

PRESS RELEASE

558th Council meeting
- Foreign Affairs -
Brussels, 18 and 19 December 1978

Presidents: Mr Hans-Dietrich GENSCHER,
Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Federal Republic of Germany

and

Mr Klaus von DOHANYI
Minister of State,
Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Federal Republic of Germany

[REDACTED]

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

[REDACTED]

PRESS RELEASE

Brussels, 21 December 1978
1476/78 (Presse 174) Corr. 1

C O R R I G E N D U M

to Presse Release
1476/78 (Presse 174) of 19.XII.78

Due to a number of inaccuracies, it has been found necessary to publish a revised version of the section on iron and steel problems on pages 19 to 23.

IRON AND STEEL PROBLEMS

On the basis of drafts submitted by the Commission, the Council held a very wide-ranging discussion on all the measures to be adopted in the iron and steel sector for 1979.

At the close of its discussion the Council agreed to extend in 1979 the Community measures designed to improve the situation on the steel market. In this context the Council:

- was consulted on the draft Commission Decisions laying down minimum prices for hot-rolled wide strips, laminated merchant bars and concrete reinforcement bars and on certificates of conformity concerning steel undertakings,
- noted the Commission communication on guide prices for certain iron and steel products,
- gave its assent to the draft Commission Decisions on certificates of conformity concerning dealers and on alignment on offers of iron and steel products coming from certain third countries.

As regards rules for granting aid, the Council approved the following Resolution:

- "1. The Council has examined in detail the Commission proposals concerning aid for the steel industry.

2. In view of the serious difficulties being encountered in the steel industry and of the need for restructuring in that sector, the Council has noted that it may be necessary to grant specific aid to achieve this objective. Accordingly, the Council is determined to take as soon as possible and by 1 April 1979 at the latest its decision on an assent to Commission proposals concerning the granting of specific aid to the steel industry. The arrangements will be laid down in accordance with the principles of the Treaties and the following rules:
 1. Aid, in whatever form, must promote restructuring and conversion and take account of the resultant social consequences and effects on employment.
 2. Competition must not be distorted by the aid.
 3. In assessing aid, there must be no discrimination between undertakings, especially as regards their system of ownership, be it public or private.
 4. The aid must be of limited duration and size.
 5. There will be no discrimination in assessing aid, depending on whether it is of national, regional or local origin.
 6. It is necessary that all forms of aid be made transparent.

3. The Council notes that, in applying Articles 92 and 93 of the Treaty to general or regional aid schemes, the Commission takes account of the sectoral effects of such aid on the steel industry in order to avoid distortion.
4. The Council takes note of the Commission statement to the effect that, in order to ensure equal treatment irrespective of the forms of aid granted to the steel industry, it will apply Articles 92 and 93 in accordance with the same principles and with the same degree of effectiveness as are envisaged in this Resolution for specific aid. In so doing, the Commission will take account of the particular regional and social problems involved."

With reference to the general objectives on steel, the Council recorded its agreement, with regard to the restructuring of the steel industry, on the following conclusions of the Presidency:

- "1. The Council takes note of the Commission's analysis of prospects for the Community steel market as set out in the General Objectives 1985 - 1990.
2. It notes in particular that these prospects show a production over-capacity for crude steel and for most rolled products, which could cause the present imbalance on the steel market to persist in the long term.
3. It agrees that it is necessary, in accordance with Article 3 of the ECSC Treaty, to ensure the international competitiveness and financial equilibrium of undertakings, while contributing towards the rationalization of the

19.XII.78

world steel market in the framework of the efforts being made to achieve co-operation within the OECD. In this context, plant modernization and better matching of supply and demand are indispensable.

