



COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES  
GENERAL SECRETARIAT



PRESS RELEASE

510th meeting of the Council

- Agriculture -

Luxembourg, 4 and 5 April 1978

President: Mr Poul DALSGER,  
Minister for Agriculture  
of the Kingdom of Denmark

437/78 (Presse 40)



4.1V.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  
Minister for Small Firms and  
Trades

Denmark:

Mr Poul DALSAER                      Minister for Agriculture  
Mr Hans Jørgen KRISTENSEN              State Secretary,  
Ministry of Agriculture

Germany:

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

France:

Mr Pierre MEHAIGNERIE                      Minister for Agriculture  
Mr Jacques BLANC                      State Secretary,  
Ministry of Agriculture

Ireland:

Mr Jim GIBBONS                      Minister for Agriculture

Italy:

Mr Giovanni MARCORA                      Minister for Agriculture

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean HAMILIUS                      Minister for Agriculture and  
Viticulture  
Mr Albert BERCHEM                      State Secretary,  
Ministry of Agriculture

Netherlands:

Mr A.P.L.M.M. van der STEE      Minister for Agriculture and  
Fisheries

United Kingdom:

Mr John SILKIN      Minister for Agriculture,  
Fisheries and Food

Mr Gavin STRANG      Parliamentary Secretary of State,  
Ministry of Agriculture,  
Fisheries and Food

Mr Robert MACLENNAN      Parliamentary Under-Secretary of  
State,  
Department of Prices and Consumer  
Protection

Mr Hugh BROWN      Parliamentary Under-Secretary,  
Scottish Office

The Commission:

Mr Finn Olav GUNDELACH      Vice-President

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POTATOES

In the context of an as yet unconcluded discussion of the Community's organization of the market in potatoes, the Council held an exchange of views on the autonomous arrangements to be applied to Cyprus in the agricultural sector as from 1 April 1978, and in particular on the concessions under consideration for new potatoes.

The Council considered that, as this matter was essentially concerned with aspects of the Community's external relations, a solution to the problems involved should be sought within the Council as most appropriately constituted, namely the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs meeting the same day <sup>(1)</sup>.

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<sup>(1)</sup> See Press Release 438/78 (Presse 43)

1978/1979 AGRICULTURAL PRICES

The Council carried out a detailed examination of the proposals on fixing agricultural prices for the 1978/1979 marketing year and on related measures. This examination enabled delegations to express their views, firstly, on progress achieved in the proceedings connected with milk and milk products, beef and veal, sugar and isoglucose, cereals and rice, starch products, and pigmeat, and secondly, on various important agri-monetary questions, including the effects of monetary compensatory amounts.

After concluding its discussions, the Council instructed the Special Committee on Agriculture to make a detailed study of the technical questions which arose during the examination, in order to prepare the ground for the Council's future discussions on the matter.

MEDITERRANEAN REGIONS

The Council held a general discussion on the Commission proposals on guidelines concerning the development of the Mediterranean regions of the Community, together with proposals relating to agriculture.

It took note of progress made in the olive oil, fruit and vegetables, wine, and peas, broad beans and field beans sectors and as regards the various structural measures under consideration. These include measures to improve the conditions under which agricultural products are processed and marketed in the Mezzogiorno and in Languedoc-Roussillon, the programme to accelerate the restructuring and conversion of vineyards in the Languedoc-Roussillon region, the programme for the acceleration and qualitative guidance of collective group irrigation works in the Mezzogiorno and a common measure to improve infrastructures in certain rural areas. The discussions will enable further progress to be made, both as regards measures connected with market organization and as regards structural measures, particularly those relating to financing and geographical scope.

The Council agreed, in conclusion, to instruct the Special Committee on Agriculture to speed up its work on all these proposals to enable it to discuss the matter further at its next meeting.

AGRI-MONETARY QUESTIONS

In the context of a discussion of agri-monetary questions, the Council took note of the conclusions reached in the Commission report on the reference period to be used for fixing monetary compensatory amounts, to the effect that since the rationale of the 3-week reference period - recently used on a trial basis - no longer seemed to be valid, the usual reference period of only one week should be that used in future.

MILK MARKETING BOARDS

Following an exchange of views, the Council took note of the progress which had been achieved in the discussions on the United Kingdom's Milk Marketing Boards and instructed the Special Committee on Agriculture to examine this topic with care, taking into account the desire shown within the Council to seek a solution to the problems concerned.



HOPS

The Council took note of the Commission report on the situation regarding the production and marketing of hops (1977 harvest) and was in principle in favour of granting production aid for hops harvested that year (except for areas in the first or second production year). It proposed to decide on this Regulation after receiving the Opinion of the European Parliament.

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The Council adopted, in the official languages of the European Communities, the Regulation laying down the list of regions in which the production aid for hops is only granted to producer groups as from the 1978 harvest.

MAIZE GROATS AND MEAL, AND QUELMEHL

Following an exchange of views on the situation of the market in these products, and in view of the judgments delivered by the Court of Justice in October 1977, the Council considered the possibility of temporarily reintroducing production refunds for maize groats and meal and broken rice intended for brewing, and also for quellmehl intended for bread making. The Council instructed the Special Committee on Agriculture to finalize a text in preparation for its future decision on this matter.

PRODUCER GROUPS

After a discussion of the amended proposal for a Regulation concerning producer groups and associations thereof, which concentrated upon the geographical scope of the regulation, the Council instructed the Special Committee on Agriculture to examine these matters in further detail and to seek an overall compromise to cover the remaining problems in this connection, with a view to submitting a report to the next Council meeting.

MUTTON AND LAMB

The Council took note of a communication from the Commission on its recent proposal for a Regulation on the common organization of the market in mutton and lamb.

The Council agreed that after requesting the Opinions of the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee, it would return to this topic at a future meeting in the light of the preliminary technical examination to be carried out in the meantime by the Special Committee on Agriculture.

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The next meeting of the Agriculture Council is scheduled for 24, 25 and 26 April 1978.



AGRICULTURAL DECISIONS

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Regulations

- amending Regulation (EEC) No 3330/74 on the common organization of the market in sugar;
  - amending Regulation (EEC) No 1111/77 laying down common provisions for isoglucose;
  - amending Regulation (EEC) No 2682/72 laying down general rules for granting export refunds on certain agricultural products exported in the form of goods not covered by Annex II to the Treaty, and the criteria for fixing the amounts of such refunds;
  - amending Regulations (EEC) Nos 2727/75 and 1418/76 as regard the export refunds for cereals and rice exported in the form of goods not covered by Annex II to the Treaty.
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