

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

PRESS RELEASES

PRESIDENCY: ITALY

JULY-DECEMBER 1990

Meetings and press releases 3-13 December 1990

Meeting number	Subject	Date
1453 rd	Health	3 December 1990
1454 th	Economics/Finance	3 December 1990
1455 th	General Affairs	4 December 1990
1456 th	Foreign Trade	3-7 December 1990
1457 th	Education	6 December 1990
1458 th	Agriculture	10-11 December 1990
1459 th	Economics/Finance	10 December 1990
1460 th	Internal Market	13 December 1990

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

10465/90 (Presse 208)

1453rd meeting of the Council
and the Ministers for Health,
meeting within the Council

Brussels, 3 December 1990

President: Mr Franco DE LORENZO

Minister for Health
of the Italian Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr Philippe BUSQUIN	Minister for Social Affairs
Mr Robert DELIZEE	State Secretary for Health and Policy on the Disabled, attached to the Minister for Social Affairs

Denmark:

Mr Joergen VARDER	State Secretary for Health
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Germany:

Mr Jochen GRÜNHAGE	Deputy Permanent Representative
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Greece:

Ms Marietta YIANNAKOU-KOUTSIKOU	Minister for Health
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Spain:

Mr Julian GARCIA VARGAS	Minister for Health and Consumer Affairs
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France:

Mr Bruno DURIEUX	Minister for Health
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Ireland:

Mr Rory O'HANLON	Minister for Health
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Italy:

Mr Franco DE LORENZO	Minister for Health
Ms Maria Pia GARAVAGLIA	State Secretary for Health

Luxembourg:

Mr Johnny LAHURE	Minister for Health
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Netherlands:

Mr H. J. SIMONS

State Secretary for Welfare, Health
and Cultural Affairs

Portugal:

Mr Arlindo DE CARVALHO

Minister for Health

United Kingdom:

The Baroness HOOPER

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State,
Department of Health

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Commission:

Ms Vasso PAPANDEOU

Member

HEALTH IN THE COMMUNITY CONTEXT

The Ministers held an exchange of views on their participation in decisions at Community level relating to sectors of public health. At the end of this discussion, the President read the following statement by the Presidency:

Statement by the Presidency

"The President of the Council of Health Ministers of the European Communities, on the basis of the broad consensus which emerged during the discussion among the Health Ministers of the European Communities gathered in Brussels on 3 December 1990, in the perspective of the Intergovernmental Conference which opens on 15 December 1990 in Rome;

GIVEN the importance of public health issues in the European Community;

HAVING NOTED that many Community measures concerning sectors connected to public health protection (such as those concerning the safe use of drugs and other medical devices, the safety of foods of animal and vegetable origin, water quality, biomedical research programmes, as well as the prevention of risks due to the production, use or even the occurrence of chemical, physical and biological agents) are often adopted without any participation or contribution of the Council of Health Ministers,

CONSIDERS consequently as desirable and urgent the adoption of measures which make possible:

- (a) a greater and more systematic engagement of the Ministers of Health of the European Community in the development of the measures produced by the Community in the public health sector;

(b) a clearer definition of the competences in the field of public health in the Community, in order to:

- facilitate co-operation among Member States notably to prevent and to fight the major threats to public health;
- improve preparation and discussion of texts susceptible to influence public health."

NUTRITION AND HEALTH

The Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council adopted a Resolution concerning an action programme on nutrition and health in which, in particular, they:

"INVITE the Commission to submit to the Council a proposal for an action programme, together with the budget proposals necessary under the usual procedures, which provides in particular that 1994 will be "European Nutrition Year". When drafting this programme, the Commission is invited to use as a basis the aims and guidelines set out in the Annex.

INVITE the competent authorities in the Member States to take appropriate measures, on the basis of any decisions taken by the Council, to carry out the programme, and to set up the necessary co-ordination arrangements.

RECOMMEND that Community activities in this sector be conducted while taking into account the activities of the WHO and FAO and, as far as possible, in co-operation with them.

INVITE the Commission to call meetings of senior officials appointed by the competent national authorities on a regular basis at least every two years from

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1992 onwards to evaluate progress in the programmes on nutritional education and consumer information.

ASK the Commission to keep the Council regularly informed of progress and to submit a final report to the Council on the work done."

The objectives and guidelines defined in the Annex are to provide information and foster awareness among the general public, certain select groups of people at risk, persons and bodies involved in sectors dealing with food and nutrition, as well as the study, analysis and exchange of experience on the part played by nutritional aspects in health.

The planned measures comprise, in addition to European Nutrition Year, general measures to heighten awareness, pilot projects and research and studies. It is also planned to step up and diversify the work of the Scientific Committee for Food.

SAFETY OF FOOD AND DRINK AND WATER INTENDED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

The Council and the Ministers adopted the following conclusions:

"WHEREAS, with the single market in prospect, the regulatory innovations so far introduced into Community rules under the Single European Act must be developed further to ensure the reasonable protection of public health in a system based on free movement of foodstuffs;

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WHEREAS, whenever Community harmonization is lacking or inadequate, the diversity of national legislation frequently gives rise to difficulties in trade and, at any rate, to an increase in disputes and may have adverse repercussions on public-health protection;

RECOGNIZE that the chief task of the Community in this situation is to take co-ordinated and thorough action to adopt as soon as possible, and at all events by the end of 1992, effective rules, particularly in priority sectors where a high level of health protection has to be attained;

CONSIDER that the implementation of such action must take account of the fact that the protection of public health has long been the basic aim of Community foodstuffs and water regulations and is not merely a question of adopting new rules but also of co-ordinating, updating and amplifying existing ones and guaranteeing, through effective, uniform application, that they are actually complied with;

RECOGNIZE that the Commission must play an important role in the success of such action and that the Commission needs to take the necessary steps to bring unity to the differing approaches within the Commission itself, with precedence being given to the aim of protecting public health;

EMPHASIZE that, in order to ensure more effective health protection, uniform legislative principles and approaches should be adopted for the foodstuffs, agricultural and veterinary sectors as well as for the environment and the safety of water intended for human consumption;

EMPHASIZE the need for the involvement of the Council and of the Ministers for Health, inter alia with adequate information, enabling a contribution to be

made in particular, by formulating general health objectives and criteria, to decisions in the foodstuffs and water sector on matters involving the protection of public health."

USE OF DRUGS IN SPORT

The Council and the Ministers adopted a Resolution on Community action to combat the use of drugs, including the abuse of medicinal products, particularly in sport.

Starting from the principle that an educational and preventive approach should prevail and extend to cover all persons taking part in sporting activities, in particular young people and the circles in which they move; and in collaboration with the Council of Europe and particularly given the prospect of the 1992 Olympic Games, they invite the Commission, assisted by a Group of Experts appointed by the Member States:

- to draft and circulate, in close conjunction with the Member States, by the end of 1991, with a view to the Olympic Games in 1992, a Code of Conduct to combat the use of drugs in sport. The Code should constitute an important instrument of information and education against the use of drugs in sport. Denouncing the use of drugs in sport as contravening the rules of health protection and in any case as constituting unsporting behaviour, it should be submitted for joint discussion by medical and sporting circles operating in the Community;
- to propose to the Council measures of Community interest taking into account the measures already initiated by government sporting authorities, the Council of Europe and international sporting organizations. Such measures could comprise in particular:
 - (a) stepping-up training information and health education initiatives against the use of drugs in sport;

- (b) Study of most common current drug-use practices;
- (c) Drug-testing methods and co-operation between laboratories;
- (d) Research on effects of drug-taking on health within the Community biomedical research framework programme.

DRUGS - reducing the demand for narcotic and psychotropic substances

The Council and the Ministers adopted the following conclusions:

"HAVING REGARD to the interim report and the guidelines for a European plan to combat drugs approved by the European Council in Dublin on 25 and 26 June 1990;

HAVING NOTED the task which the European Committee for the fight against drugs (CELAD) assigned to the ad hoc Working Party on Drug Abuse, namely to examine the aspects relating to drug demand reduction contained in the preliminary draft European plan to combat drugs, drawn up by the current Presidency of CELAD, and to prepare a document on the subject;

IN THE LIGHT OF the thorough work carried out by the ad hoc Working Party on Drug Abuse in preparing that document;

HAVING NOTED that at its meeting on 19 and 20 November 1990 CELAD used the findings of that work in its European plan to combat drugs, to be submitted by CELAD to the Rome European Council on 14 and 15 December 1990;

HAVING EXAMINED, furthermore, the report drawn up by the Commission in conjunction with the Member States on demand reduction policies in the Member States, requested of the Commission by the European Council in Dublin on 25 and 26 June 1990;

EXPRESS their appreciation of the work carried out by the ad hoc Working Party and the Commission;

SUGGEST that the European Council, at its meeting on 14 and 15 December 1990, approves the paragraph on demand reduction in the European plan to combat drugs proposed by CELAD, in view of the important health-related objectives which it contains and which the Council supports;

TAKE NOTE of the conclusions of the report on demand reduction policies, which the Commission forwarded to the Council;

IDENTIFY, amongst social and health measures, the following as the most urgent of the measures defined by CELAD in the European plan to combat drugs and as being in keeping with the needs emphasized by the Commission in its report on demand reduction policies in the Member States:

