

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

PRESS RELEASES

PRESIDENCY: ITALY

JULY-DECEMBER 1990

Meetings and press releases July-September 1990

Meeting number	Subject	Date
1420 th	General Affairs	16-17 July 1990
1421 st	Economics/Finance	23 July 1990
1422 nd	Agriculture	24 July 1990
Special meeting	General Affairs	12 September 1990
1423 rd	Budgets	27 July 1990
1424 th	General Affairs	17 September 1990
1425 th	Internal Market	17 September 1990
1426 th	Agriculture	24-25 September 1990

PRESS RELEASE

7536/90 (Presse 116)

1420th Council meeting

- General Affairs -

Brussels, 16 and 17 July 1990

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

Mr Renato RUGGIERO
Minister for Foreign Trade
of the Italian Republic

16/17.VII.1990

col/MG/dot

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
Mrs A.M. LIZIN	State Secretary for Europe 1992, attached to the Minister for Foreign Trade

Denmark:

Mr Jørgen ØRSTRØM MØLLER	State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
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Germany:

Mrs Irmgard ADAM-SCHWAETZER	Minister of State, Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mr Otto SCHLECHT	State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs

Greece:

Mr Efthymios CHRISTODOULOU	Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs
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Spain:

Mr Francisco FERNANDEZ ORDÓÑEZ	Minister for Foreign Affairs
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
Mr Jean-Marie RAUSCH	Minister for Foreign Trade

Ireland:

Mr Gerard COLLINS	Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Desmond O'MALLEY	Minister for Industry and Commerce
Mr Sean CALLEARY	Minister of State at the Department of Foreign Affairs with special responsibility for Overseas Aid

Italy:

Mr Gianni DE MICHELIS	Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Renato RUGGIERO	Minister for Foreign Trade
Mr Claudio VITALONE	State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

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 BUKMAN	Minister for Foreign Trade
Mr Piet DANKERT	State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

16/17.VII.1990
col/MG/dot

Portugal:

Mr João de DEUS PINHEIRO	Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Vitor MARTINS	State Secretary for European Integration
Mr Antonio NETO DA SILVA	State Secretary for Foreign Trade

United Kingdom:

Mr Douglas HURD	Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs
Mr Francis MAUDE	Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Commission:

Mr Jacques DELORS	President
Mr Frans H.J.J. ANDRIESEN	Vice-President
Mr Ray MACSHARRY	Member
Mr Abel MATUTES	Member

FOLLOW-UP TO EUROPEAN COUNCIL ON 25 AND 26 JUNE 1990

Political union

The Council took note of information from the Presidency on the timetable for preparations for the Intergovernmental Conference on Political Union further to the conclusions of the Dublin European Council. Preparations will take place in two stages, the first lasting until the special European Council in October and the second until the opening of the Conference on 14 December 1990.

During the first stage the Ministers for Foreign Affairs will devote two meetings to preparing for the Conference: the informal Asola Council on 6 and 7 October and the Council on 22 and 23 October. Preparatory work for these meetings will be done by a working party of personal representatives of the Ministers and of the President of the Commission. The working party will meet once a week.

The preparatory work will be based on the following four points defined in the report by the Foreign Affairs Ministers to the Dublin European Council, with particular attention being paid to points 1 and 4:

- (1) The overall objective of political union, including scope, institutional aspects and general principles.
- (2) Democratic legitimacy.
- (3) Efficiency and effectiveness of the Community and its Institutions.
- (4) Unity and coherence of the Community's international action.

An interinstitutional meeting with the European Parliament is planned alongside the General Affairs Council on 22 and 23 October in accordance with the same procedures as the meeting on 17 May 1990.

In response to a formal proposal for amendment of the Treaty from the Italian delegation, the Council decided to consult the European Parliament and the Commission in accordance with Article 236 of the EEC Treaty.

Economic and monetary union

The Council noted that preparations for the Intergovernmental Conference on Economic and Monetary Union were nearly complete.

The ECOFIN Council was asked to complete the preparations at its meetings in July, September and October, also taking into account the United Kingdom contribution.

The General Affairs Council will discuss economic and monetary union, and in particular its institutional aspects, on 22 October in connection with the discussion on political union. Preparation for the discussion on institutional aspects will also be carried out by the working party of personal representatives.

The Presidency will report to the special European Council meeting in October which will decide on how the conference is to be organized.

An interinstitutional meeting with the European Parliament is planned alongside the ECOFIN Council on 8 October.

16/17.VII.1990

col/MG/mc

Community policy on co-operation and development

Further to the conclusions of the European Council on solidarity and co-operation with the developing countries, all the delegations were in agreement that the important role played by the Community with its increasing responsibilities towards the third world and the Mediterranean countries ran parallel to its commitment to the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the developing countries therefore had no need to fear that the Community would be giving them less of its attention.

The Commission said that on the basis of the various contributions, including the Italian memorandum, it would submit a communication on the Community approach to the matter at a forthcoming meeting during the Italian Presidency.

Social dimension

Following on from the conclusions of the European Council on the social dimension of Community activities, all the delegations stressed the importance of this aspect with a view to completion of the single market and economic and monetary union.

The Council noted that the Italian delegation had just submitted a memorandum on the social action programme and asked the Ministers for Labour and for Social Affairs to study it.

16/17.VII.1990

col/MG/mc

The Council also noted with satisfaction that the Commission's work on preparing specific proposals had speeded up and stressed the desirability of making rapid progress in this area.

Finally, it welcomed the Commission's efforts to foster social dialogue, making full use of Article 118b of the EEC Treaty, and to go right to the spirit of the Treaty provisions in order to promote the necessary decisions in this area.

URUGUAY ROUND - THE COUNCIL'S CONCLUSIONS

The Council held a detailed discussion of the progress of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations on the eve of the meeting of the Trade Negotiations Committee on 23 July.

The Council took note of the comments by the various delegations relating to the individual concerns which they wished the Commission to take into account in the course of the negotiations.

The Council referred in particular to its conclusions of March and June 1990 and asked the Commission to defend the Community line energetically at the TNC meeting.

The Council asked the Commission to do everything possible to ensure that the TNC held constructive discussions leading to fruitful negotiations and the progressive convergence of positions in the final months of the Uruguay Round, thus preparing for a positive conclusion to the negotiations as a whole.

16/17.VII.1990

col/MG/bt

RELATIONS WITH THE COUNTRIES OF CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE - THE COUNCIL'S
CONCLUSIONS

1. The Council underlined its hope for rapid progress of the movement for reform in Romania based on dialogue, democracy and peaceful change.

The Council attached particular importance in this regard to the parliamentary enquiry after the events of June. The Council supported the efforts of the Presidency to continue the dialogue with the Government and the political parties in Romania in order to follow developments closely.

The Council will come back to this question at its meeting in September.

2. With regard to the Commission's proposals to extend the PHARE programme to other countries, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to expedite its examination of the draft Regulation extending economic aid. The Greek delegation maintained a reservation on the inclusion of Yugoslavia.

The Council also instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue studying the draft Regulation on the elimination of quantitative restrictions in preparation for its approval at the September Council meeting at the latest.

3. The Council noted that the Commission would be submitting a discussion paper on future association agreements with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe in time for discussion at the September meeting. Following that discussion, the Commission would be in a position to submit directives for the formal opening of negotiations with some of these countries.

16/17.VII.1990

col/MG/bt

4. As regards the USSR, the Council noted that the Commission would be submitting for the October Council meeting the report it had been instructed to prepare by the Dublin European Council relating to proposals on short-term credits and longer-term support for structural reforms.
5. At the Council's request, the Commission will also be submitting an overview of the likely financial consequences of the Community's policy with regard to the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and of the Community's other external policies.
6. The Ministers agreed that the Troika of Political Directors would go to Tirana at the beginning of September to see how the situation had developed.

WESTERN ECONOMIC SUMMIT IN HOUSTON

The Council took note of a statement by President DELORS commenting on the outcome of the recent Western economic summit in Houston.

REDIRECTING THE COMMUNITY'S MEDITERRANEAN POLICY

The Council asked the Permanent Representatives Committee to study the Italian proposal for a financial institution for the Mediterranean countries in the context of the current discussion of the Commission communication on redirecting the Community's Mediterranean policy.

16/17.VII.1990

col/MG/bt

RELATIONS WITH MALTA

In preparation for the sixth meeting of the Malta Association Council - held on the evening of 16 July 1990 - the Council adopted the Community position for the meeting.

