

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

1679th meeting of the Council

- General Affairs -

Brussels, 19-20 July 1993

The official press release was unavailable. A summary of the meeting has been reproduced from the Bulletin of the European Communities, No. 7/8-1993.

1679th meeting

1.6.4. General affairs (Brussels, 19 and 20 July).

Previous meeting: Bull. EC 6-1993, point 1.6.6

President: Mr Claes, Belgian Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Commission: Mr Delors, Sir Leon Brittan, Mr van den Broek, Mr Marín, Mr Pinheiro, Mr Flynn, Mr Millan and Mr Vanni d'Archirafi.

Main items

- Reform of Structural Funds: six Regulations adopted (→ points 1.2.114 to 1.2.120).**
- Applications for membership by Cyprus and Malta: conclusions adopted (→ point 1.3.2).**
- Relations with Slovenia: Decision concluding the economic and commercial cooperation Agreement (→ point 1.3.25), the Protocol concerning financial cooperation (→ point 1.3.26) and the transport agreement (→ point 1.2.108) adopted and assent given to the conclusion by the Commission of the ECSC Agreement (→ point 1.3.24).**
- Relations with the former Soviet Union — TACIS: Regulation adopted (→ point 1.3.15).**

Other business

- Relations with Parliament: exchange of views.**
- Voting rights and eligibility for Parliament elections: general discussion.**
- Former Yugoslavia: exchange of views.**
- Somalia: exchange of views.**
- Pact on stability in Europe: working party set up.**
- Export controls on certain dual-use goods and technologies: progress report.**
- Uruguay Round: progress report on negotiations.**
- Relations with the ACP States: discussed.**
- Western Economic Summit: reports presented.**
- EC-Japan Summit: reports presented.**
- Relations with Tunisia: discussed.**

Development, coordination and implementation of policies and measures

Reference: Conclusions of Edinburgh European Council: Bull. EC 12-1992, points I.53 to I.55

1.2.114. On 19 July the Council, following the decisions taken at Edinburgh and after consultation with the other institutions, adopted six Structural Fund Regulations (→ *points 1.2.115 to 1.2.120*) establishing the legislative framework for operations during the financial period 1994 to 1999 and incorporating new Community priorities in regard to economic and social cohesion, as indicated in the Protocol to the Treaty on European Union, and improvements suggested by experience of operating the Funds.

The main changes are the recasting of Objective 3 to group the present Objective 3 (combating long-term unemployment) and Objective 4 (occupational integration of young people) and which also helps to integrate people of categories liable to exclusion from the labour market; a new Objective 4 designed to help workers adapt to industrial change and the introduction of new production systems; and provisions geared to the impact of the reform of the common agricultural policy and the need for restructuring in the fisheries sector, with a specific instrument (FIFG) set up for the latter.

Changes of a more general nature are designed to improve application of the partnership, programming and additionality principles and boost monitoring.

The regions eligible under Objective 1 (areas where development is lagging behind) will be Hainaut in Belgium, the five new *Länder* and East Berlin in Germany, the whole of Greece, Andalusia, Asturias, the Canary Islands, Cantabria, Castile-Leon, Castile-La Mancha, Ceuta-Melilla, Extremadura, Galicia, Murcia and Valencia in Spain, the overseas departments, Corsica and the districts of Avesnes, Douai and Valenciennes for France, the whole of Ireland, Abruzzi (1994 to 1996), Apulia, Basilicata, Calabria, Campania, Molise, Sardinia and Sicily in Italy, Flevoland in the Netherlands, the whole of Portugal and for the United Kingdom highlands and islands, Merseyside and Northern Ireland.

1.2.115. Council Regulation (EEC) No 2081/93 amending Regulation (EEC) No 2052/88 on the tasks of the Structural Funds and their effectiveness and on coordination of their activities between themselves and with the operations of the European Investment Bank and the other existing financial instruments.

Regulation amended: Council Regulation (EEC) No 2052/88, 24.6.1988: OJ L 185, 15.7.1988; Bull. EC 6-1988, point 2.1.159

Commission approval: Bull. EC 1/2-1993, point 1.2.121

Commission proposal: OJ C 118, 28.4.1993; COM(93) 67; Bull. EC 3-1993, point 1.2.80

Economic and Social Committee opinion: OJ C 201, 26.7.1993; Bull. EC 5-1993, point 1.2.83

Amended Commission proposal: OJ C 217, 11.8.1993; COM(93) 303; Bull. EC 6-1993, point 1.2.128

Agreed by the Council on 3 July.

