

PRESS RELEASE

11222/83 (Presse 216)

893rd meeting of the Council

- Agriculture -

Brussels, 12 and 13 December 1983

President: Mr Constantinos SIMITIS,  
Minister for Agriculture  
of the Hellenic Republic



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

Denmark:

Mr Niels Anger KOFOED  
Minister for Agriculture

Germany:

Mr Ignaz KIECHLE  
Federal Minister for Food,  
Agriculture and Forestry

Greece:

Mr Constantinos SIMITIS  
Minister for Agriculture

Mr Hans-Jürgen ROHR  
State Secretary,  
Federal Ministry for Food,  
Agriculture and Forestry

Mr Panayiotis KATSAROS  
State Secretary,  
Ministry of Agriculture

France:

Mr Michel ROCARD  
Minister for Agriculture

Ireland:

Mr Austin DEASY  
Minister for Agriculture

Mr René SOUCHON  
State Secretary,  
Ministry of Agriculture

Italy:

Mr Filippo Maria PANDOLFI  
Minister for Agriculture

Luxembourg:

Mr Ernest MUHLEN  
Minister for Agriculture,  
Viticulture, Water Control  
and Forestry

Netherlands:

Mr G. BRAKS  
Minister for Agriculture  
and Fisheries

United Kingdom:

Mr Michael JOPLING  
Minister for Agriculture,  
Fisheries and Food

Mr John MacGREGOR  
Minister of State,  
Ministry of Agriculture,  
Fisheries and Food

Commission:

Mr Poul DALSGER - Member

REVISION OF THE AGRICULTURAL STRUCTURES POLICY

On the basis of an interim report from the Presidency the Council held a wide-ranging exchange of views on progress with the revision of the agricultural structures policy.

Following the discussion the Council noted that in the light of the complex nature of the problems encountered in the technical examination of the Commission proposals and the linking of revision of the agricultural structures policy with the outcome of the review of the common agricultural policy in general, it was physically impossible to approve the revision of the agricultural structures policy by 31 December 1983.

The Council therefore asked the Commission to submit proposals for extension of the socio-structural Directives which were about to expire; these proposals would be formally approved upon receipt of the Opinion of the European Parliament.

AMENDMENT OF THE COMMUNITY LIST OF LESS-FAVOURED FARMING AREAS

Following a brief discussion of three proposals for Directives amending the Community list of less-favoured farming areas within the meaning of Directive 75/268/EEC in Italy, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands, the Council agreed to return to the issue at a future meeting on agricultural questions.

CONTINUATION OF NEW ZEALAND BUTTER IMPORTS INTO THE UNITED KINGDOM  
UNDER SPECIAL CONDITIONS

Pending adoption of the five-yearly system initially proposed by the Commission the Council agreed in principle to a transitional measure fixing at 13 833 tonnes the amount of New Zealand butter which the United Kingdom is authorized to import under special conditions during the period 1 January 1984 to 29 February 1984, on the understanding that this interim decision is without prejudice to the final decision to be taken by the Council.

COMMON ORGANIZATION OF THE MARKET IN SHEEPMEAT AND GOATMEAT

On the basis of an interim report from the Special Committee on Agriculture on the conclusions drawn by the Commission from the first three years of operation of the common organization of the market in sheepmeat and goatmeat, the Council noted delegations' first reactions to the adjustments which the Commission proposes be made to the internal arrangements, and the points to be renegotiated in the voluntary restraint agreements with third countries.

Following its discussions the Council asked the Special Committee on Agriculture to continue its work pending specific proposals from the Commission and to report back to it at a future meeting on agricultural questions.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMUNITY SCALE FOR GRADING OF THE CARCASSES  
OF ADULT BOVINE ANIMALS

On the basis of a report from the Special Committee on Agriculture the Council made a full examination of the proposal for a Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 805/68 on the common organization of the market in beef and veal, the purpose of which is, by applying the Community scale for the grading of carcasses to intervention, to ensure that the same buying-in price is paid for the same quality of product in all the Member States.

