



COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT



PRESS RELEASE

10091/85 (Presse 158)

1038th meeting of the Council
- Development Co-operation -
Brussels, 4 November 1985
President: M. Robert GOEBBELS,
State Secretary
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
and Co-operation
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 François-Xavier DE DONNEA State Secretary,
Development Co-operation

Denmark:

Mr Knud-Erik TYGESEN State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Germany:

Mr Volkmar KOHLER State Secretary,
Federal Ministry for
Development Co-operation

Greece:

Mr Yiannos KRANIDIOTIS Executive Secretary
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

France:

Mr Christian NUCCI Minister attached to the
Minister for Foreign Relations,
responsible for Co-operation
and Development

Ireland:

Mr James O'KEEFFE Minister of State,
Department of Foreign Affairs

Italy:

Mr Francesco FORTE State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Luxembourg:

Mr Robert GOEBBELS

State Secretary, Ministry of
Foreign Affairs and Co-operation

Netherlands:

Mrs E.M. SCHOO

Minister for Development
Co-operation

United Kingdom

Mr Timothy RAISON

Minister for Overseas Development

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Commission

Mr Lorenzo NATALI

Vice-President

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The following also took part as observers:

Spain:

Mr Luis YANEZ

State Secretary,
International Co-operation

Portugal:

Mr Eduardo AMBAR

State Secretary for Co-operation,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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FAMINE IN AFRICA

- Stock-taking and medium and long-term measures

The Council examined the communication from the Commission, to which it renewed its thanks for the vigorous action it was pursuing with the Member States in the campaign to combat famine and develop food security in Africa.

It took note, in the framework of this communication, of the stock-taking and the analysis of the way in which the Dublin Plan was being implemented; the Plan had involved aid from the Community and the Member States totalling more than 430 MECU, enabling, in particular, 1 237 000 tonnes of cereal equivalent to be supplied. The Council noted the difficulties encountered, the means implemented to overcome them, and the practical experience to be gained from the - largely satisfactory - implementation of the Plan.

The Council welcomed the Commission communication as regards the Plan to restore and revitalize the African countries most affected by drought.

While instructing the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine rapidly the details of the procedural arrangements, the Council agreed to the guidelines contained in this Plan.

Consequently, the Council requested the Commission to:

- . pinpoint for each country the specific measures to be adopted, particularly with humanitarian aims, and combine them in a comprehensive programme;
- . arrange co-ordination on this basis between the Commission itself and the Member States with a view to establishing the funding to be provided by each party;
- . submit, in the light of this co-ordination, the Community section of the programme to the Community's decision-taking bodies at an early date.

The Council also called on the Commission to take the necessary measures to ensure that the existence of carry-over stocks and surplus areas is taken into account in food aid deliveries in order to avoid disrupting local markets and discouraging local production.

The Council furthermore noted the Commission's intention of submitting a communication to it before the end of the year, together with proposals for the development of food strategies and for environmental protection, particularly desertification control. It recalled that the European Council in Milan had stressed the importance it attached to all European aid, Community and bilateral, giving priority to that type of action. It noted the views expressed on this matter within the Council, pending receipt of the communication promised by the Commission.

As regards Community aid, the Council pointed out that the third Lomé Convention provides for various measures to support the ACP States' efforts to combat drought and desertification, and expressed its appreciation of the Commission's efforts to ensure that this priority is taken into account in the dialogue with the recipient countries during the programming of the sixth EDF.

- Food aid reserve

On the basis of the instructions received from the European Council in Milan, the Council examined the Commission proposal to set up a special reserve allocation which would enable a volume of 500 000 tonnes of cereal equivalent to be mobilized, in addition to the normal food aid programme, in order to meet sudden famines.

The Council of Ministers for Development considered it necessary, without prejudice to the development and outcome of the budgetary procedure, to set up an additional food aid reserve for 1986. This reserve should be used if the means existing within the normal food aid programme prove insufficient to meet the crisis situations which could occur in Africa.

