



COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES  
GENERAL SECRETARIAT



**PRESS RELEASE**

10082/92 (Presse 210)

1617th Council meeting

**AGRICULTURE**

Brussels, 16 and 17 November 1992

**President: Mr John GUMMER**  
**Minister for Agriculture,**  
**Fisheries and Food of**  
**the United Kingdom**

16/17.XI.92

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

Belgium:

Mr André BOURGEOIS Minister for Agriculture

Denmark:

Mr Laurits TOERNAES Minister for Agriculture

Mr Nils BERNSTEIN State Secretary 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

Greece:

Mr Sotirios HATZIGAKIS Minister for Agriculture

Spain:

Mr Pedro SOLBES MIRA Minister for Agriculture

France:

Mr Jean-Pierre SOISSON Minister for Agriculture

Ireland:

Mr Joe WALSH Minister for Agriculture and Food

Italy:

Mr Giovanni FONTANA 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

United Kingdom:

Mr John GUMMER Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Mr David CURRY Minister of State, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

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Commission:

Mr Ray MAC SHARRY Member

ADJUSTMENT OF THE AGRI-MONETARY SYSTEM

Pending the European Parliament's Opinion, the Council re-examined this issue, which relates to adapting the agri-monetary system following the abolition of border controls from 1.1.1993, in the run-up to the single market.

Although a majority of delegations did not question the need to abolish MCAs from 1 January 1993, there were still difficulties with some points of the proposal.

During the discussion the Council focused its full attention on one of the main problems, namely whether to abandon or retain the switch-over system. It examined two options:

- retaining switch-over for a specific period with subsequent transition to a system like that proposed by the Commission;
- or retaining switch-over with a future review of the situation in the agri-monetary sector.

At the end of its proceedings the Council recorded that the positions reached that day required more detailed examination. It accordingly charged the SCA with that work, with a view to enabling the Council to conclude its proceedings at its December meeting.

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Acting on a proposal from the Commission, the Council decided to reduce the monetary gap for the green pound, which had led to an 8-point decrease in the present MCAs.

That realignment of the British green rate represents a 7,5% increase in agricultural institutional prices in national currency.

#### GATT-Agriculture

On the basis of an introductory exposé by Mr MAC SHARRY, Member of the Commission, the Council held a detailed discussion on current progress in the Uruguay Round negotiations, including the problems in the oilseed sector.

During the discussion delegations were anxious to draw attention to the main points to which a positive solution should be found in those negotiations.

At the end of the discussion the President noted the will to make every endeavour to reach a globally satisfactory result in line with the conclusions of the Birmingham European Council.

In reply to a number of questions, Mr MAC SHARRY stated that, in accordance with the undertaking given at the General Affairs Council meeting on 9 November 1992, the Commission would be reporting in good time on the compatibility of the result of the negotiations with the reform of the CAP, and confirmed that the negotiations he was conducting fell within the framework of that reform.

#### FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS IN THE BANANA SECTOR

The Council carried out a further examination of the political and technical aspects of the Commission proposal on the introduction of a common organization of the market in bananas, confirming that there were divergent positions on the proposal.

With a view to the 1 January 1993 deadline, the Council instructed the SCA to continue its work on the matter and to report to it at its next meeting, in December 1992.

CONSOLIDATION AND SIMPLIFICATION OF THE MILK QUOTA SCHEME

The above Commission proposal had been submitted in the context of the reform of the CAP with a view in particular to simplifying the milk quota system and consolidating the various texts on the matter.

Detailed technical work on the issue had been carried out since, and significant progress had been made. There nevertheless remained three main issues which were submitted to the Council at the current meeting, namely:

- the mechanism for collecting the additional levy (single form or retention of the present forms A and B);
- the leasing of unused quotas (optional or compulsory scheme for Member States);
- the transfer of quotas (greater flexibility or not as regards the link with the land).

At the end of its discussion the Council instructed the SCA to continue its work with a view to reaching agreement as soon as possible.

