

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

PRESS RELEASES

PRESIDENCY: THE NETHERLANDS

JULY-DECEMBER 1991

Meetings and press releases December 1991

<b>Meeting number</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Date</b>
1539 <sup>th</sup>	General Affairs	2 December 1991
1540 <sup>th</sup>	No record of a meeting	
1541 <sup>st</sup>	Labour/Social Affairs	3 December 1991
1542 <sup>nd</sup>	Agriculture	11-12 December 1991
1543 <sup>rd</sup>	Environment	12 December 1991
1544 <sup>th</sup>	Environment/Energy	13 December 1991
1545 <sup>th</sup>	General Affairs	16-17 December 1991
1546 <sup>th</sup>	Economics/Finance	16 December 1991
1547 <sup>th</sup>	Transport	16-17 December 1991
1548 <sup>th</sup>	Fisheries	17-18 December 1991
1549 <sup>th</sup>	Telecommunications	18-19 December 1991
1550 <sup>th</sup>	Internal Market	19 December 1991
1551 <sup>st</sup>	General Affairs	23 December 1991

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COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES  
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

9558/91 (Presse 220)

1539th Council meeting

- GENERAL AFFAIRS -

Brussels, 2 December 1991

Presidents: Mr Hans VAN DEN BROEK,  
Minister for Foreign Affairs

of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

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

Belgium:

Mr Marc EYSKENS Minister for Foreign Affairs

Denmark:

Mr Uffe ELLEMANN-JENSEN Minister for Foreign Affairs

Germany:

Mr Hans-Dietrich GENSCHER Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs

Greece

Mr Antonio SAMARAS Minister for Foreign Affairs

Spain:

Mr Carlos WESTENDORP State Secretary for Relations with the European Communities

France:

Mr Roland DUMAS Ministre d'Etat, Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mrs Elisabeth GUIGOU Minister for European Affairs

Ireland:

Mr Gerard COLLINS Minister for Foreign Affairs

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Italy:

Mr Gianni DE MICHELIS

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Luxembourg:

Mr Jacques F. POOS

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Netherlands:

Mr Hans VAN DEN BROEK

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Piet DANKERT

State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Portugal:

Mr João PINHEIRO

Minister for Foreign Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr Douglas HURD

Secretary of State for Foreign and  
Commonwealth Affairs

Commission:

Mr Jacques DELORS  
Mr F.H.J.J. ANDRIESEN  
Mr Abel MATUTES

President  
Vice-President  
Member

YUGOSLAVIA

Following up the decisions taken at the Special EPC ministerial meeting in Rome on 8 November 1991 and taking note of encouraging recent developments giving reason to hope that fresh impetus could be imparted to the peace process, the Council approved, on a proposal by the Commission, the following positive measures for the Republics of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Macedonia, Slovenia and Croatia;

- a Regulation reinstating, as from 15 November 1991, most of the preferential trade arrangements under the pre-existing Co-operation Agreement with Yugoslavia <sup>(1)</sup>;
  
- reinstatement of PHARE programme coverage, the Commission being called upon to take measures for the purpose after obtaining the opinion of the PHARE Committee, with the proviso that humanitarian aid is to continue for the benefit of all of the population of Yugoslavia;
  
- a request to the European Investment Bank that it agree to the use of the ECU 100 million balance under the 2nd EEC-Yugoslavia Financial Protocol, denounced by the Community, to finance projects in the Republics concerned and that it resume payments for ongoing projects, where the situation permits.

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(1) The Council also took note that the Commission would be submitting very shortly appropriate proposals, to be approved by the end of the year reinstating in full the pre-existing trade arrangements for 1992 (including the extension of quantitative restrictions for textiles products).

The Twelve also agreed to continue keeping a very close watch on developments in the situation regarding Montenegro with a view to possible extension of these measures to that Republic. They further expressed the hope that Serbia would move towards a more co-operative attitude. Obviously, no Republic was ruled out altogether from the application of positive measures.

In so doing, the Twelve were anxious to point out that the adoption of these measures was entirely without prejudice to the question of recognizing the Republics.

The Council also instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue considering, on the basis of suggestions by the Commission and some Member States, further restrictive measures which might still prove necessary.

#### RELATIONS WITH EGYPT

The Council determined the Community position for the 7th meeting of the EEC-Egypt Co-operation Council, at ministerial level, also held on 2 December 1991 (see EEC-Egypt joint press release: 2804/91 Presse 232).

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DISCUSSIONS IN POLITICAL CO-OPERATION

The Twelve adopted joint declarations on Ukraine and on the enquiries into Libyan involvement in the bombing of flights PAN AM 103 and UTA 772.

The Twelve also called on the Commission to submit appropriate proposals for a trade embargo against Haiti.



MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Conclusion of the EEC-Denmark/Faroe Islands Agreement

The Council adopted the Decision concerning the conclusion of a Trade Agreement between the Community, on the one hand, and the Government of Denmark and Home Government of the Faroe Islands, on the other.

The Agreement, initialled on 21 June 1991, is designed to ensure the smooth development of trade between the parties, in compliance with conditions of fair competition.

It accordingly provides for the phasing out of barriers in respect of most of their trade, in accordance with GATT provisions.

In particular, the Faroe Islands may export all fishery products to the Community free of customs duty and quantitative restrictions, except for some sensitive products subject to tariff quotas or reference ceilings.

This Agreement does not affect the operation of the Fisheries Agreement of 27 June 1980 currently in force between the Community and the Faroe Islands. In this connection, the volume of reciprocal catch possibilities under that Agreement is to be kept at a satisfactory level.

UNCTAD VIII

The Council laid down guidelines for the position to be adopted by the Community and its Member States at UNCTAD VIII and an approach concerning the future role of UNCTAD and the resulting institutional reform.



Anti-dumping measures

The Council adopted the Regulation abolishing the anti-dumping duty on imports of urea originating in Saudi Arabia introduced by Regulation No 3339/87, which had already been reduced by Regulation No 450/89.

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## COMMUNICATION A LA PRESSE

P. 124/91

**DECLARATION SUR L'UKRAINE**  
(Réunion ministérielle de CPE,  
Bruxelles, le 2 décembre 1991)

La Communauté et ses Etats membres ont pris note du référendum en Ukraine, par lequel une majorité claire s'est exprimée en faveur de l'indépendance. Ils se félicitent de la façon démocratique par laquelle le peuple ukrainien a fait état de son souhait de voir sa République obtenir la pleine souveraineté.

Au moment où la transformation de l'Union Soviétique entre dans cette phase cruciale, il appartient aux représentants de l'Ukraine, de l'Union et des autres Républiques de faire en sorte que l'évolution se développe de façon pacifique, démocratique et ordonnée. La Communauté et ses Etats membres demandent à l'Ukraine d'engager avec l'Union et les autres Républiques un dialogue ouvert et constructif, de façon à assurer que toutes les obligations et engagements internationaux existants de l'Union Soviétique soient respectés.

Ils s'attendent à ce que l'Ukraine respecte tous les engagements souscrits par l'Union Soviétique dans le cadre de l'Acte Final d'Helsinki, de la Charte de Paris et de tous les autres documents pertinents de la CSCE, notamment ceux concernant la protection des personnes appartenant à des minorités nationales.

La Communauté et ses Etats membres s'attendent en particulier à ce que l'Ukraine respecte, et applique pour ce qui la concerne, tous les engagements internationaux de l'Union Soviétique dans le domaine du contrôle des armements et de la non-prolifération nucléaire, et ne fasse rien qui puisse mettre en question le contrôle des armes nucléaires sur son territoire. Ils s'attendent à ce que l'Ukraine s'unisse aux autres Républiques pour accepter leur responsabilité solidaire en matière de dette extérieure de l'Union Soviétique.



# EUROPEAN POLITICAL COOPERATION

## PRESS RELEASE

P. 124/91

### DECLARATION ON UKRAINE

(EPC Ministerial Meeting, Brussels, 2 December 1991)

The European Community and its member States have taken note of the referendum in Ukraine in which a clear majority expressed itself in favour of independence. They welcome the democratic manner in which the Ukrainian people declared their wish for their republic to attain full sovereignty.

As the transformation of the Soviet Union enters this crucial phase it is incumbent upon the representatives of Ukraine, of the Union and of the other republics to take matters forward in a peaceful, democratic and orderly way. The European Community and its member States call upon Ukraine to pursue with the Union and the other republics an open and constructive dialogue intended to ensure that all the Soviet Union's existing international obligations and commitments are carried out.

They expect Ukraine to honour all commitments of the Soviet Union under the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris and other relevant CSCE documents, especially those concerning the protection of persons belonging to national minorities.

The European Community and its member States in particular expect Ukraine to honour and as appropriate to implement all international obligations of the Soviet Union in respect of arms control and nuclear non-proliferation, and to do nothing which might call into question control of nuclear weapons on Ukrainian territory. They expect Ukraine to join the other republics in accepting joint and several liability for the Soviet Union's foreign debts.

**COMMUNICATION A LA PRESSE**

P. 125/91

**DECLARATION SUR LES ENQUETES CONCERNANT L'IMPLICATION DE LA  
LIBYE DANS LES ATTENTATS CONTRE LES VOLS PAN AM 103 ET UTA 772**  
(Réunion Ministérielle CPE, Bruxelles, le 2 décembre 1991)

La Communauté et ses Etats membres ont pris note de l'émission de mandats d'arrêt à l'encontre de ressortissants libyens, par les autorités judiciaires de France en relation avec l'attentat contre le vol UTA 772 en septembre 1989 et du Royaume-Uni et des Etats-Unis en relation avec l'attentat contre le vol Pan Am 103 en décembre 1988. La Communauté et ses Etats membres prennent avec toute la gravité qu'elles méritent les accusations portées contre des fonctionnaires appartenant à des organisations gouvernementales libyennes.

La Communauté et ses Etats membres ont également pris note des demandes présentées, le 27 novembre, aux autorités libyennes par les Gouvernements de la France, du Royaume-Uni et des Etats-Unis. Conformément à leur condamnation répétée du terrorisme, la Communauté et ses Etats membres souscrivent pleinement à ces demandes et exigent des autorités libyennes qu'elles s'y conforment dans leur totalité et sans délai.



# EUROPEAN POLITICAL COOPERATION

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PRESS RELEASE

P. 125/91

**DECLARATION ON THE ENQUIRIES INTO LIBYAN INVOLVEMENT IN THE  
BOMBING OF FLIGHTS PAN AM 103 AND UTA 772**

**(EPC Ministerial Meeting, Brussels, 2 December 1991)**

The Community and its member States have noted the issue of warrants for the arrest of Libyan nationals by the judicial authorities of France, in connection with the bombing of flight UTA 772 in September 1989, and of the United Kingdom and the US in connection with the bombing of flight Pan Am 103 in December 1988. The Community and its member States take a most serious view of the accusation against officials of Libyan Government organisations.

The Community and its member States have also noted the demands made of the Libyan authorities by the Governments of France, the United Kingdom and the US on 27 November. In line with their repeated condemnation of terrorism, the Community and its member States fully endorse these demands and call upon the Libyan authorities to comply promptly and in full.

## **COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES**

No record of a 1540<sup>th</sup> meeting.

PRESS RELEASE

9559/91 (Presse 221)

1541st Council meeting  
LABOUR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS  
Brussels, 3 December 1991

President: Mr Bert DE VRIES  
Minister for Employment and  
Social Security of the  
Kingdom of the Netherlands

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

Belgium:

Mr Luc VAN DEN BRANDE                      Minister for Employment and Labour

Denmark:

Mr Knud E. KIRKEGAARD                      Minister for Labour

Mrs Else Winther ANDERSEN                  Minister for Social Affairs

Mr Johannes DUE                              State Secretary, Ministry of Social Affairs

Germany:

Mr Horst GUENTHER                            Parliamentary State Secretary to the Federal Minister for Labour and Social Affairs

Mr Willi HAUSMANN                           State Secretary for Women and Youth

Greece:

Mr Aristide KALANTZAKOS                    Minister for Labour

Spain:

Mr Luis MARTINEZ NOVAL                     Minister for Labour



France:

Mrs Martine AUBRY

Minister for Labour, Employment  
and Vocational Training

Mr Jean-Louis BIANCO

Minister for Social Affairs and  
Integration

Ireland:

Mr Michael O'KENNEDY, T.D.

Minister for Labour

Italy:

Mr Ugo GRIPPO

State Secretary for Employment  
and Social Security

Luxembourg:

Mrs Mady DELVAUX-STEHRES

State Secretary for Social  
Security

Netherlands:

Mr Bert DE VRIES

Minister for Employment and  
Social Security

Mrs E. TER VELD

State Secretary for Employment  
and Social Security

Portugal:

Mr José DA SILVA PENEDA

Minister for Employment and  
Social Security

United Kingdom:

Mr Michael HOWARD

Secretary of State for  
Employment

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Commission:

Ms Vasso PAPANDEOU

Member

#### ORGANIZATION OF WORKING TIME

The Council held a detailed discussion on the proposal for a Directive on certain aspects of the organization of working time.

At the close of the debate, the President noted that the compromise text proposed met with delegations' approval, subject to certain specific points which still caused difficulty for some delegations and reservations entered by two delegations.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue examining the proposal with a view to reaching agreement on the common position under the Portuguese Presidency.

#### PROVISION OF SIGNS

The Council agreed on the common position on the Directive concerning the minimum requirements for the provision of safety and/or health signs at work.

It will be formally adopted at a forthcoming meeting, following legal and linguistic editing of the texts.

The Directive, based on Article 118a of the Treaty, is the eighth individual Directive within the meaning of Article 16(1) of framework Directive 89/391/EEC, aimed at encouraging improvements in the safety and health of workers at work. It is designed, more specifically, to combat risk factors associated with linguistic and cultural differences which might arise as a result of the free movement of workers.

In contrast with Council Directive 77/576/EEC which it replaces, it is designed to make the provision of signs compulsory in certain circumstances and to introduce new safety signboards and other harmonized forms of signs. It also covers more firms and workers than Directive 77/576/EEC, since its scope in relation to persons is that of framework Directive 89/391/EEC.

The Directive is scheduled to enter into force no later than two years after its adoption.

#### SOCIAL SECURITY FOR MIGRANT WORKERS

The Council gave its consent to two Regulations on social security for migrant workers, one concerning non-contributory benefits and the other the award and calculation of pensions. Formal adoption will take place at a forthcoming meeting, following legal and linguistic editing of the texts. The two proposals, which were discussed by the Council in 1985 and 1989 respectively, supplement Community legislation on social security for migrant workers.

The Regulation on non-contributory benefits, which is designed to bring Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71 into line with the case-law of the Court of Justice in this area, makes provision for co-ordinating non-contributory schemes under which Member States are obliged to grant non-contributory benefits to workers resident in their territory who fall within the Regulation's scope in relation to persons.

More particularly, the Regulation stipulates that where a person transfers his place of residence to another Member State, the latter must give him benefit corresponding to that granted in his

Member State of origin, provided that the legislation of the latter makes provision for such benefit.

The Regulation on the award and calculation of pensions, for which the Court of Justice's case-law had also indicated the need, is designed to simplify the award and calculation of the pensions of those who have worked in several Member States.

Its purpose is to resolve problems arising in connection with the aggregation of periods of employment in different Member States and the co-existence of different types of legislation in cases of overlapping of pensions, and to protect migrant workers from over-stringent application of national provisions against the overlapping of benefits.

It stipulates in particular that if the application of national legislation, including the clauses against overlapping, proves less favourable than that of the aggregation and pro-rata arrangements, the latter arrangements must be applied.

#### CHILD CARE

The Council gave its consent to the proposal for a Recommendation on child care.

The Recommendation, provided for in the Commission's action programme for the implementation of the Community Charter of the Fundamental Social Rights of Workers, makes provision for a number of initiatives in the area of child care, to enable parents to combine more easily their professional, family and educational responsibilities.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to finalize the text with a view to its adoption as an "A" item at a future meeting.

