

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

PRESS RELEASES

PRESIDENCY: PORTUGAL

JANUARY-JUNE 1992

Meetings and press releases 1-17 June 1992

Meeting number	Subject	Date
1583 rd	Education	1 June 1992
1584 th	Tourism	4 June 1992
1585 th	Telecommunications	5 June 1992
1586 th	Economics/Finance	9-10 June 1992
1587 th	Fisheries	9 June 1992
1588 th	General Affairs	15 June 1992
1589 th	Agriculture	15-16 June 1992
1590 th	Industry	17 June 1992

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

6772/92 (Presse 97)

1583rd meeting of the Council
and the Ministers for Education
meeting within the Council

Luxembourg, 1 June 1992

President: Mr António COUTO DOS SANTOS
Minister for Education
of the Portuguese Republic

1.VI.92

hip/MM/ms

Italy:

Mr Antonio RUBERTI

Minister for the Universities,
Scientific Research and Technology

Luxembourg:

Mr Marc FISCHBACH

Minister for Education

Netherlands:

Mr A. OOSTRA

Deputy Permanent Representative

Portugal:

Mr António COUTO DOS SANTOS

Minister attached to the Prime Minister
and Minister for Youth

Mr Joaquim AZEVEDO

State Secretary for Primary and
Secondary Education

United Kingdom:

Mr John PATTEN

Minister for Education and Science

Mr Nigel FOREMAN

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State
for Education

Commission:

Mrs Vasso PAPANDEOU

Member

1.VI.92

hip/MM/jj

LINGUA

The Council and the Ministers had an exchange of views on the development of the LINGUA programme. Pending receipt of the evaluation and effectiveness reports on the programme scheduled for 1993, they instructed the Education Committee to monitor developments in the situation.

DEVELOPMENT OF OPEN AND DISTANCE LEARNING

After an exchange of views on this matter the Council and the Ministers adopted the following conclusions:

Conclusions
of the Council and the Ministers for Education
meeting within the Council

on the development of open and distance learning
in the European Community

The Council and the Ministers for Education meeting within the Council emphasize the importance which they attach to the development of open and distance learning in the context of the mainstream of education and training in the European Community.

In connection with the Commission memorandum on open and distance learning and the Presidency/Commission Conference held at Coimbra on 30 and 31 March 1992, they have held a discussion with a view to clarifying the role which the Community could play on this subject and to encouraging further development.

Open and distance learning elements should be incorporated whenever justified

1.VI.92

hip/MM/jj

into appropriate Community education and training programmes. They should further be fully taken into account in policies arising from current discussions in the Member States concerning the Commission memoranda on "Higher Education in the European Community" and "Vocational training in the European Community for the nineties". Moreover, the potential for developing better arrangements of open and distance learning offered by Community programmes in other fields should be fully exploited.

The Council and the Ministers reiterate their interest in receiving proposals which the Commission might formulate bearing in mind existing structures in this field at European level, as well as the resources and activities of the private sector. They note the potential importance of the reference to encouraging the development of distance education in the education Article in the Treaty on European Union, signed in Maastricht in February 1992.

DRAFT CONVENTION DEFINING THE STATUTE OF THE EUROPEAN SCHOOLS

The Ministers examined the questions outstanding in connection with the draft Convention defining the Statute of the European Schools. At the close of their discussion they instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue with the proceedings.

1.VI.92
hip/MM/jj

DEVELOPMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

The Council and the Ministers adopted the following conclusions:

Conclusions
of the Council and the Ministers for Education
meeting within the Council

on the development of environmental education

The Council and the Ministers for Education have taken note of a report presented to them by the Education Committee on the implementation of their Resolution of 24 May 1988 on environmental education. They recognize that many positive actions to intensify environmental education have been carried out by the Member States and the Commission.

Since the Resolution was adopted in 1988 the urgency of protecting the environment at all levels has been thrown into even greater relief. There is now wider recognition, both by society and by individuals, of the importance of protecting the environment within the Community in order to bring about better living conditions and balanced and harmonious growth.

Members of the public have a number of crucial roles to play:

- as individuals concerned with the common duty of maintaining, protecting and improving the quality of the environment, as a contribution to the protection of human health and the safeguarding of the ecological balance;
- as direct producers of pollution and waste;

1.VI.92

hip/MM/ptm

- as consumers of goods and services.

The Dublin European Council of 1990, in its statement on environmental issues, emphasized the vital need to improve information to the public and in particular to respond to the interest of young people who are acutely aware of environmental issues.

Education is of major importance in regard to environmental issues. The lines of action for environmental education set out in the 1988 Resolution of the Council and the Ministers for Education continue to be relevant; these lines should be pursued and intensified.

In line with the objective and the guiding principles set out in the 1988 Resolution, environmental education:

- should be considered an integral and essential part of every European citizen's upbringing;
- should be strengthened as soon as possible at all educational levels;
- should be considered an important vehicle for linking education institutions to their surrounding community, enhancing pupils' and students' awareness of local environmental issues and of their region's diversity and special features.

Special attention should be given to the intensification of initial and in-service training of teachers in this area.

The Council and Ministers for Education note with satisfaction that the Commission's Fifth Action Programme refers to the need for better provision of environmental information and education.

1.VI.92

hip/MM/ptm

They request the Education Committee to make a further report to them on activities in implementation of the 1988 Resolution by the end of 1994.

ASSESSMENT OF NEW COMMUNITY PROGRAMMES CONCERNING EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

Conclusions of the Council

on

the assessment of new Community programmes
concerning education and training

THE COUNCIL

In view of the increasing size and importance of Community programmes concerning education and training and the prospects for their future development;

Recalling the conclusions of the Council and of the Ministers for Education meeting within the Council of 6 October 1989 ⁽¹⁾ on co-operation and Community policy in the field of education, which emphasize the need for effective management of education activities, taking into account the limits on financial resources,

HAS COME TO THE FOLLOWING CONCLUSIONS:

(1) OJ No C 277, 31.10.1989.

1.VI.92

hip/MM/ptm

1. Without prejudice to the evaluation by the Commission of current programmes and in the light of the principle of subsidiarity, all Community programmes concerning education and training should be assessed by means of criteria and procedures appropriate to their individual objectives.
2. Such assessment should involve a report identifying the situation that exists before the implementation of a programme (the initial report), a report on the first two years of the implementation of a programme, proposing any appropriate adaptations (the interim report) and a report drawn up after the conclusion of a programme (the final report).
3. The terms of reference of the assessment, in particular as regards the criteria, the indicators, the methods and the processes to be adopted, should be stated explicitly in the proposal for each programme. The participation and the responsibility of the Commission as well as the Member States in regard to the evaluation should also be made clear.
4. These terms of reference should make it possible not only to assess objectively the impact produced by programmes in relation to their specific objectives in all twelve Member States but also to establish clear links between their benefits and the resources allocated to them.

INVITES:

the Commission to take account of these conclusions in the preparation of new programmes, in order to ensure consistency between the assessment of common aspects of different programmes and also the necessary independence of the assessment system.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Austria: quality wines

The Council adopted a Decision on the conclusion of an Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the EEC and Austria designed to extend by one year the EEC-Austria Agreement on the reciprocal establishment of tariff quotas for certain quality wines, signed on 23 December 1988 and due to expire on 30 June 1992.

Fisheries

The Council adopted a Regulation amending for the twelfth time Regulation No 3094/86 laying down certain technical measures for the conservation of fishery resources.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

6775/92 (Presse 100)

1584th meeting of the Council

TOURISM

Luxembourg, 4 June 1992

President: Mr Fernando FARIA DE OLIVEIRA

Minister for Trade and
Tourism of the Portuguese
Republic

Luxembourg

Mr Fernand BODEN

Minister for Education and Tourism

The Netherlands

Mr A. OOSTRA

Deputy Permanent Representative

Portugal

Mr Fernando Faria DE OLIVEIRA

Minister for Trade and Tourism

Mr Alexandre RELVAS

State Secretary for Tourism

United Kingdom

Mr Robert KEY

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for
National Heritage

°
° °

Commission

Mr Antonio CARDOSO E CUNHA

Member

4.VI.92

lby/LG/kjf

COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN TO ASSIST TOURISM

The Council reached agreement in principle on the Commission's amended proposal for a Decision on an action plan to assist tourism, with a view to its formal adoption at a forthcoming Council meeting.

The draft Decision establishes a three-year framework programme, starting from 1 January 1993, to promote tourism in the Community. The financial resources for the action plan are estimated at ECU 18 million.

The draft Decision reflects the growing importance of tourism under Community and national policies and envisages the implementation of some specific new measures. It aims to promote greater knowledge of Community Member States' cultures and ways of life on the part of all citizens. The action plan will also help improve the quality and competitiveness of the Community tourist industry and will encourage more effective interaction between tourism and the environment.

The planned measures concern the following fields in particular:

- improving knowledge of the tourist industry and ensuring greater consistency of measures;
- tourists as consumers;
- cultural tourism;
- tourism and the environment;
- training.

The draft Decision was drawn up in compliance with the principle of subsidiarity and will be implemented, via a management committee, in close co-operation with the Member States.

At the end of the plan's third year, the Council is to take a decision regarding its extension on the basis of a report to be supplied by the Commission, following its assessment of the results of the action plan.

COMMUNITY INTERVENTION IN THE FIELD OF TOURISM

The Council took note of a Commission communication on Community intervention in the field of tourism.

The communication highlights the horizontal dimension of tourism and is designed to give an overview of measures affecting tourism taken under the various Community policies. It focuses on three main aspects: structural policies, Community programmes and initiatives and specific Community measures. The report complements the one described below.

COMMUNITY POLICIES AND MEASURES WITH AN EFFECT ON TOURISM

The Council took note of a Commission communication on Community policies and measures with an effect on tourism.

The communication complementing the one on Community intervention as described above, deals firstly with general measures in connection with the completion of the internal market, such as the abolition of border controls, transnational business co-operation and freedom of establishment and to provide services, and

4.VI.92

lby/LG/kjf

secondly with measures deriving from the implementation of certain Community policies in fields such as competition, consumer policy, cultural affairs, the environment, new technology and statistics.

SPAS AND HYDROTHERAPY IN THE COMMUNITY

The Council heard a statement by the Portuguese delegation regarding the outcome of the Conference on spas and hydrotherapy in the European Community, held in Lisbon from 14 to 16 May 1992.



Commercial policy

The Council adopted the Decision authorizing extension or tacit renewal of certain trade agreements concluded between Member States and third countries, for matters not covered by agreements between the Community and the third countries in question and provided that their provisions are not inconsistent with existing Common policies.

Anti-dumping measures

The Council adopted the Regulation extending, for two months, the provisional anti-dumping duty on imports of radio broadcast receivers of a kind used in motor vehicles originating in South Korea. The extension, to which exporters did not object, is designed to enable the investigation to be completed.

Textiles: Brazil

The Council adopted the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 4136/86 on common rules for imports of certain textile products originating in third countries. The purpose of this Regulation is to implement the Decision on the conclusion of the agreement in the form of an exchange of letters with Brazil on trade in textiles, for a period of twelve months from 1 January to 31 December 1992 (see press release 5470/92 Presse 48).

