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COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

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PRESS RELEASE

8779/82 (Presse 113)

788th meeting of the Council
- Agriculture -
Brussels, 19 and 20 July 1982

President: Mr Bjørn WESTH,
Minister for Agriculture
of the Kingdom of Denmark

19/20.VII.82

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

Belgium

Mr Paul de KEERSMAEKER
State Secretary for
European Affairs and Agriculture

Germany:

Mr Walther FLORIAN
Director at the
Federal Ministry of Food,
Agriculture and Forestry

France:

Mrs Edith CRESSON
Minister for Agriculture

Mr André CELLARD
State Secretary
Ministry of Agriculture

Italy:

Mr Giuseppe BARTOLOMEI
Minister for Agriculture

Netherlands:

Mr Jan de KONING
Minister for Agriculture
and Fisheries

Denmark:

Mr Bjørn WESTH
Minister for Agriculture

Mr H.J. KRISTENSEN
State Secretary for Agriculture

Greece:

Mr Costas SIMITIS
Minister for Agriculture

Ireland:

Mr James O'MAHONY
Secretary
Department of Agriculture

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean RIES
Director at the
Ministry of Agriculture,
Viticulture, Lakes, Rivers and
Forests

United Kingdom:

Mr Alick BUCHANAN-SMITH
Minister of State,
Ministry of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food

Mr Adam BUTLER
Minister of State,
Northern Ireland Office

Commission

Mr Poul DALSGER
Member

WINE

The Council reached agreement (by nine delegations) on the draft Regulations on the adjustment of the acquis communautaire in the wine sector.

The German delegation reserved its position on the matter until 28 July 1982.

This Agreement follows up the progress achieved at the meeting on 17 and 18 May. These important Regulations, due to enter into force at the beginning of the next wine year, comprise measures designed to allow:

- a voluntary distillation at the beginning of the year;
- a compulsory distillation in the event of a particularly abundant harvest;
- a support distillation at a guaranteed minimum price equal to 82% of the guide price;
- arrangements for marketing distillates, either through granting aid for products with an alcoholic strength of 52% vol. or above, or else by delivering products with a strength of 92% vol. or above to the intervention agency;
- a number of exemptions based on administrative or technical grounds, for example those concerning the Greek and Italian islands or small producers.

PROPOSAL FOR A DECISION AUTHORIZING THE UNITED KINGDOM TO PERMIT
THE ISLE OF MAN AUTHORITIES TO APPLY A SYSTEM OF SPECIAL IMPORT
LICENCES TO SHEEPMEAT AND BEEF AND VEAL

The Council recorded its agreement on a proposal for a Decision which authorizes the United Kingdom to permit the Isle of Man authorities to apply a system of special import licences to cattle and sheep, pursuant to the safeguard clause in Article 5 of Protocol No 3 to the Accession Treaty.

This Decision will apply until 1 April 1984.

ADJUSTMENT OF THE "ACQUIS COMMUNAUTAIRE" FOR MEDITERRANEAN PRODUCTS
(FRUITS AND VEGETABLES)

The Council concluded by inviting the Special Committee on Agriculture to continue its discussions and submit its final report as soon as possible so that it could hold a detailed debate on the whole range of problems involved at its meeting in September 1982.

The Council examined an interim report by the Special Committee on Agriculture summarizing the progress made in adjusting the "acquis communautaire" for Mediterranean products, and in particular for fruit and vegetables.

TRANSFER TO THE ITALIAN INTERVENTION AGENCY OF SKIMMED-MILK POWDER
HELD BY THE INTERVENTION AGENCIES OF OTHER MEMBER STATES

The Council recorded its agreement on a proposal for a Regulation providing for the transfer to the Italian intervention agency of skimmed-milk powder from intervention stocks in other Member States to Italy to be used for feeding pigs and poultry. It was agreed that this one-off measure would cover an amount of 10,000 tonnes.

PROBLEMS CONCERNING MANIOC

The Council invited the Commission, in the framework of the bilateral agreement ⁽¹⁾, to examine as soon as possible with the Thai authorities the supply situation on the Community market during the last months of this year. The Council also authorized the Commission to agree with Thailand on additional supplies for 1982, taking into account shortfalls of imports from other suppliers.

If necessary, in order to cover possible supply shortfalls during 1982, it would be possible, under the agreement, to anticipate the 1983 quantities.

⁽¹⁾ See today's press release 8780/82 (Presse 114), pages 7 and 8.

LAYING DOWN MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR THE PROTECTION OF LAYING HENS
IN BATTERY CAGES

On the basis of a compromise proposal from the Presidency centering on the questions of the minimum space per battery hen, the dates of the different stages and the economic aspects, the Council continued discussing the proposal for a Directive laying down minimum standards for the protection of laying hens in battery cages.