SECOND UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE LEAST-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

In preparation for the second United Nations Conference on the least-developed countries (Paris, 3 to 14 September 1990), the Council approved guidelines for the participation of the Community and its Member States in the Conference.

The Council stressed the great importance it attaches to the Conference, which will offer a valuable opportunity to achieve a consensus on an action programme for the next decade, accompanied by a series of specific, realistic and practical measures for improving the well-being of the peoples of the least-developed countries, taking into account the special difficulties which these countries have encountered in the 80s.

RELATIONS WITH CHILE

The Council approved the negotiating directives for the Commission to conclude an economic and trade co-operation agreement with Chile.

The Council also agreed to continue looking at Chile's request for access to EIB credits.

16/17.VII.1990

col/MG/bt

RELATIONS WITH COLOMBIA

The Council heard a statement from Commissioner MATUTES in which he presented the Commission communication to the Council on the Community response to Colombia's special economic co-operation plan, including measures to help Peru and Bolivia which are also facing a serious drugs problem.

The Council confirmed the Community's political will to give its full support to Colombia, Peru and Bolivia.

It instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to discuss the Commission communication and report back as soon as possible, in view of the urgency of the matter.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S ISSUES

The Council noted that the Italian delegation had just forwarded a note relating to young people's issues and stated that it intended to hold a youth forum in Rome in the Autumn during the Italian Presidency.

The Council also noted that the Commission would shortly be submitting a proposal for a second stage of "Youth for Europe" and that the Presidency intended to continue giving priority to young people's issues.

16/17.VII.1990

col/MG/mc

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

German unification - transitional measures

To supplement the Regulations adopted on 28 June 1990 with the aim of establishing a de facto customs union for industrial products between the Community and the GDR during the period preceding German unification, the Council adopted a Regulation on transitional measures concerning trade with the GDR in the agriculture and fisheries sector for the same purpose.

The Regulation establishes the principle that the Commission can decide, in accordance with the Management Committee procedure, to suspend the collection of levies and the application of other charges, quantitative restrictions and measures having equivalent effect under the common arrangements for the products and goods concerned where it notes that the GDR, without prejudice to its obligations towards third countries:

- has established mechanisms similar to the common agricultural or fisheries policies or to the common trading system, and
- has taken or is preparing to take measures guaranteeing free access for Community goods,

taking into account the effect of the mechanisms in question on the production and marketing of the agricultural products concerned.

16/17.VII.1990

col/MG/mc

There is provision for exceptions to this arrangement: firstly in order to avoid disturbances to the common agricultural policy and secondly so that free access for Community products does not lead to serious difficulties in a sector of the GDR's economy.

Common agricultural policy

The Council adopted:

- the Regulation laying down, in respect of hops, the amount of aid to producers for the 1989 harvest.

The aid amounts to:

- . ECU 340/ha for aromatic varieties
- . ECU 390/ha for bitter varieties
- . ECU 400/ha for other varieties.

- the Decisions:

= on the conclusion of an Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Economic Community and the Republic of India on the guaranteed prices for cane sugar for the 1988/1989 delivery period.

These prices correspond to the appropriate prices applied to Community producers.

= amending Decision 85/360/EEC on the restructuring of the system of agricultural surveys in Greece.

The amendment extends by three years (until 1993) the period for the completion of the programme for restructuring the system of agricultural surveys in Greece and increases the rate of the Community contribution.

16/17.VII.1990

col/MG/mc

The Council also adopted negotiating directives for the Commission with a view to concluding an agreement with Austria on adapting the arrangements applied to imports into the Community of bovine meat and livestock from Austria.

Signing of the second EEC/Greenland Fisheries Protocol

The Council adopted a Regulation on the conclusion of the second Protocol laying down the conditions relating to fishing provided for in the Agreement on fisheries between the European Economic Community, on the one hand and Denmark and Greenland, on the other hand, covering the period from 1 January 1990 to 31 December 1994.

The Protocol was then signed.

It should be noted that when Greenland changed its status in 1985 a fisheries Agreement was concluded for an initial period of ten years (1985-1995), together with a first fisheries Protocol applicable until the end of 1989.

Under the new Protocol, the Community has obtained more profitable fishing possibilities by exchanging unused quotas (11 000 tonnes of redfish) for real increases, particularly in cod (7 500 tonnes) and capelin (30 000 tonnes).

With regard to shrimps, the Protocol provides for the Community quota to be transferred from the Western to the Eastern stock. The transfer will take place gradually over three years. Greenland has agreed to offset the transfer by an additional 125 tonnes of shrimps in 1992 and 175 tonnes in 1993 and 1994.

16/17.VII.1990

col/MG/mc

Financial compensation has been set at ECU 34,25 million per year as compared with ECU 26,5 million under the first Protocol.

Customs union

The Council adopted an amendment to Regulation No 3905/89 to include in the tariff quota for sour cherries marinated in alcohol and intended for the manufacture of chocolate products non-stoned varieties and those with a sugar content greater than 12%.

Anti-dumping

The Council adopted the Regulation imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of ferroboron originating in Japan and definitively collecting the provisional anti-dumping duty on such imports.

Pursuant to the Regulation, a definitive anti-dumping duty of 23,3% of the net free-at-Community frontier price before duty is imposed on imports of ferroboron corresponding to CN code ex 7202 99 90 originating in Japan, with the exception of such ferroboron manufactured and sold for export by Yahagi Iron Co. Ltd., Nagoya, for which the rate of duty is 11,4%.

Relations with the EFTA countries

The Council adopted Regulations on application of Decisions Nos 3/90 of the EEC-EFTA Joint Committees amending Protocol No 3 concerning the definition of "originating products" and methods of administrative co-operation.

16/17.VII.1990

col/MG/mc

Coal research programme

The Council gave its assent, as requested by the Commission, under Article 55(2)(c) of the ECSC Treaty to the implementation and execution of a coal research programme (1990 financial year).

Iron and steel: external aspects 1990

Having noted that all delegations were in agreement with the arrangements which the Commission had just negotiated with Poland, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, Czechoslovakia and Brazil (pig iron and products other than pig iron), the Council gave its assent under Article 95 of the ECSC Treaty, as requested by the Commission, to the Decision prohibiting the matching of Community prices with those granted to third countries.

Appointments

The Council:

- appointed full and alternate members of the Advisory Committee on the Training of Midwives;
- replaced a full member and an alternate member of the Advisory Committee on Pharmaceutical Training.

Appointment at the General Secretariat of the Council

The Council appointed Mr Amilcar Augusto THEIAS as an established official of the European Communities, Deputy Director-General (grade A/1 ad personam), with effect from 1 June 1990.

PRESS RELEASE

7844/90 (Presse 120)

1421st Council meeting

- Economic and Financial Affairs -

Brussels, 23 July 1990

President: Mr Guido CARLI

Minister for the Treasury
of the Italian Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr Philippe MAYSTADT Minister for Finance

Denmark:

Mr Niels HELVEG PETERSEN Minister for Economic Affairs

Germany:

Mr Theo WAIGEL Federal Minister for Finance

Mr Otto SCHLECHT State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs

Greece:

Mr Ioannis PALAIOKRASSAS Minister for Finance

Mr Eythymios CHRISTODOULOU Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs

Spain:

Mr Carlos SOLCHAGA CATALAN Minister for Economic Affairs and Finance

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 Emilio RUBBI	State Secretary for the Treasury
Mr Stefano DE LUCA	State Secretary for Finance

Luxembourg:

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

Netherlands:

Mr P.C. NIEMAN	Ambassador, Permanent Representative
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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 John MAJOR	Chancellor of the Exchequer
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Commission:

Mr Jacques DELORS	President
Mr Henning CHRISOPHERSEN	Vice-President
Mrs Christiane SCRIVENER	Member

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also present:

Mr Mario SARCINELLI	Chairman of the Monetary Committee
Mr Bernhard MOLITOR	Chairman of the Economic Policy Committee

ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION

The Monetary Committee's global report on Economic and Monetary Union was referred to the Council, which heard a statement by the Committee's Chairman, Mr SARCINELLI, outlining the report's main features.

On this basis, the Council held a wide-ranging discussion on the various aspects of the subject along the lines of the conclusions of the Dublin European Council on 25 and 26 June.

The discussions ended with the Council instructing the Monetary Committee to examine the new United Kingdom idea of the introduction of a hard ecu and the Economic Policy Committee to establish the essential basis for ensuring parallelism between Economic Union and Monetary Union. The Council called on both Committees to report back to it by its informal meeting in Rome on 8 September.

