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COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

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PRESS RELEASE

4762/83 (Presse 22)

825th meeting of the Council

- Agriculture -

Brussels, 7 and 8 February 1983

President: Mr Hans-Jurgen ROHR,
State Secretary,
Federal Ministry for Food, Agriculture and
Forestry of the Federal Republic of Germany

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

Belgium:

Mr Paul de KEERSMAEKER
State Secretary for
European Affairs and
Agriculture

Germany:

Mr Hans-Jürgen ROHR
State Secretary
Federal Ministry for Food,
Agriculture and Forestry

France:

Mrs Edith CRESSON
Minister for Agriculture

Italy:

Mr Calogero MANNINO
Minister for Agriculture

Netherlands:

Mr G. BRAKS
Minister for Agriculture and
Fisheries

Denmark:

Mr Niels Anker KOFOED
Minister for Agriculture

Mr H.J. KRISTENSEN
Permanent Secretary, Agriculture

Greece:

Mr Costas SIMITIS
Minister for Agriculture

Ireland:

Mr Austin DEASY
Minister for Agriculture

Luxembourg:

Mr Ernest MUHLEN
Minister for Agriculture,
Viticulture, Lakes, Rivers and
Forests

United Kingdom:

Mr Peter WALKER
Minister of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food

Mr Alick BUCHANNAN-SMITH
Minister of State,
Ministry of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food

Commission:

Mr Poul DALSGER - Member

7/8.II.83

TRIBUTE TO MR GIOVANNI MARCORA

Opening its meeting, the Council paid tribute to the memory of Mr Giovanni MARCORA, former Minister for Agriculture of the Italian Republic, who died on 5 February 1983. The President, on behalf of the Council, and Mr DALSAGER, on behalf of the Commission, expressed their condolences to his bereaved family and to the Italian Government.

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7/8.II.83

ADJUSTMENT OF THE "ACQUIS COMMUNAUTAIRE" FOR MEDITERRANEAN PRODUCTS -
(OLIVE OIL - FRUIT AND VEGETABLES)

The Council resumed its discussions on the adjustment of the existing rules for the fruit and vegetable and olive oil sectors in the light of the prospective enlargement of the Community. For that purpose, the Council had before it an interim report from the Special Committee on Agriculture which dealt with the technical side of the different problems or areas for discussion still open in the two Mediterranean product sectors in question.

Taking the fruit and vegetables sector, the Council looked at the problems of the strengthening of producers' organizations, the extension of rules, the serious crisis affecting wholesale markets, the restriction of intervention to products from the current marketing year, and a number of external aspects. Turning then to the olive oil sector, the Council tackled the question of the measures which could be considered for adjusting or supplementing the existing rules, and the financial and budgetary questions arising. It also discussed the specific transitional period to be provided for in the Act of Accession pending full application of the common market organizations.

At the close of the discussion, the Council asked the Special Committee on Agriculture to continue studying, in greater detail, particularly on the basis of the new documents announced by the Commission, the questions that were now better identified but still unresolved, including certain questions outstanding in the wine sector, and to submit a further report to it with a view to agreement being reached on the "acquis communautaire" dossier as a whole at its meeting on 8 and 9 March 1983, to be devoted exclusively to this matter.

FIXING OF THE PRICES FOR CERTAIN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND RELATED MEASURES

The Council continued its discussions, at the same time going into greater detail, on the agricultural prices for the 1983/1984 marketing year. It first carried out a detailed examination of the questions relating to the milk products, cereals and rice, olive oil, beef, veal and sheepmeat, fresh fruit and vegetables and sugar sectors.

At the end of its discussions the Council asked the Special Committee on Agriculture to continue - in the light of the discussions - its work on all the matters covered by the "prices and related measures" file, with a view to revealing all the points which would enable ways of solving the problems outstanding to be found, and agreed to resume its discussions on the file at its meeting on 14, 15 and 16 March.

IMPORT AND EXPORT ARRANGEMENTS FOR PROCESSED CEREAL AND RICE-BASED PRODUCTS (ACP BRAN)

The Council signified its agreement to a Regulation aimed at affording greater protection to the industry producing certain cereal and rice-based products.

This Regulation will enable the requests of certain ACP States to facilitate imports of bran from their countries to be met, by making it possible to reduce the import charge by 6 ECU/t compared with that levied on imports from other third countries.

UNITED KINGDOM IMPORTS OF NEW ZEALAND BUTTER

The Council adopted a Regulation fixing at 7,250 tonnes the quantity of New Zealand butter which the United Kingdom is authorized to import on special conditions during March 1983.