APPLICATION OF THE MILK QUOTA SYSTEM IN ITALY

The Council heard a statement by Mr FONTANA, Minister for Agriculture, informing it of the final adoption by the Italian Parliament of the law adopting urgent measures in the milk sector which adapted the Italian quota system to Community rules, and of a first programme to reduce milk production which, as at 30 September 1992, covered 345 000 tonnes.

Mr MAC SHARRY, Member of the Commission, joined the Italian Government in welcoming the measures adopted and confirmed that the Commission was monitoring the introduction of the new system in close contact with the Italian authorities. He stated that, on the basis of developments, the Commission might be in a position to submit a proposal to the Council in the near future.

In conclusion the Council agreed to return to the matter at its next meeting, in December 1992.

ADJUSTMENT OF THE COMMON ORGANIZATION OF THE MARKET IN BEEF AND VEAL

Pending the European Parliament's Opinion, the Council continued examining the above proposal, which follows on from the commitments entered into by the Commission when the reform of the CAP was adopted in June 1992.

The principle of the Commission proposal, covering three aspects, was welcomed by several delegations, but it is still subject to reservations on the part of some others.

During the meeting the Council paid particular attention to the element of the proposal aimed at extending eligibility for the suckler-cow premium to producers whose milk production reference quantity is between 60 000 kg and 120 000 kg and especially to the detailed procedures for allocating premiums to those producers and for control; delegations made various proposals regarding those detailed procedures.

The other two aspects of the proposal, viz. the deseasonalization premium and the definition of suckler cows in the new German Länder, were also discussed.

At the end of its discussion the Council instructed the SCA to seek solutions to the problems in question.

#### TRANSPORT OF CERTAIN FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLES FROM GREECE

Pending the European Parliament's Opinion, the Council reached a favourable position on the proposal providing for continuing the special aid granted for the transport of certain fresh fruit and vegetables from Greece for 1991, to offset the consequences of the situation in the former Yugoslavia.

The proposal provides for granting the operators concerned a temporary special allowance in 1992 and 1993 for as long as the conflict in the territories of the former Yugoslavia is such as to preclude normal use of traditional road and rail routes across those territories.

The Council will adopt the Regulation following the European Parliament's Opinion.

INTEGRATED ADMINISTRATION AND CONTROL SYSTEM

On the basis of a compromise text, the Council approved by a qualified majority the Regulation aimed at establishing a common framework for the introduction in each Member State of an integrated administration and control system.

Such a system proved necessary following the reform of the CAP, which introduced a mechanism of compensatory aid linked to the area under crops or the number of animals held per farmer. It is directed in particular at setting up a computerized database enabling farms, their parcels and their eligible animals to be listed. This new approach should therefore be a harmonized, efficient control system.

IDENTIFICATION AND REGISTRATION OF ANIMALS

After noting that the European Parliament had not yet been able to deliver its Opinion, the Council decided to defer examination of the item relating to the identification and registration of animals until a forthcoming meeting.

It instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to prepare for its final discussions in the meantime.



OTHER DECISIONS IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

The Council adopted a Decision authorizing the Commission to participate in the preparatory work for the Protocol extending the Agreement on Olive Oil and Table Olives and in the Conference within the UNCED scheduled for early 1993 in Geneva, which will take the decision on the adoption of that Protocol.

The Council adopted the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 234/68 on the common organization of the market in live trees and other plants, bulbs, roots and the like, cut flowers and ornamental foliage. The purpose is to include chicory plants and roots in the common organization of the market in this sector.

Organisms harmful to plants or plant products

The Council adopted the Directive amending Annex V to Directive 77/93/EEC on protective measures against the introduction into the Community of organisms harmful to plants or plant products and against their spread within the Community.

This amending Directive supplements the plant-health rules introduced by Directive 91/683/EEC of 19 December 1991.

