

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

PRESS RELEASES

PRESIDENCY: BELGIUM

JULY-DECEMBER 1993

Meetings and press releases July-September 1993

Meeting number	Subject	Date
Special meeting	General Affairs	2-3 July 1993
1678 th	Economics/Finance	12 July 1993
1679 th	General Affairs	19-20 July 1993
1680 th	Agriculture	19 July 1993
1681 st	Budget	22 July 1993
1682 nd	Economics/Finance	13 September 1993
1683 rd	Agriculture	21 September 1993
1684 th	Industry	21 September 1993
1685 th	General Affairs/Agriculture	20-21 September 1993
1686 th	Internal market	27 September 1993
1687 th	Transport	28 September 1993

PRESS RELEASE

7473/93 (Presse 120)

Extraordinary meeting of the Council

- GENERAL AFFAIRS -

Brussels, 2 and 3 July 1993

President: Mr Willy CLAES

Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Kingdom of Belgium

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

Belgium:

Mr Willy CLAES Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Robert URBAIN Minister for Foreign Trade and European Affairs

Denmark:

Mr Niels HELVEG PETERSEN Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Jorgen ØSTRØM MØLLER State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Germany:

Mrs Ursula SEILER-ALBRING Minister of State, Foreign Affairs
Mr Johann EEKHOFF State Secretary for Economic Affairs

Greece:

Mr Michalis PAPACONSTANTINOU Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Georges PAPASTAMKOS State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Spain:

Mr Carlos WESTENDORP State Secretary for Relations with the European Communities

France:

Mr Alain JUPPE Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Gérard LONGUET Minister for Industry and Foreign Trade
Mr Daniel HOEFFEL Minister with special responsibility for Regional Planning and Local Authorities
Mr Alain LAMASSOURE Minister with special responsibility for European Affairs

Ireland:

Mr Dick SPRING Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Charlie McCREEVY Minister for Tourism and Trade
Mr Tom KITT Minister of State at the Department of the Taoiseach with special responsibility for European Affairs

Italy:

Mr Beniamino ANDREATTA Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Paolo BARATTA Minister for Foreign Trade
Mr Luigi SPAVENTA Minister for the Budget

Luxembourg:

Mr Georges WOHLFART State Secretary for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade

Netherlands:

Mr P. KOOLJMANS Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mrs Y. VAN ROOY Minister for Foreign Trade
Mr Piet DANKERT State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Portugal:

Mr José Manuel DURAO BARROSO Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Vitor MARTINS State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr Tim SAINSBURY Minister of State, Department of Trade and Industry

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Commission:

Mr Jacques DELORS President
Sir Leon BRITTAN Vice-President
Mr Pádraig FLYNN Member
Mr Bruce MILLAN Member

URUGUAY ROUND - COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

"The Council heard an extensive report by the Commission on the present state of play in the Uruguay Round negotiations, and in particular on the current quadrilateral talks.

The Council took note of comments made by delegations as to the parameters to be respected by the Community negotiator in the ongoing negotiations.

The Council invited the Commission to pursue actively the negotiations in conformity with the conclusions of the Copenhagen European Council. The Council welcomed in particular the Commission's intention to multilateralize the process as quickly as possible in Geneva after the G7 Summit, in order to ensure concrete contributions and meaningful participation by all contracting parties in the process of finalizing the Uruguay Round by the end of the year.

The Council underlined the necessity for all major participants in the international trading system to refrain from unilateral or protectionist action which might endanger the positive pursuit and satisfactory outcome of the Round.

The Council strongly endorsed the Commission's repeated condemnation of the latest United States' findings on steel. It urged the Commission to make clear to the United States Administration that these latest actions are ill-founded and unacceptable and risk having a negative effect as regards the successful conclusion of a multilateral steel agreement and consequently of the Uruguay Round."

REFORM OF THE STRUCTURAL FUNDS

On first reading, the Council reached political agreement by eleven delegations on the reform of the Structural Funds. The Irish delegation maintained a reservation as it felt that the information it had obtained as to how the financial resources would be allocated among the Member States remained unsatisfactory. The President of the Council appealed urgently to the Irish delegation to give its agreement within a few days so that the Edinburgh European Council's express request to the three Institutions to ensure that the texts concerning reform of the Structural Funds were formally adopted by the end of July could be met. Indeed compliance with that deadline was vital if the necessary programming of structural fund operations from 1 January 1994 was to go ahead, thereby preventing any interruption in the flow of funds to beneficiaries after 31 December 1993.

Since the Irish reservation applied only to the Framework Regulation - and not to its text - the Council decided to forward to the European Parliament the six proposals for Regulations amending:

- the framework Regulation;
- the co-ordination Regulation;
- the ERDF Regulation;
- the ESF Regulation;
- the EAGGF (Guidance) Regulation and
- the Regulation establishing an instrument for financing the structural measures in favour of fisheries (FIFG)

as soon as possible after the texts had been finalized so that the Parliament could proceed with its second reading at its part-session from 12 to 16 July 1993.

Provided that the Irish reservation had been withdrawn, the Council proposed to proceed with final adoption of the Structural Fund reform package at its meeting on 19 July 1993.

It will be remembered that on its first reading on 23 June, the European Parliament delivered, as part of the co-operation procedure, its Opinions on the "co-ordination" and "ERDF"

Regulations, while sending its comments on the other Regulations and requests for amending them without delivering its Opinion in formal form. After examining the amendments proposed by the European Parliament, the Commission had, on 24 June, forwarded to the Council a number of amendments to its original proposals incorporating changes designed to improve the procedure for briefing the Parliament on the Community's structural actions, to take more account of the other Community policies, to make the method of designating the regions eligible under Objectives 2 and 5b more explicit and to give the allocations of appropriations between the Member States greater transparency. The Council was accordingly in a position to take a decision on the basis of the amended Commission proposals.

As to the substance of the reform, it was noted that the Edinburgh European Council not only decided on the resources available for the Structural Funds (see Annex) and the other
“ Community structural operations for the period 1993 to 1999, but also laid down a number of basic principles for continuing the Community's structural action during this period, and particularly:

- the allocation for Community initiatives should be between 5% and 10% of total resources;
- account should be taken of national prosperity, regional prosperity, population of the regions, and the relative severity of structural problems, including the level of employment, and, for the appropriate objectives, the needs of rural development, in the form of criteria for structural action;
- the basic principles laid down in 1988 (concentration, programming, partnership and additionality) should continue to guide the implementation of the Structural Funds;
- the coverage of Objective 1 should be determined according to criteria similar to those of the 1988 Regulation and should include the new German Länder and East Berlin.

In framing its proposals, the Commission based its approach on the above principles: it also took into account the new Maastricht Treaty provisions concerning social policy priorities (combining and extending the former Objectives 3 and 4 to form a new Objective 3 and creating a new Objective 4), the consequences of the agricultural reforms and also the needs

for restructuring in the fisheries sector (special instrument: FIFG) (see Annex). A number of changes were in fact based on the experience gained since the last reform of the Funds in 1988 and were aimed specifically at increasing the effectiveness of the Community's structural action by simplifying the decision-making procedures and accompanying this with more careful evaluation and checking.

The main elements in the overall compromise reached by the Council were as follows:

Allocation of financial resources

The Commission outlined to the Member States the details of the method of indicative allocation of financial resources.

Objective 1 regions (see list attached)

As confirmation that the Community's outermost regions had been fully integrated into its structural action, specific reference to the Azores, the Canaries and Madeira was included in the relevant provision of the framework Regulation; for the Netherlands, Flevoland was added to the list of Objective 1 regions and the Highlands and Islands enterprise area added for the United Kingdom; also, exceptionally for France the arrondissements of Valenciennes, Douai and Avesnes, because they form a contiguous whole with the Belgian Hainaut region and in recognition of their low regional GDP; for Italy, so as to avoid a sudden break in the programming of Community aid to a region which had been receiving structural assistance under Objective 1, the Abruzzi region exceptionally retained its eligibility for a transitional non-renewable period of three years. Finally, so as to ensure that the new German Länder received equal treatment with the regions of the same type in line with the decision taken in Edinburgh, the statistics relating to the unified Germany's national prosperity and the regional prosperity of new Länder must incorporate the latest data for the new Länder.

Objectives 2 and 5b areas

The selection procedure adopted for areas eligible under Objectives 2 and 5b stipulate that the list will be proposed on the initiative of the Member States concerned. In preparing the list, the Commission will consult closely with each of the Member States having regard to the specific nature of their institutions and their national partnership practices and will also take into account the priorities of national regional planning policies. As a consequence, no regions which have not been proposed by a Member State will be included on the Commission list without the agreement of that Member State.

Finally, it was stipulated that in implementing the criteria for selecting Objective 2 areas, the Commission would take into account the level of unemployment, the degree of industrialization and industrial decline, and the level of economic activity or actual employment, as reflected nationally on a relative basis compared with the Community average.

Objectives 3 and 4

The creation of the new Objective 4 and the combining and extension of the former Objectives 3 and 4 into a new Objective 3 were approved subject to the following provisions:

Allocation of resources between Objectives 3 and 4 would primarily depend on Member States' priorities. It was noted that a number of Member States believed that the realities affecting the level of people's economic activity or actual employment could also be used as the reference basis for submitting the plan for Objectives 3 and 4. Furthermore, the overall allocation for the new Objective 4 would largely depend on the innovatory nature of the programmes submitted by the Member States. For each year in the period 1994 to 1999, at least 80% of the resources available for Objectives 3 and 4 would be allocated to Objective 3 and the majority of the subsidies available under Objective 4 would go to SME. The Commission would ensure that action taken under Objective 4 would not result in distortion of competition.

Objective 5

It was agreed that all references to programming for measures taken under this Objective would be deleted.

Community initiatives

Following the decision on the allocation of financial resources between Objectives 3 and 4, it was agreed that the proportion of Structural Fund commitment appropriations earmarked for financing action taken on the Commission's initiative would be increased to 9%.

On this point, the Commission said that it would like the Council to hold a wide-ranging and detailed discussion on the Green Paper which it had submitted on this subject and that it would take the guidelines which emerged for implementing Community initiatives fully into account. Furthermore, the Presidency's compromise had been based on the assumption that the tasks indicated in the Edinburgh European Council's conclusions, to be set out in more detailed form in the Council guidelines following the Green Paper, would encompass the full diversity of structural problems over the entire territory of the Community.

Appraisal and evaluation

In line with the conclusions of the European Council in Edinburgh, the Presidency's compromise concentrated on giving greater prominence to the need for ex ante appraisal, monitoring and ex post evaluation of the structural action. Taking up this point, the Council also reaffirmed the principle enunciated by the European Council whereby assistance would be allocated where appraisal showed medium-term economic and social benefits commensurate with the resources deployed.

Partnership

The Council stipulated that Member States which wished to do so could also include employers and labour in the partnership between the Commission, the Member States concerned and their competent authorities and bodies.

Adjustment of the differential of rates of assistance

The limits on Community rates of assistance under Objective 1 were in principle retained, (a maximum of 75% of the total cost and, as a general rule, at least 50% of public expenditure), but in the case of the "cohesion" regions, Community assistance could, in duly justified exceptional cases, be as high as 80% with a maximum of 85% of the total cost in the case of the outermost regions.

Other matters

The compromise reached by the Council also included measures to take account of environmental requirements, provisions on the transition to the new programming period, and provisions covering a number of specific questions raised by various delegations.

1. LEGAL BASIS

Framework Regulation:	Article 130d (unanimity)
Co-ordination Regulation:	Article 130e (qualified majority) co-operation procedure
ERDF:	Article 130e (qualified majority) co-operation procedure
ESF:	Articles 126 and 127 (unanimity)
EAGGF:	Article 43 (qualified majority)
FIFG:	Article 43 (qualified majority)

2. RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR THE STRUCTURAL FUNDS

Commitment appropriations for the period 1994-1999
(ECU million at 1992 prices)

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	1994-1999
Structural Funds and FIFG	20 135	21 480	22 740	24 026	25 690	27 400	141 471
of which Objective 1 regions:	13 220	14 300	15 330	16 396	17 820	19 280	96 346

3. OBJECTIVESObjective 1

promoting the development and structural adjustment of regions whose development is lagging behind.

Objective 2

converting the regions, frontier regions or parts of regions (including employment areas and urban communities) seriously affected by industrial decline.

Objective 3

combating long-term unemployment and facilitating the integration into working life of young people and of persons exposed to exclusion from the labour market.

Objective 4

facilitating the adaptation of workers to industrial changes and to changes in production systems.

Objectives 5a and 5b

Promoting rural development by:

- (a) speeding up the adjustment of agricultural structures in the framework of the reform of the common agricultural policy (+ Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance - FIFG);
- (b) facilitating the development and structural adjustment of rural areas.

In the framework of the review of the common fisheries policy, measures for the adjustment of fisheries structures come under Objective 5a.

MEANS

- Objective 1: ERDF, ESF and EAGGF Guidance Section
- Objective 2: ERDF and ESF
- Objective 3: ESF
- Objective 4: ESF
- Objective 5a: EAGGF Guidance Section and FIFG
- Objective 5b: EAGGF Guidance Section, ESF and ERDF.

Apart from the Structural Funds and the FIFG, the EIB, the cohesion financial instrument and the other existing financial instruments will also contribute to the attainment of the five Objectives listed above.

4. REGIONS CONCERNED BY OBJECTIVE 1

- BELGIUM : Hainaut.
- GERMANY : Brandenburg, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, East Berlin, Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, Thuringia.
- GREECE : The entire country.
- SPAIN : Andalucia, Asturias, Cantabria, Castilla y León, Castilla-La Mancha, Ceuta y Melilla, Comunidad Valenciana, Extremadura, Galicia, Canary Islands, Murcia.
- FRANCE : French overseas departments, Corsica and the arrondissements of Valenciennes, Douai and Avesnes.
- IRELAND : The entire country.
- ITALY : Basilicata, Calabria, Campania, Molise, Apulia, Sardinia, Sicily, Abruzzi (1994-1996).
- NETHERLANDS : Flevoland.
- PORTUGAL : The entire country.
- UNITED KINGDOM : Highlands and Islands enterprise area, Merseyside, Northern Ireland.
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PRESS RELEASE

7710/93 (Presse 124)

1678th Council meeting

ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL QUESTIONS

Brussels, 12 July 1993

President: Mr Philippe MAYSTADT,
Minister for Finance
of the Kingdom of Belgium

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

<u>Belgium:</u> Mr Philippe MAYSTADT	Minister for Finance
<u>Denmark:</u> Ms Marianne JELVED	Minister for Economic Affairs
<u>Germany:</u> Mr Theo WAIGEL Mr Johann EEKHOFF Mr Gert HELLER	Federal Minister for Finance State Secretary for Economic Affairs State Secretary for Finance
<u>Greece:</u> Mr Stefanos MANOS	Minister for Economic Affairs
<u>Spain:</u> Mr Pedro PEREZ	State Secretary for Economic Affairs and Finance
<u>France:</u> Mr Edmond ALPHANDERY	Minister for Economic Affairs
<u>Ireland:</u> Mr Bertie AHERN	Minister for Finance
<u>Italy:</u> Mr Enzo PERLOT	Ambassador, Permanent Representative
<u>Luxembourg:</u> Mr Jean-Claude JUNCKER	Minister for Finance
<u>Netherlands:</u> Mr Wim KÖK	Minister for Finance
<u>Portugal:</u> Mr Jorge BRAGA DE MACEDO Mr José BRAZ	Minister for Finance State Secretary for the Treasury
<u>United Kingdom:</u> Mr Kenneth CLARKE	Chancellor of the Exchequer

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<u>Commission:</u> Mr Jacques DELORS Mr Henning CHRISTOPHERSEN Ms Christiane SCRIVENER	President Vice-President Member
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The following also attended:

Sir Brian UNWIN Mr Wim DUISENBERG Mr Jean-Claude TRICHET	President of the EIB Chairman of the Committee of Governors of the Central Banks Chairman of the Monetary Committee
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MULTILATERAL SURVEILLANCE

1. The Council carried out the biannual examination of the economic situation in the Community (multilateral surveillance). It received an opinion of the Committee of Governors of the Central Banks and of the Monetary Committee. The exercise showed that the Community economy was going through a difficult period. GDP was expected to contract by about half a percentage point this year with some signs of recovery in 1993 and a modest recovery expected to take place in 1994. The forecast decline in employment might lead to sharply rising rates of unemployment, which might well reach a rate of about 12% next year. Progress in the nominal convergence situation was uneven: the adverse economic environment wiped out efforts to reduce budget deficits, which were now reaching record levels, while inflation was coming down more slowly than would be warranted by the weakness of activity.
2. The Council noted with satisfaction the measures to support growth which the Member States and the Community had taken in close co-operation since the Edinburgh meeting of the European Council and the decisions taken at the recent Copenhagen meeting. It also welcomed the recent progress towards a conclusion of the GATT negotiations.
3. Given the state of the public finances in most Member States, there was now widespread agreement that the best contribution that budgetary policy could now make to recovery was to announce credible, medium-term measures to reduce fiscal imbalances.
4. The Council underlined that an additional encouragement to the Community's

short-term economic outlook would also undoubtedly emanate from the creation of the conditions necessary to ensure a further reduction in interest rates. In this regard, evidence of budgetary consolidation and of wage moderation would both have an important role to play.

