

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

7189/89 (Presse 109)

1330th Council meeting

- LABOUR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS -

Luxembourg, 12 June 1989

President: Mr Manuel CHAVES GONZALEZ

Minister for Labour and Social Security
of the Kingdom of Spain

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

Belgium

Mr Luc VAN DEN BRANDE Minister for Labour and Employment

Denmark

Mr Henning DYREMOSE Minister for Labour

Germany

Mr Norbert BLOM Federal Minister for Labour and Social Affairs

Mr Wolfgang VOGT Parliamentary State Secretary to the Federal Minister for Labour and Social Affairs

Greece

Ms Chrissoula HARISSIOU Special Secretary for Employment, Ministry of Labour

Spain

Mr Manuel CHAVES GONZALEZ Minister for Labour and Social Security

Ms Matilde FERNANDEZ Minister for Social Affairs

Mr Alvaro ESPINA Secretary-General for Employment

France

Mr Jean-Pierre SOISSON Minister for Labour, Employment and Vocational Training

Mr Claude EVIN Minister for Solidarity and for Health and Social Security

Ireland

Mr Michael KEEGAN Secretary of the Department of Labour

Italy

Mr Rino FORMICA Minister for Labour and Social Security

Luxembourg

Mr Benny BERG Minister for Social Security

Mr Jean-Claude JUNCKER Minister for Labour

Netherlands

Mr J. DE KONING Minister for Social Affairs
and Employment

Portugal

Mr José Albino da SILVA PENEDA Minister for Labour and Social Security

United Kingdom

Mr Norman FOWLER Secretary of State for Employment

Mr John COPE Minister of State for Employment

Mr Peter LLOYD Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State,
Department of Social Security

o

o o

Commission

Ms Vasso PAPANDEOU Member

NEW FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE

The Council adopted the Directive on the introduction of measures to encourage improvements in the safety and health of workers at work.

The Directive constitutes the cornerstone of the new Community policy on the safety and health of workers at work, based on Article 118a of the Treaty and, as that Article prescribes, it contains minimum requirements.

The Directive lays down general principles concerning the prevention of occupational risks, and the training, information, consultation and balanced participation of workers and general principles for their implementation.

These provisions will provide the framework for all the individual directives on the protection of the safety and health of workers at work, such as those on the workplace, machines and personal protection equipment on which the Council adopted a common position on 5 April 1989.

COMMUNITY CHARTER OF FUNDAMENTAL SOCIAL RIGHTS

The Council held a policy debate on the preliminary draft Community Charter of Fundamental Social Rights submitted by the Commission.

The Council discussed the general approach adopted by the Commission and the different points of the Charter.

The President concluded that he would forward the draft conclusions in Annex I to the European Council in Madrid (26 and 27 June 1989). These draft conclusions were endorsed by ten delegations; one delegation opposed them and another was unable to adopt a position at that stage.

COMBATING POVERTY

The Council agreed to a Decision establishing a medium-term Community Action Programme concerning the economic and social integration of the economically and socially less privileged groups in society.

This third programme continues and expands the Community's action to combat poverty, begun in the two previous programmes of 1975 and 1984.

Among other things, it provides for pilot projects and innovatory measures, aimed at integrating the economically and socially less privileged groups in society.

It is to last 5 years (1.7.1989 - 30.6.1994) and has been allocated ECU 55 million.

EMPLOYMENT OF DISABLED PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY

The Council adopted the conclusions on the employment of disabled people in the Community (see Annex II).

SOCIAL ASPECT OF THE RENAVAL PROGRAMME

The Council re-examined the proposal for a Council Regulation instituting a specific Community programme of accompanying social measures to assist workers in the shipbuilding industry who are made redundant or threatened with redundancy.

After its discussion, the Council agreed to return to this item at a future meeting.

EQUAL TREATMENT FOR MEN AND WOMEN IN MATTERS OF SOCIAL SECURITY

The Council examined the proposal for a Directive completing the implementation of the principle of equal treatment for men and women in statutory and occupational social security schemes.

After its examination, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its discussions on this item.

