

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES  
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

P R E S S   R E L E A S E

9940/89 (Presse 214)

1367th Council meeting

- Development Co-operation -

Brussels, 21 November 1989

President:            Mr Jacques PELLETIER  
                          Minister for Co-operation  
                          and Development of the French Republic

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

### **Belgium:**

**Mr André GEENS** Minister for Development Co-operation

### **Denmark:**

## **Germany:**

### Greece:

Spain:

### France:

Ireland:

**Mr Sean CALLEARY** Minister of State at the Department of Foreign Affairs with special responsibility for Overseas Aid

Italy:

Mr Pietro CALAMIA

Ambassador  
Permanent RepresentativeLuxembourg:

Mr Georges WOHLFART

State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign  
Affairs and Co-operationNetherlands:

Mr Jan PRONK

Minister for Development Co-operation

Portugal:

Mr Carlos SIMOES COELHO

Ambassador,  
Permanent RepresentativeUnited Kingdom:

Mrs Lynda CHALKER

Minister for Overseas Development

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◦ ◦Commission:

Mr Manuel MARIN

Vice-President

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The Council paid tribute to Lorenzo NATALI, former Vice-President of the Commission, who died on 29 August. Mr NATALI was responsible for development policy within the Commission from 1985 to 1988.

**CO-OPERATION WITH THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA AND ASIA**

**Review and evaluation for the period 1976-1988**

**The Council approved the following conclusions:**

- "1. The Council, in accordance with its conclusions of 16 May 1989, has examined the Commission report reviewing Community co-operation with the developing countries of Latin America and Asia from 1976 to 1988, supplemented by a document assessing financial and technical co-operation.
2. Following this examination the Council is able to share the viewpoint of the Commission that the review is on the whole positive.
3. The Council notes with satisfaction that the Commission, in response to the request put to it in the Council conclusions of 16 May 1989, intends before the end of the year to forward a communication in the light of this examination containing its overall reflections in the future development of all forms of Community aid and co-operation with the developing countries of Latin America and Asia. That communication, with the two documents referred to in the first paragraph as background, will enable the Council to arrive at appropriate guidelines for Community co-operation with those countries in the 1990s.

4. In the light of the abovementioned review and evaluation, the Council considers that special attention should be paid in this overall reflective exercise to the following in particular:

- matching of the objectives and forms of co-operation with the situation and economic development of the various developing countries in Latin America and Asia, but with continued efforts to assist the neediest sections of the population and the poorest developing countries;
- better integration of all Community co-operation instruments, particularly the food-aid instruments;
- strengthened co-ordination of Community aid with aid from the Member States, particularly by developing Community/Member State co-financing, and strengthened co-ordination with other aid donors;
- a higher profile for Community aid which takes account of its specific nature;
- advisability of setting some aid in a medium-term perspective in order to promote dialogue with the authorities of the countries concerned and improve the preparation, implementation and adaptation of projects, with appropriate provisions being laid down for this purpose;
- support for national institutions in the developing countries to boost their capacity to manage development policies and projects;
- increased acknowledgement of environmental considerations in Community development aid;

- importance of the role of women in development and its place in Community projects;
- support for regional integration measures in all sectors where Community support has a positive contribution to make;
- importance of regular evaluation of Community co-operation and incorporation of its findings in programmes."

General guidelines for 1990 for financial and technical assistance to Latin American and Asian developing countries

The Council took note of a progress report from the Permanent Representatives Committee on this item and instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue examining the Commission proposal, once the Opinion of the European Parliament was to hand, with a view to a final Council decision as soon as possible.

