

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

PRESS RELEASES

PRESIDENCY: PORTUGAL

JANUARY-JUNE 1992

Meetings and press releases April 1992

| Meeting number | Subject | Date |
|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| 1565 th | Fisheries | 3 April 1992 |
| 1566 th | General Affairs | 6 April 1992 |
| 1567 th | No record of a meeting | |
| 1568 th | Agriculture | 28-29 April 1992 |
| 1569 th | Research | 29 April 1992 |
| 1570 th | Labour/Social Affairs | 30 April 1992 |

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

5469/92 (Presse 47)

1565th Council meeting

- FISHERIES -

Luxembourg, 3 April 1992

President: Mr Eduardo DE AZEVEDO SOARES
Minister for Maritime Affairs of
the Portuguese Republic

3. IV. 92

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

Belgium:

Mr Jan DE BOCK Deputy Permanent Representative

Denmark:

Mr Kent KIRK Minister for Fisheries

Mr Thomas LAURITSEN State Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries

Germany:

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

Greece:

Mr Christos KOSKINAS State Secretary for Agriculture and Fisheries

Spain:

Mr Pedro SOLBES MIRA Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

France:

Mr Jean CADET Deputy Permanent Representative

Ireland:

Mr Michael WOODS Minister for the Marine

Italy:

Mr Rocco A. CANGELOSI Deputy Permanent Representative

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Luxembourg:

Mr Marc UNGEHEUER

Legation Secretary

Netherlands:

Mr Piet BUKMAN

Minister for Agriculture, Nature
Conservation and Fisheries

Portugal:

Mr Eduardo DE AZEVEDO SOARES

Minister for Maritime Affairs

Mr João Marçal ALVES

State Secretary for Fisheries

United Kingdom:

Mr David CURRY, MP

State Secretary at the Ministry
of Agriculture, Fisheries and
Food

Lord STRATHCLYDE

Minister of State at the Scottish
Office

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Commission:

Mr Manuel MARIN

Vice-President

REFORM OF THE COMMON FISHERIES POLICY

The Council discussed in depth the report on the common fisheries policy (CFP) presented by the Commission at the December 1991 meeting.

The report reviews the CFP as a whole since 1983 and maps out a general approach to safeguard the future of the fishing industry and ancillary sectors for the next decade and especially to prepare them for the post-2002 period. The Commission intends to submit appropriate proposals for legislation during 1992.

Following the discussion, the Council reached the following conclusions:

1. The Council congratulates the Commission on its report on the common fisheries policy, the quality and overall scope of which it greatly appreciates.
2. The Council notes that the Commission has stressed the inadequacies of the present situation and agrees with the general lines of the analysis in the first part of the report, which sets out the general trends of the current CFP.
3. In order to ensure the permanence of fishing, the future CFP must be directed towards restoring a balance between resources and fishing effort, including capacity, and towards maintaining the balanced and rational management of resources.
4. The future CFP must be based on the principle of universality in order to make all its various aspects more consistent and efficient.
5. The principle of subsidiarity, the importance of which is emphasized, should apply in particular to action to make fishermen more accountable and to

monitoring measures.

6. Certain basic points should be maintained, namely:

- the principle of relative stability; ⁽¹⁾
- the TAC/quota system;
- derogation from the principle of freedom of access within the 12-mile limit;
- the arrangement for the Shetland Box.

However, the Council reserves the right to examine, at the initiative of the Commission, whether and to what extent adjustments should be made to one or other of these points.

7. Greater flexibility and simplicity could be sought in the way in which the TACs and quotas are applied. The Commission is asked to investigate the desirability of certain adjustments, such as multiannual and multispecies TACs and quotas, the introduction of a days-at-sea system or refinements to the geographical definition of stocks and the application of mini-quotas.
8. In order to ensure the success of the CFP measures, particularly as regards resource management, it would seem desirable to make the various professional organizations in the Member States more accountable according to their respective possibilities.
9. Biological research should be stepped up and technical research (with particular reference to the selectivity of fishing gear) and economic and sociological research developed at Community and national level. Co-ordination of research should be improved.

(1) Two delegations entered reservations pending the Court of Justice judgement on the matter.

10. Further active steps should be taken on a modulated basis, bearing in mind the complexity of the parameters in question, to reduce excess fishing capacity where it exists.
11. Technical conservation measures, in particular those to protect juveniles, should be gradually improved and selectivity of fishing gear given priority.
12. The Commission is invited to study possible economic incentives, for example, making selective fishing more profitable, and to take them into account appropriately in the context of relevant proposals.
13. Where measures taken under the common fisheries policy to reduce and restructure the fishing sector have obvious negative consequences for certain regions and communities in the Community, it seems necessary to provide for the possibility of certain socio-economic flanking measures, including structural measures for fisheries, in order to mitigate such consequences. Such measures should, in principle, be transitional and economically reasonable and should not lead to the distortion of the local economic fabric.
14. Market organization should be simplified to some extent and should also apply to aquaculture products. The crisis mechanisms should apply only in the event of serious disruption. The principle of Community preference must be maintained.
15. The Council recognizes the growing significance of aquaculture for supplying the market and developing certain coastal areas. However, aquaculture must

be developed in harmony with the fishing sector as a whole and must comply with certain criteria regarding environmental protection, hygiene and human and animal health.

16. With regard to trade policy, a balance must be ensured between the interests of fishermen and those of consumers and the processing sector.

17. The Council confirms the importance of having an extensive network of balanced fisheries agreements with third countries. It stresses the advantages of the "first generation" agreements but accepts that, in certain cases, it must be possible to resort to "second generation" agreements.

18. The Council welcomes the continuation of the work under way, which should be intensified, in preparation for the implementation of a common fisheries conservation system in the Mediterranean. The system should apply the principles of the CFP but would take account of the particular nature of those waters and their fisheries and coastal regions.

19. The Council wishes to give further consideration to the following points before working out guidelines on them, if possible at its next meeting.

It therefore instructs the Permanent Representatives Committee, on the basis of the recent Commission reports, to continue its discussions on the Mediterranean, on discards, on monitoring and on quality policy and to report back to it for its next meeting.

20. In order to provide a basis for considering the advisability and details of a possible licensing system to regulate access to resources, the Council

requests the Commission to provide it with all the necessary relevant information.

21. The Council also asks the Commission to examine the oral or written submissions from the Member States regarding the reform of the CFP and to inform the Council of its thoughts on each of them, if possible before its next meeting.
22. Finally, the Council requests the Commission to submit appropriate proposals as soon as possible for the items ready to form the subject of formal decisions, so that such decisions can be taken during the second half of 1992.

COMMON FISHERIES SYSTEM IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

The Commission put forward a communication on the progress made since presentation of the July 1990 discussion paper on the outline of a common fisheries system in the Mediterranean.

The Council took note of the Commissions's intention of submitting in due course a proposal for harmonization of the Mediterranean Member States' national legislation.