Endorsed by Parliament on 14 July, subject to amendments in particular aimed at improving consultation of the economic and social partners and boosting the importance of environmental considerations.

OJ C 255, 20.9.1993

Re-examined proposal adopted by the Commission on 15 July.

COM(93) 379

Bull. EC 7/8-1993

Formally adopted on 20 July.

OJ L 193, 31.7.1993

1.2.116. Council Regulation (EEC) No 2082/93 amending Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88 laying down provisions for implementing Regulation (EEC) No 2052/88 as regards coordination of the activities of the different Structural Funds between themselves and with the operations of the European Investment Bank and the other existing financial instruments.

Regulation amended: Council Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88, 19.12.1988; OJ L 374, 31.12.1988; Bull. EC 12-1988, point 2.1.200

Commission approval: Bull. EC 1/2-1993, point 1.2.121

Commission proposal: OJ C 118, 28.4.1993; COM(93) 67; Bull. EC 3-1993, point 1.2.80

Economic and Social Committee opinion: OJ C 201, 26.7.1993; Bull. EC 5-1993, point 1.2.83

Parliament opinion (first reading): OJ C 194, 19.7.1993; Bull. EC 6-1993, point 1.2.129

Amended Commission proposal: OJ C 217, 11.8.1993; COM(93) 303; Bull. EC 6-1993, point 1.2.129

Common position adopted by the Council on 3 July.

Endorsed by Parliament (second reading) on 14 July, subject to amendments in particular on closer involvement of the economic and social partners and communication to Parliament of projected Community initiatives transmitted to the management committee.

OJ C 255, 20.9.1993

Re-examined proposal adopted by the Commission on 15 July.

COM(93) 379

Formally adopted on 20 July.

OJ L 193, 31.7.1993

1.2.117. Council Regulation (EEC) No 2083/93 amending Regulation (EEC) No 4254/88 laying down provisions for implementing Regulation (EEC) No 2052/88 as regards the European Regional Development Fund.

Bull. EC 7/8-1993

Regulation amended: Council Regulation (EEC) No 4254/88; OJ L 374, 31.12.1988; Bull. EC 12-1988, point 2.1.200

Commission approval: Bull. EC 3-1993, point 1.2.81

Commission proposal: OJ C 121, 1.5.1993; OJ C 131, 11.5.1993; COM(93) 124; Bull. EC 4-1993, point 1.2.90

Economic and Social Committee opinion: OJ C 201, 26.7.1993; Bull. EC 5-1993, point 1.2.83

Parliament opinion (first reading): OJ C 194, 19.7.1993; Bull. EC 6-1993, point 1.2.130

Amended Commission proposal: OJ C 217, 11.8.1993; COM(93) 303; Bull. EC 6-1993, point 1.2.130

Common position adopted by the Council on 3 July.

Endorsed by Parliament (second reading) on 14 July, subject to amendments relating in particular to the need to improve the integration of women into the labour market and develop the cultural dynamism of the regions aided.

OJ C 255, 20.9.1993

Re-examined proposal adopted by the Commission on 15 July.

COM(93) 379

Formally adopted on 20 July.

OJ L 193, 31.7.1993

1.2.118. Council Regulation (EEC) No 2084/93 amending Regulation (EEC) No 4255/88 laying down provisions for implementing Regulation (EEC) No 2052/88 as regards the European Social Fund.

Regulation amended: Council Regulation (EEC) No 4255/88; OJ L 374, 31.12.1988; Bull. EC 12-1988, point 2.1.200

Commission approval: Bull. EC 3-1993, point 1.2.81

Commission proposal: OJ C 121, 1.5.1993; OJ C 131, 11.5.1993; COM(93) 124; Bull. EC 4-1993, point 1.2.90

Economic and Social Committee opinion: OJ C 201, 26.7.1993; Bull. EC 5-1993, point 1.2.83

Amended Commission proposal: OJ C 217, 11.8.1993; COM(93) 303; Bull. EC 6-1993, point 1.2.131

Agreed by the Council on 3 July.

Endorsed by Parliament on 14 July, subject to amendments to clarify the text and affirm the dominance of Objective 3 for the Social Fund.

OJ C 255, 20.9.1993

Re-examined proposal adopted by the Commission on 15 July.

COM(93) 379

Formally adopted on 20 July.

