

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

PRESS RELEASES

PRESIDENCY: GERMANY

JULY-DECEMBER 1978

Meetings and press releases November 1978

Meeting number	Subject	Date
543 rd	Health	16 November 1978
544 th	Economics/Finance	20 November 1978
545 th	Foreign Affairs	20-21 November 1978
546 th	Agriculture	20-21 November 1978
547 th	Budget	20 November 1978
548 th	Transport	23 November 1978
549 th	Fisheries	23-24 November 1978
550 th	Social Affairs	27 November 1978
551 st	Budget	5-6 November 1978

PRESS RELEASE

543rd meeting of the Council
- Health -

Brussels, 16 November 1978
President: Mrs Antje HUBER
Federal Minister for Youth,
Family Affairs and Health

and

Mr Hans-Georg WOLTERS
State Secretary,
Federal Ministry for Youth, Family
Affairs and Health
of the Federal Republic of Germany

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

Belgium:

Mr Luc DHOORE Minister for Health and the Environment

Denmark:

Mr Knud ENNGAARD Minister for the Interior

Germany:

Mrs Antje HUBER Federal Minister for Youth, Family Affairs and Health

Mr Hans-Georg WOLTERS State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Youth, Family Affairs and Health

France:

Mrs Simone VEIL Minister for Health and Family Affairs

Ireland:

Mr Charles HAUGHEY Minister for Health and Social Affairs

Italy:

Mrs Tina ANSEIMI Minister for Health

Luxembourg:

Mr Joseph WEYLAND

Deputy Permanent Representative

Netherlands:

Mrs E. VEDER-SMIT

State Secretary,
Ministry of Health and the
Environment

United Kingdom:

Mr Roland MOYLE

Minister of State,
Department of Health and Social
Security

Commission:

Mr Henk VREDELING

Vice-President

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ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF HEALTH

The Ministers held a detailed discussion on the economic aspects of health on the basis of a series of studies submitted by the Commission on

- the organization, financing and cost of health care in the European Community
- pharmaceutical consumption
- micro-economic approach to problems relating to the costs of hospitalization.

At the end of their discussion the Ministers

- took note with interest of the results of the three studies which the Commission had had carried out on health care costs;
- drew attention in this connection to the second European Social Budget prepared by the Commission;
- noted that, while the growth of health care costs had recently slowed down in some Member States, it continued to be a matter for concern in all Member States;
- noted also that this growth in costs had not had the desired effect on the health of the population in all Member States;
- emphasized that in all Member States the proportion of the national product represented by health care costs was of necessity limited;

- welcomed the considerable efforts being made in all Member States to contain the rise in health care costs;
- considered that containment of health care costs would inter alia be achieved through effective control of hospital spending and the provision of better information to the medical profession and patients, without detracting from the standard of treatment provided;
- considered moreover that the efforts made at national level might usefully be supplemented by appropriate Community action, which should take account of the work of international organizations such as the WHO, the OECD and the Council of Europe;
- agreed that Community action should be focussed upon a number of priority matters.

These matters include the following:

- = pharmaceuticals;
 - = specialized manpower;
 - = harmonization of definitions and statistical data relating to health care.
- requested the Commission, on the basis of studies which have already been carried out, to make suitable suggestions for future Community action in the above spheres and to give such action its due priority in organizing its work.

SMOKING, NUTRITION AND DRUG ABUSE IN SPORT

The Ministers held an exchange of views on health education policies to be followed, with particular reference to smoking, nutrition and drug abuse in sport.

With regard to smoking and nutrition, the Ministers emphasized the paramount importance of health education in the context of health policies and welcomed the efforts being made in this area by the Member States. They considered smoking and nutrition to be important areas on which health education should place particular emphasis and agreed as regards smoking,

- = to establish common methods by which to compare the results and to assess the effectiveness of health education campaigns on smoking;
- = to carry out health education campaigns of an experimental nature in order to determine the main features of cigarette smoking by young people and to identify their effects on health and the family and socio-economic factors which may play a part in the commencement and development of cigarette smoking;
- = to seek a common attitude on advertising;
- = to exchange information on measures already taken by the Member States.

With regard to nutrition, they agreed

- = to develop common methods in order to improve the collection and analysis of more accurate epidemiological data;

- = to improve the reciprocal flow of information on the results of nutritional research;
- = to exchange experience regarding the principles and methods of organizing health education campaigns on nutrition, with particular regard to children and adolescents;
- = to evaluate, using common methods if possible, the effectiveness of the educational measures taken to prevent nutrition-linked diseases.

At the end of their discussions on smoking and nutrition they requested the Commission to take the necessary steps to carry out these activities.

At the end of their discussions on drug abuse in sport, the Ministers noted that the use in sport of drugs allegedly designed to increase an individual's performance which may damage his health constituted a serious problem, and that the measures so far taken at national and international level to combat drug abuse in sport had not yet produced the desired results.

They considered that there was therefore a need to improve protection against the damage caused by such drug abuse, supported the efforts being made by the Ministers responsible for sport, particularly within the framework of the Council of Europe and agreed to explore the whole problem of drug abuse in sport further at Community level. Lastly, they requested the Commission to put forward suggestions in this connection.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

The Ministers took note of a communication from the United Kingdom delegation on the possible creation of an Advisory Committee on Public Health and of the comments made by certain delegations on this subject. In conclusion they agreed to return to this question at the next meeting on health questions on the basis of a study which would be undertaken in the meantime by the Commission in conjunction with the Member States on the advisability of creating such a Committee and the tasks to be entrusted to it.

VACCINATIONS PROBLEMS

Following a discussion of questions raised at Community level regarding vaccinations, the Ministers agreed that as in the past such questions should continue to be dealt with by the World Health Organization.

MUTUAL MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

The Ministers discussed the question of mutual medical assistance in the event of catastrophies or particularly serious accidents or diseases, following which the Ministers noted that the Commission, having regard to certain serious accidents which had occurred recently, proposed to carry out a number of mutual health assistance activities, in particular by means of a questionnaire to be sent to the Member States in order to take stock of the efforts already being made in this field by Member States and taking into account the activities of other bodies.

DOCTORS, NURSES AND DENTISTS

The Ministers took note of a communication from the Commission representative on progress in applying the Directives on the right of establishment and the freedom to provide services of doctors, nurses and dentists and of a statement by the Belgian delegation on this subject. Finally, the Ministers noted the Commission's intention to ensure the effective application of the Directives in question and to inform the Council thereof.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities Regulations

- increasing the Community tariff quota opened for 1978 by Regulation (EEC) No 2301/77 for certain plywood of coniferous species falling with heading ex 44.15 of the Common Customs Tariff;
- on the opening, allocation and administration of a Community tariff quota for rosin, including "Brais résineux" falling within subheading 38.08 A of the Common Customs Tariff (1979);
- opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for newsprint falling within subheading 48.01 A of the Common Customs Tariff (1979) and extending that quota to include certain other types of paper;
- temporarily suspending the autonomous Common Customs Tariff duties on a number of agricultural products.