PRESS RELEASE

6776/92 (Presse 101)

1585th Council meeting

- Telecommunications -

Luxembourg, 5 June 1992

President: Mr Joaquim FERREIRA DO AMARAL

Minister for Telecommunications of the
Portuguese Republic

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

Belgium

Mr Jan DE BOCK Deputy Permanent Representative

Denmark

Mr Helge ISRAELSEN State Secretary for Ecclesiastical Affairs and Communications

Germany

Mr Christian SCHWARZ-SCHILLING Federal Minister for Posts and Telecommunications

Greece

Mr Dimitri STAMATOPOULOS Secretary-General at the Ministry of Telecommunications

Spain

Ms Hélène SALGADO Secretary-General for Communications

France

Mr Emile ZUCCARELLI Minister of Posts and Telecommunications

Ireland

Mr Brendan KENNEALLY Minister of State at the Department of Tourism, Transport and Communications

Italy

Mr Francesco TEMPESTINI

State Secretary at the
Ministry of Posts and
Telecommunications

Luxembourg

Mr Alex BODRY

Minister for Posts and
Telecommunications

Netherlands

Mr A. OOSTRA

Deputy Permanent Representative

Portugal

Mr Joaquim FERREIRA DO AMARAL

Minister for Telecommunications

Mr Carlos Silva COSTA

State Secretary at the Ministry of
Transport and Telecommunications

United Kingdom

Mr Edward LEIGH

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State,
Department of Trade and Industry,
(Consumer Affairs and Small Firms)

Commission

Mr Filippo Maria PANDOLFI
Mr Jean DONDELINGER

Vice-President
Member

ACTION PLAN FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF ADVANCED TELEVISION SERVICES IN EUROPE

The Council discussed the proposal for a Decision establishing an action plan for the introduction of advanced television services in Europe.

At the end of discussions, the Presidency drew the following conclusions:

- "1. The Council discussed the draft Decision establishing an Action Plan for the introduction of advanced television services in Europe, submitted by the Commission following the approval of Directive 92/38/EEC on the adoption of measures for the satellite broadcasting of television signals, recognizing the importance of the work already carried out by COREPER and the Working Party of Economic Counsellors.
2. Recognizing that the draft under discussion forms an integral part of the agreement reached in December 1991, the Council invites COREPER to continue work on the draft Decision with a view to its adoption in the second half of 1992.
3. As the Opinion of the European Parliament has not yet been delivered and as the framework for the financial perspective for 1993-1997 remains to be defined, the Presidency notes with satisfaction the Commission's willingness to release as rapidly as is legally possible the figure of ECU 33 million entered in the budget for 1992 in order to permit the immediate submission of projects for examination in collaboration with the Member States.

4. The Presidency meanwhile notes the possibility of consensus being reached on the basis of the following guidelines:
- the Action Plan should focus on promoting services in the 16:9 format (D2-MAC or HD-MAC standard) with a view to establishing a critical mass such as to permit the development of advanced television services in Europe;
 - the Action Plan should focus on the range of integrated operations directed towards providing a television service to the consumer rather than on the various elements in isolation;
 - the Memorandum of Understanding, although an essential part of the development strategy for advanced television services in Europe, does not encompass contractual agreements, with the result that eligibility for the envisaged funding will not be dependent upon the signing of that Memorandum;
 - the indicative nature of the allocation of resources to the various elements in the chains of production of services must make it flexible enough to be adjusted to genuine needs, in particular in terms of programme production;
 - the Member States must be guaranteed adequate participation in the administration of the programme through a committee with an appropriate status;
 - the concept of dual degressivity is recognized as the general principle of the method of funding the services, and it must be ensured, without prejudice to the criterion of quality, that there is a balanced allocation

in geographical and linguistic terms which takes into account the difficulties in responding in the short term of the regions with the weakest audio-visual capacities."

GREEN PAPER ON POSTAL SERVICES

The Council took note of the Commission's presentation of the Green Paper on the single market in postal services, a discussion document intended to open the debate on the Community postal services sector, and in particular the prospects for its liberalization.

OTHER DECISIONS IN THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SECTOR

Development of the Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) in the context of
trans-European networks in the European Community

The Council adopted the Resolution reproduced below:

COUNCIL RESOLUTION
of 5 June 1992

on the development of the Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN)
in the Community as a Europe-wide telecommunications
infrastructure for 1993 and beyond

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community,

Whereas Council Recommendation 86/659/EEC ⁽¹⁾ calls for the co-ordinated introduction of the Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) in the European Community;

Whereas the Council Resolution 89/196/04 ⁽²⁾ calls for the availability of a set of Europe-wide compatible ISDN offerings to be implemented in the context of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the public telecommunications network operators;

Whereas Council Directive 90/387/EEC of 28 June 1990 on the establishment of the internal market for telecommunications services through the implementation of open network provision ⁽³⁾ calls upon the Council to adopt a specific Recommendation on ISDN; whereas Council Recommendation 92/ /EEC ⁽⁴⁾ invites Member States to implement on their territory harmonized access arrangements and a minimum set of offerings, which will therefore have a significant impact on the development of ISDN;

Whereas the European Council agreed at Maastricht on the importance of Trans-European networks, including in the field of telecommunications, where ISDN may play an important role as an advanced network;

Whereas the Commission's "Third Annual Progress Report on the co-ordinated introduction of ISDN in the European Community" establishes the status of the implementation of ISDN in the Member States;

(1) OJ No L 382, 31.12.1986, p. 36.

(2) OJ No C 196, 1. 8.1989, p. 4.

(3) OJ No L 192, 24. 7.1990, p. 1.

(4) See page...of this Official Journal.

Whereas the same report proposes to focus the efforts for the co-ordinated introduction of ISDN in the Community towards the implementation of the EURO-ISDN; ⁽¹⁾

RECOGNIZES:

1. the role which the availability of a coherent set of harmonized ISDN standards plays as an important prerequisite for the implementation of the EURO-ISDN and the significant progress which the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) has made in this area;
2. the efforts already undertaken by the public telecommunications network operators within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding on ISDN;
3. the importance of developing ISDN in the context of Trans-European networks;

CONSIDERS THE FOLLOWING MEASURES AS NECESSARY:

4. to finalize and adopt the EURO-ISDN standards as a highest priority for ETSI, taking into account the subsequent adoption by the Community of appropriate Common Technical Regulations in this area;
5. to continue with the co-ordination of the introduction of ISDN within the Community and to focus these efforts on the rapid introduction of the EURO-ISDN;
6. to promote EURO-ISDN at a world-wide level;

(1) The term EURO-ISDN is used to address an ISDN implementation fully based on harmonized European standards and in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding on ISDN.

INVITES THE PUBLIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK OPERATORS TO:

7. develop, harmonize to the extent suitable and publish migration plans from currently existing ISDN offerings to the EURO-ISDN, taking into account technical and commercial issues;
8. examine further harmonization in respect of the introduction and integration of packet-switched services in the context of ISDN;
9. study the feasibility of an alignment of the national ISDN signalling systems;
10. contribute, in co-operation with the other interested parties, to the identification of cross-border communication requirements arising from the completion of the internal market and the specific role which ISDN can play in that area;
11. collaborate with third-countries network operators on interconnection experiments;

INVITES THE COMMISSION AND THE PUBLIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK OPERATORS TO:

12. proceed with appropriate consultations with users and manufacturers, to review the progress on implementing EURO-ISDN;

INVITES THE MEMBER STATES TO:

13. encourage the rapid introduction of EURO-ISDN, taking into account the application of the Open Network Provision (ONP) principles in this area;

INVITES THE COMMISSION TO:

14. intensify consultations and develop appropriate initiatives concerning the implementation of ISDN, taking into account the general framework of Trans-European networks;
15. continue to promote the identification of user requirements in the context of the European ISDN User Forum (EIUF);
16. identify and promote the application of ISDN communication means for small and medium-sized enterprises, in particular for transnational applications, in the context of the internal market;
17. promote a European-wide ISDN terminal market, in particular by the development of appropriate standards ensuring interoperability and interchangeability;
18. analyze the possibilities for a specific support to the introduction of EURO-ISDN in the less favoured regions.

Application of open network provision to leased lines

Following the completion of the co-operation procedure with the European Parliament, the Council formally adopted the Directive on the application of open network provision to leased lines. The text of the Directive is in line with the common position adopted by the Council at its meeting on 18 and 19 December 1991.

Provision of harmonized ISDN (Integrated Services Digital Network) access arrangements and a minimum set of ISDN offerings

Pursuant to Directive 90/387/EEC on the establishment of the internal market for telecommunications services through the implementation of open network provision, the Council adopted the recommendation on the provision of harmonized ISDN access arrangements and a minimum set of ISDN offerings in accordance with Open Network Provision (ONP) principles.

Harmonized provision of a minimum set of Packet-switched Data Services

Pursuant to Directive 90/387/EEC on the establishment of the internal market for telecommunications services through the implementation of open network provision, the Council adopted the recommendation on the harmonized provision of a minimum set of Packet-switched Data Services (PSDS) in accordance with Open Network Provision (ONP) principles.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Relations with Hungary, Poland and the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic

- Generalized preferences scheme

In view of the conclusion and entry into force of the interim agreements on trade and trade-related matters with Hungary, Poland and the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, the Council adopted the Regulation withdrawing those countries from the lists of beneficiaries of the Community's generalized preferences scheme as from 1 March 1992.

Textiles

- Recommendation for a Council Decision authorizing the Commission to negotiate protocols on quantitative arrangements on trade in textile products with Poland, Hungary and the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic.

The Council authorized the Commission to begin negotiations with Poland, Hungary and the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic with a view to concluding new protocols on trade in textile and clothing products.

Protocol No 1 on Textile and Clothing Products appended to the association agreements signed on 16 December 1991 with those three countries provides for negotiations for the conclusion of new protocols on quantitative arrangements and related issues governing trade in textile products, to be negotiated as soon as possible taking into account wherever possible of developments in the situation in the Uruguay Round. These new protocols will replace the bilateral agreements on textile products which the Community concluded with those

three countries, which expire at the end of December 1992.

The new protocols will provide for "association" type import arrangements covering textile categories 1 to 123, and will incorporate quantitative restrictions on direct and outward processing traffic imports, a double checking system, administrative arrangements (in particular relating to consultations, mutual exchange of information and fraud prevention and detection), and a safeguard mechanism. The protocols will be concluded for a minimum period of five years, starting from 1 January 1993. The agreements concluded with the countries in question will take account both of their exceptional circumstances and of the economic interests of producers in the Community textile sector.

PRESS RELEASE

6778/92 (Presse 103)

1586th Council meeting

- ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL QUESTIONS -

Luxembourg, 9 and 10 June 1992

President: Mr Jorge BRAGA DE MACEDO

Minister for Finance
of the Portuguese Republic

Italy:

Mr Guido CARLI Minister for the Treasury

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean-Claude JUNCKER Minister for Finance

Netherlands:

Mr Wim KOK Minister for Finance

Mr Marius van AMELSVOORT State Secretary for Finance

Portugal:

Mr Jorge BRAGA DE MACEDO Minister for Finance

Mr José BRAZ State Secretary, Treasury

United Kingdom:

Mr Norman LAMONT Chancellor of the Exchequer

o

o o

Commission:

Mr Jacques DELORS	President
Sir Leon BRITTAN	Vice-President
Mr Henning CHRISTOPHERSEN	Vice-President
Mr Peter SCHMIDHUBER	Member
Mrs Christiane SCRIVENER	Member

o

o o

The following also took part in the meeting:

Mr Cees MAAS Chairman of the Monetary Committee

Mr José Juan RUIZ Chairman of the Economic Policy Committee

MULTILATERAL SURVEILLANCE - CONVERGENCE PROGRAMME OF SPAIN

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

"The Council welcomed the decision by Spain to submit a Convergence Programme for examination by the Council. The Council expressed its appreciation of the courageous and comprehensive nature of the programme and it welcomed its political endorsement by the Spanish Parliament. The Council was encouraged that, on the basis of the targets and measures envisaged, Spain should be able to fulfil the nominal convergence criteria set out in the European Union Treaty prior to the move to Stage Three.

As regards the basic strategy of the Convergence Programme, the Council firmly endorsed the dual strategy of consolidating the macroeconomic situation and at the same time undertaking significant structural reform. The importance of incorporating structural policies in Convergence Programmes to remove rigidities in markets for labour, capital, and services, was endorsed by Ministers and Governors of the Central Banks at their informal meeting in Oporto on 9 May 1992.

Monetary policy will continue to be conducted in a manner compatible with maintaining a stable nominal exchange rate. A successful reduction of inflation will, as the Programme outlines, require its underlying structural causes to be firmly dealt with. The Council also attached great importance to the role of wage moderation.

