

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

4

7672/92 (Presse 139)

1598th Council meeting

- AGRICULTURE -

Brussels, 13 and 14 July 1992

President: Mr John GUMMER

Minister of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food of
the United Kingdom

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

Denmark:

Mr Laurits TOERNAES

Minister for Agriculture

Mr Nils BERNSTEIN

State Secretary for Agriculture

Belgium:

Mr André BOURGEOIS

Minister for Agriculture

Greece:

Mr Sotirios HATZIGAKIS

Minister for Agriculture

Germany:

Mr Ignaz KIECHLE

Federal Minister for Food, Agriculture
and Forestry

Mr WALTER KITTEL

State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Food,
Agriculture and Forestry

France:

Mr Louis MERMAZ

Minister for Agriculture

Spain:

Mr Pedro SOLBES MIRA

Minster for Agriculture

Italy:

Mr Giovanni FONTANA

Minister for Agriculture

Ireland:

Mr Joe WALSH

Minster for Agriculture

Netherlands:

Mr Piet BUKMAN

Minister for Agriculture, Nature
Conservation and Fisheries

Luxembourg:

Mr René STEICHEN

Minister for Agriculture and
Viticulture

United Kingdom:

Mr John GUMMER

Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries
and Food

Mr David CURRY

Minister of State

Lord HOWE

Parliamentary Secretary

Portugal:

Mr Arlindo CUNHA

Minister for Agriculture

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Commission:

Mr Ray MAC SHARRY

Member

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INTEGRATED ADMINISTRATION AND CONTROL SYSTEM FOR CERTAIN COMMUNITY AID SCHEMES

Pending receipt of the European Parliament's Opinion, the Council made an initial examination of the Commission proposal for establishing a common framework for the introduction in each Member State of an integrated administration and control system, which had been necessitated by the increase in the number of administration and control tasks caused by the reform of the CAP.

During the meeting the Council held a policy debate on certain key features of the proposal, namely the identification of agricultural parcels, the identification of livestock, an annual statement by farmers, the question of finance and the periods laid down for introducing the integrated system.

The Council instructed the SCA to continue the examination of the proposal taking into account the guidelines established during the debate. The Regulation had to be adopted as soon as the European Parliament's Opinion was received.

PROTECTION OF FORESTS

The Council agreed unanimously to the Regulations concerning the renewal for a five-year period (until the end of 1996) of the Community measures introduced in 1986 to protect forests against atmospheric pollution and against fire.

More specifically, this involved:

- as regards protection against atmospheric pollution: making amendments to Regulation No 3528/86 of 1986, which had expired in December 1991. Among other things, these amendments were designed to supplement the existing Community

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network of observation posts with a much more intensive surveillance network. This new measure should make it possible not only to improve knowledge of the interaction between forestry ecosystems and pollutants but also to help fulfil the commitments entered into in this respect by the countries of Europe and of the Community at the Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Forests held in Strasbourg in December 1990.

The overall budget for the five years to come is ECU 29,4 million, with a Community co-financing rate of 50%.

- as regards protection of forests against fire: revising the existing measures.

The aim of the revision is to:

- = focus Community efforts in the first instance on areas with a high fire risk;
- = increase the measures for analysing causes of forest fires, for prevention and for surveillance in the context of the zonal plans;
- = develop a system of information (databank) on forest fires.

The overall budget deemed necessary for this measure for the next five years is ECU 70 million. There will be co-financing at a rate which will vary according to the degree of fire risk in the region concerned (50% + 30%).

ORGANIC PRODUCTION

The Council adopted a Regulation amending Regulation No 2092/91 on organic production of agricultural products and indications referring thereto on agricultural products and foodstuffs.

The new Regulation is intended to relax the original transitional arrangement by allowing importers themselves to supply proof of the equivalence of the production and inspection standards to which the products they seek to import from third countries are subject. This involves a derogation until 31 July 1995.

QUALITY OF FOODSTUFFS

On the basis of compromise texts the Council adopted by a qualified majority two Regulations on the quality of foodstuffs.

These Regulations concern:

- Community protection of designations of origin and geographical indications for agricultural products and foodstuffs;
- the establishment of Community rules on certificates of specific character for agricultural products and foodstuffs, and lay down inter alia the rules for registering such products.

As regards the first Regulation:

- "protected designation of origin" (PDO) means the name of a region, a specific place or, in exceptional cases, a country, used to describe an agricultural product originating in that geographical area whose quality or characteristics

are essentially or exclusively due to a geographical environment with its inherent natural and human factors, and whose production, processing and preparation take place in the defined geographical area;

- "protected geographical indication" (PGI) means the name of a region, a specific place or, in exceptional cases, a country, used to describe an agricultural product or a foodstuff originating in that region, which possesses a specific quality, reputation or other characteristic attributable to that geographical origin and the production and/or processing and/or preparation of which take place in the defined geographical area.

