal-health services and develop animal production and marketing in Nepal.

Customs union

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation on the valuation of goods for customs purposes (obligation under the GATT Multilateral Agreements).

Appointments

On a proposal from the United Kingdom Government, the Council appointed Mr Geoffrey DRAIN, General Secretary of the National and Local Government Officers Association, a member of the Economic and Social Committee to replace Mr Jack J. MACGOUGAN, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which runs until 18 September 1982.

It also appointed, on a proposal from the United Kingdom Government, Dr C.A. JAMES, Confederation of British Industry, a full member of the Advisory Committee on Social Security for Migrant Workers to replace Mr Y. COBB, full member, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which runs until 14 October 1981.

Lastly, on a proposal from the United Kingdom Government, the Council appointed Mr A.L. SAPPER, Association of Cinematograph, Television and Allied Technicians, an alternate member of the Advisory Committee on Freedom of Movement for Workers for the remainder of that Committee's term of office, which runs until 16 March 1982.

Other agricultural decisions

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

- the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 1640/79 limiting the granting of production aid for Williams pears preserved in syrup;
 - the Council Directive amending for the second time Directive 74/329/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to emulsifiers, stabilizers, thickeners and gelling agents for use in foodstuffs.
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30.V.80

REGULATIONS TO BE FORMALLY ADOPTED BEFORE 1 JUNE 1980.

BEEF AND VEAL (1)

7077/80	Suckler cows
7078/1/80	Guide/intervention prices adult bovine animals

MILK PRODUCTS

7016/80	target price for milk, intervention price for butter, skimmed milk powder and Grana Padano and Parmigiano cheese
7017/80	threshold prices for certain milk products
7018/80	amendment Regulation No 2915/79 on the conditions for the admission of certain cheeses under certain tariff headings and Regulation 950/68 on the CCT.
7019/80	reduced-price butter
7020/80	abolition of inward processing traffic
7021/80	co-responsibility
7022/80	non-marketing premiums

(1) Regulation on premium for slaughtering cattle (Opinion of the European Parliament
Regulation on calving premiums (to be awaited

FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

7289/80	prices and other amounts applicable in the fruit and vegetables sector
7282/80	fixed rate production aid and guide price for dried fodder
7283/80	Regulation 1117/78 common organization of dried fodder markets
7284/80	fixed rate aid for dehydrated potatoes
7285/80	silkworms aid
7290/80	Regulations 2511/69 and 1035/72 - lemons

AGRI-MONETARY

7304/80	exchange rate to be applied in agricultural sector
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PRESS RELEASE

Brussels, 6 June 1980
7408/80 (Presse 74)

640th Council meeting

- Foreign Affairs -

Brussels, 29 and 30 May 1980

President: Mr Emilio COLOMBO,
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Italian Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr Charles-Ferdinand NOTHOMB Minister for Foreign Affairs

Denmark:

Mr Niels ERSBØLL State Secretary,
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Germany:

Mr Hans-Dietrich GENSCHER Federal Minister for Foreign
Affairs

Mr Klaus von DOHNANYI Minister of State,
Federal Ministry for Foreign
Affairs

France:

Mr Pierre BERNARD-REYMOND State Secretary,
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Ireland:

Mr Brian LENIHAN Minister for Foreign Affairs

Italy:

Mr Emilio COLOMBO Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Giuseppe ZAMBERLETTI State Secretary,
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Luxembourg:

Mr Paul HELMINGER

State Secretary,
Ministry for Foreign Affairs,
External Trade and Co-operation

Netherlands:

Mr C.A. van der KLAUW

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr D.F. van der MEI

State Secretary, Ministry for
Foreign Affairs

United Kingdom:

Lord CARRINGTON

Secretary of State for Foreign and
Commonwealth Affairs

Sir Ian GILMOUR

Lord Privy Seal

Commission:

Mr Roy JENKINS

President

Mr François-Xavier ORTOLI

Vice-President

Mr Wilhelm HAFERKAMP

Vice-President

Vicomte Etienne DAVIGNON

Member

Mr Christopher TUGENDHAT

Member

Conclusions on the United Kingdom contribution to the
financing of the Community budget

1. The net United Kingdom contribution for 1980 will be calculated on the basis of the present Commission estimate (1,784 MEUA). 1,175 MEUA will be deducted from this figure. This leaves a United Kingdom contribution of 609 MEUA for 1980.
2. The net United Kingdom contribution for 1981 will be calculated on the basis of the Commission estimate of 2,140 MEUA. The United Kingdom's 1980 net contribution will be increased by a percentage equal to the difference between 1,784 and 2,140 MEUA, namely 19.9% or 121 MEUA. The net United Kingdom contribution for 1981 therefore becomes 730 MEUA.
3. The United Kingdom contribution, based on the above calculations, is reduced for 1980 and 1981 by 2,585 MEUA (1,175 plus 1,410).
4. If the United Kingdom's actual contributions for 1980 and 1981 are higher than 1,784 and 2,140 MEUA respectively the difference will be split: for the first year 25% will be borne by the United Kingdom and 75% by the other 8 Member States. For the second year: increase from 730 to 750 MEUA to be borne in full by the United Kingdom; from 750 to 850 MEUA, 50% to be borne by the United Kingdom and 50% by the other eight Member States; above 850 MEUA, 25% to be borne by the United Kingdom and 75% by the others.

5. Payments over the period 1980-1982 should be made by means of the adapted financial mechanism and the supplementary measures proposed by the Commission. The financial mechanism will continue to function automatically until the end of 1982.

6. The credits are entered in the budget of the following year, following the precedent of the financial mechanism.

At the request of the United Kingdom the Council can decide each year on a proposal from the Commission to make advances to permit the accelerated implementation of the supplementary measures.

7. For 1982, the Community is pledged to resolve the problem by means of structural changes (Commission mandate, to be fulfilled by the end of June 1981: the examination should concern the development of Community policies, without calling into question the common financial responsibility for these policies, which are financed from the Community's own resources, nor the basic principles of the common agricultural policy. Taking account of the situations and interests of all Member States, this examination will aim to prevent the recurrence of unacceptable situations for any of them). If this is not achieved, the Commission will make proposals along the lines of the 1980-1981 solution and the Council will act accordingly.

8. The Council reaffirms the conclusions adopted by it (in its composition of Ministers of Economic Affairs and Finance) on 11 February 1980 [see Annex to 5081/80 PV/CONS 5 ECOFIN 9], which included reference to the 1% VAT own resources ceiling.

9. It is important for the future well-being of the Community that day-to-day decisions and policy-making should function effectively and this particularly during the period when the review provided for in paragraph 7 is under way. With this objective in mind all Member States undertake to do their best to ensure that Community decisions are taken expeditiously and in particular that decisions on agricultural price fixing are taken in time for the next marketing year.

Declaration on the common fisheries policy

1. The Council agrees that the completion of the common fisheries policy is a concomitant part of the solution of the problems with which the Community is confronted at present. To this end the Council undertakes to adopt, in parallel with the application of the decisions which will be taken in other areas, the decisions necessary to ensure that a common overall fisheries policy is put into effect at the latest on 1 January 1981.
2. In compliance with the Treaties and in conformity with the Council Resolution of 3 November 1976 (the "Hague agreement"), this policy should be based on the following guidelines:
 - (a) rational and non-discriminatory Community measures for the management of resources and conservation and reconstitution of stocks so as to ensure their exploitation on a lasting basis in appropriate social and economic conditions;

- (b) fair distribution of catches having regard, most particularly, to traditional fishing activities, to the special needs of regions where the local population are particularly dependent upon fishing and the industries allied thereto ⁽¹⁾, and to the loss of catch potential in third country waters;
 - (c) effective controls on the conditions applying to fisheries;
 - (d) adoption of structural measures which include a financial contribution by the Community;
 - (e) establishment of securely-based fisheries relations with third countries and implementation of agreements already negotiated. In addition, endeavours should be made to conclude further agreements on fishing possibilities, in which the Community - subject to the maintenance of stability on the Community market - could also offer trade concessions.
3. Furthermore, Article 103 of the Act of Accession shall be applied in conformity with the objectives and provisions of the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, with the Act of Accession, inter alia Articles 100 to 102, and with the Council Resolution of 3 November 1976, and in particular Annex VII thereto.

(¹) See paragraphs 3 and 4 of Annex VII to the Council Resolution of 3 November 1976.

4. The Council agrees to resume its examination of the Commission proposals for Regulations under (a) (technical conservation measures) and (c) (control) at its meeting on 16 June 1980, and also on this occasion to begin examination of other proposals, including a proposal on quotas for 1980 which the Commission undertakes to submit in good time.
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OTHER DECISIONS

ASEAN

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation concluding the Co-operation Agreement between the European Economic Community and Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand - Member Countries of ASEAN.

Customs union

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation temporarily and totally suspending the Common Customs Tariff duties on certain iron phosphides falling within subheading ex 28.55 A.

Appointment

On a proposal from the Danish Government, the Council appointed Mr Niels Ole ANDERSEN, Kontorchef, Arbejdsministeriet, as a deputy member of the Administrative Board of the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions, to replace Mrs Vibeke LOMHOLT, who has resigned, for the remainder of her term of office, i.e. until 16 March 1983.

