

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

1161st meeting of the Council

- Development Co-operation -

Brussels, 14 May 1987

President: Mr. Etienne KNOOPS
State Secretary
Ministry of Foreign Trade
Kingdom of Belgium

The official press release was unavailable. A summary of the related ACP meeting has been reproduced from the Bulletin of the European Communities, No. 5-1987

Number, place and date of meeting	Subject	President	Commission	Main items of business
1161st Brussels 14 May	Development cooperation	Mr Knoops	Mr Natali	Preparation for ACP-EEC Council of Ministers meeting (14 and 15 May) ⁶

ACP-EEC

2.2.38. The 12th session of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers, held in Brussels on 14 and 15 May, was chaired by Mrs Eugenia Charles, Prime Minister of Dominica and President of the Council of ACP Ministers.¹ The Community delegation was led by Mr Leo Tindemans, Belgian Foreign Minister and President of the Council of the European Communities, and Mr Paul de Keersmaeker, Belgian State Secretary for European Affairs and Agriculture; the Commission was represented by Mr Natali.

The most important item on the agenda concerned the negotiation of the Protocol of Accession of Spain and Portugal to Lomé III. Ministers concluded nearly 18 months of negotiations by reaching agreement on the conditions of accession.

During a seven-year transitional period Spain and Portugal will apply to imports of industrial products from the ACP States virtually the same transitional measures as they apply to imports from the Ten. The transitional measures applied to imports of agricultural products from the ACP States, particularly in the case of imports into Spain, will also be largely identical to those applied to imports from the Ten.

During the negotiations the Community made a number of significant improvements in the trade arrangements for imports from the ACP States during the transitional period, particularly in terms of improved access for ACP industrial and agricultural (especially tropical) products to the Spanish and Portuguese markets and to the wider Community market. It was agreed that the Protocol of Accession would be applied provisionally as soon as the existing transitional arrangements expire, i.e. from 1 July.² There are to be further talks on rice

and sugar in connection with the enlargement of the Community.

As regards southern Africa, the ACP States pressed the Community to isolate South Africa completely, notably by means of tougher sanctions, and called for a ministerial meeting to be held in November. The President of the Council and the Commission reiterated the position of the Twelve and referred to the measures taken against South Africa to help the SADCC countries and victims of apartheid in South Africa and Namibia.

The session also provided an opportunity for the Community and the ACP States to hold consultations on the Uruguay Round negotiations,³ and to have an informal exchange of views on Unctad VII⁴ and the follow-up to the United Nations special session on Africa held last year.⁵ The Council of Ministers also examined the scope for stabilizing the terms for importing Community cereals into the ACP States and called for a decision to be taken soon. The Community was ready to act on this question.

The ACP States expressed their concern about the Commission proposal for taxing oils and fats,⁶ the state of the coffee market and proposals concerning the sugar price, and were given detailed explanations concerning these items. The ACP States vigorously defended their interests in relation to the fixing of new coffee quotas: they received an assurance that their interests would be given serious consideration and that the quotas would be fixed on the basis of objective criteria.

Talks were also held on a number of topics bearing on trade cooperation, the Stabex system, investment, ACP indebtedness and

¹ Bull. EC 4-1986, point 2.2.57.

² OJ L 380, 31.12.1986; Bull. EC 12-1986, point 2.2.28; Bull. EC 4-1986, point 2.2.57; OJ L 63, 5.3.1986; Bull. EC 2-1986, point 2.2.26.

³ Bull. EC 9-1986, point 1.4.1 *et seq.*

⁴ Bull. EC 1-1987, point 2.2.25; Bull. EC 2-1987, point 2.2.23.

⁵ Bull. EC 5-1986, point 2.2.40.

⁶ Bull. EC 2-1987, point 1.2.14.

the treatment of ACP national in Member States. The ACP-EEC Council of Ministers also agreed to consult ACP-EEC business and workers' representatives. It adopted the report of the 'Lomé III Article 193 Committee' on financial cooperation, approved the conclusions of evaluation exercises carried out on EDF-financed projects and made progress on the examination of general conditions for EDF contracts.

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Number, place and date of meeting	Subject	President	Commission	Main items of business
1159th Brussels 11 May	Economic and financial affairs	Mr Eyskens	Mr Delors Mr Christoffersen Lord Cockfield Mr Matutes	Relations with certain non-member countries and international organizations 'The Single Act: A new frontier for Europe'; 1987 budget situation ² Budgetary discipline: 1988 reference framework ³ Financial engineering: financing of major infrastructures of European interest ⁴ Credit insurance and suretyship insurance
1160th Brussels 14 May	Education	Mr Duquesne	Mr Marín	Erasmus programme: agreement ⁵ In-service training of teachers: conclusions ⁵ Foreign-language teaching Highlighting European dimension in education Health education Integration of handicapped children into ordinary schools: conclusions ⁵ Fight against illiteracy: conclusions Failure at school in the European Community: conclusions ⁵ French Government's Blue Book on an educational and cultural Europe
1161st Brussels 14 May	Development cooperation	Mr Knoops	Mr Natali	Preparation for ACP-EEC Council of Ministers meeting (14 and 15 May) ⁶
1162nd Brussels 15 May	Health	Mrs Demeester-De Meyer	Mr Marín	Fight against AIDS: conclusions ⁵ Fight against cancer: agreement in principle on Commission proposal ⁵ European emergency health card Mutual medical assistance in event of nuclear disaster
1163rd Brussels 18, 19, 20, 24, 25 and 26 May	Agriculture	Mr De Keersmaecker	Mr Andriessen	Agricultural prices and related measures for 1987/88: further discussion ⁷
1164th Brussels 21 May	Development cooperation	Mr Knoops	Mr Natali	Increasing public awareness of development issues: conclusions ⁶ Role of private sector in development process: conclusions Combating AIDS in the developing countries: conclusions ⁶

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