SOCIAL SECURITY FOR MIGRANT WORKERS- FAMILY BENEFITS

The Council continued its discussions on the proposal for a Regulation amending Regulations (EEC) Nos 1408/71 and 574/72 and was informed of some new suggestions by the French delegation.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its proceedings, bearing in mind those suggestions, with a view to reaching an agreement at the earliest opportunity.

- VARIOUS AMENDMENTS

The Council approved the Regulation amending Regulations (EEC) Nos 1408/71 and 574/72.

The purpose of the Regulation is to adapt Community legislation to certain newly-arisen situations in the Member States.

- NON-CONTRIBUTORY BENEFITS

The Council examined the proposal for a Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71.

It asked the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its discussions on this item.

SHARING OF FAMILY AND PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

On the basis of a draft Presidency Resolution, the Council discussed the question of the sharing of family and professional responsibilities, which is an important factor in achieving equal treatment between men and women.

The Resolution was endorsed by eleven delegations.

ORAL REPORT BY THE PRESIDENCY ON PROGRESS IN CERTAIN SOCIAL POLICY FIELDS

The Council heard an oral report by Ms FERNANDEZ on progress in certain social policy fields, in particular:

- equal treatment for men and women in matters of social security;
- the burden of proof, with regard to equal treatment for men and women;
- sharing of family and professional responsibilities;
- the aged population.

ILO: SAFETY IN THE USE OF CHEMICALS AT WORK

The Council held a political debate on the way in which the Community and the Member States should be represented in the ILO, in view of the tripartite structure of that organization.

DRAFT COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS (1)

The Council held an in-depth discussion of the preliminary draft Community Charter of Fundamental Social Rights submitted by the Commission at the meeting.

The Council feels that the Commission's preliminary draft incorporates the essentials of the Economic and Social Committee's Opinion of 22 February 1989 and the European Parliament's Resolution of 15 March 1989 and is an important contribution to the process of establishing the social area.

The Council declares that in setting up the single European market social aspects should be given the same importance as economic aspects and they should therefore be developed in a balanced way.

The Council hopes that as the discussions progress the social partners will participate in the examination of fundamental social rights and that the broadest possible consensus will be achieved.

The Council states that the European social area must be based on a list of sufficiently precise and legally binding rights while respecting the principle of subsidiarity and promoting the social dialogue.

The Council feels that the Commission's preliminary draft contains not only a statement of rights, which must be defined with the greatest precision, and compliance with which must be ensured through the adoption of compulsory rules in accordance with the provisions of the Treaties, but also a set of objectives which must be pursued in establishing the European social area and developed through an action programme and common policies without prejudice, on either side to the role of relations based on agreement as recognized in the Single Act.

(1) These draft conclusions were endorsed by the delegations; one delegation was opposed to them and another was unable to adopt a position at that stage.

The Council considers that the fundamental social rights should be adopted as soon as possible in the form of a Solemn Declaration of Heads of State and Government.

The Council urges the Commission to act immediately to prepare rules on fundamental rights and to draw up the action programme with a view to achieving the social objectives in accordance with the Conclusions of the European Councils in Hanover and Rhodes. The Council also agrees to begin examining the proposals already submitted by the Commission in order to take a decision on them.

The Council notes that without prejudice to any modifications that may be made, there is a general consensus on the fundamental rights set out in the preliminary draft Charter, which constitute the social identity of the Community.

These conclusions will be submitted to the President of the European Council.

CONCLUSIONS OF THE COUNCIL
of
on the employment of disabled people in the Community

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

- (1) NOTES with interest the Commission report on the application of Council Recommendation 86/379/EEC of 24 July 1986 on the employment of disabled people in the Community;
- (2) NOTES that the said Council Recommendation:
 - (a) has contributed to a review of national measures relating to the employment and vocational training of disabled people which have been brought into line with the common objectives set out in the Recommendation;
 - (b) has offered a Community reference framework for national measures which were being prepared when it was adopted;
 - (c) has encouraged the introduction or preparation of new measures in accordance with the spirit of the Recommendation;
- (3) RECOGNIZES that, in spite of the efforts by Member States, disabled people are continuing to experience difficulty in gaining access on an equal basis to vocational training and employment and that their unemployment rate is appreciably higher than that of the population as a whole;
- (4) CONSIDERS that improvement in the employment situation for disabled people must essentially be achieved through the implementation of general policies based on economic growth and job creation, but that the success of such policies does not necessarily guarantee equal opportunities for disabled people in the employment system and in vocational training in view of their particular problems; whereas there is therefore a need to promote special measures in this respect;
- (5) CONSIDERS that the implementation, both at national and Community level, of programmes intended to encourage the process of insertion in the labour market and to improve the situation on the labour market of disabled people who form one of the most disadvantaged groups in the population, is a basic requirement of an active social policy of a kind which will help to strengthen economic and social cohesion in the context of achieving the internal market, including its social dimension, from which all citizens of the Community must, without exception, benefit;

