

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

6618/90 (Presse 75)

1407th Council meeting
- Development Co-operation -
Brussels, 29 May 1990

President: Mrs Maire GEOGHEGAN-QUINN
Minister of State
with special responsibility for EEC matters

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

Belgium:

Mr André GEENS Minister for Development Co-operation

Denmark:

Mr Bent HAAKONSEN State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Germany:

Mr Hans-Peter REPNIK Parliamentary State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Economic Co-operation

Greece:

Mr Constantinos LYBEROPOULOS Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

Spain:

Mr Carlos WESTENDORP Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

France:

Mr Jacques PELLETIER Minister for Development Co-operation

Ireland:

Mrs Maire GEOGHEGAN-QUINN Minister of State with special
responsibility for EEC matters

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Italy:

Mr Federico DI ROBERTO

Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Luxembourg:

Mr Georges WOHLFART

State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Co-operation

Netherlands:

Mr Jan PRONK

Minister for Development Co-operation

Portugal:

Mr José Manuel DURAO BARROSO

State Secretary for Foreign Affairs and
Co-operation

United Kingdom:

Mrs Lynda CHALKER

Minister for Overseas Development

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Commission:

Mr Manuel MARIN

Mr Abel MATUTES

Vice-President

Member

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ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT - COUNCIL RESOLUTION

1. Following the request made by the Council at its meeting on 21 November 1989, the Council bodies have pursued their discussions of the need
 - to draw up guidelines enabling environmental considerations to be better integrated into development co-operation:
 - to devote specific appropriate means to this task.

2. On the basis of the discussions held and of a paper provided by the Commission services, the Council reconfirms the conclusions reached on 6 November 1984 and 9 November 1987 on the need to integrate environment and development and on the means to be used to this end.

The Council recognizes that it is for each country to determine its broad environment policies. However, the Council confirms that all projects and programmes financed by the Community and the Member States in whatever sector should take into account at all stages their effect on the environment.

This may entail specific environmental safeguards agreed in dialogue with developing countries on individual aid projects and programmes.

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3. The Council underlines that the environmentally sound and sustainable management of natural resources is of fundamental importance to developing countries. It further recognizes that the enforcement of sound environmental policies is made more difficult by the lack of adequate technical and financial resources and these policies face a serious challenge from the rapid and concentrated growth of population. Soil erosion, desertification, deforestation, air and water pollution and rapid urbanization, are amongst the most pressing environmental problems facing those countries. These issues represent real barriers to economic growth and sustainable development and are priorities for development assistance.

4. The Council stresses that the achievement of sustainable development inter alia requires greater understanding of the local environment and of environmental economics in developing countries and more systematic consideration of environmental factors in national decision making.

The Council declares the willingness of the Community and the Member States to assist developing countries in protecting their natural resource base through supporting research activities, institution building, training and other forms of institutional support.

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The Council considers that the active involvement of local populations in decision-making and implementation is of fundamental importance in ensuring that proper attention is given to environmental factors. Support should be extended to local communities to organize themselves and to strengthen, enrich and apply their own means and capacities for the care of their environment while responding to their needs. The role of NGOs in general in this respect, and indigenous NGOs in particular, is stressed.

5. The Council notes the vital necessity of involving developing countries in worldwide efforts to tackle the emerging global environmental issues. Such involvement requires continuing and environmentally sustainable economic growth in developing countries and the reinforcement of efforts to tackle poverty.

The Council recognizes the need both to ensure that existing and future aid contributes as effectively as possible to these tasks and to provide additional resources on concessional terms. The Council considers that as far as the provision of additional public resources is concerned, existing co-operation instruments including financial mechanisms represent an appropriate channel at this stage.

The Council considers that, in the allocation of these resources, particular attention should be given to priority needs of developing countries, taking into account the need to alleviate global threats, with particular reference to changes of climate and the depletion of the ozone layer. In this context, the Council attaches particular importance to forestry and to energy efficiency.

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6. The Council recognizes that a number of practical steps are needed to translate the broad principles noted above into action.

