

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

7274/92 (Presse 116)

1589th Council meeting

- AGRICULTURE -

Luxembourg, 15 and 16 June 1992

President: Mr Arlindo CUNHA,

Minister for Agriculture of
the Portuguese Republic

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Italy:

Mr Giovanni GORIA

Minister for Agriculture

Luxembourg:

Mr René STEICHEN

Minister for Agriculture and
Viticulture

Netherlands:

Mr Piet BUKMAN

Minister for Agriculture,
Nature Conservation and
Fisheries

Portugal:

Mr Arlindo CUNHA

Minister for Agriculture

Mr Luis CAPOULAS

State Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture

United Kingdom:

Mr John GUMMER

Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Mr David CURRY

Parliamentary Secretary, Agriculture

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Commission:

Mr Ray MAC SHARRY

Member

15/16.VI.92

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PROGRESS IN THE DISCUSSIONS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXTS CONCERNING THE REFORM OF THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY

The Council held a broad discussion on the reform of the CAP and the price package following the work of the Special Committee on Agriculture to ensure finalization of the Regulations resulting from the political agreement reached at its previous meeting on 21 May 1992.

The Council noted that a broad majority of delegations could contemplate immediate adoption of all the Regulations but nevertheless deemed it necessary to give itself more time for an exhaustive examination of the various texts submitted to it for approval.

A Council meeting was therefore convened for 30 June and 1 July to proceed with the formal adoption of the Regulations.

PROTECTION OF FORESTS

Pending the Opinion of the European Parliament, the Council held an initial exchange of views on the Commission proposals to extend for a five-year period the Community measures introduced in 1986 for the protection of forests against atmospheric pollution and fire.

As these measures expired at the end of 1991, the Commission proposed that they be extended and reviewed to ensure continuity of application.

The Council will resume examination of the matter after receipt of the aforementioned Opinion.

URUGUAY ROUND

The Council heard a statement by Mr MAC SHARRY on the current situation in the Uruguay Round negotiations. He thanked the Commissioner for the information on this matter and for that on the Commission's talks with the United States administration on these negotiations and on the soya panel.

The Council stressed once again the importance it attached to a successful outcome of the negotiations. It stated in particular that the Council's recent decisions on the reform of the CAP had made a particularly important contribution to that goal, as was moreover recognized at international level. It would be for the United States in particular to make a contribution to the success of the negotiations by showing flexibility on all the unresolved points.

As regards the soya panel, the Council regretted publication by the United States of a list of retaliatory measures. It considered that publication did not help the search for a solution, which the Community was willing to examine under the provisions of GATT. To that end, the Commission would be submitting at the next GATT Council meeting on 19 June 1992 concrete proposals with a view to resolving the dispute between the Community and the United States on oilseeds.

VETERINARY MATTERS

Raw milk, heat-treated milk and milk-based products

On the basis of a compromise, the Council adopted the Directive aimed at harmonizing the health rules for the production and placing on the market of raw milk, heat-treated milk and milk-based products intended for human consumption.

This directive provides in particular for:

- hygiene rules which must apply to the production, packaging, storage and transport of the products covered;
- a procedure for the approval of establishments and the determination of the requirements regarding conditions of hygienic production to be complied with by such establishments;
- health marking of milk-based products;
- the establishment of specific conditions applicable to certain milk-based products which may be manufactured from raw milk.

The Member States will have to comply with these new requirements by 1 January 1994 at the latest in return for the abolition of veterinary checks on such products at Member States' frontiers as from 1 January 1993.

Temporary derogations from these Community health rules:

The Council also adopted the Directive laying down the conditions for granting temporary and limited derogations from specific Community health rules.

Because of particular circumstances, some establishments in operation before 1 January 1993 may find it hard to comply with the requirements of these health rules within the set deadline (1 January 1994). Arrangements have therefore been made for temporary and limited derogations to be granted in order to take account of certain local situations and to prevent abrupt closures of establishments. The ultimate date for such derogations is set at 31 December 1997.

Meat of wild game

The Council adopted the Directive laying down the requirements on public health and animal health problems relating to the killing of wild game and the placing on the market of meat of wild game.

The aim of this Directive is to harmonize the health rules applicable to meat of wild game (health measures for rabbit meat and farmed game were adopted by the Council on 27.11.1990).

It provides in particular for rules relating to the origin of game, the preparation of meat of wild game, veterinary checks and hygiene requirements.

Arrangements have also been made for the approval of establishments in which game will be processed. Moreover, meat of wild game declared suitable for human consumption will have to bear a health mark and be transported under satisfactory conditions of hygiene.