5. The Council stressed that structural adjustment policies represented an essential instrument in returning the Community's economy to a higher and more employment-intensive growth path. Efforts in this direction were indispensable since the current downturn had exposed two major underlying weaknesses in the economic capacity of the Community: its decline in overall competitiveness and its inability to create a sufficient number of new jobs. These issues will be addressed in the White Paper on a medium-term strategy on growth, competitiveness and employment which the Commission will transmit to the December Brussels European Council. The Council will give particular attention to these issues, including the reduction of the labour costs, in the framework of the broad guidelines for economic policy it prepares for deliberation by the European Council.
6. The Council reaffirmed the importance of the convergence programmes as valuable instruments of economic policy co-ordination in the Community as well as useful tools for re-establishing sound public finances in the medium term. Ministers called on all Member States facing structural imbalances in their economies to submit a convergence programme if they had not already done so.
7. To ensure effective monitoring and follow-up of the existing programmes, the Council invited Member States to update them as soon as their budgets had been approved,

notably to take into account the deterioration in the economic situation. Without prejudice to each Member State's own responsibility with respect to their content, it was desirable that all programmes extend to the 1996 horizon, be revised once a year and be based on realistic assumptions compatible with the Community's general economic outlook, specify clearly their objectives and give the necessary indications about the measures contemplated to achieve those objectives.

WESTERN ECONOMIC SUMMIT

The Council was informed by those of its Members who had taken part in the Tokyo Summit about the discussions that had been held on economic and financial matters.

UNITED KINGDOM CONVERGENCE PROGRAMME

At its meeting on 12 July 1993 the Council examined the United Kingdom Convergence Programme covering the period up to the 1997-1998 financial year. The Council welcomed the presentation of the programme which, although ambitious, was based on realistic assumptions.

The Council noted the Government's firm commitment to a low inflation target and encouraged the Government vigorously to pursue whatever measures were necessary to ensure that the target was maintained. With respect to exchange rate policy, the Council looked forward to the re-entry of sterling into the ERM as soon as conditions permitted.

Sound and stable growth would also require that the imbalances in the UK economy be tackled. The adoption of a budgetary consolidation strategy and the measures taken and announced in the Budget were welcomed. The United Kingdom Government was encouraged to fulfil, within the period of the convergence programme, its commitment to meeting the Maastricht deficit criterion. In this context, the Council noted that a more vigorous budgetary adjustment might be necessary, especially in the first years, if the pace of economic recovery was slower than expected.

Finally, the Council noted the substantial progress already achieved in the area of structural reform and welcomed the programme of continuing efforts to strengthen the supply side. Such efforts would be an important aid over the medium term to the achievement of sound and stable growth.

FOLLOW-UP TO THE COPENHAGEN EUROPEAN COUNCIL

The Council considered the organization of discussions during the second half of 1993 concerning, in particular,

- the second stage of EMU;
- the broad guidelines of the economic policies;
- the Commission's White Paper on economic renewal in Europe.

It noted that no decision could be taken on the second stage of EMU until the Maastricht Treaty had come into force, but that the guidelines which the Commission intended to submit shortly on the various aspects could begin to be studied informally without delay by the Permanent Representatives Committee, the Monetary Committee and the Committee of Governors of the Central Banks.

Regarding the broad guidelines of the economic policies of the Member States and the Community, under Article 103 of the Maastricht Treaty, the Commission intended to prepare its draft for the Brussels European Council at its next meeting on 22 November. It asked the Commission to submit its White Paper on economic renewal in Europe by the beginning of November. This would enable it to take the White Paper into account during its preparatory work on the broad guidelines of the economic policies, as requested by the European Council.

The Council took note of information from the President of the EIB on the implementation of the "Edinburgh facility" (ECU 5 million + ECU 3 million as decided at Copenhagen) and called on the Bank to press ahead with this exercise.

With regard to the implementation of the short-term measures envisaged by the European Council, the Council heard a presentation by Vice-President CHRISTOPHERSEN of two Commission proposals, one concerning the subsidizing of interest rates on loans granted by the EIB to SMUs, the other concerning the possibility of raising loans – in favour of the Member States – in connection with the bridging facility mentioned by the European Council.

The Council asked the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine the questions to which these proposals gave rise.

TRAVELLERS' ALLOWANCES

The Council turned to the issue of increases in travellers' allowances to see whether unanimous agreement was now possible on the formula which 11 delegations had accepted in December 1992, i.e.:

- to increase allowances for travellers coming from third countries from ECU 45 to ECU 175 and limits on tax-free purchases made during intra-Community travel from ECU 45 to ECU 90;
- to authorize Spain, until 31 December 1996, to grant travellers from the Canary Islands, Ceuta and Melilla entering the fiscal territory of Spain an allowance of ECU 600 in respect of goods imported.

Noting that Germany was unable to accept this formula as it stood, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue seeking a solution to the problem.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

UNRWA

The Council authorized the Commission to negotiate, in consultation with a committee comprising representatives of the Member States, the renewal of the Convention between the EEC and UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees) for a period of three years between 1993 and 1995.

The proposed Community contributions to the three programmes (education, health and supplementary feeding) will be ECU 30 million in 1993, ECU 31 million in 1994 and ECU 32 million in 1995.

Textiles

The Council authorized the Commission to open negotiations with Slovenia for the conclusion of a textiles agreement.

Fisheries

The Council adopted a Decision concerning the provisional application – pending its definitive entry into force – of the Protocol establishing for the period from 1 June 1993 to 31 May 1996, the fishing rights and financial compensation provided for in the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe.

Under the Protocol it will be possible for 40 freezer tuna purse seiners from the Community and eight pole-and-line tuna vessels or surface longliners from the Community to continue to operate off Sao Tome and Principe.

The Community's financial compensation for the duration of the Protocol is ECU 1 650 000, covering a catch weight of 9 000 tonnes of thunnidae per year. The Community will contribute ECU 250 000 to the funding of scientific and technical programmes concerning the exclusive economic zone of Sao Tome and Principe. The conditions for the new Protocol are exactly the same as for the previous one.

The Council adopted Regulations:

- giving a separate tariff identification to surimi, and surimi preparations, as products subject to the rules of the common fisheries policy laid down in Regulation No 3759/92 of 17 December 1992 on the common organization of the markets in this sector.

The Community will now be able to monitor trade and any developments in the market prices for surimi (a washed and stabilized protein gel made from minced fish) and its

preparations, the demand for which has increased steadily in recent years, as have imports;

- laying down common marketing standards, including sizing standards, for new species eligible for intervention, following the reforms made by Regulation No 3759 to certain mechanisms of the common organization of the markets in fishery products;
- fixing the guide prices for the 1993 fishing year for the species mentioned below following their inclusion in the common organization of the market by Regulation No 3759/92:

ecu/tonne

= fresh products

Dab (gutted fish with head)	760
Flounder (gutted fish with head)	450
Albacore or longfinned tuna (whole fish)	1 800
Albacore or longfinned tuna (gutted fish with head)	2 100
Cuttlefish (whole fish)	1 300
Sole (gutted fish with head)	5 000

= frozen products

Lesser or Greenland halibut	1 300
Whole hake of the genus <i>Merluccius</i> spp.	1 115
Fillets of hake of the genus <i>Merluccius</i> spp.	1 450
Prawns of the species <i>Parapenaeus longirostris</i>	5 000
- other species of the family Penaeidae	6 500

Agriculture

The Council adopted Regulations opening and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for the period 1 July 1993 to 30 June 1994, with a duty of 4%, in respect of:

- 42 600 cows and heifers, not intended for slaughter, of certain mountain breeds falling under subheadings ex 0102 90 05, 0102 90 29, 0102 90 49, 0102 90 50 and 0102 90 69 of the Combined Nomenclature;
- 5 000 bulls, cows and heifers, not intended for slaughter, of certain Alpine breeds falling within subheadings ex 0102 90 05, 0102 90 29, 0102 90 49, 0102 90 59, 0102 90 69 and 0102 90 79 of the Combined Nomenclature.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

1679th meeting of the Council

- General Affairs -

Brussels, 19-20 July 1993

The official press release was unavailable. A summary of the meeting has been reproduced from the Bulletin of the European Communities, No. 7/8-1993.

1679th meeting

1.6.4. General affairs (Brussels, 19 and 20 July).

Previous meeting: Bull. EC 6-1993, point 1.6.6

President: Mr Claes, Belgian Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Commission: Mr Delors, Sir Leon Brittan, Mr van den Broek, Mr Marín, Mr Pinheiro, Mr Flynn, Mr Millan and Mr Vanni d'Archirafi.

Main items

- Reform of Structural Funds: six Regulations adopted (→ points 1.2.114 to 1.2.120).
- Applications for membership by Cyprus and Malta: conclusions adopted (→ point 1.3.2).
- Relations with Slovenia: Decision concluding the economic and commercial cooperation Agreement (→ point 1.3.25), the Protocol concerning financial cooperation (→ point 1.3.26) and the transport agreement (→ point 1.2.108) adopted and assent given to the conclusion by the Commission of the ECSC Agreement (→ point 1.3.24).
- Relations with the former Soviet Union — TACIS: Regulation adopted (→ point 1.3.15).

Other business

- Relations with Parliament: exchange of views.
- Voting rights and eligibility for Parliament elections: general discussion.
- Former Yugoslavia: exchange of views.
- Somalia: exchange of views.
- Pact on stability in Europe: working party set up.
- Export controls on certain dual-use goods and technologies: progress report.
- Uruguay Round: progress report on negotiations.
- Relations with the ACP States: discussed.
- Western Economic Summit: reports presented.
- EC-Japan Summit: reports presented.
- Relations with Tunisia: discussed.

Changes of a more general nature are designed to improve application of the partnership, programming and additionality principles and boost monitoring.

The regions eligible under Objective 1 (areas where development is lagging behind) will be Hainaut in Belgium, the five new *Länder* and East Berlin in Germany, the whole of Greece, Andalusia, Asturias, the Canary Islands, Cantabria, Castile-Leon, Castile-La Mancha, Ceuta-Melilla, Extremadura, Galicia, Murcia and Valencia in Spain, the overseas departments, Corsica and the districts of Avesnes, Douai and Valenciennes for France, the whole of Ireland, Abruzzi (1994 to 1996), Apulia, Basilicata, Calabria, Campania, Molise, Sardinia and Sicily in Italy, Flevoland in the Netherlands, the whole of Portugal and for the United Kingdom highlands and islands, Merseyside and Northern Ireland.

Development, coordination and implementation of policies and measures

Reference: Conclusions of Edinburgh European Council: Bull. EC 12-1992, points I.53 to I.55

1.2.114. On 19 July the Council, following the decisions taken at Edinburgh and after consultation with the other institutions, adopted six Structural Fund Regulations (*→ points 1.2.115 to 1.2.120*) establishing the legislative framework for operations during the financial period 1994 to 1999 and incorporating new Community priorities in regard to economic and social cohesion, as indicated in the Protocol to the Treaty on European Union, and improvements suggested by experience of operating the Funds.

The main changes are the recasting of Objective 3 to group the present Objective 3 (combating long-term unemployment) and Objective 4 (occupational integration of young people) and which also helps to integrate people of categories liable to exclusion from the labour market; a new Objective 4 designed to help workers adapt to industrial change and the introduction of new production systems; and provisions geared to the impact of the reform of the common agricultural policy and the need for restructuring in the fisheries sector, with a specific instrument (FIGG) set up for the latter.

1.2.115. Council Regulation (EEC) No 2081/93 amending Regulation (EEC) No 2052/88 on the tasks of the Structural Funds and their effectiveness and on coordination of their activities between themselves and with the operations of the European Investment Bank and the other existing financial instruments.

Regulation amended: Council Regulation (EEC) No 2052/88, 24.6.1988: OJ L 185, 15.7.1988; Bull. EC 6-1988, point 2.1.159

Commission approval: Bull. EC 1/2-1993, point 1.2.121

Commission proposal: OJ C 118, 28.4.1993; COM(93) 67; Bull. EC 3-1993, point 1.2.80

Economic and Social Committee opinion: OJ C 201, 26.7.1993; Bull. EC 5-1993, point 1.2.83

Amended Commission proposal: OJ C 217, 11.8.1993; COM(93) 303; Bull. EC 6-1993, point 1.2.128

Agreed by the Council on 3 July.

Endorsed by Parliament on 14 July, subject to amendments in particular aimed at improving consultation of the economic and social partners and boosting the importance of environmental considerations.

OJ C 255, 20.9.1993

Re-examined proposal adopted by the Commission on 15 July.

COM(93) 379

Bull. EC 7/8-1993

Formally adopted on 20 July.

OJ L 193, 31.7.1993

1.2.116. Council Regulation (EEC) No 2082/93 amending Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88 laying down provisions for implementing Regulation (EEC) No 2052/88 as regards coordination of the activities of the different Structural Funds between themselves and with the operations of the European Investment Bank and the other existing financial instruments.

Regulation amended: Council Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88, 19.12.1988; OJ L 374, 31.12.1988; Bull. EC 12-1988, point 2.1.200

Commission approval: Bull. EC 1/2-1993, point 1.2.121

Commission proposal: OJ C 118, 28.4.1993; COM(93) 67; Bull. EC 3-1993, point 1.2.80

Economic and Social Committee opinion: OJ C 201, 26.7.1993; Bull. EC 5-1993, point 1.2.83

Parliament opinion (first reading): OJ C 194, 19.7.1993; Bull. EC 6-1993, point 1.2.129

Amended Commission proposal: OJ C 217, 11.8.1993; COM(93) 303; Bull. EC 6-1993, point 1.2.129

Common position adopted by the Council on 3 July.