The Council also asked the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine the communication and report back for its next meeting.

QUALITY POLICY FOR FISHERY PRODUCTS

The Commission presented a communication designed to generate and guide discussion in Community bodies and other relevant fora on the subject of the quality of fishery products.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine the communication further, to enable the Council to reach conclusions at its next meeting (June 1992).

MONITORING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CFP

The Commission presented a report on monitoring implementation of the common fisheries policy.

The report describes the practical organization of monitoring of compliance with Community conservation measures in the Member States; it gives an operational review of compliance with such measures and makes recommendations designed to remedy the shortcomings found.

Following an exchange of views, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to discuss the matter further and report back at its next meeting.

DISCARD PRACTICE

The Commission presented a report on discard practice in Community waters.

The report depicts the problem and puts forward possible remedies for the

various kinds of discards.

Following an exchange of views, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to consider the matter further and report back at its next meeting.

COMMON ORGANIZATION OF THE MARKET IN FISHERY PRODUCTS

The Commission presented a proposal for a Regulation on the common organization of the market in fishery products.

This proposal, coming under the common fisheries policy by way of reform of the current common organization of the market in fishery products, sets out to streamline and clarify arrangements in order to make them more effective.

Following a brief exchange of views, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to begin examining the proposal so as to enable the Council to discuss it as soon as possible.

FISHERIES RELATIONS WITH CERTAIN THIRD COUNTRIES

- CANADA

The Council adopted the following Resolution:

"Since 1989 the Community has pursued a policy with the aim of concluding a global fisheries agreement with Canada and has taken numerous initiatives to that effect.

The Community cannot accept that the poor state of the cod stock in divisions 2J+3KL be presented as a consequence of fishing activities by Community fleets within NAFO. According to the conclusions of Community scientists, Community fisheries can only have a minor impact on the state of that stock when compared with that of other parties, considering that Community catches represent hardly more than 10% of total catches of this stock.

The Council urges the Government of Canada to accept the request made by the Commission to summon immediately an extraordinary meeting of the NAFO Scientific Council in order to evaluate the state of the stock concerned.

Nevertheless, the Council has noted that, whilst pursuing the objective of ensuring the conservation and the rational and equitable management of resources, the Commission will propose to the Council a partial suspension of the Community autonomous quota for cod in NAFO divisions 2J+3KL. The Council considers that this new political gesture should have as its consequence the opening of Canadian ports to Community vessels and the normalization of fisheries relations between the Community and Canada.

The Council invites the Commission to pursue appropriate contacts with the other NAFO Contracting Parties in order to explain the Community's point of view."

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- BALTIC COUNTRIES

The Council noted the Commission's intention of submitting to it, at its June meeting, draft directives for the opening of negotiations for fisheries agreements with the Baltic countries.

- MOROCCO

The Council was briefed by Vice-President MARIN on progress as regards renewal of the EEC-MOROCCO Fisheries Agreement.

WHITING FISHING IN THE NORTH SEA

The Council was informed of the French delegation's request for amendment of the technical arrangements for whiting fishing in the North Sea, which the Commission would consider at the earliest opportunity.

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OTHER FISHERIES DECISIONS

Salmon conservation in the North Atlantic

The Council adopted the Decision setting out directives for the Commission to negotiate a Protocol to the NASCO Convention concerning salmon fishing in the North Atlantic.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

5470/92 (Presse 48)

1566th Council meeting

- GENERAL AFFAIRS -

- Political Co-operation -

Luxembourg, 6 April 1992

President: Mr João de Deus PINHEIRO

Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Portuguese Republic

6. IV. 92

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

Belgium:

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| Mr Willy CLAES | Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Foreign Affairs |
| Mr Robert URBAIN | Minister for Foreign Trade and European Affairs |

Denmark:

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

Germany:

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| Mr Hans-Dietrich GENSCHER | Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs |
| Mrs Ursula SEILER-ALBRING | Minister of State, Foreign Affairs |

Greece:

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| Mr Antonio SAMARAS | Minister for Foreign Affairs |
| Mr Georges PAPASTAMKOS | State Secretary for Foreign Affairs |

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Spain:

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| Mr Francisco FERNANDEZ-ORDOÑEZ | Minister for Foreign Affairs |
| Mr Carlos WESTENDORP | State Secretary for Relations with the European Communities |
| Mr Miguel Angel FEITO | State Secretary for Trade |

France:

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

Ireland:

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| Mr David ANDREWS | Minister for Foreign Affairs |
| Mr Tom KITT | Minister of State for European Affairs |

Italy:

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| Mr Gianni DE MICHELIS | Minister for Foreign Affairs |
| Mr Vito LATTANZIO | Minister for Foreign Trade |

Luxembourg:

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| Mr Jacques POOS | Minister for Foreign Affairs |
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6.IV.92

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Netherlands:

Mr Hans VAN DEN BROEK

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Piet DANKERT

State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Portugal:

Mr João de Deus PINHEIRO

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Vitor MARTINS

State Secretary for European Integration

Mr José Manuel DURÃO BARROSO

State Secretary for Foreign Affairs and
Co-operation

United Kingdom:

Mr Tristan GAREL-JONES

Minister of State, Foreign and
Commonwealth Office

Commission:

Mr Jacques DELORS

President

Mr F.H.J.J. ANDRIESSEN

Vice-President

Mr Abel MATUTES

Member

Mr Peter SCHMIDHUBER

Member

DELORS II PACKAGE

On the basis of a preliminary report from the Presidency, the Council conducted an initial examination of the Commission communications contained in the DELORS II package. This examination, which was useful and constructive, made it possible to identify clearly the nature and scope of the questions involved and to put them in their political context.

At the end of the discussion, the Presidency noted that there was unanimous determination to make rapid progress and, to that end, to step up work in order to reach political agreement at the European Council in Lisbon (26 and 27 June 1992).

The Council directed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue examining the Commission proposals and to submit a report which could serve as a basis for a substantive discussion at its meeting on 11 and 12 May 1992.

RELATIONS WITH THE FORMER USSR

The Council:

- heard a report from Vice-President ANDRIESEN on his recent visit to Moscow and a report from the Presidency and the Commission on progress in preparing the Lisbon Conference on the co-ordination of aid to the former USSR to be held on 23 and 24 May 1992. Those reports were followed by an exchange of views;
- noted a largely favourable response to the Commission proposal to adopt a flexible attitude regarding an exception to the sovereign immunity clause for the grant of a medium-term loan of ECU 1 250 million to the independent States of the former USSR. The Member States will make known their final

position on this matter at the latest at the next meeting of the Permanent Representatives Committee;

- had an exchange of views on the negotiating directives for the Commission for the establishment of an International Centre for Science and Technology, including the question of Community representation in the Centre, and directed the Permanent Representatives Committee to finalize this dossier speedily in the light of its discussions.

