

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

8130/84 (Presse 115)

936th meeting of the Council

- Research -

Luxembourg, 29 June 1984

President: Mr Laurent FABIUS
Minister for Industry
and Research
of the French Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr Philippe MAYSTADT
Minister for Science Policy

Denmark:

Mr Flemming VOLDBY
State Secretary,
Ministry of Education

Germany:

Mr Walter KITTEL
Deputy Permanent Representative

Greece:

Mr Georgios LIANIS
Minister for Research and
Technology

France:

Mr Laurent FABIUS
Minister for Industry and
Research

Ireland:

Mr Edward COLLINS
Minister of State,
Department of Industry and
Energy

Italy:

Mr Luigi GRANELLI
Minister for the Co-ordination of
Scientific and Technological
Research

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean DONDELINGER
Secretary-General
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Netherlands:

Mr M.H.J.Ch. RUTTEN
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

United Kingdom:

Mr John BUTCHER
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of
State for Industry
Department of Trade and Industry

For the Commission:

Mr Etienne DAVIGNON
Vice-President

DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY RESEARCH POLICY

The Council discussed Community research priorities on the basis of a Commission communication on the subject and an introductory statement by Mr Davignon, Vice-President. This discussion enabled members of the Council to state their positions on the main points and the details of the development of the Community's scientific and technical strategy.

In this connection, and following on directly from the conclusions of the Fontainebleau European Council, the Council stressed the importance which it placed on developing Community research activities, the general outlines of which had already been defined in the framework programme.

The Council then examined the various proposals for programmes on its agenda - stimulation, biotechnology, non-nuclear energy, basic technologies, (BRITE) radiation protection - and particularly the financial aspects of these programmes.

The Council noted that, since it was not clear what sums were available under the budget in general and for Community research in particular, it was not in a position to take a decision on what funding was to be allocated to the various programmes.

Consequently, the Council agreed to resume its deliberations on the programmes in question at its next meeting which is due to be held quite soon.

ARRANGEMENTS CONCERNING THE JRC AND THE STRUCTURES AND PROCEDURES
FOR THE MANAGEMENT AND CO-ORDINATION OF RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

The Council took note of the Commission Decision of 24 May 1984 reorganizing the Joint Research Centre by setting up a Board of Governors and a Scientific Council.

At the same time the Council adopted a Decision on the multi-annual programmes to be carried out by the Joint Research Centre over the period 1984-1987. This Decision in the first place lays down the guidelines in accordance with which the Council is to adopt the JRC multiannual programmes, viz:

- it will indicate the research fields, corresponding to research action programmes, in which work is to be carried out under the programme;
- it will provide an estimate of the relevant proportions of financing and staffing required for research work within each field;
- it will provide an estimate of the resources necessary for the implementation of the programme, on the basis of:
 - = the staff complement authorized for the duration of the programme, and
 - = the financial cost of the programme in ECU, at the value obtaining when the decision adopting the multiannual programme is taken.

The Decision then lays down the framework and conditions in which the Commission may adapt the JRC multiannual programmes, either to take account of research requirements that emerge at Community level after the programme concerned has been adopted or to allow the JRC the flexibility it requires.

The Decision stipulates in particular that the transfers which the Commission can make with the agreement of the JRC Board of Governors between research action programmes and between subprogrammes are limited to 15% of the indicative amounts for programmes and subprogrammes below 150 MECU and to 10% for programmes in excess of that amount.

The Council also adopted a Decision dealing with structures and procedures for the management and co-ordination of Community research, development and demonstration activities.

In order to achieve greater efficiency and to rationalize the current system, this Decision makes provision for the Management and Co-ordination Advisory Committees (CGCs) listed in the Annex to be established under the aegis of the Commission.

The mission of the CGCs will be to assist the Commission in its task of defining and preparing research, development and demonstration activities and in its management and co-ordination functions which are connected with implementation of the Community scientific and technical strategy.

