

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

PRESS RELEASES

PRESIDENCY: FRANCE

JANUARY-JUNE 1984

Meetings and press releases March-April 1984

Meeting number	Subject	Date
912 th	Environment	1 March 1984
913 th	Consumer Protection	2 March 1984
914 th	Agriculture	5-6 March 1984
915 th	Internal Market	8 March 1984
916 th	Economics/Finance	12 March 1984
917 th	Foreign Affairs	12-13 March 1984
918 th	Agriculture	11-13 March 1984
918 th	Agriculture continuation	16-17 March 1984
919 th	Transport	22 March 1984
920 th	No release issued	20 March 1984
921 st	Agriculture	26-27 March 1984
922 nd	Foreign Affairs	27 March 1984
923 rd	Economics/Finance	2 April 1984
924 th	Foreign Affairs	9-10 April 1984

PRESS RELEASE

5365/84 (Presse 38)

LIBRARY

912th meeting of the Council

- Environment -

Brussels, 1 March 1984

President: Mrs Huguette BOUCHARDEAU,
State Secretary attached to the Prime Minister,
with responsibility for the Environment
and the quality of life,
of the French Republic

PRESS RELEASE

Brussels, 6 March 1984

5365/84 (Presse 38) COR 1

C O R R I G E N D U M

to Press Release
5365/84 (Presse 38)

- Environment -
of 1 March 1984

Page I, "Other decision concerning the environment"

Since the Directive on limit values and quality objectives for mercury discharges by sectors other than the chlor-alkali electrolysis industry was not adopted this passage should be deleted.

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

Belgium:

Mr Firmin AERTS
State Secretary for Public
Health and the Environment

Denmark:

Mr Mogens BUNDEGAARD-NIELSEN
State Secretary,
Ministry of the Environment

Germany:

Mr Franz KROPPESTEDT
State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of the Interior

Greece:

Mr Adonios TRITSIS
Minister for Regional Planning
and the Environment

France:

Mrs Huguette BOUCHARDEAU
State Secretary attached to the
Prime Minister, with responsi-
bility for the Environment and
the quality of life

Ireland:

Mr Liam KAVANAGH
Minister for the Environment
Mr Fergus O'BRIEN
Minister of State,
Department of the Environment

Italy:

Mr Alfredo BIONDI
Minister for Ecology

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean FEYDER
Deputy Permanent Representative

Netherlands:

Mr P. WINSEMIUS
Minister for Housing, Regional
Planning and the Environment

United Kingdom:

Mr William WALDEGRAVE
Parliamentary Under-Secretary
of State
Department of the Environment

Commission:

Mr Karl-Heinz NARJES
Member

TRANSFRONTIER SHIPMENT OF HAZARDOUS WASTE

The Council made another thorough examination of the proposal for a Regulation on the supervision and control of the transfrontier shipment of hazardous waste.

The Council registered some progress, particularly as regards the notification procedures, the conditions for transporting waste and the responsibility of the producer. However, there remain problems concerning the powers of the exporting State and waste intended for recycling.

At the close of the discussion the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its proceedings with a view to reaching a positive conclusion on the whole of this important issue if possible before the Council meeting in June.

COMBATING AIR POLLUTION FROM INDUSTRIAL PLANTS

The Council signified its agreement to a Directive on the combating of air pollution from industrial plants. This is the first general Directive designed to combat air pollution.

It stipulates that Member States must make the operation of the industrial plants covered by the Directive subject to prior authorization. Authorizations may be issued only when the competent authority is satisfied, inter alia, that:

- all appropriate preventive measures, including the application of the best available technology, have been taken;
- the operation of the plant will not cause harmful air pollution such as to endanger human health or damage living resources and ecosystems.

The types of industrial plant covered by the Directive are basically those connected with energy, metallurgy, the progressing of non-metallic mineral products, waste disposal and certain chemical industries.

In the case of existing plant in the sectors of industry referred to above, Member States will apply policies and strategies for their gradual adaptation to the best available technology.

The Directive also stipulates that the Council will, if necessary at Community level, fix emission limit values based on the best available technology which do not entail excessive costs and which take account of the nature, quantity and harmfulness of the emissions in question.

ACTION BY THE COMMUNITY RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT (ACE)

The Council signified its agreement to a Regulation concerning the financing of Community action relating to the environment from the general budget of the Communities.

This Regulation provides for a sum of 13 MECU over a period of three years for:

- demonstration projects aimed at developing new "clean" technologies, i.e. technologies which cause little or no pollution and may also be more economical of natural resources,
- demonstration projects aimed at developing new techniques and measuring methods,
- projects providing an incentive and aimed at contributing towards the maintenance or re-establishment of seriously threatened biotopes which are the habitat of endangered species and are of particular importance to the Community, under Council Directive 79/409/EEC of 2 April 1979 on the conservation of wild birds.

Community financial support must not exceed 30% of the cost of the projects referred to in the first indent, 30% of the cost of the projects referred to in the second indent, and 50% of the cost of the projects referred to in the third indent.

The appropriations will be managed by the Commission in the framework of an Advisory Committee composed of representatives of the Member States.

These appropriations may be granted to the natural persons, or the legal persons constituted in accordance with the laws in force in the Member States, who are responsible for a project.

The benefits granted by the Community must not affect conditions of competition in a manner incompatible with the provisions of the Treaty.

The Commission will submit an annual report on the implementation of the Regulation to the European Parliament and the Council.

BARCELONA CONVENTION: MEDITERRANEAN SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS

The Council adopted a Decision on the conclusion, on the behalf of the Community, of the Protocol to the Barcelona Convention concerning Mediterranean specially protected areas.

Pursuant to that Protocol, signed in Geneva on 2/3 April 1982, the Contracting Parties - Mediterranean States - undertake to take all appropriate measures with a view to protecting those marine areas which are important for the safeguard of the natural resources, sites and the cultural heritage in the region.

They will, to the extent possible, establish protected areas and endeavour to undertake the action necessary in order to protect those areas and, as appropriate, restore them, as rapidly as possible.

Such areas will be established in order to safeguard in particular:

- (a) - sites of biological and ecological value;
 - the genetic diversity of species;
 - representative types of ecosystems;
- (b) sites of particular importance because of their scientific, aesthetic, historical, archaeological, cultural or educational interest.

Among other objectives the Protocol aims, in close co-operation with the parties concerned, to encourage research activities and information for the public on the protected areas.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Other decision concerning the environment

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, a Directive on limit values and quality objectives for mercury discharges by sectors other than the chlor-alkali electrolysis industry (see press release 11446/83 (Presse 228) of 16.XII.83 - p. 3).

Research

Further to the agreement reached in the Research Council on 28 February 1984, the Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, a Decision revising the sectoral R & D programme in the field of environment (environmental protection and climatology) - indirect and concerted actions (1981-1985) adopted by Decision 81/213/EEC (see press release 5287/84 (Presse 34) of 28.II.84 - p. 17).

Agriculture

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, a Regulation on suspension of aids for investments in the field of dairy production.

PRESS RELEASE

5366/84 (Presse 39)

LIBRARY

913th meeting of the Council

- Consumer Protection -

Brussels, 2 March 1984

President: Mrs Catherine LALUMIERE
State Secretary
at the Ministry of Economic Affairs,
Finance and the Budget,
with responsibility for Consumer Affairs
of the French Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr Marc LEPOIVRE
Deputy Permanent Representative

Denmark:

Mr I.B. STETTER
Minister for Industry

Germany:

Mr Klaus KINKEL
State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Justice

Greece:

Mr Andréas KAZAZIS
State Secretary
Ministry for Trade

France:

Mrs Catherine LALUMIERE
State Secretary at the Ministry
of Economic Affairs, Finance and
the Budget, with responsibility
for Consumer Affairs

Ireland:

Mr Michael MOYNIHAN
Minister of State at the
Department of Trade, Commerce
and Tourism

Italy:

Mr Nicola Maria SANESE
State Secretary,
Ministry of Industry, Trade and
Craft Trades

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean FEYDER
Deputy Permanent Representative

Netherlands:

Mr P.H. van ZEIL
State Secretary,
Ministry of Economic Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr Alexander FLETCHER
Parliamentary Under-Secretary
of State for Corporate and
Consumer affairs

Commission:

Mr Karl-Heinz NARJES - Member

LIABILITY FOR DEFECTIVE PRODUCTS

The Council discussed the amended proposal for a Council Directive on the approximation of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States concerning liability for defective products. It concentrated in particular on the question of a possible financial limit on the producer's liability.