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The Council approved two emergency aid projects proposed by the Commission to finance the provision of emergency supplies as follows:

400,000 EUA for refugees in the Lebanon (through the Catholic Relief Service and the International Red Cross Committee)

90,000 EUA for the people of Nicaragua (through the Catholic Relief Service).

On a proposal from the Confédération Générale du Travail - Force Ouvrière, the Council appointed Mr Bernard MOURGUES, Secretary-General of the Fédération Confédérée Force Ouvrière de la Métallurgie, member of the Consultative Committee of the European Coal and Steel Community for the remainder of the Committee's term of office, namely until 15 October 1980.

PRESS RELEASE

LIBRARY

544th Council meeting

- Economics/Finance -

Brussels, 20 November 1978

President: Mr Hans MATTHÖFER,
Federal Minister of Finance
of the Federal Republic of Germany

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

Belgium:

Mr Gaston GEENS Minister of Finance

Denmark:

Mr Per HAEKKERUP Minister for Economic
Co-ordination

Mr Anders ANDERSEN Minister for Economic Affairs
and Taxation

Mr Kurt HANSEN State Secretary, Ministry for
Economic Affairs

Germany:

Mr Hans MATTHÖFER Federal Minister of Finance

Otto Graf LAMBSDORFF Federal Minister for Economic
Affairs

Mr Manfred LAHNSTEIN State Secretary, Federal
Ministry of Finance

France:

Mr René MONORY Minister for Economic Affairs

Ireland:

Mr George COLLEY Tanaiste
Minister for Finance

Italy:

Mr Filippo PANDOLFI Minister of the Treasury

Luxembourg:

Mr Jacques POOS Minister of Finance

Netherlands:

Mr F.H.J.J. ANDRIESSEN Minister of Finance

United Kingdom:

Mr Denis HEALEY Chancellor of the Exchequer

Commission:

Mr Roy JENKINS President

Mr François-Xavier ORTOLI Vice-President

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The Council meeting was also attended by:

Mr J. van YPERSELE de STRIHOU Chairman of the Monetary Committee

Mr C. de STRYCKER Chairman of the Committee of Governors of the Central Banks

Mr H. TIETMEYER Chairman of the Economic Policy Committee

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EUROPEAN MONETARY SYSTEM

Following its discussion on the establishment of a European monetary system, the Council reached agreement on a large number of the constituent parts of this system and succeeded in reconciling the views of the members of the Council on other aspects so that only a few questions remain to be discussed by the European Council.

The Council also discussed the report which was submitted to it by the Economic Policy Committee on the study of the measures necessary, within the framework of the European monetary system, to strengthen the economies of the less prosperous Member States (concurrent studies).

The Presidency will submit a general report to the European Council.

TRIPARTITE CONFERENCE

The Council heard a brief report by Graf LAMBSDORFF on the Tripartite Conference which he chaired on 9 November last.

PRESS RELEASE

545th Council meeting

- Foreign Affairs -

Brussels, 20 and 21 November 1978

President: Mr Klaus von DOHANYI

Minister of State,
Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Federal Republic of Germany

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean HAMILLIUS Deputy Minister for Foreign
Affairs

Netherlands:

Mr C.A. van der KLAUW Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr G.M.V. van AARDENNE Minister for Economic Affairs
Mr D.F. van der MEI State Secretary for Foreign
Affairs
Mr K.H. BEYEN State Secretary for Economic
Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr David OWEN Secretary of State for Foreign
and Commonwealth Affairs
Mr John SMITH Secretary of State for Trade
Mr Frank JUDD Minister of State,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Mr Gerald KAUFMAN Minister of State,
Department of Industry

Commission:

Mr Roy JENKINS President
Mr François-Xavier ORTOLI Vice-President
Mr Wilhelm HAFERKAMP Vice-President
Mr Claude CHEYSSON Member
Mr Guido BRUNNER Member
Mr Antonio GIOLITTI Member
Viscount Etienne DAVIGNON Member
Mr Christopher TUGENDHAT Member

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FISHERIES

Having held a further exchange of views on the signing or conclusion of the framework fisheries agreements with Norway, the Faroe Islands and Sweden, the Council agreed that in order to arrive at a solution this important and urgent question should be discussed by the Council when it meets to deal with fisheries problems as a whole on 23 and 24 November.

EURATOM-AUSTRALIA RELATIONS

The Council took note of a report by the Permanent Representatives Committee on the stage reached in proceedings on the draft brief to be issued to the Commission for the negotiation of an agreement with Australia on nuclear matters.

The Council noted that progress had been made in preparing the brief and asked the Permanent Representatives Committee to complete these proceedings as soon as possible.

RELATIONS WITH JAPAN

The Council took stock of relations between the Community and Japan with a view to the high-level consultations due to take place in Tokyo on 8 and 9 December 1978 between the Commission and the Japanese Government, further to the joint Community-Japan communiqué of 24 March 1978.

The Council took note of the Commission's outline of the position it intended to take at this meeting, on the basis of the guidelines defined by the Council to date.

The Commission was asked to make a report to the Council, which would once again discuss EEC-Japan relations at its meeting in December.

ACP-EEC NEGOTIATIONS

The Council heard a report by Mr CHEYSSON, member of the Commission, on progress in the negotiations which it was conducting with the plenipotentiaries of the ACP States, on the basis of the Directives adopted by the Council in June, with a view to renewing the Convention of Lomé. The Council expressed its satisfaction at the way the Commission was conducting these negotiations.

The Council also examined a report from the Permanent Representatives Committee on its discussions on certain additions to the Commission's negotiating brief. After noting that significant progress had been made, it approved certain supplementary directives concerning the stabilization of export earnings system (STABEX) and instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to go further into certain matters outstanding, in particular STABEX and fisheries.

The Council agreed that the next ministerial negotiating conference on the new ACP-EEC Convention would be held on 21 December 1978. Bearing in mind the meetings between the Presidency and the Presidency of the ACP States this Conference should take place in Brussels. On 19 December the Council will begin preparing the Community position to be adopted at this ACP-EEC ministerial

meeting. The Council accordingly expressed the Community's hope that the overall timetable agreed upon would be observed by both parties when negotiations opened.

Accession of Dominica to the Convention of Lomé

The Council recorded the approval of the European Economic Community to a draft Decision of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers approving the accession to the ACP-EEC Convention of Lomé of Dominica - a former United Kingdom territory which became independent on 3 November 1978.

When the ACP States record their approval to the draft Decision in the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers and after Dominica has deposited an instrument of accession, it will accede to the Convention of Lomé as the 56th State.

To prevent Dominica from losing certain advantages, in particular financial advantages, which it enjoys in the context of the association of overseas countries and territories with the Community, the Council also approved a Decision on the provisional application to Dominica after its independence of the arrangements provided for in Decision 76/568/EEC concerning the association in question.

PREPARATION OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL

In accordance with the general instructions from the European Council on the matter, the Council began preparing matters likely to appear on the agenda for the next meeting of the European Council on 4 and 5 December next.

YUGOSLAVIA

The Council examined the main questions arising in connection with the drawing up of new negotiating directives.