The Council then instructed the Special Committee on Agriculture to continue examining the various outstanding technical problems in the light of the Council's discussion and to report back to it in time for a decision before the start of the next marketing year.

AGRI-MONETARY SECTOR

Without prejudice to the Opinion of the European Parliament, the Council was favourable to a draft Regulation extending until 31 december 1984 Regulation (EEC) No 652/79 on the introduction of the ECU in the common agricultural policy, on the understanding that the Regulation would be formally adopted in the official languages of the Communities by the most appropriate means once the European Parliament's Opinion had been received.

FIXING OF THE ACTIVATING PRICES FOR TABLE WINES FOR THE PERIOD  
16 DECEMBER 1983 TO 31 AUGUST 1984

On the basis of a proposal from the Commission the Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Regulation on the final points concerning the fixing of prices and other measures for table wines for the 1983/1984 marketing year, with reference to the period 16 December 1983 to 31 August 1984. (This period is determined by the decision taken in the context of the changes made to the basic arrangements for table wines by Regulation (EEC) No 1595/83, whereby as from 1984 the price year starts on 1 September each year).

The figures are as follows:

Type of wine	Activating price
R I	3,19 ECU/% vol/hl
R II	3,19 ECU/% vol/hl
R III	49,84 ECU/hl
A I	2,92 ECU/% vol/hl
A II	65,13 ECU/hl
A III	74,37 ECU/hl

## PRESERVATIVES AUTHORIZED FOR USE IN FOODSTUFFS

The Council resumed examination of an amended proposal for an amendment to Directive 64/54/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the member States concerning the preservatives authorized for use in foodstuffs.

Following its discussion the Council extended until 15.2.1984 the authorization of the use of thiabendazole, as an interim measure pending the decision on the entire proposal to be taken by that date.

## MARKETING STANDARDS FOR EGGS

On the basis of a report from the Special Committee on Agriculture the council held a full discussion of various points of the proposal for a Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 2772/75 on marketing standards for eggs.

The Council then asked the Special Committee on Agriculture to expedite the technical examination of the last-remaining difficulties and report back to it at a future meeting on agricultural questions for a decision on the matter.



VETERINARY SECTOR

On the basis of a report from the Permanent Representatives Committee the Council held a wideranging discussion of progress in the veterinary sector and in particular of the situation regarding certain derogations (fresh poultrymeat and foot-and-mouth disease), taking into account that the proposals on the final arrangements for the problems to which these derogations relate have yet to be submitted.

As regards the derogations relating to foot-and-mouth disease, the Council noted that the commission was prepared to submit a formal proposal by the end of March 1984 and agreed to an extension for six months as from 1 January 1984 of the derogations granted in 1976 to Ireland, the United Kingdom and Denmark for live animals and to Ireland and the United Kingdom in respect of Northern Ireland for fresh meat.

As regards the derogations for fresh poultry-meat (in particular drawn poultry), the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue examining the matter, with particular reference to the question of responsibility for inspection costs, and to report back to it by 31 March 1984.

MISCELLANEOUS STATEMENTS

The Council heard statements relating to the following questions:

- Question concerning the beef and veal estimates
- Question concerning alcohol exports from France  
(United Kingdom delegation)
- Question relating to the common organization of the market in rice  
(United Kingdom delegation)
- Problem concerning the quality criteria for cereals intended for export  
(United Kingdom delegation)
- Information from the Commission on the timetable for the veterinary sector
- Question concerning the draft Commission Regulation amending Regulation No 1443/82 on the arrangements for applying the quota system in the sugar sector  
(Belgian and United Kingdom delegations)

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Other agricultural decisions

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities:

- the Regulations

- = amending, for the sixth time, Regulation (EEC) No 351/79 concerning the addition of alcohol to products in the wine sector;
- = laying down certain measures for acid oils from the refining of by-products of olive oil or olive-residue oil;
- = fixing for the 1984/1985 milk year the guideline figure for the fat content of standardized whole milk imported into Ireland and the United Kingdom;
- = amending Regulation (EEC) No 985/68 in respect of the classification of butter and cream;

- the Decisions

- = adopting common research programmes and programmes for the co-ordination of agricultural research;
- = approving derogations provided for by Italy from certain provisions of Council Directive 77/93/EEC in respect of seed potatoes originating in Canada, on the one hand, and in Poland, on the other hand;

- the Directives

- = extending the validity of Article 7(1) points C and E, of Directive 64/432/EEC.
- = amending for the second time Directive 76/118/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to certain partly or wholly dehydrated preserved milk for human consumption.