#### DIGNITY AT WORK

The Council recorded its agreement in principle on a Declaration on the implementation of the Commission Recommendation on the protection of the dignity of women and men at work including a code of practice to combat sexual harassment.

This Declaration, which results from a Presidency initiative, is intended to accompany and reinforce the Commission Recommendation and the Code of Practice, which constitute a follow-up to the Council Resolution of 29 May 1990 on the protection of the dignity of women and men at work.

This Declaration will be formally adopted as an "A" item at a future Council meeting.

#### SUFFICIENT SOCIAL-PROTECTION RESOURCES

Pending receipt of the Opinion of the European Parliament, the Council held an initial exchange of views on the proposal for a Recommendation on common criteria concerning sufficient resources and social assistance in the social-protection systems.

The proposal for a Recommendation, which is provided for in the Commission's action programme for the implementation of the Community Charter of the Fundamental Social Rights of Workers,

is designed to guarantee each individual's fundamental right to sufficient resources and benefits to allow him to live in dignity.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue examining this proposal, once the European Parliament's Opinion had been received, so that agreement could be reached at a future meeting.

#### EUROPEAN WORKS COUNCILS

The Council held a policy discussion on certain major aspects of the proposal for a Directive on the establishment of European Works Councils and, on the basis of a note from the Presidency, focused its discussion on the following points:

- definition of certain basic concepts;
- definition of the powers of the special negotiating body;
- number of European Works Councils within a single group of undertakings.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue examining this proposal with a view to an overall solution being found at a later meeting.

COMBATING POVERTY

The Council took note of the Commission's final report on the second European poverty programme covering the period 1985 to 1989.

The purpose of the report, which was drawn up in accordance with Article 5 of the Council Decision of 19 December 1984 on specific Community action to combat poverty, is to evaluate the measures implemented and set out the lessons to be learnt.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Own funds of credit institutions

The Council adopted a Directive implementing Directive 89/299/EEC on the own funds of credit institutions.

The purpose of this Directive, which takes account of the recommendations made by the Basel Committee (Committee on Banking Regulations and Supervisory Practices), is to include funds for general banking risks (FGBR) within the category of tier-one funds alongside capital and disclosed reserves (core capital) to constitute the own funds of credit institutions.

Implementation of financial assistance for Bulgaria and Romania

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

1. In accordance with the ECOFIN Council conclusions of 11 November 1991, the Commission contacted the IMF in order to assess the economic and financial situation of Bulgaria and Romania and to ensure that the Fund was maintaining its support for their balance of payments. The letter of 18 November 1991 to the President of the Commission from the Director-General of the IMF confirmed:
  - the Fund's favourable assessment as regards the implementation of the adjustment and economic reform programmes undertaken by those countries;



- the necessity, for the continuation of those programmes of exceptional assistance from the Community and the other G-24 countries for Bulgaria and Romania;
- the Fund's intention of continuing its financial support for those countries in 1992.

2. Accordingly, in view of those conclusions of 11 November 1991:

- (a) the Council agreed to depart from the rule on equal sharing between the Community and the other G-24 members of contributions to the balance-of-payments-support operation for Romania and Bulgaria for 1991;
- (b) the Commission stated that, in the light of that departure and subject to compliance with the other conditions attached to Community loans to those countries, it intended, after consulting the Monetary Committee, to pay out the second instalments of the loans as soon as the review of the economic situation of those countries and the corresponding Community borrowing operations had been completed.

3. The Council and the Commission undertook to continue their efforts to obtain from the other G-24 members a contribution matching that of the Community to balance-of-payments support for Romania and Bulgaria.

Directives for the negotiation of a European Energy Charter

The Council authorized the Commission to negotiate on behalf of the Community, in matters falling within Community competence, the texts prepared during the Conference on a European Energy Charter.

The Conference has already drawn up a draft final document for the Charter to be signed in the Hague on 16 and 17 December of this year.

It will then continue its proceedings with a view to the signing of the basic Agreement and the implementing agreements, which will relate in particular to the improvement of energy efficiency with a view inter alia to better environmental protection, to hydrocarbons and to nuclear energy.

Generalized tariff preferences

In the light of the Opinions of the European Parliament and of the Economic and Social Committee, the Council adopted the legal texts on the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) for industrial, textile, agricultural and ECSC products for 1992.

The Council decided provisionally to extend the 1991 GSP to 1992 in view of the fact that the progress of work on the review of the system made it unlikely that arrangements based on new guidelines would be established by 1 January 1992. This review is scheduled for 1992 on the basis of proposals to be submitted by the Commission.

The Council decided to update the preferential amounts expressed in ecus for industrial products with a view to an overall improvement in the system.

Finally, the Council proposes to reach a decision before the end of the year on the Commission proposals expected in the next few days on the addition of the three Baltic countries and Albania to the list of GSP beneficiaries and the lifting of the GSP suspension for South Korea.

### Fisheries

The Council adopted:

- a Regulation allocating among the Member States an increase from 6 500 to 8 500 tonnes in the "other species" quota available to the Community in 1991 in Norwegian waters south of 62°N.

By virtue of this allocation, Denmark has a quota of 4 250 tonnes, the United Kingdom one of 3 184 tonnes and Germany, Belgium, France and the Netherlands, 1 066 tonnes each.

- the Regulation amending the seasonal restriction dates limiting herring fishing in the Celtic Sea to the South-East of Ireland, in the light of the latest scientific advice.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES  
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

9912/91 (Presse 227)

1542nd Council meeting

- AGRICULTURE -

Brussels, 11 and 12 December 1991

President: Mr Piet BUKMAN,

Minister for Agriculture,  
Nature Conservation and  
Fisheries  
of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

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

Belgium:

Mr Paul de KEERSMAEKER                      State Secretary for European Affairs  
and Agriculture

Denmark:

Mr Laurits TOERNAES                      Minister for Agriculture

Mr Nils BERNSTEIN                      State Secretary for Agriculture

Germany:

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

Spain:

Mr Pedro SOLBES MIRA                      Minister for Agriculture

France:

Mr Louis MERMAZ                      Minister for Agriculture

Ireland:

Mr Michael WOODS

Minister for Agriculture

Italy:

Mr Giovanni GORIA

Minister for Agriculture

Luxembourg:

Mr René STEICHEN

Minister for Agriculture and  
Viticulture

Netherlands:

Mr Piet BUKMAN

Minister for Agriculture,  
Nature Conservation and  
Fisheries

Portugal:

Mr Arlindo CUNHA

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Food

Mr Alvaro AMARO

State Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture

United Kingdom:

Mr John GUMMER

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Mr David CURRY

Parliamentary Secretary, Agriculture

Commission:

Mr Ray MAC SHARRY

Member

DEVELOPMENT AND FUTURE OF THE CAP

The Council continued its substantive discussion of the Commission proposals for the adaptation of the common agricultural policy.

It first concentrated on the sectors that had not yet been dealt with at Council level, viz.:

- beef and veal
- milk and milk products
- accompanying measures.

During the discussion, the Ministers paid particular attention to certain major problems, including:

- in the beef and veal sector:

- . the general thrust of the proposals and price reductions
- . intervention
- . the adjustment of premium schemes;

- in the milk sector:

- . the extension of the quota scheme and the reduction of quotas
- . price reductions
- . compulsory redistribution of liberated quotas
- . compensation
- . consolidation and simplification of legislation;

- on accompanying measures:

- . the nature and scope of the proposed arrangements
- . the financial aspects of Community funding of the proposed measures and certain specific questions.

The other areas (arable crops and cereals, tobacco, sheepmeat) which had already been examined at the November meeting, were also briefly touched upon.

Regarding the financial impact, the Council took note of a report from the Permanent Representatives Committee examining the data submitted by the Commission. The Council agreed to re-examine this question when it took the final decisions on reform.

At the end of its discussion, the Council, noting that certain points of the proposals required further detailed examination, decided to continue working on them in January.

#### SUCKLER COW PREMIUM

The Council adopted by a qualified majority the Regulation increasing the amount of the premium for maintaining suckler cows, in order to remedy the problems encountered in the beef and veal sector where the situation is very depressed.

The Regulation adopted provides, for the 1991/1992 marketing year only, for a derogation from the amount of the suckler cow premium as laid down in the rules currently in force, and for them to be raised to:

- ECU 50 per cow (Community premium);
- ECU 35 per cow (maximum amount of the additional national premium). This latter amount is co-financed up to a maximum of ECU 28 per cow in the case of



Greece, Ireland and the United Kingdom (Northern Ireland only).

#### OILSEEDS

Having agreed on the political approach to the Commission proposal at its October meeting, the Council unanimously adopted the Regulation establishing a support system for producers of oilseeds (soya beans, rapeseed and colzaseed and sunflowerseed).

The purpose of the Regulation is to adapt the current provisions on support for oilseeds to bring them into conformity with the conclusions of the GATT Soya Panel.

It thus provides for a direct payment for producers taking account of the specific structural characteristics which influence yields. The Member States will draw up a regionalization plan based on objective criteria, consistent with the average yields of each region achieved in a given period.

The new scheme will enter into force with the 1992/1993 marketing year and will therefore already be applicable to seeds harvested in 1992.

#### URUGUAY ROUND - AGRICULTURAL ASPECTS

The Council was briefed by the Commission on the current state of the Uruguay Round negotiations. It confirmed its support for the Commission's efforts to achieve a balanced outcome of the negotiations, as had the European Council in Maastricht.

BOVINE SOMATOTROPIN (BST)

The Council noted the Commission's proposal to extend the existing ban on the administration of bovine somatotropin to dairy cows by a further two-year period.

Pending the adoption of the European Parliament's Opinion and a Council Decision on the proposal, the Member States and the Commission undertook to maintain the status quo as regards authorization for the marketing and use of bovine somatotropin.

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MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Other agricultural policy decisions

The Council adopted Decisions

- designating the Community reference laboratories for testing for residues of certain substances. The laboratories are the following:
    - = Rijksinstituut voor de Volkgezondheid en Milieuhygiene antonie van Leeuwenhoeklaan, 9  
NL-3720 BILTHOVEN
    - = Laboratoires des Médicaments vétérinaires (CNEVA-LMV)  
La Haute Marche, Javené  
F-35133 FOUGERES
    - = Bundesgesundheitsamt  
Thielallee, 88-92  
D-1000 BERLIN 33
    - = Istituto Superiore di Sanità  
via Regina Elena, 299  
I-00161 ROMA
  - establishing, in connection with the cessation of vaccination against foot-and-mouth disease, Community reserves of foot-and-mouth disease vaccine in 4 institutes (Institute for Animal Health, Pirbright, United Kingdom; Laboratoire de pathologie bovine du centre national d'études vétérinaires et alimentaires de Lyon, France; Bayer A.G., Cologne, Germany; Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale di Brescia, Italy) in order to cope with any re-appearance of foot-and-mouth disease.
- Under a contract concluded with the Commission, these institutes will have to undertake to:
- = supply the concentrated inactivated antigen as swiftly as possible;
  - = store a sufficient quantity of antigen;
  - = guarantee rapid formulation, bottling and distribution.

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- designating and laying down the functions of a Community Co-ordinating Institute for foot-and-mouth disease. This is the Central Diergeneeskundig Instituut, LELYSTAD, in the Netherlands.

The Council also adopted Directives

- amending Directive 80/217/EEC introducing Community measures for the control of classical swine fever;
- amending Directives 64/432/EEC, 72/461/EEC and 80/215/EEC as regards certain measures relating to classical swine fever;
- amending Directive 72/462/EEC on health and veterinary inspection problems upon importation of bovine animals and swine and fresh meat or meat products from third countries;
- and the Decision amending Directive 80/1095/EEC and Decision 80/1096/EEC as regards certain measures relating to classical swine fever.

These adapt certain existing Community measures following cessation of vaccination against swine fever and the satisfactory development of the situation regarding this disease.

The Council adopted Regulations

- laying down rules for the description and presentation of special wines.

They provide, in particular, for:

- = the inclusion on the labels of these wines of an indication of the alcohol strength by volume
- = a ban on the use of lead-based capsules in the closing devices on these wines.

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- laying down, in respect of hops, the amount of aid to producers for the 1990 harvest.

This aid will be ECU 340/ha for all varieties (aromatic, bitter and others).

The Council adopted Regulations:

- opening a Community tariff quota for high-quality fresh, chilled or frozen meat of bovine animals falling within CN Codes 0201 and 0202 and products falling within CN Codes 0206 10 95 and 0206 29 91 (1992). This will involve 34 300 tonnes at 20% duty.
- opening and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for meat of bovine animals, frozen, falling within CN Code 0202 and products falling within CN Code 0206 29 91 (1992). This will involve a quota of 53 000 tonnes at 20% duty.
- opening a Community tariff quota for frozen buffalo meat falling within CN Code 0202 30 90 (1992). This will involve a quota of 2 250 tonnes at 20% duty.
- opening a Community tariff quota for frozen thin skirt of bovine animals falling within CN Code 0206 29 91 (1992). This will involve a quota of 1 500 tonnes at 4% duty.

#### OTHER DECISIONS

##### Relations with the ACP States

- Humanitarian aid to Somalia and Liberia

The Council adopted the draft conclusions of the ACP-EEC Committee of Ambassadors concerning humanitarian aid to Somalia and Liberia. This draft will, as an exceptional and temporary measure, permit the use of resources still available for these two countries under the indicative programmes of the

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second and third ACP-EEC Conventions for the financing of emergency aid and aid for refugees and returnees in the two countries concerned. The draft conclusions indicate how the resources taken from the indicative programmes will be replenished.

This decision was taken for reasons of force majeure. Somalia and Liberia are currently unable to ratify the fourth Lomé Convention and thus cannot receive humanitarian aid under the new Convention. It is also based on political and humanitarian considerations and is intended to meet the immediate needs of the populations concerned in the shortest time possible.

It complements the Council Decision of 18 November 1991 (see 9298/91 Presse 208) on the use of non-committed appropriations for emergency aid and aid to refugees and returnees under the third Lomé Convention for similar types of action for ACP countries for which the fourth Lomé Convention is not yet in force.

#### Relations with the Soviet Union

The Council adopted the Decision concluding a complementary agreement with the Soviet Union to include triangular operations in the credit guarantee of ECU 500 million granted to it for the export of Community agricultural and food products to the USSR.

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ISRAEL - good laboratory practice

The Council authorized the Commission to negotiate with Israel an agreement in the field of good laboratory practice and defined the relevant negotiating directives.

Internal market: checks on goods

Following consultation of the European Parliament, the Council adopted a Regulation laying down the methods of using NATO form 302, in preparation for the completion of the internal market, and repealing Regulations Nos 3690/86 and 4283/88 concerning checks on goods crossing the Community's internal borders.

The approved text corresponds to the common position adopted on 14 October 1991 (see Press Release 8529/91 Presse 164).

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES  
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

9914/91 (Presse 229)

1543rd Council meeting

- ENVIRONMENT -

Brussels, 12 December 1991

President: Mr J.G.M. ALDERS

Minister for the Environment  
of the Kingdom of the Netherlands



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fel/PB/bzb

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

Belgium:

Mrs Miet SMET State Secretary for the Environment

Denmark:

Mr Pir Stig MØLLER Minister for the Environment

Germany:

Mr Clemens STROETMANN State Secretary, Federal Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation and Reactor Safety

Greece:

Mr Achilleas KARAMANLIS Minister for the Environment, Regional Planning and Public Works

Spain:

Mr Vincente ALBERO State Secretary for the Environment

France:

Mr Brice LALONDE State Secretary for the Environment

Ireland:

Mr Rory O'HANLON Minister for the Environment

Italy:

Mr Enrico PETROMARCHI Deputy Permanent Representative

Luxembourg:

Mr Alex BODRY

Minister for the Environment

Netherlands:

Mr J.G.M. ALDERS

Minister for Housing, Planning and the  
Environment

Portugal:

Mr Antonio TAVEIRA

State Secretray for Natural resources

Ms Teresa GOUVEIA

State Secretary for the Environment

United Kingdom:

Mr David TRIPPIER

Minister of State, Department of the  
Environment (Minister for the Environment and  
Countryside)

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o o

Commission:

Mr Carlo RIPA DI MEANA

Member

ECO-LABEL

The Council agreed to the Regulation setting up a Community eco-label award scheme to promote the design, production, marketing and use of products which have a reduced environmental impact during their entire life cycle and provide consumers with better information on the environmental impact of products <sup>(1)</sup>.

