



COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT



PRESS RELEASE

575th meeting of the Council

- Foreign Affairs/Finance -

Luxembourg, 2 April 1979

President:

Mr Jean FRANCOIS-PONCET
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the French Republic

GLOBAL APPRAISAL OF THE BUDGET

On the basis of a Commission communication the Council carried out its annual global appraisal of the budgetary problems of the Community, which enabled all delegations to indicate their particular concerns and priorities in this area. During the discussion, the delegations drew attention to numerous aspects of the problem such as the priorities to be given to the various Community policies, their contribution to the convergence of economic performance and the role of the budget as an instrument for re-allocating resources.

In conclusion, the President wound up the discussion by laying particular stress on the common concern of all delegations that the Community budget should be more in line with current needs. Bearing this in mind, he noted in particular that a number of delegations attached importance to Community action to promote employment and to restructure certain industrial sectors.

FINANCING

The Council then conducted a detailed exchange of views on the financing of the Community budget on the basis of a Commission communication on the matter.

At the close of this discussion, the President noted that the questions arising in this area were extremely difficult and that forecasts were uncertain as to when the Community's current own resources would reach their limits. Accordingly, reference was made to the need to exercise strict economy in managing Community policies, and the Commission was asked to consider these issues in the light of the comments made by the Council.