1. The intensification of prevention measures in each Member State, aimed at the general population and high-risk groups;
2. The intensification of measures in the Member States, to extend the range of effective methods for treating drug addiction by:

- (a) developing services providing the main therapeutic options, where appropriate in an integrated fashion, with special emphasis on those groups among which the continued use of drugs entails serious subsequent risks to their health;
 - (b) analysing, updating and applying the various methods of treatment assessment;
3. The intensification in the Member States of intervention of proven efficacy in obtaining and maintaining the social and occupational integration of addicts;
4. The intensification in the Member States of those activities and in-service training of qualified staff in the prevention, treatment and social integration sectors;

INVITE THE COMMISSION:

- (a) to promote the Community-wide exchange of information, concerning in particular information and educational material on prevention, approaches to treatment and measures taken on social and occupational integration;
- (b) to promote the exchange of information on the methods used to evaluate the efficacy of the different measures taken and, in close co-operation with the Member States, to explore the possibility of improving methods of evaluation, enabling the Member States to use compatible and comparable evaluation methods;
- (c) to draw up regular reports, in collaboration with the Member States, on demand reduction policies, in particular, with a view to assessing the implementation and efficacy of the measures taken by the Member States;
- (d) to carry out a feasibility study on the organization within the Community of regular training and update courses for qualified staff on themes which,

because of their novelty and/or special nature, have not yet been sufficiently developed and studied;

INVITE finally the ad hoc Working Party on Drug Abuse to act on any requests from CELAD to examine the social and health aspects of studies concerning a Drugs Monitoring Centre and to report to the Council."

AIDS

The Council and the Ministers for Health adopted the following conclusions:

"HAVING CONSIDERED the epidemiological development and the medical and social consequences of the spread of HIV infection in Europe;

HAVING CONSIDERED in particular the growing link between drug addiction, infection from (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) HIV and the development of HIV-related diseases in many of the European countries;

HAVING REGARD to the conclusions of the Council and the Ministers for Health, meeting within the Council, on 16 May 1989 regarding the prevention of AIDS in parenteral drug users, in particular the section on pregnant women drug users, and to the increase in the number of children born sero-positive;

HAVING REGARD to the intermediate report and the guidelines for a European plan to combat drugs approved by the European Council in Dublin on 25 and 26 June 1990 and to the draft European plan to combat drugs to be submitted by the European Committee for the fight against drugs (CELAD) to the next European Council on 14 and 15 December 1990, and in particular the paragraph on drug addiction and AIDS.

INVITE THE MEMBER STATES:

1. to promote, in drug addiction services and reception centres, access to early intervention and, where appropriate to treatment for sero-positive drug addicts and for those with clinical signs of HIV infection;
2. to foster within these structures, respecting confidentiality, a psychological and social climate which is sensitive to the needs of the individuals concerned;

INVITE THE COMMISSION:

1. to step up exchanges of information, experience and experts:
 - (a) on medical and social assistance to sero-positive pregnant women and newborn babies;
 - (b) on the organization of home care for people suffering from HIV/AIDS and other forms of health care for HIV-infected persons;
 - (c) for assessing the measures implemented in the Member States to supply safer injecting materials, including new types of disposable syringes and needles;
2. to inform the Council of the results of the exchange of experience referred to in point 1 and to submit an appropriate assessment and, if necessary, proposals for action;

IN ADDITION, REPEAT the call made to the Member States in the conclusions of the Council and the Ministers for Health, meeting within the Council, on 17 May 1990

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to continue with active policies to avoid any discrimination against sero-positive persons and people suffering from HIV/AIDS and to encourage the social acceptance of such persons;

FINALLY INVITE the Member States to extend the commitment to non-discrimination and social acceptance to those living with sero-positive persons and people suffering from HIV/AIDS or to those who have contact with such persons."

ACUTE HUMAN POISONING

On the basis of the draft submitted by the Commission, and after receipt of Parliament's Opinion, the Council and the Ministers adopted a Resolution on improving the prevention and treatment of acute human poisoning.

This Resolution makes provision for collecting comparable, valid clinical toxicology data, essentially from poison centres, and for harmonizing the way in which such data are collected; in order to do so, it provides for case data to be recorded on a harmonized record sheet and for annual reports to be drawn up on a common layout. The Member States are to designate a competent authority which must, inter alia, produce a summary of the harmonized annual reports from the poison centres every year to be forwarded to the Commission.

Provision is also made for summaries in order to improve the availability of antidotes, an indicative list of which has been drawn up, and to increase the practical scope for using these antidotes.

For its part, the Commission will have to prepare regular summary reports indicating, in particular, the measures to be taken on a Community scale for the prevention of acute poisoning and to expand on the specific topics based on the information received from the Member States.

Finally, provision is made to review this Decision within five years and for the technical annexes to be reviewed by the Commission within two years (data record sheet, layout of annual reports, indicative list of antidotes) and to be updated regularly thereafter.

The Commission will be assisted in this task by experts appointed by the Member States.

TOBACCO ADVERTISING

The Council examined the amended Commission proposal and the Presidency compromise proposal on the advertising of tobacco products in the press and by means of bills and posters.

Following these discussions, the President noted that:

- there was a unanimous wish to contribute to the reduction of tobacco consumption which was detrimental to health;
- there was no qualified majority in favour of either the Commission proposal or the compromise suggestion put forward by the Presidency.

The Commission said that it would reconsider this issue in the light of delegations' comments and that, in view of the objections levelled at partial harmonization, it would present a proposal for full harmonization.

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COMMISSION COMMUNICATIONS

The Council took note of three communications from the Commission concerning:

- the setting up of a high-level Committee on health protection
- the state of co-operation between the Commission and the World Health Organization
- the progress of work by the Commission on biomedical research.

EUROPEAN LICENCING SYSTEM FOR MEDICINAL PRODUCTS

The Council held an exchange of views on the outlook for the future European licencing system for medicinal products on the basis of a communication from the Presidency.

In its communication, the Presidency welcomed the recent Commission proposal for such a system, while emphasizing the desirability of gradual development from current national systems and the need to ensure the highest technical qualifications for its work, with Member States being adequately involved in the decision-making process throughout.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS RELATING TO HEALTH

Cardio-vascular disease in the Community

The Council and the Ministers adopted the following conclusions:

CONCLUSIONS

of the Council and of the Ministers for Health of the Member States,
meeting within the Council

on cardio-vascular disease
in the Community

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES AND THE MINISTERS FOR HEALTH OF THE
MEMBER STATES, MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL,

1. note that cardio-vascular disease is one of the main causes of death in all the Member States of the Community, particularly in the working population;
2. consider that a number of preventive measures have already been put in hand for cancer and that these measures have an effect in preventing cardio-vascular disease;
3. consider that further measures should be identified and implemented;
4. call upon the Commission to investigate the best way of facilitating exchange of information and co-operation on national measures, including in the field of research and means of diagnosis, obtaining to that end the assistance of experts and of representatives appointed by the Member States and to report on the outcome of that investigation.

In carrying out this work the Commission should, in order to avoid duplication, take account of the work of other bodies in this area, particularly the WHO.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

10468/90 (Presse 211)

1454th Council meeting

- Economic and Financial Affairs -

Brussels, 3 December 1990

Presidents: Mr Guido CARLI
Minister for the Treasury

Mr Rino FORMICA
Minister for Finance

of the Italian Republic

03.XII.90

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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 Jens THOMSEN State Secretary, Ministry of 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 the Economy

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 Jean-Claude JUNCKER Minister for Finance

Mr Robert GOEBBELS Minister for Economic Affairs

Netherlands:

Mr W. KOK

Minister for Finance

Mr Marius van AMELSVOORT

State Secretary for Finance

Portugal:

Mr Miguel BELEZA

Minister for Finance

Mr Carlos TAVARES

State Secretary for the Treasury

Mr José de OLIVEIRA COSTA

State Secretary for Fiscal Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr Francis MAUDE

Financial Secretary to the Treasury

Mr John REDWOOD

Minister of State, Department of Trade
and Industry

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Commission:

Sir Leon BRITTAN

Vice-President

Mr Peter SCHMIDHUBER

Member

Mrs Christiane SCRIVENER

Member

Mr Karel VAN MIERT

Member

MONEY LAUNDERING

The Council held a detailed discussion on four key questions concerning the proposal for a Directive on prevention of use of the financial system for the purpose of money laundering, viz. the definition of "laundering" and criminal activities, the prohibition of money laundering and appropriate measures to that end, the threshold above which occasional clients were to be identified and compulsory information for the authorities responsible.

In conclusion, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue discussions on the basis of suggestions by the Presidency, in order to work out a solution allowing Ministers to come to an overall decision at their meeting on 17 December 1990.

INVESTMENT SERVICES IN THE SECURITIES FIELD

The Council continued its discussions begun on 19 November 1990 concerning the Directive on investment services in the securities field, concentrating on one of the fundamental questions involved, viz. the co-existence of two systems chosen by the Member States: one in which the Member State made it compulsory for transactions to be carried out on regulated markets and one in which the Member State allowed full freedom of choice between regulated markets or private contract and, in connection with that question, the problem of market transparency.

The Council worked on the basis of suggestions from the Commission, which were favourably received by many delegations, as a basis for possible compromise.