DEVELOPMENT AID AND THE SITUATION OF WOMEN IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

The COUNCIL

- aware of the fact that women have an important function in the process of developing their countries;
- confirms the conclusion which it adopted in this connection on 8 November 1982;
- points out that the Third Lomé Convention specifically provides for the role of women to be taken into account in development co-operation; in this context, and in order to improve the economic and social situation of women, considers that in its dialogue with the competent authorities the Community should highlight the potential advantages of better integration of women;
- has noted the results of the UN World Conference on the Status of Women;
- has noted the Commission report on the implementation of the abovementioned conclusions, the outcome of the meetings of experts convened by the Commission and the comments made by Vice-President NATALI;
- notes that the manual for preparing and appraising project dossiers has been revised by the Commission to take account of the role of women;
- emphasizes the need to consult women on the implementation of projects funded by the Community;

- confirms that there should be a study of the relevant social sphere and context when preparing, monitoring and evaluating projects;
- reaffirms the importance of the role of women in development and states that it must be taken into account in all cases in the pre-programming, programming and examination of projects and in their funding by the community; to that end there is room for specific measures to increase the contribution of women to development;
- would like to see a considerable increase in the number of women working in the sphere of technical assistance;
- hopes that the contacts which the Commission has established with women's organizations in the developing countries particularly in the form of regional seminars, will be stepped up. Contacts with women's associations at village level should also be sought;
- requests the Commission to make every effort henceforth to include a breakdown by sex in the available statistics on projects submitted for Community funding;
- requests the Commission to continue its activities designed to promote, in line with the above conclusions, more concrete participation of women in development programmes and projects and intends to discuss the matter again at its next meeting, if possible on the basis of an initial report from the Commission and information from the Member States on their experience in this field.

CO-ORDINATION OF CO-OPERATION POLICIES AND OPERATIONS

Having taken note of the Commission's report on the implementation of the Council Resolution of 5 June 1984 on the co-ordination of co-operation policies and operations within the Community,

the COUNCIL:

- expresses its satisfaction at the results obtained which have brought aid co-ordination within the Community to a hitherto unprecedented level as regards reciprocal information, on-the-spot co-ordination and support for sectoral policies;
- notes the relation between highly developed co-ordination between the principal donors, centred on co-operation with the recipient countries, and the awareness of an increasing number of these countries of the need to undertake reforms and adapt their development policies on the basis of priority objectives;
- notes that this strengthened co-ordination within the Community has an even greater influence in that it coincides with the imminent entry into force of the third ACP-EEC Lomé Convention and forms part of the dialogue on the search for ways and means of continually improving the effectiveness of the instruments of such co-operation which was agreed between the Contracting Parties to that Convention and is particularly reflected in the current programming exercise.

- notes that there is still room for improvement and in this respect advocates strengthening and extending to all Member States the existing system of regular information exchanges between most of the Member States and the Commission; the information must be systematic and two-way;
- considers in this context that the process would be improved if it included the transmission, whenever possible, of such relevant country-by-country documents as the administrations have in their possession; it could, for example, result in the transmission in good time of data relating to the identification of projects so as to improve co-ordination as much as possible;
- considers that the existing intra-Community system of meetings and exchanges of information in the developing countries concerned must be strengthened; recalls the usefulness, particularly when high-level missions from the Commission or from the Member States visit the countries concerned, of systematic talks with the Commission Delegate and the representatives of the Member States in the field;
- recalls the importance it attaches to the regular reports to be drawn up in the field by representatives of the Commission and the Member States accredited in the developing countries receiving Community aid, in accordance with the indicative outline which it approved on 23 May 1985;
- agrees to return to this important matter of co-ordination once the programming laid down in the Lomé Convention has been concluded in 1986, so that future operations by the Community and the Member States in respect of all developing countries can benefit from the experience acquired.

PROMOTION OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES' TRADE AND SERVICES

The COUNCIL reaffirms that it attaches great importance, in the context of co-operation with the developing countries, to the initiation or the intensification of efforts on the part of such countries, together with increased Community support, to promote their trade more effectively, and refers to its initial conclusions adopted on 5 June 1984 concerning both guidelines and general principles and a number of specific measures for improving the effectiveness of Community aid in this field.

The COUNCIL takes note of the evaluation of trade promotion programmes financed by the Community carried out since then; examination should be expedited, with particular reference to the experience of the Community and the Member States.

The COUNCIL urges that all the practical arrangements for putting into genuine effect the guidelines worked out thus far be implemented in the framework of the various existing Community instruments for co-operation, due allowance being made for the specific nature of each such instrument.

This will obviously require close co-operation between the Commission and the Member States and contacts with the relevant international agencies if the promotion of trade and services is to serve to best effect the overall development strategies chosen by the recipient countries or groups of countries.

The COUNCIL therefore calls upon the Commission to submit concrete examples of the implementation of action to promote developing countries' trade without delay and, if possible, in time for the next meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Relations with third countries in the field of research

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, Decisions on the conclusion of the framework agreements for scientific and technical co-operation between the European Communities and:

- = the Kingdom of Sweden;
- = the Swiss Confederation.