After working out certain guidelines, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to prepare the specific content of these new directives in the light of its discussions with a view to submitting it to it at its next meeting on 19 December 1978.

CONCILIATION PROCEDURES

The Council was informed by the President of his contacts, since the previous Council meeting, with the Presidency of the European Parliament concerning the follow up to the conciliation procedure with regard to the new regulations on regional policy and the framework Regulation on financial aid to non-associated developing countries.

It examined the questions outstanding and noted that the Presidency would continue its work in contact with the delegations and the European Parliament with a view to concluding the conciliation proceedings and enabling the Council to act at its next meeting.

EUROPEAN FOUNDATION

The Council examined the questions outstanding with regard to the detailed arrangements for setting up the European Foundation.

It instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its work on the matter in the light of today's discussions.

GENERALIZED PREFERENCES FOR 1979

The Council took note of an interim report on the progress made in the Permanent Representatives Committee in drawing up the generalized preferences scheme for 1979 and laid down guidelines for the continuance of this work.

The Council asked the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue working on this important matter with a view to enabling the Council to take a decision on it at its meeting in December at the latest.

NEGOTIATIONS ON THE COMMON FUND

The Council discussed progress in the negotiations on the Common Fund currently taking place in Geneva and instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue formulating the Community position while maintaining close liaison with on-the-spot co-ordination.

GATT MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

The Council examined in depth on the basis of a detailed Commission report the progress made in the negotiations and instructed the Commission to continue the negotiations in the light of previous Council decisions and of the guidelines formulated and comments made at the present meeting.

RIGHT OF ESTABLISHMENT AND FREEDOM TO PROVIDE SERVICES FOR ARCHITECTS

The Council considered the matters outstanding in connection with the enacting terms relating to the right of establishment and freedom to provide services in architecture.

At the conclusion of its discussions the Council asked the Commission to have consultations with the delegations principally concerned with these problems with a view to enabling the Council to take a decision at its meeting on 19 December.

STEEL PROBLEMS

The Council held a wide-ranging substantive discussion on the various aspects of the anti-crisis system for 1979 and on aid constraint measures and restructuring problems.

As regards the internal aspect, this system comprises:

- laying down minimum prices for hot-rolled wide strips, laminated merchant bars and concrete reinforcing bars;
- the publication of guide prices for certain iron and steel products;
- certificates of conformity concerning dealers and producers;
- the extension for one year of the prohibition on alignment on offers of iron and steel products coming from certain third countries;
- Community rules for aid and intervention by Member States in favour of the iron and steel industry;
- general objectives with regard to steel;
- medium-term budgetary prospects,

and as regards the external aspect:

- renewal of the same type of arrangements as in 1978, subject to certain adjustments to take past experience into account.

The Council agreed to resume its discussions at its meeting on 19 December and to take a decision on all the measures then. Meanwhile the Commission will continue its talks with third countries on the external aspect with a view to preparing for the conclusion of the arrangements.

The Council also agreed to give its assent, by means of the written procedure, to the introduction by December of a new system of certificates of conformity for trading in view of the fact that the system of deposits expires on 30 November.

TAX EXEMPTIONS

After arriving at a position on the basis of a compromise submitted by the Presidency on tax and duty exemptions for travel and small consignments, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its discussions on the matter so as to enable the Council to take a decision on the matter as soon as possible.

VARIOUS DECISIONS

In the context of its discussions on the UNCTAD Integrated Programme on Commodities, the Council approved the common position necessary to enable the Community and its Member States to participate fully in the current negotiations in Geneva for an international agreement on natural rubber.

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The Council approved the emergency aid measure (30,000 EUA) proposed by the Commission for financing the supply of essential goods to disaster victims in the province of Quezon in the Philippines (through Caritas Neerlandica).

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The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Resolution concerning the mutual exchange of information at Community level on the siting of power stations.

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The Council gave its assent as requested by the Commission

- pursuant to Article 54(2) of the ECSC Treaty on the partial financing of an investment project of the Société FINOLOR, intended to facilitate the supply of oxygen and nitrogen to iron and steel factories in Lorraine belonging to the SACILOR and USINOR Groups
- pursuant to Article 56(2)(a) of the ECSC Treaty (Rockwool Ltd., United Kingdom and Société Nationale de Crédit et d'Investissement, Luxembourg)
- (Ford Motor Company Ltd., United Kingdom).

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On a proposal from the Irish Government, the Council appointed Mr Patrick KEARNEY, Assistant Principal Officer, Department of Labour, an alternate member of the Committee of the European Social Fund in place of Mr J. STAPLETON, alternate member who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which runs until 16 April 1980.

On a proposal from the United Kingdom Government, the Council appointed Mr William Joseph SLOANE, Senior Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Health and Social Services, an alternate member of the Advisory Committee on Social Security for Migrant Workers in place of Mr C.G. OAKES, alternate member, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which runs until 7 February 1979.

On a proposal by the German Government the Council appointed Mr Wolfgang HEMPEL, Referent im Ressort Bildung beim Bundesvorstand der Deutschen Angestelltengewerkschaft, an alternate member of the Advisory Committee on Vocational Training in place of Dr H. WIERHAUS, Alternate Member, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, i.e. until 15 October 1980.

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The Council has appointed Mr Jean-Albert DINKESPILER Director-General of Directorate-General D (Science - Technology - Energy) of the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Communities as from 1 January 1979.

Mr DINKESPILER replaces Mr André ZIPCY, who is retiring.

PRESS RELEASE

546th meeting of the Council

- Agriculture -

Brussels, 20/21 November 1978

President: Mr Joseph ERTL,
Federal Minister for Agriculture
of the Federal Republic of Germany

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

Belgium:

Mr Antoine HUMBLET Minister for Agriculture and
Small Firms and Traders

Denmark:

Mr Neils Anker KØFOED Minister of Agriculture

Germany:

Mr Joseph ERTL Federal Minister of Agriculture
Mr Hans-Jürgen ROHR State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Agriculture

France:

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

Ireland:

Mr Jim GIBBONS Minister for Agriculture

Italy:

Mr Giovanni MARCORA Minister of Agriculture

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean HAMILIUS Minister of Agriculture
and Wine

Mr Albert BERCHEM State Secretary,
Ministry of Agriculture

Netherlands:

Mr A.P.J.M.M. van der STEE Minister of Agriculture
and Fisheries

United Kingdom:

Mr John SILKIN Minister of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food

Mr Gavin STRANG Parliamentary Secretary,
Ministry of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food

Commission:

Mr Finn Olav GUNDELACH Vice-President

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WINE

The Council discussed the substance of various measures proposed with a view to the progressive establishment of balance on the market in wine, and in particular aid for the utilization of concentrated must, rectified concentrated must, minimum prices, measures for the Charantes and extra deliveries of wine for distillation.

The Council agreed to discuss these matters further at its next meeting on 18 and 19 December 1978, by which time it hoped to have received the Opinion of the European Parliament.

