

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

7845/90 (Presse 121)

1422nd Council meeting
- Agriculture -
Brussels, 24 July 1990

President:

Mr Calogero MANNINO

Minister for Agriculture
of the Italian Republic

24.VII.1990

che/MG/jp

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

Belgium:

Mr Paul de KEERSMAEKER State Secretary for European Affairs
and Agriculture

Denmark:

Mr Laurits TOERNAES Minister for Agriculture

Germany:

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

Greece:

Mr Georges THEOFANUS Secretary-General for Foreign Trade

Spain:

Mr Carlos ROMERO-HERRERA Minister for Agriculture

France:

Mr Henri NALLET Minister for Agriculture

Ireland:

Mr Michael O'KENNEDY Minister for Agriculture and Food

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Italy:

Mr Calogero MANNINO Minister for Agriculture

Mr Francesco CIMINO State Secretary for Agriculture and Forestry

Luxembourg:

Mr René STEICHEN Minister for Agriculture and Viticulture

Netherlands:

Mr Gerrit BRAKS Minister for Agriculture

Portugal:

Mr Arlindo CUNHA Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

United Kingdom:

Mr John Selwyn GUMMER Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Mr David CURRY Parliamentary Secretary, Agriculture

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Commission:

Mr R. MAC SHARRY Member

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che/LA/cb

GATT/MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS (AGRICULTURE)

The Council held a detailed discussion on the agricultural aspects of the Uruguay Round negotiations, on the basis of oral reports from the Presidency and the Commission. The Council unanimously confirmed the position defined by the Community in December 1989 and gave the Commission its full support in its conduct of negotiations on these bases.

The Council re-affirmed the Community's wish to play a constructive role in the negotiations with a view to arriving at a balanced and gradual reduction of support measures in agriculture. It accordingly shared the Commission's assessment of the outcome of the Houston meeting, at which it was recognized in particular that an overall approach must be followed in the negotiations and which represents a positive factor for the continuation of discussions.

The Council agreed to follow the development of the GATT negotiations very carefully in view of their importance for the future of European agriculture and therefore decided to keep this item on the agenda for its forthcoming meetings.

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che/LG/cb

MONITORING OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE IN CONNECTION WITH THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL
POLICY

At the request of the Netherlands delegation, the Council held an overall discussion on the monitoring of income and expenditure in connection with the Common Agricultural Policy.

During the discussion, the Netherlands delegation repeated its suggestions, regarding in particular the simplification of legislation and better monitoring.

Several delegations supported the Netherlands delegation's initiative.

The Council, which already has several proposals on monitoring before it, noted with interest and satisfaction the Commission's replies to the effect that Commission experts were working to simplify the legislation and that the results of their work would be reflected in the proposals submitted to the Council or the Management Committees.

Concluding, the Council emphasized that the aim of monitoring in the Member States should be to achieve uniform results throughout the Community in the fight against fraud.

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che/MG/pm

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Use of agricultural products in the non-food sector

The Council formally adopted the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 797/85 on improving the efficiency of agricultural structures. The aim of the amendment is to adjust the present aid arrangements designed to encourage the set-aside of arable land by providing for specific aid for the use of arable land for non-food purposes.

Final adoption followed the favourable reaction to a compromise solution which emerged from the meeting of the Agriculture Council on 25 and 26 June (see Press Release 7261/90 Presse 101).

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The Council also formally adopted the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 1581/86 laying down general rules for intervention on the market in cereals and Regulations (EEC) Nos 724/67 and 2754/78 on intervention in the oils and fats sector.

The aim is to enable the Commission to mobilize part of the intervention stocks for demonstration projects which encourage non-food use of agricultural products.

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Dried grapes

The Council formally adopted the Regulations

- amending Regulation (EEC) No 426/86 on the common organization of the markets in products processed from fruit and vegetables
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 1206/90 laying down general rules for the system of production aid for processed fruit and vegetables.

The amendments involve the gradual replacement of the present production aid arrangements for dried grapes with a new system of aid per hectare of specialized crop area.

Formal adoption followed the agreement reached at the Council meeting on 25 and 26 June.

