

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

10394/91 (Presse 250)

1551st Council meeting

- GENERAL AFFAIRS -

Brussels, 23 December 1991

President: Mrs Yvonne VAN ROOY
Minister for Foreign Trade
of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

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

Belgium:

Mr Robert URBAIN	Minister for Foreign Trade
Mr Paul DE KEERSMAEKER	State Secretary for European Affairs and Agriculture

Denmark:

Mr Laurits TØRNAES	Minister for Agriculture
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Germany:

Mr Jürgen MOELLEMANN	Federal Minister for Economic Affairs
Mr Ignaz KIECHLE	Federal Minister for Food, Agriculture and Forestry
Mr Walter KITTEL	State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Forestry

Greece:

Mr Sotirios HATZIGAKIS	Minister for Agriculture
Mr G. THEOPHANOUS	Secretary-General at the Ministry of Economic Affairs

Spain:

Mr José Claudio ARANZADI	Minister for Industry and Energy
Mr Pedro SOLBES MIRA	Minister for Agriculture

France:

Mr Louis MERMAZ	Minister for Agriculture and Forestry
Mr Dominique STRAUSS-KAHN	Minister in the Office of the Minister for Industry and Foreign Trade
Mr Jean-Noël JEANNENEY	State Secretary for Foreign Trade

Ireland:

Mr Desmond O'MALLEY	Minister for Industry and Commerce
Mr Michael WOODS	Minister for Agriculture and Food

Italy:

Mr Vito LATTANZIO	Minister for Foreign Trade
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Luxembourg:

Mr René STEICHEN	Minister for Agriculture
Mr Georges WOHLFART	State Secretary for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade

Netherlands:

Mrs Yvonne van ROOY	Minister for Foreign Trade
Mr Piet BUKMAN	Minister for Agriculture, Nature Conservation and Fisheries

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Portugal:

Mr Fernando FARIA DE OLIVEIRA

Minister for Trade and Tourism

Mr Arlindo CUNHA

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and
Food

United Kingdom:

Mr Peter LILLEY

Secretary of State for Trade and
Industry

Mr John Selwyn GUMMER

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and
Food

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Commission:

Mr Frans H.J.J. ANDRIESSEN

Vice-President

Mr Ray MAC SHARRY

Member

URUGUAY ROUND: GENERAL AFFAIRS COMMUNIQUE

- Recalling the conclusions of the European Council meeting in Maastricht, the Council stressed the importance of a successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round. A further opening up of markets and improvement of the rules and disciplines governing world trade are an indispensable element in the strategy to counter the threat of world economic recession. More specifically, the need for success is addressed by the beneficial effects an opening up of world trade will have on those countries that are in the process of transforming their economies in a more market-oriented direction.

- The Council discussed the "Dunkel paper" on the basis of a first evaluation by the Commission. The Council shared the view of the Commission that at this stage a final assessment was premature. More time was needed to study the extensive and complicated text.

- Moreover, the Council noted that a final assessment of the "Dunkel paper" was only possible after, and would be influenced by, the pending outcome of the outstanding specific negotiations provided for in and resulting from the "Dunkel paper".

- The Council's concerns focussed on the proposed result for agriculture. Insofar as the "Dunkel paper" called into question the foundations of the Community's agricultural policy, the paper was not acceptable and therefore had to be modified. Since the Community had embarked upon a far-reaching process of reform of its agricultural policy, the proposed text was evaluated more specifically in this light.

- While recognizing that the paper contained some positive elements as it stood, the Council was of the opinion that the paper was not balanced as a whole and therefore invited the Commission to negotiate further necessary improvements to it.

- Also, genuine efforts from some major trading partners, especially the United States and Japan, should be obtained to ensure increased mutual benefits to all participants.

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MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Relations with Central and East European countries

- Albania and the Baltic States: economic aid

Pursuant to the conclusions of principle adopted at its September meeting, the Council, on the basis of a Commission proposal and following a favourable Opinion from the European Parliament, adopted the Regulation on the extension of the PHARE programme to Albania and the Baltic States.

- Albania and the Baltic States: food aid

The Council adopted the Regulations on emergency food aid to help Albania (ECU 35 million) and the Baltic States (ECU 45 million).

This Community action is intended, without prejudice to contributions by the other member countries of the G-24, to cover 50% of the essential and urgent aid requirements of Albania and the Baltic States between now and the next harvest. The Community will give consideration in the coming months to a second action to cover remaining requirements.

- Trade policy

The Council adopted the Regulation amending Regulations (EEC) No 3420/83, No 288/82 and No 1765/82 (quantitative restrictions). The aim of this Regulation is to:

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- = eliminate the specific quantitative restrictions and suspend the non-specific restrictions affecting Albania and the Baltic States;
- = extend for 1992 suspension of the quantitative restrictions affecting the Central and East European countries.

- GSP 1992

The Council adopted a Regulation amending for 1992 the management of the tariff quotas and fixed amounts for textile products referred to in Regulation No 3832/90 to help Czechoslovakia, Poland and Hungary.