**COMBATING AIDS IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES**

**The Council discussed the implementation of the programme to combat AIDS in the developing countries, approved in May 1987.**

**At the close of its discussion it adopted the following conclusions:**

- "1. The Council received with interest the Commission's report on implementation of the programme approved at the Council meeting on 21 May 1987.
2. In the light of that report the Council noted that the phenomenon remained particularly serious, despite the efforts made, and that the alarming spread of the disease justified long-term measures in this field.
3. Noting that all the measures which could be implemented on the basis of the programme adopted in 1987 would soon have been initiated, the Council stressed the need to continue efforts to support the measures taken by the developing countries to combat AIDS and asked the Commission to take steps to that end using the quickest procedures available.
4. With this in mind, the Council stressed:
  - the need to act in conjunction with the States concerned, taking account of the regional dimension of the problem;
  - the importance of involving the population and public and private bodies operating locally;

- the advisability of continuing and stepping up existing co-ordination with the WHO in its special programme on AIDS and with Member States in the context of their research and health programmes. In this context, special attention would also be given to programmes for combating sexually transmitted diseases;
- the value of collaborating with the WHO in monitoring the pandemic and evaluating measures taken;
- the priority which should continue to be given to prevention and information."

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In this connection, the Council paid tribute to Mrs BARALDINI, in charge of the programme to combat AIDS, who died recently in the UTA air disaster in Africa while on active duty.

**DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT****Counteracting desertification**

**The Council discussed the implementation of the programme to counter desertification, launched in 1986.**

**At the close of the discussion it adopted the following conclusions:**

"The Council recalled the Resolution it adopted on this subject in April 1986 and took note of a Commission report on the action undertaken in this field since then.

It was particularly pleased to see that the number of Community-financed projects to counter desertification had increased greatly and that, overall, a sum in the region of one thousand million ecus had been invested either directly or indirectly in Africa to this end over the past three years.

It noted with interest that the variety of measures taken had enabled a broader strategic approach to desertification to be adopted, aimed at safeguarding balances as a whole and at tying the measures concerned in closely with development problems. The Council emphasized the advantages of projects to combat desertification by a global approach the aim of which is also to increase income, improve resource management and monitor migratory movements.

Despite an improvement due to higher rainfall in some regions over the past two years, the Council observed that desertification remained a worrying problem warranting further long-term efforts by the Community and its Member States.

The Council therefore stressed the importance of the Community and the Member States continuing to support efforts in this area by the developing countries and particularly by the ACP. This support should take the form in general of paying systematic attention to the problem of desertification when drawing up development projects and more specifically of implementing projects aimed directly at countering desertification.

In this context, the Council stressed the need to create in the partner countries the general conditions enabling an appreciable improvement in the management of natural resources to be achieved; these would in particular involve:

- stepping up co-ordination efforts so that projects were carried out through a global approach in which socio-economic development went hand in hand with respect for the environment;
- helping people in the rural areas concerned to take a greater part in cultivating village lands in a way that took the natural factors of production into account;
- helping to increase national means of ensuring that projects were suitable with regard to natural resources and the environment.

The Council pointed out that its Resolution of 1986 highlighted the importance of co-ordination, in particular to ensure sufficient concentration of aid, and stressed the need for more progress in this area. In this connection the Council restated the importance which it attached to regular meetings between those responsible in this field in the Member States and the Commission.

The Council pointed out that it would be desirable, in due course, to make an assessment of the measures taken by the Commission and the Member States to combat desertification. The assessment should concentrate in particular on the question of the involvement of the population concerned and should provide information on experience with the global approach and the general conditions for improving resource management.".

**Other aspects of Development and Environment, including the management and conservation of tropical forests**

- **Council Resolution:**

"The Council held a detailed discussion on the subject of development co-operation and the environment.

It noted the developing countries' growing concern for the environment.

It also noted that the degradation of the environment in the developing countries was indissolubly linked to the problem of poverty.

The Council acknowledged the need for rapid action to meet the developing countries' legitimate desire for economic growth in a protected and properly managed environment.

The Council recalled the statement by the Presidency on behalf of the Community before the United Nations: the Community was ready to join internationally co-ordinated efforts to combat global threats to the environment. In this

context it was necessary to support developing countries by promoting specific technologies and by way of additional financial aid in order to assist them in coping with the new burden. Existing instruments of co-operation should be fully utilized to this end. Furthermore, consideration was required as to how these instruments or new mechanisms could be applied effectively and flexibly so as to contribute to the implementation of emergency programmes such as the Tropical Forest Action Plan or to involve developing countries in the realization of the aims and objectives of the Montreal Protocol.