In order to improve environmental consideration in development activities, the Council attaches particular importance to:

- support for developing countries in defining environmental priorities, strengthening their environmental institutions and legislation and staff training. In this context, the Community and its Member States underline the need for a much closer and concrete co-operation at the country level with other development partners and with the active participation of the recipient country. In this work, support should be given in particular to the preparation and implementation of environmental action plans at national and sectoral level and conservation strategies. The Council stresses the importance of taking existing plans into account in the programming of Community and Member States' aid;
- active implementation of environmental impact assessment by the Community and its Member States following both their own directives and procedures and/or those which have been developed by relevant international bodies;

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- implementation, in co-operation with the ACP States, of the reinforced provisions of the fourth Lomé Convention taking into account the principles outlined in paragraphs 1 to 5 above. Work should begin as soon as possible on the preparation of jointly approved checklists to help estimate the environmental viability of proposed operations with the help of environmental impact assessments where appropriate so that both can be used on the preparation of Lomé IV projects and programmes;

- increased stress on the environment in the Community's future co-operation with the countries of Latin America, Asia and the Mediterranean region, based on appropriate operational principles and procedures in line with the objectives outlined above;

- active participation by the Community and the Member States in work to improve environmental appraisal methodologies, to develop appropriate tools in environmental economics and to improve understanding of the state of the environment in developing countries. In this context the Council notes the work of the DAC on environmental issues. The Council recalls its previous conclusions on the need for experts meetings organized by the Commission and considers these meetings should complement the work in other fora, as appropriate;

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- the provision of training and guidance in environmental appraisal and monitoring for the aid staff of the Commission and the Member States both in headquarters and in the field. The Council recognizes that considerable work has already been undertaken in this respect; however, the need for the adoption of operational principles and guidelines is stressed;
 - the provision of appropriate environmental expertise in the Community and Member States' aid agencies. The Council stresses the need to take environmental factors into account from the beginning of project planning which requires the active participation of all those involved.
7. The Council notes that Environment and Development will be a central theme in a number of forthcoming international meetings. The Council recognizes the importance of agreement on measures to assist the accession of developing countries to the Montreal Protocol at the London Conference in June. The Council also looks forward to the Second World Climate Conference in November and the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Brazil. The Council will ensure that development issues are fully considered in the preparation by the Community and the Member States for these meetings.

The Council undertakes to keep this issue under review, to monitor progress and to return to consider it at a future Council.

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TROPICAL FORESTS : DEVELOPMENT ASPECTS - COUNCIL RESOLUTION

1. As an addition to its consideration of the general question of Environment and Development, the Council, following the intention it expressed at its meeting on 21 November 1989, has examined from the development policy perspective the Commission's communication on the conservation of tropical forests. The Council shares the analysis contained in the communication and broadly agrees with its conclusions.

The Council attaches great importance to the conservation of tropical forest resources - that is, their preservation, rehabilitation and sustainable management, supported by reforestation. Such resources are essential for the sustainable development of developing countries and are of worldwide importance in view of possible consequences of deforestation for climate change, loss of biodiversity and degradation of the natural resource base.

2. The Council has noted the estimated need to double the present level of donor resources devoted to forestry and associated activities and therefore considers that a major increase in funding is needed by all donors. It recognizes that progress in meeting this aim will depend on increasing the capacity of donors and developing countries to devise and implement appropriate actions. It welcomes the fact that the Commission and some Member States have already set in train major increases in their forestry activities.

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3. The Community and its Member States recognize the necessity of a worldwide co-ordinated strategy for tropical forest resources and endorse the following principles and activities :

- Responsibility for tropical forests lies with the countries concerned. Donors should concentrate on supporting action taken by the developing countries themselves and, where necessary, help them to develop forest conservation strategies and to strengthen their institutional capacity in this sector.
- The Tropical Forestry Action Plan (TFAP) should be the basic framework for co-ordinated funding and action in the support of forest activities. The Council urges the Community and the Member States to support current efforts to implement the principles of the TFAP, considers these efforts need to be reinforced and made more effective, and welcomes the review of the TFAP now under way. The Council will examine the results of that review at a forthcoming meeting together with ways of making the TFAP more effective.
- Countries actively supporting the conservation of their remaining natural forest through legal, fiscal and institutional measures, and the revision of land use policies should merit special attention. Action to correct policies which encourage forest destruction should also be fostered and supported.

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- Member States and the Commission should ensure that all their activities which directly or indirectly affect forests are coherent and co-ordinated among themselves and with other donors and recipients and that they have effective units with the necessary forestry expertise.

