

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

7734/82 (Presse 83)

777th meeting of the Council

- Agriculture -

Luxembourg, 14 June 1982

President: Mr Paul de KEERSMAEKER,
State Secretary for European
Affairs and Agriculture
of the Kingdom of Belgium

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 Bjoern WESTH
Minister for Agriculture

Germany:

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

Greece:

Mr Costas SIMITIS
Minister for Agriculture

France:

Mr André CELLARD
State Secretary,
Ministry of Agriculture

Ireland:

Mr Brian LENIHAN
Minister for Agriculture

Italy:

Mr Giuseppe BARTOLOMEI
Minister for Agriculture

Mr Bruno ORSINI
State Secretary,
Ministry of Health

Luxembourg:

Mr Camille NEY
Minister for Agriculture,
Viticulture, Lakes, Rivers and
Forests

Netherlands:

Mr Jan de KONING
Minister for Agriculture
and Fisheries

United Kingdom:

Mr Peter WALKER
Minister of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food

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

Commission:

Mr Poul DALSGER - Member

WINE SECTOR

Following the agreement in principle reached at its meeting on 17 and 18 May 1982 on the points in the overall compromise regarding the adjustment of the "acquis communautaire" for Mediterranean products, and in particular wine, the Council resumed examination of certain technical aspects, which elicited comments from some delegations. The debate enabled the Council to examine in greater detail two questions in particular still giving rise to problems, namely the impact of distillation products on the market in alcohol and the taking-over of these products, and the definition of products obtained from distillation taken over by intervention.

Concluding its debate the Council asked the Special Committee on Agriculture to complete its work on this set of Articles on the basis of the compromise provisions so as to enable the Council finally to adopt the Regulation as soon as possible following receipt of the Opinion of the European Parliament.

REVISION OF THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT FOR THE PRODUCTION LEVY ON B SUGAR AND THE MINIMUM PRICE FOR B BEET FOR THE 1982/1983 MARKETING YEAR

As for the 1981-1982 marketing year revenue from basic production levies and the levy on sugar was exceeded by expenditure on Community sugar, the Council adopted a Regulation revising the maximum amount of the production levy on B sugar and the minimum price for B beet. Accordingly the maximum levy on B sugar was raised to 37.5% of the intervention price for white sugar for the 1982/1983 marketing year and the minimum price for B beet for the same period was set at 23.79 ECU/tonne.

PROGRAMME FOR THE UTILIZATION FOR CO-RESPONSIBILITY LEVY FUNDS
IN THE MILK SECTOR FOR THE 1982/1983 MARKETING YEAR

The Council took note of the 6th communication from the Commission concerning the utilization of co-responsibility levy funds in the milk sector for the 1982/1983 milk year.

PROPOSAL FOR A DIRECTIVE CONCERNING CERTAIN PRODUCTS USED IN
ANIMAL NUTRITION (BIOPROTEINS)

The Council agreed on a proposal for a Directive concerning bioproteins. The proposal is designed to authorize, in a harmonized manner, within the Community, manufacture of and trade in bioproteins which are mainly obtained from cultures of micro-organisms.

PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION ON THE ACCELERATION OF AGRICULTURAL
DEVELOPMENT IN CERTAIN REGIONS OF GREECE

The Council gave a favourable reception to a proposal for a Regulation on the acceleration of agricultural development in certain regions of Greece. This Regulation includes a joint action programme providing for a structured set of measures concerning infrastructure, irrigation, land improvement, development of livestock rearing, agricultural training and forestry measures. The cost of these measures, to be charged to the EAGGF budget, amounts to 198.6 MECU for 1983-1988.

Winding up its discussions, the Council agreed to take a suitable decision once the Opinion of the European Parliament was known.

PROTECTION OF LAYING HENS KEPT IN BATTERY CAGES

The Council examined the problems arising with regard to the proposal for a Directive on the protection of laying hens kept in battery cages. The Council discussed the problems outstanding, in particular the dates of entry into force of the two stages of the proposed rules, the minimum space per hen during each of the two stages, the question of monitoring and inspections, subsequent amendments to the Annex to the Directive and the economic aspects of the proposed rules.