The CGCs will be required:

- to inform and advise the Commission on scientific and technical questions in the fields in which they are competent;
- to compare regularly national scientific research and technological development programmes in fields of interest to the Community and to provide the Commission with information relating to such comparison in order to identify co-ordination activities that could be undertaken among the Member States;
- to help the Commission to identify and select, on the basis of the scientific and technical objectives set out in the framework programme, those themes or actions which could be the subject of Community research, development and demonstration activities;

- to contribute to the optimum execution of Community research, development and demonstration programmes - responsibility for which lies with the Commission - and in particular to the detailed description of projects and to their selection, and to assess the results and ensure better liaison between the execution of the programmes at Community level and the corresponding research and development work carried out in the Member States on their own responsibility;
- to formulate opinions on the scientific and technical co-operation envisaged between the European Communities, third countries and/or international organizations in the specific fields with which they are concerned.

The CGCs will be composed of two representatives per Member State and two Commission representatives appointed for four years; they will elect their Chairman from among the representatives of the Member States for a two-year term of office.

The Decision also sets out the rules for the operation of the CGCs.

COMMITTEES TO BE ESTABLISHED

| <u>Sector</u> | <u>Committees</u> |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| INDUSTRY | 1. Industrial technology 2. Scientific and technological standards 3. Biotechnology |
| RAW MATERIALS AND OTHER MATERIALS | 4. Raw materials and other materials |
| ENERGY | 5. Nuclear fission energy - Reactors and safety, control of fissile materials 6. Nuclear fission energy - Fuel cycle/processing and storage of waste 7. Non-nuclear energy |
| DEVELOPMENT AID | 8. Development-linked research |
| HEALTH AND SAFETY | 9. Medical and health research 10. Radiation protection |
| ENVIRONMENT | 11. Environment and climatology |
| LANGUAGES | 12. Linguistic problems |



MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Textiles

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation on common rules for imports of certain textile products originating in the People's Republic of China.

