

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

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1399th Council meeting
- Agriculture -
Brussels, 25, 26 and 27 April 1990

President: Mr Michael O'KENNEDY

Minister for Agriculture
and Food of Ireland

25/26/27. IV. 90

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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 Laurits TOERNAES Minister for Agriculture

Germany:

Mr Ignaz KIECHLE Federal Minister for Food, Agriculture
and Forestry

Mr Walter KITTEL State Secretary, Federal Ministry of
Food, Agriculture and Forestry

Greece:

Mr Nikolaos PSYLLAKIS Secretary-General, Ministry of Agriculture

Spain:

Mr Carlos ROMERO-HERRERA Minister for Agriculture

France:

Mr Henri NALLET Minister for Agriculture

Ireland:

Mr Michael O'KENNEDY Minister for Agriculture and Food

Mr Joe WALSH Minister of State at the Department of
Agriculture and Food

AGRICULTURAL PRICES AND CERTAIN RELATED MEASURES (1990/1991)

Following lengthy, intensive negotiations, the Council reached agreement on a package of prices and related measures for the 1990/1991 marketing year. This overall solution was achieved on the basis of a compromise submitted by the Presidency during the discussions and endorsed by the Commission in the final stages of the negotiations.

The essential features of this compromise, which amends the Commission's initial proposal, are as follows:

Cereals and Rice

- Maintain the existing basic co-responsibility levy.
- Maintain the bread wheat premium at its existing level.
- Proposal on minor cereals to be adopted subject to a review of its operation after 2 years; however the proposed change in levy arrangements not to be adopted at this stage.
- Durum Wheat: Offset 65% of the income loss for durum wheat resulting from alignment of intervention prices; (aid level: 171,43 ecu/ha in CE-10 and 110,88 ecu/ha in Spain).
- Increasing the monthly increments to 1,50 ecu/t per month for all cereals other than durum wheat and to 2,03 ecu/t per month for durum wheat.
- The aid level for flint maize is fixed at 125 ecu/ha for 1990/1991 and for India rice at 250 ecu/ha for 1990/1991.
- The Council requests the Commission to submit as soon as possible a proposal for full alignment of prices for rice in Spain to Community level.
- The Council notes that the Commission intends to present a report and proposals on the improvement of quality in the cereals sector.

- The new aid scheme for small producers may be applied by those Member States who decide to do so from the 1990/1991 marketing year. Other Member States may decide to maintain the present system. Member States shall inform the Commission by 31 May 1990 of the system they intend to apply. The Council shall decide before 31 March 1992 on the basis of the Commission proposal and a report on the operation of the new system on the arrangements to apply from the 1992/1993 marketing year.
- The farm size limit for the new aid system shall be 30 ha. The Commission will provide in the application rules of the new system for small producers of arable crops for the possibility for Member States to exclude from the calculation of the surface criterion the fallow land in regions where fallowing is a normal part of the crop rotational system and where the producers are not benefiting from Regulation (EEC) No 797/85.
- The Council notes that the fixing of the additional coresponsibility levy for 1990/1991 at a flat rate of 1,5% of the intervention price requires an adjustment in the global amount of direct aid available to small cereals producers. The Council undertakes to take steps as soon as possible to implement this on the basis of a Commission proposal.

This global amount will be distributed over all Member States, and only those Member States deciding to continue to apply the existing scheme in 1990/1991 will benefit from their part of the global amount.

Sugar

- On levulose, the Council and the Commission stress the urgency of reaching a decision taking account of the compromise suggestion at the CSA once the European Parliament Opinion is received.
- Adoption of a flat rate of interest at 10% for the calculation of the monthly reimbursement of storage costs and consequently an amount of 0,52 ecu/100 kg/month.

Olive oil

- The definition of a small-scale producer to be reconsidered in the context of the forthcoming "standstill" report.
- The introduction of consumption aid in Portugal will be considered in the context of the "standstill" report.

Table Olives

- Commission to undertake to report to the Council on the market situation for table olives by 1 July 1990.

Oil Seeds

- The Council takes note of the Commission intention to use the power to set different rates for crushing oilseeds and for any process of oilseed incorporation only in situations when it appears that failure to do so would give rise to market disruption. The Management Committee would be consulted on the detailed rules to be applied.

The Commission envisages that this new responsibility would be reserved for exceptional circumstances and does not envisage that it will be necessary to differentiate the aids payable for sunflower seed during the 1990/1991 marketing year.

Protein Crops and Dried Fodder

- Peas and Field Beans: the standard for impurities to be set at 2% instead of at 1% (Total 16%).
- The Council requests the Commission to state that it will monitor the effects which introducing revised quality standards for protein crops may have on production, processing or trade, given the different climatic circumstances in Member States, and if necessary, will make further proposals.
- Sun Dried Fodder: statement by Commission and Council that they agree that under normal harvesting conditions it is not possible to produce sun-dried fodder without the presence of some botanical impurities (notably gramineae)

and that aid claims for sun-dried fodder found to contain reasonable quantities of botanical impurities should continue to be paid pending a comprehensive examination of the technical possibilities of establishing the appropriate maximum level of botanical impurities and the methods by which any excess of this level would be assessed.

