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COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

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PRESS RELEASE

543rd meeting of the Council
- Health -

Brussels, 16 November 1978
President: Mrs Antje HUBER
Federal Minister for Youth,
Family Affairs and Health

and

Mr Hans-Georg WOLTERS
State Secretary,
Federal Ministry for Youth, Family
Affairs and Health
of the Federal Republic of Germany

1291/78 (Presse 146)



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

Belgium:

Mr Luc DHOORE Minister for Health and the Environment

Denmark:

Mr Knud ENNGAARD Minister for the Interior

Germany:

Mrs Antje HUBER Federal Minister for Youth, Family Affairs and Health

Mr Hans-Georg WOLTERS State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Youth, Family Affairs and Health

France:

Mrs Simone VEIL Minister for Health and Family Affairs

Ireland:

Mr Charles HAUGHEY Minister for Health and Social Affairs

Italy:

Mrs Tina ANSEIMI Minister for Health

Luxembourg:

Mr Joseph WEYLAND

Deputy Permanent Representative

Netherlands:

Mrs E. VEDER-SMIT

State Secretary,
Ministry of Health and the
Environment

United Kingdom:

Mr Roland MOYLE

Minister of State,
Department of Health and Social
Security

Commission:

Mr Henk VREDELING

Vice-President

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ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF HEALTH

The Ministers held a detailed discussion on the economic aspects of health on the basis of a series of studies submitted by the Commission on

- the organization, financing and cost of health care in the European Community
- pharmaceutical consumption
- micro-economic approach to problems relating to the costs of hospitalization.

At the end of their discussion the Ministers

- took note with interest of the results of the three studies which the Commission had had carried out on health care costs;
- drew attention in this connection to the second European Social Budget prepared by the Commission;
- noted that, while the growth of health care costs had recently slowed down in some Member States, it continued to be a matter for concern in all Member States;
- noted also that this growth in costs had not had the desired effect on the health of the population in all Member States;
- emphasized that in all Member States the proportion of the national product represented by health care costs was of necessity limited;

- welcomed the considerable efforts being made in all Member States to contain the rise in health care costs;
- considered that containment of health care costs would inter alia be achieved through effective control of hospital spending and the provision of better information to the medical profession and patients, without detracting from the standard of treatment provided;
- considered moreover that the efforts made at national level might usefully be supplemented by appropriate Community action, which should take account of the work of international organizations such as the WHO, the OECD and the Council of Europe;
- agreed that Community action should be focussed upon a number of priority matters.

These matters include the following:

- = pharmaceuticals;
 - = specialized manpower;
 - = harmonization of definitions and statistical data relating to health care.
- requested the Commission, on the basis of studies which have already been carried out, to make suitable suggestions for future Community action in the above spheres and to give such action its due priority in organizing its work.

SMOKING, NUTRITION AND DRUG ABUSE IN SPORT

The Ministers held an exchange of views on health education policies to be followed, with particular reference to smoking, nutrition and drug abuse in sport.

With regard to smoking and nutrition, the Ministers emphasized the paramount importance of health education in the context of health policies and welcomed the efforts being made in this area by the Member States. They considered smoking and nutrition to be important areas on which health education should place particular emphasis and agreed as regards smoking,

- = to establish common methods by which to compare the results and to assess the effectiveness of health education campaigns on smoking;
- = to carry out health education campaigns of an experimental nature in order to determine the main features of cigarette smoking by young people and to identify their effects on health and the family and socio-economic factors which may play a part in the commencement and development of cigarette smoking;
- = to seek a common attitude on advertising;
- = to exchange information on measures already taken by the Member States.

With regard to nutrition, they agreed

- = to develop common methods in order to improve the collection and analysis of more accurate epidemiological data;

- = to improve the reciprocal flow of information on the results of nutritional research;
- = to exchange experience regarding the principles and methods of organizing health education campaigns on nutrition, with particular regard to children and adolescents;
- = to evaluate, using common methods if possible, the effectiveness of the educational measures taken to prevent nutrition-linked diseases.

At the end of their discussions on smoking and nutrition they requested the Commission to take the necessary steps to carry out these activities.

At the end of their discussions on drug abuse in sport, the Ministers noted that the use in sport of drugs allegedly designed to increase an individual's performance which may damage his health constituted a serious problem, and that the measures so far taken at national and international level to combat drug abuse in sport had not yet produced the desired results.