RELATIONS WITH ROMANIA AND BULGARIA

The Council directed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue work on the finalization of the negotiating directives for European Association Agreements with these two countries.

REDIRECTED MEDITERRANEAN POLICY

- Regulations on across-the-board financial co-operation and on implementation of the Financial Protocols

The Council made a further examination of the last outstanding question, after which it noted that Greece was unable to support the Presidency compromise, which was acceptable to the other eleven delegations and the Commission, and that it was accordingly not possible to implement the redirected Mediterranean policy.

MOROCCO

- Outlook for future relations in the context of a new economic and political partnership

The Council welcomed the report by Commissioner MATUTES on his exploratory talks with the Moroccan authorities for the purpose of examining the content of future relations between the Community and Morocco in the framework of a new economic and political partnership.

It emerged from the discussion that future relations with Morocco should rest on four main pillars: political dialogue, economic, technical and cultural co-operation covering all sectors of common interest, progressive establishment of a free-trade area, and financial co-operation.

The Council asked the Commission to submit proposals for the adoption of negotiating directives for a new agreement with Morocco based on the abovementioned four main pillars.

The Council also decided to hold a detailed discussion on relations between the Community and the Maghreb countries at its meeting on 11 and 12 May.

URUGUAY ROUND

On the basis of a statement by the Commission, the Council took stock of the situation in respect of the Uruguay Round multilateral trade negotiations.

The Council was concerned at the lack of progress during the last few weeks in the various major sections of the negotiations, in particular agriculture, access to markets, and services. In the latter field it noted in particular the new difficulties which had arisen through recent United States requests for derogations and exemptions for major sectors.

The Council felt that the political will expressed on a number of occasions at the highest level must now be translated into fact in order to reach an overall, balanced and satisfactory conclusion to the Uruguay Round, which would be an essential factor for the revival of growth worldwide.

In conclusion, the Council expressed its support for the Commission in making a fresh effort in the next few days to achieve a balanced compromise with the American side.

EEC-MALTA RELATIONS

The Council adopted the Community's position for the 7th meeting of the EEC-Malta Association Council at ministerial level which was held on the same day (see Press Release CEE-M 603/92 Presse 52).

RELATIONS WITH THE GULF CO-OPERATION COUNCIL

The Commission was asked to supply the Permanent Representatives Committee with information on progress in the negotiations for a free-trade agreement.

APPLICATION FROM FINLAND FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMUNITIES

Having received Finland's application for membership of the European Communities, the Council decided to set in motion the procedures laid down by the Treaties. The Commission was therefore asked to draw up an opinion.

SPECIAL FOOD AID PROGRAMME FOR 1992

The Council recorded its agreement in principle on a special food aid programme for 1992 in response to the seriousness of the situation in southern Africa and in the Horn of Africa and to exceptional needs in other regions of the world: it would be closely co-ordinated with bilateral aid from the Member States and other donors.

The Council directed the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine urgently the Commission communication with a view to a decision at the Development Council on 4 May.

POLITICAL CO-OPERATION

At the close of discussions in the framework of political co-operation, the Twelve adopted four declarations concerning Libya, Yugoslavia, South Africa and Zaire (see Annexes I to IV).

Moreover, the Troika, at ministerial level, will visit South Africa in the near future and in any event before the next CODESA meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Credit Institutions

As the European Parliament had, at its sitting on 11 March 1992, approved without proposed amendments the common position adopted by the Council on 16 December 1991, the Council formally adopted the Directive on the supervision of credit institutions on a consolidated basis.

This Directive seeks to extend consolidated supervision to banking groups other than those covered by the previous Directive of June 1983 (83/350/EEC), the parent undertakings of which are not necessarily credit institutions (banks, etc.), but may be financial holding companies, i.e. undertakings whose principal activity is holding a participation in credit institutions or other financial institutions.

This overall view of the financial situation of the group makes it easier to appreciate which elements make up the own resources of credit institutions and to assess the extent of risks, which places the supervisory authorities in a better position to judge the actual solvency of the group.

This Directive takes account of the acquis communautaire since 1983 in the field of financial services, thus enabling the purpose of supervision and the methods of consolidation to be specified more clearly. Relations between the authorities responsible for supervision in different areas have been strengthened.

Relations with the EFTA countries

- Rules of origin

The Council recorded its agreement on a number of draft Decisions of the EEC-EFTA Joint Committees altering the limits expressed in ecu as regards the requirement of simplified documentary proof of origin.

Textiles

- Brazil:

The Council adopted the Decision on the conclusion of the agreement between the Community and Brazil on trade in textiles. In December 1991 the Community and Brazil concluded an agreement for three months only (January - March 1992). The present agreement has a duration of one year and covers the whole period 1 January to 31 December 1992.

- Albania and the Baltic Republics

The Council adopted negotiating directives for the agreements on trade in textile products with Albania and the Baltic Republics.

Customs Union

The Council adopted the Regulations:

- opening and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas for
 - = 5 000 tonnes of eels (from 1 July 1992 to 30 June 1993);
 - = 150 000 magnetic recording heads (for 6 months from the date of entry into force of the Regulation);

- amending Regulations (EEC) Nos 3877/91 and 3878/91 to enable products originating in Brazil to benefit from the opening and administration of Community tariff quotas for certain handmade products and certain handwoven fabrics, pile and chenille (1992).

Research

The Council adopted:

- a common position on the adoption of the Decision concerning the conclusion of a Co-operation Agreement between the European Communities and the Republic of Finland on a research and technological development programme in the field of renewable raw materials: forestry and wood products (including cork), "FOREST" 1990-1992;
- a common position on the adoption of the Decision concerning the conclusion of a Co-operation Agreement between the European Communities and the Kingdom of Sweden on a research and technological development programme in the field of renewable raw materials: forestry and wood products (including cork), "FOREST" and the recycling of waste "REWARD".

The Council approved the conclusion by the Commission of the Agreement between the European Atomic Energy Community, the Government of Japan, the Government of the Federation of Russia and the Government of the United States of America on co-operation in the engineering design activities for the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) and of its Protocol 1.

Transport

The Council noted that there was no need to amend the Commission Decision of 12 February 1992 settling the dispute between the United Kingdom and Germany on the creation of a special regular coach service.

Appointments

The Council replaced:

- an alternate member of the Advisory Committee on Vocational Training;
- an alternate member of the Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at work.



COMMUNAUTÉ EUROPÉENNE

DECLARATION A LA PRESSE

P. 39/92

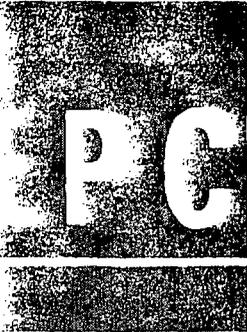
Bruxelles, 6 avril 1992

DECLARATION SUR LA LIBYE

La Communauté et ses Etats membres demandent instamment à la Libye d'appliquer sans réserves les résolutions 731 et 748 du Conseil de Sécurité des Nations Unies, dont les dispositions seront appliquées scrupuleusement par la Communauté et ses Etats membres.

