



COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT



PRESS RELEASE

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1056th meeting of the Council

- Agriculture -

Brussels, 19 and 20 December 1985

President: Mr Marc FISCHBACH

Minister for Agriculture
and Viticulture

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 Paul DE KEERSMAEKER State Secretary for European
Affairs and Agriculture

Denmark:

Mr Niels Anker KOFOED Minister for Agriculture

Germany:

Mr Ignaz KIECHLE Federal Minister for Food,
Agriculture and Forestry

Mr Walther FLORIAN

State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Food,
Agriculture and Forestry

Greece:

Mr Yiannis POTTAKIS Minister for Agriculture

France:

Mr Henri NALLET Minister for Agriculture

Ireland:

Mr Austin DEASY Minister for Agriculture

Italy:

Mr Filippo Maria PANDOLFI Minister for Agriculture

Luxembourg:

Mr Marc FISCHBACH Minister for Agriculture and
Viticulture

Mr René STEICHEN

State Secretary,
Ministry of Agriculture and
Viticulture

Netherlands:

Mr Gerrit BRAKS

Minister for Agriculture

United Kingdom:

Mr Michael JOPLING

Minister for Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food

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Commission:

Mr Frans H.J.J. ANDRIESSEN

Vice-President

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The following also attended as observers:

Spain:

Mr Carlos ROMERO

Minister for Agriculture

Portugal:

Mr Alvaro BARETTO

Minister for Agriculture

PERSPECTIVES FOR THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY (GREEN PAPER).

Following consultations held with the agricultural sectors concerned on the green paper, the Commission submitted to the Council a communication setting out a series of guidelines for the future of European agriculture. The communication was accompanied by a memorandum on beef and veal which, like the memorandum on cereals submitted on 18 and 19 November, provided for a series of adjustments to the market organization for beef and veal.

The guidelines worked out by the Commission identified the following priorities in particular:

- gradual adjustment of production in sectors in surplus;
- greater diversity and improvement of the quality of production;
- consideration of the income problems of small family farms;
- support for agriculture in areas where it is essential for land-use planning, maintenance of social balance and protection of the environment and the landscape;
- making farmers more aware of environmental issues;
- contribution to the development in the Community of industries which process agricultural produce and involvement of agriculture in the profound technological changes of our time.

19/20.XII.85

As the communication had just been submitted, the Council confined itself at this meeting to an initial, general reaction. The discussion which took place indicated the need for the Community to have a general strategy for the development of markets and agricultural structures designed to restore market balance, within the framework of the Community budget, for the various agricultural products in structural surplus.

At the end of its discussion the Council noted the Commission's intention of submitting concrete proposals concerning adjustments to the market organization for cereals and meat before the end of January 1986, with submission of the proposals concerning 1986/1987 prices being scheduled for February 1986.

TABLE OLIVES

Given the lack of a market organization for table olives, Greece had been authorized, on the basis of Article 70 of the Accession Treaty, to maintain its own system of market organization for that product until 31 December 1985.

Since the Commission considered at this juncture that it was not necessary to set up a market organization for that product, under Article 93(2) of the EEC Treaty the Council adopted, a Decision authorizing Greece to maintain until 31 December 1987 the national aid measures that were strictly necessary in order to maintain the present income of a producer of table olives.

REGULATIONS TO BE ADOPTED IN PREPARATION FOR THE ACCESSION OF SPAIN
AND PORTUGAL

The Council recorded its agreement in principle to the level of the tariff quotas to be opened for the Canary Islands for the following products:

- tomatoes, cucumbers, aubergines;
- new potatoes and avocados;
- beans, onions and sweet peppers;
- fresh flowers and certain other floricultural products.

These quotas are based on Article 4 of Protocol No 2 to the Treaty of Accession.

The Council agreed that it would adopt these Regulations at a forthcoming meeting.

The Council also recorded its agreement to other items still outstanding, namely:

- national aids which the two acceding countries are authorized to maintain on a transitional basis in the agricultural sector;
- premiums for the abandonment of wine-growing. This Regulation basically adapts the level of the premiums for the abandonment of vineyards in the case of Spain in order to take account of the specific wine-growing conditions in that country;
- the Regulation making the adaptations necessary for application of the provisions for the common organization of the market in sheepmeat in the acceding States.

