

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

1521st meeting of the Council

- Agriculture -

Luxembourg, 21-22 October 1991

President: Mr. Piet Bukman

Minister for Agriculture, Nature Conservation and Fisheries, The Netherlands

The official press release was unavailable. A summary of the meeting has been reproduced from the Bulletin of the European Communities, No. 10-1991.

1521st meeting

1.7.9. Agriculture (Luxembourg, 21 and 22 October).

- Previous meeting: Bull. EC 9-1991, point 1.7.4

President: Mr Bukman, Dutch Minister for Agriculture, Nature Conservation and Fisheries.

Commission: Mr Mac Sharry

Main items

Protection of calves and pigs kept in intensive farming systems: proposals for Directives agreed (→ points 1.2.113 and 1.2.114).

Protection of animals during transport: proposal for a Directive agreed (→ point 1.2.112).

Other business

Support system for oilseed producers: guidelines agreed.

Development and future of the common agricultural policy: exchange of views.

Uruguay Round — agriculture: exchange of views.

Premium for suckler cows: proposal for a Regulation examined.

Live animals

1.2.112. Proposal for a Council Directive on the protection of animals during transport.

- Reference: White Paper on completing the internal market: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Documents series: COM(85) 310; Bull. EC 6-1985, points 1.3.1 to 1.3.9
- Commission proposal: OJ C 214, 21.8.1989; COM(89) 322; Bull. EC 6-1989, points 2.1.161
- Economic and Social Committee opinion: OJ C 53, 5.3.1990; Bull. EC 11-1989, point 2.1.159
- Parliament opinion: OJ C 113, 7.5.1990; Bull. EC 4-1991, point 1.1.126

- Amended Commission proposal: OJ C 154, 23.6.1990; COM(90) 238; Bull. EC 6-1990, point 1.3.201

Agreed by the Council on 21 October. The purpose of the proposal, which is provided for in the White Paper, is to guarantee the welfare of animals during transport and to lay down the standards which will apply in this respect to all transport of animals on Community territory and during importation from third countries. In particular it makes provision for the abolition of systematic inspections at the Community's internal borders, and for the extension of the inspections at external borders to checks on compliance with welfare requirements during transport.

1.2.113. Proposal for a Council Directive concerning minimum standards for the protection of pigs kept in intensive farming systems.

- Commission proposal: OJ C 214, 21.8.1989; COM(89) 115; Bull. EC 6-1989, points 2.1.160
- Economic and Social Committee opinion: OJ C 62, 12.3.1990; Bull. EC 12-1989, point 2.1.199
- Parliament opinion: OJ C 113, 7.5.1990; Bull. EC 4-1990, point 1.1.123
- Amended Commission proposal: OJ C 153, 22.6.1990; COM(90) 239; Bull. EC 6-1990, point 1.3.202

Agreed by the Council on 21 October. Provides for the introduction of certain requirements regarding the space available for keeping pigs either in groups or in individual boxes to ensure a minimum of well-being for the animals.

1.2.114. Proposal for a Council Directive concerning minimum standards for the protection of calves kept in intensive farming systems.

- Commission proposal: OJ C 214, 21.8.1989; COM(89) 114; Bull. EC 6-1989, points 2.1.160
- Economic and Social Committee opinion: OJ C 62, 12.3.1990; Bull. EC 12-1989, point 2.1.199
- Parliament opinion: OJ C 113, 7.5.1990; Bull. EC 4-1990, point 1.1.124
- Amended Commission proposal: OJ C 154, 22.6.1990; COM(90) 237; Bull. EC 6-1990, point 1.3.200

Agreed by the Council on 21 October. Provides for the introduction of certain requirements regarding the space available for keeping calves either in groups or in individual boxes to ensure a minimum of well-being for the animals.

Brussels, 18 October 1991

NOTE BIO (91) 329 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
CC.: AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE PAROLE

433

Council of Agricultural Ministers 21/22 October Luxembourg
(G. Kiely)

The Council of Agricultural Ministers will commence on Monday at 15.00h and continue on Tuesday - probably late into the evening.

1. Oilseeds:-

The main item for discussion will be the introduction of a support regime for oilseeds. The Commission presented its proposals on this subject in July and the Council undertook to take the necessary decision by October 31.

The proposal is to adapt the oilseed support regime to conform with the conclusions of the soya panel.

The main elements of the proposal are:-

- the introduction of a regionalised compensatory payment paid direct to the producers on a per hectare basis.
- the new regime will apply for the first time to the 1992 harvest.
- the regionalised per hectare compensatory payments will be calculated in reference to cereal yields
- a franchise of 8% will apply whereby the first 8% of fluctuation in the observed reference price will not impact on the level of compensation per hectare.