Since the preferential system provided for by the European Association Agreements with these three countries is to be implemented through interim agreements from a date to be determined in 1992, the aforementioned amendment is designed to avoid any cumulation of these preferential advantages with those provided for in the GSP Regulation.

Environment

Pursuant to the agreement reached on 1 October 1991, the Council adopted the Directive harmonizing and rationalizing reports on the implementation of certain Directives relating to the environment (see Press Release 8086/91 Presse 153).

General product safety

Pursuant to the agreement reached on 15 October 1991, the Council adopted its common position on the text of a Council Directive on general product safety (see Press Release 8530/91 Presse 165).

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Relations with the Faroe Islands

The Council adopted a Regulation opening and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas and ceilings and establishing Community surveillance for certain fish and fishery products originating in the Faroe Islands (1992).

Procedure for co-operation with the European Parliament

The Council decided to respond favourably to the European Parliament's request for a one-month extension of the period at its disposal for giving an opinion on the common positions adopted by the Council concerning:

- the wholesale distribution of medicinal products for human use,
- the advertising of medicinal products for human use,
- the classification for the supply of medicinal products for human use,
- the labelling of medicinal products for human use and package leaflets.

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BRUXELLES, LE 24 DECEMBRE 1991

NOTE BIO (91)414 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
CC AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE-PAROLE

CONSEIL AFFAIRES GENERALES (NICO WEGTER)

LES MINISTRES DU COMMERCE EXTERIEUR ACCOMPAGNES PAR LEUR COLLEGUES MINISTRES DE L AGRICULTURE SE SONT RENCONTRES HIER APRES-MIDI A BRUXELLES POUR DISCUTER L ETAT DES NEGOCIATIONS DE L URUGUAY ROUND

EN EFFET, LEUR RENCONTRE S EST DEROULEE PENDANT TOUTE L APRES-MIDI D UNE FACON INFORMELLE, C EST-A-DIRE A L OCCASION D UN DEJEUNER OU LA COMMISSION A DONNE UNE PREMIERE APPRECIATION DU RAPPORT DU DIRECTEUR GENERAL DUNKEL. CE DERNIER DOCUMENT AYANT ETE PRESENTE A GENEVE LE 20/12/91

SUITE A CE DEJEUNER PROLONGE, LES MINISTRES SE SONT REUNIS FORMELLEMENT POUR ADOPTER LES CONCLUSIONS CONJOINTES ET QUI SONT ANNEEXES A CE DOCUMENT

SUITE A CETTE BREVE REUNION DU CONSEIL, LA PRESIDENCE (MME VAN ROOY) ET LE VICE-PRESIDENT ANDRIESEN ONT DONNE UNE CONFERENCE DE PRESSE DE CETTE CONFERENCE LES REMARQUES SUIVANTES MERITENT D ETRE RAPPELEES

- MME VAN ROOY

PAS ENCORE UN JUGEMENT DEFINITIF RELATIF AU DOCUMENT DUNKEL PUISQU IL FAUT L ETUDIER ENCORE D UNE FACON PLUS APPROFONDIE ET IL FAUT PRENDRE EN COMPTE QUE DES NEGOCIATIONS SPECIFIQUES SE PROLONGERONT EN TOUT CAS JUSQU A FIN FEVRIER EN CE QUI CONCERNE 2 SECTEURS SPECIFIQUES A SAVOIR L ACCES AUX MARCHES ET SERVICES

LA PREMIERE APPRECIATION DU RAPPORT DUNKEL CONSTATE DES POINTS POSITIFS ET NEGATIFS MAIS LE MEME DOCUMENT N EST CERTAINEMENT PAS UN DOCUMENT A PRENDRE OU A LAISSER AU CONTRAIRE, LE DOCUMENT

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DOIT ETRE AMELIORE ET C'EST POUR CETTE RAISON QUE LA COMMISSION

DOIT POURSUIVRE LES NEGOCIATIONS

CES AMELIORATIONS SONT NOTAMMENT NECESSAIRES DANS LE DOMAINE DE L'AGRICULTURE

A COTE DES NEGOCIATIONS MULTILATERALES, IL Y A LIEU DE POURSUIVRE LES CONTACTS AVEC LES AMERICAINS

LA COMMUNAUTE A DES DIFFICULTES MAJEURES AVEC LE CHAPITRE AGRICOLE NOTAMMENT POUR LES SUJETS SUIVANT :

- L'AMPLEUR DU GREEN BOX
- LA REDUCTION EN VOLUME ET EN TERMES BUDGETAIRES DE SUBVENTIONS A L'EXPORTATION
- LE REEQUILIBRAGE
- PEACE CLAUSE.