Endorsed by Parliament (second reading) on 14 July, subject to amendments in particular on closer involvement of the economic and social partners and communication to Parliament of projected Community initiatives transmitted to the management committee.

OJ C 255, 20.9.1993

Re-examined proposal adopted by the Commission on 15 July.

COM(93) 379

Formally adopted on 20 July.

OJ L 193, 31.7.1993

1.2.117. Council Regulation (EEC) No 2083/93 amending Regulation (EEC) No 4254/88 laying down provisions for implementing Regulation (EEC) No 2052/88 as regards the European Regional Development Fund.

Bull. EC 7/8-1993

Regulation amended: Council Regulation (EEC) No 4254/88; OJ L 374, 31.12.1988; Bull. EC 12-1988, point 2.1.200

Commission approval: Bull. EC 3-1993, point 1.2.81

Commission proposal: OJ C 121, 1.5.1993; OJ C 131, 11.5.1993; COM(93) 124; Bull. EC 4-1993, point 1.2.90

Economic and Social Committee opinion: OJ C 201, 26.7.1993; Bull. EC 5-1993, point 1.2.83

Parliament opinion (first reading): OJ C 194, 19.7.1993; Bull. EC 6-1993, point 1.2.130

Amended Commission proposal: OJ C 217, 11.8.1993; COM(93) 303; Bull. EC 6-1993, point 1.2.130

Common position adopted by the Council on 3 July.

Endorsed by Parliament (second reading) on 14 July, subject to amendments relating in particular to the need to improve the integration of women into the labour market and develop the cultural dynamism of the regions aided.

OJ C 255, 20.9.1993

Re-examined proposal adopted by the Commission on 15 July.

COM(93) 379

Formally adopted on 20 July.

OJ L 193, 31.7.1993

1.2.118. Council Regulation (EEC) No 2084/93 amending Regulation (EEC) No 4255/88 laying down provisions for implementing Regulation (EEC) No 2052/88 as regards the European Social Fund.

Regulation amended: Council Regulation (EEC) No 4255/88; OJ L 374, 31.12.1988; Bull. EC 12-1988, point 2.1.200

Commission approval: Bull. EC 3-1993, point 1.2.81

Commission proposal: OJ C 121, 1.5.1993; OJ C 131, 11.5.1993; COM(93) 124; Bull. EC 4-1993, point 1.2.90

Economic and Social Committee opinion: OJ C 201, 26.7.1993; Bull. EC 5-1993, point 1.2.83

Amended Commission proposal: OJ C 217, 11.8.1993; COM(93) 303; Bull. EC 6-1993, point 1.2.131

Agreed by the Council on 3 July.

Endorsed by Parliament on 14 July, subject to amendments to clarify the text and affirm the dominance of Objective 3 for the Social Fund.

OJ C 255, 20.9.1993

Re-examined proposal adopted by the Commission on 15 July.

COM(93) 379

Formally adopted on 20 July.

OJ L 193, 31.7.1993

1.2.119. Council Regulation (EEC) No 2085/93 amending Regulation (EEC) No 4256/88 laying down provisions for implementing Regulation (EEC) No 2052/88 as regards the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF), Guidance Section.

Regulation amended: Council Regulation (EEC) No 4256/88; OJ L 374, 31.12.1988; Bull. EC 12-1988, point 2.1.200

Commission approval: Bull. EC 3-1993, point 1.2.81

Commission proposal: OJ C 121, 1.5.1993; OJ C 131, 11.5.1993; COM(93) 124; Bull. EC 4-1993, point 1.2.90

Economic and Social Committee opinion: OJ C 201, 26.7.1993; Bull. EC 5-1993, point 1.2.83

Amended Commission proposal: OJ C 217, 11.8.1993; COM(93) 303; Bull. EC 6-1993, point 1.2.132

Agreed by the Council on 3 July.

Endorsed by Parliament on 14 July, subject to amendments relating in particular to the need to boost the use of environment-friendly agricultural methods.

OJ C 255, 20.9.1993

Re-examined proposal adopted by the Commission on 15 July.

COM(93) 379

Formally adopted on 20 July.

OJ L 193, 31.7.1993

1.2.120. Council Regulation (EEC) No 2080/93 laying down provisions for implementing Regulation (EEC) No 2052/88 as regards the

Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance (FIFG).

Basic Regulation: Council Regulation (EEC) No 2052/88; OJ L 185, 15.7.1988; Bull. EC 6-1988, point 2.1.159

Commission approval: Bull. EC 3-1993, point 1.2.81

Commission proposal: OJ C 121, 1.5.1993; OJ C 131, 11.5.1993; COM(93) 124; Bull. EC 4-1993, point 1.2.90

Economic and Social Committee opinion: OJ C 201, 26.7.1993; Bull. EC 5-1993, point 1.2.83

Amended Commission proposal: OJ C 217, 11.8.1993; COM(93) 303; Bull. EC 6-1993, point 1.2.132

Agreed by the Council on 3 July.

Endorsed by Parliament on 14 July, subject to amendments in particular providing for increased consultation of Parliament and specific aid for small-scale fisheries.

OJ C 255, 20.9.1993

Re-examined proposal adopted by the Commission on 15 July.

COM(93) 379

Formally adopted on 20 July.

OJ L 193, 31.7.1993

Mediterranean countries

1.3.2. Council conclusions on the Commission opinions on the applications for membership by Cyprus and Malta.

References:

Commission opinion on Cyprus's application for membership: COM(93) 313; Bull. EC 6-1993, point 1.3.6

Commission opinion on Malta's application for membership: COM(93) 312; Bull. EC 6-1993, point 1.3.7

Adopted by the Council (general affairs) on 19 July.

'The Council heard the presentation of the Commission's opinions on the two applications.

It welcomed the positive message contained in these opinions regarding the two countries' eligibility and suitability for membership of the European Union.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine the opinions — in the light of its generally positive assessment — to enable it to adopt a position at its next meeting on the conclusions proposed by the Commission.'

Bull. EC 7/8-1993

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Slovenia

1.3.24. Agreement between the Member States of the European Coal and Steel Community and the ECSC of the one part, and the Republic of Slovenia of the other part.

Commission recommendation: Bull. EC 6-1992, point 1.4.14

Negotiating directives: Bull. EC 7/8-1992, point 1.4.26

Agreement initialled: COM(92) 487; Bull. EC 11-1992, point 1.4.31

Commission proposal on the conclusion of the Agreement: COM(92) 487; Bull. EC 11-1992, point 1.4.31

Council decision on the signing of the Agreement: Bull. EC 4-1993, point 1.3.22

Agreement signed: Bull. EC 4-1993, point 1.3.22

Commission decision approving the Agreement adopted on 9 July.

Assent No 5/93 of the Council to the conclusion of the Agreement by the Commission given on 19 and 20 July.

OJ C 210, 4.8.1993

1.3.25. Economic and trade cooperation Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Slovenia.

Commission recommendation: Bull. EC 6-1992, point 1.4.14

Negotiating directives: Bull. EC 7/8-1992, point 1.4.26

Agreement initialled: COM(92) 487; Bull. EC 11-1992, point 1.4.31

Proposal for a Council Decision on the conclusion of the Agreement: COM(92) 487; Bull. EC 11-1992, point 1.4.31

Council Decision on the signing of the Agreement: Bull. EC 4-1993, point 1.3.22

Agreement signed: Bull. EC 4-1993, point 1.3.22

Parliament opinion: OJ C 194, 19.7.1993; Bull. EC 6-1993, point 1.3.27

Decision 93/407/EEC on the conclusion of the Agreement adopted by the Council on 19 July.

OJ L 189, 29.7.1993

1.3.26. Protocol on financial cooperation between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Slovenia.

Commission proposal on the conclusion of the Protocol: OJ C 74, 16.3.1993; COM(93) 56; Bull. EC 1/2-1993, point 1.3.21

Protocol signed: Bull. EC 4-1993, point 1.3.23

Parliament opinion: OJ C 194, 19.7.1993; Bull. EC 6-1993, point 1.3.28

Decision 93/408/EEC on the conclusion of the Protocol adopted by the Council on 19 July.

OJ L 189, 29.7.1993

Slovenia

1.2.108. Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Slovenia in the field of transport.

Commission recommendation and negotiating directives: Bull. EC 10-1992, point 1.3.72

Initialling of the Agreement: Bull. EC 1/2-1993, point 1.2.110

Proposal for a Council Decision concerning the conclusion of the Agreement: OJ C 93, 2.4.1993; COM(93) 57; Bull. EC 1/2-1993, point 1.2.110

Council Decision on signing: Bull. EC 3-1993, point 1.2.71

Signing of the Agreement: Bull. EC 4-1993, point 1.2.77

Economic and Social Committee opinion: OJ C 201, 26.7.1993; Bull. EC 5-1993, point 1.2.76

Parliament opinion: OJ C 194, 19.7.1993; Bull. EC 6-1993, point 1.2.119

Decision 93/409/EEC on the conclusion of the Agreement adopted by the Council (general affairs) on 19 July. The Decision is based on Article 75 of the EEC Treaty.

OJ L 189, 29.7.1993

Bull. EC 7/8-1993

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Independent States of the former Soviet Union

Assistance for the independent States of the former Soviet Union

Reference: Council Regulation (EEC, Euratom) No 2157/91 concerning the provision of technical assistance to economic reform and recovery in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics: OJ L 201, 24.7.1991; Bull. EC 7/8-1991, point 1.3.5

1.3.15. Council Regulation (Euratom, EEC) No 2053/93 concerning the provision of technical assistance to economic reform and recovery in the independent States of the former Soviet Union and Mongolia (TACIS programme).

Reference: Council Regulation (EEC) No 443/92 on financial and technical assistance to, and economic cooperation with, the developing countries in Asia and Latin America: OJ L 52, 27.2.1992; Bull. EC 1/2-1992, point 1.4.40

Commission approval: Bull. EC 11-1992, point 1.4.17

Commission proposal: OJ C 48, 19.2.1993; COM(92) 475; Bull. EC 1/2-1993, point 1.3.15

Rejected by Parliament on 14 July.

OJ C 255, 20.9.1993

Adopted by the Council (general affairs) on 19 July. The new TACIS Regulation, which carries a budget of ECU 510 million for 1993, will govern the Community's technical assistance to the former Soviet Union and Mongolia for the years 1993, 1994 and 1995.

The first change to the arrangements established by Regulation (EEC, Euratom) No 2157/91 was the extension of the TACIS programme to Mongolia, because its technical assistance needs are similar to those of the independent States of the former Soviet Union. This made Mongolia the 13th country eligible for assistance under this programme. It will be entitled to such assistance from 1 January 1994, and will until then continue to be covered by Regulation (EEC) No 443/92 on financial and technical assistance to, and economic cooperation with, the developing countries in Asia and Latin America.

The second change is the greater stringency of the conditions imposed: the level and intensity of assistance will depend on the extent and progress of reform in the recipient countries. It will, moreover, focus in terms of subject and geography on the areas where its effect is likely to be the greatest, and special emphasis will be laid on support for measures designed to achieve the transition to a market economy and strengthen democracy.

The third substantial change is decentralization of the implementation of technical cooperation. This means that the final recipients of assistance are closely involved in the evaluation and execution of the projects. A multiannual indicative programme will be drawn up for each recipient country in order to set out the main aims of and guidelines for the assistance. The indicative programme will provide the basis for an annual programme of action. Activities put forward for financing will be assessed as to their effectiveness.

The TACIS Committee, consisting of representatives of the Member States and chaired by a representative of the Commission, will be responsible for helping the Commission to manage the aid. The Commission and the Member States will ensure that the assistance provided by the Community and that provided by the Member States individually is properly coordinated.

The Regulation also makes provision for triangular operations, which enable firms in countries which are PHARE recipients and in Mediterranean countries to become involved in projects if the latter require a particular kind of input which those countries are in a position to supply. It will be open to the Commission to authorize such involvement on an *ad hoc* basis.

The new Regulation places a ceiling on humanitarian aid operations of 10% of the TACIS programme's annual budget.

OJ L 187, 29.7.1993

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

1680th meeting of the Council

- Agriculture -

Brussels, 19 July 1993

The official press release was unavailable. A summary of the meeting has been reproduced from the Bulletin of the European Communities, No. 7/8-1993.

1680th meeting

1.6.5. Agriculture (Brussels, 19 July).

Previous meeting: Bull. EC 6-1993, point 1.6.9

President: Mr Bourgeois, Belgian Minister for Agriculture.

Commission: Mr Steichen.

Main items

- Special reference quantity for certain milk producers (SLOM III): Regulation adopted (→ point 1.2.165).
- Offer of compensation to certain milk producers: proposal for a Regulation agreed (→ point 1.2.166).
- Standard qualities for cereals: Regulation adopted (→ point 1.2.151).
- Feedingstuffs intended for particular nutritional purposes: proposal for a Directive agreed (→ point 1.2.15).

Other business

- Grant of agrimonetary aid: exchange of views.
- Uruguay Round — Agricultural aspects: progress report.
- Control of residues in meat: discussed in detail.
- Funding of programmes to combat certain diseases in the veterinary sector: wide-ranging debate and conclusions of the Presidency.
- Protection of animals during transport: exchange of views.
- Animal protection: discussed.

1.2.165. Council Regulation (EEC) No 2055/93 allocating a special reference quantity to certain producers of milk and milk products.

Reference: Council Regulation (EEC) No 1078/77 introducing a system of premiums for the non-marketing of milk and milk products and for the conversion of dairy herds: OJ L 131, 26.5.1977

Commission proposal: OJ C 107, 17.4.1993; COM(93) 89; Bull. EC 3-1993, point 1.2.123

Parliament opinion: OJ C 176, 28.6.1993; Bull. EC 5-1993, point 1.2.124

Adopted on 19 July. The Regulation grants quotas to producers who took over all or part of a farm the previous holder of which had entered into a non-marketing or conversion commitment.

OJ L 187, 29.7.1993

1.2.166. Council Regulation (EEC) No 2187/93 providing for an offer of compensation to certain producers of milk and milk products temporarily prevented from carrying on their trade.

Reference: Judgment of the Court of Justice of 19 May 1992 (Joined Cases C-104/89 and C-37/90): OJ C 152, 17.6.1992; Bull. EC 6-1992, point 1.7.31

Commission proposal: OJ C 157, 9.6.1993; COM(93) 161; Bull. EC 4-1993, point 1.2.124

Economic and Social Committee opinion: Bull. EC 6-1993, point 1.2.194

Endorsed by Parliament on 16 July, subject to amendments in particular compelling respect for the agricultural guideline.

OJ C 255, 20.9.1993

Agreed by the Council on 19 July.

Formally adopted on 22 July. Following the Court's judgment ordering the Community to make good the losses of milk producers who, as a result of an earlier non-marketing or conversion commitment, were not allocated milk quotas in 1984, the Regulation introduces compensation provisions.

OJ L 196, 5.8.1993

EAGGF Guarantee Section

1.2.167. Proposal for a Council Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 386/90 on the monitoring carried out at the time of export of agricultural products receiving refunds or other amounts.

