

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

9141/90 (Presse 152)

1430th meeting of the Council
- Agriculture -
Luxembourg, 15, 16 and 19 October 1990

President:

Mr Vito SACCOMANDI

Minister for Agriculture
of the Italian Republic

9141/90 (Presse 152 - G)

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

Belgium

Mr Paul DE KEERSMAEKER
State Secretary for European
Affairs and Agriculture

Denmark

Mr Laurits TOERNAES
Minister for Agriculture

Mr Nils BERNSTEIN
State Secretary for Agriculture

Germany

Mr Ignaz KIECHLE
Federal Minister for Food,
Agriculture and Forestry

Mr Walter KITTEL
State Secretary, Federal
Ministry for Food, Agriculture
and Forestry

Greece

Mr Michaelis PAPACONSTANTINOU
Minister for Agriculture

Mr THEOPHANOUS
Secretary General

Spain

Mr Carlos ROMERO-HERRERA
Minister for Agriculture

France

Mr Louis MERMAZ
Minister for Agriculture

Ireland

Mr Michael O'KENNEDY
Minister for Agriculture and
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Italy

Mr Vito SACCOMANDI

Minister for Agriculture

Mr Francesco CIMINO

State Secretary for Agriculture
and Forestry

Mr Paolo BRUNO

State Secretary for Health

Luxembourg

Mr René STEICHEN

Minister for Agriculture and
Viticulture

Netherlands

Mr Piet BUKMAN

Minister for Agriculture,
Nature, Conservation and
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Portugal

Mr Arlindo CUNHA

Minister for Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food

United Kingdom

Mr John Selwyn GUMMER

Minister for Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food

Mr David CURRY

Parliamentary Secretary,
Agriculture

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Commission

Mr Ray MAC SHARRY

Member

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MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS WITHIN GATT
(AGRICULTURE)

Following a lengthy debate on the Community offer concerning the agriculture part for the Uruguay Round negotiations, the Council found that it was not possible to reach an agreement on this proposal, which would therefore be submitted to the General Affairs Council in Luxembourg on 22 October 1990.

THE COMMUNITY AND GERMAN UNIFICATION - COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY

Pending receipt of the Opinions of the European Parliament and of the Economic and Social Committee, the Council held a further exchange of views on the Commission proposal on the transitional measures required to incorporate the agriculture of the former German Democratic Republic in to the common agricultural policy.

The Council took the opportunity to reaffirm its desire to ensure a harmonious integration; however, certain questions still needing to be explored in depth were identified.

The Council will continue its work on these points at its November meeting, after receiving the Opinion of the European Parliament.

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ADJUSTMENTS TO THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR OILS AND FATS

Pending receipt of the Opinion of the European Parliament, the Council held an initial exchange of views on the proposals for measures

- designed to take into account the expiry, at the end of 1990, of the standstill period during which the Spanish and Portuguese national arrangements prior to accession have been allowed to remain in force with regard to the control of prices and quantities of vegetable oils other than olive oil
- concerning the aid scheme for the production of olive oil.

Following its debate, the Council invited the Special Committee on Agriculture to continue its work on the subject to enable it to reach a speedy conclusion, as soon as it had received the Opinion of the European Parliament.

OLIVE OIL

In view of the work on adjustments to the arrangements for oils and fats the Council agreed to postpone until November its decision on fixing the representative market price and the threshold price of olive oil and the level of consumption aid, for the marketing year 1990/1991.

It also decided, on a proposal by the Commission, to extend until 25 November 1990 the 1989/1990 marketing year for olive oil.

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GENERAL RULES ON THE MARKETING OF PREFERENTIAL SUGAR IN THE COMMUNITY

The Council examined the Commission's proposal which aimed to introduce, for a three-year period, a marketing premium (limited to a total of ECU 30 million) to secure supplies of raw sugar to Community refineries and enable the States which supply preferential sugar, via preferential trade relations, to adapt their industries in line with developments in the situation.