Hops

The Council adopted Regulations amending Regulations (EEC) Nos:

- 1981/82 drawing up the list of Community regions in which production aid for hops is granted only to recognized producer groups. The amendment involves supplementing the list in question by adding 3 German regions, viz. "Sachsen, Sachsen-Anhalt and Thüringen";
- 2997/87 laying down, in respect of hops, the amount of aid to producers for the 1986 harvest and providing for special measures for certain regions of production. This amendment, which concerns the conversion plan scheme provided for in the said Regulation, became necessary as a result of German unification and of practical problems experienced by some Member States (United Kingdom and Portugal in particular) in implementing conversion measures.

The Council also adopted the Regulation laying down the amount of aid to producers for the 1991 harvest. That aid is ECU 340/ha for all varieties (aromatic, bitter and other).

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Relations with Morocco

As the European Parliament had delivered its Opinion at its sitting on 28 October 1992, the Council adopted the Decision concerning the conclusion of the 4th Protocol on financial and technical co-operation between the EEC and the Kingdom of Morocco.

It should be pointed out that the Protocol covers the period up to 31 October 1996 and relates to an aggregate amount of ECU 438 million, made up of:

- ECU 220 million in the form of EIB loans from its own resources;
- ECU 193 million from the Community's budgetary resources, in the form of grants;
- ECU 25 million from the Community's budgetary resources, in the form of contributions to risk capital formation.

Relations with Syria

As the European Parliament had given its assent at its sitting on 28 October, the Council adopted the Decision on the conclusion of the 3rd Protocol on financial and technical co-operation between the EEC and the Syrian Arab Republic.

It should be pointed out that the Protocol covers an amount of ECU 146 million, made up of:

- ECU 110 million in the form of EIB loans from its own resources;
- ECU 34 million from the Community's budgetary resources, in the form of grants;
- ECU 2 million from the EEC's budgetary resources, in the form of contributions to risk capital formation;
- part of the grants will be made in the form of a 2% interest-rate subsidy on EIB loans, with the exception of those concerning the oil sector.

PHARE programme - Council conclusions

1. The Council reviewed the experience of the Community's PHARE programme of economic assistance to the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, with a view to its future evolution. It noted that the PHARE programme is an essential element in the wider political framework of the Community's efforts to reinforce the consolidation, through the negotiation of new Trade and Co-operation and Association Agreements, technical, financial and humanitarian assistance and the Community's participation in the G-24 process.
2. The Council emphasized the important role played in the PHARE programme to date in developing the Community's relations with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. By the end of 1992 the PHARE programme will have committed ECU 2,250 million in financial assistance. The Council welcomed the significant contribution PHARE has made in assisting the process of economic and social reform and the development of the private sector, as well as in providing a rapid and effective Community response to short-term humanitarian emergencies. The Council encouraged the Commission to continue to evaluate the experience of the PHARE programme to date. In particular, it invited the Commission to devote part of its annual report on the PHARE programme in 1992 to this purpose.
3. The Council confirmed its commitment to the provision of adequate funding in accordance with the applicable financial perspective and established budgetary procedures. Within that context the PHARE programme will increasingly adopt a multiannual programming approach. Without instituting a multiannual commitment, this should permit PHARE to continue to play a central role into the medium term in supporting the further political and economic restructuring of the countries of the region and the strengthening of civic society, and in preparing the Associates among them for the Community membership which they seek. It emphasized that this support should respond flexibly to the differing levels of economic development, stages of structural adjustment and progress with reform reached in each of the beneficiary countries. In this context the Council noted that a multiannual programming approach will permit a more effective integration of PHARE assistance into the medium-term economic programme of the beneficiary. For countries at a mature stage of reform, this would be through a policy dialogue to determine priorities and to agree appropriate contributions from the PHARE programme to key components of the beneficiaries' economic programme, subject to the achievement of specific reforms. For the other countries provision of support in appropriate forms to programmes in

specific sectors would continue. The Council noted that the principle of concentration would continue to apply to ensure effective use of funds.