To obtain the eco-label, the logo of which is shown below,

manufacturers or importers into the Community must apply to the competent body designated by the Member State in which the product is manufactured, first placed on the market, or imported.

The competent body will decide whether to award the label after assessing the environmental performance of the product by reference to general principles set out in the Regulation and specific criteria laid down for product groups.

The product groups and specific ecological criteria for each group will be

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(1) The Regulation does not apply to food, drink or pharmaceuticals.

established by the Commission, assisted by a Committee composed of representatives of the Member States, after consultation of the principal interest groups meeting within a consultation forum (2).

The label will be awarded for a fixed production period which may in no circumstances exceed the period of validity of the specific criteria for the product groups, which is three years.

The terms of use of the label will be the subject of a contract between the competent body and the applicant. These terms will also include provisions for withdrawing authorization.

The Commission will publish in the Official Journal of the European Communities, at least once a year, a list of products for which an eco-label has been awarded, the names of the manufacturers or importers and the expiry dates of the labels.

Member States must ensure that consumers and undertakings are informed of the objectives of the scheme, the product groups selected, the criteria for product groups and the application procedures.

The Regulation will be formally adopted shortly, after finalization of the texts.

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(2) This forum will involve at least the Community level representatives of industry and commerce, including trade unions if appropriate, and consumer and environmental protection organizations.

EXPORTS AND IMPORTS OF CERTAIN DANGEROUS CHEMICALS

The Council agreed to the Regulation concerning Community exports and imports of certain dangerous chemicals.

The aim of this Regulation is to ensure Community participation in the international system of notification set up under the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the FAO, in particular through the introduction of the principle of "prior informed consent" (PIC) into the Community system of notification for exports and imports of chemicals, instituted by Regulation No 1734/88.

The Regulation also widens the scope of the Community system by extending the list of chemicals subject to notification.

The status of chemicals with regard to the PIC procedure or the restrictions on their use in the Community are set out in various annexes which will be reviewed at intervals, under a procedure involving both the Commission and the Member States.

The concept of "prior informed consent" consists in allowing the authorities of an importing country the discretionary power to permit or to refuse, in full knowledge of the facts, the importation of a substance that is banned or severely restricted in the Community.

The Regulation stipulates that the Commission must inform the competent bodies dealing with the PIC procedure of the chemicals banned or severely restricted in the Community. The Commission must also forward forthwith to the Member States

information it receives on chemicals subject to the PIC procedure and the decisions of third countries to ban or restrict imports of these products.

The Regulation will be formally adopted after finalization of the texts.

#### EVALUATION AND CONTROL OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS OF EXISTING SUBSTANCES

The Council reached agreement on a common position on the Regulation intended to ensure, on the basis of information collected, evaluation and then appropriate control of the risks to man and the environment posed by existing substances.

In practice the Regulation concerns about 10 000 substances, with varying degrees of requirements, depending in particular on the quantities concerned.

The text is based on close co-operation between the Member States, which will receive the available data from the Commission and will participate directly in evaluation of the risks posed by the substances on the priority lists.

The Regulation endeavours to avoid any overlapping with work being done in other international bodies, in particular the OECD.

## HABITATS

The Council reached agreement on the Directive on the conservation of natural and semi-natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.

The aim of the Directive is to contribute towards ensuring biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora in the European territory of the Member States.

To achieve this, the Directive provides for the setting up of a coherent European ecological network of special areas of conservation, called natura 2000, by a process of staged designation.

The network will be composed of sites hosting natural habitat types and habitats of species of Community interest, and will also include the special protection areas designated under Directive 79/409/EEC on the protection of wild birds.

In the special areas of conservation, the Member States must establish the necessary conservation measures involving, if need be, appropriate management plans specifically designed for the sites or integrated into other development plans and appropriate statutory, administrative or contractual measures.

Member States will also have to take appropriate steps to avoid, in the special areas of conservation, the deterioration of natural habitats and the habitats of species as well as the disturbance of species for which the areas have been designated.

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For a series of animal and plant species of Community interest for which the establishment of special areas of conservation is not required, the Member States will take the requisite measures to establish a system of strict protection in their natural range.

Exceptionally under this Directive, Community co-financing is provided for within the limits of the funds liberated under Community decisions.

The Directive will be formally adopted shortly, after finalization of the texts.



LIFE

The Council reached agreement <sup>(3)</sup> on a Regulation establishing a financial instrument for the environment (LIFE), which is intended to incorporate the financial instruments MEDSPA, NORSPA and ACNAT also associated with environmental protection.

The general aim of LIFE is to contribute to the development and implementation of Community policy and legislation in the environmental field through the financing of priority action on the environment in the Community and technical assistance measures with third countries in the Mediterranean area or bordering the Baltic Sea.

In exceptional circumstances it will be possible to finance action on environmental problems at regional or planetary level which has been provided for in international conventions. The financing of such action in the LIFE framework will be the subject of a specific Council decision on a proposal from the Commission.

The Regulation provides for LIFE to be applied in phases, the first of which will end on 31 December 1995.

The Community funds deemed necessary to implement LIFE amount to ECU 400 million for the first phase, of which ECU 140 million is available between now and the end of 1992 under the 1988-1992 financial perspective. For the subsequent period of application of the first phase, the amount will have to fit into the Community financial framework in force.

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(3) One delegation gave its agreement subject to confirmation.

The illustrative breakdown of the Community funds which may be allocated to each area of action in the Community is as follows:

= promoting the sustainable development and the quality of the environment	40%
= protecting habitats and nature	45%
= services and administrative structures for the environment	5%
= education, training and information	5%

A maximum amount of funds of 5% may be allocated to Community measures to help third countries.

The Community's financial contribution will vary between 30% and 100% of the cost of the measures according to the type of measure and its originator.

A Committee of representatives of the Member States will assist the Commission in implementing the Regulation.

Before 31 December 1994 the Commission will submit a report to the Council and the European Parliament on the implementation of the Regulation and make proposals for any adjustments to be made for continuing the action beyond the first phase.

Acting by a qualified majority on a proposal from the Commission, the Council will take a decision on the implementation of the second phase as from 1 January 1996.

The Regulation will be formally adopted after the text has been finalized.

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COMMON PLATFORM - GUIDELINES FOR THE COMMUNITY FOR UNCED 1992

After a detailed discussion, the Council issued guidelines for further work in preparation for the United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development (UNCED) to be held in Rio de Janeiro from 1 to 12 June 1992.

The future Portuguese presidency announced its intention of holding a joint Environment/Development Council meeting in February 1992 to continue preparing the Community position at UNCED 1992.

The Community is continuing to play an active part in the negotiations for the conventions on climatic change and biodiversity, whose signing in Rio should be one of the important results of UNCED.

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OBSERVANCE AND APPLICATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION

The Presidency gave an oral report on the question of the observance and application of environmental legislation, which had been discussed at the informal Environment Council meeting on 12 October 1991 in Amsterdam.

SUPERVISION AND CONTROL OF SHIPMENTS OF WASTE (BASLE CONVENTION)

The Council held a policy debate on the proposal for a Regulation on the supervision and control of shipments of waste within, into and out of the Community.

The proposal was sent to the Council in October 1990 and is intended to update Directive 84/632/EEC so that, among other things, the Community can implement and ratify the Basle Convention.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue examining the proposal in the light of the European Parliament's Opinion in particular.

SULPHUR CONTENT OF GASOIL

The council took note of progress reached in the discussions on the proposal for a Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the sulphur content of gasoil.

This proposal and the accompanying report are in application of Article 6 of Directive 87/219/EEC amending Directive 75/716/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the sulphur content of certain liquid fuels. The main aim of the proposal is to introduce a single level for the sulphur content of gasoil in the Community by 1 October 1994.

The proposal also provides for a second stage further bringing down the sulphur content of gasoil in the continuing interests of reducing the level of pollution caused by sulphur dioxide emissions and in order to meet the requirements of Directive 91/542/EEC relating to the emission of gaseous pollutants from diesel engines.

5th ACTION PROGRAMME

The Commission informed the Council of progress reached in the discussions on the 5th action programme on the environment which the Commission intends to adopt in January 1992.

POSSESSION OF AND TRADE IN SPECIMENS OR SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA

The Commission submitted the proposal for a Regulation laying down provisions with regard to possession of and trade in specimens or species of wild fauna and flora.

SEMINAR ON GROUNDWATER (THE HAGUE - 26 AND 27 NOVEMBER 1991)

The Council adopted the following Resolution:

THE COUNCIL:

- underlines the vital importance of groundwater for all forms of life, for human health, and for safeguarding ecosystems;
- states its concern about the lowering of groundwater levels and/or the pollution of certain aquifers;
- notes that this important resource is limited, that its conservation for the future is a major political, economic and environmental imperative and that it can be exploited only in strict observance of the principle of lasting development;

- observes that freshwater management policy can be conducted only through co-ordinated action by all agents in the public and private sectors, taking due account of the principle of subsidiarity;
- takes note of the final declaration of the ministerial seminar held on 26 and 27 November 1991 on the future Community groundwater policy;
- calls upon the Commission:
  - = to submit, if possible by the middle of 1993, a detailed action programme for which that declaration may provide guidelines;
  - = to draft a proposal for revising the Directive on groundwater by incorporating it into a general freshwater management policy, including freshwater protection;
- requests the competent authorities and groups involved to contribute to the conservation of this natural resource in the areas under their control.

CONFERENCE ON EUROPEAN COASTAL CONSERVATION (THE HAGUE -  
19 AND 20 NOVEMBER 1991)

The Council adopted the following Resolution:

THE COUNCIL:

recognizing that the European Coastal zone, including islands, is a fragile and vital common heritage, and that it is essential that its biological diversity, landscape value, environmental quality and its capacity to sustain life, health, economic activities and social wellbeing are safeguarded;

emphasizing that a key to sustainable use and development of coastal zones lies in the full integration of economic, physical planning and environmental policies;

acknowledging that the vulnerability of the environment, including the natural and cultural heritage, in coastal areas should explicitly be taken into account in developing coastal policies;

- takes note of the final declaration of the European Coastal Conservation Conference, held in The Hague, The Netherlands, from 19 to 21 November 1991 about the future policy with regard to the European coastal zone;
- concludes that, taking into account the subsidiarity principle, there is a clear need for a Community strategy for integrated planning and management of the coastal zones based on the principles of sustainability and sound ecological and environmental practice;



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- concludes that conservation and sustainable use of coastal zones is one of the fundamental aspects of such a strategy and that accordingly high priority should be given to specific action in this field;
- invites the Commission:
  - = to propose for consideration a Community strategy for integrated coastal zone management which will provide a framework for conservation and sustainable use;
  - = to incorporate this initiative into the 5th Environmental Action Programme.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Miscellaneous decisions on the environment

The Council adopted

- a Decision concerning the approval of the amendment to the Montreal Protocol on substances that deplete the ozone layer as adopted in June 1990 in London by the Parties to the Protocol.

This amendment which is based on the principle of preventive action to avoid further damage to the ozone layer provides in particular for a higher degree of control of chlorofluorocarbons and halons;

- the Directive on hazardous waste, following consultation of the European Parliament on the question of the legal basis. The adopted text corresponds to the agreement in principle arrived at in the Council at its meeting on 20 and 21 December 1990, the adopted basis being Article 130s.

The principal aim of this proposal is to formulate a common definition of hazardous waste and introduce greater harmonization of the management of such waste. (See Press Release No 11030/90 Presse 240 - Environment - of 20 and 21 December 1990).

- the Directive concerning the protection of waters against pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural sources, following substantive agreement in the Environment Council of 13 and 14 June 1991 (see Press Release No 6779/91 Presse 90).

Internal information services market (IMPACT 2)

Following the agreement arrived at in the Internal Market Council on 7 November 1991, the Council adopted a Decision concerning a programme for the continuation of Community policy and actions for setting up an internal information services market (IMPACT 2) (see Press Release No 9124/91 Presse 192).

EEC-Morocco relations

The Council adopted a Regulation opening a Community tariff quota for prepared or preserved sardines, originating in Morocco, for the period 1 January 1992 to 29 February 1992, date on which the EEC-Morocco fisheries agreement currently being renegotiated is due to expire.

20% of this quota is allocated among a number of Member States while 80% is covered by a Community reserve.

ECSC

The Council gave its assent pursuant to Article 56(2)(a) of the ECSC Treaty (Rabobank Nederland, Netherlands).

Appointments

The Council

- adopted a Decision appointing the full members and alternate members of the Advisory Committee on Social Security for Migrant Workers
  
  - replaced two members of the ECSC Consultative Committee for the remainder of their terms of office.
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PRESS RELEASE

9916/91 (Presse 231)

1544th Meeting of the Council

- ENVIRONMENT/ENERGY -

Brussels, 13 December 1991

President: Mr J.G.M. ALDERS,

Minister for the Environment  
of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

13.XII.91  
ett/PT/sh

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

Belgium:

Mr W. CLAES Deputy Prime Minister,  
Minister for Economic Affairs  
and Planning

Mrs Miet SMET State Secretary for the Environment

Denmark:

Mrs Anne Birgitte LUNDHOLT Minister for Industry and Energy

Mr Pir Stig MØLLER Minister for the Environment

Germany:

Mr Klaus TÖPFER Federal Minister for the Environment

Mr Jürgen MÖLLEMANN Federal Minister for Economic Affairs

Greece:

Mr Achilleas KARAMANLIS Minister for the Environment,  
Regional Planning and Public Works

Mr Georges APOSTOLAKIS Secretary-General, Ministry of Industry  
Energy and Technology

Spain:

Mr José BORRELL FONTELLES Minister for Public Works and Transport

Mr Claudio ARANZADI Minister for Industry and Energy

Mr Vincente ALBERO State Secretary for the Environment

France:

Mr Dominique STRAUSS-KAHN Minister with responsibility for Industry

Ireland:

Mr Robert MOLLOY Minister for Energy  
Mr Rory O'HANLON Minister for the Environment

Italy:

Mr Giorgio RUFFOLO Minister for the Environment  
Mr Guido BODRATO Minister for Industry

Luxembourg:

Mr Alex BODRY Minister for the Environment  
and Energy

Netherlands:

Mr J.G.M. ALDERS Minister for the Environment  
Mr Kloos ANDRIESEN Minister for Economic Affairs

Portugal:

Mr Luis Fernando de MIRA AMARAL Minister for Industry and Energy  
Mr Antonio TAVEIRA State Secretary responsible for  
Natural Resources

United Kingdom:

Mr Michael HESELTINE Secretary of State for the Environment  
Mr John WAKEHAM Secretary of State for Energy

Commission:

Mr Carlo RIPA DI MEANA Member  
Mr A. CARDOSO E CUNHA Member

COMMUNITY STRATEGY TO LIMIT CARBON DIOXIDE EMISSIONS AND TO IMPROVE ENERGY EFFICIENCY

The Council held an exhaustive discussion on the strategy proposed by the Commission in October 1991 to limit carbon dioxide emissions and to improve energy efficiency.

It will be recalled that the joint ENVIRONMENT/ENERGY Council held on 29 October 1990 in Luxembourg set as a Community policy objective for climate change the stabilization of CO2 emissions at the 1990 level by the year 2000 and provided a series of indications as to means and instruments to be used for that purpose. This stabilization objective has been reaffirmed by the Community at the negotiations for a general Convention on Climate Change, which are now being actively pursued with a view to the Rio Conference to be held in June 1992.