Following these discussions, the Council, while expressing its desire to seek a solution to the concerns expressed, noted that an agreement could not be reached on the approach proposed by the Commission to meet those concerns. It therefore asked the Special Committee on Agriculture, in liaison with the Commission, to resume examination of the dossier and to report back for its next meeting.

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VETERINARY AND PLANT PROTECTION PRODUCTS SECTORS

Plant protection products containing certain active substances

The Council adopted the Directive amending the Annex to Directive 79/117/EEC prohibiting the placing on the market and use of plant protection products containing certain active substances.

This amendment is designed to prohibit the use of the following substances or groups of substances:

- dinoseb, its acetate and salts,
- binapacryl,
- captafol,
- dicofol containing less than 78% of p.p1-dicofol or more than 1 g/kg DDT and DDT related compounds,
- maleic hydrazide and its salts, other than its choline, potassium and sodium salts,
- choline, potassium and sodium salts of maleic hydrazide containing more than 1 mg/kg of free hydrazine expressed on the basis of the acid equivalent,
- quintozone containing more than 1 g/kg of HCB or more than 10 g/kg pentachlorobenzene.

On this occasion the Commission announced that it was planning to examine the justification for a possible total ban on quintozone from 1993 onwards and a ban on atrazine in the Community under the same Directive.

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Veterinary checks on products from third countries

When, in December 1989 it adopted Directive 89/662/EEC concerning veterinary checks in intra-Community trade, the Council undertook to fix before 31 December 1990 the general principles applicable to checks on imports of animal products from third countries.

Pending receipt of the Opinion of the European Parliament and using as a basis a number of suggestions from the Chief Veterinary Officers the Council held an initial exchange of views on the Commission proposal the aim of which is to establish these general principles. It focussed its attention on the following main points:

- scope of application
- nature of the veterinary checks to be carried out
- procedure for designation and approval of border posts
- responsibility for the costs of checks.

Following the discussion the Council invited the Permanent Representatives Committee actively to pursue its work in the light of the guidelines which had emerged during this debate.

The Council would resume its discussions on this file at its next meeting in November.

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Council Resolution on measures to be taken in the veterinary field

The Council adopted a Resolution on measures to be taken in the veterinary field with a view to the completion of the internal market.

This Resolution clarifies the guidelines which emerged from examination of a memorandum submitted to the Council by the Italian government in 1989 on the measures to be taken at both Community and Member-State-level, in order to reach completion of the internal market in the veterinary sector. It established the commitments that the Council and the Commission should make in order to have the appropriate means to reach this objective.

Prevention of pathogens

The Council examined the Commission proposal laying down the veterinary rules for the disposal and processing of animal waste, for its placing on the market and for the prevention of pathogens in feedingstuffs. This proposal is designed to harmonize the conditions for treating animal waste and in particular certain waste considered as high-risk materials for the transmission of certain diseases.

In the course of this examination it appeared that the text submitted to the Council might, taking into account various technical amendments and certain assurances given by the Commission, constitute the basis for a compromise for the majority of the delegations.

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The Council therefore agreed to instruct the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue examining this matter with a view to submitting it to the Council again for adoption at its next meeting.

Game meat and rabbit meat

The Council examined the Commission proposal the aim of which is to harmonize the public health rules applicable to game meat and rabbit meat, thus completing the harmonization of these rules applicable to the sector of meat already covered, viz., red meat and poultry meat.

This proposal fixes the requirements concerning public health and animal health problems affecting the production and placing on the market of rabbit meat and farmed game meat.

It emerged from this examination that the text submitted to the Council could, taking into account the assurances given by the Commission on certain points under discussion, constitute the basis for a compromise for the majority of delegations.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine the remaining reservations with a view to submitting the matter to it again for adoption at its next meeting.

Animal health conditions for fresh poultry meat

Pending receipt of the Opinion of the European Parliament, the Council held an initial exchange of views on the Commission proposal designed to harmonize the animal health rules governing intra-Community trade and imports from third

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countries of poultry meat and to fix certain requirements aimed at preventing the spread of the main contagious diseases.

As the text submitted was still the subject of some reservations, the Council asked the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue examining it.