4. The Council noted that PHARE's purpose in support of political reform and economic restructuring could not be satisfactorily achieved where the reform process in a PHARE recipient country faltered seriously. It therefore encouraged the Commission to take into account, when judging the level and intensity of assistance provided to each country, the extent and progress of that country's reform effort, and to offer an assessment in the annual report made to the Council and the European Parliament.
5. To provide a basis for policy dialogue and design of assistance, the Council called on the Commission to develop further its economic and sectoral analysis of the reform process and its appraisal of related assistance programmes. This is based on the definition in advance of programme objectives, policy targets and appropriate arrangements for implementation, monitoring and ex-post evaluation. Within the limits necessary for the maintenance of this aid quality and the capacity of recipient institutions, the Council encouraged the Commission to seek ways, in the context of future multiannual programming, of streamlining implementation procedures to increase decentralization, including the strengthening of institutional capacity of ministries in partner States. It called upon the Commission to ensure that the implementation procedures, while remaining consistent with these requirements and with the need for transparency, do not impose undue constraints on recipient governments.
6. The Council underlined the need to maintain close co-ordination between recipients and donors, in particular the International Financial Institutions, in support of a single and coherent programme of reforms in each country. In this context the Council underlined the importance of the G-24 process in supporting reform in partner countries, and expressed appreciation for the role of the Commission as G-24 co-ordinator.
7. The Council also invited the Commission to pay particular attention to co-ordination between PHARE programmes and similar assistance programmes of Member States. It asked the Commission to examine the various ways in which co-financing between PHARE and Member States might be promoted.

8. The Council considered that the specific contribution of PHARE should continue to be the provision of economic assistance in the form of grants to finance measures central to the process of reform and economic restructuring. This assistance will continue to focus on the provision of technical co-operation and related equipment. In the light of the evolving needs of beneficiary countries, it may increasingly cover as required other forms of support to stimulate investment in key public sectors such as health or education and pilot housing schemes, and financing mechanisms or other measures to promote and mobilize productive investment. The last should be targeted to appropriate uses such as the development of small and medium-sized enterprises, actions in the context of regional reconversion, environmental improvement or agricultural restructuring. These actions should be channelled through pre-appraised intermediaries and should be accompanied by technical assistance. These intermediaries should inter alia help to ensure that any revolving funds created maintain their value and are re-utilized for similar purposes. The Council invited the Commission and the EIB to work out suitable operational arrangements with regard to financial mechanisms complementary to EIB loans in order to associate the Bank as appropriate in the development and support of productive investment within the framework of the rules, procedures and competences of the respective Community institutions. Full co-operation should be developed with the EBRD and as appropriate with other multilateral institutions such as the World Bank to ensure complementarity and maximize effectiveness in the use of funds.

The Commission will inform Council bodies of the modalities of co-operation which it will develop respectively with the EIB and the EBRD.

9. The Council recognized the positive impact of the PHARE programme in encouraging regional co-operation between the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. PHARE assistance may increasingly be directed to joint projects, in keeping with the priorities of beneficiary countries, in areas such as infrastructure policy development, environment and intra-regional trade promotion. The Council also noted the possibilities which exist for cross-border co-operation with Member States.

10. The Council stressed the particular importance of PHARE assistance in the field of nuclear safety. The Commission will pay special attention to the efficiency of its implementation in this area. Where regional co-operation with the ex-USSR is called for, including in the area of nuclear safety, the Council asked the Commission to ensure that PHARE and TACIS assistance are used in a concerted fashion.
11. Though not central to its vocation, PHARE may continue to provide humanitarian aid within clear limits, and only in particular circumstances where unforeseeable needs arise and for especially disadvantaged groups.
12. For countries in the early stages of restructuring and facing exceptional difficulties that could jeopardize social and economic stability, for which import support on loan terms is inappropriate, the provision of limited import supply programmes may be considered in the context of economic aid.
13. The Council underlined the importance it attaches to transparency on the part of the Commission in operating the programme. There should be a close and effective dialogue between the Commission and the representatives of the Member States in the management Committee on the development of the PHARE programme in the context of a multiannual planning framework. An annual review of the PHARE programme and its guidelines will be an essential instrument of evaluation. As well as consulting the Management Committee on the selection and design of programmes as outlined in paragraph 4 the Commission will also provide regular and timely information on its monitoring and ex-post evaluation of existing projects and operations including the rate of disbursement achieved. It will also inform the Committee of significant changes in organizational and operational procedures.
14. Where projects are to be implemented through private enterprises, their success will depend to a large extent on an optimal choice of contractor. A transparent and competitive basis for selection as provided for in the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget and in the PHARE Regulation is essential for this. The Council welcomed the Commission's agreement to provide the Management Committee with six-monthly reports detailing the results of contract awards.