Other Decisions concerning the CAP

The Council formally adopted the Regulations

- opening and providing for the administration of the Community tariff quota for the period 1 July 1990 to 30 June 1991, at 4% duty, for
 - = 42 600 head of heifers and cows, other than those intended for slaughter, of certain mountain breeds falling within subheadings ex 01.02 90 10, 01.02 90 31 and 01.02 90 33 of the combined nomenclature
 - = 5 000 head of bulls, cows and heifers, other than those intended for slaughter, of certain Alpine breeds falling within subheadings ex 01.02 90 10, 01.02 90 31, 01.02 90 33 and 01.02 90 35 of the combined nomenclature

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- amending Regulations Nos 1676/85 and 1677/85 in regard to the conversion rates and MCAs to be applied for the purposes of the CAP.

The purpose of this amendment is to adopt the ecu as the reference basis for calculating the market rates for floating currencies.

- amending Regulation (EEC) No 1569/72 laying down special measures for colza and rape seed and Regulation (EEC) No 2036/82 adopting general rules concerning special measures for peas, field beans and sweet lupins.

The aim is to simplify the rules for calculating market rates for floating currencies in sectors in which differential amounts obtain for aid and refunds.

- amending Regulation (EEC) No 1352/90 fixing rice prices for the 1990/1991 marketing year.

The purpose of this Regulation is to align rice prices in Spain on the level applicable in the Community of Ten.

- laying down additional general rules on the common organization of the market in milk and milk products as regards cheese.

The purpose of this Regulation is to regulate on an overall basis the use of caseine and caseinates benefiting from Community aid in the manufacture of the milk products seen as most vulnerable to speculative use, i.e. cheeses.

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- amending Regulation (EEC) No 3677/89 with regard to the total alcoholic strength by volume of certain quality wines imported from Hungary.

The purpose of this amendment is to put back by one year, until 31 August 1991, the deadline for the derogation granted in respect of certain high quality wines originating in Hungary, with regard to their total alcoholic strength, which is in excess of the maximum 15% by volume normally permitted under Community regulations.

- amending for the third time Regulation (EEC) No 2390/89 laying down general rules for the import of wines, grape juice and grape must.

The aim is to extend by one year, until 31 July 1991 the derogations introducing a degree of flexibility as regards the certificates of origin and analysis reports to be provided by third countries, subject to the provision by the latter of specific guarantees acceptable to the Community.

- amending for the fourth time Regulation (EEC) No 1873/84 authorizing the offer or disposal for direct consumption of certain imported wines which may have undergone oenological processes not provided for in Regulation (EEC) No 822/87.

The purpose of this amendment is to extend by one year, until 31 July 1991, the derogation granted for wines originating in the United States with regard to the application of certain oenological practices which are permitted in that country but not in the Community.

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Fisheries

The Council formally adopted the Regulations on

- the conclusion of the Protocol establishing for the period from 1 January 1990 to 31 December 1991 the fishing rights and the financial compensation provided for in the fisheries agreement between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Guinea.

Under this Protocol, Community vessels are granted fishing rights involving the maintenance of 12 000 grt. for freezer trawlers and 40 licences for seiners and increasing the number of licences for surface long-liners and pole-and-line vessels from 31 to 35. Total financial compensation is set at ECU 7 500 000 for a two-year period.

The Protocol has been applicable since 1 January 1990.

- the conclusion of the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Cape Verde on fishing off Cape Verde.

This Agreement provides for the following fishing rights to be granted to Community vessels:

= highly migratory species:

- 21 licences for freezer tuna vessels
- 24 licences for pole-and-line vessels and surface long-liners

= demersal species:

- 2 licences for sea-bed long-liners

= other species:

- 2 licences for experimental cephalopod fishing.

Total financial compensation is set at ECU 2 610 000 for a three-year period.

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Transport

The Council adopted

- the Directive amending Directive 84/647/EEC on the use of vehicles hired without drivers for the carriage of goods by road.

This amendment is designed to abolish the derogations provided for in Directive 84/647/EEC and thus help to liberalize and develop the hiring business in the Community (see Press Release 7170/90 Presse 97).

- in the field of air transport, the Regulations on

- = fares for scheduled air services. This Regulation will replace Directive 87/601/EEC and sets out essentially to make the airfare system for intra-Community routes more flexible. The Regulation will enter into force on 1 November 1990.