They considered that there was therefore a need to improve protection against the damage caused by such drug abuse, supported the efforts being made by the Ministers responsible for sport, particularly within the framework of the Council of Europe and agreed to explore the whole problem of drug abuse in sport further at Community level. Lastly, they requested the Commission to put forward suggestions in this connection.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

The Ministers took note of a communication from the United Kingdom delegation on the possible creation of an Advisory Committee on Public Health and of the comments made by certain delegations on this subject. In conclusion they agreed to return to this question at the next meeting on health questions on the basis of a study which would be undertaken in the meantime by the Commission in conjunction with the Member States on the advisability of creating such a Committee and the tasks to be entrusted to it.

VACCINATIONS PROBLEMS

Following a discussion of questions raised at Community level regarding vaccinations, the Ministers agreed that as in the past such questions should continue to be dealt with by the World Health Organization.

MUTUAL MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

The Ministers discussed the question of mutual medical assistance in the event of catastrophies or particularly serious accidents or diseases, following which the Ministers noted that the Commission, having regard to certain serious accidents which had occurred recently, proposed to carry out a number of mutual health assistance activities, in particular by means of a questionnaire to be sent to the Member States in order to take stock of the efforts already being made in this field by Member States and taking into account the activities of other bodies.

DOCTORS, NURSES AND DENTISTS

The Ministers took note of a communication from the Commission representative on progress in applying the Directives on the right of establishment and the freedom to provide services of doctors, nurses and dentists and of a statement by the Belgian delegation on this subject. Finally, the Ministers noted the Commission's intention to ensure the effective application of the Directives in question and to inform the Council thereof.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities Regulations

- increasing the Community tariff quota opened for 1978 by Regulation (EEC) No 2301/77 for certain plywood of coniferous species falling with heading ex 44.15 of the Common Customs Tariff;
- on the opening, allocation and administration of a Community tariff quota for rosin, including "Brais résineux" falling within subheading 38.08 A of the Common Customs Tariff (1979);
- opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for newsprint falling within subheading 48.01 A of the Common Customs Tariff (1979) and extending that quota to include certain other types of paper;
- temporarily suspending the autonomous Common Customs Tariff duties on a number of agricultural products.

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The Council approved two emergency aid projects proposed by the Commission to finance the provision of emergency supplies as follows:

400,000 EUA for refugees in the Lebanon (through the Catholic Relief Service and the International Red Cross Committee)

90,000 EUA for the people of Nicaragua (through the Catholic Relief Service).

On a proposal from the Confédération Générale du Travail - Force Ouvrière, the Council appointed Mr Bernard MOURGUES, Secretary-General of the Fédération Confédérée Force Ouvrière de la Métallurgie, member of the Consultative Committee of the European Coal and Steel Community for the remainder of the Committee's term of office, namely until 15 October 1980.

Bruxelles, le 14 novembre 1978.

Note BIO (78) 413 aux Bureaux Nationaux
cc. aux Membres du Groupe

PREPARATION CONSEIL SANTE DU 16 novembre 1978.

433

Nous avons diffuse, au cours du rendez-vous de midi, une note P-121 regroupant un nombre de resumes de sept etudes faites partiellement par les services de la Commission et partiellement par des experts independants, sur les politiques sanitaires dans la Communaute. Ces etudes ont ete demandees par le premier Conseil Sante du 13 decembre 1977 et elles sont destinees au deuxieme Conseil Sante du 16 novembre prochain. Elles portent sur les sujets suivants :

- cout des soins de sante dans les Etats membres;
- etude comparative des frais hospitaliers;
- consommation des produits pharmaceutiques;
- recours au dopage, surtout dans le domaine du sport;
- inventaire de la politique suivie par les Etats membres en matiere de protection et de vaccination contre les maladies transmissibles;
- information en matiere d'alimentation et d'abus du tabac.

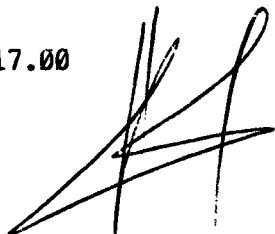
Les documents comportent de l'information de base permettant au Conseil et a la Commission d'identifier les problemes et sujets susceptibles de faire l'objet d'actions communautaires. Le choix de telles actions est cependant entierement ouvert, le Conseil ne s'etant pas encore exprime et la Commission n'ayant pris aucune position. Dans ce cadre, il convient de rappeler que le Traite ne comporte pas de base juridique sur laquelle une politique sanitaire de la Communaute pourrait se fonder et se financer. Aussi les services de la Commission ne sont pas equipes pour mener de telles actions.