2. CAP Reform:-

It is not intended to have a long discussion on this point but rather to outline how it is intended to proceed with the work. The Council will probably decide to establish working groups for each sector to examine the detailed proposals from the Commission (cereals, beef and sheepmeat are already available).

3. Imports of rice

Special import arrangements for Basmati rice were introduced in December 1986 for a five year period and apply to the import of 10,000 tonnes (husked equivalent) of rice annually with a reduced levy of 25%, from Pakistan and India.

Basmati rice is produced exclusively in and is of major importance to regions in India and Pakistan which do not have many alternative crops.

It is proposed to extend the present arrangements for a further five year period.

4. GATT:-

This item is placed on the agenda of every Agricultural Council to ensure that Ministers are fully informed of developments.

5. Proposal to establish minimum standards for the protection of calves in intensive farming systems.

The Commission proposal for a regulation was sent to the Council in June 1989 and has as its objective the establishment of common housing standards and conditions for calves.

As of 1 January 1993 new installations for calves must have an area of at least 1.5 m² when housed in groups.

The duration of use of existing installations shall be determined on the basis of inspection and in any case no later than 31 December 2002.

The proposal also stipulates that temperature humidity, ventilation etc must be kept at levels which are not harmful to calves and that they must not be kept permanently in darkness i.e. natural light or at least 8 hours of artificial light.

6. Proposal to establish minimum standards for pig rearing in intensive systems.

This proposal is aimed at the promotion of animal welfare and avoiding competitive distortions in the single market.

It is proposed to set minima area requirements for pigs, which would apply to new installations with effect from 1 January 1993, from 1 January 1999 to all installations to abolish tethering of sows, with the possibility of certain derogations.

The proposal also set out general conditions to ensure that the animals environment is not a cause of stress e.g. temperature, ventilation etc.

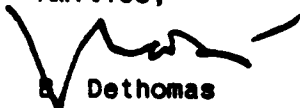
7. Proposal on the protection of animals during transport:-

This proposal is aimed at improving current rules regarding feeding and watering intervals and tightening up controls to ensure that these requirements are respected.

8. Beef Cow Premium:-

The Council will be asked to agree to the Commission proposal to increase the maximum eligible premium for suckler (beef) cows from 65 to 85 ecu/head, as a once off, exceptional measure for 1991 in view of the difficult situation being experienced by beef producers. The Community's contribution for 1991 to this measure would be 50 ecu/head (compared to 40 ecu/head more) except in the case of Ireland, Northern Ireland and Greece.

Amitiés,



B. Dethomas

FROM: MCII SAFE STORE AND FORWARD SERVICE
 TO: DELAGATION OF EUROPEAN C
 2024291766

MESSAGE ID: WRUE0187

INBOUND MESSAGE RECEIVED ON OCT 22 AT 09:08 [ASSIGNED// WRUE0187]
 21877 COMEU B
 COMPUTER MESSAGE :

FROM : C.E.C. - G.P.P.
 TO : C.E. WASHINGTON - WASHINGTON
 REF : 1295064941 - 22-10-1991 13:48

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LUXEMBOURG, LE 22 OCTOBRE 1991.

NOTE BIO (91) 329 (SUITE 1) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
 CC. AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE-PAROLE

COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS
 LUXEMBOURG, 21 OCTOBER 1991 (G. KIELY)

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OILSEEDS:

THE COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS OPENED ON THE ADAPTATION OF THE OILSEED SUPPORT REGIME TO BRING IT INTO LINE WITH THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE GATT 'SOYA PANEL'.

THE MAIN ISSUES OF CONTENTION ARE:

- SHOULD REGIONALIZATION TAKE PLACE ON THE BASIS OF CEREAL YIELD OR OILSEED YIELD - SOME MINISTERS SUPPORT THE USE OF CEREAL YIELDS, WHILE OTHERS FAVOUR OILSEED YIELDS.
- LINKED TO THE ABOVE IS THE QUESTION OF HOW TO CALCULATE THE AID PER HECTARE FOR OILSEEDS I.E. BASED ON CEREAL YIELDS OR OILSEED YIELDS.
- IS A MAXIMUM GUARANTEED ACREAGE NECESSARY
- SOME MINISTERS SUPPORT A HIGHER OILSEED CEREAL PRICE

RATIO THAN THAT PROPOSED (2.1.1)