Cereals Price Transition in Portugal

- The Council, having regard to the concerns expressed by the heads of Government in 1988 on the special problems for Portuguese agriculture, recognizes that during the period of adaptation of Portuguese cereal prices to Community levels some producers will need to convert to alternative products. It will adopt appropriate measures on the basis of Commission proposals which will be presented when the arrangements for Portuguese cereal price transition have been determined.

Textile Fibres

- Fix "butoir" for cotton for one further year at a level of 25%.

Wine

- Compulsory distillation:
 - The term "wine year 1989/1990" referred to at Article 39(3) third subparagraph and at Article 39 paragraphs 10, 11 and 12 is replaced by "wine year 1990/1991".
 - The term "wine year 1990/1991" referred to at Article 39(3) fourth subparagraph is replaced by "wine year 1991/1992".
- The Council requests the Commission to accept within existing legislation the exclusion of certain areas of currant-producing vines from the grubbing-up scheme.
- Allow for transfer of replanting rights within the table wine sector (see Annex).

- Restructuring of vineyards (Regulation (EEC) No 458/80). Adaptation of the regime to permit the full use of amounts foreseen for this action by transfer to other projects of the amounts concerned for other approved projects which cannot be completely carried out before the end of the implementation deadline in order to improve quality and limit production yield.
- Maintenance on a transitional basis until the end of 1992 of the practice of "Mezcla" (coupage) in Spain. The Council requests the Commission to table a proposal for extension of Article 90 of the Act of Accession to allow an extension of the existing derogation, pending the implementation of a more durable solution.

Fresh Fruit and Vegetables

- For clementines, satsumas and lemons, a price reduction of 3%.
- For lemons, the minimum price for lemons for processing will be reached in Spain in 3 marketing years, 1990/1991, 1991/1992 and 1992/1993, with levels of, respectively, 155%, 130% and 105% of the price in those years.
- Council requests Commission to apply derogations under Articles 257 and 286 of the Act of Accession as regards transactions and through citrus producer groups to enable development and consolidation of such groups to take place in Portugal.
- Grubbing-up apples: prohibition of replantation of cider apples.
- No reduction in the buying-in price in May for apples.
- Grubbing-up arrangements to apply to apple-tree orchards up to 20 years old.
- A minimum area of 10 ha. for grubbing-up of mandarin orchards. In the case of orchards of less than 10 ha, the whole orchard has to be grubbed up, while in the case of orchards of more than 10 ha, at least half of the orchards has to be grubbed up.

Processed Fruit and Vegetables

- Arrangements for processed tomatoes: maintenance of the quota regime during the market years 1990/1991 and 1991/1992;
- By comparison with the proposal made by the Commission for 1990/1991 the quantities for that year will be increased for Spain by 100,000t. A further increase of 100,000t will be made in 1991/1992. For Portugal the Council requests the Commission to submit as soon as possible a proposal to increase the quota fixed in the Treaty of Accession for 1990/1991 by 100,000 tonnes. A further increase of 100,000 tonnes will be made in 1991/1992.
- Requests from some Member States for switches between the various processed tomato products and consequentially redistribution between factories to be further examined.
- The Council agrees to decide on the proposal for dried grapes before 30 June 1990.
- Postponement for 1 year of the application to tomato production aid of the amendment relating to dry matter content.
- As to the production aid system for processed fruit and vegetables, a monetary coefficient will be introduced only when strictly necessary in view of specific difficulties encountered by Community products on the world market.
- Council requests the Commission to consider the current market difficulties for cultivated mushrooms.

Tobacco

- The maximum guaranteed quantities for the 1991 harvest are amended as follows:

<u>No</u>	<u>Variety</u>	<u>M.G.O. 1991</u>
7	BRIGHT	46,750
31	VIRGINIA E	20,000
33	VIRGINIA P	4,500
26	VIRGINIA EL	17,000
8	BURLEY I	46,750
28	BURLEY FERMENTE)	22,000
32	BURLEY E)	
19	KABA KOULAK CLASSIC)	
20	KABA KOULAK NON CLASSIC)	
21	MYRODATA)	
22	ZYCHONOMYRODATA)	

The Council notes an undertaking by the Member States concerned that they will support a proposal by the Commission for a reduction in the level of prices and premia for the 1991 harvest for the varieties of concern to them in order to neutralise the budgetary effect of these modifications.

- Option for Member States to make a cultivation contract a condition of receiving the premium for the 1990/1991 harvest;
- The premium amount for Burley I is reduced from ECU 2,033 to ECU 2,013, and the premium for Kentucky is increased from ECU 1,819 to ECU 1,905.