At the end of the debate, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue examining the proposal for a Directive, making a more detailed study of a number of compromise solutions which have been submitted regarding the question of a financial limit and analysing the economic consequences resulting from the adoption of such a Directive. The Council meeting on Consumer Affairs will discuss this matter again in June 1984.

MISLEADING ADVERTISING

The Council continued its examination of the proposal for a Directive on the approximation of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States concerning misleading advertising. The purpose of this Directive is to protect consumers, persons carrying on a trade or business or practising a craft or profession and the interests of the public in general against misleading advertising. To this end, the Directive provides that consumers or competitors have a right to take legal action against misleading advertising or refer the matter to an administrative body.

It focussed its attention on the main problems still unresolved and made significant progress, particularly as regards the criteria for access to the various bodies of legal recourse and on the definition of misleading advertising.

At the close of the debate, the Council asked the Permanent Representatives Committee to seek solutions to the unresolved questions so that the Directive could be adopted at its next meeting, to be held in June.

DOOR-TO-DOOR SALES

The Council continued its discussions on the proposal for a Council Directive to protect the consumer in respect of contracts negotiated away from business premises, the main purpose of which is to give consumers the right to cancel contracts concluded away from the trader's business premises within seven days.

The Council resolved the specific problems of substance outstanding with regard to this Directive. However, one delegation maintained a general reservation on the proposal.

At the end of the discussion the Council called on that delegation to reconsider its position so that the Directive could be adopted as soon as possible.

COMMUNICATION ON CONSUMER POLICY

The Council took note of a communication from Mr NARJES, Member of the Commission, on consumer policy.

After an initial discussion, the Council asked the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine this communication so that the Council could continue discussing it at its next meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Additional decision on consumer protection

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision introducing a Community system for the rapid exchange of information on dangers arising from the use of consumer products (see Press Release 11221/83 (Presse 215) of 12.XII.83 - p. 4).

Food Aid

In preparation for the Community's participation in the WFP Pledging Conference in New York on 6 March 1984, the Council approved the statement to be made at that Conference concerning the Community's contribution.

PRESS RELEASE

LIBRARY

5503/84 (Presse 43)

914th meeting of the Council

- Agriculture -

Brussels, 5 and 6 March 1984

President: Mr Michel ROCARD
Minister for Agriculture
of the French Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr Paul de KEERSMAEKER
State Secretary for European
Affairs and Agriculture

Denmark:

Mr Niels Anker KOFOED
Minister for Agriculture

Germany:

Mr Ignaz KIECHLE
Federal Minister for Food,
Agriculture and Forestry

Greece:

Mr Constantine SIMITIS
Minister for Agriculture

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

France:

Mr Michel ROCARD
Minister for Agriculture

Ireland:

Mr Austin DEASY
Minister for Agriculture

Mr René SOUCHON
State Secretary,
Ministry of Agriculture

Italy:

Mr Filippo Maria PANDOLFI
Minister for Agriculture

Luxembourg:

Mr Ernest MUHLÉN
Minister for Agriculture,
Viticulture, Water Control
and Forestry

Netherlands:

Mr G. BRAKS
Minister for Agriculture
and Fisheries

United Kingdom:

Mr Michael JOPLING
Minister for Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food

Mr John MACGREGOR
Minister of State,
Ministry of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food

Commission:

Mr Poul DALSGER
Member

FIXING OF THE PRICES FOR CERTAIN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND RELATED MEASURES, INCLUDING PROPOSALS ON THE REFORM OF THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY

The Council carried out a further detailed examination of the various problems concerning the adjustments to be made to the common agricultural policy and the prices and related measures for the forthcoming year.

The discussions, some of which were unofficial, indicated that various possible solutions could be envisaged which would need to be further examined in detail with due regard for their financial consequences and their general economic repercussions.

It was agreed that the Presidency and the Commission would use the next few days to specify more clearly the options on which the Council will be required to decide. The Council will meet again at 15.00 on Sunday 11 March 1984 to continue its discussions and to reach conclusions where possible.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Other agricultural decisions

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities ⁽¹⁾

- the Directive amending Directives 72/159/EEC, 72/160/EEC and 72/161/EEC on agricultural structures
- the Decisions
 - = amending Decision 76/402/EEC on the level of the interest rate subsidy, provided for by Directive 72/159/EEC on the modernization of farms, to be applied in Italy
 - = amending Decision 81/598/EEC on the level of the interest rate subsidy, provided for by Directive 72/159/EEC on the modernization of farms, to be applied in Ireland
 - = amending Decision 82/438/EEC authorizing certain Member States to raise the level of the interest rate subsidies provided for by Directive 72/159/EEC on the modernization of farms.

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

- the Regulation extending the common measure provided for in Regulation (EEC) No 1975/82 on the acceleration of agricultural development in certain regions of Greece
- the Decisions
 - = on the conclusion of an agreement in the form of an exchange of letters, amending the temporary arrangement on concerted disciplines between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Austria concerning reciprocal trade in cheese
 - = on the conclusion of an agreement extending the temporary agreement on concerted disciplines between Spain and the European Economic Community concerning imports of cheese into Spain.

⁽¹⁾ See Press Release 5227/84 (Presse 33) of 27/28.II.84 - p. 5.

Fisheries

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

- amending Regulation (EEC) No 3746/83 laying down for 1984 certain measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources applicable to vessels flying the flag of Norway
- laying down, for 1984, certain measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources applicable to vessels flying the flag of Spain
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 320/84 as regards provisional total allowable catches for 1984, the provisional share of these catches available to the Community and the allocation of that share between the Member States for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks.

Trade question

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for carrots falling within sub-heading ex 07.01 G II of the Common Customs Tariff and originating in Cyprus for the period 1 April 1984 to 15 May 1984.

ECSC

The Council gave its assent pursuant to Article 56(2)(a) of the ECSC Treaty, concerning Comdial Communications System Ltd., United Kingdom.

PRESS RELEASE

LIBRARY

5586/84 (Presse 46)

915th Council meeting

- Internal Market -

Brussels, 8 March 1984

President: Mrs Catherine LALUMIERE

State Secretary
attached to the Minister for Economic Affairs,
Finance and the Budget,
responsible for Consumer Affairs,
of the French Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr Paul de KEERSMAEKER
State Secretary,
European Affairs and Agriculture

Denmark:

Mr Jakob RYTTER
Deputy Permanent Representative

Germany:

Mr Dieter von WÜRZEN
State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Economic
Affairs

Greece:

Mr Andréas KAZAZIS
State Secretary,
Ministry of Trade

France:

Mrs Catherine LALUMIERE
State Secretary attached to the
Minister for Economic Affairs,
Finance and the Budget,
responsible for Consumer Affairs

Ireland:

Mr Edward COLLINS
Minister of State at the
Department of Industry, Trade,
Commerce and Tourism

Italy:

Mr Francesco FORTE
Minister for the Co-ordination
of Community Policies

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean DONDELINGER
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

Netherlands:

Mr F. BOLKENSTEIN
Minister for Foreign Trade

Mr W.F. van EEKELEN
State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

United Kingdom

Mr Alexander FLETCHER
Parliamentary Under-Secretary
of State for Corporate and
Consumer Affairs

Commission:

Mr Etienne DAVIGNON
Vice-President

Mr Christopher TUGENDHAT
Vice-President

Mr Karl-Heinz NARJES
Member

Mr Georges CONTOGEOGIS
Member

NEW COMMERCIAL POLICY INSTRUMENT

The Council resumed its examination of the proposal for a Regulation on the strengthening of the common commercial policy, with regard in particular to protection against illicit commercial practices.

It instructed a Working Party to examine further certain ideas put forward by the Commission during the debate and to report to the Council meeting on Foreign Affairs on 12 and 13 March 1984.

ABOLITION OF TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE

The Council resumed its examination of the 15 harmonization Directives before it and noted at the end of the debate that all delegations wished to see them adopted rapidly. The Council accordingly requested the Permanent Representatives Committee to resume forthwith its examination of the matter and of the last remaining obstacles to the proposed compromise, instructing it in particular to prepare all the texts so that the Council could adopt the Directives as "A" items on its agenda as soon as all the conditions for doing so were met.

