

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

7737/82 (Presse 86)

780th Council meeting
- Development Co-operation -
Luxembourg, 15 June 1982

President: Mrs Jacqueline MAYENCE-GOOSSENS,
State Secretary
for Development Co-operation
of the Kingdom of Belgium

15.VI.82

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

Belgium:

Mrs Jacqueline MAYENCE-GOOSSENS
State Secretary,
Development Co-operation

Germany:

Mr Alwin BRUCK
Parliamentary State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Economic
Co-operation

France:

Mr Jacques LEPRETTE
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

Italy:

Mr Mario FIORET
State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Netherlands:

Mr C.P. van DIJK
Minister for Development Aid

Denmark:

Mr Otto MØLLER
State Secretary, Ministry of
Foreign Affairs

Greece:

Mr Marcos ECONOMIDES
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

Ireland:

Mr Gerry COLLINS
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Luxembourg:

Mr Paul HELMINGER
State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Foreign Trade and Co-operation

United Kingdom:

Lord BELSTEAD
Minister of State for
Overseas Development

Commission:

Mr Edgard PISANI - Member

COMBATING HUNGER IN THE WORLD

Community action plan: support for food strategies

At its meeting on 3 November 1981, the Council signified its general agreement to the action plan proposed by the Commission to combat hunger in the world. Besides the decision on exceptional food aid amounting to 40 MECU for the least-developed countries, it arrived at a favourable attitude towards the implementation of the second aspect of this plan concerning support for the food strategies of the developing countries. At the same time, it had encouraged the Committee to initiate exploratory contacts to identify those beneficiary countries which would be prepared to participate in this new type of co-operation.

At this meeting, the Council carried out a very full examination of all the aspects involved in this new type of co-operation. To this end, it had before it a report from the Permanent Representatives Committee which took into account the information provided by the Commission on the nature and details of the actions proposed. In an oral report, Commissioner PISANI also provided the latest information he had obtained recently on the spot from a number of developing countries interested in this new form of co-operation.

Following this very fruitful discussion, the following conclusions were reached:

- The Community records its readiness to support the food strategies of countries which meet the conditions required provided that those countries express the political will to take part in the exercise.

- This is a continued process which the Community will initiate immediately and which is likely to be amended in the light of later developments, account being taken of experience.
- The preparatory work pinpointed a number of countries which might fulfil the desired conditions.
- Three of those countries, namely Mali, Kenya and Zambia, have addressed a request to the Community, which has agreed to give them a positive reply.
- Exploratory talks are in progress with other countries. The Council (Development) will examine at its next meeting any requests sent to the Community.

The Council also agreed to any donor agreeing to take the same course of action as the Community and its Member States of associating itself with this operation.

Special programme to combat hunger

The Council noted with interest the communication on a special programme to combat hunger in the world forwarded to it by the Commission.

The Council will examine very closely this Commission proposal, which was made in the context of the gradual implementation of the action plan against hunger in the world, the general guidelines and overall balance of which were approved by the Council in November 1981.

The budget aspects of this proposal will be examined in the framework of the usual budget procedure.

NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE

The Council held an exchange of views on progress in the North/South Dialogue. It welcomed the tenor of the results of the recent Versailles Summit, particularly as regards the prospects afforded for the forthcoming opening of North/South global negotiations.

In the spirit of the conclusions of the Versailles Summit, the Community will support the efforts to be begun shortly in New York, on the basis of the draft resolution submitted recently by the Group of 77, with a view to reaching quickly a consensus to enable the global negotiations to be opened effectively.

ROLE OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT

The Council examined the guidelines it might adopt for its future work concerning the role of women in development. The purpose of these guidelines is to make its work as practical as possible in order to make an effective contribution, using the Community's means of assistance, towards aiding the developing countries to face the problems resulting from under-development as far as women are concerned and to ensure that women participate in development.

The Council agreed to continue its discussions on this matter at its next meeting devoted to development problems.

EVALUATION OF COMMUNITY AID

The Council carried out an evaluation of Community aid in urban areas and reached the following conclusions:

1. The rising urban population of the developing countries, and more particularly the fact that growth rates for the urban population are roughly twice those for the whole country, are undeniably a worrying phenomenon, especially as this rise is most marked in shanty-towns and squatter settlements.
2. The authorities in the developing countries are having unquestionable trouble in coping with the many problems that beset them, whether in the fields of health, education, housing, transport or sanitation, and since there is nothing to suggest that the population growth will slow down, the prospects for the future are giving cause for concern.
3. Seen against the magnitude of this phenomenon, it has to be noted that the volume of Community aid is relatively insubstantial. Under the EDF it has been focussed in particular on health, sanitation and housing (115 MECU). In the Mediterranean countries 63 MECU have been allocated to sanitation. In the non-associated developing countries, no measures have been taken in this sector, since the organic regulation directs the bulk of the aid towards the development of rural areas.