This being the case, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to press on with discussions on the basis of the Commission's compromise ideas, and in the light of that day's discussions, to enable the Council to take a decision at its meeting on 17 December 1990.

DECISIONS ON THE FINANCIAL PERSPECTIVE

The Presidency briefed the Council on the results of negotiations with the European Parliament and the Commission on the financial perspective following the ECOFIN Council on 19 November 1990.

The Council examined these results and reached agreement on the matter.

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE ECOFIN COUNCIL

The Council agreed to hold a special meeting on 10 December 1990 to consider relations between the Community and the USSR and the central and eastern European countries, with particular reference to financial aspects.

ABOLITION OF FISCAL FRONTIERSNew VAT system

The Council approved, with two waiting reservations, conclusions on the main arrangements for the new VAT system which will apply after 1992.

These conclusions are set out in the Annex.

Transport taxation

The Council heard a statement by the German delegation on the importance it attached to the issue of transport taxation, which it asked to be referred to the European Council.

The Council also heard a statement from Commissioner VAN MIERT setting out the basic elements of the amended Commission proposal on charging transport infrastructure costs to certain goods vehicles. The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine this amended proposal.

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ANNEX

**COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS
ON THE TRANSITIONAL VAT ARRANGEMENTS (1)**

Further to the instructions given to it by the Dublin European Council, the ECOFIN Council records agreement on the main arrangements for application of the VAT system which will apply from 1 January 1993. The conclusions of the ECOFIN Council of 13 November 1989, the Commission proposals and the work of the ad hoc Working Party have led to the following solutions:

I.

Chargeable event

The main features of the taxation of intra-Community transactions in goods undertaken by taxable persons are as follows:

1. From the time that the chargeable event on importation is abolished, transactions in goods between taxable persons will be subject to taxation on the basis of the intra-Community acquisition of goods within the country of destination.

The new taxable transaction has been defined as the process of acquiring the right as owner to dispose of tangible property which is dispatched or transported to the person acquiring the goods, by the vendor or on his behalf or by the person acquiring the goods or on his behalf, to a Member State other than that from which the goods were dispatched or transported.

(1) These conclusions are still subject to two waiting reservations.

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The intra-Community acquisition of goods will be defined on the basis of the legal (civil and commercial) and fiscal criteria in force in the Member State of destination. The Member States will therefore have to take measures to ensure that acquisitions are given the same fiscal categorization as equivalent supplies carried out under their internal arrangements.

The place where an intra-Community acquisition of goods is taxed is the place of arrival of the goods. Without prejudice to this principle, a provision will guarantee that the person acquiring the goods will be liable for tax in the territory of the Member State which has issued him with a VAT registration number. Appropriate measures will be taken by that Member State to avoid any double taxation.

The taxable event and the conditions for charging the tax are based on the provisions of Article 10 of the 6th VAT Directive.

2. Exemption of intra-Community supplies of goods is granted in the Member State of departure when two conditions are fulfilled:
 - the goods are actually transported or dispatched out of the Member State of departure;
 - the supply is made to a taxable person who must, on that basis, have been declared or identified for VAT purposes in a Member State other than that from which the goods were dispatched or transported.
3. Certain intermediate acquisitions, that is to say acquisitions made on arrival in the territory of a Member State where the person acquiring the goods does not carry out any taxable activities, will be exempted in the interests of simplification.

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4. Movements of goods between Member States which are not supplies (for example storage) will be treated as taxable transactions in order to ensure correct application of the tax and appropriate control of such movements. Specific arrangements will be made to simplify the fiscal treatment of these transactions.

II.

Control

From 1 January 1993 Member States will set up control mechanisms for intra-Community trade to replace frontier controls, which must take account of differing administrative structures in the Member States and limit the additional administrative workload.

1. Exchange of computer-based data

- (a) Each Member State will, as a minimum, collect from its sellers to other Member States the following data:

- VAT registration number of the seller;
- the purchaser's VAT registration number in the country of acquisition;
- total turnover for each quarter of supplies made by a seller to each individual purchaser.

- (b) These data will be stored on EDP equipment.

- (c) Member States will take the necessary steps to allow for the exchange of the computer-based data by means of telecommunications. For this reason the data-processing systems of the Member States must be compatible.

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- (d) Such EDP systems for storing and exchanging data shall be operational in each Member State at 1 January 1993. Preparations to that end must begin immediately; in particular the Commission will set in hand as soon as possible, in co-operation with the Member States, a feasibility study of the necessary computer and telematic support network.
- (e) On the basis of the stored data the purchaser's country may obtain automatically and without delay, or have direct access to, no more than the following data:
- VAT registration numbers of all purchasers;
 - total value of all supplies received by each purchaser from all sellers in the Member State in question, for each quarter.
- (f) For the purpose of controlling the taxation of acquisitions, the country of acquisition shall, wherever it considers it necessary, and solely in order to combat tax fraud, obtain directly and without delay, or have direct access to, the following other data:
- VAT registration numbers of sellers of the Member State in question;
 - the total value of supplies from each seller to each purchaser concerned for each quarter.
- (g) At any time a Member State may obtain directly or have transmitted to it, on the basis of the computerized data, confirmation that a purchaser whose name and/or declared VAT registration number it has supplied is registered for VAT.
- (h) Further personal data, e.g. names of the sellers, etc., may be obtained only on request. They shall be supplied without delay. Such data may not be stored for possible future use.

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- (i) The data storage systems of individual Member States and the system for communicating these data between them must be technically secured in such a way that any misuse of data is ruled out.
- (j) The data must be used exclusively for fiscal control reasons and for the prosecution of fiscal infringements.

2. Other exchanges of information

- (a) If any information, and in particular that referred to in 1(e) and (f) above, which has been forwarded by a seller's country to a purchaser's country allows the latter to obtain further information which may be relevant in assessing liability to VAT in the seller's country, then such information shall be forwarded by the purchaser's country to the seller's country.

- (b) Frequently the stored data are not sufficient. It must therefore be possible at any time and on the basis of specific requests to exchange details concerning supplies made by a seller to a specific purchaser.

For this purpose, sellers' and purchasers' countries may ask for the transmission of at least invoice dates, numbers and total invoice values in addition to the data mentioned under point 1.

- (c) Further information may be requested on specific demand, if needed for the purpose of tax collection.

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(d) All information should be provided as soon as possible, particularly where there is a presumption of tax fraud, and in any event within three months unless the time limit is extended by the applicant authority.

(e) These requests must be limited to what is strictly necessary.

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The Council invites the ad hoc Working Party to press ahead with its work on:

- the other parts of the taxation arrangements for intra-Community transactions;
- the proposed arrangements for administrative co-operation and mutual assistance between fiscal administrations,

in order to allow it to adopt Community legal texts on these matters as soon as possible.

The Council also invites the ad hoc Working Party to report to it within six months on progress made by the Member States in implementing the above control measures.

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MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Exemption from the 6th VAT Directive

The Council adopted a Decision authorizing the Federal Republic of Germany to grant Soviet armed forces stationed on the territory of the Federal Republic of Germany an exemption from Articles 14 and 15 of sixth Directive 77/388/EEC on the harmonization of the laws of the Member States relating to turnover taxes.

The purpose of the measure is to grant Soviet troops stationed in Germany the same VAT exemptions as have been applied to NATO forces there for some years. The measure was provisionally introduced under German regulations on 3 October 1990. It comes under the agreement between the FRG and the USSR on the conditions under which Soviet armed forces are temporarily stationed in Germany.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

10466/90 (Presse 209)

1455th Council meeting
- General Affairs -
and Political Co-operation meeting
Brussels, 4 December 1990

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

France:

Mr Roland DUMAS

Ministre d'Etat,
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mrs Elisabeth GUIGOU

Minister for European Affairs

Ireland:

Mr Gerard COLLINS

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Sean CALLEARY

Minister of State of the Department
of Foreign Affairs with special
responsibility for Overseas Aid

Italy:

Mr Gianni DE MICHELIS

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Luxembourg:

Mr Jacques F. POOS

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Netherlands:

Mr H. van den BROEK

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Piet DANKERT

State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Portugal:

Mr João de DEUS PINHEIRO

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Vitor MARTINS

State Secretary for European Integration

United Kingdom:

Mr Douglas HURD

Secretary of State for Foreign and
Commonwealth Affairs

Mr Tristan GAREL-JONES

Minister of State, Foreign and
Commonwealth Office

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Commission:

Mr Jacques DELORS
Mr Manuel MARIN
Mr Abel MATUTES
Mr Peter SCHMIDHUBER

President
Vice-President
Member
Member

GULF CRISIS

The Ministers held an in-depth discussion on the latest developments in the Gulf crisis.

During this discussion they expressed, in particular, the full support of the Community and its Member States for Security Council Resolution 678; they expect Iraq to agree to apply the United Nations Resolutions in a peaceful manner. In this connection they fully supported President BUSH's offer of a dialogue.

The Community endorses the action taken by the Secretary-General and the five permanent members of the Security Council; it intends to make a full contribution to the implementation of the Security Council's Resolutions in co-ordination with the United States and the other members of the international community.