- (6) DRAWS attention to the Council Resolution of 22 December 1986 on an action programme on employment growth, which emphasized the need to adopt measures to increase equal opportunities for disabled people within the labour market,
- (7) CONSIDERS that the aim of such measures should be, firstly, to guarantee that no citizen of the Community suffers discrimination with regard to access to vocational training and employment or, when employed, to the pursuit of his employment on the sole grounds of his disability and to promote positive measures which help to make such equality effective;
- (8) CONSIDERS that one of the main aspects of the policy of occupational integration of disabled people is to inform and increase the awareness of all the parties involved in the integration process, and to back this up by dialogue between the social partners at all levels;
- (9) INVITES therefore the Member States:
- (a) to uphold and continue to implement policies of positive action to promote the occupational integration of disabled people;
 - (b) to encourage and promote the involvement of the social partners and the representatives of disabled people in defining and implementing such measures;
- (10) INVITES the Member States and the Commission to develop measures to achieve a better knowledge of the social realities affecting disabled people and of their situation in relation to employment;
- (11) INVITES the Commission to:
- (a) develop measures within the HELIOS programme to promote co-operation, exchanges of experiences and greater reciprocal knowledge amongst the various Member States of the measures implemented by them and encourage Community-wide debate on the most effective instruments for achieving a greater degree of occupational integration for disabled people,
 - (b) continue to give effective support, particularly within the framework of the European Social Fund rules, to national measures for the occupational integration of disabled people, taking account of the special problems they experience and the aims of Community social policy;
 - (c) submit to the Council, on the basis of an evaluation of the results of the implementation of Recommendation 86/379/EEC, proposals in the field covered by the said Recommendation which will ensure better co-ordination and greater consistency between the measures introduced by the Member States.

DISK 2 PAGE 345
MESSAGE # 278
RCV LN 1

06/08 1930
64215EURCOM UW

21877 COMEU B

DE : C.C.E. BRUXELLES - GPP46 - G.P.P.
A : C.E. WASHINGTON - WASHINGTON
REF: 01:32 9-06-89 000165341 - 000165392

H.D.	
D.H.F.	
INFO.	
TRADE	
AGRI.	fo
LEGAL	
FIN & DEV.	ALL
SCI & ENF.	
SUP. AG.	
ADM.	
C.F.	

DUPLICATA POSSIBLE

/TELEXSP

LUXEMBOURG, LE 8 JUIN 1989
NOTE BIO(89)173 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
CC. AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE-PAROLE

PREPARATION DU CONSEIL AFFAIRES SOCIALES DU 12 JUIN 1989

LA PROPOSITION D'UNE CHARTE COMMUNAUTAIRE DES DROITS SOCIAUX FONDAMENTAUX, LA NOUVELLE DIRECTIVE-CADRE VISANT A PROMOUVOIR L'AMELIORATION DE LA SECURITE ET DE LA SANTE DES TRAVAILLEURS ET LE PROGRAMME COMMUNAUTAIRE DE LUTTE CONTRE LA PAUVRETE SERONT LES PRINCIPAUX POINTS DE L'ORDRE DU JOUR DU CONSEIL 'SOCIAL' QUI SE TIENDRA A LUXEMBOURG LE 12 JUIN.

1. CHARTE SOCIALE (VOIR P-25 REV. DU 17 MAI 1989)

MADAME VASSO PAPANDREOU PRESENTERA AUX MINISTRES L'AVANT-PROJET DE LA CHARTE. LES ETATS MEMBRES AURONT AINSI L'OCCASION DE S'EXPRIMER SUR UN SUJET QUI POURRAIT ETRE UN DES PRINCIPAUX POINTS DES DEBATS AU PROCHAIN CONSEIL EUROPEEN DE MADRID.

