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COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES  
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

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PRESS RELEASE

531st meeting of the Council

- Agriculture -

Brussels, 25 July 1978

Presidents: Mr Joseph ERTL,  
Minister for Agriculture  
of the Federal Republic of Germany

and

Mr Hans-Jürgen ROHR,  
State Secretary,  
Federal Ministry of Agriculture  
of the Federal Republic of Germany



25.VII.78

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

Belgium:

Mr Antoine HUMBLET                    Minister for Agriculture and  
Small Firms and Traders

Denmark:

Mr Paul DALSAGER                    Minister of Agriculture

Germany

Mr Joseph ERTL                    Federal Minister of Agriculture  
Mr Hans-Jürgen ROHR               State Secretary, Federal Ministry  
of Agriculture

France:

Mr Pierre MEHAIGNERIE               Minister of Agriculture

Ireland:

Mr Jim GIBBONS                    Minister for Agriculture

Italy:

Mr Giovanni MARCORA                Minister of Agriculture  
Mr Giulio CACCHIOLI                Deputy State Secretary,  
Ministry of Agriculture  
Mr Bruno VECCHIARELLI              Deputy State Secretary for  
Public Health

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Luxembourg:

Mr Albert BERCHEM

State Secretary,  
Ministry of Agriculture

Netherlands:

Mr A.P.J.M.M. van der STEE

Minister of Agriculture and  
Fisheries

United Kingdom:

Mr John SILKIN

Minister of Agriculture,  
Fisheries and Food

Mr Gavin STRANG

Parliamentary Secretary,  
Ministry of Agriculture,  
Fisheries and Food

The Commission:

Mr Finn Olav GUNDELACH

Vice-President

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BEEF AND VEAL FROM BOTSWANA

The Council adopted a Decision allowing the importation of beef and veal from certain regions of Botswana free from foot-and-mouth disease.

The Commission will continue to follow the health situation of cattle herds in Botswana during the coming months in order to examine the possibility of amending the Decision taken if the situation so justifies.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE OF MALE BOVINE ANIMALS

The Council held an exchange of views on the proposal for a supplementary estimate of young male bovine animals weighing 300 kilograms or less intended for fattening for the period to 31 December 1978.

Following the exchange of views, the Council agreed to instruct the Special Committee on Agriculture to continue its examination of the matter so that the Council could discuss it again at its next meeting scheduled for 25 and 26 September 1978.

BUTTER

The Council took note of statements by various delegations regarding problems connected with second quality and Christmas butter resulting from the implementation of the decisions of May 1978 on agricultural prices.

The Commission indicated that it would take the appropriate steps, bearing in mind the need to promote consumption and reduce existing butter stocks.

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The Council also took note of a statement by the Danish delegation concerning the problems of butter imports from New Zealand.

The Commission representative said that this question would be covered both in the report on milk and milk products which the Commission was to submit to the Council during the autumn and in a specific report to be submitted before the end of the current year.

COMMON MEASURE FOR FORESTRY

The Council held an exchange of views in depth on the proposal for a Regulation on a common measure for forestry in certain dry Mediterranean regions of the Community, a proposal which forms an integral part of the guidelines concerning the development of the Mediterranean regions and on which the Council agreed, at its meeting in May 1978, to take a decision by 30 September 1978.

The discussion centred on certain financial questions connected with this proposal and on the size of the regions which could benefit under the measure.

The Council finally agreed to instruct the Special Committee on Agriculture to continue its examination of the proposal so that the Council could discuss it in accordance with the undertakings given at its meeting on 8-12 May 1978.

WINE

The Council took note of a Commission communication on future measures in the wine sector wherein it was stated that the Commission would forward a series of proposals on this sector to the Council by 1 August 1978.

MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

The Council took note of a statement by the French delegation on the GATT multilateral trade negotiations, notably their agricultural aspects, and of the Commission representative's reply.



WORK SCHEDULE

The Council took note of the German Presidency's work schedule for the period up to 31 December 1978.

Emphasis was placed especially on a number of questions which stemmed from the decisions taken by the Council on 8/12 May and which should be examined on a priority basis (structures in the Mediterranean regions, wine sector and milk products), on the drawing up of the common fisheries policy, on new market organizations (sheepmeat, potatoes and alcohol) and on the review of the socio-structural directives.