- The future geographical allocation of forestry aid should be co-ordinated using the mechanism of the TFAP. Priority must continue to be given to the poorest countries and those without the resources to help themselves. However, regions where the threat to forests is particularly serious and which may not previously have been a priority for donors should receive particular attention in the allocation of additional resources.

- The type of support will vary from country to country in accordance with their particular needs. Particular emphasis must be given, in line with the priorities of the TFAP, to: the integration of forestry actions with agriculture; restoration of fuelwood supplies; the establishment of reserves based on the environmental and biodiversity functions of forests; the sustained management of natural forests; and to strengthening and supporting institutions, with a view to increasing local capacity for sustainable management. There is a need for donors to co-ordinate their actions as regards countries and sectors.

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- Particular importance has to be attached to the social dimension of forestry. The traditions and experience of indigenous forest dwellers should be respected and drawn upon while at the same time the needs and problems of new settlers and those living on the periphery of the forest should be addressed. Active steps should be taken to involve local populations in planning and implementation of projects.

- Special emphasis must be given to the involvement of international and national NGOs in the TFAP process, particularly at local level.

- Particular consideration should be given to the role of the International Timber Trade Organisation (ITTO) in promoting sustainable management, notably in establishing guidelines for best practice in this sector. The ITTO should be encouraged to carry out its actions in a manner consistent with the TFAP framework.

- The Council notes the recent adoption, at the 8th session of the ITTO, of guidelines for the rational management of natural tropical forests and of an action plan and work programme on forest industry, and particularly the objective that total exports of tropical timber products should come from sustainably managed resources by the year 2000.

- Forestry research is of fundamental importance. Particular emphasis should be placed on improving sustainable productivity of forests; identifying non-timber resources of the forest and key areas of biodiversity, and evaluating the environmental services provided by trees and forests. Reinforcement of the research capacities of the developing countries themselves should be a priority.

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4. The Council welcomes the increased priority given to tropical forestry in the Lomé IV Convention. Practical action will need to be agreed with individual partners. The Council supports the Commission's intention to lay emphasis on TFAP exercises and to take into account the strategy outlined at 3 above in its dialogue with ACP countries during the preparation of Lomé IV indicative programmes. Action at a regional level will be equally important.

5. In its future consideration of co-operation with developing countries in Asia and Latin America the Council feels that greater emphasis must be placed on the conservation of tropical forests, where possible within the context of the TFAP and in accordance with the strategy set out in paragraph 3 above. The Council notes with interest the Commission's intention to propose a programme for forest conservation with eight Amazonian countries.

6. In conclusion, the Council underlines that the success of this strategy requires increased attention to forestry aid policies in donor countries, appropriate policies and institutions in developing countries, better co-ordination and additional resources from all donors. It urges the Commission and the Member States periodically to monitor and assess the implementation of this strategy and to report back on progress to a future Council.

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CO-OPERATION WITH THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OF ASIA AND LATIN AMERICA

The Council heard a statement by Commissioner MATUTES, presenting the recent Commission communication on guidelines for co-operation with the developing countries of Asia and Latin America.

The Council thanked the Commission for this important communication. A preliminary discussion was held, enabling delegations to state their initial reactions.

At the end of the discussion the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine the Commission communication in detail and to submit a report to it with a view to further discussions at Council level.

CO-OPERATION WITH THE MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES

The Council took note of a statement by Commissioner MATUTES setting out the development aspects of the communication which the Commission had recently forwarded to the Council concerning a renewed Mediterranean policy and of delegations' first reactions on the matter.

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FOOD AID POLICY - COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

1. At its meeting on 21 November 1989, the Council adopted a comprehensive Resolution on food aid policy. In this Resolution it asked that further discussions take place on three topics: the integration of food aid with other forms of development assistance; specific criteria and conditions for multiannual programmes; and the nature of the overall assessment of the annual food aid programme of the previous year.
2. Discussions, limited to these three topics, have taken place on the basis of information provided by the Commission and the Member States; the Council draws the following conclusions:

A. Integration of food aid with other forms of development assistance

As recognized in Article 2 of the framework Regulation, food aid has a specific role and objectives, aimed at strengthening food security. Its integration with other development instruments and with the development efforts of the recipient country can contribute in a significant way to these objectives. This integration may be achieved from the programming through the execution stages by