The Council agreed that, as substantial progress had been achieved, it would resume discussion of this matter at its next meeting in the light of an examination by the Special Committee on Agriculture and experts with the aim of reaching a final decision on this question.

AGRI-MONETARY MEASURES

The Council noted that the Commission would very shortly be examining any requests which might be submitted by certain Member States for adjustments to the green rates following the recent currency adjustments.

It was agreed that any proposals submitted by the Commission in this connection would be decided on by means of the fastest possible procedures.

MISCELLANEOUS STATEMENTS

The Council heard the following statements:

- Imports of tapioca
(request from the Netherlands delegation)
- Granting aid for processing cherries
(request from the Belgian delegation)
- Differential amounts for sunflower seed
(request from the Belgian delegation)

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Other agricultural decisions

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Directive amending Directive 77/391/EEC and introducing a supplementary Community measure for the eradication of brucellosis, tuberculosis and leucosis in cattle.

The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulations on the opening, allocation and administration of:

- a Community tariff quota of 38,000 head of heifers and cows, other than those intended for slaughter, of certain mountain breeds falling within subheading ex 01.02 A II of the Common Customs Tariff;
- a Community tariff quota of 5,000 head of bulls, cows and heifers, other than those intended for slaughter, of certain alpine breeds falling within subheading ex 01.02 A II of the Common Customs Tariff.

Trade and customs matters

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 3017/79 on protection against dumped or subsidized imports from countries not members of the European Economic Community.

The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision on the conclusion of an Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the European Economic Community and the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic on trade in the sheepmeat and goatmeat sector.

Finally, the Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decisions:

- approving a draft Additional Protocol to the European Agreement on the Exchange of **Blood-Grouping Reagents**;
- concerning the approval of a draft Additional Protocol to the European Agreement on the Exchange of Therapeutic Substances of Human Origin;
- concerning the acceptance of a draft Additional Protocol to the Agreement on the temporary importation, free of duty, of medical, surgical and laboratory equipment for use on free loan in hospitals and other medical institutions for purposes of diagnosis of treatment;
- accepting on behalf of the Community a Recommendation of the Customs Co-operation Council concerning technical co-operation in customs matters;
- accepting on behalf of the Community a Recommendation of the Customs Co-operation Council concerning customs requirements regarding commercial invoices.

Relations with EFTA countries

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulations concerning the application of Decision No 1/82 of the EEC-Austria/Switzerland Joint Committees - Community transit - amending the Agreements between the European Economic Community and Switzerland/Austria on the application of the rules on Community transit.

