

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

PRESS RELEASES

PRESIDENCY: ITALY

JULY-DECEMBER 1990

Meetings and press releases 14-21 December 1990

Meeting number	Subject	Date
1461 st	Telecommunications	14 December 1990
1462 nd	Economics/Finance	17 December 1990
1463 rd	Transport	17-18 December 1990
1464 th	General Affairs	18-19 December 1990
1465 th	Labour Social Affairs	18 December 1990
1466 th	Fisheries	19-20 December 1990
1467 th	Environment	20-21 December 1990
1468 th	Research	21 December 1990

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

10686/90 (Presse 227)

1461st Council meeting

- Telecommunications -

Brussels, 14 December 1990

President: Mr Oscar MAMMI

Minister for Posts of
the Italian Republic

14.XII.90

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Italy

Mr Oscar MAMMI

Minister for Posts and
Telecommunications

Mr Raffaele RUSSO

State Secretary for Posts and
Telecommunications

Luxembourg

Mr Alex BODRY

Minister for Posts and
Telecommunications

Netherlands

Mrs Hanja MAIJ-WEGGEN

Minister for Transport and Public Works

Portugal

Mr Carlos Silva COSTA

State Secretary for Housing

United Kingdom

Mr David ELLIOTT

Deputy Permanent Representative

o

o

o

Commission

Mr Filippo Maria PANDOLFI

Vice-President

Mr M. Jean DONDELINGER

Member

14.XII.90

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DIGITAL CORDLESS EUROPEAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS (DECT)

The Council adopted a common position on a Directive and a Recommendation concerning the co-ordinated introduction of Digital Cordless European Telecommunications (DECT) in the Community.

DECT is a technology designed to provide a variety of mobile communications (cordless telephones for residential use, telepoint services, cordless PABXs, on-site cordless data).

The Recommendation, which concerns the co-ordinated introduction of DECT in the Community, aims to direct and accelerate the efforts by the Member States, telecommunications administrations and industry to identify a common solution. The proposal is based on work carried out by the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI), which has undertaken to formulate a DECT standard by the end of 1991.

The purpose of the Directive is to make available in due course, in a co-ordinated manner, common frequencies for DECT throughout the Community. The frequencies concerned (1880 - 1900 MHz) are those contained in a Recommendation of the European Conference for Posts and Telecommunications (CEPT).

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RELATIONS WITH THE COUNTRIES OF CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

"THE COUNCIL

Considering the great political importance of creating a large European integrated telecommunications market, comprising the Community, the EFTA countries and the countries of central and eastern Europe;

Considering that the creation of this integrated European telecommunications market is to the mutual benefit of the countries of central and eastern Europe and of the Community, and will contribute to the economic restructuring of these countries as a whole, according to their specific requirements, as well as to their political integration into Europe;

Considering that these countries are joining the European telecommunications organizations, in particular the CEPT;

Considers that in the longer term the Association Agreements to be concluded with these countries will provide a basis for coherent Community action.

Meanwhile, there is a place for telecommunications activities in the co-ordinated assistance for economic restructuring provided by the Group of 24. In order to synchronize those activities with that of major investors and maximize the effectiveness of the combination of grant and loan funding, close contacts with the World Bank and the EIB, and later the EBRD, are essential.

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In conclusion, the Council considers that, at the request of the countries concerned, the Community will be able to play an important role, in conjunction with other relevant bodies, in particular by means of transfers of expertise and training, in the introduction by those countries of the following measures in the area of telecommunications:

- creation of the new legal framework and of the implementing regulations; introduction of new organizational structures more open to competition, based on the principles of the European model;
- setting up strategic planning offices in the operating companies;
- mastering the management of telecommunications in a new economic environment: business plans, procurement, etc.;
- active participation in the European standardization mechanisms and implementation of international standards;
- planning and improvement of telecommunications networks - making use of, inter alia, EIB funding, in the countries and subject to the conditions and limits approved by the Council, EBRD funding and the rapid introduction of advanced services."

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ELECTRONIC DATA INTERCHANGE

The Council took note of Vice-President PANDOLFI's presentation of

- a communication on electronic data interchange (EDI) using telematic service networks,
- a proposal for a Council Decision on a second phase of the TEDIS programme (Trade Electronic Data Interchange Systems).

It should be noted that, following a decision taken in October 1987 at a meeting of the Internal Market Council, the Commission was able to initiate the first phase of the TEDIS programme in 1988 and 1989.

The Commission communication sets out the activities which it has been possible to undertake under the said programme.

The Commission proposes that the programme should enter a second phase and has to this end submitted a proposal for a Decision to the Council.

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GREEN PAPER ON SATELLITES

Following an in-depth debate on the Commission's Green Paper, the Presidency drew the following conclusions:

President's conclusions on the Green Paper on a common approach in the field of satellite communications in the European Community.

Whereas, the Council, in the Resolution of 30 June 1988 on the development of the common market for telecommunications services and equipment by 1992, aimed, inter alia, to define a common position in the field of satellite communications;

whereas satellite communications can play a strategic role in the development of the telecommunications services and equipment market in the Community and all over Europe;

THE COUNCIL

1. has had a first debate on the Green Paper on a common approach in the field of satellite communications in the European Community, submitted by the Commission;
2. notes with satisfaction the analysis of the situation existing in the European Community with regard to satellite communications systems and possible developments in this sector;
3. notes that the Green Paper invites all the interested parties, in particular the telecommunications and broadcasting sector, the telecommunications and space industry, the trade unions, services providers and the users, to submit their comments on the Green Paper to the Commission;

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4. invites the Commission to submit as soon as possible conclusions based on the comments it will receive, as well as a detailed draft of the measures to be adopted.

LAND-BASED MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS

The Council adopted the following Resolution:

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

of

on the final stage of the
co-ordinated introduction of pan-European
land-based public digital mobile cellular
communications in the Community (GSM)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

NOTES with satisfaction that substantial progress has been made on the basis of Recommendation 87/371/EEC ⁽¹⁾ and Directive 87/372/EEC ⁽²⁾ with the implementation of the pan-European digital mobile cellular GSM system;

IT NOTES, however, that a number of issues will have to be tackled in order to make truly trans-European mobile services a reality and to develop the potential of the GSM system fully. Many of these issues are currently being addressed in the context of the work of the European Conference for Postal Administration and Telecommunications (CEPT), the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) and in the context of the implementation of the GSM Memorandum of Understanding;

(1) OJ No L 196, 17.7.1987, p. 81.

(2) OJ No L 196, 17.7.1987, p. 85.

IT ALSO NOTES that Community action is required in a number of critical areas.

These areas are in particular:

- establishment of an interim scheme for the mutual recognition of approval of GSM terminals.

An examination should in particular be made of the possibilities and criteria for implementing the principles set out in the future Council Directive concerning the approximation of the laws of the Member States on telecommunications terminals equipment including the mutual recognition of conformity on a provisional basis for GSM terminals only as a special case, before the formal procedures provided for in this Directive concerning terminals in general are fully operational.

Given the central role of the European Telecommunications Standard on mobile stations of the pan-European digital cellular telecommunications system (NET 10) in this context, the Council urges the ETSI to commit itself to completing its discussions by a specific date;

- implementation of mutual recognition of licences for the operation of GSM terminals in all Member States.

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The Council notes the work in the CEPT on this issue and urges the CEPT to complete it rapidly. The Council also calls upon the Member States to guarantee the free circulation and use of mobile stations throughout the Community, referring to the procedures being worked out within the CEPT;

- examination of the possibilities of rapid extension of the technological potential and progressive development of the use of higher frequency bands for new Personal Communications Network systems, e.g. DCS 1800, in order to create new mass markets for mobile telecommunication, taking the World Administrative Radiocommunications Conference (WARC 92) into account;
- in the context of general relations between the Community and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and their development, promotion of the use of the GSM system in those countries which aim - within the reconstruction of their economies - at rapidly building up their mobile systems;
- encouraging the setting up of appropriate tariff and accounting arrangements, concerning in particular the inter-operator agreements which are needed to support international operation and use of mobile terminals, in accordance with Community law;

- ensuring required measures concerning data protection in particular in the context of digital mobile telecommunications. It notes in this connection that it has received proposals from the Commission, which are currently being studied.

The Council supports the development in Europe of conditions which will encourage a vigorous mobile communications market throughout the Community, by extending the benefits of mobile communications to peripheral areas of the Community using fully as necessary any relevant instrument for promoting such a development, such as the STAR programme.

The Council is pleased to note that the Commission intends to address the overall future development of mobile communications in a Green Paper to be published before the end of 1991.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Fisheries

The Council adopted Regulations

- opening tariff quotas for the importation into Spain of certain fisheries products originating in the Canary Islands or Ceuta and Melilla (1991)

- opening and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas for certain fisheries products originating in the Canary Islands

ECSC

The Council gave its assent, in accordance with the second paragraph of Article 54 of the ECSC Treaty, to a loan to part-finance the construction of a natural gas distribution system in Greece.

PRESS RELEASE

10870/90 (Presse 231)

1462nd meeting of the Council

- Economic and Financial Affairs -

Brussels, 17 December 1990

Presidents: Mr Guido CARLI
Minister for the Treasury

Mr Rino FORMICA
Minister for Finance
of the Italian Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr Philippe MAYSTADT Minister for Finance

Denmark:

Mr Niels HELVEG PETERSEN Minister for Economic Affairs

Mr Jens THOMSEN State Secretary, Ministry for Finance

Germany:

Mr Horst KÖHLER State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs

Greece:

Mr Eythymios CHRISTODOULOU Deputy Minister for Economic Affairs

Spain:

Mr Pedro PEREZ State Secretary for Economic Affairs

France:

Mr Pierre BEREGOVOY Ministre d'Etat, Minister for Economic and Financial Affairs and the Budget

Ireland:

Mr Albert REYNOLDS Minister for Finance

Italy:

Mr Guido CARLI Minister for the Treasury

Mr Rino FORMICA Minister for Finance

Mr Emilio RUBBI State Secretary for the Treasury

Mr Stefano DE LUCA State Secretary for Finance

Luxembourg:

Mr Robert GOEBBELS	Minister for Economic Affairs
Mr Jean-Claude JUNCKER	Minister for Finance

Netherlands:

Mr Marius van AMELSVOORT	State Secretary for Finance
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Portugal:

Mr Carlos TAVARES	State Secretary for the Treasury
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United Kingdom:

Mr Francis MAUDE	Financial Secretary to the Treasury
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Commission:

Mr Jacques DELORS	President
Sir Leon BRITTAN	Vice-President
Mr Henning CHRISTOPHERSEN	Vice-President
Ms Christiane SCRIVENER	Member

ABOLITION OF FISCAL FRONTIERS

Conclusions of the Council on the new excise duty arrangements:

Further to the instructions it received from the European Council in Dublin ⁽¹⁾, the ECOFIN Council considers that the arrangements to be implemented on 1 January 1993 regarding the main rules governing the movement and control of products subject to excise duty which are the subject of intra-Community transactions between professional operators are now approved. The proceedings of the ad hoc Working Party on the Abolition of Fiscal Frontiers result, on the basis of the Commission's proposals, in the following solutions as the concrete expression of the ECOFIN Council's conclusions of 13 November 1989 on this matter.

I. Movement between authorized warehousekeepers under duty-suspension arrangements

1. Authorized warehousekeepers are entitled, subject to certain conditions, to receive, hold and despatch under duty-suspension arrangements, products subject to excise duty.

Such warehousekeepers are required to comply with certain obligations imposed by each Member State. A minimum level of Community harmonization is necessary.

These obligations must comply with the principle of non-discrimination between national and intra-Community transactions.

2. Movement will take place on the basis of an accompanying administrative or commercial document.

The content of the documents and the form of the administrative document must be harmonized.

Appropriate provisions will be made for the discharge of the accompanying document.

(1) At its meeting on 3 December the Council also adopted conclusions on the transitional VAT arrangements (see Press Release, ECOFIN Council of 3.XIII.90 - 10468/90 Presse 211); these two texts must now be transposed into law.

3. The tax authorities in each Member State must be notified by warehousekeepers of deliveries sent and received. Appropriate arrangements will be made to determine the notification procedures.
4. There will be appropriate provisions to enable information to be exchanged between all Member States involved in the movement of products subject to excise duty in order to effectively reduce the risk of fraud.