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The Council agreed to the Regulation extending for one year the various dates in Regulation (EEC) No 1162/76, which is designed to adjust wine-growing potential to market requirements by a prohibition on plantings.

MEDITERRANEAN STRUCTURES

The Council reached a consensus on the main points of the Regulation concerning the development of agricultural advisory services in Italy, thus completing the series of four measures for the improvement of agricultural structures in the Mediterranean regions of the Community which it has discussed at its previous meeting ⁽¹⁾.

The formal decision regarding these four measures, namely

- a common measure for forestry in certain dry Mediterranean zones of the Community;
- a flood protection programme in the Hérault Valley;
- a programme for the acceleration and guidance of collective irrigation works in Corsica;
- the development of agricultural advisory services in Italy,

will be taken as soon as possible.

⁽¹⁾ See Press Release 1232/78 (Presse 133) of 31.X.78

OLIVE OIL

At the end of an exchange of views on the points still under discussion concerning the working out of new arrangements for olive oil, the Council agreed in principle to several measures submitted to it, namely:

- general rules for aid for olive oil production (1978/1979 marketing year);
- special measures for the 1978/1979 marketing year as regards olive oil producer organizations;
- general rules for fixing the levy on imports of olive oil by tendering procedure;
- the regulation of trade in fats and oils between the Community and Greece;
- the flat-rate amount for unprocessed olive oil produced entirely in Greece and transported direct from Greece to the Community;
- intervention in the olive oil sector.

Examination of the other problems, concerning general rules for aid for the consumption of olive oil and the fixing (for the 1978/1979 marketing year) of the representative price of olive oil, its threshold price and the consumption aid percentage, will be resumed at the next Council meeting on agriculture.

PRESS RELEASE

LIBRARY

547th meeting of the Council

- Budget -

Brussels, 20 November 1978

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

and

Mr Manfred LAHNSTEIN
State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Finance
of the Federal Republic of Germany

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

Belgium :

Mr Mark EYSKENS State Secretary, Budget

Denmark :

Mr Niels ERSBØLL State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Germany :

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

Mr Manfred LAHNSTEIN State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Finance

France :

Mr Jean BERNARD-REYMOND State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ireland :

Mr Raymond McSHARRY Minister of State at the
Department of Public Service

Italy :

Mr Antonio Mario MAZZARINO State Under-Secretary,
Treasury

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean DONDELINGER Deputy Permanent Representative

Netherlands :

Mr D.F. van der MEI

State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr Joel BARNETT

Chief Secretary to the Treasury

Commission :

Mr Christopher TUGENDHAT

Member

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DRAFT GENERAL BUDGET FOR 1979

Before beginning the dialogue with a delegation from the European Parliament under the budget procedure, the Council conducted a preliminary exchange of views on certain budgetary questions concerning the 1979 draft general budget with a view to preparing its position.

The Council then entered into the meeting with the European Parliament delegation consisting of Mr SPENALE (Vice-President of the European Parliament), Mr LANGE (Chairman of the Budget Committee), Mr BANGEMANN (Rapporteur on Section III of the 1979 budget), Mr AIGNER and Mr COINTAT (Vice-Chairmen of the Budget Committee), Mr RIPAMONTI (Rapporteur on Sections I-II-IV-V of the 1979 budget), Mr SHAW (Rapporteur on the 1978 budget) and Mr SPINELLI (Member of the Budget Committee).

The dialogue with the European Parliament delegation enabled the participants to explain Parliament's amendments and proposals for modifications and their underlying political motivation. The European Parliament delegation also raised other more general questions concerning the establishment of the 1979 budget such as the proposal for a review of the Financial Regulation.

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In the light of this discussion, the Council conducted a second reading of the draft general budget of the European Communities and an examination and vote on the amendments and proposed amendments, the most important of which concerned the Social Fund and the Regional Fund.

At the end of its discussions, the Council agreed that the amended draft budget should be forwarded to the European Parliament so that the latter could use this as a basis for a debate during its plenary session in December, subject to the political decision regarding the Regional Fund being reserved for the European Council on 4 and 5 December 1978.

PRESS RELEASE

548th Council meeting

- Transport -

Brussels, 23 November 1978

President: Mr Kurt GSCHIEDLE,

Federal Minister of Transport
and of Posts and Telecommunications
of the Federal Republic of Germany

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

Belgium:

Mr POPPE

Director-General,
Ministry of Transport

Denmark:

Mr Arne CHRISTIANSEN

Minister of Commerce

Mr Ivar HANSEN

Minister of Public Works

Federal Republic of Germany:

Mr Kurt GSCHEIDLE

Federal Minister of Transport
and of Posts & Telecommunications

Mr Heinz RUHNAU

State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Transport

France:

Mr Joël LE THEULE

Minister for Transport

Ireland:

Mr Tom FITZPATRICK

Minister of State,
Ministry of Posts & Telegraphs,
Transport and Energy

Italy:

Mr Vittorino COLOMBO

Minister for Transport and
Shipping

Luxembourg:

Mr Joseph WEYLAND

Deputy Permanent Representative

Netherlands:

Mr D.S. TUINMAN

Minister of Transport,
Water Control and Public Works

Mrs N. SMIT-KROES

State Secretary,
Ministry of Transport, Water
Control and Public Works

United Kingdom:

Mr William RODGERS

Secretary of State for
Transport

Mr Stanley CLINTON DAVIS

Parliamentary Under-Secretary
of State,
Department of Trade

Mr John HORAM

Parliamentary Under-Secretary
of State, Department of
Transport

Commission:

Mr Richard BURKE

Member

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SAFETY AT SEA

The Council approved a series of measures designed to improve safety at sea, particularly in the light of the serious accidents which have occurred recently off the coasts of the Member States of the Community.

Firstly, the Council agreed to the Recommendation on the ratification of the 1978 International Convention on the Training, Certification and Watch-keeping of Seafarers, encouraging the Member States to sign this Convention by 1 April 1979 and to ratify it by 31 December 1980.

Secondly, the Council agreed to the Directive concerning the pilotage of vessels by deep sea pilots operating in the North Sea and the English Channel. The purpose of this Directive is to raise the qualifications of deep sea pilots operating in the North Sea and the English Channel and to encourage vessels flying the flag of Member States of the Community to use such pilots.

In the same context, the Council agreed to encourage the use of such pilots on board vessels flying the flag of a third country by means of similar action within the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO).

Thirdly, the Council agreed to the Directive concerning the minimum requirements for certain tankers entering or leaving Community ports.

This Directive stipulates that all tankers of more than 1,600 gross registered tons entering or leaving Community ports must:

- contact the competent authorities of the Member State concerned;
- fill in a check list;
- use the services by radar and radio stations, and
- report any incident which may affect safety at sea.

It also stipulates that if a Member State becomes aware of a hazard for a given sea area, it must warn the other Member States concerned as quickly as possible.

Finally, the Council adopted a statement concerning the Memorandum of Understanding of 2 March 1978 (The Hague Memorandum) between certain maritime authorities on the maintenance of standards on board merchant ships.