The Regulation on specific character introduces a Community instrument for registering the name of products, thus enabling producers who so wish to certify the specific character of a foodstuff. To be registered, the name must be specific in itself or express the specific character of the agricultural product or the foodstuff.

"Specific character" means the feature or set of features by which an agricultural product is clearly distinguished from other similar products or foodstuffs belonging to the same category.

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To qualify for a protected designation of origin, a protected geographical indication or a certificate of specific character, an agricultural product or a foodstuff must comply with a product specification.

Guarantees are given to preserve the situation of foodstuffs marketed under generic names, of existing legally produced goods and of legally existing

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trade marks.

MILK QUOTAS IN ITALY

The Council began its consideration of the problem of applying the milk quota system in Italy by listening to information from the Italian Minister, Mr FONTANA, on the emergency measures which the Italian Government intended to take by 31 July 1992 to ensure that Community rules in this sector were fully effective. It then took note of the details provided by Commissioner MAC SHARRY concerning the framework within which any Commission proposals for adjusting milk quotas in Italy would be made.

FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS IN THE BANANA SECTOR

The Council held a policy debate on the future arrangements concerning the banana sector. With the completion of the internal market in prospect, common rules for the banana market will have to be drawn up. Existing national measures will have to be replaced by common measures to protect the legitimate interests of Community producers, subject to the Community's commitments to the ACP States and its international commitments (GATT), and with steps being taken to ensure a price and quality acceptable to Community consumers.

Pending the imminent submission of its proposals on the subject, the Commission is continuing its consultations with all the parties concerned.

This first debate gave delegations the opportunity to state their views on the future arrangements in the banana sector.

URUGUAY ROUND - AGRICULTURAL ASPECTS

The Council heard a Commission statement on the situation of the Uruguay Round following the Munich Summit. It stressed that during these negotiations the Community needed to give particular consideration to the agricultural aspects. On a general level, the Council reaffirmed the need to achieve a balanced solution based in particular on mutual concessions.

The Council agreed to review the situation again at its next meeting on 21 and 22 September 1992.

COMMUNITY MEASURES FOR THE CONTROL OF NEWCASTLE DISEASE

The Council unanimously adopted a Directive introducing Community measures for the control of Newcastle disease.

The aim of the measures is to eradicate Newcastle disease and prevent the spread of the disease when outbreaks occur, by means of systematic slaughter, with or without vaccination, and strict control of the movement of poultry.

To ensure that the measures are effective, the Directive requires Member States, among other things, to:

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- place holdings under surveillance when infection is suspected, and prohibit movements of poultry;
- destroy infected poultry carcasses when the disease is confirmed;
- establish protection zones (3 km) and surveillance zones (10 km) around infected holdings;
- set up laboratories to provide the technical assistance which is necessary if the control measures are to be properly applied.

IMPLEMENTATION OF DIRECTIVES TO ABOLISH VETERINARY CHECKS ON PRODUCTS OF ANIMAL ORIGIN AT INTERNAL BORDERS

The Council adopted by a qualified majority a Directive amending Directive 89/662/EEC concerning veterinary checks in intra-Community trade in products of animal origin.

Directive 89/662/EEC - like Directive 90/425/EEC governing trade in live animals, for which implementing measures were adopted at the last Council meeting on agriculture - sets out the rules for veterinary checks, i.e. the abolition of veterinary checks at internal borders as from 1 July 1992 and the strengthening of controls at origin with the possibility of maintaining until 31 December 1992 sample veterinary checks of a non-discriminatory nature carried out during transport on products trade in which has not yet been harmonized.

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Documentary checks can also be carried out during transport on all products, including those imported from third countries, until 31 December 1992.

OTHER DECISIONS CONCERNING AGRICULTURE

The Council adopted Regulations:

- on sparkling wines produced in the Community;
- laying down general rules for the description and presentation of sparkling wines and aerated sparkling wines.

This involves a consolidation of current rules, i.e. a grouping together of the existing texts.

The Council also adopted Regulations:

- opening and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for the period 1 July 1992 to 30 June 1993 with a 4% rate of duty for
 - = 42 600 head of heifers and cows, other than those intended for slaughter, of certain mountain breeds falling within headings ex 01 02 90 10, 01 02 90 31 and 01 02 90 33 of the Combined Nomenclature
 - = 5 000 head of bulls, cows and heifers, other than those intended for slaughter, of certain Alpine breeds falling within headings ex 01 02 90 10, 01 02 90 31, 01 02 90 33 and 01 02 90 35 of the Combined Nomenclature
- establishing a special scheme for raspberries intended for processing. This Regulation provides for specific aid to producers' organizations which meet certain conditions.