Expenditure in the veterinary field

The Council adopted the Decision amending for the third time Decision 90/424/EEC on expenditure in the veterinary field. African swine fever should be added to the list of endemic diseases set out in the Annex to Decision 90/424/EEC so as to permit Community financial aid for the eradication of this disease, particularly for certain Member States in which current specific financial measures have lapsed.

Hygiene rules applicable on board certain fishing vessels

By a qualified majority the Council adopted the Directive laying down hygiene rules applicable to fishery products obtained on board certain vessels.

The Directive lays down general health conditions applicable to these products handled on board fishing vessels and extra hygiene conditions applicable to fishing vessels on board which products are kept for more than twenty-four hours.

Derogations or conditions additional to the provisions on general hygiene conditions may be established to take account of any specific characteristics of certain fishing vessels.

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In adopting these veterinary texts, the Council has taken a decisive step towards completion of the 1993 internal market.

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Implementation of Council Directives to abolish veterinary checks at internal frontiers

Following its discussions in May (see Press Release No 6539/92) on the new rules to be applied in the area of veterinary checks, the Council agreed a policy on the Directive amending Directive No 90/425/EEC concerning veterinary checks applicable to trade in animals aimed at maintaining until 31 December 1992 documentary checks and certain veterinary checks during transport (checks on compliance with rules on the well-being of animals).

The Council thus confirmed the abolition, as of 1 July 1992, of other veterinary checks carried out at internal borders on all trade in live animals.

The Council also noted that there was broad consensus in favour of applying the same solution to trade in products of animal origin as soon as the European Parliament's Opinion had been received, taking into account any problems concerning imports of such products from third countries.

Animal health requirements

The Council adopted a policy approach to the Directive laying down animal health requirements governing trade and imports into the Community of live animals, semen, ova and embryos.

The aim of this Directive is to harmonize health inspection rules for all live animals which have not yet been harmonized. It will be formally adopted at a forthcoming Council meeting.

Computerization of veterinary import procedures

SHIFT Project

Pending the European Parliament's Opinion, the Council agreed on a policy toward the proposal for a Decision on computerization of veterinary import procedures (SHIFT project) with regard to live animals and animal products from third countries. This decision forms part of the introduction of electronic data transmission networks intended to ensure the smooth functioning of the internal market. The decision will be adopted upon receipt and examination of the European Parliament's Opinion.

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OTHER AGRICULTURAL DECISIONS

The Council adopted:

- the Regulation amending Regulation No 3643/85 concerning the import arrangements applicable to certain third countries in the sheepmeat and goatmeat sector as from 1986;

- the Regulations:
 - = amending Regulation No 1114/88 which amended Regulation No 727/70 on the common organization of the market in raw tobacco;

 - = amending Regulation No 2268/88 fixing, for the 1988 harvest, certain prices and the guaranteed maximum quantities in the raw tobacco sector;

- the Regulation amending Regulation No 426/86 on the common organization of the market in products processed from fruit and vegetables. This involves an adjustment of existing provisions for fixing the minimum price to be paid by processors to fresh tomato producers.

Bruxelles, le 12 juin 1992

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**NOTE BIO(92) 154 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
CC.: AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE PAROLE**

**Conseil Agriculture (Luxembourg les 15 et 16 juin 1992)
(G. Kiely)**

Le Conseil des Communautés Européennes tiendra sa 1589e session - Agriculture - lundi 15 juin à partir de 15h et mardi 16 juin 1992 au Centre Européen du Kirchberg à Luxembourg, sous la Présidence de M. Arlindo Cunha, Ministre de l'Agriculture du Portugal.

L'ordre du jour comportera les points suivants:

Approbation de la liste des points "A"

Qualité des Aliments

**Protection des appellations d'origine et indications géographiques
(docs. SEC(90)2415 et COM(92)32)**

Avis du Parlement Européen: 19 novembre 1991

Avis du CES: 3 juillet 1991 et 27 novembre 1991

Dans le cadre de sa politique de qualité, la Commission a proposé d'instituer un système de protection des produits agricoles et des denrées alimentaires bénéficiant soit d'une appellation d'origine protégée (AOP), justifiée par une relation essentielle entre le lien et le mode de production, soit une simple indication géographique protégée (IGP), soumise à des conditions moins strictes. Une question se pose: AOP et IGP, faut-il différencier la protection à accorder aux deux catégories de désignations à l'égard des marques?

