



COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT



PRESS RELEASE

438th meeting of the Council

- Foreign Affairs -

Brussels, 8 March 1977

President: Dr David OWEN,
United Kingdom Secretary of State
for Foreign
and Commonwealth Affairs

254/77 (Presse 22)

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

Belgium:

Mr Renaat VAN ELSLANDE Minister for Foreign Affairs

Denmark:

Mr K.B. ANDERSEN Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Jens CHRISTENSEN State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Germany:

Mr Hans-Dietrich GENSCHER Federal Minister for
Foreign Affairs
Mr Klaus von DOHNANYI Minister of State,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

France:

Mr Louis de GUIRINGAUD Minister for Foreign Affairs

Ireland:

Mr Patrick DONEGAN Minister for Fisheries
Mr John KELLY Parliamentary Secretary,
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Italy:

Mr Arnaldo FORLANI Minister for Foreign Affairs

Luxembourg:

Mr Gaston THORN Minister for Foreign Affairs

Netherlands:

Mr M. VAN DER STOEL Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr L.J. BRINKHORST State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr David OWEN Secretary of State for
Foreign and Commonwealth
Affairs

Mr Edmund DELL Secretary of State for Trade

Mr Frank JUDD Minister of State,
Foreign and Commonwealth
Office

Mr John TOMLINSON Parliamentary Under-Secretary
of State,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Commission:

Mr Roy JENKINS President

Mr Wilhelm HAFERKAMP Vice-President

Mr Finn Olav GUNDELACH Vice-President

Mr Lorenzo NATALI Vice-President

Mr Claude CHEYSSON Member

Viscount Etienne DAVIGNON Member

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8.III.77

RELATIONS WITH PORTUGAL

The Council took note of the details given by the French Minister for Foreign Affairs of the talks held in Paris on Monday with Mr SOARES, who has been visiting London, Dublin, Copenhagen and Rome in the last few weeks and has still to visit the other capitals of the Nine.

The Permanent Representatives Committee was instructed to make preparations for the forthcoming discussions of the Council on this subject.

RELATIONS WITH SPAIN

On the basis of discussions held by the Permanent Representatives Committee since its last meeting, the Council held an exchange of views on ways and means of regularizing relations between Spain and the Community before the end of the transitional period provided for by the Act of Accession of the United Kingdom, Denmark and Ireland to the Communities. It authorized the Commission to conduct further exploratory talks with the Spanish delegation and asked the Permanent Representatives Committee to co-operate with the Commission and submit draft negotiating directives to it by its next meeting in April.

It also took note in this context of the Commission's intention to submit to it very shortly its assessment of the effects of the Mediterranean policy.

8.III.77

RELATIONS WITH CYPRUS

With regard to the outstanding problems in the context of the EEC-Cyprus Association, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to complete its preparations for the next Council meeting on 5 April 1977.

RELATIONS WITH YUGOSLAVIA

Having reiterated the importance which it attached to the development of relations between the Community and Yugoslavia, and to the implementation of the Belgrade declaration of 2 December 1976, the Council welcomed the fact that the Joint EEC-Yugoslavia Committee is to meet on 29 March 1977.

FISHERIES POLICY

After hearing an interim report from Mr GUNDELACH, the Commissioner responsible for fisheries policy, the Council reviewed progress in the current discussions from both the external and internal points of view.

The Council wished to emphasize the urgency of making definitive arrangements in this sector, and duly noted that the High-Level Working Party on Fisheries would be meeting on 9 March 1977.

The Council also decided to proceed as soon as possible with the signing of the fisheries agreement between the European Economic Community and the Government of Denmark and Local Government of the Faeroe Islands.

SITUATION WITH REGARD TO A DANISH UNDERTAKING IN GHANA

The Council reviewed the situation with regard to a Danish undertaking in Ghana.

8.III.77

ARRANGEMENT REGARDING INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN TEXTILES

Following the Council's discussions, very broad agreement was noted on the aims to be attained during the talks for the renewal of the Multifibres Arrangement, and on most of the negotiating directives to be given to the Commission.

The Permanent Representatives Committee was instructed to re-examine as soon as possible, on the basis of a Commission document, the question still outstanding of the most appropriate methods to cope with cumulative market disturbances in order to enable the Community to enter into negotiations which must begin on 16 March in Geneva.

CSCE - SOVIET PROPOSALS FOR PAN-EUROPEAN CONFERENCES

On the basis of a report on the Soviet proposals for pan-European conferences on the environment and transport and energy, the Council drew up several guidelines for the continuation of the work as regards the discussion of these proposals at the 32nd plenary session of the Economic Commission for Europe.

8.III.77

NEGOTIATING CONFERENCE ON A COMMON FUND

The Council worked out the details of a joint initial position to be adopted by the Community for the negotiating Conference on a Common Fund (Geneva, 7 March - 1 April 1977), subject to one question in respect of which it instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to complete its deliberations.

VARIOUS DECISIONSHuman rights

The Council approved the text of the joint statement made on human rights by the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission.

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EIB loan guarantee

The Council decided that the Community was prepared on certain conditions to guarantee the loans to be granted by the European Investment Bank under the Community's financial commitments towards certain third countries. This decision principally affects Greece, Turkey, the various countries covered by the Community's overall Mediterranean approach, and Portugal in respect of the Financial Protocol.

Mediterranean

The Council decided on the signing of the Co-operation Agreement and of the ECSC Agreement negotiated with the Lebanese Republic. At the same time it authorized the Commission to negotiate an interim agreement with Lebanon regarding trade in goods.

These agreements will be signed in the near future.

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The Council authorized the Commission to negotiate with the Kingdom of Morocco the exchange of letters provided for in Article 14, subparagraph 2, of the EEC-Morocco Interim Agreement relating to Moroccan wines with designations of origin.

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The Council adopted, the third EEC-Turkey Financial Protocol in the official languages of the Communities.

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The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Regulations

- = maintaining in effect the arrangements for imports into the Penelux countries of certain textile products originating in the Republic of Korea;
- = on the entries in the budget of the Communities relating to the financial effect of the different conversion rates applied for measures financed by the Guarantee Section of the EAGGF;
- = amending Regulations (EEC) Nos 787/69, 2305/70 and 2306/70 on the financing of intervention expenditure in respect of the internal market in cereals and rice, in beef and veal and in milk and milk products;
- the Directive amending Directive 70/157/EEC relating to the permissible sound level and the exhaust system of motor vehicles.

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Research/Energy

The Council took note of the Commission memoranda concerning Community programmes on coal research techniques, particularly in the field of mining technology and product beneficiation.

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The Council authorized the Commission to extend until the end of 1979 the EURATOM-OECD Agreement on the Computer Library of the Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA).

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Appointments

On a proposal from the Irish Government the Council appointed Mr John KENNA, Director of Transport and Foreign Trade, Confederation of Irish Industry, as a member of the Economic and Social Committee to replace Mr BYRNE, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, i.e. until 16 September 1978.

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On a proposal by the Commission of the European Communities, the Council has appointed Mr H.P.W. SCHMITZ, Beleidsmedewerker van de Federatie van Nederlandse Valverenigingen, a member of the Administrative Board of the European Foundation for the improvement of living and working conditions in the workers' representatives category, in place of Mr BODE, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office which expires on 14 March 1979.