At the close of discussions the Council adopted the conclusions set out below:

1. The Ministers of Environment and Energy, meeting in joint Council on 13 December 1991, conclude the following with regard to the Communication from the Commission: "A Community Strategy to limit carbon dioxide emissions and to improve energy efficiency", noting at the same time that the fiscal aspects of the communication will also be discussed in the ECOFIN Council.
2. The Council recalls as its point of departure the conclusions of the Joint Energy/Environment Council meeting on 29 October 1990.



3. The Council expresses its appreciation of the communication of the Commission and recognizes it as an important step in the process of developing measures which will enable the Community and its Member States to achieve the objectives referred to in the above conclusions, and notably the stabilisation of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the Community by the year 2000 at 1990 level.
4. The Council recognizes the need for a strategy at Community level based on a wide ranging package of Community and national measures.
5. Within the Community strategy, it is necessary to formulate, in accordance with the conclusions of the Joint Energy/Environment Council of 29 October 1990, national programmes including strategies and targets for limiting CO<sub>2</sub> emissions as well as national programmes for limiting other greenhouse gas emissions.

These programmes, appropriate to the specific circumstances of each Member State, will include measures decided at Community level as well as national measures. Possible measures to be considered include instruments of a technical, financial and social nature to be applied in the relevant sectors.

6. In this connection, the Council invites the Commission and Member States to make an inventory of the emissions relating to greenhouse gases, including methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), ozone (O<sub>3</sub>) and carbon monoxide (CO), with a view to establishing strategies for limiting such emissions.

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7. Member States will send to the Commission as soon as possible their national programmes as well as other relevant information. Existing national programmes will be notified before April 1992. The Commission will forward the programmes and information to other Member States and will also make an assessment of national action taken as a whole in relation to the overall Community stabilisation objective. The Commission will report regularly to the Council thereon.
8. Specific measures at Community level will include strengthening of R & D effort, further efforts to improve energy efficiency, increased development of new and renewable energy resources, improvement in vehicle fuel efficiency and other transport measures. The Community programmes including Thermie, Joule and SAVE will be further strengthened in the future where necessary. These specific measures, together with other policy measures such as those related to waste recycling and action on sinks of CO<sub>2</sub>, will make an important contribution towards achieving the stabilisation objective.
9. The Council, basing itself on existing studies and analyses, recognises that the national programmes and specific measures referred to above are unlikely to be sufficient alone to reach the Community objective of CO<sub>2</sub> stabilisation.
10. It further recognises that, in order to reach CO<sub>2</sub> stabilisation in a cost-effective way, higher energy pricing through the use of fiscal instruments is likely to be needed to complement national and Community energy efficiency programmes.

11. The Council fully recognises however that the introduction of Community-wide taxation would pose a wide range of complex issues requiring further study, by Ministers who are competent on such questions. Such issues include:
- the relevant (macro)-economic and social consequences of the proposed tax;
  - the energy policy consequences of the proposed tax;
  - the consequences and the elaboration of the proposed temporary relief to the sectors employing energy intensive production processes and having a large involvement in international trade;
  - the most appropriate base of this tax, taking into account the consequences for economic sectors;
  - the legal and practical possibility and the economic consequences of introducing a harmonized rate and the possibility to provide for a temporary suspension of taxation and for modification of the rate in relation to economic developments and environmental situation in the different Member States and progress towards the stabilization objective.
12. The Council invites the Commission to put forward formal proposals for concrete measures arising from the Community strategy, including any necessary proposals for Community-wide taxation taking into account the studies referred to above when they become available and the conclusions of the ECOFIN Council.

13. In order to facilitate a coordinated participation of Member States, such measures should take into account the concept of equitable burden-sharing, in accordance with the conclusions of the Joint Energy/Environment Council of 29 October 1990 <sup>(1)</sup>, in the light of the potential for and constraints affecting CO2 reductions as well as of the present situation with regard to emissions in Member States.
  
14. The Council, noting the international effort to stabilise CO2 emissions, urges the Commission and the Member States to make every effort to ensure that as many countries as possible, and notably major trading partners, undertake commitments and implement measures on the lines of those undertaken by the Community and Member States.
  
15. The Council reaffirms the importance it attaches to the success of the negotiations taking place in the Intergovernmental Committee on Climate Change and in the UNCED process and instructs the Commission to continue its preparatory work on a Community strategy so as to allow a Council Decision in May 1992 at the latest.

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(1) In this context, the Spanish delegation wishes to draw attention to paragraphs 7 and 8 of those conclusions.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES  
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

10323/91 (Presse 239)

1545th Council meeting

- GENERAL AFFAIRS -

Political Co-operation meeting

Brussels, 16 and 17 December 1991

President: Mr Hans VAN DEN BROEK  
Minister for Foreign Affairs  
of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

16/17.XII.91

ani/MI/mh

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

Belgium:

Mr Marc EYSKENS Minister for Foreign Affairs

Denmark:

Mr Uffe ELLEMANN-JENSEN Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Jørgen ØRSTRØM MØLLER State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Germany:

Mr Hans-Dietrich GENSCHER Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mrs Ursula SEILER-ALBRING Minister of State, Foreign Affairs

Greece:

Mr Antonios SAMARAS Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Georges PAPASTAMKOS State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Spain:

Mr Carlos WESTENDORP State Secretary for Relations with the European Communities

Mr Claudio ARANZADI Minister for Industry and Energy

Mr Miguel Angel FEITO HERNÁNDEZ State Secretary for Trade

France:

Mr Roland DUMAS                                   Ministre d'Etat, Minister for Foreign Affairs  
Mrs Elisabeth GUIGOU                           Minister for European Affairs

Ireland:

Mr Gerard COLLINS                             Minister for Foreign Affairs

Italy:

Mr Gianni DE MICHELIS                       Minister for Foreign Affairs  
Mrs Margherita BONIVER                     Minister for Immigration  
Mr Claudio VITALONE                         State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Luxembourg:

Mr Jacques F. POOS                           Minister for Foreign Affairs

Netherlands:

Mr Hans VAN DEN BROEK                     Minister for Foreign Affairs  
Mr Piet DANKERT                             State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Portugal:

Mr João PINHEIRO                           Minister for Foreign Affairs  
Mr Vitor MARTINS                           State Secretary for European Integration

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United Kingdom:

Mr Douglas HURD

Secretary of State for Foreign and  
Commonwealth Affairs

Mr Tristan GAREL-JONES

Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth  
Office

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Commission:

Mr Jacques DELORS

President

Mr F.H.J.J. ANDRIESEN

Vice-President



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FOLLOW-UP TO THE MAASTRICHT EUROPEAN COUNCIL

I. Draft Treaties on Political Union and Economic and Monetary Union

The Council instructed the Personal Representatives to finalize the consolidated text of the agreements reached at Maastricht on Political Union and Economic and Monetary Union and to prepare the ground in time for the Treaties to be signed before the end of February 1992.

II. Food aid for the population of Moscow and St Petersburg

The European Council had expressed concern over the critical food-supply situation in Moscow and St Petersburg and agreed that the Community should rapidly take concrete steps to help the populations of these cities.

Discussions in the General Affairs and ECOFIN Councils on the basis of proposals from the Commission culminated in agreement on an emergency food-aid plan involving a total of ECU 200 million, made up as follows: ECU 5 million, which falls within the scope of the Commission's own management powers for emergency humanitarian aid (budget heading B7-5 000); ECU 95 million, which is to be mobilized by means of a Regulation based on the common organization of the agricultural markets (1992 EAGGF Guarantee Section); ECU 100 million, to be mobilized by means of a Regulation based on Articles 43 and 235 of the Treaty (1991 EAGGF appropriations to be carried

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over to 1992), on which it was decided to consult the European Parliament via the urgent procedure.

The possibility of extending the aid to the inhabitants of other cities in the Soviet Union was not ruled out.

The Council noted Member States' wish to contribute towards the swift implementation of the emergency aid with logistical back-up and appropriate expertise and decided to form a task force made up of representatives of the Commission and the Member States responsible for ensuring that the aid reached the population concerned. The Council further stressed the importance it attached to co-ordinating this aid with that from other sources, notably the G-7 donors.

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POLICY ON IMMIGRATION FROM THIRD COUNTRIES

The Council took note of two Commission communications, one on immigration, the other on the right of asylum.

Ministers responsible for immigration had submitted to the Maastricht European Council a report on immigration and asylum, which took due account of the two Commission communications.

On the basis of the European Council's conclusions, the Council asked Immigration Ministers to implement the work programme detailed in the report in accordance with the timetable laid down. The Commission stated that it intended to take a number of steps in these areas.

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HAITI

The Council confirmed the resolve of the Twelve and the Community to contribute towards restoring democracy and the rule of law in Haiti. It called on the Commission to submit to it, for immediate approval, a proposal for denouncing the Lomé Convention in respect of Haiti as well as other proposals for measures that could be implemented more swiftly.

The Council would point out that after the military coup which overthrew Haiti's legitimate, democratically elected government, the Community and its Member States suspended economic aid while maintaining humanitarian assistance. This humanitarian aid, which the population receives directly via the NGOs, will be continued and indeed increased if necessary.

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EEA AGREEMENT

The Council took note of the opinion of the Court of Justice, pursuant to Article 228(1) of the EEC Treaty, that the judicial control system which it is planned to set up under the Agreement on the European Economic Area is incompatible with the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to consider with the Commission the implications of this opinion for the draft EEA Agreement. It noted that the Commission would shortly be having an initial meeting with the EFTA partners.

The Council particularly confirmed the political determination of the Community and its Member States to find a solution to this problem very rapidly so that the Agreement could be signed by the end of February 1992 and, allowing for the ratification procedures, enter into force on 1 January 1993 as planned.

The Council emphasized that all the other aspects of the draft Agreement negotiated with the EFTA countries, aspects to which the Court of Justice opinion does not apply, are regarded by the Community and its Member States as settled.

16/17.XII.91

ani/MI/kr

RELATIONS WITH POLAND, HUNGARY AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA

The Council agreed to go ahead with the signing of European Association Agreements with Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia, the Agreements were signed the same day (see Press Release 10324/91 Presse 240).

RELATIONS WITH CHINA

The Council discussed respect for human rights in China, after which it asked the Political Committee to look more closely at the human-rights situation in China and the prospects for change.

Pending the Political Committee's report, on which subsequent discussions will be based, the Twelve and the Commission will refrain from any further action on co-operation projects with China.

16/17.XII.91

ani/MI/kr

EMERGENCY AID TO ALBANIA AND THE BALTIC STATES

While expressing appreciation for the considerable efforts made by some Member States to assist the people of Albania and the Baltic States, the Council was concerned to note that the food situation in these countries remained critical.

The Council called on the Commission to table suggestions quickly for measures which could be taken on the basis of available budgetary resources and for additional measures judged to be necessary, together with their financial implications.

The Permanent Representatives Committee was to examine these suggestions at its meeting on 18 December 1991.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Trade concessions for the countries of the Central American Isthmus (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama)

In accordance with the Community's undertaking at the San José VII Conference in Managua on 18 and 19 March 1991, the Council unanimously adopted a Regulation introducing exceptional, temporary trade measures to assist the countries of the Central American Isthmus, similar in nature to those granted to four countries of the Andean Group (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru).

The concessions have been granted to take account of the similar exports of the two regions and to avoid compromising the economic and social development of the Isthmus countries. They are also designed to encourage the democratic process and respect for human rights and to support the efforts to bring national peace and reconciliation which are underway in the region.

The Council took this opportunity to reaffirm its determination to intensify co-operation with the countries of the region in combating drugs as well as drives to consolidate diversification of the Central American Isthmus' production and exports.

The Council appealed to the countries of the region to maintain the process of dismantling barriers to trade within the region in order to improve its integration into the world economy and ensure that the trade measures adopted by the Council and the co-operation projects to assist the region were fully effective.



16/17.XII.91

ani/MI/ac

### Textiles

The Council adopted two Regulations amending, for 1991, the quantitative limits for imports into the Community of certain textile products originating in 21 third countries which had accepted the Community's offer. The amendment is designed to allow for the fact that as a result of the unification of Germany the provisions of textile agreements concluded by the Community with third countries apply to all German territories resulting from that unification.

### Relations with the Republic of San Marino

The Council agreed to go ahead with the signing of the Agreement on customs union and co-operation between the Community and San Marino; the Agreement was signed the same day (see Press Release 10388/91 Presse 244).

### EEC-Andorra relations

The Council agreed to a draft Decision of the EEC-Andorra Joint Committee designed to increase the amounts expressed in ecus in Article 2 of the Appendix to the EEC-Andorra Agreement in order to ensure that their equivalent in national currencies remained at least on the same level in all the Community Member States.

16/17.XII.91

ani/MI/kr

EEC-Turkey relations

Under the relevant provisions of the EEC-Turkey Association Agreement the Council adopted two Regulations respectively:

- suspending wholly or in part the Common Customs Tariff duties on certain agricultural products originating in Turkey (1992);
- opening and providing for the administration of a Community preferential ceiling for certain petroleum products refined in Turkey and establishing Community surveillance for imports thereof (1992).

Relations with the OCT

The Council agreed to a Decision adopting the General Regulations, General Conditions and Procedural Rules on Conciliation and Arbitration for Works, Supply and Service Contracts financed by the European Development Fund concerning their application in the association of the OCT with the Community.

The Council Decision is to apply to all contracts financed by the EDF in the OCT concluded as from 1 June 1991.

16/17.XII.91

ani/MI/kr

### POSEIDOM

Further to Council Decision 89/687/EEC of 22 December 1989 providing for a programme of options specific to the remote and insular nature of the French overseas departments (POSEIDOM), the Council adopted a Regulation introducing specific measures in respect of certain agricultural products for the benefit of the French overseas departments.

This Regulation, which is in accordance with the structural policy to assist the remoter regions, is intended (a) to ensure that the French overseas departments are supplied with agricultural products on more favourable terms and (b) to encourage the development and improvement of regional agricultural structures.

### EC Investment Partners

Further to the compromise worked out on 28 November 1991 (see Press Release 9555/91 Presse 217), the Council adopted a joint guideline on the implementation of the "EC Investment Partners" financial facility for countries of Asia, Latin America and the Mediterranean for a three-year trial period.

This facility, launched by the Commission as a pilot scheme in 1988, is designed to promote mutually beneficial investment by economic operators in the Community, particularly in the shape of joint ventures with local operators in the countries eligible.

The joint guideline will be forwarded to the European Parliament.

16/17.XII.91

ani/MI/kr

Relations with Romania

The Council agreed in principle to the conclusion of a European Association Agreement with Romania and noted that the Commission was to begin exploratory talks with Romania immediately on the contents of such an agreement, after which it would submit a report to the Council accompanied by draft negotiating directives.

European Energy Charter

The Council noted the text of the draft European Energy Charter and that the President of the Energy Council would sign the Charter in his capacity as President of the Council of the European Communities (see Press Release 10326/91 Presse 242).

EEC-United States co-operation agreement

The Council authorized the Commission to negotiate an agreement for co-operation between the European Atomic Energy Community and the United States of America and adopted the negotiating directives.

The basic objective of the agreement will be to maintain, improve and extend co-operation between Euratom and the United States in the following main areas:

- transfers of nuclear material and equipment;
- research and development, safety and other aspects;
- industrial and commercial activities.

Social Affairs

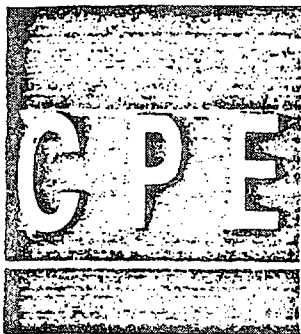
The Council adopted the Regulation on the organization of an annual Community labour-force sample survey.

Agriculture

The Council adopted Regulations

- amending for the third time Regulation (EEC) No 823/87 laying down special provisions relating to quality wines produced in specified regions;
- amending for the third time Regulation (EEC) No 2392/89 laying down general rules for the description and presentation of wines and grape musts;
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 358/79 on sparkling wines produced in the Community;
- amending for the sixth time Regulation (EEC) No 3309/85 laying down general rules for the description and presentation of sparkling wines and aerated sparkling wines.