OJ L 193, 31.7.1993

1.2.119. Council Regulation (EEC) No 2085/93 amending Regulation (EEC) No 4256/88 laying down provisions for implementing Regulation (EEC) No 2052/88 as regards the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF), Guidance Section.

Regulation amended: Council Regulation (EEC) No 4256/88: OJ L 374, 31.12.1988; Bull. EC 12-1988, point 2.1.200

Commission approval: Bull. EC 3-1993, point 1.2.81

Commission proposal: OJ C 121, 1.5.1993; OJ C 131, 11.5.1993; COM(93) 124; Bull. EC 4-1993, point 1.2.90

Economic and Social Committee opinion: OJ C 201, 26.7.1993; Bull. EC 5-1993, point 1.2.83

Amended Commission proposal: OJ C 217, 11.8.1993; COM(93) 303; Bull. EC 6-1993, point 1.2.132

Agreed by the Council on 3 July.

Endorsed by Parliament on 14 July, subject to amendments relating in particular to the need to boost the use of environment-friendly agricultural methods.

OJ C 255, 20.9.1993

Re-examined proposal adopted by the Commission on 15 July.

COM(93) 379

Formally adopted on 20 July.

OJ L 193, 31.7.1993

1.2.120. Council Regulation (EEC) No 2080/93 laying down provisions for implementing Regulation (EEC) No 2052/88 as regards the

Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance (FIFG).

Basic Regulation: Council Regulation (EEC) No 2052/88: OJ L 185, 15.7.1988; Bull. EC 6-1988, point 2.1.159

Commission approval: Bull. EC 3-1993, point 1.2.81

Commission proposal: OJ C 121, 1.5.1993; OJ C 131, 11.5.1993; COM(93) 124; Bull. EC 4-1993, point 1.2.90

Economic and Social Committee opinion: OJ C 201, 26.7.1993; Bull. EC 5-1993, point 1.2.83

Amended Commission proposal: OJ C 217, 11.8.1993; COM(93) 303; Bull. EC 6-1993, point 1.2.132

Agreed by the Council on 3 July.

Endorsed by Parliament on 14 July, subject to amendments in particular providing for increased consultation of Parliament and specific aid for small-scale fisheries.

OJ C 255, 20.9.1993

Re-examined proposal adopted by the Commission on 15 July.

COM(93) 379

Formally adopted on 20 July.

OJ L 193, 31.7.1993

Mediterranean countries

1.3.2. Council conclusions on the Commission opinions on the applications for membership by Cyprus and Malta.

References:

Commission opinion on Cyprus's application for membership: COM(93) 313; Bull. EC 6-1993, point 1.3.6

Commission opinion on Malta's application for membership: COM(93) 312; Bull. EC 6-1993, point 1.3.7

Adopted by the Council (general affairs) on 19 July.

'The Council heard the presentation of the Commission's opinions on the two applications.

It welcomed the positive message contained in these opinions regarding the two countries' eligibility and suitability for membership of the European Union.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine the opinions — in the light of its generally positive assessment — to enable it to adopt a position at its next meeting on the conclusions proposed by the Commission.'

Bull. EC 7/8-1993

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Slovenia

1.3.24. Agreement between the Member States of the European Coal and Steel Community and the ECSC of the one part, and the Republic of Slovenia of the other part.

Commission recommendation: Bull. EC 6-1992, point 1.4.14

Negotiating directives: Bull. EC 7/8-1992, point 1.4.26

Agreement initialled: COM(92) 487; Bull. EC 11-1992, point 1.4.31

Commission proposal on the conclusion of the Agreement: COM(92) 487; Bull. EC 11-1992, point 1.4.31

Council decision on the signing of the Agreement: Bull. EC 4-1993, point 1.3.22

Agreement signed: Bull. EC 4-1993, point 1.3.22

Commission decision approving the Agreement adopted on 9 July.

Assent No 5/93 of the Council to the conclusion of the Agreement by the Commission given on 19 and 20 July.

OJ C 210, 4.8.1993

1.3.25. Economic and trade cooperation Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Slovenia.

Commission recommendation: Bull. EC 6-1992, point 1.4.14

Negotiating directives: Bull. EC 7/8-1992, point 1.4.26

Agreement initialled: COM(92) 487; Bull. EC 11-1992, point 1.4.31

Proposal for a Council Decision on the conclusion of the Agreement: COM(92) 487; Bull. EC 11-1992, point 1.4.31

Council Decision on the signing of the Agreement: Bull. EC 4-1993, point 1.3.22

Agreement signed: Bull. EC 4-1993, point 1.3.22

Parliament opinion: OJ C 194, 19.7.1993; Bull. EC 6-1993, point 1.3.27

Decision 93/407/EEC on the conclusion of the Agreement adopted by the Council on 19 July.

