

Texts on which agreement was reached at the extraordinary session
of the EEC Council of Ministers,
Luxembourg
29th January 1966

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UNION DE L'EUROPE OCCIDENTALE

ASSEMBLY

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GENERAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

COMMISSION DES AFFAIRES GÉNÉRALES

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**21. Texts on which agreement was reached
at the extraordinary session
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*(a) Application of the majority voting rule by
the EEC Council of Ministers*

1. When issues very important to one or more member countries are at stake, the members of the Council will try, within a reasonable time, to reach solutions which can be adopted by all the members of the Council, while respecting their mutual interests, and those of the Community, in accordance with Article 2 of the treaty.

2. The French Delegation considers that, when very important issues are at stake, discussion must be continued until unanimous agreement is reached.

3. The six delegations note that there is a divergence of views on what should be done in the event of a failure to reach complete agreement.

4. However, they consider that this divergence does not prevent the Community's work being resumed in accordance with the normal procedure.

(b) Co-operation between the Council of Ministers and the EEC Commission

Close co-operation between the Council and the Commission is essential to the functioning and development of the Community.

In order to improve and further intensify this co-operation at all levels, the Council considers that the following practical co-operation measures should be decided on by common agreement, on the basis of Article 162 of the EEC Treaty¹, but that these measures should not affect the respective competence and duties of the two institutions.

1. It is desirable that the Commission, before adopting a proposal of particular importance, should, through the Permanent Representatives, make appropriate contacts with the governments of the member States, without this procedure affecting the right of initiative which the Commission derives from the treaty.

2. Proposals and all other official acts which the Commission addresses to the Council and the member States shall only be made public after the latter have formally taken cognisance of them and have the texts in their possession.

The Official Gazette should be arranged so that legislative acts having a binding force are published distinctly as such...

¹ Article 162: "The Council and the Commission shall consult each other and shall settle by mutual agreement the particulars of their collaboration."

3. The credentials of Heads of Mission of non-member States accredited to the Community shall be presented to the President of the Council and the President of the Commission, meeting together for this purpose.

4. The Council and the Commission will inform each other rapidly and fully of any approaches relating to fundamental questions made to either institution by non-member States.

5. Within the scope of the application of Article 162, the Council and the Commission will consult together on the advisability of, the procedure for, and the nature of any links which the Commission might establish, under Article 229 of the treaty¹, with international organisations.

6. Co-operation between the Council and the Commission on the Community's information policy, which was examined by the Council on 24th September 1963, will be strengthened so that the programme of the Press and Information Service shall be drawn up and carried out jointly, in accordance with procedures to be defined later and which might include an ad hoc body.

7. Within the framework of the financial regulations for drawing up and putting into effect the Communities' budgets, the Council and the Commission will define methods of increasing the efficiency of control over the acceptance, authorisation and execution of the Communities' expenditures.

Source : Assembly of WEU, The political year in Europe, 1966.

1. Article 229 : "The Commission shall be responsible for ensuring all suitable contacts with the organs of the United Nations, of their specialised agencies and of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

The Commission shall also ensure appropriate contacts with all international organisations."