The Council also took note of the Commission communication concerning the final estimates for the 1981/1982 wine-growing year and of the Commission report on the foreseeable trends in the planting and replanting of vineyards in the Community and on the balance of production and consumption in the wine sector.

Fisheries

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulations:

- fixing the guide prices for the fishery products listed in Annex I(A) and (D) to Regulation (EEC) No 3796/81 for the 1984 fishing year:

Species	Guide price (ECU per tonne)	Increase (as %)
1. Herrings	336	0
2. Sardines ( <i>Sardina Pilchardus</i> ):		
(a) Atlantic	537	0
(b) Mediterranean	428.	5
3. Dogfish ( <i>Squalus scanthias</i> )	836	2
4. Dogfish ( <i>Scyliohinus spp.</i> )	806	2
5. Redfish ( <i>Sebastea spp.</i> )	782	4
6. Cod	1.053	6
7. Saithe	606	4
8. Haddock	788	6
9. Whiting	725	5
10. Ling	867	2
11. Mackerel	277	2
12. Anchovies	540	6
13. Plaice		
- 1.1.-30.4.84	722	2
- 1.5.-31.12.84	976	7
14. Hake ( <i>Merluccius merluccius</i> )	2.316	6
15. Shrimps of the genus <i>Crangon crangon</i>	1.401	2

- fixing the guide prices for the fishery products listed in Annex II to Regulation (EEC) No 3796/81 for the 1984 fishing year:

Species	Guide price (ECU per tonne)	Increase (as %)
1. Sardines	389	0
2. Sea-bream of the species <i>Dentex dentex</i> and <i>Pagellus</i> spp	1 178	3
3. Edible crabs ( <i>Cancer pagurus</i> )	615	7
4. Norway lobster ( <i>Nephrops norvegicus</i> )	1 751	6
5. Squid ( <i>Loligo</i> spp)	2 332	7
6. Squid ( <i>Todarodes sagittatus</i> )	1 151	5
7. Squid ( <i>Illex</i> spp)	1 151	5
8. Cuttlefish of the species <i>Sepia officinalis</i> , <i>Rossia macrosoma</i> and <i>Sepiola rondeletti</i>	1 503	3
9. Octopus	1 120	7

- fixing the Community producer price for tuna intended for the canning industry for the 1984 fishing year:

Species	Community producer price (ECU per tonne)	Increase (as %)
Tuna (Albacore)	1 351	1

GATT

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities:

- the Decision concerning an amendment of the tariff concession, under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, on audio systems with laser pick-ups (CCT heading 92.11 A II);
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 950/68 on the CCT as regards this product.

See Press Release 202 of 29 November 1983 - p. 13.

Relations with the Mediterranean countries

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities six Regulations:

- = opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for fresh or dried hazelnuts, shelled or not, falling within subheading ex 08.05 G of the Common Customs Tariff and originating in Turkey (1984);
- = opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for certain wines having a registered designation of origin falling within subheading ex 22.05 C of the Common Customs Tariff and originating in Algeria (1984);
- = opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for certain wines having a registered designation of origin falling within subheading ex 22.05 C of the Common Customs Tariff and originating in Yugoslavia (1984);
- = opening, allocating and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas for prepared or preserved sardines falling within subheading 16.04 D of the Common Customs Tariff and originating in Morocco (1984);
- = opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for prepared or preserved sardines falling within subheading 16.04 D of the Common Customs Tariff and originating in Tunisia (1984);
- = opening and providing for the administration of a Community preferential ceiling for certain petroleum products refined in Turkey and establishing Community supervision of imports thereof (1984).

