

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

5017/84 (Presse 26)

909th meeting of the Council
- Foreign Affairs -
Brussels, 20 and 21 February 1984
President: Mr Claude CHEYSSON
Minister for External Relations
of the French Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr Leo TINDEMANS Minister for External Relations
Mr Paul de KEERSMAEKER State Secretary for European Affairs and Agriculture

Denmark:

Mr Uffe ELLEMANN-JENSEN Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Jonathan MOTZFELDT Prime Minister of Greenland
Mr Moses OLSEN Minister for Economic Affairs of Greenland
Mr Lars Emil JOHANSEN Minister for Fisheries, Trade and Industry of Greenland
Mr Knut-Erik TYGESEN State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Germany:

Mr Hans-Dietrich GENSCHER Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Hans-Werner LAUTENSCHLAGER State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mr Wolfgang van GELDERN Parliamentary State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Forestry

Greece:

Mr Theodoros PANGALOS State Secretary for EEC Affairs

France:

Mr Claude CHEYSSON Minister for External Relations
Mr Roland DUMAS Minister for European Affairs

Ireland:

Mr P. BARRY Minister for Foreign Affairs

Italy:

Mr Mario FIORET State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr Giovanni PRANDINI State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Trade

Luxembourg:

Miss Colette FLESCH Vice-President of the Government,
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Netherlands:

Mr H. van den BROEK Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr F. BOLKESTEIN Minister for Foreign Trade

Mr W.F. van BEKELEN State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

United Kingdom:

Sir Geoffrey HOWE Secretary of State for Foreign
and Commonwealth Affairs

Mr Paul CHANNON Minister of State for Trade

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Commission:

Mr Gaston THORN President

Mr François-Xavier ORTOLI Vice-President

Mr Wilhelm HAFERKAMP Vice President

Mr Lorenzo NATALI Vice President

Vicomte Etienne DAVIGNON Vice President

Mr Christopher TUGENDHAT Vice President

Mr Richard BURKE Member

Mr Karl-Heinz NARJES Member

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EEC-ISRAEL

The Council made preparations for the 3rd meeting of the EEC-ISRAEL Co-operation Council which was held on the evening of Monday 20 February (see press release CEE-ISR 2903/84 (Presse 27) of 20.2.1984).

ENLARGEMENT: PROGRESS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS

On the basis of a communication from the Commission, the Council took stock of the progress of the accession negotiations with Spain and Portugal and of the discussions to be held as regards the chapters still to be negotiated.

In order to give a decisive impetus to the enlargement negotiations, the Council agreed to adopt a detailed timetable at its next meeting, both for the internal discussions and for the negotiations with the two applicant countries, with the aim of completing the negotiations by the end of September.

SPANISH ACCESSION

To enable the Conference for the accession of Spain to the European Communities to begin effective negotiations on the very important agriculture chapter, the Council worked out the position which the Community put to the Spanish delegation led by Mr Fernando MORAN, Minister of Foreign Affairs at the 19th Ministerial meeting of the Conference held on the morning of Tuesday, 21 February.

PREPARATION FOR THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL

The Council agreed on the organization of Community proceedings for its meeting on 12 and 13 March at which it would prepare the deliberations of the European Council on 19 and 20 March.

SPECIAL MEASURES OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

The Council examined the three proposals for Regulations establishing special measures of Community interest in the fields of employment, transport and energy in favour of the United Kingdom and the Federal Republic of Germany. It noted that it did not yet have the European Parliament's Opinion. It accordingly agreed to ask the latter to deliver its Opinion using the emergency procedure in time for the next meeting of the Council on 12 and 13 March, if necessary at an extraordinary session.

Furthermore, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its examination of the problems outstanding so that it could discuss these Regulations at its next meeting.

FUTURE RELATIONS WITH GREENLAND

After two years of negotiations, the Council reached agreement on the substance ⁽¹⁾ of a body of texts governing future relations between Greenland and the Community.

In 1982 Greenland expressed a wish to change its status with regard to the European Communities, and the Government of Denmark submitted a draft to the Council for revision of the Treaties establishing the European Communities so that they would no longer apply to the territory of Greenland and for establishing a new relationship between the Communities and Greenland, which would have the status of an OCT.

