

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

PRESS RELEASES

PRESIDENCY: ITALY

JANUARY-JUNE 1985

Meetings and press releases May 1985

Meeting number	Subject	Date
1000 th	Agriculture	3-5 May 1985
1001 st	Internal Market	7 May 1985
1002 nd	Agriculture	13-16 May 1985
1003 rd	Foreign Affairs	20 May 1985
1004 th	Consumer Protection	21 May 1985
1005 th	Budget	22 May 1985
1006 th	Transport	23 May 1985
1007 th	Development Co-operation	23 May 1985
1008 th	Culture	28 May 1985

PRESS RELEASE

6387/85 (Presse 53)
(OR.f)

LIBRARY

1000th meeting of the Council

- Agriculture -

Luxembourg, 2, 3, 4 and 5 May 1985

President: Mr Filippo Maria PANDOLFI,

Minister for Agriculture
of the Italian 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 Constantinos SIMITIS
Minister for Agriculture

Mr Walther FLORIAN
State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Food,
Agriculture and Forestry

Ireland:

Mr Austin DEASY
Minister for Agriculture

France:

Mr Henri NALLET
Minister for Agriculture

Luxembourg:

Mr Marc FISCHBACH
Minister for Agriculture
and Viticulture

Italy:

Mr Filippo Maria PANDOLFI
Minister for agriculture

United Kingdom:

Mr Michael JOPLING
Minister for Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food

Netherlands:

Mr Gerrit BRAKS
Minister for Agriculture
and Fisheries

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

Commission:

Mr Frans H.J.J. ANDRIESEN
Vice-President

FIXING OF 1985/1986 AGRICULTURAL PRICES AND RELATED MEASURES

In the course of long and very detailed negotiations on all the problems still raised by the fixing of agricultural prices and related measures for 1985/1986, the Council made substantial progress on a large number of matters pending.

However, it noted that there were still differences of opinion in a number of important areas and that at the present stage the conditions for a final agreement had not been met. The Council consequently asked the Commission to submit overall proposals enabling it to reach a successful conclusion at its next meeting, which will begin on 13 May 1985 in Brussels.

In the meantime, it decided to extend until 19 May inclusive the current marketing years for milk products, beef and veal, sheepmeat and goatmeat, dried fodder and cauliflowers.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Other agricultural decisions

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Decision on a financial contribution from the Community to the campaign against foot-and-mouth disease in South-East Europe.

The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities a brief for negotiations with the ACP States referred to in Protocol No 7 annexed to the second ACP-EEC Convention and with the Republic of India on the guaranteed prices applicable to cane sugar during the 1985/1986 delivery period. With this brief, the Council authorizes the Commission to start negotiations with the ACP States concerned and with the Republic of India on the prices for preferential sugar for the 1985/1986 delivery period.

Fisheries

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Regulation on the conclusion of the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the EEC on the one hand and the Government of Denmark and the Home Government of the Faroe Islands on the other hand, concerning salmon fishing in Faroese waters.

PRESS RELEASE

6557/85 (Presse 59)

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1001st meeting of the Council

- Internal Market -

Brussels, 7 May 1985

President: Mr Francesco FORTE,
Minister for Co-ordination
of Community Policies
of the Italian 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 Ib STETTER
Minister for Industry

Germany:

Mr Rudolf SPRUNG
Parliamentary State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Economic
Affairs

Greece:

Mr Elias LYMBEROPOULOS
Deputy Permanent Representative

France:

Mrs Catherine LALUMIERE
State Secretary attached to the
Minister for Foreign Relations,
responsible for European Affairs

Ireland:

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

Italy:

Mr Francesco FORTE
Minister for Co-ordination of
Community Policies

Luxembourg:

Mr Robert GOEBBELS
State Secretary for Foreign Affairs,
External Commerce and Co-operation

Netherlands:

Mr Ch. R. van BEUGE
Deputy Permanent Representative
Plenipotentiary Minister

United Kingdom:

Mr Paul CHANNON
Minister for Trade

Commission:

Lord COCKFIELD
Vice-President

TECHNICAL HARMONIZATION AND STANDARDS

On the basis of a communication submitted by the Commission in February 1985, the Council adopted a Resolution on a new approach to technical harmonization and standards.

This approach is the fruit of deliberations originating in the finding that work on technical harmonization in the Community, notwithstanding the very positive and considerable results it has been possible to achieve (180 harmonization Directives adopted to date); needs an overhaul of methods and procedures.

The Commission stated that it had just initiated the procedures leading to submission to the Council of concrete proposals in certain priority fields.

The text of the Resolution is as follows:

"The Council,

- in extension of its conclusions of standardization, approved on 16 July 1984 ⁽¹⁾,
- emphasizes the urgent need to resolve the present situation as regards technical barriers to trade and dispel the consequent uncertainty for economic operators;
- emphasizes the importance and desirability of the new approach which provides for reference to standards - primarily European standards but national ones if need be as a transitional measure - for the purposes of defining the technical characteristics of products, an approach outlined by the Commission in its communication of 31 January 1985, which follows certain guidelines adopted by the European Parliament in its Resolution of 16 October 1980 and forms part of the extension of the Council's conclusions of 16 July 1984.

⁽¹⁾ See Press Release 8561/84 (Presse 122)

- aware that the new approach will have to be accompanied by a policy on the assessment of conformity, calls on the Commission to give this matter priority and to expedite all its work in this area;
- approves the guidelines encapsulated in the list of principles and main elements to be embodied in the main part of the Directives (Annex I to this Resolution)
- calls on the Commission to submit suitable proposals as soon as possible."

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC INTEREST GROUPING (EEIG)

The Council noted a communication from the Presidency concerning progress made with regard to the amended proposal for a Regulation on the European Economic Interest Grouping.

The Council will resume examination of this proposal at its next meeting with a view to adopting the Regulation.

EASING OF CHECKS AND FORMALITIES AT INTRA-COMMUNITY FRONTIERS

The Council started examining the proposal for a Directive which aims at easing the controls and formalities applicable to nationals of the Member States when crossing intra-Community borders.

It will be recalled that, in its appraisal of the report on a People's Europe, the European Council asked the Council to take promptly those decisions which were within its sphere of competence and requested the Member States to implement those decisions which fell within their field of competence.

The Council focused its discussion on three specific points, namely the principle of free passage; whether or not to differentiate between controls at land borders and controls at ports and airports; and the question of the legal instrument of competence.

At the end of the discussion, the Council noted that some progress had been made. It asked the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue examining the main problem of whether to differentiate between controls at borders, on the basis of the suggestions for discussion submitted by the Presidency.

ARCHITECTS

The Council continued its discussions on the right of establishment and freedom to provide services in architecture. The main points at issue were recognition of diplomas conferred by architecture "Fachhochschulen" in Germany after a three-year course of study and recognition of diplomas held by Greek civil engineers.

The Council concluded by recording progress on these two problems. It accordingly asked the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue to seek the main lines of an overall solution enabling it to take a final decision in this connection at its next meeting.

PHARMACISTS

The Council, having noted that one delegation was still unable to support the majority position with regard to the proposals concerning right of establishment in the field of pharmacy, instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine a compromise proposal submitted by the Presidency and to report back to it at the next meeting of the Internal Market Council.

CO-ORDINATION OF THE LAWS OF THE MEMBER STATES RELATING TO
(SELF-EMPLOYED) COMMERCIAL AGENTS

The Council resumed its examination of the amended proposal for a Directive on the co-ordination of the laws of the Member States relating to (self-employed) commercial agents.

In view of the difficulties which the proposal continued to create for one delegation, the Council agreed to resume discussions at its next meeting.

FUTURE WORK

The Council agreed to hold a further Internal Market meeting on Monday 10 June in order to round off the discussions on matters still outstanding in this sphere.

Guidelines for a new approach to technical
harmonization and standards

The following are the four fundamental principles on which the new approach is based:

- legislative harmonization is limited to the adoption, by means of Directives based on Article 100 of the EEC Treaty, of the essential safety requirements (or other requirements in the general interest) with which products put on the market must conform, and which should therefore enjoy free movement throughout the Community,
- the task of drawing up the technical specifications needed for the production and placing on the market of products conforming to the essential requirements established by the Directives, while taking into account the current stage of technology, is entrusted to organizations competent in the standardization area,
- these technical specifications are not mandatory and maintain their status of voluntary standards,
- but at the same time national authorities are obliged to recognize that products manufactured in conformity with harmonized standards (or, provisionally, with national standards) are presumed to conform to the "essential requirements" established by the Directive. (This signifies that the producer has the choice of not manufacturing in conformity with the standards but that in this event he has an obligation to prove that his products conform to the essential requirements of the Directive.)

In order that this system may operate it is necessary:

- on the one hand that the standards offer a guarantee of quality with regard to the "essential requirements" established by the Directives,
- on the other hand that the public authorities keep intact their responsibility for the protection of safety (or other requirements envisaged) on their territory.

The quality of harmonized standards must be ensured by standardization mandates, conferred by the Commission, the execution of which must

conform to the general guidelines which have been the subject of agreement between the Commission and the European standardization organizations. Insofar as national standards are concerned their quality must be verified by a procedure at Community level managed by the Commission, assisted by a Standing Committee composed of officials from national administrations.

At the same time safeguard procedures must be provided for, under the management of the Commission assisted by the same Committee, in order to allow the competent public authorities the possibility of contesting the conformity of a product, the validity of a certificate or the quality of a standard.

6. In following this system of legislative harmonization in each area in which it is feasible, the Commission intends to be able to halt the proliferation of excessively technical separate Directives for each product. The scope of Directives according to the "general reference to standards" formula should encompass wide product categories and types of risk.

The Community could on the one hand, therefore, complete the extremely complex undertaking of harmonizing technical legislation and on the other hand promote the development and application of European standards. These are essential conditions for the improvement of the competitiveness of its industry.

OUTLINE OF THE PRINCIPLES AND MAIN ELEMENTS
WHICH SHOULD MAKE UP THE BODY OF THE DIRECTIVES

A. JUSTIFICATIONS

Amongst the traditional principles justifying a Directive the following aspects should be emphasized:

- Member States have the responsibility of ensuring safety on their territory (in the home, at the workplace, etc.) of persons, domestic animals and goods, or the respect of other essential protection requirements in the general interest such as health, consumer or environment protection etc., with regard to the hazards covered by the Directive itself ⁽¹⁾;
- the national provisions ensuring such protection must be harmonized in order to ensure the free movement of goods, without lowering existing and justified levels of protection in the Member States;
- CEN and CENELEC (one or the other, or both according to the products covered by the Directive) are the competent bodies to adopt European harmonized standards within the scope of the Directive, in accordance with the guidelines which the Commission, after consultation of the Member States, has signed with these bodies ⁽²⁾.

