

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

PRESS RELEASES

PRESIDENCY: ITALY

JULY-DECEMBER 1990

Meetings and press releases October 1990

Meeting number	Subject	Date
1427 th	Economics/Finance	8 October 1990
1428 th	Internal Market	9 October 1990
1429 th	Agriculture	8 October 1990
1430 th	Agriculture	15-16, 19 October 1990
1431 st	Industry	15 October 1990
1432 nd	Consumer Affairs	22 October 1990
1433 rd	General Affairs	22 October 1990
Special meeting	Agriculture	26-27 October 1990
1434 th	Environment	29-30 October 1990
1435 th	Energy	29 October 1990
1436 th	Energy/Environment	29 October 1990
1437 th	Transport	30 October 1990

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

1427th meeting of the Council

- Economic and Financial Affairs-

Luxembourg, 8 October 1990

Presidents: Mr. Guido Carli
 Minister for the Treasury, Italy

 Mr. Rino Formica
 Minister for Finance

The official press release was unavailable. The agenda for the meeting has been reproduced from the Bulletin of the European Communities, No. 10-1990.

Council

1427th meeting

1.8.16. Economic and Financial Affairs (Luxembourg, 8 October).

- Previous meeting: Bull. EC 7/8-1990, point 1.8.8

Presidents: Mr Carli, Italian Minister for the Treasury, and Mr Formica, Italian Minister for Finance.

Commission: Mr Delors, Sir Leon Brittan, Mr Christophersen, Mr Schmidhuber and Mrs Scrivener.

Main items

Transitional VAT arrangements: report by the Presidency.

Excuse duties: presentation by the Commission.

Travellers' allowances: exchange of views.

Economic and monetary union: preparation for the Intergovernmental Conference.

Relations with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe: statement by the Commission.

Financial perspective: two proposals discussed.

Money laundering: exchange of views.

PRESS RELEASE

8999/90 (Presse 145)

1428th Council meeting
- INTERNAL MARKET -
Luxembourg, 9 October 1990

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

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

Belgium:

Mr Marc LEPOIVRE Deputy Permanent Representative

Denmark:

Mr Bo BRAMSEN State Secretary for Industry

Germany:

Mr Otto SCHLECHT State Secretary, Federal Ministry
of Economic Affairs

Greece:

Mr G. THEOFANOUS Secretary-General, Ministry of Trade

Spain:

Mr Pedro SOLBES State-Secretary for Relations with the
European Communities

France:

Mrs Elizabeth GUIGOU Minister for European Affairs

Ireland:

Mr John DULLY Assistant Secretary,
Department of Industry and Commerce

Italy:

Mr Pierluigi ROMITA Minister for Community Policies

Luxembourg:

Mr Georges WOHLFART State Secretary for Foreign Affairs and
Foreign Trade

Netherlands:

Mr Piet DANKERT

State Secretary, Ministry for
Foreign Affairs

Portugal:

Mr Vitor MARTINS

State Secretary for European
Integration

United Kingdom:

Mr John REDWOOD

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

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Commission:

Mr Martin BANGEMANN
Mr Jean DONDELINGER

Vice-President
Member

9.X.90
art/PT/kr

GREEN PAPER ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF EUROPEAN STANDARDIZATION

The Council heard an oral presentation by Mr BANGEMANN, a Vice-President of the Commission, of the Commission's green paper on the development of European Standardization.

The green paper, which is a consultation document, suggests extending the scope of European standardization while making institutional changes and adaptations that would improve its productivity and increase its speed.

The Council welcomed the Commission's initiative and discussed the paper. The opinions expressed by delegations concerned in particular the need:

- to improve and accelerate the procedures for the preparation of European standards;
- to guarantee more active participation by those concerned, viz. industry, including SME, consumers and trade unions.

The Council will study the proposals that the Commission will submit when the consultations it has embarked upon have borne fruit.

DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES AND PREPARATIONS

Restrictions on the marketing and use of PCP

By a qualified majority the Council adopted a common position on the Directive (amending Directive 76/769/EEC) prohibiting the marketing and use of pentachlorophenol but at the same time providing for four derogations relating

to special uses; those derogations are to be reviewed not more than three years after the implementation of the Directive.

The Commission undertook to speed up the review of all scientific and technical developments relating to PCP and in particular the latest scientific data on the formation of dioxin. It will make proposals if required by that review.

The Directive should enter into force before 1 July 1992.

Classification and labelling of dichloromethane

The Council adopted the Directive providing for the addition of dichloromethane to the carcinogenic substances in Annex I (List of dangerous substances) to Directive 67/548/EEC. That Annex lists the dangerous substances for which classification and labelling have been decided on at Community level.

The Council invited the Commission to continue examining the scientific work on the carcinogenicity and neurotoxicity of dichloromethane and to submit any proposals in due course.

ARTISTIC, HISTORIC AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL TREASURES

The Commission made an oral communication on the protection of national artistic, historic and archaeological treasures within the framework of the completion of the internal market.

The Council then held an exchange of views. Delegations raised, inter alia, the following points:

- the definition of cultural policies was a matter for national authorities;
- cultural assets had special characteristics that required the application of specific standards different from the standards applied to goods to ensure their free movement;
- The Council and the Ministers for Cultural Affairs will continue to examine the various initiatives taken in this field, such as the movement certificate for works of art, the creation of a European data bank, the mutual recognition of national legislation, the strengthening of controls at the Community's external frontiers, etc.;
- new instruments for the protection of the cultural heritage must be defined with a view to the disappearance of controls at internal frontiers in 1993.

On the conclusion of that exchange of views the President undertook to inform the Ministers for Cultural Affairs, who would have to continue the discussion of this subject at meetings in coming weeks, of the views expressed to-day.

COMPLETION OF THE SINGLE MARKET

The Commission submitted a report on the implementation of measures to complete the Single Market.

That report described the progress made in the transposition of Community standards into national law.

After having noted that the speed of transposition had constantly increased in recent months, the Council hoped that that trend would be consolidated and called on the responsible authorities to continue making ever greater efforts.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Other decisions concerning the Internal Market

Statistical classification of economic activities

The Council adopted the Regulation on the Statistical Classification of Economic Activities in the European Community. That Regulation is essentially intended to set up a common statistical language making possible effective comparison of data collected in the Member States in the field of economic activities. This standardization of statistical language in the classification of economic activities will provide not only the public authorities but also economic operators with reliable and comparable statistical information more rapidly. This approach is also part of the completion of the internal market as it introduces a system which, by making data effectively comparable, will make it possible to carry out the necessary surveillance to prevent distortions of competition within the Community.

Topographies of semi-conductor products

The Council adopted two Decisions on the extension of the legal protection of topographies of semi-conductor products to the EFTA countries, Australia, Japan, the United States and certain British and French overseas territories and possessions.

Pan-European land-based public radio paging

The Council adopted

- a recommendation on the co-ordinated introduction of Pan-European land-based public radio paging in the Community. The recommendation provides, inter alia, that:

= the telecommunications administrations will implement recommendations concerning the co-ordinated introduction of Pan-European land-based public radio paging in the Community. This system would allow persons wishing to do so to send and/or to receive alert and/or numeric or alphanumeric messages anywhere within the coverage of the service in the Community;

= the telecommunications will provide for evolution from existing radio paging systems to Pan-European land-based public radio paging systems and to ensure transition in accordance with users' needs and in the interests of telecommunications administrations and manufacturers;

- the Directive on the frequency bands designated for co-ordinated introduction of Pan-European land-based public radio paging in the Community. That Directive provides that the Member States will designate four channels in the 169,4-169,8 MHz wave band, which shall have priority and be protected and preferably be 169,6, 169,65, 169,7 and 169,75 MHz for the Pan-European land-based public radio paging service by 31 December 1992 at the latest.

Member States must ensure that plans are prepared as quickly as possible to enable the Pan-European public radio paging service to occupy the whole of the 169,4-169,8 MHz band according to commercial demand.

Customs union

The Council adopted the Directive amending Directive 79/695/EEC of 24 July 1979 on the harmonization of procedures for the release of goods for free circulation. That amendment is intended to simplify procedures and allow importers to benefit from the same facilities wherever goods are released for free circulation (see also Press Release 6288/90 Presse 62).