With a view to resolving the outstanding problems, the Council concluded its discussion by instructing the Permanent Representatives Committee to resume its examination in the light of the Council debate on the matter and report back to it at the earliest opportunity.

HEALTH PROBLEMS AFFECTING TRADE IN FRESH POULTRYMEAT

The Council extended until 1 August 1984 the derogations granted to certain Member States to market nationally poultry which has not been completely eviscerated (drawn) or whose carcasses have been chilled by the counter-flow immersion process and not immediately frozen or deep-frozen.

The Council agreed to come to a final arrangement for these two types of production within the period of extension it had granted and to decide in the meantime on a number of questions which remained unresolved, notably:

- harmonizing of inspection costs;
- the problem of the nature and frequency of the health inspection of poultrymeat production.

AMENDMENT OF THE LIST OF URUGUAYAN ESTABLISHMENTS APPROVED FOR THE IMPORTATION OF FRESH MEAT INTO THE COMMUNITY

The Council adopted a Decision amending the list of establishments of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay approved for the importation of fresh meat from cattle and sheep and also domestic solipeds, except for certain establishments which unless refurbished cannot remain on the list beyond 31 December 1982.

MISCELLANEOUS STATEMENTS

The Council heard a number of statements on the following matters:

- exchange rates to be applied in agriculture
(French delegation);
- production aid for preserved pineapple and the minimum price to be paid to pineapple producers
(French delegation)
- expiry of foot-and-mouth disease exemptions
(Irish delegation).

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Other agricultural decisions

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities,

- the Directive amending Annex II to Directive 76/895/EEC relating to the fixing of maximum levels for pesticide residues in and on fruit and vegetables
- the regulations
 - = on transitional measures in respect of imports of sheepmeat and goatmeat originating in certain non-member countries qualifying for preferential treatment
 - = laying down, in respect of hops, the amount of aid to producers for the 1981 harvest;
 - = drawing up the list of regions in the Community in which only recognized hop producer groups are eligible for production aid;
 - = on the acceleration of agricultural development in certain regions of Greece;
 - = amending Regulation (EEC) No 343/79 laying down general rules governing certain distillation operations in the wine sector;
 - = amending Regulation (EEC) No 2852/81 derogating from Regulation (EEC) No 343/79 in respect of general rules relating to the distillation of table wines decided upon in accordance with Article 12a of Regulation (EEC) No 337/79;
 - = laying down for the 1982/1983 wine-growing year the prices to be paid under the compulsory distillation of the by-products of wine-making and in derogation from Regulation (EEC) No 349/79 the amount of the contribution from the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund, Guarantee Section;
 - = amending Regulation (EEC) No 2169/81 laying down the general rules for the system of aid for cotton
 - = amending Regulation No 115/67/EEC with regard to the criteria for determining the world market price for oilseeds;

- = amending Regulation (EEC) No 1614/79 laying down special measures in respect of soya beans;
- = amending Regulation (EEC) No 1569/72 laying down special measures for colza and rape seed;
- = amending Regulation (EEC) No 1417/78 on the aid system for dried fodder;
- = amending Regulation (EEC) No 1119/81 limiting the production aid granted in respect of certain products processed from fruit and vegetables;
- = adopting general rules concerning special measures for peas and field beans.

Fisheries

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the decision on the conclusion of the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Government of the Republic of Senegal amending the Agreement on Fishing off the Coast of Senegal signed on 15 June 1979, the Protocol and the Exchanges of Letters referring thereto.

Transport

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the decision on the fixing of rates for the international carriage of goods by rail.

It will be recalled that this decision enables the railways of the ten Member States to lay down themselves, in accordance with their commercial interests and taking account of the cost price and the market situation, the rates and conditions for the international carriage of goods between Member States.

Bruxelles, le 16 juillet 1982
Note BIO(82)323 aux Bureaux Nationaux
c.c. aux membres du groupe du Porte-Parole

PREPARATION CONSEIL AGRICOLE 19-20.7.1982 (M. Vasey)

433

L'ordre du jour se presente comme suit :

1. VIN

Examen et adoption du nouveau reglement "vin" mis au point a la suite de l'accord politique realise dans le cadre du paquet prix. Les seuls points restant a regler concernent l'ecoulement de l'alcool resultant des distillations obligatoires, c'est-a-dire les dispositions a prendre pour eviter la perturbation des marches de l'alcool.

2. FRUITS ET LEGUMES

Le Conseil entendra un rapport interimaire sur l'etat des travaux relatifs a la modification de l'acquis communautaire dans ce secteur : le Conseil s'est engage a prendre une decision a ce sujet avant le 31 octobre. Le Conseil devra egalement approuver l'adaptation des quotas de production pour les poires Williams et les cerises beneficiant d'aides a la transformation.