⁽¹⁾ For reasons of convenience and ease of drafting the rest of this document refers only to safety.

⁽²⁾ For specific sectors of industrial activity other competent European bodies for the drawing up of technical specifications could be involved.

1. In this outline a general approach is developed which should be applied according to the needs for legislation by Directives based on Article 100 of the Treaty relating to sectors or families of products as well as types of hazard.
2. The object of the Directive will be specified in each sphere of application according to the types of hazard (safety, health, environment, consumer protection, etc.) and should the need arise to the circumstances (in the home, at the place of work, under road traffic conditions, during leisure activities, etc.).
3. Where appropriate, it should be stated that the Member States may make provision, in accordance with Community law, for national regulations concerning the conditions for use of products covered by the scope of the Directive.
4. Concerning the objective mentioned in the second principle, it is obvious that it is carried into effect by the very adoption of the Directive under Article 100 of the Treaty, as the essential safety requirements contained in it are of such a nature as to ensure the pursuit of such an objective.

B. MAIN ELEMENTS

I. Scope

Definition of the range of products covered, as well as the nature of the hazards it is intended to avert.

The scope should be defined in such a way that a consistent approach to the action is ensured, and that the proliferation of Directives on specific products is avoided. Moreover, it should be noted that the enacting terms of such a Directive do not preclude the possibility of several Directives being adopted on one and the same product according to the various types of hazard associated with that product (for example, mechanical safety of a machine on the one hand and pollution by that machine on the other hand).

II. General clause for placing on the market

The products covered by the Directive may be placed on the market only if they do not endanger the safety of persons, domestic animals or goods when properly installed and maintained and used for the purposes for which they are intended.

1. The Directives would provide for total harmonization as a general rule. Consequently, any product placed on the market falling within the scope of the Directive must be in conformity with the requirements of the Directive. In certain specific conditions, optional harmonization for certain products may prove to be opportune. The outline Directive, however, is drawn up with a view to total harmonization.

Consideration could be given to appropriate ways of taking account of the need to give assistance, in some Member States, to harmonious progression towards the introduction of a system of compulsory rules in particular to ensure that appropriate certification infrastructures are set up.

Point II therefore represents a general clause setting out the responsibilities of the Member States in relation to the placing of goods on the market.

2. In order to respect the general principle on which the outline Directive is based, which is to leave to the trade the choice of the means of attestation of conformity and thus to prohibit Member States from setting up any system of control prior to placing on the market (except, of course, in cases where prior control is required by specific Directives for special sectors, as is moreover clearly provided for in Point VIII), it is obvious that the national authorities in order to acquit themselves of their responsibilities set out in this clause must be allowed to exercise control on the market by way of spot checks.
3. In certain cases, in particular with regard to the protection of workers and consumers, the conditions set out in this clause may be strengthened (foreseeable use).

III. Essential safety requirements

Description of the safety requirements which are essential for the application of the general clause in Point II with which all products covered by the Directive must conform.

1. The essential safety requirements which must be met in the case of products which can be put on the market shall be worded precisely enough in order to create, on transposition into national law, legally binding obligations which can be enforced. They should be so formulated as to enable the certification bodies straight away to certify products as being in conformity, having regard to those requirements in the absence of standards. The degree of detail of the wording will depend on the subject matter. If the basic requirements for safety are observed, the general clause in Point II can be applied.
2. Amendments to these requirements can be made only by means of a new Council Directive under Article 100 of the Treaty.

IV. Free movement clause

Obligation on the Member States to accept, under the conditions referred to in Point V, the free movement of products which conform to Points II and III.

1. Free movement will be ensured in the case of products declared to conform to the protection requirements laid down in the Directive, without recourse as a general rule to prior verification of compliance with the requirements set out in Point III, it being understood that the note 2 of Point II also applies in this case.

The interpretation to be given to this provision should not have the consequence that third party certification is to be systematically required by the sectoral Directives.

2. The actual aim of the Directives in question is to cover all essential requirements, but in the exceptional case of cover proving incomplete, it would always be possible for a Member State to act under Article 36 of the Treaty.

V. Means of proof of conformity and effects

1. Member States shall presume to be in conformity with Points II and III products which are accompanied by one of the means of attestation described in Point VIII declaring that they are in conformity with:

(a) the harmonized standards adopted by the European standardization body which is particularly competent within the scope of this Directive, when these standards are adopted in accordance with the general guidelines agreed between that body and the Commission and the references of which are published in the OJEC; such publication should, moreover, also be carried out by the Member States;

(b) or as a transitional measure, and insofar as harmonized standards do not exist in the field covered by such standards, national standards referred to in paragraph 2.

2. Member States shall communicate to the Commission the text of those national standards which they consider to meet Points II and III. The Commission shall forthwith forward this text to the other Member States. In accordance with the procedure laid down in paragraph 2 of Point VI, the Commission shall notify the Member States of the national standards which enjoy the presumption of conformity with Points II and III.

Member States are required to publish the references of these standards. The Commission shall also ensure that they are published in the OJEC.

3. Member States shall accept that the products for which the manufacturer has not applied any standard (because of absence of a standard as laid down in paragraphs 1(a) and (b) above or for other exceptional reasons, are

considered to be in conformity with Points II and III, when their conformity is demonstrated by one of the means of attestation set out in Point VIII, paragraph 1(a) and (b).

1. Only those means of attestation provided for in Point VIII necessarily carry presumption of conformity.
2. The presumption of conformity is constituted by the fact that the conformity of a product to harmonized or national standards is declared by one of the means of attestation set out in Point VIII. When the product is not in conformity with a standard, because the standards do not exist or because the manufacturer, for example in cases of innovation, prefers to apply other manufacturing criteria of his choice, conformity to Points II and III is declared by the means of an attestation delivered by an independent body.
3. In cases under Point V, paragraphs 1 and 3, Member States will therefore have the right, for the presumption to operate, to request at any time one of the means of attestation set out in Point VIII.
4. The drafting and adoption of the harmonized standards mentioned in paragraph 1(a) by the CEN and CENELEC, these bodies being generally considered to be the "European standards bodies which are particularly competent", and the obligation relating to transposition into national standards are governed by these two bodies' internal rules and their regulations relating to standards work. The internal rules of CEN and CENELEC are in the process of being harmonized.

However, it is not ruled out that the harmonized standards referred to in paragraph 1(a) will be prepared outside CEN and CENELEC by other bodies which may assume these functions in particular areas; in such cases adoption of the harmonized standards shall be submitted for approval by CEN/CENELEC. In any case, the drafting and introduction of the harmonized standards referred to in Point V must be subject to the guidelines agreed between the Commission and these organizations. The guidelines deal in particular with the following principles and conditions:

- the availability of suitable staff and technical infrastructure at the standards body which the Commission mandates to proceed with standardization;
 - the association of public authorities and interested circles (in particular manufacturers, users, consumers, unions);
 - the adoption of harmonized standards and their transposition into national standards or, at least, the annulment of diverging national standards under conditions approved by the Commission when drawing up a frame of reference for standardization after consultation with the Member States.
5. In the selection of national standards, due consideration will be given to any practical difficulties arising from that selection.

National standards are selected only on a transitional basis. Accordingly, when a selection decision is made, the relevant European bodies will in principle be sent instructions to draft and adopt the corresponding European standards within a given period of time and under the conditions stated above.

VI. Management of the lists of standards

1. Where a Member State or the Commission considers that harmonized standards or drafts thereof do not fully satisfy Points II and III, the Commission or the Member State shall bring this to the attention of the Committee (Point X) setting out the reasons. The Committee shall give an opinion as a matter of urgency.

The Commission shall, in the light of the Committee's opinion, notify the Member States of the necessity of withdrawing or not withdrawing the standard from the publication referred to in Point V, paragraph 1(a). It shall inform the European standards body concerned and, if necessary, give it a new or revised mandate.

2. On receipt of the communication referred to in Point V, paragraph 2, the Commission shall consult the Committee. After the Committee has given its opinion, the Commission shall, within a given period, notify the Member States whether the national standard in question should or should not enjoy presumption of conformity and, if so, be subject to national publication of its references.

If the Commission or a Member State considers that a national standard no longer fulfils the conditions for presumption of conformity to the safety requirements, the Commission shall consult the Committee. In the light of the opinion of the Committee, it shall notify the Member States whether or not the standard in question should continue to enjoy presumption of conformity and in the latter case be withdrawn from the publications referred to in Point V, paragraph 2.

As indicated above (see notes to Point V, paragraph 2) the Member States have the power to decide which of their national standards may be considered to be in conformity with Points II and III and thus be subject to the Commission confirmation procedure.

VII. Safeguard clause

1. Where a Member State finds that a product might compromise the safety of individuals, domestic animals or property, it shall take all appropriate measures to withdraw or prohibit the placing on the market of the product in question or to restrict its free movement even if it is accompanied by one of the means of attestation referred to in Point VIII.

Within a given period of time, and only when the product in question is accompanied by one of the means of attestation provided for in Point VIII, the Member State shall inform the Commission of such a measure. It will indicate the reasons for its decision and in particular whether the non-conformity results from:

- (a) non-compliance with Points II and III (when the product does not conform to any standard);
- (b) incorrect application of the standards referred to in Point V;
- (c) a shortcoming in the standards themselves.

2. The Commission shall consult the Member States concerned as soon as possible. If the Member State which has taken measures intends to maintain them, the Commission shall refer the matter to the Committee within a specified period. Where the Commission, after consultation of the Committee, finds that the action is justified it shall, also within a given period of time, inform the Member State in question and point out to the other Member States that (all else being equal) they are also obliged to prevent the product in question from being placed on the market.
3. Where failure of the product to comply with Points II and III results from a shortcoming in the harmonized standards or in the national standards, the consequences shall be those set out in Point VI.
4. Where the non-conforming product is accompanied by a means of attestation issued by an independent body or by the manufacturer, the competent Member State shall take the appropriate measures against the author of the attestation and inform the Commission and the other Member States.
5. The Commission shall ensure that all Member States are kept informed of the progress and of the outcome of this procedure.
 - (1) This Point describes the consequences when recourse by a Member State to the safeguard clause appears to be justified. It does not give any indication on the consequences when recourse does not appear to be justified after expiry of the Community examination procedure, because in such cases the general rules of the Treaty apply.