Relations with the EFTA countries

The Council approved, for the Community's part, the draft Decisions of the EEC-EFTA countries Joint Committees amending Protocol No 3 concerning the definition of the concept of "originating products" and methods of administrative co-operation.

The amendments in question relate to a relaxation of the rule of origin governing certain plastic constructional toys.

Research

The Council adopted Decisions:

- extending the status of "Kernkraftwerk Lingen GmbH" as a Joint Undertaking;
- extending the conferment of advantages on the "Kernkraftwerk Lingen GmbH" and "Hochtemperatur-Kernkraftwerk GmbH" Joint Undertakings.





Bruxelles, le 13 novembre 1992

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**NOTE BIO(92)281 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX  
CC.: AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE PAROLE**

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**Conseil Agriculture (Bruxelles, les 16 et 17 novembre 1992)  
(G. Kiely)**

Le Conseil des Communautés Européennes tiendra sa 1617ème session - Agriculture - lundi 16 novembre à partir de 15h et mardi 17 novembre 1992 au Bâtiment Charlemagne à Bruxelles, sous la présidence de Mr John Gummer, Ministre de l'Agriculture du Royaume-Uni. L'ordre du jour comportera les points suivants:

**Approbation de la liste des points "A"**

**Proposition de règlement (CEE) du Conseil relatif à l'unité de compte et aux taux de conversion à appliquer dans le cadre de la politique agricole commune (doc. COM(92)275)**

Elle vise à adapter le régime agrimonétaire à la suppression des contrôles aux frontières nécessaire à la réalisation du marché unique du 1.1.1993.

Au cours du dernier Conseil Agricole des 26 et 27 octobre 1992, et à la lumière des récents événements monétaires, les délégations ont passé en revue toutes les questions faisant difficulté, notamment l'abandon ou le maintien, au moins à titre provisoire, du système du switch-over, l'aide compensatoire, le démantèlement des écarts monétaires, après les travaux du CSA de ces dernières semaines deux options restent possibles:

Option A:                    maintien du switch-over pour une période déterminée

Option B:                    maintien du switch-over et réexamen après deux ans

**Proposition de règlement (CEE) du Conseil portant organisation commune des marchés dans le secteur de la banane (doc. COM(92)359)**

Il est rappelé que le régime comporte, d'une part, un volet interne caractérisé par la création d'une part, un volet interne caractérisé par la création d'une organisation commune de marché, basée sur un système de normes de qualité et d'aides structurelles, afin d'accroître la compétitivité de la production communautaire et, d'autre part, un volet externe se penchant sur la nécessité de respecter l'équilibre entre les intérêts en présence (principe de la préférence communautaire, respect des engagements à l'égard des pays ACP et dans le cadre du GATT, prise en compte des intérêts des autres pays tiers). Ce volet comporte l'ouverture d'un contingent d'importation avec des modalités de gestion (partenariat en particulier), le régime d'importation pays tiers proposé présupposant au waiver au GATT (dérogation).

En outre, la Commission a complété ce dispositif par une proposition concernant le régime futur applicable aux échanges avec les ACP; par ailleurs elle a l'intention de proposer la création d'un fonds de diversification et de développement en faveur des pays exportateurs Latino-Américains.

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

Deux questions restent à l'ordre du jour:

- quelle est la date la plus appropriée pour la présentation de la demande d'aide "surface" concernant les cultures arables
- cofinancement communautaire: la Commission propose de participer, pour une période de trois ans et à titre d'aide au démarrage, à certaines dépenses correspondant à la création des systèmes intégrés, à savoir la mise en place des structures informatiques et de contrôles ainsi que l'acquisition de photographies aériennes ou d'images spatiales et de leur analyse.

