



COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT



PRESS RELEASE

7429/89 (Presse 120)

1324th Council meeting

- Industry -

Luxembourg, 21 June 1989

President: Mr Claudio ARANZADI

Minister for Industry and Energy
of the Kingdom of Spain

Italy

Mr Pietro CALAMIA

Ambassador, Permanent Representative

Luxembourg

Mr Johny LAHURE

State Secretary for Economic Affairs

Netherlands

Mr R.W. DE KORTE

Minister for Economic Affairs

Portugal

Mr Luís Fernando de MIRA AMARAL

Minister for Industry and Energy

United Kingdom

Mr Alan CLARK

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

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Commission

Mr Martin BANGEMANN

Vice-President

Sir Leon BRITTAN

Vice-President

Mr Filippo Maria PANDOLFI

Vice-President

Mr António CARDOSO E CUNHA

Member

SUPPORT FOR SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES

Continuing its policy in favour of small and medium-sized enterprises, initiated by the 1986 and 1987 Resolutions, the Council adopted a Decision relating to the improvement of the business environment, in particular for SMEs, in the Community.

Pending the Opinions of the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee, the Council also reached a political consensus in favour of a draft Recommendation relating to the implementation of a policy of administrative simplification in favour of small and medium-sized enterprises in the Member States.

The programme adopted today, to cover the period 1990-1993, is designed with the aim of encouraging the creation and development of enterprises, to implement the following measures at Community level:

- removal of undue administrative, financial and legal constraints which check the development and creation of enterprises and in particular small and medium-sized enterprises;
- information and assistance to enterprises, and in particular small and medium-sized enterprises, on Community policies, regulations and activities and those of each Member State which concern or are likely to concern them;
- encouragement of co-operation and partnership between enterprises, and in particular small and medium-sized enterprises, from different regions of the Community.

These measures are to be implemented at Member State level and subsidiarily through Community action. The Commission will be assisted in preparing Community measures by a Committee of Member States' representatives, of type II(b) under the Decision on committee procedures.

For the period 1990 to 1993, the initial amount necessary is estimated at ECU 110 million. Another estimated ECU 25 million could be deemed necessary for expenditure over the same period, should the Council so decide after a review of the programme. The Council's decision would in that event be adopted on the same basis as the present Decision.

The main activities to be financed are as follows:

1. Removal of undue administrative, financial and legal constraints

(assessment of the impact on business of existing and proposed legislation, consultation with Member States on national procedures)

2. Information and assistance to enterprises:

- Information:

Classic forms of information (publications, seminars, conferences) and development of the Euro-Info-Centres

- Assistance:

Management development in SMEs, promotion of access of SMEs to financial markets (including seed capital projects), promotion of access of SMEs to Community programmes and to Structural Funds

3. Encouragement of business co-operation and partnership:

Development of BC-Net, Europartenariat; promotion of transnational subcontracting, pilot and demonstration projects to promote transnational co-operation and promotion of access of SMEs to third-country markets

4. Evaluation and policy development

(including improvement of statistics on SMEs, studies of the impact of the large common market on SMEs; policy development and preparation of new projects - including special conditions and measures for very small enterprises, e.g. craft industries - evaluation of existing projects)

AID TO THE ITALIAN PUBLIC STEEL SECTOR

The Council heard a statement by Vice-President BRITTAN introducing the Commission's request for assent to the amendments which it proposed making to its Decision of 23 December 1988 concerning aid to the Italian public steel sector.

In the ensuing discussion, delegations had a chance to give their initial reactions to the amendments.

However, the Council found that it was unable to take a final decision today as the Italian delegation was not in a position to participate in one. The Council therefore decided to take a final decision at a meeting in July, the date of which would be set by the French Presidency.

HIGH-DEFINITION TELEVISION

The Council took note of an oral statement by Vice-President PANDOLFI on recent HDTV developments, with particular reference to promotion of the European standard, on which the Commission had recently held talks, notably with the US authorities.

In the ensuing discussion, the importance of the matter for the Community's technological and industrial development was once again highlighted. In this connection attention was drawn to the opportunities for promoting the European standard following the interest shown by President GORBACHEV during his recent visit to the Federal Republic of Germany.

At the same time Vice-President PANDOLFI also informed Ministers of the setting-up of the JESSI programme launched under EUREKA - for 1989-96 - with the aim of enabling European industry to achieve substantial production of future generations of intelligent microchips. Mr PANDOLFI announced that the Commission intended to participate in the programme financially via the Community's ESPRIT programme. He also pointed to the relationship between this programme and the development of HDTV, particularly in the field of microprocessors.