Regulation to be amended: Council Regulation (EEC) No 386/90: OJ L 42, 16.2.1990; Bull. EC 1/2-1990, point 1.4.18

Adopted by the Commission on 19 July. Regulation (EEC) No 386/90 requires each customs office to make a physical check on at least 5% per year of operations giving rise to refunds. The proposal is for this rate to be changed from applying to each agricultural product sector to applying to agricultural products as a whole so that offices will be able to concentrate their checks on sectors presenting the most risk.

OJ C 218, 12.8.1993; COM(93) 339

Market organization

Cereals

1.2.151. Council Regulation (EEC) No 2054/93 amending Regulation (EEC) No 2731/75 fixing standard qualities for common wheat, rye, barley, maize, sorghum and durum wheat.

Commission proposal: OJ C 112, 22.4.1993; COM(93) 122; Bull. EC 3-1993, point 1.2.117

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Economic and Social Committee opinion: OJ C 201, 26.7.1993; Bull. EC 5-1993, point 1.2.116

Parliament opinion: OJ C 194, 19.7.1993; Bull. EC 6-1993, point 1.2.188

Adopted on 19 July. The Regulation sets a single standard quality for each cereal.

OJ L 187, 29.7.1993

1.2.15. Proposal for a Council Regulation on feedingstuffs intended for particular nutritional purposes.

Commission proposal: OJ C 231, 9.9.1992; COM(92) 324; Bull. EC 7/8-1992, point 1.3.181

Parliament opinion: OJ C 21, 25.1.1993; Bull. EC 12-1992, point 1.3.220

Economic and Social Committee opinion: OJ C 73, 15.3.1993; Bull. EC 1/2-1993, point 1.2.25

Agreed by the Council (agriculture) on 19 July. The aim of this proposal is to lay down specific rules governing the production, marketing and monitoring of dietetic feedingstuffs in order to make it possible to distinguish between them and other types of feedingstuffs. The Council agreement provides for the text to be adopted in the form of a directive.

Bull. EC 7/8-1993

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PRESS RELEASE

8109/93 (Presse 132)

1681st Council meeting

- BUDGET -

Brussels, 22 July 1993

President: Ms Mieke OFFECIERS-VAN DE WIELE

Minister for the Budget of the Kingdom
of Belgium

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

Belgium

Ms Mieke OFFECIERS-VAN DE WIELE

Minister for the Budget

Denmark

Mr Jørgen ØSTRØM MØLLER

State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Germany

Mr Gert HALLER

State Secretary to the Federal Minister for Finance

Greece

Mr Konstantinos GIATRAKOS

State Secretary for Finance

Spain

Mr Antonio ZABALZA MARTI

State Secretary for Finance

France

Mr Nicolas SARKOZY

Minister for the Budget

Ireland

Mr Tom KITT

Minister of State for European Affairs

Italy

Mr Rocco Antonio CANGELOSI

Deputy Permanent Representative

Luxembourg

Mr Jean-Claude JUNCKER

Minister for the Budget

Netherlands

Mr Ate OOSTRA

Deputy Permanent Representative

Portugal

Ms Maria Manuela FERREIRA-LEITE

State Secretary for the Budget

United Kingdom

Sir John COPE

Paymaster General

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Commission

Mr Peter SCHMIDHUBER

Member

1994 BUDGET PROCEDURE

Before embarking on an examination of the preliminary draft general budget for 1994, the Council met a European Parliament delegation headed by the President of the European Parliament, Mr KLEPSCH, and comprising Mr WYNN, Rapporteur on Section III of the Budget, Ms NAPOLITANO, Rapporteur on the other Sections of the Budget, Mr CORNELISSEN, Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Budgets and Ms ISLER-BEGUIN, Mr COLOM I NAVAL, Mr LANGES, Mr SAMLAND, Mr TOMLINSON and Mr ARIAS CAÑETE.

That meeting provided the opportunity for a fruitful debate between the two arms of the budget authority, during which the Members of the European Parliament raised the matters of concern to them in the context of the budget procedure for the financial year 1994 and pointed to the European Parliament's own priorities; the Members of the Council highlighted the aspects which they regarded as vital, particularly the constraints to which the Member States' budgets were subject.

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The Council went on to hold the first reading of the 1994 budget. Following its discussions, the Council unanimously established the draft budget for 1994, to be submitted to the European Parliament under the budget procedure.

In general terms the Council followed the Commission's lead in placing the 1994 budget within the new medium-term financial framework, the negotiation of which culminated in December 1992 in the conclusions of the Edinburgh European Council.

The Council also took the view that the severe budgetary constraints imposed by the very difficult economical and financial climate demanded that at Community level too particularly strict discipline be observed in the establishment of the Community's budget for 1994. This rigorous approach is reflected in the 1994 draft budget adopted by the Council on first reading.

The Council urged the European Parliament to gear its budgetary proceedings to ensuring that arms of the budget authority remained jointly consistent with the conclusions of the Edinburgh European Council.

The main points in the draft are as follows:

AGGREGATE EXPENDITURE AS A RESULT OF THE COUNCIL'S DISCUSSIONS (ECU million - rounded figures)

Appropriations for commitments (C/A)		72.407
Appropriations for payments (P/A)		69.011
including non-compulsory expenditure of:	c/a	33.105
	p/a	29.768

The breakdown of appropriations is as follows (ECU million - rounded figures)

	c/a	p/a
1. Common agricultural policy including	36.465,0	36.465,0
- market expenditure	35.922,0	35.922,0
- accompanying measures	543,0	543,0
2. Structural measures including	23.176,0	21.304,1
- Structural Funds	21.323,0	19.416,0
- Other structural measures	---	209,1
- Cohesion Fund	1.853,0	1.679,0
3. Internal policies including	3.638,1	3.350,4
- research and technical development	2.282,9	2.147,6
4. External measures including	4.020,0	2.884,1
- PHARE and TACIS	1.555,0	870,0
5. Administrative expenditure of the institutions including	3.577,9	3.577,9
- Commission	2.394,2	2.394,2
- Other institutions	1.183,7	1.183,7
6. Reserves including	1.530,0	1.530,0
- monetary reserve	1.000,0	1.000,0
- emergency aid reserve	212,0	212,0
- repayments, guarantees, reserves	318,0	318,0
- negative reserve		-100,0

The Council also decided to enter a negative reserve of -ECU 100 million in p/a in Chapter BO-42 with respect to NCE in Part B of Section III of the general budget (see table above).

PRELIMINARY DRAFT SUPPLEMENTARY AND AMENDING BUDGET No 1/93

The Council made a detailed examination of preliminary draft supplementary and amending budget No 1/93 submitted by the Commission.

The Council did not act on the matter at this meeting, but in view of the urgency the Presidency said that it proposed to place the matter before the Council again in September.

TREATMENT OF REVENUE SHORTFALLS IN RELATION TO THE OWN RESOURCES CEILING

The Council noted the communication from the Commission on the treatment of revenue shortfalls in relation to the own resources ceiling, and instructed the relevant Council Working Party to examine it.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONSAGRICULTURE

The Council adopted the Regulation providing for an offer of compensation to certain producers of milk or milk products temporarily prevented from carrying on their trade.

This Regulation had already received the agreement of the Agriculture Council on 19 July (see press release 7715/93 Presse 129).

FISHERIES- EEC-Senegal Protocol

The Council adopted the Regulation on the conclusion of the Protocol defining for the period from 2 October 1992 to 1 October 1994 the fishing rights and financial compensation provided for in the fisheries agreement between the Community and the Republic of Senegal.

The Protocol fixes the limits on fishing by the Community fleet off the coast of Senegal as follows:

- Wet-fish trawlers (inshore demersal fishing for fish and cephalopods) landing and selling their entire catch in Senegal: 1 000 GRT/year;
- Trawlers (inshore demersal fishing for fish and cephalopods) not landing their catch in Senegal: 2 500 GRT/year, including 1 250 GRT/year with freezing facilities;
- Ocean-going trawlers (deep-water demersal species) not landing their catch in Senegal and fishing for a period of 4 months: 12 000 GRT/year in an average year, including 6 000 GRT/year with freezing facilities;
- Freezer trawlers (inshore demersal fishing for fish and cephalopods) landing and selling part of their catch in Senegal: 6 500 GRT/year;
- Freezer trawlers (inshore demersal fishing for fish and cephalopods) landing part of their catch in Senegal and fishing over a four-month period specified for each vessel in an overall fishing plan to be notified to the Senegalese Government by the Community every six months: 1 000 GRT/year in an average year.
- Ocean-going shrimp freezer trawlers (demersal) not landing their catch in Senegal: 6 100 GRT/year.
- Bottom longliners (experimental): 1 500 GRT/year.
- Tuna canners: 11 vessels
- Freezer tuna seiners: 57 vessels
- Surface longliners: 11 vessels.

Financial compensation to be paid by the Community for the period covered by the Protocol amounts to ECU 31,2 million. The Community will also contribute an amount of ECU 600 000 to the financing of Senegal's scientific fisheries programmes.

- Data on landings

The Council adopted the Regulation amending Regulation No 1382/91 on the submission of data on the landings of fishery products in Member States.

The main purpose of the amendment is, in view of the need for harmonized statistics, to supplement the data submitted by the Member States under the Regulation in question with data on landings by EFTA vessels and, on an optional basis, by vessels of third countries.

INTERNAL MARKET

- Term of protection of copyright and certain related rights

Following the political agreement reached at the meeting of 14.VI.93, the Council formally adopted, by a qualified majority, the common position on the Directive harmonizing the term of protection of copyright and certain related rights. (The Irish, Luxembourg, Netherlands and Portuguese delegations voted against).

As regards copyright, the Directive makes provision for the harmonization of the term of protection at the lifetime of the author and seventy years after his death as proposed by the Commission and approved by the European Parliament.

It contains a special rule regarding the term of protection of audiovisual or cinematographic works; protection will expire seventy years after the death of the last of the following to survive: the principal director, the author of the screenplay, the author of the dialogue and the composer of music specifically created for use in the work. The calculation of this period with reference to the death of the above four persons is without prejudice to the question of the ownership of the copyright to the works concerned.

As regards the main related rights (those of performers, producers of phonograms and film producers), their term of protection is harmonized at fifty years. The content of these rights has already been harmonized in Directive 92/100/EEC on rental right and lending right.

- Future system for the free movement of medicinal products in the Community

The Council formally adopted the Regulation laying down Community procedures for the authorization and supervision of medicinal products for human and veterinary use and establishing a European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products.

The Council gave its political agreement to the Regulation on 17 December 1992 and at its meeting on 14.VI.93 it formally adopted the three Directives which, with the Regulation, make up the legislative package concerning the future system for the free movement of medicinal products.

The Regulation establishes a new centralized procedure leading to a Community authorization directly valid in all the Member States for the most innovative medicinal products. The Community is, moreover, responsible for monitoring medicinal products authorized under this procedure and for the technical updating of the authorizations. The centralized procedure is compulsory for biotechnological and veterinary medicinal products intended to increase productivity and is optional for other innovative medicinal products.

The Regulation also establishes a European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products supplying appropriate logistical support for the proper functioning of the procedures leading to Community or national authorization. The new Agency will encompass in particular the present Committee for Proprietary Medicinal Products and the Committee for Veterinary Medicinal Products, which will be at the head of its scientific structures.

- CE conformity mark

Following the agreements reached on 14 June 1993 and completion of the co-operation procedure with the European Parliament, the Council definitively adopted the Directive and the Decision on harmonization of rules on CE conformity markings for industrial products covered by the New Approach directives.

The instruments concerned are:

- a proposal for a Directive amending eleven Directives already adopted on the basis of the "New Approach" and introducing the CE mark into Directive 73/23/EEC concerning low voltage, as follows:
 - 87/404/EEC (simple pressure vessels);
 - 88/378/EEC (safety of toys);
 - 89/106/EEC (construction products);
 - 89/336/EEC (electromagnetic compatibility);
 - 89/392/EEC (machinery);
 - 89/686/EEC (individual protective equipment);
 - 90/384/EEC (non-automatic weighing instruments);
 - 90/385/EEC (active implantable medical devices);
 - 90/396/EEC (appliances burning gaseous fuels);
 - 91/263/EEC (telecommunications terminal equipment);
 - 92/42/EEC (new hot-water boilers fired with liquid or gaseous fuels);
 - 73/23/EEC (electrical equipment designed for use within certain voltage limits);
- a Decision supplementing Decision 90/683/EEC of 13 December 1990 concerning the certification modules for use in the technical Directives with provisions regarding the harmonized rules on CE conformity marking.

It should be noted that the CE marking rules adopted implement the principles laid down in the Council Resolution of 7 May 1985 on the New Approach and in the Resolution of 21 December 1989 on a global approach to conformity assessment of industrial products. Under these rules, the CE mark on an industrial product denotes the latter's conformity with all of the provisions of the Directive concerning it.

CUSTOMS UNION

The Council adopted the Regulation

- opening and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas for certain agricultural and industrial products (3rd series 1993) from 1 July 1993 until, depending on the case, 31 December 1993 or 30 June 1994;
- amending Regulations Nos 3913/92 and 3914/92 opening and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas for certain agricultural, chemical and industrial products.

The Council also adopted the Regulation opening and providing for the administration of a zero-duty Community tariff quota for 20 000 tonnes of herring, fresh or chilled, originating in Sweden, for the period 15 August 1993 to 14 February 1994.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

- Advanced television services

Following the agreement reached at the Telecommunications Council on 16.VI.93 (see press release 7280/93 Presse 104), the Council formally adopted the Decision on an action plan for the introduction of advanced television services in Europe.

The main points of the plan are as follows:

1. The plan is solely directed at promoting the 16:9 format (625 or 1250 lines), irrespective of the European television standard used, and irrespective of the broadcasting mode (terrestrial, satellite or cable).
2. The EEC funds shall cover only part of the difference in costs between production/broadcasting in the customary 4:3 format and in the 16:9 format; the EEC funds shall generally cover up to only 50% of the extra costs. The remaining 50% are to be provided from other sources. The Council attaches great importance to the involvement of the economic operators in the financing and agrees that the funding provided by the economic operators shall be at least 50% of the non-Community funding. Such economic operators shall be given due recognition under EC R&D and standardization activities always in accordance with the general rules for participation in these actions.
3. The support is allocated on a yearly "first-come-first-served" basis with preference for projects where the matching funds stem from the economic operators.

4. 30% of the EEC funding will be reserved for markets not being fully serviced in the early stages of the implementation of the Action Plan. These funds could cover up to 80% of the extra costs, while the remaining 20% is to be provided from other sources.
5. The Action Plan should be as simple as possible and based on transparent, fair and unbureaucratic mechanisms.
6. The funds shall be allocated to broadcasters or producers based in the EEC on the basis of hours produced and transmitted in the 16:9 format, with a maximum support of x ecus per hour. The support will depend on the actual costs of the type of programme and its technical quality, with special emphasis on programmes produced in Europe. New productions will thus receive the highest level of support. Only broadcasters transmitting more than 50 hours of 16:9 services per year will receive funding.
7. Community funding is fixed at 160 MECU. The funding will be given only provided applicants have demonstrated that other sources have already committed themselves to providing the remaining 50%. In addition to the 160 MECU, 68 MECU are held in reserve until 1 January 1995 for markets not being serviced in the early stages of the implementation of the Action Plan. The 68 MECU will have to be matched by 17 MECU from other sources.
8. The Action Plan shall cover a period of four years expiring on 30 June 1997.
9. Emphasis will be given to creating a considerable spread in the markets serviced by the Action Plan, with due recognition of the need to achieve the critical mass, and facilitating the uptake of all technologies including fully digital technology.