4. Responsibility for the restructuring programmes of undertakings and groups lies chiefly with those actually managing them. While the social and employment situation are taken into account, the matching of supply and demand in the different iron and steel product categories must be undertaken in such a way as to ensure that production is concentrated in the most efficient installations already in existence or such as may be upgraded to this end by the closure of outdated plant, by the transfer of products, by rationalization and by co-operation between Community undertakings.
5. The Council accepts that mastery of the social, regional, economic and financial consequences of restructuring may considerably exceed the powers of the firms, requires a special effort of solidarity and consequently necessitates, within the Community framework, appropriate concerted action.
6. The necessary supporting measures taken in parallel with restructuring both by Community and Member States will include:
 - (a) creation of alternative employment in the steel-producing areas affected;
 - (b) aid for retraining steelworkers made redundant;
 - (c) use of the financial resources allocated by the ECSC to the modernization of steel-making facilities.

7. The Council will continue to examine the process of iron and steel restructuring and its social and regional consequences in the light of periodic communications to be submitted by the Commission.

The Commission will report to the Council on the progress of the restructuring measures, their social, regional and financial consequences and the additional measures taken by the Community and the Member States, especially as regards aid."

As regards the external aspects, the Council renewed for 1979 the negotiating brief given to the Commission with a view to concluding arrangements with third countries and, in this context, clarified certain points concerning these negotiations.

As for the allocation of additional financial resources to the ECSC budget for 1979 in order to finance restructuring measures, the Council noted that eight delegations agreed, subject to the completion of national parliamentary procedures, to a contribution from the Member States amounting to 32 MEUA, the individual contributions being determined according to gross national product.

The Council finally agreed that all the measures of the anti-crisis plan thus approved would be reviewed if the provisions concerning aid were not adopted by 1 April 1979.

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 Neils ERSBØLL State Secretary
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Germany:

Mr Hans-Dietrich GENSCHER Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs
Otto Graf LAMBSDORFF Federal Minister of Economics
Mr Klaus von DOHNANYI Minister of State,
Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs

France:

Mr Jean FRANCOIS-PONCET Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Jean-François DENIAU Minister for Foreign Trade
Mr André GIRAUD Minister for Industry
Mr Jean BERNARD-REYMOND State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ireland:

Mr Michael O'KENNEDY Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Ray BURKE Minister of State,
Ministry of Industry, Commerce
and Craft Trades

Italy:

Mr Arnaldo FORLANI	Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Angelo-Maria SANZA	Deputy State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mr Guisepe SINESIO	Deputy State Secretary, Ministry of Industry
Mr Francesco REBECCHINI	Deputy State Secretary, Ministry of State Holdings

Luxembourg:

Mr Gaston THORN	President of the Government Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Jean HAMILIUS	Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs

Netherlands:

Mr C.A. van der KLAUW	Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr G.M.V. van AARDENNE	Minister for Economic Affairs
Mr D.F. van der MEI	State Secretary for Foreign Affairs
Mr K.H. BEYEN	State Secretary for Economic Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr John SMITH	Secretary of State for Trade
Mr Frank JUDD	Minister of State Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Mr Gerald KAUFMAN	Minister of State Department of Industry

Commission:

Mr Roy JENKINS	President
Mr Wilhelm HAFERKAMP	Vice-President
Mr Finn Olav GUNDELACH	Vice-President
Mr Lorenzo NATALI	Vice-President
Mr Guido BRUNNER	Member
Mr Raymond VOUEL	Member
Viscount Etienne DAVIGNON	Member
Mr Christopher TUGENDHAT	Member
Mr Claude CHEYSSON	Member

o

o

o

GATT MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

At the end of the debate the President drew the following conclusions:

The Council discussed the Commission report of 18 December 1978 and took note of the latest progress made in the negotiations. The Council thanked the Commission and hoped that the Commission would manage in the further negotiations to achieve a qualitatively and quantitatively balanced result in all sectors. The Council expects these negotiations to be conducted rapidly.

RELATIONS WITH COMECON

The Council took note of a report from the Commission on the progress made in the negotiations between the Community and COMECON.

The Council expressed its appreciation at the way in which the Commission was conducting these negotiations.

