

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

PRESS RELEASES

PRESIDENCY: FRANCE

JANUARY-JUNE 1984

Meetings and press releases June 1984

Meeting number	Subject	Date
931 st	Economics/Finance	4 June 1984
932 nd	Education	4 June 1984
933 rd	Development Co-operation	5 June 1984
934 th	Consumer Protection	5 June 1984
935 th	Labour/Social Affairs	7 June 1984
936 th	Research	29 June 1984
937 th	Foreign Affairs	18-19 June 1984
938 th	Agriculture	18-19 June 1984
939 th	Culture	22 June 1984
940 th	Environment	28-29 June 1984
941 st	ACP Coordination meeting – no release issued	28 June 1984
942 nd	No release issued	26 June 1984

PRESS RELEASE

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7464/84 (Presse 97)

931st meeting of the Council
- Economic and Financial Affairs -
Luxembourg, 4 June 1984

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

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

Belgium:

Mr Willy DE CLERCQ
Deputy Prime Minister,
Minister for Finance

Denmark:

Mr Henning CHRISTOPHERSEN
Minister for Finance

Germany:

Mr Gerhard STOLTENBERG
Federal Minister for Finance

Mr Otto SCHLECHT
State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of
Economic Affairs

Mr Hans TIETMEYER
State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Finance

Greece:

Mr Gerassimos ARSENIS
Minister for Economic Affairs

France:

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

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

Ireland:

Mr Alan DUKES
Minister for Finance

Italy:

Mr Giovanni GORIA
Minister for the Treasury

Luxembourg:

Mr Jacques SANTER
Minister for Finance

Netherlands:

Mr H. RUDING
Minister for Finance

Mr H.E. KONING
State Secretary for Finance.

United Kingdom:

Mr Nigel LAWSON
Chancellor of the Exchequer

For the Commission:

Mr François-Xavier ORTOLI
Vice-President

Mr Christopher TUGENDHAT
Vice-President

BUDGETARY DISCIPLINE

On the basis of a report from the Chairman of the ad hoc Working Party on Budgetary Discipline, the Council held a discussion on the implementation of Community budgetary discipline, in accordance with the guidelines defined in the draft conclusions of the European Council in Brussels.

In conclusion, the Council agreed to inform the General Affairs Council on 18 and 19 June of the debate it had held with a view to the preparation of the European Council's deliberations on this subject on 25 and 26 June in Fontainebleau.

COMMUNITY LOANS

Pending the Opinion of the European Parliament, the Council held a policy debate on the Commission proposal which provided inter alia for raising the ceiling of the Community loan mechanism to 8 thousand million ECU (currently fixed at 6 thousand million ECU).

Concluding this debate, the President noted that there was a consensus on the proposed increase (2 thousand million ECU). The Council would resume its examination of this subject in the light of the Opinion of the European Parliament.

COMMUNITY FINANCING OF INNOVATION IN SMUs

The Council held a further examination of the Commission proposal to facilitate the financing of innovation in SMUs by a special NCI III tranche of 100 million ECU, on the basis of a compromise submitted by the Presidency.

Following these discussions, the President noted that an agreement could not be reached.

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY AND FINANCIAL PROBLEMS

The Council held an exchange of views on international monetary and financial problems, particularly with a view to the Western Economic Summit to be held in London from 7 to 9 June 1984.

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

Within the framework of its discussions on the elimination of barriers to co-operation between undertakings in different Member States, the Council resumed its examination, on the basis of a compromise proposal from the Presidency, of certain outstanding problems with regard to several proposals for Directives essentially of a fiscal nature: mergers, divisions, contributions of assets and exchange of shares between companies, parent companies and their subsidiaries, arbitration procedure.

The problems in question concerned: the taking into consideration of German legislation on the system of joint management (Mitbestimmungsrecht) and the inclusion in the scope of the Directive on mergers of the following: exchange of shares, withholding taxes levied on dividends distributed to parent companies in other Member States and the jurisdiction of the Court of Justice within the framework of an arbitration procedure.

In conclusion, the President noted that it had not been possible to reach an overall agreement on these points.

DIRECT INSURANCE OTHER THAN LIFE ASSURANCE - FREEDOM TO PROVIDE SERVICES

Having taken note of the results of the proceedings of the High-Level Working Party it had set up on 12 March 1984, the Council noted that these results formed a useful contribution in advancing progress on this matter.

The Council agreed that work on this subject would be pursued actively under the Irish Presidency.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

EEC-Andean Pact Agreement

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Regulation concerning the conclusion of the EEC-Andean Pact Agreement signed on 17 December 1983 in Cartagena ⁽¹⁾.

Commercial questions and Customs Union

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

- on the application of Decision No 1/84 of the EEC-Portugal Joint Committee amending Protocol No 3 concerning the definition of the concept of "originating products" and methods of administrative co-operation to take account of the accession of the Hellenic Republic to the Community;
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 3671/81 on imports into the Community of certain agricultural products originating in Turkey;
- opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for processing work in respect of certain textile products under Community outward processing traffic;
- supplementing the Annex to Regulation (EEC) No 3/84 introducing arrangements for movement within the Community of goods sent from one Member State for temporary use in one or more other Member States;
- opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for certain polyester films falling within subheading ex 39.01 C III a) of the Common Customs Tariff;
- temporarily and totally suspending the autonomous Common Customs Tariff duties on certain products to be used in the construction, maintenance and repair of aircraft.

⁽¹⁾ See Press Release 11574/83 (Presse 231) of 17 December 1983.

Agricultural policy

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

- amending Regulation No 136/66/EEC on the establishment of a common organization of the market in oils and fats;
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 804/68 on the common organization of the market in milk and milk products and of Regulation (EEC) No 857/84 adopting general rules for the application of the levy referred to in Article 5c of Regulation (EEC) No 804/68 in the milk and milk products sector.

Appointments

On a proposal from the French Government, the Council appointed Mr Jean-Pierre PEYRICAL, Director of the Department of Hygiene, Safety and Working Conditions of the UIMM (Union des industries metallurgiques et minières), member, and Mrs Valérie CORMAN from the Department of Safety and Working Conditions of the UIMM, alternate member of the Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work to replace respectively Mr CAVE, member who had resigned, and Mr FREDERIE-MOREAU, alternate member who had resigned, for the remainder of their terms of office which run until 1 April 1985.

The Council also appointed on a proposal from the Irish Government Mr W.A. ATTLEY, General Secretary of the Federated Workers Union of Ireland, member of the Advisory Committee on Freedom of Movement for Workers, to replace Mr Fintan KENNEDY, member who had died, for the remainder of the latter's term of office which runs until 20 September 1984.

PRESS RELEASE

7605/84 (Presse 98)

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932nd meeting of the Council
and the Ministers for Education
meeting within the Council
Luxembourg, 4 June 1984

President: Mr Alain SAVARY,
Minister for Education
of the French Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr Daniel COENS
Minister for Education

Mr André BERTHOUILLE
Minister for Education

Germany:

Mr Paul Harro PIAZOLO
State Secretary,
Federal Ministry for Education
and Science

Mr G. STOLLENWERK
State Secretary
Ministry of Culture
of the Rhineland Palatinate

France:

Mr Alain SAVARY
Minister for Education

Mr Roger-Gérard SCHWARTZENBERG
State Secretary,
Ministry for Education

Italy:

Mr Domenico AMALFITANO
State Secretary,
Ministry for Education

Netherlands:

Mr W.J. DEETMAN
Minister for Education
and Science

Denmark:

Mr Bertel HAARDER
Minister for Education

Greece:

Mr Apostolos KAKLAMANIS
Minister for Education and
Religious Affairs

Ireland:

Mr Liam O'LAIHDIN
Secretary of the
Department of Education

Luxembourg:

Mr Fernand BODEN
Minister for Education

United Kingdom:

Mr Robert DUNN
Under Secretary of State
for Education and Science

Commission:

Mr Ivor RICHARD
Member

EDUCATION IN THE CONTEXT OF POPULATION CHANGES AND NEW ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The Council and the Ministers for Education meeting within the Council held a broad exchange of views on education in the context of population changes and new economic and social conditions.

At the end of an in-depth discussion in which every delegation had a chance to announce the measures taken or envisaged in this sphere, the Council and the Ministers for Education instructed the Education Committee to make a detailed examination of the various contributions thus provided with an eye to the forthcoming ministerial meetings.

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The Council and the Ministers for Education meeting within the Council subsequently discussed a series of questions pertaining to:

- "Technological change and social adjustment" (section of the Commission communication concerning education and training);
- the teaching of foreign languages in the European Community;
- pilot schemes relating to the education of migrant workers' children;
- the integration of handicapped children into ordinary schools;
- measures to combat illiteracy;

At the end of these discussions, they adopted the following conclusions:

CONCLUSIONS
OF THE COUNCIL AND THE MINISTERS FOR EDUCATION
MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL

ON TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE AND SOCIAL ADJUSTMENT

(section of the Commission Communication
concerning education and training)

1. The Council and the Ministers for Education meeting within the Council have taken note of the Commission communication on technological change and social adjustment and have examined that part of Chapter IV concerning a first field of action in the area of education and training.

2. The Council and the Ministers for Education meeting within the Council welcome the approach proposed by the Commission. They wish to stress the priority role which education and training can and must play in the implementation of a strategy for increasing the innovative capacity and competitiveness of undertakings, while ensuring that such technology serves social and cultural requirements. They point out that the first step in this direction was taken with the two Council Resolutions of 1983 on the introduction of new information technology in education and with regard to vocational training

They wish to emphasize the importance of continuing training given the advance of technological change and the need to define new relationships between general education and technical and vocational education and training. Faced with the need of the economy and of society for highly-qualified manpower familiar with new technology, it is essential to develop innovative approaches to initial and ongoing training. The availability of such highly-qualified manpower is indeed a prerequisite for the success of the essential work being done in the research and development and industrial policy field.

3. In this connection they reaffirm their commitment to implementing in full the Resolution on the introduction of new information technology in education (NIT) mentioned in paragraph 13 of the communication. They consider that the action to be undertaken at Community level, particularly in the framework of forthcoming seminars (Newcastle-upon-Tyne/United Kingdom, Italy, Germany, etc.) and study visits, should take into account the proposals put forward at the end of the seminar organized in December 1983 in Marseilles by the French authorities in collaboration with the Commission, in the following three priority areas in particular: the training of teachers, the development of software and hardware, and educational activities and research.

(i) The discussions on teacher training highlighted the importance of concentrating Community action on practical measures such as:

- study visits to promote knowledge and comparison of the methods of such training in the various countries;
- training courses and summer schools dealing with specific subjects;
- an analytical comparison of the form and content of teacher training in the Member States.

(ii) the software/hardware aspect requires special attention; the importance of the cultural and economic stakes involved reveals the need for Community co-operation in close liaison with the ESPRIT programme. Such co-operation will cover in particular:

- improvement in the transferability of software and educational software;
- the regular exchange of information, in particular through consultation of inter-linked educational software libraries;
- studies on the inter-activity of audio-visual and computer graphics systems.

These projects presuppose appropriate co-operation between the educational authorities and both sides of industry Community-wide.

(iii) Educational activities and research should particularly be concerned with the following areas:

- taking into account the consequences of new information technology for all types of training, particularly the training of instructors;
- the consequences for the content of teaching, particularly in the scientific disciplines;
- the improvement of training profiles and information leading to the recognition of qualifications.

Special attention will have to be paid to assisting the handicapped and to home study courses, for which the NIT is providing new basic tools.

4. The Council and the Ministers for Education meeting within the Council have examined the proposals in the Commission communication relating to the strengthening of co-operation between the universities and industry (paragraph 15). They consider that this co-operation should lead to better adaptation of education and vocational training to the changing needs of industry, particularly in favour of small and medium enterprises, which are highly innovatory in the different fields of technological development. They point out that this co-operation is one of the elements of a wider action concerning advanced, initial and continuing training, with a view to ensuring the supply of highly qualified manpower. They underline the fact that mutual support agreements already exist in many Member States in various forms ("meeting points", "joint ventures", "teaching companies", "university science parks", "junior enterprises", etc.) and that it is important to evaluate those experiments and to develop them by giving them a Community dimension. They recall that this co-operation between universities and industry is complementary to that already existing in the field of research, development and innovation - ESPRIT and Stimulation of the Scientific and Technical Potential in particular. They finally request the Commission to give a more detailed description of the above actions.
5. The Council and the Ministers for Education meeting within the Council agree to promote publicity drives to bring new technology to the attention of the public at large (paragraph 16 of the Communication) particularly in the framework of adult education.

Such campaigns, which would complement the training of school-children and highly skilled manpower, are a crucial factor in making this technology accessible to all the economic and social protagonists.

In this context the Commission proposes the organization of a competition for the best software at Community level, in the context of International Youth Year. They feel that such an initiative could make young people more aware of new technology and thereby contribute to the development of a Community strategy in this field. They request the Commission to present detailed proposals for the implementation of this project.

6. The Council and the Ministers for Education meeting within the Council have drawn up this part of the conclusions as a contribution to the discussion which the Council (Labour and Social Affairs) should conduct on the subject of technological change and social adjustment at its meeting on 7 June 1984.

ON THE TEACHING OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES

1. Knowledge of foreign languages is a key element in the construction of Europe. The Member States of the European Community have chosen to respect linguistic diversity in this construction in order to preserve Europe's cultural wealth. Knowledge of the languages of the European Community is one of the factors favouring the free movement of persons stipulated in Title III of the Treaty of Rome, and it facilitates cultural, economic, technical and scientific co-operation among the Member States. Knowledge of foreign languages also has an important part to play in the cultural and economic ties between Member States and third countries, particularly neighbouring and associated countries.

2. Thus, the Resolution of the Council and of the Ministers for Education meeting within the Council of 9 February 1976 comprising an action programme in the field of education contains a section on foreign language teaching. Furthermore, on 29 March 1982 the representatives of the Member States signed the Agreement establishing a European Foundation, whilst the cultural section of the Solemn Declaration on European Union adopted by the European Council on 19 June 1983 in Stuttgart reaffirms the importance of developing language teaching in the encouragement of such European co-operation. The European Parliament's Resolutions on a Community programme in the field of education, on the teaching of foreign languages in the Community and on the diffusion of Community languages demonstrate the importance which it attaches to this subject.