The Council considered that it was essential to:

- draw up guidelines enabling environmental problems to be better incorporated into development co-operation;
- devote appropriate means to this task.

The Council invited the Commission and the Member States to continue discussions on these two topics and to draw up specific proposals making Community policy on the matter more operational for its next meeting in May 1990, in the framework of the Working Party on Development Co-operation, calling on expert help if necessary. It also instructed COREPER to examine the Commission's communication on the conservation of tropical forests from the development policy angle and to report back on this point.

In the context of this work, special attention should be given to examining the following topics in particular:

- knowledge of the current situation as regards the environment and natural resources in the developing countries;
- relations between development economics and the environment and their financial implications, including their effect on debt, particularly in the context of structural adjustment;
- co-ordination of the projects of the Community and of the Member States and co-ordination of their positions in international fora;
- the strengthening of procedures and expertise within the Commission for the purpose of promoting the systematic integration of environmental aspects at all stages of development projects;
- the strengthening of governmental and non-governmental organizations dealing with the environment in the developing countries;
- Community support for action by the developing countries in international fora;
- priority action areas (forest planning, desertification, countering erosion, urban planning, water purification, etc.).".

**FOOD-AID GUIDELINES**

The Council began to consider the guidelines to be adopted, in the light of developments since the adoption three years ago of the framework Regulation on food-aid policy and food-aid management, with a view to making food aid as effective an instrument as possible at the service of recipients and their development.

The Council concluded the discussion by adopting the following Resolution:

"The Council recalls that the framework Regulation on food-aid policy and food-aid management adopted in December 1986 and implemented swiftly and efficiently by the Commission placed emphasis on the contribution which food aid should make to the balanced economic and social development of recipients.

The Council reiterates and emphasizes that food aid should be incorporated in the Community's overall development policy, while taking account of the development efforts of the recipient countries. Consideration should therefore be given in each case to which instrument can most effectively meet the needs of recipients, while bearing in mind the specific objectives and characteristics of food aid, directed in particular towards raising the standard of nutrition of the population and promoting food security.

The Council also reiterates the principles applicable to food-aid policy in the Resolution which it adopted on 23 November 1988 on food security in sub-Saharan Africa, and makes reference to the discussions presently taking place on a broader definition of food security.

It considers that account should be taken of certain changes that have occurred over the last few years which are aggravating the economic difficulties of many developing countries (increase in the prices of imported foodstuffs and balance of payments deficit).

Following a debate based in particular on an excellent discussion paper submitted by the Commission, the Council wishes to define a number of guidelines which should underlie the Community's food-aid policy.

#### 1. Analysis of requirements

Apart from emergency situations, which must be given top priority, the choice of food aid as a development aid instrument should be based on a careful examination of the actual requirements of the recipient and the most appropriate ways in which these can be met. Non-emergency food aid should normally be provided only when there is a food import requirement and where its provision will improve food security or meet the needs of a vulnerable group.

#### 2. Food aid in the framework of development

The Council reiterates the importance of better integration of food aid with other forms of development assistance at the planning, programming and implementation stages. It invites the Commission and Member States to continue discussions aimed at producing specific proposals to that end.

### 3. Evaluation

To ensure the satisfactory programming of food aid, the Council wishes to stress the importance of two types of evaluation, viz.:

- an ex ante evaluation which takes account as far as possible of the needs of vulnerable groups, the activities of other food-aid donors and the impact of the aid proposed on local production and markets as well as the criteria set out in Article 2(4) of Council Regulation No 3972/86 on food-aid policy and management;
- an ex post evaluation covering individual measures and an assessment of the annual programme as a whole. The Council invites the Commission and the Member States to introduce an appropriate procedure for that purpose, in order to provide the Community with a document evaluating the operation of the previous programme.

### 4. Products

The Council calls upon the Commission always to allocate the products best suited to local conditions, allowing for their cost/efficiency ratio, and to that end to exercise total flexibility within the range of products to be supplied.

### 5. Multiannual programmes

In order, in particular, to cope with structural deficits, the Community may carry out multiannual programming of food-aid operations.

