

PRESS RELEASE

Brussels, 15 January 1980
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620th meeting of the Council

- Foreign Affairs -

Brussels, 15 January 1980

President: Mr Attilio RUFFINI
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the
Italian Republic

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

Belgium :

Mr Henri SIMONET

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Denmark :

Mr Kjeld OLESEN

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Niels ERSBØLL

State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Germany :

Mr Hans-Dietrich GENSCHER

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Klaus von DOHNANYI

Minister of State,
Federal Ministry of Foreign
Affairs

France :

Mr Jean FRANCOIS-PONCET

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Pierre BERNARD-REYMOND

State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ireland :

Mr Brian LENIHAN

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Italy :

Mr Attilio RUFFINI

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Guiseppe ZAMBERLETTI

State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Luxembourg :

Mr Gaston THORN Vice-President of the Government,
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Netherlands :

Mr D. F. van der MEI State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

United Kingdom :

Sir Ian GILMOUR Lord Privy Seal

Commission :

Mr Roy JENKINS President
Mr Wilhelm HAFERKAMP Vice-President
Mr Claude CHEYSSON Member
Mr Christopher TUGENDHAT Member

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COURT OF JUSTICE

In the presence of Mr KUTSCHER, President of the Court of Justice, and of Mr CAFOTORTI, Advocate-General, the Council examined certain questions concerning the operation of the Court of Justice.

The President of the Court explained the Court's views on the measures necessary to guarantee the efficient operation of the Court in the face of its increasing workload, in particular the need to increase the number of Judges and Advocates-General to cope with the growing number of cases and to create an administrative tribunal to relieve the Court of cases which did not concern legal problems in the first instance.

The Council examined in particular the question of the creation of a fifth post of Advocate-General and certain related matters.

In conclusion, the Council asked the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine further all the questions arising in this connection.

RELATIONS WITH YUGOSLAVIA

The Council reached a unanimous political position in favour of the rapid conclusion of an enlarged agreement with Yugoslavia.

It therefore appealed urgently to all the delegations to give their representatives the necessary instructions to enable the Permanent Representatives Committee to resolve the last problems still outstanding during the next few days, thus allowing the Commission:

- to bring the negotiations being conducted with the Yugoslav delegation to a very early conclusion, and
- to report back to the Council so as to enable it to adopt a position at its next meeting on 4 and 5 February 1980.

NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE

Further to the Resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly concerning global negotiations, the Council held an initial exchange of views on the preparation of the Community position; this exchange will serve as the basis for further discussion aimed at defining a common position not later than the March meeting.

ASEAN

The Council accepted the invitation of the ASEAN countries to go to Kuala Lumpur in the first week of March for the signing of the EEC-ASEAN Co-operation Agreement and to hold a Ministerial meeting there.

PROBLEMS UNDER DISCUSSION WITHIN THE COUNCIL, MEETING
OTHER THAN AS THE GENERAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL

The Council took stock of the procedures whereby, during the first half of 1980, it should deal with matters relating to the convergence of economic performance, budgetary problems, a better balance of agricultural markets, the rationalization of expenditure, the 1980 budget and energy problems.

AFGHANISTAN -- CONCLUSIONS OF THE COUNCIL (1)

"The Council decided to cancel the 1979 Community Food Aid Programme for Afghanistan.

The Council also agreed to take a decision at the earliest opportunity on the proposals which the Commission would submit to it very shortly on emergency aid to be provided via the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees for Afghan refugees. This aid would be combined with such national aid as Member States might grant for this purpose.

Following the measures decided on by the United States concerning deliveries of agricultural products to the Soviet Union, the Council laid down the principle that Community deliveries must not replace, directly or indirectly, United States deliveries on the USSR market. With this in mind, the Council requested the Commission to take the necessary measures as regards cereals and products derived therefrom and to propose other possible measures for other agricultural products while respecting traditional patterns of trade. A consultation procedure was being instituted with the other main cereal-exporting countries in order to avoid disturbances on the world market."

The Council also decided that an examination should be made of the other issues which could arise, in particular the matter of export credits.

(1) See also the statement by the Nine, published today.

15.I.80

RELATIONS WITH LATIN AMERICA

With a view to balanced diversification of the Community's external relations, the President made an appeal for the strengthening of relations with Latin America.