Agriculture and Fisheries

The Council adopted the Regulations:

- opening a special autonomous import quota of 3 000 tonnes for 1990 for high-quality fresh, chilled or frozen beef covered by CN Codes 0201 and 0202, and for products covered by CN Codes 0206 10 95 and 0206 29 91;
- amending Regulation EEC No 4055/89 fixing catch possibilities for 1990 for squid (illex) at 15 000 tonnes in the regulatory area as defined in the NAFO Convention (precautionary TAC).

Anti-dumping

The Council also adopted the Regulation imposing the definitive anti-dumping duty of 6,7% of the net free-at-Community-frontier price on imports of ball bearings with a greatest external diameter not exceeding 30 mm, originating in Thailand and collecting definitively the provisional duty.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

8925/90 (Presse 142)

1429th Council meeting
- Agriculture -
Luxembourg, 8 October 1990

President:

Mr Vito SACCOMANDI
Minister for Agriculture
of the Italian Republic

8.X.1990
kin/MI/mn

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

Germany:

Mr Ignaz KIECHLE Federal Minister for Food,
Agriculture and Forestry

Mr Walter KITTEL State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture
and Forestry

Greece:

Mr Michaelis PAPACONSTANTINOU Minister for Agriculture

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

8.X.1990
Kin/MI/mn

Italy:

Mr Vito SACCOMANDI

Minister for Agriculture

Mr Francesco CIMINO

State Secretary for Agriculture and
Forestry

Luxembourg:

Mr René STEICHEN

Minister for Agriculture and Viticulture

Netherlands:

Mr Piet BUKMAN

Minister for Agriculture, Nature
Conservation and Fisheries

Portugal:

Mr Arlindo CUNHA

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and
Food

United Kingdom:

Mr John Selwyn GUMMER

Minister of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food

Commission:

Mr R. MAC SHARRY

Member

8.X.90
kin/MI/mn

GATT/MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS (AGRICULTURE)

The Council held a detailed discussion on the Commission proposal concerning the Community offer for the Uruguay Round negotiations in agriculture.

During the discussion many delegations stressed the need for more information both on the effects of the proposed measures and on the back-up measures thought necessary to satisfy the farmers' expectations.

The Council agreed to continue and develop the study and clarification of the problems raised during the discussion and to this end will resume its examination of the Commission proposal at its next meeting scheduled for 15 and 16 October 1990.

In the meantime the General Affairs Council scheduled for 10 October will take stock of all the proceedings concerning the present stage of the Uruguay Round negotiations.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

9141/90 (Presse 152)

1430th meeting of the Council
- Agriculture -
Luxembourg, 15, 16 and 19 October 1990

President: Mr Vito SACCOMANDI
Minister for Agriculture
of the Italian Republic

The Governments of the Member States and the Commission of the European Communities are 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, Federal
Ministry for Food, Agriculture
and Forestry

Greece

Mr Michaelis PAPACONSTANTINOU
Minister for Agriculture
Mr THEOPHANOUS
Secretary General

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

vos/BS/jrb

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

Netherlands

Mr Piet BUKMAN

Minister for Agriculture,
Nature, Conservation and
Fisheries

Portugal

Mr Arlindo CUNHA

Minister for Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food

United Kingdom

Mr John Selwyn GUMMER

Minister for Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food

Mr David CURRY

Parliamentary Secretary,
Agriculture

Commission

Mr Ray MAC SHARRY

Member

15/16/19.X.90

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MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS WITHIN GATT
(AGRICULTURE)

Following a lengthy debate on the Community offer concerning the agriculture part for the Uruguay Round negotiations, the Council found that it was not possible to reach an agreement on this proposal, which would therefore be submitted to the General Affairs Council in Luxembourg on 22 October 1990.

THE COMMUNITY AND GERMAN UNIFICATION - COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY

Pending receipt of the Opinions of the European Parliament and of the Economic and Social Committee, the Council held a further exchange of views on the Commission proposal on the transitional measures required to incorporate the agriculture of the former German Democratic Republic in to the common agricultural policy.

The Council took the opportunity to reaffirm its desire to ensure a harmonious integration; however, certain questions still needing to be explored in depth were identified.

The Council will continue its work on these points at its November meeting, after receiving the Opinion of the European Parliament.

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ADJUSTMENTS TO THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR OILS AND FATS

Pending receipt of the Opinion of the European Parliament, the Council held an initial exchange of views on the proposals for measures

- designed to take into account the expiry, at the end of 1990, of the standstill period during which the Spanish and Portuguese national arrangements prior to accession have been allowed to remain in force with regard to the control of prices and quantities of vegetable oils other than olive oil
- concerning the aid scheme for the production of olive oil.

Following its debate, the Council invited the Special Committee on Agriculture to continue its work on the subject to enable it to reach a speedy conclusion, as soon as it had received the Opinion of the European Parliament.

OLIVE OIL

In view of the work on adjustments to the arrangements for oils and fats the Council agreed to postpone until November its decision on fixing the representative market price and the threshold price of olive oil and the level of consumption aid, for the marketing year 1990/1991.

It also decided, on a proposal by the Commission, to extend until 25 November 1990 the 1989/1990 marketing year for olive oil.

GENERAL RULES ON THE MARKETING OF PREFERENTIAL SUGAR IN THE COMMUNITY

The Council examined the Commission's proposal which aimed to introduce, for a three-year period, a marketing premium (limited to a total of ECU 30 million) to secure supplies of raw sugar to Community refineries and enable the States which supply preferential sugar, via preferential trade relations, to adapt their industries in line with developments in the situation.

Following these discussions, the Council, while expressing its desire to seek a solution to the concerns expressed, noted that an agreement could not be reached on the approach proposed by the Commission to meet those concerns. It therefore asked the Special Committee on Agriculture, in liaison with the Commission, to resume examination of the dossier and to report back for its next meeting.

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VETERINARY AND PLANT PROTECTION PRODUCTS SECTORS

Plant protection products containing certain active substances

The Council adopted the Directive amending the Annex to Directive 79/117/EEC prohibiting the placing on the market and use of plant protection products containing certain active substances.

This amendment is designed to prohibit the use of the following substances or groups of substances:

- dinoseb, its acetate and salts,
- binapacryl,
- captafol,
- dicofol containing less than 78% of p.p1-dicofol or more than 1 g/kg DDT and DDT related compounds,
- maleic hydrazide and its salts, other than its choline, potassium and sodium salts,
- choline, potassium and sodium salts of maleic hydrazide containing more than 1 mg/kg of free hydrazine expressed on the basis of the acid equivalent,
- quintozene containing more than 1 g/kg of HCB or more than 10 g/kg pentachlorobenzene.

On this occasion the Commission announced that it was planning to examine the justification for a possible total ban on quintozene from 1993 onwards and a ban on atrazine in the Community under the same Directive.

Veterinary checks on products from third countries

When, in December 1989 it adopted Directive 89/662/EEC concerning veterinary checks in intra-Community trade, the Council undertook to fix before 31 December 1990 the general principles applicable to checks on imports of animal products from third countries.

Pending receipt of the Opinion of the European Parliament and using as a basis a number of suggestions from the Chief Veterinary Officers the Council held an initial exchange of views on the Commission proposal the aim of which is to establish these general principles. It focussed its attention on the following main points:

- scope of application
- nature of the veterinary checks to be carried out
- procedure for designation and approval of border posts
- responsibility for the costs of checks.

Following the discussion the Council invited the Permanent Representatives Committee actively to pursue its work in the light of the guidelines which had emerged during this debate.

The Council would resume its discussions on this file at its next meeting in November.

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Council Resolution on measures to be taken in the veterinary field

The Council adopted a Resolution on measures to be taken in the veterinary field with a view to the completion of the internal market.

This Resolution clarifies the guidelines which emerged from examination of a memorandum submitted to the Council by the Italian government in 1989 on the measures to be taken at both Community and Member-State-level, in order to reach completion of the internal market in the veterinary sector. It established the commitments that the Council and the Commission should make in order to have the appropriate means to reach this objective.

Prevention of pathogens

The Council examined the Commission proposal laying down the veterinary rules for the disposal and processing of animal waste, for its placing on the market and for the prevention of pathogens in feedingstuffs. This proposal is designed to harmonize the conditions for treating animal waste and in particular certain waste considered as high-risk materials for the transmission of certain diseases.

In the course of this examination it appeared that the text submitted to the Council might, taking into account various technical amendments and certain assurances given by the Commission, constitute the basis for a compromise for the majority of the delegations.

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The Council therefore agreed to instruct the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue examining this matter with a view to submitting it to the Council again for adoption at its next meeting.