This Memorandum, which is an administrative agreement between maritime authorities, provides for uniform and concerted surveillance procedures in the ports of the countries participating, applicable to all ships of whatever flag, and also for exchanges of information between maritime authorities designed to ensure, by appropriate action in the event of any shortcomings, that on board ships visiting these ports no conditions exist which are clearly hazardous to the safety of the ship or the health of the crew.

At present, six Member States - Belgium, Denmark, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom - participate in The Hague Memorandum, and the Council welcomed the fact that Ireland and Italy had announced their intention of participating in it shortly.

The Council and the Commission also considered it necessary to harmonize at Community level the checks carried out on board ships by the competent authorities of the Member States to ensure that the international agreements on the safety of shipping and the prevention of pollution are effectively applied.

In this connection, the Council confirmed its intention of examining without delay the Commission proposal aimed at making compulsory the vessel-surveillance procedures which have been the subject of resolutions of the Inter-governmental Maritime Consultative Organization, so that a decision can be taken on it as soon as possible.

MANHEIM CONVENTION

The Council adopted a Decision on the adoption by certain Member States of the European Economic Community of an Additional Protocol to the revised Convention for the Navigation of the Rhine of 17 October 1968 as it stood at 20 November 1963 and on the accession of the European Economic Community to that Convention.

Under this Decision, the Additional Protocol to the Act of Manheim will enable the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine to lay down the conditions under which barges from third countries might be authorized to carry goods and persons between two points situated on the waterways of the Rhine basin. The Council Decision contains a procedure for prior decisions within the Council on matters concerning such Rhine transport.

Following discussion of the matter, the Council agreed to instruct the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine certain as yet unclarified aspects of the Commission proposal of 24 February 1977, in particular those connected with the possible accession of the Community to the Act of Manheim.

NOISE EMISSION FROM SUBSONIC AIRCRAFT

The Council took note of an interim report from the Presidency on the work in progress on the proposal for a Directive on the limitation of noise emission from subsonic aircraft by a system of noise certification.

The Council agreed to instruct the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its work so that the Council could take a decision at an early date.

WEIGHTS AND DIMENSIONS

The Council held a substantive discussion on the weights and dimensions of commercial road vehicles, covering both the road safety and environmental aspects and the more strictly economic aspects. The delegations were able to express their views on this subject and to situate these views in a broader context.

At the close of its discussions, the Council agreed to instruct the Permanent Representatives Committee to prepare the Council's subsequent work in the light of today's discussions by continuing its examination of such relevant proposals in this field as the Commission might forward.

INFORMATION ON SHIPPING

The Council agreed in principle to the Decision concerning the collection of information on the activities of carriers participating in cargo liner traffic in certain areas of operation.

Under this Decision the Member States are obliged to collect information from all carriers participating in shipping lines serving East Africa and Central America. The information concerns the liner services operated (name of the company, vessels, conference participation, etc.), the cargo carried (flag, liner cargo in the country of departure, loading, origin or dispatch, specification of products, etc.) and the value of the cargo transported and information on transport prices.

This information is to be supplied to the Commission every six months over a period of eighteen months beginning 1 January 1979 so that it can assess the need to apply counter-measures.

A formal decision on the matter will be taken after examination of the Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee, which is expected on 29 November 1978, and following finalization of the text by the Permanent Representatives Committee.

COMMUNITY DRIVING LICENCE

The Council discussed in detail the proposal for a Directive on the harmonization of the laws relating to motor vehicle driving licences, during which the United Kingdom delegation suggested that the scope of the Directive be restricted initially to cars and motor cycles.

Following this suggestion, the Council agreed to instruct the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its work on this matter in the light of today's discussions so as to enable the Council to take a decision on the Community driving licence at its next meeting on transport.

TAXES ON COMMERCIAL ROAD VEHICLES

Continuing the discussions at its meeting on 12 June 1978, from which a consensus emerged on the main aspects of the first Directive on the adjustment of national taxation systems for commercial road vehicles (¹), the Council isolated the remaining unresolved points and instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine them in greater detail so that the Council could take a decision at a forthcoming meeting.

(¹) See Press Release 731/78 (Presse 78) of 12.VI.78

COMBINED RAIL/ROAD CARRIAGE

The Council held an exchange of views on the common rules for certain types of combined rail/road carriage of goods between Member States, following which it agreed in principle to

- maintain permanently in force the common rules for certain types of combined road/rail carriage, which are due to expire on 31 December 1978;
- introduce, on an experimental basis, certain amendments such as the extension of the scope of the common rules to container carriage.

A formal decision on this matter will be taken after an examination of the Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee, which is expected on 29 November 1978, and finalization of the text by the Permanent Representatives Committee.

LINER CONFERENCES

The Council held a substantive discussion on possible accession to the United Nations Convention on a Code of Conduct for Liner Conferences and the major problems which were raised during the examination of this dossier.

Following its discussions, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its work on the matter so that the Council could conclude it in the very near future.

TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

On the basis of the interim report by the Chairman of the Permanent Representatives Committee the Council held a general discussion on the proposal for a Council Regulation on support for projects of Community interest in transport infrastructure.

The Council emphasized the importance it attached to a rapid advancement of work on the matter.

Several delegations stressed the advantages of speedily specifying the projects which might be eligible for Community intervention under this procedure and the details of such intervention.

To this end, the Council invited the Commission to submit to it by 1 January 1980 a report on the bottlenecks in transport infrastructures and on the various possible modes of finance.

The Council invited the Commission, in collaboration with the Committee on Infrastructures, to evolve criteria for evaluating projects of Community interest.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its examination of the proposals in question in the light of the outcome of today's discussions.

COMMUNITY QUOTA

The Council reached consensus on the increase in the Community quota for the carriage of goods by road between Member States.

The present Community quota will be increased by 10% in the light in particular of the growth in trade between Member States in 1977 and the widespread use of Community authorizations that year. Half of the increase will be allocated on a linear basis and the other half on the basis of the rate of utilization of authorizations in 1977.

In conclusion, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to prepare a text setting forth the Council's approval so that a formal decision could be taken as soon as possible.

ACCOUNTS OF RAILWAY UNDERTAKINGS

Following an exchange of views on the proposal for a Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 1192/69 on common rules for the normalization of the accounts of railway undertakings, the Council noted that there were still differences of opinion on the matter and accordingly instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine the questions outstanding, so that the Council could act on the issue at its next meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS ON TRANSPORT

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Directive amending Directive 76/135/EEC on reciprocal recognition of navigability licences for inland waterway vessels. This amendment extends until 1 January 1980 the date for adopting the common provisions on the technical requirements for inland waterway vessels.

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The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 516/72 on the introduction of common rules for shuttle services by coach and bus between Member States. This amendment makes it possible for Member States whose territory is crossed in transit to waive the requirement for copies of applications for permits to operate a shuttle service by coach or bus.

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The Council approved the Decision concerning the Community's acceptance of Resolution No 212 (revised) of the Economic Commission for Europe relating to the facilitation of health and quality inspection in the international carriage of goods by rail as regards traffic between the Community and third countries signatories to the Resolution.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISION

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation on the procedure for applying the European unit of account (EUA) to legal acts adopted in the customs sphere.