La Communauté et ses Etats membres condamnent les actes de violence perpétrés le 2 avril contre des Ambassades étrangères. Ils demandent instamment aux autorités libyennes de mettre en oeuvre les assurances données quant à la protection des missions diplomatiques ainsi qu'aux garanties en matière de libre circulation des ressortissants étrangers.

Ils attendent de la Libye qu'elle respecte strictement le Droit international ainsi que les droits et les libertés fondamentales de tous ceux qui se trouvent sur son territoire.



EUROPEAN POLITICAL COOPERATION

PRESS RELEASE

P. 39/92

Brussels, 6 April 1992

DECLARATION ON LIBYA

The Community and its member States urge Libya to comply unconditionally with UN Security Council Resolutions 731 and 748, which will be scrupulously implemented by the Community and its member States.

The Community and its member States condemn the acts of violence perpetrated on 2 April against foreign Embassies. They call upon the Libyan authorities to implement the assurances with regard to the protection of diplomatic missions and the guarantees concerning free movement of foreign nationals.

They expect Libya to fully abide by International Law as well as the rights and fundamental freedoms of all those living on its territory.

COMMUNAUTÉ EUROPÉENNE

P. 40/92

Bruxelles, 6 avril 1992

DECLARATION SUR LA YUGOSLAVIE

La Communauté et ses Etats membres ont décidé de reconnaître à partir du 7 avril 1992 la République de Bosnie-Herzégovine. Les mesures qui mettront en oeuvre cette décision seront prise au niveau national, en conformité avec la pratique internationale.

La Communauté et ses Etats membres ont également décidé d'étendre à la République de Serbie le bénéfice de mesures positives similaires à celles accordées aux autres républiques le 2 décembre 1991 et le 10 janvier 1992. La Présidence, la Commission, et le Président de la Conférence sur la Yougoslavie sont chargés de discuter avec les autorités de Serbie les modalités de mise en oeuvre de cette décision, conformément aux principes agréés au sein de la Communauté et de ses Etats membres.

La Communauté et ses Etats membres ont en outre entendu un rapport de la Présidence sur ses efforts de trouver une solution concernant la question de la reconnaissance d'une autre république. Ils s'attendent à ce que ces efforts produisent bientôt des résultats.



EUROPEAN POLITICAL COOPERATION

PRESS RELEASE

P. 40/92

Brussels, 6 April 1992

DECLARATION ON YUGOSLAVIA

The Community and its member States have decided to recognise as from 7 April 1992 the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The measures implementing this decision will be taken nationally in accordance with international practice.

The Community and its member States have also decided to extend to the Republic of Serbia the benefit of positive measures similar to those granted to the other republics on 2 December 1991 and 10 January 1992. The Presidency, the Commission and the Chairman of the Conference on Yugoslavia are asked to discuss with the authorities of Serbia the modalities for the implementation of this decision, in accordance with principles agreed among the Community and its member States.

The Community and its member States also heard a report from the Presidency about its efforts to reach a solution on the issue of the recognition of another republic. They expect these efforts to produce results soon.

P. 41/92

Bruxelles, 6 avril 1992

DECLARATION SUR L'AFRIQUE DU SUD

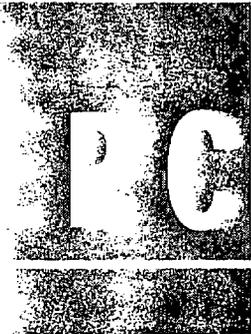
La Communauté et ses Etats membres qui ont suivi de très près les développements positifs qui ont eu lieu dans le cadre de la Convention pour une Afrique du Sud démocratique, réitèrent leur engagement en ce qui concerne la création d'une Afrique du Sud démocratique et non- raciale ainsi que le bien-être de sa population tout entière.

Rappelant la décision du Conseil Européen de Rome de décembre 1990 de revoir graduellement les mesures restrictives adoptées à l'encontre de l'Afrique du Sud, la Communauté et ses Etats membres ont décidé de lever l'embargo pétrolier en vigueur depuis 1985.

En ce qui concerne les mesures restrictives dans les domaines culturel, scientifique et sportif, la Communauté et ses Etats membres, rappelant les déclarations publiées à l'occasion de la réunion ministérielle du 20 février 1990 et du Conseil Européen de Luxembourg du mois de juin 1991, ont en outre décidé la levée formelle de celles-ci.

La Communauté et ses Etats membres expriment leur disponibilité à continuer leur soutien au programme de mesures positives mis en place en 1985 pour venir en aide aux victimes de l'apartheid.

La Communauté et ses Etats membres espèrent que ces mesures encourageront des développements positifs en Afrique du Sud, en particulier la formation d'un gouvernement intérimaire.



EUROPEAN POLITICAL COOPERATION

PRESS RELEASE

P. 41/92

Brussels, 6 April 1992

DECLARATION ON SOUTH AFRICA

The Community and its member States, which have been following very closely the positive developments taking place in the framework of the Convention for a democratic South Africa, reaffirm their commitment to the creation of a democratic and non racial South Africa and the well-being of all its people.

Recalling the Rome European Council decision of December 1990 of gradually reviewing restrictive measures adopted towards South Africa, the Community and its member States have decided the lifting of the oil embargo in effect since 1985.

As to the restrictive measures in the cultural, scientific and sporting fields, the Community and its member States, recalling the declarations issued by the Ministerial Meeting of 20 February 1990 and the European Council of Luxembourg of June 1991, have also decided their formal lifting.

The Community and its member States express their willingness to continue to support the positive measures programme put in place in 1985 to help the victims of apartheid.

The Community and its member States hope that these measures will encourage positive developments in South Africa, in particular the establishment of an interim government.



COOPERATION POLITIQUE EUROPEENNE

COMMUNICATION A LA PRESSE

P. 42/92

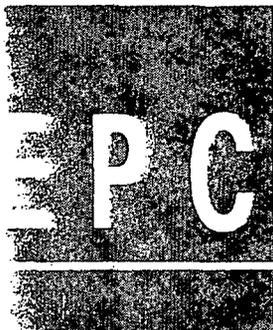
Bruxelles, 6 avril 1992

DECLARATION SUR LE ZAIRE

La Communauté et ses Etats membres ont pris note de la décision du Président de la République de rouvrir les travaux de la Conférence Nationale Souveraine suspendue unilatéralement depuis le mois de janvier dernier. Ils espèrent que cette mesure mettra fin à l'impasse politique, économique et sociale que le Zaïre connaît depuis plusieurs mois.