3. POULES PONDEUSES

Le Conseil sera a nouveau saisi du dossier des normes minimales pour les poules pondeuses elevees en batterie. La Presidence a soumis une proposition de compromis prevoyant (entre parentheses la proposition initiale de la Commission) un espace minimum de 450 cm² (400) a partir du 1.7.1984 (1.7.83), qui serait porte a 550 cm² (500) a partir du 1.1.1993 (1.1.1990), etant entendu que la question des controles et des aspects financiers serait reservee pour plus tard.

4. VOLAILLE

Il s'agit d'examiner les travaux relatifs a la modification de la directive 71/118 relative aux echanges de viande de volaille, et plus particulierement de decider la prolongation de la derogation actuelle en faveur des "effiles".

5. POUDRE DE LAIT ECREME

Le Conseil doit se prononcer sur la proposition de la Commission tendant a transferer 20.000 tonnes de stocks d'intervention de lait ecreme en poudre, actuellement detenus en Allemagne, vers l'Italie afin de permettre a cette derniere de beneficier des ventes speciales pour l'alimentation des porcs et des volailles (une adjudication a cet effet vient d'etre ouverte).

Sous points divers, le Conseil discutera (sans prendre de decision) les points suivants :

- devaluation des taux verts francais et belge pour la viande porcine (le Conseil n'avait pas accepte les demandes des delegations interessees lors de sa derniere session).
- approvisionnement en manioc d'ici la fin de 1982 (la delegation neerlandaise a mis une reserve sur la conclusion de l'accord d'auto-limitation avec la Thaïlande qu'elle a motivee par la crainte de voir les livraisons de manioc en provenance de la Thaïlande brusquement interrompues avant la fin de l'annee si l'accord etait mis en vigueur comme prevu; la Commission estime que des problemes eventuels pourront etre regles dans le cadre de l'accord. Si les Pays-Bas lèvent leur reserve, l'accord sera approuve par le Conseil Affaires Generales).

Amities



Bruxelles, le 20 juillet 1982
Note BIO(82)323 (suite 1) aux Bureaux Nationaux
c.c. aux membres du groupe du Porte-Parole

CONSEIL AGRICOLE (M. Vasey)

The Dutch delegation indicated that it would lift its reservation on the conclusion of the agreement with Thailand on the basis of an understanding in the Council that additional supplies of manioc will be made available for 1982 if necessary.

According to present estimates, the 5 million tons that Thailand is authorised to send to the Community in 1982 will have been shipped before the end of August, and delivered by the end of October/beginning of November. The Dutch concern to give their animal feed industry guarantees of continuity of supply was supported by the UK and German delegations, and reluctantly accepted by the French as an exceptional measure.

DIS - The Commission will in the framework of the bilateral agreement examine as soon as possible with the Thai authorities the supply situation on the EEC market during the last months of this year. The Council gives authority to the Commission to agree with the Thai side on additional supplies for 1982, if necessary and up to a quantity of 500.000 tons taking into account shortfalls of imports from other suppliers.

If necessary and in order to cover possible additional shortfalls in the supply for 1982, the Council agrees to use the possibility under the agreement to advance exports on behalf of the quantities foreseen for 1983. END DIS

Safeguard clause for the Isle of Man

The Council authorised the UK government to permit the Isle of Man authorities, under article 5 of the Protocol nr. 3 of the Act of Accession, to apply a system of import certificates for beef and sheepmeat from all sources until 1 April 1984. It is understood that the system will not be operated in such a way as to affect traditional patterns of trade.

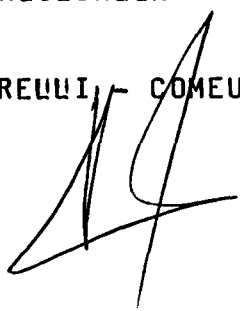
Vin :

Un compromis se dessine sur la question des garanties contre la perturbation des marchés de l'alcool et des boissons spiritueuses résultant de l'écoulement de l'alcool provenant des distillations obligatoires et pris en charge par les organismes nationaux.

A suivre

Amitiés

M. SANTARELLI - COMEUR////



Bruxelles, le 20 juillet 1982
Note BIO(82)323 (suite 2) aux Bureaux Nationaux
c.c. aux membres du groupe du Porte-Parole

VIN :

Le Conseil est arrive a un consensus sur le nouveau reglement "vin" elabore a partir de l'accord politique du 18 mai. La delegation allemande a toutefois reserve sa position en raison des couts additionnels qui risquent d'etre engendres a la suite des adaptations apportees au projet de reglement concernant l'ecoulement des produits de la distillation. Si le gouvernement federal, lors de sa reunion du 28 juillet, accepte de lever cette reserve, le nouveau reglement pourra etre adopte a temps pour etre mis en application a partir du 1er septembre prochain, debut de la campagne viticole 1982/83.