II. Receipt of products subject to excise duty by professional operators who do not have the status of authorized warehousekeepers

1. Such operators may receive products subject to excise duty under duty suspension arrangements from authorized warehousekeepers of other Member States. Such operators may not hold or despatch such products under duty suspension arrangements.
2. Such operators may request registration with the competent authorities of their Member State. Registration shall be subject to compliance with certain obligations. A minimum level of Community harmonization is necessary.
3. If such operators are registered, excise duties become chargeable on receipt of the goods.

The provisions set out in paragraph 3 of point I shall apply.

4. If they are not registered, they must make a declaration to the tax authority of the country of receipt prior to the receipt of the goods.

Excise duties are payable by the consignee in the country of destination. There will be appropriate provisions in order to guarantee collection of the duty in the country of destination.

5. Excise duty payable in the State of destination may be charged to a fiscal representative established in that State and designated by the consignor. The declaration prior to receipt referred to in paragraph 4 may be made by the fiscal representative. The fiscal representative must comply with certain obligations. A minimum level of Community harmonization of these obligations is necessary.
6. Where products subject to excise duty are covered by specific national regulations which are compatible with Community provisions, Member States may provide that deliveries of such products are made in accordance with appropriate procedures for the purposes of applying such regulations.
7. Movement of such goods will take place on the basis of an accompanying document, and, where the consignee is not registered, by a document certifying payment of the duties in the State of destination or compliance with any other arrangement guaranteeing payment of excise duties.

When the operator is not registered, the authorities of the Member State of destination, previously informed of the despatch of the goods, shall have the right to check that the goods were actually received.

8. Appropriate steps will be taken to enable information to be exchanged between all Member States involved in the movement of products subject to excise duty in order to effectively reduce the risk of fraud.

III. In appropriate cases, special arrangements will be laid down for avoiding the maintenance of double taxation where a product for which excise duty has been paid in a Member State is subject to excise duties in another Member State.

It will be necessary to introduce special provisions forming an integral part of a general Community control mechanism, in order to ensure that payment of tax in that other Member State is not evaded.

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The Council asks the ad hoc Working Party, on the basis of the guidelines resulting from these conclusions, to expedite its proceedings on the Commission proposal on the movement and control of products subject to excise duty so that it can adopt the relevant Community legislation as soon as possible.

Duty-free arrangements for travellers - conclusions of the Council

The Council noted the agreement on the one-year derogations for Ireland and Denmark, subject to general agreement on the Netherlands compromise on the increase in duty-free travellers' allowances.

In the light of the ECOFIN Council's conclusions of November and December 1989 and the conclusions of the European Council in Rome in December 1990, and of the timetable for the next six months, to be fixed at the beginning of 1991, with particular reference to the proceedings on the completion of the internal market, including the approximation of rates, the Council undertook to adopt an overall decision on the Netherlands compromise before 31 March 1991.

That decision will enable the derogations for Ireland and Denmark to enter into force with retroactive effect as from 1 January 1991.

FOLLOW-UP TO THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL IN ROME

Relations with the Soviet Union

Regarding the food aid for the USSR in the form of gifts totalling ECU 250 million under the 1990 agricultural budget, the Council noted that the conclusions of the European Council signified acceptance of the Commission proposal on the subject submitted at the last meeting of the ECOFIN Council on 10 December.

Regarding finance for the rest of the proposed measures, the Ministers were in agreement that the medium-term guarantees would take the form of loan guarantees, under the Community budget, granted to exporters for a period of three years.

As to the amount, the Ministers agreed that the Community could provide up to ECU 500 million, on the understanding that deliveries would depend on the USSR's fulfilling the conditions laid down by the European Council as a guarantee that the aid would actually reach those for whom it was intended and did not jeopardize normality of supplies, etc. To that end, provision will be made for the aid to be released in tranches or for other appropriate arrangements to be included in the measures.

On that basis, the Commission will shortly be submitting a proposal for a Regulation for examination by the Council.

As regards technical assistance, the Ministers noted the Commission's intention to submit proposals for a framework Regulation and the necessary budgetary proposals without delay; the latter will include a proposal for an additional ECU 400 million in 1991 and ECU 600 million in 1992, increasing the total for category 4 of the financial perspective.

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The Ministers held an initial discussion on that subject which touched on, among other things, the question of the revision of the financial perspective.

Extension of EIB loans to Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria and Romania

Having examined the question of the extension of EIB loans to Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria and Romania, the Council agreed to take a decision on the matter, if possible at its meeting in January, after receipt of the European Parliament's Opinion.

Financial support for Czechoslovakia

The Council confirmed the Community's willingness to participate within the G-24 in a measure of financial support to be granted to Czechoslovakia for the stabilization and modernization of its economy, in particular to enable Czechoslovakia to render its currency convertible.

The Community, with the United States, will also contact certain Arab oil-producing states with a view to their making a substantial contribution to this support measure.

Prevention of money laundering

With a view to establishing a common position on the amended proposal for a Directive on prevention of use of the financial system for the purpose of money laundering, the Council reached agreement in principle on a series of outstanding problems concerning the proposal.

The Council thus responded to the requests from the European Councils in Dublin and more recently in Rome, which had underlined the need to conclude the proceedings on this matter as soon as possible.

It instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to proceed, on the basis of the agreement reached, with the finalization of the texts in the official languages of the Communities in order to enable the Council to approve the common position formally at a forthcoming meeting and then forward it to the European Parliament for its second reading.

The aim of the Directive is to prevent the use of the financial system - set up by earlier directives - for the laundering of money obtained from criminal activities. It therefore concerns credit institutions and financial institutions, including life insurance companies. It falls within the framework of international initiatives, in particular the UN Convention (Vienna, December 1988), the recommendations of February 1990 of the Financial Action Task Force set up by the G-7 Summit (Paris, July 1989), and the Council of Europe Convention (Strasbourg, November 1990) which are all aimed at, inter alia, preventing the laundering of money acquired from illegal activities such as drug trafficking, terrorism and organized crime.

The Directive will constitute the Community's contribution to the international efforts being made in the field. The Member States must introduce into their legislation a series of measures including the identification of customers and beneficial owners, the co-operation of credit and financial institutions with the authorities responsible for preventing money laundering, introduction of the legal framework for such co-operation and the obligation for such institutions to establish internal control procedures.

A contact Committee is to be set up, which will have the tasks of contributing to the harmonized implementation of the Directive, through regular consultation between those responsible for the prudential supervision of financial institutions, and also examining whether to include professions other than those at present covered, whose activities may be used in money laundering.

The agreement in principle reached by the Council covers the following points in particular:

- the definitions of money laundering and of criminal activity, accompanied by an undertaking to adapt those definitions as the concepts evolved: the definition of laundering is drawn from that given in the Vienna Convention on narcotic drugs; however, since money laundering involves not only the proceeds of drug related offences but also the proceeds of other criminal activities - such as organized crime and terrorism - it is envisaged that the Member States should extend, within the meaning of their legislation, the effects of the Directive to include the proceeds of such activities since they are likely to result in laundering operations justifying their prevention on that basis;

- the prohibition of laundering and appropriate measures to be taken by each Member State to ensure full application of all the provisions of the Directive and, in particular, the penalties applicable in the event of infringement of the provisions adopted pursuant to the Directive. These provisions are accompanied by an undertaking by the representatives of the Governments of the Member States to introduce the requisite measures of national criminal law;
- the identification of customers which enter into business relationships with the institutions in question; and
- the identification of occasional customers who carry out transactions above a threshold of ECU 15 000;
- a provision in the Directive enabling the Member States to adopt or maintain stricter provisions to prevent money laundering, for example the choice of a threshold below ECU 15 000;
- the obligation to inform the authorities responsible for efforts to eliminate money laundering of any facts which might be an indication of money laundering;
- entry into force on 1 January 1993.

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The Council agreed to postpone discussion of the other items on the agenda

- investment services

- credit reinsurance pool for exports to the countries of Eastern Europe

until a future meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Trade policy

The Council adopted the Regulation temporarily suspending until 30 June 1991 the autonomous Common Customs Tariff duties on a number of agricultural products (certain fish roes, certain peas in pods and white beans, certain mushrooms and fresh and dried dates).

Tourism

The Council adopted the Decision on the implementation of a two-year programme (1991-1992) for developing Community tourism statistics.

The aim of the programme is the development of a Community frame of reference for the compilation of Community statistics on tourism which will provide reliable, rapid and comparable statistics. (See Press Release - Tourism Council - 29.XI.90 10162/90 Presse 201).

Appointment

On a proposal from the Belgian Government, the Council appointed Mr François WILLEKENS a member of the Economic and Social Committee for the period until 20 September 1994.

PRESS RELEASE

10872/90 (Presse 233)

1463rd Council meeting

- TRANSPORT -

Brussels, 17 and 18 December 1990

Presidents: Mr Carlo BERNINI

Minister for Transport
of the Italian Republic

Mr Carlo VIZZINI,

Minister for Merchant Shipping
of the Italian Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr Jean-Luc DEHAENE Deputy Prime Minister and
Minister for Communications and
Institutional Reforms

Denmark:

Mr Knud OESTERGAARD Minister for Transport

Mr Joergen HALCK State Secretary, Ministry of
Transport

Mr Christophe BO BRAMSEN State Secretary for Industry

Germany:

Mr Wilhelm KITTEL State Secretary, Federal Ministry
of Transport

Greece:

Mr Nicolaos GUELESTATHIS Minister for Transport and
Communications

Mr Aristotelis PAVLIDIS Minister for Merchant Shipping

Spain:

Mr José BARRIONUEVO PEÑA Minister for Transport, Tourism and
Communications

France:

Mr Michel DELEBARRE Minister for Infrastructure,
Housing, Transport and the Sea

Mr Jacques MELLICK Minister for the Sea (Ministry of
Transport and the Sea)

Mr Georges SARRE State Secretary for Road and River
Transport (Ministry of Infrastructure,
Housing, Transport and the Sea)

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Ireland:

Mr Séamus BRENNAN

Minister for Tourism and Transport

Mr John P. WILSON

Deputy Prime Minister,
Minister for the Marine

Mr Denis LYONS

Deputy Minister for Tourism,
Department of Tourism and Transport

Italy:

Mr Carlo BERNINI

Minister for Transport

Mr Carlo VIZZINI

Minister for Merchant Shipping

Mr Gualtiero NEPI

State Secretary, Ministry of
Transport

Luxembourg:

Mr Robert GOEBBELS

Minister for Transport

Netherlands:

Mrs Hanja MAIJ-WEGGEN

Minister for Transport and
Public Works

Portugal:

Mr Joaquim FERREIRA DO AMARAL

Minister for Public Works, Transport
and Communications

United Kingdom:

Mr Malcolm RIFKIND

Secretary of State for Transport

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Commission:

Mr Karel VAN MIERT

Member

I. INLAND TRANSPORT

RELATIONS WITH THIRD COUNTRIES OF TRANSIT (AUSTRIA, SWITZERLAND AND YUGOSLAVIA)

The Council took note of a detailed report by Mr VAN MIERT, a member of the Commission, on progress in the negotiations with third countries of transit (Austria, Switzerland and Yugoslavia).

It will be recalled that the Council adopted the negotiating directives on 19 December 1988 and that they were supplemented by the Council's conclusions of 5 June and 4 and 5 December 1989.

The Council then held a debate on the general prospects for the negotiations.

As regards Yugoslavia, the Council noted the satisfactory progress of the negotiations and hoped that they would be concluded in the near future.

As regards the negotiations with Austria and Switzerland, the Council invited the Commission actively to continue its negotiations during the next half-year.

ROAD TRAINS

The Council agreed by a qualified majority on a draft Directive amending Directive 85/3/EEC, which was in force at present, to increase the maximum authorized length of a road train from 18 m to 18,35 m while guaranteeing sufficient space for the driver's cabin.

To that end the Directive provides that:

- the maximum authorized length of a road train will be fixed at 18,35 m,
- the maximum authorized load length (the sum of the load lengths of the motor vehicle and the trailer) will be fixed at 15,65 m and
- the maximum load length including the distance between the motor vehicle and the trailer (the coupling device) will be fixed at 16 m,

leaving 2,35 m for the driver's cabin and 35 cm for the coupling device.

