



COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES  
GENERAL SECRETARIAT



PRESS RELEASE

390th meeting of the Council

- Agriculture -

Luxembourg, 5 and 6 April 1976

President: Mr Jean HAMILIUS,  
Minister for Agriculture  
of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

407/76 (Presse 37)



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

Belgium:

Mr Albert LAVENS Minister of Agriculture

Denmark:

Mr Poul DALSGER Minister of Agriculture

Germany:

Mr Josef ERTL Federal Minister of Agriculture

France:

Mr Christian BONNET Minister of Agriculture  
Mr Pierre MEHAIGNERIE State Secretary for Agriculture

Ireland:

Mr Mark CLINTON Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries

Italy:

Mr Giovanni MARCORA Minister of Agriculture

Mr Arcangelo LO BIANCO State Secretary,  
Ministry of Agriculture

Luxembourg:

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

Netherlands:

Mr A.P.L.M.M. VAN DER STEE      Minister of Agriculture and  
Fisheries

United Kingdom:

Mr Frederick PEART              Minister of Agriculture,  
Fisheries and Food

Commission:

Mr P.J. LARDINOIS              Member

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## SUGAR

The Council held a far-ranging discussion on certain measures to be taken in the sugar sector, primarily the brief for negotiations between the Community and the ACP countries (in accordance with the provisions of the sugar Protocol to the Lomé Convention) and India to fix before 1 May the guaranteed price to be applied for 1976-1977.

At the end of the discussion the Council approved the negotiating brief to be given to the Commission. In the same context the Council signified its agreement in principle on certain measures in this sector (refining margin, minimum sugar stock, etc.).

FIXING OF AGRICULTURE PRICES

The Council held an exchange of views on the technical implementation of the decisions taken at its meeting from 2 to 6 March last on the fixing of prices for certain agricultural products and certain related measures.

As a result of the discussion it was able to settle certain technical aspects still in abeyance and to clarify the interpretation of certain decisions, particularly in the wine, sugar, cereals and beef and veal sectors. The Special Committee on Agriculture was entrusted with the work of finalizing the texts for formal adoption by the Council at the earliest opportunity.

On this occasion, the Council formally adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation authorizing Member States to grant a slaughter premium during the 1976/1977 marketing year for certain adult bovine animals intended for slaughter, on which it had recorded its agreement in principle when it fixed agricultural prices on 2 to 6 March last.

The amount of the premium, which will vary over a period of time, may on no account exceed 45 units of account per adult animal of an average weight to be determined by Management Committee procedure. It is calculated in such a way that when a premium is granted the sum of the market price and of the amount of the premium actually granted will not be higher on average, throughout the duration of the marketing year, than 85% of the guide price applicable in the Member State concerned. This sum may at no time exceed 88% of the guide price. The intervention purchase price for the meat of animals for which a premium has been paid will be reduced by the amount of the premium actually paid.

STRUCTURAL POLICY

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision on the level of interest rate subsidies provided for in the Directive on the modernization of agricultural holdings (72/159/EEC) to be applied in Italy.

Pursuant to this Decision, the Republic of Italy is authorized to raise the level of interest rate subsidy and to lower the level of the minimum charge payable by the recipient in the Mezzogiorno and the less-favoured areas in Central and Northern Italy.

POTATOES

Having noted the persistence of the difficult situation on the potato market, the Council decided, as a remedy, to extend the total suspension of autonomous Common Customs Tariff duties:

- on early potatoes of sub-heading 07.01 A II (a) until 25 April 1976;
- on ware potatoes of sub-heading 07.01 A III (b) until 30 June 1976.

FISHERIES

The Council held a brief general discussion on problems arising in the fisheries sector in particular connection with the improvement of support mechanisms.

It discussed particularly the system of reference prices and market withdrawal prices and also the compensatory allowance for tunny. Acting by a qualified majority, it decided that the safeguard clause for the fresh tunny market in France should be retained until 1 May 1976 in the same form as prior to 1 April.

Finally, the Commission said it was prepared to pay very close attention to developments in this sector and make whatever proposals might be necessary so that the Council could discuss them as soon as possible.



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EGGS AND POULTRY

The Council took note of an oral statement by the Commission on the operation of the sluice-gate price system for eggs and poultry and also the refunds to producers of eggs and where appropriate egg-base products.

ALCOHOL MARKET

The Council took note of statements by certain delegations and by the Commission on the worrying situation in the alcohol market and relevant measures to be taken.

MUTTON AND LAMB

After a brief discussion on the common organization of the market in mutton and lamb, the Council confirmed the guidelines which it had laid down at its meeting on 15 and 16 December 1975 when it instructed the Special Committee on Agriculture to expedite its study of this matter and to report back at the earliest opportunity.