These will make a number of adjustments to the Regulations concerned, particularly in the light of experience.



# COOPERATION POLITIQUE EUROPEENNE

## COMMUNICATION A LA PRESSE

P. 128/91

DECLARATION SUR LES  
"LIGNES DIRECTRICES SUR LA RECONNAISSANCE DE NOUVEAUX ETATS EN  
EUROPE ORIENTALE ET EN UNION SOVIETIQUE"

(Réunion ministérielle extraordinaire de CPE,  
Bruxelles, le 16 décembre 1991)

Conformément à la demande du Conseil Européen, les Ministres ont examiné les évolutions en Europe orientale et en Union Soviétique afin de définir une approche concernant les relations avec de nouveaux Etats.

Dans ce contexte, ils ont adopté les lignes directrices suivantes sur la reconnaissance formelle de nouveaux Etats en Europe orientale et en Union Soviétique:

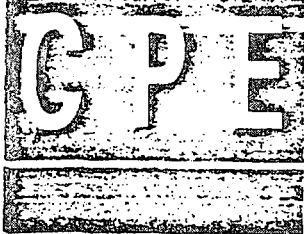
"La Communauté et ses Etats membres confirment leur attachement aux principes de l'Acte Final d'Helsinki et de la Charte de Paris, notamment au principe d'autodétermination. Ils affirment leur volonté de reconnaître, conformément aux normes acceptées de la pratique internationale et tenant compte des réalités politiques dans chaque cas concret, ces nouveaux Etats qui, après les modifications historiques survenues dans la région, se constitueraient sur une base démocratique, auraient accepté les obligations internationales pertinentes, et se seraient engagés de bonne foi dans un processus pacifique et négocié.

C'est pourquoi ils adoptent une position commune sur le processus de la reconnaissance de ces nouveaux Etat, qui implique:

- le respect des dispositions de la Charte des Nations Unies et des engagements souscrits dans l'Acte Final d'Helsinki et la Charte de Paris, notamment en ce qui concerne l'Etat de droit, la démocratie et les droits de l'homme;
- la garantie des droits des groupes ethniques et nationaux et des minorités conformément aux engagements souscrits dans le cadre de la CSCE;
- le respect de l'inviolabilité des limites territoriales qui ne peuvent être modifiées que par des moyens pacifiques et d'un commun accord;
- la reprise de tous les engagements pertinents relatifs au désarmement et à la non-prolifération nucléaire ainsi qu'à la sécurité et à la stabilité régionale;
- l'engagement à régler par accord, notamment le cas échéant par un recours à l'arbitrage, toutes les questions afférentes à la succession d'Etats et aux différends régionaux.

La Communauté et ses Etats membres ne reconnaîtront pas des entités qui seraient le résultat d'une agression. Ils prendront en considération les effets de la reconnaissance sur les Etats voisins.

L'engagement en faveur de ces principes ouvre la voie à la reconnaissance par la Communauté et ses Etats membres et à l'établissement de relations diplomatiques. Il pourra être consigné dans des accords."



# COOPERATION POLITIQUE EUROPEENNE

## COMMUNICATION A LA PRESSE

P.129/91

DECLARATION SUR LA YUGOSLAVIE  
(Réunion ministérielle extraordinaire de CPE,  
Bruxelles, le 16 décembre 1991)

La Communauté Européenne et ses Etats membres ont discuté de la situation en Yougoslavie à la lumière de leurs lignes directrices sur la reconnaissance de nouveaux Etats en Europe orientale et en Union Soviétique. Ils ont adopté une position commune concernant la reconnaissance des Républiques yougoslaves. Dans ce contexte, ils ont convenu de ce qui suit:

La Communauté et ses Etats membres ont convenu de reconnaître l'indépendance de toutes les Républiques yougoslaves qui remplissent toutes les conditions définies ci-après. La mise en oeuvre de cette décision aura lieu le 15 janvier 1992.

Ils invitent par conséquent toutes les Républiques yougoslaves à déclarer avant le 23 décembre si:

- elles souhaitent d'être reconnues en tant qu'Etats indépendants;
- elles acceptent les engagements contenus dans les lignes directrices sus-mentionnées;
- elles acceptent les dispositions reprises dans le projet de Convention qui est à l'examen de la Conférence sur la Yougoslavie, notamment des dispositions du Chapitre II sur les droits de l'homme et les droits des groupes ethniques et nationaux;
- elles continuent de soutenir
  - les efforts du Secrétaire Général et du Conseil de Sécurité des Nations Unies, et
  - la poursuite de la Conférence sur la Yougoslavie.

Les demandes de celles des Républiques qui répondront de manière positive seront soumises par la Présidence de la Conférence à la Commission d'Arbitrage pour que celle-ci donne un avis avant la date de la mise en oeuvre.



Dans l'intervalle, la Communauté et ses Etats membres demandent au Secrétaire Général des Nations Unies et au Conseil de Sécurité des Nations Unies de poursuivre leurs efforts en vue d'établir un cessez-le-feu effectif et de promouvoir un résultat pacifique et négocié du conflit. Ils continuent à attacher la plus grande importance au déploiement d'une force de maintien de la paix auquel se réfère la résolution 724 du Conseil de Sécurité des Nations Unies.

La Communauté et ses Etats membres demandent également d'une République yougoslave qu'elle s'engage, avant qu'elle soit reconnue, à donner des garanties constitutionnelles et politiques assurant qu'elle n'a aucune revendication territoriale vis-à-vis d'un pays voisin membre de la Communauté et à ne pas conduire d'activités hostiles de propagande contre un pays voisin membre de la Communauté, y compris l'utilisation d'une dénomination impliquant des revendications territoriales.



# EUROPEAN POLITICAL COOPERATION

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PRESS RELEASE

P. 128/91

DECLARATION ON THE  
"GUIDELINES ON THE RECOGNITION OF NEW STATES IN EASTERN EUROPE  
AND IN THE SOVIET UNION"

(Extraordinary EPC Ministerial Meeting,  
Brussels, 16 December 1991)

In compliance with the European Council's request, Ministers have assessed developments in Eastern Europe and in the Soviet Union with a view to elaborating an approach regarding relations with new States.

In this connection they have adopted the following guidelines on the formal recognition of new states in Eastern Europe and in the Soviet Union:

"The Community and its member States confirm their attachment to the principles of the Helsinki Final Act and the Charter of Paris, in particular the principle of self-determination. They affirm their readiness to recognise, subject to the normal standards of international practice and the political realities in each case, those new States which, following the historic changes in the region, have constituted themselves on a democratic basis, have accepted the appropriate international obligations and have committed themselves in good faith to a peaceful process and to negotiations.

Therefore, they adopt a common position on the process of recognition of these new States, which requires:

- respect for the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the commitments subscribed to in the Final

Act of Helsinki and in the Charter of Paris, especially with regard to the rule of law, democracy and human rights;

- guarantees for the rights of ethnic and national groups and minorities in accordance with the commitments subscribed to in the framework of the CSCE;
- respect for the inviolability of all frontiers which can only be changed by peaceful means and by common agreement;
- acceptance of all relevant commitments with regard to disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation as well as to security and regional stability;
- commitment to settle by agreement, including where appropriate by recourse to arbitration, all questions concerning State succession and regional disputes.

The Community and its member States will not recognise entities which are the result of aggression. They would take account of the effects of recognition on neighbouring States.

The commitment to these principles opens the way to recognition by the Community and its member States and to the establishment of diplomatic relations. It could be laid down in agreements."

# EUROPEAN POLITICAL COOPERATION

## PRESS RELEASE

P. 129/91

### DECLARATION ON YUGOSLAVIA

(Extraordinary EPC Ministerial Meeting,  
Brussels, 16 December 1991)

The European Community and its member States discussed the situation in Yugoslavia in the light of their guidelines on the recognition of new states in Eastern Europe and in the Soviet Union. They adopted a common position with regard to the recognition of Yugoslav Republics. In this connection they concluded the following:

The Community and its member States agree to recognise the independence of all the Yugoslav Republics fulfilling all the conditions set out below. The implementation of this decision will take place on January 15, 1992.

They are therefore inviting all Yugoslav Republics to state by 23 December whether:

- they wish to be recognised as independent States;
- they accept the commitments contained in the above-mentioned guidelines;
- they accept the provisions laid down in the draft Convention - especially those in Chapter II on human rights and rights of national or ethnic groups - under consideration by the Conference on Yugoslavia;
- they continue to support

- the continuation of the Conference on Yugoslavia.

The applications of those Republics which reply positively will be submitted through the Chair of the Conference to the Arbitration Commission for advice before the implementation date.

In the meantime, the Community and its member States request the UN Secretary General and the UN Security Council to continue their efforts to establish an effective cease-fire and promote a peaceful and negotiated outcome to the conflict. They continue to attach the greatest importance to the early deployment of a UN peace-keeping force referred to in UN Security Council Resolution 724.

The Community and its member States also require a Yugoslav Republic to commit itself, prior to recognition, to adopt constitutional and political guarantees ensuring that it has no territorial claims towards a neighbouring Community State and that it will conduct no hostile propaganda activities versus a neighbouring Community State, including the use of a denomination which implies territorial claims.

PRESS RELEASE

10321/91 (Presse 237)

1546th meeting of the Council

- ECOFIN -

Brussels, 16 December 1991

President: Mr Wim KOK

Minister for Finance  
of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

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

Belgium:

Mr Philippe MAYSTADT Minister for Finance

Denmark:

Mr Anders FOGH RASMUSSEN Minister for Economic Affairs

Germany:

Mr Jürgen MOELLEMANN Federal Minister for Economic Affairs

Mr Johann EEKHOF State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs

Greece:

Mr Eythymios CHRISTODOULOU Minister for Economic Affairs

Spain:

Mr Pedro PEREZ State Secretary for Economic Affairs

Mr Antonio ZABALZA MARTI State Secretary for Finance

France:

Mr Pierre BEREGOVOY Ministre d'Etat, Minister for Economic and Financial Affairs and the Budget

Ireland:

Mr Bertie AHERN Minister for Finance

Italy:

Mr Guido CARLI

Minister for the Treasury

Mr Rino FORMICA

Minister for Finance

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean-Claude JUNCKER

Minister for Finance

Netherlands:

Mr Wim KOK

Minister for Finance

Mr Marius van AMELSVOORT

State Secretary for Finance

Portugal:

Mr Jorge BRAGA DE MACEDO

Minister for Finance

Mr José BRAZ

State Secretary, Treasury

United Kingdom:

Mr John MAPLES

Economic Secretary to the  
Treasury

Commission:

Mr Henning CHRISTOPHERSEN

Vice-President

Also attended:

Mr Cees MAAS

Chairman of the Monetary  
Committee

Mr Robert MALDAGUE

Chairman of the Economic  
Policy Committee



PORTUGUESE PROGRAMME OF ECONOMIC CONVERGENCE (1992-1995)

In the context of multilateral surveillance, the Council examined the programme of convergence for 1992 to 1995 which was submitted by the Portuguese government.

Following that examination, the President drew the following conclusions:

On 16 December 1991 the Council carried out an examination of the Portuguese programme of economic convergence (1992-1995). The Council expressed its appreciation of the programme, in particular the ambitious targets for reducing inflation to a ceiling of 4 per cent by the end of 1995, of the general-government deficit to no more than 3 per cent of GDP by 1995, and of the debt ratio. The Council stressed that the achievement of these targets is highly dependent on the budget for 1992, the growth rate that is realized, and the appropriate mix of economic policy instruments. The overriding aim of reducing inflation implies the need for budget policy to concentrate on the control of expenditure in order to avoid overreliance on revenue measures, which could lead to cost-push pressures. In this regard, the commitment to the ceiling on nominal non-interest expenditure was welcomed. The growth expectations embodied in the programme are of major influence on its outcome. Wage moderation has a crucial role to play in bringing down inflation. The Council agreed with the Portuguese Government on the leadership function of public-sector wages in this context. It also recognized that the exchange rate is a key instrument in the disinflation process. Hence, the present policy of maintaining a stable nominal relationship between the Escudo and the ERM currencies should be continued.

The Council expressed its appreciation of the credibility already built up by Portugal in bringing its economy more in line with the requirements of the Community. It urged the Portuguese authorities to implement rapidly the structural measures already approved by

Parliament in order to enhance the overall responsiveness of the economy.

Finally, the Council stressed the need for rapid elaboration of the measures to implement the programme in 1992. It invited the Commission to monitor the implementation of the programme in close co-operation with the Monetary Committee and to report before the end of 1992, as a part of the regular procedure concerning convergence programmes.

#### RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND ITS CONSTITUENT REPUBLICS

The Council adopted a Decision granting an ECU 1 250 million medium-term loan to the USSR and its constituent Republics.

In this context, it agreed to release an initial instalment of ECU 500 million.

The Council also confirmed the granting of emergency food aid totalling ECU 200 million for the population of Moscow and St Petersburg in particular.

In this context, it approved an initial Regulation for an amount of ECU 95 million and decided to consult the European Parliament by the emergency procedure on a second Regulation concerning an amount of ECU 100 million.

The remaining ECU 5 million is covered by an independent Commission project.

COMMUNITY STRATEGY TO LIMIT CARBON DIOXIDE EMISSIONS AND TO IMPROVE ENERGY EFFICIENCY

The Council took note of:

- the proceedings of the Fiscal Aspects Group on Community energy/CO2 strategy;
- the conclusions of the joint Energy/Environment Council on 13 December 1991 (see press release 9916/91 Presse 231).

The Council instructed the Fiscal Aspects Group to continue its proceedings, taking account of the above conclusions of the joint Council meeting.

The Council agreed to resume its discussions on this subject before May in preparation for the Rio Conference.

ABOLITION OF FISCAL FRONTIERS

- General arrangements for excise duty

The Council reached agreement on the Presidency's compromise concerning the general arrangements for excise duty applicable to the detention, circulation and control of goods subject to excise duty (1).

- Duty-free allowances for travellers

The Council reached agreement on exemptions for Ireland and Denmark from the general arrangements for duty-free allowances for travellers for 1992.

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(1) The Irish delegation entered a reservation on the provisions concerning documentary follow-up.

- Adoption of transitional VAT arrangements

The Council adopted the Directive containing transitional VAT arrangements (Directive supplementing the common system of value added tax and amending Directive 77/388/EEC with a view to the abolition of fiscal frontiers).

- Final report

The Council adopted a progress report on the abolition of fiscal frontiers.

WITHHOLDING TAX ON INTEREST AND DIVIDEND INCOME

After taking note of the proceedings of the ad hoc Working Party on Company Taxation, the Council instructed that Working Party to expedite its proceedings so that the Directive concerned could be transposed into national law by 31 December 1992.

EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK OPERATIONS OUTSIDE THE COMMUNITY

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine the Commission's second report on possible EIB operations outside the Community.

The Council intends to have an exhaustive discussion on this subject early next year.

STRENGTHENING THE OECD ARRANGEMENT ON EXPORT CREDITS

The Council approved the Decision on amendments to the Guidelines for Officially Supported Export Credits.

It requested the Commission to inform the other Participants in the Arrangement on Export Credits (most other OECD countries) that the Community confirmed its acceptance of the new rules of the Arrangement aiming at intensifying discipline and transparency in the field of officially supported export credits.

AMENDED PROPOSAL FOR A COUNCIL DIRECTIVE ON INVESTMENT SERVICES IN THE SECURITIES FIELD

The Council agreed to continue examining this proposal at a future meeting.

TAXATION OF ROAD TRANSPORT

After taking cognizance of the conclusions of the Transport Council meeting on 16 December 1991 on this point, the Council instructed the ad hoc Working Party to continue its proceedings taking those conclusions into account (see press release 10387/91 Presse 243).

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

The Council adopted a common position on two proposals for Directives on credit institutions, one concerning their supervision on a consolidated basis and the other amending Directive 89/299/EEC of 17 April 1989 on their own funds, after the European Parliament had expressed its Opinion on both proposals and the Commission had re-examined its proposals.