RELATIONS WITH JAPAN

The Council took stock of the development of the Community's trade and economic relations with Japan on the basis of a report from the Commission which was drawn up following the recent high-level consultations which took place in the context of the EEC/Japan joint declaration of 24 March 1978.

The Council concurred with the conclusions of the Commission's report and expressed grave concern at the limited progress made towards the main aim, namely, a fundamental review of the situation of Japanese trade and payments balances, since the achievement of this aim called for both macro-economic measures and the genuine increased access to the Japanese market.

The Council accordingly approved a series of conclusions and requested the Commission to contact the new Japanese Government in order to transmit these conclusions to it.

RELATIONS WITH YUGOSLAVIA

The Council recorded that an advanced stage had been reached in work on new negotiating Directives to be issued to the Commission for the conclusion of the proposed new Agreement with Yugoslavia.

It instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to finalize the text of these new Directives so that they could be submitted for adoption as early as possible in 1979.

EURATOM-AUSTRALIA RELATIONS

The Council took stock of work relating to the drawing up of the terms of reference to be given to the Commission for the conclusion of an Agreement between Euratom and Australia on nuclear transfers.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its work in an attempt to find a solution to the problems outstanding.

RELATIONS WITH THE EFTA COUNTRIES

The Council noted a report by the Permanent Representatives Committee on co-operation with the EFTA countries.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its work in the light of the guidelines outlined by the Council and to submit a fresh report to it by the end of June.

The Council also approved a series of Regulations and Decisions laying down for 1979, target ceilings and providing for Community monitoring of imports of certain sensitive products originating in the EFTA countries.

FISHERIES -- EXTERNAL ASPECT

The Council recorded that all the questions outstanding as regards the elaboration of the common fisheries policy are to be discussed in depth at the next Council meeting on fisheries problems.

The Council agreed to defer discussion of the external aspects until a future meeting.

ACCESSION OF SPAIN

The Council took note of the Commission opinion, in accordance with the provisions of the Treaties, on Spain's application for accession and decided in favour of this application.

It agreed that the preparatory work essential for establishing a common negotiating basis would be carried out as soon as possible and in a positive spirit.

It instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee, assisted by the Commission, to prepare its discussions on the matter.

It confirmed that negotiations would open in mid-February and would get properly under way as soon as the preparatory work within the Community had resulted in a common negotiating basis.

EUROPEAN FOUNDATION

The Council evolved a number of guidelines for solving the question of how the Community should participate in the functioning of the Foundation and instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to resolve the problems still outstanding on this matter.

COLLECTION OF IMPORT AND EXPORT DUTIES

Reviewing the conditions of post-clearance collection of import or export duties, the Council noted that all its members were prepared to resolve the last difficulty with all despatch. It therefore instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to prepare its definitive decision.

TAX AND TARIFF EXEMPTIONS

The Council adopted a series of Directives and Regulations on the tax and tariff exemptions applicable to goods contained in travellers' personal luggage and goods forwarded in small consignments.

These Directives and Regulations which determine, amongst other things, the arrangements for applying the European unit of account to tax exemptions, will, as from 1 January 1979, make a number of improvements to the current system of exemptions applicable in the tax and customs fields.

They also lay down for the first time Community rules to allow small postal packages forwarded by an individual in a third country to another individual in a Member State to be imported into the Community countries free of tax and customs duties.

ACP-EEC MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

On the basis of a report from the Permanent Representatives Committee and in the light of information supplied by the Commission on the progress of the negotiations with the ACP countries, the Council prepared for the ACP-EEC Ministerial Conference to be held on 21 December on the renewal of the present ACP-EEC Convention.

The Council defined the position which the Community is to adopt at the Conference.

It also adopted supplementary negotiating directives on sea fishing.

Other questions concerning the ACP

As regards relations with the ACP States the Council also extended the import arrangements for beef and veal originating in the ACP States until 1 March 1980; apart from exemption from customs duties these arrangements involve a 90% reduction in import charges (subject to the application of a corresponding tax by the exporting State).