The word "communes" is replaced by the word "canton" for France in Article 7a of Regulation No 727/70.

Milk

- Change current intervention rules for butter so that the same arrangements apply to Northern Ireland as to Ireland.

- Quota buy-up scheme: provide for the purchase of quotas in areas other than less-favoured areas and mountain regions for redistribution to small producers in all regions. In Member States where at least 75% of the national territory is classified as mountainous or less-favoured, buying-up would be allowed in the mountainous or less-favoured, buying-up would be allowed in the mountainous or less-favoured areas also. To take account of specific structural situations Member States may fix a different definition of small producer, provided that the definition does not cover more than 25% of their producers. This definition shall not exceed 75% of the average size of producers in the Member State concerned.
- The Commission undertakes to examine urgently, on the basis of objective statistical data to be submitted by Italy, the request for a transfer from its direct sales to deliveries quota.
- The date for completing arrangements for the temporary leasing of quotas to be dealt with in the review of the quota regime.
- The Commission undertakes to use the management powers at its disposal to maximize disposal opportunities for butter and skimmed milk powder and minimize sales to intervention.
- The Commission has noted the urgent restructuring problem of the Belgian dairy industry and undertakes to pay due heed thereto when examining the Sectoral Plans to be submitted to the Commission in the context of implementation of the rules on the processing and marketing of agricultural products.
- In view of the limited applicability of the buying-up scheme in Denmark, the Commission undertakes to make an examination of the specific structural problems of the Danish milk industry and, if appropriate, will submit proposals.

Beef and Veal

- Classification scheme: adopt compromise proposal presented at SCA; Council requests the Commission to propose as soon as possible a regulation completing Annex I to Council Regulation (EEC) No 1208/81 by introducing a conformation class superior to the existing ones.
- Suckler cow premium to be paid on farms with a milk quota of up to 60 000 kg on up to 10 cows subject to the same breed requirements as apply under the present scheme.
- The Council takes note of the Commission's statement that it will examine the market possibilities for Community beef exporters in view of the liberalization of the world trade in beef and the increased demand in certain regions.
- In cases where the beef intervention tendering mechanism has been triggered the Commission, within the various constraints which it faces, will seek to restore market prices to above trigger levels.

Pigmeat Trade

- The Council takes note of a statement by the Commission that it recognises the importance of the Community's exports of pigmeat in boned and bone-in form which contribute to the long term stability of the Community's internal market. Within the constraints imposed by international trade policy and the need to ensure a balanced internal market, it will seek to provide the maximum of stability for the trade.

Sheepmeat and Goatmeat

- Council requests the Commission to present proposals to fix seasonally adjusted prices for the 1991 marketing year as soon as possible and at latest by 1 June 1990.

Agri-monetary measures

- Germany and Netherlands: no dismantlement for cereals. Other sectors as proposed by the Commission. The new green rates in the sugar sector will enter into effect on 1 October 1990.

- Spain:
 - no dismantlement for cereals, cotton, rice, oilseeds and fruit and vegetables, beef;
 - for wine, olive oil, dried fodder, flax, hemp and silk, dismantlement as proposed by the Commission;
 - dismantlement of 1/6 of current real monetary gaps for all other sectors. The new green rate in the sugar sector will enter into effect on 1 October 1990.

- United Kingdom:
 - Milk, poultry, fish and structures as proposed by the Commission;
 - for beef, dismantlement of 50% of the existing real monetary gap;
 - for pigmeat complete dismantlement of MCAs, respecting the 8 points relationship with cereals (green rate = 0,838723);
 - for sheepmeat and crops a new green rate of 0,779553;
 - for other sectors alignment to the milk rate (0,758185).

- Greece:
 - pigmeat: dismantlement to a real monetary gap of -1,500 (franchise);

- other sectors as proposed by the Commission.

Further dismantlement of 2 percentage points in addition to the original Commission proposal.

- Other Member States:

- Agri-monetary adjustments as proposed by the Commission.

- Pigmeat MCA

The Commission is ready to introduce implementing rules which ensure that in no case the 8 points gap between the pigmeat and the cereals MCAs will be exceeded.

Non-Food Use and Stabilizers

- The Council and the Commission strongly support the promotion of agro-industrial demonstration projects as an important step towards establishing an incentive for the cost effective use of agricultural raw materials in the non-food sector.

The Council undertakes to decide by 30 June 1990 on the measures necessary for implementing the demonstration projects, including arrangements for adequate financing.

The Council also agrees to take a decision by 30 June 1990, on the basis of the Commission proposal, on a scheme for production from agricultural land for non-food use.