2. DIRECTIVE-CADRE SUR LA SECURITE ET LA SANTE (VOIR P-19 DU 24.2.1988)

ON S'ATTEND A UNE ADOPTION PAR LE CONSEIL DE CETTE DIRECTIVE-CADRE, CE QUI SERAIT, DE L'AVIS DE MADAME PAPANDREOU, UN JALON SUR LA ROUTE DE L'EUROPE SOCIALE.

LA PROPOSITION DE DIRECTIVE-CADRE VISE A AMELIORER A L'HORIZON DE 1992 LA SECURITE ET LA SANTE DES TRAVAILLEURS SUR LE LIEU DE TRAVAIL EN PREVOYANT DES DISPOSITIONS RELATIVES A LA CONCERTATION ENTRE PARTENAIRES SOCIAUX COMME MOYEN DE PROMOTION DE LA PREVENTION DES RISQUES PROFESSIONNELS.

LES MESURES PROPOSEES ONT POUR OBJET DE PROTEGER LES TRAVAILLEURS DANS TOUTES LES ENTREPRISES, INDEPENDAMMENT DE LEUR TAILLE. DES DISPOSITIONS SONT PREVUES POUR MODULER LES CONTRAINTES ADMINISTRATIVES DANS CERTAINS CAS, COMPTE TENU DES FACTEURS SOCIO-

PROFESSIONNELS, MAIS SANS POUR AUTANT REDUIRE LE NIVEAU DE PROTECTION.

COMME PREVU PAR L'ARTICLE 118A DU TRAITE, LA PROPOSITION CONTIENT DES PRESCRIPTIONS MINIMALES. CETTE DIRECTIVE-CADRE EST DESTINEE A COUVRIR PLUTOT LE VOLET 'SECURITE' DES PRESCRIPTIONS MINIMALES DANS CE DOMAINE, TANDIS QUE LA DIRECTIVE DU CONSEIL 80/1107/CEE CONCERNANT LA PROTECTION DES TRAVAILLEURS CONTRE LES RISQUES LIES A UNE EXPOSITION A DES AGENTS CHIMIQUES, PHYSIQUES ET BIOLOGIQUES PENDANT LE TRAVAIL CONSTITUE PLUS SPECIFIQUEMENT LE VOLET 'SANTE' DE CE MEME DOMAINE. LES DEUX DISPOSITIONS SONT DONC COMPLEMENTAIRES.

LA PROPOSITION DE DIRECTIVE-CADRE DEFINIT LES ROLES ET LES OBLIGATIONS RESPECTIFS DES EMPLOYEURS ET DES TRAVAILLEURS POUR ATTEINDRE LES OBJECTIFS. CERTAINS DETAILS D'EXECUTION SONT LAISSES A LA REGLEMENTATION NATIONALE.

PAR SON CHAMP D'APPLICATION TRES LARGE LA PROPOSITION VISE DES SECTEURS ET DES MOYENS DE TRAVAIL QUI, JUSQU'A PRESENT, N'ETAIENT PAS SUFFISAMMENT COUVERTS PAR LES LEGISLATIONS NATIONALES RELATIVES A LA SECURITE ET LA SANTE SUR LE LIEU DE TRAVAIL.

. / .

- 2 -

3. PROGRAMME DE LUTTE CONTRE LA PAUVRETE (VOIR P - 150 DU 21.12.1988)

LA COMMISSION A PRESENTE UN PROGRAMME CONCERNANT L'INTEGRATION ECONOMIQUE ET SOCIALE DES GROUPES MOINS FAVORISES (3EME PROGRAMME DE LUTTE CONTRE LA PAUVRETE) POUR LA PERIODE ALLANT DU 1ER JANVIER 1989 AU 31 DECEMBRE 1993.

CE PROGRAMME, QUI SERAIT DOTE D'UNE ENVELOPPE FINANCIERE DE 70 MILLIONS D'ECUS, A POUR OBJECTIFS LA MISE EN OEUVRE D' ACTIONS EN FAVEUR DE PERSONNES ECONOMIQUEMENT ET SOCIALEMENT MOINS FAVORISEES, NOTAMMENT PAR L'ELABORATION DE MODELES D'INTEGRATION DE CES PERSONNES.