EASING OF FRONTIER FORMALITIES

- Commission statement

The Council took note of an oral statement by Mr NARJES, Member of the Commission, on all the measures necessary to achieve the relaxation of border formalities.

The ensuing debate enabled the Council to conduct an overall exchange of views on all the problems arising in this area.

The Council recognized the need to continue and expedite its efforts to strengthen the internal market and appealed to the Council in its other compositions - Agriculture, Economic Affairs and Finance, Transport - to speed up work in their respective areas of competence.

- Extension of the arrangements for movement within the Community

When it adopted the Regulation on movement within the Community in December 1983, the Council undertook to continue working on the consolidation and extension of these arrangements. Thus at this meeting it reached agreement on a list of commercial samples to be included in the arrangements.

At the end of its debate the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to formalize the decisions reached so that it could definitively adopt the list of commercial samples before 1 May 1984.

The Council also confirmed its will to extend the arrangements to the works of painters and other artists, and instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue examining this question actively with a view to a definitive decision by 1 July 1984.

- Single document and draft Resolution on computerization of customs procedures

The Council continued its discussions on the introduction of a single document. It confirmed the policy followed in the recent proceedings of the Working Party of Senior Officials and asked the Working Party to continue its work with a view to submitting a complex draft by the end of the first half of 1984.

The Council also discussed a draft Resolution on the introduction of a computerized procedure in Community trade. At the end of a debate on the main points of the Resolution, on which a broad convergence of views was reached, it asked the Permanent Representatives Committee to conclude its examination so that the Resolution could be adopted as an "A" item at a forthcoming Council meeting.

- 6th Directive: tax exemptions for travellers

The Council noted the progress made in proceedings on the 6th Directive on tax exemptions for travellers. This proposition is aimed at increasing the level of exemptions and abolishing certain quantitative restrictions applicable in international travel. In conclusion, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to expedite its proceedings on the matter so that it would be able in particular to update once again from the beginning of July 1984, the amount of travellers' tax exemptions.

- 14th Directive: deferred payment of VAT on importation

The Council heard a Commission statement on contacts the Commission had with certain Member States concerning the 14th Directive on deferred payment of VAT on importation. The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its proceedings on the matter.

- Facilitation of checks during the transport of goods

Following the adoption of Directive 83/643/EEC in December 1983, the aim of which was to reduce waiting time at borders and improve carriers' working conditions, the Council noted that those Member States which had stated their intention to exercise the option of deferring application of certain provisions of that Directive until 31 December 1986 would endeavour to apply the Directive in full within the shortest possible time.

The French delegation announced that it would not be exercising this option.

It was agreed that this dossier would be examined again at the Transport Council on 22 March 1984.

- Taxes imposed on vehicles passing through certain third countries

The Council held a discussion on the tax to which Member States' vehicles have been subject since 1979 when passing through Austria, and on the road tax which, from 1 January 1985, will be levied on freight vehicles in Switzerland.

The Council noted the Commission's intention to submit to the Transport Council on 22 March a report on the talks to be held on 9 March with Switzerland, possibly accompanied by appropriate proposals. Problems arising with Austria in this respect would be dealt with with Austria on the basis of the negotiating directives adopted by the Council on 20 December 1983.

STANDARDIZATION

The Council noted a Commission communication on progress in proceedings on standardization.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISION

Environment

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, a Directive on limit values and quality objectives for mercury discharges by sectors other than the chlor-alkali electrolysis industry (see press release 11446/83 (Presse 228) of 16.XII.83 - p. 3).

PRESS RELEASE

LIBRARY

5668/84 (Presse 49)

916th meeting of the Council
- Economic and Financial Affairs -
Brussels, 12 March 1984
President: Mr Jacques DELORS,

Minister for Economic Affairs,
Finance and the Budget
of the French Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr Paul NOTERDAEME
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

Denmark:

Mr Henning CHRISTOPHERSEN
Minister for Finance

Germany:

Mr Hans TIETMEYER
State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Finance

Greece:

Mr Gerassimos ARSENIS
Minister for Economic Affairs

France:

Mr Jacques DELORS
Minister for Economic Affairs,
Finance and the Budget

Mr Henri EMMANUELLI
State Secretary to the Minister
for Economic Affairs, Finance and
the Budget

Ireland:

Mr Alan DUKES
Minister for Finance

Italy:

Mr Giovanni GORIA
Minister for the Treasury

Luxembourg:

Mr Jacques SANTER
Minister for Finance

Netherlands:

Mr H. RUDING
Minister for Finance

United Kingdom:

Mr G.J. LITTLER
Second Permanent Secretary
of the Treasury

For the Commission:

Mr François-Xavier ORTOLI
Vice-President

Mr Christopher TUGENDHAT
Vice-President

Also present at this meeting:

Mr Michel CAMDESSUS
Chairman of the Monetary Committee

Mr Jérôme VIGNON
Chairman of the Co-ordinating Group
for Economic and Financial Policies

Mr I. BYATT
Chairman of the Economic Policy
Committee

Mr Tomàs O'COFAIGH
Chairman of the Committee of
Governors of the Central Banks

PROGRESS IN MONETARY CO-OPERATION WITHIN THE COMMUNITY AFTER FIVE YEARS' OPERATION OF THE EMS

After a detailed discussion the Council made the following statement:

The Economic and Finance Ministers of the European Economic Community, meeting on 12 March 1984, the eve of the 5th anniversary of the creation of the EMS, have jointly examined the practical results of this experiment.

They are pleased to note that the principal objective of the EMS, as laid down by the European Council in Bremen, namely "the creation of a closer monetary co-operation leading to a zone of monetary stability in Europe" has been achieved. Exchange rate fluctuations have been considerably reduced, the co-ordination of monetary policies has been strengthened and there has been considerable progress towards the convergence of economic situations.

They find it particularly remarkable that these positive results have been obtained despite unprecedented disturbances in the world economic and monetary situation. The EMS has had the merit of reducing the impact of these disturbances on Europe and they therefore consider it to be a valuable achievement. They are therefore unanimous in wishing to maintain and strengthen it. This is the primary objective. However, they do not see it as a finished product and will bear in mind the longer-term objectives laid down in the European Council's Resolution of 5 December 1978. They will therefore take advantage of every opportunity to achieve further progress in the system by making practical adjustments, paying particular attention to the remarkable developments in private use of the ECU on the markets.

They consider that the Commission proposals, and its recommendation on financial integration, are a very useful basis for discussions on this subject.

Finally, they consider that the undertaking which they are thus pursuing is an important contribution to the wider operation of stabilizing the international monetary system. In subscribing to the international monetary commitment of the Versailles Summit, the Community representatives referred to the complementarity in this respect of the stability obligations subscribed to under the EMS.

FIRST QUARTERLY REVIEW OF THE ECONOMIC SITUATION IN THE COMMUNITY

On the basis of a Commission communication, the Council carried out the first quarterly review of the economic situation in the Community in accordance with Article 2 of the Decision of 18 February 1974 on convergence.

The Council concluded that, as proposed by the Commission, there was at present no need to adjust the economic policy guidelines for 1984 adopted by the Council in December of last year.

TAX MEASURES TO ENCOURAGE CO-OPERATION BETWEEN UNDERTAKINGS FROM
DIFFERENT MEMBER STATES

The Council agreed that priority should be given to work on eliminating obstacles to co-operation between undertakings situated in different Member States.

It accordingly instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee, in the light of the day's discussions, to press ahead with examination of the proposal for a Regulation on the European Economic Interest Grouping and, in the tax field of the proposals on:

- the common system of taxation applicable to mergers, divisions and contributions of assets;
- the common system of taxation applicable to parent companies and their subsidiaries of different Member States;
- the elimination of double taxation in connection with the adjustment of transfers of profits between associated undertakings (arbitration procedure);
- the system of taxation applicable to transactions in securities.

It asked the Permanent Representatives Committee to report to it before 31 May 1984.

The Council also called on the Governments of the Member States to resume work as soon as possible on the International Convention on international mergers.

DIRECT INSURANCE OTHER THAN LIFE ASSURANCE

The Council resumed examination of direct insurance other than life assurance - provision of services. Following a report from Mr TUGENDHAT and an exchange of views on the basis for and means of making rapid progress, the Council agreed to set up a High-level ad hoc Working Party with a specific brief to explore compromise solutions and submit a report to the Council by June.