- the taking into account, in the programming and implementation of Community aid, of recipients' food needs and the role that Community aid can play in this regard, in order to ensure that food aid and the other development instruments are used in a co-ordinated manner to maximize their impact on food security. In this context, the Commission might, on an experimental basis and in conjunction with the recipient country concerned:
 - = draw up and implement, on a country level, fully integrated programmes of EC development assistance in a few countries which have a recurrent food deficit and which receive significant EC food aid and financial assistance on a regular basis
 - = monitor closely the effectiveness of this integrated approach in these countries
 - = submit a report in due course to the Council on the results achieved by this experiment;
- actions involving both food aid and financial and technical assistance, as have already been initiated by the Commission. In these cases close co-ordination should take place during the programming, implementation, monitoring and evaluation stages. In this context the Council invites the Commission to consider ways of improving co-ordination between the various Committees when these are considering related proposals for food aid and for financial assistance;

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- an integrated use of food aid with other instruments to improve the food security of carefully identified vulnerable groups, through, inter alia, free or subsidized distribution of food aid, "food for work" projects, nutritional or social welfare projects. Where appropriate locally purchased food should be used in such actions;
- using food aid in projects or programmes receiving other types of aid from the Community or the Member States.

In reviewing the possibilities for integrating food aid with other forms of development assistance, the Council notes that the use of counterpart funds deserves further reflection. It expresses its interest in a broad review of the use of counterpart funds from all sources.

In order to improve co-ordination of food aid and other Community development assistance joint meetings of the Council Working Parties on Food Aid and Development Co-operation should be organized whenever this seems appropriate.

B. Multiannual programmes

The Council recalls that the Community gives priority to emergency situations and that multiannual programmes should only be used where it can be clearly demonstrated that in this way the overall effectiveness of the food aid allocation will be increased. It stresses the necessity of ensuring that the total proportion of the Food Aid Programme committed in multiannual programmes does not reach a level which might in any way reduce the Community's ability to respond to these or other priority requests.

The Council recognizes that multiannual food aid programmes, as envisaged by the framework regulation, can improve the role of food aid as a development instrument and facilitate its integration with other development instruments. Multiannual programmes provide a continuity of supply over an agreed number of years of food aid and, where food aid is sold, counterpart funds in support of an identified food security objective. Multiannual programmes should also make it possible to improve the implementation of triangular operations by forward planning, thereby increasing their impact and effectiveness.

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The essential criteria for deciding a multiannual food aid programme are the existence in the recipient country of:

- a structural food deficit at national level; however, in exceptional circumstances where a serious long-term local deficit has been clearly identified, the possibility of multiannual food aid action might be considered;
- viable food policies (concerning, for example, the balance between imports and local production, or pricing policy).
- a project or a programme, which has been subject to identification and appraisal and in which food aid has been identified as an essential component.

Multiannual programmes should also be subject to the following conditions:

- evidence, confirmed by the appraisal, that the programme in question will not negatively affect local food production;

- flexible programming which would allow for modification of the choice or quantity of products, or the use of substitution measures, should such changes better meet current food security objectives;

- detailed mid-term review with the possibility of altering the programme's or project's initial guidelines as set out above.

C. Overall assessment of the annual food aid programme of the previous year

As an aid to decision-making on programming, the Council requests the Commission, shortly after the end of each year, to present an overall statistical review of the preceding year. This should indicate the state of implementation of each decision taken and should be accompanied by a brief commentary providing an overview of the annual programme detailing any problems or exceptional events encountered in the previous year.

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The Council notes that the suggestion has been made that the Community's food aid should be programmed in value terms rather than, as hitherto, in quantities. It requests COREPER to study the implications of such a change and report on its conclusions to a future Council.

WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT - COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

1. The Council has been concerned for some time to ensure that the role of women in development is adequately taken into account in all Community development policies. In November 1987, it asked that an action programme be drawn up encompassing practical measures to be implemented by all relevant administrative units.
2. The Council has taken note of a work programme which has recently been drawn up by the Commission and which outlines how it intends to implement the articles of the fourth Lomé Convention relating to the role of women in development. Recalling that its policy on women in development applies to all Community policy instruments, the Council requests the Commission to complete its action programme as soon as possible by preparing similar work programmes covering the Community's co-operation with the countries of Asia, Latin America and the Mediterranean region.
3. The Council welcomes the fact that the provisions of the new Lomé Convention place greater emphasis on the role of women and recognize the importance of the contribution which women make to the development process.