The Council agreed to continue its discussions in this area at that meeting with a view to concluding its preparatory work on the intergovernmental conference on EMU, scheduled to begin in Rome on 13 December, with a high degree of convergence.

GERMAN UNIFICATION

The Council heard a communication from Mr WAIGEL informing it of the outcome of the recent meeting between Chancellor KOHL and President GORBACHEV, outlining the fundamental conditions and background against which economic, monetary and social union between the two Germanys had been taking place since 1 July and analysing the economic and financial prospects which were emerging from this both internally and externally.

ABOLITION OF FISCAL FRONTIERS

Transitional VAT arrangements

The Council held a policy discussion on the new Commission proposals on transitional VAT arrangements and administrative co-operation in fiscal matters.

The discussion confirmed the great store which the delegations set by commencing forthwith a detailed examination of the details of these transitional arrangements. The Council accordingly gave instructions for discussions on this matter to be expedited with the focus on

- the formalities to be completed by undertakings and checking arrangements, and
- co-operation between Member States' tax authorities.

Experts will also, in the course of the next few days, commence examination of the new definition of the chargeable event in respect of VAT on intra-Community transactions, i.e. replacement of the word "importation" by the word "purchase".

Approximation of excise duty rates

Following a statement by Mrs SCRIVENER, Member of the Commission, emphasizing the urgent need for decisions in this area, the Council directed the competent Council Working Parties to

- continue examining the new Commission proposals on excise duty rates and

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23.VII.90

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- commence examination as soon as possible of the new proposals on excise duty structures and movement rules for products subject to excise duty which the Commission is planning to submit by the end of September.

Travellers' allowances

Following a further appeal from Mrs SCRIVENER for progress to be achieved on this matter, the Council noted that the Presidency would remain in close contact with the Commission in the search for a solution.

DIRECT TAXATION OF UNDERTAKINGS OF DIFFERENT MEMBER STATES

Further to the political agreement reached at its meeting on 11 June, the Council formally adopted two Directives regarding fiscal measures to encourage co-operation between undertakings of different Member States, viz:

- the Directive on the common system of taxation applicable to mergers, divisions, transfers of assets and exchanges of shares concerning companies of different Member States
- the Directive on the common system of taxation arrangements applicable in the case of parent companies and subsidiaries of different Member States.

At the same time, the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States decided to proceed with the signing of the Convention on the elimination of double taxation in connection with the adjustment of profits of associated enterprises and the Final Act thereof.

This Convention was signed by the Ministers in the margin of the Council meeting.

See Press Release on the ECOFIN Council meeting on 11 June 1990 - 7003/90
Presse 89 - for the content of these two Directives and of the Convention.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Anti-dumping

The Council adopted the Regulation imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of certain types of electronic micro-circuits known as DRAMS (Dynamic Random Access Memories) originating in Japan and definitively collecting the provisional duty. This duty is set at 60% of the net free-at-Community frontier price before duty.

Companies which have offered undertakings accepted by the Commission under Article 2 of Regulation No 165/90 will not, however, be charged duty on products exported to the Community. These companies include, in particular: Fujitsu Limited, Hitachi Ltd., Matsushita Electronics Corporation, Mitsubishi Electric Corporation, NEC Corporation, NMB Semiconductor Co. Ltd., Oki Electric Industry Co. Ltd., Sanyo Electric Co. Ltd., Sharp Corporation, Texas Instruments (Japan) Ltd; and Toshiba Corporation, together with these companies' subsidiaries.

The Council also adopted Regulations extending the provisional anti-dumping duty for a period of not more than two months on imports of

- tungstic oxide and tungstic acid
 - tungsten carbide and fused tungsten carbide
 - tungsten ores and concentrates
- originating in the People's Republic of China.

Customs Union

The Council adopted the Regulations opening and providing for the administration of autonomous Community tariff quotas for

- 3 150 tonnes of certain vanadium oxides and hydroxides
- 60 500 parts of certain colour cathode-ray tubes
- 20 tonnes of 2,2-methylene-bis
- 10 tonnes of terfenadin.

EEC-Malta relations

The Council adopted Community implementing Regulations on two Decisions adopted in the field of "originating products" by the EEC-Malta Association Council.

GATT

The Council authorized the Commission to open tariff negotiations under Article XXVIII of the GATT with a view to suspension of the concessions granted in respect of processed sisal products.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

7845/90 (Presse 121)

1422nd Council meeting
- Agriculture -
Brussels, 24 July 1990

President:

Mr Calogero MANNINO

Minister for Agriculture
of the Italian Republic

24.VII.1990

che/MG/jp

Italy:

Mr Calogero MANNINO

Minister for Agriculture

Mr Francesco CIMINO

State Secretary for Agriculture and Forestry

Luxembourg:

Mr René STEICHEN

Minister for Agriculture and Viticulture

Netherlands:

Mr Gerrit BRAKS

Minister for Agriculture

Portugal:

Mr Arlindo CUNHA

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

United Kingdom:

Mr John Selwyn GUMMER

Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Mr David CURRY

Parliamentary Secretary, Agriculture

Commission:

Mr R. MAC SHARRY

Member

24.VII.90

che/LA/cb

GATT/MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS (AGRICULTURE)

The Council held a detailed discussion on the agricultural aspects of the Uruguay Round negotiations, on the basis of oral reports from the Presidency and the Commission. The Council unanimously confirmed the position defined by the Community in December 1989 and gave the Commission its full support in its conduct of negotiations on these bases.

The Council re-affirmed the Community's wish to play a constructive role in the negotiations with a view to arriving at a balanced and gradual reduction of support measures in agriculture. It accordingly shared the Commission's assessment of the outcome of the Houston meeting, at which it was recognized in particular that an overall approach must be followed in the negotiations and which represents a positive factor for the continuation of discussions.

The Council agreed to follow the development of the GATT negotiations very carefully in view of their importance for the future of European agriculture and therefore decided to keep this item on the agenda for its forthcoming meetings.

24.VII.90

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MONITORING OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE IN CONNECTION WITH THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL
POLICY

At the request of the Netherlands delegation, the Council held an overall discussion on the monitoring of income and expenditure in connection with the Common Agricultural Policy.

During the discussion, the Netherlands delegation repeated its suggestions, regarding in particular the simplification of legislation and better monitoring.

Several delegations supported the Netherlands delegation's initiative.

The Council, which already has several proposals on monitoring before it, noted with interest and satisfaction the Commission's replies to the effect that Commission experts were working to simplify the legislation and that the results of their work would be reflected in the proposals submitted to the Council or the Management Committees.

Concluding, the Council emphasized that the aim of monitoring in the Member States should be to achieve uniform results throughout the Community in the fight against fraud.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Use of agricultural products in the non-food sector

The Council formally adopted the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 797/85 on improving the efficiency of agricultural structures. The aim of the amendment is to adjust the present aid arrangements designed to encourage the set-aside of arable land by providing for specific aid for the use of arable land for non-food purposes.

Final adoption followed the favourable reaction to a compromise solution which emerged from the meeting of the Agriculture Council on 25 and 26 June (see Press Release 7261/90 Presse 101).

The Council also formally adopted the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 1581/86 laying down general rules for intervention on the market in cereals and Regulations (EEC) Nos 724/67 and 2754/78 on intervention in the oils and fats sector.

The aim is to enable the Commission to mobilize part of the intervention stocks for demonstration projects which encourage non-food use of agricultural products.

24.VII.90

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Dried grapes

The Council formally adopted the Regulations

- amending Regulation (EEC) No 426/86 on the common organization of the markets in products processed from fruit and vegetables
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 1206/90 laying down general rules for the system of production aid for processed fruit and vegetables.

The amendments involve the gradual replacement of the present production aid arrangements for dried grapes with a new system of aid per hectare of specialized crop area.

Formal adoption followed the agreement reached at the Council meeting on 25 and 26 June.

Other Decisions concerning the CAP

The Council formally adopted the Regulations

- opening and providing for the administration of the Community tariff quota for the period 1 July 1990 to 30 June 1991, at 4% duty, for
 - = 42 600 head of heifers and cows, other than those intended for slaughter, of certain mountain breeds falling within subheadings ex 01.02 90 10, 01.02 90 31 and 01.02 90 33 of the combined nomenclature
 - = 5 000 head of bulls, cows and heifers, other than those intended for slaughter, of certain Alpine breeds falling within subheadings ex 01.02 90 10, 01.02 90 31, 01.02 90 33 and 01.02 90 35 of the combined nomenclature

24.VII.90

che/MG/pm

- amending Regulations Nos 1676/85 and 1677/85 in regard to the conversion rates and MCAs to be applied for the purposes of the CAP.