VIII. Means of attestation of conformity

1. The means of attestation referred to in Point V which the trade may use are:
 - (a) certificates and marks of conformity issued by a third party
 - (b) results of tests carried out by a third party
 - (c) declaration of conformity issued by the manufacturer or his agent based in the Community. This may be coupled with the requirement for a surveillance system
 - (d) other means of attestation which could possibly be determined in the Directive.
2. The choice by trade and industry between these different means may be limited, or even removed, according to the nature of the products and hazards covered by the Directive.
3. National bodies authorized to issue marks or certificates of conformity shall be notified by each Member State to the Commission and to the other Member States.
1. The appropriate means of attestation will be established and expanded in the specific Directives taking into account the special requirements of their scope. It must be borne in mind that the certification bodies designated by the Member States for cases (a) and (b) will have to intervene in particular in the absence of standards and where the manufacturer does not observe standards (see Point V, paragraph 3).
2. The bodies referred to in paragraph 3 must carry out their duties according to recognized international practices and principles and especially in accordance with ISO Guides. The responsibility for the control of the operation of these bodies lies with the Member States. Questions concerning the carrying out of tests and certification may be put before the Committee set up under Point IX.
3. With regard to the manufacturer's declaration of conformity, the national authorities have the right to ask the manufacturer or the importer to communicate the data relating to the tests carried out concerning safety etc. when they have good grounds for believing that a product does not offer the degree of safety required in all respects. Refusal on the part of the manufacturer or the importer to communicate these data constitutes sufficient reason to doubt the presumption of conformity.
4. The determination of a limitative list of means of attestation only concerns the system of presumption of conformity but cannot have the effect of restricting the possibility for a member of the trade to prove, by any means he sees fit within the framework of a dispute or court proceedings, the conformity of the product with Points II and III.

IX. Standing Committee

A Standing Committee shall be set up chaired by a representative of the Commission and consisting of representatives appointed by the Member States who may avail themselves of the help of experts or advisers.

The Committee shall be convened by its Chairman either on his own initiative or at the request of a Member State.

The Committee shall draw up its own rules of procedure.

X. Tasks and operation of the Committee

1. The Committee shall carry out the tasks entrusted to it by virtue of the foregoing points.
2. Furthermore, any question regarding the implementation of a Directive may be submitted to the Committee.

The tasks of the Committee shall be concerned with the implementation of the Directive. The object of the consultation of the Committee prior to the publication of the references of the national standards is more to provide for a forum for the discussion of the objections which the Commission or a Member State may formulate, than to carry out a systematic examination of the entire contents of the standards.

Criteria for choosing the priority areas in which this approach
could initially be applied

1. The need to find a new approach to the harmonization of technical regulations, based on "general reference to standards" and following the lines described earlier, is the outcome of a number of conditions (outlined in the first part of this communication) backed up by the experience already acquired by the Community. Consequently it is a general principle, the validity of which will have to be assessed in practical terms in the various areas in which it will be applied.

The Council took a similar view in its "Conclusions" of 16 July 1984 when it confirmed the general need for an extension of the "general reference to standards" practice, but only provided the necessary conditions were fulfilled, i.e. as regards the obligation on public authorities to protect the health and safety of their citizens.

2. Before the priority areas in which this approach should initially be applied can be chosen, it is therefore necessary to establish a number of selection criteria to be taken into consideration, criteria which cannot be taken separately.

(a) Since the approach calls for the "essential requirements" to be harmonized and made mandatory by Directives based on Article 100 of the Treaty, the "general reference to standards" approach will be appropriate only where it is genuinely possible to distinguish between "essential requirements" and "manufacturing specifications". In other words, in all areas in which the essential requirements in the public interest are such that a large number of manufacturing specifications have to be included if the public authorities are to keep intact their responsibility for protection of their citizens, the conditions for the "general reference to standards" approach are not fulfilled as this approach would have little sense. In the light of this statement areas involving safety protection

certainly appear to have priority over those involving health protection (which applies to the scope of Directive 83/189).

- (b) If "general reference to standards" is to be possible, the area concerned must be covered by, or be capable of being covered by, standardization. Areas which are inherently ill-suited to standardization work are certainly the areas referred to in (a) above where the need for regulations is felt unanimously throughout the Community. In other areas there is a standardization capacity or potential and in the latter case the Community should encourage it in close co-operation with both the industry concerned and the European standards bodies, whilst ensuring that the interests of consumers are taken into account.
- (c) The progress of technical harmonization work in the Community under the general programme established by the Council Resolutions of 1969 and 1973 varies greatly from one industrial sector to another. In manufacturing industry (which appears at first sight better to fulfil the abovementioned criteria) most of the Directives adopted concern three areas: motor vehicles, metrology and electrical equipment.

The new approach will therefore have to take this state of affairs into account and concentrate mainly on other areas in which there is a lack of Community activities (e.g. many engineering products and building materials) without calling into question regulations that are already well advanced (for example those referring to motor vehicles). The case of electrical equipment is different: this is the only area to have been tackled by a Directive of the "general reference to standards" type and should certainly be included in the priority areas for all such products not yet covered, in view of the extremely important part played in this area by international and European standardization.

- (d) One of the main purposes of the new approach is to make it possible to settle at a stroke, with the adoption of a single Directive, all

the problems concerning regulations for a very large number of products, without the need for frequent amendments or adaptations to that Directive. Consequently in the selected areas there should be a wide range of products sufficiently homogeneous to allow common "essential requirements" to be defined. This general criterion is, however, based mainly on practical and labour-saving considerations. There is nothing to prevent a single type of product, in certain cases, from being covered by the "general reference to standards" formula if all the abovementioned criteria are met.

- (e) Finally mention should be made of one criterion that the Commission, in agreement with industry, has always regarded as essential. There must be grounds for considering that the existence of different regulations does in practice genuinely impede the free movement of goods. In some cases, however, even if these grounds are not obvious, a Directive may appear necessary to protect an essential public interest uniformly throughout the Community.
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EFTA

The Council adopted the common position on the draft Joint Committee Decisions modifying the amounts expressed in ECU in Article 8 of Protocol 3 concerning the definition of the concept of "originating products" and methods of administrative co-operation.

Relations with Algeria

The Council decided to sign the agreements in the form of exchanges of letters between the EEC and Algeria concerning:

- untreated olive oil;
 - preserved fruit salads;
 - tomato concentrates.
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PRESS RELEASE

6687/85 (Presse 63)

LIBRARY

1002nd meeting of the Council

- Agriculture -

Brussels, 13, 14, 15 and 16 May 1985

President: Mr Filippo Maria PANDOLFI,

Minister for Agriculture
of the Italian Republic

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Belgium:

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Mr Walther FLORIAN
State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Food,
Agriculture and Forestry

France:

Mr Henri NALLET
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Mr Marc FISCHBACH
Minister for Agriculture
and Viticulture

Mr René STEICHEN
State Secretary,
Ministry of Agriculture and
Viticulture

Netherlands:

Mr Gerrit BRAKS
Minister for Agriculture
and Fisheries

United Kingdom:

Mr Michael JOPLING
Minister for Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food

Mr John Mac GREGOR
Minister of State,
Ministry of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food

Commission:

Mr Frans H.J.J. ANDRIESEN
Vice-President

FIXING OF AGRICULTURAL PRICES 1985/1986

Following protracted discussions on all the problems arising in connection with the fixing of agricultural prices for the 1985/1986 marketing year, the Council reached a political agreement on all the sectors, with the exception of cereals and colza. This agreement, to which two delegations did not subscribe, will be followed by the formal adoption of the Regulations at the beginning of next week.

With regard to cereals and colza, the Council, in view of the fact that one delegation said that very important interests were at stake for it in this sphere, agreed to endeavour to find, within a reasonable period, solutions which could be adopted by all the members of the Council. In this regard, and in an endeavour to bring the whole matter to a conclusion, it agreed to continue its discussions on 11 and 12 June.

The main features of the agreement are set out below.

Furthermore, the Council decided to extend until 26 May inclusive the current marketing years for milk products, beef and veal, sheepmeat and goatmeat, dried fodder and cauliflowers.

MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS

- Prices

The increases in the target and intervention prices will apply as from the beginning of the 1985/1986 marketing year (May 1985), as follows:

- the target price for milk becomes 27,84 ECU/100 kg (+ 1,5%)
- the intervention price for butter becomes
313,20 ECU/100 kg (- 2%)
- the intervention price for skimmed-milk powder
174,04 ECU/100 kg (+ 4,9%)
- the intervention price for 30-day old Grana Padano becomes
388,93 ECU/100 kg (+ 1,9%)
- the intervention price for 6-month old Grana Padano becomes
480,33 ECU/100 kg (+ 1,6%)
- the intervention price for 6-month old Parmigiano-Reggiano becomes
529,19 ECU/100 kg (+ 1,5%)

In conjunction with these prices, the Council adjusted the threshold prices for imports of certain milk products and the conditions for importing certain cheeses and the special levy for imports into the Community of certain quantities of New Zealand butter.

- Related measures

Arrangements for the transfer of unused reference quantities are extended for a second 12-month period so that the Member States can make transfers within regions and from one region to another.

The existing reserve is fixed at 393 000 tonnes for the first two years of application.

The Council takes note of the Commission's intention to allocate this reserve on the basis of the figures for 1984. For Ireland, the quota figure is adjusted and is fixed at 58 000 tonnes for each of the first two years.

In order to permit transfers between reference quantities relating to direct sales and reference quantities concerning deliveries to dairies, provision is made in accordance with the Management Committee procedure for the quantities indicated to be amended on the basis of proper and duly justified statistical data, taking into account any structural changes which may affect deliveries to buyers and direct consumer sales..

By analogy, provision is made in accordance with the same procedure for the possibility of changing to direct sales quantities.

However, such changes may not lead for each Member State concerned to an increase in the total quantity relating to deliveries and concerning direct sales.

Furthermore, as regards the collection of the superlevy, provision is made for the provisional quarterly levies to be abolished and the final accounting to take place only after the end of each 12-month period.

However, the Council notes the Commission's intention of retaining the provisions stipulating that purchasers of milk must make a declaration of quantities in excess of the reference quantity. This current quarterly declaration might be made half-yearly.

In Member States which apply "formula A" for milk quota arrangements the new provisions will enable certain producer groups and associations thereof recognized under Regulation (EEC) No 1360/78 on producer groups and associations thereof to be regarded as "producers".

However, in this case, any levy the group or association may owe is set at 100% of the target price for milk.

As regards the taking into account of another reference calendar year for certain producers in certain specific cases, provision is made, for certain regions of the Community, for the application of these provisions to be deferred until the end of the third 12-month period (Italy).

Provided the overall guaranteed quantity for deliveries and the total quantity set for direct sales are not exceeded, the Member States are authorized, during the first two annual periods of application of the additional levy arrangements, to use the levies collected to finance compensation paid out for giving up milk production for good.

