

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

7606/84 (Presse 99)

933rd meeting of the Council

- Development Co-operation -

Luxembourg, 5 June 1984

President: Mr Christian NUCCI,
Minister attached
to the Minister for Foreign Relations,
responsible for Co-operation and Development,
of the French Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr François-Xavier DE DONEA
State Secretary,
Development Co-operation

Denmark:

Mr Gunnar RIBERHOLDT
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

Germany:

Mr Volkmar KÖHLER
State Secretary,
Federal Ministry for
Development Co-operation

Greece:

Mr Nikos DIMADIS
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

France:

Mr Christian NUCCI
Minister attached to the
Minister for Foreign Relations,
responsible for Co-operation and
Development

Ireland:

Mr James O'KEEFFE
Minister of State,
Department of Foreign Affairs

Italy:

Mr Pietro CALAMIA
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

Luxembourg:

Mr Paul HELMINGER
State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Foreign Trade and Co-operation

Netherlands:

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

United Kingdom:

Mr Timothy RAISON
Minister for Overseas
Development

Commission:

Mr Edgard PISANI
Member

CAMPAIGNS ON SPECIFIC THEMES

On the basis of a Commission communication and an introduction by Mr PISANI, the Council held a broad policy discussion on campaigns covering specific themes.

These are long-term activities of an essentially regional nature concerning priority themes (control of desertification and drought, development of livestock and game resources, water-resource management) designed to safeguard and exploit the agricultural potential of the developing countries.

The Council stressed the importance of these activities in combating the increasing deterioration in natural factors of production which had accelerated in the last decade.

On the basis of the approaches developed in the discussion the Commission will submit practical proposals for the implementation of these activities.

ALTERNATIVE OPERATIONS IN PLACE OF FOOD AID

The Council agreed on the substance of a draft Regulation concerning alternative operations in place of food aid intended to permit the application of Article 929 of the budget in respect of this type of operation.

The draft Regulation makes it possible for the Community, where conditions justify it and if requested by developing countries eligible for food-aid operations, to implement alternative operations within the resources available. These operations, which are in the form of financial and technical aid, are intended to support the preparation and implementation of a food strategy or of other measures conducive to the food security of the recipient countries and to encourage them to increase their food self-sufficiency.

Operations may, for example, involve the supply of inputs essential for agricultural and livestock production, rural-credit operations, storage operations, operations covering the fields of marketing, distribution and processing, and research and training activities etc.

The Parliament has delivered a favourable Opinion and the Council will formally adopt the draft Regulation without delay.

COMMISSION COMMUNICATION TO THE COUNCIL ON THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY
AND AFRICA

The Council heard a statement from Mr PISANI introducing the communication on the European Community and Africa which the Commission had just submitted to the Council. The communication describes the disquieting deterioration in the economic and social situation in Africa, which is of increasing concern to the international community, and is designed to set out in a comprehensive and integrated form the problems of the African continent and to lay down guidelines for Community action.

The Council was aware of the situation in Africa and confirmed the Community's intention of continuing its action within the framework of existing instruments in order to help bring about an improvement. It agreed to continue its examination of the Commission communication at a forthcoming meeting.

The Council noted the Commission's intention of submitting a communication on the Caribbean and the Pacific, and possibly other regions, in the near future.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE FRENCH DELEGATION ON AN EMERGENCY PLAN FOR
THE SAHEL

Mr NUCCI, Minister, submitted to the Council a plan to combat the effects of the exceptional drought in the Sahel. The plan is designed to improve the organizational response to critical situations in the Sahel, with particular reference to sufficiently early warning of such situations, the assessment of likely requirements and the response to these needs. What is essentially required is a more effective response and better use of the means available through improved co-ordination at the level of the Community and its Member States in close co-operation with the Sahel Governments, the competent bodies and the other members of the international community which provide special aid for the region.

The Council heard this communication from the French delegation with great interest and noted that co-ordination of this type could be extended to other regions where similar problems arose. It instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to report to it at a future meeting.

CO-ORDINATION OF CO-OPERATION POLICIES AND OPERATIONS WITHIN THE
COMMUNITY

The Council adopted the following Resolution which, while acknowledging the considerable progress already made as regards co-ordination, is designed to supplement previous Council Resolutions by stressing the operational aspect of co-ordination with a view to ensuring that the aid from the Community and its Member States is as effective as possible:

"The Council, having examined the Commission communication on the co-ordination of development co-operation policies and operations within the Community and the memorandum submitted on the same subject by the German government, stresses the importance of such co-ordination for the most effective possible use of aid resources in order to ensure that co-operational activities are consistent with one another and complement each other better.