- With respect to set-aside, the Commission will without delay take all necessary measures to ensure effective and balanced application in the Member States for the 1990/1991 cereals marketing year. It will, at the same time, reflect on the desirability of improving modalities of the scheme, such as a closer link between set-aside and co-responsibility, and should this prove necessary, will present appropriate proposals;

More generally the Council invites the Commission to study in what way the range of measures associated with stabilizers for arable crops which were set out in the conclusions (and declaration) of the European Council of

February 1988 have been implemented, and to evaluate the results which have been achieved in the light of the aims which were set;

The Commission should also study the appropriate measures to encourage the incorporation of cereals in animal feed.

The Council requests the Commission to submit its report to the Council, accompanied by appropriate proposals, in good time in order that the necessary measures should be decided for the 1991/1992 marketing year.

Rural World Measures

The Commission declares that the aids for small producers, designed to compensate for the effects of the reform of the common agricultural policy on the most disadvantaged farmers in the Community have a limited scope. The aids are not designed to substitute for the income aids decided by the European Council in February 1988. In the context of the GATT negotiations the aids will be taken into account as part of the calculation of the global support for agriculture.

Intervention Payment Delays

The Council invites the Commission to reduce, as from the 1990/1991 marketing year, the payment delay to 30 days for cereals and 45 days for dairy products and beef.

Interprofessions

The Council reiterates its interest in an early report on interprofessional co-operation and requests this be tabled as soon as possible.

ANNEX

Article 7 of Regulation (EEC) No 822/87 is amended as follows:

A. The second subparagraph of paragraph 2 is replaced by the following:

"However, the replanting right may be transferred in whole or in part to areas on another holding:

- which are intended for the production of quality wines psr, under conditions laid down by the Member States concerned;
- which are intended for the production of table wine, table grapes, or for the cultivation of mother plantations under conditions to be laid down. The conditions concerning the area intended for the production of table wine must guarantee in particular that:
 - = the area on which the right is exercised is classified in Category 1 within the meaning of Article 4;
 - = the varieties are classified among those recommended within the meaning of Article 13 and guarantee a high qualitative level as well as limited yields per hectare as compared with the varieties under cultivation in the administrative unit concerned".

B. The following is substituted for paragraph 6:

"6. Detailed rules for the application of this Article and in particular the conditions referred to in the second indent of the second sub-paragraph of paragraph 2 shall be adopted in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 83".

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The legislative texts to be drawn up in accordance with the compromise thus approved will be prepared without delay and submitted for formal adoption by the Council at an early meeting. Pending such formal adoption, the Council extended the current marketing years for milk, milk products, beef and veal, dried fodder and cauliflowers until 13 May 1990.

SPECIAL SYSTEM OF AID FOR SMALL COTTON PRODUCERS

The Council adopted a Regulation instituting a special system of aid for small cotton producers.

This system makes provision for the grant of flat rate per-hectare aid for producers with not more than 2,5 ha under cotton. The level of aid is set at 250 ecu/ha. The arrangements will apply during the 1989/1990, 1990/1991 and 1991/1992 marketing years.

BEEF AND VEAL

The Council examined the proposals for estimates concerning young male bovine animals intended for fattening and beef and veal intended for the processing industry for the period 1 January to 31 December 1990.

Since agreement could not be reached at this stage, the Council agreed to instruct the Special Committee on Agriculture to continue its proceeding on the matter.

GATT MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS (AGRICULTURAL PART)

The Council heard a report from the Commission representative, Mr MAC SHARRY, on the outcome of his talks in Washington on 23 April with the US Secretary for Agriculture, Mr YEUTTER, and the US Trade Representative, Mrs Clara HILLS, within the framework of GATT trade relations, and discussed in detail the progress of the multilateral trade negotiations.

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Having completed its discussions, the Council adopted the following conclusions:

"The Council took note of the statement by the Commission on the present state of the negotiations including an outline of recent discussions between the Commission and the US Secretaries for Agriculture and Trade.

The Council reaffirmed the Community's commitment to continue to participate constructively in the negotiations concerning agriculture on the basis of the framework already agreed in the GATT. To this end the Council unanimously confirmed its support for the Community's global proposal as agreed by the General Affairs Council on 17 and 18 December. It saw this as the essential framework for an agreement on agriculture in the Uruguay Round within the stipulated timeframe and noted that matters relating to market access including rebalancing and export competition had to be treated in a manner which was consistent with the global approach. The Council stressed the need to obtain full credit for reform measures implemented in the Community since 1986.

The Council noted that the Commission would continue to defend the basic principles of the Common Agriculture Policy, in particular the two-tier price system, Community preference and the role of market policy as central elements and clearly indicated that these principles were not negotiable.

The Council reaffirmed the importance it attached to the international multilateral trade system and stressed the need for all partners in the GATT to act in a manner which is consistent with the commitments undertaken in the negotiations to date. While recognising that a successful outcome of the Uruguay Round was vitally important for world trade in agriculture and other sectors,

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the Council expressed the view that agreement was dependent on the basic requirements of all Contracting Parties being met. This meant, inter alia, that the interests of developing countries and in particular the needs of the least developed net food importing countries had to be taken into account.