**Codification et simplification du régime des quotas laitiers: proposition de régl. (CEE) établissant un prélèvement supplémentaire dans le secteur du lait et des produits laitiers. (doc. COM(91)409)**

Le groupe de travail "Produits laitiers" a travaillé sur la base d'un nouveau texte qui tient compte des observations formulées par les différentes délégations et qui est basé sur les trois principes suivants:

- codification
- simplification
- flexibilité

Quelques points importants restent en discussion:

- disposition pour les nouveaux Länder
- question des 4,5% de quotas "suspendus"
- leasing et transferts de quotas

**Application du régime des quotas laitiers en Italie**

Lors du dernier Conseil Agricole, le Ministre Italien de l'Agriculture, Mr G. Fontana, apporta des précisions sur les mesures envisagées par son pays et dont la procédure d'adoption est en cours. L'excédant de production en Italie par rapport au chiffre du quota est de 2,5 millions de tonnes.

- L'Italie se propose de réduire ses quantités (1,6 m de tonnes) en 3 ans, en partie par un système de rachat. En revanche, elle revendique une augmentation de son quota de 900.000 tonnes (2,5 mt moins 1,6mt).

Le processus législatif et la mise en oeuvre des mesures n'étant pas encore achevé en Italie. Le Conseil n'avait pas souhaité, lors du dernier Conseil Agricole, engager des réflexions conclusives.

**Proposition de régl. du Conseil modifiant le régle. (CEE) no 805/68 portant organisation commune des marchés dans le secteur de la viande bovine (doc. COM(92)408)**

La Commission a transmis au Conseil en date du 1er octobre 1992, la proposition citée en objet au Conseil. Elle porte sur 3 éléments:

- la prime de désaisonnalisation qui devrait concerner les bovins mâles castrés au lieu des bovins mâles.
- l'extension du bénéfice de la prime à la vache allaitante aux producteurs dont la quantité de référence est inférieure à 120,000 kg (au lieu de 60,000 kg) moyennant la suppression de la limitation à 10 animaux.
- la reconnaissance comme vaches allaitantes dans les nouveaux Länder allemands des vaches laitières saillies ou inséminées par un taureau de race à viande pour autant qu'elles fassent partie d'un troupeau destiné à l'élevage de veaux à viande.

**Proposition de régl. (CEE) du conseil prévoyant des mesures spéciales pour le transport de certains fruits et légumes en provenance de Grèce.**

Il s'agit d'accorder une indemnité spéciale temporaire en 1992 et 1993 tant que la situation de conflit qui existe sur les territoires de l'ancienne Yougoslavie ne peut permettre l'utilisation normale des itinéraires routiers et ferroviaires traditionnels à travers ces territoires pour la commercialisation des fruits et légumes Grecs.

**GATT - Agriculture**

- Panel soya
- Uruguay Round - volet agricole

Le Conseil procédera à un échange de vue sur l'état de négociations GATT après la réunion de Chicago, la semaine dernière, entre Mr Mac Sharry et son homologue américain Mr Madigan.

**Proposition de règlement du Conseil concernant l'identification et l'enregistrement des animaux. (doc. COM(92) 148)**

La nécessité d'un tel système d'identification permettant de remonter à l'exploitation d'origine dans le cas des échanges intracommunautaires avait été souligné lors de l'adoption de la directive 90/425/CEE relative à la suppression des contrôles vétérinaires aux frontières des Etats membres. Cette proposition va au-delà de cet objectif puisque, en liaison avec la proposition sur le contrôle intégré (doc. COM(91)533), elle prévoit d'étendre ce système à l'ensemble du mouvement des animaux pour les besoins du régime de contrôle de primes pour les bovins, ovins et caprins.

