

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

8999/90 (Presse 145)

1428th Council meeting
- INTERNAL MARKET -
Luxembourg, 9 October 1990

President: Mr Pierluigi ROMITA
Minister for Community Policies
of the Italian Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr Marc LEPOIVRE Deputy Permanent Representative

Denmark:

Mr Bo BRAMSEN State Secretary for Industry

Germany:

Mr Otto SCHLECHT State Secretary, Federal Ministry
of Economic Affairs

Greece:

Mr G. THEOFANOUS Secretary-General, Ministry of Trade

Spain:

Mr Pedro SOLBES State-Secretary for Relations with the
European Communities

France:

Mrs Elizabeth GUIGOU Minister for European Affairs

Ireland:

Mr John DULLY Assistant Secretary,
Department of Industry and Commerce

Italy:

Mr Pierluigi ROMITA Minister for Community Policies

Luxembourg:

Mr Georges WOHLFART State Secretary for Foreign Affairs and
Foreign Trade

Netherlands:

Mr Piet DANKERT

State Secretary, Ministry for
Foreign Affairs

Portugal:

Mr Vitor MARTINS

State Secretary for European
Integration

United Kingdom:

Mr John REDWOOD

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State,
Department of Trade and Industry

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Commission:

Mr Martin BANGEMANN
Mr Jean DONDELINGER

Vice-President
Member

9.X.90
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GREEN PAPER ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF EUROPEAN STANDARDIZATION

The Council heard an oral presentation by Mr BANGEMANN, a Vice-President of the Commission, of the Commission's green paper on the development of European Standardization.

The green paper, which is a consultation document, suggests extending the scope of European standardization while making institutional changes and adaptations that would improve its productivity and increase its speed.

The Council welcomed the Commission's initiative and discussed the paper. The opinions expressed by delegations concerned in particular the need:

- to improve and accelerate the procedures for the preparation of European standards;
- to guarantee more active participation by those concerned, viz. industry, including SME, consumers and trade unions.

The Council will study the proposals that the Commission will submit when the consultations it has embarked upon have borne fruit.

DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES AND PREPARATIONS

Restrictions on the marketing and use of PCP

By a qualified majority the Council adopted a common position on the Directive (amending Directive 76/769/EEC) prohibiting the marketing and use of pentachlorophenol but at the same time providing for four derogations relating

to special uses; those derogations are to be reviewed not more than three years after the implementation of the Directive.

The Commission undertook to speed up the review of all scientific and technical developments relating to PCP and in particular the latest scientific data on the formation of dioxin. It will make proposals if required by that review.

The Directive should enter into force before 1 July 1992.

Classification and labelling of dichloromethane

The Council adopted the Directive providing for the addition of dichloromethane to the carcinogenic substances in Annex I (List of dangerous substances) to Directive 67/548/EEC. That Annex lists the dangerous substances for which classification and labelling have been decided on at Community level.

The Council invited the Commission to continue examining the scientific work on the carcinogenicity and neurotoxicity of dichloromethane and to submit any proposals in due course.

ARTISTIC, HISTORIC AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL TREASURES

The Commission made an oral communication on the protection of national artistic, historic and archaeological treasures within the framework of the completion of the internal market.

The Council then held an exchange of views. Delegations raised, inter alia, the following points:

- the definition of cultural policies was a matter for national authorities;
- cultural assets had special characteristics that required the application of specific standards different from the standards applied to goods to ensure their free movement;
- The Council and the Ministers for Cultural Affairs will continue to examine the various initiatives taken in this field, such as the movement certificate for works of art, the creation of a European data bank, the mutual recognition of national legislation, the strengthening of controls at the Community's external frontiers, etc.;
- new instruments for the protection of the cultural heritage must be defined with a view to the disappearance of controls at internal frontiers in 1993.

On the conclusion of that exchange of views the President undertook to inform the Ministers for Cultural Affairs, who would have to continue the discussion of this subject at meetings in coming weeks, of the views expressed to-day.

COMPLETION OF THE SINGLE MARKET

The Commission submitted a report on the implementation of measures to complete the Single Market.

That report described the progress made in the transposition of Community standards into national law.

After having noted that the speed of transposition had constantly increased in recent months, the Council hoped that that trend would be consolidated and called on the responsible authorities to continue making ever greater efforts.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Other decisions concerning the Internal Market

Statistical classification of economic activities

The Council adopted the Regulation on the Statistical Classification of Economic Activities in the European Community. That Regulation is essentially intended to set up a common statistical language making possible effective comparison of data collected in the Member States in the field of economic activities. This standardization of statistical language in the classification of economic activities will provide not only the public authorities but also economic operators with reliable and comparable statistical information more rapidly. This approach is also part of the completion of the internal market as it introduces a system which, by making data effectively comparable, will make it possible to carry out the necessary surveillance to prevent distortions of competition within the Community.

Topographies of semi-conductor products

The Council adopted two Decisions on the extension of the legal protection of topographies of semi-conductor products to the EFTA countries, Australia, Japan, the United States and certain British and French overseas territories and possessions.

Pan-European land-based public radio paging

The Council adopted

- a recommendation on the co-ordinated introduction of Pan-European land-based public radio paging in the Community. The recommendation provides, inter alia, that:
 - = the telecommunications administrations will implement recommendations concerning the co-ordinated introduction of Pan-European land-based public radio paging in the Community. This system would allow persons wishing to do so to send and/or to receive alert and/or numeric or alphanumeric messages anywhere within the coverage of the service in the Community;
 - = the telecommunications will provide for evolution from existing radio paging systems to Pan-European land-based public radio paging systems and to ensure transition in accordance with users' needs and in the interests of telecommunications administrations and manufacturers;
- the Directive on the frequency bands designated for co-ordinated introduction of Pan-European land-based public radio paging in the Community. That Directive provides that the Member States will designate four channels in the 169,4-169,8 MHz wave band, which shall have priority and be protected and preferably be 169,6, 169,65, 169,7 and 169,75 MHz for the Pan-European land-based public radio paging service by 31 December 1992 at the latest.

Member States must ensure that plans are prepared as quickly as possible to enable the Pan-European public radio paging service to occupy the whole of the 169,4-169,8 MHz band according to commercial demand.

Customs union

The Council adopted the Directive amending Directive 79/695/EEC of 24 July 1979 on the harmonization of procedures for the release of goods for free circulation. That amendment is intended to simplify procedures and allow importers to benefit from the same facilities wherever goods are released for free circulation (see also Press Release 6288/90 Presse 62).

Agriculture and Fisheries

The Council adopted the Regulations:

- opening a special autonomous import quota of 3 000 tonnes for 1990 for high-quality fresh, chilled or frozen beef covered by CN Codes 0201 and 0202, and for products covered by CN Codes 0206 10 95 and 0206 29 91;
- amending Regulation EEC No 4055/89 fixing catch possibilities for 1990 for squid (illex) at 15 000 tonnes in the regulatory area as defined in the NAFO Convention (precautionary TAC).

Anti-dumping

The Council also adopted the Regulation imposing the definitive anti-dumping duty of 6,7% of the net free-at-Community-frontier price on imports of ball bearings with a greatest external diameter not exceeding 30 mm, originating in Thailand and collecting definitively the provisional duty.