The Council notes that the Commission intends to submit to it before 1 November 1985 a proposal designed to introduce Community arrangements for premiums for the cessation of milk deliveries.

The Member States are authorized to grant national aid for butter consumption until the end of the 1987/1988 marketing year.

The transfer to Greece of 7 000 tonnes of skimmed-milk powder from the intervention stock held in Germany is authorized in the 1985/1986 marketing year.

The disposal of the additional quantities resulting from some of these measures will be financed by an increase in the amounts set aside for disposing of milk surpluses in the funds accruing from the co-responsibility levy.

Milk substitutes

The Council asks the Commission to examine the problem resulting from the freedom to develop certain milk substitutes while milk production is subject to quotas and to submit to it any appropriate additional proposals so that it can take a decision before 1 April 1986.

Co-responsibility levy

The Council agrees to reduce the "normal" co-responsibility levy rate from 3 to 2% as from 1 April 1985 in view of the reduction in the total Community reference quantity by 1 million tonnes which had exceptionally been granted during the first 12-month period.

Time limit for payment

The Commission states that it intends to reduce the time limit for intervention payment for butter from 120 to 90 days for the 1985/1986 marketing year.

The Member States have the option of reducing the time limit from 90 to 60 days for intervention deliveries by small butter producers.

BEEF AND VEAL

For the 1985/1986 marketing year the guide price and the intervention price for adult bovine animals will be maintained at their present level (respectively 205,02 ECU for 100 g kg live weight and 184,52 ECU for 100 kg live weight).

The variable slaughter premium arrangements in the United Kingdom are extended until 6 April 1986.

The calving premium arrangements in Greece, Italy, Ireland and Northern Ireland are extended until 6 April 1986 on the understanding that the unit amount for this premium to be borne by the EAGGF is set at 9 ECU. Italy is authorized to pay a national supplement with the proviso that the aggregate amounts of premiums payable do not exceed the total for the 1984/1985 marketing year (32 ECU).

The Council takes note of the Commission's intention of setting the buying-in prices applicable for category U2 during the second year of transition to full application of the grading scale for carcasses, having regard to the particular problems arising for "Vitelloni" in this category in Italy.

SHEEPMEAT

Prices

Save as otherwise provided by the Council, acting by a qualified majority on a proposal from the Commission, the marketing year begins on the first Monday in January and ends on the eve of that day the following year, this provision being applicable as from 6 January 1986.

The Council decided:

- to maintain the price at its present level for the 1985 marketing year;
- to increase the price by 1% for the 1986 marketing year.

Consequently:

- the basic price is fixed at 432,32 ECU/100 kg carcass weight;
- the intervention price is fixed at 367,47 ECU/100 kg carcass weight;
- the derived intervention price applicable in region 4 is fixed at 347,66 ECU/100 kg carcass weight;

The basic and intervention prices for the 1985 and 1986 marketing years are seasonally adjusted.

Related measures

Before 31 October 1985 the Council will decide to extend, as from the 1986 marketing year, the producer premium arrangements:

- to goats, the eligibility of which will be defined in accordance with criteria based on geographical restrictions;

- to certain mountain breeds of ewes, raised in well-defined regions, which are not covered by the present definition of eligible ewes.

To this end, the Commission will submit before 31 July 1985 amendments to its proposals for Regulations amending Regulations (EEC) No 1837/80 and (EEC) No 872/84.

The Commission states its intention, as from 1 October 1985, of excluding ewes from the grant of the variable slaughter premium in Regulation (EEC) No 1837/80 unless in the meantime a satisfactory solution has been found to remedy the adverse effects of this grant on the markets of the other Member States. The Commission undertakes to make every effort to achieve this solution.

The Council notes that the Commission intends to continue, as a transitional measure, to exempt products exported from Great Britain to third countries from clawback until the end of the 1987 marketing year.

PIGMEAT

For the 1985/1986 marketing year the basic price for pig carcasses will be maintained at the same level as for the 1984/1985 marketing year, i.e. 2033,30 ECU/tonne.

Furthermore, the Council takes note of a Commission statement that it will endeavour to manage the pigmeat market by means of the instruments available under the market organization so as to ensure a fair ratio between the basic price and the market price, and to do so having regard to regional disparities.

The Commission will consider the possibility of supporting the market by regionalized private storage aid and will if need be, propose the necessary legislative modifications to the Council.

Rationalization of slaughterhouses

In view of the particularly serious situation in this sector, particularly in Belgium, the Council agrees to provide for a common measure to rationalize slaughterhouses and asks the Commission to submit the necessary proposals by 1 October 1985 so that a decision may be taken by the end of 1985.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

The Council approved the following variations in the prices of fresh fruit and vegetables compared with 1984/1985:

Cauliflowers and aubergines :	+ 1%
Pears, apples, grapes :	0%
Peaches, apricots :	- 1,5%
Oranges, mandarins :	- 3%
Tomatoes, lemons :	- 3%

In accordance with the Act of Accession, the adjustments are as follows for Greece: peaches + 4,0%; oranges + 3,7%; mandarins + 0,8%; tomatoes (unchanged) + 0,5%.

Morello cherries

The Commission, in co-operation with the Member States, will take pains to ensure that the Agreements concluded with Yugoslavia concerning morello cherries from Yugoslavia, fresh, frozen, preserved in their natural state or in syrup, will be applied strictly. It will not fail to use all the requisite means to obtain the desired result.

Processing of lemons

Processing aid will continue to be paid in the 1985/1986 marketing year in accordance with the provisions in force in 1984/1985.

However, Regulation (EEC) No 1035/77 is amended so as to harmonize the conditions for the grant of financial compensation between the various Community processors, viz.:

- payment for 85% of the quantities processed;
- payment for quantities in excess of 85% provided their sale outside Italy is substantiated.

As from the 1986/1987 marketing year, this percentage will be reviewed on the basis of the proportion of Italian production estimated to have been sold outside Italy, unless imports of lemon juice into Italy have been liberalized. In that case the aid will be granted for the entire production.

The new method of calculating the minimum price to be paid by the industry is adopted. This price is calculated on the basis of the buying-in-price for Quality Class II plus 5% of the basic price (currently: Class III plus 15%).

Processing of oranges

The Commission stated its intention of adopting the necessary measures to enable processing aid to be paid in instalments instead of in a single payment at the end of the marketing year.

Reinforcement of supervision

The Council approved a Regulation introducing Community supervision of compliance with Community quality standards for fresh and processed fruit and vegetables and supervision of the recording of prices on representative markets and prices of imported products.

Adjustment coefficients to be applied in calculating the withdrawal price

The Commission stated its intention of continuing, on the basis of the information to be submitted by the Member States, to make the price comparisons needed for the fixing of these coefficients and to amend them in the light of the outcome of the comparisons.

Nectarines

The Commission undertook to examine in detail the problems raised by some Member States with respect to market support for nectarines and to make any appropriate proposals.

Processed tomato products

Quantitative limits for each Member State are to be set in accordance with the Commission proposal, subject to the technical amendments made during discussions in the Council Working Party. Within those limits, the normal aid will be granted.

In addition, Member States may adopt voluntary restraint measures, e.g. by way of inter-trade agreements. In that event, quantities per undertaking under the breakdown of those quantitative limits may be exceeded by up to 20%, with the aid granted to each undertaking for the marketing year being reduced in proportion to the excess. No aid is to be granted for quantities produced in excess of this additional 20%.

Quantities produced within the 20% will not be counted for the purposes of calculating the overshoot of the Community guarantee threshold.

Quantities set for "peeled tomatoes" may be transferred to the other products within the 20% limit.

The Commission will make proposals to increase the quantitative limits set insofar as is warranted by possibilities of disposing of the products in question.

The Council noted with approval the Commission's intention to consider with the necessary flexibility the possibility, for a period limited to the first year of application of the arrangements regarding quantitative limits, of exceeding the limits in question, taking account of the delay in implementing the new rules and in the light of outlets for the products on the market.

TEXTILE FIBRES

Cotton

The Council agreed to the following prices:

- Guide price : 96,02 ECU/100 kg (+ 2%)
- Minimum price: 91,23 ECU/100 kg (+ 2%)

Furthermore, the quantity of unginmed cotton for which full aid is granted is set at 567 000 tonnes.

Flax and hemp

The Council agreed to the following aids:

- aid for flax : 355,09 ECU/ha (+ 1%)
- aid for hemp : 322,48 ECU/ha (+ 1%)
- aid kept back : ECU/ha (\pm 7%)
for flax promotion :

Silkworms

The Council agreed to an aid of 108,67 ECU/box (+ 1%).

RICE

The Council agreed to maintain the intervention price of rice at its present level and to increase the target price by 1,6%.

SUNFLOWER SEEDS

For the 1985/1986 marketing year, the target and intervention prices for sunflower seeds are fixed as follows:

target price	57,35 ECU/100 kg (- 1,5%)
intervention price	52,47 ECU/100 kg (-1,5%)

The monthly increases in the target and intervention prices of sunflower seeds are fixed at 0,615 ECU per 100 kilograms.

These increases are to be applied for six months, from the beginning of the third month of the marketing year.

SOYA BEANS

For the 1985/1986 marketing year, the guide and minimum prices for soya beans are fixed as follows:

guide price	57,58 ECU/100 kg (+ 1%)
minimum price	50,67 ECU/100 kg (+ 1%).

PEAS AND FIELD BEANS

The Council agreed to the setting up of arrangements for 6 monthly increases for peas and field beans (September to February). They are to apply to the activating price, the guide price and the minimum price.

The prices are fixed as follows:

- activating price: 50,64 ECU/100 kg
- guide price: 32,48 ECU/100 kg
- minimum price for peas: 28,35 ECU/100 kg
- minimum price for field beans: 27,35 ECU/100 kg.

For sweet lupins, the prices are fixed as follows:

- activating price: 48,25 ECU/100 kg
- minimum price: 31,79 ECU/100 kg.

SEEDS

The Council agreed to maintain the aids for 1986/1987 and 1987/1988 at the same levels as for the current marketing year. Furthermore, the Commission undertook to re-examine the market situation of the species "Trifolium repense" (Treflium) with a view to a possible increase in aid for the 1987/1988 marketing year.

For the 1984/1985 and 1985/1986 marketing years no aid is to be fixed for the species Vicia Faba (field beans) and Pisum Sativum (field peas), and the Commission will also examine what effects this will have on these species.

DRIED FODDER

The Council agreed to an increase of 1% in the flat-rate aid and the guide price in this sector.