POUR REALISER LES DIFFERENTS OBJECTIFS, IL EST PREVU ENTRE AUTRES QUE LA COMMISSION AIDERA FINANCIEREMENT L'AMELIORATION DES CONNAISSANCES DU PHENOMENE AINSI QUE LES COLLECTES ET L'ECHANGE DES DONNEES (RECHERCHES STATISTIQUES).

CERTAINES DELEGATIONS SOUHAITENT QUE LES CREDITS SOIENT RESERVES EN PRIORITE AUX PROJETS CONCRETS SUR LE TERRAIN AU LIEU DE FINANCER DES RECHERCHES SUR CES GROUPES DE PERSONNES.

D'AUTRES DELEGATIONS CONSIDERENT L'ENVELOPPE FINANCIERE DE 70 MILLIONS D'ECUS POUR 5 ANS TROP ELEVEE (COMPAREE AUX 29 MILLIONS D'ECUS POUR 4 ANS DU 2EME PROGRAMME), TANDIS QUE QUATRE DELEGATIONS NE LA CONSIDERENT PAS SUFFISANTE.

UNE DELEGATION MAINTIENT UNE RESERVE GENERALE.

LE PARLEMENT EUROPEEN A PROPOSE DE RELEVER L'ENVELOPPE A 125 MILLIONS D'ECUS.

4. VOLET SOCIAL RENAVAL

LA COMMISSION A PRESENTE, EN JUILLET 1987, UNE COMMUNICATION CONTENANT UNE PROPOSITION DE REGLEMENT INSTITUANT UN PROGRAMME POUR LA RECONVERSION DES ZONES ET CHANTIERS NAVALS DIT PROGRAMME RENAVAL ET UNE PROPOSITION DE REGLEMENT INSTITUANT UN PROGRAMME DE 3 ANS CONTENANT DES MESURES SOCIALES SPECIFIQUES POUR LES TRAVAILLEURS DE LA CONSTRUCTION NAVALE LICENCIES OU MENACES DE LICENCIEMENT (CAR LE FONDS SOCIAL NE PEUT REPENDRE QUE PARTIELLEMENT AUX PROBLEMES DE

CES TRAVAILLEURS).

LORS DE L'ADOPTION DE LA DIRECTIVE 87/167 QUI A INSTAURE UNE POLITIQUE RIGoureuse ET SELECTIVE D'AIDES A LA CONSTRUCTION NAVALE, LE CONSEIL AVAIT CONSIDERE QUE DES MESURES COMPLEMENTAIRES DEVRAIENT ETRE ADOPTEES AFIN DE PALLIER LES CONSEQUENCES SOCIALES ET REGIONALES QUI EN DECOULERAIENT.

LE CONSEIL A ARRETE LE PROGRAMME RENAVAL EN JUILLET 1988. EN REVANCHE, LE PROGRAMME DE MESURES SOCIALES SPECIFIQUES N'A PAS PU ETRE ADOPTE CAR TROIS DELEGATIONS SONT CONTRAIRES A UN FINANCEMENT SPECIFIQUE DE MESURES EN FAVEUR D'UNE CATEGORIE DE TRAVAILLEURS, ET ESTIMENT, SUITE AU RENFORCEMENT DE LA DOTATION DES FONDS STRUCTURELS INTERVENU ENTRETEMPS, QU'UN FINANCEMENT EVENTUEL DEVRAIT ETRE EFFECTUE PAR CES FONDS.

. / .

- 3 -

A L'OPPOSE, D'AUTRES DELEGATIONS INSISTENT SUR LA COMPLEMENTARITE ENTRE LES MESURES REGIONALES DEJA ARRETEES ET LES MESURES SOCIALES. LE CONSEIL 'SOCIAL' DU 5 AVRIL DERNIER N'A PU ACCOMPLIR DE PROGRES VERS L'ADOPTION DU VOLET SOCIAL DU PROGRAMME RENAVAL ET CE SUJET SERA REDISCUTE A LA REUNION DU 12 JUIN.