Game meat and rabbit meat

The Council examined the Commission proposal the aim of which is to harmonize the public health rules applicable to game meat and rabbit meat, thus completing the harmonization of these rules applicable to the sector of meat already covered, viz., red meat and poultry meat.

This proposal fixes the requirements concerning public health and animal health problems affecting the production and placing on the market of rabbit meat and farmed game meat.

It emerged from this examination that the text submitted to the Council could, taking into account the assurances given by the Commission on certain points under discussion, constitute the basis for a compromise for the majority of delegations.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine the remaining reservations with a view to submitting the matter to it again for adoption at its next meeting.

Animal health conditions for fresh poultry meat

Pending receipt of the Opinion of the European Parliament, the Council held an initial exchange of views on the Commission proposal designed to harmonize the animal health rules governing intra-Community trade and imports from third

15/16/19.X.90

vos/BS/jrb

countries of poultry meat and to fix certain requirements aimed at preventing the spread of the main contagious diseases.

As the text submitted was still the subject of some reservations, the Council asked the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue examining it.

It will resume examination of this item as soon as it has received the Opinion of the European Parliament.

Animal health conditions governing the placing on the market of aquaculture animals and products

Pending receipt of the Opinion of the European Parliament, the Council held a brief exchange of views on the Commission proposal which is designed to remove the obstacles to the free movement of aquaculture animals and products while preventing the spread of contagious diseases.

It invited the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its work on the subject and to report back to it for its next meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Other decisions in the agricultural sector

The Council adopted:

- the Directive on animal health conditions governing intra-Community trade in, and imports from third countries of, poultry and hatching eggs.
This Directive aims to harmonize the animal health rules at Community level and to promote the completion of the internal market

- the Regulations:

= amending Regulation No 804/68 on the common organization of the market in milk and milk products

= amending Regulation No 2658/87 on the tariff and statistical nomenclature and on the Common Customs Tariff and Regulation (EEC) No 2915/79 determining the groups of products and the special provisions for calculating levies on milk and milk products.

These amendments are designed to treat identically powdered unflavoured yoghurts in the same way as flavoured yoghurts, to abolish certain requirements for products which have received aid for private storage and to add a new product (crispbread) which may benefit - in respect of its milk ingredient - from export refunds.

Fisheries

The Council adopted the decision on the temporary extension of the Agreement between the European Economic Community and Mauritania on fishing off the coast of Mauritania for the period from 1 July to 31 July 1990.

15/16/19.X.90

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Environment

The Council authorized the Commission to take part, on the Community's behalf, in the negotiations to draft a Co-operation Agreement for the protection of the North-East Atlantic from accidental pollution. The Council also decided, subject to certain conditions, that the Community should sign this Agreement.

The purpose of the Agreement will be to establish a system of co-operation enabling prompt and effective action to be taken in the event of a pollution accident at sea which threatened the marine environment in general and the interests of the coastal States in particular.

The Convention would be signed by the Community, France, Spain, Portugal and Morocco.

ECSC

The Council gave two assents:

- concerning a memorandum on the establishment of a sixth ECSC programme of ergonomics research for the steel and coal industries
- on the draft decision establishing the delivery levels of ECSC steel products of Portuguese origin onto the rest of the Community market, excluding Spain.

15/16/19.X.90

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Appointments

The Council decided on:

- the replacement of
 - = four full members and two alternate members of the Administrative Board of the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions
 - = an alternate member of the Advisory Committee on the Training of Midwives
 - = a full member of the Advisory Committee on Pharmaceutical Training
 - = a full member and an alternate member of the Advisory Committee on Training in Nursing
 - the appointment of two full members and two alternate members of Greek nationality of the Advisory Committee on Training in Nursing.
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- 1 -
COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

9139/90 (Presse 150)

1431st Council meeting

- Industry -

Luxembourg, 15 October 1990

President: Mr Adolfo BATTAGLIA

Minister for Industry, Trade
and Craft Trades of the Italian
Republic

Italy

Mr Adolfo BATTAGLIA

Minister for Industry, Trade
and Craft Trades

Luxembourg

Mr Robert GOEBBELS

Minister for Economic Affairs

Netherlands

Mr P.C. NIEMAN

Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

Portugal

Mr Luis MIRA AMARAL

Minister for Industry and Energy

United Kingdom

Mr Douglas HOGG

Minister of State, Department of
Trade and Industry (Minister for
Industry and Enterprise)

Commission

Mr Martin BANGEMANN
Sir Leon BRITTAN
Mr Antonio CARDOSO E CUNHA

Vice-President
Vice-President
Member

THE COMMUNITY'S INDUSTRIAL POLICY

On the basis of a note from the Italian Presidency on the problem of the Community's industrial policy and in the light of a statement by Vice-President BANGEMANN describing the current state of preparation of a Commission paper on this subject, the Council held an initial policy debate on the guidelines to be marked out for the Community's general industrial policy within the frame of reference set by completion of the internal market in 1993, the appreciable advances towards political and monetary union and the forthcoming completion of the Uruguay Round.

At the close of its discussions, which highlighted a series of problems arising in this connection, the Council agreed to take its policy debate further at the next meeting of the Industry Council on 26 November 1990 on the basis of the communication which the Commission was shortly to submit; the final version of this communication would also take into account the economic impact of recent geopolitical developments.

In his summing-up, the President hoped that at its forthcoming meetings the Council would be able to lay the foundations for a consistent Community industrial policy alive to the problems faced by the rest of the world and capable of fostering harmonious and balanced development of Community industry while at the same time accommodating national and regional realities and giving due weight to the problems of environmental protection.

EFFECTS OF COMPETITION RULES ON INDUSTRIAL POLICY

1. The Council held an exchange of views on competition policy in the context of the internal market.

2. The Council took note of the following suggestions put forward by the Commission in the interests of transparency and legal security:
 - (a) once a year the Commission will submit its annual report on competition to the Council, for a general discussion; this report would cover, inter alia, the compendium referred to below

 - (b) twice a year, the Commission will hold a multilateral meeting of experts on State aids

 - (c) the Commission will publish a compendium
 - of procedures
 - of general implementing texts and
 - of judgments of the Court of Justice relating to State aids.

INDUSTRIAL CO-OPERATION WITH CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

After hearing Vice-President BANGEMANN introduce the Commission communication on industrial co-operation with Central and Eastern Europe, the Council held an exchange of views on the various aspects of this co-operation.

At the close of the discussion, the Council invited the Commission to keep it regularly informed of its progress in this area, and agreed that at the appropriate time it would examine the specific proposals which the Commission intended to submit.

A COMPETITIVE EUROPEAN AERONAUTICAL INDUSTRY

The Council heard a statement by Vice-President BANGEMANN introducing the Commission communication on a competitive European aeronautical industry.

The Council held a constructive discussion and asked the Commission to take account of the attitudes of the Member States in its subsequent work on promoting integration of the aeronautical industry on a European scale.

THE EUROPEAN SEMI-CONDUCTOR INDUSTRY

Since Vice-President PANDOLFI was unable to attend the meeting, this item was held over for a future Council meeting.

PRESS RELEASE

9217/90 (Presse 156)

1432nd Council meeting

- CONSUMER AFFAIRS -

Luxembourg, 22 October 1990

President: Mr Adolfo BATTAGLIA

Minister for Industry,
Trade and Craft Trades of
the Italian Republic

22.X.90

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

Belgium:

Mr Erik DERYCKE State Secretary for Science Policy

Denmark:

Mr Neils Henrik SLIBEN Deputy Permanent Representative

Germany:

Mr Otto SCHLECHT State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs

Greece:

Mr Athanassios XARCHAS Minister for Trade

Spain:

Mr Julian GARCIA VARGAS Minister for Health and Consumer Affairs

France:

Ms Véronique NEIERTZ State Secretary for Consumer Affairs, attached to the Ministre d'Etat, Minister for Economic and Financial Affairs and the Budget

Ireland:

Mr Michael SMITH Minister of State at the Department of Industry and Commerce

22.X.90

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Italy:

Mr Adolfo BATTAGLIA

Minister for Industry,
Trade and Craft Trades

Mr CASTAGNETTI

State Under-Secretary,
Ministry of Industry

Luxembourg:

Mr Fernand BODEN

Minister for the Family,
Small and Medium-sized Businesses
and the Self-Employed, and Tourism

Netherlands:

Ms Yvonne VAN ROOY

State Secretary,
Ministry of Economic Affairs

Portugal:

Mr Vasco VALENTE

Deputy Permanent Representative

United Kingdom:

Mr David ELLIOTT

Deputy Permanent Representative

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Commission:

Mr Karel VAN MIERT

Member

GENERAL PRODUCT SAFETY

The Council held a further policy debate on certain key features of a proposed Directive on the approximation of standards concerning general product safety, including the Directive's scope and Community intervention.