4. The Council, in welcoming the Commission's intentions and approach, stresses, like the Commission, that the full integration of women into the development process can best be achieved by recognizing the importance of their economic and social roles, providing them with the means to fulfil these roles effectively, improving their self-help capacity and structures and ensuring that they benefit from their involvement in the development process.

The Council, whilst noting the various actions by which the Commission intends to integrate the WID dimension into all stages of the project cycle, requests the Commission to consider additional proposals and possibly include, in the present and future proposals for action, concrete steps for their full implementation.

5. The Council invites the Commission and the Member States to take practical steps to ensure that WID activities are continued and strengthened by developing the necessary management systems and allocating adequate personnel and other resources.
6. Recognizing that co-operation between the Member States and the Commission in this field is of great importance, the Council notes with satisfaction that the Commission intends to hold the next meeting of experts on Women in Development from the Member States in September 1990.

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EVALUATION OF DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION - COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

1. The Council has for some years been concerned to improve the effectiveness of the evaluation of development co-operation. In November 1987 it adopted guidelines on future work in this area and, in May 1989, reiterated the importance it attaches to the establishment of sound evaluation procedures.
2. Following the request made by the Council, the Commission has forwarded to it a report containing an overview of evaluation activities and results in 1989, its work programme for 1990, and a summary of the results of co-operation between the Member States and the Commission. This report has been the subject of an exchange of views between the Commission's experts and those from the Member States.
3. The Council welcomes this report and considers that it represents a significant advance both in the field of the Commission's own evaluation activities and in that of co-operation between the Commission and the Member States.

The Council notes with satisfaction that the Commission's evaluation unit has been significantly strengthened and that it intends in the future to evaluate more projects in Latin America, Asia and the Mediterranean regions.

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The Council, noting the findings of the report in relation to the implementation of Community aid and the Commission's management of this aid, recognizes that a number of the problems identified are also experienced by Member countries in their bilateral aid programmes. It invites the Commission to take the necessary steps to follow up the recommendations of the report and in particular to improve feedback through better project formulation, appraisal and management.

4. The Council, which will keep this question under review, invites the Commission and the Member States to maintain and develop the EEC internal co-operation process which has now been set up.

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SECOND UN CONFERENCE ON THE LEAST-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

The Council held a discussion on preparations for the second UN Conference on the Least-Developed Countries, to be held in Paris from 3 to 14 September 1990.

The Council noted the positions adopted by the Member States and the Commission during the discussion and stressed the importance which the Community and its Member States attached to the Conference and to proper preparation for it in order to enable the Community to play the constructive role befitting it.

The Council accordingly asked the Commission to submit to it at the earliest opportunity the communication it had promised, so that a common position could be prepared on that basis before the summer recess.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

The Council discussed the issues arising in connection with preparation for the International Development Strategy for the 1990s, which is to be discussed by the UN General Assembly beginning on 17 September.

LOME IV PROGRAMMING

On the basis of information provided by Vice-President MARIN, the Council reviewed the programming of financial and technical aid under the fourth Lomé Convention.

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EVENTS IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

On the basis of a document from the Spanish delegation, the Council discussed co-operation with the developing countries in the light of events in Central and Eastern Europe. It was reaffirmed that Community policy vis-à-vis the Central and East European countries did not affect its policy towards the developing countries.

GERMAN UNIFICATION AND DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION

The Council noted an oral statement by the German delegation on the effects of the German unification process on development co-operation. The German delegation emphasized in particular that the Federal Republic's commitment to the developing countries would not be affected by unification and that in the interim the German Democratic Republic also intended to maintain and develop its activities in that field.

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MISCELLANEOUS DECISION

The Council adopted the Decision concerning the conclusion by the Community of the Agreement establishing the Common Fund for Commodities, signed in 1981.

The Member States of the Community have already for their part completed the procedures necessary for their participation.