Other agricultural questions

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities

the Regulations

- = on a common measure to improve public amenities in certain rural areas;
- = amending Regulation (EEC) No 804/68 on the common organization of the market in milk and milk products;
- = on the sale of butter at reduced prices to persons receiving social assistance;
- = on the transfer to the Italian intervention agency of skimmed-milk powder by the intervention agencies of other Member States;
- = on the granting of aid for the consumption of butter in Italy;
- = on the reduction of the levy on certain imports of feed grain into the Italian Republic;
- = amending Regulation (EEC) No 1035/72 on the common organization of the market in fruit and vegetables;
- = amending Regulation (EEC) No 1035/77 laying down special measures to encourage the marketing of products processed from lemons;
- = fixing, for the 1978/1979 marketing year, the production aid for canned pineapple and the minimum price to be paid to pineapple producers;
- = adopting the general rules concerning the special measures in respect of castor seeds;
- = laying down, for the 1978/1979 wine-growing year, the prices to be paid for the compulsory distillation of the by-products of wine-making and the maximum amount of the contribution of the Guarantee Section of the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund;
- = amending for the second time Regulation (EEC) No 1930/76 on the distillation of the by-products of wine making;

= amending Regulation (EEC) No 816/70 laying down additional provisions for the common organization of the market in wine;

- the Decisions

- = authorizing the United Kingdom to grant national aid to milk producers in Northern Ireland;
- = concerning employment aid for certain slaughterhouses in Northern Ireland;
- = amending the 5th Council Decision 76/539/EEC on the equivalence of seeds produced in third countries;
- = amending the 5th Council Decision 76/538/EEC on the equivalence of field inspections carried out in third countries on seed-producing crops;
- = on the equivalence of seed potatoes produced in third countries (3rd Decision);

- the Directives

- = amending Directives 66/400/EEC, 66/401/EEC, 66/402/EEC, 66/403/EEC, 68/193/EEC, 69/208/EEC and 70/458/EEC on the marketing of beet seed, fodder plant seed, cereal seed, seed potatoes, material for the vegetative propagation of the vine, seed of oil and fibre plants and vegetable seed;
- = laying down specific criteria of purity for emulsifiers, stabilizers, thickeners and gelling agents for use in foodstuffs;
- = laying down the specific criteria of purity for anti-oxidants that may be used in foodstuffs intended for human consumption.

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NOTE BIO (78) 277 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX  
C. C. AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPE, A M. BURGHARDT, ASSISTANT, DG 1 ET A  
M. LECOMTE, DG 8

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PREPARATION CONSEIL AGRICOLE (VAN DER PAS)

DES QUE LE CONSEIL PECHE AURA ETE TERMINE, LES MINISTRES DE L'AGRI-  
CULTURE SE REUNIRONT POUR UNE SESSION QUI DEVRAIT ETRE PLUTOT BREVE.