PRESS RELEASE

7722/80 (Presse 79)

641st Council meeting
- Economic and Financial Questions -
Luxembourg, 9 June 1980
President: Mr Filippo PANDOLFI,
Minister for the Treasury
of the Italian Republic

9.VI.80

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

Belgium:

Mr Paul NOTERDAEME Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Denmark:

Mr Ivar NØRGAARD Minister for Economic Affairs

Germany:

Mr Manfred LAHNSTEIN State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Finance

France:

Mr René MONORY Minister for Economic Affairs

Ireland:

Mr Michael O'KENNEDY Minister for Finance

Italy:

Mr Filippo PANDOLFI Minister for the Treasury
Mr Carlo FRACANZANI Deputy State Secretary,
Ministry of the Treasury
and
Chairman of the Economic and
Financial Policy Co-ordination
Group

Luxembourg:

Mr Jacques SANTER

Minister for Finance

Mr Ernest MÜHLEN

State Secretary, Ministry of
Finance

Netherlands:

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

Minister for Finance

United Kingdom:

Sir Geoffrey HOWE

Chancellor of the Exchequer

Commission:

Mr François-Xavier ORTOLI

Vice-President

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The following also attended the meeting:

Mr F.W. RUTTEN

Chairman of the Economic Policy
Committee

Mr Jean-Yves HABERER

Chairman of the Monetary Committee

ECONOMIC SITUATION

The Council exchanged views on the economic situation in the Community and requested the Commission to take this into account when drawing up the communication it would be submitting to the Council in preparation for the second quarterly examination of the economic situation in the Community scheduled for the meeting on 15 July.

RECYCLING PROBLEMS

The Council was presented with an opinion by the Monetary Committee concerning measures which the Community might undertake concerning recycling, and the detailed arrangements for these, in line with the conclusions of the Presidency at the last European Council in Luxembourg on 27 and 28 April 1980.

The Council agreed that its members would inform their Heads of Government of the observations which had been made in preparation for the next meeting of the European Council in Venice on 12 and 13 June.

In addition, the Council requested the Monetary Committee to take a further look at certain questions arising in connection with both Community and international mechanisms.

MEDIUM-TERM ECONOMIC POLICY

The Council heard an introduction, by the Chairman of the Economic Policy Committee, to a report drawn up by that Committee on 23 April 1980 on the problems of medium-term economic policy and priorities for the fifth programme.

The Council invited the Committee to continue its proceedings on the basis of the broad outlines of this report with a view to the preparation of the preliminary draft of the fifth programme of medium-term economic policy in time for it to be adopted before the end of this year.

SYNTHETIC TEXTILE FIBRES

The Council adopted the Regulation confirming protective measures - decided on by the Commission on 15.2.1980 - on yarn of polyamide for carpets originating in certain third countries and imported into the United Kingdom.

OTHER DECISIONS

Energy

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

- concerning Community energy policy objectives for 1990 and convergence of the policies of the Member States (see Press Release No 6911/80 (Presse 63) of 13 May 1980);
- concerning new lines of action by the Community in the field of energy saving (see Press Release No 6911/80 (Presse 63) of 13 May 1980).

Atomic Questions

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision approving the conclusion by the Commission of the International Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials.

Customs union

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

- temporarily suspending the autonomous Common Customs Tariff duties on certain industrial products;
- opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for certain eels falling within subheading ex 03.01 A II of the Common Customs Tariff (1 July 1980 - 30 June 1981).

Commercial policy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision on the signing of an Agreement, on the one hand, and of an agreement in the form of an exchange of letters, on the other hand, between the European Economic Community and the Republic of India on trade in jute products and trade co-operation on such products.

Relations with the ACP States

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation on the safeguard measures provided for in the second ACP-EEC Convention of Lomé.

PRESS RELEASE

7723/80 (Presse 80)

642nd meeting of the Council
- Labour and Social Affairs -

Luxembourg, 9 June 1980

President: Mr Franco FOSCHI,
Minister for Labour
of the Italian Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr R. DE WULF Minister for Labour and
Employment

Denmark:

Mr Svend AUKEN Minister of Labour

Germany:

Mr Reinhard STREHLKE State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Labour and
Social Affairs

France:

Mrs Nicole PASQUIER Secretary of State, Ministry of
Labour and Participation
(Employment of Women)

Ireland:

Mr Gene FITZGERALD Minister for Labour and the
Public Service

Mr Michael WOODS Minister for Health and Social
Security

Italy:

Mr Franco FOSCHI Minister for Labour

Mr Sisinio ZITO Under-Secretary of State,
Ministry for Foreign Trade

Luxembourg:

Mr Jacques SANTER

Minister for Labour and
Social Security

Netherlands:

Mr W. ALBEDA

Minister for Social Affairs

Mr L. de GRAAF

State Secretary for
Social Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr James PRIOR

Secretary of State for
Employment

Mrs Lynda CHALKER

Under-Secretary of State,
Department of Health and
Social Security

Commission:

Mr Henk VREDELING

Vice-President

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COMMUNITY LABOUR MARKET POLICY

Following a detailed exchange of views on the Commission communication concerning guidelines for a Community labour market policy, the Council adopted the following Resolution;

"The Council of the European Communities,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community,

Whereas because of moderate growth prospects, demographic trends and structural adjustment problems resulting, in particular, from the energy crisis, from the introduction of new technologies and from changes in the international economy, unemployment is likely to continue to give cause for concern in the years ahead, particularly in certain regions of the Community;

Whereas the enlargement of the Community is likely to give a new dimension to the employment situation in the Community;

Whereas the Community's response to economic and social problems must be part of an overall strategy aimed at increasing growth potential, competitiveness and innovation, improving the employment situation and responding to the emergence of new social needs in a non-inflationary manner;

Whereas, in this context, a more co-ordinated approach to employment problems should be arrived at with a view to achieving an employment policy at national and Community level which will reinforce the fight against unemployment;

Whereas labour market policy is an important aspect of employment policy and whereas its main function is to help to adapt the size and quality of demand and supply in the employment market by making consistent and full use of vocational guidance, training, retraining and placement and, where appropriate, measures relating to geographical mobility; whereas the effective carrying out of this role calls for appropriate development of a forward-looking approach to the labour market;

Whereas the initiatives already taken at Community level under the Treaty and the Council Resolution of 21 January 1974 concerning a social-action programme ⁽¹⁾ represent a significant achievement; whereas the following warrant particular mention:

- the assistance from the various Community financial instruments, in particular the European Social Fund, whose resources have been considerably increased and which now constitutes an important instrument for the implementation of labour market policy;
- the achievements in the field of freedom of movement for workers, particularly the existence of machinery for the clearing of vacancies and applications for employment, and the guidelines set out in the Council Resolution of 9 February 1976 on an action programme for migrant workers and members of their families ⁽²⁾;

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 13, 12.2.1974, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ OJ No C 34, 14.2.1976, p. 2.

- the initial results of the co-ordination of employment policies and of co-operation between national employment services;
- the various legislative instruments adopted by the Community Institutions regarding actions on behalf of less-developed regions, disadvantaged categories of workers and sectors in difficulty;
- the increasing involvement of the two sides of industry in Community activities;

Whereas Community labour market policy should be further strengthened on the basis of these achievements, on the one hand by establishing objectives for national and Community policies and on the other by adopting Community measures, on the understanding that the said objectives should be determined in sufficiently broad terms to take account of the specific nature of national situations;

Taking account of the discussions of the Standing Committee on Employment at its meetings on 9 October 1979 and 26 February 1980 and, especially on 29 May 1980;

Having noted the communication from the Commission on guidelines for a Community labour market policy;

Hereby adopts this Resolution

which determines the objectives of Community labour market policy and defines the measures to be taken and the means to be implemented within the framework of such policy.

I. OBJECTIVES

Labour market policy at both national and Community levels must make possible an optimum response to employment potential and back up any policy designed to increase the volume of employment and combat unemployment.

The aim of labour market policy must be, in particular, to reduce mismatch between the supply of and demand for labour, particularly qualitative mismatch, account being also taken of changes in technology and in the international economy.

Labour market policy should also seek to bring about better integration of the Community labour market.

The structures of the public employment services and those in the sphere of vocational training should therefore fulfil these requirements, in accordance with the guidelines laid down in this Resolution.

Active participation by both sides of industry in implementing labour market policy is an essential condition if the action to be undertaken is to be effective. At Community level, the Standing Committee on Employment is the most appropriate body to ensure such participation.

The achievement of these objectives should be part of a greater degree of consistency between actions at the economic and social levels in order to improve the employment situation and to combat unemployment effectively.

II. AREAS OF ACTION

1. Knowledge of the labour market:

Knowledge of the labour market should be improved by developing qualitative and quantitative information and by adapting it to changing needs while attempting to avoid making the task of public services and undertakings more difficult.

In this context, by strengthening co-operation between the competent national and Community departments, it is necessary to

- facilitate wider dissemination of statistics, studies and research available at national and Community level concerning the labour market;
- encourage better information, at national and Community levels, particularly as regards flows in unemployment, forms of employment (part-time work, temporary work, etc.) and the new skills required in the context of the introduction of new technologies.

2. Vocational guidance, training and re-training

In order to respond effectively to the demands of the labour market, vocational guidance systems must be more widely available to young people and those seeking employment and, as a precaution, to those whose employment is threatened.

In this connection, vocational guidance should encourage equal opportunities for men and women as regards access to employment.

Vocational guidance systems must take account of the information available on economic and technological developments and on developments in professional qualifications.

At Community level co-operation between national employment agencies must be extended to these areas.

With regard to vocational training and re-training,

- activities intended to promote a common vocational training policy, and in particular the improvement of training standards, should be revived;
- present structures should be adjusted to the new economic and social requirements (e.g. the introduction of new technologies, adaptation to structural changes, better preparation of young people for working life, re-entry into working life, etc.) and to workers' employment ambitions.