The purpose of this amendment is to adopt the ecu as the reference basis for calculating the market rates for floating currencies.

- amending Regulation (EEC) No 1569/72 laying down special measures for colza and rape seed and Regulation (EEC) No 2036/82 adopting general rules concerning special measures for peas, field beans and sweet lupins.

The aim is to simplify the rules for calculating market rates for floating currencies in sectors in which differential amounts obtain for aid and refunds.

- amending Regulation (EEC) No 1352/90 fixing rice prices for the 1990/1991 marketing year.

The purpose of this Regulation is to align rice prices in Spain on the level applicable in the Community of Ten.

- laying down additional general rules on the common organization of the market in milk and milk products as regards cheese.

The purpose of this Regulation is to regulate on an overall basis the use of caseine and caseinates benefiting from Community aid in the manufacture of the milk products seen as most vulnerable to speculative use, i.e. cheeses.

24.VII.90

che/MG/pm

- amending Regulation (EEC) No 3677/89 with regard to the total alcoholic strength by volume of certain quality wines imported from Hungary.

The purpose of this amendment is to put back by one year, until 31 August 1991, the deadline for the derogation granted in respect of certain high quality wines originating in Hungary, with regard to their total alcoholic strength, which is in excess of the maximum 15% by volume normally permitted under Community regulations.

- amending for the third time Regulation (EEC) No 2390/89 laying down general rules for the import of wines, grape juice and grape must.

The aim is to extend by one year, until 31 July 1991 the derogations introducing a degree of flexibility as regards the certificates of origin and analysis reports to be provided by third countries, subject to the provision by the latter of specific guarantees acceptable to the Community.

- amending for the fourth time Regulation (EEC) No 1873/84 authorizing the offer or disposal for direct consumption of certain imported wines which may have undergone oenological processes not provided for in Regulation (EEC) No 822/87.

The purpose of this amendment is to extend by one year, until 31 July 1991, the derogation granted for wines originating in the United States with regard to the application of certain oenological practices which are permitted in that country but not in the Community.

24.VII.90

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Fisheries

The Council formally adopted the Regulations on

- the conclusion of the Protocol establishing for the period from 1 January 1990 to 31 December 1991 the fishing rights and the financial compensation provided for in the fisheries agreement between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Guinea.

Under this Protocol, Community vessels are granted fishing rights involving the maintenance of 12 000 grt. for freezer trawlers and 40 licences for seiners and increasing the number of licences for surface long-liners and pole-and-line vessels from 31 to 35. Total financial compensation is set at ECU 7 500 000 for a two-year period.

The Protocol has been applicable since 1 January 1990.

- the conclusion of the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Cape Verde on fishing off Cape Verde.

This Agreement provides for the following fishing rights to be granted to Community vessels:

= highly migratory species:

21 licences for freezer tuna vessels
24 licences for pole-and-line vessels and surface long-liners

= demersal species:

2 licences for sea-bed long-liners

= other species:

2 licences for experimental cephalopod fishing.

Total financial compensation is set at ECU 2 610 000 for a three-year period.

24.VII.90
che/MG/mmk

Transport

The Council adopted

- the Directive amending Directive 84/647/EEC on the use of vehicles hired without drivers for the carriage of goods by road.

This amendment is designed to abolish the derogations provided for in Directive 84/647/EEC and thus help to liberalize and develop the hiring business in the Community (see Press Release 7170/90 Presse 97).

- in the field of air transport, the Regulations on
 - = fares for scheduled air services. This Regulation will replace Directive 87/601/EEC and sets out essentially to make the airfare system for intra-Community routes more flexible. The Regulation will enter into force on 1 November 1990.
 - = access for air carriers to scheduled intra-Community air service routes and the sharing of passenger capacity between air carriers on scheduled air services between Member States. This Regulation replaces Decision 87/602/EEC and its main purpose is to permit greater market access, which will stimulate the development of the air transport sector in the Community and mean better services for users. This Regulation will also enter into force on 1 November 1990.

24.VII.90

che/MG/mmk

= amending Regulation No 3976/87 of 14 December 1987 on the application of Article 85(3) of the Treaty to certain categories of agreements and concerted practices in the field of air transport. The purpose of this amendment is basically to extend until 31 December 1992 group exemptions granted for a limited period.

(See Press Release 7170/90 Presse 97).

Veterinary medicinal products

The Council adopted the correction concerning the common position on a Directive amending Directive 81/851/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to veterinary medicinal products.

The correction concerns the period of validity of medicinal product authorizations and residue tolerances.

Telecommunications terminal equipment

The Council adopted the common position on a Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to telecommunications terminal equipment, including the mutual recognition of their conformity.

This Directive, which will eliminate barriers to the free movement of equipment, will bring about a single market for terminals while ensuring the integrity of public networks.

24.VII.90

che/MG/mmk

The Directive makes provision for the public authorities to monitor the intended purpose of terminals as stated by the manufacturer or supplier.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

8110/90 (Presse 127)

Special meeting of the Council

- General Affairs -

Brussels, 12 September 1990

President : Mr Claudio VITALONE,
State Secretary for
Foreign Affairs
of the Italian Republic

12.IX.1990
erd/MI/coc

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

Belgium:

Mr Paul DE KEERSMAEKER State Secretary for European Affairs

Denmark:

Mr Jørgen ØRSTRØM MØLLER State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Germany:

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

Greece:

Mr Constantinos LYBEROPOULOS Ambassador, Permanent Representative

Spain:

Mr Carlos WESTENDORP Y CABEZA Ambassador, Permanent Representative

France:

Mr Jean VIDAL Ambassador, Permanent Representative

Ireland:

Mr Sean CALLEARY Minister of State at the Department of
Foreign Affairs, with special responsibility
for Overseas Aid

Italy:

Mr Claudio VITALONE State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Luxembourg:
Mr Jacques F. POOS

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Netherlands:
Mr P.C. NIEMAN

Ambassador, Permanent Representative

Portugal:
Mr Vitor MARTINS

State Secretary for European Integration

United Kingdom:
Mr T. GAREL-JONES

Minister of State at the Foreign Office

Commission:
Mr Martin BANGEMANN

Vice-President

12. IX. 1990
erd/MI/coc

GERMAN UNIFICATION - INTERIM MEASURES

On 21 August 1990, the Council received a communication from the Commission containing all the proposals for interim and transitional measures to ensure the gradual integration of the territory of the German Democratic Republic into the Community. Pending the time when it is able to act on the transitional measures, the Council at its present meeting examined the two proposals - for a Directive and a Regulation - on the interim measures necessary after the unification of Germany on 3 October 1990.

The Council had received European Parliament's Opinion on this following the latter's first reading of the Commission proposals on 11 September 1990.

After its discussion, the Council agreed with the substance of the European Parliament's proposed amendments and adopted its common position on both these texts for immediate forwarding to the European Parliament under the co-operation procedure. The Parliament will hold its second reading on Thursday 13 September 1990 with a view to formal adoption by the Council at its meeting on 17 September 1990.

When the common position was adopted, the Member States said again that they welcomed the now imminent unification of Germany and expressed their appreciation for the speed with which the Commission and the European Parliament and Council bodies had made arrangements for the introduction of interim measures as soon as German unification was achieved on 3 October 1990.

Those interim arrangements take account of the fact that from the time of German unification Community law will apply in full to the territory of the former GDR but that, owing to the nearness of the deadline, the Council will not be

12. IX. 1990

erd/MI/coc

able to adopt before that date the transitional measures proposed by the Commission.

The interim arrangements will accordingly enable the Commission to authorize the Federal Republic of Germany to maintain provisionally in force legislation applicable in the territory of the former GDR which does not comply with Community acts. Such legislation maintained in force must not go beyond the limits of the Commission proposals for transitional measures.

This authorization will remain in force until the date on which the Council takes a final decision on the Commission proposals or, where appropriate, until the date on which the transitional measure in question enters into force and no later than 31 December 1990.

The FRG will notify the Commission without delay of any use made of this authorization. The Commission will in turn notify the European Parliament, the Council and the Economic and Social Committee without delay.

The Commission and the FRG will consult each other on the measures to be taken to ensure that no difficulties arise from the fact that legislation maintained in force under the Directive or the Regulation does not comply with Community law. The Commission will forthwith inform the Council and the European Parliament of the outcome of such consultations. Moreover, any Member State may refer any difficulties to the Commission. The Commission will, as a matter of urgency, examine the question and submit its conclusions, possibly accompanied by appropriate measures. Community decisions to be taken on this basis will be adopted by the Commission using a Management Committee.