In this connection, the Presidency will invite the Iraqi Foreign Minister, Mr TAREK AZIZ, to stop over in Europe on his return from Washington for talks with the Presidency. These talks will serve to reaffirm the Community's position and in particular the priority it attaches to the freeing of all the hostages held in Iraq and Kuwait.

Ministers also proposed early talks with the Troika of Ministers of the Arab League.

SOUTH AFRICA

The Ministers prepared the discussions on South Africa to be held by the European Council in Rome on 14 and 15 December.

PREPARATION FOR THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL MEETING

Preparing the questions likely to be discussed by the European Council on 14 and 15 December in Rome, the Council concentrated mainly on two items, progress on Political Union with a view to the Intergovernmental Conference due to start in Rome on 15 December and relations with the Soviet Union and the Central and Eastern European countries.

On the first point, the Ministers decided to submit to the European Council the report prepared by their Personal Representatives as the Foreign Ministers' report, together with the Opinions of the Commission and the European Parliament. The Ministers noted that in general satisfactory progress had been made, many points had been clarified and positions had come closer together in important areas.

Following the discussion the Ministers approved conclusions, including an assessment by the Presidency of the overall situation regarding extension of powers, democratic legitimacy, efficiency of the Union and a foreign and security policy.

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With regard to the second point, the Council held an exchange of views on the possibility of providing economic assistance to the USSR in the context of the new political relations with that country as regards both short-term measures to be decided on in the coming weeks and longer-term measures to support economic transformations in the Soviet Union by means of co-operation in vital sectors.

The Council also took stock of the situation regarding the other Central and Eastern European countries.

The debate provided, in particular, background information for the Commission for formulating the proposals it has to submit in the next few days in accordance with the instructions from the Dublin II and Rome I European Councils.

It should also be noted that the ECO/FIN Council will be holding a special meeting on 10 December to examine the financial aspects of relations with the USSR and the Central and Eastern European countries.

In addition, a high-level meeting of Ministers' Representatives will be held early next week to complete the preparations for the European Council's discussions on the subject.

RELATIONS WITH THE EFTA COUNTRIES

The Council confirmed its intention to hold a ministerial meeting with EFTA on 19 December. It will prepare for this ministerial meeting at its meeting on 18 December with the resolve to enable a decisive breakthrough to be made on the key problems arising in connection with the negotiation of the European Economic Area.

GERMAN UNIFICATION - TRANSITIONAL MEASURES

The Council adopted a set of legislative acts - regulations, directives, decisions ⁽¹⁾ - providing for the technical adjustments and transitional measures necessary for the integration of the former GDR into the Community, as proposed by the Commission in its communication on the Community and German unification of 21 August 1990, on which the European Parliament delivered an Opinion on 21 November.

The Council expressed satisfaction at the fact that the adoption of this comprehensive package had been made possible thanks to exemplary co-operation between the European Parliament and the Commission in accordance with the timetable drawn up by the Presidents of the three Institutions in September, thus taking into account the political importance of this dossier and the exceptional circumstances surrounding it.

Consequently, all transitional measures will be able to enter into force on 1 January 1991 - replacing the provisional measures based on the Council Decisions of 17 September - so as to create the conditions for the harmonious integration of the former GDR into the Community.

(1) and the assents relating to Decisions to be adopted by the Commission.

The arrangements adopted today are based on the fact that, since the date of German unification, on 3 October, the territory of the former GDR forms an integral part of the Community and the "acquis communautaire", with the exception of special provisions providing for derogations or exceptions, applies to it fully ⁽¹⁾. A second principle, viz. that those derogations and exceptions are temporary and transitional only, also applies.

The transitional rules include, in particular, technical provisions designed to enable Community law to be applied in the various sectors. The transitional measures are generally valid until 31 December 1992, when the bulk of the adaptations to be made in the territory of the former GDR for applying Community law must have been carried out.

During that period, a flexibility clause forming part of the various transitional rules will still enable obvious gaps to be filled and technical adjustments to be made to the measures making up the transitional arrangements.

In addition to the general features of the transitional arrangements outlined above, four areas stand out which are the subject of transitional measures of some importance or which have special characteristics, viz. tariffs, agriculture, the environment and structural policy.

(1) In several areas, such as the customs union and organization of the agricultural markets, the bulk of the Community rules have applied since 1 July 1990, the date on which German economic and monetary union was accomplished.

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Regarding tariffs, it is stipulated - in order to preserve for a limited period the trade links between the territory of the former GDR and the European CMEA countries and Yugoslavia - that import duties, including anti-dumping duties, are to be suspended until 31 December 1992 for the goods, and up to the maximum quantities and values, provided for in a number of trade and co-operation agreements with these countries, with the proviso that the products in question must be released for free circulation and be consumed in the territory of the former GDR. However, in the case of agricultural products, the agricultural levies and the reference price or minimum price arrangements continue to apply.

In order to take account of the concern of Spain and Portugal that the transitional arrangements still in force with regard to them should not cause their exports of certain agricultural products to be treated less favourably than those from CMEA countries to the former GDR, a Regulation has been adopted suspending, for the duration of the abovementioned tariff concessions, application of the regulatory or compensatory mechanisms and of the customs duties provided for in the Act of Accession with regard to wine and fruit and vegetables traditionally exported by Spain and Portugal to the former GDR.

In agriculture, the derogations mainly concern sugar, milk, beef and veal and structural measures, as the bulk of Community policy has been applied from 1 July 1990, the date of German economic and monetary union.

In this connection it should be noted that the quota arrangements apply fully: the sugar quota has been fixed at 847 000 tonnes and a guaranteed overall quota of 6 600 000 tonnes has been adopted for milk. Moreover, the maximum quantities

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eligible for intervention have been raised to 106 000 tonnes in the case of butter and to 275 000 tonnes in the case of milk powder. For beef and veal the maximum quantity for buying-in is fixed at 235 000 tonnes.

Regarding agricultural structures policy, national income and investment aid, as well as set-aside and actions to assist less-favoured regions, are major instruments for assisting the process of agricultural restructuring in the former GDR.

To take account of the poor state of the environment in the former GDR, a large number of transitional measures have been taken under cover of two Directives adopted under Articles 100a and 130s of the Treaty. These measures involve deferring the entry into force of Community legislation (mainly quality standards for water and air), generally until the end of 1992 and in some cases until the end of 1995. In return, Germany is required to draw up improvement plans and to submit them to the Commission rapidly.

Regarding structural policy, Community Structural Funds rules will apply to the former GDR in accordance with relaxed procedures intended to speed up Community assistance: exceptionally, in view of the absence of relevant statistical data on the territory in question, Structural Fund measures will be implemented without first classifying regions and areas on the basis of regional and rural objectives. Implementation will be based on an action plan which Germany is due to submit to the Commission before 31 January 1991.

Community expenditure on assisting the former GDR, under the ERDF, the ESF and

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the EAGGF Guidance Section, in becoming integrated into Community territory, totals ECU 3 thousand million over the period 1991-1993.

FINANCIAL AID FOR THE COUNTRIES MOST DIRECTLY AFFECTED BY THE GULF CRISIS

With the Commission's assistance, the Council held a conciliation meeting with a delegation from the European Parliament headed by its President on the proposal for a Regulation on financial aid for the countries most directly affected by the Gulf Crisis; the meeting enabled an agreement to be reached between the two Institutions, with the Council accepting a number of amendment proposals put forward by the European Parliament.

Afterwards, the Council adopted the Regulation in question, which stipulates that the Community is to provide financial aid for Egypt, Jordan and Turkey; the amount considered necessary is estimated at ECU 500 million, primarily in the form of non-refundable aid, the rest in the form of loans - to be charged against the 1991 budget. Today's decision will enable this action to be implemented from early 1991.

COMMUNITY MEASURES TO AID PALESTINIANS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

The Council was briefed by the Commission on the implementation of the action programme to aid Palestinians in the Occupied Territories, which the Strasbourg European Council had decided to reinforce.

The Council expressed concern at the serious worsening of the situation and of living conditions in the Occupied Territories.

It confirmed the importance - even greater in the present circumstances - which it attached to the action programme, the appropriations for which had been increased in the 1991 budget, and to its full implementation.

The Council was prepared to consider ways of stepping up the measures to aid Palestinians in the Occupied Territories and to this end called upon the Commission to submit appropriate proposals.

GENERALIZED SCHEME OF PREFERENCES FOR 1991

The Council noted that it had arrived at a joint guideline concerning the 1991 GSP. It agreed to return to this matter when it had received the Opinions of the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee, with a view to adopting the final decisions at its meeting on 18 December.

MEDIA PROGRAMME

After considering the issue of the funding of the MEDIA programme on the basis of a compromise suggestion from the Presidency, the Council called upon the Internal Market Council to seek an overall solution for this programme at its meeting on 13 December.

POLICY ON IMMIGRATION FROM THIRD COUNTRIES

The Council and the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Member States, meeting within the Council, took note of the inventory on immigration from third countries called for by the Strasbourg European Council, which had been drawn up on the basis of:

- . a report from the Co-ordinators' Group on the Free Movement of Persons, prepared in conjunction with the ad hoc Group on Immigration;
- . a report from experts appointed by the Commission.