- Satellite earth station equipment

Following the agreement reached at the Telecommunications Council on 16.VI.93, the Council adopted its common position on the Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States concerning satellite earth station equipment, amending the scope of Directive 91/263/EEC (telecommunications terminal equipment, including the mutual recognition of their conformity).

This Directive - the first in a series aimed at regulating the satellite communications services and equipment sector - is designed to:

- establish the single market in earth station equipment;
- implement harmonized procedures for certification, testing, marketing, quality assurance and product surveillance to guarantee conformity with the essential requirements enunciated in Directive 91/263/EEC;
- guarantee the right to use satellite earth communications station equipment which has been placed on the market legally;
- guarantee the right to connect satellite earth communications station equipment to the public telecommunications network.

TRANSPORT

The Council adopted the Decision concerning the amendment of the Agreement between the Community, the Kingdom of Norway and the Kingdom of Sweden on civil aviation.

The purpose of the amendment is to integrate the new Community legislation into the Agreement and to apply the legislation in question in Norway and Sweden after the entry into force of the EEA Agreement until such time as the necessary procedures have been completed to integrate the legislation into the EEA Agreement.

EURATOM

The Council approved the amendment made by the Commission to Commission Regulation (Euratom) No 3227/76 of 19.10.76 concerning the application of the provisions on Euratom safeguards to enable the Commission to transmit to the IAEA information obtained from the Member States on new nuclear installations. Providing this information to the IAEA helps to strengthen international safeguards and non-proliferation.

ECONOMIC QUESTIONS

The Council adopted, with the German delegation voting against, the Regulation on Community co-ordination in drawing up business registers for statistical purposes.

The Council also adopted the Decision on the framework programme for priority actions in the field of statistical information 1993-1997, covering the following fields: the operation of the Single Market; social policy, economic and social cohesion and consumer protection; Economic and Monetary Union; relations between the Community and the rest of the world; the development of statistical technologies and human resources.

PRESS RELEASE

8233/93 (Presse 135)

1682nd Council meeting

ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL QUESTIONS

Brussels, 13 September 1993

President: Mr Philippe MAYSTADT,
Minister for Finance
of the Kingdom of Belgium

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

Belgium:

Mr Philippe MAYSTADT Minister for Finance

Denmark:

Mrs Marianne JELVED Minister for Economic Affairs

Germany:

Mr Johann EEKHOF State Secretary for Economic Affairs
Mr Franz-Christoph ZEITLER State Secretary for Finance

Greece:

Mr Leonidas EVANGELIDIS Ambassador, Permanent Representative

Spain:

Mr Pedro SOLBES MIRA Minister for Economic Affairs and Finance
Mr Alfredo PASTOR BODMER State Secretary for Economic Affairs and Finance

France:

Mr Edmond ALPHANDERY Minister for Economic Affairs

Ireland:

Mr Bertie AHERN Minister for Finance

Italy:

Mr Piero BARUCCI Minister for the Treasury

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean-Claude JUNCKER Minister for Finance

Netherlands:

Mr Wim KOK Minister for Finance

Portugal:

Mr Jorge BRAGA DE MACEDO Minister for Finance
Mr José BRAZ State Secretary for the Treasury

United Kingdom:

Mr Kenneth CLARKE Chancellor of the Exchequer

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Commission:

Mr Henning CHRISTOPHERSEN Vice-President
Mr Raniero VANNI d'ARCHIRAFI Member

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The following also attended:

Sir Brian UNWIN President of the EIB
Mr Jean-Claude TRICHET Chairman of the Monetary Committee

BELGIAN PRESIDENCY'S WORK PROGRAMME

Pursuant to the conclusions of the Edinburgh European Council on transparency, the Council began its meeting with a discussion on the economic and financial aspects of the Belgian Presidency's work programme in a session open to the public (via televised broadcast).

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FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE PEACE PROCESS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

The Council took note of the Commission's intention to submit in the immediate future specific proposals for financial support from the Community to the Peace Process in the Middle East.

The Council agreed that 20 million will be added to the amount of ECU 70 million already in the budget for 1993. This amount, to be financed within the overall 1993 budget through transfers between lines, will be used to help establishing necessary administrative structures in Jericho and Gaza in particular for education and health, help in setting up small enterprises, and food aid.

The Council also agreed to examine urgently the Commission's proposals for a 5-year assistance programme comprising loans and grants.

The Council recalls that the Community over the years has contributed close to ECU 1 billion of aid to the Palestinian population.

The Community plans for the coming five-year period also comprise substantial assistance to neighbouring countries affected by the Peace Process.

MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC**(SECOND TRANCHE OF THE LOAN) - CONCLUSIONS**

1. The Council and the Commission reviewed progress made in implementing the Italian Government's programme, in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 2 of the Council Decision of 18 January 1993.

They felt that the budgetary objective for 1993 would probably be reached and that the conditions for releasing the second tranche of ECU 2 billion had been met.

2. The Council and the Commission noted the Italian's Government's revised medium-term targets for 1994-1996.

They welcomed the emphasis placed, in the 1994 budget, on controlling expenditure and the structural nature of the adjustment measures.

They considered that, in view of the difficult economic situation in Italy, further budgetary efforts were required to enable the 1994 targets to be achieved.

3. In conclusion, the Council agreed to transfer the second tranche of the loan to Italy.

DEPOSIT GUARANTEE SCHEME

The Council approved, by a qualified majority, the substance of a common position on the Directive on the deposit guarantee scheme. The Council will, after finalization of the text, formally adopt the common position and forward it to the European Parliament for its second reading. As final adoption of the Directive is not envisaged until after the Maastricht Treaty

enters into force, it will be subject to the co-decision procedure with the European Parliament in accordance with Articles 57(2) (new version) and 189b of that Treaty.

Today's approval ensues from the Council's discussions of 7 June which revealed a large majority of delegations in favour of adopting a Directive in this field which involved the minimum co-ordination needed, in line with the principle of subsidiarity.

In fact the purpose of the Commission proposal, submitted to the Council in May 1992 in the context of completion of the internal market for credit institutions, was to introduce such a minimum of harmonized rules throughout the Community with a view to protecting depositors in the event of the bankruptcy of a credit institution and to prevent sudden withdrawals of funds to the detriment of the stability of the banking system.

The future harmonized system, with which each Member State will have to comply by 1 January 1995 at the latest, will be based on the following principal characteristics:

- in principle, all credit institutions must belong to a credit-guarantee system;
- deposits must be repaid, as a general rule, in full, up to a flat-rate minimum amount;
- special rules are laid down for branches of a credit institution situated outwith the Member State of the principal institution, the basic principle being that deposits collected by such branches should be guaranteed by the system of the Member State of origin.
- some derogations are provided for to allow Member States not to have to give up certain recognized practices.

As regards the main issues in the Directive, the Presidency has prepared an overall compromise involving the following:

- recognition of alternative systems, which protect the credit institutions themselves, as equivalent to deposit-guarantee schemes;

- exemption for certain credit institutions or categories of credit institution from the obligation to belong to a deposit-guarantee scheme. The compromise provides for a temporary exemption from the obligation to belong to a deposit-guarantee scheme for five years for certain categories of institution in Spain and Greece;

- right for branches in a State where the deposit scheme is more generous than in their home country to belong voluntarily to that State's deposit-guarantee scheme in order to benefit from supplementary cover (topping up). A five-year review clause is laid down in order to evaluate the situation in the light of experience;

- ban on branches in a State in which the protection scheme is more generous than in their home country from benefiting, in the host State, from more generous cover than that obtaining in the latter (non-export clause). This clause is laid down for a five-year period only, but at the end of that period the Council could, on the basis of a new Commission proposal, decide to extend the clause;

- amount of harmonized minimum cover. The Commission initially proposed a harmonized amount of ECU 15 000, but increased it to ECU 20 000 in accordance with the wishes of the European Parliament. The compromise retains that figure but provision is made, in view of the practical problems which a threshold increase may cause for some deposit-guarantee schemes, for those member States which so wish to limit the guarantee to ECU 15 000 for a transitional period of five years;

- possibility for Member States to impose, below the harmonized minimum threshold, an excess of 10% in order to place part of the responsibility on depositors ⁽¹⁾.

⁽¹⁾ Above the harmonized minimum threshold Member States remain free as to whether or not to impose an excess, and to decide on its percentage.

PREPARATION FOR THE ANNUAL MEETINGS OF THE BRETTON WOODS INSTITUTIONS

The Council approved the statements on behalf of the Community, prepared by the Monetary Committee, to be made by its Presidency at the annual meetings of the IMF and of the World Bank to be held in Washington from 26 to 30 September 1993.

FOLLOW-UP TO THE COPENHAGEN EUROPEAN COUNCIL - CONCLUSIONS

1. Aware of the need to strengthen Community initiatives to support economic activity, the Copenhagen European Council increased the amount of the EIB's temporary lending facility ("Edinburgh facility") from ECU 5 to 8 billion, including 1 billion earmarked for SMEs. The Council welcomed the fact that the facility was continuing to be implemented at a steady rate.
2. The Council acknowledged the desirability of stimulating SME investment. However, it took the view that that objective should be attained by means of a simple, non-discriminatory mechanism that could be implemented rapidly. The possibility was mooted of recourse to a Community initiative programme (CIP), and the Council noted the Commission's intention to examine the viability of such a solution as a matter of urgency.
3. The Council will in due course examine whether consideration should be given to a subsequent increase in the Edinburgh facility in favour of SMEs.
4. The Ecofin Council called upon Member States to take the necessary steps to expedite ratification of the act establishing the European Investment Fund which the Edinburgh European Council agreed to set up. The Council expressed its keen wish that the Fund be operational by the beginning of 1994 at the latest.

ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION SECONDARY LEGISLATION

In order to prepare the legislative texts necessary for implementation of the second stage of EMU, the Commission forwarded to the Council and the European Parliament at the end of July four texts in the form of "draft proposals" so that those Institutions could begin their proceedings informally pending entry into force of the Maastricht Treaty.

The Presidency set up an ad hoc working party to examine those texts. That Working Party met on 6 and 8 September and examined the draft relating to the prohibition of privileged access contained in Article 104a of the Treaty and the draft concerning the data to be used for calculating the key for contributions to the financial resources of the European Monetary Institute. The examination revealed the will of all delegations to make rapid progress with a view to meeting the target of 1 January 1994.

The Working Party will also be continuing its discussions over the coming weeks on the other two texts sent by the Commission, namely those on the ban on monetary financing and on excessive deficits.

The Presidency intends to submit a detailed report on all the texts under discussion for the informal Ecofin meeting on 8 and 9 October.

GUARANTEE FUND FOR EXTERNAL OPERATIONS

The Council reached agreement in principle to the establishment of a Guarantee Fund for external operations.

It asked the European Parliament to give its Opinion as soon as possible so that the Council can take a decision on that instrument, the prompt establishment of which is in the interests of both branches of the budget authority, as it would make it possible to respond in an orderly fashion to the consequences of any default by a debtor on a loan granted or guaranteed by the Community.

The Fund should rise to 10% of the Community's outstanding capital liabilities arising from each operation carried out for the benefit of a third country or for the purpose of financing projects in third countries, increased by unpaid interest due.

As regards the management of the Fund, the proposed solution divides responsibility between the Commission and the EIB, with the former responsible for the budgetary management of operations and the latter for the financial management of the Fund.

EIB LOANS IN CENTRAL AND EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

The Council also agreed in principle on granting a Community guarantee to the EIB against losses under loans for projects in Central and East European countries.

In this instance too the Council asked the European Parliament to give its Opinion as soon as possible to enable the Council to take a decision on the matter so that the EIB could sustain its assistance in Central and Eastern Europe without interruption;

It is envisaged that the amount of the guaranteed loans will be ECU 3 billion for a period of 3 years for loans granted, in accordance with the usual criteria, for investment projects in Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, the Slovak Republic, Romania, Bulgaria, Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania and Albania.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR ALBANIA

The Council agreed to pay the second tranche, in the form of a grant of ECU 35 million, of the financial assistance of ECU 70 million for Albania decided upon on 28 September 1992, after noting that the conditions laid down in that Decision had been fulfilled.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Relations with Haiti

Following the decision of the United Nations Security Council of 27 August 1993 suspending, in the light of the progress made towards normalizing the situation in Haiti, the embargo against that country of 16 June 1993, the Council in turn adopted a Regulation suspending the embargo decided on 24 June 1993 concerning certain trade between the Community and Haiti.

Commercial policy

The Council adopted the Decision changing the import arrangements under Regulation No 3420/93 and applied in the Benelux to certain State-trading countries in respect of various products originating in those countries and not liberalized at Community level.

Anti-dumping

The Council adopted the Regulations:

- amending Regulation No 729/92 of 16 March 1992 imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of certain thermal paper originating in Japan (exemption of one firm: Nippon Paper Industries Co. Ltd., as successor to another firm, Jujo paper Co. Ltd.);
- imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of artificial corundum originating in the People's Republic of China, the Russian Federation and Ukraine, with the exception of those imports sold for export to the Community by companies whose undertakings have been accepted. The rate of the duty is: China, 30,8%, Russia, 9,8% and Ukraine, 9,8%. The duties do not apply to imports into the Community from the following companies which have given price undertakings:

in China: China National Machinery and Equipment Import and Export Corporation, China No 2 Grinding Wheel Plant, China No 4 Grinding Wheel Plant, Shandong Machinery and Equipment Import and Export Corporation, CMEC Guandong Co. Ltd. and China Abrasives Export United Corp.;

in Russia: V/O Stankoimport;

- amending Regulation No 2089/84 imposing a definitive anti-dumping on imports of certain ball-bearings originating in Japan and Singapore (repealing the anti-dumping duty on ball-bearings originating in Singapore with effect from 21 September 1990);

- repealing Article 1(4) of Regulation No 2849/92, modifying the definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of ball-bearings with a greatest external diameter exceeding 30 mm originating in Japan imposed by Regulation No 1739/85 (amendment concerning the definition of the customs valuation).

Relations with the members of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN)

The Council authorized the Commission to negotiate, on behalf of the Community, an agreement on the control of drugs precursors with Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand - member countries of the ASEAN.

International Coffee Agreement

The Council adopted the Decision concerning notification of the acceptance by the Community of the International Coffee Agreement 1983, as extended to 30 September 1994.

Nutritional feedingstuffs

The Council adopted the Directive on feedingstuffs intended for particular nutritional purposes. Its purpose is to supplement current Community legislation by laying down specific rules to be complied with in the production, marketing and control of compound feedingstuffs for particular nutritional purposes. Those rules will make it possible to make a clear distinction between such "nutritional feedingstuffs" and other types of feedingstuff.

Agreement in principle by a qualified majority (with the United Kingdom delegation voting against) was already reached at the Agriculture Council meeting in July.

Transport

Following fresh consultation of the European Parliament, the Council adopted the Directive concerning minimum requirements for vessels bound for or leaving Community ports and carrying dangerous or polluting goods.

The main purpose of this Directive, on which agreement in principle was reached at the Transport Council meeting on 7 and 8 December 1992 (see press release 10524/92 Presse 136), is to ensure, in an initial stage, that the authorities appointed by the Member States are informed of the presence of dangerous or polluting goods on board vessels bound for or leaving Community ports.