The two agreements will be signed in the near future. Their aim is to establish a framework covering all co-operation with these two countries in the field of research.

Among other things, this co-operation should make it possible to promote discussions on guidelines, priorities and planning for the research policies of these two countries and the Community, on the prospects for and development of co-operation, the forwarding of the resulting information, the co-ordination of programmes and projects carried out by each party, participation in joint programmes and the carrying out of joint operations.

These two agreements are the first in a series of agreements to be concluded with the EFTA countries in line with the Luxembourg declaration of 9 April 1984 aimed at developing inter alia co-operation with the EFTA countries in the area of scientific and technical research and development.

In the same context, the Council adopted two Decisions authorizing the opening of negotiations for framework agreements for scientific and technical co-operation with:

- = Norway;
- = Finland.

The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Decision on the conclusion of a Community-COST concertation agreement on a concerted action project in the field of teleinformatics (COST Project 11 ter) between the EEC and Austria, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and Yugoslavia.

Lastly, the Council noted the Commission's communication on the renewal of the Co-operation Agreement between Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL) and the European Atomic Energy Community on research in the field of nuclear waste management to be concluded by the Commission in pursuance of the third paragraph of Article 101 of the Treaty establishing the EAEC.

Customs Union

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

- opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for certain polyvinylpyrrolidone falling within subheading ex 39.02 C XIV a) of the Common Customs Tariff (suspension of the CCT duty within a Community tariff quota of 120 tonnes);
- increasing the Community tariff quota opened by Regulation (EEC) No 3193/84 for raw silk (not thrown) falling within subheading 50.02 of the Common Customs Tariff (tariff quota increased from 5 100 tonnes to 6 250 tonnes).

UNCTAD

The Council approved a number of conclusions on the Community's participation in the Review Conference on the UNCTAD Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of Restrictive Business Practices.

Bruxelles, le 5 novembre 1985

NOTE BIO(85) 356 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
C.C. AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE-PAROLE

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CONSEIL DEVELOPPEMENT DU 4 NOVEMBRE 1985
(C. Stathopoulos)

Le Conseil des Ministres a donne hier son FEU VERT au PLAN de la Commission pour la REHABILITATION et la relance des PAYS AFRICAINS les plus affectes par la SECHERESSE. Ce Plan avait ete presente jeudi, 31 octobre, a la presse par le Vice-President NATALI (voir BIO(85) 351 et P-85). Le fait qu'il y avait donc un delai tres limite entre la presentation du Plan de rehabilitation et son examen au Conseil, n'a pas empeche les Ministres de marquer leur accord sur ses orientations et d'inviter la Commission :

- a identifier, par pays, les actions concretes a entreprendre ;
- a organiser sur cette base une coordination entre la Commission elle-meme et les Etats membres afin de determiner les financements que chacun prendrait en charge ;
- en fonction de cette coordination, a presenter tres rapidement aux instances de decision de la Communaute, la partie communautaire de ce programme.

Intervenant au debat au sujet de l'execution du Plan, le Vice-President NATALI a annonce que la Commission soumettra au Conseil, avant la fin de l'annee des PROPOSITIONS relatives a l'evolution des strategies alimentaires ainsi qu'a la protection de l'environnement et notamment la LUTTE CONTRE LA DESERTIFICATION. Il a egalement indique que la Commission procedera rapidement a la fixation des besoins alimentaires pour 1986 des pays touches par la secheresse. A cet egard, elle organisera dans le courant de novembre une reunion de coordination avec les Etats membres d'abord, avec les autres fournisseurs d'aide ensuite.

En ce qui concerne le financement du Plan, M. NATALI a precise que les LOOMEUCU qui representent la CONTRIBUTION COMMUNAUTAIRE existent deja sous forme de reserves non utilisees des LOME I et LOME II. Les autres LOOMEUCU qui representent la CONTRIBUTION DES ETATS MEMBRES pourraient etre, soit de l'argent frais, soit des credits que les gouvernements des Dix octroyeraient aux pays africains dans le cadre de leur aide bilaterale. Dans ce deuxieme cas il s'agit donc de la disponibilite des Etats membres de se concerter avec la Commission afin que leurs actions s'insere dans les orientations du Plan de rehabilitation. Cet element est tres important, de l'avis de la Commission, parce qu'il augmenterait l'efficacite de l'action communautaire.

Le Conseil a egalement pris connaissance du bilan et de l'analyse des conditions d'execution du Plan de Dublin et a renouvelle ses remerciements a la Commission pour "l'action vigoureuse" qu'elle poursuit avec les Etats membres dans la lutte contre la famine et pour le developpement de la securite alimentaire en Afrique.

