

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

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1084th Council meeting

- Industry -

Luxembourg, 9 June 1986

President: Mr G.M.V. VAN AARDENNE,
Deputy Prime Minister,
Minister for Economic Affairs
of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Netherlands:

Mr G.M.V. VAN AARDENNE

Deputy Prime Minister,
Minister for Economic Affairs

Portugal:

Mr Fernando SANTOS MARTINS

Minister for Industry and Trade

United Kingdom:

Mr Peter MORRISON

Minister of State for Industry

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Commission:

Mr Karl-Heinz NARJES

Vice-President

Mr Peter SUTHERLAND

Member

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SHIPBUILDING

The Council took note of an introductory statement by Mr SUTHERLAND, Member of the Commission, and discussed in detail the main aspects of a new Commission strategy for stricter rules on aid to shipbuilding to be implemented when the fifth Directive on aid to shipbuilding expires on 31 December 1986. The Council acknowledged that there was a structural surplus of shipbuilding capacity on the world market.

The President noted that there was a certain consensus on the following approach:

- a ceiling would be fixed for production aid. All aid to shipyards, both direct and indirect, would be taken into account for calculating this ceiling. All aid must be totally transparent;
- aid for restructuring could be authorized under certain conditions, one being a direct link between the granting of the aid and a reduction in capacity, taking account of social problems.

The Council asked the Commission to submit written suggestions on this subject before mid-July and to submit early in the autumn detailed proposals for the introduction of new rules to come into force on 1 January 1987.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

General situation in this sector

The Council took note of an introductory statement by Mr NARJES, Vice-President of the Commission, who presented the Commission's report on the general situation in the telecommunications sector.

Mutual recognition of type approval for terminal equipment

The Council agreed on the Directive concerning the first phase of the establishment of the mutual recognition of type approval for telecommunications terminal equipment. The Directive will be formally adopted shortly, once the text has been finalized.

This Directive relates to the mutual recognition of conformity tests on terminal equipment and is therefore only a first stage in establishing a single market in this sector.

As regards the next stage, Article 8 of the Directive provides that the Commission shall submit new proposals within a period of two years following adoption, covering, in particular, the implementation of mutual recognition of type approval for mass-produced terminal equipment.

Direct satellite television broadcasting

It emerged from the Council's discussions that all delegations confirmed their agreement on the MAC/packet family as a common standard. The Permanent Representatives Committee was asked to draw up a text on the basis of this political agreement as soon as possible.

Standardization in the field of information technology

The Council examined certain essential questions relating to the proposals for Directives relating to standardization in the field of information technology and telecommunications.

After the discussion the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue studying the file as a priority so that the Council could take a decision as quickly as possible.

LEGAL PROTECTION OF SEMICONDUCTORS

The Council stressed the urgent need for a decision on the Commission proposal on the legal protection of semiconductors. The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue discussing the matter as a priority so that the Council could take a decision no later than its meeting on 23 June 1986 (Internal Market).

COMPETITIVENESS OF EUROPEAN INDUSTRY

Mr NARJES, made a statement concerning the Commission communication on improving competitiveness and industrial structures in the Community. The Council agreed on the main points of the Commission's analysis. The President of the Council concluded that the various aspects of this communication should be taken into account in the context of work on various subjects such as standardization, public purchasing, state aids to industry, etc.

PUBLIC PURCHASING

On the basis of a note from the Presidency on public supply contracts, the Council held a preliminary exchange of views on the action to be taken - particularly with a view to establishing the Community's internal market - to give real substance to the opening and integration of public supply contracts.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine the Presidency's note in detail.

It also asked the Commission to submit shortly, on the basis of its 1984 communication, a document which would enable the various aspects of this subject to be examined in detail. The Commission would subsequently submit appropriate formal proposals.

EUROTYPE PRODUCT WARRANT

Mr NARJES made a statement on the Commission's first ideas on the introduction of a European product warrant. The Council asked the Commission to study this matter further.