However, such operations must meet specific criteria and conditions which the Commission and the Member States will have to establish in time for the next meeting of the Development Council.

The Council also recommends that each multiannual programme be subject to a detailed mid-term review with the possibility of altering its initial guidelines.

6. Food aid and structural adjustment

The grant of food aid will not be conditional on implementation of a structural adjustment programme.

In the Resolution which it adopted on 31 May 1988 the Council laid emphasis on the integration of social aspects into structural adjustment programmes and on co-ordinated and flexible use in such programmes of development instruments, including food aid.

Therefore, when a country has embarked on a process of economic adjustment, food aid can be integrated into that process by the use of counterpart funds generated by the sale of the products supplied, or by free or subsidized distribution targeted to vulnerable groups or groups affected by the adjustment measures.

7. Free distribution to vulnerable groups

Where the evaluation procedure makes it possible to identify vulnerable groups, free distribution operations are desirable.

However, such operations should be limited so that they do not disrupt local production or markets, or increase rural depopulation.

8. The role of NGOs and international organizations

The Council considers that international bodies and NGOs can contribute to ex ante evaluation, distribution and monitoring of food aid measures through their detailed local knowledge and experience in a particular recipient country and it invites the Commission to consider ways of enhancing their role in these activities.

9. Triangular operations and local procurement

The Council reiterates the advantages of increased use, wherever desirable and possible, of operations involving product procurement in the developing countries, in particular to underpin food security at regional level.

The Council notes, however, that there are certain impediments to the implementation of such operations, notably the inadequacy of rural infrastructures. It therefore recommends that particular attention be paid to this aspect in the use of other development instruments.

10. Counterpart funds

The first priority in use of counterpart funds must be to benefit rural development; however, where structural adjustment programmes exist, food aid may also be used to back up measures to attenuate the social consequences of such adjustment.

11. Co-ordination

The Council emphasizes the need for the Community and its Member States to co-ordinate their action more closely, in the framework of the existing bodies and in the field.

It calls upon the Commission to take every step, in the appropriate bodies, to strengthen co-ordination between donors and recipients with a view to the concerted programming of food-aid consignments.

In this connection the Council is interested to note that a food-aid charter is being drawn up for the Sahel countries, in an attempt to improve the co-ordination of the action of donors and recipients.

12. Budget

Aware of the difficulties to which developments in the cost of foodstuffs can give rise as regards the proper progress of food-aid programming, the Council is anxious to see a satisfactory solution found to the problem of financing food aid in accordance with the provisions of Council Regulation (EEC) No 3972/86 on food-aid policy and food-aid management.".

RENEWAL OF THE ACP-EEC CONVENTION - PROGRESS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS

The Council took note of an oral report from Vice-President MARIN on the latest progress in these negotiations, particularly in the light of the informal discussions between the Commission and the ACP States over the last two weeks following the 4th negotiating session in Luxembourg.

ASPECTS RELATING TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS  
(URUGUAY ROUND)

The Council took note of a report on this subject from Vice-President MARIN.

EUROPEAN VOLUNTEERS PROGRAMME FOR DEVELOPMENT

The French and German delegations informed the Council of the outcome of the evaluation of the pilot stage of the European Volunteers Programme for Development and its continuing extension both north and southwards. They asked the other Member States to attend the seminar to be held in Berlin on 18 and 19 January 1990 on the presentation and discussion of the Programme and its future prospects.

INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR RESEARCH IN AFRICA

The French delegation proposed a European initiative to set up an International Foundation for Research in Africa. The aim is to help African countries to control scientific research as a vital instrument in their development by ensuring funding for African research and African research workers, with the emphasis on the regional factor, and by supporting a scientific arrangement on a polar basis such as to foster North/South partnership.

The Permanent Representatives Committee was instructed to examine this question.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONSAnti-dumping

The Council adopted the Regulation repealing the anti-dumping duty imposed by Regulation (EEC) No 3042/89 on certain serial-impact dot-matrix printers assembled in the Community (NEC Technologies (UK) Ltd. and Star Micronics Manufacturing Ltd. (UK)).