Provision is made for the obligations deriving from the Directive to take effect 24 months after its adoption. The Directive will also apply to tankers, the requirements for which will be more stringent than those laid down in Directive 79/116/EEC on the entry into and departure from Community ports of this type of vessel.

Energy

Following the substantive agreement reached at the Energy Council meeting on 25 June 1993 (see press release 7467/93 Presse 114), the Council formally adopted:

- a Decision on the promotion of renewable energy sources (Altener programme);
- a Directive on improving energy efficiency (SAVE programme).

Those instruments form part of the Community strategy for stabilizing carbon dioxide emissions in order to combat the greenhouse effect.

In specific terms, the objective of the Altener programme, which is for a five-year period from 1 January 1993, is to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 180 million tonnes by 2005 through the development of renewable energy sources. The purpose of the SAVE programme is to limit carbon dioxide emissions by establishing and implementing national programmes for the improvement of energy efficiency in a number of areas.

ECSC

The Council gave its assent to a draft Commission Decision on the granting of financial aid of ECU 3,7 million for 14 projects coming under ECSC social research in the field "Technical control of nuisances at the place of work and in the environment of iron and steel works". The total cost of the research projects selected is ECU 7,2 million.

Appointment of members of the Court of Auditors

In accordance with the first subparagraph of Article 206(4) of the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community and the corresponding provisions of the other Treaties, the Council decided to consult the European Parliament on the appointment as members of the Court of Auditors of the following:

- Mr Patrick EVERARD, proposed by the Belgian authorities in place of Mr Roger CAMUS;
- Mr Ole WARBERG, proposed by the Danish authorities, currently a member of the Court of Auditors;
- Mr Giorgio CLEMENTE, proposed by the Italian authorities, currently a member of the Court of Auditors;
- Mr Armindo de Jesus DE SOUZA RIBEIRO, proposed by the Portuguese authorities, in place of Mr BOTELHO-MORENO;
- Mr Barry DESMOND, proposed by the Irish authorities, in place of Mr Richie RYAN.

These appointments are proposed for the period from 18 October 1993 to 17 October 1999.

The Spanish delegation has not yet sent its proposal to the Council.

Appointment to the Economic and Social Committee

The Council appointed Mr Jean-Paul BASTIAN a member of the Economic and Social Committee in place of Mr Luc GUYAU for the remainder of his term of office, which runs until 20 September 1994.

PRESS RELEASE

8696/93 (Presse 147)

1683rd Council meeting

AGRICULTURE

Brussels, 21 September 1993

President: Mr André BOURGEOIS,

Minister for Agriculture of the
Kingdom of Belgium

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

Belgium:

Mr André BOURGEOIS Minister for Agriculture

Denmark:

Mr Bjørn WESTH Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries
Mr Nils BERNSTEIN State Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture

Germany:

Mr Jochen BORCHERT Federal Minister for Food, Agriculture and Forestry
Mr Franz-Josef FEITER State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Forestry

Greece:

Mr Evangelos BASSIAKOS State Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture

Spain:

Mr Vicente ALBERO SILLA Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

France:

Mr Jean PUECH Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries

Ireland:

Mr Michael DOWLING Secretary General, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry

Italy:

Mr Alfredo DIANA Minister for the co-ordination of agricultural, food and forestry policies

Luxembourg:

Ms Marie-Josée JACOBS Minister for Agriculture, Viticulture and Rural Development

Netherlands:

Mr Piet BUKMAN Minister for Agriculture, Nature Conservation and Fisheries

Portugal:

Mr Arlindo CUNHA Minister for Agriculture

United Kingdom:

Mrs Gillian SHEPHARD Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Mr Ian LANG Secretary of State for Scotland

Commission

Mr René STEICHEN Member

AGRI-MONETARY SECTOR

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

"The Council discussed in depth the agri-monetary situation following the decision taken on 2 August 1993 by the Ministers for Finance and the governors of the central banks to widen the fluctuation ranges in the EMS.

It took note of all the observations made by the Member States.

In the light of that discussion it invited the Commission to submit, before the next Council meeting on agriculture, a proposal for the agri-monetary system to be applied following the decision of 2 August.

In that context it stressed the need to take account of all relevant factors, including budgetary ones.

Meanwhile the Council noted the Commission's intention of taking appropriate steps to suspend any change in agricultural conversion rates, while ensuring that any deflection of trade was avoided."

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The Council saw no need at this stage to examine the Commission proposal laying down the arrangements for implementing the agri-monetary compensatory aid decided on by the Council in December 1992.

SUPPLY OF MILK TO SCHOOLCHILDREN

The Council discussed the Commission proposal concerned which, following discontinuation of the "normal" co-responsibility levy on milk, is designed to reduce the amount of Community aid given for the school milk scheme. The proposal seeks to cut this aid, which up to now has been largely financed from that levy, from 125% to 62,5% of the guide price for milk.

At the close of its debate the Council, acting by a qualified majority (the German and Portuguese delegations wanted to keep the aid at its current level and voted against), agreed to a compromise text alleviating the adverse impact of the original proposal by setting the level of aid at 95% of the guide price for milk. The Community aid is not to be reduced before the end of 1993.

The Commission will make the necessary technical adjustments under the powers vested in it.

The Regulation will be formally adopted shortly, once the relevant texts have been finalized.

DEVELOPMENT AND FUTURE OF WINE-SECTOR POLICY

The Council held a wide-ranging exchange of views on the Commission communication concerning the development and future of wine-sector policy. The Commission discussion paper in question sets out guidelines for future wine-sector reform further to the undertaking given by the Commission during discussion of the 1993/1994 prices package to make a thorough analysis of the present situation and likely trends in this sector.

Delegations endorsed the Commission's analysis of the situation and the view that the wine-sector CMO needed a comprehensive overhaul in order to balance this market in the medium term; they gave their opinions on the broad range of measures which the Commission advocated for achieving this goal.

In conclusion, the Presidency asked the Commission to submit its formal proposals in this area at an early date.

SUPPORT FOR PRODUCERS OF CERTAIN ARABLE CROPS (SET-ASIDE)

Pending the European Parliament's Opinion, the Council held a preliminary exchange of views on the Commission proposal which seeks to introduce more flexibility into the rules adopted as part of the arable crops reform. The proposal follows up the review of the reform of the arable crops arrangements carried out in the course of fixing the 1993/1994 prices and the Commission's discussion paper on possible changes in its set-aside policy.

The proposal provides in particular for measures to:

- introduce greater flexibility in regionalization plans (whilst ensuring that historic average national yields are reflected);
- refashion the set-aside conditions by providing for:
 - = an increase in the compensation from ECU 45 to ECU 57 per tonne;
 - = the possibility of 3-year rotation;
 - = authorization to combine rotational and fixed set-aside, with entitlement to an extra five percentage points;
 - = relaxation of the transfer rules;
 - = extension of the possibilities for using land set aside;
 - = the possibility of granting compensation for set-aside in excess of the compulsory minimum;
- allow, in certain cases, for exceptions to Article 9 in order to cover specific situations (e.g. regrouping) without, however, calling into question the principle behind this Article that land which was under permanent pasture, permanent crops or trees or was used for non-agricultural purposes until 31 December 1991 does not qualify for compensation.

At the close of its debate on this complex technical dossier, the Council instructed the Special Committee on Agriculture to expedite its work on this matter so that the Council would be able to take a decision once it received the European Parliament's Opinion.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON OILSEEDS

Pending the European Parliament's Opinion, the Council held a preliminary exchange of views on the Commission proposal concerned, which follows on from the formal approval by the Council last June of the Memorandum of Understanding on Oilseeds between the Community and the United States concluded on 3 December 1992.

The proposal seeks to adjust current Community oilseeds rules to make them compatible with the European Community/United States agreement. It includes a formula for spreading the penalty if the base area (5 128 000 ha) set for the Community by the Understanding is exceeded. Under the proposal, the penalty would be spread Community-wide if the overall excess were not greater than 5%. In the event of an overshoot exceeding this percentage, the burden would be borne by producers in the Member States with the highest increase in area under oilseeds.

Closing its debate - which revealed a need for more thorough discussion - the Council instructed the Special Committee on Agriculture to continue examining the matter.

FURTHER DECISIONS RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Imports of wine from Hungary

The Council adopted the Regulation amending Regulation No 3677/89 in regard to the total alcoholic strength by volume of certain quality wines imported from Hungary.

The purpose of the amendment is to extend by one year, until 31 August 1994, the waiver granted for certain Hungarian quality wines with regard to their total alcoholic strength, which is above the 15% total strength by volume normally allowed under Community rules. The extension is being granted pending conclusion of the overall agreement in the wine sector, on which discussions between the Community and Hungary are at an advanced stage.

Special report No 4/93 of the Court of Auditors

The Council took note of Special report No 4/93 of the Court of Auditors on the implementation of the quota system intended to control milk production, accompanied by the Commission's replies.

Fees for health inspections and controls of fresh meat

The Council adopted by a qualified majority (the French delegation having voted against) the Decision deferring until 31 December 1993 the deadline laid down in Decision 88/408/EEC, inter alia for applying the standard fee for poultrymeat to be charged when carrying out health inspections and controls of fresh meat. The extension is intended to enable an in-depth study to be made of all the arrangements relating to fees with a view to a decision on the future regime.

Fruit juices and similar products

Following the European Parliament's approval of its common position, the Council finally adopted the Directive relating to juices and certain similar products. That Directive is a consolidated version of Directive 75/726/EEC and subsequent amendments thereto.

This consolidation is designed to simplify the whole body of Community legislation already in force in this area and to make it more understandable to both consumers and business.

More specifically, the Directive provides that Member States must take all measures necessary to ensure that the products can be marketed only if they conform to the Directive's rules. These rules cover, inter alia, substances, treatments, processes, additives and descriptions authorized in the manufacture of each type of fruit juice.

Marketing standards for eggs

Acting by a qualified majority (the United Kingdom delegation having voted against), the Council adopted the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 1907/90 on certain marketing standards for eggs. The aim is to replace the indication of the packaging date by the recommended limit date for consumption and also to provide for the possibility of advertizing on egg packs.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Importation of Mediterranean products

The Council adopted the Regulations suspending, within the limits of the quota volumes and for the periods indicated, customs duties applicable to imports into the Community of:

- melons originating in Israel: 10 789 tonnes - from 1 November 1993 to 31 May 1994;
- cut flowers and flower buds, fresh, originating in
 - = Morocco: 325.5 tonnes; Jordan: 54.2 tonnes; Israel: 18 445 tonnes - from 1 November 1993 to 31 May 1994;
 - = Cyprus: 70 tonnes - from 1 June 1994 to 31 October 1994.

Technology initiative for disabled and elderly people (TIDE) (1993-1994)

The Council adopted the Decision on a Community technology initiative for disabled and elderly people (TIDE) (1993-1994). The initiative is aimed at promoting and applying technology with a view to encouraging the creation of an internal market in rehabilitation technology and assisting the economic and social integration of disabled and elderly people.

The scope of the TIDE initiative comprises four lines of action:

1. Access to communication and information technology and support for interpersonal communication: access to and interaction with multimedia environments; technology to facilitate personal communications; accessible services and applications.
2. Environmental control technologies for daily living: user and system interfaces; robotics systems; mobility and transport control systems.
3. Restoration and enhancement of motor and cognitive functions: IT for individualized plans for assessment, rehabilitation and maintenance in the community; technology for rehabilitation and maintenance of motor functions; substitution devices for motor functions.
4. Integrated system technologies: smart environments and systems; orientation and navigation system for mobility; working environments for disabled and elderly people.

The amount deemed necessary for implementing the initiative, including expenditure on staff and administration, is ECU 30 million.

PRESS RELEASE

8695/93 (Presse 146)

1684th Council meeting

- INDUSTRY -

Brussels, 21 September 1993

President: Mr Melchior WATHELET,

Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for
Economic Affairs of the Kingdom
of Belgium

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

Belgium:

Mr Melchior WATHELET

Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Economic Affairs

Mr Guy SPITAEELS

President of the Walloon Government

Denmark:

Mr Gunnar RIBERHOLDT

Ambassador, Permanent Representative

Germany:

Mr M. Günther REXRODT

Federal Minister for Economic Affairs

Mr Johann EEKHOF

State Secretary for Economic Affairs

Greece:

Mr Dimitrios DANILATOS

Secretary-General of the Ministry of Industry

Spain:

Mr Juan Manuel EGUIAGARAY UCELAY

Minister for Industry

Mr Juan Ignacio MOLTO GARCIA

State Secretary for Industry

France:

Mr François SCHEER

Ambassador, Permanent Representative

Ireland:

Mr Padraic MAC KERNAN

Ambassador, Permanent Representative

Italy:

Mr Paolo SAVONA

Minister for Industry

Luxembourg:

Mr Robert GOEBBELS

Minister for Economic Affairs

Netherlands:

Mr Bernard BOT

Ambassador, Permanent Representative

Portugal:

Mr Luis MIRA AMARAL

Minister for Industry and Energy

United Kingdom:

Mr Timothy SAINSBURY

Minister of State for Trade and Industry

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Commission:

Mr Martin BANGEMANN

Member

Mr Karel VAN MIERT

Member

RESTRUCTURING OF THE EUROPEAN STEEL INDUSTRY - COUNCIL CONCLUSIONSThe Council

- after a detailed discussion on the problems arising from the restructuring of the Community steel industry, noted that considerable progress had been made since its meeting on 4 May 1993 thanks to the joint efforts of the Commission, the Governments concerned and the industry;
- noted that a number of important questions had yet to be faced;
- confirmed the Commission's and the Council's obligation to apply the aids code, in particular with a view to eliminating subsidies for operating costs and ensuring a rapid reduction in production capacities;
- reiterated its determination to see the process of reorganization of the Community steel industry completed as soon as possible so as to achieve sufficient reductions in production capacity to ensure the lasting competitiveness of the industry, subject to the accompanying measures proposed by the Commission;
- accordingly invited the Commission to convene the high-level working party comprising the general managers of the industry to examine all cases of state aid in accordance with the habitual criteria;
- considered that the guidelines concerning the cases of state aid which were set out in the Commission working document offered a working basis and reiterated its awareness that very urgent decisions had to be taken in these cases under the Belgian Presidency;

- noted that the projects for restructuring the Sidenor and Freital undertakings, as proposed by the Commission, subject to a number of legal and technical provisions (in particular regarding effective reductions in production capacities) to be drawn up by the Permanent Representatives Committee, are ripe for a decision at a forthcoming Council meeting;
- noted that the accompanying measures introduced in advance in accordance with the Council's conclusions of 25 February 1993 should be maintained in force, at least until the date of the next meeting of the Industry Council, and asked the Commission, in accordance with those conclusions, to remain especially vigilant with regard to imports from certain third countries in order to ensure that such imports do not jeopardize the reorganization of the Community steel industry;
- asked the undertakings concerned to submit without further delay a programme of concrete, precise and sufficiently extensive measures for definitive and rapid reductions of capacity;
- stated that it had been consulted in accordance with Article 53(a) of the ECSC Treaty on the Commission proposal for authorizing, on the terms proposed in its communication, three draft agreements establishing voluntary financial mechanisms for the restructuring of the hot-rolled wide strip, heavy plate and heavy sections sectors, and noted the Commission's intention of providing advance finance through a lending mechanism under Article 54(1) of the ECSC Treaty;
- invited the Commission to report back to it at its next meeting on the financial impact of the voluntary mechanisms on the ECSC's operational budget, the level of ECSC reserves and the financial future of the ECSC.