MALT EXPORTS

Following an exchange of views on the Commission decision of 25 February 1976 to reduce to one month the additional period of validity of export certificates based on forward contracts for brewing malt, the Council noted the Commission's intention to fix export refunds applicable for the next malt marketing year as early as possible and by means of the normal procedure.

NEW ZEALAND BUTTER

The Council held a detailed discussion of a political as well as economic nature on the special arrangements to be applied to New Zealand butter from 1978 to 1980.

It agreed to decide on this question at the next meeting.

DESCRIPTION AND PRESENTATION OF WINES AND GRAPE MUSTS

Having settled the last question still outstanding on the question of the labelling of wines of Community coupage, the Council approved the amendment to be made to the Regulation laying down general rules for the description and presentation of wines and grape musts.

The Council agreed to adopt the Regulation in question formally in the very near future at the same time as the other wine regulations.

BUDGETARY AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE APPLICATION  
OF MONETARY COMPENSATORY AMOUNTS

The Council took note of the Commission's statement concerning its estimates of expenditure under the common agricultural policy in 1976, bearing in mind the Council Decisions on the fixing of agricultural prices and certain related measures for 1976/1977, recent market trends and exchange rate fluctuations.

COMMON WHEAT

In order to deal with Italy's current supply difficulties, the Council signified its agreement to the transfer of 100,000 tonnes of common wheat from the French intervention agency to the Italian agency.

PRESERVED TOMATOES

Following a statement by the French delegation on the situation on the preserved tomato market, the Council held a brief discussion on recent developments in this sector.

It agreed to entrust the Special Agricultural Committee with an examination of the question, in order to prepare whatever measure the Council might be required to take at its meeting scheduled for 17 and 18 May next.





The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the following acts following on from the political agreement reached at the time of the decision of 2 to 6 March 1976 on the annual fixing of agricultural prices:

- the Regulations

- fixing certain prices and other amounts applicable in agriculture for the 1976/77 marketing year (cereals, fruit and vegetables, wine, rice, oils and fats, sugar, silkworms, tobacco, flax and hemp, seeds, dehydrated fodder);
- fixing for the 1976/77 marketing year the monthly increases in the target and intervention prices for oilseeds;
- fixing the monthly increases in the market target price, the intervention price and the threshold price for olive oil for the 1976/77 marketing year;
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 1308/70 as regards the system of aid for flax and hemp;
- fixing for the 1976/77 sugar year the derived intervention prices, the intervention prices for unrefined beet sugar, minimum beet prices, threshold prices and the maximum amount of the production levy and fixing the coefficient for calculating the special maximum quota;
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 1305/72 on the common organization of the market in fruit and vegetables, and Regulation (EEC) No 2511/69 laying down special measures to improve production and marketing of Community citrus fruit;
- laying down further measures to rationalize Community fruit production;
- supplementing Annex I to Regulation (EEC) No 1035/72 on the common organization of the markets in fruit and vegetables, by the inclusion of sweet peppers;
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 986/68 as regards the granting of aid for denatured skimmed milk powder (option not to grant aid in the case of certain quantities of powder where this would entail the risk of impeding the efficiency of the aid system, insofar as such quantities could be used in compound feedingstuffs which fall below the minimum level of incorporated full powder);

- amending Regulation (EEC) No 567/76 laying down general rules governing the distillation of table wines for which the distillation contract must be approved before 15 April 1976;
- amending Regulations (EEC) Nos 359/67, 950/68, 3330/74, 2727/75 and 2744/75 on the tariff nomenclature of certain cereal, rice, beef and veal and sugar products;
- the Directive amending Article 15 of Directive 75/268/EEC on mountain and hill farming and farming in certain less-favoured areas (35% contribution from the EAGGF in the case of Ireland and Italy as from 1 January 1976).

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

- the Directives
  - amending Directive 75/271/EEC concerning the Community list of less-favoured areas within the meaning of Directive 75/268/EEC (France);
  - making a 5th amendment to the Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States concerning the colouring matters authorized for use in foodstuffs intended for human consumption (deletion of nine colouring matters);
- the Decision authorizing the Commission to open negotiations with the Council of Europe on the accession of the Community to the European Convention for the Protection of Animals during International Transport.

The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation temporarily authorizing certain arrangements for catch quotas in the fisheries sector.

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NOTE BIO (76) 120 (SUITE 1 ET FIN) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX TELEX 2031  
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C.C. AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPE ET A MM. LES DIR. GEN. DES DG I ET X  
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CONSEIL AGRICOLE  
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LES MINISTRES DE L'AGRICULTURE SE SONT SEPRES A 20H30 APRES AVOIR  
EPUISE LEUR ORDRE DU JOUR QUI CONTENAIT SURTOUT DES POINTS DE  
CARACTERE TECHNIQUE.