PROBLEMS OF PORTUGUESE INDUSTRY

The Council took note of a statement by the Portuguese delegation stressing the importance it attached to the introduction of a specific programme for the development of Portuguese industry as provided for in the Act of Accession. It noted that the Commission would be establishing contact with the Portuguese delegation on this subject.

USE OF VIDEOCONFERENCE AND VIDEOPHONE TECHNIQUES
FOR INTERGOVERNMENTAL APPLICATIONS

The Council adopted the following Resolution:

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

WHEREAS on 28 February 1984 the Council requested the Commission to undertake an analysis of the use of videoconference and videophone techniques to improve contact between Member States and the Community Institutions;

WHEREAS the Council adopted the Commission communication on telecommunications dated 18 May 1984 (COM(84) 277 final), which included an analysis of intergovernmental videoconference and videophone applications as a line of action;

WHEREAS the Council, on 17 December 1984, agreed on the major objectives for a Community effort in the field of telecommunications, which included reference to the definition and implementation of an intergovernmental videoconference and videophone project;

WHEREAS the Commission has submitted the feasibility study requested;

NOTING the feasibility study and the conclusions of the Commission,

INVITES THE MEMBER STATES:

1. to implement an initial operational intergovernmental videoconference and videophone system which takes account of the potential of videoconference and videophone techniques, in order

to improve and make more efficient the bilateral and multilateral exchange of information between the Governments of the Member States and the Community Institutions; to that end, to entrust such implementation to the telecommunications authorities;

2. to complete the necessary installations, in accordance with the requirements they have ascertained;
3. to encourage the telecommunications authorities of Member States to proceed actively with establishment of the trans-Community broadband communications necessary to support an intergovernmental video-conference and videophone system;

INVITES THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COMMISSION TO:

1. examine conditions for their participation in an initial operational intergovernmental videoconference and videophone system;

FURTHERMORE, INVITES THE COMMISSION TO:

1. continue the co-operation that has been established with telecommunications authorities and users during the preparation of the feasibility study and in particular resolve problems specific to the use of videoconference and videophone facilities by Governments and the Community Institutions, such as confidentiality, simultaneous interpretation and the possibility of multilateral conferences;
2. submit a report to the Council on the experience gained during 1987, also covering the financial aspects of putting this Resolution into practice, so that the applicability of the system to inter-governmental communications may be assessed and a decision taken as to whether the use of videoconference and videophone facilities for such communications should be encouraged further.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Customs Union

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation abolishing certain postal fees for customs presentation.

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

- opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for certain qualities of magnesium falling within subheading ex 77.01 A of the Common Customs Tariff (300 t)
- opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for ferro-phosphorous falling within subheading ex 28.55 A of the Common Customs Tariff (60 000 t)
- increasing Community tariff quotas for certain grades of ferro-chromium falling within subheading ex 73.02 E I of the Common Customs Tariff (from 7 000 to 10 000 t for ferro-chromium containing 4% or more carbon by weight and from 210 000 to 295 000 t for ferro-chromium containing 6% or more carbon by weight).

Trade policy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Council Decision authorizing extension or tacit renewal of certain trade agreements concluded between Member States and third countries.

Research

The Council noted that the Commission intended to sign a Memorandum of Understanding between the European Atomic Energy Community represented by the Commission of the European Communities and the United States of America, Department of Energy, concerning research into the health and environmental effects of radiation.

Fisheries

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision on the accession of the Community to the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas as amended by the Protocol annexed to the Final Act of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries of the States Parties to the Convention signed in Paris on 10 July 1984.