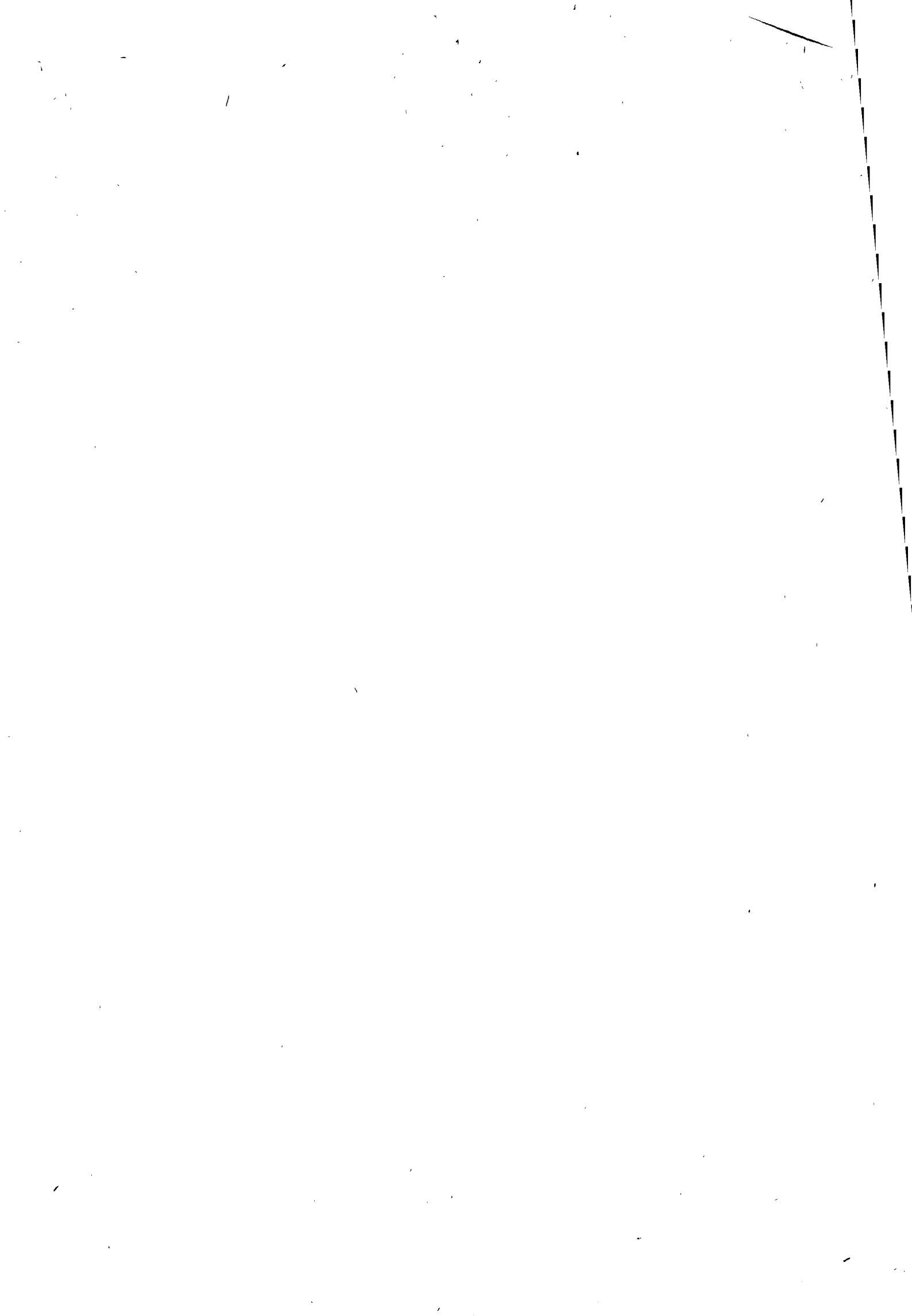
ECSC

The Council gave its assent pursuant to Article 56(2)(a) of the ECSC Treaty regarding Cleveland Offshore Ltd., United Kingdom.

Appointments

The Council appointed Mr N. LEADLEY a member of the Consultative Committee of the European Coal and Steel Community to replace Mr Hector SMITH, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, i.e. until 24 November 1982.

The Council also appointed Mr Pierre RIES a full member of the Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work to replace Mr Jacques EHSES, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, i.e. until 1 April 1985.



Bruxelles, le 10 juin 1982
Note BIO(82)249 aux Bureaux Nationaux
c.c. aux membres du groupe du Porte-Parole

433

PREPARATION CONSEIL AGRICOLE DU 14 JUIN (M. Vasey)

Le Conseil se reunira pendant la seule journee du lundi 14 juin avec l'ordre du jour suivant :

1. VIN :

Lors de l'adoption des prix agricoles pour 1982/83, le Conseil avait marque son accord politique sur les aménagements a apporter a l'organisation commune du marche des vins. Le Conseil fera le point des travaux en vue de la mise au point du texte du nouveau reglement.