The Council agreed to keep the negotiations under regular review."

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Other agricultural Decisions

The Council adopted Decisions:

- on financial aid from the Community for the eradication of African swine fever in Sardinia.

The purpose of this Decision is to extend and step up the action undertaken in 1980 to combat this disease;

- on the administration of Bovine Somatotrophin (BST).

This Decision prohibits Member States, until 31 December 1990, administering bovine somatotrophin to dairy cows by any means whatsoever. Nonetheless, the administration of this substance to dairy cows for the purposes of scientific and technical tests is authorized subject to strictly monitored conditions to be notified to the Commission.

Fisheries policy

The Council adopted Regulations:

- on the conclusion of the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Sierra Leone on fishing off Sierra Leone.

The Agreement will enter into force on the date of its signature.

The fishing possibilities granted are as follows:

- . for ocean-going tuna seiners: licences for 46 vessels,

- . for pole and line and surface longliners fishing for tuna and other migratory species: licences for 43 vessels,
- . trawlers fishing for crustaceans, cephalopod and finfish and demersal longliners fishing for finfish: 10 000 gross registered tonnes per month on an annual average.

The financial compensation is set at ECU 4 990 000;

- on the conclusion of the Protocol establishing, for the period from 27 June 1989 to 26 June 1992, the fishing rights and financial compensation provided for in the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Government of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea on fishing off the coast of Equatorial Guinea.

The quantities fixed are as follows

- . freezer trawlers: 9 000 grt a month, annual average,
- . tuna seiners: 40 vessels,
- . surface longliners: 30 vessels.

The financial compensation is set at ECU 6 000 000;

- on the conclusion of the Protocol establishing for the period from 16 June 1989 to 15 June 1991 the fishing rights and financial compensation provided for in the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Government of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau on fishing off the coast of Guinea-Bissau.

The fishing rights are as follows:

- . 45 licences for freezer tuna seiners,
- . 15 licences for pole-and-line tuna vessels,
- . 35 surface longliners,
- . 10 000 grt a month, annual average, for shrimp,
- . 5 000 grt a month, annual average, for cephalopods.

The financial compensation is set at ECU 10 830 000.

The Council also adopted a Decision on the conclusion of the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters concerning the provisional application of the Protocol defining, for the period from 18 January 1990 to 17 January 1993, the fishing opportunities (40 ocean-going tuna seiners) and financial contribution (ECU 6 900 000) provided for by the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Seychelles on fishing off the coast of Seychelles.

Transport

The Council adopted the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 3164/76 concerning access to the market in the international carriage of goods by road. This amendment sets, for 1990, the total number of Community authorizations allocated to the Member States as a whole in the context of the Community quota at 33 635.

Anti-dumping

The Council adopted a Regulation imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of small screen colour television receivers originating in the Republic of Korea and collecting definitively the provisional duty.

For colour television receivers with a diagonal screen size of more than 15,5 cm but no greater than 42 cm, the definitive anti-dumping duty is 19.6% of the net free-at-Community-frontier price before duty is imposed, with the exception of television receivers manufactured by the following companies for which the following rates apply: 10,2% for Daewoo Electronics Co Ltd, 10,4% for Goldstar Co Ltd, and 10,5% for Samsung Electronics Co Ltd.

Customs union

The Council adopted Regulations:

- opening and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas for frozen hake fillets and for processing work in respect of certain textile products under Community outward processing arrangements;
- temporarily suspending the autonomous Common Customs Tariff duties on a number of industrial products (microelectronics and related sectors);
- opening and providing for the administration of an autonomous Community tariff quota (1990) for 3 500 000 tonnes of gasoil of low sulphur content (0,2% by weight).

Bruxelles, le 24 avril 1990.

NOTE BIO (90) 111 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
CC. AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE-PAROLE

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Conseil agriculture (25, 26, 27 avril ?) (Bruno Julien)

Le bouquet final ?

Les bons auspices sous lesquels débute le Conseil agricole sont-ils les signes précurseurs d'un accord sur les prix pour la campagne 1990/91 ? Après une courte séance plénière de deux heures consacrée à l'examen des points de l'ordre du jour qui ne sont pas liés au "paquet-prix", le Conseil visitera mercredi à partir de 16 H 00 les floralies de Gand et il ne reprendra ses travaux formels que dans le courant de la matinée de jeudi.

La matinée de mercredi pourrait être consacrée à quelques réunions bilatérales organisées par la Présidence afin de préciser sa stratégie de présentation d'un compromis.

Parmi les points à l'ordre du jour pour la courte séance de mercredi après-midi figurent les sujets suivants :

- Régime d'importation viande bovine pour 1990

La Commission propose pour l'année 1990 un contingent d'importation à droit réduit de 212 500 têtes de jeunes bovins mâles destinés à l'engraissement et de 52 500 tonnes de viande destinées à l'industrie de transformation.