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Statement by the Commission

The Commission states that it does not intend proposing derogations pursuant to Article 95 of the ECSC Treaty which would lead to the creation, with majority public financing, of fresh production capacity which would compete with existing capacity.

RULES FOR AID TO THE COAL INDUSTRY 1994-2002

At the initiative of the Italian delegation, the Council raised the question of the rules for aid from the Member States for the coal industry for the period 1994-2002, the draft Commission Decision providing in particular for a gradual reduction in such aid.

The Permanent Representatives Committee will continue examining this whole issue in preparation for the Council's assent in time for the Energy Council meeting on 10 December 1993.

PRESS RELEASE

8694/93 (Presse 145)

1685th meeting of the Council

- GENERAL AFFAIRS / AGRICULTURE -

Brussels, 20 and 21 September 1993

Presidents: Mr Willy CLAES
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr André BOURGEOIS
Minister for Agriculture

of the Kingdom of Belgium

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

Belgium:

Mr Willy CLAES
Mr André BOURGEOIS
Mr Robert URBAIN

Minister for Foreign Affairs
Minister for Agriculture
Minister for Foreign Trade and European Affairs

Denmark:

Mr Bjørn WESTH
Mr Jorgen ØSTRØM MØLLER
Mr Nils BERNSTEIN

Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries
State Secretary for Foreign Affairs
State Secretary for Agriculture

Germany:

Mr Klaus KINKEL
Mr Jochen BORCHERT
Mr Günther REXRODT
Ms Ursula SEILER-ALBRING
Mr Franz-Josef FEITER

Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs
Federal Minister for Food, Agriculture and Forestry
Federal Minister for Economic Affairs
Minister of State, Foreign Affairs
State Secretary, Federal Ministry for Food, Agriculture and Forestry

Greece:

Mr Michalis PAPACONSTANTINO
Mr Christos KOSKINAS
Mr Evangelos BASSIAKOS

Minister for Foreign Affairs
Minister for Agriculture
State Secretary for Agriculture

Spain:

Mr Javier SOLANA
Mr Vicente ALBERO SILVA
Mr Javier GOMEZ NAVARRO
Mr Carlos WESTENDORP

Mr Miguel Angel FEITO HERNANDEZ

Minister for Foreign Affairs
Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Minister for Trade
State Secretary for Relations with the European Communities
State Secretary for Trade

France:

Mr Alain JUPPE
Mr Jean PUECH
Mr Gérard LONGUET
Mr Alain LAMASSOURE

Minister for Foreign Affairs
Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries
Minister for Industry and Foreign Trade
Minister with special responsibility for European Affairs

Ireland:

Mr Charlie McCREEVY
Mr Joe WALSH
Mr Tom KITT

Minister for Tourism and Trade
Minister for Agriculture
Minister of State at the Department of the Taoiseach with special responsibility for European Affairs

Italy:

Mr Beniamino ANDREATTA
Mr Alfredo DIANA

Mr Paolo BARATTA

Minister for Foreign Affairs
Minister for the Co-ordination of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies
Minister for Foreign Trade

Luxembourg:

Mr Jacques POOS
Ms Josée JACOBS

Minister for Foreign Affairs
Minister for Agriculture

Netherlands:

Mr P. KOOLJMANS
Mr Piet BUKMAN

Ms Yvonne VAN ROOY
Mr Piet DANKERT

Minister for Foreign Affairs
Minister for Agriculture, Nature Conservation and Fisheries
Minister for Foreign Trade
State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Portugal:

Mr José Manuel DURAO BARROSO
Mr Arlindo CUNHA
Mr Fernando FARIA DE OLIVEIRA

Minister for Foreign Affairs
Minister for Agriculture
Minister for Trade and Tourism

United Kingdom:

Mr Douglas HURD

Ms Gillian SHEPHARD
Mr Ian LANG
Mr Tim SAINSBURY

Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs
Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Secretary of State for Scotland
Minister of State, Department of Trade and Industry

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Commission:

Sir Leon BRITTAN
Mr René STEICHEN

Vice-President
Member

URUGUAY ROUND - CONCLUSIONS OF THE JOINT COUNCIL

1. Following a detailed rundown by the Commission on the state of the negotiations in the Uruguay Round, the Council held a thorough examination of all the factors which must be taken into account in the different chapters of the negotiations if, in accordance with the conclusions of the Copenhagen European Council, they are to be completed by the end of the year to the Community's satisfaction, with a comprehensive and balanced outcome.

In addition, the Council had to hand a Commission document defining the guidelines for completion of the negotiations, the Commission's reply to the French delegation's series of questions on agricultural matters as well as a report on discussions within the SCA. The Council also had before it memoranda from the Spanish, French, Greek, Irish, Italian, Portuguese and United Kingdom Governments.

The Council reaffirmed its conviction that the conclusion of the Uruguay Round before 15 December 1993 on satisfactory terms for all the partners was an essential prerequisite for international economic recovery and should have a positive impact on the Community's economic development, particularly the employment situation in the Member States.

2. The Council endorsed the Commission's determination to secure the necessary improvements in the nascent overall agreement in order to safeguard the Community's essential interests. The Council welcomed the Commission's indication that it had already set in train exploratory talks with its GATT partners.

As regards market access for goods and services, particularly financial services and shipping, the Council urged the Commission to hold out for a broader package to

which all partners would subscribe on the basis of the progress achieved in July and invited all those taking part in the negotiations to come forward with additional offers, even conditional ones, so that a solid basis for this agreement might be established.

As regards the textiles sector, the Council confirmed that the integration of the textiles and clothing trade in the GATT had to be achieved through stricter rules and greater discipline and invited the United States and the other partners, including exporting countries, to put forward offers which met the Community objective of tariff harmonization.

The Council reaffirmed that the new multilateral trade system would not be complete, credible or lasting unless the World Trade Organization were set up as the sole centre for monitoring compliance with the commitments to be entered into.

The Council also discussed the other aspects of the negotiations, including intellectual property, strengthening of the rules and greater discipline, subsidies, steel, aeronautics and the audiovisual sector.

It recalled the approach of the GATT Trade Negotiations Committee to this matter, viz. that no part of the negotiations could be regarded as having been successful unless the whole was acceptable to all participants. It regarded the progress made hitherto as inadequate and the contributions of the third countries concerned as unsatisfactory, and noted that serious problems for the Community continued to exist.

It asked the Commission to press ahead with the negotiations on the basis of the general guidelines in the Commission document, together with those which had emerged in the course of the discussions.

3. As regards agriculture, the Council examined whether the Blair House pre-agreement was compatible with the agricultural policy following its 1992 reform.

The Council noted the Commission's replies to the specific points raised by the French and several other delegations. The following items were discussed in this context: peace clause, safeguard clause, cereal substitute products, assessment of commitments at term, grouping, disposal of stocks, growth of the world market.

In the light of this discussion, a number of general guidelines for the Commission were laid down.

With regard to market access in agriculture, the Council confirmed that the Community's offer made earlier in Geneva formed an integral part of the Community position.

For those sectors in which the common market organization arrangements have not yet been amended, the Council and the Commission undertake to adopt such provisions as are necessary to maintain farm incomes and Community preference. The conditions and agricultural and financial principles which have been applied throughout the agricultural sector will be taken into account in those sectors. Account will also be taken of the context of the Uruguay Round.

The Council emphasized the importance of obtaining tariff treatment from third countries allowing of a true opening-up of their agricultural markets.

The Community must ensure that its international commitments are compatible with the CAP. Accordingly the Council confirmed its view that the outcome of the agricultural part of the Uruguay Round could not, either directly or indirectly,

be allowed to jeopardize the durability of the common agricultural policy, nor stand in the way of compliance with its basic principles, particularly Community preference. The Council went on to emphasize that the Community's role of exporter had to be maintained and that its place on the international market in agricultural products had to be secured.

In the light of these guidelines, the Commission will conduct its forthcoming discussions with the Americans and multilaterally, with the aim of finding an agreement acceptable to all parties.

4. The Council agreed to monitor constantly the progress of the negotiations in the appropriate bodies and the Commission will report afresh on 4 October 1993.

PRESS RELEASE

8700/93 (Presse 151)

1686th Council meeting

- INTERNAL MARKET -

Brussels, 27 September 1993

President: **Mr Robert URBAIN,**

Minister for Foreign Trade
and European Affairs
of the Kingdom of Belgium

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

<u>Belgium</u> :	
Mr Robert URBAIN	Minister for Foreign Trade and European Affairs
<u>Denmark</u> :	
Mr Jan TROEJBORG	Minister for Industry
<u>Germany</u> :	
Mr Jochen GRÜNHAGE	Deputy Permanent Representative
<u>Greece</u> :	
Mr Georges THEOFANOUS	Secretary-General, Ministry of Trade
<u>Spain</u> :	
Mr Javier ELORZA	State Secretary for Relations with the European Communities
<u>France</u> :	
Mr Pierre SELLAL	Deputy Permanent Representative
<u>Ireland</u> :	
Mr Charles McCREEVY	Minister for Tourism and Trade
Mr Willie O'DEA	Minister of State at the Departments of Justice and Health
<u>Italy</u> :	
Mr Livio PALADIN	Minister for Community Policies
<u>Luxembourg</u> :	
Mr Jean-Marc HOSCHEIT	Deputy Permanent Representative
<u>Netherlands</u> :	
Mr Piet DANKERT	State Secretary for Foreign Affairs
<u>Portugal</u> :	
Mr Vitor MARTINS	State Secretary for European Integration
<u>United Kingdom</u> :	
Mr Nicholas SOAMES	Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
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<u>Commission</u> :	
Mr Martin BANGEMANN	Vice-President
Mr Karel VAN MIERT	Vice-President
Mr Raniero VANNI d'ARCHIRAFI	Member

FOODSTUFFS - ADDITIVES

The Council recorded its political agreement on the common position on the amendment of Directive 89/107/EEC concerning food additives authorized for use in foodstuffs intended for human consumption.

The common position will be formally adopted at a forthcoming meeting once the texts have been finalized.

It should be noted that a proposal on the subject was submitted by the Commission following the European Parliament's rejection in May 1992 of the common position which the Council had adopted on the proposal concerning sweeteners (see following item). A footnote to the enacting terms of that common position gave Member States the option of protecting their national production of traditional foodstuffs. The case in question involved low-alcohol or alcohol-free beers. The European Parliament thought that a subject of such importance and of general relevance (i.e. the definition of traditional foodstuffs) could not be regulated in the context of a specific Directive by means of a mere footnote.

The agreement which has just emerged follows a legal method which makes it possible to accept derogations from the general rules on additives in order to protect national production of traditional foodstuffs without prejudice to the principles of the Single Market, particularly with regard to the free movement of goods and freedom of establishment.

Member States may continue to apply national provisions prohibiting the use of certain additives in foodstuffs which they regard as traditional subject to certain conditions:

- the prohibition must already have existed on 1 January 1992;
- the foodstuffs concerned must be produced on the territory of the Member State applying the prohibition;

- there must be no obstacle to the free circulation of products conforming to the provisions of Community Directives on additives;
- the freedom for anyone to establish themselves on the territory of any Member State and to produce and sell products conforming to Community Directives on additives must not be called into question.

Provision is made for Member States to communicate to the Commission before 1 July 1994 the list of foodstuffs which they consider as traditional and for the Council, acting on a proposal from the Commission, to adopt before 1 April 1996 legislation on the criteria to be applied for deciding whether or not a product is traditional and on the national prohibitions which may be maintained in conforming with those criteria.

Provision is also made for Member States to be obliged to comply with the provisions of this Directive by 1 January 1994 at the latest.

FOODSTUFFS - SWEETENERS

The Council recorded its political agreement on the common position on the Directive concerning sweeteners intended for use in foodstuffs. The Directive will be formally adopted at a forthcoming meeting once the texts have been finalized.

The Directive is a specific Directive forming a part of the comprehensive Directive 89/107/EEC on additives which stipulates that only those substances which appear on the lists to be adopted by the Council may be used as foodstuffs additives and only subject to the conditions of use specified in those lists.

The main purpose of the Directive is to allow the free movement of foodstuffs containing sweeteners and in that context to draw up a list of permitted sweeteners and the conditions governing their use in foodstuffs. In particular, the following sweeteners may be placed on the market with a view to sale to the ultimate consumer or use in the manufacture of foodstuffs:

- Sorbitol (E 420)
- Mannitol (E 421)
- Isomalt (E 953)
- Maltitol (E 965)
- Lactitol (E 966)
- Xylitol (E 967)
- Acesulfame K (E 950)
- Aspartame (E 951)
- Cyclamic acid and its Na and Ca salts (E 952)
Saccharin and its Na, K and Ca salts (E 954)
- Thaumatin (E 957)
- Neohesperidine DC (E 959)

The Directive also lays down the maximum levels for the use of sweeteners in foodstuffs with a view to protecting the health of consumers. Except where specially provided for, sweeteners may not be used in foods for infants and young children, as specified in Directive 89/398/EEC.

It is stipulated that Member States must comply with the provisions of the Directive within 18 months of its formal adoption.

FOODSTUFFS - COLOURS

The Council signified its agreement by a qualified majority (with the Danish delegation voting against) to the substance of the common position on the Directive on colours for use in foodstuffs. This is a specific Directive based on the general principles of framework Directive 89/107/EEC on additives.

The Directive sets out to establish:

- a positive list of colours permitted in the Community (43 substances);
- the list of foodstuffs in which those substances may be used (over 100 categories of foodstuffs or specific products);
- conditions of use, particularly maximum doses.

With regard to meat products, the Directive provides that only natural colours shall be permitted for certain generic categories of products, artificial colours being restricted to a number of specific products (for example "chorizo" and "saucisses de Strasbourg"). Colouring of white cheeses would be prohibited. The use of E 160b Annato would be restricted to particularly low doses in 14 foodstuffs.

Member States will have to comply with the provisions of this Directive within 18 months of its formal adoption.

PROCEDURE FOR THE PROVISION OF INFORMATION IN THE FIELD OF TECHNICAL STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS

The Council held a detailed discussion of the proposal amending for the second time Directive 83/189/EEC laying down a procedure for the provision of information in the field of technical standards and regulations.

It should be that Directive 83/189/EEC imposes a dual obligation on Member States proposing to adopt national technical regulations relating to industrial, agricultural, pharmaceutical and cosmetic products:

- to communicate to the Commission and the other Member States the texts of such regulations at the draft stage (notification procedure);
- to abstain from adopting them for a given period the duration of which depends on the specific cases indicated in the Directive (standstill or status quo rule).

The proposal currently before the Council basically aims to increase transparency with regard to national measures in the field of technical regulations with a view to achieving the internal market.

More particularly, it aims to extend the scope of Directive 83/189/EEC by redefining the concept of the "technical rule" so as to include de facto technical regulations as well.

At the close of the discussion the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue the discussions on the basis of certain possible compromise elements which emerged during the course of the discussion and to re-submit this item to the Council to enable it to adopt a common position as soon as possible.

STRATEGIC PROGRAMME ON THE INTERNAL MARKET

The Council held a further discussion on the basis of the Commission communication entitled "Reinforcing the effectiveness of the internal market" and of the working document entitled "Towards a strategic programme for the internal market".

