

**COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES**

1238th meeting of the Council

- ACP/EEC Ministerial-

Mauritius, 10-11 May 1988

The official press release was unavailable. A summary of the meeting has been reproduced from the Bulletin of the European Communities, No. 5-1988



Number, place and date of meeting	Subject	President	Commission	Main items of business
1238th Mauritius 10 and 11 May	ACP/EEC			

### ACP States

2.2.51. The ACP-EEC Council of Ministers held its 13th meeting in Mauritius on 10 and 11 May.<sup>4</sup> It was chaired by Mr Soumaila, Niger's Minister for National Planning, and Mr Schaefer, Minister of State in the German Foreign Office and President of the Council. The Commission was represented by Mr Natali. Mr Latortue, Haiti's Foreign Minister, was admitted to the proceedings, but without observer status; the Dominican Republic did not send a representative.

The Council discussed short- and long-term aspects of food security, and heard a detailed report from Mr Natali on the operations carried out by the Community in this area.

As regards agricultural commodities, the Council examined the situation of the ACP States, the Cocoa<sup>5</sup> and Coffee Agreements<sup>6</sup> and the prospects for the Common Fund coming into force.

Much of the Council's work was taken up by trade questions. It took stock of the Uruguay Round negotiations and stressed the importance of ACP-EEC consultations. Lastly, the Council examined a joint paper concerning the reasons behind the poor trade performance of ACP States. The representatives of Togo and Senegal (the main phosphate exporters) protested about the Community's intention to draw up legislation on the cadmium content of phosphates. The Community reserved its position regarding an ACP request to participate in the studies.

On the matter of the Accession Protocol to Lomé III for Spain and Portugal,<sup>7</sup> the Community reaffirmed its rejection of additional ACP requests regarding sugar and rice.

The two parties examined problems in trade in certain products, such as rice, yams, fresh beans, tropical timber and molasses. Discussions were also held on the Harmonized

System (for which the Council delegated its responsibility to the Committee of Ambassadors).

On Stabex, the Council looked at the replenishment of resources under Lomé I (left in abeyance until the Community established its position), the ACP request for an 'all destinations' derogation (on which the Commission confirmed its opposition) and the 1986 and 1987 application years. The Council discussed possible solutions for the shortage of resources available for 1987; the ACP side likened the situation to that of 1980-81, stressed that special solutions were called for and suggested changing the system in the next Convention.

The question of the accession of Papua New Guinea and Zambia to the Sugar Protocol was held over for lack of a settled Community position on the issue, and the two parties took stock of 1988-89 sugar prices. The ACP proposal for a joint study, with particular reference to transport costs, was adopted.

The Council also turned its attention to the indebtedness of ACP countries, concentrating particularly on the special Community programme for certain low-income highly indebted sub-Saharan countries.<sup>1</sup>

The Council received the report on financial and technical cooperation from the Committee set up under Article 193 of Lomé III. This Committee had met at ministerial level in Mauritius on 9 May and adopted a document on the evaluation of development operations financed by the Community. Progress was still slow on the general conditions for contracts. Mr Natali reported on implementation of the Sixth EDF.

Regarding investment, the Council asked that study work be speeded up. A discussion was also held on the resolutions from the ACP-EEC Joint Assembly.<sup>2</sup>

The atmosphere for discussions on southern Africa was a good one, with the ACP countries obviously very satisfied by the ministerial meeting in Luxembourg on 26 April.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>4</sup> 12th meeting: Bull. EC 5-1987, point 2.2.38.

<sup>5</sup> Bull. EC 7/8-1986, point 2.2.32.

<sup>6</sup> Bull. EC 6-1983, point 2.2.58; Bull. EC 9-1983, point 2.2.33.

<sup>7</sup> OJ L 172, 30.6.1987; Bull. EC 6-1987, point 2.2.37.

<sup>1</sup> Bull. EC 9-1987, point 1.4.1 *et seq*

<sup>2</sup> Bull. EC 3-1988, point 2.2.68.

<sup>3</sup> Bull. EC 4-1988, point 2.2.40.



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Mr Natali reported on the implementation of regional cooperation and explained the Commission's work on cultural cooperation. He rejected both the ACP idea of setting up a joint working party and the proposal to allocate an overall sum to the Foundation for ACP-EEC Cultural Cooperation, which is a private body.

It was decided that the Council's consultations with ACP-EEC business and labour groups would take place on 20 and 21 October.

Lastly, the Council took stock of the implementation of the Community Directive on aircraft noise<sup>4</sup> and devoted some time to maritime transport and the Dakar symposium on debt and structural adjustment in relation to commodities.

<sup>4</sup> OJ L 117, 4.5.1983; Bull. EC 4-1983, point 2.1.86.

the two communities under the auspices of the UN Secretary-General, and at the same time to put pressure on the Turkish Government to take a number of positive steps, mainly with regard to the withdrawal of Turkish troops. The House also called on the Foreign Ministers of the Twelve to recommend and facilitate the conclusion of partial agreements that would bring the two communities together. Parliament expected the Ministers to help in finding a solution to the distressing problem of missing persons, and to make representations with a view to the preservation of the Christian and Greek

cultural heritage in the occupied part of the island.

## Council

2.4.16. The Council held eight meetings in May. The following table lists the number, place and date of each meeting, the names of the Council President and Commission representatives and the main items of business. A more detailed account of specific items can be found in the sections of the Bulletin referred to in the footnotes.

Table 8 — Council meetings in May 1988

Number, place and date of meeting	Subject	President	Commission	Main items of business
1237th Brussels 3 May	Internal market	Mr Bangemann	Lord Cockfield	Recognition of higher-education diplomas: detailed discussion <sup>1</sup> Right of residence: discussion <sup>1</sup> Type-approval of tractors: Directive adopted <sup>1</sup> Health matters <sup>2</sup>
1238th Mauritius 10 and 11 May	ACP/EEC			
1239th Brussels 16 and 17 May	Agriculture	Mr Kiechle Mr Kittel	Mr Andriessen	Farm prices and related measures (1988/89): discussion continued <sup>2</sup> Classical swine fever Hormones: Directive adopted <sup>2</sup>
1240th Brussels 24 May	General affairs	Mr Genscher	Mr Delors Mr Christophersen Mr Cheysson Mr De Clercq Mr Varfis	Implementation of conclusions of February European Council <sup>3</sup> Elections to Parliament: date discussed Relations with Israel <sup>4</sup> Relations with CMEA <sup>4</sup> Youth for Europe: action programme <sup>5</sup>
1241st Brussels 25 May	Education	Mr Müllemann	Mr Marin	Transition of young people from education to adult and working life: conclusions adopted <sup>5</sup> European dimension in education: resolution adopted <sup>5</sup>