OJ L 189, 29.7.1993

1.3.26. Protocol on financial cooperation between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Slovenia.

Commission proposal on the conclusion of the Protocol: OJ C 74, 16.3.1993; COM(93) 56; Bull. EC 1/2-1993, point 1.3.21

Protocol signed: Bull. EC 4-1993, point 1.3.23

Parliament opinion: OJ C 194, 19.7.1993; Bull. EC 6-1993, point 1.3.28

Decision 93/408/EEC on the conclusion of the Protocol adopted by the Council on 19 July.

OJ L 189, 29.7.1993

Slovenia

1.2.108. Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Slovenia in the field of transport.

Commission recommendation and negotiating directives: Bull. EC 10-1992, point 1.3.72

Initialling of the Agreement: Bull. EC 1/2-1993, point 1.2.110

Proposal for a Council Decision concerning the conclusion of the Agreement: OJ C 93, 2.4.1993; COM(93) 57; Bull. EC 1/2-1993, point 1.2.110

Council Decision on signing: Bull. EC 3-1993, point 1.2.71

Signing of the Agreement: Bull. EC 4-1993, point 1.2.77

Economic and Social Committee opinion: OJ C 201, 26.7.1993; Bull. EC 5-1993, point 1.2.76

Parliament opinion: OJ C 194, 19.7.1993; Bull. EC 6-1993, point 1.2.119

Decision 93/409/EEC on the conclusion of the Agreement adopted by the Council (general affairs) on 19 July. The Decision is based on Article 75 of the EEC Treaty.

OJ L 189, 29.7.1993

Bull. EC 7/8-1993

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Independent States of the former Soviet Union

Assistance for the independent States of the former Soviet Union

Reference: Council Regulation (EEC, Euratom) No 2157/91 concerning the provision of technical assistance to economic reform and recovery in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics: OJ L 201, 24.7.1991; Bull. EC 7/8-1991, point 1.3.5

1.3.15. Council Regulation (Euratom, EEC) No 2053/93 concerning the provision of technical assistance to economic reform and recovery in the independent States of the former Soviet Union and Mongolia (TACIS programme).

Reference: Council Regulation (EEC) No 443/92 on financial and technical assistance to, and economic cooperation with, the developing countries in Asia and Latin America: OJ L 52, 27.2.1992; Bull. EC 1/2-1992, point 1.4.40

Commission approval: Bull. EC 11-1992, point 1.4.17

Commission proposal: OJ C 48, 19.2.1993; COM(92) 475; Bull. EC 1/2-1993, point 1.3.15

Rejected by Parliament on 14 July.

OJ C 255, 20.9.1993

Adopted by the Council (general affairs) on 19 July. The new TACIS Regulation, which carries a budget of ECU 510 million for 1993, will govern the Community's technical assistance to the former Soviet Union and Mongolia for the years 1993, 1994 and 1995.

The first change to the arrangements established by Regulation (EEC, Euratom) No 2157/91 was the extension of the TACIS programme to Mongolia, because its technical assistance needs are similar to those of the independent States of the former Soviet Union. This made Mongolia the 13th country eligible for assistance under this programme. It will be entitled to such assistance from 1 January 1994, and will until then continue to be covered by Regulation (EEC) No 443/92 on financial and technical assistance to, and economic cooperation with, the developing countries in Asia and Latin America.

The second change is the greater stringency of the conditions imposed: the level and intensity of assistance will depend on the extent and progress of reform in the recipient countries. It will, moreover, focus in terms of subject and geography on the areas where its effect is likely to be the greatest, and special emphasis will be laid on support for measures designed to achieve the transition to a market economy and strengthen democracy.

The third substantial change is decentralization of the implementation of technical cooperation. This means that the final recipients of assistance are closely involved in the evaluation and execution of the projects. A multiannual indicative programme will be drawn up for each recipient country in order to set out the main aims of and guidelines for the assistance. The indicative programme will provide the basis for an annual programme of action. Activities put forward for financing will be assessed as to their effectiveness.

The TACIS Committee, consisting of representatives of the Member States and chaired by a representative of the Commission, will be responsible for helping the Commission to manage the aid. The Commission and the Member States will ensure that the assistance provided by the Community and that provided by the Member States individually is properly coordinated.