POUR POUVOIR POURSUIVRE LES NEGOCIATIONS DANS LE DOMAINE AGRICOLE, LA COMMISSION N'A PAS BESOIN D'UN NOUVEAU MANDAT DU CONSEIL, LE MANDAT EXISTANT ET QUI DATE D'OCTOBRE 88 ETANT ADEQUAT

- LE VICE-PRESIDENT ANDRIESEN

IL Y A LIEU DE DISCUTER LE CHAPITRE AGRICOLE DU RAPPORT DUNKEL MAIS AUSSI D'AUTRES CHAPITRES DEVRAIENT POUVOIR ETRE L'OBJET DE NOUVELLES DISCUSSIONS

NOUS COMPTONS SUR UNE ATTITUDE POSITIVE DES PARTIES CONTRACTANTES AFIN D'ARRIVER A UNE SOLUTION FINALE EQUILIBREE.

EN CE QUI CONCERNE D'AUTRES SECTEURS QUE L'AGRICULTURE, LA COMMUNAUTE EST 'ASSEZ SATISFAITE' EN CE QUI CONCERNE LE TEXTILE, LE REGLEMENT DES DIFFERENDS ET LA PROPRIETE INTELLECTUELLE.

PAR CONTRE, LE SECTEUR DES SUBVENTIONS CONSTITUE UN EXEMPLE OU LA COMMISSION MAINTIEN DES RESERVES DE FOND VIS-A-VIS DE LA REDACTION DU TEXTE COMME PROPOSE PAR M. DUNKEL.

S'AGISSANT DES DISCUSSIONS SUR L'AGRICULTURE, LES AUTRES PARTIES CONTRACTANTES DOIVENT COMPRENDRE QUE LE BON RESPECT DES PRINCIPES DE LA PAC N'EST PAS SEULEMENT EXIGE PAR UN ETAT MEMBRE MAIS REFLETE LA POSITION DE TOUTE LA COMMUNAUTE. LA SPECIFICITE DE L'AGRICULTURE EUROPEENNE NE PEUT PAS ETRE MISE EN CAUSE

AMITIES
N WEGTER

ANNEXE NOTE BIO 414(91)

GENERAL COUNCIL- 23 DECEMBER 1991

- RECALLING THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL MEETING IN MAASTRICHT, THE COUNCIL STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF THE URUGUAY ROUND. A FURTHER OPENING UP OF MARKETS AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE RULES AND DISCIPLINES GOVERNING WORLD TRADE ARE AN INDISPENSABLE ELEMENT IN THE STRATEGY TO REMEDY THE THREAT OF WORLD ECONOMIC RECESSION. MORE SPECIFICALLY THE NEED FOR SHOPS IS APPREASSED BY THE BENEFICIAL EFFECTS AN OPENING UP OF WORLD TRADE WILL HAVE ON THOSE COUNTRIES THAT ARE IN THE PROCESS OF TRANSFORMING THEIR ECONOMIES INTO A MORE MARKET ORIENTED DIRECTION.

- THE COUNCIL DISCUSSED THE 'DUNKEL PAPER' ON THE BASIS OF A FIRST EVALUATION BY THE COMMISSION. THE COUNCIL SHAPED THE VIEW OF THE COMMISSION THAT AT THIS STAGE A FINAL ASSESSMENT IS PREMATURE. MORE TIME IS NEEDED TO STUDY THE EXTENSIVE AND COMPLICATED TEXT

- MOREOVER THE COUNCIL NOTED THAT A FINAL ASSESSMENT OF THE 'DUNKEL PAPER' IS ONLY POSSIBLE AFTER, AND WILL BE INFLUENCED BY, THE PENDING OUTCOME OF THE OUTSTANDING SPECIFIC NEGOTIATIONS PLANNED FOR AND RESULTING FROM THE 'DUNKEL PAPER'

- THE COUNCIL'S CONCERNS FOCUSED ON THE PROPOSED RESULT ON AGRICULTURE. INSOFAR AS THE 'DUNKEL PAPER' CALLS INTO QUESTION THE FOUNDATION OF THE COMMUNITY'S AGRICULTURAL POLICY, THE PAPER IS NOT ACCEPTABLE AND THEREFORE HAS TO BE MODIFIED. SINCE THE COMMUNITY HAS EMBARKED UPON A FAR-REACHING REFORM PROCESS OF ITS AGRICULTURE POLICY, THE PROPOSED TEXT WAS IN PARTICULAR EVALUATED IN THIS LIGHT

- ALTHOUGH THE COUNCIL RECOGNIZED THAT THE PAPER CONTAINS SOME POSITIVE ELEMENTS AS IT STANDS NOW, THE COUNCIL IS OF THE OPINION

THAT THE PAPER IS NOT BALANCED IN TOTAL AND THEREFORE INVITES THE COMMISSION TO NEGOTIATE FURTHER NECESSARY IMPROVEMENTS TO IT

ALSO GENUINE EFFORTS FROM SOME MAJOR TRADING PARTNERS, ESPECIALLY US AND JAPAN, SHOULD BE OBTAINED TO ENSURE MUTUAL ADVANTAGES AND TO INCREASE BENEFITS TO ALL PARTICIPANTS

SENT BY SPP AT TUE DEC 24 12 47 33 MET 1991

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