The Council adopted:

- a Directive laying down animal health requirements governing trade in and imports into the Community of animals, semen, ova and embryos not subject to animal health requirements laid down in specific Community rules referred to in Annex A(I) to Directive 90/425/EEC. A policy approach to this Directive emerged at the Council meeting on 15 and 16 June (see Press Release 7274/92 Presse 116).

- Decisions
 - = on computerization of veterinary import procedures (SHIFT project), amending Directives 90/675/EEC, 91/496/EEC and 91/628/EEC and Decision 90/424/EEC and repealing Decision 88/192/EEC. A policy approach to this Decision emerged at the Council meeting on 15 and 16 June (see Press Release 7274/92 Presse 116);

 - = on the equivalence of checks on practices for the maintenance of varieties carried out in third countries. The Decision grants certain third countries the equivalence of checks carried out within the Community and extends the equivalence already granted to other third countries.

The Council established directives to enable the Commission to negotiate the guaranteed prices applicable in the 1992/1993 delivery period to cane sugar originating in the ACP States referred to in Protocol No 8 annexed to the Fourth ACP-EEC Convention and in India.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Council Regulation fixing the import quotas to be opened by Member States in respect of State-trading countries and amending Regulation (EEC) No 3420/83

With this Regulation the Council laid down for the current year the quotas applicable to products originating in State-trading countries, not liberalized at Community level.

The various measures adopted by the Community in favour of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe have led to a considerable relaxation of the Community's import arrangements vis-à-vis the eastern countries. The only remaining quotas under these unilateral arrangements are those for the East Asian State-trading countries and, as regards the European countries, those concerning textile products in outward processing traffic from Albania and products subject to non-specific quantitative restrictions from the States of the former USSR.

Mongolia - directives for negotiating a textiles agreement

The Council adopted directives authorizing the Commission to open negotiations for a textiles agreement between the Community and Mongolia.

It may be recalled that a trade and co-operation agreement between the Community and Mongolia was initialled on 19 December 1991.

Although trade in textiles with Mongolia remains at an insignificant level (owing to the very limited scope for access to the Community market under the unilateral arrangements), the Community has a definite interest in concluding

a textiles agreement with that country to replace the unilateral arrangements currently in force and enable the Community to integrate the trade in textile products originating in Mongolia into the framework of a coherent commercial policy.

Environment

Following the agreement in principle reached at its meeting on 23 March 1992, the Council adopted a common position on a Directive concerning the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the sulphur content of gas oil (see Press Release 5032/92 Presse 39).

The Council gave the Commission a negotiating mandate:

- for the conclusion of a Convention on the protection and use of the Danube;
- on revision of the Convention for the prevention of marine pollution from land-based sources (Paris Convention) and the Convention for the prevention of marine pollution by dumping from ships and aircraft (Oslo Convention).

Consumer protection

The Council adopted a Resolution on future priorities for developing consumer protection and information policy, the text of which is given in the Annex.

Fisheries

The Council adopted a Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 2245/85 laying down certain technical measures for the conservation of fish stocks in the Antarctic.

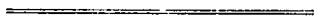
ECSC

The Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the European Coal and Steel Community, meeting within the Council, adopted a Decision on the opening of a zero-duty tariff quota for flat-rolled products of silicon-electrical steel for France.

The Council gave its assent, under Article 54(2) of the ECSC Treaty, to a loan to Istituto Mobiliare Italiano S.p.a., Italy.

Tourism

Following the agreement in principle reached at its meeting on 4 June 1992, the Council adopted a Decision on a Community action plan to assist tourism (see Press Release 6775/92 Presse 100).



**COUNCIL RESOLUTION
of**

on future priorities for the development
of consumer protection policy

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community,

Whereas the improvement of the quality of life implies, inter alia, protecting the health, safety and economic interests of consumers and informing and educating them;

Whereas measures taken under Article 100a of the Treaty must provide for a high level of consumer protection, particularly in the case of consumer health and safety;

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Whereas, in addition, the Maastricht European Council considered that consumer protection should be included among the Community's policies;

Whereas a Resolution of the European Parliament on the need to enhance consumer and public health protection for the realization of the internal market was adopted on 11 March 1992;

Whereas the Council Resolution of 9 November 1989 set out future priorities for a relaunch of consumer protection policy which continue to be valid;

Whereas the Three Year Action Plan (1990-1992) of the Commission has been progressively implemented but not yet fully realized;

Whereas the Commission should be asked to draw up a further plan to address consumer protection policy issues in the years ahead taking account of the priority measures in the previous plans which have not yet been carried out, technological and socio-economic changes and the need to develop the European Community;