Il faut donc souligner que les projets de conclusion et les suggestions qui ressortent des documents, n'engagent en aucun cas la Commission.

A l'ordre du jour du Conseil figure, a part les sujets precites, un rapport oral du Commissaire Davignon qui fera le point de l'application des directives concernant le droit d'etablissement et la libre prestation de services des

medecins, des infirmiers et des dentistes.

Amities,
M. SANTIARELLI. 17.00



CONNECTION AVEC ORDINATEUR, NE PAS COUPER S.V.P.
NOTRE REFERENCE:
132111

BRUXELLES LE 16.11.78

REF NO 132111

MEC

NOTE BIO (78) 413 SUITE A ET FIN AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
C.C. AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPE, A M. BURGHARDT, D.G. I ET
A M. LECOMTE D.G. VIII

CONSEIL SANTE DU 16 NOVEMBRE 1978

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CETTE MATINEE, LE CONSEIL SANTE S'EST IMMEDIATEMENT, APRES
TURE DE SES DEBATS PAR LA PRESIDENCE, REUNI EN CADRE RESTREINT
A LA DEMANDE DE LA DELEGATION FRANCAISE POUR UNE DISCUSSION SUR
LES ASPECTS ECONOMIQUES DES SOINS DE SANTE. MADAME VEIL, MINISTRE
FRANCAIS, CONSTATANT QUE TOUS LES ETATS MEMBRES SONT CONFRONTES A
UNE FORTE AUGMENTATION DES COUTS DE SANTE, A ESTIME QUE CECI VA
EXIGER UNE POLITIQUE DE MAITRISE VIGOUREUSE ET ELLE A VOULU EN
PARLER OUVERTEMENT.

AU COURS DE CETTE SESSION EN CERCLE REDUIT, LES MINISTRES SONT
ARRIVES A UNE CONCORDANCE DE VUE SUR QUELQUES CONCLUSIONS
GENERALES SELON LESQUELLES LES EFFORTS NATIONAUX DEPLOYES DANS
LES ETATS MEMBRES POUR MAITRISE L'EVOLUTION DES COUTS DES SOINS
DE SANTE POURRAIENT UTILEMENT ETRE COMPLETES PAR DES ACTIVITES
APPROPRIEES SUR LE PLAN COMMUNAUTAIRE - ACTIVITES QUI D'AILLEURS
DEVRAIENT SE CONCENTRER SUR CERTAINS SUJETS PRIORITAIRES.
LA COMMISSION EST INVITEE A FAIRE DES SUGGESTIONS DANS CE CADRE
DANS LES DOMAINES SUIVANTS :

- PRODUITS PHARMACEUTIQUES,
- MAIN D'OEUVRE SPECIALISEE,
- HARMONISATION DES DEFINITIONS ET DES DONNEES STATISTIQUES
EN MATIERE DE SOINS DE SANTE.

APRES AVOIR CONCLU LE DEBAT SUR LES ASPECTS ECONOMIQUES, LE
CONSEIL A ENSUITE DEMANDE A LA COMMISSION D'ETUDIER DAVANTAGE LE
PROBLEME DE L'USAGE ABUSIF DE MEDICAMENTS (Y COMPRIS DU DOPAGE,
SANS QUE TOUTEFOIS CECI N'AIT ETE MENTIONNE).

LE VICE-PRESIDENT VREDELING A, A L'ISSUE DU CONSEIL, SOULIGNE QUE
LA SANTE PUBLIQUE CONSTITUE UN NOUVEAU DOMAINE D'ACTION DE LA
COMMISSION. BIEN QUE, SELON LE VICE-PRESIDENT, LES PREMIERS
ACTIVITES DE LA COMMISSION EN LA MATIERE SOIENT, SUITE AUX
DECISIONS DU CONSEIL, MODESTES. M. VREDELING S'EST FELICITE DU
FAIT QUE LE CONSEIL A AFFIRME QUE DANS LA POLITIQUE COMMUNAUTAIRE
DES SOINS DE SANTE LA PRIORITE DEVRA ETRE ATTRIBUEE A CEUX QUI
LE MERITENT.

