

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

448th Council meeting

- Foreign Affairs -

Luxembourg, 5 April 1977

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

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

Belgium:

Mr Renaet 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 Klaus von DOHNANYI Minister of State,
Federal Ministry of
Foreign Affairs

France:

Mr Louis de GUIRINGAUD Minister for Foreign Affairs

Ireland:

Mr Garret FITZGERALD Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Patrick DONEGAN Minister for Fisheries

Italy:

Mr Arnaldo FORLANI Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Vito ROGA Under-Secretary of State
for the Merchant Navy

Luxembourg:

Mr Gaston THORN Minister for Foreign Affairs

Netherlands:

Mr R.F.M. LUBBERS Minister for Economic Affairs
Mr L.J. BRIKHORST State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

United Kingdom:

Dr David OWEN Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs
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 François-Xavier ORTOLI Vice-President
Mr Wilhelm HAERKAMP Vice-President
Mr Finn Olav GUNDELACH Vice-President
Mr Lorenzo NATALI Vice-President
Mr Claude CHEYSSON Member
Mr Richard BURKE Member
Vicomte Etienne DAVIGNON Member
Mr Christopher TUGENDHAT Member

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ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS WITH GREECE

The Council decided on the Community position for the second ministerial meeting on accession negotiations with Greece which was also held in Luxembourg on 5 April 1977 and which was aimed at examining progress in the matter so far.

RELATIONS WITH PORTUGAL

The Council agreed to acknowledge receipt of the letters in which Mr Mario SOARES, Prime Minister of the Portuguese Republic applied on 28 March 1977 for Portugal to become a member of the European Communities. The Council agreed at the same time to implement the procedure provided for in this connection by the Treaties.

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RELATIONS WITH THE ACP STATES

The Council prepared for the second meeting of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers which is to be held in Suva, Fiji, on 13 and 14 April next. At that meeting the various fields of application of the Lomé Convention will be reviewed; the provisional agenda will include problems relating to the commercial and customs co-operation sectors, the system for stabilizing export earnings, sugar, industrial, financial and technical co-operation, relations with the ACP-EEC Consultative Assembly and various specific items.

The Council agreed on the Community position on most of these items; its position on the other items will be adopted at an on-the-spot co-ordination meeting in the afternoon of 12 April.

FISHERIES POLICY

EXTERNAL ASPECTS

The Council adopted three Regulations unilaterally defining fishing by certain third countries.

The first Regulation extends for the period from 1 April to 31 May 1977 the provisions applicable to the quotas granted previously to Poland, the GDR and the USSR and the period of validity of the fishing licences granted to the vessels of those countries.

The second Regulation extends for the period from 1 April to 30 June the same fishing quotas for Spain, Finland and Portugal as those granted for the period from 1 January to 31 March. However, fishing by Spanish and Portuguese vessels is subject to the granting of a licence issued on behalf of the Community by the authorities of the Member State holding the Presidency of the Council.

The third Regulation extends for the period from 1 April to 30 June the same fishing quotas for Sweden as those granted for the period from 1 January to 31 March. A fishing quota of 5,000 tonnes of blue whiting has also been granted to Sweden for experimental purposes for the period from 1 to 30 April 1977.

Finally, the Council took formal note of a report by Mr GUNDELACH, Vice-President of the Commission, concerning relations with other third countries in the field of fisheries, with particular reference to the United States, Canada, the Faroe Islands, Norway, Iceland and Senegal.

INTERNAL ASPECTS

The Irish delegation made a declaration concerning the national conservation measures which the Irish government had decided to apply from 10 April 1977.

The Commission recalled the tasks entrusted to it by the Agreement reached at the Hague on 31 October 1976, and undertook to examine the measures in question in accordance with the conditions and with the procedures of adoption and consultation laid down in that Agreement.

RELATIONS WITH YUGOSLAVIA

The Council was informed by the Commission of the outcome of the EEC - Yugoslavia Joint Committee meeting held in Brussels on 29 March. It was pleased that the results had proved positive and stressed the importance it attached to the development of relations between the Community and Yugoslavia.

EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE

The Council decided on the Community's financial contribution to starting practical operations (pre-feasibility studies, etc.) in the context of the Euro-Arab Dialogue.

RELATIONS WITH SPAIN

The Council took note of the work carried out since its last meeting by the Permanent Representatives Committee relating to ways and means of regularizing relations between Spain and the Community from 1 July 1977 onwards. On the basis of this work it gave the Commission directives for the negotiation with Spain of an Additional Protocol to the 1970 Agreement.

RELATIONS WITH MALTA

Since the first stage of the EEC - Malta Association Agreement expires on 30 June next, the Council gave the Commission directives on entering into negotiations with Malta in order to define the trade arrangements between the Community and that country from 1 July 1977 onwards.

C.I.E.C. - COMMON FUND

The Council continued its deliberations with an eye to the resumption of the Conference on International Economic Co-operation. It evolved guidelines which would permit the Community to make a positive contribution to the forthcoming meetings of the Group of 8 and to the Conference when it resumes. It agreed to continue its discussions on the definition of the Community position for the final stage of the Conference at its meeting on 3 May 1977.

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE FOR THE NEGOTIATION OF A NEW
INTERNATIONAL SUGAR AGREEMENT

The Council agreed to take part in this Conference and adopted negotiating directives to this end.

MULTIFIBRE AGREEMENT

After noting the progress made in preparing the Community position for the negotiations on the renewal of the Multifibre Arrangement, the Council agreed to instruct the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue to examine the outstanding questions in the light of the day's discussions to enable a decision to be taken as soon as possible.

ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL

The Council held an exchange of views on questions pertaining to the future organization of the work of the European Council which confirmed the guidelines emerging from its recent meeting in Rome, particularly in connection with preparation for the next meeting in London on 29 and 30 June 1977.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

ACP/OCT

In the context of relations with the ACP/OCT, the Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities,

- Decisions giving a discharge to the Commission in respect of the implementation of EDF operations (1st, 2nd and 3rd EDF) for the financial years 1972, 1973 and 1974;
- the Regulation on the advance implementation of certain provisions of the ACP-EEC Convention of Lomé relating to trade in respect of certain States which have signed Agreements of Accession to the Convention;
- the Decision on interim measures in the field of financial and technical co-operation in respect of certain States which have signed Agreements of Accession to the ACP-EEC Convention of Lomé.

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Commercial Policy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities,

- the Decision on the signing of an Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia on trade in textiles;

- the Regulation concluding the Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters relating to Article 3 of Protocol No 8 to the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Portuguese Republic (prepared or preserved tomatoes).

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Food Aid

With a view to alleviating the effects of the poor palm oil harvest in India in 1976, the Council agreed to supply India with 3,000 tonnes of butteroil FOB and decided on its advance charging against the 1977 programme for milk products; it laid down general rules governing this supply.

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The Council also adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Directive concerning the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to measuring systems for liquids other than water.

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On a proposal from the Danish Government, the Council appointed Mr Preben NIELSEN, cand. oecon. økonomisk medarbejder i LO Landsorganisationen i Danmark, as a member of the Economic and Social Committee to replace Mr Thomas NIELSEN, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, i.e. until 16 September 1978.

On a proposal from the Irish Government, the Council also appointed Mr R.A. MORRIS as a member of the Consultative Committee of the European Coal and Steel Community to replace Mr CHANDLER, who has died, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, i.e. until 9 July 1978.

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The Representatives of the Governments of the Member States adopted the Decision on the provisional location of the Court of Auditors.

Under this Decision, the Court of Auditors will be located in Luxembourg, which will be its provisional place of work within the meaning of the Decision of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of 8 April 1965 on the provisional location of certain institutions and departments of the Communities.

This Decision will come into effect when the Treaty of 22 July 1975 amending certain financial provisions of the Treaties enters into force.