RESERVE "STRATEGIQUE" D'AIDE ALIMENTAIRE

Le Conseil a consacré une grande partie de ses travaux à l'examen de la proposition de la Commission visant la création d'une allocation spéciale de réserve qui permettrait de mobiliser, en plus du programme normal d'aide alimentaire, un volume de 500.000 tonnes d'équivalent-céréales pour pouvoir faire face à des situations soudaines de famines (N.B.: la Commission a fait cette proposition au Sommet de Milan et les Chefs d'Etats l'avaient "accueillie favorablement" et avaient chargé le Conseil Développement "de l'examiner d'urgence").

Le Conseil, dans ses conclusions, considère comme nécessaire, sans préjuger le déroulement et l'issue de la procédure budgétaire la création pour 1986 d'une réserve d'aide alimentaire SUPPLEMENTAIRE. Cette réserve devrait être utilisée si les moyens existants dans le cadre du programme normal d'aide alimentaire ne suffisent pas pour faire face aux situations de crise qui pourraient se présenter en Afrique.

Il a fallu des appels pressant du Vice-Président Natali et de la Présidence luxembourgeoise pour convaincre certaines délégations (en particulier UK et F) qu'une telle réserve est nécessaire non seulement parce qu'il y avait un mandat précis du Conseil Européen et l'opinion publique était particulièrement sensible à ce sujet (arguments utilisés par la Présidence), mais aussi pour des raisons suivantes évoquées par M. Natali :

1) L'expérience de la famine en 1984/85 a montré que, faute de crédits et d'un instrument budgétaire spécifique, il avait été nécessaire de mettre en marche une lourde mécanique de virements qui a pu aboutir grâce à l'intervention politique des Chefs d'Etat à Dublin, mais tardivement parce qu'elle est très complexe.

2) Les perspectives de récolte 1985 en Afrique sont moins défavorables mais il demeure des poches de pénurie, et singulièrement en Ethiopie où un déficit subsistera d'au moins 900.000 tonnes.

3) Le crédit sollicité (165MECU) est destiné à couvrir les besoins de la totalité de l'année 1986. Il peut donc se révéler nécessaire non seulement pour couvrir les déficits de la récolte 1985 mais aussi ceux de la récolte 1986, pour laquelle il est évidemment impossible d'avancer un quelconque pronostic.

Il s'agit donc en définitive d'une sécurité, d'une assurance et pour ces raisons la Commission tiendra ferme sur sa position lors de la deuxième lecture du projet de budget.

RAPPEL : Le Conseil Budget, en première lecture, a supprimé le crédit nécessaire de 165MECU mais le Parlement va avoir à voter le 14 novembre sur un amendement de sa Commission de Développement qui propose de rétablir ce crédit. Dans ce cas le Conseil Budget ne pourrait repousser l'inscription qu'à la majorité qualifiée ce qui semble invraisemblable compte tenu des positions des différentes délégations au Conseil d'hier.

AUTRES POINTS DE L'ORDRE DU JOUR :

- Au sujet de l'aide au développement et de la situation des FEMMES dans le PVD le Conseil a pris note d'un rapport de la Commission, portant, entre autre, sur les resultats de la Conference mondiale de l'ONU concernant le statut des femmes. Il a invite la Commission a poursuivre ses actions en vue de promouvoir une participation plus concrete de la femme dans les programmes et actions de developpement.

- Un rapport de la Commission sur la COORDINATION DES POLITIQUES et actions de COOPERATION a fait l'objet d'une breve discussion. Le Conseil s'est felicite des resultats obtenus et est convenu de revenir sur cette question une fois que la programmation prevue par la Convention de Lome aura ete menee a terme en 1986.

- Le Conseil a enfin invite la Commission a lui presente, si possible d'ici sa prochaine session, des exemples de cas traduisant concretement la mise en oeuvre des ACTIONS DE PROGRAMMATION DU COMMERCE DES PVD.

MATERIEL DIFFUSE :

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- IP(85)475 - Financement de projets FEOGA
 - IP(85)490 - Cooperation scientifique et technique entre la CE et les pays de l'AELE
 - IP(85)491 - Aide alimentaire d'urgence au Vietnam
 - MEMO 137 - 6e reunion de la Commission mixte CEE-Mexique
 - MEMO 140 - 2e reunion informelle "TRIPARTITE" entre la Commission et les partenaires sociaux a Val Duchesse

Amitiés,

H. PAEMEN, Comeur X///