STABILIZATION OF WORLD AGRICULTURAL MARKETS

The Council heard a statement by the Commission on the talks in progress with the United States authorities, on the major United States wheat-flour transactions and exports, and on other such operations which the United States was planning in the milk sector.

Following a detailed discussion during which delegations expressed their deep concern at these measures, the Council asked the Commission to continue its talks at both bilateral and multilateral level and to report back to it at its next meeting. Pursuing the same line of thought, the Council emphasized the need to co-ordinate discussions on stabilizing world agricultural markets, particularly within GATT and the OECD.

MISCELLANEOUS STATEMENTS

The Council heard statements on the following matters:

- Sales of French alcohol in other Member States
(United Kingdom delegation);
- Wine-market situation and measures which that situation demands
(French delegation);
- Community apple market
(Italian delegation);
- Special aid for raw tobacco in regions affected by the earthquake
(Italian delegation).

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Veterinary sector

- Health problems affecting intra-Community trade in fresh meat and imports of animals and fresh meat from third countries

The Council adopted two Directives amending the health rules applicable to intra-Community trade in fresh meat and to imports of animals and fresh meat from third countries, the purpose being to update certain technical provisions of the Directives concerned.

The general effect is to standardize the texts governing intra-Community trade and imports from third countries, taking account in particular of experience gained during the course of Community checks carried out in third countries.

More especially as regards intra-Community trade, the Directive lays down the general principles concerning sampling examinations for residues and provides for the introduction of Community inspection of establishments approved for intra-Community trade.

As regards the problems raised by health checks at intra-Community frontiers, provision is made for maintaining the possibility of carrying out non-discriminatory sampling inspections to check that the requirements of the present Directive have been met, until such time as checks at source have been harmonized. This harmonization must take place, on a proposal from the Commission, before effective implementation of the Directive.

The date set for implementation of the measures is 1 January 1985.

Customs Union

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Directive amending Directive 69/73/EEC on the harmonization of provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action in respect of inward processing.

Environment

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Resolution concerning the combating of water pollution (see press release 11999/82 (Presse 198) of 17/18 December 1982, pp. 10, 11 and 12).

In addition, the Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Resolution on the continuation and implementation of a European Community policy and action programme on the environment (1982/1986) (see press release 11999/82 (Presse 198) of 17/18 December 1982, pp. 6 to 9).

Appointments

Acting on a proposal from the United Kingdom Government, the Council appointed Lord EZRA, British Iron and Steel Consumers Council, and Mr John WILSON, the Chamber of Coal Traders, members of the Consultative Committee of the European Coal and Steel Community in place of Lord MARSH and Mr THOMAS, who have resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which runs until 2 December 1984.

Lastly, the Council adopted a Decision appointing Mr Keld BRIXTOFTE (¹) a member of the Court of Auditors in place of Mr Arne K. JOHANSEN, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which runs until 17 October 1987 inclusive.

(¹) See curriculum vitae annexed.

Curriculum Vitae

Keld Brixtofte

- born : 6 May 1922, Herrested.
- married : 1945 with Inger Pedersen, two children.
- 1948 : Graduated in law at the Copenhagen University.
- 1958 : Called to the bar (Danish Supreme Court).
- 1949 : Judicial adviser, Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General.
- 1954-1958 : Auditor with the International Board of Auditors for NATO, part-time.
- 1960-1964 : Auditor with the International Board of Auditors for NATO, full time.
- 1967 : Director, Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General.
- 1974 : Assistant Comptroller and Auditor General.
- 1976-1980 : Member of the Board of Auditors of ECMWF, Reading, UK.
- 1978-1982 : Member of the Board of Auditors of EMBL, Heidelberg.
- 1977 : Deputy Comptroller and Auditor General.
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Bruxelles, le 8 fevrier 1983.

ET FIN

Note BIO (83) 64 (suite 3) aux Bureaux Nationaux
cc. aux Membres du Groupe du Porte-Parole

CONSEIL AGRICOLE (M. Vasey)

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3. Prix agricoles 1983/84 (suite)

- CEREALES

En ce qui concerne le niveau des prix, cinq delegations (Allemagne, Royaume-Uni, Pays-Bas, Danemark, Luxembourg) acceptent l'augmentation limitee proposee par la Commission, le Royaume-Uni estimant meme qu'un gel des prix aurait toutefois ete justifie. Ces memes delegations s'opposent a l'elargissement de l'ecart entre prix d'objectif et prix d'intervention. De l'autre cote, quatre delegations (France, Belgique, Irlande et Grece) estiment l'augmentation insuffisante, la delegation francaise s'elevant contre la pretendue double penalisation des cereales au titre du rapprochement des prix mondiaux et du seuil de garantie. Les delegations italienne et grecque ont reclame une augmentation superieure a la moyenne pour le ble dur, ce que plusieurs pays du nord ont explicitement refuse (Allemagne, Royaume-Uni, Danemark).