Dried potatoes

For the 1985/1986 marketing year, the fixed-rate aid for dried potatoes is fixed at the same level applied for the 1983/1984 marketing year (15,78 ECU/tonne).

TOBACCO

The norm prices and premiums are fixed as follows as compared with 1984:

Variety	Norm Price	Premium
Forchheimer Havanna, Beneventano Mavra, Tsebelia	- 2,50 ₰	- 4 ₰
Badischer Geudertheimer, Paraguay, Nijkerk, Missionero, Round-Tip; Xanti-Yaka, Perustitza, Erzegovina, Kaba Koulak (non classic)	- 1 ₰	- 1 ₰
Badischer Burley, Virgin D, Bright, Burley I, Burley GR, Maryland, Virginia GR, Basma Katerini, Kaba Koulak (classic), Zychomyrodata, Myrodäta Agrinion et Kentucky	0 ₰	+ 1 ₰

The intervention price is fixed at a level equal to 85% of the corresponding norm price.

CURRENTS

The Council adopted a Regulation which fixes at 3% for the 1985/1986 marketing year the reduction to be applied to the minimum price to be paid to currant producers on the basis of the level by which the guarantee threshold is exceeded.

OLIVE OIL

For the 1985/1986 marketing year, the Council decided to fix the production target price, the production aid and the intervention price for olive oil at the following levels:

- (a) production target price: 322,56 ECU/100 kg
- (b) production aid : 70,95 ECU/100 kg
- (c) intervention price : 227,62 ECU/100 kg

SUGAR

The main prices are fixed as follows:

- basic price for sugar beet: 40,89 ECU/tonne
- target price of white sugar: 57,03 ECU/100 kg
- intervention price for white sugar: 54,18 ECU/100 kg

Moreover, the Council decided to suspend for 1985/1986 the phased reduction in national aid authorized for the Northern part of Italy.

Arrangements for starch

The Council takes note of the undertaking by the Commission to submit the proposal on the new sugar production arrangements as soon as possible and promises to examine, at the earliest opportunity, this proposal and those already submitted on the industrial use of starch, sugar and isoglucose with a view to their simultaneous adoption.

The Council agrees to have the new starch products arrangements enter into force from 1 August 1986 on the basis of the proposal which the Commission has promised to submit shortly.

For the 1985/1986 marketing year:

- the minimum price for potato starch to be paid to potato producers will be reduced by an amount corresponding to the average reduction in the threshold price for maize as a result of the decisions on prices for the 1985/1986 marketing year,
- The special starch manufacture premium will be maintained at the current level of 18,7 ECU per tonne of starch.
- The production refunds for maize, wheat, broken rice and starch will be maintained at their current levels.

WINE

In view of the current and foreseeable situation in the wine sector, the Council decided to freeze guide prices for all types of table wine at the price level for the 1984/1985 marketing year.

At the request of some producer Member States (France, Italy, Greece) it was agreed that short-term private storage aid for wine and must can be granted at national expense.

OVERALL POLICY

The Commission will take all necessary measures in the management of agricultural markets so that no supplementary and amending budget will be necessary for 1985.

AGRI-MONETARY MEASURES

The Council approved the following amendments as regards negative MCAs:

FF : doing away altogether with the monetary gap for milk, as is already the case for pigmeat and wine
reduction as far as the neutral margin for the other products

Drachma: doing away altogether with the monetary gap on the basis of trends recorded in the week of 8 to 14 May

Lit : doing away altogether with the monetary gap on the basis of trends recorded in the week 8 to 14 May

resulting in the following rates applicable at the beginning of the marketing year:

	Products	New representative rate	New MCA	Effect on prices
FF	: milk	7 10590	0	+ 2,4%
	pigmeat and wine	7 10590 (unchanged)	0	0
	other	7 00089	0	+ 1,9%
Drachma:	all	102,345	0	+ 13,1%
Lit	: all	1482,00	0	+ 3,5%

The rate of 1 ECU = 8,41499 Danish Kroner which was to enter into force on 1 July 1986 in the seeds sector will now enter into force on 1 July 1985. From that date and in this sector: 1 ECU = 46,4118 BF.

The Council undertakes to abolish the neutral margin for negative MCAs not later than when the prices for the 1986/1987 marketing year are being fixed.

Moreover, the Council decided to delete Article 4(1) of Regulation 974/71. It agreed to adopt the agri-monetary coding system submitted to it; this deletion will be made from it before 1 July 1985.

The Council took note of the Commission's intention to calculate MCAs for common wheat and derived products on the basis of the intervention price as from the 1985/1986 marketing year.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Further agricultural decision

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 355/77 on common measures to improve the conditions under which agricultural products and fishery products are processed and marketed. The purpose of this amendment is to extend until 30 April 1985 the transitional period laid down by Regulation to allow the Community to make a financial contribution to the projects submitted.

Export credits

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision amending the Decision of 4 April 1978 on the application of certain guidelines in the field of officially supported export credits. The purpose of these amendments is the application within the Community of the Agreement reached within the OECD on 11 and 12 April 1985 on a number of measures in the area of tied-aid credits.

Commercial policy and customs union

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation amending the definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of certain ballbearings originating in Japan and exported by Nippon Seiko KK and others (correction of a calculating error).

The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulations opening, allocating and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas for

- sweet clear-fleshed cherries marinated in alcohol and intended for the manufacture of chocolate products, falling within subheading ex 20.06 B I e) 2 bb) of the Common Customs Tariff (from 1.7. to 31.12 suspension of the CCT at 10% for 1 500 tonnes);
- yarn of poly (p-phenyleneterephthalamide), for use in the manufacture of tyres or of products used in the manufacture of tyres, falling within subheading ex 51.01 A of the Common Customs Tariff (from 1.7. to 31.12 suspension of the CCT at 2% for 600 tonnes).

Appointment

On a proposal from the Luxembourg Government, the Council appointed Mr René BLESER, a Member of the Comité National de la Confédération Générale du Travail, as a Member of the Economic and Social Committee in place of Mr Jeannot SCHNEIDER, Member, who has resigned, for the remainder of his term of office, which runs until 20 September 1986.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

6816/85 (Presse 69)

1003rd Council meeting

- Foreign Affairs -

Brussels, 20 May 1985

President: Mr Giulio ANDREOTTI

Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Italian Republic

LIBRARY

Luxembourg:

Mr Jacques F. POOS 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 Malcolm RIFKIND Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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Commission:

Mr Lorenzo NATALI Vice-President

Lord COCKFIELD Vice-President

Mr Willy de CLERCQ Member

Mr Carlo RIPA DI MEANA Member

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SPANISH/PORTUGUESE ACCESSION

The Council heard a report from the Chairman of the Permanent Representatives Committee on the last remaining questions under discussion with regard to the accession of Spain and Portugal.

It noted that as far as Portugal was concerned negotiations were practically concluded. In the case of Spain, it instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to resolve the few remaining questions speedily.

The Council also noted the progress of work on the drafting of the Accession Treaty.

In agreement with both applicant countries, the Council decided that the Accession Treaty would be signed in Lisbon and Madrid on 12 June.

YUGOSLAVIA

The Council agreed to resume examination of the question of renewing the EEC-Yugoslavia Financial Protocol at its next meeting.

That meeting will also be the occasion of the third ministerial meeting of the Co-operation Council with Yugoslavia.

RELATIONS WITH THE USA IN THE STEEL SECTOR

- COUNCIL DECLARATION

In its Declaration of 26 March 1985, the Council asked the Commission to resume immediately the consultations on "short supply" provided for in the Pipes and Tubes Arrangement, recalling that the correct application of the "short supply" clause was one of the basic factors which led the Community to accept the Arrangement. It also asked the Commission to continue talks with the US Administration to obtain full compliance with the Arrangements.

The Council has noted the information given to it by the Commission on its recent discussions with the United States. It agrees with the Commission that the position taken by the US Administration does not correspond either with the spirit or the letter of the Arrangements concluded between the Community and the United States.

The Council addresses itself urgently to the Government of the United States so that satisfactory solutions can be found between the two parties as soon as possible.

The Council notes, with concern, that the problems which led to its Declaration of 26 March last still exist and in these circumstances it can only reiterate the conclusions of that Declaration.

RELATIONS WITH THE EFTA COUNTRIES

The Council heard a statement by the Commission introducing the communication it had just submitted to the Council on the programme of work envisaged for developing relations with the EFTA countries in the context of implementation of the Luxembourg declaration of 9 April 1984.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REPORT FROM THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON A PEOPLE'S EUROPE

The Council noted the appeals from the Presidency and the Commission to stimulate and step up proceedings so that tangible results could be achieved in implementing the report from the ad hoc Committee on a People's Europe, particularly with regard to facilitating border crossings, right of establishment, duty-free allowances and generalized right of residence.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Customs union

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities Regulations temporarily suspending Common Customs Tariff duties on

- certain monolithic integrated circuits falling within subheading ex 85.21 D II
- certain products intended for use in the construction, maintenance and repair of aircraft
- certain agricultural products.

TEXTILES

The Council decided to sign the agreements on trade in textile products with Haiti, Peru, Uruguay, Guatemala, Colombia, Mexico and Brazil and at the same time adopted the Regulations on the conclusion of the said Agreements.

PRESS RELEASE

6818/85 (Presse 71)

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1004th meeting of the Council

- Consumer Protection -

Brussels, 21 May 1985

President: Mr Nicola Maria SANESE,

State Secretary,
Ministry of Industry,
Trade and Craft Trades
of the Italian Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr Mark EYSKENS
Minister for Economic Affairs

Germany:

Mr Klaus KINKEL
State Secretary to the Federal
Minister for Justice

France:

Mrs Catherine LALUMIERE
State Secretary to the Minister
for Foreign Relations with
responsibility for European Affairs

Italy:

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

Netherlands:

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

Denmark:

Mr Ib STETTER
Minister for Industry

Greece:

Mr Elias LYMBEROPOULOS
Deputy Permanent Representative

Ireland:

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

Luxembourg:

Mr Johny LAHURE
State Secretary, Economic Affairs

United Kingdom:

Lord Lucas of Chilworth
Secretary of State
For Trade and Industry

Commission:

Lord COCKFIELD
Vice-President

Mr Stanley Clinton DAVIS
Member

LIABILITY FOR DEFECTIVE PRODUCTS

The Council made substantial progress on this file, and arrived at agreement on a number of important questions of principle concerning the amended proposal for a Council Directive on harmonization in the area of liability for defective products.

The discussions were based on an overall compromise proposal by the Presidency which was fully supported by the Commission and which a large number of delegations, in a spirit of compromise, found acceptable, acknowledging that it would be politically necessary to reach agreement in the near future and thus make a first step in this area of utmost importance for consumer protection.