La légère augmentation des quantités par rapport à la campagne précédente reflète la situation de marché à l'intérieur de la Communauté et les considérations politiques actuelles, notamment le fait que la majorité des fournisseurs soient des pays de l'Est.

- Ouverture d'un contingent tarifaire exceptionnel pour les viandes de haute qualité

La Commission propose, à la demande du Brésil, l'élargissement (3 000 T) du contingent tarifaire GATT pour la viande bovine de haute qualité à ce pays ainsi qu'à l'Argentine et l'Uruguay.

- M. Mac Sharry informera le Conseil sur l'état actuel des négociations agricoles dans le cadre de l'Uruguay Round. La Communauté a activement participé à Genève à l'explication détaillée de ses propositions à long terme au cours des derniers mois tandis que les rencontres à haut niveau se sont succédées (Quint Meeting en Floride en Janvier, récente réunion à haut niveau à Washington) et se poursuivront avant les vacances d'été (OCDE, nouveau Quint meeting).

- La négociation sur les prix agricoles pour la prochaine campagne reprendra dès jeudi matin. Elle pourrait se poursuivre jusqu'à vendredi. Bien qu'il soit prématuré de faire un pronostic précis, il faut remarquer que, compte tenu des impératifs que la Commission tient à honorer, à savoir :

- . respect des engagements du Conseil européen de février 1988 (régime des stabilisateurs, y compris une meilleure adaptation de l'offre à la demande),
- . respect des engagements pris au GATT lors de l'examen à mi-parcours ,
- . discipline budgétaire en tenant compte en particulier de l'évolution prévisible des marchés mondiaux,

le dernier compromis de la Présidence semble une base acceptable pour de nombreux Etats membres. Le Commissaire Mac Sharry avait indiqué lors du précédent Conseil qu'il pourrait accepter globalement ce compromis.

Compte tenu des contraintes connues et du degré de consensus atteint lors du dernier Conseil, on peut être raisonnablement optimiste sur les chances de réussite du Conseil.

Amitiés,
Costas STATHOPOULOS



Bruxelles, le 25 avril 1990.

NOTE BIO(90) 111 (suite 1) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
CC. AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE-PAROLE

Conseil agriculture (Bruno Julien)

Comme prévu, le Conseil a débuté par un tour d'horizon sur les négociations agricoles dans l'Uruguay Round.

Le Commissaire Mac Sharry a en particulier informé le Conseil sur les résultats de son récent voyage aux Etats-Unis. Le Commissaire a décelé des éléments de réalisme dans l'attitude américaine. Il a rappelé les divers éléments de la position communautaire, à savoir que :

- Il n'est pas question d'une élimination totale du soutien,
- la Communauté a acquis un crédit pour les efforts qu'elle a entrepris depuis 1986,
- la Communauté est prête à envisager un modèle de tarification s'il est assorti d'éléments de rééquilibrage et que les "deficiency payments" sont inclus dans la tarification,
- la politique agricole commune n'est pas l'objet du débat dans l'Uruguay Round, en particulier le système du double prix qui sera maintenu,
- les engagements pris dans le cadre des négociations doivent être mesurés globalement et équilibrés.

Le Commissaire Mac Sharry a insisté sur la participation active de la Communauté à la négociation. Il est faux de considérer que celle-ci est dans une impasse et l'on ne peut l'accuser d'être un empêcheur de tourner en rond car elle a fait une offre réaliste et équilibrée.

En dépit de l'optimisme prudent qu'il a affiché, le Commissaire Mac Sharry a néanmoins indiqué qu'il existait toujours des difficultés entre les Etats-Unis et la Communauté. Mais, comme les deux partis souhaitent une conclusion heureuse de l'Uruguay Round, il a été convenu d'intensifier les contacts bilatéraux entre les administrations. Les ministres feront le point sur l'état d'avancement des travaux en marge de la prochaine réunion ministérielle OCDE fin mai.

En conclusion, le Commissaire a indiqué qu'il était un peu plus optimiste sur la perspective d'une conclusion satisfaisante et équilibrée des négociations mais que celles-ci ne seraient pas aisées. Il s'est engagé à informer pleinement ses collègues du Conseil sur le développement de la négociation.

Lors d'un tour de table général, les Ministres se sont félicités des positions claires et réalistes de la Communauté et de la détermination dont a fait preuve le Commissaire face aux autorités américaines. Le Ministre britannique a insisté sur la nécessité pour les Etats membres de parler d'une seule voix dans la négociation et d'adhérer pleinement aux propositions qui ont recueilli l'assentiment unanime du Conseil. Le Président a résumé ainsi les débats : solidarité, unité, soutien à la Commission. Il a souhaité que le Conseil agricole demeure pleinement informé sur l'état des négociations en raison de l'importance cruciale de l'agriculture dans l'Uruguay Round.