**Attestation de spécificité
(docs. SEC (90)2414 et COM(92)28)**

Toujours dans le cadre de sa politique de qualité, la Commission a présenté une proposition qui vise à l'octroi d'un label communautaire (attestation de spécificité), destinée à favoriser le maintien de certaines formes spécifiques de la production, notamment dans les régions rurales, tout en fournissant des garanties de qualités au consommateur. Mais quelle devrait-être la forme de protection à prévoir?

Propositions de règlements du Conseil

- modifiant le régl. (CEE) no 3528/86 relatif à la protection des forêts dans la Communauté contre la pollution atmosphérique.

- relatif à la protection des forêts dans la Communauté contre les incendies (doc. COM(91)431)

L'action a pour but d'aider les Etats membres à:

- . établir, sur base d'une méthodologie commune, un inventaire périodique des dommages occasionnés aux forêts, notamment par la pollution atmosphérique,
- . établir ou compléter de façon coordonnée et harmonieuse le réseau de placettes d'observation nécessaire à l'établissement de cet inventaire.
- . réaliser une surveillance intensive et continue des écosystèmes forestiers.
- . établir ou compléter de façon coordonnée et harmonieuse un réseau de placettes permanentes nécessaires à cette surveillance intensive et continue.
- . diminuer le nombre d'éclosions de feux de forêts et des superficies brûlées par l'identification des causes d'incendies et des moyens des les combattre.
- . Créer ou améliorer les systèmes de prévention ainsi que les systèmes de surveillance par l'installation de structures de surveillances fixes ou mobiles et l'acquisition de matériels de communication.

Propositions de directives du Conseil

- arrêtant les règles sanitaires pour la production et la mise sur le marché de lait cru, de lait traité thermiquement et de produits à base de lait.
- relative aux conditions d'octroi de dérogations temporaires et limitées aux règles communautaires sanitaires spécifiques pour la production et la mise sur le marché de lait et de produits à base de lait. (doc. COM(91)420 et COM(91)425)

Avis du Parlement Européen: 11 juin 1991

Dans le cadre de l'achèvement du Marché intérieur, ces propositions visent à fixer un minimum de règles sanitaires communautaires pour éviter que des réglementations sanitaires nationales disparates survivent à la libre circulation des produits.

La première proposition relative au lait cru qui reconnaît sa spécificité avec notamment des normes microbiologiques particulières dues à son absence de traitement thermique, a été largement mise en cause par les médias en France avec l'argument qu'il y avait une menace pour les fromages au lait cru.

A cette occasion, la Commission a donné des assurances en indiquant qu'elle n'avait nullement l'intention de gêner ou d'interdire la fabrication et la vente de fromage au lait cru, mais au contraire de faciliter la circulation, dans des conditions satisfaisantes pour les consommateurs, de ces produits fabriqués selon des usages traditionnels et faisant partie de notre patrimoine commun.

Directive du Conseil concernant les problèmes sanitaires et de police sanitaire relatifs à l'abattage et à la mise sur le marché de viande de gibier sauvage abattu. (doc. COM(89)496)

Avis du Parlement Européen: 13 September 1990

En vue de réaliser un fonctionnement harmonieux du marché intérieur il convient d'harmoniser les règles sanitaires applicables aux viandes de gibier.

Les mesures envisagées sont les suivantes:

- . lutte dans l'environnement contre les maladies infectieuses et parasitaires du gibier
- . Règles relatives à l'inspection sanitaire de la viande de gibier
- . Règles d'hygiène applicables à la transformation de la viande de gibier
- . conditions imposés à l'équipement des établissements de production de viandes de gibier en vue de garantir l'hygiène des opérations

Directive du Conseil définissant les conditions de police sanitaire régissant les échanges ainsi que les importations en provenances de pays tiers d'animaux, de spermes, d'ovules et d'embryons non soumis en ce qui concerne ces conditions à des réglementations communautaires spécifiques visées à l'annexe A de la directive 90/425/CEE (doc. COM(89)670)

Avis du Parlement Europeen: 19 avril 1991

Le groupe des experts agricoles et vétérinaires a, conformément aux orientations des Chefs de Service vétérinaires, regroupés en un seul texte les exigences de police sanitaire concernant les animaux vivants et les spermes, ovules et embryons dont les échanges ne sont pas encore soumis à de telles exigences.