The links between general education and vocational training must be improved and, in particular, linked work and training must be developed in accordance with the guidelines of the Council Resolution of 18 December 1979 ⁽¹⁾.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 1, 3.1.1980, p. 1.

In these areas the Community will support the reforms envisaged by certain Member States with a view to improving their vocational training structures and adapting them to the new economic and social requirements, in particular by encouraging technical and administrative co-operation between Member States.

3. Placement

Steps should be taken to ensure that the public employment services operate fully as an active element of mediation to encourage the adjustment of the demand for and supply of labour at local, national and Community level.

It must be ensured that

- appropriate structures exist,
- the methods used to find available jobs are improved, and
- the services rendered are of high quality

so that the public employment services fulfil more satisfactorily the requirements of both employees and employers.

Community action in this area must support the implementation of these guidelines, with particular reference to the employment services, and be directed towards the development of effective co-operation between national employment services on concrete matters such as staff training, computerization of employment services, and vocational and occupational guidance.

The competent national services should take the necessary steps to bring into full operation the European system for the Community clearing of vacancies and applications for employment (SEDOC). The Council notes the Commission's intention of evaluating that system.

4. Forward-looking approach

Use of a forward-looking approach must be developed in an appropriate manner for the problems of the labour market. Such an approach should include observation and evaluation, in co-operation with representatives of employers and workers, of the quantitative and qualitative changes in employment and permit the implementation of consistent vocational training and retraining programmes.

This forward-looking approach must, on the one hand, be implemented at regional and, if appropriate, at local level. On the other hand, the use of forward-looking management methods at undertaking level must be encouraged. This approach warrants implementation in view of the contribution it can make not only to the proper working of the labour market at these various levels but also to the preparation of general policies affecting employment.

The Community could lend its support by facilitating the exchange of experience and promoting an improvement in information.

5. Measures on behalf of specific categories of workers

Specific policies based on individual categories of job-seekers who encounter particular problems on the labour market must be included among the social objectives of labour market policy so as to promote equal employment opportunities for these various categories.

To this end, guidelines already worked out at Community level to help young people, women, elderly, migrant and handicapped workers should be pursued.

Special attention should be given to employment problems resulting from lack of or insufficient qualifications, long-term unemployment and maternity.

6. Regional measures

As regards regional measures, labour market policy must be adapted to the development needs of disadvantaged regions, in particular by strengthening the local vocational training potential in line with employment trends in those regions.

7. Sectoral measures

As regards sectoral measures, the impact of rationalization and structural changes must be reduced and the re-adaptation of workers must be encouraged by preparing them for new jobs

III. INSTRUMENTS AND ACTION IN SUPPORT OF THE LABOUR MARKET POLICY

Implementation of the labour market policy guidelines set out in this Resolution must be facilitated by better use of the various Community financial instruments and, in particular, the European Social Fund.

Integration of the Community labour market must be fostered, within the framework of free movement of labour within the Community, particularly by effective implementation of the Community clearing system (SEDOC), taking account of the employment priority to be afforded to workers who are nationals of Member States and of the need to contain access to the Community labour market by labour from third countries, and by appropriate consultation on migration policies vis-à-vis third countries in accordance with the Council's conclusions of 22 November 1979.

It is important that the Member States should seek effective means to combat illegal immigration and illegal employment.

The various Community legal instruments concerning, in particular, equality between men and women and the approximation of national laws constitute an additional means of integrating the Community labour market.

As regards the adaptation of working time, the guidelines adopted by the Council in its Resolution of 18 December 1979 should be followed ⁽¹⁾.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 2, 4.1.1980, p. 1

Similarly, action to improve working conditions can contribute to the reduction of qualitative inadequacies on the labour market.

The meetings both of Directors-General for Employment and of the Directors of Employment Services must be continued.

IV. FINAL PROVISIONS

The Council requests the Commission, within the limits of available resources, to take the initiative necessary to develop Community action and to promote co-operation between Member States in the field of labour market policy in compliance with the guidelines set out in this Resolution.

The Commission is also requested to take steps to ensure that the initiatives in question are integrated into an overall Community strategy, covering measures in the fields of economic policy and social matters, of which the labour market policy is an important element, needed for improving the job situation and combatting unemployment.

ACTION AGAINST POVERTY

The Council took note of the second Commission report on the European programme of pilot projects and pilot studies to combat poverty; it also held a detailed discussion on the proposal concerning a supplementary interim programme to combat poverty.

The Council noted that it needed further information to enable it to assess more accurately the content and objectives of the continuation of the action programme against poverty. It agreed to ask the Commission to submit a further interim progress report in time for its next meeting in November.

IMPROVEMENT OF THE WORKING METHODS OF TRIPARTITE CONFERENCES

After discussing ways of improving the working methods of Tripartite Conferences, the Council approved the following conclusions:

"At its meeting on 12 and 13 March 1979, the European Council emphasized the importance of consultation with representatives of employers and workers and noted with satisfaction that the necessary measures to improve the work of the tripartite meetings would be taken at Community level.

It does not therefore seem appropriate to lay down rigid rules, which would not be in keeping with the nature and objectives of the Tripartite Conferences. To achieve the twofold aim of flexibility and effectiveness, the following procedure could be adopted:

Procedure to be followed for Tripartite Conferences

Preparation

- The Council adopts the theme of the Tripartite Conference after consultation with the Commission and representatives of employers and workers. The Standing Committee on Employment and the Economic Policy Committee can study certain themes in more detail in preparation for the Conference;

- the Commission prepares a communication, on its own responsibility, and forwards it to the Council and to the representatives of employers and workers;
- the representatives of employers and workers conduct a preliminary dialogue using this basis as far as possible -- to establish points of agreement or disagreement; the Commission may participate in this dialogue and provide back-up facilities;
- the Commission sends the Council a report on the outcome of the dialogue between the representatives of employers and workers in which it also sets out its assessments and, where appropriate, outlines possible solutions;
- the Council or, as the case may be, the representatives of the Governments of the Member States, endeavour to determine their position or to formulate guidelines in the light of the abovementioned Commission communication and report.

Procedure

The Conference proceedings should basically take the form of a genuine dialogue between the parties. With this in mind, every effort should be made to avoid general statements which do not fit the requirements of the dialogue.

- Introductory stage

- = the President of the Conference opens the proceedings and outlines the main topics for discussion;
- = the Commission presents its communication and indicates the points of agreement and disagreement established between the representatives of employers and workers during the preparatory stage;
- = the representatives of employers and workers state their views;
- = the President of the Council outlines, and the Ministers defend, where appropriate, the position or guidelines of the Council or, as the case may be, of the representatives of the Governments of the Member States; if they deem it necessary, the Ministers may also state the positions of their respective Governments;

- Main stage

- = the President of the Conference encourages a dialogue between the parties;
- = the President of the Conference, where appropriate, takes the initiatives necessary to bring the stated positions closer together and to reach agreement; the Commission contributes back-up facilities.

.../...

Conclusions

At the end of the proceedings, the President of the Conference presents any conclusions drawn from the discussions.

These conclusions, a draft of which may, if appropriate, be circulated by the President beforehand, reflect the substance and general spirit of the dialogue: this aspect is worth emphasizing as it is one of the principal objectives of the Tripartite Conferences - namely that of dialogue - and constitutes a first step towards more clearly defined guidelines.

They may:

- either embody, if appropriate, joint lines of action on which the various parties should base the action which they take. In this case the President may, in the light of the discussions, take the necessary steps to finalize a text agreed on all round;
- or be in the form of a summary, made under the sole responsibility of the President, setting out the main features of the discussion and noting points of agreement and disagreement.

Follow-up to the Conference

- each of the parties should implement these conclusions, if their nature warrants it, in accordance with its own structure. As regards aspects falling within the Community's responsibilities, the Commission could submit the necessary proposals to the Council;
- for those areas which are the responsibility of the representatives of employers and workers, the Commission should, by offering the necessary assistance, encourage direct contacts between them so that they may give practical effect, within an appropriate framework, to any joint lines of actions which may have been established;
- the implementation of the conclusions might form the subject of reports to be prepared by the Commission. Such reports could be referred to a subsequent Tripartite Conference or to other suitable bodies with responsibility in the area concerned.

OCCUPATIONAL REHABILITATION OF HANDICAPPED PERSONS

Having noted the Commission report on the first Community action programme for the occupational rehabilitation of handicapped persons (for the period 1974-1979), the Council approved the following conclusions concerning the further implementation of this programme:

"The Council

- emphasizes the importance it attaches to the occupational rehabilitation and the social integration of handicapped persons and in this connection confirms the guidelines laid down in its Resolution of 27 June 1974 establishing the initial Community action programme for the vocational rehabilitation of handicapped persons; ⁽¹⁾
- welcomes the results obtained in the initial stage of the implementation of the abovementioned Community programme thanks to the efforts made by the Member States and the Commission;
- feels that work should continue on the implementation of the programme, taking account of the guidelines proposed by the Commission in its report and of the comments made on this subject by the delegations, and in particular the following considerations:
 1. The employment policy should make a greater contribution to solving the employment problems of handicapped persons, which are particularly acute in the present difficult situation on the employment market;

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 80, 9.7.1974.