- = access for air carriers to scheduled intra-Community air service routes and the sharing of passenger capacity between air carriers on scheduled air services between Member States. This Regulation replaces Decision 87/602/EEC and its main purpose is to permit greater market access, which will stimulate the development of the air transport sector in the Community and mean better services for users. This Regulation will also enter into force on 1 November 1990.

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= amending Regulation No 3976/87 of 14 December 1987 on the application of Article 85(3) of the Treaty to certain categories of agreements and concerted practices in the field of air transport. The purpose of this amendment is basically to extend until 31 December 1992 group exemptions granted for a limited period.

(See Press Release 7170/90 Presse 97).

Veterinary medicinal products

The Council adopted the correction concerning the common position on a Directive amending Directive 81/851/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to veterinary medicinal products.

The correction concerns the period of validity of medicinal product authorizations and residue tolerances.

Telecommunications terminal equipment

The Council adopted the common position on a Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to telecommunications terminal equipment, including the mutual recognition of their conformity.

This Directive, which will eliminate barriers to the free movement of equipment, will bring about a single market for terminals while ensuring the integrity of public networks.

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The Directive makes provision for the public authorities to monitor the intended purpose of terminals as stated by the manufacturer or supplier.

Bruxelles, le 24 juillet 1990.

NOTE BIO(90) 228 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
CC. AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE-PAROLE

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Conseil agriculture (John Cooney)

- Négociations de l'Uruguay Round

Le Conseil a eu un large échange de vues concernant l'état actuel des négociations de l'Uruguay Round. Les douze ministres de l'agriculture ont réaffirmé l'approche globale de la Communauté vis-à-vis des réductions progressives et substantielles des mesures de soutien à l'agriculture.

Le Commissaire Mac Sharry s'est félicité des résultats du Sommet de Houston et de la réunion de Genève. Il a confirmé que la Communauté était prête à s'engager dans des négociations réelles et concrètes. La présidence italienne a suggéré que l'Uruguay Round fasse l'objet d'une discussion lors de tous les Conseils "agriculture" jusqu'à la fin de l'année, date de la fin des négociations du GATT. Cette approche active et continue de l'état d'avancement des discussions a été accueillie favorablement par tous les Ministres. Ils estiment que c'est un moyen efficace de conserver un contrôle politique des négociations. Comme la Présidence italienne l'a souligné, la Communauté voudrait parler d'une seule voix. Aussi, a-t-elle invité les Ministres à renouveler leur soutien au Commissaire Mac Sharry, ce qu'ils ont fait à l'unanimité.

Autre élément important, les ministres de l'agriculture commencent à préparer leurs agriculteurs à une conclusion dure et équitable. M. Mac Sharry a souligné le fait que la Communauté a déjà marqué son accord pour une réduction progressive et substantielle du soutien agricole.

Un thème important dans le débat est la priorité que la Commission doit donner à la diffusion de la promotion de la PAC. M. Mac Sharry a souligné l'importance pour la Communauté d'expliquer de façon plus précise sa défense de la PAC et l'importance de cette politique pour le marché unique.

A l'initiative du ministre espagnol, le Conseil a décidé d'étudier la possibilité de créer un groupe constitué de hauts fonctionnaires des différents Ministères de l'agriculture pour suivre les négociations. M. Mac Sharry a marqué son accord sur ce point. La présidence italienne a proposé de reporter cette décision lors de la première semaine de septembre.

- Contrôle des dépenses agricoles

Le ministre de l'agriculture des Pays-Bas a soumis à ses collègues un memorandum sur le contrôle des recettes et dépenses dans le cadre de la PAC. M. Mac Sharry a assuré ses collègues de l'importance d'avoir de nouvelles mesures de contrôle efficaces, faciles à appliquer, rentables et appropriées aux différents Etats membres. Mais il a par ailleurs indiqué que des règlements forts et faciles à appliquer étaient la première étape permettant de prévenir la fraude. La mise en oeuvre rigoureuse et précise des règlements communautaires par les Etats membres demeure essentielle.

Amitiés,
Bruno DETHOMAS

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