The Regulation also makes provision for triangular operations, which enable firms in countries which are PHARE recipients and in Mediterranean countries to become involved in projects if the latter require a particular kind of input which those countries are in a position to supply. It will be open to the Commission to authorize such involvement on an *ad hoc* basis.

The new Regulation places a ceiling on humanitarian aid operations of 10% of the TACIS programme's annual budget.

OJ L 187, 29.7.1993

Brussels, 20 July 1993

NOTE BIO (93) 192, suite 2, AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
CC : MEMBRES DU SERVICE PORTE-PAROLE

FOREIGN AFFAIRS COUNCIL 19 JULY 1993

TRADE POLICY (Peter Guilford)

On the results of and follow-up to the Tokyo Quad and G7 meetings, Sir Leon Brittan made the following points:-

- Considerable progress was made without the EC having to depart from its objectives or give up its interests
- Very substantial platform on which to build
- The EC has already launched the process in Geneva, urging third countries to make their own tariff reduction offers. Serious bilateral talks on goods and services are already under way.
- The EC has been under intense pressure from the US on agricultural market access and on audiovisual concessions. It has yielded on neither point.

On STEEL, Sir Leon explained actions begin carried out by the Commission against the US duties. In addition to a GATT Panel on countervailing duties, the Commission was considering calling for a panel on the Anti-dumping side of the case, while Consultations would take place with the US on 22 and 23 July. The Community, he said, would seek a firm response if the ITC confirmed 'injury' and thereby confirmed the duties.

France welcomed the Commission's role in the outcome of the Tokyo Quad talks, describing it as "fully in line" with guidelines set out by the Council on July 2. Alain Juppé then gave four points where France would like progress on trade. There were:

- Agriculture: France called for a "jumbo" council before September 15
- Trade instruments: the EC should do more thinking on what instruments it needs to defend its identity. France would submit a new text to the Commission and the member states shortly.
- In multilateral trade, the US and Japan should move further on maritime transport and financial services before the EC makes further concessions
- On steel, M Longuet welcomed the Commission's determination to reach a Multilateral Steel Agreement (MSA). He said that the EC should call for a GATT panel on the US duties, which he was sure would rule favourably for the EC. If the US then refused to accept the result of such a panel, the EC should examine measures to rebalance EC\US trade.

These points were not specifically picked up by other delegations. Instead, the debate moved onto member states' individual concerns in specific trade areas. There was a broad welcome for the results of the Tokyo Quad, with Portugal focusing on textiles, Greece on shipping, Spain on an adequate disputes settlement system in the GATT, Belgium on protection against social and other dumping, and Germany on the need to examine the possible effects of a jumbo council before accepting the need for it.

Dual use technology

There was a brief discussion on Commission proposals to regulate export controls on materials with dual civilian and military use. This was pushed back to Coreper for further work, after the Commission had urged the Council to give it serious consideration. "It is a matter of time before companies try to avoid national controls" in order to export products to untrustworthy countries, Sir Leon said. Germany, the only country to speak, said it was seeking tough controls, not harmonisation for its own sake.

New TACIS Regulation

This was approved. It involves extending the Commission's mandate until the end of 1995 to plan and implement TACIS aid to the former USSR, including for the first time Mongolia, as well as enabling companies from Eastern and Central Europe and the Mediterranean to bid for contracts in TACIS countries under the programme.

TOKYO

There was a brief explanation by Sir Leon of the G7 Summit, as well as the EC\Japan summit talks on trade.

Amitiés

Handwritten signature of Bruno Dethomas, consisting of stylized initials 'BD' followed by a horizontal line.

Bruno Dethomas

Bruxelles, le 20 juillet 1993

NOTE BIO(S3)192 suite 1 - AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
cc Aux membres du Service du Porte-Parole

Conseil Affaires Générales - Session du 20 juillet sur les Fonds
Structuraux
(Betti Olivi)

Le Conseil Affaires générales a pu atteindre un accord sur la révision des règlements Fonds Structuraux le 20 juillet à 5h30. Au cours de la journée du 19 la Commission par des contacts bilatéraux, a essayé de faciliter l'accord sur les textes par l'explication et l'interprétation concrète des critères retenus pour la répartition des ressources pour la période 1993-99.

Au début du débat en plénière vers 23h30, le Président M. Claes, a rappelé l'évolution des discussions lors de la réunion des 2 et 3 juillet qui avaient permis d'atteindre une position commune avec une réserve de la part de l'Irlande. Celle-ci avait été par la suite retirée de manière à permettre la poursuite des travaux du Parlement Européen qui, suite à la concertation entre les trois institutions le 12 juillet, a donné son avis positif en session plénière le 15.

