

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

10393/91 (Presse 249)

1550th Council meeting

- INTERNAL MARKET -

Brussels, 19 December 1991

President: Mr Piet DANKERT

State Secretary
for Foreign Affairs
of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

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

Denmark:

Ms Anne-Brigitte LUNDHOLT Minister for Industry

Germany:

Mr Johann EEKHOFF State Secretary, Federal Ministry of
Economic Affairs

Greece:

Mr Georges THEOFANOUS Secretary-General, Ministry of Trade

Spain:

Mr Carlos WESTENDORP State Secretary for Relations with the
European Communities

France:

Mrs Elisabeth GUIGOU Minister for European Affairs

Ireland:

Mr Desmond J. O'MALLEY Minister for Industry and Commerce

Italy:

Mr Pierluigi ROMITA Minister for Community Policies

Luxembourg:

Mr George WOHLFART

State Secretary for Foreign Affairs
and Foreign Trade

Netherlands:

Mr Piet DANKERT

State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Portugal:

Mr Victor MARTINS

State Secretary for European
Integration

United Kingdom:

Mr John REDWOOD

Minister of State, Department of Trade
and Industry (Minister for Corporate
Affairs)

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Commission:

Mr Martin BANGEMANN
Sir Leon BRITTAN
Ms Christine SCRIVENER

Vice-President
Vice-President
Member

COMMUNITY TYPE APPROVAL OF MOTOR VEHICLES

Following the Commission's clarification of the role of middlemen in the motor vehicle sector, the Council unanimously adopted common positions on the proposals for Directives on:

- the masses and dimensions of motor vehicles of category M1,
- safety glazing and glazing materials on motor vehicles and their trailers and
- pneumatic tyres for motor vehicles and their trailers.

These three Directives complete the implementation of Community type-approval which should allow the free movement of motor vehicles within the internal market.

ELIMINATION OF BAGGAGE CONTROLS

Following the common position adopted at its meeting on 22 July 1991, the Council finally adopted by a qualified majority the Regulation concerning the elimination of controls and formalities applicable to the cabin and checked baggage of passengers taking an intra-Community flight and the baggage of passengers making an intra-Community sea crossing.

THIRD DIRECTIVE ON NON-LIFE INSURANCE

The Council reached overall political agreement on the proposal for a third Directive on insurance other than life assurance with a view to the adoption of a common position as soon as the European Parliament's Opinion had been given.

Following the First Directive, which was designed to facilitate the right of establishment, and the Second Directive, which was designed to facilitate the right to provide services, the third Directive is intended to complete the process of liberalization of the insurance market in the context of achieving the single market in financial services. The approach adopted is therefore the same as that applied for the other financial services. The Directive sets up a single authorization system to enable an undertaking with its headquarters in one Member State of the Community to open branches or operate by way of the provision of services in all the Member States without undergoing authorization procedures in those countries.

The Member State of origin of that undertaking will be responsible for its overall financial supervision. To that end, the Directive provides for:

- co-ordination of the essential rules on the prudential and financial supervision of direct non-life insurance business;
- mutual recognition, on the basis of such harmonization at Community level, of the authorizations granted to insurance undertakings and of the prudential supervision systems of the different Member States.

This provision is intended to allow the free movement of insurance products within the Community and to afford every person seeking insurance the opportunity of turning to any Community insurer in order to find the cover best suited to his needs, while providing him with an adequate level of protection.

CO-ORDINATION OF PROCEDURES ON THE AWARD OF PUBLIC SERVICE CONTRACTS

The Council unanimously agreed in principle to a common position on a proposal for a Directive aimed at completing the Community rules on public contracts by covering all purchases of services for which contracts are large enough to make transboundary transactions worthwhile.

The Directive will apply to all contracts which are neither supply contracts nor public works contracts and which are contracts for pecuniary interest concluded in writing between a service provider and a contracting authority. Pending the results of more detailed analysis which the Commission undertakes to submit shortly, public service concessions are excluded from the scope of the Directive for the time being. Public service contracts covered by the Directive are those whose estimated value is not less than ECU 200 000.

FOOD AND FOOD INGREDIENTS TREATED WITH IONIZING RADIATION

The Council continued its discussion of the proposal for a Directive harmonizing the provisions on the ionization of foodstuffs in such a way as to eliminate the obstacles to the free movement of foodstuffs while protecting human health.

In the light of the diverging positions maintained by the delegations, it was agreed that examination of the proposal would be resumed at a future Council meeting under the Portuguese Presidency.