2. the role of the undertakings with regard to the employment of handicapped persons should be strengthened by appropriate means; in this connection, support should be given both to maintaining the jobs of workers who have become disabled and to the fresh recruitment of handicapped persons;
3. the role of local authorities and services should also be strengthened to make occupational rehabilitation more effective and to facilitate the social integration of handicapped persons;
4. occupational guidance, training and placement services dealing with workers who are not handicapped should be made more accessible to handicapped persons;
5. the Social Fund should continue to play an important role in operations for the occupational rehabilitation of handicapped persons; in this connection, there should be close co-ordination of all action carried out by the Community;
6. an effort should be made, particularly through a campaign to educate the public at large, to improve general information about the problems of handicapped persons in the Community, engendering thereby in the public a collective awareness of the responsibilities which fall upon the whole population for the complete social integration of handicapped persons;

7. the measures adopted in favour of handicapped persons in the Community should aim to overcome the handicaps of the persons concerned as far as possible, to eliminate any suggestion of discriminatory or inferior treatment of handicapped persons and to encourage their participation in preparing and implementing the measures which concern them.
- invites the Commission to submit a further report after the second stage of implementation of the programme so that it can assess the subsequent development of the programme and draw any conclusions which may be relevant to the Community's future action for handicapped persons.

PROTECTION OF WORKERS FROM EXPOSURE TO CHEMICAL, PHYSICAL AND
BIOLOGICAL AGENTS AT WORK

The Council gave its agreement on the Directive on the protection of workers from exposure to chemical, physical and biological agents at work.

This Directive is an important aspect of the implementation of the Resolution on an action programme on safety and health at work, adopted by the Council in July 1978.

This Directive consists of a series of framework measures which should serve as a basis for future legislation in this field at both national and Community level. With this in view, it lays down a series of preventive and protective measures (including in particular details of limit values for exposure, technical provisions, emergency measures, provisions on medical surveillance and information for workers), which must be applied within three years to all agents when Member States pass laws regarding them. The Directive also lays down more specific additional measures concerning medical surveillance and information for workers regarding certain agents (initially acrylonitrile, asbestos, arsenic, benzene, cadmium, mercury, nickel, lead and certain chlorinated hydrocarbons). These agents in particular could be the subject of specific Community Directives at a later date.

The Member States have a certain amount of flexibility regarding the extent to which each of the preventive and protective measures should be applied, if appropriate, to the various agents in question.

Of more specific and immediate significance, this Directive obliges the Member States to introduce within four years measures to ensure the appropriate surveillance of the state of health of workers exposed to asbestos and lead during the period of exposure and, within, the general period of 3 years, to ensure that the workers concerned or their representatives at the place of work are given appropriate information on the dangers of asbestos, arsenic, cadmium, mercury and lead.

In addition, a Committee has been set up to adapt the specific provisions resulting from the Directive to technical progress.

SOCIAL SECURITY FOR SELF-EMPLOYED WORKERS

The Council exchanged views on the proposal for a Regulation on social security for self-employed workers moving within the Community.

It noted that, despite the broad consensus on the approach to be followed for reaching agreement on this Regulation, it was not possible to achieve a final compromise at present, particularly on the problems involved in the inclusion of non-employed insured persons in the Community rules and the arrangements to be introduced regarding family benefits.

The Council asked the Commission to continue examining the remaining difficulties, taking into account the suggestions which had been made, and to report back so that it could approve the Regulation as a whole at its next meeting (Labour and Social Affairs).

STANDARDS ON SAFETY AND HEALTH AT THE PLACE OF WORK

The Council noted a statement by the Danish delegation concerning the links between standards on safety and health at the place of work and standards relating to the removal of technical barriers, and the Commission's comments on this, and agreed to examine this statement at the earliest opportunity.

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The Council also noted the Commission report on the action programme on safety and health at work.

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION AND ILLEGAL EMPLOYMENT

The Council exchanged views on the Commission proposal on measures to combat illegal immigration and illegal employment.

The discussion enabled it to take stock of work carried out in this area, particularly since its previous exchange of views on this matter in November 1978, and to take note of the further information provided by the Commission in the meantime, following its bilateral contacts and discussions.

OTHER DECISIONS

Agricultural policy

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

- amending Regulation (EEC) No 1417/78 on the aid system for dried fodder;
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 1119/78 laying down special measures for peas and field beans used in the feeding of animals;
- limiting the granting of production aid for Williams pears and cherries preserved in syrup for the 1980/1981 marketing year.

ECSC

The Council gave its assent, under Article 55(2) of the ECSC Treaty, to the establishment of a 4th ECSC programme on ergonomics for the coal and steel industries and the assents, under Article 56(2)(a) of the ECSC Treaty concerning

- Société Nationale de Crédit et d'Investissement (Luxembourg)
 - General Motors Luxembourg Operations S.A. (Luxembourg)
 - Deeside Titanium Ltd (United Kingdom).
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PRESS RELEASE

7892/80 (Presse 85)

643rd Council meeting

- Fisheries -

Luxembourg, 16 June 1980

President : Mr Nicola SIGNORELLO
Minister of Shipping
of the Italian Republic

16.VI.80

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

Belgium:

Mr Albert LAVENS

Minister for Agriculture
and for Small Firms and
Traders

Denmark:

Mr Poul DALSGER

Minister of Fisheries

Mr Jørgen HERTOFT

State Secretary,
Ministry of Fisheries

Germany:

Mr Hans-Jürgen ROHR

State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Food,
Agriculture and Forestry

France:

Mr Joël LE THEULE

Minister of Transport

Ireland:

Mr Patrick POWER

Minister for Fisheries

Italy:

Mr Nicola SIGNORELLO

Minister of Shipping

Mr Giovanni NONNE

State Secretary,
Ministry of Shipping

Luxembourg:

Mr Paul HELMINGER

State Secretary,
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

16.VI.80

Netherlands:

Mr Gerrit BRAKS

Minister of Agriculture and
Fisheries

United Kingdom:

Mr Peter WALKER

Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries
and Food

Mr Alick BUCHANAN-SMITH

Minister of State,
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries
and Food

Commission:

Mr Finn Olav GUNDELACH

Vice-President

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FISHERIES POLICY: INTERNAL ASPECTS

In the light of the statement of 30 May ⁽¹⁾, the Council discussed various internal aspects of fisheries policy, in particular technical measures for the conservation of fishery resources, verification of fishing activities, the method of allocation amongst the Member States of the catch possibilities, and a structural policy in the fisheries sector.

The Council noted that progress had been made on the technical dossiers in this sector, and that the Commission intended, after the necessary consultations, to make proposals on the most important questions, especially catch quotas, in good time to allow an in-depth discussion at the next meeting of the Council, fixed for 21 July. Pending that meeting, it extended the interim conservation Decision on fisheries ⁽²⁾ until 31 July 1980.

⁽¹⁾ See Press Release 7408/80 (Presse 74) of 6 June 1980.

⁽²⁾ See Press Release 11209/79 (Presse 153) of 3 December 1979.

EXTERNAL ASPECTS

The Council took note of a report by Mr GUNDELACH, Vice-President of the Commission, on relations with third countries as regards fisheries.

In this connection, it agreed to the conclusion of the fisheries agreements between the Community and Sweden, Senegal, Guinea-Bissau, Norway, Canada and Denmark and the Home Government of the Faroe Islands.

It also took note of progress in the negotiations conducted by the Commission for a long-term framework agreement on fisheries with Canada.

In addition, it adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Decision concerning the maintenance until 31 December 1980 of certain fishing rights of Community fishermen in the territorial waters of Yugoslavia.

On the question of Community accession to the International Whaling Convention, the Council agreed to instruct the Permanent Representatives Committee to make a more detailed examination of the issue, in order to facilitate a decision on the matter at a forthcoming meeting.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

7893/80 (Presse 86)

644th Council meeting

- Agriculture -

Luxembourg, 17 June 1980

President: Mr Giovanni MARCORA,
Minister of Agriculture and Forestry
of the Italian Republic

17.VI.80

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

Belgium:

Mr Albert LAVENS	Minister for Agriculture and for Small Firms and Traders
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Denmark:

Mr Poul DALSAGER	Minister of Agriculture
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Germany:

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

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

Ireland:

Mr Ray MacSHARRY	Minister for Agriculture
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Italy:

Mr Giovanni MARCORA	Minister of Agriculture and Forestry
Mr Ferruccio PISONI	State Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
Mr Fabio FABBRI	Deputy State Secretary, Agriculture

Luxembourg:

Mr Camille NEY

Minister of Agriculture,
Viticulture, Water and Forestry

Netherlands:

Mr Gerrits BRAKS

Minister of Agriculture

United Kingdom:

Mr Peter WALKER

Minister of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food

Mr Alick BUCHANAN-SMITH

Minister of State,
Ministry of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food

Commission:

Mr Finn Olav GUNDELACH

Vice-President

SHEEPMEAT

The Council confirmed its agreement in principle on the draft Regulation on sheepmeat, subject to completion of the procedures still in progress - in particular consultation with Greece. This Regulation includes provisions on the price and premium levels for the current marketing year, on the understanding that for subsequent marketing years this matter will be dealt with in ad hoc Regulations, under procedures similar to those applied for all the systems of market organization.

SWINE FEVER

The Council agreed to prolong for four months (until 31 October 1980) the derogations granted to Denmark, Ireland, and the United Kingdom in respect of swine fever. It stressed the importance which it attached to speeding up the discussions on measures to combat swine fever with a view to its total eradication from the Member States of the Community.

SUGAR AND ISOGLUCOSE

The Council confirmed the extension, which occurred at the end of May, of the current sugar and isoglucose arrangements until the end of June 1981, and it held an exchange of views on the last difficulties over sugar and isoglucose for the next marketing year.