Directives du Conseil

- modifiant la directive 90/425/CEE relatives aux contrôles vétérinaires applicables dans les échanges d'animaux et de produits dans la perspective de la réalisation du marché intérieur
- modifiant la directive 89/662/CEE relatives aux contrôles vétérinaires applicables dans les échanges intra-communautaires dans la perspective de la réalisation du marché intérieur. (doc. COM(92)147)

Ces directives visent en particulier à ne plus soumettre, à compter du 1er juillet 1992, les animaux ou produits acheminés par navettes entre deux points géographiques de la Communauté aux contrôles auxdits points et à exclure du champ d'application de la directive 90/425/CEE les mouvements entre Etats membres d'animaux de compagnie dépourvus de tout caractère commercial.

Directive du Conseil relative à l'informatisation des procédures vétérinaires d'importation (projet SHIFT), modifiant les directive 90/657/CEE et 91/628/CEE, la décision 90/424/CEE et abrogeant la decision 88/192/CEE (doc. COM(92)167)

Cette directive s'inscrit dans le cadre de la mise en place des réseaux télématiques devant contribuer à assurer un fonctionnement harmonieux du marché intérieur. Il concerne l'informatisation des procédures vétérinaires d'importation (projet SHIFT) à l'égard des animaux vivants et des produits animaux en provenance des pays tiers.

Directive du Conseil fixant les règles d'hygiène applicables à bord de certains navires conformément à l'article 3 paragraphe 1, a,i, de la directive 91/493/CEE (doc. COM(92)160)

Le 22 juillet 1991, le Conseil a adopté la Directive 91/493/CEE, fixant les règles sanitaires régissant la production et la mise sur le marché des produits de la pêche. L'article 3 paragraphe 1,a,i prévoit la fixation des règles d'hygiène pour les produits de la pêche capturés et éventuellement manipulés pour le conditionnement. Cet article prévoit la présentation d'une proposition de la Commission avant le 1er oct. 1992. Les conditions d'hygiène figurant dans la directive prévoient des conditions générales applicables aux navires de pêche et des conditions supplémentaires applicables aux navires de pêche a bord desquels les produits sont conservés plus de 24 heures.

Décision du Conseil modifiant pour la troisième fois la décision du Conseil 90/424/CEE relative à certaines dépenses dans le domaine vétérinaire (doc. COM(92)187)

En application de l'article 24 paragraphe 1 de la décision 90/424/CEE adopté le 26 juin 1990, le Conseil peut, conformément à l'évolution de la situation sanitaire de la Communauté et sur proposition de la Commission, compléter la liste des maladies endémiques. Il s'agit cette fois-ci de prévoir de nouvelles mesures financières pour un programme d'éradication de la peste porcine africaine. Cette maladie virale des porcs, très contagieuse est endémique dans certaines régions de la Communauté.

Amitiés,


C. Stathopoulos

Luxembourg, 16 juin 1992

Note Bio (92) 154 - suite 1 aux Bureaux Nationaux
cc aux Membres du Service du Porte-Parole

COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS

Luxembourg, 15 June 1992 (G. Kiely)

Council reached a political agreement on a proposal for a directive laying down health requirements for the placing on the market of animals and products of animal origin not covered in this respect by specific Community rules. This proposal is considered necessary for the completion of the internal market.

During the Council of Agriculture Ministers' discussion on the Uruguay Round, which focused in particular on the threatened retaliation by the United States, the EC Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, Mr Ray Mac Sharry made the following comments:

"Last week (9 June) the United States published a list of products which will be subject to retaliatory measures against EC exports by introducing discriminatory prohibitive import duties. The "shopping list" submitted for public hearing is of the magnitude of 2 billion dollars volume of trade exported by the EC from which products representing only one billion dollars trade volume will finally be retained. Products concerned are mainly grape wines, cordial, liquor, gin and grape brandy, tobacco, cheese and casein. The breakdown among Member States shows that France is the main target with 30.4% followed by Italy, 15.8%; Germany, 11.7% and Ireland with 10.4%. In comparison with its total trade, Ireland is the most severely hit.

Such a unilateral action is a blatant violation of GATT rules. There is no GATT disposition allowing unilateral discriminatory measures against one contracting party and the GATT dispute settlement provisions foresee that any retaliatory measure (like suspension of trade concession) must be duly authorized by the Contracting Parties. The US has not even presented a request for such an authorization.

I would like to recall that our new support regime for oilseeds already gives a satisfactory solution to the dispute concerning the violation of Article III of GATT and even, if this regime has been found as continuing to impair benefits resulting from tariff bindings, the EC took the necessary step to solve this second problem in requesting formal GATT authorization for renegotiating its oilseeds GATT bindings.