As the former unit of account, which was based on a given weight of fine gold, was no longer consistent with the monetary agreements concluded by Member States, the Council acknowledged the need to lay down another definition, which, as a result of the specific constraints of customs organization, will enter into force on 1 January 1979.

PRESS RELEASE

549th Council meeting

- Fisheries -

Brussels, 23 and 24 November 1978

President: Mr Joseph ERTL
Federal Minister for Food,
Agriculture and Forestry
of the Federal Republic of Germany

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

Belgium:

Mr Antoine HUMBLET Minister for Agriculture and
Small Firms and Trades

Denmark:

Mr Svend JAKOBSEN Minister for Fisheries

Mr Jørgen HERTOFT State Secretary,
Ministry of Fisheries

Germany:

Mr Joseph ERTL Federal Minister of Food,
Agriculture and Forestry

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

France:

Mr Joël LE THEULE Minister for Transport

Ireland:

Mr Brian LENIHAN Minister for Fisheries

Italy:

Mr Vito ROSA State Secretary for Shipping

Luxembourg:

Mr Joseph WEYLAND Deputy Permanent Representative

Netherlands:

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

Minister for Agriculture and
Fisheries

United Kingdom:

Mr John SILKIN

Minister for Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food

Mr Bruce MILLAN

Secretary of State for Scotland

Commission:

Mr Finn Olav GUNDELACH

Vice-President

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FISHERIES POLICY

In the course of the meeting the Council resumed discussion of all the problems involved in determining a common fisheries policy.

Having initially established that progress seemed possible, particularly with respect to conservation measures and structural policy, the latter part of the meeting provided an opportunity for the United Kingdom delegation to present, in particular, its views on the questions outstanding with regard to a solution to the problem of traditional fishing rights in the 12-mile zones off the United Kingdom coasts on fishing activities in waters beyond the 12-mile limit and on the role of fishing plans.

Following discussion of these views, the President of the Council summed up the view of eight delegations and the Commission that the nature and scope of the United Kingdom's demands were such that no progress could be anticipated at this meeting.

The President informed the Council that he intended to report to the European Council on the negative outcome of the meeting.

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With regard to the external aspects, the Council took note of a report from the Commission on progress in this area.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONSAGRICULTUREOlive oil

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

- laying down for the 1978/1979 marketing year general rules for aid for olive oil production;
- providing for special measures for the 1978/1979 marketing year as regards olive oil producer organisations;
- on intervention in the olive oil sector;
- on trade in oils and fats between the Community and Greece;
- on the standard amount for unrefined olive oil produced entirely in Greece and transported directly from that country into the Community;
- laying down general rules for the fixing of the import levy on olive oil by tender;
- concluding and implementing Agreements in the form of exchanges of letters with Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey on untreated olive oil.

Wine

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

- amending for the second time Regulation (EEC) No 1162/76 on measures designed to adjust wine-growing potential to market requirements;
- fixing the activating prices for table wines for the period 15 December 1978 to 15 December 1979.

Structural matters

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Directive amending Directive 72/159/EEC on the modernization of farms and Directive 73/131/EEC on the guidance premium provided for in Article 10 of the Directive of 17 April 1972 on the modernization of farms.

MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation concluding the Financial Protocol between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Cyprus.

The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities Regulations on certain tariff quotas or ceilings for certain products originating in various Mediterranean countries for 1979 (Malta: textiles; Spain: petroleum products, cotton fabrics, dried figs and dried grapes; Cyprus: textiles, sweet peppers, dried grapes; Turkey: fresh or dried hazelnuts; Israel: apricot pulp, industrial products; Algeria: petroleum products and cork; Morocco and Tunisia: petroleum products and cork, apricot pulp, preserved sardines; Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan and Syria: petroleum products, fertilizers and textiles).

In addition, the Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Regulations opening, allocating and providing for the administration of

- a Community tariff quota for wines of fresh grapes falling within subheading 22.05 of the Common Customs Tariff, originating in Cyprus (1979);
- a Community tariff quota for liqueur wines falling within subheading ex 22.05 C of the Common Customs Tariff, originating in Cyprus (1979).

HARMONIZATION OF LEGISLATION

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States on the permissible sound level and exhaust system of motorcycles.

APPOINTMENTS

The Council appointed, on a proposal from the French Government, Mr Serge DARMON, Administrateur civil au Bureau des Conventions internationales, as alternate member of the Advisory Committee on Social Security for Migrant Workers, in place of Mr Donat DECISIER, alternate member, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which runs until 7 February 1979.

The Council also appointed, on a proposal by the Danish Government, Mr Holger JENSEN, Landsorganisationen i Danmark, as alternate member of the Advisory Committee on Freedom of Movement for Workers, in place of Mr Paulus ANDERSEN, alternate member, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which runs until 10 October 1979.

Le Conseil a arrêté la décision portant nomination des membres et suppléants du Comité consultatif pour la sécurité, l'hygiène et la protection de la santé sur le lieu de travail.

Sont nommés membres et suppléants ; pour la période du 23 novembre 1978 au 22 novembre 1981 :

	<u>Titulaire</u>	<u>Suppléant</u>	<u>Titulaire</u>	<u>Suppléant</u>
A. <u>REPRESENTANTS DU GOUVERNEMENT</u>				
Belgique	M. BENS	M. PAQUE	M. DENONNE	M. GREGOIRE
Danemark	M. SAXILD	M. TOFT	Mme JENSEN	M. BLOU
Allemagne	M. KLIESCH	M. OPFERMANN	Dr. WAGNER	Dr. WOLFF
France	Mme LAMIRAND	M. BABUSIAUX	M. COURSAULT-DURAND	M. BELHOTE
Irlande	M. KENNEDY	M. MORRISON	M. CASHELL	Dr. MURPHY
Italie	Dott. FREDELLA	Dott. FRANCIOSI	Dott. FIORE	Dott. POTI
Luxembourg	M. SCHUSTER	M. MOUSEL	M. NOESEN	M. DEMUTH
Pays-Bas	M. TINGA	M. RIKMENSPOEL	Dr. WINK	Mme ROOYAKKERS-BEEMSTER
Royaume-Uni	M. MARTIN	Mme BARGER	Dr. NEILD	Dr. BLACKADDER
B. <u>REPRESENTANTS DES ORGANISATIONS SYNDICALES DE TRAVAILLEURS</u>				
Belgique	M. THYRE	M. KENNES	M. SILON	M. COLLE
Danemark	M. DREWSEN	M. NIELSEN	Mme CHRISTENSEN	M. ELIKOFER
Allemagne	M. KONSTANTY	M. KIENAPPEL	M. PARTIKEL	M. GÄRTNER
France	M. ATLAN	M. ROUXEL	M. GUILLON	M. DIAZ
Irlande	M. CASSELLS	M. O'HALLORAN	M. DALY	M. KEATING
Italie	M. STANZANI	M. LELI	M. LUCIANI	Mme GLORIA
Luxembourg	M. RECH	M. DUNKEL	M. SABUS	M. KLEIN
Pays-Bas	M. DE BRUIN	M. VAN TOL	M. HOGENES	M. SCHMITZ
Royaume-Uni	M. JACQUES	M. HAMILTON	M. LLOYD	M. PARRY