In conclusion it agreed to the five Regulations on the arrangements for quotas, levies and aid, and the prices to apply from 1 July 1980 to 30 June 1981.

NEW ZEALAND BUTTER

The Council heard a statement from the Commission announcing forthcoming proposals on the import of New Zealand butter into the EEC as from 1981.

It was agreed that this highly political question would shortly be raised in the Council after study by an ad hoc Working Party.

STRUCTURAL MEASURES

The Council discussed various structural measures involving integrated development programmes for the Western Isles of Scotland, the Department of Lozère and the Belgian Province of Luxembourg, together with a common measure for the development of beef cattle and sheep production in Italy.

Moreover, the Council took note of new Commission proposals for the stimulation of agricultural development in the less-favoured areas of Northern Ireland, and for a common measure to improve the conditions under which agricultural products in the eggs, poultrymeat, cereals and cattlefeed sectors in Northern Ireland are processed and marketed.

Following its discussion, the Council instructed the Special Committee on Agriculture to examine in greater detail the proposals relating to the integrated programmes and the common measure, together with other structural measures - in particular the adjustment of Directive 72/159 - in order to make it easier for the Council to take a decision on this matter at its next meeting planned for 22 July in Luxembourg.

VARIOUS STATEMENTS

The Council took note of the following statements, accompanied where appropriate by replies from the Commission:

- measures taken by the French authorities with regard to sheepmeat imports (German delegation);
- policy of refunds in the milk products sector (Belgian delegation);
- budget savings (Danish delegation);
- problems of cultivation under glass in relation to the cost of energy (Danish delegation).

PRESS RELEASE

7894/80 (Presse 87)

LIBRARY

645th Council meeting

- Budget -

Luxembourg, 17/18 June 1980

President: Mr Carlo FRACANZANI,
State Secretary at the Treasury
of the Italian Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr G. GEENS

Minister for the Budget

Denmark:

Mr Niels ERSBØLL

State Secretary,
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Germany:

Mr Manfred LAHNSTEIN

State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Finance

France:

Mr Maurice PAPON

Minister for the Budget

Ireland:

Mr Sean CALLEARY

Minister of State in the
Department of the Public Service

Italy:

Mr Carlo FRACANZANI

State Secretary,
Treasury

Luxembourg:

Mr Ernest MUHLEN

State Secretary at the
Ministry of Finance

17.VI.80

Netherlands:

Mr D.F. van der MEI

State Secretary,
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr Nigel LAWSON

Financial Secretary to the
Treasury

Commission:

Mr Christopher TUGENDHAT

Member

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Questions concerning the 1980 budget

Before starting its discussions on the 1980 budget, the Council held a meeting with a delegation from the European Parliament led by Mr GONELLA, Vice-President of the European Parliament, and composed of Mr LANGE, Chairman of the Committee on Budgets, Mr NOTENBOOM, Mr SPINELLI and Mr ROSSI, Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Budgets, Mr DANKERT, Vice-President of the European Parliament and General Rapporteur for the 1980 budget (Commission Section), Mr JACKSON, Rapporteur for the 1980 budget (Other Institutions), Mr ANSQUER, Rapporteur for the 1981 budget (Other Institutions), Mr AIGNER, Chairman of the Committee on Budgetary Control and Mr BONDE, Member of the Committee on Budgets.

Mr TUGENDHAT, Member of the Commission responsible for budgetary affairs, also took part in this exchange of views.

The meeting enabled the Parliamentary delegation and the Council to exchange their views on the Commission's budget proposals for 1980 with regard both to the procedure necessary for approval of the current budget and to various specific matters including non-compulsory expenditure, agricultural expenditure, and whether borrowing operations and the European Development Fund should be included in the budget.

The Council then held an exhaustive debate on the subject of the Community budget for 1980, bearing in mind the comments made by the Parliamentary delegation during the earlier meeting. In an endeavour to find a position which was mutually acceptable to the two arms of the budget authority, the Council paid particular attention to the matter of non-compulsory expenditure and the development of agricultural expenditure before meeting the Parliamentary delegation again at the end of this stage of its discussions.

After a second meeting with the Parliamentary delegation, the Council, meeting in its normal framework, worked out a general approach reflecting the Council's position on the 1980 budget. The European Parliament will be informed of this approach, and the Council will act on the general budget of the European Communities for 1980 in the light of the European Parliament's reactions.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Agricultural policy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation amending Regulation No 652/79 on the impact of the European Monetary System on the common agricultural policy (extension until 31 March 1981).

It also adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation fixing the basic price and the standard quality for slaughtered pigs for the period 1 November 1980 to 31 October 1981 (1,587.21 ECU for 1,000 kilogrammes).

Fisheries policy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision concerning the conclusion of the Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters applying in 1980 the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Government of Sweden on certain measures for promoting the reproduction of salmon in the Baltic Sea.

Mediterranean policy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities three Regulations on the implementation of certain Agreements with countries of the Mediterranean basin:

- amending Regulation (EEC) No 2925/78 with regard to the period of suspension of application of the prices condition to which import into the Community of certain types of citrus fruit originating in Spain is subject;
- opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for certain wines having a registered designation of origin, falling within subheading ex 22.05 C of the Common Customs Tariff, originating in Morocco (1980/1981);
- ditto for wines originating in Algeria (1980/1981).

Relations with the ACP States and the OCT

The Council took note of the Commission communication on the implementation of Community aid to the ACP States and the OCT-FOD, situation as at 31 December 1978.

The Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision authorizing the Commission to open negotiations with the Republic of Zimbabwe with a view to the latter's accession to the second ACP-EEC Convention.

The Council also agreed to the granting to the UNHCR of the sum of 8 MEUA as a Community contribution to the programme drawn up by that body to deal with Zimbabwe's emergency requirements.

Customs union

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulations:

- opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for processing work in respect of certain textile products under Community outward processing traffic (to a value of 1,870,000 EUA) provided for in the arrangement with Switzerland;
- on the tariff treatment of certain products intended for use in the construction, maintenance and repair of aircraft;
- increasing the volume of the Community tariff quota opened for 1980 for ferro-chromium containing not less than 4% by weight of carbon and falling within subheading ex 73.02 E I of the Common Customs Tariff.

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision on negotiations for the conclusion of agreements on three draft Annexes to the International Convention on the simplification and harmonization of customs procedures with regard to the customs treatment of stores, to customs offences and to the carriage of goods coastwise.

Other decisions

The Council gave the assent requested under the second paragraph of Article 54 of the ECSC Treaty for the purpose of financing investments involving the restructuring of the shipyards of Blohm and Voss and Cantieri Navali Riuniti S.P.A.

The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Directive regarding the operating space, access to driving position and the doors and windows of wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors.

Appointments

The Council appointed

- on a proposal from the French Government, Mr Raymond LENOBLE, Directeur Général de la Fédération Professionnelle Agricole pour la main-d'oeuvre saisonnière, as a member of the Advisory Committee on Freedom of Movement for Workers, for the remainder of the Committee's term of office, which runs until 16 March 1982;
- on a proposal from the Danish Government, Undervisningsdirektør Niels HUMMELUHR, Direktoratet for Erhvervsuddannelserne, as a member of the Advisory Committee on Vocational Training, in place of Mr Carl JØRGENSEN, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which runs until 15 October 1980;

- on a proposal from the Luxembourg Government, Mr L. RECH, as a deputy member of the Administrative Board of the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions, in place of Mr R. MEIS, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which runs until 16 March 1983;
 - on proposals from the Irish and United Kingdom Governments, Mr P. LEONARD, Department of Labour, and Mr W.R.B. ROBINSON, Department of Employment, as members of the Committee of the European Social Fund, in place respectively of Mr Cyril O'RIORDAN and Mr D.J. HODGKINS, who have resigned, until such time as the Committee is renewed.
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PRESS RELEASE

Rome, 19 June 1980
7913/80 (Presse 88)

646th meeting of the Council
- Justice -

Rome, 19 June 1980

President:

Mr Tommaso MORLINO,
Minister of Justice
of the Italian Republic

Belgium:

Ambassador to Italy

Denmark:

Minister of Justice and
of the Interior

Germany:

Federal Minister of Justice

France:

State Secretary,
Ministry of Justice

Ireland:

Minister for Justice

Italy:

Minister of Justice

Luxembourg:

State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Foreign Trade and Co-operation

19.VI.80

Netherlands:

Mr J. de RUITER

Minister of Justice

United Kingdom:

Sir Michael HAVERS

Attorney-General

Mr Leon BRITTAN

Minister of State,
Home Office

Commission:

Viscount Etienne DAVIGNON

Member

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On the occasion of the meeting of the Justice Ministers of the Nine Member States of the Community, a Council meeting was convened to provide representatives of the Governments of the Member States with the framework within which to discuss a Convention of private international law standardizing the rules relating to the laws applicable to contractual obligations.

The representatives of the Governments of the Member States concluded their discussions with an agreement on the text of the Convention which became open for signature as from today. The plenipotentiaries of the following States have already taken part in the signing ceremony: Belgium, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands.

Today's agreement brings to an end a series of discussions, begun in 1967, which were conducted in an initial stage by a group of experts chaired by Mr JENARD, the Belgian Foreign Affairs Minister, at the Commission, and in the final stage by a group chaired by Mr ERANCACCIO from the Italian Justice Ministry, at the Council.

The Convention lays down in standard form for all contracting States the laws applicable to contracts in situations involving a conflict of law, i.e. where there are elements of extraneousness with respect to the internal social life of a country (for example, nationality of one of the parties, or place of execution of the contract situated abroad). The basic principle of the Convention is that of freedom of choice by the parties to the contract.