**Proposition de directive du Conseil modifiant l'annexe V de la directive 73/63/CEE concernant les mesures de protection contre l'introduction dans les Etats membres d'organismes nuisibles aux végétaux ou produits végétaux. (doc. COM(92)265)**

Cette proposition vise à compléter la nouvelle réglementation phytosanitaire mise en place par la directive 91/683/CEE, il s'agit de soumettre les végétaux et produits végétaux originaires de la Communauté à un examen phytosanitaire, avant tout mouvement dans la Communauté.

Pour ceux originaire de pays tiers ils doivent être soumis, avant leur introduction dans la Communauté à un examen phytosanitaire et à la délivrance d'un certificat phytosanitaire de réexpédition de la part du pays d'origine ou d'expédition.

**Proposition de règlement du Conseil modifiant le règlement (CEE) no 1799/87 relatif au régime particulier d'importation de maïs et de sorgho en Espagne pour la période 1987-1991 (doc. COM(92)168)**

La Présidence a l'intention de demander l'inscription de ce point à l'ordre du jour pour obtenir une orientation politique du Conseil en attendant l'avis du Parlement.

Amitiés,

B. DETHOMAS

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Agri-monetary:

Mr Mac Sharry emphasised the contradiction of maintaining the switch-over mechanism and CAP reform given that it can lead to price increases (14.5% to date). The switch-over mechanism he said has already resulted in a substantial increase in CAP expenditure and questioned whether it is necessary to increase prices in all countries so as to offset the impact on farmers in one country of a revaluation. He pointed out that the Commission is flexible but stressed that a solution must be found before January 1st 1993. On the basis of the discussion virtually all Member States accept that MCA's must be abolished on January 1st. However most delegations favour maintaining the switch-over mechanism either for a fixed period or else with a review at some future date (1996 was suggested by some countries).

Green Pound Devaluation:

As MCA's must be abolished by January 1st it is considered necessary to avoid speculative movements on the markets and for this reason it has been proposed to dismantle part of the monetary gap. The new green rate for the UK is 0.818896 and will apply from 19.11.1993 (present rate is 0.818896). The result of this is:

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Monetary Gap				
-----				
Real		Applied		
-----				
Old	New	Old	New	Price Increase
-----				
- 14.392	- 6.385	- 12.9	- 4.9	7.527
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i.e. a 7.527% increase in institutional prices for agricultural products in the UK, when measured in national currency;



Income of sheepmeat producers:

This matter was raised by the Irish delegation who argued that a single ewe premium throughout the Community does not compensate Irish producers for the exceptional fall in prices this year (the first year of the single premium).

Responding Mr Mac Sharry said that the Irish problem has arisen from a combination of problems including a fall in Irish prices at a time when EC prices on average have increased. In the longer term the reform of the regime will ease the situation. It is difficult he said to find a solution which would not reopen the sheepmeat regime of the reform package. Nevertheless the Commission will continue to explore ways of alleviating the difficulties and will come forward with ideas as soon as possible.

Bananas:

Introducing the debate Mr Mac Sharry said that the difficulties arising on this issue are the conflicting obligations i.e. those under the Treaty of Rome to our own producers, those to ACP countries under Lome and to third country suppliers under our GATT obligations. One of the objectives of the Commission proposal is to avoid placing an excessive burden on consumers. The need to seek a GATT waiver is the necessary consequence of the need to reconcile our conflicting obligations. Third countries he said should appreciate that we will be giving access to a unified market which will promote growth in the market and will allow third countries' suppliers to benefit from this increase. Member State positions have not changed much since the last discussion, particularly on the external aspect with views varying from having tariffication, to lower quotas to higher quotas. On the compensation aspect views varied from demands for permanent non-degressive compensation to temporary, selective, degressive compensation. The discussion continues on Tuesday.

GATT:

This discussion was held in restricted session. In summary the view was that the Commission must continue to make every effort to conclude a global balanced deal on GATT and that it must be compatible with the CAP Reform framework. There was general support for the Commission position in the negotiations. Mr Mac Sharry said he was pleased with the discussion.

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\*\*END OF DOCUMENT REACHED\*\*

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NO D ACCES : 59463  
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Bananas:

The Council resumed its discussions this morning on bananas with little progress i.e. diverging views were confirmed.