These dimensions will allow the transportation of two swap bodies of 7,82 m each.

A road train the motor vehicle of which was put into circulation before 31 December 1991 which does not comply with the maximum load length requirements referred to in the second and third indents above will, until 31 December 1998, be deemed to conform with those requirements provided that it complies with the maximum length of 18 m.

COMBINED CARRIAGE OF GOODS

The Council agreed on a draft Directive amending Directive 75/130/EEC on the establishment of common rules for certain types of combined carriage of goods between Member States.

The Directive provides, inter alia, that:

- the geographical area of the removal of all quotas and prior authorizations for initial and final road haulage legs to and from the inland-waterway port of loading or unloading in combined transport by inland waterway will be extended from 50 to 150 km;
- all hauliers established in a Member State and authorized to carry out international haulage operations will, without discrimination on grounds of nationality or place of establishment, be authorized to carry out initial or final road haulage operations which form an integral part of intra-Community combined transport;
- initial or final road haulage legs in the framework of combined transport will be exempted from any compulsory tariff regulations;
- under the conditions prescribed in the Directive, the initial or final road haulage legs of an own-account combined transport operation in which the towed vehicle does not belong to the own-account transport undertaking will also be considered own-account transport operations and hence be liberalized so as to encourage own-account hauliers to use this type of transport.

The Council also took note of the Commission's intention of speeding up the studies on the possible extension of the scope of Directive 75/130/EEC to include combined transport of which one leg is by sea.

MEASURES TO BE TAKEN IN THE EVENT OF A CRISIS

The Council agreed on a draft Regulation on the measures to be taken in the event of a crisis on the market for the carriage of goods by road.

This Regulation provides that if the Commission, assisted by an advisory committee, establishes that there is a serious disturbance on the Community market it may, by decision, take measures to prevent any further increase in the supply of capacity on the market affected through limits on the increase in the activity of existing hauliers and restrictions on access to the market for new hauliers. The provisional measures introduced in accordance with this provision may remain in force for a period not exceeding six months and may be renewed once only.

INTERNATIONAL CARRIAGE OF GOODS BY ROAD - INCREASE IN THE COMMUNITY QUOTA

The Council agreed by a qualified majority on a proposal for the amendment of Regulation 3164/76 on access to the market in the international carriage of goods by road.

The aim of the Regulation is, inter alia, to increase the Community quota by 40% a year for 1991 and 1992, the increase being allocated among the Member States on a linear basis. It should be noted that on 25 April 1990 the Council adopted, by a qualified majority, Regulation No 1053/90 fixing the 1990 Community quota in accordance with the Commission proposal.

The number of Community authorizations allocated to each of the Member States will be as follows:

	1991	1992
Belgium	4 086	5 721
Denmark	3 964	5 550
Germany	6 516	9 123
Greece	1 808	2 532
Spain	4 237	5 932
France	5 540	7 756
Ireland	1 843	2 581
Italy	5 550	7 770
Luxembourg	1 904	2 666
Netherlands	5 775	8 085
Portugal	2 399	3 359
United Kingdom	3 472	4 861

ADJUSTMENT OF THE COMMUNITY QUOTA FOLLOWING GERMAN UNIFICATION

The Council adopted a joint guideline on an amendment to Regulation No 3164/76 on access to the market in the international carriage of goods by road (adjustment of the Community quota following German unification), on which the Economic and Social Committee's Opinion is awaited.

The amendment of the Regulation involves the following:

- total increases in the Community quota of 940 authorizations for 1991 and 1 316 for 1992 (i.e. twice the Commission's proposed increase);
- allocation of half of the additional authorizations produced by these increases to the Federal Republic of Germany;
- allocation of the rest among the other Member States in proportion to the allocation of the present Community quota.

HIGH-SPEED TRAINS

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

1. In the light of the importance attached by the European Council meeting on 14 and 15 December 1990 to the development of major infrastructure networks, the Council welcomes the communication on the European high-speed rail network that the Commission has submitted after consulting the Working Party set up in implementation of the Resolution adopted by the Council at its meeting on 4 and 5 December 1989.
2. The Council welcomes the work that has been done on the preparation of a master plan setting out the priority steps to be taken for the creation of a European network. It notes the progress made on formulating the technical conditions necessary to ensure the compatibility of infrastructures, equipment and rolling stock and to make possible the international movement of the trains.
3. The Council invites the Commission, in collaboration with the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, the railway companies and the railway industry, to study in detail:
 - the socio-economic impact of the network on the integrated transport market and on the development of the Community, bearing in mind in particular the change of gauge in the Iberian peninsula;
 - the impact of the network on the environment in the broadest sense and comparison in that light with other modes of transport;
 - the economic aspects, including inter alia the commercial aspects of the key links and other problem points in the network, including the problem of their financing.

4. The Council invites the Commission to continue the study of the key links and examine the effects on the network of the development of the Community's relations with the EFTA countries and the countries of central and eastern Europe.
5. The Council notes the Commission's intention of preparing a draft Directive on the approximation of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions on the movement of trains and stresses the need for common initiatives, at the earliest possible date, to harmonize systems of control and command.
6. The Council welcomes the results of the Working Party's proceedings and invites the Commission to consult the Working Party again on all the points listed above.

CHARGING OF INFRASTRUCTURE COSTS

Mr VAN MIERT, a member of the Commission, gave the Council an outline of the new proposal for a Directive on the charging of infrastructure costs to certain goods vehicles. The proposal concerned vehicle taxes and tolls.

It will be recalled that at its meeting on 30 October 1990 the Council took note of the Commission's intention of submitting proposals on vehicle taxes and tolls and instructed the High-level Working Party of Fiscal Experts and Transport Experts to examine those two aspects of the cost of transport in greater detail.

In addition, it should be recalled that a proposal for the harmonization of excise duty on diesel oil for road use is being studied in connection with the abolition of fiscal frontiers.

The Council agreed to instruct the High-level Working Party to begin discussing the new Commission proposal so that a decision could be taken on it before 30 June 1991 in accordance with the conclusions of the European Council meeting in Rome on 14 and 15 December.

II. AIR TRANSPORT

AIR CARGO

The Council agreed on the substance of a proposal for a Regulation on the liberalization of air cargo services. This Regulation concerns both scheduled and non-scheduled air cargo services, and its purpose is to liberalize market access and tariffs and increase the operating flexibility of these services. It should make it possible to improve the services offered to users.

The Regulation provides, *inter alia*, that:

- cargo rates charged by Community air carriers will be set by free agreement between the parties to a contract of carriage;
- all carriers operating within the Community will make all standard cargo rates available to the general public on request;
- this Regulation will not prevent Member States from concluding or maintaining in force between them arrangements which are more flexible than the provisions of this Regulation;
- Community air cargo carriers will be permitted to operate third- and fourth-freedom air cargo services between airports or airport systems in one Member State and airports or airport systems in another Member State when these airports or airport systems are open for air cargo traffic between Member States or for international traffic;

- a Member State will authorize air cargo carriers licensed in another Member State which have been authorized by their State of registration to exercise third-, fourth- and fifth-freedom traffic rights; the fifth-freedom traffic rights will be exercised on a service which constitutes an extension of a service from, or a preliminary of a service to, their State of registration.

OVERBOOKING

The Council agreed on the substance of a proposal for a Regulation on common rules for a denied-boarding compensation system in scheduled air transport.

The purpose of this proposal is to resolve the problems stemming from the practice of overbooking scheduled flights by, inter alia, the establishment of minimum standards for the compensation of passengers.

The Regulation provides, inter alia, that if boarding is denied a passenger will have a choice between:

- reimbursement without penalty of the cost of the ticket for the part of the journey not made,
- passage to his final destination at the earliest opportunity, or
- passage at a later date at the passenger's convenience.

Irrespective of the passenger's choice the air carrier will, immediately after boarding has been denied, pay compensation of:

- = ECU 150 for flights of up to 3 500 km
- = ECU 300 for flights of more than 3 500 km

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having regard to the final destination specified in the ticket.

Where the air carrier can offer passage to the final destination on an alternative flight, the arrival time of which is not more than two hours later for flights of up to 3 500 km, and not more than four hours later for flights of more than 3 500 km, the compensation stipulated above may be reduced by 50%.

Apart from the minimum compensation amounts mentioned, the air carrier must offer free of charge to passengers who are denied boarding

- a telephone call and/or telex/fax message to the point of destination;
- meals and refreshments in a reasonable relation to the waiting time;
- hotel accommodation in cases where an additional stay of one or more nights is necessary.

This Regulation will apply without prejudice to subsequent application to the courts having jurisdiction with a view to further compensation.

RULES OF COMPETITION

The Council held a policy discussion on a proposal for a Regulation amending Regulation No 3975/87 laying down the procedure for the application of the rules on competition to undertakings in the air transport sector (cut-price fares and other predatory practices), the European Parliament's Opinion on which was awaited.

The President noted that within the Council there were still major differences of opinion on the actual advisability of the proposal and on the option selected.

NORWAY AND SWEDEN

The Commission gave the Council an account of the favourable progress of the negotiations with Norway and Sweden on air transport.

The Council welcomed that information.

III. SHIPPING

TRANSFER OF SHIPS FROM ONE REGISTER TO ANOTHER WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

The Council adopted a joint guideline on the proposal for a Regulation on the transfer of ships from one register to another within the Community, the Economic and Social Committee's Opinion on which was awaited.

It should be recalled that among the major measures intended to improve the operating conditions of Community shipping, the Commission had recommended making it easier to transfer ships within the Community. The Regulation should in particular make an effective contribution to limiting the costs of such transfers.

To achieve that, the Regulation is based on the principle of the mutual acceptance of Member States' interpretations of the technical specifications contained in certain international conventions and makes provision for the mutual recognition of certificates of conformity issued by the Member States.

The Regulation will curtail inspections, conversions, equipment replacements and the administrative formalities which usually accompany the transfer of a vessel. The receiving Member State will nevertheless be able to inspect the vessel to be transferred, and disputes on the interpretation of the specifications of international conventions will be referred to a regulatory committee.

POSITIVE MEASURES

The Council took note of an oral report by the Commission on the progress of the proceedings on positive measures to improve the competitiveness of the Community fleet.

Inter alia, the Commission indicated that in the light of the European Parliament's and the Economic and Social Committee's Opinions it intended to amend the proposals on the EUROS register, cabotage and the definition of a Community shipowner.

It should be recalled that in particular the positive measures concerned:

- changing the registration of vessels (see "Transfer of ships from one register to another within the Community");
- application of Article 85(3) to consortium agreements (group exemptions);
- improvement of port control over the safety of vessels;
- research projects to develop vessel traffic management systems and improve the relationship between men and equipment;
- the free movement and training of seamen;
- application of the 1986 Regulations on the freedom to provide services, the rules of competition, unfair tariff practices and free access to trans-oceanic traffic;
- the provision of financial and fiscal support for the Community's fleets.

SHIPPING CABOTAGE

The Council held a policy discussion on a proposal for a Regulation applying the principle of freedom to provide services to maritime transport within Member States (cabotage), on the basis of a Presidency compromise proposal.

The Council noted that certain guidelines had emerged and instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its proceedings so that the Council could resume its examination of this matter at its meeting on 27 March 1991.

SHIPPING RELATIONS WITH THIRD COUNTRIES

The Council took note of a Commission report on the progress of the negotiations:

- at the Review Conference on the United Nations Convention on a Code of Conduct for Liner Conferences;
- on shipping with west and central African countries.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

10871/90 (Presse 232)

1464th Council meeting

- General Affairs -

Brussels, 18 and 19 December 1990

President: Mr Gianni DE MICHELIS,
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Italian Republic

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RELATIONS WITH CENTRAL AND EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

The Council reached complete agreement on the directives for the Commission to negotiate Association Agreements with Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia.

The Commission stated that it intended to open negotiations with these countries on 20, 21 and 22 December respectively.

At that meeting the Council also agreed to continue its discussions on the Commission proposal relating to credit insurance for exports to Central and East European countries in accordance with the conclusions of the Rome European Council.

RELATIONS WITH YUGOSLAVIA

The Council prepared the position to be adopted by the Community at the 9th meeting of the EEC-Yugoslavia Co-operation Council at ministerial level which was held on the afternoon of Tuesday 18 December (see joint Press Release - CEE-YU 1006/90 Presse 243).