Bruxelles, le 28 mai 1990

NOTE BIO(90) 154 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
CC AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE-PAROLE

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Préparation du Conseil Développement (29.V.90)

Xavier PRATS

Les travaux du Conseil commenceront demain à 10h00. Les discussions porteront notamment sur cinq points, qui dans la plupart des cas ont déjà fait l'objet de débats lors du Conseil de novembre 1989 :

1. Environnement et développement

1.a) Suite au Conseil développement du 21 novembre dernier, le Conseil poursuivra les discussions sur les lignes directrices et les moyens à apporter pour mieux intégrer les aspects environnement dans la coopération au développement.

Afin de contribuer à ce débat, la Commission a préparé à l'intention du Conseil un document de travail sur les nouveaux défis et mesures concrètes en matière d'environnement et développement (doc SEC(90)676).

1.b) En ce qui concerne le problème particulier du rôle de la Communauté dans la conservation de la forêt tropicale, la Commission a présenté une communication analysant les causes et conséquences de la déforestation et indiquant certains remèdes et actions (COM(89)410).

Sur base de cette communication, le Conseil débattera les principes et activités sur lesquels devra se baser une stratégie mondiale coordonnée en matière de ressources des forêts tropicales, notamment à travers les deux principaux instruments actuellement existants : le Plan d'Action pour la Forêt tropicale, créé par la FAO, et l'Organisation Internationale des Bois Tropicaux, créée dans le cadre de la CNUCED.

2. Orientations pour la coopération avec les pays en développement d'Asie et d'Amérique Latine.

La Commission présentera ses nouvelles orientations, adoptées le 8 mai dernier (cfr note P-30).

3. Politique de l'aide alimentaire

Les discussions au Conseil porteront sur l'intégration de l'aide alimentaire dans d'autres formes d'aide au développement, sur les critères et les conditions précis applicables aux programmes pluriannuels, ainsi que sur l'évaluation du programme d'aide alimentaire 1989. Le document de base de la Commission établit les problèmes et orientations de la programmation de l'aide (doc SEC(89)1654).

Les débats de demain devraient permettre de résoudre notamment le problème de la programmation pluriannuelle.

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4. Femmes et développement

Le Conseil débattera le "programme de travail sur les femmes et le développement dans la Convention de Lomé IV" établi par la Commission (SEC(90)753).

La Commission met l'accent notamment sur l'intégration des actions en faveur des femmes dans les programmes de développement principaux, plutôt que sur la mise en oeuvre de programmes axés sur les seules femmes. Elle souligne l'importance et la portée des moyens mis à la disposition de la Communauté par la nouvelle Convention ACP/CE.

5. Evaluation de la coopération au développement

La Commission a récemment établi son deuxième rapport concernant l'évaluation de la coopération au développement (SEC(90)902). Ce texte rend compte des progrès réalisés en matière de coopération intracommunautaire des services nationaux d'évaluation. Il fait état d'une large convergence de vues entre la Commission et les Etats membres. Les conclusions du Conseil ne devraient donc pas s'écarter du rapport de la Commission.

6. Conférence des Nations Unies sur les Pays Moins Avancés (PMA)

La 11ème Conférence des N.U. sur les PMA (42 pays, dont 33 appartenant à la Convention de Lomé) aura lieu du 3 au 14 septembre prochain à Paris, avec le mandat de formuler des politiques visant à accélérer le processus de développement de ces pays durant les années '90.

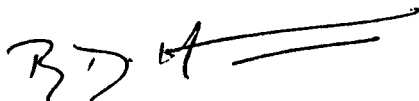
Dès le début des travaux préparatoires de la Conférence, la Communauté a joué un rôle très actif. Suite aux débats du Conseil de demain, la Commission présentera une communication comportant des propositions sur la position de la Communauté et des Etats membres pour la Conférence.

Sous points divers, le Vice-Président MARIN fera une communication orale sur la programmation de Lomé IV, où il mettra l'accent sur l'importance d'assurer un processus de programmation rapide et efficace de la nouvelle Convention. Le Conseil aura également des échanges de vues sur les aspects développement de l'Uruguay Round et de la coopération avec les pays méditerranéens; la stratégie de développement des Nations Unies pour les années 1990; la coopération à la lumière des événements en Europe orientale et centrale.

Pour le déjeuner, l'ordre du jour prévoit une discussion sur le problème de la situation d'urgence en Ethiopie et au Mozambique, ainsi que sur le projet CECA à Carajas (Brésil).