- SOME ARGUE THAT THE FRANCHISE OF 8 0/0 IS TOO HIGH AND WHATEVER FRANCHISE IS CHOSEN DLR/ECU EXCHANGE RATE FLUCTUATIONS SHOULD BE EXCLUDED
- TWO MINISTERS WANT 'CATCH CROP' OILSEEDS TO BENEFIT FROM AID I.E. WHERE TWO CROPS ARE PRODUCED ON THE SAME LAND EACH YEAR
- ALL MINISTERS EMPHASISED THAT WHATEVER IS DECIDED WILL NOT PREJUDICE THE FINAL OUTCOME ON CAP REFORM

IN RESPONSE TO THE MINISTERS OBSERVATIONS MR MAC SHARRY SAID THAT A CONCLUSION WAS URGENT IN VIEW OF OUR INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS. WHILE HE ACCEPTED THAT A FINAL DECISION CANNOT BE TAKEN AT THIS COUNCIL. (AS THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT HAS NOT GIVEN A DECISION) HE HOPED THAT THE COUNCIL WOULD BRING THE DISCUSSION TO A STAGE WHERE THE MATTER COULD BE CONCLUDED BY TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS AND ADOPTED BY A LATER COUNCIL.

CAP REFORM:-

THE PRESIDENCY WANTED TO AVOID AN IN DEPTH DISCUSSION ON THIS SUBJECT, BUT GAVE MINISTERS AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE ANY SUPPLEMENTARY POINTS TO THOSE MADE AT PREVIOUS COUNCILS. OF PARTICULAR NOTE WERE THOSE INTERVENTIONS BY THE GERMAN AND FRENCH MINISTERS WHO SUMMARISED THEIR VIEWS ON HOW THEY THOUGHT THE REFORM SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT. BASICALLY THEY BELIEVED THAT THERE WOULD HAVE TO BE A COMBINATION OF PRICE AND VOLUME CONTROL MEASURES. THE PRICE REDUCTIONS SHOULD BE INTRODUCED OVER A LONGER PERIOD, FULL COMPENSATION WOULD BE NECESSARY, AND

COMMUNITY PREFERENCE MUST BE RESPECTED, ESPECIALLY REFERRING TO THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSAL ON REBALANCING I.E. INCREASED PROTECTION FOR SOME PRODUCTS (OILSEEDS AND CEREAL SUBSTITUTES) IN RETURN FOR A REDUCTION IN PROTECTION IN OTHER AREAS.

CONCLUDING THE DISCUSSION MR MAC SHARRY EMPHASISED THAT FULL COMPENSATION WAS AVAILABLE, THAT REBALANCING WOULD CONTINUE TO BE PART OF THE COMMUNITY'S NEGOTIATING POSITION AND THAT IT IS IN THE PRODUCERS' INTEREST THAT REFORM IS IMPLEMENTED RAPIDLY - EVEN FASTER THAN THE THREE YEARS PROPOSED, HE BELIEVED:

WORKING GROUPS WILL NOW EXAMINE THE LEGAL TEXTS OF THE PROPOSALS, PARTICULARLY CEREALS AND THE COUNCIL WILL RESUME DISCUSSION IN NOVEMBER.

PROTECTION OF ANIMALS DURING TRANSPORT:

THE COUNCIL REACHED A POLITICAL AGREEMENT ON THE PROTECTION OF ANIMALS DURING TRANSPORT, WITH SOME TECHNICAL POINTS TO BE RESOLVED AT COREPER. THE REGULATION APPLIES TO ANIMALS WHETHER THEY ARE FOR SLAUGHTER OR OTHER USE. DETAILED REGULATIONS ESTABLISHING LIMITS ON THE DURATION OF JOURNEYS WITHOUT FOOD, WATER AND REST WILL BE PUT FORWARD BY THE COMMISSION BEFORE JULY 1992.

A.O.B..

1. AID FOR GRAPE PRODUCERS:-

ITALY REQUESTED THE AGREEMENT OF THE COMMISSION TO AID (NATIONAL) OF 7.5 B.LIRE FOR PRODUCERS OF TABLE GRAPES DUE TO THE FACT THAT THEY WILL NOW BE USED FOR WINE, AS RIPENING HAS BEEN DELAYED DUE TO HEAVY RAINS.

THE COMMISSION WILL EXAMINE THE PROPOSAL WHEN ITALY SUPPLIES ALL THE DETAILS.

2. SHEEPMEAT IMPORTS:

THE FRENCH MINISTER COMPLAINED ABOUT THE LEVEL OF THIRD COUNTRIES' SHEEPMEAT IMPORTS INTO FRANCE DURING 1991 - 17,000 TONNES TO DATE - ESPECIALLY FROM NEW ZEALAND.