Whereas the goods and services supplied to consumers must not endanger or put at risk consumer health and safety;

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Whereas the consumer's freedom to choose from a diverse range of goods and services should be assured by improved information;

Whereas consumers' capacity to choose should be enhanced by fostering education programmes at the appropriate levels;

Whereas further measures to secure consumer confidence in the operation of the single market are required particularly in the areas of transparency, information, guarantees and warranties;

Whereas it is important to promote consumer redress within the meaning of the Resolution of 25 June 1987 on consumer redress ⁽¹⁾ and the Resolution of 9 November 1989 on future priorities for relaunching consumer protection policy ⁽²⁾;

Whereas it is important to ensure enforcement of Community legislation and constant monitoring of its effect on consumers;

Whereas the implementation of the single market will require greater attention to be paid to the quality of services and goods, in particular as regards foodstuffs;

Whereas it is necessary to take consumers' interests into account in the other Community policies and to have a thorough knowledge of the impact of the internal market on consumers;

(1) OJ No C 176, 4. 7. 1987, p. 2.

(2) OJ No C 294, 22. 11. 1989, p. 1.

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Whereas consumers' capacity to defend their interests should be strengthened, in particular so as to settle transfrontier consumer disputes, including by the development of Transfrontier Information Centres;

Whereas consumers' capacity to benefit from the various possibilities of the single market should be enhanced by fostering the development of consumer associations;

INVITES the Commission to propose as soon as possible measures to create consumer confidence in the single market, in particular as regards greater transparency, information, health and safety and protection of the economic interests of consumers; also invites the Commission to look further into the question of unfair advertising with a view to submitting a relevant proposal to it;

INVITES the Commission, having regard to these priorities and those listed in the Annex to this Resolution, to present by 31 December 1992 at the latest a report assessing the current plan of action and, on that basis, a proposal for a further plan of action covering the period 1993-1997, designed to develop the consumer protection policy and to achieve these objectives;

AGREES to encourage the Commission to submit to it proposals to improve consumer information;

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INVITES the Member States also to promote consumer information and education campaigns;

NOTES the Commission's intention of examining the feasibility of a "European Year of the Consumer".

Bruxelles, le 10 juillet 1992

NOTE BIO(92)182 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
CC.: AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE PAROLE

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CONSEIL AGRICULTURE (Bruxelles, les 13 et 14 juillet 1992)
(G. Kleiy)

Le Conseil des Communautés Européennes tiendra sa 1598^{ème} session - Agriculture - lundi 13 à partir de 15h et mardi 14 juillet 1992 au bâtiment Charlemagne à Bruxelles, sous la Présidence de M. John Gummer, Ministre de l'Agriculture du Royaume-Uni.

L'ordre du jour comportera les points suivants:

Approbation de la liste des points "A"

Règlement du Conseil établissant un système intégré de gestion et de contrôle relatif à certains régimes d'aide communautaires. (doc. COM(91)533)

La Commission a proposé au Conseil d'adopter un règlement dans le cadre de la réforme de la PAC permettant, à partir du 1er janvier 1993, la mise en place d'un système de contrôle intégré de certaines aides communautaires, et qui comprendrait:

- une base de données informatisée;
- un système numérique d'identification des parcelles agricoles (constitué sur base de plans et de documents cadastraux, d'autres références cartographiques ou sur base de photographies aériennes ou d'images spatiales)
- un système numérique d'identification et d'enregistrement des animaux (marquage des animaux et tenue d'un registre par chaque exploitant sur lequel sont reportés le numéro d'identification de chaque animal)
- une déclaration annuelle des exploitants

(indiquant pour chaque exploitant:

- les superficies agricoles utilisées, y compris les superficies fourragères ventilées par parcelle agricole et l'utilisation qu'il envisage de leur donner au cours de l'année
- les parcelles agricoles faisant l'objet d'une mesure de retrait de terres arables et celles mises en jachère
- le nombre et l'espèce des animaux pour lesquels il envisage de demander le bénéfice d'un régime communautaire.
- toute autre information nécessaire).

- les demandes d'aides

(Chaque exploitant introduit sa demande d'aide auprès de l'autorité compétente)

- Un système harmonisé de contrôle

(prévoyant le recours à la photographie aérienne et à la télédétection pour orienter les contrôles sur place, particulièrement en ce qui concerne les aides à l'hectare. Les aides communautaires qui sont concernées par le système intégré de gestion et de contrôle couvrent à la fois le secteur de la production végétale (régime de soutien financier dans le secteur des grandes cultures arables) et le secteur de la production animale (régime d'aides dans les secteurs de la viande bovine, ovine et caprine, du lait et des produits laitiers), ainsi que des mesures spécifiques en faveur de l'agriculture de montagne et de certaines zones défavorisées.