ABOLITION OF BORDER CONTROLS

The Council noted a Commission communication on the abolition of border controls in the context of completing the internal market.

The communication contains a tentative timetable for ensuring that this objective is achieved by 31 December 1992.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine the timetable with a view to its adoption in February 1992.

COPYRIGHT AND NEIGHBOURING RIGHTS

The Council held a policy debate on the proposal for a Decision concerning accession to the Berne Convention (copyright) and the Rome Convention (neighbouring rights) of those Member States which are not yet parties to them.

Given that the Member States are in favour of harmonizing their national laws in the field of copyright and neighbouring rights on the basis of the Berne and Rome Conventions but find it extremely difficult to agree to the method proposed by the Commission (a Decision obliging the Member States to accede to the two Conventions and to comply with them), the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine three alternative methods, two of which would involve harmonizing Directives and the third would consist in a declaration of intent by those Member States not yet parties to the two Conventions to the effect that they would accede to them by a date to be determined.

CONFERENCE ON THE COMMUNITY PATENT

The Representatives of the Governments of the Member States noted a communication from the Netherlands Presidency concerning the preparation of a Conference of the Member States on entry into force of the Agreement relating to Community patents. In particular, they noted the future Portuguese Presidency's intention to start preparing at the earliest opportunity for this Conference which, in accordance with a Declaration by the Member States in 1989, should unanimously find the means of ensuring that the Community patent system is implemented at the time of the completion of the Internal Market.

SUPPLEMENTARY PROTECTION CERTIFICATE FOR MEDICINAL PRODUCTS

The Council adopted, by a qualified majority with regard to its substance, a common position on the proposal for a Council Regulation concerning the creation of a supplementary protection certificate for medicinal products.

This Regulation aims at improving legal protection in the Member States for patented medicinal products whose protection is in fact shortened by the present market authorization system. As a result of the introduction of a supplementary protection certificate taking effect immediately after expiry of the patent, conditions similar to those existing in certain non-member States will apply to the pharmaceutical industry established in the Member States.

The common position will be finally adopted after legal and linguistic finalization of the proposal.

SECOND GENERAL SYSTEM FOR THE RECOGNITION OF PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

The Council reached agreement in principle by a qualified majority with a view to the adoption of a common position on the amended proposal for a Directive on a second general system for the recognition of professional education and training. This draft Directive aims at complementing Directive 89/48/EEC which established a first general system for the recognition of higher education diplomas awarded on completion of professional education and training of a least three years' duration.

This draft Directive is the last in a set of measures aimed at guaranteeing each Community national recognition of the qualifications acquired in another Member State on the part of a host Member State regulating a professional activity. Recognition is based on the principle of mutual confidence without prior co-ordination of the training for the various professions concerned.

In principle, the Directive covers two levels of training, i.e. holders of diplomas awarded on completion of less than three years of higher or further education and holders of secondary education certificates and also applies to certain persons without diplomas who have acquired professional experience.

The draft Directive provides for links between the levels of the two systems to cover professions which come under the first system in one Member State and under the second in another.

The draft Directive therefore makes a significant contribution to achieving freedom of movement for persons pursuing an activity as it will facilitate pursuit of the regulated activities concerned as

employed or self-employed persons.

The draft Directive will be submitted to the Council at a forthcoming meeting for adoption of its common position.

COMMUNITY SURVEY OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION

The Council adopted by a qualified majority a Regulation aimed at harmonizing Member States' survey practices with regard to industrial production and standardizing their nomenclatures so that the information gathered in each country may at the same time be used to produce European statistics on industrial production.

Pursuant to this Regulation, Member States must adopt survey methods designed to facilitate the collection of data from undertakings representing at least 90% of national production. For the evaluation of production, account will be taken of all undertakings employing at least 20 people.

HOMEOPATHIC MEDICINAL PRODUCTS

The Council adopted by a qualified majority a common position on the substance of the proposal for a Directive aiming at extending Community pharmaceutical legislation in certain specific ways to cover homeopathic medicinal products, a category of medicinal products which had been provisionally excluded.

FUTURE SYSTEM FOR THE FREE MOVEMENT OF MEDICINAL PRODUCTS

The Council noted an interim report on the future system proposed by the Commission for the free movement of medicinal products.

CE MARK OF CONFORMITY FOR INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS

The Council noted an interim report on the CE mark of conformity for industrial products. It will be remembered that the proposal concerned aims at laying down the arrangements for affixing the CE mark of conformity provided for in Community regulations on the placing on the market of industrial products.

