

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

4670/89 (Presse 17)

1296th Council meeting
- Economic and Financial Affairs -
Brussels, 13 February 1989

President: Mr Carlos SOLCHAGA CATALAN,
Minister for Economic Affairs and Finance
of the Kingdom of Spain

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

Belgium:

Mr Philippe MAYSTADT Minister for Finance

Denmark:

Mr Niels HELVEG PETERSEN Minister for Economic Affairs

Germany:

Mr Gerhard STOLTENBERG Minister for Finance

Mr Hans TIETMEYER State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Finance

Greece:

Mr Panayotis ROUMELIOTIS Minister for Economic Affairs

Spain:

Mr Carlos SOLCHAGA CATALAN Minister for Economic Affairs and Finance

Mr Pedro PEREZ State Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs

France:

Mr Pierre BEREGOVOY Minister for Economic Affairs, Finance and the Budget

Ireland:

Mr Albert REYNOLDS Minister for Finance

Italy:

Mr Giuliano AMATO Minister for the Treasury

Mr Emilio COLOMBO Minister for Finance

Luxembourg:

Mr Jacques POOS Minister for Economic Affairs and the Self-Employed

Netherlands:

Mr O.C.R. RUDING

Minister for Finance

Mr H.E. KONING

State Secretary for Finance

Portugal:

Mr Miguel CADILHE

Minister for Finance

United Kingdom:

Mr Peter LILLEY

Economic Secretary, Treasury

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Commission:

Mr Henning CHRISTOPHERSEN

Vice-President

Mrs Christiane SCRIVENER

Member

TAXATION OF SAVINGS

First of all, Mrs SCRIVENER, member of the Commission, presented the main points of the proposals on taxation of savings which the Commission adopted on 8 February.

The Council held a first exchange of views on these proposals, during which the delegations indicated their basic approaches on the subject.

Following this discussion, the Council gave instructions for an ad hoc Working Party composed of senior officials responsible for taxation and liberalization of capital movements to examine the Commission proposals. This Working Party will report to the Permanent Representatives Committee in sufficient time for it to prepare for the Council discussion on the subject at its meeting on 17 April.

OTHER DECISIONS IN THE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL FIELD**Harmonization of the compilation of Gross National Product at market prices
(GNPmp)**

Further to the agreement on substance reached at its meeting on 24 June 1988 and the entry into force on 1 February 1989 of the Decision on the own resources of the Communities, the Council formally adopted the Directive on the harmonization of the compilation of Gross National Product at market prices.

This Directive is a response to the fact that the own resources Decision, which has just entered into force, creates an additional own resource of the Communities based on the Member States' gross national products and that its application calls for increased comparability and reliability of the aggregate amount involved.

Furthermore, the completion of the internal market will increase the need for comparable data on the GNPmp aggregate and its components, which will also be important analysis factors for the co-ordination of economic policies.

The conceptual and practical comparability of the GNPmp data is ensured by compliance with the relevant definitions and accounting rules of the European System of Integrated Economic Accounts (ESA) and by the collation of basic data and the application of assessment procedures according to harmonized rules.

Publication of annual accounting documents of branches of credit and financial institutions

Following the adoption of a common position at its Internal Market meeting on 7 June 1988 and after the co-operation procedure had taken its course, the Council adopted the Directive on the obligations of branches established in a Member State of credit and financial institutions having their head offices outside that Member State regarding the publication of annual accounting documents.

(See Press Release 6635/88 Presse 78)

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Anti-dumping

The Council adopted a Regulation repealing Regulation (EEC) No 3205/88 concerning certain photocopiers assembled in the Community by Konica Business Machines Manufacturing GmbH.

This decision follows the acceptance by the Commission of the undertaking offered by Konica giving satisfactory guarantees regarding its operations in the Community.

Iron and steel

The Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, adopted the Decision on the opening of a zero-duty tariff quota for Spain for flats of silicon electrical steel coming from third countries for the period 1 January to 30 June 1989 (CN code ex 72251099).

The Council gave its assent, in accordance with the second paragraph of Article 54 of the ECSC Treaty, for partial financing of the building of a new line for a high-speed train service between Paris and Brest, Quimper, Le Croisic, La Rochelle, Toulouse, Tarbes and Hendaye ("TGV Atlantique" project).

Research

Following the adoption of a common position on 17 November 1988 (see Press Release 9343/88 Presse 173), approved by the European Parliament under the co-operation procedure on 18 January 1989, the Council adopted the Decision on a European stimulation plan for economic science (1989-1992)(SPES).

Civil protection

The Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, adopted the Resolution on new developments in Community co-operation on civil protection (which appeared in Press Release 8880/88 Presse 160 of 4.XI.88).

Health and Safety of Workers - new framework Directive

Following the approval as regards substance given at its Social Affairs meeting on 16 and 17 December 1988, the Council formally adopted the common position with a view to the adoption of a Directive on the introduction of measures to encourage improvements in the safety and health of workers at the workplace (see Press Release No 10222/88 Presse 211).