Mediterranean policy

The Council adopted a Regulation laying down the method of decision for:

- the possible fixing of a special frontier price for certain wines originating in Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Cyprus and Yugoslavia;
- the possible modulation of entry prices for certain fruit and vegetables originating in various Mediterranean countries.

The purpose of the Regulation is to implement certain provisions laid down in the Additional Protocols concluded with the Mediterranean partner countries consequent upon the accession of Spain and Portugal.

Non-ferrous metal waste and scrap

The Council adopted the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 4249/88 of 21 December 1988 fixing the following Community export quotas for 1989:

- ash and residues of copper and copper alloys  
(28 500 tonnes)
  - waste and scrap of copper and copper alloys  
(47 430 tonnes)
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BRUXELLES. LE 20 NOVEMBRE 1989  
NOTE BIO(89) 348 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX  
CC AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE-PAROLE

PREPARATION DU CONSEIL DEVELOPPEMENT DU 21 NOVEMBRE 1989 (X. PRATS)  
LE CONSEIL 'DEVELOPPEMENT' SE REUNIRA LE MARDI 21 NOVEMBRE A  
BRUXELLES. CINQ POINTS SERONT A L'ORDRE DU JOUR: IL S'AGIT  
ESSENTIELLEMENT DE SUJETS SUR LESQUELS LE CONSEIL EST APPELE A SE  
PRONONCER SUR LES BILANS DE L'ACTIVITE COMMUNAUTAIRE ETABLIS PAR LA  
COMMISSION.

1. COOPERATION AVEC LES PAYS EN VOIE DE DEVELOPPEMENT D'AMERIQUE  
LATINE ET D'ASIE (PVDALA).

LE CONSEIL REALISERA UN BILAN ET UNE EVALUATION DE LA COOPERATION  
AVEC LES PVDALA DANS LA PERIODE DE 1976 A 1988, SUR BASE DU RAPPORT  
ETABLI PAR LA COMMISSION ET SOUMIS AU CONSEIL EN MAI DERNIER.

EN OUTRE, LE CONSEIL EXAMINERA L'ETAT DES TRAVAUX CONCERNANT LES  
ORIENTATIONS GENERALES POUR 1990 EN MATIERE D'AIDE FINANCIERE ET  
TECHNIQUE EN FAVEUR DE CES PAYS: L'AVIS DU PARLEMENT N'ETANT PAS  
ENCORE DISPONIBLE, UNE DECISION FORMELLE DU CONSEIL SUR CE SUJET  
N'EST PAS PREVUE AU STADE ACTUEL. LA COMMISSION PROPOSE DE  
RECONDUIRE LES ELEMENTS ESSENTIELS DES MESURES DE 1989 ACTUELLEMENT  
EN VIGUEUR. EN L'ATTENTE DE LA REFLEXION D'ENSEMBLE SUR LA  
COOPERATION AVEC LES PVDALA DANS LES ANNEES 1990, QUI SERA REALISEE  
AVANT FIN D'ANNEE.

2. LUTTE CONTRE LE SIDA DANS LES PVD

LE CONSEIL SERA APPELE A SE PRONONCER SUR LE RAPPORT DE LA  
COMMISSION QUI PORTE SUR L'EXECUTION DU PROGRAMME DE LUTTE CONTRE  
LE SIDA (APPROUVE PAR LE CONSEIL LE 21.5.87). CE RAPPORT FAIT ETAT  
DU FAIT QUE TOUTES LES ACTIONS DU PROGRAMME AURONT PROCHAINEMENT  
ETE ENGAGEES ET CONSTATE L'IMPORTANCE QUE LE PHENOMENE DU SIDA  
CONTINUE A AVOIR MALGRE LES EFFORTS ENTREPRIS. SELON LA COMMISSION,  
IL EST ESSENTIEL DE CONTINUER LES EFFORTS PAR UNE COORDINATION AVEC  
LES ORGANISATIONS INTERNATIONALES CONCERNEES ET PAR LA PREVENTION A  
TRAVERS LE DEPISTAGE ET L'INFORMATION: LE CONSEIL APPROUVERA EN  
TOUTE PROBABILITE LES ORIENTATIONS DE LA COMMISSION.