La Communauté et ses Etats membres réaffirment le caractère indispensable de la reprise de la Conférence Nationale et de la constitution d'un gouvernement de transition neutre qui serait à même de conduire le processus de démocratisation et la mise en place d'un calendrier électoral. Ils demandent au Président de la République, au Gouvernement, au Bureau de la Conférence Nationale Souveraine et à toutes les composantes de la société zaïroise de tout mettre en œuvre pour que le pays puisse finalement se réconcilier avec lui-même et trouver un climat de consensus et de tolérance.

Seules ces conditions permettront le redressement économique et social du Zaïre qui, enfin, rendra possible l'amélioration des conditions de vie de la population.



EUROPEAN POLITICAL COOPERATION

PRESS RELEASE

P. 42/92

Brussels, 6 April 1992

DECLARATION ON ZAIRE

The Community and its member States have taken note of the decision of the President of the Republic to resume the work of the "National Sovereign Conference" which was unilaterally suspended last January. They hope that this measure will put an end to the political, economic and social deadlock that Zaire has known for several months.

The Community and its member States reaffirm the indispensable character of the resumption of the National Conference and the formation of a neutral, transitional government which will be in a position to carry forward the process of democratisation and to establish an electoral calendar. They ask the President of the Republic, the Government, the Bureau of the National Sovereign Conference and all segments of Zairean society to do their utmost to allow for the country's definitive reconciliation and for the creation of a climate of consensus and tolerance.

Only these conditions will permit the economic and social recovery of Zaire which will finally render possible the improvement of the living conditions of the people.

There is no record of a 1567th meeting.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

5941/92 (Presse 55)

1568th Council meeting)

- AGRICULTURE -

Luxembourg, 28 and 29 April 1992

President: Mr Arlindo CUNHA,

Minister for Agriculture of
the Portuguese Republic

Italy:

Mr Giovanni GORIA

Minister for Agriculture

Luxembourg:

Mr René STEICHEN

Minister for Agriculture and
Viticulture

Netherlands:

Mr Piet BUKMAN

Minister for Agriculture,
Nature Conservation and
Fisheries

Portugal:

Mr Arlindo CUNHA

Minister for Agriculture

Mr Alvaro AMARO

State Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture

United Kingdom:

Mr John GUMMER

Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Mr David CURRY

Parliamentary Secretary, Agriculture

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Commission:

Mr Ray MAC SHARRY

Member

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DEVELOPMENT AND FUTURE OF THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY

The Council continued its discussions on the reform of the common agricultural policy, on the basis of a compromise document submitted by the Presidency.

During its exchange of views, the Council was able to examine in full all elements of the compromise; it recognized the positive contribution of the compromise towards the search for agreement and assessed the progress already made since the discussions on the proposals for reform had begun.

The Council will continue its discussions on CAP reform at its meeting beginning on 18 May.

FIXING OF PRICES FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND ON RELATED MEASURES (1992/1993)

The Council continued its exchange of views on the fixing of prices for agricultural products and on related measures for 1992/1993, bearing in mind the specific background against which the Commission proposals were set this year, viz. the reform of the CAP.

It canvassed views on the different sectors concerned, in particular cereals, olive oil, cotton, fruit and vegetables, tobacco, beef and veal and milk products.

Finally, the Council discussed the financial impact of the proposals, and the agri-monetary measures to be taken when monetary gaps disappear on 1 January 1993.

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The discussion on the fixing of agricultural prices will be continued at the next Council meeting; meanwhile the Special Committee on Agriculture has been instructed to examine certain questions in greater detail.

URUGUAY ROUND - AGRICULTURAL ASPECTS

The Council took stock of progress in the Uruguay Round negotiations on the basis of a Commission statement, and was told in particular of the top-level talks between the representatives of the Community and the USA. The Council stressed the importance of continuing the dialogue between the main partners in the Uruguay Round in order to arrive at the basis for an all-round balance which takes account of the fundamental principles of the common agricultural policy.

QUALITY OF FOODSTUFFS

The Council resumed its examination of the Commission proposals on the quality of foodstuffs.

Further to the Council's instructions of June 1991, the SCA has been continuing its work in this field and substantial progress has been made.

The Council's discussion focused specifically on two essential issues, viz.

- in the case of the proposal on geographical indications and designations of origin, the extent of the protection established by the Regulation and the relationship between protected designations and trade marks;

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- in the case of the proposal on specific character, the form of protection envisaged for sales descriptions.

Following its discussion, the Council instructed the SCA to continue its proceedings, taking account of the views expressed during the debate, in order to enable it to conclude its discussions on this important matter.

TABLE OLIVES

The Council held an exchange of views on the Commission proposals on table olives providing for:

- on the one hand, measures to develop the consumption of table olives in the Community;
- on the other, the grant of specific aid for the constitution of working capital for the purpose of stabilizing supply, in particular through financing storage so that produce can be released to the market as required.

Following its discussion, during which the Council reached a broadly favourable position on the proposed measures, the Council instructed the SCA to continue examining the proposals in order to enable it to conclude its discussions on this matter.

TRANSITIONAL NATIONAL COMPENSATION FOR FARMERS IN GERMANY

Pending receipt of the European Parliament's Opinion, the Council held an initial exchange of views on the Commission proposal for transitional compensation for

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farmers in Germany.

The proposal continues the national aid to farmers during the current year, within the overall limit of the equivalent of a 3% reduction in VAT, to compensate for the effects of the dismantlement of positive MCAs.

The Council noted the different positions expressed on the matter and will continue its discussions shortly.

MARKETING OF YOUNG VEGETABLES PLANTS AND FRUIT PLANTS

The Council adopted two Directives on

- the marketing of young plant and propagation material other than seeds, of vegetables;
- the marketing of fruit plant propagating material and fruit plants intended for fruit production.

These Directives are connected with the implementation of the White Paper. They are intended to harmonize Community-wide the quality and plant health standards which must be met by such propagating materials and young plants marketed in the Member States and ensure free movement for them within the Community.

OTHER DECISIONS IN THE FIELD OF AGRICULTURE

The Council adopted Regulations

- amending Regulation (EEC) No 1035/72 on the common organization of the market in fruit and vegetables. This will make it possible for the Commission to grant authorizations allowing the official inspection authorities of third countries which export fruit and vegetables to attest to the conformity of those products with Community quality standards;
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 1796/81 on measures applicable to imports of preserved cultivated mushrooms. The essential aim of this Regulation is to ensure a better balance of the market which in the past was characterized by repeated application of the safeguard clause;
- authorizing the implementation of management measures relating to imports of live bovine animals. These measures will enable the Commission to spread more efficiently over time the quantities of young bovine animals of 80 kilos liable to be imported under the Association Agreements with Hungary, Poland and the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic;
- opening for 1992 a special import quota for high-quality, fresh, chilled or frozen beef and veal falling within CN codes 0201 and 0202 and for products falling within CN codes 0206 10 95 and 0206 29 91. The quota is 11 430 tonnes at 20% duty;
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 1637/91 fixing compensation with regard to the reduction of the reference quantities referred to in Article 5c of

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Regulation (EEC) No 804/68 and compensation for the definitive abandonment of milk production.