PARMI LES POINTS LES PLUS IMPORTANTS NOUS CITONS :

1.-

DECISION DE SUSPENDRE LES DROITS DE DOUANE DE 18 0/0 APPLICABLES  
AUX POMMES DE TERRE DE CONSERVATION ET CECI JUSQU'AU 30 JUIN 1976.  
POUR LES POMMES DE TERRE DE PRIMEURS LES DROITS DE DOUANE DE 15 0/0  
ONT ETE SUSPENDUS JUSQU'AU 25 AVRIL. CES DECISIONS PROLONGENT LES  
SUSPENSIONS EN VIGUEUR JUSQU'AU 30 AVRIL POUR LES POMMES DE TERRE  
DE CONSERVATION ET JUSQU'AU 15 -AVRIL POUR LES POMMES DE TERRE  
DE PRIMEURS.

2 -

LE CONSEIL A DONNE MANDAT A LA COMMISSION POUR NEGOCIER LE PRIX  
GARANTI APPLICABLE AU SUCRE EXPORTE PAR LES PAYS ACP VERS LA COMMUNAU  
TE PENDANT LA PERIODE JUILLET 1976 JUSOU'AU JUIN 1977 INCLUS.

3 -

LE CONSEIL A AUTORISE LA FRANCE DE FERMER SES FRONTIERES JUSQU'AU  
PREMIER MAI 1976 POUR LES IMPORTATIONS. EN PROVENANCE DES PAYS TIERS,  
DE THON DESTINE A LA CONSERVERIE. EN MEME TEMPS, IL A INVITE LA  
COMMISSION D'ETUDIER LES POSSIBILITES D'AMELIORER LA PROTECTION  
DES PECHEURS COMMUNAUTAIRES PAR UNE MEILLEURE APPLICATION DU  
SYSTEME DES PRIX DE REFERENCE.

4 -

LA DELEGATION IRLANDAISE A INSISTE, A NOUVEAU, SUR LA NECESSITE  
D'INTRODUIRE UNE ORGANISATION COMMUNE DES MARCHES DE LA VIANDE OVINE.  
M. LARDINOIS A RAPPELE AU CONSEIL LA PROPOSITION DE LA COMMISSION  
POUR UN SYSTEME TRANSITOIRE. AUCUNE DECISION : LE DOSSIER A ETE  
RENVOYE AU COMITE SPECIAL.

5 -

LE ROYAUME-UNI, SOUTENU PAR LA COMMISSION, A DEMANDE UNE DECISION  
RAPIDE SUR LE REGIME PARTICULIER CONCERNANT LES IMPORTATIONS DE  
BEURRE EN PROVENANCE DE LA NOUVELLE ZELANDE PENDANT LES ANNEES  
1978/1980. LA COMMISSION AVAIT PROPOSE, DEJA EN 1975, ET TENANT  
COMPTE DES DECISIONS DU SOMMET DE DUBLIN, D'AUTORISER UNE IMPORTATION  
A DES CONDITIONS PARTICULIERES, DE 129.000 TONNES EN 1978,  
121.000 TONNES EN 1979 ET 113.000 TONNES EN 1980. COMME TOUTES LES  
DELEGATIONS, A L'EXCEPTION DU ROYAUME-UNI, ONT PLAIDE POUR DES  
CHIFFRES MOINS IMPORTANTS, M. LARDINOIS A PRESENTE UN COMPROMIS  
PREVOYANT 125.000, 120.000 ET 115.000.  
TOUTEFOIS PLUSIEURS DELEGATIONS ONT INSISTE POUR QU'UNE CLAUSE DE  
REVISION SOIT INCLUSE. CETTE CLAUSE SERAIT APPLIQUEE SI, PAR EXEMPLE,  
LA CONSOMMATION DE BEURRE AU ROYAUME-UNI DEVAIT DIMINUER DE MANIERE



IMPORTANT. LE MINISTRE NEERLANDAIS A PROPOSE UNE DIMINUTION DE 15 O/O QUI DECLENCHERAIT LA REVISION EN BAISSSE DES QUOTAS NEO-ZELANDAIS.

E CONSEIL A CONVENU DE SE PRONONCER DEFINITIVEMENT LORS DE SA PROCHAINE SESSION DU 17 ET 18 MAI.

6 -

LE CONSEIL A DECIDE DE TRANSFERER VERS L'ITALIE 100.000 TONNES DE BLE TENDRE QUI SE TROUVENT DANS LES BUREAUX D'INTERVENTION D'AUTRES PAYS MEMBRES. CETTE DECISION A ETE PRISE POUR CONTRIBUER A L'APPROVISIONNEMENT DU MARCHE ITALINE QUI CONNAIT DES PRIX ASSEZ ELEVES.