4. The over-compartmentalized way in which problems are approached means that local institutions can provide only partial solutions where comprehensive ones are needed. It is possible that some of the programmes in other fields may have an indirect effect on urban areas.

5. This being the position, and while seeking to maintain the priority of Community aid for rural development, the Council recommends that a study be made by the Permanent Representatives Committee and the Council Working Parties to enable suitable solutions to be proposed to developing countries contending with the difficult problems outlined above.

A number of interesting points for consideration in that study have already been put forward by the Commission, and the Working Party has begun discussing them. They concern:

- planning, taking greater account of town-country complementarity;
- the development of secondary centres or large villages to reduce over-crowding in towns and to decentralize authorities and services concentrated in the towns in order to encourage rural development;
- support for job-creating initiatives in the shanty-towns and squatter settlements of large towns; if such activities are stepped up this can help to provide a driving force for further development;

- a better method of taking into account, by means of integrated projects, the complexity and comprehensive nature of the special problems of the areas under consideration;
- greater participation by the NGOs in implementing urban programmes;
- the value of greater dialogue with the developing countries involved, especially, where the ACP States are concerned, within the framework of the ACP-EEC Institutions.

6. These topics for consideration are not the only ones. Other aspects of the problem caused by the rapid expansion of the large towns are being tackled by the Community in other contexts. The decisions taken in the fight against hunger should make it possible to play a part in solving the nutrition problems which are particularly severe among the fringe communities of large conurbations.

CO-OPERATION WITH THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN THE ENERGY SECTOR

The Council approved the following Resolution and agreed to continue its work on the matter at its next meeting:

1. The Council has taken note of the discussions held at its request within the Permanent Representatives Committee, on the basis of the documentation provided by the Commission, on co-operation with the developing countries in the energy sector, and records its agreement to the following guidelines and recommendations.
2. The gradual using-up of traditional energy resources, the high cost of conventional forms of energy, and the fact that energy imports represent a significant proportion of energy requirements and have to be paid for in foreign currency, constitute serious obstacles to development in many developing countries.

The future of these countries depends to a considerable extent on their ability to mobilize, in favourable conditions, the energy resources necessary to meet their growing requirements.

3. There was indication of an initial awareness of this situation at the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy (Nairobi, August 1981), which will have to play a greater role as a result of both the application of new technologies to meet conditions in the developing countries and the improvement of traditional techniques. Awareness of these problems should, in the Community's view, be increased and also cover other forms of energy.

4. The Community believes that the difficulties encountered here by the developing countries could be overcome more easily if these countries or groups of countries, with international co-operation, were to establish and implement a better system of energy planning, taking account of their immediate and future requirements and of all their potential in this area.

5. As part of their co-operation with the developing countries in the energy sector, the Community and the Member States - which together form the largest world supplier of technical aid in this sector - are already making a major contribution to carrying out specific investments taking account of the development priorities identified by the countries concerned. The Community is henceforth prepared - in the light of an initial examination of the measures underway and so far as its resources permit - to extend its co-operation by supporting the formulation and application, by any developing countries wishing to do so, of a system of energy planning involving specific measures.

6. The Council has decided on an initial non-exhaustive list of topics which meet actual requirements expressed by the developing countries. In general, each of these topics concerns several countries, which makes it possible to place them in a regional context wherever such a context would make them more effective. They are eligible, via the resources currently available, for support from the Community and the Member States. They are as follows:
 - energy planning;
 - use of firewood;
 - education, training and research and development in the energy sector.

The Council considers that co-ordination between the Community and the Member States could help solve any problems which might emerge in these areas.

7. Energy planning represents a fundamental state in the smooth development of this sector. On the basis of energy results, identification of local energy resources, assessment of the potential effect of local resources on existing energy-flow patterns and projections of future supply and demand, it should make it possible to identify the main priorities for electricity (hydro-electric or coal resources, development of networks), transport (fuel saving, petrol and gas-oil substitutes) and domestic energy, including not only firewood but also the alternative forms of energy such as biomass, solar, wind and geothermal energy. Particular attention should be paid to energy supplies for isolated regions.