The proposal aims in particular at amending the 10 Council Directives already adopted on the basis of the Resolution of 7 May 1985 concerning a new approach to technical harmonization and standardization, with a view to establishing uniform provisions on the marking of conformity. It then lays down the rules governing the marking of conformity for future directives under the new approach.

COMPLETION OF THE INTERNAL MARKET

The Council noted an interim report from the Commission on implementation of the instruments for establishing the internal market.

That report reviews the process of transposing Community Directives into national law and the steps taken by the Commission to monitor the correct implementation of the various instruments for establishing the internal market.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

1. Other decisions relating to the internal market

Electromagnetic compatibility

The Council adopted the common position on the proposal for a Directive on the harmonization of the law of the Member States on electromagnetic compatibility. The aim of this proposal is to introduce into Directive 89/336/EEC, which applies to electric and electronic apparatus, from the point of view both of their protection against external interference and their emission of electromagnetic disturbances, a transitional period to permit the disposal of stocks of apparatus manufactured in accordance with existing national provisions at the time of entry into force of the Directive.

Annual accounts and consolidated accounts of insurance undertakings

Following adoption of the common position on 23 September 1991, the Council definitively adopted the Directive on the annual accounts and consolidated accounts of insurance undertakings. By providing for harmonized rules in the insurance field, this Directive fills the last gap in Community accounting law remaining after Directives 78/660/EEC and 85/635/EEC respectively introduced rules on annual accounts and consolidated accounts for certain forms of company and financial establishments.

By establishing greater transparency and comparability of accounts, this Directive also represents a substantial step

towards creating a single insurance market.

Insurance Committee

The Council definitively adopted the Directive setting up an Insurance Committee made up of representatives of the Member States and chaired by a Commission representative.

The Committee, which will operate according to "Comitology" procedure III(b), will assist the Commission in exercising the implementing powers conferred on it by the Council in the field of direct insurance (life and non-life). The Committee will also have the task of advising the Commission on the preparation of new proposals for submission to the Council in the insurance sector.

The Committee will take up its duties on 1 January 1992.

Efficiency requirements for new hot-water boilers

The Council adopted the common position on the Directive concerning the efficiency requirements for new hot-water boilers fired with liquid or gaseous fuels.

It should be noted that this Directive constitutes one of the measures engendered by the SAVE programme which set a framework for the promotion of energy efficiency in the Community.

It is a measure designed to create the conditions necessary for establishing the internal market by ensuring common standards of energy efficiency accepted by all the Member States for each type of apparatus.

The aim of the Directive is twofold: energy saving (the domestic and tertiary sectors absorb a major and growing proportion of the Community's final energy consumption) and the resulting environmental protection. In addition, the enacting terms provide for granting of the CE mark and of quality labels (stars) in certain circumstances.

Postponement of the date of implementation of
Directive 89/104/EEC (Trademarks)

The Council adopted the Decision authorizing Member States to postpone until 31 December 1992 the date of implementation of Directive 89/104/EEC harmonizing Member States' laws on trademarks. Postponement, together with the adoption in the meantime of the Regulation on the Community trademark, should enable the date of implementation of the Directive to coincide with the starting date for lodging application for registration of Community trademarks.

Speed limitation devices of certain categories of motor vehicle

The Council adopted the common position on the Directive relating to speed limitation devices of heavy goods and passenger vehicles.

This Directive, which is closely related to the Directive on speed limitation of heavy goods vehicles and buses on which agreement was reached in the Transport Council on 16 and 17 December 1991 (see Press Release 10387/91 Presse 243), lays down the technical specifications with which speed limitation

devices must comply as regards design and installation.

Type-approval of two- or three-wheel motor vehicles

The Council adopted a common position on the substance of the Directive on type-approval of two- or three-wheel motor vehicles. The aim of this Directive is full harmonization of the rules for constructing two- and three-wheel motor vehicles. The proposed approach is similar to the one used for motor cars, lorries and agricultural tractors and is based on an approval procedure for each type of vehicle and each component.

The Directive will constitute the framework within which the procedures for the type-approval of two- and three-wheel vehicles and their components will be set. The actual technical rules will be the subject of individual regulations which the Commission intends to submit to the Council during the first half of 1992.

Amendment of the tariff and statistical nomenclature ("Yellow Grease")

The Council adopted the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87 on the tariff and statistical nomenclature and on the Common Customs Tariff, the aim of which is to correct the error which occurred when transferring "yellow grease" (mixture of animal and vegetable oils and fats) from the Common Customs Tariff to the harmonized system: the applicable duty was wrongly changed from 2% to 12%.