During a preliminary discussion the Council and the Member States, meeting within the Council,

- emphasized the need for closer co-operation among the Member States in order to achieve the objectives laid down in Article 8a of the EEC Treaty;
- reaffirmed the importance attaching in this connection to the signing of the Convention on the crossing of the Community's external borders;
- called upon the Commission to undertake studies aimed at:
 - . establishing the means of securing harmonized knowledge of migratory flows;
 - . clarifying the scope of Article 8a of the EEC Treaty as regards the free movement of persons, whether nationals of Member States or of third countries.

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- asked the Co-ordinators' Group to examine in conjunction with the Commission ways of following up the suggestions contained in the reports of both the Co-ordinators and the Commission experts.

The Co-ordinators' Group and the Commission will report back on these points as soon as possible.

The dossier as a whole will be dealt with by the Co-ordinators' Group on Free Movement of Persons, which will concentrate on problems relating to visa and asylum policy.

The Co-ordinators' Group will ensure that a common position is framed for the forthcoming meetings in Vienna (under the aegis of the Council of Europe) and in Rome (within the OECD framework).

The Presidency will see to it that all the above conclusions are implemented and will submit a report on the matter to the Council and the Ministers for Foreign Affairs.

CONFERENCE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE MEMBER STATES

The Conference of Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the European Communities extended, for the period 6 January 1991 up to and including 5 January 1993, the terms of reference of:

Mr Jacques DELORS,

President

Mr F.H.J.J. ANDRIESSEN

Vice-President

Mr Martin BANGEMANN

" " "

Sir Leon BRITTAN QC

" " "

Mr Henning CHRISTOPHERSEN

" " "

Mr Manuel MARIN GONZALEZ

" " "

Mr Filippo Maria PANDOLFI

" " "

of the Commission of the European Communities.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Protection of workers against ionizing radiation

The Council adopted a Directive, based on Articles 31 and 32 of the EAEC Treaty, on the operational protection of outside workers exposed to ionizing radiation during their activities in controlled areas.

The purpose of the Directive is to supplement the Directives on basic radiation protection standards ⁽¹⁾, thereby optimizing at Community level operational protection arrangements for these workers.

Pending the introduction of a uniform Community-wide system, the Directive lays down, in particular, common provisions to be complied with by any radiological monitoring system for outside workers so as to afford them protection equivalent to that offered to the operator's established workers.

Lastly, the Directive lays down the obligations of Member States' competent authorities and those of outside undertakings and operators, without prejudice to the contribution which the outside workers themselves must make towards the said protection.

(1) Directive 80/836/EURATOM (OJ No L 246, 17.9.1980, p. 1) in particular.

Relations with EFTA

The Council adopted the Regulation providing for application, in 1990, of the tariff quotas laid down in EEC Agreements with Norway, Austria, Switzerland and Sweden for certain agricultural and fishery products.

Anti-dumping

The Council adopted the Regulation amending Council Regulation (EEC) No 1768/90 with regard to the imposition of a definitive anti-dumping duty on video cassettes originating in the Republic of Korea and Hong Kong.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

10677/90 (Presse 218)

1456th meeting of the Council
FOREIGN TRADE
Brussels, 3 to 7 December 1990

President:

Mr Renato RUGGIERO

Minister for Foreign Trade
of the Italian Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr Robert URBAIN Minister for Foreign Trade
Mr Paul DE KEERSMAEKER State Secretary for European Affairs
and Agriculture

Denmark:

Mr Jorgen OSTROM MOLLER State Secretary, Ministry for
Foreign Affairs

Germany:

Mr Helmut HAUSSMANN Federal Minister for Economic Affairs
Mr Otto SCHLECHT State Secretary, Federal Ministry of
Economic Affairs
Mr Ignaz KIECHLE Federal Minister for Food, Agriculture
and Forestry
Mr Walter KITTEL State Secretary, Federal Ministry of
Food, Agriculture and Forestry

Greece:

Mr G. THEOPHANOUS Secretary-General at the Ministry for
Trade
Mr VLACHOS Secretary-General at the Ministry
for Economic Affairs

SPAIN:

Mr RUIZ LIGERO State Secretary for Trade

FRANCE:

Mr Jean-Marie RAUSCH Minister for Foreign Trade
Mr Louis MERMAZ Minister for Agriculture

Ireland:

Mr Desmond J. O'MALLEY	Minister for Industry and Commerce
Mr Michael O'KENNEDY	Minister for Agriculture and Food
Mr Terry LEYDEN	Minister of State at the Department of Industry and Commerce with special responsibility for Trade and Marketing

ITALY:

Mr Renato RUGGIERO	Minister for Foreign Trade
Mr Vito SACCOMANDI	Minister for Agriculture

LUXEMBOURG:

Mr René STEICHEN	Minister for Agriculture
Mr Georges WOHLFART	State Secretary for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade

NETHERLANDS:

Mr Piet BUKMAN	Minister for Agriculture, Nature Conservation and Fisheries
Ms Yvonne van ROOY	State Secretary for Economic Affairs

PORTUGAL:

Mr Fernando FARIA DE OLIVEIRA	Minister for Trade and Tourism
Mr Arlindo CUNHA	Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Mr Vitor MARTINS	State Secretary for European Integration
Mr NETO DA SILVA	State Secretary for Foreign Trade

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UNITED KINGDOM:

Mr Peter LILLEY

Secretary of State for Trade and
Industry

Mr John Selwyn GUMMER

Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries
and Food

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Commission:

Mr Frans H.J.J. ANDRIESSEN
Mr Ray MAC SHARRY

Vice-President
Member

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The Council held a number of meetings on the occasion of the Ministerial Conference negotiations of the Uruguay Round held in Brussels from 3 to 7 December 1990.

At the close of its last meeting, it adopted the following conclusions:

1. The Council was briefed on progress in the Conference negotiations in Brussels, which showed that it was impossible to achieve a satisfactory agreement at this stage.
2. The Council, which for its part was in favour of continuing the negotiations, notes that this situation is essentially due to objective difficulties arising from the disparity between the ambitious goals which all the participants set themselves and the political possibilities of achieving them within the available timespan, on the basis of the technical preparation for the Conference.
3. The Council reaffirms the political determination which the Community has displayed throughout the Uruguay Round, including during its final phase, to negotiate concretely for results which are in overall balance, taking into account political realities on all sides and giving satisfaction to all participants in the negotiations.

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The Council re-emphasizes in this context its deep commitment to a strong multilateral trade system contributing to the development of international economic relations, in compliance not only with specific economic interests but also having regard to the human and social dimension.

The Council would appeal to the responsibility of all partners in the negotiations, in accordance with the commitments entered into at Punta del Este, to refrain from any unilateral or bilateral action to improve their negotiating position.

4. The Council is convinced that on this basis the early resumption of the negotiations will enable a balanced overall package to be put together which could then form the subject of a final and collective political effort in the near future.
5. The Council considers it necessary to set a date now for the resumption of the technical discussions. The Council wants this date to be as soon as possible.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

10519/90 (Presse 214)

1457th Meeting of the Council
and the Ministers for Education
Brussels, 6 December 1990
President: Mr Gerardo BIANCO

Minister for Education
of the Italian Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr Daniel COENS	Minister for Education of the Flemish Community
Mr Yvan YLIEFF	Minister for Education of the French-speaking Community
Mr GENTGES	Minister for Education for the German-speaking Community

Denmark:

Mr Niels Henrik SLIBEN	Deputy Permanent Representative
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Germany:

Mr Norbert LAMMERT	State Secretary, Ministry of Education and Science
Mr Gerhard KONOW	Chairman of the Conference of Ministers for Education of the "Länder"

Greece:

Mr Haris CARABARBOUNIS	Deputy Permanent Representative
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Spain:

Mr Javier ELORZA	Deputy Permanent Representative
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France:

Mr Lionel JOSPIN	Ministre d'Etat, Minister for Education, Youth and Sport
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Ireland:

Mrs Mary O'ROURKE Minister for Education

Italy:

Mr Gerardo BIANCO Minister for Education

Mrs Laura FINCATO State Secretary for Education

Luxembourg:

Mr Marc FISCHBACH Minister for Education

Netherlands:

Mr Jo RITZEN Minister for Education and Science

Portugal:

Mr Roberto CARNEIRO Minister for Education

United Kingdom:

Mr Kenneth CLARKE Minister for Education and Science

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Commission:

Mrs Vasso PAPANDEOU Member

MEETING WITH MINISTERS FROM HUNGARY, POLAND AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA

On the occasion of this meeting of the Council and of the Ministers of Education, a meeting took place with Mr Andrasfavy BERTALAN, Minister for Education for Hungary, Mr Henryk SAMSONOWYCZ, Minister for Education for Poland and Mr PATY, Czech Deputy Minister for Education.

The Ministers from these three countries took the opportunity to explain the problems they were encountering in reforming their respective educational systems.