The proposal is intended to establish at Community level a general obligation to produce and market only safe products. It is to be seen in the context of completing the internal market and reviving consumer protection policy.

Among other things, it provides that:

- Member States must ensure that only safe products are put on the market;
- Member States must adopt the necessary powers and administrative structures to enforce the obligations arising from the Directive;
- if the relevant authority in a Member State finds that a product presents an unacceptable risk of a serious and immediate nature, it must take all appropriate steps including, in particular, the withdrawal of the product from the market or its prohibition or restriction.

Subject to full agreement on the Directive as a whole, the Council agreed in principle on a number of points, including the setting up, at Community level, of:

(i) a system for the notification of national measures which are taken for safety reasons and affect the marketing of a product in more than one Member State;

(ii) a system for the rapid exchange of information, based on the present system.

After discussion, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to make a detailed study of the unresolved problems in the light of the guidelines established by the Council itself, with a view to a common position on the proposal being adopted at the earliest opportunity. In particular, the Committee would have to consider the possibility of Community intervention in the case of a serious and immediate risk linked directly or indirectly to a product's safety features.

The Council may return to the issue at another meeting to be held in December.

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UNFAIR TERMS IN CONTRACTS

The Commissioner Mr VAN MIERT gave a presentation of a proposed Directive on unfair terms in consumer contracts.

The Directive's main aim was to eliminate unfair terms from all consumer contracts. It would cover all contracts between a consumer and a party acting in the course of a professional, business or trade activity.

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MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

EHLASS system

The Council adopted an amendment to Decision 86/138/EEC concerning a demonstration project with a view to introducing a Community system of information on accidents involving consumer products.

This extends the EHLASS project's demonstration period to six years, sets the financial resources for running the project in 1990 and 1991 at ECU 4,9 million, and makes the necessary amendments to enable the Commission to carry out additional work.

PRESS RELEASE

9216/90 (Presse 155)

1433rd Council meeting

- General Affairs -

Luxembourg, 22 October 1990

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

22.X.1990

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

Belgium:

Mr Mark EYSKENS Minister for Foreign Affairs

Denmark:

Mr Uffe ELLEMANN-JENSEN Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Jørgen ØRSTRØM MØLLER State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Germany:

Mr Hans-Dietrich GENSCHER Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mrs Irmgard ADAM-SCHWAETZER Minister of State,
Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Greece:

Mr Georges PAPOULIAS Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs

Spain:

Mr Pedro SOLBES MIRA State Secretary for Relations with the
European Communities

Mr Apolonio RUIZ LIGERO State Secretary for Trade

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

ood/PT/at
22.X.1990

Italy:

Mr Gianni DE MICHELIS	Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Renato RUGGIERO	Minister for Foreign Trade

Luxembourg:

Mr Jacques F. POOS	Minister for Foreign Affairs
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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
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Commission:

Mr Jacques DELORS	President
Mr Frans H.J.J. ANDRIESSEN	Vice-President
Mr Henning CHRISTOPHERSEN	Vice-President
Mr Abel MATUTES	Member

PREPARATION FOR THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL

The Council prepared the topics likely to be discussed at the special European Council meeting in Rome on 27 and 28 October, i.e. economic and monetary union, political union, relations with the Soviet Union, relations with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and transatlantic relations.

In particular, the Council took stock of the state of preparation of the Intergovernmental Conference on Economic and Monetary Union, on the basis of a report by Minister CARLI, the President of the ECO/FIN Council, addressed to the European Council. The Presidency thus regarded this preparation as being in substance completed. The Council also examined the Presidency's report drawn up following the proceedings of Ministers' Personal Representatives, regarding preparation of the Intergovernmental Conference on Political Union. It agreed to forward this report to the European Council as a basis for its discussions.

Under this same item the Council heard a communication from President DELORS outlining the Commission's opinion on the principal aspects of the Intergovernmental Conference on Political Union.

COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS ON GERMAN UNIFICATION

"The Council,

- recalling that, by letter of 6 September 1990, the European Parliament was consulted on the package of legislative proposals contained in the Commission communication entitled "The Community and German Unification",
- held a discussion at the end of which it
- = provisionally took a sympathetic attitude to the transitional measures (with the exception of the proposals currently being discussed by the Agriculture Council), and approved a statement (recorded in its minutes) on agricultural expenditure in connection with German unification,
- = instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to re-examine these documents at its meeting on 25 October, in the light of the Parliament Opinions, and to submit the results of its work if possible to the Council meeting on 29 October for adoption of the corresponding common positions.

- agreed that after the Council meeting on 29 October, the common positions adopted there, together with the other draft legislation to which it had taken a sympathetic attitude today, would be sent forthwith to the European Parliament, so that it could complete its part of the procedure at its November part-session ⁽¹⁾, in accordance with the work schedule agreed by the Presidents of the three institutions at their meeting on 6 September 1990,

- reaffirmed its intention of reaching a definitive decision on all the Commission's legislative proposals at its meeting on 4 December, in order to ensure that the transitional measures can enter into force by the end of this year at the latest."

(1) The Council stressed the exceptional nature of the working methods and procedure used in the present case, as the three Presidents had acknowledged at their meeting on 6 September 1990.

RELATIONS WITH TURKEY

The Council held a policy debate on the Commission proposals for strengthening co-operation with Turkey within the framework of the Association Agreement.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine the various aspects of the Commission communication in the light of these discussions and to report back to it at a future meeting.

The Council noted that Greece had reiterated its position and stated that examination of the question by the Permanent Representatives Committee in no way prejudged the outcome.

NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE GULF CO-OPERATION COUNCIL

The Council heard a report from Mr MATUTES on the first phase of the negotiations with the Gulf Co-operation Council during which both sides had been able to outline their positions.

The Council welcomed the fact that these negotiations had opened in an excellent atmosphere and that both sides had confirmed their determination to achieve the speedy, satisfactory conclusion of a free-trade agreement.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine certain aspects of the negotiations in greater depth, on the basis of proposals from the Commission.

NEGOTIATIONS WITH EFTA

The Council confirmed the great political importance attaching to the negotiations with EFTA achieving overall agreement before the end of the year on the major problems in the negotiations. The Council thought that to this end the negotiating process should be stepped up and should move forward at the same time both on the institutional and on the substantive problems. The Council recorded its agreement on the Community's position on the information and consultation procedure being forwarded to EFTA.

The Council noted that the Commission intended shortly to submit proposals regarding the Community position on agriculture, fisheries and the reduction of economic and social disparities, as well as comments made by a number of delegations during the discussions.

URUGUAY ROUND

The Council agreed that, at a joint meeting of Ministers for Agriculture and Trade on Friday 26 October (10.00) in Luxembourg, it would continue its discussion of the Commission communication regarding the Community's offer on agriculture which was to be submitted during the negotiations in Geneva.

GULF CRISIS - MEASURES VIS-A-VIS IRAQ AND KUWAIT

Pending receipt of the European Parliament's Opinion, the Council noted that the Regulation extending the embargo decided on by the Community on 8 August of this year to non-financial services could be adopted as soon as the Opinion in question was received:

IMPORTS OF FOOTWEAR ORIGINATING IN SOUTH KOREA AND TAIWAN

The Council adopted a Regulation amending Commission Regulation of 21 June 1990 introducing prior Community surveillance of imports of certain types of footwear originating in South Korea and Taiwan.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Relations with Mexico

The Council adopted a Decision authorizing the Commission to negotiate a co-operation agreement between the European Economic Community and the United Mexican States.

Accession of Namibia to the Fourth ACP-EEC Convention

The Council recorded its agreement on the common position for the opening of the negotiations for the accession of Namibia to the Fourth ACP-EEC Convention.

United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances

The Council adopted the Decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Economic Community, of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

Accession of the Community to the FAO

The Council gave the Commission directives for negotiating with the FAO member status for the Community of that organization.

Relations with the Mediterranean countries

The Council approved, as regards the Community, two draft Decisions to be adopted by the EEC-Cyprus Association Council in the field of originating products, and adopted the two Regulations implementing these Decisions.

