

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES  
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

11572/85 (Presse 204)

1057th meeting of the Council  
and the Ministers for Culture  
meeting within the Council  
Brussels, 20 December 1985

President: Mr Robert KRIEPS  
Minister for Culture  
of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

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

Belgium:

Mr Philippe MONFILS	Minister - Chairman of the French Community Executive
Mr P. DEWAELE	Minister - Member of the Flemish Community Executive
Mr M. LEJOLY	Minister - Member of the German-speaking Community Executive
Mr Marc LEPOIVRE	Deputy Permanent Representative

Denmark:

Mr Jakob RYTTER	Deputy Permanent Representative
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Germany:

Mr Martin BANGEMANN	Federal Minister for Economic Affairs
Mr Lutz STAVENHAGEN	Minister of State Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mr Konrad MOHR	State Secretary, Rhineland Palatinate Ministry of Cultural Affairs

Greece:

Mrs Melina MERCOURI	Minister for Culture and Science
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France:

Mr Jack LANG	Minister for Culture
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Ireland:

Mr Edward NEALON	Minister of State, Department of the Prime Minister
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Italy:

Mr Giuseppe GALASSO	State Secretary, Ministry for Cultural Assets
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Luxembourg:

Mr Robert KRIEPS	Minister for Culture
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Netherlands:

Mr L.C. BRINKMAN

Minister for Welfare, Health and  
Cultural Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr Richard LUCE

Minister for the Arts

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Commission:

Mr Carlo RIPA DI MEANA

Member

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The following also took part as observers:

Spain

Mr Javier SOLANA MADARIAGA

Minister for Culture

Portugal

Mrs Theresa GOUVEIA

State Secretary,  
Ministry of Culture

GREATER SUPPORT FOR THE EUROPEAN AUDIOVISUAL PROGRAMME INDUSTRY

- (1) The Council and the Ministers meeting within the Council held a detailed exchange of views on the Commission's proposal concerning a Community aid scheme for non-documentary cinema and television co-productions.

This showed that there was a broad consensus on the aims of the proposal but that more detailed consideration was required to determine the best ways of achieving this aim.

The Ministers concluded by calling on the Commission to see how the various views stated during the discussion could be taken into account.

- (2) It was also agreed that the Commission would continue its studies concerning the European audiovisual programme industry, taking account of the obstacles to the completion of the internal market in this industry and the need to encourage joint ventures by the industry and the movement of products across frontiers and language barriers. The Commission's proposals on the subject would have to take account of the specific nature of the cultural sector.

- (3) Lastly, the Ministers noted the Working Party's conclusions concerning the setting up of a consortium of six European television channels - Antenne 2 (France), Channel 4 (UK), ORF (Austria), RAI (Italy), SRG-SSR (Switzerland), ZDF (Germany) - to carry out co-productions.

BOOKS

The Council and the Ministers meeting within the Council held a broad exchange of views on the Commission's communication on the European dimension with regard to books and two notes from the French delegation on the problems of translation and co-operation between European libraries with a view to the use of new technologies.

After the discussion they called on the Commission to take account of the views expressed at the meeting when drawing up its proposals in this area.

TRANSNATIONAL CULTURE ITINERARIES

The Ministers meeting within the Council agreed to the following Resolution on the  
"ESTABLISHMENT OF TRANSNATIONAL CULTURAL ITINERARIES

Having regard to the Solemn Declaration on European Union of 19 June 1983, and in particular Section 3.3 thereof devoted to cultural co-operation,

Having regard to the final report on a People's Europe approved by the European Council at its meeting on 28 and 29 June 1985,

Whereas the establishment of transnational cultural itineraries can contribute to:

- an intensification of knowledge about Europe's history and culture, thereby promoting European awareness,
- an increase in tourism and hence a stimulus to the economic development of the regions concerned, including the creation of jobs,

Bearing in mind nevertheless the need to avoid disturbance of the cultural identity and environment of the areas concerned, as well as to avoid damage of fragile monuments and cultural institutions by over-visiting;

Welcoming the presentation by the Italian authorities of a system of cultural itineraries covering Community Europe, which provides a useful reference point for further initiatives in this field;

Considering that itineraries are being envisaged by the authorities of a number of Member States;

Considering in particular that the scheme for itineraries presented by the authorities of Luxembourg (Grand Duchy) and adjacent areas provides a good example of what could be done in this field;

Taking into account the work accomplished by the Council of Europe and the potential role of the European Foundation in this field;

THE MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR CULTURAL AFFAIRS MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL

AGREE both to stimulate activities in the field of transnational cultural itineraries by encouraging the competent authorities of the Member States to co-operate across frontiers in the study and possible development of itineraries of European interest, and to leave such co-operation open to other European countries;

NOTE that such schemes may be eligible for support from the various existing Community instruments;

UNDERTAKE to review progress in this area within two years."

TAX QUESTIONS IN THE CULTURAL SECTOR

The Council and the Ministers meeting within the Council held an exchange of views on tax questions in the cultural sector.

This showed that there was broad agreement on the need to encourage the development of cultural activities by means of tax relief.

The Ministers called on the Commission to update the list of tax relief measures already granted in the Member States.