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RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL AND THE MINISTERS FOR EDUCATION MEETING WITHIN THE
COUNCIL CONCERNING THE EURYDICE EDUCATION INFORMATION NETWORK IN THE EUROPEAN
COMMUNITY

THE COUNCIL AND THE MINISTERS FOR EDUCATION, MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL,

Referring to the Resolution of the Council and of the Ministers for Education, meeting within the Council, of 9 February 1976 comprising an action programme in the field of education ⁽¹⁾, and the General Report of the Education Committee, which was approved in substance by the Council and the Ministers for Education meeting within the Council on 27 June 1980 and concerned the establishment of an education information network known as EURYDICE, as well as, for an initial stage, the network's intended beneficiaries and its priority topics and operational structure;

Referring to several Resolutions of the European Parliament and in particular that of 11 March 1982 ⁽²⁾ on the implementation of the EURYDICE network;

Whereas the process of political, economic and social integration of the European Community is resulting in a quantitative and a qualitative increase in information requirements concerning education and training systems and specific questions relating to the development of education systems and whereas the EURYDICE network forms part of a whole range of public and private sources of information on education in the Community;

(1) OJ No C 38, 19.2.1976.

(2) OJ No C 87, 5.4.1982.

Whereas in their conclusions of 6 October 1989 ⁽¹⁾ the Council and the Ministers for Education meeting within the Council, agreed to develop co-operation in education in the run-up to 1993, and whereas they have recognized the value of the EURYDICE network as an instrument of such co-operation, most recently in the conclusions of 31 May 1990 ⁽²⁾ on meetings of senior officials;

Whereas the Council Resolution of 22 January 1990 provides for the development of a programme to set up trans-European networks, of which the EURYDICE network could be regarded as one of the elements;

Welcoming the measures taken by the Commission to develop co-operation with appropriate international organizations, and especially with the Council of Europe for the co-production of the European Education Thesaurus;

Noting the Commission's report on ten years of EURYDICE activities, which points to the need for a better definition and a development of the education information network in the European Community;

HEREBY ADOPT THIS RESOLUTION:

1. In order to intensify and improve co-operation in education between the Member States of the Community, and to assist the preparation of initiatives at national and Community level, it is necessary to reinforce and develop the EURYDICE network as the chief instrument for providing information on national and Community structures, systems and developments in the field of education. The network consists of a European Unit and Units in the Member States. It is designed as a system permitting the mutual exchange of documentary information.

(1) OJ No C 277, 31.10.1989.

(2) OJ No C 162, 31. 5.1990.

2. Development of the EURYDICE network should help to:
 - (a) improve, in the first place, the procedure of the question/answer system for the rapid provision of reliable information to the relevant national and Community authorities;
 - (b) assist, in the second place, the drawing up of comparative analyses, reports and surveys on common priority topics determined inter alia in the Education Committee and at the regular meetings of senior officials;
 - (c) also diversify the dissemination of the products available in the framework of the network, collaborating on this with public and private bodies.

3. Within constitutional and financial limits and in the framework of their own structures and policies, the Member States and the Commission are requested, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity, to promote the following activities:
 - (a) making the collection and documentary processing of information more systematic and more effective by using the new technologies to the full;
 - (b) making the various specialized sources of information more accessible by fostering co-operation between the Units of the network and the information structures and services concerning education and training at both national and Community level.
 - (c) conducting a review of working methods with a view of securing improved efficiency and effectiveness.

4. The Member States' Units should be capable of playing a dual role: on the one hand, providing the European network with information on the development of their own education systems; on the other hand, contributing to dissemination at national level with regard to the development of Member States' educational systems and policies and of Community activities concerning co-operation in education matters.

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5. To ensure a more systematic provision of information on Community activities, the Member States' Units should liaise with those responsible at national level for Community activities concerning education and training.
6. So that the Member States' Units can perform their tasks within an active European network, national authorities should take adequate measures concerning staff and its training, as well as equipment.
7. The Commission is requested to strengthen the EURYDICE European Unit's vitalizing and co-ordinating role with regard to exchanges of information within the network, in particular by feeding the network's databanks and encouraging the preparation and dissemination of information.
8. The European Unit, assisted by the Member States' Units, should develop a computerized information system in the field of education and facilitate access by those Units to the other Community databanks.
9. The European Unit, assisted by the Member States' Units, should contribute to the provision of information on Community education and training activities, in co-operation with, in particular, the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP) and the National Academic Recognition Information Centre (NARIC).
10. The European Unit, assisted by the Member States' Units, should provide technical assistance in the preparation and follow-up of meetings of senior officials.

11. The Commission is requested to continue its co-operation with the international organizations active in this field, especially the Council of Europe and the OECD, and to involve the EURYDICE network in such co-operation.
12. The Commission is requested to strengthen links with the existing scheme of study visits for educational specialists (ARION), which is also concerned with the exchange of information between education systems, and to involve EURYDICE in the preparation of visits and the utilization of information generated by such visits.
13. The Commission is invited to submit to the Council a progress report in particular covering the activities set out in paragraph 3 concerning the exchange of information on education.

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ROLE OF EDUCATION IN THE FIGHT AGAINST DRUGS

Ministers debated the role of schools in the fight against drugs, stressing the importance they attached to this campaign including the preventive aspects in their respective educational systems.

At the close of their discussion Ministers invited the Commission, in preparation for the next Ministerial Meeting, to include the fight against drugs in the report which it was in the course of drawing up pursuant to the general resolution on health education in schools adopted in November 1988.

ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL SYSTEMS

Ministers held a useful discussion on Community co-operation in assessing educational systems.

They noted that the Presidency was organizing a meeting on this topic to be held in Brussels on 11 and 12 December 1990 and attended by senior education officials from the Member States and the Commission.

Subject to any further considerations which might be raised at that meeting, they approved in broad outline a list of possible subjects for exchanges of information and experience among Member States in this field.

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THE NON-UNIVERSITY SECTOR OF POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

The Council discussed the non-university sector of post-secondary education on the basis of a note from the Italian delegation.

Following this discussion the President noted the interest shown by the Council and by Ministers in further work on this topic both nationally and by means of exchanges of information and experience among Member States.

The Council also noted a paper delivered by Mrs PAPANDEOU presenting the main aspects of the Commission communication on the amendment of the PETRA program - Community action for the professional qualification of young people and their preparation for adult and professional life.

EUROPEAN SCHOOLS

Ministers heard an oral report from the President on progress in the preparation of a draft convention defining the Statute of the European Schools.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

10522/90 (Presse 217)

1458th meeting of the Council
- Agriculture -
Brussels, 10 and 11 December 1990

President:

Mr Vito SACCOMANDI

Minister for Agriculture
of the Italian Republic

10/11.XII.90

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

Belgium:

Mr Paul de KEERSMAEKER State Secretary for European Affairs
and Agriculture

Denmark:

Mr Laurits TOERNAES Minister for Agriculture

Mr Nils BERNSTEIN State Secretary
for Agriculture

Germany:

Mr Ignaz KIECHLE Federal Minister for Food, Agriculture
and Forestry

Mr Walter KITTEL State Secretary for Food,
Agriculture and Forestry

Greece:

Mr Haris CARABARBOUNIS Deputy Permanent Representative

Spain:

Mr Carlos ROMERO-HERRERA Minister for Agriculture

France:

Mr Louis MERMAZ Minister for Agriculture

Ireland:

Mr Michael O'KENNEDY Minister for Agriculture and Food

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Italy:

Mr Vito SACCOMANDI	Minister for Agriculture
Mr Francesco CIMINO	State Secretary for Agriculture and Forestry
Mr Paolo BRUNO	State Secretary for Health

Luxembourg:

Mr René STEICHEN	Minister for Agriculture and Viticulture
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Netherlands:

Mr Piet BUKMAN	Minister for Agriculture, Nature Protection and Fisheries
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Portugal:

Mr Arlindo CUNHA	Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
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United Kingdom:

Mr John Selwyn GUMMER	Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Mr David CURRY	Parliamentary Secretary, Agriculture

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Commission:

Mr R. MAC SHARRY	Member
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VETERINARY CHECKS ON PRODUCTS FROM THIRD COUNTRIES

The Council unanimously adopted the Directive laying down the principles governing the organization of veterinary checks on products entering the Community from third countries.

That decision arose from an undertaking given by the Council at the time of adoption of Directives 89/662/EEC and 90/425/EEC concerning the abolition of veterinary border checks in intra-Community trade. The abolition of those internal checks made it all the more necessary to lay down common principles at Community level governing the organization of checks and the arrangements for the movement of products from third countries.

The Directive which has been adopted lays down certain general principles, in particular:

- To be allowed to enter the Community for consumption, any product from a third country must have undergone the veterinary checks provided for by the Directive.
- As soon as the product is submitted at the Community's external border, it must undergo a documentary check and, if necessary, a check to ensure consistency between the documents and the products.
- The product must undergo a physical check at a border inspection post even if it entered the Community at a crossing point other than the border inspection post. The Commission will determine the nature and frequency of physical checks by the Standing Veterinary Committee procedure by 31 December 1991.

- The border inspection posts will be subject to Community approval after being shortlisted by the Member States acting in conjunction with the Commission departments. Member States may receive Community aid to ensure that border inspection posts meet the requirements laid down in the Directive.
- Special rules have been laid down for products entering free ports, free zones and customs warehouses, on the understanding that products may leave them to enter Community territory only if they have undergone the checks provided for by the Directive.
- Certain specific provisions for fishery products will be decided on by the Standing Veterinary Committee procedure.
- The procedures for the provision of information between border posts (SHIFT) and the Commission veterinary departments must be established by 1 January 1992.

The Directive also includes:

- general rules for the inspection of border inspection posts, the organization of follow-ups to the checks, the settlement of disputes, programmes for the exchange of officials and special cases;
- general safeguard arrangements.