Responding Mr Mac Sharry said that the internal market would be a reality from January 1st and account must be taken of this in regard to the banana regime. While he accepted that some delegations were making an attempt to negotiate on the Commission proposal, others had not yet accepted the basic thrust of the proposal. He expressed the view that there was now a responsibility on these latter delegations to come forward with their proposals keeping in mind that a qualified majority must be obtained.

Presidency sent this matter back to the Special Agriculture Committee with a strong demand that a solution be found.

Integrated System of Control and Administration for certain Community Schemes. This Commission proposal is aimed at controlling the payment of Community aids to farmers and includes computerized data bases, farmer aid applications and teledetection controls.

Council was able to agree on the outstanding issues i.e.

- date for submission of applications for aid is maintained at March 31st except for 1993 when the deadline will be May 15th and in subsequent years the deadline can be up to May 15th exceptionally.
- an amount of Community financing of 115m ECU for the period 1992-1994 was agreed after which the Commission will present a report on whether or not further financing is appropriate.
- the deadline for implementation of the legislation will be 1.2.1993 rather than 1.1.1993.
- a single application may cover area and animal aid or there may be separate applications.

This proposal was adopted - the European Parliament has already given its opinion.



#### Identification and Registration of animals:

As a Parliament opinion has not yet been given it was agreed to send the proposal back to COREPER to prepare it for a decision at the next Council.

#### Greek Transport aid for certain fresh fruit and vegetables:

Council gave a political support to this proposal which is an extension of the transport aid regime agreed last year to help Greece with the cost of exports to Italy, Spain and Portugal, as a result of the problems in former Yugoslavia.

#### Beef:

The Council discussed the proposals on the beef sector i.e.

- extending the suckler cow premium regime to milk producers with a quota of 120,000 kgs or less
- applying the deseasonalisation premium to steers only
- allowing a temporary derogation for the new German Laander on the definition of beef cows.

Most of the discussion focused on the extension of the beef cow regime. While Ministers showed some flexibility on the matter the proposal is not yet at the stage of agreement.

Some Ministers argued that the measure should apply to disadvantaged areas only. The question of the cost of the measure was also raised. It was also suggested that Community reserve of 700,000 head be created and divided among Member States on the basis of certain criteria.

The proposal will be discussed by the SCA and again at Council in December.

#### Italian Milk Quota:

Minister Fontana informed the Council that the special legislation on the application of the milk quota regime in Italy has now been fully adopted by the Government and he believed that this demonstrated Italy's commitment to fulfilling its responsibilities. While a number of Ministers expressed reservations on granting Italy an increase in quota, at a time when other milk quotas are being reduced, the Italian Minister urged Council to take a decision on this in December.



A.O.B.

Imports of maize and sorghum into Spain:

These special arrangements agreed in 1987 were extended in 1991. A decision has already been taken to extend the measure until 31 December 1992 and Council was asked to give an orientation on the implementing regulations (no Parliament opinion yet). The amount of product involved is 2m tonnes of maize and 300,000 tonnes of sorghum.

The Commission wants an early decision to avoid all of the product being imported all at once.

The Presidency noted a political qualified majority.

Common marketing standards for eggs and poultrymeat:

The German Ministers asked the Commission to make proposals to tighten up measures to ensure proper hygiene standards, temperature control etc. are respected to protect human health.

Responding Mr Mac Sharry pointed out that some of the measures suggested by the Minister had already been proposed by the Commission and were rejected by Council. He also said that some of the requests which need a Council decision have already been submitted to Council, i.e.

- an uninterrupted cool chain for eggs from producer to consumer
- to provide for a compulsory indication of best-before-date

He also asked that a Council working party deal with a proposal for amending marketing standards for poultrymeat.

Durum Wheat:

France requested an extension of the durum wheat aid to certain Overseas Departments. Commission is examining situation.

December Council date - 14/15/16 December.

A special dinner will be hosted by the Presidency to say farewell to Mr Mac Sharry on December 14th.

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\*\*END OF DOCUMENT REACHED\*\*

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