SELON M. VREDELING, LES DECISIONS DU CONSEIL DEVRONT AVOIR DES
CONSEQUENCES POUR L'ORGANISATION ET L'EQUIPEMENT DE LA COMMISSION.
EN OUTRE, LA REPARTITION DES COMPETENCES AU SEIN DE LA COMMISSION
ELLE-MEME DEVRA ETRE REGLEE D'UNE FACON PLUS CLAIRE ET PLUS
DEFINITIVE QUE CELA N'A ETE FAIT INITIALEMENT.

AMITIES,

M. SANTARELLI COMEUR 19 15



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NOTE BIO (78) 413 SUITE A ET FIN CORR. AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
C.C. AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPE, A M. BURGHARDT, D.G. I ET A
M. LECOMTE, D.G. VIII

CONSEIL SANTE DU 16 NOVEMBRE 1978

VEUILLEZ LIRE LA DERNIERE PHRASE DE L'AVANT-DERNIER PARAGRAPHE
COMME SUIT : M. VREDELING S'EST FELICITE DU FAIT QUE LE
CONSEIL A AFFIRME QUE DANS LA POLITIQUE COMMUNAUTAIRE UNE
PRIORITE DEVRA ETRE ATTRIBUEE AUX SOINS DE SANTE.

AMITIES,
M. SANTARELLI COMEUR 15.00

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NOTE BIO (78) 413 SUITE A ET FIN AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
C.C. AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPE, A M. BURGHARDT, D.G. I ET A M. LECONTE,
D.G. VIII

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CONSEIL SANTE DU 16 NOVEMBRE 1978

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CETTE MATINEE, LE CONSEIL SANTE S'EST IMMEDIATEMENT, APRES L'OUVERTURE DE SES DEBATS PAR LA PRESIDENCE, REUNI EN CADRE RESTREINT O LA DEMANDE DE LA DELEGATION FRANCAISE POUR UNE DISCUSSION SUR LES ASPECTS ECONOMIQUES ■ DES ■ SOINS DE SANTE. MADAME VEIL, MINISTRE FRANCAIS, CONSTATANT QUE TOUS LES ETATS MEMBRES SONT CONFRONTES A UNE FORTE AUGMENTATION DES COUTS DE SANTE, A ESTIME QUE CECI VA EXIGER UNE POLITIQUE DE MAITRISE VIGOUREUSE ET ELLE A VOULU EN PARLER OUVERTEMENT.

AU COURS DE CETTE SESSION EN CERCLE REDUIT, LES MINISTRES SONT ARRIVES A UNE CONCORDANCE DE VUE SUR QUELQUES CONCLUSIONS GENERALES SELON LESQUELLES LES EFFORTS NATIONAUX DEPLOYES DANS LES ETATS MEMBRES POUR MAITRISE L'EVOLUTION DES COUTS DES SOINS DE SANTE POURRAIENT UTILEMENT ETRE COMPLETES PAR DES ACTIVITES APPROPRIEES SUR LE PLAN COMMUNAUTAIRE - ACTIVITES QUI D'AILLEURS DEVRAIENT SE CONCENTRER SUR CERTAINS SUJETS PRIORITAIRES. LA COMMISSION EST INVITEE A FAIRE DES SUGGESTIONS DANS CE CADRE DANS LES DOMAINES SUIVANTS :

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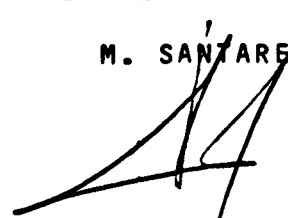
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AMITIES, M. SANTARELLI COMEUR 19 ■ 15

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M. SANTARELLI



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COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

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PRESS RELEASE

Brussels, 9 November 1978
1259/78 (Presse 136)

The 544th meeting of the Council of the European Communities will be held at 10.00 on Monday 20 November 1978 in the Charlemagne Building, 170 rue de la Loi, Brussels, with Mr Hans MATTHOFER, Finance Minister of the Federal Republic of Germany, in the Chair.

The meeting will be given over to further discussion on the European monetary system.

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A press conference will be given by the President of the Council at the close of the meeting.