8. The Council considers that in addition to a methodology for the rational management of requirements and resources, planning could also cover the financial and economic aspects (such as demand management), transfers of technology, the environment and regional co-operation. It could be facilitated by small regional centres providing information and demonstrations concerning suitable technologies, and by the free movement of information between and from such centres. A broad conception of energy planning could - with the aid of the Community and the Member States, and also in contact with the World Bank or other relevant international bodies - make for a marked improvement in other co-operation measures in the sector as a whole.

9. The importance of economical use of firewood and the awesome consequences of rampant deforestation are not yet receiving sufficient attention. The Community considers that measures to promote more effective methods of producing charcoal, use of biomass, economical cooking methods (which are also partly a precondition for better nourishment), and technologies making possible the effective supply of the necessary instruments should be encouraged in this sector. As for economical forestry management, which should in turn form part of a land use programme, it would seem advisable to step up the fight against deforestation and to increase reafforestation adapted to local conditions.

The use of wood in the industrial sector of the developing countries should not be neglected either.

In many cases, measures to save and conserve energy represent the best possible use of the funds available for aid measures in the energy sector.

Greater saving of firewood, which is used mainly for domestic purposes, is also important for the situation of women in these countries. Consequently, the Council would like this aspect to be taken into account when energy projects are drawn up.

10. The Council intends to consider this matter further at its next meeting - particularly as regards education/training and research/development - on the basis of proposals which the Commission is requested to submit in the near future.
11. The Council considers that the recommendations outlined above should serve as initial guidelines for future Community action on energy co-operation. In addition, at both the planning and implementing stages, there should continue to be an active exchange of information between the Member States and the Commission on measures carried out and experience gained.

NON-PROJECT AID

The Council held a preliminary exchange of views on the question of non-project aid.

It instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine this matter in greater depth to enable the Council to discuss it at its next meeting.



Bruxelles, le 11 juin 1982
Note BIO(82)259 aux Bureaux Nationaux
c.c. aux membres du groupe du Porte-Parole

Conseil Developpement du 15 juin 1982 (H. Ferraton)

Le Conseil Developpement se reunit mardi a Luxembourg, la veille du debat que le Parlement tiendra a Strasbourg sur la lutte contre la faim dans le monde. Les ministres auront precisement comme point principal a l'ordre du jour la participation de la Communaute a la mise en oeuvre des strategies alimentaires et l'examen des dernieres propositions de la Commission a cet egard.

Si les enceintes sont differentes, le sujet est bien le meme, il reste a voir si les debats du Parlement permettront de parvenir a une approche commune, s'il est possible de concilier le point de vue de ceux qui insistent sur l'action urgente et spectaculaire avec le point de vue de ceux qui pensent comme la Commission, que sous pretexte de faire vite il ne faut pas faire n'importe quoi, que la lutte contre la faim ne sera pas gagnee par un acces soudain de generosite, mais grace a un ensemble d'actions a long terme visant a s'attaquer aux causes du mal et non seulement a ses symptomes.

Ces actions a long terme, la Commission en a deja propose certaines l'automne dernier dans son plan d'action contre la faim, dont les grandes lignes ont ete approuvees en fevrier par le Conseil. Demain, le Conseil devrait prendre les premieres decisions operationnelles concernant le lancement d'experiences de strategies alimentaires dans un premier groupe de trois pays: Mali, Zambie, Kenya. Il s'agit d'aboutir en quelque sorte a passer un contrat entre d'une part, un pays qui a pris l'initiative de definir une politique, sa politique agricole et rurale, orientee vers l'autosuffisance alimentaire et, d'autre part, la Communaute et les Etats membres. Par ce contrat, l'Etat africain s'engage simplement a respecter la politique qu'il a defini, la Communaute s'engageant alors a l'appuyer et a coordonner les aides de telle facon qu'elles puissent intervenir le plus efficacement possible la ou les difficultes sont les plus grandes. Cela parait banal: il s'agit en realite d'une innovation majeure en matiere de cooperation, et c'est la raison pour laquelle l'approche choisie a ete celle de l' experimentation.

Autre innovation dont auront a debattre les ministres, les cinq "campagnes" de sauvegarde du milieu rural proposees par la Commission la semaine derniere dans le cadre du budget rectificatif 1982 (voir note P-31). Ici encore il s'agit d'actions "temoins", d'experiences encore limitees, mais qui indiquent l'orientation que la Commission souhaite privilegier a l'avenir.

Les autres points a l'ordre du jour sont les suivants :

Nord-Sud : un echange de vue traditionnel permettra aux ministres de donner leur appreciation sur les chances de deblocage apres Versailles.