Research

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision amending Decision 82/402/EEC establishing a programme of research and development (1982-1985) in the raw materials sector.

Appointment

On a proposal from the United Kingdom Government, the Council appointed Mr I.M. CAMPBELL, British Railways Board, Rail House, as a member of the Economic and Social Committee to replace Mr C.E. MILLS, who has died, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which runs until 20 September 1986.

Bruxelles, le 12 decembre 1983.

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Note BIO (83) 528 aux Bureaux Nationaux  
cc. aux Membres du Groupe du Porte-Parole

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### CONSEIL AGRICOLE (M. Vasey)

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Le Conseil agricole se reunit les 12 et 13 decembre sous la presidence de M. Simitis, ministre grec de l'agriculture. Le Conseil a decide d'avoir un echange de vues sur les suites du Conseil Europeen d'Athenes a la fin de sa reunion.

#### 1. Revision de la politique communautaire

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Le Conseil a eu un echange de vues sur l'opportunit , compte tenu de ce que les travaux sur le renouvellement de la politique communautaire des structures ne sont pas suffisamment avances pour permettre au Conseil de prendre une decision, de proroger la politique actuelle (les trois directives de base expirent fin 1983), ceci afin d'eviter un vide juridique a partir de janvier 1984. Si les avis sont divergents quant a la duree de la prorogation (3 mois/6 mois/1 an), ils le sont encore plus sur la question de savoir s'il faudrait proroger le regime actuel tel quel (delegations francaise, italienne, irlandaise), ou s'il faudrait interdire les aides aux investissements dans les secteurs laitier et porcin, et cela a partir de 1984 (delegations allemande, britannique, benelux, danoise). M. Dalsager a annonce que la Commission fera incessamment une proposition au Conseil de prorogation des trois directives en question, etant entendu que la Communaute pourra difficilement proposer la poursuite d'aides publiques aux investissements du moins dans le secteur laitier.

#### 2. Extension de limite des zones defavorisees

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Les delegations allemande, francaise et danoise ont maintenu leurs reserves sur la proposition de la Commission d'etendre la limite des zones agricoles defavorisees au Royaume-Uni, en Italie et aux Pays-Bas. La delegation britannique a indique qu'elle ne pourra pas accepter une prorogation des directives socio-culturelles sans qu'une decision soit prise en meme temps sur cette question.

#### 3. Beurre

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Le Conseil a examine la question de la poursuite des importations de beurre neo-zelandais apres le 31 decembre 1983. Compte-tenu de l'impossibilite de realiser un accord au sein du Conseil sur le nouvel arrangement de 5 ans propose par la Commission, M. Dalsager a propose un arrangement temporaire pour trois mois pour un volume d'importation de 20.750 tonnes, soit le quart de la quantite proposee pour 1984. Cette proposition etait acceptable pour la plupart des delegations, mais les delegations francaise et irlandaise sont seulement pretes a envisager une quantite reduite, eventuellement pour un mois. Decision reportee a demain.

La suite de l'ordre du jour du conseil comporte les points suivants :

- viande ovi ne  
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Examen du rapport de la Commission sur le fonctionnement de l'organisation commune de marche. (La delegation francaise entend soulever la question de la renegotiation des accords d'auto-limitation avec les pays fournisseurs qu'elle lie au dossier beurre neo-zelandais).

- viande bovine  
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a. Grille de classement des carcasses (report eventuel de la date d'application aux achats a l'intervention)

b. bilans estimatifs (La Commission n'ayant pas termine la consultation des pays fournisseurs, n'a pas encore fait de propositions au Conseil concernant le niveau des importations en 1984).

- vins  
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Le Conseil doit encore arreter les prix de declenchement pour la periode 16.12.83 au 31.8.84.