The Council would point out that it has commented on this subject on several occasions during the last few years, and notes with satisfaction, as emerges clearly from the Commission communication, that Community co-ordination has developed significantly since the first Council Resolution of July 1974, both as regards the general aspects of co-operation policy, including that in international bodies, and on the level of operational co-ordination in certain aspects. In this respect it notes with particular satisfaction the development of co-financing.

The recent state of the various European economies and the present situation in which the Community and the developing countries find themselves lead the Council to attach particular importance to its previous resolutions being supplemented by the considerations below, giving greater priority to operational co-ordination.

1. The Council considers that the following principles for action should be adopted in order to strengthen operational co-ordination; these apply to all beneficiaries of Community co-operation, viz. the ACP countries, the Mediterranean countries and the non-associated developing countries.

The Council considers that the strengthening of operational co-ordination must be conceived pragmatically through the introduction of "à la carte" co-ordination on a voluntary basis, taking account of the approaches adopted by each Member State towards specific regions, countries or sectors and of local conditions.

If such an approach were adopted, the beneficiary country must be at the centre of the co-ordination process.

The Council considers that the most appropriate area for co-ordination is the sectoral policies for which the support of the Community is sought. Co-ordination must also be open to other donors, pragmatically and case by case.

It also considers that, without any necessity for making procedures more cumbersome, it is useful to strengthen active co-ordination in the operations envisaged in order to promote their consistency and complementarity.

Finally, greater recourse will be had to co-financing between Member States and the Community.

2. The Council has adopted the following operational measures aimed at improving co-ordination between the Member States and the Community under the abovementioned conditions.

(a) As regards mutual information:

- identification sheets for projects prepared by the Commission departments will be improved, employed for aid projects concerning non-associated developing countries and circulated to the Member States earlier. In the same way, the Commission will send information to Member States more frequently;
- Member States will ensure that the Commission departments are kept better informed concerning their aid activities for example by supplying them with a summary of the development aid they intend to grant, regularly brought up to date for the ACP countries;
- informal contacts between desk officers in the Commission and their counterparts in national administrations will be intensified.

(b) As regards co-ordination on the spot:

- contacts between the Representations of the Member States in each country and Commission delegations, where they exist, will be intensified;
- a periodical report on the development of the country and on the external aid, particularly of EEC origin, received by the beneficiary country will be drawn up jointly by the Representations of the Member States on the spot which are in a position to take part and the Commission delegation (following the pattern of, and possibly supplementing, the reports produced by the economic and trade departments of those Representations);

- a more systematic exchange of information will be ensured concerning visits or mission carried out by Representatives of the Member States and of the Community in the context of their aid policies: the initiative will rest with the local representation of the Member State holding the Presidency of the Council, on information provided by the bodies responsible for these visits or missions.

(c) As regards support for sectoral policies:

- following the model of the co-ordination effected in the context of support for food strategies in those countries where such strategies are being tried out, active co-ordination can be organized, whenever possible, to support sectoral policies."

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The Council requests the Commission to report to it at one of its future meetings (Development) on the implementation of this Resolution.

PROGRESS WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF FOOD STRATEGIES

The Council heard a report from Mr PISANI, Member of the Commission, on the implementation of Community support measures for the food strategies of Mali, Kenya, Rwanda and Zambia.

This report contained the Commission's initial favourable assessments of the results already obtained in these four countries and the growing interest shown by other developing countries in the preparation of food strategies.

The Council thanked Mr PISANI for the action he was taking in this important area and asked Member States to continue giving their full support, particularly on the spot, to the measures in progress.

The Commission will submit to the Council's next meeting a comprehensive report with a view to continuing action by the Community in this area.

THE PROMOTION OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES' TRADE

The Council approved the following conclusions designed to improve the effectiveness of the Community's action on the promotion of developing countries' trade.

"The Council attaches great importance to efforts being made or increased, in the context of its co-operation with the developing countries, to promote their trade more effectively, all the more so as it is aware of the effects on some developing countries of the deterioration in their trade.

With this in mind, the Council has taken note of the work carried out on the basis of documentation provided by the Commission. It considers that initial general conclusions should be drawn as of now on future guidelines in this area with a view to improving the effectiveness of Community aid.

It proposes to supplement these conclusions in the field of trade-promotion measures at a later stage, in particular once the assessment the Commission is having done by outside experts is available.