1. The common position on consolidated supervision aims at extending to financial groups other than those subject to the previous Directive of June 1983 (83/350/EEC) whose parent undertaking is not only a credit institution (bank, etc.) but also a financial holding company, i.e. an undertaking whose main activity is to hold shares in credit institutions or other financial institutions.

Such an overall view of the financial situation of a group allows a more accurate idea of the components of credit institutions' own funds and enables the extent of exposures to be measured, which puts the supervisory authorities in a better position to assess the group's actual solvency.

The system set up does not however yet make it possible to organize the supervisions of financial conglomerates (including insurance companies, among others). This Directive takes account of the "acquis communautaire" in the field of financial services since 1983, which enables the aims of supervision and consolidation methods to be better defined. Closer links have been established between the authorities responsible for supervision in various fields.

2. The common position on amendment of Directive 89/299/EEC on own funds aims at granting mortgage credit institutions organized as co-operatives or funds a transitional period during which those societies which become public limited companies may continue to count the joint and several commitments of their members as capital.

The Commission took the opportunity to put an end to the provisional arrangement prevailing at the time when Directive 89/299/EEC was adopted to obtain powers to implement the technical adjustments provided for in the Directive.

The two Directives should enter into force on 1 January 1993.

The Council's common position on these two Directives will be communicated to the European Parliament under the co-operation procedure, pursuant to Article 149(2)(b) of the Treaty.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES  
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

10387/91 (Presse 243)

1547th Council meeting

- TRANSPORT -

Brussels, 16 and 17 December 1991

President:

Mrs Hanja MAIJ-WEGGEN

Minister for Transport  
of the Kingdom of the Netherlands



16/17.XII.91

kin/AH/mh

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

Belgium:

Mr Jean-Luc DEHAENE Deputy Prime Minister  
Minister for Transport

Denmark:

Mr Kaj IKAST Minister for Transport  
Mr Christophe BO BRAMSEN State Secretary for Industry

Germany:

Mr Günter KRAUSE Federal Minister for Transport  
Mr Wolfgang GRÖBL Parliamentary State Secretary  
to the Federal Minister for Transport

Greece:

Mr Nicolaos GUELESTATHIS Minister for Transport and Communications  
Mr Aristotelis PAVLIDIS Minister for Merchant Shipping

Spain:

Mr José BORRELL Minister for Public Works and Transport

France:

Mr Paul QUILES Minister for Infrastructure, Housing,  
Transport and Space  
Mr Jean-Yves LE DRIANT State Secretary for the Sea

Ireland:

Mr Séamus BRENNAN Minister of State at the Department  
of Tourism, Transport and Communications

Italy:

Mr Carlo BERNINI Minister for Transport

Luxembourg:

Mr Robert GOEBBELS Minister for Transport

Netherlands:

Mrs Hanja MAIJ-WEGGEN Minister for Transport and Public Works

Portugal:

Mr Joaquim FERREIRA DO AMARAL Minister for Public Works, Transport and Communications

Mr Eduardo AZEVEDO SOARES Minister for the Sea

Mr João DE BEBIANO State Secretary for Shipping

Mr Jorge MENDES ANTAS State Secretary for Transport

Mr Carlos LOUREIRO State Secretary for Internal Administration

United Kingdom:

Mr David DURIE Deputy Permanent Representative

For the Commission:

Sir Leon BRITTAN Vice-President

Mr Karel VAN MIERT Member

## I. LAND TRANSPORT

### SPEED LIMITATION DEVICES

The Council reached a political agreement on a Directive on the installation and use of speed limitation devices on heavy vehicles used for the carriage of goods and passengers.

The Directive provides, in order to avoid distortion of competition between hauliers, for the generalized installation and compulsory use of such a device designed to restrict the speed of the vehicles concerned to harmonized limits.

The Directive includes the following provisions:

- for heavy goods vehicles <sup>(1)</sup>, the speed limitation device will have to be set in such a way that the vehicles concerned cannot exceed 90 km/h, which means that in the present state of technology it will be set at 85 km/h;
- for buses <sup>(2)</sup> having a maximum weight exceeding 10 metric tonnes, the speed limitation device will have to be set at 100 km/h;

This device will be applied:

- as from 1 January 1994 in the case of newly registered vehicles:

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(1) Category N3: vehicles used for the carriage of goods and having a maximum weight exceeding 12 metric tonnes.

(2) Category M3: vehicles used for the carriage of passengers, comprising more than 8 seats in addition to the driver's seat, and having a maximum weight exceeding 5 metric tonnes.

- not later than 1 January 1995 in the case of vehicles registered between 1988 and 1994 used for both international and national carriage;
- not later than 1 January 1996 in the case of vehicles registered between 1988 and 1994 used solely for national carriage.

The Directive will be formally adopted shortly, once the text has undergone legal and linguistic finalization.

#### ROAD SAFETY

The Council heard an oral statement by the Commission on the proceedings of the High-level Working Party on Road Safety set up in response to the Resolution of 21 June 1991 on the Community action programme.

Following a brief exchange of views, the Council asked the Commission to submit a formal report to it as soon as possible.

#### WEIGHTS, DIMENSIONS AND OTHER TECHNICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF CERTAIN ROAD VEHICLES (SUSPENSION)

The Council reached a political agreement on the proposal for a Directive designed to ensure equivalence between certain non-pneumatic and pneumatic types of suspension on certain commercial vehicles.

#### ACCESS TO THE MARKET FOR THE CARRIAGE OF GOODS BY ROAD

Pending the European Parliament's Opinion, the Council adopted a broadly favourable attitude to the proposal for a Regulation on access to the market for the carriage of goods by road to or from the territory of a Member State or passing across the territory of one or more Member States.

16/17.XII.91

kin/AH/kr

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue examining the matter, notably in the light of the European Parliament's Opinion, and to make preparations for a Council decision on it at a forthcoming meeting.

It will be remembered that in Regulation No 1841/88 the Council had decided to introduce the new arrangements for access to the market for cross-border carriage whereby any quota system for journeys carried out on Community territory would be abolished as from 1 January 1993 and replaced by a system of Community licences granted on the basis of qualitative criteria.

The aim of the above proposal is to adopt the measures required to implement Regulation No 1841/88.

#### INTERNATIONAL CARRIAGE OF PASSENGERS BY COACH AND BUS

The Council reached agreement by a qualified majority on a Regulation whereby the principle of freedom to provide services applies to the international carriage of passengers by coach and bus, thereby guaranteeing transport undertakings in all Member States access to this market without discrimination on grounds of nationality or place of establishment.

Moreover, this Regulation already provides for:

- the liberalization of shuttle services with accommodation and of most occasional services as well as journeys by empty vehicles in connection with such carriage;

- objective criteria for authorizing new regular and shuttle services without accommodation.

The Regulation goes on to provide for future simplification of the procedures for authorizing services still subject to it and does not preclude further liberalization subsequently.

To this end, the Commission will report to the Council and submit to it, before 1 January 1996 and in the light of that report, a proposal for a Regulation on which the Council will act by a qualified majority before 1 January 1997.

The provisions of the Regulation apply to the international carriage of passengers by road on Community territory, carried out on behalf of third parties or on own account by hauliers established in a Member State in accordance with its legislation and using vehicles registered in that Member State which, depending on their type of construction and equipment, are suitable for carrying more than nine passengers, including the driver, and are intended for this purpose, as well as journeys by empty vehicles in connection with such carriage.

In the case of carriage from a Member State to a non-member country and vice versa, this Regulation applies to the journey carried out on the territory of the Member State of departure or destination once the necessary agreement between the Community and the non-member country has been concluded.

#### TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORKS

The Council heard a progress report from the Commission transport infrastructure networks, in particular in the following areas:

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- European high-speed train network;
- combined transport system;
- European inland waterway network;
- road network.

At the Council's request, the Commission undertook to submit relevant specific proposals by 1 May 1992.

#### FOURTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME IN THE FIELD OF RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT

##### - TRANSPORT

The Council adopted the Resolution stressing the need to take into account the importance of the transport sector when preparing the fourth framework programme for Community activities in the field of research and technological development.

##### ACCESSIBILITY OF TRANSPORT TO PERSONS WITH REDUCED MOBILITY

The Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council adopted the Resolution concerning a Community action programme on the accessibility of transport to persons with reduced mobility, the text of which is set out below:

"Whereas the completion of an internal market without frontiers may be expected to increase opportunities for mobility for all the people of Europe;

Whereas persons with reduced mobility, as citizens enjoying equal rights, must also be able to benefit from these opportunities;

Whereas increase of average life expectancy for the population of Europe will

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manifest itself in an increase in the number of persons with reduced mobility;

Whereas Community action to promote the accessibility of transport to persons with reduced mobility should form an integral part of a common transport policy;

Request the Commission, taking account of the proposal which it has submitted to the Council for a Directive on minimum requirements to improve the mobility and the safe transport to work of workers with reduced mobility <sup>(1)</sup> and also of the principle of subsidiarity and in co-operation with the experts from the Member States, to formulate a Community action programme including proposals for concrete measures designed to improve accessibility to all modes of public transport and to the access points thereto;

Request the Commission to submit a draft of this action programme to the Council, if possible before the end of September 1992."

CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH NON-RESIDENT CARRIERS MAY TRANSPORT GOODS OR PASSENGERS BY INLAND WATERWAY WITHIN A MEMBER STATE (CABOTAGE)

Following the agreement reached at its meeting on 7 October 1991, the Council adopted the above Regulation by a qualified majority.

The Regulation provides that with effect from 1 January 1993, any carrier of goods or passengers by inland waterway shall be permitted to carry out the national transport of goods or persons by inland waterway, for hire or reward in a Member State in which he is not established, provided that:

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(1) OJ No C 68, 16.3.1991, p. 7.



- he is established in a Member State in accordance with its legislation and, where appropriate,
- he is entitled there to carry out the international transport of goods or persons by inland waterway.

CHARGING OF TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE COSTS TO HEAVY GOODS VEHICLES

The Council:

- noted the Presidency's note in conjunction with the above Commission proposal;
- asked the ECOFIN Council and the Commission to place greater weight on environmental aspects so that users would pay an amount which varied according to how much they used the roads;
- recommended to the ECOFIN Council and to the Commission that the link with diesel excise duties and with tolls should be taken into account in further discussions on heavy goods vehicle taxes, without ruling out any approach for the time being <sup>(3)</sup>;

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(3) Reference was also made in this context to other dues affecting transport costs.

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- wanted the TRANSPORT Council to be much more closely associated with future discussions in view of the repercussions which tax harmonization would have on conditions of competition in the road transport sector.

## II. AIR TRANSPORT

### THIRD LIBERALIZATION PACKAGE

Pending the Opinions of the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee, the Council held an exchange of views on this matter and succeeded in establishing a number of guidelines necessary for further discussions in this area.

### LIMITATION OF THE OPERATION OF CERTAIN SUBSONIC JET AEROPLANES

The Council agreed on the Directive on the limitation of the operation of civil subsonic jet aeroplanes as specified in Chapter 2 of the Annex to the Chicago Convention <sup>(4)</sup> for the purpose of reducing noise due to air traffic.

This Directive forms part of the programmes of action of the Community on

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(4) The aeroplanes concerned are those with a maximum take-off mass of 34 000 kg or more with a certified maximum internal accommodation for the aeroplane type in question consisting of more than 19 passenger seats.

the environment, which have shown clearly the importance of the problem of noise and, in particular, the need to take action against noise due to air traffic.

The proposal is designed to establish a uniform Community policy and to limit further the noise from civil subsonic jet aeroplanes, taking into account the work done by international organizations.

To that end, the Directive lays down that in the first stage, as from 1 April 1995, civil subsonic jet aeroplanes fitted with engines having a by-pass ratio of less than 2 cannot operate at airports situated in the territory of the Member States (excluding the overseas departments) unless granted noise certification meeting certain standards of the Convention on International Civil Aviation, provided that they were first issued with an individual certificate of air worthiness less than 25 years previously.

In the second stage, as from 1 April 2002, all civil subsonic jet aeroplanes operating from airports in the Member States should comply with the standards set out in Annex 16 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Part II, Chapter 3, Volume 2, 2nd edition).

The Directive provides that, under certain conditions, aeroplanes registered and operated in developing nations shall be granted exemptions.

### III. SHIPPING

#### APPLYING THE PRINCIPLE OF FREEDOM TO PROVIDE SERVICES TO MARITIME TRANSPORT WITHIN MEMBER STATES (CABOTAGE)

The Council held a policy discussion on the proposal for a Regulation applying the principle of freedom to provide services to maritime transport within Member States (cabotage).

The discussion enabled a number of guidelines to emerge for the further work under the Portuguese Presidency.

#### CONSORTIA

The Council agreed in substance on the Regulation on the application of the Treaty to certain categories of agreements, decisions and concerted practices between shipping companies (consortia).

Under this Regulation, the Commission is empowered to grant a group exemption for consortia agreements in liner shipping. To that end the Commission may, in accordance with Article 85(3) of the Treaty, declare the provisions of Article 85(1) inapplicable in the case of categories of agreements between

undertakings, decisions by associations of undertakings and concerted practices intended to promote or establish co-operation for the purpose of joint operation of shipping services or combined shipping and land-based services.

#### LORAN-C RADIONAVIGATION SYSTEM

The Council agreed in substance on a Decision on the LORAN-C radionavigation system (5).

This Decision provides for Member States participating in regional agreements to establish LORAN-C radionavigation chains to seek to achieve configurations which cover the widest possible geographical area in Europe and in neighbouring waters. In addition, Member States shall sustain their efforts to establish a worldwide LORAN-C chain system. The Decision will not adversely affect other existing systems, such as DECCA or the worldwide OMEGA system provided they fulfil any obligations they might have in regard to LORAN-C under regional agreements in this area.

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(5) The LORAN-C system is a terrestrial-based radio hyperbolic position-fixing system, based upon measurements in the difference in time of arrival of pulses of radio frequency energy radiated by a chain of synchronized transmitters separated by hundred-mile intervals.

OTHER TRANSPORT DECISIONS

Following agreement at the Transport Council on 7 October 1991 (see press release No 8526/91 Presse 161), the Council adopted:

- the Regulation on the harmonization of technical rules and administrative procedures applicable to civil aviation;
- the Directive on the acceptance of personnel licences for the exercise of civil aviation operations;
- the Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the compulsory use of safety belts in vehicles of less than 3,5 tonnes;
- the Directive on the reciprocal recognition of national boatmasters' certificates for the carriage of goods and passengers by inland waterway.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES  
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

10390/91 (Presse 246)

1548th Council meeting

- FISHERIES -

Brussels, 17 and 18 December 1991

President: Mr Piet BUKMAN

Minister for Agriculture,  
Nature Conservation and Fisheries  
of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

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

Belgium:

Mr Paul DE KEERSMAEKER                      State Secretary for European Affairs  
and Agriculture

Denmark:

Mr Kent KIRK                                     Minister for Fisheries

Germany:

Mr Walter KITTEL                                 State Secretary, Federal Ministry of  
Food, Agriculture and Forestry

Greece:

Mr Christos KOSKINAS                           State Secretary for Agriculture and  
Fisheries

Spain:

Mr Pedro SOLBES MIRA                           Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Food

France:

Mr Jean-Yves LE DRIAN                           State Secretary for Maritime Affairs

Ireland:

Mr John WILSON, TD                             Tánaiste and Minister for the Marine

Italy:

Mr PIETROMARCHI                                 Deputy Permanent Representative

Luxembourg:

Mr Marc UNGEHEUER                              Legation Secretary



Netherlands:

Mr Piet BUKMAN

Minister for Agriculture, Nature  
Conservation and Fisheries

Portugal:

Mr Eduardo AZEVEDO SOARES

Minister for Maritime Affairs

Mr Joao Marçal ALVES

State Secretary for Fisheries

United Kingdom:

Mr John Selwyn GUMMER

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Food

Mr David CURRY, MP

State Secretary at the Ministry of  
Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Lord STRATHCLYDE

Minister of State at the Scottish  
Office

o

o

o

Commission:

Mr Manuel MARIN

Vice-President

COMMON FISHERIES POLICY

Vice-President MARIN presented the Commission's 1991 report on the common fisheries policy to the Council.