The Council also reached agreement on the negotiating Directives for the 3rd EEC-Yugoslavia Financial Protocol.

RELATIONS WITH EGYPT

The Council prepared the Community position for the 6th EEC-Egypt Co-operation Council at ministerial level, which was held on the evening of 18 December (see joint Press Release - CEE-RAE 2803/90 Presse 244).

REDIRECTING THE MEDITERRANEAN POLICY

In accordance with the request by the Rome European Council that discussions on redirecting the Mediterranean policy be completed as rapidly as possible, the Council arrived at an overall decision on the various aspects of the redirected Mediterranean policy, viz.:

- the overall financial amounts for the period 1992-1996 (for figures see table below) and the directives for negotiations with the Maghreb and Mashreq countries and Israel for the fourth Financial Protocols;
- "horizontal" financial co-operation enabling the Community unilaterally to provide increased support for regional projects in the period 1992 to 1996, particularly in the environmental area (see also table below);
- an improvement in the trade arrangements with the countries concerned, involving in particular
 - = the speeding up of tariff dismantling by the Community in respect of agricultural products covered by the Additional and Supplementary Protocols, to be completed by 1.1.1993 instead of 1.1.1996, and
 - = an annual 5% increase for the period 1992 to 1995 to in the tariff quotas and reference quantities laid down in the additional and supplementary Protocols with the exception of a number of sensitive products for which the increase will be 3%;
- a statement in which the Community stresses in particular the basic importance it attaches to the observance of human rights and the promotion of democratic values;
- a statement stressing the importance which the Council and the Commission attach to the adoption of measures relating to the Mediterranean for the transport and treatment of dangerous wastes, in line with Lomé IV.

Amounts for the period 1992-1996
(ECU million)

	Amounts adopted
<u>4th Financial Protocols</u> (8 SEM countries)	
- Budget appropriations (Maghreb, Mashreq)	
= to be included in the Protocols	775
= support for economic reforms	300
- EIB loans	1,300
Total	2,375
<u>Horizontal financial Co-operation</u>	
- Budget appropriations:	
= environment	230 ⁽¹⁾
= other (technical assistance, studies, regional co-operation)	
- Non-Protocol EIB loans (ceiling)	1,800 ⁽²⁾
Total	2,030
GRAND TOTAL	4,405

(1) Of which ECU 25 million for non-Protocol venture capital.
(2) Possibility of providing for an additional amount.

RELATIONS WITH THE EFTA COUNTRIES

The Council took stock of the negotiations with the EFTA countries as regards the European Economic Area and made preparations for the EEC-EFTA ministerial meeting, which was held in the late morning of Wednesday 19 December (see Press Release including the joint statement adopted at that meeting - 11029/90 Presse 239).

GUIDELINES FOR CO-OPERATION WITH THE LATIN AMERICAN AND ASIAN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN THE 1990s

With one delegation unable at this stage to adopt a position in view of a parliamentary reservation, the Council agreed on the guidelines for co-operation with the Latin American and Asian developing countries over the next decade.

These guidelines provide for an indicative amount of ECU 2 750 million for the next five years under Chapter 93 of the Community budget of which 10% is to be devoted to the environment, particularly the protection of tropical forests.

RELATIONS WITH SAN MARINO

The Council approved the decision authorizing the Commission to open negotiations for the conclusion of an agreement with the Republic of San Marino and adopted directives to that effect.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Relations with Chile

The Council decided to sign, subject to conclusion, the framework agreement for co-operation between the Community and Chile.

Signing was planned to take place in Rome on 20 December 1990 on the occasion of the Conference between the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Twelve and those of the eleven Latin American countries of the Rio Group.

Relations with Malta

The Council adopted

- the Decision concerning the conclusion of a Protocol extending the first stage of the agreement establishing an Association between the Community and Malta
- the Regulation extending the trade arrangements with Malta beyond the date of expiry of the first stage of the Association Agreement.

Relations with the ACP countries

The Council adopted the Regulation on the safeguard measures provided for by the fourth ACP-EEC Convention.

Textiles

The Council adopted Decisions concerning the conclusion of Agreements on trade in textile products between the Community on the one hand and Argentina, Brazil, Peru and Uruguay on the other.

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Jute

The Council decided to sign the 1989 International Agreement on Jute and Jute Products. Signing will take place, simultaneously with the signing by the Member States, before 31 December 1990, which is the deadline for signing under Article 37 of the Agreement.

Radioactive waste disposal - Council conclusions

Having examined the Commission communication on objectives, standards and criteria for radioactive waste disposal in the European Community which comprises a detailed report from the Commission departments, prepared by a Working Party of National Experts on that subject, the Council adopted the following conclusions:

"The Council

1. recognizes the close co-operation that exists in this area among the Member States and the constructive role of the Commission which has done much to get that co-operation established, and stresses the importance of intensifying and extending that co-operation;
2. confirms that achieving an equivalent and satisfactory degree of protection at the highest practical safety levels for workers, members of the public and the environment is one of the Community's central objectives in the area of radioactive waste;
3. reaffirms the important role which the Community's research programmes on radioactive waste play in providing a better understanding and contributing to a wider dissemination of knowledge, leading to safer and more efficient management, storage and disposal of radioactive waste with regard to industrial safety and the protection of the public and the environment;
4. recognizes that the report is a good assessment of the current situation and an important contribution to determining the direction of future work in this area;

5. takes note of the report's recommendation that further consideration should be given at appropriate national and Community levels to issues linked with the safety of radioactive waste disposal and notably to the development of common general site selection criteria with associated waste categories, additional measures to be taken on a technological and administrative level concerning very low level radioactive waste and the setting up of guiding principles for waste equivalence;
6. recommends that due consideration be given by the Commission to all types of radioactive waste including those produced outside the nuclear industry;
7. underlines the importance of developing a common approach and efforts towards harmonization at Community level on radioactive waste management strategies and practices wherever possible;
8. also underlines the important contribution that a Community approach can make to the development of an international consensus on these matters, in particular at the International Atomic Energy Agency and the OECD Nuclear Energy Agency;
9. recommends that the Commission put forward in good time appropriate proposals to maintain in the future and develop the appropriate measures; such measures come within the framework of the Community Plan of Action 1980-1992 in the field of radioactive waste in order to deal in one and the same context with these problems involving the improvement of existing techniques for the disposal of such waste by developing technologies and with questions of a legal, administrative and social nature which need to be resolved."

PRESS RELEASE

10875/90 (Presse 236)

1465th Council meeting

- LABOUR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS -

Brussels, 18 December 1990

President: Mr Carlo DONAT-CATTIN,
Minister for Employment and
Social Security of the
Italian Republic

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

Belgium

Mr Luc VAN DEN BRANDE Minister for Employment and Labour

Denmark

Mr Niels Henrik SLIBEN Deputy Permanent Representative

Germany

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

Greece

Mr Haris CARABARBOUNIS Deputy Permanent Representative

Spain

Mr ESPINA Secretary General, Ministry of Labour

France

Mr Jean-Pierre SOISSON Minister for Labour, Employment and Vocational Training

Ireland

Mr Bonner Secretary of the Department of Labour

Italy

Mr Carlo DONAT-CATTIN Minister for Employment and Social Security

Mr Ugo GRIPPO State Secretary, Ministry of Employment and Social Security

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Luxembourg

Mr Jean-Claude JUNCKER

Minister for Labour

Netherlands

Mr Bert DE VRIES

Minister for Employment and
Social Security

Portugal

Mr José Albino da SILVA PENEDA

Minister for Employment and
Social Security

United Kingdom

Mr Michael HOWARD

Secretary of State for Employment

o

o

o

Commission

Ms Vasso PAPANDEOU

Member

NON-STANDARD WORK

The Council agreed on the common position concerning the Directive, based on Article 118a of the Treaty, supplementing the measures to encourage improvements in the safety and health at work of workers with a fixed-duration employment relationship or a temporary employment relationship.

The purpose of the Directive is to ensure that workers with a fixed-duration employment contract and temporary workers are afforded, as regards safety and health at work, the same level of protection as that of other workers in the user undertaking.

The Directive will apply to:

- (a) employment relationships governed by a fixed-duration contract of employment concluded directly between the employer and the worker, where the end of the contract is established by objective conditions such as: reaching a specific date, completing a specific task or the occurrence of a specific event;
- (b) temporary employment relationships between a temporary employment business which is the employer and the worker, where the latter is assigned to work for and under the control of an undertaking and/or establishment making use of his services.

The Council also held an exchange of views on the proposal for a Directive, based on Article 100a of the Treaty, concerning certain employment relationships as regards distortions of competition.

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The Council agreed to return to this matter at a forthcoming meeting.

DEMOGRAPHY

The Council held an exchange of views on the basis of a communication from the Presidency on demographic problems.

The communication stresses the far-reaching consequences that demographic trends will have for the way we live and for the economic and social situation of the Community countries. In particular it raises the question of immigration from the southern Mediterranean and Eastern Europe, the demographic decline and family policy, as well as ageing and the crisis in the general old-age pension schemes.

SOCIAL SECURITY FOR MIGRANT WORKERS: NON-CONTRIBUTORY BENEFITS - AWARD AND CALCULATION OF PENSIONS

The Council discussed the two proposals for Regulations amending Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71 and Regulations Nos 1408/71 and 574/72 respectively.

It instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its work on the two proposals.

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EUROPEAN YEAR OF SAFETY, HYGIENE AND HEALTH PROTECTION AT WORK (1992)

The Council held a policy debate on the proposal for a Decision organizing in 1992 a European Year of Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work. There was broad agreement on holding such a year.

The proposal provides for co-ordinated activities to be organized by the Community, the Member States and the social partners, with the aim of:

- bringing out, in the context of the internal market, the importance of the social and economic aspects of problems relating to safety, hygiene and health protection at work;
- making workers, employers and young people more aware of the safety, hygiene and health risks at the workplace and of what can be done about them.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its work on the proposal with a view to its adoption as soon as possible, once the Opinions of the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee had been received.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN AND MEN - THIRD COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAMME
(1991-1995)

The Council held an exchange of views on the Commission communication on the third Community action programme and signified its interest in the programme.

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It also instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its examination of the draft Resolution submitted by the Presidency, with a view to its adoption in part "A" of the agenda for a forthcoming Council meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Asbestos Directive

The Council adopted the common position with a view to the adoption of a Directive amending Directive 83/477/EEC on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to asbestos at work (second individual Directive within the meaning of Article 8 of Directive 80/1107/EEC).

The common position provides for better protection than that given by Directive 83/477/EEC against the serious risks arising from exposure to asbestos fibres at work, and in particular more stringent action levels and limit values (chrysotile: 0,20 and 0,60 fibres/cm³ respectively; other forms of asbestos: 0,10 and 0,30 fibres/cm³ respectively) (see press release 10161/90 Presse 200 of 26.11.1990).

Vocational training

The Council adopted the Resolution on the comparability of vocational training qualifications (see press release 10161/90 Presse 200 of 26.11.1990).

ECSC

The Council gave its assent under Article 56(2)(a) of the ECSC Treaty to enable the Commission to grant global loans to:

- Société de développement régional SODLER (France)
 - Cassa di Risparmio delle Provincie Lombarde (Italy)
 - Banque Nationale de Paris (France)
 - Norddeutsche Landesbank Girozentrale (Federal Republic of Germany)
 - S.P.I. Promozione e Sviluppo Imprenditoriale S.p.a. (Italy)
 - Deutsche Bank AG (Federal Republic of Germany)
 - Royal Bank of Scotland plc (United Kingdom)
 - Bayerische Landesbank Girozentrale (Federal Republic of Germany)
 - Société nationale de crédit à l'industrie (Belgium)
 - Clydesdale Bank plc (United Kingdom).
-

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

1466th meeting of the Council

- Fisheries -

Brussels, 19-20 December 1990

Presidents: Mr. Carlo Vizzini
Minister for Merchant Shipping, Italy

Mr. Piet Bukman
Minister for Agriculture, Nature Conservation
and Fisheries, The Netherlands

The official press release was unavailable. A summary of the meeting has been reproduced from the Bulletin of the European Communities, No. 12-1990.

1466th meeting

1.8.19. Fisheries

(Brussels, 19 and 20 December).