ANIMAL HEALTH CONDITIONS GOVERNING INTRA-COMMUNITY TRADE IN OVINE AND CAPRINE ANIMALS

The Council examined the Commission proposal which aims at extending to intra-Community trade in sheep and goats the animal health requirements already established since 1964 for cattle and pigs, while adapting them to take account of the particular nature of this sector.

Following its discussion, the Council noted a favourable attitude towards a compromise solution put forward by the Presidency. It instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine the last remaining reservations and to finalize the text of the Directive with a view to its formal adoption at a later stage.

ANIMAL HEALTH CONDITIONS UPON IMPORTATION OF OVINE AND CAPRINE ANIMALS FROM THIRD COUNTRIES

This Directive will be adopted in conjunction with the adoption of the Directive on intra-Community trade in ovine and caprine animals (previous item).

FRESH POULTRYMEAT

Pending the Opinion of the European Parliament, the Council examined the Commission proposal aiming at harmonizing the animal health rules governing intra-Community trade in fresh poultrymeat and imports from third countries. It also aims at laying down certain requirements to prevent the spread of the principal contagious diseases.

Following its discussion, the Council noted a favourable attitude towards the text. It agreed to instruct the Permanent Representatives' Committee to continue examining the proposed Regulation with a view to its subsequent adoption following receipt of the European Parliament's Opinion.

PLACING ON THE MARKET OF AQUACULTURE ANIMALS AND PRODUCTS

Pending the European Parliament's Opinion, the Council studied the Commission proposal aimed at removing barriers to the free movement of aquaculture animals and products. The proposal also aims at avoiding the spread of contagious diseases, particularly in regions currently free of such diseases.

A favourable attitude emerged at the end of the Council's discussions. The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives' Committee to examine the unresolved issues to enable the Directive to be formally adopted at a future meeting, following receipt of the European Parliament's Opinion.

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AROMATIZED WINES

The Council continued examining the proposal for a Regulation laying down general rules on the definition, description and presentation of vermouths and other wines of fresh grapes flavoured with plants and other aromatic substances.

Aromatized wines are a major outlet for Community agriculture and, given the economic importance of these products, it is necessary to adopt common provisions in this field in order to contribute to the proper functioning of the market.

These products have in fact acquired a well-founded reputation in the Community and on the world market which can be attributed to the quality of traditional products, which should be safeguarded.

At the close of its discussion, the Council agreed by a qualified majority to a compromise solution tabled by the Presidency, which will enable it to arrive at a common position on this proposal.

The Council instructed the Special Committee on Agriculture to draw up the text rapidly with a view to the formal adoption of the Council's common position to be forwarded to the European Parliament under the co-operation procedure.

SUGAR SECTOR

Pending the Opinion of the European Parliament, the Council studied the dossier concerning future sugar arrangements in the Community, to be applied as from 1 July 1991.

As a number of problems were raised by delegations, the Council instructed the Special Committee on Agriculture to examine the proposal in greater detail.

INWARD PROCESSING ARRANGEMENTS FOR MILK PRODUCTS

The Council examined the Commission proposal temporarily suspending inward processing arrangements in the milk products sector, in the light of the market situation in that sector which is characterized by mounting stocks.

As certain differences of opinion appeared concerning such a suspension, the Council instructed the Special Committee on Agriculture to discuss the matter in greater depth and report back to it shortly.

URUGUAY ROUND - AGRICULTURE

On the basis of a Commission statement, the Council held an exchange of views on the state of the multilateral trade negotiations (Uruguay Round) following their suspension. The Council emphasized the importance it attached to their continuation and repeated its support for the Commission's work within the framework of the GATT.

BOVINE SOMATOTROPIN (BST)

The Council noted the Commission's proposal to extend the existing ban on the administration of bovine somatotropin to dairy cows by a further twelve-month period, as the scientific research initiated by the Commission in this sector has not yet been completed.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Other common agricultural policy decisions

Following the agreement in principle at the Agriculture Council on 27 November to the arrangements to be applied as from the second stage of the accession of Portugal (1 January 1991) to the sectors subject to a transition by stages, the Council adopted 23 Regulations transposing that agreement into legal form.

The Council further adopted two Regulations amending Regulation No 1678/85 fixing the conversion rates to be applied in agriculture.

They fix an agricultural conversion rate for Portuguese products for which the first stage of transitional arrangements is ending and set an agricultural conversion rate having the same value in all Member States for all sectors, thereby guaranteeing uniformity of treatment in national currencies, in particular with regard to intervention stocks.

Customs Union

The Council adopted Regulations opening and providing for the administration of:

- Community tariff quotas for certain agricultural, chemical and industrial products (second series);
- an autonomous Community tariff quota for newsprint (1990) and extending this quota to include certain other types of paper.

10/11.XII.90

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Appointment at the Council General Secretariat

The Council appointed Mr Gerard VAN DONGEN, an established official of the European Communities, as Director-General (grade A1 ad personam), with effect from 1 January 1991.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

10678/90 (Presse 219)

1459th Council meeting

- Economic and Financial Affairs -

Brussels, 10 December 1990

President: Mr Guido CARLI
Minister for the Treasury
of the Italian Republic

Netherlands:

Mr W. KOK Minister for Finance

Portugal:

Mr José M. ELIAS DA COSTA State Secretary for Finance

United Kingdom:

Mr Norman LAMONT Chancellor of the Exchequer

o

o

o

Commission:

Mr Jacques DELORS	President
Mr Frans H.J.J. ANDRIESEN	Vice-President
Mr Henning CHRISOPHERSEN	Vice-President

RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND THE CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

With a view to the European Council in Rome, the Coouncil, on the basis of a communication from President DELORS, held an exchange of views on the economic aid which the Community might accord the Soviet Union and the Central and Eastern European countries.

This exchange of views covered in particular the possibility of food and humanitarian aid, technical assistance and macro-economic aid to support, in conjunction with other countries and international organizations, the necessary structural adjustment measures in the USSR.

The discussions also included the need to provide Central and Eastern European countries with additional aid, both in terms of the necessary financial solidarity to enable these countries to cope with outside economic pressures affecting them and of the food requirements which some of them are facing.



COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

10685/90 (Presse 226)

1460th Council meeting
- INTERNAL MARKET -
Brussels, 13 December 1990

President: Mr Pierluigi ROMITA
Minister for Community Policies
of the Italian Republic

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non/JF/hmcg

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

Belgium:

Mr Marc LEPOIVRE Deputy Permanent Representative

Denmark:

Mr Christophe BO BRAMSEN State Secretary for Industry

Germany:

Mr Otto SCHLECHT State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs

Greece:

Mr Paul HADJITHOMAS Secretary-General, Ministry of Trade

Spain:

Mr Pedro SOLBES State Secretary for Relations with the European Communities

France:

Mrs Elisabeth GUIGOU Minister for European Affairs

Ireland:

Mr Terry LEYDEN Minister of State at the Department of Industry and Commerce with special responsibility for Trade and Marketing

Italy:

Mr Pierluigi ROMITA Minister for Community Policies

Luxembourg:

Mr Georges WOHLFART State Secretary for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade

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Netherlands:

Mr A. OOSTRA

Deputy Permanent Representative

Portugal:

Mr Vitor MARTINS

State Secretary for European
Integration

United Kingdom:

Mr Edward LEIGH

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of
State, Department of Trade and
Industry

Commission:

Mr Martin BANGEMANN

Vice-President

Mr Antonio CARDOSO E CUNHA

Member

Mrs Christiane SCRIVENER

Member

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PROTECTION OF COMPUTER PROGRAMS

The Council adopted a common position on a proposal for a Directive on the legal protection of computer programs.

The common position is directed towards ensuring that Member States protect computer programs by means of copyright, as literary works within the meaning of the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works.

The text stipulates in particular that:

- protection will apply to the expression in any form of a computer program. Ideas and principles which underlie any element of a computer program, including those which underlie its interfaces, will not be protected by copyright under the Directive;
- a computer program will be protected if it is original in the sense that it is the author's own intellectual creation;
- the exclusive rights of the rightholder will include the right to effect or to authorize, inter alia:
 - = the permanent or temporary reproduction of a computer program by any means and in any form, in part or in whole;
 - = any form of distribution to the public, including the rental, of the original computer program or of copies thereof;

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- the authorization of the rightholder will not be required where reproduction of the code and translation of its form are indispensable to obtain the information necessary to achieve the interoperability of an independently created computer program with other programs, provided that certain conditions are met;

- Member States must provide appropriate remedies against persons who:
 - = put into circulation, or possess for commercial purposes, a copy of a computer program knowing, or having reason to believe, that it is an infringing copy;

 - = put into circulation, or possess for commercial purposes, any means the sole intended purpose of which is to facilitate the unauthorized removal or circumvention of any technical device which may have been applied to protect a computer program;

- protection will be granted for the life of the author and for fifty years after the author's death; however, any Member State which currently has a longer term of protection may maintain it during a transitional period.

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COMPLETION OF THE INTERNAL MARKET

The Council heard Commissioner BANGEMANN introduce a Commission report on completing the internal market: an area without internal frontiers.

The report was designed to fulfil the requirement laid down in Article 8b of the Treaty.