Whilst recognizing the need to maintain flexibility in applying them in order to take into account the specific conditions of the developing countries, markets and trade relations, the Council has adopted the following guidelines and general principles:

- generally speaking, trade-promotion measures will be more effective if they are integrated into a broader programme of the country concerned, or are part of a development strategy; priority will not be given to isolated measures;

- co-operation and co-ordination with other donors should be encouraged, including the specialized bodies, private and public, of the Member States and international organizations active in this area (particularly the joint GATT/UNCTAD International Trade Centre in Geneva); the Council will return to this matter later in the light of the assessment in progress;
- regular meetings should be organized between experts from the Commission and the Member States on the subject of the promotion of developing countries' trade in order to improve the exchange of information and ensure better co-ordination. More systematic recourse to the embassies of the Member States in the developing countries and to Commission delegates could be particularly useful in this context.

The Council also considers that efforts should be made to:

- assist those developing countries that request it to develop a coherent trade policy;
- promote intra-developing-country trade (SOUTH-SOUTH) more systematically, in particular through better use of regional-co-operation funds, without prejudice to the promotion of trade with other areas, particularly the industrialized countries;
- develop bodies for the promotion of trade, including co-operation with specialized institutions already in existence in the developing countries, upgrade developing countries' export-promotion centres and aid the setting up of trade missions in order to enable the developing countries to have their own market studies;
- develop training programmes in conjunction with the appropriate organizations such as Chambers of Commerce and the professionals concerned, and encourage the development of contacts with business circles;

- develop and adapt products, and also increase awareness of quality and standards, adopt suitable systems of standards and assist control laboratories;

 - finally, as far as exhibitions and fairs are concerned, Community support for the participation of developing countries in these events will be more effective if such participation is the logical follow-up to prior trade-promotion measures and to a larger programme by the developing country concerned. Moreover, preference should be given to specialized exhibitions, whilst ensuring that the product is in fact exportable and available."
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BRUXELLES, LE 4 JUIN 1984.

NOTE BIO (84) 204 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
CC. AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPE DU PORTE-PAROLE

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PREPARATION CONSEIL DEVELOPPEMENT DU 5.6.84 (A. TE PASS)

L'ORDRE DU JOUR SE PRESENTERA COMME SUIT :

1. ACTIONS THEMATIQUES :

CES ACTIONS SONT DEFINIES COMME DES ACTIONS REGIONALES PORTANT SUR DES THEMES PRIORITAIRES POUR LA SAUVEGARDE ET LA MISE EN VALEUR DU POTENTIEL AGRICOLE DES PAYS EN VOIE DE DEVELOPPEMENT.

LE CONSEIL DEVRAIT AVOIR UN LIBRE DEBAT DE NATURE GENERALE, CONCENTRE SUR TROIS GRANDS THEMES :

- LA LUTTE CONTRE LA DESERTIFICATION,
- LA VALORISATION DU BETAIL DOMESTIQUE ET SAUVAGE,
- LA GESTION DES RESSOURCES EN EAU DANS UNE OPTIQUE GLOBALE.

2. PROPOSITION DE REGLEMENT DU CONSEIL RELATIF A LA MISE EN OEUVRE DES ACTIONS DE SUBSTITUTION AUX LIVRAISONS D'AIDE ALIMENTAIRE (COM (83)695 FINAL DU 25.11.83)

3. COMMUNICATION DE LA COMMISSION SUR LA COMMUNAUTE EUROPEENNE ET L'AFRIQUE (COM (84) 310 FINAL DU 21.5.84).

IL S'AGIT SURTOUT D'UNE PREMIERE PRESENTATION DE LA COMMUNICATION DE M. PISANI.

4. COMMUNICATION DE LA DELEGATION FRANCAISE SUR UN PLAN D'URGENCE POUR LE SAHEL. LA FRANCE DEVRAIT PRESENTER LORS DU CONSEIL, UNE COMMUNICATION CONCERNANT CE PROBLEME AYANT SURTOUT COMME OBJET LA COORDINATION DES AIDES TANT SUR LE PLAN DE LA PREVISION DES SITUATIONS CRITIQUES QUE SUR LES METHODES D'EVALUATION DES BESOINS AINSI QUE SUR LES DELAIS ET LES CALENDRIERS DE LIVRAISON.

5. COORDINATION DES POLITIQUES ET DES ACTIONS DE COOPERATION AU SEIN DE LA COMMUNAUTE (COM (84) 174 FINAL DU 26.3.84). LE CONSEIL DEVRA EXAMINER UN PROJET DE RESOLUTION A CET EFFET.

6. M. PISANI FERA UN EXPOSE SUR L'ETAT DES STRATEGIES ALIMENTAIRES DANS LES QUATRE PAYS (MALI, KENYA, ZAMBIE, RWANDA) AUXQUELS LA COMMUNAUTE APPORTE JUSQU'A PRESENT SON APPUI EN CE DOMAINE, AINSI QUE SUR LES PERSPECTIVES RELATIVES A D'AUTRES PAYS DEMANDEURS.