- Previous meeting: Bull. EC 11-90, point 1.8.16

President: Mr Vizzini, Italian Minister for Merchant Shipping, and Mr Bukman, Dutch Minister for Agriculture, Nature Conservation and Fisheries.

Commission: Mr Marín.

Main items

TACs and quotas for 1991: Regulation adopted (→ point 1.3.248).

Annual fisheries arrangements resulting from the Act of Accession of Spain and Portugal: three Regulations adopted (→ point 1.3.252).

North-West Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO): Regulation adopted (→ point 1.3.250).

Greenland: Regulation adopted (→ point 1.3.254).

Norway: two Regulations adopted (→ point 1.3.256).

Faeroe Islands: two Regulations adopted (→ point 1.3.257).

Structures: amendment of a Regulation agreed (→ point 1.3.249).

Other business

Common fisheries policy: discussed.

French Guiana: Regulation adopted.

Tariff quotas: Regulation adopted.

Partial suspension of customs duties: Regulation adopted.

Technical conservation measures: 10th amendment examined.

Other decisions in the field of the common fisheries policy: five Regulations adopted.

TACs and quotas for 1991

1.3.248. Council Regulation (EEC) No 3926/90 fixing, for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks, the total allowable catches for 1991 and certain conditions under which they may be fished.

- **Basic Regulation:** Council Regulation (EEC) No 170/83 establishing a Community system for the conservation and management of fishery resources: OJ L 24, 27.1.1983; Bull. EC 1-1983, point 2.1.83

Proposal adopted by the Commission on 7 December.

COM(90) 614

Adopted by the Council (Fisheries) on 20 December. For totals see Table 6.

Table 6 — TACs by stock and by area for 1991 — Community shares

Species	Area	1991 TAC	Community share in 1991
Herring	III a	p.m.	—
Herring	III b, c, d ¹	90 000	85 450
Herring	II a, ¹ IV a, b	342 000	229 330
Herring	IV c, VII d	30 000	30 000
Herring	V b, ¹ VI a North, VI b	62 000	55 140
Herring	IV a South, VII b, c	27 500	27 500
Herring	VI a Clyde	2 900	2 900
Herring	VII a	6 000	6 000
Herring	VII e, f	500*	500
Herring	VII g, h, i, k	15 000	15 000
Sprat	III a		0
Sprat	III b, c, d ¹	26 000	23 500
Sprat	II a, ¹ IV ¹	55 000*	49 000
Sprat	VII d, e	12 000*	12 000
Anchovy	VIII	30 000*	30 000
Anchovy	IX, X Cefac ¹	9 000*	9 000
Salmon	III b, c, d ¹	720*	710
Capelin	II b Svalbard	0	—

Fisheries

(tonnes)			
Species	Area	1991 TAC	Community share in 1991
Cod	II b Svalbard	7 440	7 440
Cod	III a Skagerrak	15 000	12 375
Cod	III a Kattegat	6 650	4 010
Cod	III b, c, d	61 600	59 260
Cod	II a, ¹ IV	100 000	93 570
Cod	V b, ¹ VI, XII, XIV	16 000	16 000
Cod	VII a	10 000	10 000
Cod	VII b-k, VII, IX	22 000	22 000
Haddock	III a, III b, c, d ¹	4 600*	3 970
Haddock	II a, ¹ IV	50 000	41 700
Haddock	V b, ¹ VI, XII, XIV	15 200	15 200
Haddock	VII, VIII, IX, X, Cefac ¹	6 000*	6 000
Saithe	II a, ¹ III, IV	125 000	70 000
Saithe	V b, ¹ VI, XII, XIV	22 000	22 000
Saithe	VII, VIII, IX, X, Cefac ¹	14 000*	14 000
Pollack	V b, ¹ VI, XII, XIV	1 100*	1 100
Pollack	VII	14 000*	14 000
Pollack	VIII a, b	2 600*	2 600
Pollack	VIII c	800*	800
Pollack	VIII d	50*	50
Pollack	VIII e	100*	100
Pollack	IX, X, Cefac ¹	450*	450
Norway pout	II a, ¹ III a, IV ¹	200 000*	171 000
Blue whiting	II a, ¹ IV ¹	60 000	20 000
Blue whiting	V b, ¹ VI, VII	340 000	163 000
Blue whiting	VIII a, b, d	26 500*	26 500
Blue whiting	VIII e	1 000*	1 000
Blue whiting	VIII c, IX, X, Cefac ¹	50 000*	50 000
Whiting	IIIa	17 000*	15 080
Whiting	II a, ¹ IV	141 000	64 480
Whiting	V b, ¹ VI, XII, XIV	9 000	9 000
Whiting	VII a	10 000	10 000
Whiting	VII b, c, d, e, f, g, h, j, k	24 000*	24 000
Whiting	VIII	5 000*	5 000
Whiting	IX, X, Cefac ¹	2 640*	2 640
Hake	III	2 000	2 000
Hake	II a, ¹ IV ¹	2 350*	2 350
Hake	V b, ¹ VI, VII	37 590*	37 590
Hake	VIII a, b, d, e	25 060*	25 060
Hake	VIII c, IX, X, Cefac ¹	18 000*	18 000

Fisheries

(tonnes)			
Species	Area	1991 TAC	Community share in 1991
Horse mackerel	II a, ¹ IV ¹	45 000*	45 000
Horse mackerel	V b, ¹ VI, VII, a, b, d, e	230 000*	223 000
Horse mackerel	VIII c, IX	73 000*	73 000
Mackerel	II a, III, IV	65 500	19 600
Mackerel	II, V b, ¹ VI, VII, VIII a, b, d, e	363 170	343 710
Mackerel	VIII c, IX, X, Cefac ¹	36 570*	36 570
European plaice	III a Skaggerak	10 000*	9 400
European plaice	III a Kattegat	1 300	1 170
European plaice	III b, c, d ¹	3 000*	3 000
European plaice	II a, ¹ IV	175 000	171 900
European plaice	V b, ¹ VI, XII, XIV	2 400*	2 400
European plaice	VII a	4 500	4 500
European plaice	VII b, c	200*	200
European plaice	VII d, e	10 700	10 700
European plaice	VII f, g	1 900	1 900
European plaice	VII h, j, k	1 150*	1 150
European plaice	VIII, IX, X, Cefac ¹	700*	700
Common sole	III	800*	800
Common sole	II, IV	27 000	27 000
Common sole	V b, ¹ VI, XII, XIV XII, XIV	155*	155
Common sole	VII a	1 500	1 500
Common sole	VII b, c	75*	75
Common sole	VII d	3 850	3 850
Common sole	VII e	800	800
Common sole	VII f, g	1 200	1 200
Common sole	VII h, j, k	720*	720
Common sole	VIII a, b	5 300*	5 300
Common sole	VII c, d, e, IX, X, Cefac ¹	2 000*	2 000
Megrim	V b, ¹ VI, XII, XIV	4 840*	4 840
Megrim	VII	15 880*	15 880
Megrim	VIII a, b, d, e	2 220*	2 220
Megrim	VIII c, IX, X, Cefac ¹	14 300*	14 300
Anglerfish	V b, ¹ VI, XII, XIV	8 600*	8 600
Anglerfish	VII	33 080*	33 080
Anglerfish	VIII, a, b, d	9 910*	9 910
Anglerfish	VIII e	100*	100
Anglerfish	VIII c, IX, X, Cefac ¹	12 000*	12 000
Shrimps	French Guiana	4 100	4 000
Norway lobster	V b, ¹ VI	13 500*	13 500
Norway lobster	VII	19 000*	19 000
Norway lobster	VIII a, b	6 500*	6 500
Norway lobster	VIII c	600*	600
Norway lobster	VIII d, e	50*	50
Norway lobster	IX, X, Cefac ¹	3 000*	3 000

* Precautionary TAC.
¹ EC zone.

The Regulation also includes the following provisions:

- (i) all Member States with cod and haddock quotas in the North Sea or to the West of Scotland (Areas IV and VI) shall take the necessary steps, which they shall communicate to the Commission by 1 March 1991, to ensure that each vessel whose overall length is over 10 metres, and whose cod and haddock landings from Areas IV and VI over the period 1 January 1989 to 30 June 1990 exceed (a) 100 tonnes and (b) 40% by weight of their total landings, and any vessel replacing a vessel in the category as defined above remains in port for at least eight consecutive days per calendar month during the period 1 February to 31 December 1991;
- (ii) Member States which, as a result of the application of the preceding provisions, are unable to use up their quotas of cod and haddock in Areas IV and VI for 1991 may apply to the Commission for a reduction of or exemption from the abovementioned limitation of seagoing days.

OJ L 378, 31.12.1990

TACs and quotas

1.3.250. Council Regulation (EEC) No 3934/90 fixing catch possibilities for 1991 for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks in the regulatory area as defined in the NAFO Convention.

• Basic Regulations:

Council Regulation (EEC) No 170/85 establishing a Community system for the conservation and management of fishery resources: OJ L 24, 27.1.1983, Bull. EC 1-1983, point 2.1.83

Council Regulation (EEC) No 2241/87 establishing certain control measures for fishing activities (OJ L 207, 29.7.1987; Bull. EC 7/8-1987, point 2.1.238) as last amended by Regulation (EEC) No 3483/88: OJ L 306, 11.11.1988; Bull. EC 11-1988, point 2.1.232

Proposal adopted by the Commission on 10 December.

COM(90) 617

Adopted by the Council (Fisheries) on 20 December. The aim of the Regulation is to maintain traditional fishing opportunities for Community fishermen operating in the waters of the North-West Atlantic outside the 200-mile exclusive economic zones of the coastal States under the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization. The quotas are as follows:

<i>(tonnes)</i>		
Species	Area	Total
Cod	NAFO 2J + 3KL	27 000
Cod	NAFO 3NO	5 016
Cod	NAFO 3M	6 465
Redfish	NAFO 3M	7 750
Redfish	NAFO 3LN	6 000
American plaice	NAFO 3M	350
American plaice	NAFO 3LNO	328
Witch	NAFO 3NO	1 000
Yellowtail flounder	NAFO 3LNO	
		140
Capelin	NAFO 3NO	750
Squid	NAFO subareas 3+4	15 000

OJ L 378, 31.12.1990

1.3.252. Council Regulations (EEC) Nos 3936/90 to 3938/90 fixing certain measures for the conservation and management of resources:

Council Regulation (EEC) No 3936/90 fixing, for 1991, certain measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources, applicable to vessels flying the flag of a Member State, other than Spain and Portugal, in waters falling under the sovereignty or within the jurisdiction of Portugal;

Council Regulation (EEC) No 3937/90 fixing, for 1991, certain measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources, applicable to vessels flying the flag of a Member State, other than Spain and Portugal, in waters falling under the sovereignty or within the jurisdiction of Spain;

Council Regulation (EEC) No 3938/90 fixing, for 1991, certain measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources, applicable to vessels flying the flag of Portugal in waters falling under the sovereignty or within the jurisdiction of a Member State, apart from Spain and Portugal.

• **References:**

Treaty concerning the accession of the Kingdom of Spain and the Portuguese Republic to the European Economic Community and to the European Atomic Energy Community: OJ L 302, 15.11.1985; Bull. EC 11-1985; points 2.2.1 to 2.2.4

Council Regulations (EEC) Nos 3972/89 to 3974/89: OJ L 380, 29.12.1989; Bull. EC 12-1989, point 2.1.213

Three proposals adopted by the Commission on 7 December.

COM(90) 612

Adopted by the Council (Fisheries) on 20 December. Replaces, in accordance with the Act of Accession of Spain and Portugal, the regulations adopted by the Council in December 1989.

OJ L 378, 31.12.1990

Greenland

1.3.254. Council Regulation (EEC) No 3931/90 allocating, for 1991, Community catch quotas in Greenland waters.

- **Reference:** Council Regulation (EEC) No 2647/90 on the conclusion of the Second Protocol laying down the conditions relating to fishing provided for in the Agreement on fisheries between the European Economic Community, on the one hand, and the Government of Denmark and the Home Rule Government of Greenland, on the other hand: OJ L 252, 15.9.1990; Bull. EC 7/8-1990, point 1.3.262

Proposal adopted by the Commission on 10 December. Allocates to the Member States the catch quotas in Greenland waters for 1991.