Failing an explicit choice by the parties the Convention provides that the law applicable to the contract is the law of the country with which the contract has the closest links.

Since this criterion may in some cases be too imprecise, the Convention provides for presumptions for certain types of contract. Thus, for example, in the case of contracts concerning an immovable property right or a right to use real property (leasing), the country with which the contract has the closest links is presumed to be the country where the real property is situated.

19.VI.80

Particular attention should be given to two provisions concerning contracts concluded by consumers and to individual work contracts which are intended effectively to guarantee the protection of the economically weaker parties in these two forms of contract. The result of these provisions will be that consumers and workers cannot be deprived of the protection guaranteed them by the binding rules of the laws of their country of residence when they conclude contracts covered by the Convention.

Mention should also be made of a provision ensuring that Community law takes precedence over the provisions of the Convention.

PRESS RELEASE

8171/80 (Presse 94)

LIBRARY

647th Council meeting

- Transport -

Luxembourg, 24 June 1980

President: Mr Salvatore FORMICA,
Minister of Transport
of the Italian Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr G. SPITAELS Minister of Communications

Denmark:

Mr Jens Risgaard KNUDSEN Minister of Transport

Germany:

Mr Heinz RUHNAU State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Transport

France:

Mr Joël LE THEULE Minister of Transport

Ireland:

Mr Albert REYNOLDS Minister of Posts, Telegraphs
and Transport

Italy:

Mr Salvatore FORMICA Minister of Transport
Mr Giuseppe MIROGLIO State Secretary,
Ministry of Transport

Luxembourg:

Mr Josy BARTHEL Minister of Transport,
Communications and Informatics

Netherlands:

Mr D.S. TUIJNMAN

Minister of Transport and Water
Control

Mrs N. SMIT-KROES

State Secretary,
Ministry of Transport and
Water Control

United Kingdom:

Mr Norman FOWLER

Minister of Transport

Mr Norman TEBBIT

Under-Secretary of State,
Ministry of Trade

Commission:

Mr Richard BURKE

Member

HARMONISATION OF THE LAWS RELATING TO DRIVING LICENCES

The Council signified its agreement in principle ⁽¹⁾ to the first Directive on the introduction of a Community driving licence.

This agreement - which is the follow-up to the consensus reached at the Council meeting on 20 and 21 December 1977 - introduces a system of mutual recognition and exchange of driving licences where a national of a Member State takes up residence in another Member State.

In conclusion, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to have the text of the Directive finalised so that it could formally adopt it at a forthcoming meeting.

SUMMERTIME

The Council signified its agreement in principle ⁽¹⁾ to the Directive on summer-time arrangements, thereby harmonising the dates on which summertime commences as follows:

in 1981 : 29 March at 1 a.m.

in 1982 : 28 March at 1 a.m.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to have the text finalised so that it could formally adopt it at a forthcoming meeting.

⁽¹⁾ with a reservation by the United Kingdom delegation

STATISTICAL RETURNS IN RESPECT OF CARRIAGE OF GOODS BY RAIL
AND BY INLAND WATERWAY

Following an exchange of views on a number of technical questions, the Council reached a general consensus on two Directives on statistical returns in respect of the carriage of goods by rail and by inland waterway, as part of regional statistics.

These returns, which will complement the similar returns already compiled in the field of road transport, will be made as from 1981 in the case of inland waterways and 1982 in the case of railways, with financial assistance from the Community.

As regards the statistical returns concerning railways, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to make a close examination of cost questions.

The Council also agreed to act formally on the matter once it had received the Opinion awaited from the Economic and Social Committee.

TECHNICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF ROAD VEHICLES

Having noted the oral report by the Presidency on the proceedings on the proposal for a Directive on the weights and certain other technical characteristics (not including dimensions) of road vehicles used for the carriage of goods, the Council agreed to instruct the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its work - in the light of the Opinion awaited from the European Parliament - to enable the Council to take a decision on the subject as rapidly as possible.

AID TO INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

On the basis of a statement by the Presidency and an oral report by the Commission on progress to date, the Council held a brief exchange of views on a number of questions relating to aid to projects of Community interest in the field of transport infrastructure.

The Council agreed to instruct the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue work on the whole matter in the light of the Opinions awaited from the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee, in order to supply it as soon as possible with all the facts necessary for a decision at a forthcoming meeting.

PASSENGER AIR FARES

Having taken note of the views on passenger air fares expressed in the Commission's Memorandum on the contribution of the European Communities to the development of air transport services, the Council recognized that the subject of scheduled passenger air fares in the Community is worthy of comprehensive study, and invited the Commission, in collaboration with national experts, to examine the various scheduled passenger air fares charged in the Community, in the light of the work being carried on, amongst others, by the European Civil Aviation Conference, taking particular account of:

- = the economic constraints on airlines,
- = the present conditions of their access to the market, and
- = the effect of non-scheduled passenger air fares.

The Council asked to be informed of the results of this examination as soon as possible.

FIXING OF RATES FOR THE INTERNATIONAL CARRIAGE OF GOODS BY RAIL

The Council held a thorough discussion of the proposal on the fixing of rates for the international carriage of goods by rail. Following this discussion it noted that broad agreement had been reached on the draft text submitted to it.

The proposal is designed to introduce or reinforce freedom of action of railways in their commercial policy as regards international carriage of goods between Member States. Railways would thus, like their competitors, be able to quote general or special rates without having to go through procedures which are sometimes cumbersome and complicated.

In conclusion, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee, in the light of a deeper study of certain aspects raised in the discussions, to seek sufficient clarification to enable a formal decision to be taken rapidly.

INTERNATIONAL COMBINED RAIL/ROAD CARRIAGE OF GOODS

The Council discussed the directives to be given to the Commission for the negotiation of an Agreement between the Community and neighbouring third countries on common rules applicable to combined rail/road carriage of goods. Following this discussion, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine certain aspects of the subject in greater detail and to report back to it as soon as possible.

SOCIAL LEGISLATION RELATING TO ROAD TRANSPORT

The Council took note of the sixth Commission report on the application of Council Regulation (EEC) No 543/69 of 25 March 1969 on the harmonization of certain social legislation relating to road transport and stressed the importance of correct and effective application of that Regulation by all Member States.

It noted that Member States were now able to supply the Commission with all the data provided for by the standard report to enable it to draw up its report in accordance with Article 17 of the Regulation. The Council asked the Commission to pursue the necessary contacts with the Member States to ensure uniform application of the legislation.

It agreed to examine this problem in detail at its next meeting on transport questions in the light of the further reports which the Commission had said it was prepared to forward shortly.

RELATIONS WITH AUSTRIA REGARDING TRANSPORT

The Council took note of a Commission statement on relations with Austria on transport matters, in particular as regards a Community financial contribution to the building of a motorway.

COMMUNITY RAILWAY POLICY

The Council also took note of a statement by the Commission concerning the Commission memorandum on Community railway policy. The statement spoke of examining the measures required to enable the railways to meet new passenger and goods carriage requirements and of proposals to make the autonomous operation of the railways more efficient.

SAFETY OF SHIPPING

The Council took note of a statement by the French delegation on the French Government's memorandum on the safety of shipping and measures to combat pollution from hydrocarbons transported by sea. The statement anticipated, inter alia, the convening of an international conference on a regional basis to draw up a convention on the matter; it also asked the Commission to make proposals as soon as possible with a view to the Council's forthcoming meetings on transport and the environment.

The Council agreed to instruct the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine in detail the questions raised by the statement, as well as the memorandum from the French delegation of April last on the same subject.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Relations with the ACP States and the OCF

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

- on the Stabex system (communication of statistical data);
- concerning the application of Decision No 3/80 of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers derogating from the concept of "originating products" to take account of the special situation of Malawi and Kenya with regard to certain items of fishing tackle (fishing flies).

Trade policy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities,

- a Regulation opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for apricot pulp, falling within subheading ex 20.06 B II c) 1 aa) of the Common Customs Tariff and originating in Turkey (1.7.1980 to 30.6.1981);
- Regulations opening, allocating and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas for Port, Madeira and Setubal Muscatel wines falling within subheading ex 22.05 of the Common Customs Tariff and originating in Portugal (1980/1981);
- a Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 2728/79 opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for certain hand-made goods;
- a Decision opening, under Decision 75/210/EEC, quotas for the import into Italy of motors, transmissions and front axles for tractors falling within heading ex 84.06 and 87.06 of the Common Customs Tariff and originating in Romania;
- a Decision concluding three renegotiation agreements with the United States of America under Article XXVIII(1) of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

Agricultural policy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Regulation to stimulate agricultural development in the less-favoured areas of the West of Ireland and a Regulation on the development of sheep farming in Greenland.

It also adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Directive amending Directive 75/268/EEC on mountain and hill farming and farming in certain less-favoured areas.