TEXTILES

The Council took note of an oral report by Vice-President BANGEMANN on progress regarding the various aspects (commercial, industrial, aid and structural) of the textiles sector.

The ensuing discussion served to reiterate the Community's commitment to the objective of integrating the textiles sector in the GATT framework, under the conditions laid down by the Council on 24 April 1989, and the need for appropriate positive industrial-policy measures for the sector;

With this in mind, the Council noted that the Commission would compile factual data enabling it to submit proposals at a later date.

COMMUNITY MINING INDUSTRY

Having examined the proposals put forward by the Commission in its memorandum of 2 June on the Community mining industry, the Council adopted the following Resolution on the development of the Community mining industry:

The Council of the European Communities,

Having regard to the EEC Treaty,

Recognizing that the mining industry is of significant economic, social and commercial importance and can make an appreciable contribution to the provision of Community supplies by its activities both within the Community and in third countries;

Considering that the mining sector must, like other sectors, be integrated into the plan for the completion of the internal market in 1993 by strengthening its production structures through improvements in competitiveness;

Noting that development of the mining sector is bound to have a positive effect on an entire industrial network including a considerable mining equipment and services sector upstream and all of the processing industries downstream;

Believing that the Community mining industry must be developed under normal conditions of competition and with a firm Community commitment to liberalization

of access to resources worldwide;

Welcomes the memorandum on the mining industry submitted by the Commission and recognizes the need for a common approach by the Community and in particular for co-ordination of national and Community measures and budgetary instruments assigned to industrial development;

Calls on the Commission, in consultation with the Member States, to continue without delay with preparation of the specific measures contained in the action envisaged in the memorandum, having regard to the relevant Community provisions;

Emphasizes that in carrying out specific measures priority should be given to the following points:

1. on R&D, any adjustment of current programmes such as the framework programmes must follow from an examination of national efforts, rigorous analysis of actual requirements and identification of the most appropriate Community action;

2. the Structural Funds' existing allocations and the EIB's loans could, if necessary, provide as far as possible the necessary assistance for the development of mining projects of Community scope, including exploration projects;
3. with the completion of the internal market in prospect, a study should be made by the Member States and the Commission with the aim of eliminating administrative and/or fiscal obstacles and improving the socio-economic framework for the sector;
4. particular attention should be paid to examining training and education requirements in the field of geology and mining engineering, with combined action possibly being sought between Member States and also with major mining third countries.

AID TO SHIPBUILDING

The Council took note of the Commission report on the implementation in 1987-1988 of the Sixth Council Directive on aid to shipbuilding.

Following an introductory statement by Vice-President BRITTAN, the Council held a discussion on matters arising from the report.

EFTA COUNTRIES: FACILITATION OF INSPECTIONS IN THE CARRIAGE OF GOODS

The Council adopted a Decision authorizing the Commission to open negotiations with Austria, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland on the facilitation of physical inspections and administrative facilities in respect of the carriage of goods.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONSNuclear matters

At its meeting on 26 September 1988, the Council adopted conclusions on the technological problems of nuclear safety.

At the present meeting, it again adopted conclusions in response to a communication from the Commission on assurance of safety of nuclear power plants, which described the safety objectives and methods of fulfilling them used in the Community for the design and operation of light water reactors and liquid metal fast breeder reactors.

In connection with the September 1988 conclusions, which provided for the extension of the Commission's work to all types of nuclear power plants, the Council in particular stressed the importance of ensuring international awareness and understanding of methods used to assure and verify the safety of nuclear installations; noting that technological progress was a cornerstone of nuclear safety. Also recognizing the importance of continuous critical review of all the elements contributing to such safety, it encouraged the Commission to play an active role in all these areas at Community and international level.

Internal market

The Council formally adopted its common positions on the:

- twelfth Directive on company law concerning single-member private limited companies (see press release 7324/89 (Presse 112), p. 9);
- Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to personal protective equipment (PPE) (see press release 7324/89 (presse 112), p. 10).

Environment

The Council formally adopted Directives:

- on procedures for harmonizing the programmes for the reduction and eventual elimination of pollution caused by waste from the titanium dioxide industry (see press release 7087/89 (Presse 102), p. 15);
- amending Directive 80/779/EEC on air quality limit values and guide values for sulphur dioxide and suspended particulates (see press release 7087/89 (Presse 102), p. 13);
- on the reduction of air pollution from existing municipal waste-incineration plants (see press release 7087/89 (Presse 102)).

The Council also formally adopted the Resolution on the greenhouse effect and the Community (see press release 7087/89 (Presse 102), p. 4).