3. DEVELOPPEMENT ET ENVIRONNEMENT

LE CONSEIL PRENDRA CONNAISSANCE D'UN RAPPORT DE LA COMMISSION PORTANT SUR LES ACTIONS ENTREPRISES DEPUIS LA RESOLUTION DU CONSEIL D'AVRIL 1986 SUR LA MISE EN OEUVRE D'UN PLAN EUROPEEN D'ACTION A LONG TERME SUR LA DESERTIFICATION. ENVIRON UN BILLION D'ECU A ETE CONSACRE DIRECTEMENT OU INDIRECTEMENT A LA LUTTE CONTRE LA DESERTIFICATION DANS CES TROIS DERNIERES ANNEES. LA COMMISSION CONSIDERE NECESSAIRE D'INTEGRER CES EFFORTS DANS UNE STRATEGIE GLOBALE DE GESTION RATIONNELLE DES RESSOURCES NATURELLES ET DE PRESERVATION DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT. LE COREPER EST ARRIVE A UN PROJET DE CONCLUSION QUI SUIT POUR L'ESSENTIEL LA LIGNE DE LA COMMISSION.

#### 4. ORIENTATIONS EN MATIERE D'AIDE ALIMENTAIRE

LE CONSEIL SERA SAISI D'UN DOCUMENT DE REFLEXION PRESENTE PAR LA COMMISSION, ET IL SERA AMENE A SE PRONONCER SUR LA MISE EN OEUVRE PAR CELLE-CI DU REGLEMENT-CADRE SUR LA POLITIQUE ET LA GESTION DE L'AIDE ALIMENTAIRE ADOpte EN DECEMBRE 1986.

VRAISEMABLEMENT, LE CONSEIL PRECISERA UN CERTAIN NOMBRE D'ORIENTATIONS QUI DEVRAIENT GUIDER LA POLITIQUE DE L'AIDE ALIMENTAIRE. NOTAMMENT EN MATIERE DE : AIDE ALIMENTAIRE ET AJUSTEMENT STRUCTUREL: LA PLURIANNUALITE DES PROGRAMMES: FINANCEMENT: ANALYSE DES BESOINS ET EVALUATIONS: ROLE DES ONG ET DES ORGANISATIONS INTERNATIONALES: OPERATIONS TRIANGULAIRES ET ACHATS LOCAUX: FONDS DE CONTREPARTIE: COORDINATION DES ACTIONS DES ETATS MEMBRES.

#### 5. ETAT DES NEGOCIATIONS EN VUE DU RENOUVELLEMENT DE LA CONVENTION DE LOME

LE VICE-PRESIDENT MARIN FERA UN RAPPORT ORAL SUR CE POINT, EN VUE DE LA REUNION MINISTERIELLE ACP/CE QUI AURA LIEU A BRUXELLES LES 25 ET 26 NOVEMBRE PROCHAIN, ET QUI DEVRAIT PERMETTRE DE RESOUDRE L'ESSENTIEL DES PROBLEMES POLITIQUES QUI DEMEURENT OUVERTS DANS LA NEGOCIATION. UNE NEGOCIATION APPROFONDIE N'EST PAS PREVUE DANS CE CONSEIL, LE DOSSIER ETANT TRAITE A NIVEAU AMBASSADEURS ET COREPER.

LE CONSEIL TRAITERA EGALEMENT TROIS AUTRES THEMES, SANS QU'UNE DECISION FORMELLE SOIT PREVUE : LES ASPECTS RELATIFS AUX NEGOCIATIONS COMMERCIALES MULTILATERALES, LANCEES IL Y A TROIS ANS DANS LE CADRE DE L'URUGUAY ROUND; LA MISE EN OEUVRE DU PROGRAMME DES VOLONTAIRES EUROPEENS DU DEVELOPPEMENT, CREE EN NOVEMBRE 1985 PAR LA FRANCE ET LA RFA, A LA SUITE DU CONSEIL EUROPEEN DE FONTAINEBLEAU; ET LA PROPOSITION FRANCAISE DE CREATION D'UNE FONDATION INTERNATIONALE POUR LA RECHERCHE EN AFRIQUE.