OTHER DECISION

Budget discharge for 1982

Having examined the annual report of the Court of Auditors for the financial year 1982, the Council approved the European Parliament Recommendation on the discharge to be given to the Commission in respect of implementation of the general budget of the European Communities for the financial year 1982.

PRESS RELEASE

5725/84 (Presse 50)

LIBRARY

917th meeting of the Council

- Foreign Affairs -

Brussels, 12 and 13 March 1984

President: Mr Claude CHEYSSON

Minister for External Relations
of the French Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr Leo TINDEMANS Minister for External Relations

Denmark:

Mr Uffe ELLEMANN-JENSEN Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Knut-Erik TYGESEN State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Germany:

Mr Hans-Dietrich GENSCHER Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Hans-Werner LAUTENSCHLAGER State Secretary, Federal Minister of Foreign Affairs

Mr Dieter von WÜRZEN State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs

Greece:

Mr Theodoros PANGALOS State Secretary for EEC Affairs

France:

Mr Claude CHEYSSON Minister for External Relations

Mr Roland DUMAS Minister for European Affairs

Ireland:

Mr P. BARRY Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Jim O'KEEFE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs

Italy:

Mr Giulio ANDREOTTI
Mr Mario FIORET

Minister for Foreign Affairs
State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Luxembourg:

Miss Colette FLESCH

Vice-President of the Government,
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Netherlands:

Mr H. van den BROEK
Mr W.F. van EEKELEN

Minister for Foreign Affairs
State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

United Kingdom:

Sir Geoffrey HOWE

Secretary of State for Foreign
and Commonwealth Affairs

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Commission:

Mr Gaston THORN
Mr Wilhelm HAFERKAMP
Mr Lorenzo NATALI
Vicomte Etienne DAVIGNON
Mr Christopher TUGENDHAT
Mr Richard BURKE

President
Vice-President
Vice-President
Vice-President
Vice-President
Member

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PREPARATION FOR THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL

The Council prepared the topics likely to be under discussion at the next European Council meeting in Brussels on 19 and 20 March 1984.

PORTUGUESE ACCESSION

The Council prepared for the 17th Ministerial meeting of the Conference for the accession of Portugal to the European Communities, held on Tuesday 13 March in the late morning. The Portuguese delegation was led by Mr Ernâni Rodrigues Lopes, Minister for Finance and Planning.

In this context, the Council also adopted the Decision authorizing the Commission to negotiate an agreement with Portugal in the form of an exchange of letters on a grant of 50 MECU from the budget of the Communities to be implemented between now and accession and intended to finance specific measures undertaken by the Portuguese Government for improving agricultural structures and so facilitate the application of Community rules to Portuguese agriculture.

NEW COMMERCIAL POLICY INSTRUMENT

Following a wide-ranging discussion, the Council worked out certain guidelines for a possible solution to the main problems occasioned by the new instrument.

It instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to finalize the solution on that basis before the European Council meeting on 19 and 20 March. It was recalled that agreement on the new instrument would open the way for progress in certain internal market dossiers.

GATT - OPENING OF NEGOTIATIONS ON CHANGES IN THE TARIFF CONCESSIONS
CONCERNING CERTAIN MAIZE BY-PRODUCTS

Following a detailed discussion, the Council directed the Permanent Representatives Committee to complete preparation of this matter so that a decision could be taken as part of the decisions on the reform of the common agricultural policy.

FOURTH INTERNATIONAL COCOA AGREEMENT

The Council adopted the common negotiating position for the 4th International Cocoa Agreement. On this basis, the Community and its Member States are prepared to signify their agreement to the convening of the negotiating conference for a 4th International Cocoa Agreement and to take an active part in such negotiations.

SPECIAL MEASURES OF COMMUNITY INTEREST FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM AND
THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

The Council completed the finalization of the three Regulations introducing special measures of Community interest for the United Kingdom and the Federal Republic of Germany for 1983 in the fields of employment, transport and energy.

It took note of the Opinion delivered by the European Parliament on the evening of 12 March and concluded that there was no longer any divergence between the Council's position and the European Parliament's recommendations.

The Council agreed to meet on 20 March to adopt these three Regulations formally and to give its opinion on the transfer of the appropriations for financing these special measures from Chapter 100 to the operational part of the budget.

ENERGY PROBLEMS

The Council gave its assent to the new arrangements for coking coal and coke for the Community steel industry for the period 1984 to 1986.

These arrangements will relate to a maximum of 10 mio tonnes. The average rate of aid will be 3,6 ECU per tonne and the requisite financial contribution will be distributed as follows: ECSC budget - 6 MECU; steel industry - 6 MECU; the 6 Member States (signatories to the Paris Treaty) - 24 MECU.

Provision is made for a possible phased reduction for the third year, the extent of which will be decided on in conjunction with the re-appraisal of the general national aid scheme for the coal industry, which expires on 31 December 1985.

The Council also agreed to the appropriation deemed necessary for the 1983/1985 period for demonstration projects in the energy field.

The Council moreover confirmed the need for a social aspect for "coal", for which an amount of 60 MECU is entered in the general budget of the European Communities. It was agreed to examine this matter further as well as the subject of solid fuels at a meeting on energy questions which the Presidency intends convening shortly.

GREEK MEMORANDUM

The Council took stock of the work carried out in the Community following the Greek Government's Memorandum of 19 March 1982.

In this context the Council noted that as regards the social affairs Regulation the problem of financing could be resolved in the ways indicated by the Commission and that consequently the Regulation could be formally adopted at a forthcoming Council meeting.

As for the Regulation on transport infrastructures, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to complete the technical preparation of the proposal so that the Transport Council on 22 March could formally adopt the Regulation.

Furthermore, it took note of the Commission's undertaking to submit as soon as possible additional proposals, which were to be prepared by the Permanent Representatives Committee upon receipt.

Finally, with an eye to the next meeting of the European Council, the Council took note of a general statement by the Greek delegation emphasizing the political and economic importance which the Greek Government attached to the measures taken and to be taken, of which the integrated Mediterranean programmes (IMPs) formed an essential element.

EIGHTH COMPANY LAW DIRECTIVE

The Council has approved in principle the Eighth Company Law Directive on the qualifications of auditors after just over three years discussion. The Directive remains subject to final legal and linguistic revision, after which the Directive can be formally adopted by the Council.

The Eighth Directive takes a step further forward in the body of accounting law in the Community based on the Fourth Directive on the annual accounts of limited companies, adopted in July 1978 (78/660/EEC) and the Seventh Directive on the consolidated accounts of groups of undertakings, adopted in June 1983 (83/349/EEC).

The Fourth and Seventh Directives provide, in the accounting field, a common legal framework for undertakings within the Community by providing, in particular, rules on the content of accounts and the principles of valuation.

Both these accounting Directives further provide for audits, i.e. that the accounts be the subject of an objective external review and that the annual report be checked to ensure that it and the accounts are consistent. The role of the auditor is therefore crucial to the production of reliable accounts, which must be disclosed to the public.

The Eighth Directive thus sets a high common standard of education and training for auditors. They must attain university entrance level, complete a minimum of three years practical training and pass an examination of professional competence at final university level before a Member State may approve them to carry out the audits required by Community Law. Persons who did not initially reach the level of university entrance may also be approved, at the option of the Member State, if they have 15 years relevant experience or combine 7 years experience with the course of practical training. In any event they must pass the same examination of professional competence. The rights acquired by professionals already approved by Member State, or those in training, are protected by appropriate provisions.

Firms of auditors may also be approved. Audits by them may only be done by auditors qualified under the Directive. The majority of management of such firms must also be qualified.

In any event, the Member States must ensure that all auditors are persons of good repute, and are independent, and that audits are carried out with professional care. As a further safeguard, the names and addresses of auditors, including members or shareholders of firms, must be available to the public.

The Directive must be implemented in the Member States' national laws within the same period allowed for the Seventh Directive, i.e. 1 January 1988.

The Directive does not regulate the mutual recognition of the qualifications of auditors nor their freedom to provide services. Such matters will be the subject of future Community initiative which should however greatly benefit from the adoption of the current Directive.