5. DIRECTIVE SUR L'EGALITE DE TRAITEMENT ENTRE HOMMES ET FEMMES EN SECURITE SOCIALE

CETTE PROPOSITION DE DIRECTIVE CONSTITUE LA TROISIEME ET DERNIERE ETAPE POUR L'APPLICATION DU PRINCIPE DE L'EGALITE ENTRE HOMMES ET FEMMES DANS LE DOMAINE DE LA SECURITE SOCIALE DEJA MIS EN OEUVRE PAR LES DIRECTIVES 79/7 ET 66/378. LA PROPOSITION TEND A COUVRIR L'ENSEMBLE DES PROBLEMES NON REGLES PAR LES DEUX DIRECTIVES PRECEDENTES ET ACHEVER AINSI LA REALISATION DE L'EGALITE DE TRAITEMENT DANS LE DOMAINE DE LA SECURITE SOCIALE.

ELLE PREVOIT L'EGALITE DE TRAITEMENT POUR LA PENSION DE VEUF ET DE VEUVE, POUR L'AGE DE LA RETRAITE ET POUR LES ALLOCATIONS FAMILIALES. DE PLUS, ELLE INTRODUIT LE PRINCIPE DE L'OUVERTURE DE DROITS PROPRES AU CONJOINT D'UN ASSURE (INDIVIDUALISATION DES DROITS) A APPLIQUER DE MANIERE FACULTATIVE PAR LES ETATS MEMBRES (IL S'AGIT DE LA SOLUTION LA PLUS AVANTAGEUSE POUR LE CONJOINT PUISQUE LA PROTECTION NE SERA PAS AFFECTEE EN CAS DE DIVORCE). CETTE PROPOSITION A SOULEVE DES OBJECTIONS DE FOND DE LA PART DE PLUSIEURS DELEGATIONS, EN RAISON NOTAMMENT DES COUTS QU'ELLE ENTRAINERAIT. LA PRESIDENCE A SUGGERE UN COMPROMIS QUI PREVOIT POUR L'ESSENTIEL:

- UN DELAI PLUS LONG POUR LA MISE EN OEUVRE DU PRINCIPE DE L'EGALITE DE TRAITEMENT POUR LES PENSIONS DES VEUFs ET DES VEUVES.,
- LA SUPPRESSION DE LA DISPOSITION CONCERNANT LA FACULTE D'ACCORDER DES DROITS PROPRES AU CONJOINT.,
- LA NON-APPLICATION DE LA DIRECTIVE AUX EVENEMENTS INTERVENUS AVANT SA MISE EN VIGUEUR.,
- LA SUPPRESSION DANS LES CONSIDERANTS DE LA NOTION D'EGALISATION DANS LE PROGRES.

LE CONSEIL DISCUTERA AUSSI DEUX PROPOSITIONS CONCERNANT LA SECURITE SOCIALE DES TRAVAILLEURS MIGRANTS ET PLUS PARTICULIEREMENT LE PROBLEME DES PRESTATIONS FAMILIALES. IL EXAMINERA ENFIN UN PROJET DE RESOLUTION CONCERNANT LE PARTAGE DES RESPONSABILITES FAMILIALES ET PROFESSIONNELLES.

AMITIES,

C. STATHOPOULOS

DISK 2 PAGE 529
MESSAGE # 292
RCV LN 1

06/12 1228
64215EURCOM UW

21877 COMEU B

DE : C.C.E. BRUXELLES - GPP46 - G.P.P.
A : C.E. WASHINGTON - WASHINGTON
REF: 18:30 12-06-89 000049075 - 000051640

/TELEXSP
LUXEMBOURG, LE 12 JUIN 1989.
NOTE BIO (89) 174-1 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
CC. AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE-PAROLE

H.D.	
D.H.J.	
INFO.	
TRADE	
AGRI.	40
LEGAL	
FIN & DEV	ALL
SCI & ENL	
SUP. AG.	
ADM.	
C.F.	