3. Taking account of those statements, the communication from the Commission of the European Communities dated 20 June 1978 and the general report of the Education Committee, the substance of which was approved by the meeting of the Council and Ministers for Education meeting within the Council on 27 June 1980, and having taken note of the arguments put forward by the Education Committee, the Council and Ministers for Education meeting within the Council consider it necessary, within the framework and in accordance with the methods of their respective education systems, to give a fresh impetus to the teaching of foreign languages to pupils, students and adults.

4. While acknowledging that there are major variations in the linguistic circumstances of the Member States, they consider that the ability of pupils to communicate orally and in writing in foreign languages should be improved. Continuity should also be maintained in the linguistic training of young people. One modern language in addition to the mother tongue should be studied in depth, and the learning of other languages should be encouraged. At least one of the languages taught should be an official language of the European Communities.

5. The Member States agree to promote all appropriate measures to enable the maximum number of pupils to acquire, before the end of compulsory education, a practical knowledge of two languages in addition to their mother tongue, as well as all measures which are likely to permit the maintenance of levels of knowledge of foreign languages in vocational training, higher education and adult education.

6. Member States will make arrangements enabling them to increase their co-operation in the training of language teachers.

The learning of a foreign language for the purpose of easy communication calls for a practical knowledge on the part of teachers of the target language and of the culture it expresses. Such knowledge should preferably be acquired in one of the countries in which the language is spoken. In this connection, the Member States will make every endeavour to encourage :

- a) the sending of language assistants and young students of languages who have completed or are about to complete their higher education to other Member States and the integration of such assistants in their own educational systems;
- b) additionally, where appropriate, direct co-operation between establishments of higher education providing basic training for language teachers, in order to give students a chance to pursue their studies in the framework of their training for at least six months in a country where the language they are proposing to teach is spoken;
- c) in-service training for language teachers, the aim being to allow language teachers in jobs to refresh periodically their knowledge of the language and of the cultural, social and economic life of the country or countries the language of which they teach and to gain knowledge of educational reforms and developments in progress in those countries.

7. In order to encourage co-operation between all the bodies engaged in the promotion of foreign language teaching and taking account of the proceedings of the Council of Europe, the Member States will designate one or more information centres responsible for providing teachers, inspectors, administrators and those training teachers with all available information on methods and materials used and on experiments in progress in other Member States.

8. In order to give a real impetus to collaboration between Member States and to individual efforts, each Member State agrees to invite the competent authorities to take measures allowing :
 - (a) the recognition of study periods spent abroad by prospective language teachers;
 - (b) the use by prospective language teachers of national scholarships for periods of study abroad ;
 - (c) periods abroad for language teachers for retraining purposes ;
 - (d) periods of linguistic and cultural study in other Member States for pupils and young people.

9. Within the limits of its financial means the Commission will encourage consultations on ways of attaining the various objectives and, more specifically, exchanges of views and of experience in those sectors where co-operation measures between several Member States are being carried out. Obstacles, e.g. of a legal and administrative nature, to the stepping up of such collaboration should accordingly be eliminated as far as is possible.

...
To that end, it will organize

- regular meetings between senior officials, instructors of foreign language teachers and experts on methods and practices employed in teaching foreign languages ;
- study visits for inspection and administrative personnel responsible for foreign language teaching.

Using the Council of Europe's discussions as a basis, it will carry out studies on specific aspects such as the teaching of foreign languages at an early age, the teaching of foreign languages for professional purposes, use of modern techniques in foreign language teaching and distance teaching of foreign languages.

10. The Commission will, within the framework of the joint study programmes, implement direct collaboration between establishments of higher education providing basic training for foreign language teachers, in particular in order to organize training periods abroad for their students.
11. With the EURYDICE central unit, it will provide co-ordination and co-operation between the foreign language teaching information centres designated by the Member States and will foster contacts between the EURYDICE network and the centres.

12. Travel and subsistence expenses for periods of basic training and in-service training for foreign language teachers in other Member States are normally borne by the countries of origin of the persons concerned, except in the case of the foreign language assistants mentioned in paragraph 6(a). The Commission will support, within the limits of its budgetary resources, a number of such courses. Such aid will take into account particularly the least widely spoken Community languages and also take account of geographical distances and the cost of living.

13. The Commission will pay particular attention to the learning of foreign languages in implementing the Council Resolutions of 11 July 1983 concerning vocational training policies in the European Communities in the 1980s and of 2 June 1983 concerning vocational training measures relating to new information technologies.

14. The Education Committee is requested to make a report every three years, with a first progress report in December 1985, on the measures taken to encourage foreign language teaching at Member State and Community level.

PILOT SCHEMES RELATING TO THE EDUCATION
OF MIGRANT WORKERS' CHILDREN

The Council and the Ministers of Education meeting within the Council,

desirous of achieving in practice, in the framework of freedom of movement for workers, access for the children of Community migrant workers (within the meaning of existing Community regulations) to general education, vocational training and apprenticeship courses under the same conditions as those granted to nationals, which objectives feature in the Treaties of Rome;

confirming that in accordance with the Resolution of 9 February 1976, better facilities for education and vocational training must be extended to nationals and the children of nationals of other Community Member States and of non-member countries;

whereas:

- the proportion of migrant workers' children in the school population of certain Member States is increasing;
- the educational failure rate of children of migrant workers, both in the host countries and in the countries of origin in the case of return, continues generally to be high, with consequences for them in unemployment, failure to adjust socially and relegation to the fringes of society;

- the successful educational and social integration of these children has not yet been satisfactorily achieved in all cases, despite the efforts made and the undeniable progress achieved, and in particular the proportion of foreign children in secondary education beyond the minimum school-leaving age is often lower than that of indigenous children, both in host countries and the countries of origin in the case of their return,

agree to continue their efforts to ensure that the educational system is a route to integration and thus to social success for all children, whether indigenous or migrant workers' children.

They draw from the comparative assessment of pilot schemes since 1976 in the sphere of the education of migrant workers' children conclusions addressed to the Member States (initiators and supervisors of the pilot schemes) and to the Commission (responsible for administering the exchanges accompanying the common programme of schemes and the comparative assessment). Those conclusions constitute guidelines, which the Member States and the Commission can apply, bearing in mind particular national educational systems and particular patterns of settlement of migrant workers and their families in each Member State.

The conclusions adopted are as follows:

1. Concerning reception

1.1. In the field of pre-school education, regular attendance at nursery schools by migrant workers' children is highly beneficial.

- 1.2. Reception tuition is essential for the integration and success of these children. It should seek to meet pupils' individual requirements and be adapted both to the characteristics of the educational and social environment and to the conditions of dispersion or concentration in particular areas prevailing among the migrant workers. Reception tuition forms part of the entitlement to education and vocational training, whether it is a case of the initial reception of children entering the country with their parents, or of supporting activities or of teaching adjustments which may be required for second-generation children.
- 1.3. Special attention needs to be paid to problems involving the meeting of different cultures and their inter-relationships, as well as to the education problems caused by the simultaneous or consecutive learning of host language and language of origin.

2. Concerning the languages and cultures of origin

- 2.1. The presence of languages and cultures of origin in nursery schools can contribute to the formation of a child's personality and provide a solid foundation for future development. It can also stimulate a mutual understanding of the different cultures.
- 2.2. Teaching the languages and cultures of origin to primary school children contributes significantly to the formation of a balanced personality in the child, enriches the acquisition of knowledge and assists the development of skills. The methods, the contents and the importance attached to this should be co-ordinated with other teaching activities, since otherwise much of its educational effectiveness will be lost.

2.3. The development of the cultures of migrants in the host environment (second and third generations in the host country) is a phenomenon which education systems cannot ignore; the Member States should seek to establish or strengthen links between the education system and migrant communities.

2.4. At the level of secondary education, it is highly desirable, where pupil numbers and other factors justify it that national languages of the main countries of origin should be put on comparable footing with the other foreign languages taught, both because of their intrinsic cultural value and because of the possibilities they provide for development in cultural and economic relations with the countries of origin.

3. Concerning intercultural tuition

3.1. The intercultural prospects as outlined in the Commission report represent a factor for mutual enrichment and individual and social development, to the benefit of both foreign and indigenous children.

3.2. The intercultural dimension should find expression in the whole of the teaching disciplines. This approach, generating respect for others and the acceptance of their way of life should progressively be introduced in the different Member States, the Community itself being a meeting-place of cultures.

4. Concerning teaching materials

4.1. Special emphasis should be placed, at all levels of education, on devising and developing methods and means of instruction which meet the objectives both of reception tuition (particularly supporting activities and teaching the language

of the host environment as a language which is partly or completely foreign), of teaching of the language and culture of origin in a foreign environment and of inter-cultural education.

- 4.2. With the aim of achieving broader understanding among young people (both indigenous pupils and children of migrant workers) of the cultural values and positions represented in the Community, it is desirable that thought be given to the cultural content of all teaching activity and materials.

5. Concerning teacher training

- 5.1. All future teachers, as well as present ones where this is necessary, should have the opportunity to :

- obtain information on the relationship between immigration, social and educational structures and educational methods ;
- familiarize themselves with the educational needs of the children of migrant workers and the methods used for meeting them.

- 5.2. Since the schemes have taken place only in the host countries, it would appear necessary to extend them to the countries of origin ; they could deal more particularly with the training of teachers aiming to teach the language and culture of origin in the host countries and with reintegrating into the national education system the children of migrant workers who have returned to their home countries. Attention should also be paid to the recognition of diplomas and professional qualifications acquired in secondary education in the host country, as well as the knowledge of the language of the latter country.

6. Concerning the launching of new pilot schemes

6.1. Where desirable and possible, appropriate measures should be envisaged for children having to return to their countries of origin. In such cases, this problem will be tackled in the host country and in the country of origin by launching pilot schemes with the assistance of the Commission.

6.2. In Member States experiencing a large-scale return of emigrants, pilot schemes should help to work out measures for reintegration into the national education system.

7. The Council and the Ministers for Education meeting within the Council invite :

- the Member States in their future action to draw on the conclusions derived from the comparative assessment of the pilot schemes and in that way to help develop and strengthen an education policy in favour of migrant workers' children ;
- the Commission to continue and expand within the limits of its financial means the pilot schemes programme in the light of the guidelines laid down above, using the Community's existing instruments, including in particular the European Social Fund.

THE INTEGRATION OF HANDICAPPED CHILDREN INTO ORDINARY SCHOOLS

The Resolution of the Council and of the Ministers of Education meeting within the Council of 9 February 1976 contains a chapter (points 20 to 22) on the achievement of equal opportunities for free access to all forms of education.

The Resolution of the Council and of the Ministers of Education meeting within the Council of 13 December 1976 provides, in paragraph III(1)(c), for the implementation of pilot projects and studies to assist in the evaluation and development of national policies in respect, inter alia, of adequate measures for target groups with special problems, such as the young physically and mentally handicapped. A second programme of pilot projects was launched pursuant to the Resolution of 12 July 1982. Finally, in its Resolution of 21 December 1981 concerning the social integration of handicapped persons, the Council and the representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council explicitly proposed the integration of handicapped children in ordinary schools.

The Council and the Ministers for Education meeting within the Council do indeed consider that the needs of handicapped pupils, who represent a significant proportion of the school population, should receive special attention. In this regard, while acknowledging the important role which specialized education has played in the past and continues to play in some countries, they express their agreement on the following conclusions with a view to:

- continuing to promote and ensure the maximum possible integration of handicapped children into ordinary schools;
- improving the reciprocal provision of information and exchange of ideas on action undertaken by the Member States in this area;
- furthering the integration of handicapped children into ordinary schools within the framework of the various measures undertaken by the European Community in the field of education.

A. Within the framework of their respective educational systems, the Member States agree to promote the following measures:

1. to ensure that common school premises and transport are accessible to handicapped children with limited mobility;
2. to staff and equip educational establishments which admit handicapped children in such a way as to facilitate their integration;
3. to make sure that the basic and further training of ordinary and specialized teaching staff provides them with adequate preparation to enable them to overcome the difficulties of integrating handicapped children into the school system;

4. to develop and apply appropriate syllabuses and teaching methods permitting better integration of handicapped children and young people in and out of school;
5. to make the family, school and social milieu aware of these questions and associate them with them.

B. With a view to supporting the actions of the Member States and within the limits of its financial means, the Commission is charged with:

1. taking into account the integration of handicapped children into ordinary schools in the following Community measures :
 - (a) the pilot projects of the programme launched to promote the social integration of handicapped people ;
 - (b) the pilot projects which form part of the second programme for the transition from school to working life ;
 - (c) the programme of short study visits for administrators, including inspectors, heads of education establishments and special-education teachers insofar as they play a role in increasing experience.
2. taking into account the specific problems of the handicapped in the projects implemented within the framework of the Resolution of 19 September 1983 on measures relating to the introduction of new information technology in education particularly as regards:

- computer-assisted special training,
 - the use of data processing and telematics in the reproduction, transmission and circulation of documents in braille,
 - the development of compensation systems for the handicapped and the development of communication aids for the deaf;
3. making provision for the meeting of a working party composed of experts and those responsible at national level for the schools integration policy, to enable continuing discussions and regular exchanges to take place on the main problems involved in the integration of handicapped children into ordinary schools.

The main subjects for discussion should be:

- (a) the progress of national policies and measures taken in the educational field and vocational training with a view to facilitating the social integration of the handicapped ;
- (b) the relationship between the development of educational systems and the development of the needs of the handicapped ;
- (c) educational methods and teaching materials ;
- (d) basic and further training of teachers ;
- (e) advisory and guidance systems ;
- (f) participation in decision-making by young handicapped persons and their parents;
- (g) cooperation with health and social authorities.

There should be close co-operation between the working party of national experts and the liaison group on the Community programme for handicapped people;

4. making provision for information seminars for administrators, researchers and teachers on the problems raised by the implementation of experiments in integration into ordinary schools and by the development of specialized education structures.

The Education Committee is asked to report to the Council and the Ministers of Education meeting within the Council by the end of 1985 on progress in the implementation of the policy for the integration of handicapped children into ordinary schools.