This Directive thus provides an important further step in the field of accounting within the Community. The guarantee of a common, high standard for auditors will ensure not only the form and content but also that the standard of the disclosed accounts of companies and groups of undertakings will be consistent throughout the Community, thus providing a further safeguard for the users of such information.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Food aid

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Regulation on the apportionment of the quantities of cereals provided for under the Food Aid Convention for the period 1 July 1983 to 30 June 1986.

The quantity of 1 650 000 tonnes of cereals representing the minimum annual contribution pledged by the Community and the Member States under the Food Aid Convention is apportioned as follows for the period 1 July 1983 to 30 June 1986:

- (a) Community measures: 927 663 tonnes (56%)
- (b) national measures : 722 337 tonnes (44%).

National measures are apportioned between the Member States as follows:

	(tonnes)
Belgium	41 540
Denmark	15 579
Germany	193 500
Greece	10 000
France	200 000
Ireland	4 024
Italy	95 400
Luxembourg	1 360
Netherlands	50 200
United Kingdom	110 734

Commercial policy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulations concluding and implementing Agreements in the form of exchanges of letters between the European Economic Community and Morocco, Algeria and Turkey on the additional amount to be deducted from the levy on imports into the Community of untreated olive oil originating in those countries (1983/1984 marketing year: renewal of the previous arrangements).

ECSC

The Council gave its assent pursuant to Article 55(2)(c) of the ECSC Treaty with a view to obtaining financial aid for the implementation and execution of a steel pilot/demonstration project programme.

PRESS RELEASE

LIBRARY

5838/84 (Presse 53)

918th meeting of the Council

- Agriculture -

Brussels, 16 and 17 March 1984

President: Mr Michel ROCARD
Minister for Agriculture
of the French Republic

16/17.III.1984

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

Belgium:

Mr Paul de KEERSMAEKER
State Secretary for European
Affairs and Agriculture

Denmark:

Mr Niels Anker KOFOED
Minister for Agriculture

Germany:

Mr Ignaz KIECHLE
Federal Minister for Food,
Agriculture and Forestry

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

Greece:

Mr Constantinos SIMITIS
Minister for Agriculture

France:

Mr Michel ROCARD
Minister for Agriculture

Mr René SOUCHON
State Secretary,
Ministry of Agriculture

Ireland:

Mr Austin DEASY
Minister for Agriculture

Italy:

Mr Filippo Maria PANDOLFI
Minister for Agriculture

Luxembourg:

Mr Ernest MUHLEN
Minister for Agriculture,
Viticulture, Water Control
and Forestry

Netherlands:

Mr G. BRAKS
Minister for Agriculture
and Fisheries

United Kingdom:

Mr Michael JOPLING
Minister of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food

Mr John MacGREGOR
Minister of State,
Ministry of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food

Commission:

Mr Poul DALSGER
Member

FIXING THE PRICES OF CERTAIN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND RELATED MEASURES, INCLUDING PROPOSALS FOR REFORM OF THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY

At its meeting on 11, 12 and 13 and on 16 and 17 March 1984, the Council decided upon a series of essential points concerning, on the one hand, control of production in the milk sector and the dismantling of monetary compensatory amounts (see press release 5667/84 (Presse 48) of 11/12/13 March 1984) and, on the other, the level of the prices of agricultural products for the 1984/1985 marketing year and related measures.

The points decided upon supplement or amend the proposals and communications submitted by the Commission with respect to the adjustment of the common agricultural policy and the fixing of prices of agricultural products for the 1984/1985 marketing year and related measures.

Although there remain reservations linked essentially to the solution of the other problems submitted to the European Council, delegations considered that the work carried out by the Agriculture Council constituted a valid basis for agreement.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Relations with the ACP States

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision on the provisional application of the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Government of the Republic of Seychelles on fishing off the coast of Seychelles.

Commercial policy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation imposing a definitive countervailing duty in the framework of the anti-subsidy proceedings concerning imports of tube and pipe fittings of malleable cast iron originating in Spain and proposing the definitive collection of the provisional duty.

PRESS RELEASE

LIBRARY

5667/84 (Presse 48)

918th meeting of the Council

- Agriculture -

Brussels, 11, 12 and 13 March 1984

President: Mr Michel ROCARD,
Minister for Agriculture
of the French Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr Paul de KEERSMAEKER
State Secretary for European
Affairs and Agriculture

Denmark:

Mr Niels Anker KOFOED
Minister for Agriculture

Germany:

Mr Ignaz KIECHLE
Federal Minister for Food,
Agriculture and Forestry

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

Greece:

Mr Constantinos SIMITIS
Minister for Agriculture

France:

Mr Michel ROCARD
Minister for Agriculture

Mr René SOUCHON
State Secretary,
Ministry of Agriculture

Ireland:

Mr Austin DEASY
Minister for Agriculture

Italy:

Mr Filippo Maria PANDOLFI
Minister for Agriculture

Luxembourg:

Mr Ernest MUHLEN
Minister for Agriculture,
Viticulture, Water Control
and Forestry

Netherlands:

Mr G. BRAKS
Minister for Agriculture
and Fisheries

United Kingdom:

Mr Michael JOPLING
Minister of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food

Mr John MacGREGOR
Minister of State,
Ministry of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food

Commission:

Mr Poul DALSGER
Member

FIXING THE PRICES OF CERTAIN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND RELATED MEASURES,
INCLUDING PROPOSALS FOR REFORM OF THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY

- Milk sector

Subject to an overall agreement on the adjustment of the common agricultural policy and on the fixing of prices and related measures, the Council reached agreement in principle on certain important measures designed to control milk production. This agreement marks a major step forward in the effort to reform the common agricultural policy.

The main points of the agreement may be summarized as follows:

- the arrangements will remain in force for five years. After three years the commission will draw up a report on their effectiveness. The definitive overall guaranteed quantity will be 97,2 million tonnes plus 0,6 million tonnes in the form of a Community reserve. However, for the 1984/1985 marketing year the guaranteed quantity will be 98,2 + 0,6 tonnes with an additional linear co-responsibility point for the 1984/1985 marketing year (3% instead of 2%).
- The quantities corresponding to the references for each Member State will be allocated either among producers or among dairies by regions defined according to Community criteria and a Community procedure. The penalty for overshoots will be a levy of
 - = 75% of the milk target price for milk for individual quotas
 - = 100% of the milk target price for collective quotas.
- The system will be extended to direct deliveries outside the dairy circuit.

- Criteria have been adopted which will allow the system to remain fairly flexible.

At socio-structural level, special measures can be taken to promote the rational development of production methods in the milk sector under certain conditions.

- After the Community criteria for allocation have been defined, the aid to small producers of 120 million ECU laid down in Regulation No 1210/83 will be maintained for two marketing years.
- Community financing of butter consumption aid will be reduced by 75% to 10 ECU/100 kg.

- Agri-monetary aspects

After detailed examination of the proposals in question, the Council reached a broad measure of agreement on the methods for dismantling the existing MCAs and on the future MCA system. However, all delegations entered general reservations pending agreement on all the proposals for adjustment and financing of the common agricultural policy.

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The Council agreed to suspend its proceedings until Friday 16 March at 10.00 when it would resume examination of the questions still outstanding, in particular the general price level and products other than milk.

PRESS RELEASE

LIBRARY

5907/84 (Presse 55)

919th meeting of the Council

- Transport -

Brussels, 22 March 1984

President: Mr Charles FITERMAN,
Minister of State,
Minister for Transport
of the French Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr Herman de CROO
Minister for Transport
and for Posts and Telecommunications

Denmark:

Mr Arne MELCHIOR
Minister for Public Works

Germany:

Mr Werner DOLLINGER
Federal Minister for Transport

Greece:

Mr Nikolaos AKRITIDIS
Minister for Communications

France:

Mr Charles FITERMAN
Minister of State,
Minister for Transport

Ireland:

Mr Jim MITCHELL
Minister for Transport and
Minister for Posts and Telegraphs

Italy:

Mr Claudio SIGNORILE
Minister for Transport

Luxembourg:

Mr Josy BARTHEL
Minister for Transport,
Telecommunications and Informatics

Netherlands:

Mrs N. SMIT-KROES
Minister for Transport
and Public Works

United Kingdom:

Mr David MITCHELL
Parliamentary Under-Secretary
of State,
Department of Transport

Commission:

Mr Georges CONTOGEOORGIS
Member
Mr Karl-Heinz NARJES
Member

MEASURES TO FACILITATE FRONTIER CROSSINGS

The Council examined in depth a number of measures to facilitate frontier crossings, with particular reference to the following:

Facilitation of physical inspections and administrative formalities in respect of carriage of goods between Member States

The Council had a very constructive discussion on measures to be taken to implement the Directive of 1 December 1983 on this subject. All delegations were able to describe the measures already taken or planned by their Governments to conform to the provisions of the Directive as soon as possible.