La proposition prévoit aussi un co-financement communautaire de certaines dépenses encourues par les Etats Membres (mise en place des structures informatiques et de contrôle, télédétection, etc) il est entendu que la participation communautaire ne pourra pas excéder 50% des dépenses éligibles.

Il s'agira de toute évidence d'un débat d'orientation.

Règlement du Conseil

- **modifiant le régl. (CEE) 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)**

Ce règlement vise à reconduire pour une période de cinq ans des mesures communautaires mises en place en 1986 pour la protection des forêts contre la pollution atmosphérique et contre les incendies. Ces mesures ayant expirées fin 1991 la Commission propose leur prolongation et révision afin d'assurer la continuité de l'application des mesures en question.

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

- **établir un inventaire périodique des dommages occasionnés aux forêts, notamment par la pollution atmosphérique**
- **établir ou compléter 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 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 de 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.

Montants proposés par la Commission respectivement 29,4 millions d'écus pour le programme de protection de la forêt contre la pollution atmosphérique (période 1992-1996) et 95,2 millions d'écus pour le programme de protection de la forêt contre les incendies (période 1992-1996)

Règlement du Conseil modifiant le règlement (CEE) 2092/91 concernant le mode de production biologique de produits agricoles et sa présentation sur les produits agricoles et les denrées alimentaires. (doc. COM(92)69)

Le règlement (CEE) 2092/91 établit un cadre harmonisé pour l'étiquetage, la production et l'inspection des produits agricoles portant, ou appelés à porter, des indications relatives à des modes de production biologique. Le présent règlement institue un régime de contrôle des produits biologiques importés de pays tiers. A compter de la date d'application (23.7.1992), ces produits ne pourront plus être importés que de pays tiers figurant sur une liste à établir.

Qualités des aliments

- protection des appellations d'origine et indications géographiques (docs. SEC (90) 2415 et COM (92)32)
- Attestation de spécificité (docs. SEC(90) 2414 et COM (92) 28).
- The Council will have to take a decision on the two regulations on the basis of compromise suggestions put forward by the UK Presidency to deal with the two outstanding issues, namely unfair competition (the disputed references to be deleted) and existing legally produced products (the prior establishment of a list of generic names by the Commission).

Application du système des quotas laitiers en Italie.

L'Italie réclame une augmentation de son quota laitier en prétextant que sa production laitière était beaucoup plus importante en 1984 (date de l'instauration du système des quotas laitiers) que ne le laissait prévoir leurs statistiques officielles de l'époque. Un certain nombre d'Etats membres expriment de fortes réserves à l'égard de la demande italienne dans le contexte d'une baisse prévue de 2% de quotas laitiers sur les deux prochaines campagnes dans le cadre de la réforme de la PAC. Toutefois le Conseil Européen de Lisbonne a invité le Conseil "Agriculture" à trouver, si possible, une solution équilibrée au conflit.

Régime futur concernant le secteur de la banane. (doc. SEC(92)240)

La Présidence britannique a inscrit à l'ordre du jour du Conseil un débat d'orientation sur le régime futur concernant le secteur de la banane.

Pour mémoire, il faut créer un marché unique de la banane au 1.1.1993. La Commission avait arrêté, le 7 avril 1992, une position de principe sur ce dossier (cf. IP(92)281 du 8.4.1992).

Sur base de cette orientation, les services de la Commission ont procédé à de larges échanges de vue avec les parties intéressées (Etats membres, Etats ACP, Etats latino-américains producteurs, producteurs communautaires, professionnels du secteur et consommateurs)

Suite à ces échanges de vue, la Commission fera des propositions précises dans les meilleurs délais.

Uruguay Round - Volet agricole

Le Conseil procédera à son tour de table habituel sur les négociations du GATT. Mr Mac Sharry fera état des discussions qui ont eu lieu lors de la dernière réunion du G-7 à Munich.

Règlement du Conseil établissant des mesures communautaires de lutte contre la maladie de Newcastle.
(doc. COM(91)137).

La maladie de Newcastle est une maladie grave et contagieuse de la volaille. Elle est causée par un virus pouvant présenter des signes cliniques principalement chez le poulet mais aussi la dinde, le faisan, la perdrix, le pigeon, le canard et l'oie. La maladie se rencontre dans le monde entier et les oiseaux migrateurs peuvent en être le vecteur.

Le règlement mentionné en objet vise à établir des mesures ayant pour but d'éradiquer la maladie et d'en prévenir la propagation dans l'éventualité d'une apparition de cette maladie. Cette action consiste dans l'abattage systématique avec ou sans recours au vaccin.