AMITIES,

C.D. EHLMERMANN

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Bruxelles, le 21 novembre 1989

NOTE BIO(89) 348 (suite 1) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX  
CC AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE-PAROLE

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CONSEIL DEVELOPPEMENT DU 21 NOVEMBRE 1989 (X. PRATS)

Le Conseil "Développement", réuni aujourd'hui à Bruxelles, est parvenu à un accord sur tous les points de l'ordre du jour :

1. Coopération avec les pays en voie de développement d'Amérique Latine et d'Asie (PVDALA).

Le Conseil, ayant examiné le rapport sur la coopération CEE/PVDALA pour la période 1976-1988, présenté par Commission en mai dernier et complété en septembre par un document d'évaluation, s'est rallié au bilan globalement positif dressé par la Commission de cette première décennie de coopération.

S'agissant de l'évolution future de la coopération, le Conseil, en l'attente des réflexions d'ensemble que la Commission devra soumettre avant la fin de 1989, a dégagé les éléments suivants, qui devraient orienter la coopération CEE/PVDALA dans la décennie '90 :

- adéquation des objectifs et des formes de coopération à l'évolution économique différenciée des divers pays concernés;
- renforcement de l'intégration de tous les instruments communautaires de coopération, et notamment de l'aide alimentaire (souligné par UK et NI). Renforcement de la coordination avec les actions des Etats membres;
- inscription de certaines aides dans une perspective à moyen terme. Appui aux institutions nationales des PVD visant à renforcer leur capacité de gestion des programmes;
- attention particulière aux aspects concernant : l'environnement, le rôle de la femme dans le développement, l'intégration régionale, et l'évaluation de la coopération communautaire.

En ce qui concerne les orientations de la coopération CE/PVDALA pour l'année 1990, la présidence a renoncé à en discuter, faute de l'avis du Parlement européen attendu pour la session de novembre. Ce point est donc renvoyé au Coreper en l'attente du prochain Conseil Développement. Il convient de noter que le Coreper est déjà parvenu à un accord pour accepter la proposition de la Commission de reconduire l'essentiel des mesures existantes en 1989 avec une augmentation de 10 à 20 % de la réserve pour imprévus; cet accord est pris dans l'attente des nouvelles orientations de la coopération pour les années 90.

Faute d'adoption définitive du budget 1990 par le Parlement, la deuxième lecture du Conseil prévoit provisoirement pour 1990, des crédits d'engagement de 359,8 MECU, répartis comme suit : Asie 226,9 (215,3 en 1989), Amérique Latine 132,9 (111,6).

## 2. Lutte contre le SIDA dans les PVD

Le Conseil a accueilli très favorablement le rapport de la Commission sur l'exécution du programme de lutte contre le SIDA de 1987. Il a également confirmé l'analyse de la Commission sur la situation épidémiologique du SIDA, ainsi que sa stratégie de prévention par le dépistage et l'information en tant que seul moyen d'arrêter la progression de l'infection. Le Vice-Président MARIN a indiqué que les valeurs moyennes de séropositifs atteignent environ 5 % de la population dans les pays de l'Afrique sub-saharienne.

M. MARIN a tenu à rendre hommage à la mémoire de son prédécesseur, Lorenzo NATALI, qui avait lancé le programme SIDA, ainsi que à Mme BARALDINI, responsable du programme, décédée dans l'accident du DC10 de N'Djamena.

Notant que toutes les actions susceptibles d'être mises en œuvre sur base du programme de 1987 auront prochainement été engagées (35 MECU), le Conseil a insisté sur la nécessité de poursuivre les efforts visant à appuyer l'action des PVD contre le SIDA, en étroite coopération avec l'OMS.

## 3. Développement et environnement

### a) Lutte contre la désertification et la sécheresse.

M. MARIN a présenté le rapport de la Commission sur l'application du programme approuvé en avril 1986 (230 projets ont été mis en place; environ 1 milliard d'ECU directement ou indirectement consacrés à la lutte contre la désertification).