In conclusion the President noted that this Directive could be applied by all Member States from 1 January 1985 at all major crossing points. He noted that the Member States were willing to take the necessary practical measures - even before that date - to facilitate frontier crossings. The practical implementing measures were already well underway in all the Member States.

Freedom of establishment and freedom to provide services for the activities of customs agents

At the request of the Netherlands delegation the Council returned to the question of extending the 1982 Directive on freedom of establishment and freedom to provide services incidental to transport to cover customs agents.

It instructed the Council bodies to continue examining this question and noted that it did not fall solely within the competence of the transport Ministers.

Duty-free admission of fuel for commercial vehicles

The Council had before it the new Commission proposal on granting full duty-free admission for the fuel contained in the fuel tanks of commercial motor vehicles. It will be recalled that the Directive of 28 March 1983, which will apply from 1 July 1984, increases from 50 to 200 litres the quantity of fuel contained in the fuel tanks of commercial motor vehicles to be admitted duty-free into the Member States.

After an exchange of views on the new Commission proposal, the Council expressed the wish to facilitate frontier crossings in this way. It concluded by asking the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine all aspects of the proposal.

TAXES ON COMMERCIAL ROAD VEHICLES

The Council held an exchange of views on the remaining problems regarding the draft for a first Council Directive on the adjustment of national taxation systems for commercial road vehicles which was prepared in 1978. Adoption of this Directive would be an important decision for the development of the common transport policy.

The Council accordingly stressed its determination to find a solution to these problems. It instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to resume examination of the matter on the basis of the 1978 draft Directive in the light of the comments made during the Council's discussions.

TAXES ON VEHICLES CROSSING SWITZERLAND

The Council was informed of the outcome of the recent bilateral talks which the Commission and the Member States held with the Swiss Government on the subject of the introduction of new road taxes in Switzerland as from 1 January 1985. The Council was also informed of the letter on this subject sent to the President of the Council by the Swiss Transport Minister.

The Council held an exchange of views on the situation and stressed the Member States' concern regarding the measures envisaged by Switzerland. The Council agreed to prepare for the consultations to take place on this problem in the ECMT.

A reply setting out these points will be sent to the Swiss Transport Minister.

TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURES

The Council examined the Commission communication on transport infrastructure measures to be taken as a matter of urgency affecting movements of goods across internal Community frontiers.

After a wide-ranging discussion, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine that communication in the context of further proceedings on the Commission proposal so that at its meeting on 10 May 1984 the Council could decide on the projects to receive Community support under the 1983 and 1984 budgets.

It indicated its intention of financing, under the 1984 budget, frontier infrastructures situated, inter alia, in the region of the Alps, of allocating 25 MECU to the financing of infrastructures in Greece in response to the Greek memorandum of 19 March 1982, and of supplementing the list of certain other priority projects of Community interest.

FUTURE PROCEEDINGS

The Council agreed to hold an informal meeting in Paris on 2 April to discuss ways and means of achieving progress in the common transport policy with the aim of taking practical decisions at its next formal meeting in Brussels on 10 May 1984.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Agricultural decision

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

- amending Decision 80/817/EEC on the equivalence of field inspections carried out in third countries on seed-producing crops;
- amending Decision 80/818/EEC on the equivalence of seed produced in third countries.

Appointments

The Council appointed:

- on a proposal by the French Government, Mr André REBIERE, Ingénieur Général des Mines, Ministry for Social Affairs and National Solidarity, a member of the Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work in place of Mr A. NUTTE, member, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which expires on 1 April 1985;
- on a proposal by the Luxembourg Government, Mr Jean-Marie MOUSEL, Conseiller de Gouvernement, Ministry for Labour and Social Security, a member of the Advisory Committee on Freedom of Movement for Workers in place of the late Mr Fernand EWEN, member for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which expires on 20 September 1984;
- on a proposal by the German Government, Mr Jürgen ARNOLD a member of the Advisory Committee of the Euratom Supply Agency for the remainder of the Committee's term of office which expires on 28 March 1985.

DELEGATION OF THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

PRESS AND INFORMATION

920th Meeting of the Council

March 20, 1984

No Press Release Issued

PRESS RELEASE

LIBRARY

5962/84 (Presse 59)

921st meeting of the Council

- Agriculture -

Brussels, 26 and 27 March 1984

President: Mr Michel ROCARD

Minister for Agriculture
of the French Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr Paul de KEERSMAEKER
State Secretary for European
Affairs and Agriculture

Denmark:

Mr Niels Anker KOFOED
Minister for Agriculture

Germany:

Mr Ignaz KIECHLE
Federal Minister for Food,
Agriculture and Forestry

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

Greece:

Mr Constantinos SIMITIS
Minister for Agriculture

France:

Mr Michel ROCARD
Minister for Agriculture

Mr René SOUCHON
State Secretary,
Ministry of Agriculture

Ireland:

Mr Austin DEASY
Minister for Agriculture

Italy:

Mr Filippo Maria PANDOLFI
Minister for Agriculture

Mr Giulio SANTARELLI
State Secretary,
Ministry of Agriculture

Luxembourg:

Mr Ernest MUHLEN
Minister for Agriculture,
Viticulture, Water Control
and Forestry

Netherlands:

Mr G. BRAKS
Minister for Agriculture
and Fisheries

United Kingdom:

Mr Michael JOPLING
Minister of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food

Mr John MacGREGOR
Minister of State,
Ministry of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food

Commission:

Mr Poul DALSGER
Member

FIXING THE AGRICULTURAL PRICES FOR 1984/1985 AND ADJUSTMENT OF THE
COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY

The Agriculture Council suspended its 921st meeting until 15.00 on Friday 30 and Saturday 31 March 1984, when it intends to conclude its discussions on the fixing of prices for the 1984/1985 marketing year and related measures as well as on the adjustment of the common agricultural policy.

The proceedings at this session of the meeting related essentially to various problems still unresolved such as the application to Ireland of the arrangements for controlling production in the milk sector, certain outstanding aspects of the dismantling of positive MCAs (Community share in the compensatory financing of the aid to be granted to the producers concerned) and, finally, to a number of reservations remaining on the various products.

The Special Committee on Agriculture was instructed to expedite its work with a view to finding possible solutions to certain technical questions and to submit its conclusions to the Council on Friday 30 March 1984.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Other agricultural decision

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Directive amending Directive 71/118/EEC on health problems affecting trade in fresh poultry-meat with respect to (3-month extension)

- derogations for the production of certain poultry for domestic trade,
- inspection and checking costs.

Social policy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation on exceptional financial support in favour of Greece in the social field.

This Regulation is one of the specific measures decided upon in response to the Greek memorandum.

It makes provision for the grant to Greece of Community financing of 55% of eligible public expenditure in the period 1984 to 1988 for the construction, adaptation and equipment of vocational-training centres (in Athens and Salonika) and centres for the rehabilitation of the mentally ill and mentally handicapped with a view to their vocational rehabilitation (throughout Greece).

A sum of 120 MECU over five years will be required to cover this financing - 60 MECU for each type of project.

Trade policy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation on the conclusion of the second EEC-Cyprus Financial Protocol signed on 20 December 1983 (see press release CEE-CY 705/83 (Presse 232) of 21.XII.83).

Once the necessary notifications have taken place in the next few days this Financial Protocol will be able to enter into force on 1 May 1984.