COM(90) 619

Amended proposal adopted by the Commission on 19 December.

COM(90) 680

Adopted by the Council (Fisheries) on 20 December. Includes a further catch opportunity of 3 000 tonnes of cod offered by Greenland in the allocation of catch quotas available to the Community in 1991.

OJ L 378, 31.12.1990

Improvement of fisheries structures

1.3.249. Council Regulation (EEC) No 3944/90 amending Regulation (EEC) No 4028/86 on Community measures to improve and adapt structures in the fisheries and aquaculture sector.

- **Regulation amended:** Council Regulation (EEC) No 4028/86: OJ L 376, 31.12.1986; Bull. EC 12-1986, point 2.1.285
- **Commission proposal:** OJ C 243, 28.9.1990; COM(90) 358; Bull. EC 7/8-1990, point 1.3.260
- **Economic and Social Committee opinion:** Bull. EC 11-1990, point 1.3.179

European Parliament opinion adopted on 10 December. Favourable, subject to amendments concerning:

(i) certain recitals relating to the integration of fisheries structural policy in the framework of the reform of the structural Funds and the effects on employment and less favoured regions;

- (ii) definition of small-scale fishing;
- (iii) criteria of eligibility particularly concerning minimal activity of vessels;
- (iv) modifications relative to zones of intervention;
- (v) level of aid for different actions.

OJ C 19, 28.1.1991

Amended proposal adopted by the Commission on 18 December. To take account of certain amendments by the European Parliament.

OJ C 16, 24.1.1991; COM(90) 684

Adopted by the Council (Fisheries) on 20 December. The Regulation includes the strengthening of existing measures concerning:

- (a) the doubling of financial support for exploratory fishing and a better definition of the objectives of voyages;
- (b) an increase in the amount of the cooperation premium for joint ventures;
- (c) greater incentives for final cessation of activity by raising the amount of expenditure eligible for Community aid and increasing Community reimbursement from 50 to 70% if a vessel is scrapped.

The Regulation also introduces a number of new measures:

- (a) for the benefit of small-scale fisheries, within the framework of zonal plans;
- (b) concerning redeployment operations aiming at giving the Community fleet new commercial fishing opportunities in areas which are not traditionally fished and which are located in particular outside the Community's fishing zone;
- (c) concerning the setting-up of joint enterprises between Community ship-owners and partners from non-member countries for the purpose of commercially exploiting the fishery resources in the waters of non-member countries, primary consideration being given to supplying the Community market.

OJ L 380, 31.12.1990

Faeroes

1.3.256. Council Regulation (EEC) No 3932/90 laying down for 1991 certain measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources applicable to vessels registered in the Faeroes—Council Regulation (EEC) No 3933/90 allocating, for 1991, certain catch quotas between the Member States for vessels fishing in Faeroese waters.

Two proposals adopted by the Commission on 10 December.

COM(90) 623

Adopted by the Council (Fisheries) on 20 December. Authorizes vessels registered in the Faeroes to fish in accordance with the quotas allocated to them from 1 January 1991 in Community waters, pursuant to the agreement reached as a result of the consultations which took place on 3 December in Brussels between the Community and the Faeroes.

OJ L 378, 31.12.1990

Sweden

1.3.257. Council Regulation (EEC) No 3929/90 laying down for 1991 certain measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources applicable to vessels flying the flag of Sweden—Council Regulation (EEC) No 3930/90 allocating, for 1991, catch quotas between Member States for vessels fishing in Swedish waters.

Two proposals adopted by the Commission on 10 December.

COM(90) 625

Adopted by the Council (Fisheries) on 20 December. Authorizes Swedish vessels to fish the quotas allocated to them for 1991 in Community waters in accordance with the reciprocal arrangements for fishing in 1991 as regards both the fishing rights of each party on the zone belonging to the other and the fixing of total allowable catches (TACs) for common stocks in the Kattegat and their allocation between the parties. These arrangements were decided on in the course of the consultations between the Community and Sweden which took place in Brussels from 26 to 28 November.

OJ L 378, 31.12.1990

Adopted by the Council (Fisheries) on 20 December. Makes available to Norwegian fishermen fishing opportunities for joint EEC-Norwegian stocks and in Community waters in exchange for equivalent fishing opportunities for Community fishermen. This lays no particular obligation on Community fishermen. Since negotiations with Norway have not yet been completed, the quotas allocated to Norwegian and Community fishermen have yet to be decided.

OJ L 378, 31.12.1990

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

11030/90 (Presse 240)

1467th Council meeting

- ENVIRONMENT -

Brussels, 20 and 21 December 1990

President: Mr Giorgio RUFFOLO,
Minister for the Environment
of the Italian Republic

20/21.XII.90

ood/CH/jw

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

Belgium:

Mrs Miet SMET State Secretary for the Environment

Denmark:

Mr Piv Stig MØLLER Minister for the Environment

Germany:

Mr Klaus TOEPFFER Federal Minister for the Environment,
Nature Conservation and Reactor Safety

Mr Clemens STROETMANN State Secretary, Ministry of the Environment,
Nature Conservation and Reactor Safety

Greece:

Mr Stephanos MANOS Minister for the Environment,
Regional Planning and Public Works

Spain:

Mr Javier SAENZ COSCULLUELA Minister for Public Works and Town Planning

France:

Mr Brice LALONDE State Secretary for the Environment

Ireland:

Mr Padraig FLYNN Minister for the Environment

Italy:

Mr Giorgio RUFFOLO Minister for the Environment

20/21.XII.90

ood/CH/jw

Luxembourg:

Mr Alex BODRY

Minister for the Environment

Netherlands:

Mr J.G.M. ALDERS

Minister for Housing, Planning and the Environment

Portugal:

Mr Fernando REAL

Minister for the Environment and Natural Resources

Mr José MACARIO CORREIA

State Secretary for the Environment

United Kingdom:

Mr David TRIPPIER

Minister of State, Department of the Environment (Minister for the Environment and Countryside)

o

o

o

Commission

Mr Carlo RIPA DI MEANA

Member

20/21.XII.90

ood/CH/jw

MUNICIPAL WASTE WATER

The Council discussed the proposal for a Directive concerning municipal waste water treatment.

The proposal aims to prevent the environment from being adversely affected by pollution from municipal waste water discharges. To this end, the proposal lays down minimum requirements for the treatment of municipal waste waters and of industrial waste waters of a similar nature, as well as for the disposal of sludge, differentiated according to the characteristics of receiving waters and to the size of the municipality concerned. A Committee will be responsible for the detailed implementing rules and the technical provisions. The Member States are asked to draw up national programmes to ensure implementation of the Directive; other important provisions concern information to be given to the public and the training of qualified staff.

Having noted that significant progress had been made, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its proceedings so that agreement could be reached at its next meeting, in 1991.

20/21.XII.90

ood/CH/jw

PROTECTION OF THE OZONE LAYER

The Council reached agreement on the substance of a proposal for a Regulation on substances that deplete the ozone layer.

This proposal, which will replace the existing Regulation No 3322/88, aims, in the light of new scientific evidence, to impose more stringent controls on substances which deplete the ozone layer.

The proposal also comes within the context of revision of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, which was agreed at the second meeting of the Contracting Parties in London in June 1990.

The reduction and phase-out schedule agreed is as follows (left-hand column) as compared with the schedule drawn up in London within the framework of the Montreal Protocol (right-hand column):

1. Existing CFCs (base year 1986)

- 50% by 1.1.1992	50% by 1.1.1995
- 85% by 1.7.1995	80% by 1.1.1997
- 100% by 1.7.1997	100% by 1.1.2000

2. Other fully halogenated CFCs (base year 1989)

- 50% by 1.1.1992	20% by 1.1.1993
- 85% by 1.7.1995	85% by 1.1.1997
- 100% by 1.7.1997	100% by 1.1.2000

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3. Halons (base year 1986)

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| - freeze by 1.1.1992 | freeze by 1.1.1992 |
| - 50% by 1.1.1995 | 50% by 1.1.1995 |
| - 100% by 1.1.2000 | 100% by 1.1.2000 |

4. Carbon tetrachloride (base year 1989)

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| - 50% by 1.1.1992 | |
| - 85% by 1.1.1995 | 85% by 1.1.1995 |
| - 100% by 31.12.1997 | 100% by 1.1.2000 |

The Commission also announced its intention of introducing the CFC question into its programme of work on the development of economic instruments and its programme on the labelling of dangerous substances, and of making appropriate proposals before the end of 1991.

20/21/XII.90

ood/CH/jw

CLASSIFICATION AND LABELLING OF DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES

The Council examined the proposal for a seventh amendment to Directive 67/548/EEC on the approximation of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions relating to the classification, packaging and labelling of dangerous substances.

This proposal aims to rectify certain anomalies which have come to light since the previous amendment and to improve efficiency of implementation of this Directive.

Having noted that some progress had been made, the Council agreed to instruct the Permanent Representatives Committee to step up its discussion of the dossier so that the Council could take a decision at its next meeting, in 1991.

20/21.XII.90

ood/CH/jw

POLLUTION BY EMISSIONS FROM MOTOR VEHICLES

The Council reached a common position on the substance of the new proposal for a Directive on measures to be taken against air pollution by emissions from motor vehicles.

This proposal aims to consolidate Community rules on emissions of air pollutants by private cars.

To this end:

- the following limit values will be applied:
 - = type-approval values:
 - Co : 2.72 g/km
 - Hc + Nox: 0.97 g/km
 - particulates (diesel engine): 0.14 g/km

These values will apply:

- = as from 1 July 1992 for new types of cars,
 - = as from 31 December 1992 for all new cars.
- these limit values for air pollutants are based on an improved European test procedure incorporating an out-of-town test sequence.
 - these measures are supplemented by provisions on the evaporation of the fuel used by vehicles and on the durability of the anti-pollution devices with which they are fitted.

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The proposal also provides that, before 31 December 1993, the Council will, in the light of technical progress, take a decision on a further reduction in the limit values. Such reduced limit values will not apply before 1 January 1996 as regards type-approval; however, the reduced values may serve as a basis for tax incentives after the date of adoption of the new Directive.

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HAZARDOUS WASTE

The Council reached agreement in principle on the proposal for a Directive on hazardous waste adopting Article 130s as the legal basis. The Council will consult the European Parliament again in this connection.

The principal aim of this proposal is to formulate a common definition of hazardous waste and introduce greater harmonization of the management of such waste. The proposal is designed to replace Directive 78/319/EEC and takes account of the proposal for an amendment to Directive 75/442/EEC.

Before the date of entry into force of the Directive, a list of hazardous waste will be drawn up by the Commission with the assistance of a Committee on the basis of the definition laid down in the Directive.

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MEDSPA

The Council reached agreement on a proposal for a Regulation to introduce Community action for the protection of the environment in the Mediterranean region (MEDSPA).

This action is to cover the entire Mediterranean region, both Community and non-Community.

The aims of the Community action set up by the Regulation are inter alia to intensify efforts to protect and improve the quality of the environment and increase the effectiveness of Community environment policy and measures in the region concerned.

The amount deemed necessary to finance the operations provided for in the first two years is ECU 25 million.

Financial support may in particular take the form of

- capital grants towards investment in projects other than infrastructure projects, or
- financial contributions towards pilot or demonstration schemes.

The maximum Community contribution is set at 50% for public investment and 30% for private investment.

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LIMITATION OF CO2 EMISSIONS (ECONOMIC AND FISCAL INSTRUMENTS)

Pending receipt of the formal Commission proposals, the Council noted the submission:

- by the Commission, of a staff paper on political options for a Community objective of stabilizing CO2 emissions.
- by the Presidency, of two documents on a strategy for the limitation of CO2 emissions.

EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

The Council held a brief discussion of this item following a statement by the Commission.

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ood/CH/jw

GREEN PAPER ON THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT

The Council adopted the following Resolution:

THE COUNCIL:

1. Welcomes the Green Paper on the urban environment and recognizes that it has made an important contribution to the ongoing debate on the future of the towns and cities of Europe.
2. Recognizes the importance of taking this overview of urban environment questions given the very close relationship between environment and other issues in the urban context, it being understood however, that consideration should be given both to the diversity of urban models and to the different specific starting situations in the Member States.
3. Recognizes that, while in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity the primary responsibility for the definition of policy for and the management of the urban environment lies with local authorities, regions and national governments, there is a Community dimension to the development of future policy in this area.