La modification de l'acquis communautaire dans le secteur du vin est egalement un prealable a l'achevement des negociations en vue de l'adhesion du Portugal et de l'Espagne. La negociation a porte essentiellement sur la demande du Royaume-Uni, appuye par les Pays-Bas, de prevoir des garanties contre la perturbation du marche de l'alcool.

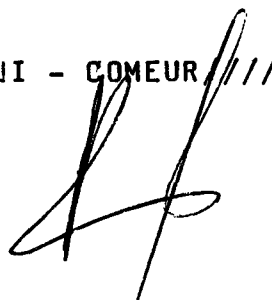
L'accord du 18 mai prevoit qu'en cas de distillation obligatoire pour degager le marche des vins de table, les distillateurs peuvent livrer l'alcool produit aux organismes d'intervention, l'alcool etant pris en charge par le FEOGA qui supporte toute perte financiere. L'ecoulement de cet alcool est regi par des regles communautaires, qui permettent de le vendre normalement sur le marche pour les differents usages et d'eviter toute perturbation des marches de l'alcool et des boissons spiritueuses. Pour satisfaire la demande britannique, le Conseil vient de decider que l'ecoulement des produits des distillations obligatoires prevues dans le reglement existant, a savoir, celles des prestations viniques et des vins issus de raisins de table, et detenus par les organismes d'intervention nationaux, sera egalement regi par des regles communautaires, destinees a eviter la perturbation des marches de l'alcool et des boissons spiritueuses. A la demande de la delegation italienne, il est prevu que si l'application de ces regles ne permet pas l'ecoulement de ces produits, la Commission prendra les mesures necessaires pour en permettre l'ecoulement sans perturber le marche, les couts qui en resultent etant a la charge du FEOGA. Pour ce qui concerne la distillation de soutien, pour laquelle le reglement ne prevoit ni regles communautaires regissant l'ecoulement de l'alcool ni participation financiere du FEOGA, la Commission a declare que, dans le cadre de ses competences prevues par le reglement, elle veillera a ce que soit evitee toute perturbation dans les secteurs du vin et de l'alcool, tout en permettant aux distillateurs de payer le prix minimum garanti et de vendre l'alcool de vin a des prix de concurrence avec les autres types d'alcool disponibles sur le marche.

Une fiche recapitulative sur le nouveau regime du vin vous sera envoyee incessamment. Hic!

A suivre

Amities

M. SANTARELLI - COMEUR



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Bruxelles, le 20 juillet 1982

Note BIO (82) 323 (suite 3) aux Bureaux nationaux
c.c. aux Membres du Groupe du Porte-Parole

CONSEIL AGRICOLE (M. VASEY)

Le Conseil a

- eu un échange de vues sur les normes minimales pour les poules pondeuses, élevées en batterie, sur la base du compromis de la présidence sans toutefois approcher sensiblement les positions des uns et des autres;

- approuve la prorogation jusqu'au 31 octobre 1983 de la dérogation aux dispositions de la directive 71/118 pour la production nationale des poulets, dits "effiles", étant entendu que le Conseil s'engage à régler avant cette date la question de l'harmonisation des frais d'inspection pour les viandes de volaille, ainsi que la teneur maximale en eau pour les viandes réfrigérées;

- entendu un rapport sur les travaux du CSA relatif à la modification de l'acquis communautaire dans le secteur des fruits et légumes; la délégation française a rappelé que l'aménagement du règlement existant doit être réalisé indépendamment de l'adhésion de l'Espagne, et comporter un renforcement de la préférence communautaire et des mécanismes d'interventions (retraites);

- approuve l'augmentation des quotas de production éligibles pour les aides à la transformation pour les poires Williams (de 74.150 à 82.800 tonnes), les bigarreaux (de 26.250 à 29.100 tonnes) et les griottes (de 52.800 à 60.000 tonnes);

- autorise le transfert de 10.000 tonnes de poudre de lait écrémé des stocks d'intervention allemands vers l'Italie en vue de leur utilisation pour l'alimentation des porcs et des volailles;

- modifie la liste des établissements en Uruguay agréés pour l'exportation de viandes fraîches vers la Communauté, étant entendu que la procédure d'inspection dans les pays tiers sera améliorée;

- entendu une déclaration du ministre français sur la nécessité de parvenir à une décision sur la modification du franc vert pour la viande porcine avant le 1er novembre prochain.

FIN

Amitiés,
M. SANTARELLI COMEUR
p.o. M. VASEY COMEUR 20.30

