

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

11959/81 (Presse 172)

749th meeting of the Council

- Budget -

Brussels, 21 December 1981

President: Mr Nicholas RIDLEY,
Financial Secretary to the Treasury
of the United Kingdom

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

Belgium:

Mr Philippe MAYSTADT
Minister for the Budget

Denmark:

Mr Otto MØLLER
State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Germany:

Mr Horst SCHULMANN
State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Finance

Greece:

Mr Antoine EXARCHOS
Deputy Permanent Representative

France:

Mr André CHANDERNAGOR
Minister attached to the
Foreign Secretary,
responsible for European
Affairs

Ireland:

Mr Barry DESMOND
Minister of State,
Ministry of Finance

Italy:

Mr Carlo FRACANZANI
State Secretary,
Ministry of the Treasury

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean MISCHO
Deputy Permanent Representative

Netherlands:

Mr H. van den BROEK
State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr Nicholas RIDLEY
Financial Secretary to the
Treasury

Mr Jock BRUCE-GARDYNE
Minister of State to the
Treasury

Commission:

Mr Christopher TUGENDHAT
Vice-President

1982 BUDGET

The Council discussed the draft general budget of the European Communities for the financial year 1982 as amended and modified by the European Parliament at its second reading on 17 December 1981.

At the close of its discussions it agreed to send a letter to the President of the European Parliament drawing the Parliament's attention to the consequences for the Community if the 1982 budget were adopted in the state and forms in which it had been approved.

The Council considered that, as regards the classification of expenditure, a consensus was essential and that the classification could not be altered simply because a single branch of the budget authority wanted to do so. It referred to the procedural proposal it had submitted to the Parliament in this connection and which the latter had accepted.

The Council also pointed out that an agreement should be reached between the two Institutions on the new rates for the level of commitment appropriations and payment appropriations.

The Council therefore called upon the President of the European Parliament to defer the adoption of the 1982 budget until agreement had been reached on the determination of new rates, taking into account the classification of the expenditure linked with those rates and without prejudice to the other contentious items which would have to be the subject of a joint examination at a later date.

Lastly, the Council stated its readiness to hold constructive discussions with the European Parliament on these matters.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Commercial policy and customs union

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities:

- the Regulations:

= postponing the revision dates for the common rules on imports;

= opening, allocating and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas for prepared or preserved sardines falling within subheading 16.04 D of the Common Customs Tariff and originating in Morocco or Tunisia;

- the Decision authorizing prolongation or tacit renewal of certain Trade Agreements concluded between the Member States and third countries.

Food aid

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation on the granting of exceptional food aid to the least-developed countries (see Press Release 10431/81 (Presse 138) - page 8 "Plan of action to combat hunger in the world" - Development Co-operation Council on 3 November 1981).

The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities:

- the Decision concluding the Convention between the EEC and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNWRA) on aid to refugees in the Middle East;

- the Regulation on the supply of sugar to UNWRA as food aid.

Relations with the ACP States

The Council signified its agreement to the draft Decision of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers approving the request by Antigua and Barbuda, which has been independent since 1 November 1981, to accede as 63rd State to the second ACP-EEC Convention signed in Lomé on 31 October 1979.

Pending the entry into force of that Decision following approval by the ACP States, the Council adopted the Decision on the provisional application to Antigua and Barbuda of the arrangements laid down in Decision 80/1186/EEC on the association of the OCT.

Under these arrangements, Antigua and Barbuda will retain until its actual accession to the Lomé Convention a number of advantages, particularly of a financial and commercial nature, which it enjoys by virtue of the association of the OCT with the Community.

The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation extending the arrangements applicable to trade between Greece and the ACP States.

The Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the ECSC, meeting within the Council, also adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decisions:

- extending the provisional arrangements applicable to trade between Greece and the ACP States for ECSC products;
- amending the Decision of 16 December 1980 opening tariff preferences for products within the province of that Community and originating in Zimbabwe.

Agricultural policy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities:

- Regulations:

- = amending Regulation (EEC) No 217/81 opening a Community tariff quota for high quality fresh, chilled or frozen beef and veal falling within subheadings 02.01 A II a) and 02.01 A II b) of the Common Customs Tariff;
- = amending Regulation (EEC) No 218/81 opening a Community tariff quota for frozen buffalo meat falling within subheading 02.01 A II b) 4 bb) 33 of the Common Customs Tariff;
- = amending Regulation (EEC) No 357/79 on statistical surveys of areas under vines;
- = amending Regulation (EEC) No 2358/71 on the common organization of the market in seeds, Regulation (EEC) No 2727/75 on the common organization of the market in cereals and Regulation (EEC) No 950/68 on the Common Customs Tariff;
- = amending Regulation (EEC) No 1660/81 fixing the amounts of aid granted for seeds for the 1982/1983 and 1983/1984 marketing years;
- = amending Regulation (EEC) No 315/68 fixing quality standards for flowering bulbs, corms and tubers;
- = extending the period of application of Regulation (EEC) No 3310/75 on agriculture in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg;
- the Directive amending, as regards the special conversion grant and the monetary unit used, Directive 78/627/EEC on the programme to accelerate the restructuring and conversion of vineyards in certain Mediterranean regions in France;
- the Decision postponing the date on which certain Member States must implement their national plans for the accelerated eradication of classical swine fever.