In addition to the above, the Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, Regulations

- amending Regulation No 136/66/EEC on the establishment of a common organization of the market in oils and fats;
- fixing the target prices and basic intervention prices for colza, rape and sunflower seeds for the 1980/1981 marketing year;
- fixing for the 1980/1981 marketing year the main intervention centre for colza, rape and sunflower seeds and the derived intervention prices applicable in these centres;
- fixing for the 1980/1981 marketing year, the monthly increases in the target and intervention prices for colza and rape seed and sunflower seed;
- fixing the production target price, the production aid and the intervention price for olive oil for the 1980/1981 marketing year;
- fixing the monthly increases in the representative market price, the intervention price and the threshold price for olive oil for the 1980/1981 marketing year;

- fixing the guide prices for wine for the period 16 December 1980 to 15 December 1981;
- implementing production quota arrangements in the sugar and isoglucose sectors for the period 1 July 1980 to 30 June 1981;
- fixing, for the 1980/1981 sugar year, the sugar prices, the standard quality of beet and the coefficient for calculating the maximum quota;
- fixing, for the 1980/1981 sugar year, the derived intervention prices, the intervention price for raw beet sugar, at the minimum prices for beet, the threshold prices, the maximum amount of the production levy and the amount of the repayment to offset storage costs, and the coefficient for calculating the special maximum quota;
- fixing, for the 1980/1981 sugar marketing year, the differential charge to be levied on raw preferential sugar and the differential amount to be granted in respect of raw cane sugar from the French Overseas Departments;
- laying down, for the 1980/1981 sugar year measures to facilitate the disposal of sugar produced in the French Overseas Departments.

The Council also adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Directive on the control of potato ring rot and the Directive prolonging certain derogations granted to Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom regarding swine fever.

ECSC

The Council gave the assents requested under Article 56(2)(a) of the ECSC Treaty concerning various undertakings in Italy, Germany and the United Kingdom, and the assent requested under Article 55(2)(c) of the ECSC Treaty with a view to obtaining financial aid for the implementation of an iron and steel research programme.

Other decision

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Directive relating to the operating space, access to the driving position and to the doors and windows of wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors.

PRESS RELEASE

8278/80 (Presse 98)

648th meeting of the Council
and of the Ministers for Education
meeting within the Council
Brussels, 27 June 1980

President: Mr Adolfo SARTI
Minister for Education
of the Italian Republic

PRESS RELEASE

Brussels, 10 July 1980
8278/80 (Presse 98 Corr. (e))

C O R R I G E N D U M

to the Press Release
8278/80 (Presse 98) of 27.VI.80

To page 2, add:

"Ireland:

Mr John WILSON

Minister for Education

(This omission concerns the english version only)

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

Belgium:

Mr W. CALEWAERT

Minister for Education
(Dutch language)

Mr G. MATHOT

Minister for Education
(French language)

Denmark:

Mr Gunnar RIBERHOLDT

Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

Germany:

Mr Jürgen SCHMUDE

Federal Minister for Education
and Science

Mr Wolfgang KNIES

Minister for Education for the
Saarland,
Vice-Chairman of the Standing
Conference of Ministers of
Culture of the Länder

France:

Mr Christian BEULLAC

Minister for Education

Italy:

Mr Adolfo SARTI

Minister for Education

27.VI.80

Luxembourg:

Mr Fernand BODEN

Minister for Education

Netherlands:

Mr A. PAÏS

Minister for Education and
Science

United Kingdom:

Mr Mark CARLISLE

Secretary of State for Education
and Science

Commission:

Mr Guido BRUNNER

Member

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GENERAL REPORT BY THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Council and the Ministers for Education examined the Education Committee's General Report on the progress made with implementation of the action programme of 9 February 1976.

Discussion concentrated in particular on

- = the training of migrant workers and their children;
- = promotion of the teaching of foreign languages;
- = equal education opportunities for girls;
- = study of the European Community and of Europe in schools;
- = admission of students from other Member States to higher education.

The discussion enabled solutions to be found to the final questions still outstanding as regards this last point and the guidelines worked out earlier on in the proceedings to be completed.

Finally, the President noted that opinions no longer differed on the substance of the conclusions worked out following the examination of the General Report of the Education Committee. As to procedure, the Permanent Representatives Committee was invited to examine the action to be taken as a result of this meeting, both from the point of view of the texts to be adopted and of their effect on the budget.

EDUCATION AND WORKING LIFE

The Council and the Ministers took note of the Commission communication on perspectives for education policy in the context of employment policy, with particular reference to the problems of the transition of young people from education to working life, and held a preliminary exchange of views on the problems posed as regards guidance and preparation for working life and on the links between education and training, and work and practical experience.

Finally, the Permanent Representatives Committee was instructed to give the communication a more detailed examination in the light of the observations made during today's exchange of views.

DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEMS

The Ministers held an exchange of views on developments within the various educational systems in the Community, which enabled them to compare experience in the various Member States and to establish the points of convergence and divergence.

In this connection, the Ministers noted with interest the French Minister's initiative with regard to the preparation of a guide to the history of European civilization, which could prove to be a useful teaching aid.

The Council also took note of a statement by the Netherlands delegation on the subject of the academic recognition of diplomas.

The Education Committee was instructed to continue to study these questions in the light of the comments made during today's exchange of views.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES

The Ministers took note of a communication from Mr BRUNNER, Commission Member responsible for Education, on the implications for the education and preparation of young people for working life of the progressive introduction in the Community of the new computer technologies.

The Commission proposed, as part of its global policy in this field to concentrate its efforts next year on studying the implications for teaching of the new computer technologies.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Fisheries policy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulations concluding the Agreements on fisheries between the Community and:

- the Government of Denmark and the Home Government of the Faroe Islands;
- the Government of the Republic of Senegal;
- the Government of Guinea-Bissau;
- the Government of Norway;
- the Government of Canada;
- the Government of Sweden,

and the Regulation concluding the Agreement on fisheries with the Government of Sweden relating to certain measures intended to promote the reproduction of salmon in the Baltic Sea.

Moreover, the Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 1852/78 on an interim common measure for restructuring the inshore fishing industry (extension for 1980 with an increased overall appropriation).

The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation laying down for 1980 certain measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources applicable to vessels flying the flag of Sweden and the Regulation laying down for 1980 certain interim measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources applicable to vessels flying the flag of Norway.

Common agricultural policy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulations:

- opening, allocating and providing for the administration of the Community tariff quota
 - = for 38,000 head of heifers and cows other than those intended for slaughter, of certain mountain breeds, falling within subheading ex 01.02 A II b) of the Common Customs Tariff
 - = for 5,000 head of bulls, cows and heifers, other than those intended for slaughter, of certain Alpine breeds falling within subheading ex 01.02 A II b) of the Common Customs Tariff;
- on the grant of a premium for the birth of calves during the 1980/1981 marketing year;
- continuing for the 1980/1981 marketing year the premium for the slaughter of certain adult bovine animals provided for in Regulation (EEC) No 870/77.

The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation on the common organisation of the market in sheepmeat and goatmeat.

Relations with Spain

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulations opening, allocating and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas for certain wines originating in Spain (1980/1981).

Relations with EFTA

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation suspending the application of an indicative ceiling established by Regulation (EEC) No 2796/79 for imports of certain products originating in Austria.

The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision authorizing the Commission to negotiate on behalf of the Community an agreement in the form of an exchange of letters modifying certain duty-free quotas opened for 1980 by the United Kingdom in accordance with Protocol No 1 to the Free Trade Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Finland.

Relations with Yugoslavia

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation on the safeguard measures provided for in the Co-operation Agreement and in the Interim Agreement on trade and trade co-operation between the European Economic Community and the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Regulation establishing ceilings and Community supervision for imports of certain products originating in Yugoslavia (1980).

Relations with the ACP States and the OCT

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for rum, arrack and tafia falling within subheading 22.09 C I of the Common Customs Tariff, originating in the ACP States (1980/1981), and the Regulation concerning the same products originating in the OCT (1980/1981).

Food aid

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision on the signing and deposit of a declaration on the provisional application of the 1980 Food Aid Convention and agreed to an ad hoc allocation of the commitments entered into in the context of the new Food Aid Convention for the duration of the latter (1 July 1980 - 30 June 1981).

Other decisions

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Resolution on guidelines for a Community labour-market policy, approved at its recent meeting devoted to social questions (see Press Release 7723/80 (Presse 80) of 9.VI.80).

The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision amending the Decision of 4 April 1978 applying certain guidelines in the field of officially supported export credits.

Finally, the Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulations amending Regulation No 950/68 on the Common Customs Tariff and the Regulation temporarily suspending the autonomous Common Customs Tariff duties on a number of agricultural products.

Appointments

The Council appointed, on a proposal from the Belgian Government, Mr Silvain LOCCUFIER as a member of the Economic and Social Committee to replace the late Mr Victor DE RIDDER for the remainder of the latter's term of office, i.e. until 18 September 1982.

The Council also appointed, on a proposal from the United Kingdom Government, Mr A.G.B. WOOLLARD, Department of Education and Science, as a full member of the Advisory Committee on Vocational Training, to replace Mr N. THOMPSON, a full member who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, i.e. until 15 October 1980.

Finally, the Council appointed, on a proposal from the United Kingdom Government, Mr P.G. BEVAN, Director, Board of Graduate Clinical Studies, as an alternate member of the Advisory Committee on Medical Training to replace Sir Stanley CLAYTON for the remainder of the latter's term of office, i.e. until 5 April 1982.