It will resume examination of this item as soon as it has received the Opinion of the European Parliament.

Animal health conditions governing the placing on the market of aquaculture animals and products

Pending receipt of the Opinion of the European Parliament, the Council held a brief exchange of views on the Commission proposal which is designed to remove the obstacles to the free movement of aquaculture animals and products while preventing the spread of contagious diseases.

It invited the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its work on the subject and to report back to it for its next meeting.

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MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Other decisions in the agricultural sector

The Council adopted:

- the Directive on animal health conditions governing intra-Community trade in, and imports from third countries of, poultry and hatching eggs.
This Directive aims to harmonize the animal health rules at Community level and to promote the completion of the internal market
- the Regulations:
 - = amending Regulation No 804/68 on the common organization of the market in milk and milk products
 - = amending Regulation No 2658/87 on the tariff and statistical nomenclature and on the Common Customs Tariff and Regulation (EEC) No 2915/79 determining the groups of products and the special provisions for calculating levies on milk and milk products.

These amendments are designed to treat identically powdered unflavoured yoghurts in the same way as flavoured yoghurts, to abolish certain requirements for products which have received aid for private storage and to add a new product (crispbread) which may benefit - in respect of its milk ingredient - from export refunds.

Fisheries

The Council adopted the decision on the temporary extension of the Agreement between the European Economic Community and Mauritania on fishing off the coast of Mauritania for the period from 1 July to 31 July 1990.

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Environment

The Council authorized the Commission to take part, on the Community's behalf, in the negotiations to draft a Co-operation Agreement for the protection of the North-East Atlantic from accidental pollution. The Council also decided, subject to certain conditions, that the Community should sign this Agreement.

The purpose of the Agreement will be to establish a system of co-operation enabling prompt and effective action to be taken in the event of a pollution accident at sea which threatened the marine environment in general and the interests of the coastal States in particular.

The Convention would be signed by the Community, France, Spain, Portugal and Morocco.

ECSC

The Council gave two assents:

- concerning a memorandum on the establishment of a sixth ECSC programme of ergonomics research for the steel and coal industries
- on the draft decision establishing the delivery levels of ECSC steel products of Portuguese origin onto the rest of the Community market, excluding Spain.

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Appointments

The Council decided on:

- the replacement of
 - = four full members and two alternate members of the Administrative Board of the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions
 - = an alternate member of the Advisory Committee on the Training of Midwives
 - = a full member of the Advisory Committee on Pharmaceutical Training
 - = a full member and an alternate member of the Advisory Committee on Training in Nursing
 - the appointment of two full members and two alternate members of Greek nationality of the Advisory Committee on Training in Nursing.
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Luxembourg, 15 October 1990.

NOTE BIO(90) 304 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
CC. AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE-PAROLE

433

Conseil Industrie (M. BERENDT)

A bid by the Presidency to introduce greater Council of Ministers involvement into the control of State aids was unsuccessful. The Presidency had argued that the criteria used by the Commission in applying state aid discipline were not sufficiently transparent and did not take sufficient account of industrial policy considerations. Council President BATTAGLIA had called for the Commission to come forward in the proposal under Article 94 of the Treaty.

This approach was specifically opposed by six Member countries, who saw it as threatening the Commission's role as independent arbitre and - in the words of the Dutch representative - turning state aids into a political football.

Sir Leon underlined the position given to the Commission under Article 92 and 93 of the Treaty. He undertook that the Commission would improve the flow of information between the Commission and the Member States by :

- providing a corrigendum of the existing state aid guidelines, framework directives, major Court decisions, etc. in the State aid field, so that governments and businessmen will have a convenient and complete guide to the context of Commission analysis and decision,
- organising and providing a twice-yearly meeting on a unilateral basis for senior officials of Member States, where developments in state aid policy could be discussed,
- participating in an annual debate in the Council where the Commission report to the Parliament on competition policy could be debated.

These undertakings were generally welcomed by the Council and all attempts by the Presidency to refer the question to COREPER or to a future meeting of the Council came to nothing. The view following the Council is that this matter is now closed.