The texts approved at the present meeting therefore concern:

- an amendment of the ECSC, EAEC and EEC Treaties whereby Greenland will withdraw from the Communities on 1 January 1985;
- a Protocol on special arrangements for Greenland;
- an agreement on fisheries and a Protocol on the conditions relating to them, together with a regulation laying down certain specific measures in connection with the special arrangement on fisheries applicable to Greenland.

The special arrangement applicable from 1 January 1985 will involve the inclusion of Greenland among the overseas countries and territories associated with the Community, a relationship governed by the Decision of 16 December 1980.

With regard to imports into the Community of fishery products originating in Greenland, the Protocol stipulates that such imports will, while complying with the mechanisms of the common market organization, involve exemption from customs duties and charges having equivalent effect and the absence of quantitative restrictions or measures having equivalent effect if the possibilities for access to Greenland fishing zones granted to the Community pursuant to an agreement to be concluded between the Community and the authority responsible for Greenland are satisfactory to the Community.

(1) the German delegation's agreement was subject to confirmation.

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The Agreement on fisheries establishes the principles and rules which will govern the fishing activities of Member States' vessels in Greenland waters.

It takes account of the fact that fishing is an essential economic activity of vital importance to Greenland and of the fact that the maintenance of Community fishing activities in Greenland waters plays an essential part in the proper functioning of the common fisheries policy. It emphasizes the two parties' mutual interest in the conservation and rational management of fish stocks in the waters located off the coast of Greenland.

The Agreement will enable the Community to maintain its fishing activities in Greenland waters and, under certain conditions and with the agreement of Greenland, to develop them.

The Protocol, which covers fishing activities until 31 December 1989, grants the following annual quotas:

	<u>Western stock</u> <u>(NAFO 0/1)</u>	<u>Eastern stock</u> <u>(ICES: XIV/V)</u>
Cod	12 000 tonnes	11 500 tonnes
Redfish	5 500 tonnes	57 820 tonnes
Greenland halibut	1 850 tonnes	3 750 tonnes
Halibut	200 tonnes	-
Shrimps	1 300 tonnes	3 050 tonnes
Catfish	2 000 tonnes	-
Bluewhiting	-	30 000 tonnes

In addition to the annual quotas, Greenland will each year contribute the following catches of the following species towards establishing a balance between the reciprocal fishing possibilities of the Community and the Faroe Islands, as provided for in the EEC-Faroes Fisheries Agreement:

	<u>Western stock</u> (<u>NAFO: O/1</u>)	<u>Eastern stock</u> (<u>ICES: XIV/V</u>)
Shrimps	475 tonnes	675 tonnes
Greenland halibut	150 tonnes	150 tonnes
Redfish	-	500 tonnes
Capelin	-	10 000 tonnes

In return for fishing possibilities, the Community will grant Greenland financial compensation which is fixed during the period of validity of the Protocol on fishing at 26,5 MECU a year.

If the catch possibilities exceed the quotas laid down in the Protocol and the catch capacities of the Greenland fleet, Greenland will give the Community special priority for these additional quantities, against appropriate payment. These quantities will correspond to at least 20% of an increase in the TAC above 75 000 tonnes for Western stock cod.

On the other hand, if biological circumstances do not enable Greenland to comply with the annual quotas agreed with the Community and at the same time to maintain its fishing activities at a level corresponding to certain pre-established minimum quantities, the corresponding quotas agreed with the Community will be reduced accordingly.

UNITED STATES MEASURES RESTRICTING IMPORTS: COUNCIL STATEMENT

The Council took note with disquiet of the rising tide of protectionist pressures in the United States.

Escape clause petitions have been filed on a range of important products including steel and footwear. Recently anti-dumping and countervailing duty investigations have been opened against imports of wine from the European Community. Shortly the US Administration will be deciding on a petition by the US machine tool industry to limit imports. These and other actions cover \$4.7 billion worth of European Community exports to the United States.

The Council recognized that on a number of issues the US Administration had taken a firm stand against protectionist pressures. They had opposed Domestic Content legislation, proposals for a global 15 percent limitation of steel imports and the Wine Equity Bill.

