

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

5195/81 (Presse 26)

692nd meeting of the Council

- Energy -

Brussels, 3 March 1981

President: Mr G.M.V. van AARDENNE,
Minister for Economic Affairs
of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

OIL SUPPLY (1)

"The Council reviewed the oil supply situation in the light of the measures which they agreed at their 27 November 1980 meeting, including the draw down of stocks.

They noted that these measures, the measures taken by Member States, the reduction of the consumption and the oil production levels achieved by the OPEC producing countries have led to a significant improvement in Community oil markets. Nevertheless, in view of continuing uncertainties the situation must be kept under close review.

The Council agreed that

- (a) the measures established on 27 November 1980 will remain in operation;
- (b) the time was now opportune to examine which specific and efficient actions could be taken if supply problems recur. They invited the Commission in particular to study further the possibilities of mutual aid in oil stocks at times of market tension, and to report to the Council at their June meeting."

(1) Conclusions drawn by the Presidency.

ENERGY OBJECTIVES FOR 1990 ⁽¹⁾

The Council held an exchange of views on the Commission's first report analysing the progress made in pursuing the Community's energy policy objectives for 1990 and in Member States' investment programmes.

Following this exchange of views, the Council reached the following conclusions:

1. Some progress is to be noted in the pursuit of the objectives which the Council adopted in its Resolution of 9 June 1980.
2. However, the actual achievement of these objectives will require several Member States to intensify their efforts:
 - in the field of electric power stations by means of a more rapid substitution of solid fuel consumption for oil consumption and/or by stepping up nuclear programmes;
 - in the field of energy savings, whether in the domestic sector, in industry or in transport.
3. The Council emphasized the importance in the short and medium terms of indigenous primary sources of energy including oil, gas, coal and nuclear energy for the overall balance of payments of the Community.
4. The Council also emphasized the need to prepare for the future beyond 1990 by actively developing renewable energy sources.

⁽¹⁾ Conclusions drawn by the Presidency.

5. The Council invited the Commission to examine the possible need to go further than the investment levels currently fixed in order to achieve the common objectives, and, if necessary, to propose the measures to be taken to attain them, including informing the public of the economic return which can be expected from such investments.

6. The Council confirmed the predominant role of energy prices transparency and emphasized the importance it attributed to the communication which the Commission intends to submit to it shortly on the price policy to be conducted on the basis of the energy objectives.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Questions pertaining to atomic energy and research

The Council recorded its agreement on an exchange of letters between the IAEA on the one hand and the Commission on behalf of the EAEC on the other, on co-operation in the field of research and development in safeguards.

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Decision adopting a sectoral research and development programme in the field of environment. This programme is divided into two sections: protection of the environment (with five research areas: sources, pathways and effects of pollutants; reduction and prevention of pollution and nuisances; protection, conservation and management of natural environments; management of information of the environment; complex interactive systems: man-environment interactions) and climatology (with two research fields: "understanding climate" and "man-climate" interactions). The programme - which will last for five years - comprises indirect action and action to establish co-ordination at Community level of research activities forming part of Member States' research programmes and, where appropriate, Community programmes. Appropriations totalling 43 million ECU are entered in the Community budget for this programme.

Other decisions

The Council gave the assent requested under Article 95 of the ECSC Treaty on the draft Commission Decision concerning certain obligations of Community undertakings using high-grade special steel and stockholders of these products.

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision extending until 31 July 1981 the Decision of 4 April 1978 on the application of certain guidelines in the field of officially-supported export credits.

Appointments

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Decision appointing additional Greek members of the Economic and Social Committee for the remainder of the Committee's term of office, i.e. until 18 September 1982.

The following are the twelve members in question:

- M. Andreas BLAMOITSIS - Μέλος του διοικητικού Συμβουλίου του
Εμπορικού Συλλόγου Ἀθηνῶν.
(Association of Traders of Athens)
- Mlle Anne BREDIMAS - Εἰδική Σύμβουλος τῆς Ἑνώσεως
Ἑλλήνων Ἐφοκλιστῶν.
(Union of Greek Shipowners)
- M. Ilias CHRONOPOULOS - Πρόεδρος Πανελληνίου Συνομοσπονδίας Ἑνώσεων
Γεωργικῶν Συνεταιρισμῶν (Π.Α.Σ.Ε.Γ.Ε.Σ)
(Panhellenic Confederation of the Unions
of Agricultural Co-operatives)
- M. Georges DASSIS - Συνεργάτης Γενικῆς Συνομοσπονδίας Ἐργατῶν
Ἑλλάδος (Γ.Σ.Ε.Ε)
(General Labour Confederation of Greece)
- M. Ioannis DOUROS - Πρόεδρος Γενικοῦ Συμβουλίου Ἀνωτάτης Διοικήσεως
Ἐκτεροκῆς Δημοσίων Ὑπαλλήλων (ΑΔΕΔΥ)
(Federation of public officials (ADEDY))