The Convergence Programme aims to reduce the net borrowing of General Government from 4,4% of GDP in 1991 to 1% of GDP in 1996. This is to be achieved through both real revenue increases and expenditure savings. Nonetheless, the Spanish authorities will keep the level of public investment at 5% of GDP, thus maintaining the momentum towards real convergence. The Council stressed the important role of the regional and local authorities in achieving fiscal consolidation and welcomed the binding agreement reached with the autonomous communities.

The Council acknowledges the scale of proposals to improve labour market functioning, and the deregulation of services and certain occupations. It was emphasized that these measures are fundamental for achieving conditions conducive to sustainable non-inflationary growth. Credibility and effectiveness of these initiatives would be enhanced by rapid introduction of the proposed measures."

Multilateral surveillance

Ministers confirmed their agreement from Oporto concerning the need to strengthen multilateral surveillance. The Commission invited Ministers to submit rapidly to the Commission the necessary information on structural measures which in their opinion could make a useful contribution to convergence efforts.

There was general agreement that greater compatibility between convergence programmes and Commission forecasts should be sought in the interests of the credibility of multilateral surveillance procedures.

DELORS II PACKAGE

In the context of preparations for the Lisbon European Council, the Council discussed in considerable detail, on the basis of an introductory statement by Mr DELORS and a report by the Monetary Committee, the main aspects of the Commission proposals on the future financing of the Community.

The main points raised during the discussion and the various suggestions made will be set out in a report from the Presidency to be submitted to the General Affairs Council on 15 and 16 June.

The Council will continue its discussions on this subject in due course, so that it can contribute fully to the search for a consensus which is essential to finalize this dossier of particular importance to the Community.

ABOLITION OF FISCAL FRONTIERS

The Council further examined this dossier on the basis of an overall compromise from the Presidency covering the points still outstanding concerning the proposals for Directives on excise duties and VAT rates.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee, on the basis of the Council's conclusions, to continue efforts to achieve an overall solution. It will return to this dossier at its meeting on 29 June with the aim of reaching agreement. With this in mind, the Presidency has not ruled out the possibility of submitting the matter to the European Council so that it can give the necessary political impetus to achieve that objective.

FINANCIAL DIRECTIVES

(a) Capital adequacy

The Council again examined this dossier on the basis of work carried out in accordance with the guidelines laid down at its meeting on 19 May (see Press release No 6542/92 Presse 88) and an overall compromise from the Presidency covering the nine aspects identified as being of particular importance for the finalization of this Directive, namely:

- definition of trading book
- definition of "qualifying items"
- supervision on a consolidated basis
- duration method
- exchange risk: treatment of currencies between which there is close correlation
- definition of own funds
- treatment of large exposures
- review clause
- initial capital.

Concluding the discussion, the Council reached broad agreement on the entire Presidency compromise, adapted on the basis of its discussions, except for the point concerning initial capital.

The Council agreed to return to this dossier at its meeting on 29 June with the aim of reaching final overall agreement. It instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue finalizing the dossier with this in mind.

(b) Investment services in the securities field

The Council agreed to postpone its examination of this item until its meeting on 29 June. It instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue preparing those discussions.

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS LOAN TO BULGARIA AND ROMANIA

Ministers welcomed the request from the IMF for G-24 complementary financial assistance to the two countries in question. Ministers agreed in principle to Community participation in the loan operations.

- Bulgaria

Loan of \$240 million, the Community share of which would amount to ECU 110 million.

- Romania

Loan of \$180 million, the Community share of which would amount to ECU 80 million.

The Commission has submitted the legal proposals. It will shortly submit the budgetary proposals necessary for a rapid decision and contact the IMF, G-24 and the recipient countries.

PRESS RELEASE

7109/92 (Presse 106)

1587th Council meeting

- FISHERIES -

Luxembourg, 9 June 1992

President: Mr Eduardo DE AZEVEDO SOARES
Minister for Maritime Affairs of
the Portuguese Republic

Luxembourg:

Mr René STEICHEN

Minister for Agriculture, Viticulture
and Rural Development, with
responsibility for Cultural Affairs and
Scientific Research

Netherlands:

Mr Piet BUKMAN

Minister for Agriculture, Nature
Conservation and Fisheries

Portugal:

Mr Eduardo DE AZEVEDO SOARES

Minister for Maritime Affairs

Mr João Marçal ALVES

State Secretary for Fisheries

United Kingdom:

Mr David CURRY

State Secretary at the Ministry
of Agriculture, Fisheries and
Food

Sir Hector MONRO

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State,
Scottish Office

o

o

o

Commission:

Mr Manuel MARIN

Vice-President

REFORM OF THE COMMON FISHERIES POLICY

The Council took note of the Commission communications and reports on the Mediterranean, monitoring and enforcement, discards and quality policy following its 1991 report on the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). With reference to its conclusions of 3 April 1992 (see Press Release 5469/92 Presse 47), the Council reached the following further conclusions:

Mediterranean

1. The Council considers the communication relating to fishery arrangements in the Mediterranean to be a sound basis for further Commission activities. It considers that it is appropriate in particular and in the first place to carry out detailed quantitative and qualitative research into the state of stocks and to harmonize the laws of the coastal Member States for the purpose of better conservation and management of stocks in accordance with the principles and objectives of the CFP.
2. Furthermore, initiatives must be taken to enable the other Mediterranean coastal States and a number of non-coastal third States whose fleets fish in that area to participate in the effort to conserve and manage resources.

Monitoring and enforcement

3. The Council recognizes the usefulness of the principle of integrated monitoring and enforcement which comprises conservation of stocks, the common organization of markets and structural policy.

4. Any sanctions required to ensure compliance with CFP rules must be adopted taking account of the principle of subsidiarity.
5. An effort to strengthen the equivalent effect of national monitoring and enforcement measures, and their effectiveness, is desirable ⁽¹⁾, while respecting the diversity of the systems established in the Member States.
6. A meeting of persons responsible for monitoring and inspection in the Member States will be convened as soon as possible, in order to strengthen co-operation between national authorities.
7. The Commission is invited to put forward as soon as possible proposals in the field of monitoring and enforcement, including, as appropriate, proposals to increase the effectiveness of the activities of Community inspectors.
8. New technologies should be used to increase the effectiveness of monitoring and enforcement activities where it is established that stocks and fishermen will benefit from them. Questions raised by the possible setting up of a satellite monitoring system will have to be studied in greater detail.

Discards

9. In view of the complexity and scope of the problem involved, the Commission is encouraged to work out an overall strategy and to submit its possible proposals within that framework.
10. As a matter of urgency, appropriate scientific research should be carried out particularly in the area of selective fishing and the socio-economic impact

(1) The Council and the Commission will agree on the arrangements for implementing this point.

of any new restrictive conservation measures should be analysed. Possible action in the structural field and the means for improving the return on catches should also be examined.

11. This should not prejudice further pragmatic measures in the nearest possible future, for example in the form of pilot projects.

Quality policy

12. The Council welcomes the guidelines on structural action submitted by the Commission to help improve quality within the framework of existing Community regulations by attributing suitable importance to a number of areas such as training, research, consumer information and the modernization of vessels.
13. The Council, in view of a number of problems posed by the introduction of a quality system at Community level, invites the Commission to continue studying these problems in detail and to submit a report to it, if possible accompanied by a proposal enabling the Council to decide on the advisability of a quality system and if possible on the detailed arrangements for it."

COMMON MARKETING STANDARDS FOR PRESERVED TUNA AND BONITO

The Council adopted a Regulation laying down common standards for the marketing of preserved tuna and bonito in the Community.

The Regulation defines a trade designation for the products concerned in order in particular to ensure market transparency by means of a trade description based on well-defined species and thereby facilitate trade relations based on fair competition.

The new standards, applicable with certain temporary derogations from 1 January 1993, are moreover likely to improve the profitability of Community tuna production and its outlets.

COMMON ORGANIZATION OF THE MARKET IN FISHERY PRODUCTS

The Council took note of the presentation by Mr MARIN (Vice-President of the Commission) of certain major points of the proposal for a Council Regulation on the common organization of the market in fishery products, in particular with regard to aquaculture products.

After a brief discussion, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue examining the proposal.

FISHING ON THE HIGH SEAS

The Council took note of the submission by the Commission of a communication concerning fishing on the high seas aiming at elaborating a Community approach to the problems encountered by the Community fleet fishing in the waters of third countries and in international waters.

In this context, Mr MARIN informed the Council of the agreement reached within the UNCED in Rio de Janeiro on the convening of an intergovernmental conference

on the conservation of fishery resources with a view to promoting implementation of the provisions of the Convention on the Law of the Sea.

OTHER MATTERS

- The Council heard the Commission's reply to requests concerning the reform of the common fisheries policy which were made by the Irish delegation at the Council meeting on 3 April 1992. The Council will state a position on this matter at a future meeting.

- The Council took note of the French delegation's comments on the situation of coastal multispecific fishery in the ICES IVc area, which the Commission undertook to study.

- The Council took note of the reply given to the French delegation by the Commission concerning safety on board large trawlers following the application of new technical measures concerning net geometry.

OTHER FISHERIES DECISIONS

The Council adopted a Decision authorizing the Commission to negotiate fisheries agreements with the Republics of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Environment

The Council adopted a Decision on the signing of the Convention on biological diversity on behalf of the Community. The text of the Convention was adopted on 22 May 1992 at the close of the 7th meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee.

It will be remembered, in the context of the United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development (UNCED) underway in Rio de Janeiro, that the Council decided on 27 May 1992 that the Community would also sign the Framework Convention on Climate Change.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

7116/92 (Presse 113)

1588th Council meeting

- GENERAL AFFAIRS -

- POLITICAL CO-OPERATION -

Luxembourg, 15 June 1992

President: Mr João PINHEIRO,

Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Portuguese Republic

15.VI.92
i11/BS/jp

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

Belgium:

Mr Willy CLAES
Deputy Prime Minister,
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Denmark:

Mr Uffe ELLEMANN-JENSEN
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Jorgen ØRSTRØM MØLLER
State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Germany:

Mr Klaus KINKEL
Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mrs Ursula SEILER-ALBRING
Minister of State, Foreign Affairs

Greece

Mr Constantine MITSOTAKIS
Prime Minister,
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr George PAPASTAMKOS
State Secretary for Foreign Affairs
Mr Vyron POLYDORAS
State Secretary attached to the Prime
Minister

Spain:

Mr Carlos WESTENDORP
State Secretary for Relations with the
European Communities

15.VI.92

111/BS/jp

France:

Mr Roland DUMAS

Ministre d'Etat, Minister for Foreign
Affairs

Mrs Elisabeth GUIGOU

Minister for European Affairs

Ireland:

Mr David ANDREWS

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Italy:

Mr Federico DI ROBERTO

Ambassador, Permanent Representative

Luxembourg:

Mr Jacques F. POOS

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Netherlands:

Mr Hans VAN DEN BROEK

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Piet DANKERT

State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Portugal:

Mr João PINHEIRO

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Vitor MARTINS

State Secretary for European Integration

15.VI.92

ill/BS/jp

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 F.H.J.J. ANDRIESSEN

Vice-President

Mr Abel MATUTES

Member

Mr Peter SCHMIDHUBER

Member

15.VI.92
i11/BS/jp

DELORS II PACKAGE

The Council conducted a further, very detailed examination of the various proposals contained in the Delors II package on the basis in particular of a comprehensive report by the Presidency which pinpointed the main issues in respect of which the development of this dossier made it desirable to define guidelines in preparation for the Lisbon European Council, namely: the budgetary cost of the CAP reform agreed upon on 21 March; structural measures; internal policies; external policies; the level of own resources; the structure of own resources, and the Interinstitutional Agreement.

The examination revealed the common will to continue Community action to promote economic and social cohesion in the coming years and, in that context, the determination of all Member States to meet the commitments entered into in Maastricht.