Nevertheless the picture is still alarming. The Council's view is that the present difficulties in certain sectors of the US economy cannot be resolved by protectionist measures. This is even more striking given the relatively more favourable economic situation in the US than in Europe. Such measures could lead to a dangerous increase in trade restrictions and to a rapid erosion of the open multilateral trading system, which has had the support of the US and Europe for the past four decades and on which the basis of world prosperity has depended.

The Council therefore stresses the crucial importance it attaches to a strict adherence to the commitments entered into at Williamsburg and other meetings "to halt protectionism and as a recovery proceeds to reverse it by dismantling trade barriers". Here the Community has already given a lead and hopes it will be followed.

IMPORTS OF CEREAL SUBSTITUTES

The Council discussed in detail the recent Commission proposal aimed at stabilizing imports of cereal substitutes.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to expedite its work on finalizing the technical aspects of this matter and invited the Commission at the same time to hold talks with the countries concerned in GATT, particularly the United States.

NEW COMMERCIAL INSTRUMENT

Following an exchange of views which confirmed the importance it attaches to this subject, the Council asked the Permanent Representatives Committee to expedite examination of the problems arising in this connection.

STEEL: GREEK EXPORTS

The Council noted the Greek requests concerning possibilities for exporting steel from Greece to the United States. It agreed to return to these requests when the Commission had the information necessary for the adoption of a position.

STEEL: EXTERNAL ASPECTS

The Council examined the problems arising in the negotiation of the 1984 arrangements with Sweden and other countries, particularly EFTA countries.

INTERNATIONAL COCOA AGREEMENT

The Council asked the Permanent Representatives Committee to accelerate its internal discussions so that it would be possible at its meeting on 12 and 13 March 1984 to adopt a common position enabling the Community to participate actively in the forthcoming negotiation of a 4th International Cocoa Agreement.

NEW COUNCIL BUILDING

Aware of the fact that in the event of enlargement of the Community a new building would be necessary to house the Council, the latter adopted, on the basis of the proposals submitted by the Belgian Government in July 1983, the scheme of measures which would, with further accession in mind, permit the construction of such a building.

This scheme envisages progress by several stages of study and execution, with the Council being required to adopt a position on each of them before its commencement.

Under this scheme Belgium would make the site available in a state ready for building on, would adapt the road infrastructure surrounding it and would have the responsibility and task of supervising the construction work. The cost of constructing the building itself would be financed from the Communities' budget, the Council becoming the owner of the site and building on completion of the work.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Trade questions

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

- amending Regulation (EEC) No 3419/83 by way of extending the list of products originating in Romania which have been liberalized at Community level;
- on the conclusion of the Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the European Economic Community and the Socialist Republic of Romania amending Annex II to the Protocol to the Agreement on trade in industrial products;
- increasing the Community tariff quota opened by Regulation (EEC) No 1162/83 for certain eels falling within subheading ex 03.01 A II of the Common Customs Tariff.

Fisheries agreement

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation concerning the conclusion of the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Sao Tomé and Principe on fishing off the coast of Sao Tomé and Principe (see Press Release 4656/84 (Presse 18) of 1 February 1984).

Agriculture

The Council adopted

- the estimates
 - = concerning young male bovine animals weighing 300 kilograms or less and intended for fattening for the period 1 January to 31 December 1984
 - = concerning beef and veal intended for the processing industry for the period 1 January to 31 December 1984
- the Decision amending Decision 81/956/EEC on the equivalence of seed potatoes produced in third countries.

Research and atomic questions

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision authorizing the Commission to negotiate an agreement for the implementation of a concerted-action project on the use of lignocellulose-containing by-products and other plant residues for animal feed between the Community and the third States participating in European Co-operation in the field of Scientific and Technical Research (COST).

The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decisions:

- approving an amendment to the Statutes of the Joint Undertaking Hochttemperatur-Kernkraftwerk GmbH (HKG);
- amending Decision 74/296/Euratom on the conferring of advantages on the Joint Undertaking Hochttemperatur-Kernkraftwerk GmbH (HKG).