This dimension is in respect of:

- (a) the impact on urban environment of Community policies in many areas, particularly those related to the preparation for, and establishment of, the single market, regional development, energy and transportation;

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- (b) the very close interrelationship between those factors which are recognized as the cause of problems at the city level and those which give rise to contribution to global problems such as acid rain and the greenhouse effect; and the need therefore to ensure that solutions at the local level contribute to the solution of regional and global problems. Urban policies need therefore to be part of wider environmental policies;
 - (c) the commonality of the problems facing cities, which underlines the value of co-operation and exchange of information between cities in which the Community can assist in the search for effective solutions;
 - (d) the importance of improving urban environments that are degraded or threatened by degradation, inter alia as a factor of social and economic cohesion within the Community;
 - (e) recognition of the importance to the Community as a whole of the historic and cultural heritage that our cities represent.
4. Recognizes that the solution of urban environment problems is an essential condition for the future sustainable development of our cities.
 5. Recognizes that a major element of a successful urban environment policy will be effective co-ordination of policies at all levels of public administration in the wide range of areas which have an impact on cities and towns.

ood/CH/jw

6. Underlines the importance of urban and regional planning as a framework of integration of decisions on land use, services and infrastructures. Within this context recognizes in particular the importance of tackling problems of traffic-related pollution, noise and congestion through greater integration of decisions on land-use and transportation planning. Encourages the Commission to give priority to such approaches within Community programmes of investment and research.
7. Considers that the development and implementation of Community initiatives which concern the urban environment, will require close ongoing co-ordination and invites the Commission to give active consideration as to how this can be achieved.
8. Recognizes the value that exchange of experience and demonstration projects can play in improving the quality of urban management throughout the Community and encourages therefore the Commission to support such activities.
9. Recognizes the importance of a reliable source of data as a guide to the development of urban environment policy and invites the Commission to consider how such a data base could be established and maintained within the Community. The European Environment Agency should play an important role in this respect.
10. Requests that the Commission co-operate fully with other international organizations involved in urban issues to ensure that activities are complementary and not duplicative.

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11. Invites the Commission, in the light of the suggested lines of action set out in the Green Paper, to:

(a) establish an expert group made up of national representatives and independent experts to:

(i) consider, from an analysis of the existing situation throughout the Community, how future town and land-use planning strategies can incorporate environmental objectives, and

(ii) more generally, advise the Commission on the ways in which the urban environment dimension can be further developed within Community environment policy.

(b) consider, within the context of the European Council declaration on the environment (Dublin, June 1990), how the Community could, through funding, further contribute to the improvement of the urban environment.

12. Welcomes the Commission's intention to consult widely within the Community on the ideas and proposals in the Green Paper and looks forward to a further presentation of the conclusions of that consultation and the proposals arising from it.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Generalized preferences for 1991

The Council adopted Regulations applying the generalized tariff preferences for 1991 in respect of products originating in developing countries - industrial, textile and agricultural products - as well as Regulations reducing the levies on certain agricultural products and amending the scope of the Regulations (EEC) in respect of the system applied to certain products originating in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru.

The Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the European Coal and Steel Community also approved Decisions applying the GSP generally in respect of certain steel products and the arrangements for Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru.

Pending a decision on the scheme to apply for the next ten year period beginning in 1992, the 1991 GSP essentially repeats the provisions of the 1990 scheme subject only to a number of technical adjustments.

The scheme introduces a number of across-the-board increases in the preferential limits to take account of German unification. It also provides, where the countries in Central and Eastern Europe are concerned, for a one-year extension of the GSP in its present form for Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria as well as for Romania with an improvement in the GSP system already applicable to that country. Finally, it will involve the renewal of the special arrangements for Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru.

Common agricultural policy

The Council adopted the common position to be forwarded to the European Parliament with a view to the adoption of a Regulation laying down general rules on the definition, description and presentation of aromatized wines, aromatized wine-based drinks and aromatized cocktails of wine and wine products (see press release 10522/90 Presse 217 of 10/11.XII.1990).

The Council also adopted Regulations:

- amending Regulation No 2997/87 laying down, in respect of hops, the amount of aid to producers for the 1986 harvest and providing for special measures for certain regions of production.

- opening and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for meat of bovine animals, frozen, falling within CN Code 0202 and products falling within CN Code 0206 29 91 (1991).

This is a quota of 53 000 tonnes with duty set at 20%.

- opening a Community tariff quota for frozen thin skirt of bovine animals falling within CN Code 0206 29 91 (1991).

This is an amount of 1 500 tonnes with duty set at 4%.

- opening a Community tariff quota for high-quality fresh, chilled or frozen meat of bovine animals falling within CN Codes 0201 and 0202 and for products falling within CN Codes 0206 10 95 and 0206 29 91 (1991).

This is an amount of 34 300 tonnes with duty set at 20%.

- opening a Community tariff quota for frozen buffalo meat falling within CN Code 0202 30 90 (1991).

This is an amount of 2 250 tonnes with duty set at 20%.

Transitional measures concerning Spain and Portugal

The Council adopted

- a Regulation amending Regulation No 4007/87 extending the period referred to in Articles 90(1) and 257(1) of the Act of Accession of Spain and Portugal,
- a Decision renewing the arrangements for trade between the Kingdom of Spain and the Portuguese Republic and the OCT.

The Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the European Coal and Steel Community adopted a Decision amending Decision 86/50/ECSC establishing arrangements for trade between the Kingdom of Spain and the Portuguese Republic and the OCT in products covered by the ECSC Treaty.

Energy

The Council adopted by a qualified majority the common position on the Directive on the transit of natural gas through the major systems (see press release 9481/90 Presse 166 of 29.X.1990).

Internal market

The Council adopted common positions:

- with a view to adoption of a Regulation on the single administrative document.

This Regulation is designed to adjust the existing rules on the single administrative document with a view to the creation on 1 January 1993 of an area without internal frontiers. Its main purpose is to repeal existing Regulations Nos 678/85, 679/85 and 1900/85 while reintroducing into a new Council act those features of Regulation No 1900/85 which remain valid.

- on a Directive amending Directive 89/396/EEC on indications or marks identifying the lot to which a foodstuff belongs.

ECSC

The Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the European Coal and Steel Community adopted a Decision on certain measures to be applied, in respect of Central and East European countries, to trade in iron and steel products covered by the ECSC Treaty.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

11028/90 (Presse 238)

1468th Council meeting

- RESEARCH -

Brussels, 21 December 1990

President: Mr Antonio RUBERTI,
Minister for Scientific
Research and Technology

of the Italian Republic

21.XII.90

ert/MM/mh

Italy:

Mr Antonio RUBERTI

Minister for Scientific Research
and Technology

Mr Learco SAPORITO

State Secretary for Scientific Research and
Technology

Luxembourg:

Mr René STEICHEN

Minister for Scientific Research

Netherlands:

Mr P.C. NIEMAN

Ambassador, Permanent Representative

Portugal:

Mr Luis VALENTE DE OLIVEIRA

Minister for Planning and Territorial
Administration

Mr José Pedro SUCENA PAIVA

State Secretary for Science
and Technology

United Kingdom:

Lord HESKETH

Minister for Industry and Enterprise

°

°

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Commission:

Mr Filippo Maria PANDOLFI

Vice-President

21.XII.90

ert/MM/mh

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE THIRD R&D FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME (1990-1994) - SPECIFIC R&D PROGRAMMES

With a view to implementation of the third framework programme for activities in the field of research and technological development (1990-1994) specifying the activities to be pursued for developing the scientific knowledge and technical know-how needed by the Community, the Council discussed 4 common positions concerning specific programmes covering the following areas:

- marine science and technology
- telematic systems in areas of general interest
- environment
- life sciences and technologies for developing countries.

These programmes account for ECU 850 million out of a total of ECU 5 700 million for the framework programme and share the following features:

- = they are managed by the Commission, assisted by a Committee composed of representatives of the Member States which decides on projects above a certain financial threshold and is informed of projects below that threshold;
- = the Commission negotiates, under Article 130m of the Treaty, agreements with primarily European third countries enabling them to participate either in the whole programme or in some of the activities undertaken;
- = the Council, acting on a proposal from the Commission, decides on centralized action to disseminate and exploit results achieved under the programmes.

21.XII.90

ert/MM/mh

- Specific programme concerning marine science and technology

The Council adopted a common position on the specific R&TD programme in the field of marine science and technology (1990-1994).

The amount deemed necessary to implement this programme is ECU 102,96 million, including ECU 10 million for administrative and staff expenditure.

The programme's key aims are given below, with an indicative breakdown of the amount involved:

Area 1: Marine science, the main aims being: ECU 37,06 million

- Better understanding of marine processes
- Improvement of the ability to predict change
- Establishment of the scientific basis for management, protection and exploitation of the marine environment.

Area 2: Coastal zone science and engineering ECU 15,40 million

- The objectives, which build on projects in the MAST 1989-1992 pilot phase, are:
 - to gain an increased level of understanding of marine processes in the coastal zone;
 - to develop numerical modelling of coastal processes in Europe; to harmonize on a European scale, design concepts of coastal engineering.

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ert/MM/ac

Area 3: Marine technology ECU 19,80 million

- The prime objective is to encourage the necessary enabling technologies for the advancement of the marine sciences and related industrial development and to promote the development of operational measuring and observation systems

Area 4: Supporting initiatives including in particular: ECU 5,20 million

- the establishment of a European ocean data and information system, the preparation of norms and standards, a modelling co-ordination initiative, exchange of information on research cruises and research facilities, design of new large-scale facilities, advanced training, new approaches to mapping, etc.

Area 5: Large-scale target projects ECU 15,50 million

- projects to be developed to address particular problems which require large-scale multi-disciplinary research

TOTAL ECU 102,96 million

- Specific programme in the field of telematic systems

The Council adopted a common position on the specific R&TD programme in the field of telematic systems in areas of general interest (1990-1994).

The amount deemed necessary to implement the programme is ECU 376,2 million, including ECU 41 million for administrative and staff expenditure.

The programme's key objectives are given below, with an indicative breakdown of the amount involved:

- Area 1: Support for the establishment of transeuropean networks between administrations ECU 41,3 million
- Identification of needs and implementing strategies
 - Development of the technologies relating to telematic services and validation of common functional specifications
- Area 2: Transport services ECU 124,4 million
- Road transport (DRIVE)
 - Strategies for the use of technologies, telematic services and systems and contribution to the definition of common functional specifications
 - Technologies and experimental development of systems
 - Validation and pilot projects
- Area 3: Health care (AIM) ECU 97 million
- Strategies for the use of technologies, telematic services and systems and contribution to the definition of common functional specifications

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ert/MM/ac

- Development of telematic technology applied to medicine
- Validation and integration

Area 4: Flexible and distance learning (DELTA) ECU 54,5 million

- Strategies for the use of technologies, telematic systems and services and contribution to the definition of common functional specifications
- Development of systems and technologies
- Experiments on the validation and integration of services

Area 5: Libraries ECU 22,5 million

- Equipment and telematic systems
- User access to knowledge

Area 6: Linguistic research and engineering ECU 22,5 million

- Computer applications to linguistic resources

Area 7: Telematic systems for rural areas ECU 14 million

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- Creation of comparable telematic infrastructures
to those in urban centres

TOTAL ECU 376,2 million

- Specific programme concerning the environment

Having noted an agreement in principle on the common position on this programme, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to expedite the technical finalization of the text.

The amount deemed necessary to implement the programme is ECU 261,4 million, including ECU 15 million to cover administrative and staff expenditure.

The programme's key objectives are given below, with an indicative breakdown of the amount involved:

Area 1: Participation in global change programmes ECU 104,6 million

- Natural climatic change
- Anthropogenic climate change
- Climate change impacts
- Stratospheric ozone
- Tropospheric physics and chemistry
- Biogeochemical cycles
- Ecosystem dynamics

Area 2: Technologies and engineering for the
environment ECU 65,3 million

- Assessment of environmental quality and monitoring
- Technologies for protecting and rehabilitating the environment

Area 3: Research on economic and social aspects
of environmental issues ECU 15,7 million

- Socio-economic assessment of the changing environment
- Socio-economic impact of environmental policies and research

Area 4: Technological and natural risks ECU 75,8 million

- Natural risks
- Technological risks
- Desertification in the Mediterranean area

TOTAL ECU 261,4 million ⁽¹⁾

- Specific programme concerning life sciences and technologies for developing countries

The Council noted a favourable disposition as regards substance to the content of the R&TD programme in the field of life sciences and technologies for developing countries (1990-1994), implementation of which is deemed to require ECU 109,89 million.