Les travaux ont revele un certain nombre de difficultes concernant par exemple la prise en charge par le FEOGA de l'alcool resultant de la distillation ainsi que les conditions d'ecoulement de cet alcool. Selon l'avis de la Commission l'accord realise le 18 mai visait uniquement l'alcool resultant de la nouvelle distillation obligatoire; la situation resterait donc inchangee en ce qui concerne l'alcool resultant des autres distillations.

Je rappelle que l'adoption suffisamment rapide du nouveau reglement pour qu'il puisse etre applique a partir de la prochaine campagne, est subordonnee a l'adoption, lors de la prochaine session du Parlement, de son avis sur ce reglement.

2. SUCRE :

Le Conseil est invite a approuver un reglement portant le montant maximal de la cotisation a la production du sucre "B" a 39,5 % pour la campagne de commercialisation 1982/83, contre 32 % pendant la campagne en cours. Cette augmentation est necessaire pour assurer que le cout des exportations nettes de sucre communautaire (c.a.d. deduction faite des importations en provenance des ACP) soit finance integralement par les producteurs eux-memes, conformement aux dispositions de la nouvelle organisation du marche du sucre entree en vigueur en juillet 1981.

A la suite de l'effondrement des cours mondiaux, le cout budgetaire des restitutions accordees pendant la campagne 1981/82 aura ete superieur aux recettes provenant de la cotisation des producteurs.

3. LAIT :

Le Conseil est invite a prendre note de la 6 eme communication de la Commission concernant l'utilisation des fonds provenant du prelevement de co-responsabilite dans le secteur du lait pour la campagne 1982/83.

Selon la doctrine constante de la Commission, les recettes provenant du prelevement de co-responsabilite (540 MECUS en 1981/82) sont utilisees non seulement pour financer des actions specifiques (196 MECUS en 1982/83) mais egalement en tant que contribution aux depenses du FEOGA dans le secteur du lait.

4. LA GRECE :

Le Conseil devrait approuver un programme pour l'accélération du développement agricole de certaines régions de la Grèce, et fixer le taux de participation du FEOGA (voir BIO COM (82) 88).

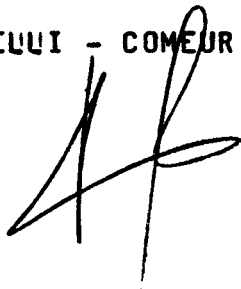
5. BIO-PROTEINES :

Le Conseil devrait approuver une directive réglementant l'utilisation des bio-proteines pour l'alimentation animale produites à partir de substances telles que le pétrole, le méthanol, les levures, etc... La proposition de directive définit les critères communautaires pour constater l'efficacité et l'innocuité des bio-proteines, et établit une liste de bio-proteines répondant à ces critères, ainsi qu'une procédure communautaire pour l'inscription de nouveaux produits sur la liste. Toutes les délégations sauf celle de l'Italie peuvent accepter la directive, la position italienne étant motivée par son opposition à l'inscription sur la liste de certaines bio-proteines provenant des levures de type candida. Aucune autre délégation ne partage l'avis de la délégation italienne sur la nocivité de ces bio-proteines, mais un compromis a été envisagé, consistant à reporter pour deux ans une décision sur les bio-proteines obtenues à partir de candida et, en attendant, à autoriser les États membres à maintenir les autorisations existantes au niveau national.

6. POULES PONDEUSES EN BATTERIE :

Le Conseil examinera de nouveau la proposition de directive fixant les normes minimales pour la protection des poules pondeuses élevées en batterie. Compte tenu des discussions antérieures et de l'avis du Parlement, il est maintenant proposé de prévoir un espace minimal par poule de 400 cm² à partir de 1983 et de 500 cm² à partir de 1990. Des divergences importantes restent en ce qui concerne la date du passage à la deuxième étape, et l'espace minimal à prévoir pour l'étape finale.