Michael BERENDT

Bruxelles, le 12 octobre 1990

NOTE BIO(90) 303 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
CC AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE-PAROLE

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Conseil Agriculture - Luxembourg, 15 et 16 octobre

Le Conseil dont l'ouverture est prévue pour 10.00 heures devra se pencher sur un agenda très chargé, particulièrement en matière de questions vétérinaires:

- produits phytopharmaceutiques
- organisation de contrôles vétérinaires
- déchets animaux
- viandes de gibier et de volaille
- viandes fraîches de volaille et de gibier à plumes d'élevage
- animaux et produits d'aquaculture

Les débats porteront également sur les effets de la politique agricole commune résultant de l'unification allemande.

Mardi, le Conseil devra se prononcer sur l'offre de la Commission concernant l'agriculture dans le cadre de l'Uruguay Round.

La semaine dernière, à Luxembourg, la position de la majorité des Etats membres était négative. Cette semaine, bon nombre de consultations et clarifications ont eu lieu entre les ministres d'une part et les experts de la Commission de l'autre.

Amitiés,



B. DETHOMAS

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MESSAGE # 161
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LUXEMBOURG, 15 OCTOBER 1990.

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AGRICULTURAL COUNCIL (15-16 OCTOBER 1990) (JOHN COONEY)

THE COUNCIL, WHICH BEGAN AT 10 A.M. DEVOTED ITS DISCUSSIONS ON MONDAY MORNING TO THE INTERNAL MARKET QUESTIONS, PRINCIPALLY IN THE VETERINARY SECTOR. TUESDAY WILL BE DEVOTED TO A RESUMED DEBATE ON THE COMMISSION'S OFFER ON AGRICULTURE TO THE GATT.

AFTER THE ADOPTION OF THE LIST OF 'A' POINTS, THE COUNCIL APPROVED A DIRECTIVE AMENDING THE ANNEX TO DIRECTIVE 79/117 PROHIBITING THE PLACING ON THE MARKET AND USE OF PLANT PROTECTION PRODUCTS CONTAINING CERTAIN ACTIVE SUBSTANCES.

- PLANT PROTECTION PRODUCTS

THE 79/117 DIRECTIVE BANS THE SALE AND USE OF PLANT PROTECTION PRODUCTS CONTAINING CERTAIN ACTIVE SUBSTANCES. LIKE DDT.

THE ANNEX EXTENDS THE BAN TO INCLUDE DINOSEB, BINAPACRYL, CAPTAFOL AND SOME SALTS OF MALEIC HYDRAZIDE. IT ALSO SETS PURITY CRITERIA FOR DICOFOL, QUINTOZONE AND OTHER SALTS OF MALEIC HYDRAZIDE TO AVOID HAZARDOUS IMPURITIES.

COMMISSIONER MAC SHARRY INFORMED THE COUNCIL THAT A COMMISSION WORKING GROUP OF NATIONAL EXPERTS WOULD CONSIDER ON NOVEMBER 5TH SOME CONCERNS EXPRESSED BY GERMANY. IN A LETTER DATED JUNE 22, 1990 TO COMMISSIONER MAC SHARRY, MINISTER KIECHLE REQUESTED THAT THE LIST OF PROHIBITIONS SHOULD BE SUPPLEMENTED BY THE INCLUSION OF ATRAZINE. HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THERE SHOULD BE A TOTAL PROHIBITION OF DICOFOL AND QUINTOZENE RATHER THAN MERELY ESTABLISHING PURITY CRITERIA.

- VETERINARY CONTROLS ; THIRD COUNTRY HARMONISATION
AFTER BROAD MEASURE OF AGREEMENT ON THE MAIN ELEMENTS IN THE PROPOSAL, THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL, MR VITO SACCOMANDI, INVITED COREPER TO RESUME ITS DISCUSSIONS ON THE PRINCIPLES GOVERNING THE ORGANISATION OF VETERINARY CHECKS ON PRODUCTS ENTERING THE COMMUNITY FROM THIRD COUNTRIES. THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT'S OPINION IS EXPECTED IN NOVEMBER.