MR MAC SHARRY POINTED OUT THEY HAD SOUGHT AN EXTENSION FROM NEW ZEALAND FOR THE TREATMENT OF FRANCE AS A SENSITIVE ZONE FOR A FURTHER TWO YEARS BUT NEW ZEALAND HAD REFUSED. THE COMMISSION ARE REQUESTING DATA FROM NEW ZEALAND ON ITS EXPORT PLANS AND WILL URGE NEW ZEALAND TO EXPORT IN A MANNER WHICH WILL NOT CAUSE SERIOUS PROBLEMS ON THE MARKET.

3. DROUGHT IN THE AZORES:

THE PORTUGUESE MINISTERS REQUESTED ASSISTANCE FOR FARMERS IN THE AZORES WHO HAVE HAD THEIR LIVELIHOODS THREATENED DUE TO DROUGHT. MR MAC SHARRY INDICATED THAT HE WAS PREPARED TO EXAMINE WHAT COULD BE DONE FOR THESE FARMERS IN THE FORM OF STRUCTURAL MEASURES.

4. FOOD TRANSPORT PROBLEMS IN GREECE:-

THE GREEK MINISTERS REQUESTED ASSISTANCE TO HELP PRODUCERS OVERCOME THE PROBLEMS CAUSED BY THE SITUATION IN YUGOSLAVIA, WHICH IS CAUSING DIFFICULTIES IN GETTING GREEK FRESH PRODUCE TO COMMUNITY MARKETS - HAVE TO CHOOSE ALTERNATIVE, SLOWER AND MORE EXPENSIVE MEANS. MR MAC SHARRY WILL EXAMINE THE PROBLEM.

5. BEEF COW PREMIUM:

MR MAC SHARRY PRESENTED THE COMMISSION PROPOSAL TO INCREASE THE MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE PREMIUM ON A 'ONCE-OFF- BASIS FOR 1991 FROM 65 ECU TO 85 ECU, INCLUDING AN INCREASE IN THE COMMISSION CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THE MEASURE FROM 40 ECU TO 50 ECU/HEAD. THE PROPOSAL WAS MADE TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE DIFFICULT SITUATION FOR BEEF PRODUCERS AND ESPECIALLY FOR THOSE WITH SUCKLER COW HERDS WHO TEND TO BE EXTENSIVE, HAVE LITTLE ALTERNATIVE POSSIBILITIES AND TEND TO BE CONCENTRATED IN LESS FAVOURED REGIONS.

WHILE THERE WAS UNANIMOUS ACCEPTANCE OF THE MERIT OF THE MEASURE A FEW MINISTERS FELT THAT SOMETHING MORE FUNDAMENTAL NEEDED TO BE DONE IN THE BEEF SECTOR, TO LIMIT THE GROWTH IN SURPLUSES IT WAS ALSO SUGGESTED THAT AN ADJUSTMENT TO THE 'SINGLE BEEF PREMIUM' SHOULD BE CONSIDERED.

MR. MAC SHARRY POINTED OUT THAT THE FUNDAMENTAL REFORM OF THE BEEF REGIME SOME MINISTERS HAD REQUESTED WAS ON THE TABLE AND WITH THE SUPPORT OF MANY MINISTERS URGED THE COUNCIL TO GIVE ITS POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR THE SUCKLER COW PREMIUM (CANNOT BE OFFICIALLY ADOPTED UNTIL THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT GIVE A DECISION). THE COUNCIL WILL CONSIDER THE MATTER AGAIN TOMORROW (TUESDAY 22 OCTOBER).

REGARDS,

B. DETHOMAS

SENT BY SPP AT : TUE OCT 22 13:08:18 CET 1991

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FROM: MCII SAFE STORE AND FORWARD SERVICE
TO: DELAGATION OF EUROPEAN C
2024291766

MESSAGE ID: WRUE0194

INBOUND MESSAGE RECEIVED ON OCT 23 AT 10:56 [ASSIGNED// WRUE0194]
21877F COMEU B
COMPUTER MESSAGE :

FROM : C.E.C. - G.P.P.
TO : C.E. WASHINGTON - WASHINGTON
REF : 1296068303 - 23-10-1991 15:45

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BRUSSELS, 23 OCTOBER 1991

NOTE BIO (91) 329 (SUITE 2 ET FIN) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
CC.: AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE PAROLE

COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS, 22 OCTOBER, LUXEMBOURG
(G. KIELY)

ANIMAL WELFARE:

THE COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS ADOPTED, BY QUALIFIED MAJORITY TWO PROPOSALS AIMED AT IMPROVING WELFARE OF ANIMALS IN INTENSIVE PRODUCTION SYSTEMS.