7 -

LA DELEGATION FRANCAISE, SOUTENUE PAR LA DELEGATION ITALIENNE, A DEMANDE L'APPLICATION D'UNE CLAUSE DE SAUVEGARDE BLOQUANT LES IMPORTATIONS DES CONSERVES DE TOMATES EN PROVENANCE DE LA GRECE. M. LARDINOIS A RAPPELE QUE, DEPUIS QUELQUE TEMPS, LA GRECE EST OBLIGEE DE RESPECTER UN PRIX MINIMUM A L'IMPORTATION DANS LA COMMUNAUTE (550 UC PAR TONNE). SELON LES DONNEES DONT DISPOSE LA COMMISSION, LES IMPORTATIONS SE SONT PRATIQUEMENT ARRETEES, AUSSI BIEN EN PROVENANCE DE LA GRECE QU'EN PROVENANCE DES PAYS TIERS QUI DOIVENT RESPECTER UN PRIX MINIMUM DE 600 UC. PAR CONSEQUENT LA SITUATION DEVRAIT S'AMELIORER BIENTOT.

8 -

L'ALLEMAGNE S'EST PLAINTÉ AU SUJET DES GRANDES IMPORTATIONS D'ALCOOL A TRES BAS PRIX EN PROVENANCE D'AUTRES PAYS MEMBRES ET NOTAMMENT DE LA FRANCE ET DE L'ITALIE. CETTE SITUATION EST CREEE PAR LA DEMOBILISATION DU MONOPOLIE D'ETAT ALLEMAND AINSI QUE DES PROTECTIONS A LA FRONTIERE ALLEMANDE TANDIS QUE D'AUTRES PAYS MEMBRES ONT MAINTENU LEUR MONOPOLE. M. LARDINOIS A RAPPELE QUE LES MONOPOLES SONT CONTRAIRES A UN ARRET DE LA COUR DE JUSTICE ET QUE LEUR MAINTIEN FERA L'OBJET DE RECOURS DE LA PART DE LA COMMISSION. D'AUTRE PART LA COMMISSION AUTORISERA L'ALLEMAGNE, MAIS EGALEMENT LES PAYS-BAS QUI SOUFRENT EGALEMENT D'IMPORTATIONS A BAS PRIX, D'APPLIQUER DES TAXES COMPENSATOIRES A L'IMPORTATION D'ALCOOL.

A LA FIN DU CONSEIL M. LARDINOIS A FAIT UNE DECLARATION SUR LES CONSEQUENCES BUDGETAIRES DE L'APPLICATION DES MONTANTS COMPENSATOIRES MONETAIRES. D'ABORD IL A PRECISE QUE LES DECISIONS CONCERNANT LES PRIX AGRICOLES 1976/1977 NE NECESSITERONT PAS DE BUDGET SUPPLEMENTAIRE. IL N'EST CEPENDANT PAS EXCLU QUE L'EVOLUTION CONJONCTURELLE SOIT MOINS FAVORABLE POUR CERTAINS PRODUITS ET QUE DES CREDITS SUPPLEMENTAIRES SOIENT NECESSAIRES, LE MONTANT DE CES BESOINS SUPPLEMENTAIRES NE PEUT PAS ENCORE ETRE PRECISE. ENSUITE M. LARDINOIS A RAPPELE AUX MINISTRES L'EVOLUTION TRES NEGATIVE DE LA LIRE ITALIENNE ET DE LA LIVRE ANGLAISE, EVOLUTION QUI POURRAIT NECESSITER D'UN BUDGET SUPPLEMENTAIRE DE L'ORDRE DE 600.000.000 'UC, SI LES MONTANTS COMPENSATOIRES ACTUELS POUR CES PAYS DEVAIENT ETRE MAINTENUS A LEUR TAUX ACTUEL PENDANT TOUTE L'ANNEE 1976. ACTUELLEMENT LA COMMISSION EST EN CONTACT AVEC LE GOUVERNEMENT ITALIEN ET ANGLAIS POUR VOIR DANS QUELLE MESURE CES MONTANTS COMPENSATOIRES PEUVENT ETRE DIMINUES. EN OUTRE ELLE ETUDIE DES PROPOSITIONS SUPPLEMENTAIRES QUI POURRAIENT AMELIORER LA SITUATION. M. LARDINOIS N'A PAS ENCORE DONNE D'INDICATIONS QUANT AU CONTENU DE CES PROPOSITIONS EVENTUELLES.

FIN.

AMITIES,

VAN DER PAS

9.45H.  
7.4.1976

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