12. IX. 1990

erd/MI/coc

In addition to this procedure allowing the provisional maintaining of certain rules which do not comply with Community law, the Regulation lays down that a decision may be taken, also using the Management Committee procedure and within the same period of time, i.e. no later than 31 December 1990, to supplement or adapt Community rules on commercial, agricultural and fisheries policy to the minimum extent necessary to bring them into line with the provisional maintaining of former GDR legislation.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

1423rd meeting of the Council

- Budgets -

Brussels, 27 July 1990

President: Mr. Emilio Rubbi
State Secretary of the Treasury, Italy

The official press release was unavailable. A summary of the meeting has been reproduced from the Bulletin of the European Communities, No. 7/8-1990.

1 423rd meeting

1.8.10. Budget (Brussels, 27 July).

- Previous meeting: Bull. EC 11-1989, point 2.7.16

President: Mr Rubbi, Italian State Secretary of the Treasury.

Commission: Mr Schmidhuber.

Main item

Budget procedure: draft budget for 1991 (→ point 1.6.1).

*

Financial year 1991: Council's first reading

1.6.1. Draft budget for 1991.

- Preliminary draft budget: Bull. EC 6-1990, point 1.6.1
- Reference: General budget of the European Communities for the financial year 1990: OJ L 24, 29.1.1990; Bull. EC 12-1989, point 2.5.1

Adopted by the Council (Budgets) on 27 July. The Council granted all the appropriations requested by the Commission for aid for the economic restructuring of Central and Eastern Europe. It also approved all the appropriations proposed by the Commission for the structural Funds, stressing once again the importance it attaches to strengthening economic and social cohesion, which must be encouraged by action through those Funds. However, substantial cuts were made in areas which the Commission considers a matter of priority, in particular transport, the environment, completion of the internal market and cooperation with Latin America.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

8529/90 (Presse 133)

1424th Council meeting
- General Affairs -
Brussels, 17 September 1990

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

unw/PT/ac
17. IX. 1990

France:

Mr Roland DUMAS

Ministre d'Etat,
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Ireland:

Mr Gerard COLLINS

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Italy:

Mr Gianni DE MICHELIS

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Claudio VITALONE

State Secretary 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

17. IX. 1990
unm/PT/ac

United Kingdom:

Mr Douglas HURD

Secretary of State for Foreign and
Commonwealth Affairs

Mr Tristan GAREL-JONES

Minister of State, Foreign and
Commonwealth Office

Commission:

Mr Jacques DELORS

President

Mr Frans H.J.J. ANDRIESEN

Vice-President

Mr Abel MATUTES

Member

17. IX. 90

introduction of measures to monitor the embargo and to reinforce the sanctions against Iraq within the competent institutions.

In this perspective they renew their urgent appeal to all States to apply strictly, and make their nationals apply strictly, the Resolutions of the Security Council. To this end they agreed to make diplomatic demarches vis-a-vis those countries suspected of not respecting the embargo in order to make them join the international action decided upon by the UN and to envisage, if needed, the introduction of appropriate measures - economic and others - in conformity with the UN Security Council Resolutions against States not respecting the embargo.

In line with their decisions taken at the extraordinary ministerial meeting of 7 September in Rome, and in the spirit of Article 50 of the UN Charter, the Community and its Member States reaffirm their commitment to provide substantial short-term economic assistance to the countries most seriously affected by the strict implementation of the embargo and notably Egypt, Jordan and Turkey. The Community is determined to assist these countries in the sacrifices imposed on them by the present international crisis. The Community welcomes the substantial national contributions already announced by some Member States and notes the intention of other Member States to announce their contributions shortly. The economic assistance proposals submitted by the Commission (ECU 1,5 billion) will be examined as a matter of urgency. In this connection the Commission will provide an updated assessment of the needs of the countries concerned, the contributions already announced by other countries and international institutions, as well as the national contributions of Member States. The Council will adopt its final decision before the end of September.

At the same time the Community and its Member States commit themselves to examine - in concertation with other countries and international institutions - the possibility of economic assistance in favour of other countries also affected by the Gulf crisis.

Emergency Community aid for refugees from Iraq and Kuwait

The Council confirmed that substantial Community assistance was needed, over and above the humanitarian aid already provided by the Community, to assist the repatriation of refugees from Iraq and Kuwait.

The Council noted that the Commission had released a further ECU 15 million on 5 September 1990 and was proposing that another ECU 30 million be made available urgently through budget transfers the details of which would be settled in accordance with the appropriate procedures.

Some Member States were contributing to the common effort, notably by providing means of transport.

Negotiations with the Gulf Co-operation Council

The Council noted that the conditions now obtained for negotiations to be opened with the countries of the Gulf Co-operation Council and asked the Commission to assure that the negotiations made rapid progress.

Syria: Financial Protocol

The Council approved the directives authorizing the Commission to negotiate a third Financial Protocol with Syria.

GERMAN UNIFICATION - INTERIM MEASURES

Further to its deliberations of 12 September 1990 and to the conclusion of the co-operation procedure with the European Parliament, the Council adopted the Directive and the Regulation on interim measures applicable after the unification of Germany on 3 October 1990 in anticipation of the adoption of the transitional measures proposed by the Commission in its communication of 21 August 1990 (for details of the measures see Press Release No 8110/90 Presse 127 of 12.09.1990).

REDIRECTING MEDITERRANEAN POLICY - COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

1. The Council confirmed the need - particularly in the present situation in the region of the Mediterranean and Middle East - to expedite the current discussions on Commission proposals for stepping up the Community Mediterranean policy.

The Community and its Member States also resolved to give their support to the preparation of a regional co-operation policy aimed at making a constructive contribution to the solution of the structural problems affecting the Mediterranean and the Middle East from the point of view of that region's stability and economic and social well-being. This action, in the current circumstances, will be subject to full compliance by the countries concerned with the Security Council Resolutions adopted against the background of the Gulf crisis.

2. With this in mind, the Council held a discussion with a view to establishing, in a general context, guidelines for the points on which it appeared desirable to concentrate work in the immediate future.

3. The Council noted in a positive spirit the directives submitted by the Commission for the opening of negotiations for the renewal of the Financial Protocols with the countries of the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean. It would press on with the examination of those directives with a view to adopting them as soon as possible.
4. The Council agreed in principle on strong Community support for economic reform in these countries in concertation also with the Bretton Woods institutions.
5. The Council would give practical consideration to the principle of horizontal financial co-operation, particularly in the areas of regional co-operation, industrial co-operation and the environment. Mention was made of the importance which should be attached to the implementing procedures and arrangements for access to the benefits of such co-operation.
6. The Council noted that the Commission would be submitting a study of the desirability of establishing a financial institution for the Mediterranean countries, and would move swiftly to examine the matter.
7. The Council finally emphasized the importance of expanding trade in the region and with the Community as a factor which could help to resolve the economic and social problems.
8. The Council instructed COREPER to press on actively with examining the Commission communication, also in the light of the analyses by country which the Commission would shortly be submitting.

RELATIONS WITH THE COUNTRIES OF CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

Extension of the G-24 Action Plan

The Council adopted the Regulation extending economic aid to countries of Central and Eastern Europe other than Hungary and Poland, which until 3 October include the GDR, in order to support the process of economic and social reform under way in these countries. The Council also reached substantive agreement on the Regulation on dismantling quantitative restrictions applying to the countries of Central and Eastern Europe.

In the case of Romania, implementation of economic aid depends upon a decision to be taken by the Council; the Regulation on quantitative restrictions will enter into force on the same date as the trade and co-operation agreement with Romania.

Association Agreements

The Council:

- held a policy debate on the Commission communication concerning future Association Agreements with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe which followed on from the conclusions of the Dublin European Council in April and June 1990;
- found that reactions to the general approach and the framework sketched out by the Commission were in great measure favourable, and emphasized that the principle of differentiation must be taken into account;
- took note of a number of comments on the part of delegations as a result of which the Commission would be fully informed of Member States' positions when it embarked on the exploratory talks in which it was initially to engage

unw/PT/kr

17.IX.90

to engage with Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary; the Commission would be proposing negotiating directives specific to each of the countries involved;

- took note that the Commission would very soon present the Council with an overall account of the Community's financial commitments vis-à-vis the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and all other third countries.