Apres quoi les ministres devraient adopter, sur la base de rapports d'evaluation, des orientations pour les projets de developpement en milieu urbain.

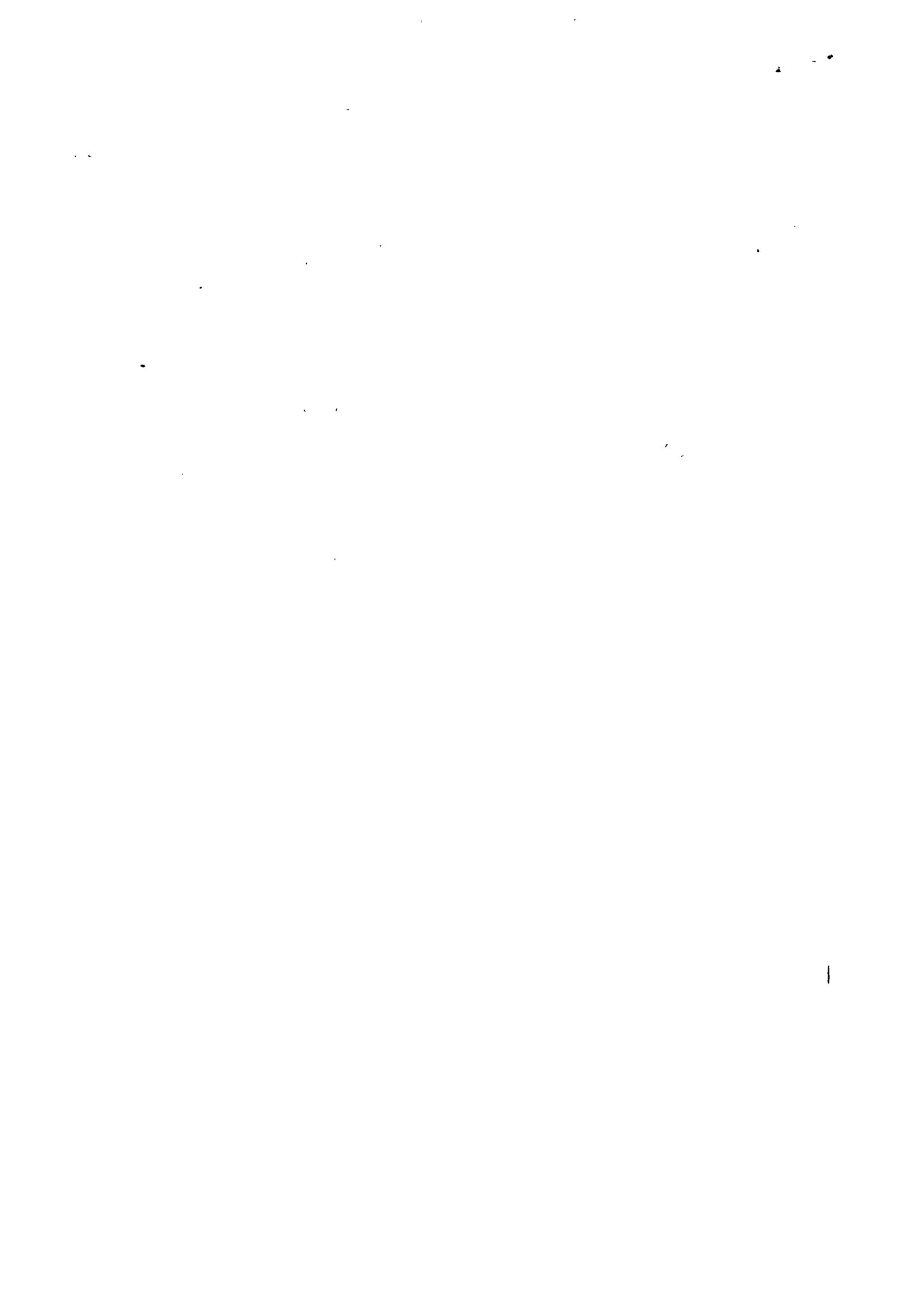
De meme devrait etre adoptee une resolution sur la cooperation avec les PVD dans le domaine energetique.

Les ministres prendront connaissance enfin d'un premier rapport sur le role de la femme dans le developpement.