Amitiés,

B. DETHOMAS.



MATERIEL DIFFUSE :

Calendrier

- IP 402 - Communiqué conjoint: réunion ministérielle CE-Canada (Ottawa)
 - IP 407 - Extension of legal protection for topographies of semiconductor products to certain third countries
 - IP 415 - Journée d'Information sur la propriété Intellectuelle avec les pays d'Europe centrale et orientale
 - IP 416 - Circuits Intégrés: Commission donne deux mois à la Grèce pour se mettre en ordre vis-à-vis de la législation européenne
 - IP 417 - Résumé du discours de M. Mc Sharry devant "Marketing Institute" à Dublin
+ texte Intégral du discours
 - IP 418 - Visite à Athènes de Mme Papandreou et M. Millan
- Mémo 20 - Relations CE-Japon (réunion ministérielle)

Bruxelles, le 29 mai 1990

NOTE BIO(90) 154 (SUITE 1) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
CC AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE-PAROLE

Conseil Développement - 29.V.90 (Xavier PRATS)

Le Conseil a discuté ce matin les deux points sous la responsabilité de M. MATUTES : la coopération avec les pays d'Amérique Latine et d'Asie, et les aspects développement de la coopération avec les pays méditerranéens.

1. Coopération CE/PVD-ALA

M. MATUTES a présenté la communication que la Commission a approuvée le 8 mai dernier, afin d'introduire un premier échange de vues du Conseil sur ce sujet. Il a notamment souligné (cfr note P-30):

- les deux axes de la proposition de la Commission : en vue de la diversité croissante des situations économiques et sociales des pays ALA, il est nécessaire de différencier et moduler les instruments d'aide au développement, d'une part, et de coopération économique d'autre part. En effet, il est important de se doter d'instruments d'aide aux plus démunis, sans négliger ceux dont le niveau de développement leur permet de bénéficier d'une coopération économique et commerciale.

- une priorité importante à la protection de l'environnement dans tous les domaines de la coopération.

- des ressources financières accrues. La Commission, tout en respectant la discipline budgétaire et les perspectives financières, propose un saut qualitatif pour passer à des actions communautaires ayant un poids spécifique suffisant.

- l'établissement d'une perspective financière pluriannuelle, à caractère indicatif, bien que les budgets continueront à être approuvés de façon annuelle.

Toutes les délégations ont accueilli de façon très positive la communication de la Commission. Cela dit, l'objet de la discussion n'était pas d'entrer dans un débat détaillé, car le Conseil n'a pas encore eu l'occasion d'examiner en profondeur la communication.

Les Etats membres ont unanimement approuvé l'approche présentée par M. MATUTES (deux axes, perspectives pluriannuelles, priorité à l'environnement). En ce qui concerne les ressources financières, seule la délégation britannique a fait état de réticences à ce stade, le reste des Etats membres jugeant la proposition soit comme un "bon plancher", soit comme un "bon plafond". Le Conseil a transmis ce dossier au COREPER.

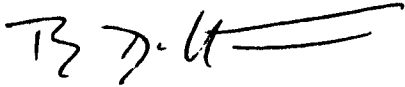
2. Aspects développement de la coopération avec les pays tiers méditerranéens

M. MATUTES, suite à l'approbation par la Commission de sa communication sur la politique méditerranéenne renouvelée (cfr P-34), a présenté les aspects de celle-ci intéressant le Conseil développement. Il a centré son intervention sur une innovation particulièrement importante : la création d'un volet spécifique, doté de 600 MECU, destiné à l'appui aux politiques d'assainissement économique des PTM. Il s'agit d'une approche similaire à celle introduite par Lomé IV pour les pays ACP. La Commission considère cette nouvelle initiative comme essentielle, étant donné les problèmes démographiques, d'emploi, d'endettement, et les déséquilibres que subissent les PTM.

Le Conseil n'avait pas examiné préalablement la proposition, et n'avait pas prévu de débattre ce texte, qui sera abordé par le Conseil Affaires générales. Plusieurs délégations ont pris la parole pour apprécier positivement la cohérence et le rapprochement établis par la Commission entre la politique vis-à-vis des PTM et celle intéressant d'autres zones géographiques.

(sulfra...)