- oeufs  
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Normes de commercialisation (propositions de 1977)

- secteur veterinaire  
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a. extension des derogations fièvre aphteuse en faveur du Royaume-Uni et Irlande

b. modification de la directive 71/118 concernant la viande de volaille

- agents conservateurs dans les denrees alimentaires  
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Modification de la directive 64/54 concernant les denrees alimentaires.

A SUIVRE.

Amities,  
N.G. van der Pas. Comeur 19h////



Bruxelles, le 13 decembre 1983

NOTE BIO (83) 528 (SUITE 1 ) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX  
C.C. AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPE DU PORTE-PAROLE

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CONSEIL AGRICOLE (Martin VASEY)

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Voila les resultats du Conseil agricole des 12 et 13  
decembre 1983 :

BEURRE

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Le Conseil a proroge le regime d'importation du beurre en provenance de la Nouvelle-Zelande jusqu'a fin janvier 1984, en fixant la quantite a importer a 13.833 tonnes pour les deux mois, chiffre correspondant a la quantite proposee par la Commission pour l'ensemble de 1984 (83.000 t). Cette decision interimaire ne prejuge pas la decision definitive du Conseil en la matiere.

Utilisation de l'ECU

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Le Conseil a proroge l'utilisation de l'ECU dans la PAC pour un an. M. DALSAGER a fait valoir que l'ECU a ete introduit dans la PAC il y a presque cinq ans et que personne ne pense plus revenir en arriere. Tout en acceptant une nouvelle prorogation d'un an, la Commission maintient sa proposition au Conseil de supprimer la limitation temporaire.

VIANDE BOVINE

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a. En ce qui concerne la grille de classification des carcasses, qui aurait du etre appliquee a partir de janvier 84, le dossier CSA a examiner les deux solutions envisagees pour eviter les effets nefastes d'une reduction des prix d'achat en Italie et en Grece, a savoir soit l'introduction d'une categorie speciale pour les jeunes bovins (vitelloni), soit une periode transitoire de 3 ans.

b. Bilan estimatifs

M. DALSAGER a annonce sous points divers, que la Commission fera des propositions en janvier, compte tenu des consultations engagees avec les pays fournisseurs. A ce sujet il a regrette que le Conseil Europeen n'a fourni aucune orientation pour l'adaptation du volume des importations.

## VIN

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Le Conseil a fixe le prix de declenchement des vins pour la periode 16 decembre 1983 - 31 aout 1984 avec une augmentation de 5,5 % sauf pour les vins blancs A I (+ 6 %). La delegation britannique a leve sa reserve apres avoir fait une declaration sur la necessite d'une politique des prix vigoureux dans ce secteur, caracterise par un desequilibre structurel croissant.

## OEUFS

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Le Conseil a examine une proposition de la Commission datant de 1977 et visant a mettre a jour le reglement 2772/75 concernant les normes de commercialisation. En effet, ce reglement, juge trop restrictif, ne permet pas aux producteurs de mener des campagnes d'information et de promotion des ventes comme on le fait pour d'autres produits.

Le CSA a ete charge de mettre au point le projet de reglement de facon a permettre au Conseil de prendre une decision a sa prochaine session.

Les deux questions principales sur lesquelles les positions sont divergentes concernent l'opportunit e d'autoriser la mention d'une part du pays d'origine, d'autre de la methode de production employee (cette derniere question interesse vivement les consommateurs, notamment en Allemagne, aux Pays-Bas et au Danemark).

## QUESTIONS VETERINAIRES

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Le Conseil a proroge pour 6 mois, les derogations appliquees par l'Irlande et par le Royaume-Uni pour l'Irlande du Nord en ce qui concerne le maintien des regles nationales relatives a la fièvre aphteuse. La Commission s'est engagee a presenter avant le 31 mars, son rapport sur les consequences de l'application des regles communautaires dans ce domaine sur les possibilites d'exportation vers les pays tiers, de sorte que le Conseil puisse statuer une reglementation definitive avant le 30 juin 1984.  
DIS : La Commission estime un delai de seulement six mois insuffisant, mais les delegations allemande, neerlandaise et belge ne pouvaient pas aller plus loin. FIN DIS

Le Conseil a egalement proroge la derogation dont beneficie la France pour la commercialisation, sur le territoire national, de volaille effiles, derogation qui vient a echeance le 31 mars.