This report provides an assessment of the whole of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) over the period 1983-1990 and sets out the Commission's general guidelines for ensuring the future of the fisheries sector and related activities in the coming ten years, particularly so as to prepare the sector for "beyond 2002".

The purpose of the report is to stimulate debate within the Community bodies and other concerned entities in order to enable the Commission to submit appropriate legislative proposals during 1992.

TACs AND QUOTAS FOR 1992

After detailed discussions, the Council adopted unanimously the Regulation fixing, for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks, the total allowable catches for 1992 and certain conditions under which they may be fished. These totals are set out in Annex I.

The following provisions are also included in the Regulation:

- All Member States with cod and haddock quotas in the North Sea and to the west of Scotland (Areas IV and VIa) must take the necessary steps, which they must communicate to the Commission by 1 March 1992, to ensure that each of their vessels whose overall length exceeds 10 metres, and whose cod and haddock

landings from Areas IV and VIa over the period 1 January 1989 to 30 June 1990 exceeded (i) 100 tonnes and (ii) 40% by weight of its total landings, and any vessel replacing a vessel in the category defined above, remain in port for at least eight consecutive days per calendar month during the period 1 February to 31 December 1992, or for a total of 135 days during the same period.

- The Member States must inform the Commission by 20 January 1992 at the latest which of the two rules for limiting days at sea mentioned above they will be applying to the vessels concerned.

Member States which are not able to use up their cod and haddock quotas for 1992 in Areas IV and VIa owing to the application of the above provisions may ask the Commission to reduce or waive the above limitation of days at sea.

- The Commission must communicate its decision within eight working days.

ANNUAL FISHERIES ARRANGEMENTS RESULTING FROM THE ACT OF ACCESSION OF SPAIN/PORTUGAL

The Council adopted unanimously three Regulations fixing, for 1992, measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources, applicable to vessels:

- of the former ten Member States in the waters of Portugal (110 French vessels for an unlimited quantity of albacore tuna between 2 June and 28 July and an unlimited number of vessels for unlimited quantities of tropical tuna and other tuna species);

- of the former ten Member States in the waters of Spain (in particular French vessels for certain specific fisheries);
- of Portugal in the waters of the former ten Member States (7, 10 and an unlimited number of vessels to fish respectively 3 000 t of blue whiting, 3 000 t of horse mackerel and an unlimited quantity of tuna).

These Regulations were drawn up in accordance with the provisions of the Act of Accession and are identical to the corresponding Regulations adopted by the Council in December 1991.

#### NORWAY

The Council adopted unanimously the Regulations:

- allocating, for 1992, certain quotas between Member States for vessels fishing in the Norwegian Exclusive Economic Zone and the fishing zone around Jan Mayen;
- laying down, for 1992, certain measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources applicable to vessels flying the flag of Norway.

#### SWEDEN

The Council adopted unanimously the Regulations:

- laying down, for 1992, certain measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources applicable to vessels flying the flag of Sweden;
- allocating, for 1992, certain quotas among the Member States for vessels fishing in Swedish waters.

GREENLAND

The Council adopted unanimously the Regulation allocating, for 1992, Community catch quotas in Greenland waters.

FAROE ISLANDS

The Council adopted unanimously the Regulations:

- allocating, for 1992, certain quotas among the Member States for vessels fishing in Faroese waters;
- laying down, for 1992, certain measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources applicable to vessels registered in the Faroe Islands.

NORTH-WEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES ORGANIZATION (NAFO)

The Council adopted unanimously the Regulation fixing, for 1992, quotas for the NAFO Regulatory Area.

Those quotas are set at the following levels:

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>AREA</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Cod	NAFO 2J + 3KL	26 300
Cod	NAFO 3M	6 465
Cod	NAFO 3NO	5 016
Redfish	NAFO 3M	6 665
Redfish	NAFO 3LN	6 000
American plaice	NAFO 3M	350
American plaice	NAFO 3LNO	328

Yellowtail flounder	NAFO 3LNO	140
Witch	NAFO 3NO	1 000
Capelin	NAFO 3NO	750
Squid	NAFO subarea 3+4	15 000

GUIANA

The Council adopted unanimously the Regulation laying down for 1992 measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources applicable to vessels of certain non-member countries in the 200-nautical-mile zone off the coast of the French department of Guiana.

TARIFF QUOTAS

The Council adopted unanimously the Regulation opening and providing for the administration of autonomous Community tariff quotas for certain fisheries products for 1992. Entry into force is scheduled for 1 April 1992.

This Regulation provides for the possibility of importing a total quantity of 160 000 tonnes of twelve species of fish at reduced rates of duty ranging from 3,7% to 10%

The Regulation is essentially intended to ensure supplies for processing industries at prices that will enable them to be competitive without, however, harming the interests of Community fishermen.

A complete list of the quotas is given in ANNEX II.

PARTIAL SUSPENSION OF CUSTOMS DUTIES

The Council adopted unanimously the Regulation partially suspending the autonomous Common Customs Tariff duties on:

CN CODE	Description	Rate of duty (%)
ex 0304 20 57 ex 0304 90 47	Fillets and other meat of hake (Merluccius spp. except for Merluccius merluccius, Merluccius bilinearis and Merluccius carpensis) in industrial blocks, deep frozen, for processing	10
ex 0304 20 85	Fillets of Alaska pollack (Theragra chalcogramma), in industrial blocks, frozen, for processing	5

All measures valid from 1 April to 31 December 1992

ANNEX I

TACS FOR 1992 BY STOCK AND ZONE  
WITH COMMUNITY SHARES

SPECIES	ZONE	TAC	EEC SHARE in 1992 (tonnes)
Herring	IIIa	124 000	53 230
Herring	IIIbcd(1)	90 000	86 350
Herring	IIa(1),IVab	380 000	250 850
Herring	IVc,VIIId	50 000(*)	50 000
Herring	Vb(1), VIaN VIb	62 000	55 140
Herring	VIaS,VIIbc	28 000	28 000
Herring	VIa Clyde	2 300	2 300
Herring	VIIa	7 000	7 000
Herring	VIIef	1 000(*)	1 000
Herring	VIIghjk	21 000	21 000
Sprat	IIIa	50 000(*)	32 900
Sprat	IIIbcd(1)	32 000	30 000
Sprat	IIa(1),IV(1)	55 000(*)	42 680
Sprat	VIIde	12 000(*)	12 000
Anchovy	VIII	30 000(*)	30 000



SPECIES	ZONE	TAC	EEC SHARE in 1992 (tonnes)
Anchovy	IX,X,COPACE(1)	12 000(*)	12 000
Salmon	IIIbcd(1)	720(*)	710
Capelin	IIb	0	0
Cod	IIb	10 380	10 380
Cod	IIIa Skagerrak	15 000	12 375
Cod	IIIa Kattegat	6 650	4 010
Cod	IIIbcd(1)	36 000	34 610
Cod	IIa(1),IV	100 700	91 950
Cod	Vb(1),VI,XII, XIV	13 500	13 500
Cod	VIIa	10 000	10 000
Cod	VIIIb-k,VIII,IX COPACE(1)	20 000	20 000
Haddock	IIIa,IIIbcd(1)	4 600(*)	3 970
Haddock	IIa(1),IV	60 000	47 900
Haddock	Vb(1),VI,XII, XIV	12 500	12 500
Haddock	VII,VIII,IX,X COPACE(1)	6 000(*)	6 000
Saithe	IIa(1),IIIa IIIbcd(1),IV	110 000	58 000

SPECIES	ZONE	TAC	EEC SHARE in 1992 (tonnes)
Saithe	Vb(1),VI,XII, XIV	17 000	17 000
Saithe	VII,VIII,IX,X COPACE(1)	14 000(*)	14 000
Pollack	Vb(1),VI,XII,XIV	1 100(*)	1 100
Pollack	VII	14 000(*)	14 000
Pollack	VIIIab	2 600(*)	2 600
Pollack	VIIIc	800(*)	800
Pollack	VIII d	50(*)	50
Pollack	VIII e	100(*)	100
Pollack	IX,X,COPACE(1)	450(*)	450
N. pout	IIa(1),IIIa,IV(1)	200 000(*)	171 000
Blue whit.	IIa(1),IV(1)	90 000(*)	50 000
Blue whit.	Vb(1),VI,VII	310 000(*)	133 000
Blue whit.	VIIIabd	26 500(*)	26 500
Blue whit.	VIII e	1 000(*)	1 000
Blue whit.	VIIIc,IX,X, COPACE(1)	55 000(*)	55 000
Whiting	IIIa	17 000(*)	3 000
Whiting	IIa(1),IV	135 000	59 480
Whiting	Vb(1),VI,XII,XIV	7 500	7 500
Whiting	VIIa	10 000	10 000

<b>SPECIES</b>	<b>ZONE</b>	<b>TAC</b>	<b>EEC SHARE in 1992 (tonnes)</b>
Whiting	VIIb-k	22 000(*)	22 000
Whiting	VIII	5 000(*)	5 000
Whiting	IX,X,COPACE(1)	2 640(*)	2 640
Hake	IIIa,IIIbcd(1)	2 000(*)	2 000
Hake TAC STOCK NORD (EXCL. IIIA)	IIa(1),IV(1) 67 000	2 420(*)	2 420
Hake	Vb(1),VI,VII, XII,XIV	38 750(*)	38 750
Hake	VIIIabde	25 830(*)	25 830
Hake	VIIIc,IX,X COPACE(1)	16 000(*)	16 000
Horse mack.	IIa(1),IV(1)	55 000(*)	55 000
Horse mack.	Vb(1),VI,VII VIIIabde,XII,XIV	250 000(*)	243 000
Horse mack.	VIIIc,IX	73 000(*)	73 000
Mackerel	IIa(1),IIIa IIIbcd(1),IV	76 320	22 440
Mackerel	II,Vb(1),VI, VII,VIIIabde,XII, XIV	423 170	400 510
Mackerel	VIIIc,IX,X, COPACE(1)	36 570(*)	36 570

SPECIES	ZONE	TAC	EEC SHARE in 1992 (tonnes)
Plaice	IIIa Skagerrak	11 200(*)	10 528
Plaice	IIIa Kattegat	2 800	2 520
Plaice	IIIbcd(1)	3 000(*)	3 000
Plaice	IIa(1),IV	175 000	168 750
Plaice	Vb(1),VI,XII,XIV	2 400(*)	2 400
Plaice	VIIa	3 800	3 800
Plaice	VIIbc	250(*)	250
Plaice	VIIde	9 600	9 600
Plaice	VIIfg	1 500	1 500
Plaice	VIIhjk	1 350	1 350
Plaice	VIII,IX,X, COPACE(1)	700(*)	700
Sole	IIIa,IIIbcd(1)	1 200(*)	1 200
Sole	II,IV	25 000	25 000
Sole	Vb(1),VI,XII,XIV	155(*)	155
Sole	VIIa	1 350	1 350
Sole	VIIbc	75(*)	75
Sole	VIIde	3 500	3 500
Sole	VIIe	800	800
Sole	VIIfg	1 200	1 200
Sole	VIIhjk	720(*)	720

SPECIES	ZONE	TAC	EEC SHARE in 1992 (tonnes)
Sole	VIIIab	5 300	5 300
Sole	VIIIcde,IX,X, COPACE(1)	2 000(*)	2 000
Megrims	Vb(1),VI,XII,XIV	4 840(*)	4 840
Megrims	VII	15 880(*)	15 880
Megrims	VIIIabde	2 220(*)	2 220
Megrims	VIIIc,IX,X, COPACE(1)	14 300(*)	14 300
Anglerfish	Vb(1),VI,XII,XIV	8 600(*)	8 600
Anglerfish	VII	33 080(*)	33 080
Anglerfish	VIIIabde	9 910(*)	9 910
Anglerfish	VIIIe	100(*)	100
Anglerfish	VIIIc,IX,X, COPACE(1)	12 000	12 000
Penaeus	Fr.Guyana	4 100	4 000
North. prawn	IIIa Skagerrak	10 500	3 863
N. lobster	IIIa,IIIbcd(1)	3 500	3 500
N. lobster	IIa(1),IV(1)	12 000	12 000
N. lobster	Vb(1),VI	12 000(*)	12 000
N. lobster	VII	20 000(*)	20 000
N. lobster	VIIIab	6 800(*)	6 800
N. lobster	VIIIc	800(*)	800

SPECIES	ZONE	TAC	EC SHARE in 1992 (tonnes)
N. lobster	VIIIde	50(*)	50
N. lobster	IX,X,COPACE(1)	2 500(*)	2 500

(\*) Precautionary TAC

(1) EC zone

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ANNEX II

TARIFF QUOTAS REGULATIONS

QUOTAS

CN Code	Description	Quota quantity	Rate of duty
ex 0302 50 ex 0302 69 35 ex 0303 60 ex 0303 79 41	Cod (Gadus morhua, Gadus ogac, Gadus macrocephalus) and fish of the species Boreogadus saida, excluding livers, roes, presented fresh, chilled or frozen, for processing (a)(b)	50 000	3,7%
ex 0302 63 00 ex 0303 73 00	Coalfish (Pollachius virens); excluding livers, roes, presented fresh, chilled or frozen, for processing (a)(b)	20 000	3,7%
ex 0302 62 00 ex 0303 72 00	Haddock (Melanogrammus aeglefinus), excluding livers, roes, presented fresh, chilled or frozen, for processing (a)(b)	6 000	3,7%
0305 62 00 0305 69 10	Cod (Gadus morhua, Gadus ogac, Gadus macrocephalus) and fish of the species Boreogadus saida, salted or in brine, but not dried or smoked	60 000	6%
0305 51 10 0305 59 11	Cod (Gadus morhua, Gadus ogac, Gadus macrocephalus) and fish of the species Boreogadus saida, dried, unsalted, not smoked	500	8%
0305 30 11 0305 30 19	Fish fillets, dried, salted or in brine, of cod (Gadus morhua, Gadus ogac, Gadus macrocephalus) and of fish of the species Boreogadus saida	3 000	9%
ex 0305 30 90	Fillets of coalfish (Pollachius virens), salted, for processing (a)(b)	3 500	10%

CN Code	Description	Quota quantity	Rate of duty
ex 0306 13 10 ex 0306 23 10	Shrimps and prawns of the species <i>Pandalus borealis</i> , in shell, fresh, chilled or frozen for processing (a)(b)	5 000	6%
ex 0302 21 10 ex 0303 31 10	Lesser or Greenland halibut ( <i>Reinhardtius hippoglossoides</i> ), fresh, chilled or frozen, for processing (a)(b)	6 000	4%

Period of validity: 1 April - 31 December 1992.

CN Code	Description	Quota quantity	Rate of duty
ex 0303 71 10	Sardines of the species <i>Sardina pilchardus</i> , frozen, for processing (a)(b)	6 000	10%

Period of validity: 1 January - 31 March 1992.



OTHER DECISIONS IN THE FIELD OF FISHERIES

The Council adopted the Regulations on the submission of nominal catch statistics by Member States fishing in, respectively, the Northwest and Northeast Atlantic. The purpose of these Regulations is to transpose into Community legislation the STATLANT 21A questionnaire adopted some years ago and used since by Member States to transmit statistics on annual catches to international organizations concerned with the Northwest Atlantic and Northeast Atlantic.

The Council adopted the Decision concluding the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters concerning the provisional application of the Protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and financial contribution provided for in the Agreement between the Community and the Comoros.