The discussion also enabled the major areas of the future agreement to be defined and underlined the global, balanced results to be attained within this dossier.

The Ministers will continue their discussions at the "Conclave" in Luxembourg on 20 June with a view to extending the areas of convergence and giving clearer expression to some of the guidelines reached in preparation for the Lisbon European Council.

15.VI.92
111/BS/jp

TREATY ON EUROPEAN UNION

The Council examined a report by the Group of Personal Representatives relating to the detailed procedures for implementing the decision taken in the Treaty on Union to establish, within the framework of the European Community, a Committee of the Regions, with advisory status (see Article 198a and Protocol No 16).

At the end of its examination of the report the Council directed the Group of Personal Representatives to continue its work in the light of the comments made during the Council's discussion.

PREPARATION FOR THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL MEETING (LISBON, 26 AND 27 JUNE 1992)

The Council was briefed by the Presidency on the arrangements for the proceedings of the European Council and on a number of topics likely to be dealt with at that meeting.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A EUROPEAN MONITORING CENTRE FOR DRUGS AND DRUG ADDICTION (EMCDDA) AND A EUROPEAN INFORMATION NETWORK ON DRUGS AND DRUG ADDICTION (REITOX)

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue examining this dossier with a view to meeting the deadline of 30 June 1992 laid down by the Maastricht European Council for adoption of the act establishing the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction.

15.VI.92

i11/BS/jp

SWITZERLAND'S APPLICATION FOR ACCESSION

Having examined the applications for the accession of the Swiss Confederation to the three European Communities, which were deposited on 26 May 1992, the Council decided to set in motion the procedures provided for in the Treaties (Article 237 of the EEC Treaty, Article 205 of the EAEC Treaty and Article 98 of the ECSC Treaty).

The Commission is therefore required to draw up an opinion.

The President of the Council will send the President of the Confederation and the Chancellor of the Confederation three letters acknowledging receipt of the applications for accession and informing them of the Council's decision.

URUGUAY ROUND

The Council was briefed by Vice-President ANDRIESSEN on the current situation in the Uruguay Round negotiations and noted that it was now for the United States to make a contribution to the successful outcome of the negotiations by being flexible in the negotiations on all the issues still outstanding.

RELATIONS WITH THE MAGHREB

The Council held an initial discussion on the Commission communication on future relations between the Community and the Maghreb.

The discussion, which allowed delegations to comment on the main guidelines advocated by the Commission, confirmed the political importance which the Community attaches to strengthening its links with the Maghreb within the framework of a new partnership.

The Council directed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue examining the Commission communication in the light of its discussion and to report to it at a forthcoming meeting.

RELATIONS WITH JAPAN

The Council adopted the conclusions set out in Annex II.

SITUATION IN YUGOSLAVIA

The Twelve adopted the declaration set out in Annex III.

15.VI.92
ill/BS/mmk

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

GATT: Soya Panel

The Council authorized the Commission to request the GATT Contracting Parties to permit the opening of negotiations under Article XXVIII(4) of the GATT for the alteration of tariff concessions in Schedule LXXX-CE, relating to soyabeans, rapeseed, sunflower seed and oilcake made from those seeds, and the initiation of the negotiations and consultations with the Contracting Parties primarily concerned or having a substantial interest, as stipulated in Article XXVIII.

The above Council Decision ensues from the declaration made by the Community at the last meeting of the GATT Council of Representatives on 30 April 1992 to the effect that the Community would submit to the GATT Council before its next meeting, scheduled for 19 June 1992, specific proposals for a solution to the dispute between the Community and the United States on oilseeds.

The Council consequently expects the United States to suspend any unilateral action on the matter.

Albania

After noting with concern that the food situation in Albania is still critical, the Council adopted a Regulation relating to a second emergency food-aid measure for the peoples of Albania for the purpose of improving food supplies.

15.VI.92

111/BS/mmk

The aforementioned food-aid measure totalling ECU 45 million is in addition to the significant efforts already made by some Member States and constitutes an extension of the similar measure for an amount of ECU 35 million decided upon by the Council on 23 December 1991 (see press release 10394/91 Presse 250).

Macao

The Council decided to proceed with the signing, subject to conclusion, of the Trade and Economic Co-operation Agreement between the Community and Macao, and signing duly took place today, 15 June 1992 (see press release 7113/92 Presse 110).

EC-Brazil Co-operation Agreement

The Council decided to proceed with the signing, subject to conclusion, of a new framework Co-operation Agreement between the Community and the Federative Republic of Brazil to replace the Agreement signed in 1980.

This "third generation" Agreement includes the following features:

- respect for democratic principles and human rights is the basis for co-operation and relations between the two partners;

- the Agreement covers a large number of new fields of co-operation - in particular in forward-looking areas - and makes it possible, through a future developments clause, to widen the scope of co-operation further, by mutual agreement;

15.VI.92

111/BS/mmk

- it also establishes bases for intensifying and diversifying trade.

The Agreement is due to be signed on 29 June in Brazil.

International Coffee Agreement

The Council adopted a Decision concerning Community participation in the negotiation of a new International Coffee Agreement and defined negotiating directives to that end.

Serbia and Montenegro

The Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, adopted a Decision amending Decision 92/285/ECSC prohibiting trade between the European Coal and Steel Community and the Republics of Serbia and Montenegro. The purpose of the amendment is to permit the export to those countries of products covered by the ECSC Treaty for strictly medical purposes, subject to notification of the Committee set up under Resolution 724(1991) of the United Nations Security Council.

Implementation of the POSEIDOM, POSEICAN and POSEIMA programmes

The Council adopted a series of Regulations implementing the programmes of options specific to the remote and insular nature of the FOD, Madeira, the Azores and the Canary Islands, adopted on 26 June 1992.

It will be recalled that the purpose of the POSEIDOM, POSEICAN and POSEIMA programmes is to reduce the cost of supplies and to encourage the economic and social development of those regions, which have a special geographical situation and are significantly structurally backward compared with other regions of the Community.

15.VI.92

ill/BS/mmk

The Regulations adopted by the Council provide for a series of multiannual and multisectoral measures to facilitate supplies and to support the improvement of production and marketing, in particular of agricultural products from the regions concerned.

Canary Islands

The Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, adopted the Decision temporarily suspending the customs duty on imports into the Canary Islands of bars and rods, hot-rolled, in irregularly wound coils, of iron or non alloy steel (order number 17 0501, code 7213).

Olive oil

The Council approved the Agreements in the form of exchanges of letters with Algeria, Morocco and Turkey extending until 31 December 1993 the additional amounts to be deducted from the levy on imports into the Community of untreated olive oil originating in those three countries, and decided to sign them.

Renewed Plan of Action in the field of radioactive waste

The Council adopted a Resolution based on the EURATOM Treaty renewing the 1980-1992 Community Plan of Action in the field of radioactive waste; the new Plan for 1993-1999 takes into account inter alia technological progress, the new safety and environmental protection requirements and the new context created by the technical and practical issues resulting from the abolition of frontier controls within the Community and the gradual enlargement of the Community.

15.VI.92
ill/BS/jrb

The Plan refers to the problems posed by radioactive waste, and is based on the following seven points:

- continuous analysis of the situation;
- development of technical co-operation in the Community in relation to the long-term or final storage of radioactive waste;
- concerted action on the safe management and storage of radioactive waste;
- consultation on management practices and strategies in the context of the abolition of frontier controls within the Community;
- continuity of interaction between research programmes and administrative, legal and regulatory issues;
- information for the public;
- development of an international consensus.

The text of the Resolution is annexed hereto.

Appointments

The Council proceeded with the replacement of:

- an alternate member of the Advisory Committee on Social Security for Migrant Workers;
- a full member of the Administrative Board of the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions;
- a member of the Advisory Committee on Freedom of Movement for Workers.

15.VI.92

111/BS/jp

ANNEX I

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION
ON THE RENEWAL OF THE COMMUNITY PLAN OF ACTION
IN THE FIELD OF RADIOACTIVE WASTE**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community,

Having regard to the draft Resolution submitted by the Commission,

Whereas the Commission has presented to the Council a communication on a renewed Community Plan of Action in the field of radioactive waste to succeed the Plan which expires in 1992 and which is the subject of the Council Resolution of 18 February 1980 ⁽¹⁾;

Whereas in implementing the new Plan of Action the Commission will be assisted by an Advisory Committee on the Plan, such as that provided for in the said Resolution;

Whereas radioactive waste is produced by the use of nuclear energy and by the utilization of radionuclides in medicine; industrial activities and research.

(1) OJ No C 51, 29.2.1980, p. 1.

15.VI.92

111/BS/jp

Whereas such radioactive waste must be managed and stored with due regard to the safety of workers and the public and to environmental protection;

Whereas the Community Plan of Action in the field of radioactive waste has been successful, in particular by enabling technical, legal, administrative and social issues and, particularly those relating to information of the public, to be considered within one and the same framework;

Whereas the current Community activities relating to such issues shall be continued and expanded in the light of the results of the research programmes, the more comprehensive approach to safety and environmental protection that is now required and the new context created by the technical and practical issues resulting from the abolition of frontier controls within the Community and the gradual enlargement of the Community;

Whereas it is important to develop co-operation between the Community and third countries, in particular those of Central and Eastern Europe including the republics of the former USSR, in the field of the management and storage of radioactive waste taking into account the new challenges likely to arise following the future dismantling of several nuclear plants using outdated technology,

15.VI.92

111/BS/Jp

REAFFIRMS the important role the Community's research programme on radioactive waste played in providing a better understanding and contributing to a wider dissemination of knowledge, leading to safer and more efficient management, storage and disposal of radioactive waste with regard to industrial safety and the protection of the public and the environment;

APPROVES the Community Plan of Action which forms an integral part of this Resolution;

NOTES that the Commission will take the necessary measures for putting this Plan into effect.

15.VI.92
i11/BS/jp

PLAN OF ACTION IN THE FIELD OF RADIOACTIVE WASTE

The Plan refers to the problems posed by radioactive waste arising from nuclear power production, from the use of radioisotopes for medical, industrial and research purposes and from possible concentration of natural radioisotopes resulting from industrial activities.

It runs from 1993 to 1999 and is reviewable every three years.

It is based on the following seven points:

1. Continuous analysis of the situation

The Commission will periodically provide the Council with an analysis of the situation and prospects in the field of radioactive waste management in the Member States, with special reference to safety and environmental protection requirements and the requirements of nuclear programmes and activities involving radioisotopes. The Commission will also keep the European Parliament informed of this analysis.

This analysis will set out, in particular:

- the status of research and technological development work under way or scheduled, together with the relevant timetables;
- the applicability of techniques and the situation as regards works and installation construction projects completed, under way or scheduled, together with the relevant timetables;

- the list of the storage installations which the Member States intend to construct and put into service having regard to the nature of the products to be stored; together, where applicable, with the relevant timetable;
- the list of management practices and strategies defined or to be defined in the Member States in accordance with the safety rules applicable in each Member State;
- the status of the administrative, regulatory and legal structures and frameworks relating to radioactive waste management in each Member State and in the Community.

2. Development of technical co-operation in the Community in relation to the long-term or final storage of radioactive waste

- Concerted action and information exchange with regard to the study and opening up of long-term or final storage sites.
- Examination of technical options and programmes concerning demonstration activities in various Member States.
- Encouragement of technical co-operation in the field of storage.

3. Concerted action on the safe management and storage of radioactive waste

Concerted action by the responsible national authorities, particularly on matters relating to safety, shall be continued and, when relevant, intensified.

15.VI.92

iii/BS/jp

Such a system should make it possible to:

- develop a common approach and work towards harmonization at Community level on radioactive waste management strategies and practices wherever possible;
- approximate national practices and regulations in the field of safety of disposal, with particular reference to the different waste categories;
- draw up recommendations regarding safety assessment in the storage of radioactive waste and establish the relevant criteria;
- generally speaking, achieve an equivalent and satisfactory degree of protection at the highest practical safety levels for workers, members of the public and the environment.