1. ILS CONTINUERONT LES TRAVAUX EN CE QUI CONCERNE LES ACTIONS  
■ FORESTIERES ■ DANS LES ZONES SECHES MEDITERRANEENNES. UNE DECISION  
■ DEVRAIT, SELON UNE DECISION DU CONSEIL-MEME, INTERVENIR AVANT ■  
■ LE 30 SEPTEMBRE. IL S'AGIT D'UNE CONTRIBUTION FINANCIERE DE LA  
■ PART DE LA COMMUNAUTE DE 230 MUC SUR CINQ ANS DANS LE CADRE DU  
■ ■■■■■■ 'PAQUET MEDITERANEEN' DONT UNE GRANDE PARTIE FUT DEJA  
■ ADOPTE AVEC LES PRIX AGRICOLES 1978/79.
2. LA GRANDE BRETAGNE ET LA FRANCE SOUHAITENT QUE CERTAINES IMPOR-  
■ TATIONS DE VIANDE BOVINE EN PROVENANCE DU BOTSWANA SOIENT A  
■ NOUVEAU AUTORISEES. ELLES AVAIENT ETE INTERDITES SUITE A DES  
■ ERUPTIONS DE FIEVRE APHTEUSE DANS CE PAYS DONT L'ECONOMIE DE-  
■ PEND ESSENTIELLEMENT DES EXPORTATIONS DE LA VIANDE BOVINE. POUR  
■ CETTE RAISON, LA COMMISSION A PROPOSE QUE LES ETATS MEMBRES  
■ INTERESSES (LA GRANDE BRETAGNE ET LA FRANCE) SOIENT AUTORISES  
■ A IMPORTER EN PROVENANCE DES ZONES BOTSWANAISES DECLAREES IN-  
■ DEMNES DE L'EPIZOOTIE.
3. ELLE A PROPOSE EGALEMENT QUE LE CONTINGENT DE JEUNES BOVINS  
■ MALES DE 200.000 TETES QUE LA COMMUNAUTE IMPORTE EN PROVENANCE  
■ DES PAYS TIERS AVEC UN PRELEVEMENT REDUIT, SOIT AUGMENTE A  
■ 250.000 TETES. L'ITALIE, GRANDE IMPORTATRICE DE VIANDE BOVINE,  
■ INSISTE SUR UNE AUGMENTATION SUPERIEURE. LES ETATS MEMBRES  
■ PRODUCTEURS S'Y OPPOSENT.
4. M. GUNDELACH FERA UNE DECLARATION AU CONSEIL SUR LES MESURES  
■ D'ASSAINISSEMENT QUE LA COMMISSION PREPARE DANS LE SECTEUR VITI-  
■ VINICOLE. LA COMMISSION POURRAIT FINALISER SES PROPOSITIONS  
■ ■■■■ DEMAIN: ■ UNE INFORMATION DE PRESSE SUIVRA DES QUE POSSIBLE.
5. CERTAINES DELEGATIONS EVOQUERONT LES VENTES DE BEURRE A PRIX  
■ REDUIT. LE CONSEIL AVAIT DECIDE AU MOIS DE MAI QUE 50 MUC SERONT  
■ DESTINEES AU COURS DE CETTE ANNEE A DE TELLES VENTES. DEUX  
■ QUESTIONS RESTENT A RESOUDRE: 1) FAUT-IL UNE ACTION DE COURTE  
■ DUREE AVEC UNE DIMINUTION DU PRIX IMPORTANTE (COMME LE 'BEURRE  
■ DE NOEL') OU FAUT-IL UNE VENTE PLUS PROLONGEE AVEC UN RABAIS  
■ MOINS FORT (P.EX. INTRODUIRE UNE DEUXIEME QUALITE DE BEURRE)?  
■ 2) COMMENT EST-CE QUE ■ LES QUANTITES DE BEURRE DISPONIBLES,  
■ COMPTE TENU DE L'ENVELOPPE FINANCIERE ET DU GENRE D'ACTION  
■ RETENU, SERONT DISTRIBUEES PARI MI LES ETATS MEMBRES?

A SUIVRE

AMITIES,

M. SANTARELLI (COMEUR)

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NOTE BIO(78) 277, SUITE 1 ET FIN, AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX  
CC AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPE, A M BURGHARDT, DG I, ET M LECOMTE,  
DG VIII

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LE CONSEIL AGRICOLE S EST TERMINE A 18 H.  
IL A PRIS UNE SEULE DECISION AUTORISANT LE ROYAUME UNI ET L ILE  
DE REUNION (FRANCE) DE REPREDRE LES IMPORTATIONS DE VIANDE  
BOVINE EN PROVENANCE DE CERTAINES PARTIES DU BOTSWANA NON  
TOUCHÉES DE LA FIEVRE APHEUSE. LES DEUX PAYS IMPORTATEUR  
SE SONT ENGAGES A NE PAS REEXPORTER CETTE VIANDE VERS LES  
AUTRES PAYS MEMBRES.

TOUS LES AUTRES POINTS A L ORDRE DU JOUR ONT ETE RENVOYES.  
LORS DE LA DISCUSSION AU SUJET DU REBOISEMENT MEDITERRANEEN,  
LA FRANCE A ETABLI UN LIEN AVEC UNE ACTION D ASSAINISSEMENT  
DU SECTEUR VITIVINICOLE. LA COMMISSION FERA DES PROPOSITIONS  
POUR CE DERNIER SECTEUR AVANT LE PREMIER AOUT, ET PROBABLEMENT  
LA COMMISSION LES ADOPTERA DANS SA REUNION DE DEMAIN.

L ITALIE A REPONDU A LA REMERQUE FRANCAISE EN ETABLISSANT UN  
DEUXIEME LIEN AVEC L ASSAINISSEMENT DU SECTEUR LAITIER DE SORTE  
QUE LE CONSEIL DU MOIS DE SEPTEMBRE AURA A LA FOIS UN PAQUET  
D ENSEMBLE COMPRENANT LE VIN, LE LAIT ET LES MESURES MEDITER-  
RANEENNES.

