

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

10685/80 (Presse 145)

662nd meeting of the Council

- Tax Questions -

Luxembourg, 27 October 1980,

President: Mr Jacques SANTER,

Minister for Finance
of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

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

Belgium :

Mr Marc LEPOIVRE Deputy Permanent Representative

Denmark :

Mr Karl HJORTNAES Minister for Fiscal Affairs

Germany :

Mr Hans HUTTER Director-General,
Federal Ministry of Finance

France :

Mr Maurice PAPON Minister for the Budget

Ireland :

Mr Sean CALLEARY Minister of State, Department of
the Public Service of Ireland

Italy :

Mr Francesco COLUCCI State Secretary,
Ministry of Finance

Luxembourg:

Mr Jacques SANTER Minister for Finance

Mr Ernest MÜHLEN State Secretary,
Ministry of Finance

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Netherlands:

Mr M.J.J. van AMERSVOORT State Secretary for Finance

United Kingdom:

Mr Peter REES Minister of State
Treasury

Commission:

Mr Richard BURKE Member

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Also participated as observer:

Greece:

Mr Miltiaris EVERT Minister for Finance

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HARMONIZATION OF EXCISE DUTIES ON ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

The Council examined the overall compromise proposal on this matter submitted to it by the Presidency. Certain new elements emerged from the discussion and these will have to be looked at more closely by the Permanent Representatives Committee.

The Council agreed to resume examination of this item at its next meeting on tax questions, which should be held before the end of the year.

MEASURE DEROGATING FROM THE SIXTH DIRECTIVE ON VAT

The Council conducted an exchange of views on the derogation requested by the Belgian Government, on the basis of Article 27 of the sixth Directive on VAT, in respect of the method of paying VAT on second-hand cars.

At the end of this discussion all delegations confirmed that they could agree to the derogation asked for by the Belgian Government. The Council accordingly invited the Commission to reconsider its position to date on this matter and to submit a proposal to it.

TAX EXEMPTIONS (MEANS OF TRANSPORT, PERSONAL PROPERTY,
INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL)

At the end of an exchange of views on the problems still outstanding, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue the discussions in the light of today's debate with a view to the next Council meeting devoted to tax questions.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Measures in favour of the United Kingdom

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities two Regulations giving legal form to the agreement reached by the Council on 30 May 1980 regarding the United Kingdom contribution to the Community budget.

Under that agreement, in 1980 and 1981 the United Kingdom contribution is to be reduced by means of a relaxation of the financial mechanism and supplementary measures in favour of the United Kingdom. The agreement includes an undertaking by the Community to resolve the problem by structural amendments, and instructions to this effect have been given to the Commission, which is to make proposals by the end of June 1981. The Council also agreed that if the objective of a structural amendment were not achieved, it would decide whether measures along the lines of those planned for 1980 and 1981 would also be necessary for the United Kingdom in 1982.

The first Regulation just adopted by the Council relaxes for the United Kingdom in 1980 and 1981 the operating rules of the financial mechanism adopted in 1976. In particular, a number of the checks previously limiting the amount of the allocation which could be received by a Member State under the mechanism have been suspended.

The second Regulation adopted by the Council lays down supplementary measures whereby the Community will be able to grant a financial contribution towards the realization of certain categories of investments in the framework of special programmes drawn up by the United Kingdom.

The programmes will as a general rule relate to regions covered wholly or in part by areas eligible for State regional aid.

To be eligible for Community financial participation, investments must be undertaken by public authorities and fulfil a series of criteria laid down in the Regulation itself.

Community financial participation in those categories of investments selected may be up to 70% of estimated expenditure.

A decision on financial assistance will be taken by the Commission assisted by an ad hoc Committee, which will monitor implementation of the measures concerned. If the ad hoc Committee issues an unfavourable opinion on a draft Commission decision, the latter must refer it to the Council for deliberation.