The quantities (expressed as boned meat) are as follows:

<u>1.1.1979 to 31.12.1979</u>	<u>1.1.1980 to 1.3.1980</u>
Botswana 17,360 t	2,895 t
Kenya 130 t	25 t
Madagascar 6,956 t	1,160 t
Swaziland 3,086 t	515 t
Total: 27,532 t	Total: 4,595 t

RIGHT OF ESTABLISHMENT AND FREEDOM TO PROVIDE SERVICES

Life assurance

The Council agreed to a Directive on the co-ordination of the laws relating to the taking up and pursuit of the business of direct life assurance.

This Directive extends to life assurance the measures adopted by the Council on 24 July 1973 for non-life insurance.

It is essentially intended to co-ordinate, on the one hand, the rules governing the approval of undertakings, agencies or branches and, on the other hand, the financial guarantees and other conditions to be offered by companies in order to pursue the business of life assurance. Its aim is to guarantee equal treatment for undertakings and at the same time to provide adequate protection for policy-holders. It is aimed at the removal of one of the major barriers to freedom of establishment represented by the diversity of supervisory rules and requirements.

A compromise was reached enabling existing undertakings which combine the business of non-life insurance with that of life assurance to pursue their business by adopting separate management. These undertakings will be able to pursue the business of life assurance in another Member State only by creating a subsidiary where they already pursue or wish to pursue the business of non-life insurance in the same Member State.

Furthermore, financial guarantees of the same order as those already introduced for the business of non-life insurance by the Directive adopted by the Council in July 1973 will also apply to life assurance by means of a series of adjustments necessitated by the special nature of this type of insurance: besides technical reserves, including mathematical reserves, which are adequate to cover the commitments entered into, these undertakings will have to have an additional range of financial means (solvency margin). The components of this margin and their calculation have been determined on the basis of the technical characteristics peculiar to life assurance and particularly by the inclusion of implicit elements in representing this margin.

As regards third countries, it is stipulated that the Community may, in agreements with one or more of the latter, agree to apply provisions different from those laid down in order to ensure, on a reciprocal basis, that policy-holders in the Member States are adequately protected.

Admission of securities to stock exchange listing

The Council reached an agreement in principle on the Directive co-ordinating the conditions for the admission of securities to official stock exchange listing. However, two delegations still upheld provisional reservations at this juncture. Once these reservations have been raised and the texts have been finalized, the Directive will be adopted formally at the earliest opportunity.

This Directive, which is a step towards the establishing of a European capital market, will facilitate the admission to official stock exchange listing of securities from other Member States and the quotation of a security on a number of stock exchanges in the Community. It will therefore permit greater interpenetration of national securities markets and thus directly affect the functioning of the common market.

It is designed in particular to offer uniform guarantees to investors and to increase their protection. The Directive lays down the conditions to which the issuers and their securities are subject if the latter are to be admitted to official stock exchange listing. It also lays down the obligations to be fulfilled by the issuers throughout the period of listing. However the issuers will have the right to apply to the courts in the event of certain decisions by the competent authorities.

All categories of securities are covered by this Directive. However, the Member States need not apply the Directive to securities issued by collective investment undertakings other than of the closed-end type or to securities issued by a Member State or its regional or local authorities.

It should be noted that the Directive merely lays down minimum rules. The Member States are at liberty to lay down additional and more rigorous conditions or obligations.

Veterinary surgeons

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a set of provisions designed to bring about the effective exercise of the right of establishment and freedom to provide services for veterinary surgeons throughout the Community.

The Directives approved cover the mutual recognition of diplomas, certificates and other evidence of formal qualifications in veterinary medicine, and the co-ordination of provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action in respect of the activities of veterinary surgeons whether employed persons or self-employed.