This Regulation is intended to replace the partial solution introduced from 1 July 1989, consisting in temporary suspension of the Common Customs Tariff duties; suspension has been renewed yearly but is due to end on 31 December 1992.

The planned measure provides for reinstatement of the 2% duty, backdated to 1 January 1988 (entry into force of the harmonized system).

Sweeteners for use in foodstuffs

Following the agreement reached at its meeting on 22 July 1991, the Council adopted the common position on the Directive on sweeteners for use in foodstuffs (see Press Releases 7450/91 and 9124/91).

Marks identifying the lot to which a foodstuff belongs

The Council adopted the common position on the proposal for a Directive extending the time limit for implementation of Directive 89/396/EEC on indications or marks identifying the lot to which a foodstuff belongs.

Marketing of compound feedingstuffs

The Council adopted the Directive amending Directive 90/44/EEC

amending Directive 79/373/EEC on the marketing of compound feedingstuffs.

The aim of amending the Directive is to authorize the marketing, until 31 December 1992, of compound feedingstuffs manufactured before 22 January 1992 in accordance with the legislation then in force, viz. with labelling complying with the rules applied up to that date.

II. Further miscellaneous decisions

Temporary or mobile work sites - minimum safety and health requirements

After the agreement reached at its meeting on 14 October 1991, the Council adopted the common position on the Directive on the implementation of minimum safety and health requirements at temporary or mobile work sites (see Press Release 8529/91 Presse 164 of 14.X.91).

Protection of pregnant women

The Council adopted the common position with a view to the adoption of a Directive concerning measures to encourage improvements in the safety and health of pregnant workers and workers who have recently given birth or are breastfeeding (ninth individual Directive within the meaning of Article 16(1) of Directive 89/391/EEC).

Protection of the dignity of women and men at work

Following the agreement reached at its meeting on 3 December 1991, the Council adopted the following Declaration:

"THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Considering that on 29 May 1990 the Council adopted a Resolution on the protection of the dignity of women and men at work;

Considering that on 27 November 1991 the Commission made a Recommendation on the protection of the dignity of women and

men at work, to which is annexed a code of practice to combat sexual harassment;

Considering that on 21 May 1991 the Council adopted a Resolution on the third medium-term Community action programme on equal opportunities for women and men (1991-1995);

Considering that the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee have adopted respectively on 22 October 1991 a Resolution and on 30 October 1991 an Opinion on the protection of the dignity of women and men at work;

Considering that the efforts already made to promote the integration of women on the labour market must be intensified and developed; considering that sexual harassment is a serious problem for many women working in the Community and an obstacle to their full integration into active life;

- 1) ENDORSES the general objective of the Commission Recommendation;
- 2) INVITES THE MEMBER STATES to develop and implement consistent, integrated policies to prevent and combat sexual harassment at work, taking account of the Commission Recommendation;
- 3) INVITES THE COMMISSION:
 - (a) to promote an adequate exchange of information with a view to developing existing knowledge and experience in the Member States as regards the prevention and combating of sexual harassment at work;
 - (b) to examine the assessment criteria for the evaluation of the effectiveness of the measures taken in the Member States, taking account of the criteria already in use there;
 - (c) to endeavour to implement the criteria referred to in (b) when drawing up the report referred to in Article 4 of the Commission Recommendation;
 - (d) to submit the report referred to in Article 4 of the Commission Recommendation to the European Parliament, the Council and the Economic and Social Committee not more than three years after the adoption of this Declaration."

Research

The Council adopted

- the Decision adopting the work programme for the implementation of the specific programme of research and technological development in the field of industrial and materials technologies (1991-1994);
- the Decision on a research and training programme in the field of controlled thermonuclear fusion (1990-1994);
- the Decision approving amendments to the Statutes of the Joint European Torus (JET);
- the common position on adopting a specific research and technological development programme in the field of measurement and testing (1990-1994).

International Sugar Agreement

The Council authorized the Commission to participate in negotiations to draw up a new International Sugar Agreement and laid down guidelines for this purpose.

Relations with the Mediterranean countries

The Council adopted two Regulations on Community tariff quotas (1992) for certain agricultural products originating in: Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt and Israel. These Regulations provide in particular that the customs duties and quota volumes

concerned are to be calculated in accordance with the provisions of, respectively, the additional Protocols concluded with Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia and Egypt in 1987/1988 and the 4th additional EEC-Israel Protocol.