The Commission will ensure that each special programme is implemented in accordance with the provisions of the Regulation. To this end, the United Kingdom will make available to the Commission all information requested and will take all steps with regard to Community-assisted categories of investments to facilitate such supervision as the Commission may consider useful.

Application of the two Regulations will result in a net payment to the United Kingdom in the order of 1,175 MEUA for 1980.

Energy policy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision on the granting of measures of support for Community projects in the hydrocarbons sector (1980/1982). This is for support in the form of subsidies up to a total amount of 28,097,164 EUA, to be refunded in the event of commercial exploitation of results.

Mediterranean policy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulations concerning application of Decision No 3/80 of the EEC-Egypt and EEC-Lebanon Co-operation Councils, amending the Protocol on the definition of the concept of originating products and methods of administrative co-operation, to the Co-operation Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Egypt and the European Economic Community and the Lebanese Republic.

The Council also agreed on the brief to be given to the Commission for negotiating a series of exchanges of letters between the European Economic Community of the one part, and Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria and Turkey, of the other part, concerning untreated olive oil.

Finally, the Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for certain wines having a registered designation of origin, falling within subheading ex 22.05 C of the Common Customs Tariff, originating in Tunisia (1980/1981).

Bruxelles, le 24 octobre 1980

NOTE BIO(80)419 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX

PREPARATION DU CONSEIL FISCAL DU 27 OCTOBRE A LUXEMBOURG
(J.Carroll)

Un Conseil consacre aux affaires fiscales se tiendra a Luxembourg le lundi, 27 octobre 1980 a 10.00 heures.

Le point principal a l'ordre du jour sera l'harmonisation des accises sur les boissons alcoolisees. Il s'agit d'un dossier tres epineux dont l'origine remonte aux propositions de la Commission de 1972 et qui a ete rendu plus delicat en raison de la saisine de la Cour de Justice par la Commission concernant les infractions contre l'Article 95 de la part du Danemark, de la France, de l'Irlande, de l'Italie et du Royaume-Uni. Des notes de background en francais et en anglais vous seront transmises par expres.

Franchises fiscales

Le Conseil est appele a statuer sur des propositions qui concernent les franchises fiscales applicables aux :

- importations temporaires de certains moyens de transport;
- importations definitives de biens personnels des particuliers;
- dans le trafic international des voyageurs.

TVA - 6eme directive

Le gouvernement belge a demande une derogation a la 6eme directive TVA en matiere de taxation des voitures d'occasion.

amities,

M.SANTARELLI COMEUR



CONNEXION AVEC ORDINATEUR.

NO. REF.: 132871/STY

BRUXELLES, LE 27.10.1980

REF NO 132871 STY

NOTE BIO 419 (SUITE 1) (30) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
C.C. AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPEM AUX ASSISTANTS DG I ET VIII

CONSEIL FISCAL (CARROLL)

LE CONSEIL S'EST OUVERT A 11 HEURES. LE PRESIDENT H. SANTER
A TOUT D'ABORD SALUE LA DELEGATION GRECQUE QUI ASSISTE AUX
DELIBERATIONS AU TITRE D'OBSERVATEUR.

LE PREMIER POINT TRAITÉ ÉTAIT LA DEMANDE BELGE POUR UNE DEROGATION
A LA SIXIEME DIRECTIVE T.V.A. CONCERNANT LES VOITURES D'OCCASIONS.
TOUTES LES DELEGATIONS ÉTAIENT EN FAVEUR D'ACCORDER CETTE DEROGATION
A LA BELGIQUE MALGRE LES RESERVES EXPRIMEES PAR H. BURKE DE LA
PART DE LA COMMISSION. H. BURKE A DEMANDE LA POSSIBILITE DE REFLE-
CHIR AVANT DE DONNER SA REACTION. LE CONSEIL REVIENDRA A CE POINT
AU COURS DE L'APRES-MIDI.