Amities

M. SANTARELLI - COMEUR 16H30////





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NOTE B I O (82) 259 (SUITE 1) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
C.C. AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPE DU PORTE-PAROLE

C O N S E I L D E V E L O P P E M E N T (H. FERRATON)

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1. LES MINISTRES ONT PROCEDE A UN ECHANGE DE VUES SUR LES PERSPECTIVES DU DIALOGUE NORD-SUD APRES VERSAILLES, ETANT ENTENDU QUE LES CONCLUSIONS OPERATIONNELLES RELEVENT DU CONSEIL AFFAIRES GENERALES. DANS L'ENSEMBLE, LES APPRECIATIONS SE SITUENT ENTRE L'OPTIMISME PRUDENT ET LE SEPTICISME. MAIS ON RECONNAIT QUE LES RESULTATS ONT ETE PLUS IMPORTANTS QUE PREVUS ET QU'UNE CHANCE REELLE SEMBLE MAINTENANT EXISTER D'OUVRIR D'ICI QUELQUES MOIS LES ''NEGOCIATIONS GLOBALES''.

2. LA COMMUNAUTE A PRIS FORMELLEMENT LA DECISION DE S'ENGAGER DANS UNE EXPERIENCE D'APPUI AUX STRATEGIES ALIMENTAIRES ET CECI DANS UN PREMIER GROUPE DE TROIS PAYS : MALI, ZAMBIE, KENYA. TOUTES LES DELEGATIONS ONT SOULIGNE LE CARACTERE NOVATEUR DE L'APPROCHE PROPOSEE PAR LA COMMISSION. S'IL S'AGIT, QUANT A L'OBJECTIF DE ''JETER LES BASES D'UNE POLITIQUE AGRICOLE DANS LES P V D'', IL S'AGIT AUSSI, SUR LE PLAN DES METHODES DE COOPERATION DE MODIFIER LES RELATIONS ENTRE PAYS BENEFICIAIRES ET PAYS DONATEURS EN INSTAURANT ENTRE EUX UN ''COPILOTAGE'' ET UNE CORESPONSABILITE, ET DE METTRE EN OEUVRE POUR LA PREMIERE FOIS UNE VERITABLE COORDINATION DES AIDES COMMUNAUTAIRES ET BILATERALES, LES AIDES EXTRA-COMMUNAUTAIRES ETANT D'AILLEURS CONVIEES A L'EXERCICE.

- LA DECISION DE PRINCIPE ETANT PRISE, LES TRAVAUX VONT COMMENCER DANS LES TROIS PAYS OU SONT CONSTITUE DES ''TASK FORCES'' CHARGES DE PRECISER LA NATURE ET LES MODALITES

DES ENGAGEMENTS RECIPROQUES, ENGAGEMENTS QUI SERONT FORMALISES AU COURANT DE L'AUTOMNE.

- LA COMMUNAUTE A CHOISI DELIBEREMMENT DE LANCER UNE EXPERIENCE ''PILOTE'' LIMITEE A UN NOMBRE RESTREINT DE PAYS. TOUTEFOIS, AU COURS DES PROCHAINS MOIS, LA COMMISSION PRENDRA CONTACT AVEC D'AUTRES PAYS SUSCEPTIBLES DE PARTICIPER A L'EXPERIENCE ET LE CONSEIL PREVU POUR OCTOBRE POURRA DECIDER D'EN INCLURE CERTAINS.

A SUIVRE.

AMITIES

H. F E R R A T O N

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M. SOUBESTRE B 2/64
M. BRENNER B 8/103

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TR.	Hw 3
I.S.	✓
FIN.	✓
AGR.	✓
ENE.	✓
R.D.	✓
ADM.	✓
S.A.	✓
	JMB

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NOTE B I O (82) 259 (SUITE 2 ET FIN) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
C.C. AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPE DU PORTE-PAROLE

C O N S E I L D E V E L O P P E M E N T (H. FERRATON).
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LE CONSEIL A EU UN PREMIER ECHANGE DE VUES SUR LE "PROGRAMME SPECIAL" DE LUTTE CONTRE LA FAIM DANS LE MONDE PROPOSE PAR LA COMMISSION LE 3 JUIN DERNIER DANS LE CADRE DU BUDGET RECTIFICATIF 1982. LES MINISTRES ONT CONSTATE QUE CE PROGRAMME S'INSCRIVAIT DANS LA LIGNE DE LA POLITIQUE ENGAGEE DESORMAIS PAR LA COMMUNAUTE, NOTAMMENT EN CE QUI CONCERNE L'APPUI AUX STRATEGIES ALIMENTAIRES. CET ACCEUIL, GENERALEMENT FAVORABLE, NE VAUT PAS TOUTEFOIS ACCORD. EN TOUT ETAT DE CAUSE, CELUI-CI EST SUBORDONNE A LA DECISION DES AUTORITES BUDGETAIRES.

F I N

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