Romania

The Council held a further exchange of views on the situation in Romania, after which it agreed to the signing of the Trade and Co-operation Agreement by the Community.

TRANSATLANTIC RELATIONS

The Council took note of the Presidency's account of preparations for a joint declaration on transatlantic relations.

The Council agreed to return to this matter at its informal meeting on 6 and 7 October 1990 in Asolo (Treviso).

RELATIONS WITH THE EFTA COUNTRIES

Progress of negotiations for the creation of a European Economic Area

The Council:

- took note of the Commission's oral report on the state of play in negotiations with EFTA, and noted delegations' comments

- reaffirmed the importance it attached to making rapid progress in these negotiations

- agreed to review the situation afresh at its meeting in October.

RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL

The Council formally agreed on the attitude to be adopted by the Community at the 8th meeting of the EEC-Israel Co-operation Council, which was held late that morning.

RELATIONS WITH ALGERIA

The Council also formally agreed on the attitude to be adopted by the Community at the 3rd meeting of the EEC-Algeria Co-operation Council, which was held early that evening.

APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP - CYPRUS, MALTA

The Council decided that

- further to the letters dated 3 July 1990 from the Government of the Republic of Cyprus applying for membership of the EEC, EAEC and the ECSC
- further to the letters dated 16 July 1990 from the Government of the Republic of Malta applying for membership of the EEC, the EAEC and the ECSC

it would initiate the procedures laid down in Articles 237, 205 and 98 of the respective Treaties which provide for consultation of the Commission.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

CSCE - Conference on the Mediterranean

The Council approved the text of the Community contribution for the various items on the agenda of the Conference on the Mediterranean to be held in Palma de Majorca from 24 September to 20 October 1990.

Anti-dumping

The Council adopted a Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 2089/84 imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of certain ball bearings originating in Japan and Singapore. The following rates of anti-dumping duty have been set:

Japan: Sapporo Precision Ltd: 4,5%; Nankai Seiko Co. Ltd: 7%;
Nachi-Fujikoshi Corp: 8,1%; Koyo Seiko Co. Ltd: 8,7%; Nippon Seiko KK: 9,2%;
Inoue Jikuuke Kogyo Ltd: 9,2%; NSK Micro Precision Ltd: 9,2%; Others: 10%.
No duty is being applied to imports of products manufactured and sold by
Fujino Iron Works Ltd.

Singapore: All manufacturers/exporters: 33,89%.

The Council also adopted the Regulation repealing Regulation (EEC) No 2347/87 imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on mechanical wristwatches originating in the USSR.

The Council noted in addition that the Commission was envisaging the conclusion of anti-dumping procedures on 18 September 1990, as a result of accepting the undertakings offered by the exporters concerning the following imports originating in China:

- tungsten ores and concentrates
- tungsten carbide and fused tungsten carbide
- tungstic oxide and tungstic acid.

Customs co-operation

The Council adopted the Decision concerning participation by the Community in negotiations on a Convention on the single goods declaration.

Environment

The Council adopted a common position on the text of a Council Directive on batteries and accumulators containing certain dangerous substances.

The aim of the Directive is to encourage recycling or controlled disposal of spent batteries containing dangerous substances. The Directive is also designed to promote the marketing of batteries in which the content of heavy metals and other dangerous and/or polluting substances is low (see Press Release 6175/90 Presse 81 of 7.VI.90).

Appointments

The Council appointed replacements for:

- a member of the Administrative Board of the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions
- a full member of the Advisory Committee on Vocational Training
- an alternate member of the Advisory Committee on Freedom of Movement for Workers

17.IX.90

unw/PT/kr

- three members and three alternate members of the Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work

 - two members and one alternate member of the Advisory Committee on Social Security for Migrant Workers.
-

PRESS RELEASE

8570/90 (Presse 134)

1425th Council meeting
- INTERNAL MARKET -
Brussels, 17 September 1990

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

vos/CH/ac
17. IX. 1990

Italy:

Mr Pierluigi ROMITA

Minister for Community Policies

Mr Paolo BABBINI

State Secretary for Industry,
Trade and Craft Trades

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

Commission:

Mr Martin BANGEMANN

Vice-President

Sir Leon BRITTAN

Vice-President

Mr Filippo Maria PANDOLFI

Vice-President

vos/CH/ac
17. IX. 1990

Opening the first meeting of the Internal Market Council under the Italian Presidency, the President, alluding to recent political developments took the opportunity, on the Council's behalf, to reaffirm the absolute priority that the Council had always given to the completion of the Single Market by 1 January 1993 and to recall both the progress already made, especially under the Irish Presidency, and the work remaining to be done. He was gratified by the spirit of co-operation which characterized the work of all the institutions in the pursuit of the common objective.

PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

1. Procurement procedures of entities operating in the water, energy, transport and telecommunications sectors

The Council adopted the "public procurement - excluded sectors" Directive. The purpose of this Directive is to open markets in the water, energy, transport and telecommunications sectors, which have hitherto not been covered by Community Regulations, to genuine, Community-wide competition. It will be recalled that two general Directives concerning public supply and public works contracts have recently been adopted.

The main points of this Directive are as follows:

- The Directive will apply not only to public entities but also to private entities which enjoy special or exclusive rights granted by a competent authority of a Member State to exercise their activities in the aforementioned fields.
- In the water sector, only drinking water is covered. In the energy sector, certain purchases of energy by entities which produce energy are not subject to the Directive, pending progress in the area of Community energy policy. Lastly, in the transport sector, air and sea transport are also excluded from the scope of the Directive in view of the competition already existing in these fields.
- Only contracts exceeding certain thresholds will be covered. These thresholds are:
 - = ECU 5 000 000 for works contracts;
 - = ECU 400 000 for supply contracts in general;
 - = ECU 600 000 for supply contracts awarded by entities exercising an activity in the telecommunications sector.
- The procedures laid down for awarding contracts are very flexible, and transparent and are directed towards keeping red tape to a minimum.
- Special provisions for awarding supply contracts are laid down for cases where the contracts involve products originating in third countries with which the Community has not concluded, multilateral or bilateral

vos/CH/ac
17.IX.1990

agreements ensuring comparable and effective access for Community undertakings to the markets of those third countries.

These provisions concern in particular the possibility of rejecting a tender when the proportion of the products originating in third countries exceeds 50% of the total value of the products constituting the tender. Also, other things being equal, preference will be given to Community tenders where the price difference does not exceed 3%.

The Council and the Commission reaffirmed the European Community's commitment to a general and mutual opening at international level of markets in the water, energy, telecommunications and transport sectors.

They also stressed the importance of the negotiations which are shortly to be held for that purpose within the framework of the GATT or in other fora, as well as the Community's will to make an active contribution to their success.

Lastly, it may be pointed out that in July 1990 the Commission forwarded a proposal for a Directive concerning the control procedures and remedies applicable to markets in the water, energy, transport and telecommunications sectors. The Council undertook to examine that proposal as soon as possible.

MAJOR TRANS-EUROPEAN NETWORKS ⁽¹⁾ - PRESIDENCY'S CONCLUSIONS

In accordance with the Council Resolution of 22 January 1990 the Commission submitted a progress report on trans-European networks.

Following the discussion on the report, the Presidency formulated the following conclusions:

The Commission's general analysis, made in close co-operation with the Member States in the various fields under consideration, gives a coherent picture of what would be required as a result of the establishment of the internal market.

That analysis must now be supplemented by a study of the feasibility of financial and technical implementation of the networks deemed necessary for the efficient operation of the internal market, and also by an indication of the timescale required for setting them up.

The Commission will obtain the opinions of those concerned (users, producers, etc.) regarding the analysis in order to satisfy itself that the analysis is pertinent and geared to the needs of users, taking into account the need for economic and social cohesion in the Community.

The Commission, in close co-operation with the representatives of the Member States, will carry out that additional study with a view to submitting a final report to the Council by the end of the year, taking into consideration the exchange of views held today.

(1) viz. transport (air, sea, river, road, railway), telecommunications, energy transport and training networks.

NUTRITION LABELLING

"Optional" labelling

The Council reached agreement regarding the Directive on nutrition labelling (optional) for foodstuffs intended for sale to the ultimate consumer.

This Directive ensues from the "communication on the completion of the internal market: Community legislation on foodstuffs" and is directed towards improving consumer information and preventing disparities in nutrition labelling in the various Member States from constituting obstacles to trade.