4. Consultation on management practices and strategies in the context of the abolition of frontier controls within the Community

The national provisions that have been defined or are to be defined in relation to the management and storage of radioactive waste, which merit to be considered in connection with the abolition of such controls, will be identified with a view to seeking, where the need arises, whatever solutions are appropriate to ensure that the requirements of safety and the protection of members of the public, workers and the environment against the dangers of ionizing radiation can be met.

15.VI.92

111/BS/ap

5. Continuity of interaction between research programmes and administrative, legal and regulatory issues

Regular consultations will be held within the Advisory Committee on the Plan so that:

- a single framework can be provided for considering improvements through technological development to techniques for the final storage of the waste in question as well as for the legal, administrative and social problems that have to be solved;
- a contribution can be made in establishing guidelines for research work in the field of radioactive waste.

6. Information for the public

The public must be informed of the situation in respect of radioactive waste.

In this context, the Member States will continue and intensify their efforts to provide the public with regular information on their activities in the field of radioactive waste management and storage, by drawing up, as far as possible, a common information strategy.

The Commission will do likewise with regard to its own activities; in particular, it will, as far as possible, make available to decision-makers and members of the public the findings and knowledge acquired in the context of Community research.

15.VI.92

111/BS.jp

7. Development of an international consensus

It is advisable to promote, in accordance with existing Community procedures, concerted action by the Member States on the positions to adopt in such international organizations as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the Nuclear Energy Agency of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (NEA);

Such a Community approach should contribute to the development of an international consensus in the field of radioactive waste management.

RELATIONS WITH JAPAN: COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

On the basis of a wide-ranging communication by the Commission, the Council had a thorough discussion on relations between the Community and Japan, in which it shared the Commission's analysis. It adopted the following conclusions.

1. The Council welcomed the political and economic dialogue established by the EC/Japan Joint Declaration as the basic framework for the future development of EC/Japan relations. The Council emphasized the need to explore fully the Declaration in order that both parties should give substance to the goals it sets. The EC/Japan relationship should be marked by a long-term political commitment to a joint partnership.
2. The Council confirms the need for a balanced approach in relations with Japan based, on the one hand, on policies to improve access to Japanese markets by Community firms and, on the other, on the strengthening of dialogue and the development of co-operation in areas of mutual interest.

POLITICAL DIALOGUE

3. The Community and Japan are facing largely the same challenges in today's economically and politically interdependent world. An important current example of this is the challenge presented by the CIS. The Council welcomes the fact that political dialogue between the Community and its Member States and Japan, established as from 1983 onwards, has made a qualitative leap in July 1991 through the adoption of a Joint Declaration. In this framework, which has allowed for the establishment of a comprehensive political dialogue between the Community and Japan, based on the Joint Declaration of July 1991

15.VI.92

i11/BS/jp

and on a regular political assessment, the Council should make a continuous effort to strengthen relations between the Community and Japan in all fields to define possible common actions, taking full advantage of the common interests which link the Community and Japan in many areas. At the same time, the Community and its Member States should make every effort to co-ordinate their positions and to improve co-operation in order to develop a common stance. The Council will reflect on procedural ways of strengthening the dialogue with Japan, taking into account the Joint Declaration of 18 July 1991.

ECONOMIC POLICY

4. The Council welcomes the steps that the Japanese Government has taken in recent years to improve access to certain sectoral markets. It is concerned, however, by the recent deterioration in the Community's trade position with Japan, by the return to growth led by export rather than domestic demand, by the lack of progress in opening specific sectoral markets, by the slow pace of structural reform, and by the growing tendency of the United States and Japan to seek solutions to bilateral trade problems through arrangements that appear discriminatory. It believes that the Member States, and the Community together must follow a consistent and global approach towards economic and commercial issues, attaching particular importance to the removal of structural obstacles.

5. The Council calls on the Japanese authorities to resolve the above issues, and in particular:

15.VI.92

i11/BS/jp

Macro-economic questions

- to follow policies that allow a return to growth led by domestic demand, and furthered by structural reform, and a reduction in external imbalances; the Community and the Member States should pursue this approach also in the relevant international fora;
- to follow policies which in the long run will permit the yen to appreciate relative to the European currencies.

Sectoral issues

- to remove barriers to trade in sectoral markets important to the Community, especially in foodstuffs and services, accepting the resumption of direct negotiations if the results of the Uruguay Round prove inadequate or a conclusion is unreasonably delayed;

Structural obstacles

- further to strengthen competition policy and, in particular to enforce competition law so that it has sufficient deterrent effect, to eliminate the exemption of certain sectors from the anti-monopoly act and to study competition issues of concern to the Community;
- to remove specific obstacles to the free distribution of Community goods and services.

15.VI.92

i11/BS/jp

Industrial co-operation

6. The Council underlines the importance of industrial co-operation in the EC-Japan relationship. The Community should:

- co-operate with the Japanese Government in seeking ways of facilitating industry's participation in mutually beneficial co-operation;
- further examine possibilities of facilitating the adaptation by European parts suppliers to the requirements both of the Japanese market and of Japanese companies in Europe;
- maintain and extend its Executive Training Programme (ETP) in order to broaden and deepen industry's understanding of Japanese and of Japan's industrial economy and paying attention to the special needs of small and medium sized enterprises;
- together with the Japanese government, strengthen the EC-Japan Centre for Industrial Co-operation;
- advocate the establishment by the Japanese Government of new, co-ordinated business facilities for Community industrial newcomers to the Japanese market, especially small and medium sized enterprises.

Investment

7. The Council welcomes Japanese direct investment in the Community, especially when it is integrated into the Community's economic fabric so as to make a

15.VI.92

ill/BS/jp

full contribution to industrial development and renewal throughout the Community. In this respect, the Community and the Member States should follow a common line towards the issue.

8. The Council calls on the Japanese authorities to improve the climate for foreign investment in Japan, particularly by facilitating mergers and acquisitions; by clarifying and advising on tax liabilities and other regulatory requirements; by encouraging interest in careers in foreign companies among Japanese managers and students; and by liberalizing the market for support services, such as financial and legal services.

Export promotion

9. The Council supports the Commission's intention to build synergies between the Community's Export Promotion Programme and those of the Member States and to develop complementarity between Community export promotion programmes and Japanese import promotion schemes.
10. Increased Japanese tourism to the Member States of the Community would make an important contribution to the economic and cultural relationship and should therefore be encouraged.

15.VI.92

111/BS/Jp

Public procurement and bilateral arrangements

11. The Council calls on the Japanese authorities:

- to open public procurement further and to avoid discrimination in the awarding of contracts, with greater transparency in tendering and in the criteria for selection;
- to ensure that, in the context of bilateral arrangements and otherwise, contracts are awarded for purely commercial reasons and there is full transparency on the working of these arrangements;
- in information technology and telecommunications, to strengthen co-operation in strategic sectors and to ensure that Japan strictly applies international standards and that Japanese standards are transparent, a condition for making markets more accessible to Community suppliers of equipment and services.

CO-OPERATION

12. The Council fully supports the intention of the Commission to develop co-operation in the following fields and with the following aims in view:

- in science and technology, to strengthen co-operation in strategic sectors, to define areas where collaboration is in the Community's interest, to ensure that benefits flow in both directions to an adequate extent and to

15.VI.92

111/BS/jp

explore a Japanese proposal for a forum in which to consider further co-operation in this field;

- as regards the environment, further to co-ordinate positions on global issues and to participate jointly in specific programmes and in projects on the ground;
- in development assistance, to better share the financial burden, to strengthen co-ordination so as to make effective the policy reforms adopted by many developing countries, and to develop further collaboration leading rapidly to more operational co-operation, possibly including co-financing;
- in social affairs, to facilitate exchanges of information and the development of a broad dialogue;
- in energy, to discuss co-operation, particularly in areas such as clean technology which have potential industrial benefit for the Community;
- to discuss ways of promoting cultural exchange and mutual understanding.

METHODS

13. To ensure that the Community's policy towards Japan gives concrete results, the Council approves the methods proposed by the Commission, namely:

15.VI.92

ill/BS/jp

- as regards the co-operative dialogue, to use the occasions foreseen in the EC-Japan Joint Declaration to review progress and identify new fields, in close co-operation between the Commission and the Member States;

- as far as the economic relationship is concerned, the Commission will regularly carry out a statistical analysis of developments in the trade of goods and services, in comparison with the Community's performance on the markets of its other comparable trading partners, and the performance of Japan's partners on the Japanese market. After the results of this analysis have been submitted to Member States for their comments, the Commission will proceed regularly to a systematic evaluation with the Japanese authorities, using the Community's performance with other advanced trading partners as a reference. Resulting recommendations will be presented to the Annual High Level Consultations. A general review will be undertaken by the Annual Ministerial Meetings.

The Member States will be associated with this process through appropriate procedures. The purpose of the process will not be to set quantified objectives for trade, but to identify problems, to establish their causes, and to propose action for their timely resolution.

15.VI.92

i11/BS/jp

A CONSISTENT AND GLOBAL APPROACH

14. The Council recognizes that the success of these policies will depend on the adoption of a consistent and global approach. It calls on the Member States and the Commission to achieve this together, on the basis of what precedes.
-

COOPERATION POLITIQUE EUROPEENNE

COMMUNICATION A LA PRESSE

P. 65/92

Bruxelles, le 15 juin 1992

DECLARATION SUR LA SITUATION EN YUGOSLAVIE

La Communauté et ses Etats membres rappellent leur soutien à la résolution 757 du Conseil de Sécurité des Nations Unies et soulignent une fois de plus la nécessité de sa pleine mise en oeuvre. Le seul but des sanctions décidées est de trouver une solution pacifique et équitable à la crise yougoslave. Celles-ci ne sont pas inspirées par une quelconque hostilité à l'encontre du peuple serbe et monténégrin.

La Communauté et ses Etats membres saluent et soutiennent la résolution 758 du Conseil de Sécurité des Nations Unies du 8 juin, et les mesures prises par le Secrétaire Général des Nations Unies en vue d'assurer la réouverture de l'aéroport de Sarajévo à des fins humanitaires, sous l'autorité exclusive des Nations Unies et avec l'assistance de la FORPRONU. Ils se félicitent de la participation active d'Etats membres à cette opération. Ils sont prêts à assister la Secrétaire Général par tous les moyens qui pourraient faciliter la livraison immédiate à Sarajévo et vers d'autres destinations en Bosnie-Herzégovine d'aide humanitaire requise d'urgence. Ils demandent par ailleurs à toutes les parties concernées de coopérer pleinement avec la FORPRONU et les agences humanitaires internationales afin qu'elles puissent atteindre leur objectif d'aider le peuple de Bosnie-Herzégovine qui a souffert depuis si longtemps.

La Communauté et ses Etats membres soutiennent également la création d'une zone de sécurité comprenant Sarajévo et son aéroport, et expriment l'espoir que celle-ci constituera le début d'un processus de normalisation qui apportera la paix à la Bosnie-Herzégovine dans sa totalité. Ils se félicitent du dernier cessez-le feu négocié par les Nations Unies et demandent instamment à toutes les parties de le respecter. Dans ce contexte, ils prennent également note des mesures unilatérales annoncées par les Serbes de Bosnie, ils s'attendent à ce qu'ils les respectent et demandent aux autres parties au conflit d'agir de même.

La Communauté et ses Etats membres se félicitent de la décision de Lord Carrington de visiter Sarajévo en compagnie de l'Ambassadeur Cutileiro, dès que l'aéroport aura été

réouvert, pour convoquer les pourparlers sur les futurs arrangements constitutionnels pour la Bosnie-Herzégovine sous l'égide de la Conférence de Paix de la Communauté Européenne.

Ils réitérent de nouveau que seul un accord politique négocié par les trois principaux partis politiques de la Bosnie-Herzégovine sur la base des principes agréés, le 18 mars 1992, pourra apporter une solution juste et durable aux problèmes qui subsistent toujours dans la République.