En ce qui concerne les controles de qualite plus stricts proposes par la Commission, qui sont vigoureusement appuyes par la delegation francaise, le CSA a ete charge de creer un groupe de travail pour examiner cette proposition, qui suscite des reserves expresses du cote de plusieurs delegations (Allemagne, Royaume-Uni, Belgique, Pays-Bas, Danemark, Irlande, Grece).

Enfin, M. Dalsager a confirme que la Commission prepare un rapport sur le fonctionnement du marche du riz, qui est reclame par plusieurs delegations (Allemagne, Royaume-Uni, Pays-Bas, Irlande). L'Italie et la Grece ont reclame une augmentation plus elevee pour ce produit, la delegation italienne s'opposant par avance a toute modification de l'organisation du marche qui affaiblirait la preference communautaire.

- HUILE D'OLIVE

M. Dalsager a constate que dans une large mesure il y a accord sur la proposition de la Commission. Si l'Italie et la Grece reclament une augmentation plus elevee pour ce produit, certains pays du nord ne sont pas convaincus de l'opportunitie d'une telle mesure, compte tenu notamment de l'augmentation de la production et des depenses et du probleme des controles de l'aide. M. Dalsager a rappele que la Commission examine la possibilite d'ameliorer les controles.

- VIANDE BOVINE

Trois delegations (Allemagne, Royaume-Uni, Pays-Bas) estiment l'augmentation proposee de 5,5% trop importante dans la conjoncture actuelle, deux delegations (Danemark, Irlande) la considerent insuffisante, alors que les delegations francaise et belge la considerent comme acceptable. En effet, la discussion a porte essentiellement sur le regime des primes, different selon les Etats membres, ce qui provoque des distortions entre les Etats membres. M. Dalsager a declare qu'il ne voit aucune raison de modifier ses propositions de prix, qui sont destinees a ameliorer la hierarchie de prix entre la production des cereales et l'elevage. Il a rappele que la Commission examine actuellement la possibilite de remplacer les differentes normes actuelles au moment opportun par un systeme plus uniforme.

- FRUITS ET LEGUMES

M. Dalsager rappelle que la Commission propose la meme augmentation des prix que pour la plupart des autres secteurs (+ 5,5%), avec une augmentation plus modulee pour les seules tomates (- 3,5%). Il n'exclut par la possibilite d'envisager une differenciation plus grande selon les produits, mais si les pays producteurs mediterraneens souhaitent des augmentations superieures, d'autres delegations, notamment les Pays-Bas, estiment que certains fruits devraient faire l'objet d'une augmentation plus modeste.

- SUCRE

M. Dalsager a defendu la proposition de la Commission d'une augmentation de 4%, en faisant valoir que la Commission souhaite une reduction supplementaire des surfaces emblavees et de la production. Le Royaume-Uni s'est prononce pour un gel, alors que l'Italie et la Grece ont fait etat de leurs difficultes particulieres dans ce secteur.

Le CSA a ete charge de poursuivre l'examen de ce dossier qui sera repris par le Conseil les 14 et 15 mars.

4. REGIME D'IMPORTATION DE SONS

Le Conseil a declare l'introduction d'un abattement du prelevement a l'importation de 6 ecus/100 kg en faveur des ACP.

5. BEURRE NEO-ZELANDAIS

Le Conseil a autorise l'ouverture d'un nouveau quota mensuel de 6.750 tonnes en faveur de la Nouvelle-Zelande pour le mois de mars.

6. POINTS DIVERS

- Vins : La Commission va examiner l'evolution du marche en vue de determiner s'il y a lieu de decider l'ouverture de la distillation de soutien a 80% du prix indicatif comme le

demande le gouvernement francais. Le Comite de Gestion se penchera sur cette question le 15 fevrier. M. Dalsager a toutefois rappele que la Commission vient de prolonger la distillation preventive jusqu'a fin mars.

- Alcool : En reponse aux delegations britannique, allemande, neerlandaise et danoise, M. Dalsager indique que la Commission a demande au gouvernement francais de mettre fin aux ventes d'alcool a prix reduit, et cela avant le 1er mars.

- Pommes : La Commission examinera la demande italienne de mesures speciales.

- Tabac : La Commission examinera la possibilite d'augmenter l'aide aux producteurs dans les regions sinistrees.

Amities,
Martin VASEY. Comeur 18h/////