The purpose of this amendment is to authorize Member States to continue the scheme for the discontinuation of milk production for a further six months, and to give Member States the possibility of inviting producers who had not resumed milk production as at 1 April 1992 to apply for compensation for the discontinuation of production.

The Council also adopted the Directive laying down control rules and measures to combat African horse sickness.

This directive defines Community measures to be taken immediately to combat African horse sickness whenever the disease appears or is suspected, in particular by destroying infected animals, establishing protection and surveillance zones and setting up a detailed epizootiological inquiry where the disease is confirmed. It also defines measures to be taken to prevent its spread (in particular by setting up vaccination zones).

In this connection, the Council also adopted the Directive amending Directive 90/426/EEC on animal health conditions governing the movement and import from third countries of equidae in respect of African horse sickness, in order to take account of the rules and measures adopted that same day.

OTHER MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

ECSC

The Council delivered its assent pursuant to Article 56(2)(a) of the ECSC Treaty in respect of:

- Euro Metales Processing SA (Spain)
- Motorola Ltd (United Kingdom)
- Générale de Banque SA (Belgium)
- Industrie Kreditbank AG (IKB) (Federal Republic of Germany).

Relations with Macao

The Council authorized the Commission to open negotiations with Macao with a view to the conclusion of a trade and co-operation agreement, and laid down the negotiating directives for that purpose.

Textiles

- Relations with what was formerly Yugoslavia

The Council adopted the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 3301/91 (the provisions of which had already been extended until 31 December 1992 by Regulation (EEC) No 52/92) on the arrangements for imports of certain textile products originating in what was formerly Yugoslavia. In the current political situation, and pending the adoption of other contractual or autonomous legal instruments, the Regulation adopted by the Council is intended to make it possible

- to continue to apply the autonomous arrangement for what was formerly Yugoslavia to imports of textiles and clothing, in line with the aims of the

commercial policy in textiles and to prevent differences among the Member States in treatment applied to such imports, and

- to monitor the origin of textile imports from the Republics concerned.

Commercial policy

The Council adopted two Decisions authorizing:

- the tacit renewal or maintenance in force of provisions governing matters covered by the common commercial policy contained in the friendship, trade and navigation treaties and similar agreements concluded between Member States and third countries;
- the extension or tacit renewal of certain trade agreements concluded between Member States and third countries.

Relations with Algeria, Morocco and Turkey

- Olive oil

The Council authorized the Commission to negotiate agreements with Algeria, Morocco and Turkey to maintain until 31 December 1993 the additional amount to be deducted from the levy on imports into the Community of untreated olive oil originating in the countries concerned (this amount is currently ECU 12,09/100 kg for Algeria and Morocco and ECU 10,88/100 kg for Turkey).

Environment

The Council gave the Commission a mandate to negotiate the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area (Helsinki Convention, as revised in 1992).

Education

The Council adopted the Decision amending Decision 90/233/EEC establishing a trans-European mobility scheme for university studies (TEMPUS). By this Decision, the initial pilot phase of the programme is established for a period of four years beginning on 1 July 1990.

Internal market

- Electromagnetic compatibility

Further to the common position of 19 December 1991 and the completion of the co-operation procedure with the European Parliament, the Council definitively adopted the Directive amending Directive 89/336/EEC on the harmonization of the laws of the Member States relating to electromagnetic compatibility.

The purpose of this Directive is to insert in Directive 89/336/EEC, which applies to electric and electronic apparatus both as regards protecting them from outside interference and as regards the emission by them of electromagnetic disturbances, a transitional period to make allowance for the running down of stocks of certain apparatus manufactured in accordance with national legislation obtaining at the time of entry into force of the Directive.

Appointments

The Council replaced two members of the Scientific and Technical Committee.

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COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

5942/92 (Presse 56)

1569th Council meeting

- RESEARCH -

Luxembourg, 29 April 1992

President: Mr Luis VALENTE DE OLIVEIRA

Minister for Territorial Planning
and Administration
of the Portuguese Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr Jean-Maurice DEHOUSSE Minister for Science Policy and
Scientific and Cultural Institutions

Denmark:

Mr Bertel HAARDER Minister for Education and Research

Germany:

Mr Heinz RIESENHUBER Federal Minister for Research and
Technology

Greece:

Mr Andreas ANDRIANOPOULOS Minister for Industry, Energy,
Technology and Trade

Spain:

Mr Juan Manuel ROJO ALAMINOS State Secretary for the Universities
and Research

France:

Mr Hubert CURIEN Minister for Research and Space

Ireland:

Mr Michael AHERN Minister of State for Science and
Technology

FUTURE GUIDELINES FOR COMMUNITY POLICY ON RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT
FUND (RTD)

The Council had a full and fruitful discussion on the future of Community RTD policy with a view to the preparation of the fourth Framework Programme.

The Council took as a basis for discussion a note from the Presidency containing a questionnaire on these issues as well as a communication from the Commission "Research after Maastricht: An Assessment. A Strategy" setting out the Commission's views on Community research policy beyond 1992; this was accompanied by an evaluation of RTD activities undertaken under the second Framework Programme. The Council felt that these documents formed an essential contribution to the discussion of priorities for the fourth Framework Programme.

A number of memoranda from delegations were also submitted to the Council.

In conclusion, the Council:

1. stressed that future priorities for Community action in the field of RTD should be decided in the light of a comprehensive evaluation of past RTD activities;
2. invited the Commission to submit to it as soon as possible proposals concerning the fourth Framework Programme and, if necessary, in order to avoid any interruption in resources, the third Framework Programme, taking into account the evaluation of the second Framework Programme and the

need to ensure continuity of research activities and in the light of the Council's discussions;

3. invited the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine the Commission's proposals with a view to enabling the Council to define clear priorities for the future at its meeting in October.

RESEARCH POLICY AND ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COHESION

After hearing a brief oral report from Vice-President PANDOLFI, the Council noted with interest the Commission's intention of presenting a formal communication on this subject in the near future.

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION WITH THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

The Council heard the Commission present a communication on scientific and technical co-operation with the developing countries and on relations and synergies with development funds.

The communication is intended to stimulate discussion of the definition of medium and long-term Community strategy for scientific and technical co-operation with the developing countries.

The Council asked the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine the Commission communication.

OTHER BUSINESS

- scientific and technical co-operation with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe.

After recognizing the need to act quickly and effectively in order not to lose the scientific potential which existed in these countries, the Council asked the Commission to examine appropriate means of meeting the challenge.

- bioethics

The Council agreed to re-examine this question at a later meeting on the basis of an inventory of existing activities relating to the embryo and the human genome in each Member State.