Those Member States which still had certain problems with one or other point of the Presidency's proposal were requested to finalize their positions on this proposal within three weeks, bearing in mind the repercussions that any refusal might have on the fate of this Directive.

DOORSTEP SELLING

The Council noted that one delegation was as yet unable to agree to the proposal for a Council Directive to protect the consumer in respect of contracts negotiated away from business premises (doorstep selling). It was agreed to return to this question at a later meeting.

COMMUNITY SYSTEM OF INFORMATION ON ACCIDENTS IN WHICH CONSUMER
PRODUCTS ARE INVOLVED

The Council embarked on an examination of the proposal for a Decision introducing a Community system of information on accidents in which consumer products are involved.

The aim of the proposed system is to collect data on accidents involving consumer products (with the exception of road accidents and accidents at work), in order to step up the prevention of such accidents and improve the safety of products and the information and awareness of the consumer. The proposal follows on from the pilot scheme which took place in this area and came to an end on 30 June 1984.

At the end of its discussions, the Council noted that all delegations were able to subscribe to the principles underlying the Commission proposal and that views were largely convergent on several aspects of the method recommended by the Commission. It instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to press ahead with its examination of the proposal in the light of the comments made, so that a positive decision might be taken in the near future.

CONSUMER CREDIT

The Council held a policy debate on the amended proposal for a Directive relating to the approximation of the laws concerning consumer credit. This proposal is designed to ensure that consumers are better informed and protected in this area.

At the close of its discussion, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its work on this proposal, concentrating first of all on certain priority aspects, with a view to enabling a Community instrument for the protection of the consumer in this area to be adopted at an early date.

PRESS RELEASE

6820/85 (Presse 73)

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1005th meeting of the Council
- Budget -

Brussels, 22 May 1985
President: Mr Carlo FRACANZANI,
State Secretary,
Ministry of the Treasury
of the Italian Republic

PRESS RELEASE
LIBRARY

Brussels, 23 May 1985 (24.05)
(OR.f)

6820/85 (Presse 73) COR 1

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C O R R I G E N D U M

to Press Release
6820/85 (Presse 73)
- Budget -
of 22 May 1985

The following should be added to the list of members of the
European Parliament delegation on page 3, first paragraph:

"Mr AIGNER, Chairman of the Committee on Budgetary Control".

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 Knud-Erik TYGESEN
State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Germany:

Mr Hans TIETMEYER
State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Finance

Greece:

Mr Théodoros PANGALOS
State Secretary,
European Economic Community
Affairs

France:

Mr Henri EMMANUELLI
State Secretary with
responsibility for the
Budget

Ireland:

Mr Jim O'KEEFE
Minister of State,
Department of Foreign Affairs

Italy:

Mr Carlo FRACANZANI
State Secretary,
Ministry of the Treasury

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean-Claude JUNCKER
Minister attached to the
Department of Finance, with
responsibility for the Budget

Netherlands:

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

United Kingdom:

Mr Ian STEWART
Economic Secretary
to the Treasury

Commission:

Mr Henning CHRISTOPHERSEN
Vice-President

MEETING WITH A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT DELEGATION

Before commencing the second reading of the draft budget for 1985 as amended and modified by the European Parliament on 9 May 1985, the Council held a meeting with a European Parliament delegation led by the President of the European Parliament, Mr Pierre PFLIMLIN. This delegation also comprised: Mr COT, Chairman of the Committee on Budgets, Mr RYAN, 1st Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Budgets, Mrs BARBARELLA, 3rd Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Budgets, Mr FICH, Rapporteur of the Committee on Budgets, and Mrs SCRIVENER, Mr PASTY, Mr d'ORMESSON, Mr BONDE and Mr ARNDT, Members of the Committee on Budgets.

This meeting enabled the European Parliament delegation to state the reasoning behind the amendments and proposed modifications which it had made to the general budget for 1985 and allowed the Members of the Council to give the European Parliament their views on the matter.

At the end of the exchange of views the President of the Council stated that the Council would proceed immediately to discuss the Parliament's amendments and proposed modifications to the draft budget, taking into account the views stated at that meeting.

DRAFT BUDGET FOR 1985

Having discussed in detail the draft budget as amended and modified by the European Parliament during its first reading, the Council adopted a position on the amendments and proposed modifications passed by the Parliament on 9 May.

The Council agreed to accept increases in non-compulsory expenditure, as against the draft budget, of 351 MECU in commitment appropriations and 237 MECU in payment appropriations. The commitment appropriations total thus rises to 30 556 MECU and the payment appropriations figure to 28 399 MECU.

In line with the programme drawn up by the European Council in Dublin, the Council decided on a total increase in food aid of 116 MECU. This increase, which is divided between CE and NCE, brings the total in the Food Aid Chapter to the level decided on by the Parliament.

The Council decided on an additional sum of 50 MECU in commitment appropriations for the Integrated Mediterranean Programmes (IMPs), thus increasing the total funds earmarked for this operation to 120 MECU in commitment appropriations. This measure is in line with the undertaking given by the European Council on 29 and 30 March 1985 to make 2 thousand MECU available to Greece for a 7-year period under the Integrated Mediterranean Programmes.

With regard to the matter raised by the European Parliament of Community aid to the private agricultural sector in Poland, the Council agreed to open a new budget heading, with a token entry for the time being, and to approve any transfer of appropriations on a proposal from the Commission following a Council decision on this measure.

As regards the Social and Regional Funds, the Council's decisions involve sums in commitment appropriations over and above what was requested by the Commission, viz. an excess of 19,9 MECU for the ERDF and of 40 MECU for the European Social Fund.

In relation, likewise, to its first reading, the Council agreed to enter up to 60 MECU of additional appropriations in commitment appropriations and up to 14 MECU in payment appropriations for transport infrastructure projects.

The increase in budgetary resources involves, for non-associated developing countries, 30 MECU in commitment appropriations, 12 MECU in payment appropriations and, for the "Energy and Research" Title, 78 MECU in commitment and 45,3 MECU in payment appropriations.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

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6880/85 (Presse 76)

1006th meeting of the Council

- Transport -

Brussels, 23 May 1985

President: Mr Claudio SIGNORILE

Minister for Transport
of the Italian 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,
Post and Telecommunications

Denmark:

Mr Arne MELCHIOR
Minister for Public Works

Mr J.L. HALCK
State Secretary,
Ministry of Public Works

Germany:

Mr Werner DOLLINGER
Federal Minister for Transport

Greece:

Mr Ioannis PAPADONIKOLAKIS
Minister for Transport

France:

Mr Jean AUROUX
State Secretary attached to the
Minister for Town Planning,
Housing and Transport, responsible
for Transport

Ireland:

Mr Jim Mitchell
Minister for Communications

Italy:

Mr Claudio SIGNORILE
Minister for Transport

Luxembourg:

Mr Marcel SCHLECHTER
Minister for Transport, Public Works
and Energy

Netherlands:

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

United Kingdom:

Mr Nicholas RIDLEY
Secretary of State for Transport

Commission:

Mr Stanley Clinton DAVIS
Member

JUDGMENT OF THE COURT OF 22 MAY 1985

The Council took note of the Court judgment. It regarded this judgment as very important and as providing an impetus for progress in the development of the common transport policy.

Since the judgment was issued on the day before its meeting, the Council confined itself to an initial exchange of views, after which it decided to hold an additional meeting next month to take the necessary action to comply with the judgment.

This meeting will be preceded by detailed preparatory discussions by the Permanent Representatives Committee to identify the decisions to be taken and establish how far preparatory work has advanced. At this June meeting the Council will take whatever decisions it deems necessary to organize its work and ensure that the Court judgment is put into effect as swiftly as possible.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE COMMON TRANSPORT POLICY

The Council held a debate on a Community Transport Master Plan. This debate was conducted within the framework of the conclusions of the European Council meetings in 1984 with regard to the transport sector.

The Council reaffirmed its desire to develop the common transport policy further, in keeping with the obligations under the Treaty.

It considered that transport problems should be seen in an economic and social context.

In this context, it welcomed with interest, inter alia, the draft submitted to it by the Presidency concerning the preparation of a common transport policy Master Plan.

Having taken note of the judgment of the Court of Justice of 22 May 1985 on the proceedings for failure to act brought by the European Parliament, it instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine the implications of that judgment in greater detail and to take them into account in examining the elaboration of the common transport policy Master Plan. It asked the Permanent Representatives Committee to submit a report to it for its next meeting on 24 June 1985.

REVISION OF SOCIAL LEGISLATION RELATING TO ROAD TRANSPORT

The Council carried out a preliminary examination of the Commission proposal revising social legislation relating to road transport. Following this examination it noted that positions had moved somewhat closer together.

The Council felt that the progress made today could serve as a basis for a final compromise. It asked the Permanent Representatives Committee to prepare such a compromise so that a decision could be taken at the next Council meeting.

MEDIUM-TERM TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE POLICY

The Council noted that there were still a number of reservations regarding the proposal for a Resolution concerning further discussions on transport infrastructure policy. It therefore asked the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue work on this matter.

RELATIONS WITH AUSTRIA

Taking into account the memorandum from the Austrian Government dated 23 April 1985, the Council finalized new directives for negotiations between the EEC and the Republic of Austria in the transport sector.

MARITIME TRANSPORT

The Council took due note of the Commission communication entitled "Progress towards a common transport policy - Maritime transport" and agreed to examine it at a forthcoming meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Agriculture

* The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulations and Decision on the fixing of prices for certain agricultural products and certain related measures (1985-1986). See Press Release 6687/85 (Presse 63) of 13, 14, 15 and 16 May 1985.

Relations with the Mediterranean countries

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a series of Regulations concerning Community tariff quotas for products originating in certain Mediterranean countries and Spain and Portugal: Morocco (wines of designated origin), Turkey (apricot pulp), Spain (sherry, Malaga, Jumilla, Priorato, Rioja and Valdepenas wines), Portugal (vinho verde, Dão, Port, madeira and Setubal muscatel).

The Council also authorized the Commission to negotiate an agreement in the form of an exchange of letters with Portugal concerning tomato concentrates.

ECSC

The Council gave its assent, under Article 55(2)(c) of the ECSC Treaty, concerning the implementation and execution of a coal research programme (financial year 1985).