The US allegation that the EC was recommended by the reconvened panel to modify its new support regime is false and misleading. Indeed the EC was recommended a free choice between two options, either to modify its support regime or to renegotiate the bindings. We decided for the second and took the necessary step in due time, on 4 June, before the US action was announced.

The EC request will be discussed at the next GATT Council on 19 June and we will definitely challenge the US illegal action as being a further illustration of the basic incompatibility of their section 301 with the elementary rule of a multilateral free and fair trade system."

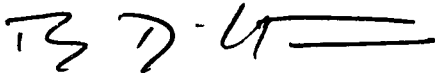
Ministers endorsed the position adopted by the Commission and insisted that the Community must be united in their strong stance against this illegal unilateral US action.

On the Uruguay Round Mr Mac Sharry informed the Council that while discussions were continuing with the US there was no substantial progress to report.

Ministers expressed disappointment that the US continues to be intransigent in spite of the major contribution CAP reform makes towards advancing the negotiations. Many Ministers questioned whether or not the US was actually prepared to negotiate at present and whether it might be preferable to put the negotiations on hold for a moment.

The meeting resumes on Tuesday at 10.30.

Amitiés,



Bruno DETHOMAS

Luxembourg, le 16 juin 1992

**Note Bio (92) 154 (suite 2) aux Bureaux Nationaux
cc aux Membres du Service du Porte-Parole**

COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS
Luxembourg, 16 June 1992 (G. Kiely)

FORESTRY PROTECTION

The Commission submitted two proposals to the Council in November 1991 to extend and reinforce activities in this area - as existing Community measures expired in 31 December 1991.

Introducing the proposals Mr Mac Sharry said that:

- 30% of the Community forests show a reduced vitality and more than half a million hectares are destroyed by fire each year
- that the measures have been applied widely during the last five years
- that the prime purpose of the proposal on forestry protection against atmospheric pollution is to ensure the continuation of the Community health survey, to allow the completion of projects to improve our understanding of atmospheric pollution and to devise methods of restoration of damaged forests
- the measure would introduce a Community network of plots for intensive monitoring of ecosystems
- the budgetary provision (estimated) for protection against atmospheric pollution is 29.4 m ECU for the five year period (including 1992)
- in regard to protection against forest fires the Community's efforts would be concentrated on high risk zones, and Member States would be encouraged to develop coherent forest fire protection strategies
- the proposal includes the development of an information system on forest fires
- the budgetary provision (estimated) for protection against forest fires is 95.2 m ECU (almost a doubling of existing resources available) and is being increased to take account of the fact that prevention measures would be applied on a wider geographical area
- the level of co-financing for the various measures would vary from 50%, in the case of high areas, to 30% in medium risk areas and 15% in other areas.

As the European Parliament has not yet given an opinion on these proposals the Council was not in a position to adopt them.

The discussion however indicated mixed feelings on the proposals, with a number of Ministers emphasising that while protection against pollution was truly an international problem, protection against forest fires was more the responsibility of Member states.

On the other hand those countries considered to be in high risk areas strongly support the proposals.

The main reservations related to the estimate of budgetary resources necessary for the proposal on protection against forest fires.

The Council was not in a position to reach a political agreement on this and agreed to return to the subject later.

CAP REFORM

The President of the special Agricultural Committee reported that the Committee's work had been completed and that the outstanding issues were political one, needing the attention of Ministers.

The Council then went into a restricted session (Ministers only) to discuss these matters.

Amitiés,



B. DETHOMAS

Bruxelles, le 17 juin 1992

**NOTE BIO(92) 154 (suite 3 et fin) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
CC.: AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE PAROLE**

**Council of Agricultural Ministers (Luxembourg 16 June 1992)
G. Kiely**

The Council continued their discussions on CAP reform in restricted session. It was not however possible to adopt the legal texts as the point had not been placed on the agenda two weeks in advance of the meeting and therefore the point could only have been voted upon if there was a unanimous agreement to do so - this agreement was not forthcoming.

It was decided therefore to reconvene a further Council on June 30 and to adopt the legal texts, by vote if necessary, on July 1. The agenda for this Council will include:


- adoption of legal texts on reform
- adoption of legal texts on 1992/93 agricultural prices and related measures
- adoption of legal texts on geographic denominations and designations and certificates of specific character for agricultural products and foodstuffs.

Veterinary issues:-

The Council adopted formally or politically a number of measures aimed at completing the internal market including:

- a Council directive laying down hygiene rules applicable on board certain vessels
- a Council Directive concerning sanitary problems and requirements relating to the slaughter and placing on the market of "game" meat.

Amitiés,



B. DETHOMAS

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