M GUNDELACH A , A NOUVEAU, SOULIGNE L IMPORTANCE DE CE PAQUET  
MEDITERRANEEN TANT DU POINT DE VUE POLITIQUE QU ECONOMIQUE ET  
SOCIAL. SI LE CONSEIL NE DEVRAIT PAS ETRE CAPABLE D ADOPTER  
CES MESURES, LE TRAVAIL DE CE CONSEIL POURRAIT S ARRETER DE  
MANIERE APRUPT AU COURS DE L AUTOMNE, A DECLARE M GUNDELACH.

EN CE QUI CONCERNE LES VENTES DE BEURRE A PRIX REDUIT, LA  
PLUPART DES DELEGATIONS ONT DEMANDE QUE LA GRANDE  
BRETAGNE NE BENEFICIE PAS DES AIDES COMMUNAUTAIRES DANS  
L ENVELOPPE FINANCIER DE 50 MILLIONS D UC PREVU PAR LE CONSEIL  
DU MOIS DE MAI A CE SUJET. ELLES SE SONT REFE-  
REES AUX AIDES DEJA ACCORDEES EN GRANDE BRETAGNE POUR STIMULER  
LA CONSOMMATION DE BEURRE ET ELLES ONT RAPPELE QUE CE PAYS  
ETAIT EGALEMENT EXCLU DE L ACTION 'BEURRE DE NOEL' DE  
DECEMBRE 1977.

LA COMMISSION A CEPENDANT RAPPELE QUE LE CONSEIL N AVAIT PRIS,  
AU MOIS DE MAI, AUCUNE DECISION VISANT A EXCLURE LA GRANDE  
BRETAGNE ET QU ON NE POUVAIT PAS LE FAIRE A POSTERIORI. DE  
TOUTE FACON, IL S AGIT D UNE DECISION QUI EST DE LA COMPETENCE  
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GPP M VAN DER PAS B 1/4 25.7.78

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M SANTARELLI

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DE LA COMMISSION; ELLE PRENDRA SA DECISION APRES AVOIR OBTENU L AVIS DU COMITE DE GESTION.

LA FRANCE A INSISTE POUR QUE LA COMMUNAUTE, DANS LES NEGOCIATIONS MULTILATERALES DANS LE CADRE DU GATT, NE FASSE AUCUNE CONCESSION QUI SERAIT, A TERME, DANGEREUSE POUR L AGRICULTURE COMMUNAUTAIRE. LA COMMUNAUTE NE DEVRIT SURTOUT PAS ACCEPTER LES LIMITATIONS D INITIATIVE DANS LA FIXATION DES RESTITUTIONS A L EXPORTATION. ELLE SE PROOCCUPAIT NOTAMMENT DE L APPROFONDISSEMENT DES TERMES DE L ARTICLE 16 DU GATT, COMME PREVU PAR L ACCORD CADRE D IL Y A UNE SEMAINE. M GUNDELACH A ESSAYE D APAISER LES PREOCCUPATIONS FRANCAISE EN DECLARANT QUE CET APPROFONDISSEMENT PEUT, DANS CERTAINS CAS, ETRE A L AVANTAGE DE LA COMMUNAUTE. UNE CLARIFICATION DES TERMES DE L ARTICLE 16 POURRAIT OUVRIR CERTAINS MARCHES QUI SONT ACTUELLEMENT FERMES ET POURRAIT EGALEMENT FACILITER BEAUCOUP NOS RELATIONS AVEC LES PARTENAIRES DANS LE CADRE DU GATT. LA COMMUNAUTE N AURA, BIEN ENTENDU, AUCUN INTERET A ACCEPTER DES CONCESSION NEGATIVES DANS CET EXERCICE.

EN CONCLUSION DU CONSEIL, LA GRANDE BRETAGNE A PROTESTE CONTRE UNE NOUVELLE FERMETURE DES FRONTIERES FRANCAISES POUR LES IMPORTATIONS DE VIANDE OVINE. CETTE PROTESTATION ORALE SERA SUIVIE D UNE LETTRE ADRESSEE A LA COMMISSION QUI, ENSUITE, PRENDRA SES DISPOSITIONS.

LE PROCHAIN CONSEIL AGRICOLE AURA LIEU LES 25/26 SEPTEMBRE.

AMITIES, M SANTARELLI  
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