Par conséquent, la Communauté et ses Etats membres demandent instamment aux dirigeants de ces partis d'assumer pleinement leur responsabilités historiques et les appellent à déclarer publiquement et sans réserves leur disponibilité à reprendre les pourparlers constitutionnels et leur volonté de participer sans ces derniers en faisant preuve de bonne foi.

La Communauté et ses Etats membres ont noté que la situation au Kosovo est potentiellement dangereuse et demandent instamment à toutes les parties à faire preuve de la retenue et du sens des responsabilités nécessaires. Ils demandent instamment aux autorités à Belgrade de s'abstenir de toute nouvelle répression et d'engager un dialogue sérieux avec les représentants du Kosovo. A défaut, il serait fait obstacle aux perspectives de la reprise de relations normales avec la communauté internationale. La Communauté et ses Etats membres réaffirment que les frontières internationales ne peuvent être changées que par des moyens pacifiques et rappellent aux habitants du Kosovo que leur demande légitime d'autonomie devra être traitée dans le cadre de la Conférence de Paix de la Communauté Européenne. Ils demandent également au gouvernement albanais de faire preuve de retenue et d'agir de façon constructive.

E P C**EUROPEAN POLITICAL COOPERATION****PRESS RELEASE**

P.65/92

Brussels, 15 June 1992

DECLARATION ON THE SITUATION IN YUGOSLAVIA

The Community and its member States recall their support for United Nations Security Council resolution 757 and stress once again the need for its full implementation. The sole purpose of the sanctions decided upon is to find a peaceful and equitable solution to the Yugoslav crisis. They are not motivated by hostility against the Serbian and Montenegrin people.

The Community and its member States welcome and support United Nations Security Council resolution 758 of 8 June and the steps taken by the Secretary General of the UN to secure the reopening of Sarajevo airport for humanitarian purposes under the exclusive authority of the United Nations, and with the assistance of UNPROFOR. They welcome the active participation of member States in this operation. They are ready to assist the Secretary General in any manner which would facilitate the immediate delivery of urgently needed humanitarian supplies to Sarajevo and other destinations in Bosnia and Hercegovina. They also call upon all parties concerned to cooperate fully with UNPROFOR and international humanitarian agencies in achieving their aim of helping the long suffering people of Bosnia and Hercegovina.

The Community and its member States also support the establishment of a security zone encompassing Sarajevo and its airport, and express the hope that this may be the beginning of a process of normalisation which will bring peace to Bosnia and Hercegovina in its entirety. They welcome the last cease-fire brokered by the UN and urge all parties to respect it. In this context, they also take note of the unilateral measures announced by the Serbs of Bosnia, expect that they will comply with these, and call upon the other parties in the conflict to reciprocate.

The Community and its member States welcome Lord Carrington's decision to visit Sarajevo with Ambassador Cutileiro, once the airport has been re-opened, to reconvene the talks on future constitutional arrangements for Bosnia and Hercegovina held under the aegis of the EC Peace Conference. They reaffirm once

again that only a political negotiated settlement on the basis of the principles agreed by the three main political parties of Bosnia and Hercegovina on 18 March 1992, may bring a lasting and just solution to the outstanding problems of the Republic.

The Community and its member States, therefore, urge the leaders of those parties to fully assume their historical responsibilities and call upon them to state publicly and unreservedly their readiness to resume the constitutional talks and their willingness to participate in them in good faith.

The Community and its member States noted that the situation in Kosovo is potentially dangerous and urge all parties to show the necessary restraint and sense of responsibility. They urge the authorities in Belgrade to refrain from further repression and engage in serious dialogue with representatives of Kosovo. Failure to do so would impede their prospect for the restoration of normal relations with the international community. The Community and its member States recall that frontiers can only be changed by peaceful means and remind the inhabitants of Kosovo that their legitimate quest for autonomy should be dealt with in the framework of the EC Peace Conference. They also call upon the Albanian government to exercise restraint and to act constructively.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

7274/92 (Presse 116)

1589th Council meeting

- AGRICULTURE -

Luxembourg, 15 and 16 June 1992

President: Mr Arlindo CUNHA,

Minister for Agriculture of
the Portuguese Republic

15/16.VI.92

ers/DJM/10

Italy:

Mr Giovanni GORIA

Minister for Agriculture

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

Mr Luis CAPOULAS

State Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture

United Kingdom:

Mr John GUMMER

Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Mr David CURRY

Parliamentary Secretary, Agriculture

Commission:

Mr Ray MAC SHARRY

Member

15/16.VI.92

ers/DJM/ic

PROGRESS IN THE DISCUSSIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTS CONCERNING THE REFORM OF THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY

The Council held a broad discussion on the reform of the CAP and the price package following the work of the Special Committee on Agriculture to ensure finalization of the Regulations resulting from the political agreement reached at its previous meeting on 21 May 1992.

The Council noted that a broad majority of delegations could contemplate immediate adoption of all the Regulations but nevertheless deemed it necessary to give itself more time for an exhaustive examination of the various texts submitted to it for approval.

A Council meeting was therefore convened for 30 June and 1 July to proceed with the formal adoption of the Regulations.

PROTECTION OF FORESTS

Pending the Opinion of the European Parliament, the Council held an initial exchange of views on the Commission proposals to extend for a five-year period the Community measures introduced in 1986 for the protection of forests against atmospheric pollution and fire.

As these measures expired at the end of 1991, the Commission proposed that they be extended and reviewed to ensure continuity of application.

The Council will resume examination of the matter after receipt of the aforementioned Opinion.

URUGUAY ROUND

The Council heard a statement by Mr MAC SHARRY on the current situation in the Uruguay Round negotiations. He thanked the Commissioner for the information on this matter and for that on the Commission's talks with the United States administration on these negotiations and on the soya panel.

The Council stressed once again the importance it attached to a successful outcome of the negotiations. It stated in particular that the Council's recent decisions on the reform of the CAP had made a particularly important contribution to that goal, as was moreover recognized at international level. It would be for the United States in particular to make a contribution to the success of the negotiations by showing flexibility on all the unresolved points.

As regards the soya panel, the Council regretted publication by the United States of a list of retaliatory measures. It considered that publication did not help the search for a solution, which the Community was willing to examine under the provisions of GATT. To that end, the Commission would be submitting at the next GATT Council meeting on 19 June 1992 concrete proposals with a view to resolving the dispute between the Community and the United States on oilseeds.

VETERINARY MATTERS

Raw milk, heat-treated milk and milk-based products

On the basis of a compromise, the Council adopted the Directive aimed at harmonizing the health rules for the production and placing on the market of raw milk, heat-treated milk and milk-based products intended for human consumption.

This directive provides in particular for:

- hygiene rules which must apply to the production, packaging, storage and transport of the products covered;
- a procedure for the approval of establishments and the determination of the requirements regarding conditions of hygienic production to be complied with by such establishments;
- health marking of milk-based products;
- the establishment of specific conditions applicable to certain milk-based products which may be manufactured from raw milk.

The Member States will have to comply with these new requirements by 1 January 1994 at the latest in return for the abolition of veterinary checks on such products at Member States' frontiers as from 1 January 1993.

Temporary derogations from these Community health rules:

The Council also adopted the Directive laying down the conditions for granting temporary and limited derogations from specific Community health rules.

Because of particular circumstances, some establishments in operation before 1 January 1993 may find it hard to comply with the requirements of these health rules within the set deadline (1 January 1994). Arrangements have therefore been made for temporary and limited derogations to be granted in order to take account of certain local situations and to prevent abrupt closures of establishments. The ultimate date for such derogations is set at 31 December 1997.

Meat of wild game

The Council adopted the Directive laying down the requirements on public health and animal health problems relating to the killing of wild game and the placing on the market of meat of wild game.

The aim of this Directive is to harmonize the health rules applicable to meat of wild game (health measures for rabbit meat and farmed game were adopted by the Council on 27.11.1990).

It provides in particular for rules relating to the origin of game, the preparation of meat of wild game, veterinary checks and hygiene requirements.

Arrangements have also been made for the approval of establishments in which game will be processed. Moreover, meat of wild game declared suitable for human consumption will have to bear a health mark and be transported under satisfactory conditions of hygiene.

Expenditure in the veterinary field

The Council adopted the Decision amending for the third time Decision 90/424/EEC on expenditure in the veterinary field. African swine fever should be added to the list of endemic diseases set out in the Annex to Decision 90/424/EEC so as to permit Community financial aid for the eradication of this disease, particularly for certain Member States in which current specific financial measures have lapsed.

Hygiene rules applicable on board certain fishing vessels

By a qualified majority the Council adopted the Directive laying down hygiene rules applicable to fishery products obtained on board certain vessels.

The Directive lays down general health conditions applicable to these products handled on board fishing vessels and extra hygiene conditions applicable to fishing vessels on board which products are kept for more than twenty-four hours.

Derogations or conditions additional to the provisions on general hygiene conditions may be established to take account of any specific characteristics of certain fishing vessels.

o

o o

In adopting these veterinary texts, the Council has taken a decisive step towards completion of the 1993 internal market.

o

o o

Implementation of Council Directives to abolish veterinary checks at internal frontiers

Following its discussions in May (see Press Release No 6539/92) on the new rules to be applied in the area of veterinary checks, the Council agreed a policy on the Directive amending Directive No 90/425/EEC concerning veterinary checks applicable to trade in animals aimed at maintaining until 31 December 1992 documentary checks and certain veterinary checks during transport (checks on compliance with rules on the well-being of animals).

The Council thus confirmed the abolition, as of 1 July 1992, of other veterinary checks carried out at internal borders on all trade in live animals.

The Council also noted that there was broad consensus in favour of applying the same solution to trade in products of animal origin as soon as the European Parliament's Opinion had been received, taking into account any problems concerning imports of such products from third countries.

Animal health requirements

The Council adopted a policy approach to the Directive laying down animal health requirements governing trade and imports into the Community of live animals, semen, ova and embryos.

The aim of this Directive is to harmonize health inspection rules for all live animals which have not yet been harmonized. It will be formally adopted at a forthcoming Council meeting.

15/16.VI.92

ers/DJM/mh

Computerization of veterinary import procedures

SHIFT Project

Pending the European Parliament's Opinion, the Council agreed on a policy toward the proposal for a Decision on computerization of veterinary import procedures (SHIFT project) with regard to live animals and animal products from third countries. This decision forms part of the introduction of electronic data transmission networks intended to ensure the smooth functioning of the internal market. The decision will be adopted upon receipt and examination of the European Parliament's Opinion.