The Council also adopted the Regulations again amending Articles 6 and 17 of the Protocols concerning the definition of the concept of "originating products" and methods of administrative co-operation to the Co-operation Agreements between the European Economic Community and the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the Lebanese Republic, the Kingdom of Morocco and the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia respectively.

Thailand: renewal of the manioc agreement

The Council adopted the Decision on the conclusion of the Protocol renewing for a four-year period the Co-operation Agreement between the European Economic Community and Thailand on manioc production, marketing and trade.

The adjustments involved are essentially the following:

- the maximum annual volume of imports is increased from 5 500 000 tonnes to 5 750 000 tonnes within the limits of the total volume (21 million tonnes) for the four-year period (1991-1994),
- the possibility of additional imports in the last six months of each four-year period (including 1990) is provided for. This quantity would be charged against the volume of imports set for the four-year period immediately following.

Antidumping

The Council adopted a Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 2112/90 of 23 July 1990 imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of certain types of electronic microcircuits known as DRAMS (dynamic random access memories) originating in Japan and collecting definitively the provisional duty.

Fisheries

The Council adopted a Decision on the conclusion of the Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters concerning the provisional application of the Protocol establishing, for the period from 1 June 1990 to 31 May 1993, the fishing rights and financial compensation provided for in the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe on fishing off Sao Tome and Principe.

ECSC

The Council gave its assent on the Commission memorandum concerning the establishment of a sixth "Industrial Hygiene in Mines" Programme.

PRESS RELEASE

9480/90 (Presse 165)

Special Council meeting

AGRICULTURE

- with the participation of the Ministers for Foreign Trade -
Luxembourg, 26 and 27 October 1990

Presidents:

Mr Vito SACCOMANDI

Minister for Agriculture
of the Italian Republic

Mr Renato RUGGIERO

Minister for Foreign Trade
of the Italian Republic

26/27.X.90

col/DJM/mn

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

Mr Robert URBAIN Minister for Foreign Trade

Denmark:

Mr Laurits TOERNAES Minister for Agriculture

Mr Flemming HEDEGAARD Head of Department, Ministry
for Foreign Affairs

Germany:

Mr Ignaz KIECHLE Federal Minister for Food,
Agriculture and Forestry

Mr Walter KITTEL State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture
and Forestry

Mr Otto SCHLECHT State Secretary, Federal Ministry
of Economic Affairs

Greece:

Mr Michaelis PAPACONSTANTINOU Minister for Agriculture

Mr G. THEOPHANOUS Secretary-General, Ministry of Trade

Spain:

Mr Carlos ROMERO HERRERA Minister for Agriculture

Mr Jaime COMENGE State Secretary for Trade

France:

Mr Louis MERMAZ Minister for Agriculture

Mr Jean-Marie RAUSCH Minister for Foreign Trade

Ireland:

Mr Michael O'KENNEDY Minister for Agriculture and Food

Mr Desmond J. O'MALLEY Minister for Industry and Commerce

Italy:

Mr Vito SACCOMANDI	Minister for Agriculture
Mr Renato RUGGIERO	Minister for Foreign Trade
Mr Francesco CIMINO	State Secretary for Agriculture and Forestry

Luxembourg:

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

Netherlands:

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

Portugal:

Mr Arlindo CUNHA	Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Mr Carlos GOMES ALMEIDA	Director-General, Foreign Trade

United Kingdom:

Mr John Selwyn GUMMER	Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Mr Tim SAINSBURY	Minister of State, Department of Trade and Industry (Minister for Trade) Agriculture

Commission:

Mr Frans H.J.J. ANDRIESSEN	Vice-President
Mr R. MAC SHARRY	Member

26/27.X.90

col/DJM/mn

MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS WITHIN THE GATT FRAMEWORK
(AGRICULTURE CHAPTER)

At the close of a long discussion on the Community's offer for the agriculture chapter of the Uruguay Round negotiations, the Council noted that considerable progress had been made, although some delegations did not regard this as sufficient. As a result, the Council was unable to reach a consensus at the meeting.

The Presidency will be convening a meeting of the General Affairs Council in the very near future.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

9582/90 (Presse 168)

1434th Council meeting

- Environment -

Luxembourg, 29 and 30 October 1990

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

29/30.X.90

ers/MG/ved

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

Belgium:

Mrs Miet SMET State Secretary for the Environment

Denmark:

Mrs Lone DYBKJAER Minister for the Environment

Germany:

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

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

Greece:

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

Spain:

Mr Javier SAENZ COSCULLUELA Minister for Public Works
and Town Planning

France:

Mr Brice LALONDE Minister for the Environment

Ireland:

Mr Pdraig FLYNN Minister for the Environment

Italy:

Mr Giorgio RUFFOLO Minister for the Environment

Luxembourg:

Mr Alex BODRY

Minister for the Environment

Netherlands:

Mr J.G.M. ALDERS

Minister for Housing, Planning and
the Environment

Portugal:

Mr Fernando REAL

Minister for the Environment and
Natural Resources

Mr José MACARIO CORREIA

State Secretary for the Environment

United Kingdom:

Mr Christopher PATTEN

Secretary of State for the Environment

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o

o

Commission:

Mr Carlo RIPA DI MEANA

Member

HAZARDOUS WASTE

The Council held an exchange of views on a proposal for a Directive on hazardous waste.

The main purpose of the proposal is to produce a common definition of hazardous waste and to introduce a greater degree of harmonization into the management of such waste. The proposal is intended to replace Directive 78/319/EEC and takes account of the proposal for an amendment to Directive 75/442/EEC (framework directive) ⁽¹⁾.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its work in the light of the Council's discussions with a view to agreement at its next meeting.

(1) The Council reached agreement in principle on this amendment to Directive 75/442/EEC at its June meeting.

MUNICIPAL WASTE WATER

The Council held a further debate on the proposal for a Directive concerning municipal waste water treatment.

The aim of the proposal is to limit pollution from municipal waste water discharges. To this end, the proposal lays down minimum requirements for the treatment of municipal waste waters and of industrial waste waters of a similar nature, as well as for the disposal of sludge. These requirements are differentiated according to the characteristics of receiving waters and to the size of the municipality concerned. The Member States will have to set up national programmes to implement the Directive. Finally, the proposal contains other major provisions concerning the information of the public and the training of qualified staff.

After noting that progress had been made on the matter, particularly as regards the scope of the Directive, the timetable for its implementation and the measures to be taken for sensitive areas, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to complete its discussions to enable it to reach agreement at its meeting on 20 and 21 December.

POLLUTION FROM MOTOR VEHICLES

The Council held a full discussion of a new proposal for a Directive relating to measures to be taken against air pollution by emissions from motor vehicles.

The purpose of this proposal is to consolidate the Community rules on emissions of air pollutants by private vehicles, in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the Council.

That objective is to be attained principally by

- aligning the limit values for gaseous emissions from vehicles with large and medium-sized engine capacities on the stricter emission standards and the implementation dates laid down by the Council in July 1989 for vehicles with small engine capacities;
- implementing, in accordance with Article 4 of Directive 88/436/EEC on the restriction of particulate pollutant emissions from diesel engines, a second stage for further reduction in the limit values for such emissions;
- basing these limit values for emissions and air pollutants on an improved European test procedure which includes an extra-urban test cycle.

These measures are supplemented by rules on the evaporation of fuels used by vehicles and the durability of the anti-pollution devices with which they are fitted.

Having noted that considerable progress had been made, although difficulties remained particularly as regards limit values for emissions and their stability in view of the expected technological development, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its discussions to enable the Council to reach agreement at its next meeting, if possible.

MEDSPA

Pending receipt of the European Parliament's Opinion, the Council held a policy debate on a proposal for a Regulation on action by the Community for the protection of the environment in the Mediterranean region (MEDSPA).

The objectives of the proposed Community action are in particular to intensify efforts to protect and improve the quality of the environment and to increase the effectiveness of Community environment policy and measures in the region concerned.

The proposal provides for financial support which could take the form in particular of

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

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its discussions on the matter to enable it to reach a decision at its meeting on 20 and 21 December, once the European Parliament had delivered its Opinion.

29/30.X.90

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OZONE LAYER

The Council held a policy debate on a proposal for a Council Regulation on substances that deplete the ozone layer, on which the European Parliament has yet to deliver an Opinion.