7. LE CONSEIL POURRAIT, APRES UN ECHANGE DE VUES, ADOPTER CERTAINES CONCLUSIONS SUR L'AIDE DE LA COMMUNAUTE A LA PROMOTION DU COMMERCE DES PVD.

8. LA COMMISSION SOULEVERA SOUS POINT 'DIVERS' L'ETAT D'AVANCEMENT DES TRAVAUX CONCERNANT UN PROGRAMME D'AIDE AU DEVELOPPEMENT DES CAPACITES ENDOGENES DE RECHERCHE SCIENTIFIQUE ET TECHNIQUE DES PVD.

AMITIES,
PAUL CERF. COMEUR///+



CONSEIL DEVELOPPEMENT

1) ACTIONS THEMATIQUES

M. PISANI A INTRODUIT LE DEBAT EN RAPPELANT LES TROIS THEMES PRIORITAIRES ET EN SPECIFIANT LES CRITERES POUR CHOISIR LES ZONES OU LES PAYS SUR LESQUELS DOIVENT S'APPLIQUER EN PRIORITE LES ACTIONS :

- VOLONTE DES GOUVERNEMENTS, INSTITUTIONS REGIONALES ET POPULATIONS A AGIR; MANIFESTEE PAR DES ACTIONS DEJA EN COURS; OU PAR DES PLANS D'INTERVENTIONS;

- GRAVITE DU PROBLEME;

- POSSIBILITE TECHNIQUE D'APPORTER PRATIQUEMENT UNE SOLUTION ACCEPTABLE;

- PRESENCE SUFFISANTE DES ETATS MEMBRES; DE LA COMMUNAUTE ET D'AUTRES BAILLEURS DE FONDS.

PUIS SUR BASE DE CES CRITERES; QUELLES SONT LES REGIONS PRIORITAIRES A PRENDRE EN CONSIDERATION :

- CERTAINES ZONES DU SOUS-CONTINENT INDIEN

- LA PERIPHERIE DU SAHARA ET NOTAMMENT LE SAHEL

- LES PAYS DE LA SADC

- LA CORNE EST DE L'AFRIQUE

- LA ZONE MONTAGNEUSE ZAIRE-NIL

ET DANS LA MESURE DU POSSIBLE :

- CERTAINES ZONES DE L'ALTIPLANO EN AMERIQUE LATINE.

A PARTIR DES PLANS D'INTERVENTION REGIONAUX OU NATIONAUX ETABLIS PAR LES ETATS CONCERNES; IL S'AGIT D'ELABORER DES PROGRAMMES A LONGUE TERME QUI SERONT MIS AU POINT ET EXECUTES AVEC L'AIDE DE L'ENSEMBLE DU BAILLEURS DE FONDS NATIONAUX ET ETRANGERS ET NOTAMMENT COMMUNAUTE ETATS MEMBRES.

L'ENSEMBLE DES ETATS MEMBRES S'EST DECIDE EN FAVEUR DE LA PHILOSOPHIE

GENERALE ET DES ORIENTATIONS PROPOSEES PAR LA COMMUNAUTE. CERTAINS D'AILLEURS ONT INSISTE QUE LE DIALOGUE AVEC LES PAYS CONCERNES DOIT S'EFFECTUER DANS LE CADRE DU DIALOGUE SUR LES POLITIQUES; PRINCIPES NEGOCIE ACTUELLEMENT DANS LE CADRE DU RENOUVELLEMENT DE LA CONVENTION DE LOME.

PAR CONTRE LE CONSEIL ESTIME QUE LE FINANCEMENT DOIT ETRE TROUVE DANS LE CADRE DES MOYENS EXISTANTS.

2)

LE CONSEIL A ADOPTE, MOYENNANT QUELQUES MODIFICATION DE FORME LE REGLEMENT RELATIF A LA MISE EN OEUVRE DES ACTIONS DE SUBSTITUTION AUX LIVRAISONS D'AIDE ALIMENTAIRE DANS LE DOMAINE DE L'ALIMENTATION.