Luxembourg, le 9 juin 1986

NOTE BIO(86) 160 aux Bureaux Nationaux
CC. Membres du Service du Porte-Parole

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Conseil Industrie (E. REUTER)

Le Conseil a consacré pratiquement deux heures aux aides à la construction navale. Dans son exposé introductif, monsieur Sutherland a fait une analyse approfondie de la situation dans ce secteur et a dégagé les orientations que la Commission estimait devoir être déterminantes pour ses propositions relatives au régime à mettre en place à l'expiration de la 5ème Directive à la fin de l'année.

La Commission ne sera pas en mesure de faire des propositions définitives avant le début de l'automne, compte tenu des travaux préparatoires et des consultations encore nécessaires. La Commission compte remettre au Conseil un document de base décrivant sa stratégie au cours du mois de juillet.

Les éléments essentiels de cette stratégie concerneront un raffermissement de la discipline communautaire avec la possibilité de l'instauration d'un plafond communautaire des aides à la production ainsi que des mesures destinées à assurer une plus grande transparence. M. Sutherland a souligné la nécessité de continuer l'effort de restructuration en tenant compte des différences structurelles entre chantiers dans les différents Etats membres. Des aides à la restructuration seraient soumises à des conditions strictes en vue d'assurer la réalisation de leur objectif, à savoir la réduction des excès de capacité et le démantèlement irrémédiable des installations non viables. Le nouveau régime serait applicable pendant cinq ans; tenant compte de ce que la restructuration en Espagne et au Portugal était nécessairement moins avancée que dans les autres Etats membres, des arrangements transitoires seraient adoptés pour ces deux pays.

Les délégations ont dans une large mesure partagé l'analyse de M. Sutherland et encouragé la Commission à faire rapidement ses propositions. Plusieurs délégations ont mis l'accent sur la nécessité de concevoir une véritable stratégie industrielle et d'accompagner la restructuration d'un volet social. Le ministre danois a déclaré que la situation actuelle était inacceptable alors que le nouveau ministre français de l'Industrie M. Madelin a énergiquement soutenu la Commission en déclarant "il faut mettre fin à l'absurde surenchère entre chantiers moribonds de la Communauté à coups de subsides financés par l'argent des contribuables".

Amitiés,

E. REUTER.
COEURNNNNNNN

Luxembourg, le 9 juin 1986

NOTE BIO(86) 160 (suite 1) aux Bureaux Nationaux
cc. aux Membres du Service du Porte-Parole

Conseil Industrie (W. HELIN)

**Télécommunications : premier pas important vers la réalisation
d'un marché commun**

En adoptant lundi une directive qui permettra désormais de reconnaître sur l'ensemble du marché européen comme conforme un terminal de télécommunications testé dans un laboratoire agréé dans n'importe lequel des pays de la Communauté, les douze ont accompli un pas important vers la création d'un marché européen de la télécommunication.

Cette décision va non seulement ouvrir le marché européen mais elle va permettre de réduire de façon considérable les coûts liés aux essais de laboratoire. En effet, dès qu'elle sera traduite dans les législations nationales, cette directive permettra aux industriels de ne plus devoir faire effectuer des essais dans les laboratoires de chacun des pays de la Communauté. Cette décision signifie également une étape importante sur la voie de normes communes européennes dans le secteur des télécommunications.

~~Et aux plus exemplaires aux bureaux de la Communauté~~

~~W. HELIN~~

~~W. HELIN
COMELJRNNNNNNNNN~~

Acier Etats-Unis

Au cours du déjeuner, les ministres de l'Industrie des Douze ont autorisé la Commission européenne à entamer avec les autorités américaines des conversations exploratoires afin de régler si possible la question des exportations européennes de produits sidérurgiques semi-finis vers les Etats Unis.

Rappelons que l'administration américaine a imposé unilatéralement une limitation des ventes européennes de ces produits sur son marché et que la Communauté a décidé des mesures de rétorsion frappant trois catégories de produit en provenance des U.S.A. (engrais, certaines graisses animales et certaines catégories de papier).

Amitiés,

W. HELIN
COMELJRNNNNNNNNN