Appointments

- Economic and Social Committee

On a proposal from the German government, the Council appointed Mr Günther LAPPAS a member of the Economic and Social Committee in replacement of Mr Willy LOJEWSKI, a member who has resigned, for the remainder of Mr LOJEWSKI's term of office, which runs until 20 September 1990.

- Scientific and Technical Committee

The Council adopted the Decision appointing the members of the Euratom Scientific and Technical Committee for the period 1 April 1988 to 31 March 1993.

- Other appointments

The Council took decisions replacing members of

- the ECSC Consultative Committee
- the Advisory Committee on Social Security for Migrant Workers
- the Advisory Committee on Vocational Training
- the Advisory Committee on Freedom of Movement for Workers
- the Advisory Committee on Pharmaceutical Training
- the Advisory Committee on Nursing Training.

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Bruxelles, le 10 février 1989

NOTE BIO (89) 46 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
CC. AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE-PAROLE

Préparation du Conseil ECOFIN du 13 février 1989
(G. Guarneri)


La première session de 1989 du Conseil ECOFIN aura lieu le lundi 13 février à partir de 15h00.

Au cours de cette réunion Mme Scrivener, Commissaire responsable du dossier "Fiscalité", présentera les propositions adoptées par la Commission le 8 février dernier sur la fiscalité de l'épargne.

La présentation de ces propositions sera suivie par un premier débat d'orientation.

La Présidence fixera les modalités pour l'examen des projets de directive par le Conseil des Ministres.

Amitiés,



C.D. EHLERMANN

Matériel diffusé :

Calendrier

IP 55 - Règlement sur l'origine des appareils de photocopie

IP70 - Extrait du discours de Sir L. Brittan devant "Conservative Group for Europe, Coventry, sur le progrès dans le domaine monétaire dans la CE"

Discours de M. Schmidhuber sur le contrôle des fusions européennes au "Forschungsinstitut für Wirtschaftsverfassung und Wettbewerb" à Innsbruck

Bruxelles, le 14 février 1989

**NOTE BIO (89) 46 (suite 1) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
CC. AUX MEMBRES DU PORTE-PAROLE**

Conseil ECOFIN du 13 février 1989 (G. Guarneri)

Les travaux du Conseil ont été ouverts par M. Solchaga, Ministre espagnol des Finances, qui a souligné l'importance des mesures sur la fiscalité de l'épargne que la Commission allait soumettre au cours de la séance.

Le Ministre a également proposé au Conseil la constitution d'un groupe de haut niveau présidé par M. Borel, Secrétaire d'Etat, pour analyser les propositions de la Commission. Ce groupe se réunira pour la première fois le 20 ou le 21 février prochain.

Les résultats des travaux du groupe devraient faire l'objet d'une première discussion au Conseil ECOFIN du mois d'avril et d'une deuxième, au Conseil Informel du mois de mai, en vue d'une adoption des directives au cours du Conseil ECOFIN de juin ou à défaut, au Sommet de Madrid.

Mme Scrivener a ensuite présenté les propositions de la Commission sur la fiscalité de l'épargne (voir note BIO (89) 46 du 10 février 1989). Dans son exposé, le Commissaire responsable du dossier "Fiscalité" a, entre autres, souligné trois points essentiels :

- l'objectif des propositions de rendre supportable la libération complète des mouvements de capitaux qui entrera en vigueur le 1er juillet 1990,
- l'ouverture sur l'extérieur, du système proposé : un système commun de retenue à la source sur les intérêts est "une solution moderne, susceptible de s'étendre à d'autres pays, tels que les Etats-Unis et le Japon",
- la nécessité d'agir rapidement. "Le 1er juillet 1990 est une échéance très proche et il faut que d'ici-là les Etats membres aient eu le temps de prendre toutes les dispositions nécessaires".

Après cette présentation, les Ministres ont fait connaître leurs premières réactions. Dans l'ensemble l'accueil réservé aux propositions de la Commission a été favorable.

Huit Etats membres, sous réserve d'un examen technique approfondi par le groupe de haut niveau, ont exprimé l'opinion que les propositions de la Commission constituaient une base de négociation valable.

Deux Etats membres, le Royaume-Uni et le Luxembourg, ont exprimé un avis négatif, en évoquant un certain nombre d'objections pratiques et juridiques.

Deux autres Etats membres, les Pays-Bas et la Grèce, ont adopté une attitude assez réservée sans pour autant montrer une opposition de principe.

Toutes les Délégations se sont exprimées favorablement sur la proposition de la Présidence de constituer un groupe de travail de haut niveau pour entamer une analyse technique des propositions présentées par Mme Scrivener.

Ami *E. J. Heller* —

C.D. EHLERMANN