CONSEIL AFFAIRES SOCIALES (C. STATHOPOULOS)
LE DEBAT SUR LA CHARTE DES DROITS SOCIAUX FONDAMENTAUX A DOMINE LES TRAVAUX DU CONSEIL DANS LA MATINEE DU 12 JUIN. DIX DELEGATIONS SE SONT EXPRIMEES EN FAVEUR D'UNE CHARTE SOCIALE. LE DANEMARK A EMIS AUSSI UN AVIS FAVORABLE TOUT EN SOULIGNANT QU'IL NE POUVAIT PAS S'ENGAGER FORMELLEMENT AUJOURD'HUI PUISQUE LA CONSULTATION DES PARTENAIRES SOCIAUX DANS CE PAYS N'A PAS ENCORE ETE ACHEVEE, LE ROYAUME-UNI PAR CONTRE NE CONSIDERE PAS OPPORTUNE L'ADOPTION D'UNE CHARTE SOCIALE. SON REPRESENTANT S'EST EXPRIME CONTRE UN TEXTE QUI, A SON AVIS, CREERAIT DES COUTS SUPPLEMENTAIRES POUR LES ENTREPRENEURS. LE MINISTRE BRITANNIQUE A SOULIGNE QUE SON GOUVERNEMENT PRATIQUE UNE POLITIQUE DE CREATION D'EMPLOIS ET ESSAIE DE REDUIRE LA CHARGE FINANCIERE DES ENTREPRISES. LES DIX DELEGATIONS QUI SOUTIENNENT LA CHARTE, DONT L'AVANT-PROJET A ETE PRESENTE PAR LA COMMISSION, CONSIDERENT QUE LA DECLARATION SOLENNELLE PREVUE DEVRIT ETRE SUIVIE PAR DES PROPOSITIONS DE TEXTES LEGISLATIFS CONTRAIGNANTS (COMME LA COMMISSION LE PROPOSE). CINQ DELEGATIONS (B, L, NL, I, E) CONSIDERENT QUE LE PROGRAMME D'ACTION QUE LA COMMISSION SE PROPOSE DE PRESENTER APRES L'ADOPTION DE LA DECLARATION SOLENNELLE, DEVRIT ETRE PRET DANS DES DELAIS PLUS BREFS QUE LE 30/06/89. TROIS ETATS MEMBRES (L, P, D) AIMERAIENT AVOIR DES PRECISIONS SUPPLEMENTAIRES SUR LA DISTINCTION ENTRE LES MESURES QUI SERONT PROPOSEES AU NIVEAU COMMUNAUTAIRE, CELLES QUI SERONT CONFIEES A LA LEGISLATION NATIONALE ET LES SECTEURS POUR LESQUELS LES PARTENAIRES SOCIAUX DEVRAIENT S'ENGAGER. DEUX DELEGATIONS ENFIN (B, L) ONT RAPPELE QUE LE CONSEIL POURRAIT DEJA STATUER SUR DES PROPOSITIONS QUE SE TROUVENT DEPUIS LONGTEMPS SUR SA TABLE, MAIS QUI SONT ACTUELLEMENT BLOQUEES. DANS SON INTERVENTION, MME PAPANDREOU A SOULIGNE L'UTILITE D'UNE CHARTE DES DROITS SOCIAUX FONDAMENTAUX QUI MONTRERAIT AUX TRAVAILLEURS QUE LA CONTRUCTION EUROPEENNE NE SE FAIT PAS CONTRE EUX MAIS POUR ET AVEC EUX ET QUI DEMONTRE QUE LES ETATS MEMBRES ONT DECIDE D'UNIR LEURS DESTINS ET NON SEULEMENT DE CREER UN GRAND

MARCHE. L'APPROCHE REALISTE DE L'AVANT-PROJET PRESENTE PAR LA COMMISSION S'EXPRIME DANS LA CONCENTRATION DE LA CHARTE AUTOUR D'UN AXE QUI EST CELUI DES DROITS CONCERNANT LE MONDE DU TRAVAIL ET LE FAIT QU'AUUCUNE INNOVATION N'EST NECESSAIRE DANS LA REPARTITION DES COMPETENCES ENTRE COMMISSION ET ETATS MEMBRES. LA PRESIDENCE VA S'EFFORCER PENDANT LE DEJEUNER DE FAIRE APPROUVER UN PROJET DE CONCLUSION QUI SERA ENSUITE TRANSMIS AU CONSEIL EUROPEEN, TENTATIVE PEU PROMETTEUSE SUITE A LA REACTION BRITANNIQUE. LE CONSEIL A ADOPTE LA DIRECTIVE CONCERNANT LA SANTE ET LA SECURITE DES TRAVAILLEURS (VOIR IP(89) 444).