The enacting terms cover in particular the co-ordination of the conditions of training in the Member States, the conditions of acceptance of those benefiting from the recognition of diplomas, the requirements as concerns good character and good repute, professional control and discipline and the conditions for the use of the professional title.

The Council also decided to set up an Advisory Committee on Veterinary Training.

The Member States have two years within which to incorporate the provisions thus adopted into their national legislations.

Architects

The Council examined the last remaining questions concerning the Directive on the mutual recognition of diplomas, certificates and other evidence of formal qualifications in architecture, including measures to facilitate the effective exercise of the right of establishment and freedom to provide services.

The Council noted that there was a general consensus on the compromise proposals submitted by the Commission with a view to solving these problems. However, several delegations stated that they would state their final position within two months; if their attitude is positive the Council will then be able to adopt the Directive in the official languages of the Communities.

CONCILIATION PROCEDURES

The Council heard a report from Mr von DOHNANYI on the conciliation procedures under way between the Council and the European Parliament. He reported in particular on the contacts he had had as President-in-Office with the European Parliament on regional policy. These contacts were continuing with a view to enabling the relevant texts to be adopted very shortly.

ACCESSION OF GREECE

The Council finalized the Community's position for the 10th meeting at ministerial level of the Conference between the European Communities and Greece on 20 December 1978.

IRON AND STEEL PROBLEMS

On the basis of drafts submitted by the Commission, the Council held a very wide-ranging discussion on all the measures to be adopted in the iron and steel sector for 1979.

At the close of its discussion the Council agreed to extend in 1979 the Community measures designed to improve the situation on the steel market. In this context the Council:

- was consulted on the draft Commission Decisions laying down minimum prices for hot-rolled wide strips, laminated merchant bars and concrete reinforcement bars and on certificates of conformity concerning steel undertakings,
- noted the Commission communication on guide prices for certain iron and steel products,
- gave its assent to the draft Commission Decisions on certificates of conformity concerning dealers and on alignment on offers of iron and steel products coming from certain third countries.

As regards rules for granting aid, the Council agreed to the following Resolution:

- "1. The Council examined in detail the Commission proposals concerning aid for the iron and steel industry.

2. In view of the serious difficulties at present facing the iron and steel industry and the need for restructuring of the sector, the Council noted that specific aid might prove necessary to attain this objective. It therefore decided to take its decision on assent to the Commission's proposals concerning the grant of specific aid to the iron and steel industry as soon as possible, and by 1 April 1979 at the latest. These regulations would be drawn up in conformity with the principles of the Treaties and the following rules:
 1. Aid, in whatever form, must promote restructuring and conversion and take account of the resultant social consequences and effect on employment.
 2. Aid must not result in distortion of competition.
 3. In assessing aid there must be no discrimination between undertakings, in particular with regard to whether they are publicly or privately owned, it being understood however that operations relating to the capital of undertakings in which the State participates directly or indirectly shall not in principle and necessarily constitute aid; this also applies to increases in capital.
 4. The duration and level of aid must be limited.

5. In assessing the aid there will be no discrimination according to national, regional or local origin.
6. All types of aid must be made transparent.
3. The Council notes that in applying Articles 92 and 93 of the Treaty to the general or regional aid arrangements the Commission will take account of the sectoral repercussions of such aid on the iron and steel industry so as to avoid distortions."

With reference to the general objectives on steel, the Council recorded its agreement, with regard to the restructuring of the steel industry, on the following conclusions of the Presidency:

- "1. The Council takes note of the Commission's analysis of prospects for the Community steel market as set out in the General Objectives 1985 - 1990.
2. It notes in particular that these prospects show a substantial production over-capacity for crude steel and for most rolled products, which could cause the present imbalance on the steel market to persist in the long term.
3. It agrees that it is necessary, in accordance with Article 3 of the ECSC Treaty, to ensure the international competitiveness and financial equilibrium of undertakings, while contributing towards the rationalization of the world steel market in the framework of the efforts being made to achieve co-operation within the OECD. In this context, plant modernization and better matching of supply and demand are indispensable.