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

"The Internal Market Council will monitor the work on the implementation of this programme carried out in the Council's various subordinate bodies; in that context it will review that work at least twice every six months and will, on such occasions, discuss any issues which need to be dealt with.

The Member States undertake to speed up the rate of transposition so that all current delays are made good throughout the Member States by the end of 1991."

MAJOR TRANS-EUROPEAN NETWORKS

The Council heard the Commission's presentation of a communication on the implementation of the Resolution adopted by the Council in January 1990.

The Luxembourg Presidency undertook to begin examination of that communication in the first half of 1991.

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FOOD TREATED WITH IONIZING RADIATION

The Council discussed the proposal for a Directive on foods treated with ionizing radiation, on the basis of a Presidency compromise.

At the end of the discussion it recorded that, in spite of some progress, there were still differences of opinion on certain arrangements, especially as regards the labelling of ingredients subjected to ionizing radiation.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its work on the basis of the latest compromise, with a view to reaching a final solution at a forthcoming Council meeting.

MACHINERY

The Council adopted a common position on an amendment of Directive 89/392/EEC, relating to machinery, to extend its scope to machinery having a "mobility" function and machinery having a "lifting" function.

The text of the common position is based on the principle that machinery which presents specific hazards by virtue of its mobility or its ability to lift loads or a combination of those two factors must satisfy the general health and safety requirements laid down in Directive 89/392/EEC and the health and safety requirements relating to those specific hazards.

Transitional arrangements are provided for, allowing the placing on the market and putting into use of machinery manufactured in accordance with the national rules in force on 31 December 1992.

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DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES

The Council adopted two common positions on the tenth and eleventh amendments of Directive 76/769/EEC relating to restrictions on the marketing and use of dangerous substances.

The purpose of the tenth amendment is to prohibit, by means of negative lists:

- the use of cadmium in three areas of use, viz.: pigmentation, stabilization and the treatment of certain surfaces;
- the placing on the market of finished products and their components included on the negative lists for pigmentation and stabilization if their cadmium content exceeds 0,01% by mass.

The situation will be reassessed three years after the Directive enters into force.

The aim of the eleventh amendment is to restrict the marketing and use of three substances, the trade names of which are Ugilec 141, Ugilec 121 or 21 and DBBT:

- for the first substance, a ban on marketing and use is proposed, with a very small number of derogations;
- for the other two substances, an immediate and total ban on marketing and use is proposed.

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FLAVOURINGS

As the Standing Committee for Foodstuffs had not delivered an opinion, the Commission submitted to the Council two proposals, designed respectively to:

- lay down the terms that must be used to designate flavourings intended for sale to the final consumer and the conditions governing the use of the description "natural" (completing Directive 88/388/EEC);
- lay down the terms that must be used to designate flavourings in the list of ingredients and the conditions governing the use of the description "natural" (amendment of Directive 79/112/EEC).

After a brief discussion the Council recorded that it, too, was unable to reach a qualified majority.

If the Council does not take a decision by 12 January 1991, the Commission will adopt the proposed measures directly as Commission Directives.

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FIGHT AGAINST DRUGS

The Council adopted a Regulation laying down measures to be taken to discourage the diversion of chemical products (precursors) used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

The purpose of the Regulation is to implement at Community level Article 12 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, the conclusion of which was decided upon by the Community on 22 October 1990.

It represents a first step, as it relates only to the monitoring of traffic between the Community and third countries; the monitoring of intra-Community traffic will be covered by another instrument (proposal for a Directive currently being prepared at the Commission).

The importance of the proposed measures was underlined by the Dublin European Council in June 1990 and by the Heads of State or Government of the Group of Seven (G-7) meeting in Houston in July 1990.

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SECOND GENERAL SYSTEM FOR THE RECOGNITION OF PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The Council was informed of progress regarding a proposal for a Directive on a second general system for the recognition of professional education and training, complementing Directive 89/48/EEC.

The proposal is directed at all regulated professions which are not governed by a specific Directive or by the first general system for the general recognition of higher education diplomas (Directive 89/48/EEC).

The Council expressed the hope that a common position could be adopted during the first half of 1991.

ACQUISITION AND POSSESSION OF WEAPONS

The Council reached political agreement on a common position on a proposal for a Directive on control of the acquisition and possession of weapons.

The purpose of the proposal for a Directive is to set control standards within the Member States with a view to eliminating police checks on the possession of weapons when Community borders are crossed. For that purpose common rules are envisaged at Community level, with the proviso that Member States will be authorized to adopt more stringent legislation.

The harmonization envisaged in the proposal will involve the following in particular:

- each Member State will make the pursuit of the activity of dealer within its territory conditional upon authorization. Examination of applications will involve at least a check on the good character and professional

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competence of the dealer or, in the case of a legal person, on the person who directs the undertaking;

- each dealer will keep a register in which information concerning all firearms classified in categories A, B or C (A: prohibited firearms; B: firearms subject to authorization; C: firearms subject to declaration; D: other firearms) received or disposed of by him will be recorded, including such particulars as enable the weapon to be identified, in particular the type, make, model, calibre and serial number thereof and the names and addresses of the supplier and the person acquiring the weapon;
- Member States will allow the acquisition and possession of firearms classified in category B (firearms subject to authorization) only by persons who have good cause and who:
 - = are 18 years old or more;
 - = have the necessary mental and physical abilities;
 - = are not likely to be a danger to public order or to public safety;
- no one will be able to acquire a firearm classified in category B within the territory of a Member State unless that Member State has so authorized him. No such authorization may be given to a resident of another Member State without the latter's prior agreement; such agreement may devolve from an indication to that effect on a European firearms pass;
- Member States will provide for the compulsory declaration of all firearms classified in category C (firearms subject to declaration) at present held within their territories but not previously declared within one year of the entry into force of the national provisions transposing this Directive;

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- each Member State will prohibit the handing over of firearms or ammunition within its territory, by a dealer or by any other person, to any person who is not a resident of that Member State:
 - = unless the latter person has been authorized himself to effect a transfer to his country of residence;
 - or he intends to be in possession of the firearm in the Member State of acquisition (provided that he fulfils the legal conditions for possession in that Member State);
- standards will be laid down with regard to the formalities for the movement of weapons within the Community, and more flexible standards will be laid down for hunters and marksmen.

STATUTE FOR A EUROPEAN COMPANY

The Council noted progress regarding the proposals for a Regulation on the Statute for a European company and a Council Directive complementing the Statute.

Those proposals replace the previous proposals, dating from 1970 and 1975, and are the follow-up to the memorandum forwarded in July 1988.

Under the proposals, adoption of the Statute, while remaining optional, would allow undertakings to assume the form of a public limited liability company directly linked to Community law. Access to that new form would be facilitated both by the flexibility permitted in the choice of founder members and by the fixing of a relatively low minimum capital. Provision is made for reference to Directives already adopted regarding companies, or the negotiation of which is very advanced, as well as to the law of the State where the registered office is located.

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ANNUAL ACCOUNTS AND CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNTS OF INSURANCE UNDERTAKINGS

The Council took note of the current state of play regarding the proposal for a Directive on the annual accounts and consolidated accounts of insurance undertakings.

SOCIAL ECONOMY

The Council took note of a report from the Presidency on the second Conference on the Social Economy, held in Rome from 12 to 15 November 1990.

In addition, Commissioner CARDOSO E CUNHA announced that the Commission intended to submit further proposals in this area early in 1991. The Council also took note of the action programme which the Commission had adopted on the matter.

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MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Conformity assessment

The Council adopted a Decision concerning the modules for the various phases of the conformity assessment procedures which are intended to be used in the technical harmonization Directives.

The purpose of the Decision is to establish that the conformity assessment procedures to be used in the technical harmonization Directives concerning the placing on the market of industrial products will be chosen from the modules set out in the Decision and in accordance with the criteria laid down in it. The Council considers that the introduction of harmonized methods for the assessment of conformity and the adoption of a common doctrine for their implementation are likely to facilitate the adoption of future technical harmonization Directives concerning the placing on the market of industrial products and thus be conducive to the completion of the internal market by 31 December 1992.

Approximation of laws

The Council adopted a common position on a proposal for a Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the spray-suppression devices of certain categories of motor vehicles and their trailers.

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Veterinary medicinal products

The Council adopted Directives:

- extending the scope of Directive 81/851/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to veterinary medicinal products and laying down additional provisions for immunological veterinary medicinal products;
- amending Directive 81/851/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to veterinary medicinal products.

These measures form part of the action aimed at the progressive removal of formalities in intra-Community trade.

Common agricultural policy

The Council adopted a Decision recognizing certain parts of the territory of the Community as being either officially swine fever free or swine fever free.

Customs union

The Council adopted a common position on the amendment of Regulation No 3/84 introducing arrangements for movement within the Community of goods sent from one Member State for temporary use in one or more other Member States with a view to:

- repealing the Regulation as from 1 January 1993, on which date it would become redundant;

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- extending its scope to cover carpets that constitute commercial samples and unaccompanied works of art.

The Council also adopted a common position for the adoption of a Regulation on the use in the Community of TIR and ATA carnets as transit documents.

Relations with the Mediterranean countries

The Council adopted five Regulations concerning tariff quotas, ceilings and other import arrangements for certain Mediterranean countries for 1991.