ON MEASURES TO COMBAT ILLITERACY

Illiteracy has become a problem of greater or lesser proportions in all the Member States. Initial or basic illiteracy remains a preoccupation, but in addition recurrent or functional illiteracy has developed, arising to a certain extent from a decline in the traditional practice of reading and being exacerbated by the importance of new forms of written information in modern life. It concerns certain groups of the population who are confronted with particular circumstances, making it very difficult for them to integrate into working life and into society in general. This social factor is the result of a combination of economic, educational and social phenomena and therefore involves all authorities in the Member States of the Community. However, education authorities are particularly involved in preventing illiteracy and conducting the campaign against it, through education and further training.

The Council and the Ministers of Education meeting within the Council,

bearing in mind their Resolution of 9 February 1976 comprising an action programme in the field of education, and in particular the part concerning the achievement of equality of opportunity with a view to free access to all forms of education ;

bearing in mind the importance which the European Parliament, the Economic and Social Committee and both sides of industry rightly attach to this phenomenon of illiteracy;

with a view to giving people affected by this phenomenon a better grasp of techniques relating to personal and social life, and in order to prepare them better for the world of work,

consider that illiteracy should be given special attention by the Member States and the Community, so that the whole population may gain a better mastery of the basic instruments of reading and writing. They point out that writing in all its forms, including the most recent, is and will remain an essential means of communication, providing access to information and participation in the world of work.

They therefore agree to the following conclusions.

A. The competent authorities should take such further measures as are necessary within their respective education systems to ensure that the problems of illiteracy are given full attention in all educational and training programmes, including:

1. adapting teaching so that the individual difficulties of the most disadvantaged pupils can be taken into account and overcome;

2. reviewing and developing as necessary aims and objectives for language competencies (reading, writing and communication skills) in primary schools;
 3. trying to develop educational and reading practices designed to prevent the loss of skills which have been acquired by, for example, making available to young people resources such as fixed and mobile lending libraries;
 4. reviewing the initial and in-service training of teachers to prepare them for teaching a wide range of pupils, with diverse abilities and social, ethnic and cultural backgrounds;
 5. promoting adult literacy campaigns (where this sector is a responsibility of the national ministry of education) and in any case, following these campaigns closely, with a view to making a better analysis of the origins of illiteracy and thus being better placed to take preventive measures;
 6. developing distance learning activities, particularly through collaboration with television networks wherever feasible.
- B. With a view to supporting the measures taken by the Member States, and within the limits of its financial means, the Commission is charged with:
- (a) organizing exchanges of information among national experts on:
 - the causes and the scope of the phenomenon;
 - the results of experiments in the national educational systems;

- the measures needed in primary schools to improve the development of competence in all language modes ;
- other practices for combating illiteracy;

(b) taking account, in the application of the resolution of 9 February 1976 comprising an action programme in the field of education, of the phenomenon of illiteracy, within existing and future Community educational projects, particularly:

- the introduction of new information technologies in education
- the programme of pilot projects to facilitate young people's transition to adult and working life.

2. The Council and the Ministers of Education meeting within the Council ask the authorities involved in implementing Community measures on vocational training and employment based on use of the European Social Fund to take account of the particular requirements of people affected by illiteracy.

3. They ask the Education Committee to issue a progress report by the end of 1985 on the implementation of the policy to combat illiteracy in the European Community.

4. THESE CONCLUSIONS WILL BE SENT TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE.

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The Council and the Ministers for Education meeting within the Council took note of a communication from the French delegation on heightening young people's awareness of Europe (scheme undertaken by the French Ministry of Education). They instructed the Education Committee, in close collaboration with the Commission and bearing in mind the experience of the Council of Europe; to draw up a list of the initiatives taken in the various Member States in this area, with an eye to possible joint initiatives.

They also took note of a second communication from the French delegation concerning the outcome of the colloquium held on 9 to 11 May on cultural and artistic education at school.

PRESS RELEASE

LIBRARY

7606/84 (Presse 99)

933rd meeting of the Council

- Development Co-operation -

Luxembourg, 5 June 1984

President: Mr Christian NUCCI,
Minister attached
to the Minister for Foreign Relations,
responsible for Co-operation and Development,
of the French Republic

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

Belgium:

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

Denmark:

Mr Gunnar RIBERHOLDT
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

Germany:

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

Greece:

Mr Nikos DIMADIS
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

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 Pietro CALAMIA
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

Luxembourg:

Mr Paul HELMINGER
State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Foreign Trade and Co-operation

Netherlands:

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

United Kingdom:

Mr Timothy RAISON
Minister for Overseas
Development

Commission:

Mr Edgard PISANI
Member

CAMPAIGNS ON SPECIFIC THEMES

On the basis of a Commission communication and an introduction by Mr PISANI, the Council held a broad policy discussion on campaigns covering specific themes.

These are long-term activities of an essentially regional nature concerning priority themes (control of desertification and drought, development of livestock and game resources, water-resource management) designed to safeguard and exploit the agricultural potential of the developing countries.

The Council stressed the importance of these activities in combating the increasing deterioration in natural factors of production which had accelerated in the last decade.

On the basis of the approaches developed in the discussion the Commission will submit practical proposals for the implementation of these activities.

ALTERNATIVE OPERATIONS IN PLACE OF FOOD AID

The Council agreed on the substance of a draft Regulation concerning alternative operations in place of food aid intended to permit the application of Article 929 of the budget in respect of this type of operation.

The draft Regulation makes it possible for the Community, where conditions justify it and if requested by developing countries eligible for food-aid operations, to implement alternative operations within the resources available. These operations, which are in the form of financial and technical aid, are intended to support the preparation and implementation of a food strategy or of other measures conducive to the food security of the recipient countries and to encourage them to increase their food self-sufficiency.

Operations may, for example, involve the supply of inputs essential for agricultural and livestock production, rural-credit operations, storage operations, operations covering the fields of marketing, distribution and processing, and research and training activities etc.

The Parliament has delivered a favourable Opinion and the Council will formally adopt the draft Regulation without delay.

COMMISSION COMMUNICATION TO THE COUNCIL ON THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY
AND AFRICA

The Council heard a statement from Mr PISANI introducing the communication on the European Community and Africa which the Commission had just submitted to the Council. The communication describes the disquieting deterioration in the economic and social situation in Africa, which is of increasing concern to the international community, and is designed to set out in a comprehensive and integrated form the problems of the African continent and to lay down guidelines for Community action.

The Council was aware of the situation in Africa and confirmed the Community's intention of continuing its action within the framework of existing instruments in order to help bring about an improvement. It agreed to continue its examination of the Commission communication at a forthcoming meeting.

The Council noted the Commission's intention of submitting a communication on the Caribbean and the Pacific, and possibly other regions, in the near future.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE FRENCH DELEGATION ON AN EMERGENCY PLAN FOR
THE SAHEL

Mr NUCCI, Minister, submitted to the Council a plan to combat the effects of the exceptional drought in the Sahel. The plan is designed to improve the organizational response to critical situations in the Sahel, with particular reference to sufficiently early warning of such situations, the assessment of likely requirements and the response to these needs. What is essentially required is a more effective response and better use of the means available through improved co-ordination at the level of the Community and its Member States in close co-operation with the Sahel Governments, the competent bodies and the other members of the international community which provide special aid for the region.

The Council heard this communciation from the French delegation with great interest and noted that co-ordination of this type could be extended to other regions where similar problems arose. It instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to report to it at a future meeting.

CO-ORDINATION OF CO-OPERATION POLICIES AND OPERATIONS WITHIN THE
COMMUNITY

The Council adopted the following Resolution which, while acknowledging the considerable progress already made as regards co-ordination, is designed to supplement previous Council Resolutions by stressing the operational aspect of co-ordination with a view to ensuring that the aid from the Community and its Member States is as effective as possible:

"The Council, having examined the Commission communication on the co-ordination of development co-operation policies and operations within the Community and the memorandum submitted on the same subject by the German government, stresses the importance of such co-ordination for the most effective possible use of aid resources in order to ensure that co-operational activities are consistent with one another and complement each other better.

The Council would point out that it has commented on this subject on several occasions during the last few years, and notes with satisfaction, as emerges clearly from the Commission communication, that Community co-ordination has developed significantly since the first Council Resolution of July 1974, both as regards the general aspects of co-operation policy, including that in international bodies, and on the level of operational co-ordination in certain aspects. In this respect it notes with particular satisfaction the development of co-financing.

The recent state of the various European economies and the present situation in which the Community and the developing countries find themselves lead the Council to attach particular importance to its previous resolutions being supplemented by the considerations below, giving greater priority to operational co-ordination.

1. The Council considers that the following principles for action should be adopted in order to strengthen operational co-ordination; these apply to all beneficiaries of Community co-operation, viz. the ACP countries, the Mediterranean countries and the non-associated developing countries.

The Council considers that the strengthening of operational co-ordination must be conceived pragmatically through the introduction of "à la carte" co-ordination on a voluntary basis, taking account of the approaches adopted by each Member State towards specific regions, countries or sectors and of local conditions.

If such an approach were adopted, the beneficiary country must be at the centre of the co-ordination process.

The Council considers that the most appropriate area for co-ordination is the sectoral policies for which the support of the Community is sought. Co-ordination must also be open to other donors, pragmatically and case by case.

It also considers that, without any necessity for making procedures more cumbersome, it is useful to strengthen active co-ordination in the operations envisaged in order to promote their consistency and complementarity.

Finally, greater recourse will be had to co-financing between Member States and the Community.

2. The Council has adopted the following operational measures aimed at improving co-ordination between the Member States and the Community under the abovementioned conditions.

(a) As regards mutual information:

- identification sheets for projects prepared by the Commission departments will be improved, employed for aid projects concerning non-associated developing countries and circulated to the Member States earlier. In the same way, the Commission will send information to Member States more frequently;
- Member States will ensure that the Commission departments are kept better informed concerning their aid activities for example by supplying them with a summary of the development aid they intend to grant, regularly brought up to date for the ACP countries;
- informal contacts between desk officers in the Commission and their counterparts in national administrations will be intensified.

(b) As regards co-ordination on the spot:

- contacts between the Representations of the Member States in each country and Commission delegations, where they exist, will be intensified;
- a periodical report on the development of the country and on the external aid, particularly of EEC origin, received by the beneficiary country will be drawn up jointly by the Representations of the Member States on the spot which are in a position to take part and the Commission delegation (following the pattern of, and possibly supplementing, the reports produced by the economic and trade departments of those Representations);

- a more systematic exchange of information will be ensured concerning visits or mission carried out by Representatives of the Member States and of the Community in the context of their aid policies: the initiative will rest with the local representation of the Member State holding the Presidency of the Council, on information provided by the bodies responsible for these visits or missions.

(c) As regards support for sectoral policies:

- following the model of the co-ordination effected in the context of support for food strategies in those countries where such strategies are being tried out, active co-ordination can be organized, whenever possible, to support sectoral policies."

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The Council requests the Commission to report to it at one of its future meetings (Development) on the implementation of this Resolution.

PROGRESS WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF FOOD STRATEGIES

The Council heard a report from Mr PISANI, Member of the Commission, on the implementation of Community support measures for the food strategies of Mali, Kenya, Rwanda and Zambia.

This report contained the Commission's initial favourable assessments of the results already obtained in these four countries and the growing interest shown by other developing countries in the preparation of food strategies.

The Council thanked Mr PISANI for the action he was taking in this important area and asked Member States to continue giving their full support, particularly on the spot, to the measures in progress.

The Commission will submit to the Council's next meeting a comprehensive report with a view to continuing action by the Community in this area.

THE PROMOTION OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES' TRADE

The Council approved the following conclusions designed to improve the effectiveness of the Community's action on the promotion of developing countries' trade.

"The Council attaches great importance to efforts being made or increased, in the context of its co-operation with the developing countries, to promote their trade more effectively, all the more so as it is aware of the effects on some developing countries of the deterioration in their trade.

With this in mind, the Council has taken note of the work carried out on the basis of documentation provided by the Commission. It considers that initial general conclusions should be drawn as of now on future guidelines in this area with a view to improving the effectiveness of Community aid.

It proposes to supplement these conclusions in the field of trade-promotion measures at a later stage, in particular once the assessment the Commission is having done by outside experts is available.

Whilst recognizing the need to maintain flexibility in applying them in order to take into account the specific conditions of the developing countries, markets and trade relations, the Council has adopted the following guidelines and general principles:

- generally speaking, trade-promotion measures will be more effective if they are integrated into a broader programme of the country concerned, or are part of a development strategy; priority will not be given to isolated measures;

- co-operation and co-ordination with other donors should be encouraged, including the specialized bodies, private and public, of the Member States and international organizations active in this area (particularly the joint GATT/UNCTAD International Trade Centre in Geneva); the Council will return to this matter later in the light of the assessment in progress;

- regular meetings should be organized between experts from the Commission and the Member States on the subject of the promotion of developing countries' trade in order to improve the exchange of information and ensure better co-ordination. More systematic recourse to the embassies of the Member States in the developing countries and to Commission delegates could be particularly useful in this context.

The Council also considers that efforts should be made to:

- assist those developing countries that request it to develop a coherent trade policy;

- promote intra-developing-country trade (SOUTH-SOUTH) more systematically, in particular through better use of regional-co-operation funds, without prejudice to the promotion of trade with other areas, particularly the industrialized countries;

- develop bodies for the promotion of trade, including co-operation with specialized institutions already in existence in the developing countries, upgrade developing countries' export-promotion centres and aid the setting up of trade missions in order to enable the developing countries to have their own market studies;

- develop training programmes in conjunction with the appropriate organizations such as Chambers of Commerce and the professionals concerned, and encourage the development of contacts with business circles;

- develop and adapt products, and also increase awareness of quality and standards, adopt suitable systems of standards and assist control laboratories;

 - finally, as far as exhibitions and fairs are concerned, Community support for the participation of developing countries in these events will be more effective if such participation is the logical follow-up to prior trade-promotion measures and to a larger programme by the developing country concerned. Moreover, preference should be given to specialized exhibitions, whilst ensuring that the product is in fact exportable and available."
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PRESS RELEASE

LIBRARY

7607/84 (Presse 100)

934th meeting of the Council

- Consumer Protection -

Luxembourg, 5 June 1984

President: Mrs Catherine LALUMIERE,

State Secretary

at the Ministry of Economic Affairs,
Finance and the Budget,
with responsibility for Consumer Affairs
of the French Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr Marc LEPOIVRE
Deputy Permanent Representative

Denmark:

Mr Ib STETTER
Minister for Industry

Germany:

Mr Walter KITTEL
Deputy Permanent Representative

Greece:

Mr Andréas KAZAZIS
State Secretary
Ministry for Trade

France:

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

Ireland:

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

Italy:

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

Luxembourg:

Miss Colette FLESCHE
Vice-President of the Government,
Minister for Foreign Trade and
Co-operation

Netherlands:

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

United Kingdom:

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

Commission:

Mr Karl-Heinz NARJES
Member

MISLEADING ADVERTISING

The Council continued examining the draft Directive on the approximation of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States concerning misleading advertising.