The aim of the Regulation is to strengthen the measures currently in force under Regulation 3322/88 on substances that deplete the ozone layer, particularly in the light of the revision of the Montreal Protocol. Amendments to the Montreal Protocol were agreed on at the meeting of the Contracting Parties in London in June ⁽¹⁾. In some cases, the Community measures provided for in the proposal go beyond the measures in the Protocol.

The Council will resume examination of the proposal with a view to its adoption when the European Parliament has delivered its Opinion.

(1) The Commission is preparing a proposal for a Decision on Community ratification.

USE OF ECONOMIC AND FISCAL MEANS IN ENVIRONMENT POLICY - COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

"The Council stresses that in the interests of more efficient environmental protection in the context of effectively integrating environmental and economic policy and meeting the fundamental objective of sustainable development, in particular while complying with the "polluter-pays" principle, it is necessary to back up current, direct environmental regulations, based on the command and control approach, with economic and fiscal instruments aimed at influencing the reasoning and behaviour of producers and consumers, to discourage wasteful or polluting processes and products and to promote technologies and productive processes which are consistent with resource conservation.

The Council agrees that the possibility of Community action in this area should be examined. Such action, which - on the basis of the principle of subsidiarity - could take various forms depending on the specific problems, could make a contribution to the cohesion of the Member States in international negotiations and to the implementation of commitments entered into. Action should also avoid the development of these instruments leading to fragmentation of the market and distortions of competition.

The areas which call for specific attention are:

- climatic changes (greenhouse gases)

- solid waste

- environmental considerations in the context of other Community policies

- water pollution.

The Council notes that it is the Commission's intention, on the basis of the conclusions of the European Council in Dublin (25 and 26 June 1990), to submit in time for the Environment Council meeting on 20 and 21 December 1990 a concrete proposal relating to climatic changes and general guidelines for solid waste".

MEDITERRANEAN FOREST

The Council took note of a memorandum from the Portuguese delegation on a Community plan of action for the protection of the Mediterranean forest.

Following a brief exchange of views, the Council agreed to examine the matter at its next meeting on the basis of a proposal to be submitted by the Commission.

7TH AMENDMENT TO THE DIRECTIVE ON THE CLASSIFICATION, PACKAGING AND LABELLING OF DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES

The Council will discuss this item at its meeting on 20 and 21 December.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Common agricultural policy

The Council adopted Regulations:

- on stepping up checks in Portugal on expenditure charged to the Guarantee Section of the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund.

The aim of this Regulation is to grant Portugal Community financial support, up to a maximum of ECU 4 million to set up a data-processing system in the context of action for more effective monitoring of EAGGF expenditure and improvement of the anti-fraud measures;

- amending Regulation No 1678/85 fixing the conversion rates to be applied in agriculture.

The amendments involve slight adjustments to the agricultural conversion rates and to certain effective dates fixed as a result of the automatic dismantling of the monetary gaps created by the realignment of 6 October 1990 and to fix, with effect from 1 November 1990, the agricultural conversion rates applicable to olive oil in Greece and Portugal at the beginning of the 1990/1991 marketing year, which has just been extended until 25 November 1990.

Fisheries

The Council adopted:

- a Decision authorizing the Commission to negotiate fisheries agreements with Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Peru and Uruguay with the aim of increasing the total fishing opportunities available to Community vessels;
- a Regulation relating to the conclusion of the Protocol defining for the period from 18 January 1990 to 17 January 1993 the fishing opportunities and the financial contribution provided for by the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Seychelles on fishing off Seychelles.

The fishing opportunities are fixed at 40 ocean-going tuna seiners fishing simultaneously in Seychelles waters. Total financial compensation is fixed at ECU 9,9 million for the duration of the Protocol.

Customs union

The Council adopted Regulations:

- increasing (from 3 500 000 tonnes to 8 500 000 tonnes) the volume of the Community tariff quota opened for gas oil of low sulphur content;
- opening and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas for activated coke (1 500 tonnes), liquid crystal displays (21 000 pieces) and memory manager and controller circuits (155 000 pieces).

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

9481/90 (Presse 166)

1435th meeting of the Council

- ENERGY -

Luxembourg, 29 October 1990

President: Mr Adolfo BATTAGLIA,
Minister for Industry
of the Italian Republic

29.X.1990

che/MM/kr

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

Belgium

Mr W. CLAES Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for
Economic Affairs and Planning

Mr Elie DEWORME State Secretary for Energy

Denmark

Mr Jens BILGRAV-NIELSEN Minister for Energy

Germany

Mr Dieter von WÜRZEN State Secretary, Federal Ministry of
Economic Affairs

Greece

Mr Stavros DIMAS Minister for Industry, Energy and Technology

Spain

Mr Claudio ARANZADI Minister for Industry and Energy

France

Mr Roger FAUROUX Minister for Industry and Town and Country
Planning

Ireland

Mr J. LOUGHREY Secretary-General, Ministry of Energy

Italy

Mr Adolfo BATTAGLIA Minister for Industry, Trade and Craft
Trades

Mr Giuseppe FORNASARI State Secretary, Ministry of Industry,
Trade and Craft Trades

Luxembourg

Mr Alex BODRY Minister for Energy

29.X.1990

che/MM/kr

Netherlands

Mr Koos ANDRIESSEN

Minister for Economic Affairs

Portugal

Mr Luis Fernando de MIRA AMARAL

Minister for Industry and Energy

United Kingdom

Mr John WAKEHAM

Minister for Energy

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o

o

Commission

Mr Antonio CARDOSO E CUNHA

Member

29.X.1990

che/MM/kr

SITUATION ON THE OIL MARKET - CONCLUSIONS OF THE COUNCIL

The Council first heard a statement by Commissioner CARDOSO E CUNHA introducing the Commission communications analyzing the present situation on the oil market and its short-term prospects and comprising proposals intended to make changes to the Community's present role in the event of oil supply difficulties, on the one hand, and authorizing the Commission to negotiate the Community's accession to the IEA, on the other hand.

Following the subsequent exchange of views, the Council adopted the following conclusions:

"The Council, having examined the Commission report on the meetings of the Working Party on Oil Supplies and discussed the oil supply situation in the Member States in the light of the Gulf crisis:

- appreciates the preparatory work carried out by the Commission and calls on the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine the proposals submitted;
- shares the conclusions of the IEA Steering Committee reached at its meeting in Paris on 28 September;
- observes that, although world market supplies continue to be adequate and there has been no fall-off in supplies, prices remain high, basically for emotive or speculative reasons;
- observes that Member States' reserves of crude and petroleum products remain high and that total stocks available for daily commercial, industrial and government consumption purposes exceed 90 days.

29.X.1990

che/MM/ac

In the event of a genuine oil supply crisis due to a worsening of the present situation, the Council has confirmed the positions already adopted by the IEA.

The Council has taken note that all Member States are ready to act promptly to enact the necessary measures at the level of both supply and demand.

The Council will co-ordinate its response in the context of IEA to a possible worsening of the oil supply situation."

29.X.1990

che/MM/ac

TRANSIT OF ELECTRICITY THROUGH TRANSMISSION GRIDS

The Council adopted the Directive on the transit of electricity through transmission grids, following the completion of the procedure for co-operation with the European Parliament.

The content of this Directive, the text of which basically corresponds to the common position adopted by the Council on 19 June 1990, may be summarized as follows:

The Directive aims at making a contribution to the greater integration of the European electric energy market by abolishing obstacles to increased electricity exchanges between transmission grids.

The enacting terms provide that the Member States should take the measures necessary to facilitate transit of electricity through high-voltage grids through their territory.

"Transit" has been defined as every transaction for the transport of electricity under the following conditions:

- transmission is carried through a high-voltage electricity grid, with the exception of distribution grids, in a Member State's territory which contributes to the efficient operation of European high-voltage interconnections;
- the grid of origin or of final destination is situated in the Community;
- the transport involves the crossing of one intra-Community frontier at least.

29.X.1990

che/MM/ac

The Directive lists the transmission grids in question and the entities responsible for them in each Member State; this list will be updated, whenever necessary, by the Commission after consultation with the Member State in question.

Contracts involving transit of electricity between transmission grids will be negotiated between the bodies responsible for the grids concerned and for the quality of the service provided and, where appropriate, with the entities responsible in the Member States for importing and exporting electricity.

The conditions of transit must, pursuant to the rules of the Treaty, be non-discriminatory and equitable for all the parties concerned, must not include unfair clauses or unjustified restrictions and must not endanger security of supply and quality of service, in particular taking full account of the utilization of reserve production capacity and the most efficient operation of the existing systems.

