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PRESS RELEASE

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JOINT PRESS RELEASE

The EEC-Algeria Co-operation Council held its first meeting at Ministerial level on 27 April 1987 under the Chairmanship of Mr L. TINDEMANS, Minister for Foreign Relations of the Kingdom of Belgium and President-in-Office of the Council of the European Communities (¹).

The Algerian delegation was headed by Dr Ahmed TALEB-IBRAHIMI, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria.

The Commission was represented by Mr C. CHEYSSON and the European Investment Bank by Mr PRATE, Vice-President.

1. The Co-operation Council emphasized the special importance of this first meeting for the intensification of a dialogue which was to ease the way for mutual understanding of the problems and the joint search for appropriate solutions at a time when relations between Algeria and the Community had a strategic significance for Algeria's future.

A sustained dialogue would consolidate the climate of confidence existing between partners and encourage the search for ways and means of broadening mutual co-operation.

(¹) A list of the members of the Algerian delegation and the representatives of the Member States is annexed hereto.

2. While noting that Algeria was an important trading partner of the Community, the Co-operation Council referred to the Protocols of adaptation to the Co-operation Agreement which the community negotiated recently with Algeria. These Protocols confirmed unrestricted duty-free access to the Community for Algerian industrial products and gradually extended these arrangements to Spain and Portugal and provided for measures to ensure that traditional patterns of trade in agricultural products could be maintained in the new circumstances resulting from the enlargement of the Community to include these two countries.

The Council also welcomed the efforts made by Algeria to promote its exports, particularly by increased diversification of its production and outlets.

In the context of trade relations, the Co-operation Council also noted that Algeria wanted to be able to explore with the Community the idea of more stable and reliable supplies of agri-food products on a multi-annual basis. The Community stated its interest in this subject and said it was indeed desirable that conditions for the supply of basic necessities should be fixed within a more secure and reliable framework for both sides.

3. On the subject of financial co-operation, the Co-operation Council welcomed the current appraisal of new projects, the conclusion of which would enable all the funds budgeted for under the Second Protocol to be committed. These projects in support of research and training policy in various sectors are the fruits of an encouraging increase in contacts and consultation between the various bodies on both sides responsible for managing the implementation of co-operation.

With respect to the prospects for co-operation, the Co-operation Council noted with satisfaction that it had been agreed that priority would be given to measures to support self-sufficiency in food and the development of the agri-food sector. It also noted both sides' interest that areas of co-operation be expanded and deepened by strengthening in their mutual interest economic links through the development of industrial, scientific and technological co-operation.

4. In the context of strengthened industrial co-operation, the Co-operation Council emphasized the role played by economic operators. In this light co-operation instruments would be adjusted to encourage partnership and to promote the setting up of mixed-economy companies.
5. As regards energy co-operation, the Community pointed out that its policy of reducing energy dependence and of rational use of energy by no means conflicted with a wish to co-operate with producer countries, both bilaterally and multilaterally. The Co-operation Council underlined the importance of energy co-operation for the development of relations between Algeria and the EEC. In this context it said that co-operation should be based on two themes:
 - regular exchanges of views on the situation on the respective markets and on oil and gas trade between the two zones to enable Algeria and the Community to forecast energy supply and demand more accurately;
 - implementation of specific energy co-operation measures.

The Co-operation Council was pleased that a number of co-operation measures had been defined or even already implemented.

6. Finally, the Co-operation Council welcomed the fact that specific bases for future co-operation had begun to be considered and developed jointly and it extended its best wishes for the future extension of relations between the Community and Algeria.

List of the Algerian delegation to the first meeting of
the Algeria-EEC Co-operation Council

Luxembourg, 27 April 1987

H.E. Dr Ahmed TALEB IBRAHIMI, Member of the Political Bureau,
Minister for Foreign Affairs

H.E. Sidahmed GHOZALI, Ambassador, Head of the Mission of the PDRA
to the European Communities

Mr Ahmed ATTAF, Director of International Political Affairs at the
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr Mohamed GHOUALMI, Director responsible for Europe-North America at
the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr Mohamed Cherif ZEROUALA, Director of Protocol at the Ministry of
Foreign Affairs

Mr Belaïd HADJEM, Assistant Director responsible for the Member States
of the European Community at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr Nouredine AMIR, Algerian Consul General in Strasbourg

Mr Saïd DJINNIT, Counsellor at the Mission of the PDRA to the European
Communities

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

Belgium:

Mr Leo TINDEMANS, Minister for Foreign Relations

Denmark:

Mr Knud-Erik TYGESEN, State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Germany:

Mrs Irmgard ADAM-SCHWAETZER, Minister of State, Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Greece:

Mr Theodoros PANGALOS, Minister of State, Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Spain:

Mr Francisco FERNANDEZ ORDONEZ, Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Pedro SOLBES, State Secretary for Relations with the European Communities

France:

Mr François SCHEER, Ambassador, Permanent Representative

Ireland:

Mr Brian LENIHAN, Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mrs Maire GEOGHAN-QUINN, Minister of State for European Affairs

Italy:

Mr Giulio ANDREOTTI, Minister for Foreign Affairs

Luxembourg:

Mr Robert GOEBBELS, State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Netherlands:

Mr H. VAN DEN BROEK, Minister for Foreign Affairs

Portugal:

Mr Victor MARTINS, State Secretary for European Integration

United Kingdom:

Mrs Lynda CHALKER, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office