Notons que M. DALSGER a invite le Conseil a arreter un calendrier des decisions a prendre dans le domaine veterinaire en 1984 et 1985, sur la base d'un projet soumis par la Commission.

## POINTS DIVERS

## a. ALCOOL

La Commission s'est engagée, en réponse aux délégations britannique et allemande, à reprendre l'examen des exportations françaises d'alcool d'origine agricole vers les autres Etats membres.

## b. RIZ

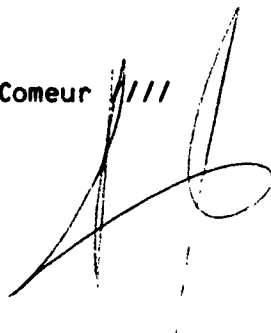
La Commission a indiqué qu'elle n'a pas encore terminé la mise au point des propositions détaillées pour l'aménagement de l'OCM dans ce secteur.

## c. CEREALES

M. DALSAGER a confirmé l'intention de la Commission de procéder, le moment venu, à l'adoption des critères de qualité envisagés pour les céréales bénéficiant des restitutions à l'exportation par la procédure du Comité de gestion. Certaines délégations (RU, Danemark) estiment qu'une telle décision soulève des questions financières et commerciales majeures, qui devraient être discutées au niveau du Conseil, d'autant plus qu'elle est évoquée dans le COM 500. M. DALSAGER a mis en garde le Conseil contre les dangers d'une démarche consistant à saisir le Conseil des décisions de gestion.

Amitiés,

M. SANTARELLI, Comeur

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Santarelli', written over the typed name. The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive.



Bruxelles, le 14 decembre 1983

Note Bio(83) 528 (suite 2 et fin) aux Bureaux Nationaux  
c.c. aux membres du Groupe du Porte-Parole

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CONSEIL AGRICOLE DU 12 et 13 DECEMBRE (M. VASEY)  
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Le Conseil a termine ses travaux par un echange de vues sur les suites du Conseil Europeen d'Athenes. M. Rocard a reserve sa position, la delegation francaise n'ayant pas encore termine ses reflexions sur la procedure a suivre pour reprendre les negociations globales. La quasi-totalite des delegations ont estime que le Conseil Europeen n'aurait du jamais etre suivi d'un nombre si important de dossiers techniquement complexes, et ont souhaite un plus grand role dans les negociations futures sur la PAC pour le Conseil agricole en tant que tel et aussi pour la Commission.

Sur ce point, le sentiment general au sein du Conseil va dans le meme sens que l'intervention du President Thorn devant le Parlement.

M. Dalsager, de son cote, a informe le Conseil que la Commission a entame ses reflexions sur les suites d'Athenes, mais n'entend pas prendre des initiatives hatives. En principe, elle maintient les propositions faites dans le COM 500, sans exclure des modifications techniques a la lumiere des travaux, par exemple sur les quotas pour le lait.

En ce qui concerne le budget 1984, M. Dalsager indique que les credits prevus (16,5 milliards d'Ecus) supposent l'adoption de l'ensemble des mesures proposees dans le COM 500. Si certaines propositions ne sont pas adoptees, il faudrait envisager des economies alternatives. Il faudrait egalement pouvoir financer des mesures d'ecoulement des excedents laitiers notamment. Enfin, la Commission va reflechir aux prix agricoles pour 1984/1985, sans pouvoir donner aucune indication a ce stade sur le timing ou le contenu des conclusions qu'elle va tirer a ce sujet.

Le Conseil poursuivra l'examen des suites d'Athenes lors de sa prochaine session, fixee pour les 9 et 10 janvier.

Amities,

M. Santarelli, Comeur // // // //