Following this examination there were only a very limited number of problems outstanding, including in particular the question of the scope of the powers of the administrative body which would give rulings on complaints.

The Council asked the Permanent Representatives Committee to complete its examination of these problems very rapidly with a view to submitting them to the Council at one of its next meetings, if possible by the end of the month.

LIABILITY IN RESPECT OF DEFECTIVE PRODUCTS

The Council continued its proceedings on the amended proposal for a Directive on liability in respect of defective products, concentrating its discussions on the basic issues still outstanding, particularly that of producer liability.

Following these discussions, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine in detail the two alternative overall solutions which seemed to offer the best chances of leading to an agreement, and to report back to a forthcoming meeting of the Council.

DOORSTEP SELLING

Since one delegation still upheld a general reservation on this proposal, the Council agreed to resume its examination of this matter at its next meeting on General Affairs planned for 18 and 19 June.

PRICES DISPLAYED ON CONSUMER PRODUCTS

The Council took note of two interim progress reports on proposals relating to consumer protection in the display of prices on (a) foodstuffs and (b) non-food products.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its discussions on this subject and report to it at a later meeting.

PRESS RELEASE

7608/84 (Presse 101)

LIBRARY

935th Council meeting
- Labour and Social Affairs -
Luxembourg, 7 June 1984

President: Mr Pierre BEREGOVOY

Minister for Social Security
and National Solidarity
of the French Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr Michel HANSENNE
Minister for Labour
and Employment

Denmark:

Mrs Grethe FENGER MØLLER
Minister for Labour

Germany:

Mr Wolfgang VOGT
Parliamentary State Secretary
to the Federal Minister for
Labour and Social Security

Greece:

Mr Costas PAPANAYOTOU
General Secretary to
the Ministry for Labour

France:

Mr Pierre BEREGOVOY
Minister for Social Security
and National Solidarity

Ireland:

Mr Ruairi QUINN
Minister for Labour

Mrs Yvette ROUDY
Minister for Women's Rights

Mr Jack RALITE
Minister attached to the Minister
for Social Security and National
Solidarity, responsible for
employment

Italy:

Mr Gianni DE MICHELIS
Minister for Labour

Luxembourg:

Mr Jacques SANTER
Minister for Labour
and Social Security

Netherlands:

Mr J. de KONING
Minister for Employment
and Social Security

United Kingdom:

Mr Tom KING
Minister for Labour

Commission:

Mr Ivor RICHARD
Member

REDUCTION AND REORGANIZATION OF WORKING TIME

Following the Council's discussions on this item, the President noted that one delegation was unable to give its agreement and that unanimity which was required by the Treaty, on the draft Recommendation on the reduction and reorganization of working time prepared within the Council, could not be achieved at this meeting.

The President will apprise the Council of the outcome of the discussions at the European Council meeting scheduled for 25 and 26 June 1984.

MEDIUM-TERM SOCIAL ACTION

Following a discussion, most delegations were in favour of draft conclusions concerning a medium-term Community social action programme submitted by the Presidency. One delegation stood by a reservation on the draft, pending examination.

INFORMING AND CONSULTING EMPLOYEES OF UNDERTAKINGS WITH COMPLEX STRUCTURES, IN PARTICULAR TRANSNATIONAL UNDERTAKINGS

The Council noted a progress report on the proposal for a Directive on informing and consulting employees of undertakings with complex structures, in particular transnational undertakings.

Following a discussion during which the delegations and the Commission were able to clarify their position of principle with regard to this proposal, the President noted that discussions on the subject should continue apace.

CONTRIBUTION OF LOCAL EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVES TO COMBATING
UNEMPLOYMENT

Following its Resolution of 12 July 1982 to combat unemployment and to the Commission communication entitled "Community action to combat unemployment - the contribution of local employment initiatives", the Council adopted the following Resolution in the official languages of the Community:

I. Aim

1. The Council notes the communication submitted by the Commission entitled "Community action to combat unemployment - the contribution of local employment initiatives".
2. It notes with interest the development of the phenomenon of local employment initiatives (LEIs); recognizes the contribution that these initiatives can make to the objectives of the fight against unemployment and the revival of economic activity by virtue of the possibilities they offer for the maintenance or creation of jobs, particularly in small undertakings, by encouraging the recovery of local economic and social situations.
3. It considers that the development of these initiatives should be supported and stimulated by the Member States' policies accompanied by specific measures at Community level.

II. General characteristics

1. The Council notes that local employment initiatives:

- are most often the result of action by individuals or groups of individuals who are either unemployed or threatened by unemployment, and are often supported by local promoters;
- are consequently implemented by persons who are not necessarily conversant with the management or administration of an undertaking and who have no personal capital of any significance;
- are particularly important for persons whose chances of integration or reintegration into the labour market are very slight;
- differ widely in their modes of organization;
- involve a wide variety of activities which are normally centred on local needs and adapted to local conditions;
- are often important in places suffering from serious unemployment or under-employment as a result of special development difficulties;
- often involve, especially at local and regional levels, co-operation by public authorities, both sides of industry and other parties, including youth organizations;
- have as their prime objective the creation of economically viable jobs;
- may rebuild confidence and produce skills, qualifications and capacity for enterprise.

2. Acknowledges that the contributions made by public authorities during the start-up period of LEIs to facilitate the creation of new jobs, while respecting the conditions of competition, are in general more than offset by the advantages which they offer in terms of job and income creation, the use of human and local resources and reductions in the cost of social benefits.
3. Considers that support provided at regional and local level, in particular to meet management and training needs, is especially important for the development and success of small, locally generated undertakings.
4. Recognizes the contribution that both sides of industry can make to facilitate the economic and social integration of LEIs.
5. Recognizes the usefulness of spreading the various current ideas, techniques and experience in the field of LEIs.

III. Action by the Member States

The Council invites Member States to adopt within the framework of their policies and practices the following policy guidelines for the promotion of local employment initiatives:

1. Take account, in their policies relating to employment creation, local and regional development and local labour market management, of the potential contribution of local employment initiatives to the fight against unemployment, the revival of local economies and the alleviation of social problems. Public recognition of LEIs with a view to promoting their development and encouraging others to follow the same path should be accompanied as necessary by appropriate legal provisions.

2. Promote the establishment of close communication between all those involved in encouraging employment creation, especially both sides of industry and public authorities, particularly at the level of the local labour market, in order to improve the level of co-operation and the transfer of useful experience.

3. Taking account of the responsibilities of, and possibilities open to, local and regional authorities, encourage the development of local support structures for LEIs by means of practical measures such as:
 - making available information and guidance on the existing potential for aid;

 - developing services - where appropriate, by means of aid for the creation of development agencies - which are capable of providing support to those seeking to launch LEIs, and of facilitating access to the various forms of aid available;

 - making available suitable premises for small undertakings and workshops, for example by encouraging the conversion of vacant buildings;

 - improving conditions and extending the possibilities for tendering for public contracts.

4. Ensure that measures to improve access for small and medium-scale undertakings to finance and to provide public financial support involve criteria, conditions, decision-making procedures and deliver systems which make it possible for LEIs to benefit from them.

5. Using existing possibilities for providing public support, encourage projects for the vocational and social integration and reintegration of particularly disadvantaged categories, in particular by adapting and simplifying the procedures for providing such support.

6. Examine possibilities for resorting to new methods of providing finance for LEIs, which are likely to make it easier to launch them (e.g. aid, during the period when their projects are being started up, to hitherto unemployed persons who have set up or are setting up LEIs, creation of special funds, or support for initiatives to attract local savings into such funds).

7. Examine the extent to which national legislation facilitates the creation of undertakings, including co-operatives and undertakings of a collective nature, and offers legal and financial provisions such as will encourage the creation of such undertakings.

8. As part of the commitment already entered into by the Member States to make increased efforts to promote and develop the supply of training facilities ⁽¹⁾, examine the extent to which training systems take account of the requirements of LEIs, paying particular attention to:
 - co-operation between the bodies concerned in order to remedy any lack of training or qualifications on the local labour market;
 - opportunities for access to training or qualifications at local level particularly in order to facilitate the employment of the least-skilled among the unemployed and to promote training, including management training for those responsible for LEIs;
 - the skills and qualifications of trainers and vocational guidance and placement officials.

IV. Action at Community level

1. The Council encourages the Commission to support action by the Member States mainly
 - through more systematic use of existing Community instruments for promoting LEIs;
 - through the promotion of LEIs by means of consultation and the exchange of information on a Community-wide basis;
 - through evaluation and research designed to provide a useful guide for future policies and action.

 2. The Commission is therefore invited in particular to:
 - (a) support, with the assistance of the European Social Fund, specific innovative projects aimed at facilitating the development of LEIs, particularly those directed towards:
 - the application or production of new technologies;
 - the use of under-exploited local resources;
 - the employment of particularly disadvantaged categories;
 - back-up measures for these initiatives, particularly the development of innovative training and support methods adapted to their needs,
- by providing for a continuous exchange of experiences resulting from these projects in order to assess their impact on employment;

(b) develop its programme of consultation and information transfer in order to facilitate the direct exchange of experiences at Community level, while co-ordinating it with the projects of the OECD's Co-operative Action Programme on Local Employment Initiatives;

(c) complement these actions by carrying out specific studies which help to guide and assess the action, such as:

- the most apt methods of providing finance for LEIs;
- legal and fiscal encouragement for the establishment and development of enterprises including co-operatives and other forms of collective enterprise;
- the types of product and services which LEIs provide and their impact on traditional transactions from the point of view of competition.

3. The Commission is requested to inform the Council periodically of progress made in the implementation of these actions.

4. Community financing for the action set out in this section will be decided on within the framework of the budgetary procedure and in accordance with the legal commitments entered into by the Council.

Community financing of the projects referred to in paragraph 2(a) will be in accordance with the financing capacity and rules of the European Social Fund.

ACTION TO COMBAT UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG WOMEN

Further to the Commission communication on unemployment among women and in the light of the discussions of the Standing Committee on Employment on 22 November 1983, the Council adopted the following Resolution in the official languages of the Communities:

I. General objectives

1. The Council takes note of the Commission communication on unemployment amongst women in the Community.

2. It notes that unemployment amongst women is a worrying aspect of the general employment situation in the Community and can only be resolved satisfactorily within the framework of a general policy designed to achieve economic recovery and employment growth. Given the particular characteristics of female unemployment, it is also necessary to make specific efforts to remove the handicaps affecting the employment of women and to promote equal opportunities on the labour market in order to reduce gradually and significantly the rate of unemployment among women.

3. It emphasizes the principles which must underlie the measures to be promoted, namely:
 - the equal right of men and women to work and, by the same token, to acquire a personal income on equal terms and conditions, regardless of the economic situation;

- the extension of equal opportunities to men and women, in particular on the labour market, in the context of measures to stimulate economic recovery and to promote employment growth;
- the development of positive measures to correct de facto inequalities and thereby improve female employment prospects and promote the employment of both men and women;

II. Guidelines for action

1. The Council considers that the following guidelines for action in particular should be implemented or continued within the framework of national policies and practices:

(a) in respect of job creation and recruitment:

- ensure that the measures aimed at encouraging the recruitment of additional labour, especially young people, in the private sector, allow for a more balanced representation of men and women, particularly in jobs in which women are under-represented and in skilled jobs;
- focus recruitment premiums, where they exist, on the people at the greatest disadvantage on the labour market, many of whom are women;
- adopt adequate measures to promote increased representation of women, in order to achieve a better balance in the industries of the future, especially the high technology industries;

- make efforts also in the public sector to promote equal opportunities which can serve as an example, particularly in those fields where new information technologies are being developed;
 - endeavour to ensure that initiatives aimed at the reduction and re-organization of working time make a positive contribution to the promotion of equal opportunities in the area of employment, by permitting, inter alia, greater flexibility in working hours;
 - ensure that voluntary part-time work does not lead to increased sexual segregation on the labour market;
 - enable women to have equal access to financial and other facilities available for the creation of businesses, particularly in the context of local initiatives to create employment, including those taken on a co-operative basis, which offer women worthwhile employment prospects and working conditions;
- (b) to promote, in the fields of education, vocational training and guidance, measures with a view to:
- giving women a wider choice of jobs to enable them to participate more equitably in growth sectors and in the industries of the future;
 - ensuring more appropriate qualifications for female workers particularly affected by industrial restructuring and innovation, for those from less-favoured areas, for unemployed women and women seeking to return to work;
 - promoting increased representation of women in training programmes in order to achieve a better balance in those sectors where they are under-represented, especially sectors connected with the introduction of new technologies;

(c) adopt the necessary measures to ensure that placement, guidance and counselling services are staffed with skilled personnel in adequate numbers in order to provide a service based on the necessary expertise in the special problems of unemployed women;

(d) improve quantitative and qualitative information on the situation of women on the labour market and the assessment of the impact of policies to combat unemployment on the employment of women in order to be able to monitor progress in the sexual desegregation of employment and identify female unemployment trends more accurately.

2. The Council stresses the importance it attaches to the positive contribution of the European Social Fund to the implementation of these guidelines for action.

3. The Council considers that the principles and guidelines set out above should apply to action undertaken at every level, also by encouraging, where possible, both sides of industry.

4. The Council stresses the importance of accompanying measures, especially regarding social infrastructure and means of encouraging greater sharing of responsibilities in the light of the general objective of improving female employment.

5. The Council asks the Member States to develop, where appropriate in co-operation with the Commission, information campaigns aimed at encouraging the change in attitudes needed to improve equality of opportunity in employment. The Council emphasizes the essential role played in this respect, and also as initiators of positive action, by national committees and bodies for the promotion of equal opportunities, which must be able to act as effectively as possible.