Le Conseil a souligné la nécessité d'appuyer les efforts notamment des ACP, par la prise en compte systématique du problème de la désertification lors de l'établissement des projets de développement.

### b) Orientations en matière d'environnement

Pour introduire le débat, le Vice-Président MARIN a rappelé que, si la CE veut inclure le problème de la protection de l'environnement dans la coopération au développement, et notamment dans Lomé IV, il faut qu'elle se donne les moyens financiers additionnels pour être, crédible.

Sur base d'une proposition allemande, le Conseil est parvenu à adopter une résolution, qui souligne la volonté de la Communauté d'établir des orientations pour mieux intégrer les problèmes de l'environnement dans la coopération, et d'affecter des moyens adaptés et spécifiques à cette fin. La Commission et les Etats membres ont été invités à poursuivre la réflexion en vue du prochain Conseil Développement et d'établir des propositions spécifiques visant à une politique communautaire dans la matière.

Le Conseil a en outre accordé de tenir à l'avenir des réunions conjointes et informelles entre les ministres du développement et ceux de l'environnement, afin d'assurer une bonne coordination des activités respectives.

#### 4. Orientations en matière d'aide alimentaire

Le Conseil, suite à un débat sur base du document de réflexion qu'il avait demandé à la Commission en mai dernier, a adopté une résolution qui réaffirme les principes généraux définis dans le règlement cadre en vigueur depuis deux ans.

En ce qui concerne les orientations qui devront guider la politique d'aide alimentaire de la CE dans les années à venir, la résolution souligne en premier lieu que l'aide alimentaire doit être intégrée dans la politique globale de développement de la Communauté. Trois problèmes principaux ont été abordés : la nécessité d'une programmation pluriannuelle pour un meilleur ciblage de l'aide; l'importance de rendre plus flexible le financement de l'aide; la nécessité d'intégrer l'aide alimentaire avec les programmes d'ajustement structurel.

#### 5. Renouvellement de la Convention de Lomé

Le Conseil n'a pas discuté quant au fond du dossier, qui sera désormais débattu lors de la réunion ministérielle ACP/CE des 25 et 26 novembre prochain. Le Vice-Président MARIN a réalisé un exposé oral sur l'état d'avancement des négociations. Il a exhorté les délégations pour que, lors du Coreper du 22 courant, elles essaient de réduire les thèmes pour la réunion avec les ACP aux quatre ou cinq dossiers principaux en conflit, afin d'éviter une dispersion excessive et de pouvoir conclure la négociation le week end comme prévu.

#### 6. Point divers

a) Déroulement des négociations multilatérales (Uruguay Round). Sans qu'il y ait eu une discussion sur ce point, le Conseil a pris connaissance d'un bref exposé de la Commission, qui a mis l'accent sur le fait que les intérêts des PVD, et notamment des ACP, ne doivent en aucun cas être marginalisés dans les discussions de l'Uruguay Round.

b) Programme des volontaires européens au développement (VED). Le Conseil, à l'initiative des délégations française et allemande (seules à avoir établi ces programmes suite au Conseil européen de Fontainebleau de juin 1984), a évoqué cette initiative visant à la sensibilisation et participation des jeunes aux projets de développement. Afin d'associer le reste des délégations à ce programme, la RFA a invité les Etats membres et les ONG à se faire représenter lors d'un séminaire sur ce thème (18-19 Janvier 1990, à Berlin). Pour sa part, la Commission a rappelé qu'elle est déjà d'accord sur le principe de la participation de ces volontaires aux projets financés par le FED.

c) Fondation Internationale pour la Recherche en Afrique (FIRA).

Le Conseil a discuté cette proposition française visant à établir une structure susceptible de convoquer les ressources humaines et financières nécessaires au démarrage de la recherche scientifique en Afrique. M. MARIN a souligné que la Commission serait prête à participer dans une étude de viabilité qui devrait nécessairement être réalisée avant qu'elle puisse se prononcer. Le Coreper a été chargé d'approfondir le dossier.

Amitiés,  
C.D. EHLERMANN

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