Amitiés,



B. DETHOMAS.

Bruxelles, le 29 mai 1990

**NOTE BIO(90)154 (suite 2 et fin) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
CC. AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE-PAROLE**

CONSEIL DEVELOPPEMENT (Xavier PRATS)

Le Conseil a poursuivi ses travaux sur le reste des points à l'ordre du jour sans difficultés majeures, étant donné que la plupart des thèmes de substance avaient fait l'objet d'un accord sur des projets de résolution au sein du COREPER.

1. Environnement et développement

Le Conseil a approuvé une résolution, sur base d'un texte de la Commission, sur la nécessité d'intégrer environnement et développement et sur les moyens à mettre en oeuvre à cette fin. Le Conseil estime notamment qu'il revient à chaque état de déterminer sa politique en matière d'environnement et considère dans sa résolution plusieurs mesures concrètes visant à aider les PVD à définir leurs priorités environnementales.

En ce qui concerne les forêts tropicales, le Conseil a également approuvé une résolution, par laquelle il partage l'analyse de la communication de la Commission sur la conservation des forêts tropicales, et constate qu'il convient de doubler le montant actuel des aides consacrées à la sylviculture. Le Conseil estime qu'il est nécessaire d'établir une stratégie mondiale coordonnée, dans le cadre notamment du Plan d'Action pour la Forêt Tropicale (PAFT). La résolution attache également une importance particulière à la dimension sociale du secteur forestier, à la participation des ONG au PAFT, et au rôle de l'Organisation Internationale des Bois Tropicaux.

2. Aide alimentaire

Sur base d'un document de travail de la Commission, le Conseil a adopté les conclusions prévoyant l'intégration de l'aide alimentaire dans les autres formes d'aides, et reconnaissant l'importance des programmes pluriannuels garantissant la continuité de l'aide alimentaire. Le Conseil demande également à la Commission de présenter à la fin de chaque année un aperçu statistique sur le programme d'aide alimentaire annuel de l'année précédente.

3. Les femmes et le développement

Le Conseil a pris acte et s'est félicité du programme de travail par lequel la Commission indique la façon dont elle entend appliquer les articles de la Convention de Lomé IV relatifs au rôle de la femme dans le développement.

4. Evaluation de la coopération au développement

Le Conseil s'est félicité du rapport de la Commission sur l'évaluation en 1989, assorti du programme de travail 1990 et d'une analyse de la coopération entre Etats membres et Commission. Il invite la Commission à assurer le suivi des recommandations du rapport.

Suite à un bref débat, le Conseil a donné mandat à la Commission de préparer des propositions pour une position communautaire en vue de la deuxième conférence des N.U. sur les pays les moins avancés (Paris, 3-14 septembre '90).

En séance restreinte, le Vice-Président Marin a fait part au Conseil de ses orientations sur la programmation de Lomé IV. Il a notamment mis l'accent sur la nécessité d'assurer une programmation rapide et efficace, afin de conclure l'exercice avant la fin de l'année si possible. Les délégations ont accueilli favorablement la présentation de la Commission, étant entendu que la rapidité ne doit naturellement pas aller au détriment de la qualité de la programmation.

Bien que le problème des Droits de l'Homme n'ait pas figuré à l'ordre du jour, le Conseil a été amené à traiter ce problème dans une discussion générale, à la lumière notamment de la situation en Afrique Occidentale.

Le Vice-Président Marin a souligné devant la presse, à la fin du Conseil, qu'il faudra peut-être "reconsidérer la politique de coopération" en fonction des changements profonds actuellement en cours dans le Tiers Monde. Tout en rappelant que la situation de crise n'est pas généralisée en Afrique, et qu'il faut donc faire preuve de calme et de prudence, il a souligné que le combat pour les Droits de l'Homme est un combat universel sur lequel la Communauté ne peut pas être indifférente. M. Marin a indiqué qu'il n'y avait pas eu encore une réflexion suffisante sur ce sujet au niveau communautaire, mais que le contexte dans lequel on appliquera Lomé IV ne sera certainement pas celui d'il y a cinq ans : "Il y a des événements qui, peut-être, marqueront la nécessité de réorienter les principes de Lomé IV". Ce travail de réflexion se fera naturellement avec les partenaires ACP.

Amitiés,



B. DETHOMAS