4. Responsibility for the restructuring programmes of undertakings and groups lies chiefly with those actually managing them. While the social and employment situation are taken into account, the matching of supply and demand in the different iron and steel product categories must be undertaken in such a way as to ensure that production is concentrated in the most efficient installations already in existence or such as may be upgraded to this end by the closure of outdated plant, by the transfer of products, by rationalization and by co-operation between Community undertakings.

5. The Council accepts that mastery of the social, regional, economic and financial consequences of restructuring may considerably exceed the powers of the firms, requires a special effort of solidarity and consequently necessitates, within the Community framework, appropriate concerted action.

6. The necessary supporting measures taken in parallel with restructuring both by Community and Member States will include:
 - (a) creation of alternative employment in the steel-producing areas affected;
 - (b) aid for retraining steelworkers made redundant;
 - (c) use of the financial resources allocated by the ECSC to the modernization of steel-making facilities.

7. The Council will continue to examine the process of iron and steel restructuring and its social and regional consequences in the light of periodic communications to be submitted by the Commission.

The Commission will report to the Council on the progress of the restructuring measures, their social, regional and financial consequences and the additional measures taken by the Community and the Member States, especially as regards aid."

As regards the external aspects, the Council renewed for 1978 the negotiating brief given to the Commission with a view to concluding arrangements with third countries and, in this context, clarified certain points concerning these negotiations.

As for the allocation of additional financial resources to the ECSC budget for 1979 in order to finance restructuring measures, the Council noted that eight delegations agreed, subject to the completion of national parliamentary procedures, to a contribution from the Member States amounting to 32 MEUA, to be allocated according to gross national product.

The Council finally agreed that all the measures of the anti-crisis plan thus approved would be reviewed if the provisions concerning aid were not adopted by 1 April 1979.

TEXTILES

On the basis of a Commission report on the progress of the negotiations the Council examined the problems in the conclusion of textiles arrangements with the preferential countries in the Mediterranean.

It instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue work on the subject so that it could take a decision within the next few days.

RENEWAL OF THE TERMS OF OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT AND
VICE-PRESIDENTS OF THE COMMISSION

The Representatives of the Governments of the Member States appointed

Mr Roy JENKINS President

and

Mr Finn Olav GUNDELACH

Mr Wilhelm HA FERKAMP

Mr Lorenzo NATALI

Mr François-Xavier ORTOLI

Mr Henk VREDELING

Vice-Presidents of the Commission of the European Communities for the period from 6 January 1979 to 5 January 1981 inclusive.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Generalized preferences: 1979 scheme

1. The Council took the substantive decision concerning all the aspects of the 1979 scheme of generalized preferences for the developing countries. The Regulations and Decisions will be adopted formally, after finalization of the legal texts in the Community languages, by means of the written procedure by the end of 1978 and will then be published in the Official Journal. This decision was taken after consulting the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee.

Despite the difficult economic circumstances, the Community has made a further effort to facilitate access to the Community markets for the developing countries.

On the basis of an examination of the possibilities afforded for each economic sector, improvements have been able to be made for both industrial products and processed agricultural products. In the case of the textile sector, the Council approved the extension of the current system - for six months with a 5% quantitative improvement. The Council opted for such an extension to give the Community Institutions time to try and work out a new and improved "textiles" scheme on the basis of the proposals submitted recently by the Commission.

2. Among the improvements made to the generalized preferences scheme in the 1979 version, particularly worthy of note is the emphasis on measures to assist exports to the Community market of products originating in the least developed countries. This trend - already discernible in previous years' schemes - has this year been given a broader and more structured form.

In the agricultural sector this approach takes the form of the inclusion in the generalized preferences scheme of several new products for that category of country alone and the exemption from all duties of those products originating in such countries falling within Chapters 1 to 24 already covered by the generalized preferences scheme. This latter measure also applies to products on which there are quantitative restrictions under individual regulations (tobacco, pineapples, cocoa butter, soluble coffee), it being nonetheless understood that these restrictions continue to apply.