At the operational level, Member States must without delay take the measures necessary to ensure that the entities mentioned above:

- notify the Commission and the national authorities concerned of any request for transit in connection with minimum one year contracts for the sale of electricity;
- open negotiations on the conditions of the electricity transit requested;
- inform the Commission and the national authorities concerned of the conclusion of a transit contract;

29.X.1990

che/MM/ac

- inform the Commission and the national authorities concerned of the reasons for the failure of the negotiations to result in contracts within twelve months following communication of the request.

Each of the entities concerned may request that the conditions of transit be subject to conciliation by a body set up and chaired by the Commission and on which the entities responsible for transmission grids in the Community are represented.

If the reasons for the absence of agreement appear unjustified or insufficient, the Commission, acting on a complaint from the requesting body or on its own initiative, shall put in hand the procedures provided for by Community law.

The Member States must comply with this Directive by 1 July 1991 at the latest.

COMMUNITY POLICY IN THE NATURAL GAS SECTOR

Transit of natural gas through the major systems

Following a further discussion on the proposal for a Directive on the transit of natural gas through the major systems, the President of the Council noted that a qualified majority within the Council was in favour of approving the substance of a common position on this proposal as it stood following the proceedings of the Permanent Representatives Committee and today's discussions.

The Council will be required to act on the basis of the texts to be finalized by the Permanent Representatives Committee.

The definitions and arrangements governing the transit of natural gas will be fundamentally parallel, mutatis mutandis, to those adopted for the transit of electricity.

Use of natural gas in power stations

Pending the Opinion of the European Parliament, which will be delivered in November, the Council noted agreement on a political approach to the proposal for a Directive revoking the 1975 Directive on the restriction of the use of natural gas in power stations in the light of the altered situation in this area since 1975.

29.X.1990

che/MM/ac

SAVE PROGRAMME

The Council heard a statement from Commissioner CARDOSO E CUNHA presenting the Commission's SAVE programme proposal, the main aim of which is to help to achieve improved energy utilization in order to arrive at a 20% reduction per unit of gross national product in 5 years time.

The Ministers' initial reactions were very favourable towards this programme, which had been prepared before the start of the Gulf crisis but was assuming fresh significance in the present economic situation.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine this proposal for a programme in detail.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Community response to special co-operation plan presented by Colombia: Council Resolution

"The Council, having taken note of the Commission proposal for the "Community response to the special co-operation plan presented by Colombia":

- refers to the Council conclusions of 22 June 1987 and restates its will, already expressed by the European Council in its meetings in Strasbourg (December 1989) and Dublin (June 1990), to deploy rapidly all means to contribute to the success of Colombia's efforts to combat drugs;
- declares its intention of supporting the efforts undertaken by the Andean countries confronted by the serious problem of drugs;
- agrees that it is important to strengthen aid efforts and welcomes the Commission's intention to provide ECU 60 million in favour of Colombia over four years under co-operation schemes;
- notes that the Commission intends to make a sustained effort in favour of Peru and Bolivia and agrees to examine the possibility of increasing such aid;
- decides to grant to Colombia, Peru and Bolivia exceptional temporary trade arrangements under the GSP for four years;
- confirms the importance it attaches to the co-ordination and harmonization of Community aid and bilateral aid from the Member States, the aim being

especially to avoid duplication of effort, to increase the overall effectiveness of aid and to achieve joint presentation thereof;

- requests the Commission to inform it regularly of the results obtained upon the implementation of this Resolution."

Community embargo on Iraq and Kuwait

The Council adopted the Regulation extending and amending Regulation No 2340/90 preventing Community trade as regards Iraq and Kuwait.

This Regulation extends the embargo decided on by the Community on 8 August 1990 as regards trade with Iraq and Kuwait to the provision of non-financial services with the object or effect of promoting the economy of Iraq and Kuwait.

Food aid

The Council adopted the Regulation on the apportionment of the quantities of cereals provided for under the 1986 Food Aid Convention from 1 July 1989.

This Regulation apportions the quantity of 1 670 000 tonnes of cereals, constituting the minimum quantity to be contributed annually by the Community and its Member States under the 1986 Food Aid Convention, for the period of the extension of the said Convention, i.e. until 30 June 1991, as follows:

- Community operations: 927 000 tonnes

- national operations: 742 300 tonnes, apportioned as follows among the Member States (in tonnes):

Belgium	41 500
Denmark	15 600
Germany	193 500
Greece	10 000
Spain	20 000
France	200 000
Ireland	4 000
Italy	95 400
Luxembourg	1 400
Netherlands	50 200
Portugal	-
United Kingdom	110 700.

The same apportionment will apply should the Convention be extended further.

Textiles - Czechoslovakia

The Council authorized the Commission to open negotiations to amend the textile agreement with Czechoslovakia.

Commercial policy - Japan

The Council adopted the Regulation amending Annex I to Regulation No 288/82 on the liberalization of certain products subject to national quantitative restrictions.

Special reports from the Court of Auditors

The Council adopted conclusions on special report No 3/90 from the Court of Auditors on ECSC, Euratom and NCI loans and borrowings of the Communities.



COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

9482/90 (Presse 167)

1436th Joint Council meeting

- ENERGY/ENVIRONMENT -

Luxembourg, 29 October 1990

Presidents: Mr Adolfo BATTAGLIA
Minister for Industry
of the Italian Republic

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

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

Belgium:

Mr W. CLAES	Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Economic Affairs and Planning
Mr Elie DEWORME	State Secretary for Energy
Mrs Miet SMET	State Secretary for the Environment

Denmark:

Mr Jens BILGRAV-NIELSEN	Minister for Energy
Mrs Lone DYBKJAER	Minister for the Environment

Germany:

Mr Klaus TOEPFER	Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Reactor Safety
Mr Dieter von WÜRZEN	State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs

Greece:

Mr Stavros DIMAS	Minister for Industry, Energy and Technology
Mr Stephanos MANOS	Minister for the Environment, Regional Planning and Public Works

Spain:

Mr Claudio ARANZADI	Minister for Industry and Energy
Mr Javier SAENZ COSCULLUELA	Minister for Public Works and Town Planning

29.X.1990
ain/AH/jp

France:

Mr Roger FAUROUX

Minister for Industry and Town and Country
Planning

Mr Brice LALONDE

State Secretary for the Environment

Ireland:

Mr Padraig FLYNN

Minister for the Environment

Mr J. LOUGHREY

Secretary of the Department of Energy

Italy:

Mr Adolfo BATTAGLIA

Minister for Industry, Trade and Craft Trades

Mr Giorgio RUFFOLO

Minister for the Environment

Mr Giuseppe FORNASARI

State Secretary for Industry, Trade and Craft
Trades

Luxembourg:

Mr Alex BODRY

Minister for Energy

Netherlands:

Mr Koos ANDRIESEN

Minister for Economic Affairs

Mr J.G.M. ALDERS

Minister for Housing, Planning and the
Environment

Portugal:

Mr Luis Fernando de MIRA AMARAL

Minister for Industry and Energy

Mr Fernando REAL

Minister for the Environment and Natural
Resources

29.X.1990
ain/AH/jp

United Kingdom:

Mr John WAKEHAM

Minister for Energy

Mr Christopher PATTEN

Secretary of State for the Environment

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Commission

Mr Antonio CARDOSO E CUNHA

Member

Mr Carlo RIPA DI MEANA

Member

29.X.1990
ain/AH/jp

CLIMATE PROTECTION POLICY

At the prompting of the Presidency, the Council held a joint meeting of Energy and Environment Ministers to prepare the position to be adopted by the Community and its Member States at the Second World Climate Conference to be held in Geneva from 29 October to 7 November 1990.