EEC-Cyprus Association

The Council

- approved Decision No 1/91 of the EEC-Cyprus Association Council derogating from the rules of origin applicable to certain textile products and adopted the Regulation determining the method of implementing that Decision;
- adopted the Regulation opening and providing for the management of Community tariff quotas for certain agricultural products originating in Cyprus (1992).

Relations with the USSR and its Republics

The Council formally adopted the Regulation concerning emergency measures to the sum of ECU 95 million for the supply of food to the population of Moscow and St Petersburg in particular (see Press Releases Nos 10321/91 Presse 137 and 10323/91 Presse 239).

erd/MM/bt-5

Common rules for exports

The Council adopted an amendment to the Regulation establishing common rules for exports to take account of the fact that Member States have abolished most of the restrictions they were applying to their exports, which would if maintained beyond 31 December 1992 be incompatible with the single market involving the removal of goods inspections at intra-Community borders. This amendment establishes the principle of total liberalization of exports from 31 December 1992. Until that date, the principle will not apply to:

- a number of products of slight economic importance;
- exports which have been made subject to restrictions by the Member States following a decision adopted in the context of European Political Co-operation;
- certain petroleum products until adoption by the Council of appropriate measures in accordance with the international undertakings given by the Community or all its Member States.

EEC-ACP Relations

The Council

- approved the new decision-making procedure to the special financing facility for mineral products (SYSMIN) under Part Three, Title II, Chapter 3, of the Fourth ACP-EEC Convention.

The new procedure differs from the previous one in order to

erd/MM/bt-5

take account of the amendments made in this area in the Fourth Convention and the provisions of the 1990 internal Agreement on the financing and management of Community aid;

- adopted the Decision laying down, for the financial year 1992, the schedule of calls for Member States' contributions under the Sixth European Development Fund.

EEC-EFTA Relations

The Council adopted the Decision on the conclusion of the Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters on Recommendation No 1/91 of the EEC-EFTA Joint Committee on Common Transit amending the Convention of 20 May 1987 on a common transit procedure.

Fourth EEC-Tunisia Financial Protocol

Since the European Parliament had given its assent, the Council adopted the Decision on the conclusion of the Fourth EEC-Tunisia Financial Protocol, which was signed in Brussels on 20 June 1991 (see Press Release CEE-TU 2601/91 Presse 113).

EEC-United States Relations: GATT Article XXIV.6

The Council adopted the Regulation prolonging the measures taken under the Agreements between the EEC and the United States of America for the conclusion of negotiations under GATT Article XXIV.6.

EEC-Andorra Relations: rules of origin

The Council

- recorded its agreement to draft Decision No 7/91 of the EEC-Andorra Joint Committee providing for a derogation from the rules of origin for certain processed agricultural products traditionally exported by Andorra to the Community, within the limits of the quantities indicated in the Decision;
- adopted the Regulation on the procedures for applying the above Decision.

EEC-Malta Relations

The Council adopted the Regulation totally or partially suspending the duties applicable to certain agricultural products originating in Malta for 1992. These arrangements are the same as those applied to the products concerned in 1991.

Textiles

The Council adopted a series of Regulations concerning the import arrangements for several third countries:

- Yugoslavia: Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 3301/91. This renews for 1992 the quantitative quotas and other provisions applicable to imports of certain textile products originating in Yugoslavia following the suspension of trade concessions provided for by the EEC-Yugoslavia Co-operation Agreement.

erd/MM/bt-5

- Taiwan: Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 4134/86. This extends the provisions contained in the existing Regulation and fixes quantitative limits for 1992;
- Bulgaria and Romania: Decisions on the provisional application of the agreed minutes amending the EEC-Bulgaria and EEC-Romania Agreements on trade in textile products. These minutes involve adjustments to the Agreements decided on following requests by Bulgaria and Romania with a view to improving access to the Community market for textile products in the context of the PHARE programme;
- Regulation amending Regulation No 4136/86 on common rules for imports of certain textile products originating in third countries, following the bilateral Agreements concluded recently;
- Decision on the provisional application, as from 1 January 1992 and pending formal conclusion, of Agreements between the EEC and certain third countries.

Anti-dumping

The Council adopted the Regulation imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of dihydrostreptomycin originating in the People's Republic of China and definitively collecting the provisional anti-dumping duty.

erd/MM/bt-5

Community membership of the FAO

Pursuant to its decision of 25 November 1991 on Community membership of the FAO, the Council approved the arrangement between the Council and the Commission on preparation for FAO meetings, statements and voting.