Titulaire Suppléant Titulaire Suppléant

C. REPRESENTANTS DES ORGANISATIONS PROFESSIONNELLES D'EMPLOYEURS

Belgique	M. VAN GAEVER	M. CLOQUET	M. CORDY	M. LEONARD
Danemark	M. HOLM	M. RASMUSSEN	M. NYGAARD	M. LINIUS
Allemagne	M. MEYER	M. WINCKLER	M. MÜLLER	M. VON HASSELL
France	M. CAVE	M. FREDERIC- MOREAU	M. TASSIN	M. DELAGE
Irlande	M. RICE	M. DOHERTY	M. CLARKE	M. CASSIDY
Italie	Dott. GARLANDA	M. PALLADINO	Dott. BUSSETTI	Dott. GHISELLI
Luxembourg	M. RAUCHS	M. BERWEILER	M. OLINGER	M. BEFFORT
Pays-Bas	M. DEN BOER	Mme DE QUANT	Mme DE MEESTER	M. KORTEN
Royaume-Uni	M. AMIS	M. PETRIE	M. COBB	M. DEWSBURY

PRESS RELEASE

550th Council meeting

- Social Affairs -

Brussels, 27 November 1978

President: Mr Herbert EHRENBERG
Federal Minister for Labour
and Social Affairs of the
Federal Republic of Germany

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

Belgium:

Mr Guy SPITAELS Minister for Labour and Employment

Denmark:

Mr Svend AUKEN Minister for Labour

Mr Erling JENSEN Minister for Social Security

Germany:

Mr Herbert EHRENBERG Federal Minister for Labour and Social Affairs

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

France:

Mr Robert BOULIN Minister for Labour and Participation

Ireland:

Mr Gene FITZGERALD Minister for Labour

Mr Charles HAUGHEY Minister for Health and Social Welfare

Italy:

Mr Giovanni MIGLIUOLO Director-General for Social Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr Pietro CALAMIA Deputy Permanent Representative

Luxembourg:

Mr Benny BERG

Deputy Prime Minister,
Minister for Labour and
Social Security

Mr Maurice THOSS

Secretary of State,
Ministry of Labour and
Social Security

Netherlands:

Mr L. de GRAAF

Secretary of State,
Ministry of Social Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr Stanley ORME

Minister for Social Security

Mr Brynmer JOHN

Minister of State,
Home Office

Mr John GRANT

Parliamentary Under-Secretary
of State,
Department of Employment

Commission:

Mr Henk VREDELING

Vice-President

REPORT ON THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND

The Council took note of the 6th report on the European Social Fund covering the financial year 1977 and of delegations' comments on it.

The report comprises chapters describing activities by field of intervention, the regional impact of the Social Fund, pilot experiments and preparatory studies, effectiveness of aid, the Social Fund Committee, the financial and budgetary aspects and the rules governing the tasks and operations of the Fund, annexed are statistical tables illustrating the budgetary aspects in particular.

In addition, the report is supplemented for the first time by national reports giving the results of operations supported financially by the Fund in 1977.

SAFETY, HYGIENE AND HEALTH PROTECTION AT WORK

The Council took note of the second progress report of the Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work.

SECOND SOCIAL BUDGET

The Council, to which the second European social budget, drawn up in accordance with the guidelines adopted by the Council at its meeting on 30 April 1976, had been presented by the Commission:

- took note of the second European social budget, which is based on a series of assumptions relating to a view of economic trends as at spring 1977, and thanked the Commission for its efforts;
- stressed the importance of the information provided by such a document regarding medium-term social expenditure and the financing of this expenditure within the Member States;
- invited the Commission, in co-operation with experts from the Governments of the Member States, to evaluate the experience gained in drawing up the second European social budget and then to submit proposals to the Council for a third European social budget.

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

The Council agreed to the Regulation on the creation of new aid from the European Social Fund to assist young people.

The Council has been discussing this important question since its meeting on 28 October 1977, in particular in the light of the brief issued to it by the Bremen European Council of 6 and 7 July 1978 "to decide on measures to combat youth unemployment within the framework of the European Social Fund so that such measures can come into force on 1 January 1979".

Assistance from the Fund, which will be calculated on the basis of an amount not exceeding 30 EUA per person per week for a maximum of twelve months, will be granted to contribute to

- aid to promote the recruitment of young people under 25 years of age who are unemployed or seeking employment, by means of additional jobs likely to give young people vocational experience or make it easier for them to find a stable job,
- aid to promote the employment of young people under 25 years of age who are unemployed or seeking employment, by means of schemes for the creation of additional jobs which fulfil a public need which would not otherwise have been met if the jobs had not been created and which are stable or likely to give young people vocational experience which will allow them access to the labour market and make it easier for them to find a stable job.

For this assistance the 1979 draft budget provides for 25 MEUA in payment appropriations and 72 MEUA in commitment appropriations, and the Council agreed that these sums would be divided equally between the two categories of assistance.

The Council agreed to instruct the Permanent Representatives Committee to finalize the text so that a formal decision could be taken as soon as possible.

EQUALITY BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN IN MATTERS OF SOCIAL SECURITY

After detailed discussion, the Council agreed on the Directive on the progressive implementation of the principle of equal treatment for men and women in matters of social security.

This Directive is designed to eliminate from social security schemes and provisions all discrimination based on sex either directly or indirectly by reference in particular to marital or family status. Its provisions apply to the working population, including self-employed persons, persons whose working lives are interrupted by illness, accident or involuntary unemployment, those seeking employment, and retired or invalid workers. They apply both to statutory schemes which provide protection against risks of sickness, invalidity, old age, accidents at work and occupational disease and unemployment and to social aid measures, insofar as such measures are intended to supplement or replace the schemes in question.

The discrimination to be eliminated concerns in particular

- the scope of schemes and the conditions of access to them;
- the obligation to contribute and the calculation of contributions;
- the calculation of benefits, including increases due in respect of a spouse and for dependants and the conditions governing the duration and continuance of entitlement to benefits.

The Member States, which have six months in which to convert the provisions of the Directive into national regulations, will nevertheless have the right to exclude from the scope of the Directive

- the determination of pensionable age for the purposes of granting old-age and retirement pensions and the possible consequences thereof for other benefits;
- advantages in respect of old-age pension schemes granted to persons who have brought up children and the acquisition of benefit entitlements following periods of interruption of employment due to the bringing-up of children;
- the granting of old-age or invalidity benefit entitlements by virtue of the derived entitlements of a wife;
- the granting of increases of old-age or invalidity benefits for a dependent wife.

The Council noted the Commission's intention of making additional proposals concerning occupational schemes, which are not covered by this Directive, and undertook to take a decision on this subject as soon as possible. The Commission will later be submitting proposals for the other social security benefits (in particular family allowances and survivors' benefits) which are not covered by this Directive.