Appointment

On a proposal from the German Government, the Council appointed Mr Michael GEUENICH a member of the Economic and Social Committee to replace Mr Alois PFEIFFER, member who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which runs until 20 September 1986.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

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6881/85 (Presse 77)

1007th meeting of the Council

- Development Co-operation -

Brussels, 23 May 1985

President: Mr Mario FIORET
State Secretary
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Italian Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr François-Xavier DE DONNEA
State Secretary,
Development Co-operation

Denmark:

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

Germany:

Mr Volkmar KOHLER
State Secretary,
Federal Ministry for
Development Co-operation

Greece:

Mr Théodoros PANGALOS
State Secretary for
European Economic
Community Affairs

France:

Mr Christian NUCCI
Minister attached to the
Minister for Foreign Relations,
responsible for Co-operation
and Development

Ireland:

Mr James O'KEEFFE
Minister of State,
Department of Foreign Affairs

Italy:

Mr Mario FIORET
State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Luxembourg:

Mr Joseph WEYLAND
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

Netherlands:

Mr M.H.J.C. RUTTEN
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

United Kingdom:

Mr Timothy RAISON
Minister for
Overseas Development

Commission:

Mr Lorenzo NATALI
Vice-President

Mr Claude CHEYSSON
Member

FAMINE IN AFRICA

The Council devoted the bulk of its discussions to the famine still raging in certain African countries.

It heard a report from Mr NATALI on the implementation of the plan adopted by the European Council in Dublin in December 1984. Following a detailed examination, it adopted the following conclusions as a guideline for the Community's future action:

THE COUNCIL,

aware of the very serious and continuing famine in Africa affecting millions of human beings,

I. EMERGENCY MEASURES

- notes the exceptional major efforts of the Community and the Member States following the deliberations of the European Council in Dublin to tackle this situation; it congratulates the Commission on its efforts and will give it full support in the future;
- notes, on the basis of the data available, which must be constantly updated in the light of information from all the appropriate sources, that the commitments entered into by the international community have equalled or even exceeded the volume of present estimated worldwide food requirements for the period between the 1984 harvest and the 1985 harvest;
- takes note that around 40% of the emergency aid decided on in Dublin for the worst-affected countries has already reached the recipients on the ground and that 25% is on its way;

- considers, however, that care should be taken to ensure that the promised aid is mobilized and transported to Africa in a co-ordinated and synchronized way so that it reaches recipients under the best conditions;
- notes, in this context, that it has been possible to speed up the procedures for mobilizing aid, but considers that further progress should be made and notes that a working party has been set up within the Commission for this purpose;
- observes that the situation is less satisfactory as regards the distribution of aid to the various recipient countries and considers that efforts, more particularly with regard to unloading and transport within these countries, must be made by donors so that distribution may be effected in good time, particularly as the approaching rainy season may cause serious difficulties;
- urges the Governments of the assisted countries to do everything possible for food aid and emergency aid to be sent to all the regions affected and benefit the entire population concerned;

- notes that co-ordination between the Commission and the Member States on the one hand and the other donors on the other hand is proceeding in an efficient manner, and that a further co-ordination meeting between the Commission and the Member States will be held in the near future,

- recalls the conclusions it reached at its meeting on 6 November 1984 when adopting a plan to combat the effects of an exceptional drought in the Sahel comprising practical measures regarding the detection of critical situations, the evaluation of requirements, programming, decision-making and the implementation of aid,

- considers that early-warning machinery and procedures must be developed further to avoid being caught unawares by comparable phenomena in the future,

- notes that a significant effort is still required as regards non-food aid, particularly in the health sector, where the situation has worsened noticeably at the same time as malnutrition has increased.

II. MEDIUM AND LONG-TERM MEASURES

(a)

- recalls that the Community has committed itself to supporting the efforts being made by the States concerned in the fields of rural development, securing the food supply of the population, and restoring and enhancing agricultural potential,

- points out that, in recent years, this commitment has been reflected, in the campaign against hunger in the world, in co-ordinated measures to support the food strategies and policies of several countries and in specific projects concerning, notably, the fight against desertification, and points out that the Third ACP-EEC Lomé Convention now makes provision for various means for enabling support for the efforts made by ACP States to be intensified and made systematic.

(b)

- notes that, in this context, Community food aid, like emergency aid, whenever at all possible, is linked increasingly closely with the food strategies and policies of the recipient countries and consequently with their development policies.

(c)

- stresses its concern that, in certain African States, drought and the encroachment of the desert are inhibiting all efforts at development and in particular the priority objective of food self-sufficiency and security, and observes that the gradual destruction of the tropical forest in other regions also gives ground for concern,
- notes the link between the demographic situation and the ecological balance in the regions concerned,
- notes the work being carried out by experts on the fundamental matter of afforestation,
- sincerely hopes that the use of the instruments available in particular under the new Lomé Convention will be programmed at national and regional level in such a way as to ensure - taking into account the aid also being provided by the Member States and from other sources the critical mass essential for an effective approach to combating hunger in Africa.

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- The Council concludes that success will depend on efforts being continued for a long period to come, and agrees to keep all aspects of this question on its agenda.

COMPARISON OF THE COST-EFFECTIVENES OF THE VARIOUS PRODUCTS
SUPPLIED BY THE COMMUNITY AS FOOD AID

In order to help the Council better evaluate the effectiveness of the various products used as food aid, the Commission submitted to it a major comparative study on the cost-effectiveness of the various products supplied by the Community as food aid.

On the basis of this study, the Council adopted the following preliminary conclusions:

I

The Development Council had requested an assessment of the "usefulness, cost and specific difficulties" involved for the products distributed in the framework of Community food aid, with a view to continuing the process of better integrating this aid into development policy.

The study which the Commission submitted to this end follows on from the Development Council Resolution of 15 November 1983 on Food Aid for Development. Very thorough on certain aspects, it enabled conclusions to be drawn which should help in defining the range of Community products on the basis of their characteristics. One general point to emerge from the discussion was the concept of "economic cost", to be added to the other factors considered in assessing the usefulness of products as food aid.

It should be stated that these conclusions, which do not cover all the aspects of the matter, are not aimed at establishing a rigid hierarchy between the products intended for aid but only at drawing attention to the special features (advantages or disadvantages) brought to light by the examination. The usefulness of products may be measured in terms of direct nutritional value for the recipient countries but also, indirectly, in terms of their value as an instrument of co-operation owing to the financial effects produced. Similarly, costs may be measured in terms of gross expenditure or in terms of opportunity cost in order to take account of the physical availability of the products in question and of the alternative uses which might have to be found for them. Finally, of the specific difficulties affecting the products to varying degrees, it was confirmed once again that the most serious continues to be the need to take account of a population's eating habits and the harmful effect which large-scale and prolonged aid may have if not accompanied by measures intended to integrate it into local development policies.

The application of these criteria has not revealed any significant systematic difference between the various products examined, with the exception of butteroil (when it is used for cooking), which, from the point of view of cost-effectiveness ratio, would appear to be outclassed by all the other products.

II

CEREAL PRODUCTS

These products make up an increasing proportion of Community aid (over one-third of budget expenditure under Chapter 92 in 1984), which is confirmed by the magnitude of their nutritional value: approximately 80% of the calories, over 70% of the proteins and one-third of the oils and fats (lipids) supplied by the Community to developing countries have been in the form of cereals.

Within this category it was noted that, taking account of the nutritional aspects, the prices of the various cereals supplied by the Community were comparable but it was found that a more detailed assessment required a comparison to be made with cereals which are more generally produced and consumed in developing countries, (sorghum, millet, maize, etc.). The cost of cereals aid for the Community was found to be, in economic terms expressing the usefulness for the recipients and taking account of the production situation in the EEC, of the same order. This led to a favourable assessment of the cost-effectiveness ratio, which is further enhanced if consideration of the nutritional value per ECU spent is included in the analysis.

SKIMMED-MILK POWDER

The usefulness of this product, which in 1984 accounted for approximately 1/4 of Community expenditure under Chapter 92 in terms of products intended for aid, appeared, insofar as it corresponds to eating habits in certain developing countries, to be linked essentially to the requests made for it by those countries. It was, however, shown that its allocation to food aid imposes the twofold restriction of the need to ensure proper use from a health point of view (hygiene precautions and the danger of lactose intolerance) and, as with other products, the possible creation of new food dependence on a product not always capable of being replaced in the medium term by adequate local production.

From the point of view of nutritional value, skimmed-milk powder continues to be an important factor as regards access by developing countries to a source of protein. Although it is easy to define the budgetary cost, the existence of supplies of this product in the Community and the fact that the Community is itself an importer of certain protein products means that its economic cost varies within a wide range. As a result, the assessment in terms of cost-effectiveness depends on these parameters and on how they evolve. The figures which were used as a basis for this study indicate, however, that this ratio is around 1 or more.

BUTTEROIL

The nutritional usefulness of butteroil is linked both to the supply of oils and fats and to the use made of butteroil in the reconstitution of milk powder. Butteroil had traditionally been the main oils and fats product offered by the Community; however, as a result of experience gained over the last few years a comparison between butteroil and vegetable oils has shown that, taking account of the cost, butteroil is relatively less effective. This finding was confirmed, moreover, by the data concerning the cost-effectiveness ratio, which was less favourable for butteroil than for the other products in the range. On the other hand, used as a dairy product, butteroil continues to be a vital constituent in many cases and it would appear to be more appropriate to make reference to this use in the future.

VEGETABLE OILS

The Community has only in recent years started to deliver vegetable oils in the framework of its programmes; the nutritional considerations are the same as for butteroil with, in general, the same nutritional coefficients per unit weight but with certain financial advantages. It was noted, however, that Community supplies of vegetable oils and fats were smaller than those in other sectors and that this made comparison with the other products difficult. Vegetable oils offer advantages from the point of view of budgetary costs, but are not always superior to butteroil in terms of price and economic cost.

SUGAR

The large nutritional value of this product, together with its easy assimilation, renders it particularly suitable for use as emergency aid. Its economic cost corresponds to its world price, and the cost-effectiveness ratio therefore remains within favourable limits.

LEGUMES

These products offer the advantage of a nutritional content which is high in proteins and calories; the extent of the range and the existence of local rather than world markets for most of these products does not, however, facilitate determination of the economic data but confirms the importance of these products, particularly in the context of triangular operations.

III

- (a) It should be pointed out that a more thorough assessment should take account of the fact that the analysis was limited to the main products currently delivered and that its conclusions depend to a large extent on data which are in a state of constant flux. Furthermore, consideration is still being given to certain forms of use of these products (e.g. milk tablets used for emergency aid). The discussions however made it possible to work out a methodology which took account of numerous other factors relating to food-aid operations, and they brought to light the importance of also taking account of certain other aspects of food-aid operations (in particular, the use of the various products according to the recipient and/or the population concerned, delivery conditions, cost of transport according to the product or packaging, etc.).
- (b) Other factors, which ought to be covered in future discussions, should also be taken into account, in particular:
- the impact of aid on the economies of the recipient countries (effect of replacing imports, financial contribution, effect on local production);

- the benefit to the population groups for whom the aid is intended (in terms of its nutritional value and of distribution of incomes).

