

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

442nd Council meeting
- Development Co-operation -
Brussels, 22 March 1977

President: Mrs Judith HART,
Minister for Overseas Development,
United Kingdom

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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
and Development Co-operation

Denmark:

Mr Jens CHRISTENSEN

State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Germany:

Mrs Marie SCHLEI

Federal Minister for Economic
Co-operation

France:

Mr Pierre-Christian TAITTINGER

State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ireland:

Mr John KELLY

Parliamentary Secretary to the
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Italy:

Mr Eugenio PLAJA

Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean DONDELINGER

Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

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The Netherlands:

Mr L.J. BRINKHORST

State Secretary for
Foreign Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mrs Judith HART

Minister for Overseas
Development

Mr John TOMLINSON

Parliamentary Under Secretary
of State
Foreign and Commonwealth
Office

The Commission:

Mr Claude CHEYSSON

Member

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CO-ORDINATION AND HARMONIZATION OF DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION
POLICIES

The Council noted an interim report from the Commission on progress already achieved and that which the Commission suggests be achieved in the near future in implementing the Resolution of 8 November 1976 on the co-ordination and harmonization of development co-operation policies within the Community.

The Council agreed to study certain specific problems, at its next meeting on development policy, on the basis of communications which the Commission will be submitting.

In the field of operational co-ordination, the Council approved, at its present meeting, a Resolution on the co-ordination of Community and Member States' emergency and humanitarian aid projects.

This Resolution aims at strengthening, through increased co-ordination and, in suitable cases, pooling of efforts, the efficiency and consistency of Community and national intervention measures designed to meet requirements created by natural disasters or comparable exceptional circumstances, on a case-by-case basis.

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The Resolution lays down guidelines for achieving the above aims, both at the stage of providing immediate help and at the stage of providing short-term emergency aid.

The Resolution requests the Commission to submit proposals, before 1 July 1977, for the implementation of these guidelines, so that the Council may take the necessary decisions.

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DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION PROSPECTS

The Council agreed to hold, at least once a year, and if possible twice, a general discussion on certain fundamental problems arising in the field of relations with the developing countries, with a view to achieving greater consistency between the development co-operation policies of the Community and of the Member States.

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AID FOR NON-ASSOCIATED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

The Council held an initial exchange of views on the proposal for a Regulation on Community financial and technical aid for non-associated developing countries. As the Commission proposal is based on Article 235 of the Treaty, consultation of the European Parliament is mandatory. The Council will therefore continue its discussions at its next meeting, after receiving the opinion of the European Parliament.

The Council invited the Commission to continue its preparations for the allocation of 1977 financial and technical aid appropriations for non-associated developing countries, and to submit to it, in time for its next meeting, suggestions for the use of these appropriations so that decisions may be taken as soon as possible.

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RELATIONS WITH THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

The Council noted an Interim Report from the Commission on the progress of relations between the European Communities and those Non-Governmental Organizations specializing in development, particularly in the field of co-financing.

The Commission said it was satisfied with the progress made in this new field which looked very promising for the future.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine the report.

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FOOD AID

After its discussion on food-aid problems the Council reached agreement on a series of questions, namely: the general aims of food-aid; the criteria for selecting the recipient countries and determining quantities; a speeded-up decision-taking procedure for emergency action in the case of disasters of human origin (a procedure to complement that already in force for natural disasters); the possibility of undertaking triangular food-aid operations; certain special mobilization procedures for national food-aid measures in the form of cereals; certain procedural and administrative questions, including the expression of food-aid in financial terms.

On other topics, the Council agreed to continue its discussions at its next meeting (development). These topics included increasing the volume of food aid, the gradual transfer to the Community of responsibility for aid projects, the provision of aid for the constitution of stocks in recipient countries, the supply of processed cereal products.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Directive to facilitate the exercise by lawyers of freedom to provide services.

The provisions of this Directive, which apply solely to the activities of lawyers by way of provision of services, provide that activities relating to the representation of a client in proceedings or before public authorities shall be pursued in each Member State under the conditions laid down for lawyers established in that Member State, with the exception of any conditions requiring residence or registration with a professional organization in that State.

A lawyer pursuing these activities will be obliged to observe the rules of professional conduct of the host Member State without prejudice to his obligations in the Member State from which he comes.

A lawyer pursuing other activities will remain subject to the conditions and rules of professional conduct of the Member State from which he comes, without prejudice to observance of the rules governing the profession in the host Member State, especially those concerning incompatibility of the exercise of the activities of lawyer with the exercise of other activities in that State, professional secrecy, relations with other lawyers, the prohibition on the same lawyer acting for parties with conflicting interests, and publicity.

In the case of some activities Member States may impose certain conditions on lawyers.

For the pursuit of activities relating to the representation of clients in legal proceedings, for example, they may require lawyers to be introduced in accordance with local rules or custom to the presiding judge and, where appropriate, to the President of the relevant Bar in the host Member State, or again, to work in conjunction with a lawyer who practises before the judicial authority concerned and who would where necessary be answerable to that authority, or with an "avoué" or "procuratore" practising before it.

Member States may furthermore exclude lawyers in the salaried employ of a public or private undertaking from representing that undertaking in legal proceedings where lawyers in the State concerned are not permitted to pursue such activities.

Notwithstanding anything in the Directive, Member States may reserve to prescribed categories of lawyers the preparation of formal documents for obtaining title to administer the estate of deceased persons and the drafting of formal documents creating or transferring interests in land.

Member States have a period of two years to take the measures necessary to comply with this Directive.

The Directive deals only with measures to facilitate the effective pursuit of the activities of lawyers by way of provision of services. More detailed measures will be necessary to facilitate the effective exercise of the right of establishment. It nonetheless constitutes a significant step - following the Directive on doctors adopted by the Council on 16 June 1975 - towards the achievement of the aims in the chapters of the Treaty relating to the right of establishment and services, in particular Article 57 on the taking up and pursuit of activities as self-employed persons in the liberal professions.

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The Council, acting on a proposal from the French Government, appointed Professor DORMONT of the University of Paris XI a member of the Advisory Committee on Medical Training to replace Mr BRUNET, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which runs until 5 April 1979.