Transport

The Council formally adopted the Directive amending Directives:

- 74/561/EEC on admission to the occupation of road haulage operator in national and international transport operations;
- 74/562/EEC on admission to the occupation of road passenger transport operator in national and international transport operations;
- 77/796/EEC aiming at the mutual recognition of diplomas, certificates and other evidence of formal qualifications for goods haulage operators and road passenger transport operators, including measures intended to encourage these operators effectively to exercise their right to freedom of establishment.

(see press release 5383/89 (Presse 39))

Consumer credit

The Council formally adopted its common position on the Directive amending Directive 87/102/EEC for the approximation of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States concerning consumer credit (see press release 6882/89 (Presse 97), p. 4).

Education

The Council and the Ministers, meeting within the Council, took note of the following reports:

- first report, drawn up by the Education Committee, on the implementation of the Resolution of 3 June 1985 on equal opportunities for girls and boys, in education;
- second annual report by the Commission on the implementation of the COMMETT programme (1988);
- second annual report by the Commission on the implementation of the ERASMUS programme (1988).

Commercial policy and customs union

The Council formally adopted Regulations:

- increasing the volume of the Community tariff quota opened for 1989 for ferro-chromium containing more than 6% by weight of carbon (from 300 000 to 450 000 tonnes);
- opening and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas for:
 - = magnetrons with a power output of less than 1 000 W, for the manufacture of microwave ovens - 600 000 items at zero duty;
 - = 1,3: 2,4-Di-O-Benzylidene-D-Glucitol, with a purity of 96% or more by weight - 10 tonnes at zero duty;

- opening and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas for certain kinds of tert-butyl-hydroperoxide and cellulose acetate-butyrate.

ECSC

The Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, formally adopted the:

- Decision on certain measures to be applied, in respect of State-trading countries, to trade in iron and steel products covered by the ECSC Treaty;
- Decision amending the Decision of 21 December 1988 on the opening of a zero-duty tariff quota for flat-rolled products of silicon-electrical steel for the Federal Republic of Germany (increased from 1 500 to 3 000 tonnes);
- Decision on the opening of a zero-duty tariff quota for flat-rolled products of silicon-electrical steel for the Benelux countries (300 tonnes from 1 July to 31 December 1989).

Appointments

Acting on proposals from Member States' Governments, the Council appointed the following as members of the Advisory Committee of the Euratom Supply Agency:

BELGIUM

Mr Pierre GOLDSCHMIDT
Mr Jean MORELLE
Mr Théo VAN RENTERGEM

IRELAND

Mr Martin BRENNAN

DENMARK

Mr Anton BECK
Mr Terkel NIELSEN

GERMANY

Reg-Dir. Dr Rolf-Peter RANDL
Mr Maximilian METZGER
Mr Franz BESCHORNER
Mr Karl FRANK
Dr Horst KESSE
Dipl.-Ing. Wolfgang SCHOBER

GREECE

Mr K. PAPASTERGIOU
Mr S. SYNETOS
Mr G. HATZIYIANNIS

SPAIN

Mr Luis DEL VAL HERNANDEZ
Mr José Antonio RUIZ LÓPEZ-RUA
Mr Fernando PASTOR RIDRUEJO
Mr Javier PINEDO CABEZUDO
Mr Gonzalo RAMOS PUIG

FRANCE

Mr Jean-Claude BERAULT
Mr Louis-Francis DURRET
Mr Etienne CHEVENIER
Mr Jean-Luc ROUSSEAU
Mr Jean BEAUFRERE
Mr Guy COSTE

ITALY

Mr Paolo VENDITTI
Mr Giovanni CUTTICA
Mr Stefano REYNAUD
Mr Marcello PALANDRI
Mr Nunzio SECOLO
Mr Paolo VALENTINI

NETHERLANDS

Mr C.J. JOSEPH
Mr J.J. DE JONG
Mr H.M. VAN MARLE

PORTUGAL

Mr José FOGAÇA MONIZ BETTENCOURT
Mr Henrique Joao CARREIRA PICH
Mr Hêlio José XAVIER VIEIRA

UNITED KINGDOM

Mr P.H. AGRELL
Mr D. ASTON
Mr R.D. MARSH
Mr M. TOWNSEND
Mr Peter DANIELS
Mr Edward HANNINGTON

Acting on a proposal from the Spanish Government, the Council also appointed Mr José GARCIA MORALES member of the Economic and Social Committee to replace the late Mr Manuel MARTIN ALMENDRO for the remainder of his term of office, which runs until 20 September 1990.