Travellers' allowances

The Council adopted the Directive amending Directive 69/169/EEC to extend and modify the exceptions granted to Denmark and Ireland relating to travellers' allowances.

Customs Union

The Council adopted Regulations

- amending Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87 on the tariff and statistical nomenclature and on the Common Customs Tariff;
- temporarily suspending the Common Customs Tariff duties on certain mixtures of residues from the manufacture of starch from maize and residues from the extraction of maize germ oil by the wet process.

The Council also adopted the Regulations opening and providing for the administration of

- a Community tariff quota for certain handmade products (1992);

erd/MM/bt-5

- a Community tariff quota for certain handwoven fabrics, pile and chenille;
- Community tariff quotas bound in GATT for certain agricultural and industrial products;
- Community tariff quotas for certain fruits and fruit juices;
- Community tariff quotas for certain industrial products (first series 1992);
- Community tariff quotas for certain industrial products (second series 1992).

Agricultural policy

The Council adopted

- the Directive on the marketing of ornamental-plant-propagation material and ornamental plants. This Directive forms part of implementation of the White Paper. It harmonizes at Community level the quality and plant-health standards which must be complied with by propagating material (including seeds) and ornamental plants marketed in the Member States, and ensures that material complying with those standards is able to move freely within the Community;
- the Directive amending Directive 89/437/EEC on hygiene and health problems affecting the production and placing on the market of egg products. This amendment adapts certain provisions of the Annex to the Directive to take account of scientific and technological progress, particularly regarding

erd/MM/bt-5

testing for staphylococci in egg products and the storage temperatures for certain egg products;

- the Regulation setting for the 1991/1992 marketing year the percentage mentioned in the second subparagraph of Article 3(1a) of Regulation (EEC) No 426/86 in connection with the premium granted for products processed from tomatoes. This measure is intended to encourage supply concentration in the case of fresh tomatoes in order to achieve a better balance between the quantities to be produced and the outlets available;
- the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 3493/90 laying down general rules for the grant of premiums to sheepmeat and goatmeat producers. This maintains for 1992 the current definition of eligible ewes;
- the Decision extending Decision 82/530/EEC authorizing the United Kingdom to permit the Isle of Man authorities to apply a system of special import licences to sheepmeat and beef and veal. This authorization is being granted until 31 March 1992 to enable the Council to examine the proposal for an extension submitted by the Commission (31.12.1995);
- the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) 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 (whey).

The Council also adopted the Directive amending Directive 77/93/EEC on protective measures against the

erd/MM/bt-5

introduction into the Member States of organisms harmful to plants or plant products.

This amendment eliminates all physical barriers to trade, in particular controls at customs posts or borders between the Member States, with a view to establishing the internal market in 1993.

Environmental protection

The Council formally adopted the Regulations on

- action by the Community relating to nature conservation (ACNAT) (see Press Release 6779/91 Presse 90 of 13/14.VI.1991);
- action by the Community to protect the environment in the coastal areas and coastal waters of the Irish Sea, North Sea, English Channel and Baltic Sea and of the North-East Atlantic Ocean (NORSPA) (see Press Release No 8086/91 Presse 153 of 1.X.1991).

ECSC

The Representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council adopted the Decisions on

- certain measures to be applied, in respect of Central and Eastern European countries, to trade in iron and steel products covered by the ECSC Treaty;

erd/MM/bt-5

- the opening of a zero-duty tariff quota for special wire rod for the manufacture of valve springs;
- the opening of a zero-duty tariff quota for flat-rolled products of silicon-electrical steel.

The Council gave its assent

- under the second paragraph of Article 54 of the ECSC Treaty, to the granting of an overall loan to the Sezione Speciale per il Credito Industriale presso la Banca Nazionale del Lavoro, Rome, Italy;
- to a Commission communication regarding a contribution to the financing of a top gas expansion plant at Dabrowa Gornicza (Poland);
- pursuant to Article 55(2)(c) of the ECSC Treaty, to a draft Commission Decision concerning studies into problems of derelict and despoiled land from the coal and steel industries;
- pursuant to Article 56(2(a) of the ECSC Treaty, to
 - = Südwestdeutsche Landesbank, Federal Republic of Germany
 - = Marley Kanto Ltd., United Kingdom.

Appointments

The Council replaced a member and an alternate member of the Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work for the remainder of their terms of office, which run until 25 March 1993.