6. The Commission is requested to organize an annual exchange of information between Member States on measures taken under this Resolution to reduce unemployment among women, and on the means of monitoring, research and assessment.

7. The Council asks the Commission to report to it at regular intervals with a view to taking stock of progress accomplished not later than three years following the adoption of this Resolution.

EDUCATION OF THE CHILDREN OF MIGRANT WORKERS

The Council noted a Commission report on the implementation of Directive 77/486/EEC on the education of children of migrant workers and the hope expressed by certain delegations that the Council would deal with the development of such implementation at a later meeting.

TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE AND SOCIAL ADJUSTMENT

The Council

- noting the Commission communication on technological change and social adjustment;
- taking into account both the discussions of the Standing Committee on Employment on this communication at its meeting on 10 May 1984 and the conclusions of the Council and of the Ministers of Education, meeting within the Council, on this communication at their meeting on 4 June 1984, and without prejudice to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee, arrived at the following conclusions:

"The Council considers that a common strategy on the social impact of new technologies should be based on the following principles:

- The Council recognizes the unavoidable nature of the introduction of new technologies for the strengthening of competitiveness of European undertakings and restoring economic growth. It affirms the need for an overall Community response to the new industrial revolution. A macro-economic policy aimed at a stronger resumption of growth will facilitate the process of adjustment between sectors, as well as the occupational and geographical mobility of the labour force.
- It considers that it is necessary to this end to utilize the potential afforded by technological innovation and by the strengthening of investment in order to create the conditions for better employment and an improvement in working conditions. This means an acceptance of the necessary changes which could in due course make for the creation of new jobs. It is necessary, however, to master these changes in order to prevent the social equilibrium from being seriously undermined.

- The conditions for the success of these changes are the training and information of workers.

- The Council considers that education and training have a vital role to play in a Community strategy designed to reinforce the capacity for innovation and the competitive position of European undertakings. Investment, employment, labour and training policies form a whole. Although investment constitutes the primary condition for the success of this strategy, education and training have a decisive role to play here. It would serve as a reminder that a major initial step in this direction was taken with the adoption of a number of Resolutions affording the basis for Community action in this area designed to supplement and support action undertaken by the Member States themselves.

A particular effort must be made for the training and retraining of the categories of workers who are most affected by the employment crisis and by technological change. Initial and ongoing training together with retraining measures will make it possible to adapt the skills of workers to the requirements of new technologies. This should go hand in hand with forward labour management.

- The Council recognizes that technological transformations are greatly assisted if workers are fully involved; they and/or their representatives ought therefore to be informed and consulted beforehand with a view to arriving at arrangements.

Such information and consultation should be as exact and as full as possible and regularly accompany the implementation of technological options. To this end, the parties concerned should be able to benefit from expert advice.

- Since technological change has consequences for employment, the organization of work and production, these ought to form the subject of dialogue between labour and management. While the competitive position of undertakings should be preserved, particular attention should be paid to improved utilization of plant and equipment, to employment problems, to working conditions and safety at work, as well as to the length of working hours.

- The magnitude and the urgency of the effort to be undertaken make it more necessary than ever to mobilize all of Europe's economic and social strengths.

"The Council requests the Commission to develop ⁽¹⁾ on these bases and, where necessary, to initiate work in the following areas:

- (i) to define the principles of, and detailed arrangements for, forward labour management, in particular through the reinforcement of the means of observing and analysing new skilled personnel requirements;

- (ii) to identify and analyse, in conjunction with the Member States and both sides of industry, short and medium-term sectoral trends with a view to pinpointing in particular the prospects for the development of employment which may result from the introduction of new technologies;

⁽¹⁾ In the context of the implementation in particular of the Council Resolution on vocational training and new information technologies, the Resolution of the Council and of the Ministers for Education on the introduction of new information technologies in education, and the second programme on safety and health at work, and also in the utilization of the various Community financial instruments, and in particular in the application of the guidelines for the management of the European Social Fund, 1984-1986.

- (iii) to extend action to familiarize people with new technologies, particularly within the educational system;
- (iv) to initiate or strengthen co-operation between industry and training institutions, in particular advanced training institutions, with a view to improving the provision of initial training and the imparting of new skills to those whose employment is affected by technological innovations;
- (v) to encourage, starting at the stage of conception and planning of technological innovations, the systematic taking into account of their ergonomic implications with a view to improving working conditions. It is also necessary to ensure the occupational and social integration of vulnerable categories of workers, in particular the handicapped;
- (vi) to examine the full implications of the impact of technological advance on the decentralization of production, including work performed at home and distance working;
- (vii) to elicit at Community level the principles common to the particular legislative and contractual instruments of the Member States concerning information, consultation and negotiation on the introduction of new technologies; to promote to this end the training of experts in technological innovation from workers' and employers' organizations;
- (viii) to implement measures for the promotion and dissemination of experience and to improve the utilization of the Community financial instruments - European Social Fund, European Regional Development Fund and European Innovation Loan - in such a way as to assist the implementation of an innovatory Community strategy calculated to respond to the social consequences of technological change."

VARIOUS DECISIONS

Revision of the ERDF Regulation

The Council adopted as a common position the text of the draft Regulation on the revision of the European Regional Development Fund.

This draft will be forwarded to the European Parliament with a view to the conciliation meeting on the subject between the two Institutions planned for 19 June.

Fisheries

Following the agreement of principle of 24 May on the amendment of TACs and quotas for North Sea herring and anglerfish from zone Vb, VI, VII and VIII, the Council adopted a Regulation amending for the second time Regulation (EEC) No 320/84 fixing, for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks occurring in the Community's fishing zone, provisional total allowable catches for 1984, the provisional share of these catches available to the Community, the allocation of that share between the Member States and the conditions under which the total allowable catches may be fished.

The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Council Regulation amending for the second time Regulation (EEC) No 171/83 laying down certain technical measures for the conservation of fishery resources in respect of the minimum mesh size applicable to fishing in the North Sea.

Appointment

The Council appointed, on a proposal from the Italian Government, Dirigente Generale Dr Giuseppe CACOPARDI, Ministero del Lavoro, Gabinetto, as a member of the European Social Fund Committee, in place of Avv. Armando GALLO, member, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's period of office, i.e. until 23 May 1985.

PRESS RELEASE

8130/84 (Presse 115)

LIBRARY

936th meeting of the Council

- Research -

Luxembourg, 29 June 1984

President: Mr Laurent FABIUS
Minister for Industry
and Research
of the French Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr Philippe MAYSTADT
Minister for Science Policy

Denmark:

Mr Flemming VOLDBY
State Secretary,
Ministry of Education

Germany:

Mr Walter KITTEL
Deputy Permanent Representative

Greece:

Mr Georgios LIANIS
Minister for Research and
Technology

France:

Mr Laurent FABIUS
Minister for Industry and
Research

Ireland:

Mr Edward COLLINS
Minister of State,
Department of Industry and
Energy

Italy:

Mr Luigi GRANELLI
Minister for the Co-ordination of
Scientific and Technological
Research

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean DONDELINGER
Secretary-General
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Netherlands:

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

United Kingdom:

Mr John BUTCHER
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of
State for Industry
Department of Trade and Industry

For the Commission:

Mr Etienne DAVIGNON
Vice-President

DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY RESEARCH POLICY

The Council discussed Community research priorities on the basis of a Commission communication on the subject and an introductory statement by Mr Davignon, Vice-President. This discussion enabled members of the Council to state their positions on the main points and the details of the development of the Community's scientific and technical strategy.

In this connection, and following on directly from the conclusions of the Fontainebleau European Council, the Council stressed the importance which it placed on developing Community research activities, the general outlines of which had already been defined in the framework programme.

The Council then examined the various proposals for programmes on its agenda - stimulation, biotechnology, non-nuclear energy, basic technologies, (BRITE) radiation protection - and particularly the financial aspects of these programmes.

The Council noted that, since it was not clear what sums were available under the budget in general and for Community research in particular, it was not in a position to take a decision on what funding was to be allocated to the various programmes.

Consequently, the Council agreed to resume its deliberations on the programmes in question at its next meeting which is due to be held quite soon.

ARRANGEMENTS CONCERNING THE JRC AND THE STRUCTURES AND PROCEDURES
FOR THE MANAGEMENT AND CO-ORDINATION OF RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

The Council took note of the Commission Decision of 24 May 1984 reorganizing the Joint Research Centre by setting up a Board of Governors and a Scientific Council.

At the same time the Council adopted a Decision on the multi-annual programmes to be carried out by the Joint Research Centre over the period 1984-1987. This Decision in the first place lays down the guidelines in accordance with which the Council is to adopt the JRC multiannual programmes, viz:

- it will indicate the research fields, corresponding to research action programmes, in which work is to be carried out under the programme;
- it will provide an estimate of the relevant proportions of financing and staffing required for research work within each field;
- it will provide an estimate of the resources necessary for the implementation of the programme, on the basis of:
 - = the staff complement authorized for the duration of the programme, and
 - = the financial cost of the programme in ECU, at the value obtaining when the decision adopting the multiannual programme is taken.

The Decision then lays down the framework and conditions in which the Commission may adapt the JRC multiannual programmes, either to take account of research requirements that emerge at Community level after the programme concerned has been adopted or to allow the JRC the flexibility it requires.

The Decision stipulates in particular that the transfers which the Commission can make with the agreement of the JRC Board of Governors between research action programmes and between subprogrammes are limited to 15% of the indicative amounts for programmes and subprogrammes below 150 MECU and to 10% for programmes in excess of that amount.

The Council also adopted a Decision dealing with structures and procedures for the management and co-ordination of Community research, development and demonstration activities.

In order to achieve greater efficiency and to rationalize the current system, this Decision makes provision for the Management and Co-ordination Advisory Committees (CGCs) listed in the Annex to be established under the aegis of the Commission.

The mission of the CGCs will be to assist the Commission in its task of defining and preparing research, development and demonstration activities and in its management and co-ordination functions which are connected with implementation of the Community scientific and technical strategy.

The CGCs will be required:

- to inform and advise the Commission on scientific and technical questions in the fields in which they are competent;
- to compare regularly national scientific research and technological development programmes in fields of interest to the Community and to provide the Commission with information relating to such comparison in order to identify co-ordination activities that could be undertaken among the Member States;
- to help the Commission to identify and select, on the basis of the scientific and technical objectives set out in the framework programme, those themes or actions which could be the subject of Community research, development and demonstration activities;

- to contribute to the optimum execution of Community research, development and demonstration programmes - responsibility for which lies with the Commission - and in particular to the detailed description of projects and to their selection, and to assess the results and ensure better liaison between the execution of the programmes at Community level and the corresponding research and development work carried out in the Member States on their own responsibility;
- to formulate opinions on the scientific and technical co-operation envisaged between the European Communities, third countries and/or international organizations in the specific fields with which they are concerned.

The CGCs will be composed of two representatives per Member State and two Commission representatives appointed for four years; they will elect their Chairman from among the representatives of the Member States for a two-year term of office.

The Decision also sets out the rules for the operation of the CGCs.

COMMITTEES TO BE ESTABLISHED

<u>Sector</u>	<u>Committees</u>
INDUSTRY	1. Industrial technology 2. Scientific and technological standards 3. Biotechnology
RAW MATERIALS AND OTHER MATERIALS	4. Raw materials and other materials
ENERGY	5. Nuclear fission energy - Reactors and safety, control of fissile materials 6. Nuclear fission energy - Fuel cycle/processing and storage of waste 7. Non-nuclear energy
DEVELOPMENT AID	8. Development-linked research
HEALTH AND SAFETY	9. Medical and health research 10. Radiation protection
ENVIRONMENT	11. Environment and climatology
LANGUAGES	12. Linguistic problems

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Textiles

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation on common rules for imports of certain textile products originating in the People's Republic of China.

ECSC

The Council gave its assent, in accordance with Article 95 of the ECSC Treaty, to the draft Commission Recommendation to the Member States extending the period of application of Recommendation No 1835/81/ECSC on the obligation to publish price lists and conditions of sale and on prohibited practices in the steel trade.

Appointments

The Council, acting on a proposal from the Belgian Government, appointed Mr Pierre CAJOT, Inspector General of Mines at the Ministry for Economic Affairs, alternate member of the Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work, in place of Mr Henri GREGOIRE, alternate member who had resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, i.e. until 1 April 1985.

Additionally, the Council, acting on a proposal from the Irish Government, appointed Mr Henry HANNON, Director of the Irish Brewers Association, Member of the Economic and Social Committee in place of Mr P.J. LOUGHREY, member who had resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, i.e. until 20 September 1986.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

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7880/84 (Presse 107)

937th meeting of the Council

- Foreign Affairs -

Luxembourg, 18 and 19 June 1984

President: M. Claude CHEYSSON,
Minister for Foreign Relations
of the French Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr Leo TINDEMANS Minister for External Relations

Denmark:

Mr Uffe ELLEMANN-JENSEN Minister for Foreign Affairs

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

Germany:

Mr Hans-Dietrich GENSCHER Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs

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

Mr Otto SCHLECHT State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs

Greece:

Mr Theodoros PANGALOS State Secretary for EEC Affairs

France:

Mr Claude CHEYSSON Minister for Foreign Relations

Mr Roland DUMAS Minister for European Affairs

Ireland:

Mr Peter BARRY Minister for Foreign Affairs

Italy:

Mr Giulio ANDREOTTI Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Mario FIORET State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Luxembourg:

Miss Colette FLESCHE

Vice-President of the Government,
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Netherlands:

Mr W.F. van EEKELEN

State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

United Kingdom:

Sir Geoffrey HOWE

Secretary of State for Foreign
and Commonwealth Affairs

Mr Paul CHANNON

Minister of State for Trade

Mr Timothy RAISON

Minister of State for Development

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Commission:

Mr Gaston THORN

President

Mr François-Xavier ORTOLI

Vice-President

Mr Wilhelm HAFERKAMP

Vice-President

Mr Lorenzo NATALI

Vice-President

Vicomte Etienne DAVIGNON

Vice-President

Mr Christopher TUGENDHAT

Vice-President

Mr Antonio GIOLITTI

Member

Mr Richard BURKE

Member

Mr Frans ANDRIESEN

Member

Mr Edgard PISANI

Member

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EEC-YUGOSLAVIA RELATIONS

The Council prepared the second meeting of the EEC-Yugoslavia Co-operation Council, which was held at the end of the morning of Monday 18 June (See joint press release CEE-YU 1013/84 (Presse 109) of 18 June 1984).