These Regulations will be formally adopted at a forthcoming meeting, after finalization of the texts.

In the sphere of veterinary harmonization, the Council recorded its agreement to a Decision enabling Spain and Portugal to benefit from the Community's financial programme for the eradication of classical swine fever. The Decision will be formally adopted at a forthcoming meeting.

HORMONES

Following lengthy discussion, the Council decided to apply the written procedure to the amended Commission proposal, which was examined at the present meeting, and in the main incorporated the elements of the compromise to which a large majority had agreed at the Council's last meeting.

This text introduces as from 1 January 1988 a series of measures concerning the treatment of animals with hormonal substances, in particular:

- a total ban for all Community production on administering such substances for fattening purposes;
- a restriction on the possibility of therapeutic treatment using only natural substances (Oestradiol 17B, Testosterone and Progesterone);
- the setting up, after negotiations between the Commission and the third countries concerned, of a system of import guarantees to be adopted using the Veterinary Committee procedure, or failing that, suspension of imports from those third countries which do not provide the guarantees requested;
- establishing the inspection procedures for this ban by bringing into force on 1 January 1987 Directive 85/358/EEC, which lays down general rules for inspection, and agreement in principle on the frequency of inspection (in the context of the Directive on residue-inspection, which can be formally approved only after receipt of the Opinion of the European Parliament). Basically, the Council approach regarding the latter text is for each Member State to submit an inspection plan to be approved under the Standing Veterinary Committee procedure.

In connection with this Decision, the Council noted that the Commission would be submitting a proposal to the Standing Veterinary Committee under Article 9 of the Directive, granting the United Kingdom a derogation for application of the ban to the United Kingdom market, and would ensure that such a derogation did not result in distortions of competition.

Pending introduction of the new arrangements, those Member States already applying a total ban will be able to make the introduction of animals and meat into their territory subject to the condition that such animals have not been treated and that meat does not come from treated animals.

LAYING HENS

The Council agreed to defer examination of this item to a forthcoming meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Other agricultural decisions

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

- amending Regulation No 79/65/EEC setting up a network for the collection of accountancy data on the incomes and business operation of agricultural holdings in the European Economic Community;
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 1035/72 on the common organization of the market in fruit and vegetables;
- concerning the import arrangements applicable to certain third countries in the sheepmeat and goatmeat sector as from 1986;
- extending Regulation (EEC) No 3310/75 on agriculture in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

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

- amending Directive 64/432/EEC as regards the definitive arrangements made in relation to enzootic bovine leucosis as laid down by Directive 80/1102/EEC;
- laying down the list of simulants to be used for testing migration of constituents of plastic materials and articles intended to come into contact with foodstuffs;
- amending Directive 77/436/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to coffee extracts and chicory extracts;
- amending Directive 77/93/EEC on protective measures against the introduction into the Member States of organisms harmful to plants or plant products.

Trade policy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision on import quotas to be opened by Member States in respect of State-trading countries in 1986.

Bruxelles, le 20 decembre 1985
Note Bio(85)426 aux Bureaux nationaux
c.c. aux membres du Service du Porte-Parole

CONSEIL AGRICULTURE (N. Wegter)

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Après une longue session qui a débuté hier matin à 10.30h les ministres se sont séparés cette nuit, après avoir atteint un résultat remarquable, à savoir une conclusion positive en matière du dossier "Hormones".