HARMONISATION DES ACCISES

LE CONSEIL A ENSUITE ABORDE LE POINT LE PLUS IMPORTANT SUR L'ORDRE
DU JOUR. DANS SA DECLARATION LIMINAIRE, I. BURKE A SOULIGNE L'IM-
PORTANCE POUR LE CONSEIL D'ACCEPTER UNE SOLUTION SUR LA BASE
DU TEXTE DE COMPROMIS PRESENTE PAR LA PRESIDENCE. SI LE CONSEIL
N'ARRIVE PAS A S'ACCORDER SUR CETTE BASE POLITIQUE, LES ETATS
MEMBRES, SELON H. BURKE, RISQUENT DE SE TROUVER CONTRAINTS A
ACCEPTER ULTERIEUREMENT UNE SERIE DE DECISIONS JURIDIQUES IMPO-
SEES PAR LA COUR DE JUSTICE. DU PREMIER TOUR DE TABLE ON POURRAIT
CONSTATER UNE VOLONTE GENERALE DE FAIRE DES PROGRES DANS LE SENS
PRECONISE PAR LA PRESIDENCE, MAIS IL ÉTAIT CLAIR QUE PAS MAL DE
PROBLEMES RESTENT A RESOUDRE AVANT D'ARRIVER A UNE SOLUTION GLOBALE.
LE CONSEIL REPRENDRA SES TRAVAUX A 15 HEURES.

A SUIVRE,
AMITIES,
JOE CARROLL

27.10.1980

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TR.	HUM
I.S.	7w
FIN.	✓
AGR.	✓
ENE.	✓
R.D.	✓
ADM.	✓
S.A.	✓
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CONNEXION AVEC ORDINATEUR.

NO.REF.: 133122

BRUXELLES, LE 27.10.30

REF NR 133122/LAB

NOTE BIO (80) 419 SUITE 2 ET FIN AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
C.C. AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPE, AUX ASSISTANTS DG I ET VIII

CONSEIL FISCAL (J.CARROLL)

HARMONISATION DES ACCISES

LE CONSEIL N'A PAS REUSSI A TROUVER UN ACCORD GENERAL NI
SUR LE TEXTE DE COMPROMIS DE LA PRESIDENCE NI SUR UN NOUVEAU TEXTE
AMENDE QUI ETAIT DISTRIBUE APRES LE DEJEUNER.

LE PRESIDENT A CONSTATE CE DESACCORD ET A PROPOSE QUE LE DOSSIER
SOIT RENVOYE AU COREPER EN VUE DE PREPARER UN NOUVEAU CONSEIL
FISCAL VERS LA FIN DECEMBRE A UNE DATE QUI RESTE A FIXER.

IMPORTATIONS TEMPORAIRES DES MOYENS DE TRANSPORT

L'ADOPTION DE CETTE PROPOSITION A RENCONTRE DES RESERVES DE LA
PART DE LA DELEGATION BELGE (COMMENT EVITER L'IMPORTATION DES
VEHICULES QUI ONT ETE ACQUIS HORS TAXE) ET LA DELEGATION DANOISE
(PROBLEME DE DEFINITION DE PAYS DE RESIDENCE ET LE REGIME
SPECIALE POUR LES ETUDIANTS).

LE POINT A ETE RENVOYE AU COREPER. SUITE A CETTE DECISION LE
MEME SORT EST TOMBE SUR LA PROPOSITION ANALOGUE CONCERNANT
L'IMPORTATION DEFINITIVE DE BIENS PERSONNELS DES PARTICULIERS.

FRANCHISES POUR VOYAGEURS

LA DELEGATION DANOISE N'ETAIT PAS EN MESURE D'ACCEPTER
LA PROPOSITION D'AUGMENTER LE MONTANT DES FRANCHISES DE 130 ECUS
A 210 ECUS. LE POINT A ETE RENVOYE AU COREPER EN VUE D'ETRE ADOPTE
AU PROCHAIN CONSEIL.

FIN

AMITIES,

J. CARROLL

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