PRESS RELEASE

8279/80 (Presse 99)

649th Council meeting

- Environment -

Luxembourg, 30 June and 1 July 1980

President: M. Vincenzo BALZAMO
Minister for Scientific Research
of the Italian Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr A. CALIFICE

Minister for Health and the Environment

Denmark:

Mr Erik HOLST

Minister for the Environment

Mr Holger LAVESSEN

State Secretary,
Ministry of the Environment

Germany:

Mr Günter HARTKOPF

State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of the Interior

France:

Mr François DELMAS

State Secretary,
Ministry of the Environment and
the Quality of Life

Ireland:

Mr Sylvester BARRETT

Minister for the Environment

Italy:

Mr Vincenzo BALZAMO

Minister for Scientific Research

Mr Michele TANTALO

State Secretary,
Ministry of Scientific Research

Luxembourg:

Mr Josy BARTHEL

Minister for the Environment

Netherlands:

Mr L. GINJAAR

Minister for Health and the
Environment

Mr D.F. van der MEI

State Secretary for Foreign
Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr Tom KING

Minister of State
Department of the Environment

Commission:

Mr Lorenzo NATALI

Vice-President

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SULPHUR DIOXIDE AND SUSPENDED PARTICULATE MATTER

Confirming the agreement given in principle on 17 December 1979, the Council gave its agreement ⁽¹⁾ to a Directive on air quality limit values and guide values for sulphur dioxide and suspended particulates.

The Member States will adopt the measures necessary to ensure compliance with the air quality standards laid down by the Directive as from 1 April 1983. At the same time, they will draw up binding measures to be applied in the event of certain limit values being exceeded for concentrations of SO₂ and suspended particulates in the atmosphere.

The enacting terms of the Directive introduce a common procedure for the exchange of information on atmospheric pollution and establish reference methods for the analysis of pollutants. Finally, they are designed to prevent a deterioration in the quality of the air in less polluted regions by encouraging compliance with standards, wherever possible by means of a reduction in emissions and not by a more widespread dispersion of pollutants in the atmosphere.

In conclusion, the Council agreed on a Resolution on trans-boundary air pollution by sulphur dioxide and suspended particulates, to the effect that the Member States will endeavour, in accordance with the objectives of the abovementioned Directive and taking due account of the facts and problems involved, to limit and as far as possible gradually reduce and prevent transboundary air pollution by sulphur dioxide and suspended particulates.

⁽¹⁾ Subject to any request for consultations by the Greek delegation.

QUALITY OF WATER INTENDED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

In confirmation of its agreement in principle of 19 December 1978, the Council recorded its agreement ⁽¹⁾ on the proposal for a Directive relating to the quality of water intended for human consumption.

The Directive lays down the maximum admissible concentrations for organoleptic, physico-chemical and microbiological values and for undesirable and toxic substances for all water supplied for consumption or used in food production undertakings except natural mineral waters and medicinal waters ⁽²⁾. The Member States may lay down even more stringent values on the basis of the recommended "guide" values.

As regards the hardness of water supplied for human consumption and having been softened, minimum required values are laid down in the Directive with respect to total hardness, hydrogen ion concentration, alkalinity and dissolved oxygen. The Directive also makes provision for the comparability of the reference methods of analysis and the ensuing results.

The Member States have two years from notification within which to bring into force the laws, regulations and administrative provisions to comply with the Directive so as to ensure that the quality of water intended for human consumption meets the requirements of the Directive within five years of its notification.

⁽¹⁾ Subject to any request for consultation by the Greek delegation.

⁽²⁾ A Directive on these products is currently being approved.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION PROGRAMME ON THE ENVIRONMENT

On the basis of a Commission document, the Council held a wide-ranging discussion on the progress and evaluation of work completed under the second action programme (1977-1981) on the environment.

Each delegation commented in exhaustive detail on the Commission document and stressed the importance attached to certain sections of it, particularly various specific environmental measures, at both national and Community level. In this context, the Council noted statements by the various Member States, in particular that by the United Kingdom on lead pollution, that by the Netherlands on transboundary pollution and that by France on marine pollution caused by hydrocarbons. The Commission also expressed the importance which it attached to the Community's role at the regional conference due to be convened, at France's instigation, to discuss questions in connection with measures to combat pollution by hydrocarbons transported by sea.

The Council also went on to discuss the Commission communication on rational land use and its place in the Community environment policy.

The discussion closed with a summing up by the Presidency, following the statement by the Commission that it would be submitting appropriate proposals in due course, in the light of the comments expressed at the meeting.

DISCHARGES OF ALDRIN, DIELDRIN AND ENDRIN INTO THE AQUATIC ENVIRONMENT

The Council held an exchange of views on the proposal for a Directive on the limit values for discharges of aldrin, dieldrin and endrin into the aquatic environment and on the proposal regarding the quality objectives required for that environment.

This discussion gave delegations an opportunity to elaborate further on their respective positions, in particular with respect to certain questions concerning quality objectives and to the arrangements applicable to new plant, that is plant becoming operational after the date of notification of the Directive.

In conclusion, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to expedite its work on this matter in the light of today's discussions so that a decision could be taken in the very near future.

IMPORTS OF WHALE PRODUCTS

On the basis of an oral report from the Chairman of the Permanent Representatives Committee, the Council was notified of progress on the proposal for a Regulation on common rules for imports of whale products and confirmed its favourable view on the substance of this proposal.

The common rules lay down that no import licences are to be issued for products to be used for commercial purposes. Licences will be issued only for imports of these products for other purposes.

The Commission made it clear that substitutes were available for all products in question and abandoning whale products would therefore not cause insuperable problems for industry, provided a reasonable transitional period were allowed. In this connection, the Commission proposed that the new rules enter into force on 1 January 1982.

In conclusion, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to complete its examination of the problems outstanding, particularly those of a technical nature, so that the proposal could be formally adopted on receipt of the Opinion of the European Parliament.

CHLOROFLUOROCARBONS IN THE ENVIRONMENT

The Council discussed chlorofluorocarbons in the environment on the basis of a Commission communication on the subject prepared pursuant to the Council Decision of December 1979.

This discussion enabled delegations to air their preoccupations on the subject and to report on the measures which had been taken at national level. Special attention was paid to the following: the effects of chlorofluorocarbons on atmospheric ozone, the implications of ozone depletion for man and the environment, the production and use of CFC 11 and 12, in particular for aerosols, and the socio-economic aspects of CFC 11 and 12 substitution.

In conclusion, the Council agreed to ask the Commission to keep a close watch on developments in the situation particularly in the scientific sphere and to make the proposals provided for in the Decision of December 1979.

MAJOR ACCIDENT HAZARDS OF CERTAIN INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITIES

Most of this meeting was devoted to an intensive discussion of the proposal for a Directive on the major accident hazards of certain industrial activities and significant progress was made on almost the whole Directive.

The text is concerned with the prevention of major accidents which might result from certain industrial activities and with the limitation of their consequences for man and the environment; it is directed in particular towards the approximation of the measures taken by Member States in this field.

The Directive introduces inter alia an obligation on the manufacturer to notify certain substances and plant and any major accident hazards in order that the hazards may be better established and accidents avoided by ensuring improved information for workers in the industrial establishments in question and for the national and Community authorities, both with a view to the prevention of accidents and to control of the situation should an accident happen.

Since its discussion had enabled the Council to identify the salient features on which there was consensus with respect both to the general provisions and to the technical Annexes of the Directive, the Council agreed to instruct the Permanent Representatives Committee to give further detailed study to the questions still outstanding with a view to bringing delegations' positions closer together so that the Council could take a decision on the matter at its next meeting on the environment.

VARIOUS DECISIONS

Fisheries policy

The Council adopted Regulations in the official languages of the Community:

- laying down for 1980 certain measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources applicable to vessels registered in the Faroe Islands;
- laying down certain measures for the conservation and management during 1980 of common fishery resources applicable to vessels flying the flag of Spain;
- laying down for 1980 certain measures for the conservation and management of common fishery resources off the West Greenland coast applicable to vessels flying the flag of Canada or under charter to companies registered in Canada.

Agricultural policy

The Council adopted Regulations in the official languages of the Community:

- fixing, for the 1980 harvest, the norm and intervention prices, the premiums granted to purchasers of leaf tobacco, the derived intervention prices for baled tobacco and the reference qualities;
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 727/70 on the common organization of the market in raw tobacco;
- fixing the amounts of aid for fibre flax and hemp for the 1980/1981 marketing year;
- fixing for the 1980/1981 marketing year:
 - = the guide price for linseed;
 - = the amount of aid for cotton seed;
 - = the guide price and the minimum price for castor seed;
 - = the guide price and the minimum price for soya beans;

- adopting general rules concerning special measures for soya beans harvested in 1980;
- laying down, in respect of hops, the amount of aid to producers for the 1979 harvest;
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 1418/76 on the common organization of the market in rice;
- fixing cereals prices for the 1980/1981 marketing year;
- fixing rice prices for the 1980/1981 marketing year;
- laying down the minimum requirements for common wheat for bread-making;
- fixing, for the 1980/1981 marketing year, the monthly price increases for cereals, wheat and rye flour and wheat groats and meal;
- fixing, for the 1980/1981 marketing year, the monthly price increases for paddy rice and husked rice;
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 2742/75 on production refunds in the cereals and rice sectors;
- on the levy reduction applicable to certain feed grain imports into Italy;
- fixing the list of Community regions which qualify for aid in respect of durum wheat and fixing the amount of such aid for the 1980/1981 marketing year.

Other decisions

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Directive amending for the seventh time Directive 73/241/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to cocoa and chocolate products intended for human consumption.

The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Decision concerning the conclusion of an Agreement between the European Economic Community and Sweden in respect of certain horticultural products negotiated under Article XXVIII of the GATT.

Finally, the Council adopted the directives to the Commission for the negotiation of an agreement for co-operation between the EAEC and Spain in the field of controlled thermonuclear fusion.

Appointment

The Council appointed Mr André DUBOIS Director-General of Directorate-General E (External Relations and relations with Associated States) of the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Communities.

No record of a 650th meeting.