- preservation of tropical rainforest ecosystems

The Council noted a communication from the French delegation on the establishment of a centre for research into the ecosystems of the tropical rainforests in French Guyana. It asked the Commission to examine the possibility of stepping up research in this field, particularly with a view to the forthcoming Rio Summit.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS IN THE FIELD OF RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGICAL
DEVELOPMENT (RTD)

The Council adopted the Decisions summarized below on the programmes necessary for completion of the implementation of the 3rd Framework Programme:

Measurements and testing (1990-1991)

Following the common position of 19 December 1991 and the completion of the co-operation procedure with the European Parliament, the Council finally adopted the Decision on a specific Research and Technological Development programme in the field of measurements and testing (1990-1994).

The aim of the programme is to achieve improved harmonization of methods of measurement, analysis and testing, to contribute to the preparation of new methods of measurement, analysis and testing in Europe and to supply generic tools to ensure accurate and valid measurements.

The budget earmarked for the implementation of the programme amounts to ECU 47,52 million including expenditure on personnel and administration.

Dissemination and exploitation of knowledge resulting from the specific RTD
programmes (1990-1994)

Following the common position of 25 February 1992 and the completion of the co-operation procedure with the European Parliament, the Council finally adopted the Decision on the dissemination and exploitation of knowledge resulting

from the Community's specific research and technological development programmes (1990-1994).

The Decision provided for in Article 4 of the 3rd Framework Programme (Decision 90/221 EURATOM/EEC), stipulates that the knowledge should be disseminated and exploited in the framework of specific programmes and by implementing a centralized action ensuring co-ordination and overall coherence in the fields covered by the Framework Programme.

As well as ensuring the necessary continuity of certain operations carried out under the VALUE programme, the Decision also introduces new topics relating to the repercussions of the RTD activities and their impact on society as a whole.

The action envisaged is focused on three priority lines of action: the interface between research and industry, the interface between research and the scientific community and the interface between research and society.

The Decision provides for a budget of ECU 57 million, including expenditure on personnel and administration, to be drawn from the amounts considered necessary for the implementation of the various specific programmes resulting from the third Framework Programme.

Joint Research Centre (JRC)

The Council adopted the Resolution reproduced below, as well as finally adopting the following Decisions:

- Decision adopting specific research programmes to be carried out by the JRC

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for the European Economic Community (1992-1994);

- Decision adopting scientific research programmes to be carried out by the JRC for the European Atomic Energy Community (1992-1994);
- Decision adopting a complementary research programme to be carried out by the JRC for the European Atomic Energy Community (1992-1994);

The sums involved are given in the Council Resolution.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

of

concerning the activities to be undertaken
by the Joint Research Centre

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Commission's communication submitted to the Council on 31 July 1991,

Having regard to the Commission proposals concerning specific research and development programmes to be executed by the Joint Research Centre (JRC) for the implementation of the Third Framework Programme for Community activities in the field of research and technological development (1990 to 1994), set out in Decision 90/221/Euratom, EEC ⁽¹⁾,

(1) OJ No L 117, 8.5.1990, p. 28.

Whereas, by its Resolution of 29 June 1988 ⁽¹⁾ the Council defined the scope of activities to be undertaken by the JRC and indicated an estimation of the Centre's overall expenditure for the period 1988-1991;

Whereas the JRC's development during the abovementioned period has evolved significantly with progress being made in terms of its scientific and technological achievements, its competitiveness, its work for third parties and its manpower policies;

Whereas, a significant contribution by the JRC to Community research and technological development policy involves readjustment to its fundamental and applied research activities;

1. REAFFIRMS the Community character of the JRC and its role in achieving the Community's aim of strengthening the scientific and technological basis of European industry and encouraging it to become more competitive, by dint of the scientific excellence of its work and its continuing efforts to promote overall efficiency throughout its organization.
2. CONSIDERS that the JRC is called upon to contribute to the implementation of the third Framework Programme in close co-ordination with the management committees of the relevant specific programmes, particularly in those fields in which it can offer impartial and independent expertise for the benefit of Community policies, including consumer protection policy, and where it has

(1) OJ No C 197, 27.7.1988, p. 4.

the necessary competence, in areas such as industrial and material technologies, measurements and testing, environment, nuclear safety, fusion, human capital and mobility. The JRC should also carry out research of a prenormative character as well as research in the fields of technological forecasting and industrial risks.

3. EMPHASIZES that, with a view to contributing to the objective of the economic and social cohesion of the Community, the JRC should also develop initiatives to reinforce and, where necessary, increase collaboration with the research centres and laboratories of all Member States, resulting in its playing a significant role in European scientific integration.
4. CONSIDERS that the JRC should further optimize the use of available staff and equipment in fields where it has the competence and should, in addition to its task of executing specific research programmes and exploratory research, seek to pursue its work of providing services:
 - in conformity with EAEC Treaty obligations for the relevant Commission departments;
 - in other cases for Commission departments by following a competitive approach (taking into account all real costs concerned) and on the basis of a genuine customer/contractor relationship, which should be reflected in the scientific, technical and budgetary arrangements of these departments;

- under contract for external third parties, while maintaining self-sufficiency in financial terms for this type of service.

5. RECOGNIZES that progress has been made in reducing staffing levels and increasing staff mobility; URGES the Commission to take further measures to reduce administrative and personnel costs as compared with operational costs; INVITES the Commission to come forward with concrete proposals on a more dynamic staffing policy with a view to achieving the aforementioned aim in the near future, if necessary, by proposing a significant programme for early retirements.
6. INVITES the Commission to accelerate the positive development of the JRC by proposing to Council the means for establishing a more autonomous structure even better adapted to the JRC tasks. These proposals should include in particular financial arrangements and a personnel policy consistent with an increased autonomy of the JRC as a whole.
7. URGES that, during the 1992-1994 period, the objectives of the JRC should be achieved within the overall estimate of expenditure set out in the Annex and that, in particular, the targets related to orders for work on a contractual basis for third parties should be realized.
8. INVITES the Commission to include all relevant information on the different areas of JRC activity in its annual report to be submitted to the European Parliament, the Council and the Economic and Social Committee, thus enabling an assessment to be made of the extent to which the JRC has achieved its objectives.