- N. Theodoros GEORGIU - Διευθύνων Γενικός Γραμματέας Συμβουλίου Κοινωνικής και Οικονομικής Πολιτικής (ΣΚΟΠ)
(Social and Economic Policy Council (SKOP))
- M. Christos KARAKITSOS - Γενικός Γραμ/τεύς Γενικής Συνομοσπονδίας Έργατών Ελλάδος (ΓΣΕΕ)
(General Labour Confederation of Greece)
- M. Filotas KAZAZIS - Αντιπρόεδρος Συνδέσμου Έλληνικών Βιομηχανιών.
(Association of Greek Industries)
- M. Nicolaos KO LYMBAS - Γενικός Γραμματέας Διοικητικού Συμβουλίου Πανελληνίου Συνομοσπονδίας Ένώσεων Γεωργικών Συνεταιρισμών. (ΠΑΣΕΓΕΣ)
(Panhellenic Confederation of Unions of Agricultural Co-operatives)
- M. Pavlos PAPADOPOULOS - Βιοτέχνης, Αντιπρόεδρος Βιοτεχνικού Έκμελητηρίου Αθηνών.
(Athens Chamber of Craft Trades)
- M. Rizos RIZOS - Πρόεδρος Όμοσπονδίας Επαγγελματιών και Βιοτεχνών Αθηνών.
(Athens Federation of Trades and Crafts)
- M. Emmanuel SAITIS - Γενικός Γραμματέας Πανελληνίου Ναυτικής Όμοσπονδίας.
(Panhellenic Seafarers Federation)
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NOTE BIO (81) 81 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
C.C. AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPE AUX ASSISTANTS DG I ET VIII

CONSEIL ENERGIE (HELIN)

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1. APPROVISIONNEMENT PETROLIER

LA COMMISSION EUROPEENNE, 'ASSISTEE' DES EXPERTS NATIONAUX METTRA AU POINT POUR LA SESSION DU CONSEIL DU MOIS DE JUIN, LES MODALITES CONCRETES D'UN SYSTEME 'D'ASSURANCE' CONTRE LES RISQUES D'UNE SITUATION DE 'QUASI-PENURIE' DE PETROLE.

UN TEL SYSTEME, BASE SUR LA SOLIDARITE ENTRE PAYS DE LA COMMUNAUTE, EST DESTINE A EVITER CE QUE M. DAVIGNON A QUALIFIE DE 'COURSE AU TRESOR' DE LA PART DE CERTAINS PAYS, ISOLEMENT, QUI AURAIT POUR CONSEQUENCE UNE AUGMENTATION ARTIFICIELLE ET SPECULATIVE DES PRIX PETROLIERS.

C'EST EN NOVEMBRE DERNIER QUE LES PAYS DE LA CEE AVAIENT SOUSCRIT A LA DEMANDE DE LA COMMISSION UNE DECLARATION POLITIQUE PAR LAQUELLE ILS S'ENGAGEAIENT A FAIRE FACE, SOLIDAIREMENT, A DES MENACES DE 'QUASI-PENURIE' DECOULANT NOTAMMENT DE L'INCERTITUDE CREEE PAR LE CONFLIT IRAKO-IRANIEN.

MARDI LES 'DIX' ONT CONSTATE QUE LE MARCHE PETROLIER ETAIT PLUS CALME.

LES FACTEURS QUI ONT CONTRIBUE A CETTE ACCALMIE SONT:

A. LA CONSOMMATION DE PETROLE QUI A ACCUSE UNE NETTE DIMINUTION:

- 12,9 % AUX COURS DU DERNIER TRIMESTRE 80 PAR RAPPORT AUX 3 DERNIERS MOIS DE 79

- 9 % (TENDANCE) AUX COURS DU 1ER TRIMESTRE 81 PAR RAPPORT AUX 3 MOIS CORRESPONDANTS DE 80.

B. L'AUGMENTATION DE LA PRODUCTION PETROLIERE SAOUDIENNE QUI ATTEINT 10,3 MILLIONS DE BARILS PAR JOUR (CONTRE 9,5 AUPARAVANT)

C. UNE REPRISE DES EXPORTATIONS IRAKO-IRANIENNES DE PETROLE (ENSEMBLE: 1,2 MIO BARILS/JOUR).

TOUTEFOIS, LA SITUATION DEMEURE INCERTAIN.

LES 'DIX' ONT DES LORS APPROUVE LA FACON DE VOIR DE LA COMMISSION: IL SERAIT NAIF DE PARLER DE DETENTE ET IL IMPORTE DE RESTER VIGILANTS.

2. INVESTISSEMENTS ENERGETIQUES

LA CONCLUSION DU DEBAT A ETE DE VEILLER A CE QUE A

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MANUEL SANTARELLI

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LA SESSION DE JUIN EGALEMENT , LE CONSEIL PUISSE SE
FIXER CERTAINS OBJECTIFS CONCRETS EN MATIERE D'INVESTISSEMENTS
ENERGETIQUES.

M. DAVIGNON A REPETE LES AVERTISSEMENTS DE LA COMMISSION
EUROPEENNE DEVANT LES RISQUES
ECONOMIQUES QU'IL Y AURAIT, A LONG TERME, POUR LA

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COMMUNAUTE A POSTPOSER CERTAINS INVESTISSEMENTS.

(VOIR BIO (81) 75 CONFERENCE DE PRESSE DE MERCREDI 25.2.81).

A SUIVRE,
AMITIES,
MANUEL SANTARELLI COMEUR
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