Directive du Conseil modifiant la directive 89/662/CEE relative aux contrôles vétérinaires applicables dans les échanges intracommunautaires dans la perspective de la réalisation du marché intérieur. (doc. COM(92)211)

La présente directive prévoit la suppression au 1er juillet 1992 des contrôles vétérinaires effectués aux frontières sur l'ensemble des produits animaux. Elle prend en considération les progrès considérables réalisés dans le domaine de l'harmonisation vétérinaire intracommunautaire.

Amitiés,


B. Dethomas

Bruxelles, le 14 juillet 1992

**NOTE BIO(92)182 (suite 1) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
CC.: AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE PAROLE**

**CONSEIL AGRICULTURE (Bruxelles, le 13 juillet 1992)
(G. Kiely)**

Integrated Management and Control System:

The Commission presented a proposal to the Council to introduce a system of control of payments to farmers in the context of CAP reform.

Having examined the proposal the Special Agriculture Committee requested the Council for some guidance on a number of points i.e.

- (a) Financing
- (b) Date of implementation
- (c) Definition of Agricultural Parcels
- (d) Identification of animals
- (e) Annual declaration

Introducing the proposal Mr Mac Sharry said:

- given that Member States will incur costs for setting up the system, the Commission proposes Community financing of 115 MECU over 3 years
- it is essential that the annual farmer declaration operates from 1 January 1993
- that a system of numbering of plots of land is necessary and the definition of a plot of land should be done at Management Committee level
- that a single system of animal identification be used for both veterinary measures and for control purposes in relation to premia payments.

Ministers had mixed views on the question of funding varying from suggestions that no Community funding be made available to a substantial increase on the level proposed.

A number of Ministers expressed concern as to being in a position to implement the control system on 1 January 1993.

On the definition of land parcels, a number of Ministers want to leave the right to Member States to do this while others can accept a Community definition.

There is general agreement to have a single identification system.

Some Ministers are opposed to having an obligatory, annual declaration from farmers on the details of their production, animal numbers etc. Ministers also suggest that the deadline for making the declaration be later than proposed by the Commission i.e. 31 March.

All Ministers and the Commission insisted that the system must be simple and minimise bureaucracy, nevertheless, Mr Mac Sharry pointed out that a certain minimum level of rules are necessary to ensure equal and fair treatment for farmers throughout the Community.

Bananas:

Mr Mac Sharry outlined the Commission thinking on the future regime for bananas: as from 1 January 1993 to take account of the creation of the internal market i.e.

- an import quota which would be consolidated in GATT for \$ bananas, which could be increased each year
- on an autonomous basis the Community could adjust upward the amount of bananas that could be imported from the dollar zone, to take account of demand in the Community
- ACP bananas would enter the Community market at zero tariff.

This approach he said is balanced and respects the interests of Community producers and consumers together with those of ACP and dollar banana producers.

During the round table discussion there were differing views on the system which should be introduced, varying from market liberalisation, to higher quotas for dollar zone to ensuring protection for Community and ACP producers.

Food Quality:

The Council again discussed the food quality dossier i.e. geographical denominations and indications and certificate of specific character with the Presidency and Mr Mac Sharry urging Council to adopt the proposals on the basis of the compromise presented.

In essence the compromise provides for the preparation of a list of products considered to be generic (which cannot be registered) and that products already being legally marketed can continue to be sold.

The proposal was adopted on a qualified majority.

Drought:

A number of Ministers raised this matter and highlighted the serious problems confronting farmers (DE, DK, GR, ES).

In response Mr Mac Sharry said:

- set-aside land under the 5 year scheme can be used for grazing, but that the Commission had no power to give a derogation to allow grazing on land under the 1 year set-aside scheme
- oilseeds which are not of marketable quality can be used as feed and farmers will retain right to get the per hectare compensation
- a special action programme of 51 MECU is in preparation for Portugal
- if cattle slaughterings increase the Commission will act to ensure the market is not destabilised.
- he does not rule out the transfer of intervention grain to these areas, but on the basis of experience, this can cause problems by interfering with the market.
- he is prepared to examine any proposals aimed at alleviating the serious income situation, which could possibly be aided under the Community Support Framework
- cereals may be used under the dried fodder regime provided the 15% protein rule is respected.

Aid to offset losses in fruit and veg sector due to French truck-drivers dispute (Spain)

The Spanish Minister requested some aid to offset these losses. Mr Mac Sharry said that the Commission was not prepared to offer any compensation and pointed out that prices for Spanish products have not deteriorated.