At the close of the discussions, the Council reached conclusions reflecting its position on climate change policy which it addressed under three aspects:

- the European Community approach to the global warming issue;
- the Community response strategies;
- the Community stance at the Second World Climate Conference.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

9583/90 (Presse 169)

1437th Council meeting

- TRANSPORT -

Luxembourg, 30 October 1990

President: Mr Carlo BERNINI

Minister for Transport
of the Italian Republic

30.X.90

i11/LG/jl

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

Belgium:

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

Denmark:

Mr Knud OESTERGAARD Minister for Transport

Mr Joergen HALCK State Secretary, Ministry of
Transport

Germany:

Mr Friedrich ZIMMERMANN Federal Minister for Transport

Mr Wilhelm KNITTEL State Secretary, Federal Ministry
of Transport

Greece:

Mr Nicolaos GUELESTATHIS Minister for Transport and
Communications

Spain:

Mr Javier ELORZA Deputy Permanent Representative

France:

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

Ireland:

Mr Denis LYONS Deputy Minister for Tourism,
Department of Tourism and Transport

Italy:

Mr Carlo BERNINI Minister for Transport

Mr Gualtiero NEPI State Secretary, Ministry of
Transport

30.X.90

i11/LG/j1

Luxembourg:

Mr Robert GOEBBELS

Minister for Transport

Netherlands:

Mrs Hanja MAIJ-WEGGEN

Minister for Transport and
Public Works

Portugal:

Mr Jorge Mendes ANTAS

State Secretary for Internal Trade

United Kingdom:

Mr Roger FREEMAN

Secretary of State for Transport

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Commission:

Mr Karel VAN MIERT

Member

30.X.90

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

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

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

The Council then held a discussion on the general prospects of the negotiations. In another context, delegations expressed their concern at the closing of one Member State's border with Austria ⁽¹⁾.

In conclusion, the Council asked the Commission to continue its work and agreed to return to the matter at its next meeting, in December.

(1) Since re-opened.

A TRANSPORT POLICY FOR EUROPE - MEMORANDUM FROM THE NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT

The Transport Council discussed this subject and agreed to pass on its conclusions to the European Council.

It will be recalled that the memorandum from the Netherlands Government was submitted to the European Council at its meeting in Dublin on 25 and 26 June 1990. The European Council asked the Transport Council to examine the memorandum and to report to it at its meeting on 15 and 16 December next.

The memorandum gives a reminder of the objectives which the Community set for itself as regards the common transport policy and places emphasis on certain ways of attaining them, while underlining the need to draw up a realistic, but coherent, timetable having regard to the desired objectives.

TAX HARMONIZATION WITH REGARD TO ROAD HAULAGE

The Council held a discussion on the basis of the report prepared by the High-level Working Party concerning tax harmonization in the field of road haulage.

The Council discussed in particular the problems posed by the harmonization of excise duty on gas oil, taxes and motorway tolls, with a view to harmonizing conditions of competition.

It will be recalled that at its meeting on 25 and 26 June 1990 the European Council stressed inter alia the importance of sustained progress in all areas of

30.X.90

ill/LG/at

transport policy, especially as regards certain issues such as fiscal harmonization in the road transport sector, as early as possible and not later than 31 December 1990.

The Council:

- agreed to forward the results of its discussions to the ECOFIN Council on 19 November next;
- also noted the Commission's intention to submit a new proposal on the harmonization of vehicle taxes and on the common rules to be laid down for motorway tolls, and instructed the High-level Working Party of Fiscal Experts and Transport Experts to continue its proceedings.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The Council held detailed discussions on a proposal for a Regulation for an action programme in the field of transport infrastructure with a view to the completion of an integrated transport market in 1992.

The purpose of the proposal is to enable the Community to take action in certain priority areas in the context of major transport infrastructures of Community interest.

The action programme proposed by the Commission covers a three-year period (1990 to 1992).

It should be noted that the Community budget for 1990 includes ECU 60 million for financing transport infrastructure (budget heading 580), while the draft budget for 1991 contains a figure of ECU 80 million.

After reaching agreement in principle on the main points of the matter, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to finalize the draft Regulation so that it could be submitted for adoption as an "A" item at a forthcoming Council meeting.

LENGTH OF ROAD TRAINS

The Council held a further policy debate on a proposal for a Regulation fixing the length of road trains (amendment of Directive 85/3/EEC).

The aim of the proposal is to fix for road trains a total length and a load length which will guarantee sufficient space for the cabin and the coupling device, thus applying to road trains the method laid down in Directive 89/461/EEC for articulated vehicles.

Having failed to reach agreement, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its proceedings and agreed to re-enter the issue on its agenda once substantial progress enabling the Directive to be adopted had been achieved.

30.X.90

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COMBINED TRANSPORT

The Council adopted the following Resolution and agreed to begin discussing a proposal for the amendment of Directive 75/130/EEC on the combined carriage of goods once the European Parliament's Opinion was available.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

on setting up a European
combined transport network

THE COUNCIL,

conscious of the need to manage the Community's transport resources to optimum effect in the common interest,

conscious of the need to facilitate the shift of part of transport demand to the railways by encouraging combined transport in its various forms with a view to reducing the problems associated with the present saturation of road networks while contributing to protection of the environment,

conscious furthermore that the efforts made to date have not brought about full development of combined transport,

considering in particular that combined transport is confronted by obstacles which leave it poorly placed to compete and that at the same time the carriage of goods by road is being liberalized,

INVITES the Commission to convene a high-level Working Party consisting of representatives of the Governments of the Member States, European railways and the trade union organizations concerned, with instructions to identify the measures required for the creation of a European combined transport network and the conditions under which such a network can operate effectively,

30.X.90

111/LG/j1

CONSIDERS that the high-level Working Party should be consulted on the following points in particular:

- implementation of a combined transport policy which would afford users genuine freedom to choose between modes of transport,
- economic and commercial aspects of combined transport,
- definition of a rational plan of routes and terminals as the basis for the network, including engineering work and gauge alterations,
- technical and operational aspects, including terminal and stock management, particularly from the point of view of harmonization where appropriate,
- organization and management of combined transport from the viewpoint of administration, finance, quality of service and responsibility, according to the decision-making level, i.e. Community, Member States or undertakings,
- Community and national laws, regulations and administrative provisions governing combined transport, with particular reference to consistency between them,
- access to the system of combined transport with particular reference to improving access in the peripheral regions of the Community,
- the contribution which combined transport can make to relieving the problems of road transit through third countries,

INVITES the Commission to report back before 1 June 1991.

30.X.90
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INTERNATIONAL CARRIAGE OF GOODS BY ROAD

Community quota

The Council held a further debate on a proposal for amending Regulation No 3164/76 concerning access to the market in the international carriage of goods by road.

The aim of the proposal is, inter alia, to increase the Community quota by 40% per annum for 1990, 1991 and 1992, with the increase being allocated among the Member States on a linear basis. It should be noted that the Council partly followed up the proposal by adopting the Community quota for 1990 on 25 April 1990.

Measures to be taken in the event of a crisis

The Council conducted a policy debate on the proposal for a Regulation on the introduction of the definitive arrangements for the organization of the market in the carriage of goods by road (measures to be taken in the event of a crisis).

The proposal provides that if the Commission, assisted by an advisory committee, establishes that there is a serious disturbance on the Community market or on part thereof, it may, by decision, take appropriate measures.

The Council will resume examination of these two issues at its next meeting, in the light of the Opinion of the European Parliament.

30.X.90

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ALIGNMENT OF THE AETR ON COMMUNITY LAW

The Council authorized the Commission to conduct the negotiations for the revision of the AETR in consultation with the Member States, and adopted the relevant negotiating directives.

It will be recalled that the European Agreement concerning the Work of Crews in Vehicles engaged in International Road Transport (AETR) was concluded in 1970 under the aegis of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE/Geneva) and ratified by 19 European countries, including the Community Member States.

Current Community legislation on social matters in the road transport field was essentially implemented by Regulations Nos 3820/85 and 3821/85.

As those two Regulations entered into force on 29 September 1986, two significantly different systems (that of the Community and that of the AETR) have since co-existed as regards social matters in international transport in Europe. Such a situation has serious disadvantages both for transport undertakings and the public authorities responsible for monitoring compliance with those provisions.

30.X.90

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AIR CARGO

The Council held a brief discussion on the proposal for a Regulation on the operation of air cargo services.

The proposal concerns scheduled and non-scheduled air cargo services and is designed to liberalize market access and cargo rates.

The Council will resume examination of the proposal at its next meeting, in December, in the light of the Opinion of the European Parliament.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Other Decision in the transport field

The Council adopted the Decision extending for two years the collection of information on the activities and situation of carriers participating in cargo liner traffic between the Community and East Africa.

German unification - transitional measures

The Council adopted its common position on the temporary derogations from the introduction of Community legislation in the former German Democratic Republic (except for proposals relating to agriculture, which are being discussed by the Agriculture Council).

The Council has forwarded its common position to the European Parliament so that the latter can, in accordance with the timetable adopted by the Presidents of the three Institutions on 6 September 1990, carry out its second reading of the texts at its November part-session.

According to the programme adopted, the Council will have to adopt a final position on all the proposals at its meeting on 4 December next.