OTHER AGRICULTURAL DECISIONS

The Council adopted:

- the Regulation amending Regulation No 3643/85 concerning the import arrangements applicable to certain third countries in the sheepmeat and goatmeat sector as from 1986;
- the Regulations:
 - = amending Regulation No 1114/88 which amended Regulation No 727/70 on the common organization of the market in raw tobacco;
 - = amending Regulation No 2268/88 fixing, for the 1988 harvest, certain prices and the guaranteed maximum quantities in the raw tobacco sector;
- the Regulation amending Regulation No 426/86 on the common organization of the market in products processed from fruit and vegetables. This involves an adjustment of existing provisions for fixing the minimum price to be paid by processors to fresh tomato producers.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

7275/92 (Presse 117)

1590th Council meeting

- INDUSTRY -

Luxembourg, 17 June 1992

President: Mr Luis MIRA AMARAL

Minister for Industry and Energy of the
Portuguese Republic

17.VI.92

ngs/LG/jj

Italy:

Mr Guido BODRATO

Minister for Industry

Luxembourg:

Mr Robert GOEBBELS

Minister for Economic Affairs

Netherlands:

Mr J.E. ANDRIESEN

Minister for Economic Affairs

Portugal:

Mr Luis MIRA AMARAL

Minister for Industry and Energy

Mr Luis ALVES MONTEIRO

State Secretary for Industry

United Kingdom:

Mr Tim SAINSBURY

Minister of State (Minister for Trade)

Commission:

Mr Martin BANGEMANN

Vice-President

Sir Leon BRITTAN

Vice-President

Mr Antonio CARDOSO E CUNHA

Member

INDUSTRIAL CO-OPERATION WITH THIRD COUNTRIES

The Council adopted a Resolution on industrial co-operation with third countries, the text of which is set out below:

"THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community,

Having regard to the Commission communication on industrial policy in an open and competitive environment, approved by the Council on 26 November 1990,

Having regard to the communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament entitled "Developing industrial co-operation with Central and Eastern Europe and the independent States of the former Soviet Union",

Having regard to the proceedings of the Lisbon Interministerial Conference on 20 March 1992 on industrial co-operation with the Community's partners, in particular those in Eastern Europe, Africa and Latin America,

1. Whereas the various forms of co-operation between Community and third country economic operators are an efficient means of strengthening the competitiveness of undertakings, particularly through developing complementarities and comparative reciprocal advantages and by expanding markets;
2. Whereas industrial co-operation is particularly desirable in the current international situation and should be placed in the new context outlined by the Maastricht Summit with the European Community becoming increasingly important on the international scene as a factor for stability and development;
3. Whereas the development of industrial co-operation must be based on application of the concept of subsidiarity and consequently
 - it is the responsibility of public authorities to promote and develop an environment favourable to industrial co-operation;
 - it is the responsibility of undertakings to exploit opportunities and establish co-operation links in a system of open, competitive markets;
4. Whereas the completion of the internal market at the end of 1992 with its greater interlinking of the economies of the Member States will also create new opportunities for co-operation with third countries, showing that the "Community as an industrial partner" is open to the rest of the world;
5. Whereas the experience gained by the Community in the construction of the internal market, for example in the field of legislative harmonization and the implementation of a framework conducive to co-operation between undertakings

17.VI.92

ngs/IG/jj

in an open and competitive environment also represents a key advantage in the development of that co-operation;

6. Whereas the Community has an essential role to play in co-operation with countries undergoing economic transition and developing countries, particularly by encouraging the implementation of an environment conducive to enterprise and by supporting various forms of co-operation between economic operators,

HAS ADOPTED THIS RESOLUTION:

THE COUNCIL

1. Welcomes the Commission communication of 13 March 1992 on developing industrial co-operation with Central and Eastern Europe and the independent States of the former Soviet Union, which responds to the request made by the Council when it discussed the previous communication on the same subject;
2. Subscribes to the general approach and orientations resulting from that document.

IT INVITES THE COMMISSION

1. to pursue industrial co-operation with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the independent States of the former Soviet Union, in keeping with the guidelines set out in the Commission communications of 12 July 1990 and 13 March 1992, which recommend horizontal measures and their application in a context; the following are thus included:
 - (a) strengthened support for the development of an appropriate legal and regulatory framework for undertakings' activities in fields such as company law, accounting, competition law and fiscal law, these being essential elements in promoting a climate of confidence amongst economic operators;
 - (b) an approximation of standards and procedures for evaluating conformity with those prevailing in the Community;
 - (c) initiatives to improve transparency, particularly as regards conditions for receiving investors, economic information and market development prospects;
 - (d) strengthening of measures to support the restructuring and modernization of industry and the creation of undertakings, particularly through technical assistance, taking into account the situation of European markets also;
 - (e) development of training measures, including assistance in managing undertakings;
 - (f) support for the development of professional bodies, contact structures and the organization of professional gatherings;

17.VI.92

ngs/LG/jj

- (g) increased support for industrial co-operation amongst economic operators; particular attention should be paid to SMUs by means of the financial mechanism set up to encourage joint ventures (JOPP programme), information and contact networks (BC-Net, Business Co-operation Centre and European Information Centres) and other initiatives in favour of business co-operation (such as trade fairs or meetings);
 - (h) allowance for the environmental dimension in co-operation measures, and technical assistance in this field and in the field of energy, including safety in the civil nuclear sector;
 - (i) an approach to technical assistance for the independent States of the former Soviet Union allowing increased initiatives in the field of restructuring and industrial co-operation;
2. to develop, in a bilateral or regional context, co-operation between the "Community as an industrial partner" and other third countries whose industrial development the Community should help, particularly those countries with which the Community has traditionally had closer relations for historical and cultural reasons; with this in mind and taking full account of the specific characteristics of the countries concerned, to pursue its support operations, which, in the industrial field, will contribute in particular to:
- (a) promoting the development of an enterprise culture and stimulating private initiative;
 - (b) improving the framework conditions for receiving investments and their transparency for investors;
 - (c) promoting the dissemination of specialized information to small and medium-sized undertakings so that they too can make better use of existing possibilities for co-operation;
 - (d) facilitating the creation of joint ventures;
 - (e) fostering the opening of markets in the context of the balanced development of international markets and respect for the rules of international trade;
 - (f) integrating the environmental dimension and contributing to resolving specific problems in that field;
 - (g) strengthening integrated technical assistance and training operations, particularly in the fields of management and technology, as well as action in support of initiatives on the part of the networks of intermediaries created by economic operators in order to promote co-operation on a basis of mutual interest;
3. with this in mind, to make full use of the various instruments introduced by the Community and, in agreements concluded with third countries in the process of transition or development, to place particular emphasis on implementation of the industrial co-operation aspects, which represent a contribution to their development and their integration into the world economy.

17.VI.92

ngs/LG/AJ

TEXTILE AND CLOTHING INDUSTRIES

The Council adopted a Resolution on the textile and clothing industries, the text of which is set out below:

"THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community,

Having regard to the Commission communication on industrial policy in an open and competitive environment,

Having regard to the Commission communication on improving the competitiveness of the Community's textile and clothing industry,

Whereas the textile and clothing industry is of considerable economic and social importance in the Community and bearing in mind that the structure of this industry consists to a large extent of small and medium-sized undertakings and is highly concentrated in certain regions;

Whereas the Community textile and clothing industry must adapt to increased competition stemming from the gradual return of the textile sector to the general rules of GATT, from the completion of the Single Market and from the extension of preferential links with the countries of Eastern Europe; whereas the responsibility for improving industrial competitiveness essentially lies with the private-sector economic operators themselves; whereas it is for the public authorities to provide them with a clear and predictable framework and to create an environment which is favourable for their activities;

Whereas the success of the structural adjustment of the industry will initially depend on improving product quality and design and the quality and extent of services offered, as well as on improved integration of the various links in the textile and clothing chain;

Whereas the process of structural adjustment is already more advanced in certain Member States, which makes it necessary for the others to carry out the requisite adjustments as soon as possible within the framework of the objective of economic and social cohesion;

Whereas the Community already provides a variety of instruments in a number of areas such as regional development, industrial conversion, research and development and co-operation between SMUs within the framework of the structural funds and various programmes; whereas, however, full use cannot be made of such instruments in certain cases,

HAS ADOPTED THIS RESOLUTION:

I.

THE COUNCIL

1. recognizes the particular situation of the textile and clothing sector, which is having to face up simultaneously to:
 - high rates of increase in the level of imports from a growing number of third countries with low production costs, together with fairly low long-term growth in final consumption;
 - the continuation of the gradual opening-up of its markets vis-à-vis third countries, in particular the countries of Eastern Europe, in a sector long governed by a specific trade agreement (the MFA);
 - heavy regional concentration, making structural adjustment more difficult;
 - the completion of the Single Market, which will affect the present system for the regional allocation of import quotas;
2. emphasizes the need to conclude the Uruguay Round negotiations as soon as possible, especially in order to establish a reliable long-term framework for world trade in textiles and for the future structural adjustment of the textile industry;
3. is convinced that, if the Community is to retain a textile sector which is internationally competitive, the outcome of the Uruguay Round as regards textiles and clothing should involve a gradual opening-up of all markets as well as the necessary transparency of trading conditions in the world, including progress in liberalizing imports into the Community under an approach which enables the Community industry to continue its process of structural adjustment;
4. emphasizes that a conclusion of the Uruguay Round negotiations should bring about a strengthening of GATT rules and constraints, thereby ensuring market access, and should enable effective use to be made of instruments in areas such as anti-dumping, subsidies and fraud and also as regards the protection of intellectual-property rights and the implementation of general or specific safeguard clauses;
5. considers that, in the light of the final outcome of the Uruguay Round and without prejudice to existing obligations under the GATT, it will be necessary to examine whether further initiatives by the Community may be required in order to create effective access to the markets of third countries;
6. emphasizes that the gradual opening-up of the markets will have to go hand in hand with structural adjustment of the sector within the Community, where undertakings will have a vital role to play in developing the requisite strategies. Recognizes the full importance of the promotion by the Community and the Member States of a favourable environment which will encourage adjustment initiatives by undertakings in compliance with the principle of

17.VI.92

ngs/LG/cc

subsidiarity and recognizes that the implementation of a consistent and effective trade policy for the textile sector in the Single Market warrants a Community response to the specific problems of certain regions.

7. emphasizes that, in order to provide undertakings with such a favourable environment, the Community and the Member States should continue with:
- their efforts to ensure effective conditions of competition in the textile and clothing markets;
 - the collection, on a systematic and reliable basis, of the economic, technical and social information required for structural adjustment, for modernizing the industry and for access to markets, noting the activities of the European Textile and Clothing Observatory;
 - action to step up R & D programmes, specify their objectives and disseminate their findings, taking into account the requirements of the industry and its organizations and the constraints connected with broader involvement of SMUs;
 - the encouragement at every level of continuing vocational training suited to the present and future skill requirements of the industry, so that technological change, conversion and new working, organizational and marketing methods can be mastered;
 - examination of the scope for encouraging undertakings to diversify in order to create job opportunities and facilitate the absorption of the surplus work force resulting from unviable production;
 - helping the areas which are dependent on the textile and clothing industry to adapt in their efforts to achieve the conditions both for the adjustment of undertakings and for the development of alternative activities, by improving the infrastructures and services accessible to undertakings, business know-how, co-operation and access to capital markets.

II.

THE COUNCIL CALLS UPON THE COMMISSION TO

1. continue to submit to it regular reports on developments in the competitiveness of the textile and clothing industry within the Community;
2. pursue efforts to conclude the Uruguay Round negotiations within the framework laid down;
3. optimize, in conjunction with the Member States and trade organizations, the gathering and processing of the requisite information on international trade to prevent infringements of GATT rules and constraints in Community markets;
4. follow up the developments envisaged to implement the guidelines laid down in this Resolution, in conjunction with Member States' Directors-General for

17.VI.92

ngs/lG/jj

Industry and, for trade-related matters, with the Committee provided for in Article 113 of the EEC Treaty.

III.

THE COUNCIL CALLS UPON THE MEMBER STATES AND THE COMMISSION

to adopt, and whenever they deem it necessary, propose, the measures which are essential for the implementation of the guidelines defined in this Resolution.. Such measures must be taken in good time and in the light of developments in the negotiations on the opening-up of the Community textile and clothing market."

17.VI.92

ngs/LG/ms

EUROPEAN MOTOR VEHICLE INDUSTRY

After hearing a statement by Vice-President Bangemann on the situation in the European motor vehicle industry, the Council discussed the idea. At the end of the discussion, it adopted the following Resolution:

"THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community,

Having regard to the Commission communication on industrial policy in an open and competitive environment,

Having regard to the Commission communication on the single Community motor vehicle market,

Having regard to the Commission communication on the European motor vehicle industry,

Whereas the motor vehicle industry is of considerable economic and social importance in the Community;

Whereas the Community motor vehicle market is and will continue to be the world's leading and most demanding motor vehicle market and whereas it may form the basis for the healthy development of the Community motor vehicle and motor vehicle component industry;

Whereas the Community motor vehicle industry needs to adapt quickly to increased competition on the export and on the domestic market resulting partly, in the case of the latter, from its gradual opening-up to Japanese competition;

Whereas responsibility for improving industrial competitiveness lies mainly with private-sector economic operators themselves and the public authorities should provide them with a clear and foreseeable framework for their activities and ensure an environment favourable to competitiveness;

Whereas the Community Structural Funds and various Community programmes already provide a variety of instruments in a range of areas such as regional development, industrial redevelopment, research and development and co-operation among SMUs,

HAS ADOPTED THIS RESOLUTION:

I.