Le Conseil a ajourné ses débats pour visiter, sur invitation du Ministre belge, les floralies de Gand.

Le Président du Conseil recevra une délégation du COPA demain matin à 9 H 00 . Les discussions bilatérales qui avaient commencé ce matin se poursuivront après la réunion avec le COPA. Le Conseil devrait reprendre ses travaux sur le "paquet prix" en séance restreinte vers 11 H 00. A l'issue d'un tour de table, la Présidence pourrait alors proposer un compromis dans le courant de l'après-midi.

Amitiés,
Bruno DETHOMAS

Handwritten signature of Bruno Dethomas, consisting of stylized initials and a double underline.

Bruxelles, le 26 avril 1990.

**NOTE BIO(90) 111 (suite 2) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
CC. AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE-PAROLE**

Conseil agriculture (Bruno JULIEN)

Au cours d'une brève séance en fin de matinée le 26 avril, les Ministres ont confirmé leur intention d'arriver à un compromis sur le "paquet prix" à l'issue du Conseil. La Présidence a communiqué une déclaration du Conseil sur les débats de la Journée précédente sur le GATT. Cette déclaration qui soutient les efforts de la Commission figure en annexe de cette note. Puis le Conseil a repris des travaux en fin d'après-midi par l'examen des points suivants :

- Bilan d'importation de jeunes bovins mâles vivants et de viandes de transformation pour 1990

La Commission a justifié ses propositions en légère augmentation par rapport à l'année 1984 par le faible niveau des stocks pour les viandes de transformation (52 500 tonnes) et l'opportunité de faire un geste à l'égard des pays de l'Est pour les jeunes bovins (212 500 têtes).

Les réactions des Etats membres ont été variées, incitant la Commission à maintenir sa proposition médiane. Plusieurs ministres ne se sont pas ralliés à une tentative de compromis de la Présidence (50 000 T ; 212 500 têtes) et la présidence a renvoyé ce dossier pour examen au CSA.

- Superprélèvement laitier lié à l'augmentation de la matière grasse dans le cadre des quotas

Sur demande du ministre luxembourgeois, le Commissaire Mac Sharry a fait la déclaration suivante :

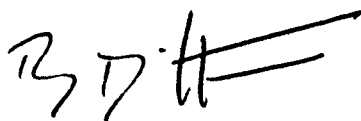
"Il s'agit d'une matière complexe sur laquelle je ne peux vous donner pour le moment une position définitive mais je prendrai les mesures nécessaires pour que le règlement soit appliqué à la lettre".

- Sécheresse en Grèce

Le ministre grec de l'agriculture a fait un rapport succinct sur la sécheresse qui sévit en Grèce sans en dresser le bilan.

Le Commissaire Mac Sharry a manifesté la préoccupation de la Commission à l'égard de la situation et indiqué qu'il verrait ce qui peut être fait après avoir été informé des conséquences précises de la situation actuelle.

Amitiés,
Bruno DETHOMAS



**ETAT D'AVANCEMENT DES NEGOCIATIONS COMMERCIALES MULTILATERALES
DANS LE CADRE DU GATT (Agriculture)**

Le Conseil a pris acte de la déclaration de la Commission sur l'état actuel des négociations, qui comprenait un aperçu sur les discussions qui ont eu lieu récemment entre la Commission et le Secrétaire américain à l'agriculture et l'USTR.

Le Conseil a réaffirmé l'engagement de la Communauté de continuer à participer dans un esprit constructif aux négociations relatives à l'agriculture sur la base du cadre déjà convenu au sein du GATT. A cette fin, le Conseil a confirmé à l'unanimité son appui à la proposition globale de la Communauté approuvée par le Conseil "Affaires Générales" des 17 et 18 décembre. Il a considéré cette proposition comme le cadre indispensable pour qu'un accord sur l'agriculture intervienne dans le délai imparti à l'Uruguay Round et a noté que les questions concernant l'accès au marché, y compris le rééquilibrage et la concurrence à l'exportation devaient être traitées d'une manière qui soit cohérente avec l'approche globale. Le Conseil a souligné la nécessité d'obtenir la pleine reconnaissance pour les mesures de réforme mises en oeuvre dans la Communauté depuis 1986.

Le Conseil a noté que la Commission continuerait à défendre les principes de base de la politique agricole commune, en particulier le système du double prix, la préférence communautaire et le rôle de la politique de marché en tant qu'éléments centraux et il a clairement indiqué qu'il n'était pas question de négocier sur ces principes.

Le Conseil a réaffirmé l'importance qu'il attache au système international de commerce multilatéral et a souligné la nécessité que tous les partenaires du GATT agissent d'une manière qui soit cohérente avec les engagements pris jusqu'à présent dans les négociations. Tout en reconnaissant que le succès de l'Uruguay Round avait une importance vitale pour le commerce mondial dans le secteur agricole et dans d'autres secteurs, le Conseil a estimé qu'il fallait, pour que l'accord se fasse, satisfaire aux exigences de base de toutes les parties contractantes. Cela signifie, entre autres, que les intérêts des pays en développement, et en particulier les besoins des pays les moins développés importateurs nets de nourriture, doivent être pris en considération.