PORTUGUESE ACCESSION

The Council prepared the 19th Ministerial meeting of the Conference for the Accession of Portugal to the European Communities, which was held during the afternoon of Monday 18 June. The Portuguese delegation was led by Mr SOARES COSTA, Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Food.

SPANISH ACCESSION

The Council prepared the 21st Ministerial meeting of the Conference for the Accession of Spain to the European Communities, which was held during the afternoon of Tuesday 19 June. The Spanish delegation was led by Mr Fernando MORAN, Minister for Foreign Affairs.

FINANCIAL CO-OPERATION WITH SPAIN AND PORTUGAL

With a view to prolonging financial co-operation with Spain and Portugal, the Council recommended the European Investment Bank to make available to Spain and Portugal from 1 July 1984 to the end of 1985 250 MECU and 150 MECU respectively in the form of normal loans from its own resources.

COVER OF BUDGET EXPENDITURE FOR 1984

The Council held a further debate on the problems arising in respect of the cover of budget expenditure for 1984 in the light of the work carried out by the Permanent Representatives Committee since the Council meeting on 14 and 15 May on the Commission communication on the subject.

Finally, the Budget Council was asked - pending the Opinion of the the European Parliament - to continue discussing the question at its meeting on 19 July in the framework of its deliberations on the 1984 draft supplementary and amending budget which the Commission announced it would be submitting shortly.

BUDGETARY DISCIPLINE

Having taken note of work so far in the Economic and Financial Questions Council as regards the arrangements for implementing the guidelines laid down by the European Council concerning budgetary discipline, the Council decided that the competent Community bodies should now continue their work on that basis.

CONCILIATION PROCEDURE

Having examined a text submitted by the Presidency on certain adjustments to the conciliation procedure to be proposed to the the European Parliament, the Council concluded that it was not able at this stage to reach agreement on the text.

PREPARATION OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL

The Council conducted an exchange of views on the subjects likely to be discussed by the European Council in Fontainebleau on 25 and 26 June.

MEDITERRANEAN POLICY OF THE ENLARGED COMMUNITY

The Council held a detailed exchange of views on the guidelines for the future Mediterranean policy of the enlarged Community.

The Council reiterated the political and economic importance which it attached to relations with the countries of the Mediterranean basin and accordingly agreed to continue its discussions with a view to reaching conclusions on this subject rapidly.

RELATIONS WITH THE ACP STATES

The Council held a thorough discussion to prepare the Community position for the 4th APC-EEC Ministerial negotiating meeting to be held on 28 and 29 June in Luxembourg.

Winding up the discussion, it instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee actively to continue its work on the matter to enable the Council to complete its preparation at an ad hoc meeting before the start of the negotiating meeting.

REFORM OF THE EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND (ERDF)

(1) Conciliation with the European Parliament

A conciliation meeting between the Council and the European Parliament, with the participation of the Commission, was held during this Council meeting on the proposed revision of the Regulation setting up a Regional Development Fund.

The European parliament delegation was led by Mr ESTGEN, Vice-President of the European Parliament, and was made up of Mr DE PASQUALE, Chairman and Rapporteur of the Regional Policy Committee, Mrs FUILLET, First Vice-Chairman of the Regional Policy Committee, Mr GENDEBIEN and Mr HUTTON, members of the Regional Policy Committee, Mr NOTENBOOM, Draftsman and First Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Budgets, and Mr ARNDT and Mr ANSQUER, members of the Committee on Budgets.

This conciliation meeting enabled a thorough discussion to take place on all the major aspects of the future Régulation and allowed the positions of the three Institutions to be usefully compared.

At the close of the discussion, the Institutions noted that the conciliation procedure had been satisfactorily concluded and agreed on the following joint declaration:

"The Council, the Commission and the European Parliament, noting the emphasis on the Community nature of the new Regional Fund, consider that appraisal and implementation of the principles contained in the new Regulation must be the subject of an exchange of views at least once a year.

The Council, the Commission and the European Parliament consider that the operations of the Fund will give priority to the elimination of regional imbalances. They will take maximum account of the regional implications of the other Community policies in their deliberations on these policies.

Data on employment, and especially the employment of women and young people, are fundamental factors in assistance from the Fund, as from other community instruments.

The three Institutions agree on the advantages, with due regard for the internal competence of the Member States and the provisions of Community law, of more efficient relations between the Commission of the Communities and regional or, where applicable, local authorities. This will enable regional interests to be better taken into account when regional development programmes and assistance programmes are drawn up.

ERDF aid will, in general, be an additional overall source of finance for the development of beneficiary regions or areas.

The European Parliament, the Council and the Commission agree that in any event those points which were the subject of amendments by the European Parliament and which were not adopted by the Council will be discussed in detail in the future and in any event when the Fund Regulation is subsequently reviewed."

(2) Adoption of the new ERDF Regulation

Following the conciliation meeting, the Council adopted the Regulation on reform of the European Regional Development Fund which is to enter into force on 1 January 1985. By drawing three years of negotiation to a close in this way the Council discharged one of the important tasks assigned to it by the European Council with the aim of improving the efficiency of the Community's structural funds.

The new ERDF Regulation is characterized by a number of improvements compared with the Regulation currently in force. In particular, it contains the following innovations.

- A. Co-ordination of regional policy action at Community and national level, until now covered only by a Council Resolution, was approved, as were the instruments used to achieve it (periodic report on the situation and development of the regions, regional development programmes, assessment of the regional impact of joint policies), and is set out in the first two Articles of the Regulation.

- B. The system of national quotas is abolished and replaced by a system of ranges which divides the amounts of the Fund between the Member States. The ranges include a lower limit which constitutes the minimum resources guaranteed to each Member State and an upper limit which may be reached as a result of the implementation of the priorities and criteria (inter alia, the Community interest) defined in the Regulation.

C. In addition to financing individual infrastructure or productive investment projects and studies, the Fund will contribute towards the financing of programmes for a three-year experimental period. The amount allocated to the programmes must be progressively increased until at the end of the third year it amounts to at least 20% of the appropriations allocated by the ERDF.

The programmes are divided into two categories:

- (a) the "Community programmes" based on experience of programmes in the non-quota section covering specific Community measures. Proposed by the Commission, these are dealt with by the Council in framework Decisions taken by a qualified majority;
- (b) "national programmes of Community interest" which are submitted by the Member State to the Commission.

In both cases, the programmes will then be administered according to the procedure known as the "Fund Committee procedure" used for projects covered by the current Regulation.

D. Simplification of rates: two rates will be applied uniformly to all Fund measures: a fixed rate of 50% for normal measures and an exceptional rate which may be as much as 55% for measures which are of particular importance for the regions in which they are carried out.

E. Finally, the Regulation provides for a number of other improvements and innovations. First of all, operations designed to exploit more fully the potential for internally generated development, which are already provided for in some "non-quota" implementing Regulations, will now be included in all Fund measures. Moreover, priority is also to be given to integrated Community development projects combining ERDF action with the action of other structural Funds. Finally, improvements have been made at administrative level, such as simplification of the present procedure for granting assistance for major projects involving work on infrastructures and the possibility that the Fund might, under certain circumstances, grant advances on payments.

ELIMINATION OF TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE

The Council noted that there were now no reservations on the adoption of 12 current Directives relating to elimination of technical barriers to trade; in the case of three others discussions with a view to clarifying some technical points as requested by one delegation were taking place between now and the end of next week. The adoption of the 15 Directives - as well as adoption of the Regulation on the new commercial policy instrument - was then to take place without debate (as an "A" item) at a forthcoming meeting of the Council.

PROTECTIVE MEASURES FOR QUARTZ WATCHES

In the context of the application of Regulation (EEC) No 288/82 of 5 February 1982 relating to common import arrangements the Council adopted a Regulation confirming the Commission Regulation (EEC) No 1087/84 of 18 April 1984 introducing protective measures in respect of certain electronic piezo-electric quartz watches with digital display.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Relations with the ACP States: Sugar

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities Regulations concluding the Agreements relating to the accession of the Ivory Coast and of St Christopher-and-Nevis to Protocol No 7 on Sugar annexed to the second ACP-EEC Convention.

The Ivory Coast will accede with, in the immediate future, a quantity of 2 000 tonnes and St Christopher and Nevis with 14 800 tonnes, the quantity already provided for under the OCT arrangements applicable until its independence.

Food aid

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation on the implementation of alternative operations in place of food aid (see Press Release 7606/84 (Presse 99) of 5 June 1984).

Customs union

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities Regulations

- opening, allocating and providing for the administration of the Community tariff quota for ferro-phosphorus falling within subheading ex 28.55 A of the Common Customs Tariff;
- temporary total suspension of autonomous duties under the Common Customs Tariff for a product falling within subheading ex 85.21 D II (a certain type of electronic control circuit).

Coal research

The Council gave its assent to the Commission memorandum on the implementation and execution of a coal research programme with a view to obtaining financial aid under the terms of Article 55(2)(c) of the ECSC Treaty.

PRESS RELEASE

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7915/84 (Presse 108)

938th meeting of the Council

- Agriculture -

Luxembourg, 18 and 19 June 1984

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

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

Belgium:

Mr Paul de KEERSMAEKER
State Secretary for European
Affairs and Agriculture

Denmark:

Mr Niels Anker KOFOED
Minister for Agriculture

Germany:

Mr Ignaz KIECHLE
Federal Minister for Food,
Agriculture and Forestry

Greece:

Mr Constantinos SIMITIS
Minister for Agriculture

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

France:

Mr Michel ROCARD
Minister for Agriculture

Ireland:

Mr Austin DEASY
Minister for Agriculture

Mr René SOUCHON
State Secretary,
Ministry of Agriculture

Italy:

Mr Filippo Maria PANDOLFI
Minister for Agriculture

Luxembourg:

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

Mr Giulio SANTARELLI
State Secretary,
Ministry of Agriculture

Mrs Paola CAVIGLIASSO
State Secretary,
Ministry of Health

Netherlands:

Mr Gerrit BRAKS
Minister for Agriculture
and Fisheries

United Kingdom:

Mr Michael JOPLING
Minister for Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food

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

Commission:

Mr Poul DALSGER
Member

Mr Edgard PISANI
Member

STRUCTURAL POLICY

Subject to confirmation of the agreement of one delegation, the Council adopted the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 355/77 on common measures to improve the conditions under which agricultural products are processed and marketed and Regulation (EEC) No 1820/80 on the stimulation of agricultural development in the less-favoured areas of the West of Ireland.

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The Council continued examining the proposal for a Regulation on improving the efficiency of agricultural structures.

It asked the Working Party of Senior Officials on Agricultural Structures to examine in depth the points outstanding and to submit a conclusive report to it at its subsequent meeting on 16 and 17 July.

In the meantime, the Council agreed, on a proposal from the Commission, to extend for the period 1 July 1984 to 31 October 1984 the relevant Directives and Decisions expiring on 30 June 1984. It decided to consult the European Parliament on these proposals as a matter of urgency.

OLIVE OIL

The Council continued examining proposals for Regulations designed to make olive oil marketing arrangement more efficient.

The Council concentrated on the proposal laying down special measures for olive oil and on two problems in particular: the financing of the monitoring agencies to be set up in the producer Member States and the penalties to be laid down in the event of breaches of the aid arrangements.

On the first question the Council reached a consensus on arrangements providing for 100% Community financing for the first and second years and 50% for the third year, on the understanding that as far as national responsibility for financing was concerned, the Member States were entitled to cover part of the expenditure by a deduction from aid for olive oil.

The Council acting by a qualified majority on a proposal from the Commission will decide by 31 December 1986 on the method of financing the expenditure arising in the fourth marketing year (1987/1988).

On the second question, the Council adopted enacting terms setting out more clearly the general framework of the penalties to be applied by the Member States, in some special cases in particular, in accordance with the present Article 11a of Regulation No 136/66/EEC. It was therefore able to reach a consensus (¹) on the Regulation on special measures.

As regards the general rules on the granting of aid for the production of olive oil and aid to olive oil producer organizations, the Council asked the Special Committee on Agriculture to examine in detail the remaining points outstanding with a view to taking a decision at the next Agriculture Council on 16 and 17 July 1984 and implementing all the new monitoring arrangements from the next olive oil marketing year (1 November 1984 to 31 October 1985).

(¹) Subject to confirmation by the Italian delegation.

SUGAR

Revision of the maximum amount for the production levy on B sugar and the minimum price for B beet for the 1984/1985 marketing year

The Council noted that revenue from production levies in the 1983/1984 marketing year had been lower than the expenditure arising from Community sugar and therefore adopted a Regulation revising the maximum amount for the production levy on B sugar and the minimum price for B beet. Thus the maximum ceiling for B sugar is increased to 37,5% of the intervention price for white sugar for the 1984/1985 marketing year and the minimum price for B beet for the same period fixed at 24,74 ECU/metric tonne.

At the same time the Council took note of a Commission report on the world sugar supply situation.

FOOD AID

The Council heard a statement by Mr PISANI, Member of the Commission responsible for Development, on the problems involved in ensuring food supplies, given the agricultural produce available in the European Economic Community. Mr PISANI stressed the need for an approach to integrate the measures taken by certain developing countries in co-operation with the Community as part of a food strategy, together with those carried out under food aid.

Emphasis was laid on the progress made in biological and technological research into protein-enriched milk powder so that food aid, and possibly trade in milk products, could now be developed further. The Commission will submit a more detailed Note on this problem in September.

The Council held a preliminary discussion and agreed to schedule a more specific debate on the problems involved at one of its meetings in the second half of 1984.

SKIMMED MILK POWDER

The Council examined the proposal for a Regulation laying down general rules for the granting of special aid for partially skimmed milk. This aid was approved in principle at the meeting on 31 March 1984.

At the end of its discussion the Council instructed the Special Committee on Agriculture to examine the points outstanding as regards an implementing regulation, with a view to a decision by the Council at its next meeting.