THE COUNCIL:

1. recognizes that, despite the advanced technology, quality and good performance of Community-manufactured motor vehicles and the gearing of their model range to consumer demand, there are considerable weaknesses in the organizational and productivity sphere to be overcome by economic operators;
2. emphasizes that, if the necessary changes are to be put into practice, all parties concerned will need to make considerable efforts, with the main role to be played by undertakings in developing the necessary strategies, it being for the public authorities to create an efficient working environment favourable to moves by undertakings to adapt, with due regard for the principle of subsidiarity;
3. emphasizes that the completion of the internal market will make a major contribution to the process of modernizing the industry's structures, in particular through the harmonization process already under way boosting intra Community co-operation;
4. recognizes that, as part of a conversion process, a fundamental change in the system of production is under way which may entail adjustments in employment, the structure and the skills of the workforce which could, if eligibility conditions are fulfilled, benefit from the appropriate Community instruments;
5. recognizes that the industry needs to make additional efforts in the area of research and development aimed at improving international competitiveness;
6. emphasizes the importance of measures to combat pollution in the emissions and recycling fields, the aim being stable and foreseeable technical rules and their harmonized application, with due regard for competition;
7. recognizes the growing importance of the equipment and component manufacturing industry, in many cases involving SMUs, in view of the economic significance of this subsector and its contribution to the overall competitiveness of the motor vehicle industry, and emphasizes the need to strengthen links between SMUs and major undertakings;
8. recognizes that, in order to provide a favourable environment for all the undertakings concerned, the Community and the Member States must, with due respect for the principles of competition and subsidiarity, press ahead with:
 - efforts to ensure that international trade functions smoothly in the light of worldwide competition and in particular in the framework of the current multilateral GATT discussions;
 - the systematic use of the relevant economic, technical and social data for monitoring structural adjustment, modernization of the industry and access to third-country markets;

- optimization of research efforts and intensification of synergy under Community research programmes and Eureka projects, specifying their objectives, ensuring that results are disseminated, taking into account the needs of the industry, and contributing towards the joint involvement of car manufacturers and component producers and broader-based SMU participation;
- promoting in-service vocational training and education in line with the present and future needs of the industry, with a view to mastering technological change, conversion and new working, organizational and marketing methods;
- the adaptation of employment catchment areas which may be affected, whether by encouraging the development of alternative forms of activity and staff redeployment or by improving infrastructures and the services available to undertakings.

II.

THE COUNCIL INVITES THE COMMISSION TO:

1. reinforce, together with the Member States and trade organizations, the use of information on exports, third-country market access and international trade as required in order to prevent unfair trading practices, in accordance with the GATT rules;
2. examine thoroughly the aspects of selective distribution, with due regard for the Treaty provisions, the balance between the interests of manufacturers, distributors and consumers, as well as the various Community policies;
3. follow, in conjunction with the appropriate Working Parties, in particular the senior officials for industry in the Member States, and, for trade-related matters, with the Committee set up under Article 113 of the Treaty, progress achieved in implementing the aims established in this Resolution, including developments in the area of competitiveness, and to report regularly and at least once a year on the progress achieved;
4. continue to apply strictly the aid controls in this sector and to examine the possibility of extending them to the component manufacturers sector.

III.

THE COUNCIL INVITES THE MEMBER STATES AND THE COMMISSION TO:

adopt and, if necessary, propose the measures required in the context of the guidelines laid down in this Resolution. Such measures should be aimed at the adjustment of the European motor vehicle industry and should be taken in time to properly accompany the gradual opening-up of markets."

17.VI.92

ngs/LG/ms

EUROPEAN AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY

The Council adopted the following conclusions on the European aircraft industry:

"The Council has noted the analysis set forth by the Commission in its communication on the European aircraft industry.

The Council wishes to affirm the importance of a strong, dynamic and competitive aircraft industry for the economy as a whole and for the strategic aspect of European technology.

The Council agrees that present economic and political developments will mean tougher conditions of competition, thus making it necessary for undertakings to introduce increasingly competitive structures. The Council takes note of the Commission's observations concerning economies of scale and technological needs in particular and of the fact that the reference currency in the aeronautical industry is the dollar.

It therefore welcomes efforts to create a favourable environment likely to ensure the harmonious development of the aircraft industry and the dialogue with national authorities and business circles initiated to that end since publication of the first communication.

The Council calls on the Commission to:

- intensify and, with due regard for the principle of subsidiarity, to reinforce the dialogue with a view to defining with all parties concerned the procedure for implementing Community action, to be established in accordance with the rules of competition, with the other internal rules of the Community and with international agreements;
- extend contacts to all those involved in the air transport sector, including aircraft industry subcontractors, who are frequently more directly sensitive to current movements than the major undertakings or contracting authorities;
- define Community R&T activity in the aircraft and air transport sector which could be taken up in R&T framework programmes. Such activity could cover technologies of interest to the aircraft industry by ensuring optimum development of co-ordinated action between European and national research;
- continue the dialogue with third countries and initiate discussions, in conjunction with industry, on the situation of and prospects for the aircraft industry in the Central and East European countries and the independent States of the former USSR.

The Council requests the Commission to keep it informed of the progress of this dossier."

17.VI.92

ngs/LG/ms

SMEs

The Council heard a statement by Commissioner CARDOSO E CUNHA; there then followed a discussion in which Commission communications on a European market in subcontracting and on the role of mutual guarantee systems in the financing of SMEs in the Community were presented, together with a report on the definitions of SMEs used in the context of Community activities.

At the close of the discussion, the Council adopted a Resolution on Community action to support enterprises, in particular SMEs, including craft industry enterprises, the text of which is set out below:

"The Council of the European Communities,

Having regard to the Council Resolution of 27 May 1991 on the action programme for small and medium-sized enterprises, including craft industry enterprises,

Having regard to Council Decision 89/490/EEC of 28 July 1989 on the improvement of the business environment and the promotion of the development of enterprises, and in particular small and medium-sized enterprises, in the Community,

Having regard to Council Decision 91/319/EEC of 18 June 1991 revising the programme for the improvement of the business environment and the promotion of the development of enterprises, and in particular small and medium-sized enterprises, in the Community,

Having regard to the Commission communication entitled: "Industrial policy in an open and competitive environment: guidelines for a Community approach",

Taking note of the most recent Commission communications, discussion of which will continue in the Council, and in particular:

- the second report on the implementation of Decision 89/490/EEC,
- the Commission report to the Council on the definitions of SMEs used in the context of Community activities,
- Commission communication on the role of mutual guarantee systems in the financing of SMEs in the European Community,
- Commission communication on a European market in subcontracting,

acknowledging the importance of an environment favourable to initiative and to the development of all Community enterprises, and in particular small and medium-sized enterprises,

17.VI.92

ngs/l.G/ms

recognizing the importance of the existing measures designed to ensure the conditions necessary for the competitiveness of Community enterprises, including small enterprises and craft industry enterprises,

1. emphasizes the importance of regular consultation of the enterprise sector, in particular that of small and medium-sized enterprises, more particularly with a view to consolidating the Community legislative process following full completion of the Internal Market,

notes the role which may be played in this context by a mechanism for evaluating the impact of Community texts likely to affect enterprises,

2. confirms the undertaking it entered into in Decision 91/319/EEC to support the consolidation of the action taken to help enterprises, and welcomes the launch of the procedure for evaluating Community action,

emphasizes the importance of preparing enterprises to participate in completing the Internal Market and of the action undertaken to this end by the Commission,

recommends the Commission to continue, in compliance with the principle of subsidiarity, developing the action necessary to create an environment favourable to the competitiveness of enterprises, in particular SMEs, and to back up their integration into the single market after 1992,

3. requests the Commission to continue studying action which will encourage initiative and development on the part of enterprises, in particular SMEs, and to submit to it before the end of 1992, in the light of the evaluation made, any proposals it deems necessary to guarantee continuity of the policy towards enterprises, including the general financing aspects and the strategies for the Europeanization and internationalization of enterprises,
4. wishes the problem of the definition of SMEs to be discussed in the Council."

17.VI.92

ngs/LG/jj

INDUSTRY AND ENVIRONMENT

The Council heard a statement by Vice-President BANGEMANN on the work being carried out by the Commission on problems related to industry and the environment.

MINING POLICY

The Council heard a statement by Vice-President BANGEMANN on the mining industry, with particular reference to the implementation of the Resolution adopted by the Council on 28 June 1989.

After a discussion, the Council asked the Commission to submit a report on this issue for examination at the next meeting of the Industry Council on 24 November 1992.

SHIPPING INDUSTRIES

The Council heard a statement by Vice-President BANGEMANN on the shipping industries, during which he announced that the Commission intended to submit a report to the Council on this subject, particularly in the light of the work of the Marine Forum bringing together representatives of the various parties concerned.

17.VI.92

ngs/LG/jj

ECSC

- STATE AID TO THE STEEL INDUSTRY

The Council took note of a Commission communication concerning the compatibility with the code on aid to the steel industry of aid in Denmark and the Netherlands to reduce the tax burden on steel undertakings deriving from the introduction in those countries of a tax on carbon dioxide emissions.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine the proposal for a Decision to be adopted by the Commission so that the Council could give its assent, if possible during June.

- ECSC FUTURE FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

The Council noted that the Commission intended to submit to it in the near future a communication on ECSC future financial activities.

17.VI.92

ngs/LG/d1

AID TO SHIPBUILDING

The Council reached a political agreement pending the Opinion of the European Parliament on the conditions under which the shipbuilding sector of the five new German Länder may be granted a derogation from the 7th Community shipbuilding Directive. The 7th Directive controls the level and terms of state aid authorized for the Community's shipbuilding industry.

The Council considers the Commission proposal to be a fair and balanced package accommodating both the unusually severe economic and social problems facing the Mecklenburg-Western Pomeranid region as it adapts to competition within the Community, and the considerable sensitivity of this sector in other Member States and the impact which aid can have on other European Community shipyards.

When the 7th Directive was adopted in December 1990, the Council and the Commission acknowledged that the particular problems of the shipbuilding industry in the territories of the former German Democratic Republic might, during a transitional period, require aid support which could not be covered under the provisions of the Directive.

The levels of aid permitted under the derogation will be strictly limited in time, and restricted to the yards of the new Länder for the purposes of restructuring those yards in order to enable them to acquire similar standards of efficiency and competitiveness to shipyards in other Member States.

17.VI.92

ngs/LG/dl

Operating aid levels above those in the 7th Directive will be allowed until the end of 1993. Such aid will be strictly conditional upon an irreversible reduction in capacity of 40%, based on capacity levels in July 1990. This process must be completed by the end of 1995. This major capacity reduction will be accompanied by job losses in the order of 25 000.

The operating aid permitted would, for each existing yard in the new Länder, include:

- (a) a percentage of debts incurred prior to July 1990 in order to take account of stocks still in existence after that date;
- (b) fresh capital to enable the yards to achieve sufficient levels of liquidity;
and
- (c) compensation for losses incurred strictly as a result of the cost gap between these yards and other Community yards until the end of the restructuring period.

Additional safeguards will be included so that in cases where a yard from the new Länder competes with a yard from another Member State for a contract, the Commission will put in place procedures to ensure that intra-Community trade is not unduly affected.

OTHER BUSINESS

- State aids to SMEs

The Council took note of the need to draft a definition of SMEs.

- Spas and hydrotherapy

The Council took note of information from the Portuguese delegation on the outcome of a seminar held recently in Portugal on this question.