The aim of the discussion was to provide the Commission with indications and guidelines for use in establishing its strategic plan for the internal market. The Council agreed to return to the subject once the Commission had submitted the strategic programme, which it was due to do at the meeting of the Internal Market Council on 16 December 1993.

At the close of the discussion the Presidency drew the conclusions set out below:

"The Council:

- noted with great interest the Commission communication entitled "Reinforcing the effectiveness of the internal market" and the working document attached to that communication entitled "Towards a strategic programme for the internal market";
- took note of the proceedings at expert level within a working party set up by the Permanent Representatives Committee which are summarized in 8062/93 and which made it possible, for various topics in the said working document, to identify a number of main lines and directions for discussion regarding the management of the internal market and future action;
- generally endorsed, taking account of the fact that most of the legislative programme contained in the White Paper has been achieved, the political desirability of a programme as envisaged by the Commission after consultation of all the parties concerned; the aim of the programme would be to identify all the measures necessary both for the consolidation of the internal market and the effective implementation of the four freedoms of movement in accordance with the provisions of the Treaty and also, wherever and insofar as appropriate, for the dynamic development of a single market at

the service of the citizen; in this context, it laid particular emphasis on the need to maintain a global and balanced approach in the management of the single market as the only way of integrating the specific measures taken in different fields into an overall vision;

- felt that such a programme could validly set a number of priority aims to guide the Community and its Member States over the coming years; in that connection the following topics would merit particular attention:

(i) administration of the Community area:

- prevention of the emergence of new barriers to trade;
- organization of the partnership through close co-operation between Member States and Commission; such co-operation is one of the priorities in the application and effective management of the rules for the single market; establishment of appropriate instruments;
- verification by the Commission of the transposition of Community law into national law not only from the quantitative, but also the qualitative, point of view;
- in-depth consideration of access to justice, inter alia on the basis of a Green Paper promised by the Commission for the end of the year which will consider the problems of means of redress and, where appropriate, improved transparency regarding penalties;
- evaluation of the effectiveness of existing Community rules and general monitoring of the functioning of the single market;
- transparency of Community action, particularly through consolidation of existing rules, and improved co-ordination of information measures concerning Community law;
- regular assessments, by the appropriate Community bodies, of the economic and social effects of the internal market for all regions of the Community;

(ii) development of the single market

- taking into account the result of the Copenhagen European Council regarding in particular measures to promote growth, competitiveness and employment;
- creation of an environment free from barriers; in this context, taking into account the inter-relationship between the single market and Community policies in other sectors, (inter alia, competition policy, industrial policy, environment policy, consumer policy, structural and cohesion measures, taxation);
- measures to assist SMEs, in accordance with the conclusions of the Edinburgh European Council, directed at effectively integrating SME policy into the Community growth initiative, with a view particularly to increasing their competitiveness and their ability to create jobs;
- active policy of standardization as an instrument in the functioning of the internal market with a view particularly to developing the use of quality instruments at Community level;
- implementation of a dynamic commercial policy and action to be carried out at external frontiers to combat international fraud and trafficking;

(iii) trans-European networks

- strengthening of the links between the achievement of trans-European networks, the functioning of the internal market and the economic and industrial growth strategy;
- implementation of means of ensuring greater interconnection and inter-operability between networks and within each network, taking into account in particular the needs of the island, landlocked and peripheral regions;
- with a view to transparency, consistency and better use of existing funds, introduction of mechanisms giving an overall view of the various actions carried out in the field of transport infrastructure, energy infrastructure and telecommunications networks."

AGREEMENT ON COMMUNITY PATENTS - PROGRESS OF RATIFICATION

At the initiative of the Presidency, the Council took stock of the progress of ratification of the Agreement on Community Patents, which can only enter into force once it has been ratified by all the Member States of the European Economic Community as signatory States.

On the basis of European patents issued by the European Patents Office in Munich, the Agreement, which was concluded in December 1989, will establish for the various countries which are parties to the Munich Convention on the European Patent a single Community patent with identical effects in all Member States.

As the Presidency had emphasized that it was important that the Agreement should enter into force in the near future, Member States' delegations gave details on the progress of ratification in their respective countries. It emerged that four Member States had hitherto deposited their instruments of ratification, while in several other Member States ratification procedures were very well advanced. The other Member States were aware of the urgent need to implement the Agreement and expressed their willingness to attain that aim as soon as possible.

CONTROL OF CONCENTRATIONS BETWEEN UNDERTAKINGS

The Council took note of the report which the Commission had submitted to it on the re-examination of the application of Regulation No 4064/89 on the control of concentrations between undertakings.

It should be noted that the Regulation on concentrations, which entered into force on 21 September 1990, created for the first time an appropriate legal instrument for Community control of concentrations likely to affect trade between Member States.

At the end of its report and in the light of experience, the Commission concluded in particular that it would be appropriate to:

- re-examine the possibility of making a proposal to the Council for a revision of the thresholds by the end of 1996 at the latest, since de facto the combined effects of inflation and devaluations have already reduced those thresholds, and that it would prefer to gain more experience before reviewing the matter;
- maintain the referral rules of certain Member States as they are (Article 9(3)) until the new revision of the thresholds.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS RELATING TO THE INTERNAL MARKET

Extension of the legal protection of topographies of semiconductor products to persons from the United States of America and certain territories

The Council adopted this Decision, which aims to extend provisionally to the territories of Aruba and the Netherlands Antilles the legal protection of semiconductor products (Directive 87/54/EEC) already extended to persons from the United States of America and certain territories (Decision 93/16/EEC).

Motor vehicles - mechanical coupling devices

The Council adopted the common position on the Directive relating to the mechanical coupling devices of motor vehicles and their trailers and their attachment to those vehicles.

The main purpose of this Directive is to facilitate the interchangeability of motor vehicles and their trailers by harmonizing the technical requirements which the mechanical coupling devices must satisfy. It also aims to improve the economic and competitive position of Community road hauliers and to have a beneficial effect on the environment.

Copyright and related rights applicable to satellite broadcasting and cable retransmission

Following the common position adopted on 10 May 1993 and the completion of the co-operation procedure with the European Parliament the Council finally adopted the Directive on the co-ordination of certain rules concerning copyright and related rights applicable to satellite broadcasting and cable retransmission.

The aim of the proposal is to supplement Community provisions on copyright, making a distinction between satellite broadcasting and cable retransmission, and to introduce only the harmonization necessary for cross-border activities.

The proposal provides that satellite broadcasting is subject to the authorization of the rightholder and that such authorization must be obtained in the country of origin. It also provides for a common level of protection for authors, artists, performers, producers of phonograms and broadcasting organizations throughout the Community.

As regards cable retransmission rights, the proposal provides that these must be negotiated solely through collecting societies representing the various categories of rightholders.

With regard to transitional provisions, the Directive in principle provides that the act of satellite broadcasting is to take place solely in the country of broadcasting. In the case of agreements currently concluded on the basis of the territorial division of rights, a transitional period of five years is set from the date of incorporation of the Directive into national law to enable the parties to renegotiate agreements to bring them into line with the Directive. Some delegations want derogations for international co-production agreements, whereby several producers of cinematographic or audiovisual works of different nationalities share the exploitation rights of the work on a territorial basis.

As for transitional provisions relating to cable retransmission, the Member States concerned may retain the bodies with responsibility for settling disputes between interested parties that are in existence on 1 January 1995 for a period of eight years after that date.

Following the second reading in the European Parliament, it was intended that the Commission should submit a report on the implementation of the Directive by 1 January 2000 at the latest in order to take into account, if need be, the implications which the arrival of new technologies would have on the exploitation of works of art and other services.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Antidumping

The Council adopted by a qualified majority (with the French delegation voting against) the Regulation repealing, with retroactive effect to 29 June 1990, the antidumping measures applying to imports into the Community of tapered roller bearings originating in Japan.

PRESS RELEASE

8701/93 (Presse 152)

1687th Council meeting

- TRANSPORT -

Brussels, 28 September 1993

President: Mr Guy COEME,
Deputy Prime Minister,
Minister for Transport
of the Kingdom of Belgium

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

Belgium:

Mr Guy COEME Deputy Prime Minister, Minister
for Transport, Public Undertakings and
Public Building

Denmark:

Mr Helge MORTENSEN Minister for Transport

Germany:

Mr Matthias WISSMANN Federal Minister for Transport

Greece:

Mr Jean CORANTIS Deputy Permanent Representative

Spain:

Mr José BORRELL Minister for Public Works and Transport and
Communications

France:

Mr Bernard BOSSON Minister for Transport

Ireland:

Mr Brian COWEN Minister for Transport

Italy:

Mr Raffaele COSTA Minister for Transport

Luxembourg:

Mr Robert GOEBBELS Minister for Transport

Netherlands:

Mrs Hanja MAIJ-WEGGEN Minister for Transport and Public Works

Portugal:

Mr Joaquim FERREIRA DO AMARAL Minister for Public Works, Transport and
Communications

Mr Jorge ANTAS

State Secretary for Transport

Mr Carlos LOUREIRO

State Secretary for the Interior

United Kingdom:

Mr John MacGREGOR

Secretary of State for Transport

The Earl of Caithness

Minister of State, Department of Transport

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For the Commission:

Mr Abel MATUTES

Member

TRANS-EUROPEAN TRANSPORT NETWORK

- NETWORK MASTERPLANS

Further to the contacts between the Presidency, the Commission and the European Parliament, the Council, pending the Opinions of the European Parliament, held an exchange of views on the draft Decisions concerning the creation of trans-European networks in the road, combined transport and inland waterway sectors.

At the close of this exchange of views, the Council asked the Presidency and the Commission to continue the contacts with the European Parliament and to inform it of the outcome of its deliberations.

The Council hoped that the contacts would persuade the European Parliament to deliver its Opinions at its plenary session in October, thus enabling the Council to adopt the decisions promptly.

The network masterplans form part of the completion of the single market and are the Community's contribution to the establishment and development of trans-European networks.

The purpose of Community action in this sphere is to promote the interconnection and interoperability of national networks and access to such networks, bearing in mind the need to link island, landlocked and peripheral regions with the central regions of the Community.

The adoption of the masterplans is particularly important as they are the principal means of setting up the trans-European networks, and identify projects of Community interest which may qualify for Community financial support.

LAND TRANSPORT

- ROAD SAFETY

The Council held a policy debate on a road-safety action programme and on a proposal for a decision on the creation of a Community database on road accidents.

In its communication, the Commission outlines an action programme for the short and medium term, largely based on a report drafted in April 1992 by a high-level group composed of representatives of the Member States.

In the light of its debate, the Council will discuss the matter again, with a view to adopting practical conclusions, at its meeting in November 1993.

- TAXATION OF ROAD TRANSPORT/GOODS CABOTAGE BY ROAD

The Council recorded its agreement on the legislative texts of the Directives on the harmonization of road transport taxation and of the Regulation concerning the arrangements for goods cabotage by road, following the conclusions adopted on these matters in June 1993 (see Press Release No 7345/93 (Presse 107)).

The text on the taxation of road transport includes provisions relating to the harmonization of vehicle taxation, the charging of tolls and user charges and the possibility of creating regional user charge systems (regional vignette). The road cabotage system introduced by the Regulation provides for the liberalization of these activities, following a transitional period,

from 1 July 1998.

The draft Directive on taxation will be forwarded to the Ecofin Council for adoption at a forthcoming Council meeting at the same time as the Regulation on cabotage.

AIR TRANSPORT

- COMPUTERIZED RESERVATION SYSTEMS

The Council reached agreement in principle on the amendment of Regulation No 2299/89 on a code of conduct for computerized reservation systems (CRS) with a view to improving competition between air carriers and between computerized reservation systems, providing users with better information.

The amended provisions of the Regulation will be formally adopted shortly, once the text has been finalized.

These provisions, which are to enter into force one month following their publication in the Official Journal, provide in particular that:

- CRS parent carriers shall communicate information to other computerized reservation systems on request;
- air carriers which own computerized reservation systems must meet the requirements of non-discrimination vis-à-vis other carriers in respect of information displayed on their own computer system.

Provision is made for (separation of internal and external services) (technical de-hosting) and for the legal separation of CRS vendors from parent airline companies (legal de-hosting),

under certain conditions, in the amendments to be incorporated in the Regulation.

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The Council heard Commissioner Matutes present a recommendation for a decision to open negotiations with Switzerland in the fields of road and air transport together with a draft negotiating brief.

After an exchange of views, the Council decided that it was necessary to define its position in the light of the guidelines to be issued by the General Affairs Council on 4 and 5 October on the Community's relations with Switzerland. The Transport Council will examine the matter in detail at its meeting on 29 November.

Commissioner Matutes also submitted to the Council a proposal for a Directive establishing the fundamental principles governing the investigation of aviation accidents and incidents and reported on the situation of transport to and from Greece.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

FISHERIES

Agreement between the EEC and Argentina

With the United Kingdom delegation abstaining, the Council adopted the Regulation concluding the Fisheries Agreement between the Community and the Argentine Republic, initialled in Buenos Aires on 30 November 1992.

The European Parliament having given its Opinion, the Agreement, which is applicable for a period of five years with the possibility of an automatic two-year extension, will enter into force on the day of notification of completion of the ratification procedures by the parties.

This agreement, the first between the Community and a Latin American country on fisheries, provides, in addition to the usual provisions on catches and financial compensation, for the creation of joint enterprises, establishment of companies in Argentina using European capital and joint ventures between Community and Argentinian shipowners and for the granting of trade concessions to promote the supply of Argentinian fishery products on the Community market.

The Community and Argentina will also co-operate in the scientific and technical fields to promote conservation, rational exploitation of resources and a balanced development of the sector.

Annual fishing opportunities total 120 000 tonnes of merluccius hubbsi, 130 000 tonnes of other species (mainly Patagonian grenadier, Patagonian rock cod and squid) and 10% by-catches.

The amount of Community funds estimated necessary for the agreement's implementation over the five-year period totals ECU 162,5 million including ECU 28 million earmarked for scientific programmes and other specific projects such as the improvement of port facilities and the organization of vocational and technical training projects in the Argentinian fisheries sector.

EEC/Seychelles Protocol

The Council adopted the Regulation on the conclusion of the Protocol defining, for the period 18 January 1993 to 17 January 1996, the fishing opportunities and the financial contribution provided for by the Agreement between the Community and the Republic of Seychelles.

Under this Protocol, and in accordance with the agreement between the two parties signed in Brussels on 28 October 1987, licences to fish simultaneously in Seychelles waters will be granted to 40 ocean-going tuna seiners for a period of three years. Furthermore, fishing licences may also be granted for tuna trollers and surface tuna longliners not exceeding 18 metres length overall.

The financial compensation provided by the Community for the Protocol's duration is fixed at ECU 6 900 000. This contribution corresponds to a catch of 46 000 tonnes of tuna per year in Seychelles waters. The Community will also contribute ECU 2 700 000 towards the financing of scientific programmes in the region of the Indian Ocean surrounding the Seychelles islands.

ANTI-DUMPING

The Council adopted by a qualified majority the Regulation imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of ferro-chrome with a carbon content by weight of maximum 0,5% (low carbon ferro-chrome) falling within CN Codes 7202 49 10 and 7202 49 50 originating in Kazakhstan, Russia and Ukraine. This duty will amount to ECU 0,31 per kilogram net.