This Directive is the third in the field of equal treatment for men and women, following that of 10 February 1975 on pay and that of 9 February 1976 on the implementation of the principle of equal treatment for men and women as regards access to employment, vocational training and promotion, and working conditions.

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION AND ILLEGAL EMPLOYMENT

The Council took note of a report on the progress made on the proposal for a Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States to combat illegal immigration and illegal employment.

The Council noted that certain questions were still outstanding in this area and instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue examining this matter.

MISCELLANEOUS STATEMENTS

The Council took note of a statement by Mr VREDELING, Vice-President of the Commission, on the situation regarding social matters and employment in the Community, and of a statement by the Italian delegation concerning the education of the children of migrant workers.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Tariff measures

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 950/68 as regards the Preliminary Provisions of the Common Customs Tariff and the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 950/68 relating to the Common Customs Tariff.

These texts were necessary, inter alia, because of the introduction of the EUA in the customs field as from 1 January 1979.

The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Directive on the harmonization of provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action in respect of standard exchange of goods exported for repair.

The Council also adopted in the official languages the Regulations

- on the tariff treatment of certain products intended for use in the construction, maintenance and repair of aircraft;
- temporarily suspending the autonomous Common Customs Tariff on a number of industrial products;
- increasing the Community tariff quota opened for 1978 for unwrought magnesium falling within subheading 77.01 A of the CCT;
- temporarily and partially suspending the autonomous Common Customs Tariff duties on certain types of fish.

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Euro-Arab Dialogue

The Council adopted the Community position on the financing of the 2nd set of 10 study projects/measures, to be submitted to the General Committee of the Dialogue for approval at its 4th meeting (Damascus, 9-11 December 1978).

PRESS RELEASE

551st meeting of the Council

-- Budget --

Brussels, 5 and 6 December 1978

President: Mr Manfred LAHNSTEIN
State Secretary,
Federal Ministry for Finance
of the Federal Republic of Germany

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

Belgium:

Mr Mark EYSKENS State Secretary for the Budget

Denmark:

Mr Niels ERSBØLL State Secretary,
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Germany:

Mr Manfred LAHNSTEIN State Secretary,
Federal Ministry for Finance

France:

Mr Jean BERNARD-REYMON State Secretary,
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Ireland:

Mr Raymond McSHARRY Minister of State at the
Department of Public Service

Italy:

Mr Antonio Mario MAZZARINO Deputy State Secretary,
Ministry for the Treasury

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean DONDELINGER Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

The Netherlands:

Mr D.F. van der MEI

State Secretary,
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr Joel BARNETT

Chief Secretary to the Treasury

The Commission:

Mr Christopher TUGENDHAT

Member

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FURTHER DISCUSSIONS ON THE DRAFT GENERAL BUDGET FOR 1979

Before meeting a delegation from the European Parliament, the Council held an exchange of views on certain budgetary matters connected with the draft general budget for 1979 which had been left unresolved at its meeting on 20 November, including the margin for manoeuvre open to the European Parliament at this stage.

The Council then met, for information purposes, the European Parliament delegation consisting of Mr SPENALE (Vice-President of the European Parliament), Mr LANGE (Chairman of the Committee on Budgets), Mr AIGNER, Mr BANGEMANN and Mr COINTAT (Vice-Chairmen of the Committee on Budgets), Mr RIPAMONTI (Rapporteur on Sections I, II, IV, V of the 1979 budget), Lord Bruce of DONNINGTON and Mr SHAW (Members of the Committee on Budgets).

In the course of the dialogue, the President of the Council explained to the European Parliament delegation those conclusions of the European Council held in Brussels the same day which had implications for budget questions which would be submitted to the Council and the European Parliament, and the European Parliament delegation expressed its initial reactions on the subject.

The two parties agreed to follow, in the next few days, the procedures laid down in Article 203 of the Treaty for the joint fixing of a new maximum rate for the Communities budget for 1979, and the Council chose 12 December as the date for its next meeting on budget questions.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Emergency aid

The Council approved emergency Community aid to the disaster victims in Thailand and Sri Lanka. Financial aid of 25,000 EUA will be granted to each of these countries for the purchase of essential supplies for the populations concerned. These amounts will be paid through Caritas Belgica for Thailand and the League of Red Cross Societies for Sri Lanka.

Agricultural policy

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

- amending Annex II to Regulation (EEC) No 100/76 with regard to squid;
- fixing the guide prices for the fisheries products listed under A and C of Annex I to Regulation (EEC) No 100/76 for the 1979 fishing year;
- fixing the guide prices for the fisheries products listed in Annex II to Regulation (EEC) No 100/76 for the 1979 fishing year;
- fixing the intervention prices for fresh or chilled sardines and anchovies for the 1979 fishing year;
- fixing the Community production price for tuna fish intended for the canning industry for the 1979 fishing year.

The Council also adopted in the official languages the Directive amending Directives 66/401/EEC, 66/402/EEC and 69/208/EEC on the marketing of fodder plant seed, cereal seed and seed of oil and fibre plants.

Commercial policy

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Decision amending the quotas for the importation into the United Kingdom of textile products originating in Hungary.

In addition, the Council adopted, in the official languages, the Regulation on the conclusion of an Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the European Economic Community and the Portuguese Republic regarding prepared or preserved tomatoes falling within subheading 20.02 C of the Common Customs Tariff.

The Council also adopted, in the official languages, the Regulations

- temporarily suspending the autonomous Common Customs Tariff duties on a number of tropical products;
- temporarily suspending the autonomous Common Customs Tariff duties on mechanically propelled aircraft of an unladen weight exceeding 15,000 kg falling within subheading ex 88.02 B II c);
- increasing the Community tariff quota opened for 1978 by Regulation (EEC) 2608/77 for newsprint falling within subheading 48.01 A of the Common Customs Tariff.

Harmonization of laws

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States concerning automatic checkweighing and weight grading machines.

Appointments

The Council appointed, on a proposal from the Luxembourg Government, as member and alternate members respectively of the Advisory Committee on Medical Training

- Dr Henri KUNTZIGER, Directeur-Médecin du Centre hospitalier de Luxembourg, in place of Mr Fernand SCHWACHTGEN;
- Dr Mario DICATO, Médecin chef de service au Centre hospitalier de Luxembourg, in place of Mr Emile QUIRING;
- Dr Pierrette HUBERTY-MIRAU, Médecin à l'Inspection sanitaire, in place of Mr Ferdy KASEL

for the remainder of the terms of office of the above, which run until 5 April 1979.

The Council also appointed, on a proposal from the Belgian Government, Mr G. SAUVAGE, Confédération des Syndicats chrétiens de Belgique, as a full member of the Advisory Committee on Vocational Training for the remainder of the Committee's mandate, which runs until 15 October 1980.

In addition, the Council appointed, on a proposal from the Danish Government, Mr Jørgen HARNE, Jern og Metalindustrien Sammenslutning, as a member of the ECSC Consultative Committee in place of Mr Kaj LUND, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which runs until 15 October 1980.