3)

LE CONSEIL A EU UN PREMIER ECHANGE DE VUE SUR LA COMMUNICATION DE LA COMMISSION CONCERNANT LA COMMUNAUTE EUROPEENNE ET L'AFRIQUE. IL A CONSTATE AVEC SATISFACTION QUE LA COMMISSION SE PROPOSE DE TRANSMETTRE ULTERIEUREMENT DES COMMUNICATIONS CONCERNANT LA REGION DE LA CARAIBE ET CELLE DU PACIFIQUE. LA PLUPART DES DELEGATIONS DES ETATS MEMBRES ESTIMENT QU'IL FAUT ALLER DE L'AVANT AVEC LA REFLEXION SUR LES PROBLEMES SOULEVES PAR LA COMMUNICATION EN ESSAYANT D'ESQUISSE UNE STRATEGIE COMMUNAUTAIRE NOTAMMENT EN CONSIDERANT CERTAINES INITIATIVES LANCEES PAR LA COMMUNAUTE INTERNATIONALE :

- LA CAMPAGNE ANIMEE L'AN DERNIER PAR LA F A O POUR ALERTER L'OPINION SUR LES CONSEQUENCES DE LA SECHERESSE DANS 24 PAYS AFRICAINS;

L'APPEL LANCE EN JANVIER DERNIER PAR LE SECRETAIRE GENERAL DE L'ONU

- LA BANQUE MONDIALE ET NOTAMMENT LE RAPPORT BERG,

- LES USA PAR L'ANNONCE D'UNE AIDE ALIMENTAIRE D'URGENCE SUPPLEMENTAIRE DE 90 MIO DE DOLLARS; AINSI QUE 'L'ECONOMIC POLICY INITIATIVE' EN FAVEUR DE L'AFRIQUE POUR LAQUELLE UN MONTANT DE 500 MIO DE DOLLARS EST PREVU POUR 5 ANS;

- L'AUGMENTATION DE L'AIDE ALIMENTAIRE DU JAPON A L'AFRIQUE; QUI PASSERA DE 38 A 103 MIO DE DOLLARS.

LE CONSEIL EST CONVENU DE POURSUIVRE L'EXAMEN DE CETTE COMMUNICATION EN SOULIGNANT LE LIEN IMPORTANT AVEC LES NEGOCIATIONS POUR LE RENOUVELLEMENT DE LA CONVENTION DE LOME ET L'APPROCHE NOUVELLE D'UNE POLITIQUE DE LA MEDITERRANEE.

4)

AIDE - MEMOIRE DE LA FRANCE CONCERNANT LE PLAN DE LUTTE CONTRE LES EFFETS D'UNE SECHERESSE EXCEPTIONNELLE AU SAHEL. (VOIR BIO PRECEDENTE).

SELON LA DELEGATION FRANCAISE UN TEL PLAN;

TI QUI VISE AVANT TOUT LA COORDINATION ET L'EFFICACITE DE L'AIDE DANS DES CAS D'URGENCE; POURRAIT ETRE ETENDU LE CAS ECHEANT A D'AUTRES REGIONS; MAIS EN RAISON DE LA PRESENTATION TARDIVE LE CONSEIL N'A GUERE PU PRENDRE NOTE; A CE STADE; DES PROPOSITIONS FRANCAISES.

A SUIVRE:

AMITIES:

A. TE PASS

5.6.1984

CONSEIL DEVELOPPEMENT

1)
LE CONSEIL A ADOPTE UNE RESOLUTION SUR LA COORDINATION DES POLITIQUES
ET DES ACTIONS DE COOPERATION AU SEIN DE LA COMMUNAUTE.

2)
LE CONSEIL A EGALEMENT ADOPTE UNE RESOLUTION SUR L'AIDE DE LA
COMMUNAUTE A LA POURSUITE DU COMMERCE DES P V D.

LES DEUX TEXTES FERONT L'OBJET D'UNE DIFFUSION SEPARÉE.

3)
M. PISANI A FAIT RAPPORT SUR L'ETAT DE LA MISE EN OEUVRE DES
STRATEGIES ALIMENTAIRES. UN RAPPORT COMPLET SERA SOUMIS AU CONSEIL
POUR SA PROCHAINE SESSION DE L'AUTOMNE.
IL A ETE EGALEMENT FAIT ETAT D'UNE DOUZAINÉ D'AUTRES ETATS QUI
ONT SOLLICITE LA COMMISSION POUR APPORTER SON APPUI DANS LE
CADRE D'UNE STRATEGIE A ELABORER PAR SES PAYS.

4)
SOUS DIVERS LA COMMISSION A FAIT L'ETAT DES TRAVAUX CONCERNANT
UN PROGRAMME DE RECHERCHE SCIENTIFIQUE ET TECHNIQUE DES P V D ET ELLE
A DONNE SES PREMIERES EVALUATIONS CONCERNANT L'ETUDE EN COURS EN
MATIERE DE COUTS DE L'AIDE ALIMENTAIRE POUR LES PRODUITS
LAITIERS.

AMITIES:

