



COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT



PRESS RELEASE

440th meeting of the Council

- Agriculture -

Brussels, 14 and 15 March 1977

President:

Mr John SILKEN
Minister for Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food of
the United Kingdom

15.III.77

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

Belgium:

Mr Albert LAVENS Minister for Agriculture

Denmark:

Mr Poul DALSGER Minister for Agriculture

Mr Svend JACOBSEN Minister for Fisheries

Mr Jørgen Peder HANSEN Minister for Greenland

Germany:

Mr Josef ERTL Federal Minister for Agriculture

Mr Hans-Jürgen ROHR State Secretary,
Ministry of Agriculture

France:

Mr Christian BONNET Minister for Agriculture

Mr Pierre MEHAIGNERIE State Secretary,
Ministry of Agriculture

Ireland:

Mr Mark CLINTON Minister for Agriculture

Mr Patrick DONEGAN Minister for Fisheries

Italy:

Mr Giovanni MARCORÀ Minister for Agriculture

Mr Arcangelo LO BIANCO Deputy State Secretary,
Ministry of Agriculture

Mr Vito ROSA Deputy State Secretary for the
Merchant Navy

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Luxembourg:

Mr Jean HAMILIUS	Minister for Agriculture
Mr Albert BERCHEM	State Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture

Netherlands:

Mr A.P.L.M.N. VAN DER STEE	Minister for Agriculture
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United Kingdom:

Mr John SILKIN	Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Mr Bruce MILLAN	Secretary of State, Scottish Office
Mr Gavin STRANG	Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Mr Alec JONES	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Welsh Office
Mr Robert MACLENNAN	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Prices and Consumer Protection

Commission:

Mr Finn Olav GUNDELACH	Vice-President
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FISHERIES POLICY

The Council held a detailed discussion on the preparation of certain interim measures concerning fishing activities in waters off the Irish coasts.

The Council welcomed the Commission's recent proposals on this matter, and instructed the High-Level Working Party to continue its discussions on this basis. It agreed to continue its examination of this problem at its meeting arranged for 25, 26 and 27 March.

The Council agreed on the need to determine as soon as possible fishing quotas for the fishing zones of Member States for the rest of 1977.

Stressing the urgent need to introduce a permanent fisheries régime, the Council was pleased to note that the Commission intended to submit further suggestions in April.

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In addition, the Council decided to proceed to the signing of the framework agreement governing relations in the fishery sector between the European Economic Community and Sweden. This agreement will be signed in the near future.

15.III.77

HOPS

The Council noted the requests by the German and Belgian delegations that urgent provision be made for measures to deal with current difficulties which have arisen on the hop market.

After a brief discussion, the Council instructed the Special Committee on Agriculture to examine these problems very carefully as soon as possible, in the light of appropriate suggestions which could be submitted by the Commission.

VARIOUS STATEMENTS

The Council took note of the following statements

- on the suspension of the Common Customs Tariff for potatoes (United Kingdom delegation)
- on the state of the poultry market (Danish delegation)
- on compensatory amounts in the processed products sector (Irish delegation)
- on the extension of Article 14 (2)(a) of Directive 159/72 beyond the five years envisaged (Irish delegation).

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SKIMMED MILK AND SKIMMED-MILK POWDER

Without prejudice to any subsequent discussions of the problem of balance in the milk sector, the Council noted some consensus on the principle of the Commission proposal for a Regulation amending the Regulation laying down general rules for granting aid for skimmed milk and skimmed-milk powder for use as feed.

The main aim of the proposal is to grant additional aid over and above the amounts of aid already granted for liquid skimmed milk used by pig rearers and for skimmed-milk powder used in the manufacture of compound feeding-stuffs for pigs or poultry (including fresh powder).

The Council has instructed the Special Committee on Agriculture to settle certain technical aspects of the proposal so that the Council may act formally on the matter when approving the whole action programme for the milk sector.

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TRANSPORT COSTS IN THE BEEF AND VEAL SECTOR

The Council has adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation amending Regulation No 2305/70 on the financing of intervention expenditure in respect of the domestic market in beef and veal as far as certain transport costs are concerned.

The aim of the Regulation is to harmonize the financial rules for this particular sector with those for other sectors, where transport costs for products taken over by intervention bodies are refundable by the EAGGF on authorization from the Commission even if this is a posteriori.

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FIXING OF AGRICULTURAL PRICES

The Council continued its examination of the Commission proposals concerning the fixing of prices for the 1977/1978 marketing year.

During the discussion, the President informed the Council of his talks on 14 March with a delegation from the Committee of Professional Agricultural Organizations and on 15 March with a delegation from the European Bureau of Consumers.

In the course of the discussion, the Council examined at some length general agri-monetary questions, and specific questions concerning milk products and cereals.

After making some progress in its attempt to reach agreement on these proposals, the Council instructed the Special Committee on Agriculture to continue its study of certain technical aspects.

The Council agreed to resume its discussion of the proposals at its next meeting planned for 25, 26 and 27 March.

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities

- the Regulations

- codifying the acts adopted concerning products processed from fruit and vegetables;
- fixing for the 1977/1978 milk year the guideline figure for the fat content of standardized whole milk imported into Ireland (3.52%) and the United Kingdom (3.77%);
- amending for the third time Regulation (EEC) No 1163/76 as regards the postponement of the dates for applications for the grant of conversion premiums in the wine sector (31 December 1977 for the 1977/1978 marketing year and 31 December 1978 for the 1978/1979 marketing year);
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 2452/76 on the transfer to the Italian intervention agency of butter held by the intervention agencies of other Member States (extension of the deadline to 1 July 1977);
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 816/70 as regards the rules on the maximum sulphur dioxide (SO₂) content of wine;
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 2893/74 on sparkling wines produced in the Community and specified in item 12 of Annex II to Regulation (EEC) No 816/70 and Regulation (EEC) No 817/70 laying down special provisions relating to quality wines produced in specified regions;
- on the transfer to the Italian intervention agency of common wheat held by the German intervention agency.

The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 1848/76 laying down general rules for the import of wines, grape juice and grape must.

The aim of this amendment is both to extend exemption from the production of the certificate and analysis report - as laid down in the Regulation above-mentioned - to products not intended for normal trade and to stipulate the maximum capacity of small containers.

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The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the decision concerning employment aid for certain slaughterhouses in Northern Ireland.

Under the terms of this decision, the Government of the United Kingdom is authorized, as an exceptional measure and in order to avoid any possible deflection of trade to the disadvantage of slaughterhouses situated in Northern Ireland, to continue to pay an employment aid on cattle and pigs slaughtered in Northern Ireland for as long as a difference in parity exists between the representative rate of the pound sterling and that of the Irish pound; this aid does not apply to quantities exported to Ireland.

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The Government of the United Kingdom is authorized to adjust this aid in order to take into account any variation in the difference between representative rates in the United Kingdom and in Ireland. For an initial period from 17 January to 31 March 1977, the Council has limited the amount of this aid to 9.05 pence per lb. (19.95 pence per kilogram) deadweight for cattle and to 74 pence per score (8.16 pence per kilogram) deadweight for pigmeat.

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The Council noted the Commission communication to it concerning the measures taken and the results obtained in the campaign against irregularities. This is in response to the Council Resolution of 16 December 1975 concerning more vigorous prevention and prosecution of irregularities perpetrated in the financing of the common agricultural policy.

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MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Industrial policy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the following Statement on industrial policy in the aeronautical sector.

"THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Commission communication of 3 October 1975 on an action programme for the European aeronautical sector and, in particular, to those aspects relating to the establishment of a joint programme for the construction of large civil transport aircraft,

Having regard to the Opinion of the European Parliament,

Having regard to the Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee,

CONSCIOUS of the fact that the scale of investments and risks involved in civil aircraft construction programmes means that no longer can any European country launch new programmes in isolation and also that European countries should not launch rival programmes;

HEREBY agrees upon the following objectives for the implementation of the Council Resolution of 4 March 1975 on concerted action and consultations between the Member States on industrial policy in the aeronautical sector:

- (a) the establishment, in close consultation with all interested circles, of a coherent strategy with regard to any new construction programme for large civil transport aircraft, whereby the various options will be examined and duplication avoided from the outset;
- (b) optimum use of design and construction capacities, including subcontracting to competitive industries, within the various Member States;
- (c) joint action by European manufacturers in the search for possible formulae for co-operation with United States industry, in order to promote penetration of the world market by European industry;
- (d) definition of economic viability criteria for deciding on the launching of any new programme such as, for instance, a sufficient number of orders or options;
- (e) implementation of procedures to bring together representatives of manufacturers and airlines for the purpose of defining aircraft types for pre-project discussions leading up to the decision to launch;

- (f) adoption of all possible measures to ensure that airline companies give competitive European aircraft a fair chance;
- (g) exploration of the opportunities and the procedures for a joint effort with regard to basic research with a view particularly to developing the know-how required for the future generation of aircraft and to making the best use of the resources and capacities of the Member States.

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Commercial policy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities

- the Regulations

- amending Regulation (EEC) No 1631/76 maintaining in effect the rules whereby imports into the United Kingdom of sacks and bags of woven polyolefin fabrics originating in the Republic of Korea are subject to import authorization;
- repealing Regulation (EEC) No 1823/76 maintaining in effect the rules whereby imports into the Benelux countries of cotton yarn not put up for retail sale, originating in Mexico, are subject to import authorization;
- concluding the Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the European Economic Community and the Portuguese Republic concerning tariff quotas for certain paper products;

- the Decisions

- extending the period of validity of Decision 76/274/EEC authorizing Ireland to take protective measures in respect of footwear with uppers of leather originating in Austria, Switzerland, Norway, Finland, Iceland and Sweden;
- concluding the Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the European Economic Community and the Portuguese Republic concerning the export of certain textile products to the United Kingdom market.

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The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Council Decision concerning negotiations for the Community to accede to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (Washington Convention).

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Acting on a proposal from the Danish Government, the Council appointed Mr K. STORM HANSEN, Grosserersocietetet, as a Member of the Economic and Social Committee, to replace Mr RØMER, who is resigning, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, viz. until 15 September 1978.

26.IV.77

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Regulation relating to the organization of surveys in 1977, 1978 and 1979 on the earnings of permanent agricultural workers.

The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Decision amending Decision 76/402/CEE on the level of interest rate subsidies provided for in Directive 72/159/CEE concerning the modernization of farms to be applied in Italy.

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VARIOUS DECISIONS

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities,

- Regulations

- concerning import arrangements for certain jute products originating in the Republic of India;
- maintaining in force the import arrangements in the Community for shirts and blouses originating in India;
- maintaining the arrangements for the authorization of imports into France and into the United Kingdom of certain knitted or crocheted undergarments originating in the Kingdom of Thailand or the Republic of the Philippines;

- the Decisions

- authorizing the extension or tacit renewal of certain trade agreements concluded between Member States and third countries;
- concerning the adjustment of the economic policy guidelines for 1977.

26.IV.77

On a proposal from the United Kingdom Government, the Council appointed Mr S.J. LAWTON of the Food Manufacturers Federation, as a member of the Economic and Social Committee to replace Miss MACKIE who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office until 16 September 1978.

On a proposal from the German Government, the Council also appointed Dr. Hans-Friedrich WOLF, Stellvertretender Referent für Arbeitsmedizin im Bundesministerium für Arbeit und Sozialordnung, as an alternate member of the Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work to replace Dr MILDE, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office until 4 May 1978.

Lastly, at the proposal of the Luxembourg Government, the Council appointed Dr. Ferdy KASEL, Médecin à l'inspection sanitaire, as an alternate member of the Advisory Committee on Medical Training to replace Mr HASTERT, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, until 5 April 1979.