PRESS RELEASE

5963/84 (Presse 60)

LIBRARY

922nd meeting of the Council

- Foreign Affairs -

Brussels, 27 March 1984

President: Mr Claude CHEYSSON

Minister for External Relations
of the French Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr Leo TINDEMANS Minister for External Relations

Denmark:

Mr Henning CHRISTOPHERSEN Minister for Finance
Mr Knut-Erik TYGESEN State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Germany:

Mr Hans-Dietrich GENSCHER Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Hans-Werner LAUTENSCHLAGER State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Greece:

Mr Theodoros PANGALOS State Secretary for EEC Affairs

France:

Mr Claude CHEYSSON Minister for External Relations
Mr Roland DUMAS Minister for European Affairs

Ireland:

Mr P. BARRY Minister for Foreign Affairs

Italy:

Mr Giulio ANDREOTTI Minister for Foreign Affairs

Luxembourg:

Ms Colette FLESCH Vice-President of the Government,
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Netherlands:

Mr H. van den BROEK
Mr W.F. van EEKELEN

Minister for Foreign Affairs
State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

United Kingdom:

Sir Geoffrey HOWE

Secretary of State for Foreign
and Commonwealth Affairs

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Commission:

Mr Gaston THORN
Mr Etienne DAVIGNON
Mr Christopher TUGENDHAT

President
Vice-President
Vice-President

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FOLLOW-UP TO THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL

The Council had an in-depth discussion on the action to be taken following the European Council in Brussels on 19 and 20 March with regard to the "Stuttgart package".

The basis of the Council's discussions was a set of draft conclusions of the European Council. The Council found that for most of the chapters of these conclusions, there were no more problems, subject, however, to an overall agreement.

The Council also noted that the Agricultural Council had resumed discussions on adjusting the common agricultural policy and fixing agricultural prices for the 1984/1985 marketing year, and that it was going to continue its discussions on 30 and 31 March.

Discussions then turned to the main problem outstanding, viz., budgetary imbalances. At the close of its proceedings, the Council found that there were still major differences of opinion on the problem.

It agreed to resume its discussions on the subject at its meeting in Luxembourg on 9 and 10 April.

PRESS RELEASE

6133/84 (Presse 64)

923rd meeting of the Council
- Economic and Financial Affairs -
Luxembourg, 2 April 1984

President: Mr Jacques DELORS
Minister for Economic Affairs,
Finance and the Budget
of the French Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr Willy DE CLERCQ
Deputy Prime Minister,
Minister for Finance

Denmark:

Mr Henning CHRISTOPHERSEN
Minister for Finance

Germany:

Mr Hans TIETMEYER
State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Finance

Greece:

Mr Panayiotis ROUMELIOTIS
State Secretary,
Ministry of Economic Affairs

France:

Mr Jacques DELORS
Minister for Economic Affairs,
Finance and the Budget

Ireland:

Mr Alan DUKES
Minister for Finance

Italy:

Mr Giovanni GORIA
Minister for the Treasury

Luxembourg:

Mr Jacques SANTER
Minister for Finance

Netherlands:

Mr H. RUDING
Minister for Finance

United Kingdom:

Mr Nigel LAWSON
Chancellor of the Exchequer

For the Commission:

Mr François-Xavier ORTOLI
Vice-President

Mr Christopher TUGENDHAT
Vice-President

Also present at this meeting:

Mr Michel CAMDESSUS
Chairman of the Monetary Committee

IMF: FORTHCOMING MEETINGS OF THE INTERIM COMMITTEE AND THE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Council elaborated the position to be taken by the Community representatives at the forthcoming meetings of the IMF Interim Committee and Development Committee, to be held in Washington on 12 and 13 April 1984.

In particular, it approved the substance of the statement to be made by the President of the Council, on behalf of the Community, at the meeting of the Interim Committee.

DISCUSSION ON THE COMMISSION COMMUNICATION ENTITLED "FINANCIAL INTEGRATION"

The Council held a debate on the questions relating to the financial integration of the Community on the basis of a verbal report by the Chairman of the Monetary Committee on current proceedings in that body.

In that context it called upon the Permanent Representatives Committee in particular to press ahead with its work on the two proposals for Directives on undertakings for collective investment in transferable securities and to report back to it in time for its June meeting.

The first Directive concerns the co-ordination of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions relating to UCITS, while the second is directed towards liberalizing the operations of such undertakings.

COMMUNITY FINANCING OF INNOVATION IN SMUs

The Council held a further exchange of views on the Commission proposal on European Innovation Loans for SMUs.

At the end of its discussion it instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue examining the proposal in the light of the positions reached during that day's discussion and to report back to it in time for its June meeting so that it could adopt a final position on the proposal.

TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR TRAVELLERS

Anxious to take measures with direct impact for the citizens of the Member States and in order to facilitate intra-Community movement, the Council signified its agreement - with a reservation by the Danish delegation and a provisional reservation by the German delegation - to increasing to 280 ECU the duty-free allowance applicable to intra-Community travel.

This new allowance could be applied from 1 July 1984, i.e. before the beginning of the summer holiday period.

BUDGETARY IMBALANCES

The Council conducted a detailed examination of the questions put to it by the Working Party on General Affairs concerning certain details of the system for correcting budgetary imbalances as discussed by the European Council. A report on this examination will be made to the General Affairs Council.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Commercial policy

The Council approved the signing of the Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the European Economic Community and Tunisia on the renewal for the 1983/1984 marketing year of the additional amount of 12,09 ECU/100 kg to be deducted from the levy on imports into the Community of untreated olive oil originating in Tunisia.

Research

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Council Decision adopting a concerted-action project of the European Economic Community on the use of ligno-cellulose-containing by-products and other plant residues for animal feeding.

PRESS RELEASE

6255/84 (Presse 68)

924th meeting of the Council

- Foreign Affairs -

Brussels, 9 and 10 April 1984

President: Mr Claude CHEYSSON,
Minister for External Relations
of the French Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr Leo TINDEMANS Minister for External Relations
Mr Paul de KEERSMAEKER State Secretary for European Affairs and Agriculture

Denmark:

Mr Uffe ELLEMAN-JENSEN Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Knut-Erik TYGESEN State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Germany:

Mr Hans-Dietrich GENSCHER Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Hans-Werner LAUTENSCHLAGER State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mr Otto SCHLECHT State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs

Greece:

Mr Theodoros PANGALOS State Secretary for EEC Affairs

France:

Mr Claude CHEYSSON Minister for External Relations
Mr Roland DUMAS Minister for European Affairs

Ireland:

Mr P. BARRY Minister for Foreign Affairs

Italy:

Mr Giulio ANDREOTTI Minister for Foreign Affairs

Luxembourg:

Miss Colette FLESCHE Vice-President of the Government, Minister for Foreign Affairs

Netherlands:

Mr H. van den BROEK

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr W.F. van EEKELEN

State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

United Kingdom:

Sir Geoffrey HOWE

Secretary of State for Foreign
and Commonwealth Affairs

Mr Paul CHANNON

Minister of State for Trade

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Commission:

Mr Gaston THORN

President

Mr Wilhelm HAFERKAMP

Vice-President

Mr Lorenzo NATALI

Vice-President

Vicomte Etienne DAVIGNON

Vice-President

Mr Christopher TUGENDHAT

Vice-President

Mr Richard BURKE

Member

Mr Edgard PISANI

Member

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EGYPT

The Council adopted the Community's position for the 3rd meeting of the EEC-Egypt Co-operation Council at ministerial level on 10 April 1984 (see Joint Press Release CEE-RAE 2805/84 (Presse 70) of 10 April 1984).

SPANISH ACCESSION

The Council prepared for the 20th ministerial meeting of the Conference on the accession of Spain to the European Communities, held in the afternoon of Tuesday 10 April 1984. The Spanish delegation was led by Mr Fernando MORAN, Minister for Foreign Affairs.

PORTUGUESE ACCESSION

The Council adopted the Community position on a specific programme to assist agricultural structures in Portugal.

It also conducted an in-depth examination of problems concerning fisheries. At the close of the debate it instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue discussing the matter in the light of the Council's proceedings.

MEDITERRANEAN POLICY FOR THE ENLARGED COMMUNITY

The Council heard a statement by Mr NATALI, Vice-President of the Commission, introducing the Commission's new communication, which is a sequel to the communication submitted in June 1982, concerning the implementation of a Mediterranean policy for the enlarged Community; the new communication had been drawn up in the light of the exploratory talks conducted by the Commission with the Community's Mediterranean partners and of the consultations with the applicant countries.

The Council emphasized the special importance of strengthening the Community's preferential relations with its Mediterranean partners.