As regards industrial products, excluding textiles, the advantage granted to the least developed countries consists of applying preferential customs duties to their products without any of the limitations which the generalized preferences scheme normally involves, i.e. quotas, ceilings and cut-offs. The result is that products originating in the least developed countries have access to the Community market throughout the year on preferential terms, without suffering the consequences of quotas being exhausted and ceilings being reached as a result of more dynamic exports from the more competitive developing countries.

Commercial policy

The Council agreed to the conclusion by the Community of the 5th International Tin Agreement.

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Council Decision authorizing the tacit renewal or continued operation of certain Treaties of Friendship, Trade and Navigation Treaties and similar agreements concluded between Member States and third countries.

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities

- the Regulations

- concerning the application of the Decisions of the EEC/EFTA Joint Committee replacing the unit of account by the European unit of account in Article 8 of Protocol No 3 concerning the definition of the concept of "originating products" and methods of administrative co-operation
- fixing for 1979 Community quantitative export quotas for certain types of copper ash and residues and for certain types of copper, aluminium and lead waste and scrap
- concluding exchanges of letters;
 - = with Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia concerning fruit salads
 - = with Algeria concerning tomato concentrates
- the Decision accepting the Customs Co-operation Council Recommendation of 13 June 1978 concerning the amendment of Articles 14(a) and 16(d) of the Convention on the Nomenclature for the Classification of Goods in Customs Tariffs.

o

o

o

The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities Regulations opening, allocating and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas for:

- Port wines, Madeira wines and Setubal muscatel wines falling within heading ex 22.05 of the Common Customs Tariff originating in Portugal (1979/1980)
- certain wines originating in Spain (1979/1980).

Relations with the ACP States

The Council gave its approval in principle to the draft Decisions of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers derogating from the definition of the concept of "originating products" in order to take into account the special situation of Kenya and Malawi with regard to certain items of fishing tackle (artificial fishing flies).

EEC-Israel co-operation

The Council gave its approval to the common position to be adopted by the Community at the first meeting of the EEC-Israel Co-operation Council to be held in Brussels on Friday 22 December 1978.

Emergency aid

The Council agreed to aid amounting to 25,000 EUA for Laos under Community aid to disaster victims.

Following considerable damage to the rice crop in Laos caused by exceptional weather conditions (torrential rain and floods), the Community will thus contribute 25,000 EUA towards financing an aid programme (financing of the purchase of insecticides for Laos).

Fisheries

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities

- the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 2327/78 laying down certain measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources applicable to vessels flying the flag of Spain, for the period 1 October to 31 December 1978
- the Decision authorizing the Italian Republic to agree with the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia on the provisional maintenance of the fishing arrangements currently in force.

Social policy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Directive on the progressive implementation of the principle of equal treatment for men and women in matters of social security.

The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities the instruments of Community support for aid to promote the employment of young people

- Regulation on the creation of two new types of aid for young people from the European Social Fund
- Decision amending Decision 75/459/EEC on action by the European Social Fund for persons affected by employment difficulties.

ECSC Decisions

The Representatives of the Governments of the Member States adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decisions

- on the common customs nomenclature of the Member States (subheading 73.12 B I)
- determining the conditions under which certain ECSC products are eligible upon importation for a favourable tariff arrangement by reason of their end use
- on certain tariff measures for the first half of 1979.

The Council gave its assent pursuant to Article 56(2)(a) of the ECSC Treaty (Banque populaire de Lorraine et Société mécanique lorraine, France).

OTHER DECISIONS

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities

- the Decision of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the European Economic Community, meeting within the Council, on the abolition of certain postal charges for customs presentation
 - the second Directive on taxes other than turnover taxes which affect the consumption of manufactured tobacco.
-