MARKETING STANDARDS FOR EGGS

The Council approved the Regulation amending the marketing standards for eggs, aimed at updating certain provisions of that Regulation in the light of the changes which have taken place in commercial practice, notably as regards the information which may be given on egg packagings.

Henceforth information relating in particular to the price of eggs, objective information on sales promotion and on the origin of the eggs as well as the method of laying-hen breeding may be given. However, as regards the information on these last two points, prior criteria will have to be fixed in accordance with the Commission Management Committee procedure so as to prevent any distortions of competition.

HARMONIZATION IN THE VETERINARY AND AGRICULTURAL SECTORS

Consensus was reached on the Directives relating to the veterinary sectors, in particular on the amendments to the Directives on trade in:

- live animals and fresh meat: introduction of rules on foot-and-mouth disease;
- live animals: amendment of the rules on brucellosis;
- fresh poultrymeat: rules on the production of eviscerated poultry, "New York dressed" and chilled meat.

Consensus was also reached on the Directive amending the Community measures to combat classical swine fever.

The Council agreed to continue examining the harmonization of inspection costs in this sector at a forthcoming meeting, pending general agreement on the measures proposed as a whole.

In the meantime it agreed to extend for 6 months the existing derogations in respect of foot-and-mouth disease and fresh poultrymeat.

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The Council called upon the Directors-General, Heads of Veterinary Services, to re-examine the rules concerning heat-treated milk before 15 October 1984 with a view to submitting a report to the Council by the end of the year.

The Council recorded that, owing to one last difficulty, agreement could not be reached at this stage on the proposal concerning additives in feedingstuffs. It therefore agreed to ask the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue in the very near future looking for a solution acceptable to all delegations.

OTHER QUESTIONS

The Council took note of the Commission's analysis of the present situation on the market in beef and veal and foreseeable trends, having regard to the recent Commission decisions on the control of milk production.

The Council noted a statement by the French delegation concerning the availability to professional organizations of funds collected under the co-responsibility levy.

The Council gave a favourable opinion on the new arrangement with New Zealand (3-year duration) on butter. It called upon the Special Committee on Agriculture to finalize the relevant texts.

The Council took note of a statement by the United Kingdom delegation on the application of the rules on the additional levy for milk and of a statement by the Italian delegation concerning difficulties which had arisen in the implementation of the Regulation on milk quotas.

The Council took note of a Commission statement on the proposals which the Commission intended to submit on hormones and of the urgent need for a decision in this area.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Other agricultural decisions

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

- opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for 5 000 head of bulls, cows and heifers, other than those intended for slaughter, of certain Alpine breeds, falling within subheading ex 01.02 A II of the Common Customs Tariff;
- opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for 38 000 head of heifers and cows, other than those intended for slaughter, of certain mountain breeds, falling within subheading ex 01.02 A II of the Common Customs Tariff;
- laying down, in respect of hops, the amount of aid to producers for the 1983 harvest:

Aid amounts (ECU/ha)

Group of varieties	For the Community of Nine	For Greece
Aromatic	300	170
Bitter	250	143
Others	300	170

- amending Regulation (EEC) No 315/68 fixing quality standards for flowering bulbs, corms and tubers;
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 2915/79 as regards the application of annual tariff quotas for certain cheeses from Finland and Regulation (EEC) No 3148/83;
- amending for the second time Regulation (EEC) No 2036/82 adopting general rules concerning special measures for peas and field beans;
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 1883/78 laying down general rules for the financing of interventions by the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF), Guarantee Section;
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 3247/81 on the financing by the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund, (EAGGF) Guarantee Section, of certain intervention measures, particularly those involving the buying-in, storage and sale of agricultural products by intervention agencies.

The Council also took note of a Commission report on measures applicable to imports of preserved cultivated mushrooms.

PRESS RELEASE

Luxembourg, 22 June 1984

8004/84 (Presse 112).

LIBRARY

939th meeting of the Council
and the Ministers for Culture meeting
within the Council

Luxembourg, 22 June 1984

President: Mr Jack LANG
Minister for Culture
of the French Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr Paul DE KEERSMAEKER
State Secretary for
European Affairs

Denmark:

Mrs Mimi Stilling JAKOBSEN
Minister for Cultural Affairs

Germany:

Mr Alois MERTES
Minister of State, Foreign
Affairs

Greece:

Mrs Melina MERKOURI
Minister for Culture and Science

France:

Mr Jack LANG
Minister for Culture

Ireland:

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

Mr Georges FILLIOUD
State Secretary responsible
for Communications Technology

Italy:

Mr Giuseppe GALASSO
State Secretary, Ministry
for Cultural Assets

Luxembourg:

Mr Pierre WERNER
President of the Government,
Minister for Culture

Netherlands:

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

United Kingdom:

The Earl of GOWRIE
Minister for the Arts

Commission:

Mr Gaston THORN
President

SOCIAL ASPECTS OF COMMUNITY CULTURAL MEASURES

The Council heard a statement by the Commission representative on procedures for giving aid from the European Social Fund to cultural workers. It noted that at the next Ministerial meeting the Commission would submit a draft Resolution on training and employment for cultural workers.

The Council also took note of a Commission working paper on social security provisions for cultural workers.

COPYRIGHT AND SIMILAR RIGHTS

Measures to combat audio-visual piracy

In view of the increase in audio-visual piracy and trade in illicitly reproduced works, the Ministers (subject to a reservation on the part of the Netherlands delegation) agreed on the following Resolution:

The Member States

1. will endeavour to ratify quickly, if they have not yet done so, those international Conventions which they consider likely, by the reciprocal provisions which they contain, to facilitate the initiation of procedures against acts of audio-visual piracy;

2. will, under the international Conventions to which they have acceded or will accede, where necessary strengthen their national legislation, and in particular criminal law legislation, in order to provide the competent authorities with all the means necessary to seek out and prove acts of counterfeit and provide the judicial authorities with the legal weapons that are essential for the dissuasive and effective repression of such acts;
3. will consider at the level of the authorities concerned any measures the situation demands to ensure that close co-operation is instituted and developed between them in combatting audio-visual piracy;
4. will implement a systematic policy of co-operation between authorities and members of the professions concerned with a view to following developments in the phenomenon of piracy and constantly adapting to that development the techniques of prevention, detection and repression of acts of fraud;
5. will, in collaboration with the international intellectual property organizations, pursue a policy of making available to States and copyright holders any information on laws and case law concerning audio-visual piracy;
6. agree to the examination, in the context of current discussions on copyright and in the appropriate framework, of any proposal of a contractual legislative or other nature which could help to provide an adequate solution to the problems, and in particular any possibility of improving the effectiveness of the procedures and penalties applicable to pirates and traders in copied material.

Private copying

On the basis of a note from the Presidency, a discussion was held on the problem of the reproduction of works by private individuals by means of sound and picture recording and reproducing equipment.

At the end of the discussion, the Ministers agreed to ask the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine this subject further in the light of the comments that had been made, including a note from the German delegation containing certain suggestions, and on the basis of the "green paper" that the Commission intended to submit in the near future. They agreed to return to the subject at the next meeting.

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Finally, the Ministers took note of a Commission working paper containing a report on Community progress on copyright and similar rights.

PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF A EUROPEAN PROGRAMME INDUSTRY

The Ministers took note of a Commission working paper on the cultural, economic and social consequences of the expansion of the audio-visual media.

On the basis of notes from the Presidency and the Italian delegation, the representatives of the Member States decided to convene a Working Party of Experts whose task would be to study, together with the Commission, a possible multilateral system of support for the programme industry and to put forward suitable suggestions.

Following this, they agreed on the following Resolution:

"The Member States of the European Economic Community, conscious of the importance from both the economic and the employment points of view of developing programme industries, and stressing their wish to contribute to the development of creativity and the expression of European cultures by every audio-visual communication means, agree, within the powers at their disposal, to encourage the implementation in appropriate forms of measures which will ensure that in all audio-visual communication media, work and programmes of European origin are given in appropriate place."

ELABORATION OF RULES ON THE SEQUENCE OF DISTRIBUTION THROUGH THE
VARIOUS MEDIA

On the basis of a note from the Presidency, the Ministers discussed the question of harmonizing the rules on film distribution.

They adopted the following Resolution:

"The Member States of the European Economic Community, aware of the threat posed by the absence of agreements on the sequence of film distribution through the various media, will endeavour - within the powers at their disposal - to implement measures to ensure the rational distribution of films through all the audio-visual communication media."

The Commission representative stated that the market could not only be a national one, and so measures were necessary and their harmonization was desirable. The Commission intended to take such initiatives as it considered appropriate in this field.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SOLEMN DECLARATION ON EUROPEAN UNION -
CULTURAL CO-OPERATION

On the basis of a memorandum from the German delegation, a discussion was held on the implementation of cultural co-operation in the context of the Solemn Declaration on European Union. Broad agreement was reached on the specific points in that memorandum that might serve as a basis for closer cultural co-operation, i.e.:

- meetings and exchanges between individuals;
- fostering the teaching of languages in the Community;
- improved reciprocal knowledge of the other Member States, their inhabitants, their culture and their history;
- maintaining and preserving the cultural heritage;
- cultural co-operation in third countries.

The importance was stressed of ensuring close co-ordination of the development of all fields of European cultural co-operation, and of involving existing and future institutional structures such as the European University Institute and the European Foundation.

OTHER DECISION

Decision in the social field

Following its discussions at the 935th meeting - Labour and Social Affairs - on 7 June 1984, the Council adopted the conclusions concerning a Community medium-term social action programme:

"The Community will not be able to strengthen its economic cohesion in the face of international competition if it does not strengthen its social cohesion at the same time. Social policy must therefore be developed at Community level on the same basis as economic, monetary and industrial policy.

The institutional differences which result from the traditions peculiar to each country and to which the latter are attached are often referred to. These differences are major, but social institutions and the relationships woven between the social partners over recent decades also reveal many similarities. In all countries they have been an important factor in economic growth, raising the standard of living and achieving full employment.

These differences between the institutions and social policies do not preclude the implementation of joint measures aimed at gradually promoting a European social area.

On the social front the Community must pursue the objectives it set itself at the outset: to seek full employment and better employment and to improve living and working conditions and to realize to the full the free circulation of workers. That means strengthening social solidarity and achieving a consensus between the social partners.

These objectives are inseparable from the search for stronger economic growth based on more competitive undertakings and development of the internal market and an economic policy aimed at maintaining as low a rate of inflation as possible.

The Community must help to strengthen the links between economic and social policies so as to boost its competitiveness and its solidarity vis-à-vis the outside world. The success of a proper economic policy is an essential requirement for the implementation of an adequate social policy. An effective social policy is a necessary support for economic policy. The changes necessitated by technological change should be backed up by a policy of education and vocational training, a labour-market policy and a social policy, with a view to allowing and encouraging rapid and successful adjustment.

In adapting measures to present circumstances, it is therefore necessary to continue and strengthen those already introduced, particularly in the fields of free movement of workers, employment, new technologies, guidance and vocational training, education, equal treatment of men and women, action to help less-favoured groups, health and safety at the place of work, but also to explore the possibilities of new initiatives in the areas of social protection, demographic change and family policy. Finally, the European social dialogue must be strengthened and its procedures adapted in order to involve the social partners more effectively in the economic and social decisions of the Community.

Within the framework of its powers and having regard to the limited financial means, the Community, without wishing to take the place of action by the Member States and both sides of industry, wishes to assert its political determination to make progress in the construction of a European social area. In this context, it is necessary to give a boost to certain initiatives necessary in order to give a new dynamism, continue along the road towards growth and social progress and consolidate democracy in Europe.

With this in mind, the Council takes the view that, apart from continuing and stepping up the measures introduced over the last few years and which have been the subject of Council Resolutions, a series of measures and initiatives could be considered in future years in the following areas:

1. Employment, the social aspects of new technologies and training

Unemployment has proved to be the most intractable economic and social problem in the Community. Priority will be given in future years to the strengthening of measures to resolve the problem. These measures will have to be implemented in the constant knowledge that production machinery will have to be adapted to technological development in order to foster a high level of competitiveness in the face of international competition.

- 1.1. Young people of both sexes are experiencing in the Community a very considerably higher rate of unemployment than other age categories. This situation is very worrying for their social and professional future and the social balance of the Community countries. The situation, which reflects the insufficiency of offers of employment, is often associated with a low level of training or unsuitability of the qualifications obtained. Improved employment possibilities for young people and first and foremost for young unemployed people are a priority objective. The measures taken by the Community will have to be strengthened for this purpose, in particular as regards training and reconversion to new technologies and the social integration, in particular, of young people and women. The Commission has been requested to draw up a regular report on the means used and the results obtained in the different Community countries.

- 1.2. The Commission is requested, in accordance with the Council's conclusions on technological developments and social change to promote initiatives likely to favour development of forward-looking labour market management, initial and on-going training and the retraining of people whose jobs are affected by the new developments as well as information, consultation and negotiation at the appropriate level.

1.3. As technological change has consequences for employment, work organization and production, the economic aspects connected with the raising of competitiveness should not be examined in isolation from the social aspects concerning the conditions of use of the labour force. Both sides of industry should be encouraged to enter into a dialogue on the conditions of use of equipment, adjustment of the organization of work and working hours, employment problems and the length of working time.

1.4. Special attention must be given to working conditions and particularly to aspects concerning the health and safety of workers, the more so since important factors in labour productivity are involved here. Priority should go to intensification of the Community measures initiated in this area. Arrangements should, in particular, be sought for taking systematic account of the ergonomic implications of technological innovations as from the stage of the study and design of the equipment. The Commission is requested to submit proposals to the Council, in particular as part of the second action programme of the European Communities on health and safety at the place of work.

2. Social protection and population trends

Social-protection systems are an important feature of the social cohesion of the Community countries. Furthermore, the security thus obtained is the counterpart of the necessary mobility of jobs in the face of technological change and competition.

Without this implying any harmonization objective, adjustments should, however, be envisaged in order to consolidate achievements and increase the efficiency of national systems. They would also contribute to strengthening the competitiveness of European economies in the face of international competition. The Commission will have to continue to ensure that these adjustments do not become a stake in the competition between European economies.

2.1. While taking institutional differences into account, the Commission is requested to endeavour to identify better the impact of social security payments on the competitiveness of undertakings, employment and the standard of living of households in the economic context as a whole. At the end of this task, it will report back to the Council.

