

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

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1392nd Council meeting

- Industry -

Brussels, 13 March 1990

President: Mr Desmond J. O'MALLEY

Minister for Industry
and Commerce of Ireland

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

Belgium

Mr Willy CLAES Minister for Economic Affairs

Denmark

Mrs Anne-Birgitte LUNDHOLT Minister for Industry

Germany

Mr Elmar BECKER Director-General,
Federal Ministry of Economic
Affairs

Greece

Mr C. ALEXOPOULOS Secretary-General
Ministry of Industry

Spain

Mr Claudio ARANZADI Minister for Industry and Energy

France

Mr Roger FAUROUX Minister for Industry and
Town and Country Planning

Ireland

Mr Desmond J. O'MALLEY Minister for Industry and
Commerce

Mr Michael SMITH Minister of State at the
Department of Industry and
Commerce

Italy

Mr Giuseppe FORNASARI

State Secretary for Industry

Luxembourg

Mr Robert GOEBBELS

Minister for Economic Affairs

Netherlands

Mr Koos ANDRIESSEN

Minister for Economic Affairs

Portugal

Mr Luis MIRA AMARAL

Minister for Industry and Energy

United Kingdom

Mr Douglas HOGG

Minister of State, Department of
Trade and Industry (Minister for
Industry and Enterprise)

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Commission

Mr Martin BANGEMANN

Vice-President

Sir Leon BRITTAN

Vice-President

13.III.90
col/HM/emb

INTERNAL MARKET FOR CARS

The Council, having heard introductory remarks from Vice-Presidents BANGEMANN and BRITTAN, held an in-depth discussion of the various internal aspects of the Community car market, i.e. the approximation of indirect taxation, the management of State intervention, technical harmonization, research and technological policy, training and reconversion efforts and the dismantling of internal quantitative restrictions. These discussions were set within the overall framework of the Commission's communication.

In this connection the Council took note of the Presidency's intentions to expedite work in the internal sector especially as regards the management of State intervention and the Commission proposals already on the Council's table concerning technical harmonization, in parallel with continuing discussions of the external side of this matter.

TEXTILES AND CLOTHING INDUSTRY - CONCLUSIONS OF THE COUNCIL

1. The Council noted with interest the annual report presented by the Commission on the state of the textiles and clothing industry and shares, in general, its overall conclusions.

It invited the Commission to continue this type of analysis in order to deepen understanding of the issues involved, and to submit such reports regularly.

2. The Council had an exchange of views on various aspects of the subject, including support for the industry, the need for transparency of aids, and the external side.
3. The Council noted the views of delegations on the proposed "observatory"; the Commission stated that further study of this matter was needed before a decision could be taken.
4. The Council underlined the importance it attaches to the use of Community measures in a coherent and co-ordinated way to support the modernization of European industry, in particular, the necessity to take adequate account of the needs of the sector, especially of small and medium enterprises, with regard to the opening of markets and the priorities of the next R & D programme.
5. Having noted that the Commission is currently carrying out an analysis of the consequences for the industry of trade negotiations, the Council invited the Commission to present the results of this analysis to the Council as soon as possible.
6. Recalling its conclusions of December 1988, the Council reiterated its wish to support the important structural changes anticipated.

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THE FOOTWEAR INDUSTRY - CONCLUSIONS OF THE COUNCIL

The Council noted the contents of the communication which was submitted to it by the Commission and was in broad agreement with conclusions contained therein.

The Council stressed the importance which it attaches to the industrial restructuring of the sector and the link between this and Community and national support to the small and medium-sized enterprises which make up a considerable portion of the industries involved in this sector.

The Council noted that the Commission is examining the question of imports of certain categories of shoes from third countries.

The Council considered that, in order to encourage the adaptation of the Community industry, efforts by companies and the use of national and Community policies were necessary in the fields of:

- the promotion of technology transfer, and research and development (within the new framework programme)
- the provision of training and retraining facilities,
- protection of intellectual property,
- access to third markets,
- access to raw materials in third countries,
- access of SMEs to the programmes decided and implemented at Community level.

BIOTECHNOLOGY

During a general discussion on the conditions for developing the biotechnology industry, the Commission mentioned that it intended to submit a detailed communication on the subject shortly.

AID FOR SHIPBUILDING

The Council took note of a statement by the Danish Minister - and of the reply by Vice-President BRITTAN - on the problem of aid for shipbuilding with a view both to preparations at Community level for a seventh Directive after the expiry of the sixth at the end of 1990, and to the negotiations on the subject in the OECD context.

The Council agreed to hold a substantive discussion on the subject at its Industry meeting on 28 May.



MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Financial Regulation

The Council adopted the Regulation amending the Financial Regulation of 21 December 1977 applicable to the general budget of the European Communities.

The Financial Regulation thus revised contains new provisions intended chiefly to rationalize the presentation, administration and conditions for the implementation of the general budget, placing stress in particular on the principles of sound financial management, including the concept of cost-effectiveness in spending policy. Other changes relate to the areas of research and technological development (R & TD) and external aid.

Generally speaking, the Regulation represents the completion of financial reform in the Communities and the modernization of budgetary rules.

Intellectual property

The Council agreed to the conclusions on Community participation in the work within WIPO on drawing up the Regulations under the Protocol relating to the Madrid Agreement concerning the International Registration of Marks.