

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

332nd meeting of the Council

Brussels, 17 February 1975

President: Mr Richie RYAN,
Minister of Finance of Ireland

17.II.1975

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

Belgium:

Mr Willy DE CLERCQ Minister for Finance

Denmark:

Mr Kurt HANSEN State Secretary,
Ministry of Economic Affairs
Mr Eric HOFFMEYER Governor of the National Bank

Germany:

Mr Otto SCHLECHT State Secretary,
Ministry of Economic Affairs

France:

Mr Jean-Pierre FOURCADE Minister for Economic Affairs
and Finance

Ireland:

Mr Richie RYAN Minister for Finance
Mr T.K. WHITAKER Governor of the Central Bank

Italy:

Mr Emilio COLOMBO Minister for the Treasury

Luxembourg:

Mr Raymond VOUEL Vice-President of the Government,
Minister for Finance

17.II.75

Netherlands:

Mr E.M.J.A. SASSAN

Ambassador, Permanent
Representative

United Kingdom:

Mr Edmund DELL

Paymaster General

The Commission:

Mr François-Xavier ORTOLI

President

Mr Wilhelm HAVERKAMP

Vice-President

Also taking part were:

Mr C.J. OORT

Chairman of the Monetary
Committee

Mr Robert VANDEPUTTE

Chairman of the Committee of
the Governors of the Central
Banks

Mr Charles MURRAY

Chairman of the Co-ordinating
Committee on Short-Term
Economic and Financial
Policies

Mr E. MALINVAUD

Chairman of the Economic Policy
Committee

o

o o

ECONOMIC SITUATION

Having heard an introductory statement by Mr HAFERKAMP, Vice-President of the Commission and taken note of the Economic Policy Committee's views on the 1975 economic budgets as a whole and on the economic policy to be pursued, the Council proceeded to discuss the present economic situation, possible future trends, particularly as regards prices, economic activity and the level of employment.

The main aim of the discussion was to work out a basis for

- the discussions on economic problems to be held at the European Council meeting in Dublin on 10 and 11 March next, and
- the Commission's preparation of the draft of the first quarterly report, which will be submitted for consideration by the Council at its meeting in March.

MONETARY AND FINANCIAL QUESTIONS

As regards monetary and financial problems, the Council heard interim reports from the Monetary Committee and the Committee of the Governors of the Central Banks on the progress they had so far made on the tasks assigned to them by the Council.

The Council urged them to continue with this work and expressed the hope that the Monetary Committee would report back on the question of the Community unit of account in time for its meeting on 18 March.

VARIOUS DECISIONS

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

- authorizing the extension or tacit renewal of certain Trade Agreements concluded between Member States and third countries;
- authorizing the tacit renewal or continued operation of certain Treaties of Friendship and Trade and Navigation Treaties and similar Agreements concluded between Member States and third countries;
- amending and supplementing the Directives annexed to the Decision of 28 December 1972 on the opening of negotiations for an agreement on the implementation of rules for the temporary laying up of goods vessels, applicable to certain waterways;

Directives

- on the establishment of common rules applicable to certain types of combined rail/road carriage of goods between Member States;
- on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to collective redundancies.

o

o

o

17.II.1975

On a proposal from the French Government, the Council appointed:

- Mr Gabriel VENTEJOL, Président du Conseil économique et social, to replace the late Mr SOLAL-CELINEY, former Member, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which runs until 15 September 1978;
- Mr Jean ROUZIER, Secrétaire Confédéral de la Confédération Générale du Travail Force Ouvrière, to replace Mr VENTEJOL, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which runs until 16 September 1978.

o

o

o

17.II.75

FOOD AID

As part of the 1973/74 implementation plan, the Council adopted Decisions concluding agreements between the European Economic Community and:

- Ethiopia on the supply of skimmed milk powder and butteroil (2,500 metric tons of skimmed milk powder and 1,300 metric tons of butteroil) as food aid;
- Ethiopia on the supply of common wheat and maize (15,000 metric tons of common wheat and 5,000 metric tons of maize) as food aid;
- the Islamic Republic of Mauritania on the supply of common wheat (4,000 metric tons) as food aid;
- the Islamic Republic of Mauritania on the supply of skimmed milk powder and butteroil (1,000 metric tons of butteroil and 2,000 metric tons of skimmed milk) as food aid;
- the Republic of Niger on the supply of sorghum (10,000 metric tons) as food aid;
- the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on the supply of common wheat (28,000 metric tons) as food aid;
- the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on the supply of skimmed milk powder (600 metric tons) as food aid;
- the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on the supply of butteroil (3,000 metric tons) as food aid;
- the Republic of India on the supply of common wheat (30,000 metric tons) as food aid;

17.11.75

- the Arab Republic of Egypt on the supply of skimmed milk powder (450 metric tons) as food aid;
- the Arab Republic of Egypt on the supply of butteroil (1,000 metric tons) as food aid;
- the Lebanese Republic on the supply of skimmed milk powder (100 metric tons) as food aid;
- the Lebanese Republic on the supply of butteroil (250 metric tons) as food aid;
- the Republic of Indonesia on the supply of skimmed milk powder (250 metric tons) as food aid;
- the Democratic Republic of Sudan on the supply of skimmed milk powder (300 metric tons) as food aid;
- the Republic of Afghanistan on the supply of skimmed milk powder (300 metric tons) as food aid;
- the Eastern Republic of Uruguay on the supply of skimmed milk powder (100 metric tons) as food aid;
- the Yemen Arab Republic on the supply of skimmed milk powder (300 metric tons) as food aid.