- VETERINARY : INTERNAL MARKET
THE COUNCIL ADOPTED A RESOLUTION ON THE COMPLETION OF THE INTERNAL MARKET IN THE VETERINARY SECTOR. THIS WOULD REQUIRE THAT :
. COMMUNITY AND NATIONAL VETERINARY SERVICES BE STRENGTHENED,
. A STRUCTURE BE ESTABLISHED TO BRING TOGETHER ALL THE CONTROL TASKS ASSIGNED TO THE COMMISSION BY VETERINARY DIRECTIVES,
. A CRISIS CENTRE ('CELLULE DE CRISE') HEADED BY A VET NOMINATED BY THE COMMISSION BE SET UP.

THE DIRECTIVE ALSO CALLS ON THE COMMISSION TO REPORT ON THE VETERINARY SERVICES IN THE MEMBER STATES AND PRESENT APPROPRIATE PROPOSALS.

- ANIMAL WASTE
THE COUNCIL AGREED TO RETURN TO COREPER A PROPOSAL LAYING DOWN VETERINARY RULES FOR THE DISPOSAL AND PROCESSING OF ANIMAL WASTE, FOR ITS PLACING ON THE MARKET AND FOR THE PREVENTION OF PATHOGENS IN FOODSTUFFS OF ANIMAL OR FISH ORIGIN. SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS WAS MADE IN THE DISCUSSION.

- GAMEMEAT AND RABBITMEAT
THE COUNCIL AGREED TO RETURN THIS PROPOSED REGULATION TO COREPER WITH A NOTE ON THE IMPORTANCE OF SPEEDING UP DELIBERATIONS. MARCH 30TH 1991 WAS SET FOR A DECISION ON THE WILD GAME ASPECTS OF THE PROPOSAL, WHILE THE REMAINING ELEMENTS SHOULD NOW BE ADOPTED SHORTLY.

- IMPORTS OF FRESH POULTRYMEAT AND FRESH MEAT OF REARED GAME BIRDS
COREPER WAS INSTRUCTED TO DEAL WITH THIS PROPOSED REGULATION ONCE THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT EXPRESSES ITS OPINION. SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS WAS ALSO MADE ON THIS.

- AQUACULTURE
THE COUNCIL REMITTED FOR FURTHER STUDY TO COREPER THE PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCIL REGULATION CONCERNING THE ANIMAL HEALTH CONDITIONS

GOVERNING THE PLACING ON THE MARKET OF AQUACULTURE ANIMALS AND PRODUCTS.

THE COUNCIL ADJOURNED FOR LUNCH AT 12.40 AND WILL RESUME ITS DISCUSSIONS AT 15.30 WHEN IT IS EXPECTED TO DEAL WITH GERMAN UNIFICATION, THE OLIVE OIL SECTOR AND ACP SUGAR.

JOHN COONEY

SENT BY SPP AT : MON OCT 15 17:56:23 CET 1990

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Luxembourg, 15 October 1990.

**NOTE BIO(90) 303 (suite1) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
CC. AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE-PAROLE**

AGRICULTURAL COUNCIL (15-16 OCTOBER 1990) (John COONEY)

The Council, which began at 10 a.m. devoted its discussions on Monday morning to the internal market questions, principally in the veterinary sector. Tuesday will be devoted to a resumed debate on the Commission's offer on agriculture to the GATT.

After the adoption of the list of "A" points, the Council approved a directive amending the Annex to Directive 79/117 prohibiting the placing on the market and use of plant protection products containing certain active substances.

- Plant protection products

The 79/117 Directive bans the sale and use of plant protection products containing certain active substances, like DDT.

The Annex extends the ban to include DINOSEB, BINAPACRYL, CAPTAFOL and some SALTS of MALEIC HYDRAZIDE. It also sets purity criteria for DICOFOL, QUINTOZONE and other salts of Maleic hydrazide to avoid hazardous impurities.