IN THE CASE OF VEAL PRODUCTION, PRODUCERS MAY CONTINUE TO USE INDIVIDUAL BOXES, BUT SUBJECT TO CERTAIN STIPULATIONS, PARTICULARLY THAT THE MINIMUM WIDTH MUST BE 90 CM +/- 10 CMS OR ELSE 0.8 TIMES THE WITHER (SHOULDER) HEIGHT, I.E. THE BOXES WOULD BE ENLARGED AS THE ANIMAL GROWS.
THIS STIPULATION APPLIES TO ALL NEW HOUSES OR THOSE READAPTED AFTER 1 JANUARY 1994 AND ON ALL HOUSES FROM 1 JANUARY 2004.
THE COMMISSION WILL COME FORWARD WITH A REPORT, WHICH AMONG OTHER ISSUES WILL ANALYSE THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF ABOLISHING VEAL BOXES IN 1996.

IN THE CASE OF PIGS THE MINIMUM SPACE REQUIREMENT PER PIG HAS BEEN SET OUT AND WILL APPLY TO ALL NEW HOUSES FROM 1 JANUARY 1994 AND TO ALL HOUSES FROM 1 JANUARY 1998. FARMERS MAY CONTINUE TO USE TETHERS ON SOWS UP TO THE YEAR 2004.

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UNDER BOTH OF THOSE REGULATIONS, MEMBER STATES MAY APPLY MORE STRICT STANDARDS.

BEEF COW PREMIUM:

FOLLOWING A SECOND DISCUSSION ON THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSAL TO INCREASE THE MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE PREMIUM PER SUCKLER COW TO 85 ECU, FROM 65, IT IS CLEAR THAT THERE IS A QUALIFIED MAJORITY IN FAVOUR OF THE PROPOSAL. HOWEVER COUNCIL COULD NOT ADOPT THE MEASURE AS PARLIAMENT HAS NOT YET GIVEN ITS OPINION.

OILSEEDS:

FOLLOWING THE DISCUSSION ON MONDAY, THE PRESIDENCY IN CONSULTATION WITH THE COMMISSION DRAFTED A COMPROMISE FOR THE ADAPTATION OF THE OILSEED REGIME TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE SOYA PANEL.

IN SUMMARY THE COMPROMISE:

- ASSURED MINISTERS THAT ANY DECISION ON THE REGIME WOULD NOT PREJUDICE FUTURE REFORM DISCUSSIONS
- RELAXED THE CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING REGIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF REGIONALISED COMPENSATION PER HECTARE, IN PARTICULAR AND ALLOWS MEMBER STATES TO USE CEREAL OR OILSEED YIELDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF REGIONALISATION ALLOWING MEMBER STATES TO USE OILSEED OR CEREAL YIELD DATA
- INCLUDED 'CATCH' (SECOND) CROPS AS ELIGIBLE FOR AID
- ALLOWED THE USE OF FARM SOWN SEEDS, PROVIDED IT MEETS THE NECESSARY QUALITY CRITERIA
- AN ADAPTATION OF THE SYSTEM FOR SPAIN AND PORTUGAL.

FOLLOWING A DISCUSSION IN COUNCIL, WHILE MANY OF THE MINISTERS' DIFFICULTIES HAD BEEN OVERCOME, A NUMBER OF MINISTERS INSISTED ON FURTHER MODIFICATION.

IN RESPONSE MR MAC SHARRY LISTED A NUMBER OF MINISTERS' DEMANDS WHICH HE SAID, AS FAR AS HE WAS CONCERNED, WERE NOT NEGOTIABLE.

THE PRESIDENCY IN CONSULTATION WITH THE COMMISSION THEN PUT FORWARD A DOCUMENT CLARIFYING A NUMBER OF POINTS ABOUT WHICH THERE SEEMED TO BE SOME CONFUSION ON THE PART OF SOME MINISTERS.

ON THE BASIS OF THIS ALL OF THE MINISTERS WERE PREPARED TO ACCEPT THE PRESIDENCY COMPROMISE (ITALY HAD A SCRUTINY RESERVE ON AN ASPECT OF THE COMPROMISE RELATING TO THE MGA).

REGARDS,
B. DETHOMAS

SENT BY SPP AT : WED OCT 23 15:10:22 CET 1991