- V -

17.II.75

In view of the continued serious deterioration of the food supply situation in Somalia, the Council agreed to additional emergency aid for that country, involving the supply of the following foodstuffs:

- 15,000 metric tons of cereals to be charged to the 1974/75 implementation plan which is now being prepared;
- 710 metric tons of skimmed milk powder, representing the balance available under the aid programme of 11 July 1974;
- 150 metric tons of butteroil, representing the balance remaining under the aid programme of 4 March 1964.

In view of the urgency of the situation, special arrangements have been made for financing, mobilizing and distributing the supplies.

COMMISSION
DES
COMMUNAUTES EUROPEENNES

GROUPE DU PORTE-PAROLE

Bruxelles , le 14.2.1975
MvD/be

PRIORITE P 1^{er}
remis au télex :

Note BIO(75) 61 aux Bureaux Nationaux
cc. aux Membres du Groupe et à MM. les Directeurs Généraux des DG I et X

Préparation du Conseil des Ministres des Finances du 17.2.1975

Ordre du jour : 1. La situation économique

2. Rapport du Comité monétaire et des Gouverneurs des Banques Centrales sur l'Unité de compte, le mécanisme de recyclage (OECD - Fonds Kissinger), la valorisation de l'or (Zeist) et éventuellement l'utilisation du système de l'emprunt communautaire.

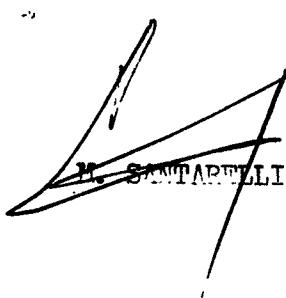
Nous nous attendons pas à des décisions. Par contre, la discussion sur la situation économique pourrait orienter le rapport économique de la Commission, qui doit être soumis au Conseil en mars.

M. Haferkamp a dressé un tableau de la situation économique devant la presse. La situation de la Communauté s'est aggravée dans la perspective d'une croissance de maximum + 2 % PNB pour 1975, d'une inflation au rythme actuel de 12 %, d'un chômage accru en moyenne de 3 %. En effet, un espoir se concentre sur l'amélioration du déficit de la balance de paiements grâce à la baisse du prix de matières premières.

Après une longue période de prospérité nous avons surchargé notre PNB. Il n'y a pas d'autres possibilités que le sacrifice et il est temps que la population se rende compte. Un chômage structurel nous accompagnera dans le futur. Une raison de plus pour distribuer les sacrifices d'une façon juste. Par conséquence, il faut des améliorations de la politique sociale et fiscale ainsi que dans la collaboration des partenaires sociaux.

Au début d'une période difficile nous sommes conscients que la Communauté et sa population ont déjà affronté des problèmes plus graves après 1945 et que la confiance dans nos propres moyens et la force de l'économie européenne feront preuve de notre capacité pour surmonter les difficultés du temps à venir.

Amitiés,


M. SANTAPPALEI

Bruxelles, le 17 février 1975
MvD/lg

Remis au telex à 19h00

PRIORITE P-1

Note BIO (75) 63 aux Bureaux Nationaux
c.c. aux Membres du Groupe et à MM. les Directeurs Généraux des DG I et X

CONSEIL ECONOMIE ET FINANCES

Etant donné qu'aucune décision n'a été demandé au Conseil, la réunion c'est terminée après une discussion de 3 heures.

1) Situation économique

M. HAFERKAMP a fait le point et distribué un document de travail contenant plusieurs questions. Le tour de table a mis en relief les différentes situations économiques dans les Pays membres et les mesures variées que les gouvernements prennent pour combattre, en priorité l'inflation, ou le chômage ou le déficit de la balance des paiements.

En effet, il s'agit d'un choix entre le choléra et la peste, comme disait le ministre belge De Clercq.

Les prises de position des délégations orienteront la Commission pour son rapport qui doit être soumis au Conseil le 18 mars. La Commission est priée d'avancer ses travaux pour que ce rapport annuel soit rendu aux gouvernements avant le Conseil européen de Dublin, le 10 mars.

2) Questions monétaires

Le Président du Comité Monétaire a fait un rapport intermédiaire sur l'U.C. M. HAFERKAMP a annoncé une proposition d'une option politique plus étayée qu'en décembre, tandis que le Comité Monétaire établira une liste de plusieurs options techniques.

Le Président du Comité des Gouverneurs des Banques Centrales a soumis un rapport oral concernant l'évaluation de l'or dans les réserves monétaires. Le Conseil a demandé aux deux Comités techniques de poursuivre ce travail.

3) Divers

Prochain Conseil : 18 mars.

Après le Conseil, les ministres se sont rencontrés en tant que Conseil des Gouverneurs de la B.E.I. A l'ordre du jour: l'introduction d'une nouvelle unité de compte dans le bilan de la BEI. Une proposition est sur la table, celle qui a été employée aussi aux négociations ACP, c'est-à-dire la formule panier du droit de tirage spécial du 28 juin 1974.

Amitiés,
von Donat