Commissioner Mac Sharry informed the Council that a Commission working group of national experts would consider on November 5th some concerns expressed by Germany. In a letter dated June 22, 1990 to Commissioner Mac Sharry, Minister KIECHLE requested that the list of prohibitions should be supplemented by the inclusion of ATRAZINE. He also suggested that there should be a total prohibition of DICOFOL and QUINTOZONE rather than merely establishing purity criteria.

- Veterinary controls : third country harmonisation

After broad measure of agreement on the main elements in the proposal, the President of the Council, Mr Vito SACCOMANDI, invited COREPER to resume its discussions on the principles governing the organisation of veterinary checks on products entering the Community from third countries. The European Parliament's opinion is expected in November.

- Veterinary : Internal market

The Council adopted a resolution on the completion of the internal market in the veterinary sector. This would require that :

- . Community and national veterinary services be strengthened,
- . A structure be established to bring together all the control tasks assigned to the Commission by veterinary Directives,
- . A crisis centre ("cellule de crise") headed by a vet nominated by the Commission be set up.

The Directive also calls on the Commission to report on the veterinary services in the Member States and present appropriate proposals.

- Animal waste

The Council agreed to return to COREPER a proposal laying down veterinary rules for the disposal and processing of animal waste, for its placing on the market and for the prevention of pathogens in foodstuffs of animal or fish origin. Substantial progress was made in the discussion.

- Gamemeat and rabbitmeat

The Council agreed to return this proposed regulation to COREPER with a note on the importance of speeding up deliberations. March 30th 1991 was set for a decision on the wild game aspects of the proposal, while the remaining elements should now be adopted shortly.

- Imports of fresh poultrymeat and fresh meat of reared game birds

COREPER was instructed to deal with this proposed regulation once the European Parliament expresses its opinion. Substantial progress was also made on this.

- Aquaculture

The Council remitted for further study to COREPER the proposal for a Council Regulation concerning the animal health conditions governing the placing on the market of aquaculture animals and products.

The Council adjourned for lunch at 12.40 and will resume its discussions at 15.30 when it is expected to deal with German unification, the olive oil sector and ACP sugar.

John COONEY

Luxembourg, 15 October 1990.

**NOTE BIO(90) 303 (suite 2) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
CC. AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE-PAROLE**

Agriculture Council (John COONEY)

On resuming at 15.45, the Council held its second discussion on the Commission's proposals on the integration of East German agriculture into the Community.

Commissioner Mac Sharry said that during the first debate in September he had the impression that, in general, Member States had a positive attitude to the Commission's proposal. He was therefore optimistic that the Council could reach an early conclusion on it after an opinion had been obtained from the European Parliament.

President SACCOMANDI indicated his intention of circulating shortly a compromise proposal in the light of yesterday's substantive debate. Among the points raised by Ministers were the financial implications, the sugar quota, investment aids and some market aspects.

The Council also had in-depth discussions on the proposed oils and fat regime, the 1990-91 marketing campaign for olive oil and sugar, all of which are to be subject to further discussion at expert level.

The Council will resume its deliberations at 9.30 on Tuesday.

John COONEY

Bruxelles, le 18 octobre 1990.

NOTE BIO(90) 303 (Suite 3 et fin) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
CC AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE-PAROLE

Agriculture Council, Luxembourg - 15-16 October (J. COONEY)

After more than 12 hours discussion in restricted session the Council adjourned until Friday 19 October to enable ministers to engage in further consultations with the Governments on the Commission's proposed offer on agriculture to the Gatt.

The ministers are examining a declaration which was presented by the Italian Presidency after consultation with the Commission.

The text contains a number of observations and interpretations regarding the Commission's Gatt proposal. It also outlines elements of a fresh approach to the common agricultural policy.

There was, however, pressure from within the Council to change the Commission's proposal on rebalancing. In particular to delete the 8% rate of increase within the rebalancing mechanism.

Commissioner Mac Sharry, who reported yesterday on the council debate to the weekly meeting of the Commission, reserved the Commission's position on the text.

Amitiés.

B. DETHOMAS

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MOTS CLES : CONSMEET;GATT;AGINT;PAC;AGROMONEY

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