ACCESS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO MUSEUMS AND CULTURAL EVENTS

The following Resolution was adopted:

"THE MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR CULTURAL AFFAIRS, MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL,

Having decided, in accordance with paragraph 3.12 of the Report from the ad hoc Committee on a People's Europe, approved by the European Council at its meeting on 28 and 29 June 1985, to promote access for young people to museums and cultural events,

HEREBY AGREE to extend, or to encourage the competent bodies to extend, to young people from all other Member States, the special conditions and reductions for admission to museums and cultural events available to their young nationals."

### FIRST EUROPEAN SCULPTURE COMPETITION

The Ministers meeting within the Council accepted the Netherlands delegation's offer for the first European sculpture competition to be hosted by the Netherlands in 1987 in conjunction with the "Amsterdam, City of Culture, 1987" events.

They accordingly instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to finalize the work on this matter as soon as possible.

### EUROPEAN FOUNDATION

The Ministers meeting within the Council noted the ratification situation with regard to the Agreement setting up the Foundation.

### COMMUNICATIONS

The Council and the Ministers meeting within the Council took note of communications from:

- the Presidency
  - = Community history in people's lives and socio-cultural forum
- the Commission
  - = Conference of Intellectuals in Madrid, 17 and 18 October 1985
  - = European Year of Cinema and Television (1988)
- the Greek delegation
  - = Athens, European City of Culture, 1985
- the Italian delegation
  - = Florence, European City of Culture, 1986
  - = European Information Centre on Stolen Works of Art.



MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

(Adaptations in consequence of the accession of Spain and Portugal)

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities:

- Directives:

- = amending Council Directives 74/561/EEC and 74/562/EEC on admission to the occupations of road haulage operator and road passenger transport operator;
- = amending Directive 84/634/EEC on summertime arrangements;
- = amending Directive 85/203/EEC on air quality standards for nitrogen dioxide;
- = amending Directive 85/210/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States concerning the lead content of petrol;
- = amending Directive 85/433/EEC concerning the mutual recognition of diplomas, certificates and other evidence of formal qualifications in pharmacy, including measures to facilitate the effective exercise of the right of establishment relating to certain activities in the field of pharmacy;
- = amending Directive 85/384/EEC concerning the mutual recognition of diplomas, certificates and other evidence of formal qualifications in architecture, including measures to facilitate the effective exercise of the right of establishment and freedom to provide services;

- Regulations:

- = amending Regulation (EEC) No 3164/76 on the Community quota for the carriage of goods by road between Member States;
- = amending Annexes I and III to Regulation (EEC) No 3420/83 on import arrangements for products originating in state-trading countries, not liberalized at Community level;
- a Decision amending Decision 83/516/EEC on the tasks of the European Social Fund;
- a Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 2950/83 on the implementation of Decision 83/516/EEC on the tasks of the European Social Fund.  
See press release 10710/85 (Presse 182) of 5 December 1985.

### Transport

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities:

- Regulations
  - = amending Regulation (EEC) No 543/69 on the harmonization of certain social legislation relating to road transport;
  - = amending Regulation (EEC) No 1463/70 on the introduction of recording equipment in road transport;
- a Resolution of the Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, to improve the implementation of the social regulations in road transport.

### Environment

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities:

- a Decision concerning the adoption, on behalf of the Community, of programmes and measures relating to mercury and cadmium discharges under the Convention for the prevention of marine pollution from land-based sources (Paris Convention).

### Tax questions

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities:

- a Directive amending Directive 78/1035/EEC on the exemption from taxes of imports of small consignments of goods of a non-commercial character from third countries;
- a Regulation extending the term of validity of Regulation (EEC, Euratom, ECSC) No 2892/77 implementing in respect of own resources accruing from value added tax the Decision of 21 April 1970 on the replacement of financial contributions from Member States by the Community's own resources.

Economic and financial questions

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Decision adopting the annual report on the economic situation of the Community and laying down economic policy guidelines for 1986.

Relations between the Community and EFTA countries

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Council Regulation (EEC) and a Decision of the Member States and the Commission (ECSC) concerning the conclusion with each EFTA country (Austria, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Swiss Confederation) of an agreement on the arrangements (standstill) applicable from 1 January 1986 to 28 February 1986 to trade between Spain and Portugal, on the one hand, and each EFTA country, on the other.

The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities Decisions:

- on the conclusion of an agreement in the form of agreed minutes extending the Temporary Arrangement for a concerted discipline between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Austria concerning reciprocal trade in cheese;
- on the conclusion of the mutual restraint arrangement between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Finland on trade in cheese.