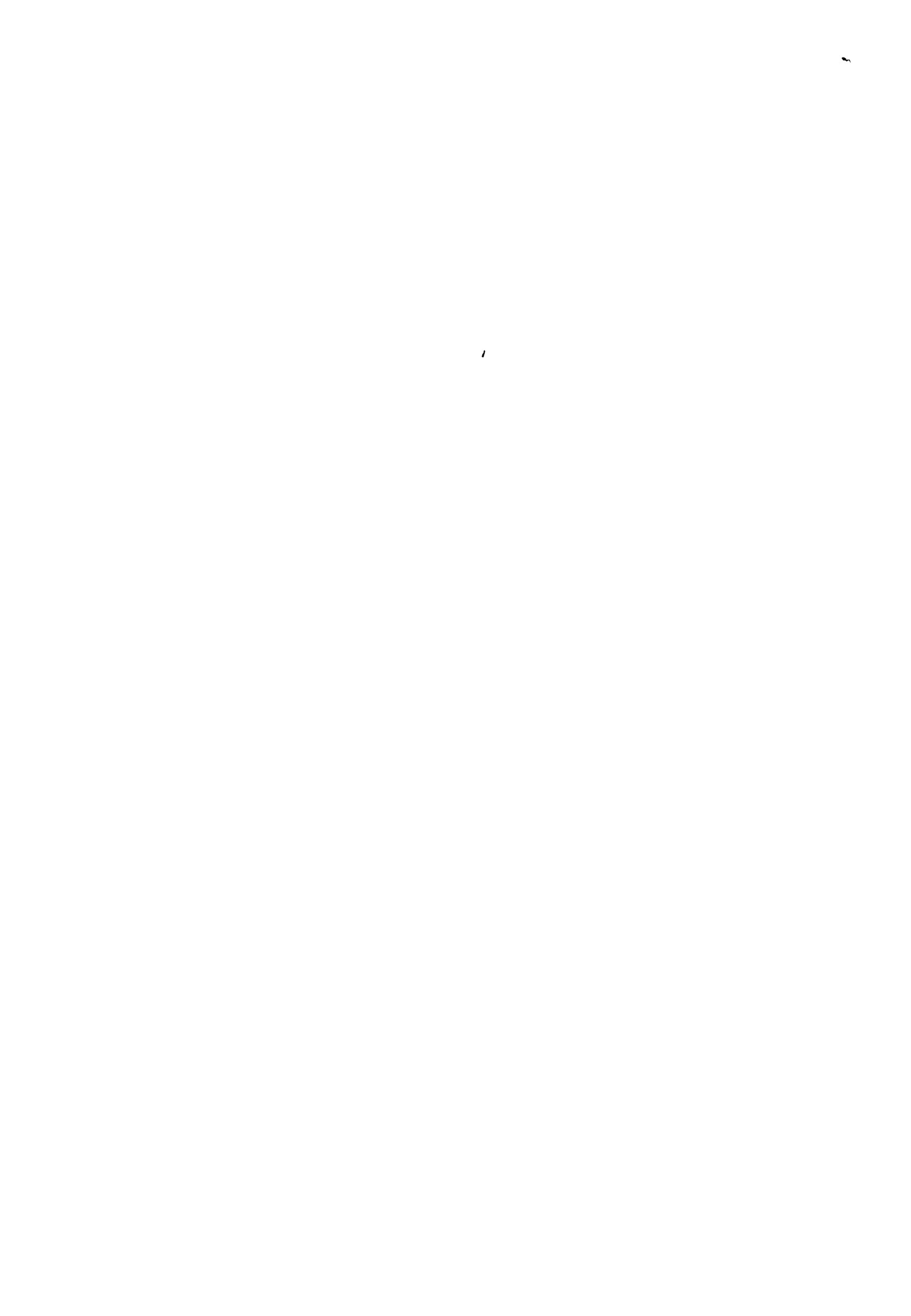
ECSC

The Council gave its assent, in accordance with Article 95 of the ECSC Treaty, to the draft Commission Recommendation to the Member States extending the period of application of Recommendation No 1835/81/ECSC on the obligation to publish price lists and conditions of sale and on prohibited practices in the steel trade.

Appointments

The Council, acting on a proposal from the Belgian Government, appointed Mr Pierre CAJOT, Inspector General of Mines at the Ministry for Economic Affairs, alternate member of the Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work, in place of Mr Henri GREGOIRE, alternate member who had resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, i.e. until 1 April 1985.

Additionally, the Council, acting on a proposal from the Irish Government, appointed Mr Henry HANNON, Director of the Irish Brewers Association, Member of the Economic and Social Committee in place of Mr P.J. LOUGHREY, member who had resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, i.e. until 20 September 1986.



Bruxelles, le 2 juillet 1984

NOTE BIO (84) 249 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
C.C. AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPE DU PORTE-PAROLE

CONSEIL RECHERCHE : COMBINER L'ESPRIT DE FONTAINEBLEAU ET
LES DIFFICULTES BUDGETAIRES (W. HELIN)

Le souhait de la Communauté - dans le contexte de l'espoir de relance degage a Fontainebleau - de doter les politiques nouvelles et la recherche scientifique de davantage de moyens a l'avenir tout en tenant compte des difficultes budgetaires, en particulier pour 1985 : tel fut finalement le theme central de la reunion des Ministres de la Recherche des Dix, vendredi a Luxembourg.

Une reunion, soit dit en passant, assez "originale" dans sa conception : elle debuta par un long dejeuner de travail et se termina par une conference de presse de la Presidence francaise... donnee par le Vice-President DAVIGNON, a la demande de M. FABIUS!

La conclusion : un nouveau Conseil de Recherche sera convoque soit avant, soit immediatement apres le 19 juillet, date a laquelle se reunissent les Ministres du Budget.

La difficulte, a dit en substance M. DAVIGNON, c'est de tenir compte des priorites du programme-cadre de l'activite scientifique que tous souhaitent et qui porte sur plusieurs annees (1984-1987) d'une part et des contraintes budgetaires pour 1985 d'autre part.

En tout etat de cause, plusieurs delegations appuyees par la Commission ont demande de "ne pas etre plus royaliste que le Roi": les Ministres de la Recherche, ont-ils dit, ne doivent pas se substituer a leurs collegues du budget.

Repondant a une question d'un journaliste, M. DAVIGNON a conclu : "plus vite nous sommes au clair sur l'avenir de la R&D mieux cela vaut, sans quoi l'on creerait l'impression que le souffle de Fontainebleau est moins fort que ce que l'on croit".

Amitiés,
M. SANTARELLI COMEUR 11.20