IP(89) 444

'NOUS SOMMES EN TRAIN DE FRANCHIR UN GRAND PAS DANS LA GARANTIE DU BIEN-ETRE DE NOS TRAVAILLEURS, TOUT EN ASSURANT LE FONCTIONNEMENT D'UN SYSTEME HARMONISE DE PROTECTION SANITAIRE ET DE SECURITE POUR TOUTES LES ENTREPRISES QUI PARTICIPENT AU MARCHE INTERIEUR DE LA COMMUNAUTE', A DECLARE MME PAPANDREOU.

CETTE DIRECTIVE QUI EST LA PREMIERE ADOPTEE EN VERTU DE L'ARTICLE 118 A DE L'ACTE UNIQUE, CONSTITUE L'ASSISE DE LA COOPERATION DES ETATS MEMBRES DE LA COMMUNAUTE DANS LE DOMAINE DE LA SANTE ET DE LA SECURITE DES TRAVAILLEURS. DES LES PREMIERS STADES DE SON ELABORATION, ELLE A ETE BAPTISEE 'DIRECTIVE CADRE' CAR ELLE FIXE LES PRESCRIPTIONS FONDAMENTALES DE PROTECTION SANITAIRE ET DE SECURITE AU TRAVAIL : OBLIGATIONS STRICTES DES EMPLOYEURS ET DES TRAVAILLEURS, CREATION ET FONCTIONNEMENT DE SERVICES DE PREVENTION, DE PROTECTION ET DE SECOURS SUR LES LIEUX DE TRAVAIL, INFORMATION ET FORMATION Poussees et CONSULTATION ET PARTICIPATION TOTALES DES TRAVAILLEURS CONCERNANT TOUTES LES QUESTIONS AYANT TRAIT A LA PROTECTION SANITAIRE ET LA SECURITE DU TRAVAIL.

LA DIRECTIVE CADRE EST DESTINEE A OUVRIER LA VOIE A PLUSIEURS DIRECTIVES PARTICULIERES TRAITANT D'ASPECTS ET D'ACTIVITES SPECIAUX DU POINT DE VUE DE LA SANTE ET DE LA SECURITE. L'OBJECTIF COMMUN DES CES DIFFERENTES DIRECTIVES SERA DE CREER DANS LA COMMUNAUTE UN SYSTEME HARMONISE DE DISPOSITIONS ASSURANT LE RELEVEMENT PROGRESSIF DES NIVEAUX DE PROTECTION SANITAIRE ET DE SECURITE DONT JOUISSENT LES TRAVAILLEURS EUROPEENS.

AYANT INSCRIT LES QUESTIONS DE SANTE ET DE SECURITE EN TETE DE SON PROGRAMME DE POLITIQUE SOCIALE, LA COMMISSION SE REJOUIT DU SUCCES REMPORTE SUR UNE QUESTION PARTICULIEREMENT SENSIBLE ET ARDUE, A PROPOS DE LAQUELLE LES SUSPICIONS ET LES MALENTENDUS SE SONT REVELES NOMBREUX. MAIS, SANS LA DETERMINATION DES TROIS PRESIDENCES QUI ONT TRAITE SUCCESSIVEMENT CE DOSSIER, SANS LA COLLABORATION TOTALE DES ETATS MEMBRES, SANS LES EFFORTS DES PARTENAIRES SOCIAUX ET SANS LES CONSEILS DU PARLEMENT, RIEN OU PRESQUE N'AURAIT PU S'ACCOMPLIR. LA COMMISSION A PRIS L'ENGAGEMENT DE VEILLER A CE QUE LES DISPOSITIONS DE LA DIRECTIVE CADRE SOIENT APPLIQUEES INTEGRALEMENT, DANS LES DELAIS ET AVEC CONSTANCE DANS TOUTE LA COMMUNAUTE.

AMITIES,

C. STATHOPOULOS

C