These various aspects will have to be examined in greater detail by studying particular experiences.

- (c) In addition to such an assessment, it would be desirable to have information available which would enable the relative effectiveness and cost of food aid to be assessed in its various aspects as compared with other forms of Community aid to developing countries.
- (d) Finally, as the discussion has enabled a relationship to be established between the economic cost and the budgetary cost of products, it is desirable that the Commission, when submitting its annual budget proposals, should at the same time provide information on their respective economic costs.

CO-ORDINATION OF POLICIES AND OPERATIONS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

- (a) The Resolution adopted by the Council in June 1984 concerning the co-ordination of policies and operations within the Community called, inter alia, for periodic reports to be drawn by the Member States' and Commission representatives on the spot in the developing countries. To render this arrangement more practical, the Council considered that details should be given on the content of those reports and the procedure for preparing them and has accordingly adopted conclusions on this subject.
- (b) The Council held a fruitful discussion on problems connected with the convergence of Member States' development co-operation policies.

It called upon the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine these questions in detail and to report back to it at a future meeting.

DEVELOPMENT AID AND THE SITUATION OF WOMEN

The Council heard a verbal Commission report on the progress of the proceedings of a Working Party of experts from the Member States on the question of development aid and the situation of women.

It called upon the Commission to send it a communication on this subject as soon as possible for detailed examination at a future meeting.

In the meantime, the relevant bodies will continue preparing the Community's position for the Nairobi Conference to close the Decade for Women.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

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6924/85 (Presse 80)

1008th meeting of the Council
and the Ministers for Culture
meeting within the Council

Brussels, 28 May 1985

President: Mr Antonino GULLOTTI

Minister for Cultural Assets
of the Italian Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr Ph. MOUREAUX
Minister - Chairman of the French
Community Executive

Mr K. POMA
Minister - Deputy Chairman
of the Flemish Community Executive

Mr B. FAGNOUL
Minister - Chairman of the
German-speaking Community Executive

Mr Marc LEPOIVRE
Deputy Permanent Representative

Denmark:

Mrs Mimi Stilling JAKOBSEN
Minister for Cultural Affairs

Germany:

Mr Alois MERTES
Minister of State, Foreign Affairs

Greece

Mr Elias LYMBEROPOULOS
Deputy Permanent Representative

France:

Mr Jack LANG
Minister for Culture

Ireland:

Mr Edward NEALON
Secretary of State,
Department of the Prime Minister

Italy:

Mr Antonino GULLOTTI
Minister for Cultural Assets

Luxembourg:

Mr Robert KRIEPS
Minister for Culture

Mr Giuseppe GALASSO
State Secretary,
Ministry for Cultural Assets

Netherlands:

Mr L.C. BRINKMAN
Minister for Welfare, Health and
Cultural Affairs

United Kingdom:

The Earl of GOWRIE
Minister for the Arts

Commission:

Mr Carlo RIPA DI MEANA
Member

MULTILATERAL SYSTEM OF SUPPORT TO THE EUROPEAN FILM AND TELEVISION
PROGRAMME INDUSTRY

Community aid for non-documentary cinema and television co-
productions

Pending the Opinions of the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee, the Council and the Ministers meeting within the Council held a policy debate on the proposal for a Regulation on a Community aid scheme for non-documentary cinema and television co-productions and on certain suggestions for common measures put forward by various delegations. The purpose of the proposal in question is to encourage the promotion and development of a European programme industry able to meet the demands of the audio-visual media for material.

At the end of its debate the Council and the Ministers meeting within the Council asked the Permanent Representatives Committee and the Commission to continue their work in the light of the discussion and to submit a report to the next ministerial meeting.

European-produced audio-visual events in third countries

Following the decision taken on 22 November 1984 by the Ministers with responsibility for cultural affairs to intensify cultural co-operation in third countries, particularly by providing audio-visual material for European Film Weeks, the following Resolution was adopted:

"The Ministers with responsibility for cultural affairs consider that European-produced audio-visual events in third countries may have not only a cultural purpose but also an economic and commercial interest.

European-produced audio-visual events can be promoted both by organizing special events and showings and by obtaining special sections at existing international film and television festivals.

They emphasize in this connection the important part to be played at national and European level by the professional organizations.

Alongside the efforts to ensure this European presence in third countries, each Member State will remain at liberty to decide whether or not to participate in particular events, and films from European countries will, of course, continue to feature at international festivals independently of any joint European participation in the same festival.

Other European countries could be invited to take part in this venture.

The Ministers agree to:

1. encourage public and private organizations in the Member States to organize European (cultural and commercial) film and television festivals in third countries, to ensure that films and television programmes produced in their own countries are represented as far as possible and to facilitate the presence of films from Member States with smaller film industries;
2. call upon national institutions with plans to promote their own national productions in third countries to allow other Member States to join in;
3. foster the setting up of sections devoted to European films at international film festivals in third countries. The Presidency, after consultation with its partners, either directly or through its on-the-spot representation in the country concerned, would, if its partners' reaction were favourable, approach the international festival organizing committee with a view to setting up such special sections. Member States' audio-visual productions would be pre-selected on the basis of indications provided by the professional associations of their audio-visual industries."

BOOK PRICE POLICY

The Council and the Ministers meeting within the Council heard a communication from the Commission concerning the establishment of a Community system for pricing books.

At the end of a detailed discussion the President recorded broad agreement on the ideas contained in that communication.

The Commission announced that it would shortly be submitting a proposal on the matter.

COLLABORATION BETWEEN LIBRARIES IN THE FIELD OF DATA PROCESSING

The Council and the Ministers meeting within the Council held an exchange of views on a draft Resolution concerning collaboration between libraries in the field of data processing.

At the end of the exchange of views the President recorded broad agreement on this draft Resolution.

The Council and the Ministers meeting within the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to finalize the text of the Resolution with a view to its adoption in the near future.

CULTURAL CO-OPERATION PROJECTS

European City of Culture

Following the decision taken at the meeting of the Council and the Ministers meeting within the Council on 22 November 1984 to nominate a European City of Culture each year and to nominate Athens for 1985, agreement was reached to nominate Florence for 1986, Amsterdam for 1987 and Berlin for 1988. The French Minister, Mr LANG, put forward Paris's candidacy for 1989.

With a view to the organization of this event, the Ministers meeting within the Council adopted the following Resolution:

"Aim and content

The Ministers responsible for Cultural Affairs in the Member States consider that the European City of Culture event should be the expression of a culture which, in its historical emergence and contemporary development, is characterized by having both common elements and a richness born out of diversity; the event has been established to help bring the peoples of the European Community countries closer together, but account should be taken of wider European cultural affinities.

The event should open up to the European public particular aspects of the culture of the city, region or country concerned. It may also concentrate on the city a number of cultural contributions from other Community countries, primarily for the benefit of the inhabitants of the particular region. Between these two poles, a wide variety of emphases can be placed and inter-related themes be chosen so as to suit the city concerned and the particular occasion (if any) which has provided a motive for choosing it.

Criteria for the choice of cities

As a general rule only one European City of Culture should be chosen each calendar year.

Each year one Member State should hold the event, the decision on the city to be taken at least two years in advance, so as to allow proper arrangements to be made. The Member States should in principle follow each other in alphabetical order, but they may alter the order of events by mutual agreement.

In principle, one round of the Member States should be completed before another one is begun.

Organization and finance

The Member State in which the designated European City of Culture lies decides which authority inside the Member State will take responsibility for organizing and financing the event.

Given that the event forms part of cultural co-operation among the Member States, these should be associated with its preparation and kept informed of progress. Other European and, where appropriate, non-European countries may also be associated with the preparation of the event. Ministers responsible for Cultural Affairs in the Member States should if possible attend the opening ceremony.

Member States should take all possible steps to publicize the event widely."

European sculpture competition

The Ministers meeting within the Council adopted the following Resolution:

"In accordance with paragraph 3.3 of the Solemn Declaration on European Union signed in Stuttgart on 19 June 1983, and in the spirit of the conclusions regarding a People's Europe reached at the meeting of the European Council in Fontainebleau on 25 and 26 January 1984,

with the aim of encouraging young European sculptors and intensifying the exchange of works of sculpture throughout the European Community,

THE MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR CULTURAL AFFAIRS MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL declare themselves in favour of the principle of a European sculpture competition open to young sculptors. The technical and financial arrangements for the first competition should be finalized by a Working Party of Experts as soon as possible, on the basis of an outline" submitted to the Ministers.

European centre for information on stolen works of art

The Ministers meeting within the Council noted with interest the statement by the Presidency concerning the establishment of a European centre for information on stolen works of art.

They noted the Commission's intention of collaborating with the Italian delegation in preparing a study on the matter which could be submitted in time for the next ministerial meeting.

Transnational cultural itineraries

The Ministers meeting within the Council:

- expressed their interest in the project, submitted by the Luxembourg delegation, of a transnational cultural itinerary encompassing the Grand Duchy and its adjacent regions, and instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue examining it with a view to enabling the Ministers to take a decision at their next meeting;
- took note of an Italian project to define the broad lines of a system of transnational cultural itineraries covering the whole Community, including Spain and Portugal, and instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine this initiative.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PRESIDENCY

The Ministers meeting within the Council acknowledged notes from the Presidency on the following topics:

- School of Restoration of the architectural heritage;
- European cultural passport;
- European Year of Recorded Entertainment;
- European Book Service;
- European Historical Institute.

They instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine these notes.

PRIORITIES AND FUTURE ORGANIZATION OF WORK

The Council and the Ministers meeting within the Council held an exchange of views on priorities and the future organization of their work on the basis of a note submitted by the United Kingdom delegation.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Netherlands delegation submitted a note entitled "Subtitling of television programmes".

The Council and the Ministers meeting within the Council asked the Commission to examine the problem raised in this note and to submit a report to them in time for their next meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

GATT

The Council approved the exchange of letters concerning imports into Canada of beef and veal from the Community. This agreement on a quota of 10 668 tonnes for exports of beef and veal from the Community to Canada in 1985 was reached in the consultations with Canada under Article XIX of the GATT. Today's approval will make it possible to conclude this agreement formally.

Transport

The Council defined the position to be adopted by the Community regarding the draft Resolution of the European Conference of Ministers of Transport (ECMT) on the facilitation of international removals by road.

ECSC

The Council gave its assent, under Article 55(2)(c) of the ECSC Treaty, with a view to obtaining financial aid for the implementation and execution of an iron and steel research programme.