Aside from the renewal of the EEC-Latin America Dialogue, he particularly stressed the usefulness of agreements with Latin American countries or groups of countries and hoped especially for an early start to negotiations with the Andean Group and to those on the extension of the agreement with Brazil.

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TRADE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY AND SOUTHERN RHODESIA

The Council agreed that, once the European Parliament had delivered its Opinion (and following the decision to be taken under the EEC-Greece Association with regard to tobacco), it would adopt a decision granting Southern Rhodesia the same arrangements as those currently applied to the overseas countries and territories in their trade relations with the Community.

These arrangements are based primarily upon the principle of duty-free access to the Community market; farm products subject to market regulations are in any case covered by arrangements more favourable than those applicable to third countries.

A decision of the Governments of the Member States concerning ECSC products concurrently suspends the duties applicable to products covered by the ECSC.

CO-OPERATION WITH THE GULF STATES AND RELATIONS WITH TURKEY

In the light of the present international situation, the Council and the Ministers of the Nine meeting within the context of political co-operation - on a proposal from the Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs - instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee and the Political Directors, in accordance with their respective competences and in collaboration with the Commission, to submit for the February meeting a report on:

- the possibilities of proposing co-operation to the Gulf States and other Arab countries with which the Community has not hitherto concluded agreements, without prejudice to the continuation of the Euro-Arab Dialogue and the North-South Dialogue;
- giving a new impetus to relations with Turkey, which is already associated with the Community.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Commercial policy and technical barriers

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision laying down provisions on the introduction and implementation of technical regulations and standards. These provisions, which are intended to ensure equal treatment for all products - irrespective of their origin - on the Community market or markets in the Member States, were adopted in order to fulfil the obligations arising out of the GATT multilateral trade negotiations and, in particular, the agreement on technical barriers to trade. These provisions concern, inter alia, the recognition of checks carried out in a Member State or a third country and measures to be taken in the event of non-reciprocity.

The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the ranges of nominal quantities and nominal capacities permitted for certain prepackaged products.

ACP and OCT interim measures

The Council recorded its agreement on the arrangements to be proposed to the ACP States regarding the transitional measures to apply as from 1 March 1980, when the 1975 ACP-EEC Convention (Lomé I) expires, pending completion of the ratification procedures to enable the new Convention of Lomé II to enter into force.

The draft interim arrangements provide for :

- the maintenance - until 31 December 1980 at the latest - of certain provisions of the Convention of Lomé I, concerning in particular trade and STABEX, industrial co-operation, provisions on establishment and services, payments and capital and provisions relating to the institutions. Any extension of these provisions would be decided upon by the ACP-EEC Committee of Ambassadors under the Decision of the ACP-EEC Council of 31 October 1979 on the delegation of competence;
- the advance implementation to be decided unilaterally by the Community of certain provisions of the new Convention of Lomé II, in particular as regards access to the market for certain products covered by the common agricultural policy, the procedure for derogation from the rules of origin and the banana and rum Protocols.

The Council also adopted a Decision covering interim measures, to apply until 31 December 1980, on the association of the overseas countries and territories (OCT) with the Community as the previous Decision also expires on 28 February.

Agricultural and fisheries policy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 1418/76 on the common organization of the market in rice (adaptation tariff nomenclature).

The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 1117/78 on the common organization of the market in dried fodder and Regulation (EEC) No 827/68 on the common organization of the market in certain products listed in Annex II to the Treaty (adaptation tariff nomenclature).

Finally, the Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation laying down certain interim measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources applicable to vessels registered in the Faroe Isles.

Emergency aid

The Council confirmed its agreement to emergency aid for the disaster victims in the Azores. This aid, totalling 100,000 EUA, is intended for the purchase of essential materials following the recent earthquake disaster in the region.

Relations with Portugal

The Council agreed to the accelerated implementation of the Financial Protocol between the Community and Portugal, which would shorten by two years the period originally laid down for making the funds provided for under this Protocol available to Portugal.

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The Resolution of the Council and the Ministers for Education, meeting within the Council, extending until 31 December 1981 the Community programme of pilot projects provided for under the Resolution of 13 December 1976 on the transition from education to working life and until 31 December 1982 as regards the corresponding evaluation studies was also adopted. The amounts proposed by the Commission for this extension are 4.7 MEUA in 1981 and 1.6 MEUA in 1982.