Special measures to assist Greece on transport of fruit and vegetables:

Mr Mac Sharry informed Council that the aid available in 1991 to help Greece on fruit and vegetable transport due to problems created by the war in Yugoslavia would be continued at the same level in 1992 and would apply to consignments made since 1 January 1992 from Greece to Member States other than Italy, Spain and Portugal.

The Greek Minister requested a substantially higher level of aid.

Amitiés,


B. DETHOMAS

Bruxelles, le 14 juillet 1992

**NOTE BIO (92) 182 (suite 2) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
CC.: AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE PAROLE**

**CONSEIL AGRICULTURE (Bruxelles, le 14 juillet 1992)
(G. Kiely)**

1. Newcastle Disease - agreed

This decision aims at eradication and preventing the spread of Newcastle disease in the event of outbreaks occurring. The measures aim at stamping-out the disease with or without vaccine and carefully controlling the movement of poultry, poultry products, vehicles and any other substance liable to transmit the disease virus.

2. Veterinary checks on intra-Community trade: (Doc. 7886/92/7805/92)

The Council discussed and agreed a proposal aimed at completing the internal market as far as animal and animal products are concerned from a veterinary point of view.

3. Proposals for Council Regulations on the protection of Community's forests against atmospheric pollution and against fire

The proposals were largely agreed upon in the Council of 15/16 June except for the budgetary allocation for protection against forest fires - Commission proposal was for 95.2 MECU over 5 years i.e. 1992-96 (29.4 MECU is being allocated to the measures aimed at protecting against pollution). 43 MECU was expended on the measures during the five year period up to December 1991 and 13.7 MECU on the anti-pollution measures.

The Presidency suggested a compromise of 70 MECU for protection against fires (these budgetary figures are only indicative)

Some Ministers were of the view that forest protection against fires is a question of subsidiarity and questioned why finance should be made available from the Community.

Agreed unanimously.

4. Organic Agriculture:

Regulation 2092/91 sets up a harmonised framework for the labelling, production and inspection of agricultural foodstuffs bearing indications referring to organic production methods. This regulation provides for a control regime on products imported from third countries operable from 22 July 1992 whereby such products may only be imported from third countries appearing on a special list to be drawn up.

Many third countries however, have not been able to submit all the required information to arrive at an assessment of the conditions for recognition of equivalence.

A derogation was proposed allowing importers demonstrate to the competent authority in the Member State, the equivalence of the production and inspection arrangements applied to products they seek to import. This procedure can apply until 31.7.1995.

5. Italian Milk Quota Problem:

The Italian Minister informed the Council that the Government had drawn up a draft decree to deal with milk quotas and to show to the Community that they are prepared to act decisively in the application of the Community rules on milk quotas. It is their intention to allocate quotas individually to farmers, who will be responsible for respecting this quota and for paying penalties if it is exceeded. The Minister also informed Council that there would be a quota buy-up scheme for farmers who wished to cease milk production and through this scheme they expected to reduce production by purchasing quota of:

300,000 tonnes in 1992/93
650,000 tonnes in 1993/94
650,000 tonnes in 1994/95

Mr Mac Sharry said that milk production at 20% above quota was an intolerable situation but that it had to be recognised that the situation could not be resolved overnight. He appreciated the political difficulty this situation created for Ministers, but asked Ministers to appreciate the magnitude of the problem confronting the Italian Minister in his efforts to bring production back under control. Mr Mac Sharry outlined a framework under which he believed the problem may be resolved i.e.

- immediate steps to launch a quota buy-out scheme
- the effective application of the quota regime
- a report by Italy to the Commission confirming that these measures have been put into effect
- the transmission of this report to Council and if the conditions have been met, a proposal for the adaptation of the Italian quota.

The Presidency suggested that the Commission would detail its "framework at the Special Agricultural Committee and Council would come back to the matter at a later stage.

6. GATT:

Mr Mac Sharry updated the Council on the state of the negotiations on GATT, pointing out that no major progress had been made with the US on the main areas of difficulty i.e. green box, rebalancing, peace clause, volumetric limits on exports etc. Ministers who reacted regretted that the "US are not prepared to move closer to the Community's position and that concessions would have to be mutual and balanced".

A.O.B.

Watermelons: (Greece)

Greece requested support to offset the impact the Yugoslavian crisis was having on watermelon exports, pointing out that 44,000 tonnes were exported in 1991 to Yugoslavia while only 400 tonnes have been exported this year.

Mr Mac Sharry agreed to examine the situation.

Quality standards for intervention grain: (UK and Germany)

In response to a request for information on the minimum quality for intervention grain; Mr Mac Sharry pointed out that as there will be a single intervention price for wheat there should be a single set of minimum standards. Given that 98% of wheat bought into intervention is of breadmaking quality, it is only logical that the standards set should be of breadmaking quality. He pointed out however, that the standards set will not be very rigorous and that the Commission will keep the market situation under review to ensure that problems do not arise on the feed wheat market which should not occur given that there is intervention for barley whose market price is closely linked to that of feed wheat.