Le Conseil est convenu de suivre régulièrement l'évolution des négociations.

Bruxelles, le 27 avril 1990.

NOTE BIO(90) 111 (suite 3 et fin) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
CC. AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE-PAROLE

Conseil agriculture (Bruno Julien)

Le Conseil adopte le "paquet prix 1990/91".

Le Conseil n'a pas failli à la tradition en adoptant à l'aube après une longue nuit de négociations un compromis sur le paquet prix agricoles et les mesures connexes pour la campagne 1990/91. L'accord atteint à la quasi-unanimité (moins une abstention) confirme les grandes lignes de la proposition qu'avait faite le Commissaire Mac Sharry au mois de décembre. Il est basé sur la formule de compromis qu'avait présentée la présidence lors du dernier Conseil de mars (les éléments du compromis seront envoyés par fax aux différents bureaux d'information dans les heures qui suivent).

Les principes qui soustendaient la proposition de la Commission, à savoir gel des prix, respect des engagements GATT, modulation de certaines mesures de marché en faveur du monde rural, ont été respectés dans la formule finale de compromis. Néanmoins, le Commissaire Mac Sharry a fait preuve de la souplesse nécessaire pour aller au devant de nombreux souhaits des Etats membres. Au-delà des détails concernant les divers produits (voir formule finale du compromis), on peut retenir que la Commission a accepté, dans le cadre de ses pouvoirs de gestion, de diminuer la période de remboursement à 30 jours pour les céréales et à 45 jours pour les produits laitiers et pour la viande bovine, permettant ainsi d'atténuer les effets les plus néfastes de la baisse des prix liée à l'application du régime des stabilisateurs. La Commission a assoupli les dispositions relatives à la modulation des mesures de marché en faveur du monde rural (critères et modalités d'application pour le régime d'aide aux petits producteurs de céréales et pour le rachat des quotas laitiers). Enfin, les ajustements agrimonétaires ont été réalisés au bénéfice de plusieurs Etats membres (République fédérale d'Allemagne, Pays-Bas, Espagne, Royaume-Uni, Grèce).

Se félicitant de l'accord intervenu, le Commissaire a indiqué qu'il engendrerait, par rapport à la proposition initiale de la Commission, une économie de 112 Mécus en 1990 (en raison du début tardif de la campagne et de son effet sur le rachat des quotas laitiers) et une augmentation des dépenses de 526 Mécus en 1991. Le coût total du "paquet prix" se chiffre à 334 Mécus en 1990 et 1094 Mécus en 1991.

En raison des délais nécessaires pour préparer les textes juridiques, le Conseil a prorogé la campagne actuelle jusqu'au 13 mai.

Détails des nouvelles propositions de compromis (qui s'ajoutent au compromis du mois de mars)

Se basant sur le compromis précédent du 24 mars, la Présidence a introduit de nouvelles modifications dont les principales sont les suivantes :

- réduction des délais de paiement à 30 jours pour les céréales et à 45 jours pour les produits laitiers et la viande bovine,
- maintien du niveau de la prime blé panifiable,
- possibilité pour les Etats membres de choisir pendant deux années le régime actuel ou le nouveau régime proposé par la Commission en faveur des petits producteurs de céréales et autres cultures arables,
- propositions ultérieures de mesures appropriées pour accompagner la transition des prix des céréales aux Portugal et les reconversions qui en découleront,
- plus de flexibilité dans la définition des petits producteurs de lait pour le rachat des quotas,
- étude du lien entre le gel des terres et la coresponsabilité,
- rappel de la finalité des aides en faveur des petits producteurs affectés par la réforme de la PAC,
- modification de certains MCM britanniques.

Quelques éléments ont été rajoutés lors de la phase finale de la négociation. Il s'agit entre autres :

- d'une déclaration de la Commission indiquant qu'elle entreprendrait un examen des problèmes structurels spécifiques de l'industrie laitière danoise en vue de l'application du rachat des quotas laitiers,
- d'un démantèlement additionnel de deux points de pourcentage pour les MCM grecs,
- de l'engagement de la Commission de ne pas modifier cette année le coefficient de transformation pour la viande ovine (demande française).
- de la possibilité d'augmenter le contingent tomates de transformation pour le Portugal.

A l'issue de la négociation, la Présidence et la Commission se sont félicitées de la coopération mutuelle qui a permis d'atteindre un compromis équilibré ne remettant pas en cause les engagements fondamentaux, tout en incorporant partout où ceci était possible des éléments de flexibilité nécessaires qui seront précieux pour les agriculteurs communautaires.

Amitiés,
Bruno DETHOMAS