Ce dernier dossier qui a figuré à l'ordre du jour depuis plusieurs mois, a pu être finalisé cette nuit par le biais d'un accord politique souscrit par la majorité qualifiée du Conseil relative à la proposition de compromis établie par la Commission. La formule de compromis reflète dans une très large mesure les lignes de compromis dessinées lors de la session précédente et elle comporte notamment les éléments suivants :

1. à partir du 1.1.1988 l'utilisation de toutes les hormones et/ou substances à effet hormonale pour des fins d'engraissement est interdite pour l'ensemble du territoire communautaire pour la production nationale ainsi que pour les échanges intra- et extra-communautaires;
2. par la procédure "modalités de gestion" et notamment ; le Comité vétérinaire, il sera procédé de la sorte qu'il y aurait une dérogation pour le RU, ce dernier ne devant respecter l'interdiction des hormones qu'à partir du 1.1.1989;
3. la proposition souscrite d'après les modalités précitées, se base sur l'article 43 du Traité, permettant ainsi une décision à la majorité qualifiée.

L'accord politique comme il s'est dégagé n'a pas pu être souscrit par les 3 délégations : RU, DK, IRL. Les 2 premières délégations tout en pouvant accepter la substance de l'accord enregistré ont insisté pour que la base juridique de la proposition en ne se base pas seulement sur l'article 43 mais également sur l'article 100 du Traité, ce dernier article portant sur le rapprochement des législations et nécessitant une décision à l'unanimité.

Il est à rappeler que dans le cadre de l'accord du dernier sommet de Luxembourg, une nouvelle rédaction de l'article 100 a été convenue afin de permettre dans le domaine de l'harmonisation de la législation une décision à la majorité qualifiée envisageable, étant entendu que les règles dérogatoires restent possibles; dans la mesure où la législation nationale (par exemple dans le domaine vétérinaire) prescrit des dispositions plus rigides que celles envisagées au niveau communautaire.

C'est cet "esprit de Luxembourg" qui a amené M. Andriessen à insister auprès du Conseil pour que ce dernier ne se limite qu'à la référence à l'article 43 et donc pas à l'article 100 dans sa version encore valable - la nouvelle rédaction faisant encore sujet d'une procédure de ratification au niveau des États-membres.

La délégation irlandaise n'a pas pu s'associer à la majorité du fait qu'elle n'a pas pu accepter un traitement dérogatoire pour le RU, une telle dérogation conduisant, de l'avis de cette délégation, à des distorsions de concurrence notamment au point de vue des échanges.

Il est a noter que le compromis convenu stipule que pour la periode transitoire, c'est a dire pour la periode entre 1.1.1988 et 1.1.1989, concernant les exportations en provenance du RU vers les autres Etats-membres, le RU doit certifier pour que toutes ces exportations portent sur des produits qui n'ont pas ete traites par des hormones.

L'accord politique enregistre doit encore etre formalise par la procedure ecrite, cette derniere expirant avant le 30 decembre 1985.

En ce qui concerne les autres points de l'ordre du jour il n'y a pas d'observations particulieres a faire, sauf qu'il reste a signaler que le Conseil a donne son accord definitif sur l'ensemble de la reglementation etablie pour permettre la mise en vigueur des dispositions agricoles en Espagne et au Portugal

D'autre part le Conseil a, par le biais d'un tour de table, entame un premier debat relatif a des conclusions generales de la Commission sur la base du Livre Vert, et notamment la communication etablie par la Commission sur le libelle : "un avenir pour la PAC" (P-107). Ce tour de table n'a pas degage des elements tres spectaculaires, bien qu'il est apparu clairement que la grande majorite des delegations peuvent souscrire en principe a l'approche preconisee par la Commission relatif a la reforme de la PAC, et qui vise la combinaison d'une politique de prix restrictive avec d'autres elements notamment une politique de qualite, un assouplissement des modalites d'intervention et le renforcement du principe de la coresponsabilite. Seulement la delegation britannique a confirme sa preference nette pour une politique visant une reduction lineaire de prix pour tous les secteurs caracterises par les excedents.

Les ministres, vu le manque de temps, n'ont pas entame un debat sur les 2 memorandums specifiques soumis par la Commission, dont un porte sur la reforme du secteur des cereales, et l'autre sur l'amenagement du secteur de la viande bovine. Le debat relatif a la reforme de la PAC, y compris une discussion sur les 2 derniers memorandums, est certainement a prevoir pour la prochaine session du Conseil prevue pour le 20 et 21 janvier 1986.


Amities,
H. Paemen