Member States will be allowed to choose a test other than the machine-ability test.

Next Council - September 21/22

Amitiés,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'B. Dethomas', with a double horizontal line underneath it.

B. DETHOMAS

En réponse à une question, M. Hurd a considéré que c'était à la Serbie et au Montenegro de décider s'ils voulaient rester ensemble. Dans la déclaration finale les Ministres ont manifesté leur opposition à la participation de la RFY aux travaux dans les enceintes internationales.

En ce qui concerne le nombre de réfugiés sur le territoire communautaire et au Royaume-Uni, le Président en exercice a affirmé ne pas disposer de chiffres. "S'ils existent, ils changent tous les jours" a-t-il dit.

DIS

Réfugiés

Lors de la réunion, M. Kinkel a déclaré à ses collègues que la question des réfugiés devait être absolument résolue. Il a proposé que les 12 reçoivent des réfugiés dans le cadre d'un contingent provisoire - surtout des femmes et des enfants. "Nous ne pouvons pas nous séparer sans rien faire de définitif. A douze, nous ne pouvons pas nous taire" a déclaré M. Kinkel.

Après un tour de table, il s'est révélé que trois délégation (B, E, UK) ne pouvaient pas accepter immédiatement la proposition de M. Kinkel. On a alors convenu d'insérer dans la déclaration finale sur la Yougoslavie une phrase disant que l'attention des ministres de la justice et de l'Intérieur serait attirée pour qu'ils analysent les modalités nécessaires à l'acceptation d'un contingent de réfugiés.

FIN DIS

Président Delors - Subsidiarité

Le Président, en réponse à un journaliste, a déclaré que la Commission avait informé le Conseil lundi qu'elle appliquerait les dispositions arrêtées à Lisbonne en matière de subsidiarité. "Qu'il s'agisse de règlements ou de directives nous devons les présenter au Conseil en tenant compte du principe de subsidiarité a dit M. Delors en soulignant qu'il fallait distinguer trois niveaux : celui de la décision, de l'exécution et du contrôle". L'environnement est une question qui ne connaît pas de frontières et qui nécessite une concertation trans-frontalière - a dit le Président.

Amitiés,
B. Dethomas.



Bruxelles, le 22 juillet 1992.

**NOTE BIO (92) 191 (suite 1 et fin) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
cc. aux Membres du Service du Porte-Parole**

**CONSEIL AFFAIRES GENERALES - CONFERENCE DE PRESSE -
(P. Figueiredo Lalssy)**

Lors de la Conférence de presse finale, Douglas Hurd a informé sommairement les journalistes des divers points traités au cours de la journée.

CE/ASEAN

M. Hurd a déclaré que les directives de négociation pour l'accord de coopération révisé avec l'ASEAN n'avaient pas pu être adoptées suite à la position de la Délégation portugaise. "Il n'a pas été possible d'avancer à cause de la Délégation portugaise", a-t-il dit.

Turquie

Pendant le déjeuner, les Ministres ont procédé à une "bonne" discussion globale sur base d'un "working paper" de la Présidence mais ont laissé le débat plus approfondi pour la session informelle des 12-13 septembre prochains.

Slovénie

Le mandat de négociation CE/Slovénie a été adopté en point "A". Le premier round de négociation aura lieu à Bruxelles le 22 juillet 92 (voir IP 605).

ex-Yougoslavie

M. Hurd a informé la presse de la communication qu'il avait faite au Conseil sur sa visite en ex-Yougoslavie et les contacts effectués sur place. Il a considéré que l'accord de cessez-le-feu signé en juillet était d'une importance vitale. Il a cependant ajouté qu'il fallait attendre deux ou trois jours pour voir si le cessez-le-feu était violé ou si, au contraire, il avait une chance d'être respecté. Selon M. Hurd deux questions sont importantes : le respect des droits des minorités et le processus d'aide aux réfugiés.

Il a également exprimé son appréciation pour le travail des moniteurs européens sur place.

En ce qui concerne la Conférence de paix, il a considéré qu'il fallait l'élargir et l'intensifier, ajoutant que la Communauté avait accordé 120 Mécus d'aide d'urgence. Il a également fait référence à l'appui donné par la Communauté à la Conférence organisée par Mme Ogata le 29 juillet à Genève, tout en soulignant le grave problème de l'afflux de réfugiés dans les pays voisins de l'ex-Yougoslavie et les efforts continus qui devraient être faits tant au niveau de la Communauté européenne que de l'ONU.