It held a preliminary debate, during which the Italian delegation submitted a working document on the consequences of the Community's enlargement for Mediterranean third countries in the agricultural sector and other delegations also gave their initial reactions.

The Council noted that the Commission would be submitting in the next few weeks further documents concerning, in particular, the technical aspects of the proposals it had just submitted.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine this dossier in detail so as to enable the Council to hold an in-depth substantive debate at its meeting in June.

The Council also noted that the Commission would continue both its exploratory talks with the Mediterranean countries and its consultations with the applicant countries.

FOLLOW-UP TO THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL

As part of its proceedings following the European Council, the Council again considered the main issue still outstanding, namely the budgetary imbalances. It noted that opinions continued to vary on this question.

RELATIONS WITH THE ACP STATES - PREPARATION FOR THE 3rd MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

On the basis of a Commission report on the progress of the negotiations for the renewal of the ACP-EEC Convention, the Council had a detailed exchange of views on preparation for the Ministerial Negotiating Conference to be held in Fiji from 3 to 5 May 1984.

NEW COMMERCIAL POLICY INSTRUMENT

On the basis of a Commission proposal, the Council adopted, in substance, the Regulation on the strengthening of the common commercial policy, with regard in particular to protection against illicit commercial practices.

The new commercial policy instrument establishes procedures enabling the Community, with due respect for existing international obligations and procedures, to:

- respond to any illicit commercial practice with a view to removing the injury resulting therefrom;
- ensure full exercise of the Community's rights with regard to the commercial practices of third countries.

The principal features of this Regulation are, apart from referral to the Commission by the Member States, the granting to Community producers of a right to submit complaints where they consider that they have suffered injury as a result of illicit commercial practice, formalized examination proceedings to be conducted by the Commission and decision-making machinery enabling the Community to react swiftly.

ABOLITION OF TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE

Following the agreement reached on the new commercial policy instrument, the Council also recorded its agreement on the substance ⁽¹⁾ of the 15 Directives which had been before it for several years in the field of the abolition of technical barriers to trade in the following sectors:

- Pressure vessels

- seamless steel gas cylinders,
- seamless aluminium alloy gas cylinders,
- welded, unalloyed steel gas cylinders.

- Framework Directives

- appliances using gaseous fuels,
- lifting and mechanical-handling appliances,
- construction plant and equipment.

- Appliances for the instantaneous production of hot water

- Electrically operated lifts

- Limitation of the noise emitted by construction plant and equipment

- pneumatic concrete-breakers and picks,
- current generators for welding,
- current generators for power supply,
- compressors,
- power cranes.

⁽¹⁾ The Danish delegation, however, continued to uphold a technical reservation at this stage and the United Kingdom delegation reserved its position on two Directives until the requisite internal parliamentary procedures had been completed.

- Lawn mowers

- Electrical equipment

- Electro-medical equipment used in human or veterinary medicine.

The adoption of these Directives will be an important step towards the realization of a genuine single market in all these sectors by enabling producers to make full use of the possibilities arising out of the size of the Community and by helping to protect consumers.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to finalize the 15 Directives so that they could be adopted as soon as the Danish and United Kingdom reservations were withdrawn.

TUNISIA - OLIVE OIL

Under the Co-operation Agreement a deduction on the levy of 12,09 ECU/100 kg is made on imports of untreated olive oil originating in Tunisia, subject to compliance with the import price. The Agreement also provides that, under the same conditions and in accordance with the same procedures, this deduction may be increased by an additional amount to be laid down each year in an exchange of letters between the Parties to the Agreement. For the 1983/1984 marketing year, this amount was set at 12,09 ECU/100 kg.

Finally, following a request from Tunisia, motivated by the economic difficulties the country is experiencing, the Council authorized the Commission, on the latter's recommendation, to negotiate with Tunisia, on the same price conditions, an additional deduction from the levy as an exceptional measure of limited duration (16 December 1983 to 31 October 1984).

It should be noted that these deductions constitute an economic advantage and not a commercial one.

COUNCIL STATEMENT ON THE GREEK MEMORANDUM

The Council confirms that it is possible in the Community context to find solutions enabling Greece to become fully integrated into the Community system in a harmonious and mutually advantageous manner.

The Council notes that although some important steps have been taken towards meeting the requests in the Greek memorandum it is necessary to continue Community efforts and action in order to cope with the economic and social problems of Greece and gradually close the gap between its level of development and that of the other Member States.

To that end, the Council will examine the Commission proposals outstanding and those to be submitted as soon as possible.

The Council asks the Commission to examine the investment programmes which will be put to it by the Greek Government. Recognizing the importance of the integrated Mediterranean programmes in meeting the requests in the Greek memorandum, the Council will adopt the necessary decisions as soon as possible in the context of the discussions at the last European Council.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Trade and customs matters

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for new potatoes falling within subheading 07.01 A II b) of the Common Customs Tariff and originating in Cyprus (1984).

Under this Regulation, from 16 May until 30 June 1984 the Common Customs Tariff duty for new potatoes originating in Cyprus is suspended at 9,4% within the limits of a Community tariff quota of 60 000 tonnes.

The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision on the conclusion of an Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters amending the Temporary Arrangement for a concerted discipline between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Finland concerning reciprocal trade in cheese.

Lastly, the Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation concluding the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods of 21 October 1982.

Agriculture

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities

- Regulations:

- = amending Regulation (EEC) No 1822/83 as regards the date on which the Italian intervention agency takes over skimmed-milk powder;
- = correcting Regulation (EEC) No 855/84 on the calculation and the dismantlement of the monetary compensatory amounts applying to certain agricultural products;
- = derogating from Article 21 of Regulation (EEC) No 1035/72 on the common organization of the market in fruit and vegetables,

- Directives

- = amending Directive 66/403/EEC on the marketing of seed potatoes;
- = amending for the twentieth time Directive 64/54/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to preservatives which may be used in foodstuffs intended for human consumption.

Extension of the data-processing programme

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision amending Decision 79/783/EEC adopting a multiannual programme (1979/1983) in the field of data-processing.

This Decision extends for two years from 15 April 1984 the second part of the multiannual programme in the field of data-processing adopted in 1979. The promotion measures to be taken under that part of the programme cover the software and applications sector, with priority for ADA and new technological developments in the application of distributed data-base techniques in connection with trans-national information systems, and projects of special technological or industrial interest.

An allocation of 15 MECU is made for the measures concerned by the extension of the second part of the data-processing programme.

Tourism

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Resolution on a Community policy on tourism:

"THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

.....

Whereas Article 2 of the Treaty provides that the Community shall have as its task in particular to promote throughout the Community a harmonious development of economic activities, a continuous and balanced expansion and closer relations between the States belonging to it; whereas tourism can help to achieve these objectives;

Whereas tourism is an important activity for the integration of Europe;

Whereas tourism affects or is affected by many of the Community's activities;

Whereas the co-ordination of Community activities relating to tourism and consultation between Member States and the Commission may facilitate tourism in the Community;

WELCOMES the Commission's initiative in drawing attention to the importance of tourism and takes note of the initial guidelines of a Community policy on tourism set out in the Commission communication attached hereto;

EMPHASIZES the need for the tourism dimension to be taken more fully into consideration in the Community's decision-making process and the need for consultation between Member States and the Commission on matters relating to tourism;

INVITES the Commission to present proposals to it in the field of tourism, based in particular on the abovementioned consultations with the Member States and respecting the peculiarities of the national policies and the international commitments of the Member States."

Company law

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the eighth Directive, based on Article 54(3)(g) of the Treaty, on the approval of persons responsible for carrying out the statutory audits of accounting documents of certain forms of company. (See Press Release 5725/84 (Presse 50) of 12/13 March 1984 - pp. 9, 10, 11).

Taxation

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Directive amending Directive 72/464/EEC on taxes other than turnover taxes which affect the consumption of manufactured tobacco.

Social policy

The Council took note of interim reports:

- on the implementation of the new Community action programme on the promotion of equal opportunities for women;
- on the application of Directive 79/7/EEC of 19 December 1978 on the progressive implementation of the principle of equal treatment for men and women in matters of social security.

Iron and Steel

The Council gave its assent pursuant to Article 95 of the ECSC Treaty to the draft Commission Decision amending Decision 3717/83/ECSC introducing for steel undertakings and dealers a production certificate and a supporting document for deliveries of certain products.