The Directive introduces specific rules - to be applied by manufacturers when using nutrition labelling - which would have the following effects in particular:

- they would provide a uniform and stable framework for national information and education programmes, while remaining in line with the "Europe against cancer programme" adopted by the Council;
- they would contribute, through general consonance with the codex alimentarius, to reducing the costs to manufacturers exporting to third countries.

Compulsory labelling

The Council held a policy debate on the problems raised by the introduction of compulsory nutrition labelling for foodstuffs intended for sale to the ultimate consumer.

After reaching agreement on the principle of introducing compulsory labelling, the Council decided, with a view to determining the most suitable form for a Community standard in the matter, to examine closely the experience gained in implementing the Directive on optional labelling.

DATA PROTECTION

The Commission submitted a communication on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data within the Community and on the security of information systems.

The aim of the communication is to harmonize national standards to protect individuals with regard to the processing of data. As the processing of personal data is becoming more widespread in various economic and social areas, not only at national level, but also at Community level, it is essential that it should not be accompanied by national differences in approach to the protection of citizens' privacy.

The Council asked the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine the Commission communication.

INSURANCE

The Commission submitted a proposal for a third Directive on the co-ordination of laws, regulations and administrative provisions relating to direct insurance other than life assurance and amending Directives 73/239/EEC and 88/357/EEC.

vos/CH/ac

17. IX. 1990

The aim of the proposal is to complete the internal market in the sector of direct insurance other than life assurance (non-life insurance). The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to commence work on the Directive at th earliest opportunity.

OTHER DECISIONS RELATING TO THE COMPLETION OF THE SINGLE MARKET

The Council adopted a Regulation and three Directives provided for the programme covered by the White Paper on completing the 1992 internal market. The following are the instruments concerned:

- Regulation relating to Community transit;

Although establishment of the internal market will have the effect of eliminating all controls and formalities relating to Community goods circulating within the Community and will thereby, as a general rule, render the internal Community transit procedure redundant, provisions covering external transit must be maintained. The Regulation meets that specific objective.

- Directive amending Directive 84/529/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to electrically operated lifts;
- Directive amending Directive 79/196/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States concerning electrical equipment for use in potentially explosive atmospheres;
- Directive amending Directive 87/404/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to simple pressure vessels.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

8572/90 (Presse 136)

1426th meeting of the Council
- Agriculture -
Brussels, 24 and 25 September 1990

President:

Mr Vito SACCOMANDI

Minister for Agriculture
of the Italian Republic

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 E. PIERHAGEN

Director-General at the Ministry of Agriculture

Portugal:

Mr Arlindo CUNHA

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

United Kingdom:

Mr John Selwyn GUMMER

Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Mr David CURRY

Parliamentary Secretary, Agriculture

o

o

o

Commission:

Mr R. MAC SHARRY

Member

MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS WITHIN GATT (AGRICULTURE)

The Council discussed the current situation in the agriculture part of the multilateral trade negotiations in Geneva. It emphasized its willingness to play a full and constructive part in the negotiations as they developed, in a spirit of Community solidarity.

Referring to its conclusions of December 1989, the Council confirmed its willingness, in line with the Punta del Este Declaration and the Mid-Term Review, to co-operate in the search for a comprehensive, reasonable and balanced solution in the matter of progressive and substantive reduction in support for agriculture, internal protection and aids to exports.

The Council stressed the need to open up firm prospects to Community farmers which would enable them to accept the consequences of this new phase in the opening up of the markets.

The Council took note of the Commission's intention to submit in the near future a proposal concerning the Community offers to be put forward in Geneva before 15 October 1990.

It agreed to continue its discussions on the basis of that proposal as soon as it received it.

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 an initial discussion on the proposal on the transitional measures and adjustments required with a view to the incorporation of agriculture in the former German Democratic Republic into the common agricultural policy.

The transitional measures are intended to take over from the interim measures to be taken by the Commission on the basis of the Regulation adopted by the Council on 17 September 1990.

The Council stressed the importance it attached to the harmonious incorporation of agriculture in the former GDR into the common agricultural policy and noted a common will to achieve that end. It identified certain horizontal and sectoral problems requiring more detailed examination, and therefore agreed to continue its discussion at its meeting on 15 and 16 October 1990.

24/25.IX.1990

FOREST PROTECTION

The Council took note of a Commission communication on participation by the Community in the Pan-European Conference on Forest Protection, to be held in Strasbourg on 18 and 19 December 1990 following a Franco-Finnish initiative.

The political objectives of the Conference are twofold:

- to emphasize the need for active protection of the forest heritage, both in the Member States of the Community and in the countries of Eastern Europe;
- to reactivate the existing international forest protection programmes, in particular those decided on in the framework of the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (Geneva, 1979) and the commitments made at the SILVA Conference in 1986.

After discussing the subject, the Council authorized the Commission to participate on behalf of the Community in the Pan-European Conference and, within the framework of its powers, to express the Community's position in consultation with the Member States.

24/25.IX.1990

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Other decisions in the area of the common agricultural policy

The Council adopted:

- a Decision introducing a Community financial measure for the eradication of infectious haemopoietic necrosis of salmonids in the Community.

The purpose of the Decision is to assess the rate of infection in the Community, by initiating an epidemiological survey in its territory. The financial aid provided for will consist of a partial reimbursement of the expenditure incurred by Member States for sampling operations and laboratory examinations.

- Regulations:

- = amending Regulation No 1696/71 on the common organization of the market in hops.

The purpose of the amendment is to extend, for a certain period, the grant of aid to the production of experimental strains in order to promote the development of new varieties.

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24/25.IX.1990

= amending Regulation No 1201/88 establishing import mechanisms for certain processed products obtained from sour cherries and originating in Yugoslavia.

The purpose of the amendment is to provide for greater flexibility, taking into account the situation on the Community market, with respect to suspension of the issue of import licences.

- a Council Directive on nutrition labelling for foodstuffs (approved in substance at the Internal Market Council meeting on 17 September 1990 - Press Release 8570/90 Presse 134).

The Council also authorized the Commission to negotiate Agreements between the EEC and the ACP States referred to in the Protocol on Sugar annexed to the 4th ACP-EEC Convention, on the one hand, and between the EEC and the Republic of India, on the other hand, on the guaranteed prices for cane sugar from those countries for the 1990/1991 delivery period.

Environment

The Council authorized the Commission to participate on behalf of the Community in the negotiations for the conclusion of a Convention for the protection of the waters of the Elbe against pollution, between the Federal Republic of Germany, the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic and the Community.

24/25.IX.1990

The Council also authorized the Commission to take part, on behalf of the Community, in the ECE negotiations for an Agreement on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context, in consultation with the Member States and ensuring that the draft Framework Agreement is compatible with Community environmental objectives.

Tax harmonization

The Council adopted a Decision authorizing the United Kingdom to extend until 31 December 1992 an optional measure derogating from Article 17(1) of the 6th VAT Directive, which grants undertakings with an annual turnover of less than £300 000 the option of deferring deduction of tax until it is paid to the supplier.

Textiles

The Council adopted Decisions concluding:

- an Agreement with China on trade in textile products;
- an Agreement with Pakistan on trade in textile products;
- an additional Protocol to the Co-operation Agreement with Yugoslavia on trade in textile products.

24/25.IX.1990

The Council also decided to apply provisionally as from 15 April 1990 the Agreed Minutes amending the Agreements with Poland on the one hand, and the Republic of Hungary, on the other hand, on trade in textile products, pending their formal conclusion and providing that in each case there was a reciprocal provisional application on the part of the other contracting country.

Anti-dumping

The Council adopted Regulations imposing definitive anti-dumping duties and definitively collecting the provisional anti-dumping duties imposed on imports from China of:

- tungsten ores and concentrates (the duty has been fixed at 42,4% of the net, free-at-Community-frontier price of the product, before duty);
- tungsten carbide and fused tungsten carbide (the duty has been fixed at 33% of the net, free-at-Community-frontier price of the product, before duty);
- tungstic oxide and tungstic acid (the duty has been fixed at 35% of the net, free-at-Community-frontier price of the product, before duty),

with, however, exemptions for the China National Non-Ferrous Metals Import and Export Corporation (CNIEC) and the China National Metals and Minerals Import and Export Corporation (Minmetals).

24/25.IX.1990

Relations with the EFTA countries

The Council approved, on behalf of the Community, a Decision concluding the Agreement on the exchange of information in the field of technical regulations, signed by the Community and the EFTA countries on 19 December 1989.