Tax questions

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Directive amending Directive 72/464/EEC on taxes other than turnover taxes which affect the consumption of manufactured tobacco.

Transport

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Directive amending Directive 75/130/EEC on the establishment of common rules for certain types of combined road/rail carriage of goods between Member States.

Energy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation amending Regulations (EEC) Nos 1893/79 and 2592/79 introducing registration for crude oil imports into the Community.

Social questions

The Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Resolution on the social integration of disabled people. (*)

(*) Reservation by the German delegation.

Fisheries

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision concluding the Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters on the provisional application of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Senegal and the EEC amending the Agreement on fishing off the coast of Senegal and of the Protocol annexed thereto.

ECSC

The Council gave its assent, pursuant to Article 56(2)(a) of the ECSC Treaty (conversion loans), with regard to:

- Clydesdale Bank Ltd., United Kingdom
- Westfalenbank AG, FRG
- Société des Aciers fins de l'Est, France
- Krupp Stahl AG, FRG.

The Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the ECSC, meeting within the Council, also adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision on certain measures to be applied, in respect of State-trading countries, to trade in iron and steel products covered by the ECSC Treaty, including pig iron, cast iron and high-carbon ferro-manganese.

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NOTE BIO (81) 509 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
CC. AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPE

BRUXELLES, LE 21 DECEMBER 1981

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BUDGET COUNCIL - MME VEIL SIGNS BUDGET AS VOTED BY PARLIAMENT

■(ROBERT ELPHICK)

THE BUDGET COUNCIL, CALLED INTO EMERGENCY SESSION TODAY FOLLOWING PARLIAMENT'S ADOPTION OF A BUDGET LAST WEEK GOING BEYOND THE COUNCIL'S DEFINITION OF WHAT IS A PERMISSIBLE MAXIMUM RATE, SPENT ■■■■■■■■■■ SIX HOURS WORKING ON AN APPEAL TO MME SIMONE VEIL NOT TO SIGN THE BUDGET IMMEDIATELY.

COUNCIL PUT TOGETHER A LETTER (WHICH WAS NOT UNANIMOUSLY AGREED) ASKING THE PARLIAMENT PRESIDENT TO DELAY SIGNATURE UNTIL AFTER TALKS ON THE PROBLEMS OF CLASSIFYING WHAT IS OR IS NOT NON-OBLIGATORY EXPENDITURE.

BOTH MR. NICHOLAS RIDLEY FOR THE COUNCIL, AND MR. CHRISTOPHER TUGENDHAT FOR THE COMMISSION MADE CLEAR THAT THEY BELIEVED MME VEIL WOULD SIGN THE BUDGET AS ADOPTED BY PARLIAMENT. MR. TUGENDHAT ADDED THAT THE COMMISSION WISHED TO DEDRAMATISE THE SITUATION AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE AND HE URGED THE COUNCIL TO ENTER THE TALKS ON CLASSIFICATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT IF MME VEIL DID SIGN, THE COMMISSION WILL FEEL OBLIGED TO EXECUTE THE BUDGET AS VOTED IN PARLIAMENT. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE MOST PRESSING PROBLEM WAS THAT OF FOOD AID (PARLIAMENT VOTED ON 31.4 MECU EXPENDITURE), AND HE URGED COUNCIL TO AIM FOR AGREEMENT ON THIS BEFORE END OF JANUARY. THE OTHER PROBLEMS OF CLASSIFICATION, HE HOPED COULD BE BROUGHT TO AGREEMENT BEFORE THE END OF THE BELGIAN PRESIDENCY (I.E. END OF JUNE).

MR. TUGENDHAT MADE IT CLEAR ALSO THAT THE COMMISSION WAS NOT IN ANY SENSE A PARTY TO THE DECISION TO SEND MME VEIL A LETTER.

JUST AFTER THE COUNCIL BROKE UP AND IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING MR. RIDLEY'S PRESS CONFERENCE, THERE WAS A MOMENT OF SOME PIQUANCY. MR. RIDLEY WAS CALLED TO THE TELEPHONE TO TALK TO MME VEIL IN PERSON TO BE INFORMED BY HER THAT SHE HAD INDEED SIGNED THE BUDGET. THE LETTER HAD NOT YET REACHED HER. IT IS MR. RIDLEY'S

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R.ELPHICK GPP B. 1/11 6802 21.8312.81 X X

M. SANTARELLI