Trade questions and Customs Union

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities,

- Regulations opening, allocating and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas for:
  - = certain plywood of coniferous species falling within heading ex 44.15 of the common Customs Tariff
  - = newsprint falling within subheading 48.01 A of the Common Customs Tariff and extending this quota to certain other paper
  - = ferro-silicon falling within subheading 73.02 C of the Common Customs Tariff
  - = ferro-silico-manganese falling within subheading 73.02 D of the Common Customs Tariff
  - = ferro-chromium containing, by weight, not less than 0.10% of carbon and more than 30% but not more than 90% of chromium (low-carbon ferro-chromium) falling within subheading ex 73.02 E 1 of the Common Customs Tariff
  - = certain catalysts falling within subheading ex 39.19 G of the Common Customs Tariff
  
- Regulations
  - = amending Regulation (EEC) No 918/83 setting up a Community system of reliefs from customs duty
  - = amending the Common Customs Tariff duties for certain electronic products
  - = on export arrangements for certain types of non-ferrous metal waste and scrap
  - = tariff quotas, ceilings and import arrangements to be provided for certain Mediterranean countries for 1986 (third series of Regulations)

Textiles

The Council adopted Regulations concerning the conclusion of textile agreements with

- Bangladesh
- Singapore
- India
- Hungary

and authorized the signing of these agreements for the purposes of committing the Community.

The Council approved the outcome of the negotiations with Morocco and Tunisia to renew for two years the voluntary restraint arrangements negotiated earlier with those countries and expiring on 31 December 1984; it decided to adjust the overall ceilings where so required by the negotiations.

The Council adopted the necessary texts to determine the arrangements for imports from certain third countries into Spain and Portugal following accession.

To this end it adopted Regulations amending:

- Regulation (EEC) No 3589/82 on common rules for imports of certain textile products originating in third countries
- Regulation (EEC) No 3588/82 on common rules for imports of certain textile products originating in Yugoslavia
- Regulation (EEC) No 3587/82 on the arrangements for imports of certain textile products originating in Taiwan.

It will adopt on 1 January 1986 by the written procedure a Regulation making the importation into Spain and Portugal of textile products originating in certain third countries subject to quantitative limitations.

Relations with Malta

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 3508/80 extending the term of validity of the arrangements applicable to trade with Malta beyond 31 December 1985.

Relations with Cyprus

The Council adopted a Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 3700/83 laying down the arrangements applicable to trade with the Republic of Cyprus until the entry into force of trade arrangements on a contractual basis.

UCITS

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities,

- a Directive on the co-ordination of laws, regulations and administrative provisions relating to certain undertakings for collective investment in transferable securities (UCITS);
- a Recommendation concerning Article 25(1), second subparagraph, of that Directive;
- an amendment to the Directive of 11 May 1960 for the implementation of Article 67 of the Treaty (elimination of the restrictions on the free movement of units of UCITS).

Consumer protection

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Directive to protect the consumer in respect of contracts negotiated away from business premises (door-to-door sales). See press release 11331/85 (Presse 195) of 12 December 1985.

Technical barriers

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Directive amending for the seventh time (asbestos) Directive 76/769/EEC on the approximation of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States relating to restrictions on the marketing and use of certain dangerous substances and preparations (see press release 11331/85 (Presse 195) of 12 December 1985).

Energy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities Regulations:

- on a programme of support for technological development in the hydrocarbons sector
- on the promotion, by financial support, of demonstration projects and industrial pilot projects in the energy field.

The Council also gave the consultation requested by the Commission on the financial aids granted by the Federal Republic of Germany, France and Belgium to the coal industry in 1985 and on the additional financial aids granted by the United Kingdom to the coal industry in 1984; it endorsed the Commission's conclusions to the effect that the action by the abovementioned Member States was compatible with Decision No 528/76 ECSC and with the functioning of the common market.

Atomic questions

The Council noted the Commission's intention of concluding, pursuant to Article 101(3) of the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community, a co-operation agreement in the field of radioactive waste management with the Swedish nuclear fuel and waste management company - SKB.

Regional policy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 1787/84 on the European Regional Development Fund.

Social affairs

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Regulation amending, with a view to its extension to the self-employed, Regulation (EEC) No 2950/83 on the implementation of Decision 83/516/EEC on the tasks of the European Social Fund.

Munich European Patent Convention

The Representatives of the Governments of the Member States and the acceding States, meeting within the Council, adopted the text of the declaration on the Hellenic Republic's ratification of the Munich European Patent Convention.



ECSC

The Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Decision on certain measures to be applied, in respect of state-trading countries, to trade in iron and steel products covered by the ECSC Treaty, including pig iron, cast iron and high-carbon ferro-manganese.

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Bruxelles, le 19 decembre 1985

Note Bio (85) 421 aux Bureaux Nationaux  
c.c. aux Membres du Service du Porte-Parole

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PREPARATION CONSEIL CULTURE DU 20 DECEMBRE 1985

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(Santopinto)

Sur le deroulement du Conseil Culture pesera forcement le refus de la Conference intergouvernementale d'etendre explicitement la competence communautaire a la culture.

M. RIPA DI MEANA a considere ce refus comme une faute politique impardonable compte tenu de la necessite soulignee a plusieurs reprises par les Conseils Europeens de donner une dimension culturelle a la construction europeenne. En ce qui concerne l'ordre du jour du Conseil de demain, je vous signale notamment la discussion sur les points suivants:

1. Proposition de reglement relatif a un regime de soutien communautaire aux coproductions cinematographiques et televisuelles de fiction.
2. Communication de la Commission sur l'action dans le domaine du livre.

Amities,

  
H. PAEMEN