ESTIMATE OF THE OVERALL EXPENDITURE OF THE JRC
(1992-1994)

in millions of ecus

| | | |
|--|------------|-------------------|
| A. Implementation of the Framework Programme by means of specific research programmes | | |
| - EEC research programmes | 341,55 | |
| - EAEC research programmes | 202,95 | |
| | Subtotal A | <u>544,50</u> (1) |
| B. Contractual work | | |
| - Scientific and technological support for the Commission | 190,0 | |
| - Work to be financed by external private or public bodies | 130,0 | (2) |
| | Subtotal B | <u>320,0</u> |
| | TOTAL | <u>864,5</u> (3) |

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

5943/92 (Presse 57)

1570th Council meeting
LABOUR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS
Luxembourg, 30 April 1992

President: Mr José da SILVA PENEDA

Minister for Employment and
Social Security
of the Portuguese Republic

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

Belgium:

Mrs Miet SMET Minister for Employment and Labour

Denmark:

Mr Knud E. KIRKEGAARD Minister for Labour

Germany:

Mr Peter CLEVER Director-General, Federal Ministry for Labour and Social Affairs

Mr Jochen GRÜNHAGE Deputy Permanent Representative

Greece:

Mr Aristide KALANTZAKOS Minister for Labour

Spain:

Mr Jesús ARANGO Secretary-General for Labour and Social Security

France:

Mrs Martine AUBRY Minister for Labour, Employment and Vocational Training

Ireland:

Mr Brian COWEN Minister for Labour

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Italy:

Mr Ugo GRIPPO State Secretary for Employment and Social Security

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean-Claude JUNCKER Minister for Labour

Ms Mady DELVAUX-STEHRÉS State Secretary for Social Security

Netherlands:

Mr Bert DE VRIES Minister for Employment and Social Security

Portugal:

Mr José da SILVA PENEDA Minister for Employment and Social Security

Mr Jorge ALMEIDA SEABRA State Secretary for Employment and Social Security

United Kingdom:

Mrs Gillian SHEPHARD Minister for Employment

o

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Commission:

Mrs Vasso PAPANDEOU Member

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EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES (BOREHOLES)

The Council adopted the common position with a view to adopting a Directive on minimum requirements for improving the safety and health protection of workers in the mineral-extracting industries through drilling (eleventh individual Directive within the meaning of Article 16(1) of framework Directive 89/391/EEC).

The purpose of the Directive is to protect the safety and health of workers in the onshore and offshore mineral-extracting industries through drilling, i.e. in all industries carrying out extraction, in the strict sense of the word, of minerals by means of boreholes and exploration with a view to extraction and/or preparation of extracted materials for sale but not the processing of such extracted materials.

The Directive contains a scheme of detailed obligations for the employer designed to guarantee the safety and health of workers.

One of the employer's tasks is to ensure that a document on safety and health, covering the relevant requirements set out in Articles 6, 9 and 10 of framework Directive 89/391/EEC is prepared, kept up to date and revised in the event of major modifications at workplaces.

In addition the Directive contains provisions on information and consultation of workers, workers' participation and health supervision.

A technical Annex contains minimum individual and common requirements for the onshore and offshore sectors.

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ORGANIZATION OF WORKING TIME

The Council continued examining the proposal for a Directive concerning certain aspects of the organization of working time.

At the close of the debate, the President noted a broad agreement on the compromise text which he had submitted.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue examining the final points still outstanding with a view to adopting the common position at the meeting on 24 June 1992.

COLLECTIVE REDUNDANCIES

The Council reached an agreement on the Directive amending Directive 75/129/EEC on the approximation of the laws of Member States relating to collective redundancies.

The Directive will be adopted formally at a forthcoming meeting, following legal and linguistic finalization of the text.

The Directive supplements the existing provisions concerning information and consultation of workers' representatives. In particular, it takes account of the impact of the internal market on this sector and provides that information and consultation obligations apply irrespective of whether the decision concerning collective redundancies is issued by the employer or by an enterprise which controls the employer.

The Directive also provides that administrative and/or legal procedures are available to workers' representatives and/or workers in order to ensure that the obligations set out in the Directive are observed.

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MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS IN THE SOCIAL SECTOR

Social security for migrant workers

The Council adopted three Regulations on social security for migrant workers, concerning non-contributory benefits, the award and calculation of pensions and certain miscellaneous amendments.

By adopting the three texts, the Council settled a series of complex questions between which certain delegations had established a link and which, in the case of the first two Regulations, had been under discussion since 1985 and 1989.

- Non-contributory benefits

The Regulation on non-contributory benefits makes provision for co-ordinating non-contributory schemes under which Member States are obliged to grant non-contributory benefits to workers resident in their territory who fall within the Regulation's scope in relation to persons.

More particularly, the Regulation stipulates that, where a person transfers his place of residence to another Member State, the latter must give benefits corresponding to those granted in the Member State of origin, provided that its legislation makes provision for such benefit.

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- Award and calculation of pensions

The Regulation on the award and calculation of pensions is designed to simplify the award and calculation of the pensions of those who have worked in several Member States.

Its purpose is to resolve problems arising in connection with the aggregation of periods of employment in different Member States and the co-existence of different types of legislation in cases of overlapping of pensions, and to protect migrant workers from over-stringent application of national provisions against overlapping.

- Miscellaneous amendments

The Regulation on miscellaneous amendments modifies existing Community Regulations in order to take account of changes in national legislation and to complete the Community Regulations concerned in the light of experience gained in their application.

Among other things, the Regulation provides for adjustments following German unification since, as from 3 October 1990, Community provisions concerning social security for migrant workers are applicable throughout German territory, including the territory of the former GDR.

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- Freedom of movement for workers within the Community

The Council adopted the common position concerning the Council Regulation amending Part II of Regulation (EEC) No 1612/68 of 15 October 1968 on freedom of movement for workers within the Community.

The present Regulation, based on Article 49 of the EEC Treaty, is further to the Commission action programme for the implementation of the Community Charter on the Fundamental Social Rights of Workers and is designed, in particular, to facilitate the movement of workers within the Community, to strengthen the System for Clearing of Vacancies and Applications for Employment (SEDOC) and to secure the greatest possible transparency on the Community labour market.

OTHER MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Agreement on the European Economic Area (EEA)

The Council decided to sign, subject to subsequent conclusion:

- the EEA Agreement;
- bilateral agricultural Agreements with Austria, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland;
- bilateral fisheries Agreements with Iceland, Norway and Sweden;

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- bilateral Agreements on road transit with Austria and Switzerland.

The ceremony for signature of the Agreements will be held at Oporto at 17.00 on 2 May 1992.

Relations with the EFTA countries: Rules of origin

The Council approved the draft Decisions of the EEC-EFTA countries' Joint Committees extending, for an indefinite period of time, the validity of Decision No 5/88 of the above Committees which had introduced simplified cumulation rules for a trial period of three years, which expired on 31 December 1991.

Internal market

- following the common position adopted on 29 July 1991, the Council proceeded to final adoption of the Directive amending for the seventh time Directive 67/548/EEC on the approximation of laws, regulations and administrative provisions relating to the classification, packaging and labelling of dangerous substances.

It will be recalled that the Directive is designed to rectify certain anomalies which have been revealed since the previous amendment and to implement the said Directive more efficiently (see Press Release 5199/91 Presse 34).

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- following the agreement reached at the meeting of 31 March 1992, the Council adopted finally the common position with a view to the adoption of a Directive amending Directive 70/156/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the type-approval of motor vehicles and their trailers (see Press Release 5467/92 Presse 45)