Amitiés
M. SANTARELLI - COMEUR 10H45////



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TLX NR. 107055-BIO/B-1/19

NOTE B I O (82) 249 (SUITE 1) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
C.C. AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPE DU PORTE-PAROLE

C O N S E I L A G R I C O L E (B.ELPHICK)
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THE AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS SPENT MOST OF THE TIME DISCUSSING THE PROPOSAL DIRECTIVE INCREASING MINIMUM CAGE SIZES FOR BATTERY HENS. CONSIDERABLE DIVERGENCES OF VIEWS WERE EXPRESSED. THE PRESIDENCY OFFERED YET ANOTHER COMPROMISE SUGGESTING ENTRY INTO FORCE OF NEW DIRECTIVE ON 1 JULY 1984 (INSTEAD OF 1.7.1983), WITH A FINAL DATE SFT OF 1993. FINAL MINIMUM SPACE FOR HENS WOULD BE 550 CM2, WITH A TRANSITIONAL MINIMUM SIZE FOR NEW CAGES IS BETWEEN 500 OF 450 CM2.

THE BRITISH, GERMANS, NETHERLANDS PREFER 600 CM2 OR MORE. THEIR REPRESENTATION AS WELL AS MR. DALSAGER FOR THE COMMISSION PRESSED STRONGLY FOR A POLITICAL DECISION FROM THIS COUNCIL, POINTING OUT THAT PUBLIC OPINION IS LEAVING THE COUNCIL WILL BEHIND CONCERNING THE PROPER TREATMENT OF ANIMALS. THE COMPROMISE PROPOSAL HOWEVER RAN INTO OPPOSITION FROM FRANCE, GREECE, IRELAND, ITALY WHO WERE CONCERNED AT THE ECONOMIC COSTS TO PRODUCERS, AND ABOUT COMPETITION FROM THIRD COUNTRIES. MR. DALSAGER PROMISED TO LOOK FURTHER INTO THIS ASPECT BUT REPEATED THE POLITICAL IMPORTANCE OF GETTING A DECISION. SINCE NO MAJORITY COULD BE FOUND TODAY, THE PRESIDENT OF THE COREPER WOULD HAVE TO LOOK AT THE PROPOSAL AGAIN AND THE COUNCIL WOULD HAVE ANOTHER IMPERATIVE OF REACHING A DECISION AT THEIR NEXT MEETING ON 29 JUNE.

THE COUNCIL WAS STILL IN SESSION AT 8 P.M.
B I O NOTE ON THEIR LATER ACTIVITIES WILL BE SENT TUESDAY.

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NOTE BIO(82) 249, SUITE 2 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
CC AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPE DU PORTE PAROLE

AGRICULTURAL COUNCIL (ROBERT ELPHICK)

THE MINISTERS COMPLETED THEIR WORK AFTER SOME LENGTHY DISCUSSIONS WHICH WENT ON UNTIL NEARLY NINE O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING. MOST OF THE ITEMS WERE RETURNED TO COREPER OR TECHNICAL GROUPS FOR FURTHER STUDY, HOWEVER THEY WERE ABLE TO AGREE AFTER CONSIDERABLE URGING FROM MR. DALSAGER ON THE PROGRAMME FOR GREECE (SEE POINT 4 OF BIO NUMBER 249 OF 10 JUNE, 1982) THIS FORESEES ACCELERATION OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN CERTAIN PARTS OF GREECE AND THE FIXING OF A PERCENTAGE RATE FOR FEOGA PARTICIPATION.

THE MINISTERS CONSIDERED TWO REQUESTS FROM DENMARK AND IRELAND FOR SMALL CHANGES IN MCA'S TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE WEEKEND'S CURRENCY REALIGNMENTS IN THE EMS. ITALY AND FRANCE SIGNALLED THAT THERE COULD BE REQUESTS FROM OTHER MEMBER STATES, ALTHOUGH MR. DALSAGER SAID NONE HAD YET BEEN RECEIVED. HOWEVER THE COMMISSION WOULD BE CONSIDERING THE PROBLEMS ON WEDNESDAY.

AMITIES,
M. SANTARELLI
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