2.2. The ministers responsible are invited to examine the means employed to control trends in health expenditure on the basis of a periodical report from the Commission. The latter will examine with the Member States the possibilities for co-operation in the field of health.

2.3. The Council will hold a regular exchange of information on the development of family policy and the effects of population trends as well as the consequences of ageing. The Commission is requested to conduct studies to this end.

2.4. In the present social and economic context, the importance of migration problems cannot be overlooked.

The Council takes note that the Commission will be submitting proposals to the Council for:

- intensifying Community policies encouraging the cultural and social integration of migrant workers,

- developing co-operation between Member States on the control of migratory flows from third countries,
- comparing retraining policies for migrant workers volunteering to return to their third countries of origin and examining the links between these policies and the Community policy on co-operation with those countries.

3. The European social dialogue

The Council considers, finally, that carrying out a Community social policy and Community industrial strategies implies the continuation and development of the dialogue between the two sides of industry at Community level.

The Commission is requested, firstly, to examine the conditions which would conduce within the framework of existing mechanisms to improving the dialogue with the two sides of industry in order to associate them better with the Community's economic and social decisions.

Secondly, it is requested to work out appropriate methods for encouraging, while scrupulously respecting the autonomy of, and responsibilities peculiar to, the two sides of industry, the development of relations of parity at Community level."

PRESS RELEASE

8129/84 (Presse 114)

940th meeting of the Council

- Environment -

Luxembourg, 28 and 29 June 1984

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

PRESS RELEASE

Brussels, 2 July 1984

8129/84 (Presse 114) COR 1

LIBRARY

CORRIGENDUM

to Press Release
8129/84 (Presse 114)
- Environment -
on 28 and 29 June 1984

SUPERVISION AND CONTROL OF TRANSFRONTIER SHIPMENT OF
HAZARDOUS WASTE

On page 4, the 2nd and 3rd paragraphs should read as follows:

"Waste intended for recycling is covered by special provisions.

In accordance with the "polluter pays" principle, the cost of implementing the system will be chargeable to the holder of the waste, on the understanding that this provision must be applied in a non-discriminatory way and must not hinder the free movement of goods and services in the Community."

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

On page II, under "Agricultural questions" add:

"The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation authorizing the offer or disposal for direct human consumption of certain imported wines which may have undergone oenological processes not provided for in Regulation (EEC) No 337/79."

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

Belgium:

Mr Firmin AERTS
State Secretary for Public
Health and the Environment

Denmark:

Mr Christian CHRISTENSEN
Minister for the Environment
and for Nordic Affairs

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

Germany:

Mr Carl-Dieter SPRANGER
State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of the Interior

Greece:

Mr Adonios TRITSIS
Minister for Regional Planning,
Housing and the Environment

France:

Mrs Huguette BOUCHARDEAU
State Secretary attached to the
Prime Minister, with responsibility
for the Environment and the Quality
of Life

Ireland:

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

Italy:

Mr Alfredo BIONDI
Minister for Ecology

Luxembourg:

Mr Josy BARTHEL
Minister for the Environment

Netherlands:

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

United Kingdom:

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

Commission:

Mr Karl-Heinz NARJES
Member

SUPERVISION AND CONTROL OF TRANSFRONTIER SHIPMENT OF HAZARDOUS WASTE

The Council signified its agreement to the Directive providing for the necessary measures to ensure supervision and control, with a view to the protection of human health and the environment, of the transfrontier shipment of hazardous waste within the Community or on its entering and leaving the Community.

The Directive provides that, where a holder of waste intends to ship it or have it shipped to another Member State, to have it routed through one or more Member States or to ship it to a Member State from a third State, he must notify the competent authorities. This notification must include, in particular:

- the source and composition of the waste, including the producer's identity;
- the provision made for routes and transport insurance against damage to third parties;
- the measures taken for safe transport, particularly compliance by the carrier with the conditions laid down by the Member States for the exercise of such transport activity;
- the existence of a contractual agreement with the consignee of the waste, who should possess adequate technical capacity for the disposal of the waste in question in conditions presenting no danger to human health or the environment.

Similar provisions are laid down to cover the shipping of waste for disposal outside the Community.

The transfrontier shipment may not be executed before acknowledgement of receipt of the notification by the competent authority of the Member State concerned. The Directive also lays down periods within which the competent authorities of the various Member States concerned may, if they so wish, raise objections, or set conditions for the shipment in question.

Waste intended for recycling is covered by special provisions, which must be applied in a non-discriminatory way and may not hinder the free movement of goods and services in the Community.

In accordance with the "polluter pays" principle, the cost of implementing the system will be chargeable to the holder of the waste.

Waste for transfrontier shipments must comply with the following conditions:

- it must be properly packed;
- containers must have appropriate labels;
- transfrontier shipments must be accompanied by instructions to be followed in the event of danger or accident.

Without prejudice to national provisions concerning civil liability, irrespective of the place in which the waste is disposed of, the producer of the waste must take all necessary steps to dispose of or arrange for the disposal of the waste so as to protect the quality of the environment.

The Directive will be formally adopted after the various texts have been finalized.

The Member States are to bring into force the measures necessary to comply with the Directive as from 1 October 1985.

ASSESSMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF CERTAIN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROJECTS (IMPACT STUDIES)

After noting with regret that one delegation could still not give its definitive agreement to this proposal for a Directive, the Council emphasized the importance it attached to a unanimous positive decision being taken as soon as possible.

AIR-QUALITY STANDARDS FOR NITROGEN DIOXIDE

Pending receipt of the European Parliament's Opinion the Council, basing itself on a compromise proposal from the Presidency, declared itself favourably disposed towards this proposal for a Directive, the purpose of which is to lay down air-quality standards for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂). This proposal, which is for a third Directive of this kind (SO₂ in 1980 and lead in 1982), is part of the package of measures currently envisaged to combat atmospheric pollution and acid rain. It provides, in particular, for a limit value and guide values for NO₂. It is understood that the Commission will look into the question of fixing a second limit value for longer-term exposure and that it will make appropriate proposals. The Council will take a final decision on this proposal for a Directive as soon as the European Parliament's Opinion is available.

DISCHARGES OF HEXACHLOROCYCLOHEXANE (HCH)

The Council signified its agreement to a Directive laying down limit values for discharges of HCH from industrial plant and the time limits for compliance with these values, together with quality objectives for HCH discharges in the aquatic environment.

The Directive also establishes a surveillance and monitoring procedure and reference methods of analysis.

This Directive falls within the framework of Council Directive 76/464/EEC of 4 May 1976 on pollution caused by certain dangerous substances discharged into the aquatic environment of the Community.

The Directive will be formally adopted once the texts have been finalized.

INFORMATION SYSTEM ON THE STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES IN THE COMMUNITY (1984-1987)

The Council made a full examination of the proposal for a Decision on the adoption of a work programme concerning an experimental project for gathering, co-ordinating and rendering consistent information on the state of the environment and natural resources in the Community (1984-1987).

The Council signified its general agreement to the content of the programme and instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to seek a solution to the problem of the financing arrangements.

LIMITATION OF EMISSIONS OF POLLUTANTS INTO THE AIR FROM LARGE
COMBUSTION PLANTS

The Council held a first exchange of views on the proposal for a Directive on the limitation of emissions of pollutants into the air from large combustion plants. The Council stressed the major importance of this proposal, particularly in the context of the measures to be taken to combat acid rain, and agreed to expedite its proceedings with a view to solving the various problems arising.

LEAD IN PETROL

MEASURES TO BE TAKEN AGAINST AIR POLLUTION BY GASES FROM ENGINES
OF MOTOR VEHICLES

The Council held a first exchange of views on two proposals for Directives concerning the lead content of petrol and the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to measures to be taken against air pollution by gases from engines of motor vehicles.

Following the exchange of views, the President drew the following conclusions:

"We have held a full discussion of the problem of motor vehicle pollution and lead in petrol.

I am pleased to note that there is now a broad consensus on the general guidelines, although detailed discussion of the draft Directives will have to continue, in particular on the basis of additional analyses and proposals which the Commission will be submitting to the Council in September and which will be discussed once the European Parliament has delivered its Opinion.

I note that we were all agreed on the ultimate introduction of leadless petrol. No country called for a date any later than 1989, and some wanted it to be as soon as possible.

There is also agreement that general efforts should be made to reduce the emission of pollutants by vehicles by fixing appropriate emission standards, on the basis of proposals from the Commission.

The Council stressed its intention of stepping up its overall campaign against air pollution whilst preserving the unity of the Community market and respecting the general aims of the Community, in particular as regards energy saving."

WASTE FROM THE TITANIUM DIOXIDE INDUSTRY

The Council noted a progress report from the Permanent Representatives Committee on work on the proposal for a Directive on procedures for harmonizing the programmes for the reduction of pollution caused by waste from the titanium dioxide industry.

At the close of the discussion the Council asked the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its proceedings in the light of what had been said and to reach agreement as soon as possible.

CO-OPERATION WITH THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ON ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

The Council and the Member States signified their agreement to two Resolutions submitted by the French delegation in the context of co-operation with the developing countries on environmental matters.

In the first Resolution the Council expresses its support for the action initiated by international financing and development institutions to devise a common approach to environmental development problems (within the Committee of International Development Institutions for the Environment) and asks the Commission to examine the possibilities for achieving closer convergence of efforts to integrate the environmental dimension in development aid. In the second Resolution the Council notes with satisfaction the appearance of new forms of co-operation concerning water on the basis of local or regional initiatives and asks the Commission to examine how these developments could best be used.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Other decisions concerning the environment

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a number of texts approved at the previous Environment Council meeting on 1 March 1984 (¹):

- the Regulation on action by the Community relating to the environment;
- the Directive on the combating of air pollution from industrial plants.

The Council also adopted the Decision on the conclusion of the agreement for co-operation in dealing with pollution of the North Sea by oil and other harmful substances. This agreement provides in particular for exchanges of information, joint research and projects for co-operation at sea between those Community countries with a North Sea coastline, Sweden and Norway.

Trade questions

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

- imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of hardboard originating in the Soviet Union;
- imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of vinyl acetate monomer originating in Canada;
- autonomously extending the arrangements applicable to trade with Malta until 31 December 1984;

(¹) See press release 5365/84 (Presse 38) of 1 March 1984.

- autonomously extending the arrangements applicable to trade with Cyprus until 31 December 1984.

Agricultural questions

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities:

- the Regulation extending the term of validity of Regulation (EEC) No 2692/83 derogating from the application of certain provisions relating to the adjustment of free-at-frontier values of certain cheeses;
- the Directive amending the annexes to Directive 77/93/EEC on protective measures against the introduction into the Member States of organisms harmful to plants or plant products.

Fisheries

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation on the conclusion of the agreement between the European Economic Community and the Government of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea on fishing off the coast of Equatorial Guinea.

Tropical Timber

The Council took a decision on the signing by the Community and its Member States of the International Agreement on Tropical Timber 1983 which had been negotiated as part of the UNCTAD Integrated Programme. Signing is planned for 28 or 29 June 1984 in New York. It was understood that the agreement would be concluded at a later date.

Aid to refugees in the countries of the Near East

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Decision on the conclusion of the Convention between the European Economic Community and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees (UNRWA) concerning aid to refugees in the countries of the Near East. This Convention will be signed on 4 July 1984 in Brussels.

Shipping policy

The Council approved the joint note from the Community and its Member States to be sent to the Indonesian Government on the subject of Indonesia's shipping policy.

Relations with the ACP and the OCT

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulations opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for rum, arrack and tafia falling within subheading 22.09 C I of the Common Customs Tariff and originating respectively in the African, Caribbean and Pacific States (ACP) (1984/1985) and the overseas countries and countries associated with the European Economic Community (1984/1985).

Consumer protection policy

The Council agreed to a Directive on the approximation of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States concerning misleading advertising.

The purpose of the Directive is to protect consumers, persons carrying on a trade or business or practising a craft or profession and the interests of the public in general against misleading advertising and the unfair consequences thereof.

The Directive provides that Member States should ensure that adequate and effective means exist for the control of misleading advertising in the interests of consumers as well as competitors and the general public.

Such means should include legal provisions under which persons or organizations regarded under national law as having a legitimate interest in prohibiting misleading advertising may:

- (a) take legal action against such advertising and/or
- (b) bring such advertising before an administrative authority competent either to decide on complaints or to initiate appropriate legal proceedings.

Under the legal provisions referred to above, Member States shall confer upon the courts or administrative authorities powers enabling them, in cases where they deem such measures to be necessary, taking into account all the interest involved and in particular the public interest:

- to order the cessation of, or to institute legal proceedings for an order for the cessation of, misleading advertising, or
 - if misleading advertising has not yet been published but publication is imminent, to order the prohibition of, or to institute legal proceedings for an order for the prohibition of such publication,
- even without proof of actual loss or damage or of intention or negligence on the part of the advertiser.

Member States shall also make provision for the measures to be taken under an accelerated procedure.

Furthermore, Member States may confer upon the courts or administrative bodies powers enabling them, with a view to eliminating the continuing effects of misleading advertising, the cessation of which has been ordered by a final decision:

- to require publication of that decision in full or in part and in such form as they deem adequate;
- to require in addition the publication of a corrective statement.

The Directive does not exclude the voluntary control of misleading advertising by self-regulatory bodies and recourse to such bodies by persons or organizations.

In civil or administrative proceedings, the courts or administrative authorities will be enabled:

- (a) to require the advertiser to furnish evidence as to the accuracy of factual claims in advertising if, taking into account the legitimate interests of the advertiser and any other party to the proceedings, such a requirement appears appropriate on the basis of the circumstances of the particular case, and
- (b) to consider factual claims as inaccurate if the evidence demanded is not furnished or is deemed insufficient by the court or administrative authority.

This Directive will be adopted formally following legal and linguistic finalization of the texts. Once it has been formally adopted, it will enter into force 24 months after its publication in the Official Journal.

DELEGATION OF THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

PRESS AND INFORMATION

941st Meeting of the Council

ACP Coordinating Meeting

June 28, 1984

No Press Release Issued

DELEGATION OF THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

PRESS AND INFORMATION

942nd Meeting of the Council

June 26, 1984

No Press Release Issued