ECSC

The Council gave the following assents:

- pursuant to Article 54, second paragraph, of the ECSC Treaty,
 - = to the granting of a global loan to the Westdeutsche Landesbank Girozentrale (West Lb);
 - = to the financing of the building of a coal-fired heating station at Clichy (Hauts-de-Seine) and the construction of the link to the existing network;
- under Articles 54, second paragraph, and 56(2)(a) of the ECSC Treaty for Warwick International Ltd, United Kingdom
- under Article 56(2)(a) of the ECSC Treaty for
 - = Finansieringstinstittet for Industrie og Handvaerk A/s Copenhagen (Denmark)
 - = Deutsche Bank A.G., Zentrale Düsseldorf (Federal Republic of Germany)
 - = Westdeutsche Landesbank Girozentrale (Federal Republic of Germany)
 - = Mediocredito Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Udine (Italy)
 - = Istituto Mobiliare Italiano (Italy)
 - = Mediocredito Ligure (Italy)

Appointments

The Council appointed

- on a proposal from the Netherlands Government, Mr M.E. VAN RIJN-VAN DER TAS, as a member of the Committee of the European Social Fund to replace Dr J.M. BRONNEMAN, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office which runs until 23 May 1985;
- on a proposal from the Belgian Government, Mr André VEN DER HAEGEN, as an alternate member of the Committee of the European Social Fund to replace Mr A. COLLE, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office which runs until 23 May 1985;
- on a proposal from the United Kingdom Government, Mr E.J. PLEASANCE, Department of Employment, as a member of the Advisory Committee on Freedom of Movement for Workers to replace Mr Geoff HEDGER, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office which runs until 20 September 1984;
- on a proposal from the Greek Government, Mrs Eugenia TSOUMANI, Federation of Greek Industries, as an alternate member of the Advisory Committee Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work to replace Mrs P. VAFIADOU, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office which runs until 1 April 1985;
- on a proposal from the Danish Government, Mrs Dorte KNUDSEN, Indenrigsministeriet, as an alternate member of the Advisory Committee on the Training of Dentists to replace Mr Poul TOFTEGAARD, for the remainder of the latter's term of office which runs until 10 October 1986.

Council

2.4.16. The Council held six meetings in February. The table below lists the number, place and date of each meeting, the names

of the Council President and Commission representatives and the main items of business. A more detailed account of specific items can be found in the sections of the Bulletin referred to in the footnotes.

Table 8 — Council meetings in February 1984

Number, place and date of meeting	Subject	President	Commission	Main items of business
906th Brussels 6 February	Economic and financial affairs	Mr Delors	Mr Ortoli Mr Narjes	<i>Future work programme</i> ¹ <i>International economic situation</i> ¹ <i>Special OECD meeting</i> <i>Interest subsidies on certain loans</i> <i>Innovation in small businesses</i>
907th Brussels 6 and 7 February	Agriculture	Mr Rocard	Mr Dalsager	<i>Fixing of prices for certain agricultural products and related measures for 1984/85</i> ² <i>Adjustments to common agricultural policy</i> ² <i>Agricultural structures</i> ² <i>Sheepmeat and goatmeat</i> <i>Continuation of New Zealand butter imports into United Kingdom under special conditions</i> ² <i>Beef and veal</i> ²
908th Brussels 9 February	Foreign affairs	Mr Cheysson	Mr Pisani	<i>Preparation for ACP-EEC ministerial meeting on 9 and 10 February</i> ³
909th Brussels 20 and 21 February	Foreign affairs	Mr Cheysson	Mr Thorn Mr Ortoli Mr Haferkamp Mr Natali Mr Davignon Mr Tugendhat Mr Burke Mr Narjes	<i>EEC-Israel</i> ⁴ <i>Enlargement: Current state of negotiations</i> ⁵ <i>Spanish accession</i> ⁵ <i>Preparation for European Council</i> ⁶ <i>Special measures of Community interest</i> ⁷ <i>Future relations with Greenland</i> ⁸ <i>US measures to restrict imports: Council statement</i> ⁹ <i>Imports of cereal substitutes</i> <i>New commercial policy instrument</i> ¹⁰ <i>Steel: Greek exports</i> ¹⁰ <i>Steel: external aspects</i> <i>International Cocoa Agreement</i> ³

