

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

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981st meeting of the Council

- Research -

Brussels, 19 December 1984

President: Mr John BRUTON
Minister for Industry, Trade,
Commerce and Tourism
of Ireland

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

Belgium:

Mr Phillippe MAYSTADT
Minister for Science Policy

Denmark:

Mr Bertel HAARDER
Minister for Education

Germany:

Mr H-H. HAUNSCHILD
State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Research
and Technology

Greece:

Mr Georgios LIANIS
Minister for Research and
Technology

France:

Mr Hubert CURIEN
Minister for Research and
Technology

Ireland:

Mr John BRUTON
Minister for Industry, Trade,
Commerce and Tourism

Mr Edward COLLINS
Minister of State at the Department
of Energy and at the Department of
Industry, Trade, Commerce and
Tourism

Italy:

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

Luxembourg:

Mr Joseph WEYLAND
Ambassador and
Permanent Representative

Netherlands:

Mr W.F. van EEKELEN
State Secretary
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr Geoffrey PATTIE
Minister of State for Industry
and Information Technology

Commission:

Vicomte Etienne DAVIGNON
Vice-President

DECISION ON THE COMMUNITY'S MULTIANNUAL RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

It should be noted that at the beginning of 1984 the Council decided to adopt

- the JRC's 1984-1987 multiannual programme for an amount of 700 million ECU
- the 1984-1987 ESPRIT programme for an amount of 750 million ECU

in the context of the implementation of the 1984-1987 framework programme of Community scientific and technical activities.

In the same context, subject to the Opinions of the European Parliament which were still awaited in the case of certain programmes, the Council approved at this meeting the amounts considered necessary to be entered in programme decisions in the following areas:

	<u>Total duration</u>	<u>Amount considered necessary</u>
- Fusion	5 years	690 MECU
- Radiation protection and radioactive waste	5 years	120 MECU
- Biotechnology	5 years	55 MECU
- Stimulation	4 years	60 MECU
- BRITE	4 years	125 MECU
- Non-nuclear energy	4 years	175 MECU
Total :		<u>1 225 MECU</u>

It was agreed that the JCR was to implement the reactor safety programme.

The Council also agreed that, for all these research programmes falling within the framework programme, the Commission would submit to the Council before the end of July 1986 an appraisal covering:

- their operation
- their scientific value
- their Community interest.

If necessary, the Commission will also submit proposals to the Council on the continuation or development of these programmes.

The Council undertook to re-examine and, if necessary, to revise the programmes, having regard to its previous undertaking regarding the gradual increase of expenditure on Community R & D activities.

1985 WORK PROGRAMME FOR ESPRIT

The Council approved the Decision adopting the 1985 work programme for ESPRIT, as proposed by the Commission. Like the 1984 programme, this programme covers the following five areas: advanced micro-electronics, software technology, advanced information processing, office systems and computer-integrated manufacture.

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The Council agreed to deal at its next research meeting with the European Synchrotron Radiation Facility (ESRF), which item was still on its agenda.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Economic situation: annual report

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision adopting the annual report on the economic situation in the Community.

Trade questions

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 2925/78 (further extension to 31 December 1985 of the period of suspension of application of the price condition to which imports into the Community of certain types of citrus fruit originating in Spain are subject).

The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation on export arrangements for certain types of non-ferrous metal waste and scrap.

Malta

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation on the autonomous extension of the arrangements applicable to trade with Malta until 30 June 1985.

Cyprus

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation on the autonomous extension of the arrangements applicable to trade with Cyprus until 30 June 1985.

Transport

Following the general agreement on 10 May 1984 which was confirmed at subsequent Transport Council meetings, the Council proceeded with the formal adoption of a package of measures in the transport sector, viz.:

- the Directive on the weights, dimensions and certain other technical characteristics of certain road vehicles
- the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 3164/76 on the Community quota for the carriage of goods by road between Member States
- the Regulation on a specific measure in the field of transport infrastructure
- the Recommendation on strengthening the co-operation of the national railway companies of the Member States in international passenger and goods transport
- the Directive on the use of vehicles hired without drivers for the carriage of goods by road
- the Regulation amending Regulation No 11 concerning the abolition of discrimination in transport rates and conditions, in implementation of Article 79(3) of the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community.

The Representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council also adopted the Resolution on road safety in the official languages of the Communities.

All of these Decisions have already been the subject of earlier press releases (Nos 6993/84 (Presse 82) of 10 May 1984, 10362/84 (Presse 182) of 8 November 1984 and 11264/84 (Presse 215) of 11/12 December 1984).

It should be noted, however, that the Directive on weights and dimensions provides that Member States may not reject or prohibit the use within their territories in international traffic of vehicles registered or put into circulation in any Member State for reasons relating to their weights and dimensions, provided that such vehicles comply with certain limit values in terms of weight, dimensions, noise and emissions.

Values for the driving axles or for the tandem or tri-axles of tractor vehicles will, however, continue to be fixed by the Member State in which the vehicle is in circulation, pending the fixing of limit values by the Council. Moreover, the application of certain provisions in Ireland and the United Kingdom is postponed, in the context of arrangements to be adopted by the Council by the end of February 1987 at the latest.

Among the limit values fixed by the Directive are, in particular:

<u>Maximum length</u>	
- motor vehicle	12,00 m
- trailer	12,00 m
- articulated vehicle	15,50 m
- road train	18,00 m
<u>Maximum width</u> (any vehicle)	2,50 m
<u>Maximum height</u> (any vehicle)	4,00 m
Maximum authorized weight for combined vehicles with 5 or 6 axles	40 t
Maximum authorized weight for a 3-axle motor vehicle with 2 or 3-axle semi-trailer transporting a 40-foot ISO container in a combined transport operation	44 t
Maximum authorized weight per single non-driving axle	10 t

The Directive on the hiring of road vehicles is aimed at authorizing the use of vehicles hired without drivers for the carriage of goods by road for both own and others' account, whether in traffic between Member States or national traffic. Transport pursuant to a Community liberalization measure or under cover of an authorized Community or bilateral quota will, therefore, be possible using vehicles hired without drivers.