Relations with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe

The Council adopted Decisions on the conclusion on behalf of the Community of:

- an Agreement between the EEC and the EAEC and the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic on trade and commercial and economic co-operation;
- an Agreement between the EEC and the People's Republic of Bulgaria on trade and commercial and economic co-operation.

The Council also adopted a Regulation liberalizing or suspending quantitative restrictions applying to certain countries of Central and Eastern Europe and amending Regulations No 3420/83 and No 288/82 accordingly (this Regulation was adopted in substance at the General Affairs Council meeting on 17 September 1990 - see Press Release 8529/90 Press 133).

24/25. IX. 1990

ECSC

The Council gave two assents:

- under Article 55(2)(c) of the ECSC Treaty to a draft Commission Decision on the grant of financial aid to steel technical research projects and steel pilot/demonstration projects;
- under the second paragraph of Article 54 of the ECSC Treaty for the co-financing of various sub-projects for the Main-Danube canal.

Appointments

The Council replaced:

- two full members of the Advisory Committee on Vocational Training, who had resigned,
- one member of the Administrative Board of the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions, who had resigned.

24/25.IX.1990

Renewal of the Economic and Social Committee

The Council adopted a Decision appointing the members of the Economic and Social Committee for the period from 21 September 1990 to 20 September 1994; a list of the members will be found below.

The Council expressed its gratitude for the important work carried out by the Committee, which has constantly increased since the entry into force of the Single Act.

The Council thanked the retiring members for the quality of their work and for the effort they had made to deliver the Committee's Opinions within deadlines that had often been very short.

List of members of the Economic and Social Committee:

Belgium

André DE TAVERNIER,
Hoofd van de Economische en Sociologische Studiedienst van de
Belgische Boerenbond

Robert D'HONDT,
Secrétaire général de la Confédération des syndicats chrétiens
de Belgique

Antoine DONCK,
Directeur-coördinateur Nationale Confederatie van het
Bouwbedrijf

Jean PARDON,
Directeur du Département juridique et fiscal de l'Association
belge des Banques

Georges PROUKENS,
Délégué auprès des Instances européennes du Groupe l'Oréal

Roger RAMAEKERS,
Secrétaire général de la Fédération belge des coopératives
"Febecoop"

24/25. IX. 1990

André SAUWENS,
Directeur adjoint au Département économique, représentant
permanent auprès de l'UNICE, Fédération des Entreprises de
Belgique

Petrus THYS,
Algemeen Secretaris van het Nationaal Christelijk
Middenstandsverbond, Ondervoorzitter van de Hoge Raad voor de
Middenstand

Jean-Claude VANDERMEEREN,
Secrétaire national de la Fédération générale du travail de
Belgique

Havier VERBOVEN,
Nationaal Secretaris van het Algemeen Belgisch Vakverbond

Willy WALDACK,
Nationaal Voorzitter van de Algemene Centrale der Liberale
Vakbonden van België

Denmark

Næstformand i Forbrugerrådet
Cand. polit. Karen GREDAL

Kontorchef Bo GREEN,
Handelskammeret

Økonom Frithiof HAGEN
ARbejderbevægelsens Erhvervsråd

Afdelingschef E. Hovgaard JAKOBSEN
Landbrugsrådet

Konsulent, cand. polit. Paul KAARIS
Industrirådet

International sekretær Svend Skovbro LARSEN
FTF

Sekretær Bent NIELSEN
LO

Økonom Preben NIELSEN
LO

Direktør P. SCHADE-POULSEN
Dansk Arbejdsgiverforening

Germany

Dr. Klaus BOISSEREE,
Mitglied des Hauptausschusses der Arbeitsgemeinschaft für
Umweltfragen

Prof. Dr. Klaus Benedict VON DER DECKEN,
Direktor am Institut für Energieverfahrenstechnik des
Forschungszentrums Jülich GmbH

Helga ELSTNER,
Präsidentin der Bürgerschaft der Freien und Hansestadt Hamburg

Ursula ENGELEN-KEFER,
Stellvertretende Vorsitzende des Deutschen Gewerkschaftsbundes

Eike EULEN,
Mitglied des Geschäftsführenden Hauptvorstandes der
Gewerkschaft öffentliche Dienste, Transport und Verkehr

Paul FLUM,
Leiter der Abteilung Besondere Aufgaben beim Vorstand der
Industriegewerkschaft Metall

Dr. Göke FRERICHS,
Hauptgeschäftsführer des Bundesverbandes des Deutschen Groß-
und Außenhandels

Dr. Hans-Joachim GAFFRON,
Geschäftsführer der Krupp Handel GmbH

Michael GEUENICH,
Mitglied des Geschäftsführenden Bundesvorstandes des Deutschen
Gewerkschaftsbundes

Dr. Helmut GIESECKE,
Leiter der Abteilung Außenwirtschaft beim Deutschen Industrie-
und Handelstag

Heinz-Adolf HÖRSKEN,
Hauptgeschäftsführer der CDA-Sozialausschüsse

Dipl. Kfm. Johannes M. JASCHICK,
Hauptgeschäftsführer und Präsidialmitglied der
Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Verbraucher

Günther LAPPAS,
Vorsitzender der Gewerkschaft Gartenbau, Land- und
Forstwirtschaft

Werner RECHTSANWALT LOW,
Geschäftsführer der Bundesvereinigung der Deutschen
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Dr. Klaus MEYER-HORN,
Europa-Beauftragter des Deutschen Sparkassen- und Giroverbandes

Richard MÜLLER,
Vorsitzender des Bundes der Deutschen Zollbeamten in Deutschen
Beamtenbund

Dr. Herbert NIERHAUS,
Mitglied des Bundesvorstandes der Deutschen
Angestelltengewerkschaft

Dipl.-Vw Jens Peter PETERSEN,
Beauftragter des Bundesverbandes der Deutschen Industrie für
den WSA

Hanns-Eberhard SCHLEYER,
Generalsekretär des Zentralverbandes des Deutschen Handwerks

Wolfgang SCHMIDT,
Sonderbeauftragter der Verkaufsdirektion für die Bundesrepublik
Deutschland bei der Deutschen Lufthansa

Klaus SCHMITZ,
Leiter der Abteilung Strukturpolitik beim Bundesvorstand des
Deutschen Gewerkschaftsbundes

Dr. Rudolf SCHNIEDERS,
Generalsekretär des Deutschen Bauernverbandes

Dr. Susanne TIEMANN,
Präsidiumsmitglied im Bundesverband der Freien Berufe

Dr. Hans-Jürgen WICK,
Generalsekretär des Deutschen Raiffeisenverbandes

Pour l'Espagne

D. MIGUEL ANGEL ABEJON,
Economista, Miembro de la Comision Ejecutiva de la Union
Regional de Madrid de la U.G.T.

D. ELIAS APARICIO BRAVO,
Adjunto al Secretario General de la Confederacion Española de
Organizaciones Empresariales

D. FRANCISCO CEBALLO HERRERO,
Licenciado en Ciencias Empresariales, Presidente de la
Asociacion General de Consumidores ("ASGECO")

D. VICTOR FORGAS CABRERA,
Presidente de la Confederacion Española de Cooperativas de
Trabajo Asociado (COCETA), Vicepresidente del Comite europeo de
Cooperativas de Produccion (CEDOP)

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Los Comites de Mercado comun y politica economica de la
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Agricultor, Expresidente de la Confederacion Nacional de
Agricultores (C.N.A.G.), Presidente de la Agrupacion Regional
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Directiva del Fomento del Trabajo Nacional, Presidente de la
Comision de Mercado comun del Fomento del Trabajo Nacional

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Neville BEALE,
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Michael BELL,
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Peter DAWSON OBE,
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and Former Chairman Scottish Confederation of British
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John LYONS OBE,
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Ada MADDOCKS OBE,
National Organising Officer (Health Staffs), National
Association of Local Government officers

Michael MOBBS,
Chairman and Managing Director, ML Aviation

Robert MORELAND,
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William MORRIS,
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Dr Ann ROBINSON,
Head of Policy Unit, Institute of Directors

Roy SANDERSON OBE,
National Secretary, Electrical & Engineering Staff Association
(Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication & Plumbing Union)

Sue SLIPMAN,
Director, National Council for One Parent Families

Alexander SMITH,
**General Secretary, National Union of Tailors and Garment
Workers**

Michael STRAUSS,
**Former Co-ordinating Director for Policy, National Farmers'
Union**

Andrew TYRIE, Fellow, Nuffield College, Oxford

John WHITWORTH,
**Chairman, Merchant Navy Officers' Pension Fund. Former Director
of the International Shipping Federation**