Le président Claes a rappelé que l'argument essentiel utilisé avec le PE pour qu'il assure l'effort de rapidité et de coopération nécessaire, a été l'engagement pris par les Chefs d'Etat à Copenhague d'atteindre un accord avant la fin du mois de juillet. La responsabilité d'un échec, et donc d'un blocage des fonds, a ajouté M. Claes, risque de retomber sur le Conseil.

Le Président Delors a pour sa part rappelé l'accord entre les trois institutions de travailler dans le cadre du traité actuel et a souligné qu'à cette fin le PE a renoncé à la procédure de l'avis conforme. Il a en outre attiré l'attention des Ministres sur le respect des prérogatives de la Commission: c'est elle, en effet, qui est appelée à fixer les montants financiers indicatifs pour une période de 7 ans sur la base des décisions du Conseil Européen d'Edinbourg. Le Président a rappelé la nécessité de parvenir à un accord ce jour.

Les interventions successives ne pouvant marquer de progrès significatifs, le Président Claes, vers minuit, appelait une suspension de séance pour poursuivre les rencontres bilatérales.

L'accord qui a pu être atteint prévoit l'entrée en vigueur des 6 règlements et notamment:

- 2 -

- la liste de régions de l'objectif 1;
- les critères objectifs pour la définition des zones de l'objectif 2 et du 5b,
- la méthode pour la répartition des allocations financières.

À la conférence de presse le Président Claes s'est félicité du résultat obtenu et a tenu à remercier tout particulièrement la Commission de l'effort qu'elle a assuré pour mener à bien ce dossier de très grande importance pour les douze. Il a indiqué que l'accord est intervenu sur l'ensemble des règlements sans que le Conseil discute de chiffres. Certes, des contacts bilatéraux ont eu lieu et des questions sur les perspectives de mise en oeuvre ont été posées. Toutefois c'est maintenant à la Commission de juger en tenant compte aussi de la validité des programmes qui lui seront soumis.

Répondant à des questions le Président Delors a confirmé la procédure qui sera maintenant suivie en application des règlements adoptés.

Il a ajouté que M. Millan avait veillé à bien expliquer l'application mathématique de la méthode retenue pour la répartition financière et que ceci avait permis d'arriver à une application plus qualitative qui tienne compte de la solidarité nécessaire, de la cohésion ainsi que de la validité des programmes qui seront présentés.

Amitiés
Bruno DETHOMAS

Bruxelles, le 19 juillet 1993

BIO(93)192 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
CC. AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE-PAROLE

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Conseil Affaires Générales

Aide humanitaire à l'ex-Yougoslavie (X. PRATS)

Le Vice-Président MARIN a présenté au Conseil la situation des ressources communautaires en matière d'aide humanitaire. Il a notamment rappelé que :

- La Communauté et ses Etats membres ont contribué pour un total d'environ 870 millions de dollars depuis le début de la crise en ex-Yougoslavie, soit 68% de l'effort total consenti par la communauté internationale (USA : 13 %, Japon : 2,5 %);
- Etant donné l'ampleur des besoins estimés par les Nations Unies, un effort très important devra être mis en oeuvre par la CE dans les mois à venir;
- une fois que la Commission aura engagé les dernières ressources disponibles (une tranche de 57,3 MECU qui s'ajoutera aux 150 MECU déjà engagés cette année), les seuls fonds restants sont les 89 MECU de la réserve d'urgence, qui doivent par ailleurs permettre de répondre aux besoins de l'ensemble des populations en détresse : Somalie, Cambodge, Libéria, Guatemala, etc.

Etant donné la gravité de la situation et l'épuisement des ressources, M. MARIN a souligné que la seule manière pour la Communauté de faire face aux demandes d'aide et d'être à la hauteur de ses responsabilités en ex-Yougoslavie est de réviser les perspectives financières d'Edimbourg afin de pouvoir disposer de fonds supplémentaires.

La Présidence du Conseil (W. CLAES), ayant partagé l'analyse faite par M. MARIN, a invité la Commission à présenter une proposition de révision des perspectives financières.

M. MARIN a indiqué qu'il soumettra au Collège une proposition avant la fin du mois de juillet, pour que le Conseil et le Parlement Européen puissent en discuter sans retard.

Amitiés,

B. DETHOMAS