(1) A further ECU 150 million will be set aside for JRC research on the environment.

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It instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine the amended Commission proposal including some of the amendments requested by the European Parliament, so that the Council could establish its common position at an early date.

- Other specific programmes

After addressing some problems arising in connection with 4 other specific programmes spanning the period 1990-1994 and concerning the following sectors:

- information technology
- communication technology
- industrial and materials technologies
- biomedicine and health,

the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to expedite examination of these programmes, so that it could adopt its common positions on them at the earliest opportunity, without a further ministerial debate if possible.

EUROPEAN RESEARCH POLICIES AND STRATEGIES

The Ministers held a policy exchange of views broaching certain general topics relating to European research policies and strategies, dealing inter alia with

- input by the research sector in the general process of the Community's integration;
- ways and means of organizing exchange programmes for research scientists teaching staff and students with the countries of Eastern and central Europe ("COPERNICUS" initiative),

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- participation by the scientific community in the formulation of research themes and programmes in Europe.

The Ministers agreed to continue holding exchanges of view of this kind in future.

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MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Other decisions concerning research

Following completion of the co-operation procedure with the European Parliament, the Council adopted a specific research and technological development programme in the field of transport (EURET)(1990-1993). This specific programme, which comes under the second framework programme (1987-1991), has an ECU 25 million budget - including a staff of 6-spanning three years, and covers the following areas:

- competitiveness: improving the effectiveness and competitiveness of transport systems and of the corresponding industries by reducing costs and improving performance, the quality of the service and management of the different systems and their components;
- safety: improving the safety of modes of transport and working conditions;
- protection of the environment: reducing the harmful effects of modes of transport on the environment.

Community research into transport should be devised in the interest of the entire Community transport system, for the benefit of each mode and with a view to consistent stimulation. It should help in decision-making regarding transport policy, research and transport related industry policy.

Given the complexity and the size of the transport sector, the EURET programme embraces a small number of priority research topics.

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The EURET programme has three specific objectives:

- optimum network exploitation (ECU 16,5 million);
- logistics (ECU 7,5 million);
- reduction of harmful external effects (ECU 1 million).

The Council also adopted a common position on the conclusion of a co-operation agreement between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Iceland on a programme plan to stimulate the international co-operation and interchange needed by European research scientists (SCIENCE).

MEDIA programme

The Council adopted the Decision setting up the MEDIA programme, designed to promote the development of the European audiovisual industry.

The action programme has been adopted for a five-year period starting on 1 January 1991; ECU 200 million are deemed necessary for the Community's participation during that period.

The following measures will receive support:

- distribution mechanisms (distribution of films in cinemas, distribution on video cassette, support for multilingualism in television programmes, development of markets and support for the dissemination of the work of independent producers);
- improvement of production conditions (development of preproduction, restructuring of the animated cartoon industry, use of new technologies

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in the production of programmes, contribution to the use of film and television archives);

- stimulation of financial investment;

- improving the economic and commercial management abilities of professionals (critical study and development, by experts, of projects submitted by young producers, further training measures, co-ordinated in particular by the MEDIA Business School);

- development of potential in countries with smaller audiovisual production capacities and/or with a limited geographical and linguistic area; other measures.

These measures will take the form of projects managed by professionals. The Commission, assisted by a Committee, will ensure implementation and co-ordination of the programme.

As a rule, the Commission's co-contractors participating in the implementation of the measures must contribute a substantial share of the funding covering not less than 50% of their total cost.

In the implementation of the action programme, a significant part of the total budget will go towards Community participation in Audiovisual EUREKA, grouping together 26 European countries, with a view to boosting the continent's audiovisual capacity. The programme may also include promotion of co-operation with professionals in the audiovisual sector in Central and Eastern European countries.

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Rules of Procedure of the Court of First Instance and of the Court of Justice

The Council approved the Rules of Procedure of the Court of First Instance and the amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Court of Justice.

Article 168a of the Treaty and the corresponding Articles of the other Treaties stipulate that the Court of First Instance is to establish its rules of procedure in agreement with the Court of Justice and that those rules require the unanimous approval of the Council.

The Council has now approved these Rules, the draft of which was forwarded to it by the Court in April and which was examined by the Council's subordinate bodies.

Also in April, the Court submitted to the Council some amendments inspired by the Court's concern to accelerate procedures in certain cases and to clarify, in the light of experience, the meaning of a number of provisions of the Rules.

Following examination of the amendments by its subordinate bodies, the Council has now approved them in accordance with Articles 188 of the EEC Treaty, 160 of the EAEC Treaty and Article 55 of the Protocol on the Statute of the Court of Justice of the ECSC.

Relations with Hungary

The Council adopted the Decision granting medium-term financial assistance to Hungary.

The Decision empowers the Commission to borrow on behalf of the European Economic Community an amount of ECU 260 million and to onlend the proceeds of the borrowing to Hungary as the second tranche of the medium-term financial assistance provided for by the Council in its Decision of 12 February 1990. By

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that Decision, the Community granted Hungary a medium-term loan for an amount equivalent to one thousand million dollars, with a maximum duration of five years, in order to enable it to overcome structural adjustment difficulties. A first tranche equivalent to 400 million dollars was decided at the time.

Textiles

The Council adopted the Decisions on the provisional application of the Agreed Minutes amending

- the Agreement between the European Economic Community and Czechoslovakia on trade in textile products;
- the Agreements between the European Economic Community, of the one part, and Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and Czechoslovakia, respectively, of the other part. The purpose of the amendment is to include outward processing traffic (OPT) in these Agreements.

Commercial policy

- Relations between the EC and the United States - GATT Article XXIV/6

The Council approved the exchange of letters between the Community and the United States extending for one year, until 31 December 1991, the Agreement concluded in January 1987 under GATT Article XXIV/6 (consequent on the Community's enlargement, with a view to ensuring a minimum annual level of corn and sorghum imports into Spain).

The extension takes account of the fact that the current Uruguay Round negotiations will not be concluded before the scheduled date of expiry of the

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Agreement. It is not possible, therefore, formally to complete the review procedure provided for in the Agreement, notably as regards the features relating to agriculture.

- Manioc/sweet potatoes

The Council adopted the Regulations amending

- Regulation (EEC) No 430/87 concerning the import arrangements applicable to products covered by CN codes 0714 10 and 0714 90 and originating in certain third countries; this amendment is intended, in particular, to limit imports of manioc originating in China to 350 000 tonnes per year in 1991 and 1992;
- Regulation (EEC) No 1471/88 as regards imports of sweet potatoes intended for uses other than human consumption and originating in the People's Republic of China for 1991 and 1992; this amendment is intended to limit imports of sweet potatoes originating in China to 600 000 tonnes per year in 1991 and 1992.

- Chemical products

The Council adopted the Regulation opening and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas for certain chemical products (1991).

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Relations with the Mediterranean countries

The Council adopted the Regulations

- opening and providing for the administration of a Community preferential ceiling for certain petroleum products refined in Turkey and establishing Community surveillance for imports thereof (1991);
- totally or partially suspending the duties applicable to certain products falling within Chapters 1 to 24 of the Combined Nomenclature and originating in Malta (1991);
- suspending wholly or in part the Common Customs Tariff duties on certain agricultural products originating in Turkey (1991).

The Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, adopted the Decision establishing ceilings and Community supervision for imports of certain goods falling within the ECSC Treaty and originating in Yugoslavia (1991).

Relations with Tunisia

The Council authorized the Commission to negotiate with Tunisia an Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Economic Community and the Tunisian Republic laying down the arrangements applicable from 1 January 1991 to imports into the Community of unprocessed olive oil originating in Tunisia.

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Operation of EURATOM safeguards

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

The Council, having received a report from the Commission on EURATOM safeguards,

- notes the wide-ranging scope of the work carried out in this context by the Commission, as provided for in Chapter VII of the EURATOM Treaty;
- points out that in the Community civil nuclear materials are subject to highly effective EURATOM safeguards as regards the quality, number and frequency of inspections and end use;
- appreciates the positive results obtained and in particular the fact that, in carrying out these activities as described in the report, the Commission noted no evidence of diversion;
- reiterates the importance of pursuing the safeguard activities of EURATOM and the IAEA and the essential need for consistent application of existing rules at both Community and international level;
- stresses the need to ensure that a high level of safeguards is maintained for the future in the Community, particularly in the light of the use of mixed plutonium fuels; it therefore emphasizes the need to develop and extend cost-effective techniques which will facilitate safeguard procedures;
- requests the Commission to report at least every two years on its activities relating to the operation of EURATOM safeguards;
- in addition, emphasizes the contribution of EURATOM to compliance with international undertakings on safeguards and the importance of close co-operation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in order to derive maximum value from respective inspection activities and to avoid duplication of effort;
- acknowledges the importance of compliance with international (IAEA) safeguards on non-proliferation and expresses its appreciation of the co-operation of the nuclear industry in the Community in this regard;
- observes that the general approach adopted by the Community on non-proliferation, as outlined in the statement annexed to the Presidency's conclusions at the close of the discussions of the European Council in Dublin, is thus respected.

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Agriculture

The Council adopted the Regulations

- amending Regulation (EEC) No 2990/82 on the sale of butter at reduced prices to persons receiving social assistance; this measure is intended to extend the arrangements for reduced-price sales until 31 December 1992;
- on the transfer to Greece of 150 000 tonnes of feed grain held by the German intervention agency; the feed grain is intended to help Greek farmers cope with the animal feed shortage caused by the drought which hit Greece in recent months;
- laying down general rules for the application of Regulation (EEC) No 1198/90 establishing a Community register of citrus cultivation;
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 1035/72 on the common organization of the market in fruit and vegetables; the purpose of this amendment is to add melons to the list of products subject to Community quality standards.

Shipbuilding

The Council adopted the Directive on aid to shipbuilding (see press release No 10159/90 (Presse 198) of the Industry Council on 26 November 1990).

Environment

The Council adopted the conclusions concerning participation by the European Economic Community in the negotiations with a view to drawing up an Agreement for

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the conservation of the White Stork within the framework of the Convention on the conservation of migratory species of wild animals (Bonn Convention).

Transport

The Council adopted

- the Regulations amending Regulation (EEC) No 3164/76 on access to the market in the international carriage of goods by road
 - = increase in the Community quota for 1991/1992
 - = adjustment of the Community quota following German unification
- the Regulation on measures to be taken in the event of a crisis in the market in the carriage of goods by road

(see press release No 10872/90 (Presse 233) of the Transport Council on 17 and 18 December 1990).

ECSC

The Council gave assents:

- under the second paragraph of Article 54 of the ECSC Treaty
 - = for the granting of a global loan to Barclays Bank PLC for financing investment projects which contribute to financing the marketing of Community steel
 - = to the co-financing of the conversion from oil to coal firing of boilers at Guinness Brewing Worldwide Ltd., formerly Arthur Guinness Son and Company (Great Britain) Ltd.
- under Article 56(2)(a) of the ECSC Treaty concerning:

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- = Granada Motorway Services Ltd (United Kingdom)
- = Dresdner Bank AG (Federal Republic of Germany)
- = USINOR SACILOR (France)
- = SDR TOFINSO (France)
- = Crédit d'Équipement des petites et moyennes entreprises (France)
- = WA Turner Ltd (United Kingdom)
- = TESCO plc (United Kingdom)
- = Pfizer Ltd (United Kingdom).

The Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, adopted the Decision on the opening of a zero-duty tariff quota for flat-rolled products of silicon-electrical steel. The Decision stipulates that, from 1 January to 30 June 1991, the Benelux countries may be granted a zero-duty tariff quota in respect of imports from non-member countries of 300 tonnes of flat-rolled products of silicon-electrical steel meeting certain specific specifications.

Appointment

The Council adopted the Decision appointing an alternate member of the Advisory Committee on Veterinary Training.