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COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES  
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

10391/91 (Presse 247)

1549th Council meeting

- Telecommunications -

Brussels, 18 and 19 December 1991

President: Mrs Hanja MAIJ-WEGGEN  
Minister for Transport  
and Public Works  
of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

18/19.XII.91

dey/MI/ac

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

Belgium

Mr Marcel COLLA  
Minister for Posts and  
Telecommunications

Denmark

Mr Torben RECHENDORFF  
Minister for Ecclesiastical Affairs and  
Communications

Mr Helge ISRAELSEN  
State Secretary for Ecclesiastical  
Affairs and Communications

Germany

Mr Christian SCHWARZ-SCHILLING  
Federal Minister for Posts and  
Telecommunications

Greece

Mr Jean CORANTIS  
Deputy Permanent Representative

Spain

Mr José BORRELL  
Minister for Transport, Tourism and  
Communications

France

Mr Jean-Marie RAUSCH  
Minister, Ministry of Posts and  
Telecommunications

Ireland

Mr Bernard McDONAGH  
State Secretary at the  
Ministry of Communications

Italy

Mr Francesco TEMPESTINI

State Secretary at the  
Ministry of Posts and  
Telecommunications

Luxembourg

Mr Alex BODRY

Minister for Posts and  
Telecommunications

Netherlands

Mrs Hanja MAIJ-WEGGEN

Minister for Transport and Public Works

Portugal

Mr Joaquim FERREIRA DO AMARAL

Minister for Telecommunications

Mr Carlos Silva COSTA

State Secretary at the Ministry of  
Transport and Telecommunications

United Kingdom

Mr David DURIE

Deputy Permanent Representative

Commission

Mr Filippo Maria PANDOLFI  
Mr M. Jean DONDELINGER

Vice-President  
Member

STANDARDS FOR SATELLITE BROADCASTING OF TELEVISION SIGNALS

The Council agreed in principle on its common position concerning the Directive on the adoption of standards for satellite broadcasting of television signals. Formal adoption will take place in the near future, after legal and linguistic finalization of the texts.

Once this new Directive has been finally adopted, it will replace Directive 86/529/EEC of 3 November 1986, which expires on 31 December 1991 and requires the MAC/Packet system to be used for direct television broadcasts from high-power satellites (the BSS satellite).

The Directive lays down that Member States should take the measures necessary to promote and support the introduction and development of advanced satellite broadcasting services for television programmes using the HD-MAC standard for not completely digital High Definition Television transmission and the D2-MAC standard for other not completely digital transmission in the 16:9 format.

In particular:

- only the HD-MAC standard can be used for broadcasting not completely digital HDTV services;
- only the D2-MAC standard can be used for broadcasting channels in the 16:9 format;

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- the D2-MAC standard must be used for services launched on or after 1 January 1995. These services may also be broadcast simultaneously in PAL, SECAM or D-MAC.

This last provision will not take effect until the Council has adopted a Decision on the provision of financial support for the services in question.

The Directive is scheduled for implementation six months at the latest after notification, and will apply until 31 December 1998.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Other decisions in the telecommunications field

Following agreement reached at the Telecommunication Council on 4 November 1991 (see press release 8944/91 Presse 188), the Council adopted:

- its common position on the Directive on the application of open network provision to leased lines;
- a Resolution on the development of the common market for satellite communications services and equipment by 1992;
- a Decision on the adoption of "00" as the common international telephone access code in the Community by 31 December 1992 at the latest.

"Community-COST" multilateral Co-operation Agreement

The Council adopted two common positions on the conclusion of two Co-operation Agreements between the European Community and third-country members of COST on:

- five concerted action research projects in the field of biotechnology (BRIDGE programme);
- eleven concerted action research projects in the field of food science and technology (FLAIR programme).

PRESS RELEASE

10393/91 (Presse 249)

1550th Council meeting

- INTERNAL MARKET -

Brussels, 19 December 1991

President: Mr Piet DANKERT

State Secretary  
for Foreign Affairs  
of the Kingdom of the Netherlands



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

Belgium:

Mr Paul DE KEERSMAEKER                      State Secretary for European Affairs

Denmark:

Ms Anne-Brigitte LUNDHOLT                      Minister for Industry

Germany:

Mr Johann EEKHOFF                              State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs

Greece:

Mr Georges THEOFANOUS                              Secretary-General, Ministry of Trade

Spain:

Mr Carlos WESTENDORP                              State Secretary for Relations with the European Communities

France:

Mrs Elisabeth GUIGOU                              Minister for European Affairs

Ireland:

Mr Desmond J. O'MALLEY                              Minister for Industry and Commerce

Italy:

Mr Pierluigi ROMITA                              Minister for Community Policies

Luxembourg:

Mr George WOHLFART

State Secretary for Foreign Affairs  
and Foreign Trade

Netherlands:

Mr Piet DANKERT

State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Portugal:

Mr Victor MARTINS

State Secretary for European  
Integration

United Kingdom:

Mr John REDWOOD

Minister of State, Department of Trade  
and Industry (Minister for Corporate  
Affairs)

o

o

o

Commission:

Mr Martin BANGEMANN  
Sir Leon BRITTAN  
Ms Christine SCRIVENER

Vice-President  
Vice-President  
Member

### COMMUNITY TYPE APPROVAL OF MOTOR VEHICLES

Following the Commission's clarification of the role of middlemen in the motor vehicle sector, the Council unanimously adopted common positions on the proposals for Directives on:

- the masses and dimensions of motor vehicles of category M1,
- safety glazing and glazing materials on motor vehicles and their trailers and
- pneumatic tyres for motor vehicles and their trailers.

These three Directives complete the implementation of Community type-approval which should allow the free movement of motor vehicles within the internal market.

### ELIMINATION OF BAGGAGE CONTROLS

Following the common position adopted at its meeting on 22 July 1991, the Council finally adopted by a qualified majority the Regulation concerning the elimination of controls and formalities applicable to the cabin and checked baggage of passengers taking an intra-Community flight and the baggage of passengers making an intra-Community sea crossing.

### THIRD DIRECTIVE ON NON-LIFE INSURANCE

The Council reached overall political agreement on the proposal for a third Directive on insurance other than life assurance with a view to the adoption of a common position as soon as the European Parliament's Opinion had been given.

Following the First Directive, which was designed to facilitate the right of establishment, and the Second Directive, which was designed to facilitate the right to provide services, the third Directive is intended to complete the process of liberalization of the insurance market in the context of achieving the single market in financial services. The approach adopted is therefore the same as that applied for the other financial services. The Directive sets up a single authorization system to enable an undertaking with its headquarters in one Member State of the Community to open branches or operate by way of the provision of services in all the Member States without undergoing authorization procedures in those countries.

The Member State of origin of that undertaking will be responsible for its overall financial supervision. To that end, the Directive provides for:

- co-ordination of the essential rules on the prudential and financial supervision of direct non-life insurance business;
- mutual recognition, on the basis of such harmonization at Community level, of the authorizations granted to insurance undertakings and of the prudential supervision systems of the different Member States.

This provision is intended to allow the free movement of insurance products within the Community and to afford every person seeking insurance the opportunity of turning to any Community insurer in order to find the cover best suited to his needs, while providing him with an adequate level of protection.

CO-ORDINATION OF PROCEDURES ON THE AWARD OF PUBLIC SERVICE CONTRACTS

The Council unanimously agreed in principle to a common position on a proposal for a Directive aimed at completing the Community rules on public contracts by covering all purchases of services for which contracts are large enough to make transboundary transactions worthwhile.

The Directive will apply to all contracts which are neither supply contracts nor public works contracts and which are contracts for pecuniary interest concluded in writing between a service provider and a contracting authority. Pending the results of more detailed analysis which the Commission undertakes to submit shortly, public service concessions are excluded from the scope of the Directive for the time being. Public service contracts covered by the Directive are those whose estimated value is not less than ECU 200 000.

FOOD AND FOOD INGREDIENTS TREATED WITH IONIZING RADIATION

The Council continued its discussion of the proposal for a Directive harmonizing the provisions on the ionization of foodstuffs in such a way as to eliminate the obstacles to the free movement of foodstuffs while protecting human health.

In the light of the diverging positions maintained by the delegations, it was agreed that examination of the proposal would be resumed at a future Council meeting under the Portuguese Presidency.

ABOLITION OF BORDER CONTROLS

The Council noted a Commission communication on the abolition of border controls in the context of completing the internal market.

The communication contains a tentative timetable for ensuring that this objective is achieved by 31 December 1992.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine the timetable with a view to its adoption in February 1992.

COPYRIGHT AND NEIGHBOURING RIGHTS

The Council held a policy debate on the proposal for a Decision concerning accession to the Berne Convention (copyright) and the Rome Convention (neighbouring rights) of those Member States which are not yet parties to them.

Given that the Member States are in favour of harmonizing their national laws in the field of copyright and neighbouring rights on the basis of the Berne and Rome Conventions but find it extremely difficult to agree to the method proposed by the Commission (a Decision obliging the Member States to accede to the two Conventions and to comply with them), the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine three alternative methods, two of which would involve harmonizing Directives and the third would consist in a declaration of intent by those Member States not yet parties to the two Conventions to the effect that they would accede to them by a date to be determined.

CONFERENCE ON THE COMMUNITY PATENT

The Representatives of the Governments of the Member States noted a communication from the Netherlands Presidency concerning the preparation of a Conference of the Member States on entry into force of the Agreement relating to Community patents. In particular, they noted the future Portuguese Presidency's intention to start preparing at the earliest opportunity for this Conference which, in accordance with a Declaration by the Member States in 1989, should unanimously find the means of ensuring that the Community patent system is implemented at the time of the completion of the Internal Market.

SUPPLEMENTARY PROTECTION CERTIFICATE FOR MEDICINAL PRODUCTS

The Council adopted, by a qualified majority with regard to its substance, a common position on the proposal for a Council Regulation concerning the creation of a supplementary protection certificate for medicinal products.

This Regulation aims at improving legal protection in the Member States for patented medicinal products whose protection is in fact shortened by the present market authorization system. As a result of the introduction of a supplementary protection certificate taking effect immediately after expiry of the patent, conditions similar to those existing in certain non-member States will apply to the pharmaceutical industry established in the Member States.

The common position will be finally adopted after legal and linguistic finalization of the proposal.

SECOND GENERAL SYSTEM FOR THE RECOGNITION OF PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

The Council reached agreement in principle by a qualified majority with a view to the adoption of a common position on the amended proposal for a Directive on a second general system for the recognition of professional education and training. This draft Directive aims at complementing Directive 89/48/EEC which established a first general system for the recognition of higher education diplomas awarded on completion of professional education and training of a least three years' duration.

This draft Directive is the last in a set of measures aimed at guaranteeing each Community national recognition of the qualifications acquired in another Member State on the part of a host Member State regulating a professional activity. Recognition is based on the principle of mutual confidence without prior co-ordination of the training for the various professions concerned.

In principle, the Directive covers two levels of training, i.e. holders of diplomas awarded on completion of less than three years of higher or further education and holders of secondary education certificates and also applies to certain persons without diplomas who have acquired professional experience.

The draft Directive provides for links between the levels of the two systems to cover professions which come under the first system in one Member State and under the second in another.

The draft Directive therefore makes a significant contribution to achieving freedom of movement for persons pursuing an activity as it will facilitate pursuit of the regulated activities concerned as



employed or self-employed persons.

The draft Directive will be submitted to the Council at a forthcoming meeting for adoption of its common position.

#### COMMUNITY SURVEY OF INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION

The Council adopted by a qualified majority a Regulation aimed at harmonizing Member States' survey practices with regard to industrial production and standardizing their nomenclatures so that the information gathered in each country may at the same time be used to produce European statistics on industrial production.

Pursuant to this Regulation, Member States must adopt survey methods designed to facilitate the collection of data from undertakings representing at least 90% of national production. For the evaluation of production, account will be taken of all undertakings employing at least 20 people.

#### HOMEOPATHIC MEDICINAL PRODUCTS

The Council adopted by a qualified majority a common position on the substance of the proposal for a Directive aiming at extending Community pharmaceutical legislation in certain specific ways to cover homeopathic medicinal products, a category of medicinal products which had been provisionally excluded.

#### FUTURE SYSTEM FOR THE FREE MOVEMENT OF MEDICINAL PRODUCTS

The Council noted an interim report on the future system proposed by the Commission for the free movement of medicinal products.

CE MARK OF CONFORMITY FOR INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS

The Council noted an interim report on the CE mark of conformity for industrial products. It will be remembered that the proposal concerned aims at laying down the arrangements for affixing the CE mark of conformity provided for in Community regulations on the placing on the market of industrial products.

The proposal aims in particular at amending the 10 Council Directives already adopted on the basis of the Resolution of 7 May 1985 concerning a new approach to technical harmonization and standardization, with a view to establishing uniform provisions on the marking of conformity. It then lays down the rules governing the marking of conformity for future directives under the new approach.

COMPLETION OF THE INTERNAL MARKET

The Council noted an interim report from the Commission on implementation of the instruments for establishing the internal market.

That report reviews the process of transposing Community Directives into national law and the steps taken by the Commission to monitor the correct implementation of the various instruments for establishing the internal market.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

1. Other decisions relating to the internal market

Electromagnetic compatibility

The Council adopted the common position on the proposal for a Directive on the harmonization of the law of the Member States on electromagnetic compatibility. The aim of this proposal is to introduce into Directive 89/336/EEC, which applies to electric and electronic apparatus, from the point of view both of their protection against external interference and their emission of electromagnetic disturbances, a transitional period to permit the disposal of stocks of apparatus manufactured in accordance with existing national provisions at the time of entry into force of the Directive.

Annual accounts and consolidated accounts of insurance undertakings

Following adoption of the common position on 23 September 1991, the Council definitively adopted the Directive on the annual accounts and consolidated accounts of insurance undertakings. By providing for harmonized rules in the insurance field, this Directive fills the last gap in Community accounting law remaining after Directives 78/660/EEC and 85/635/EEC respectively introduced rules on annual accounts and consolidated accounts for certain forms of company and financial establishments.

By establishing greater transparency and comparability of accounts, this Directive also represents a substantial step

towards creating a single insurance market.

#### Insurance Committee

The Council definitively adopted the Directive setting up an Insurance Committee made up of representatives of the Member States and chaired by a Commission representative.

The Committee, which will operate according to "Comitology" procedure III(b), will assist the Commission in exercising the implementing powers conferred on it by the Council in the field of direct insurance (life and non-life). The Committee will also have the task of advising the Commission on the preparation of new proposals for submission to the Council in the insurance sector.

The Committee will take up its duties on 1 January 1992.

#### Efficiency requirements for new hot-water boilers

The Council adopted the common position on the Directive concerning the efficiency requirements for new hot-water boilers fired with liquid or gaseous fuels.

It should be noted that this Directive constitutes one of the measures engendered by the SAVE programme which set a framework for the promotion of energy efficiency in the Community.

It is a measure designed to create the conditions necessary for establishing the internal market by ensuring common standards of energy efficiency accepted by all the Member States for each type of apparatus.

The aim of the Directive is twofold: energy saving (the domestic and tertiary sectors absorb a major and growing proportion of the Community's final energy consumption) and the resulting environmental protection. In addition, the enacting terms provide for granting of the CE mark and of quality labels (stars) in certain circumstances.

Postponement of the date of implementation of  
Directive 89/104/EEC (Trademarks)

The Council adopted the Decision authorizing Member States to postpone until 31 December 1992 the date of implementation of Directive 89/104/EEC harmonizing Member States' laws on trademarks. Postponement, together with the adoption in the meantime of the Regulation on the Community trademark, should enable the date of implementation of the Directive to coincide with the starting date for lodging application for registration of Community trademarks.

Speed limitation devices of certain categories of motor vehicle

The Council adopted the common position on the Directive relating to speed limitation devices of heavy goods and passenger vehicles.

This Directive, which is closely related to the Directive on speed limitation of heavy goods vehicles and buses on which agreement was reached in the Transport Council on 16 and 17 December 1991 (see Press Release 10387/91 Presse 243), lays down the technical specifications with which speed limitation

devices must comply as regards design and installation.

Type-approval of two- or three-wheel motor vehicles

The Council adopted a common position on the substance of the Directive on type-approval of two- or three-wheel motor vehicles. The aim of this Directive is full harmonization of the rules for constructing two- and three-wheel motor vehicles. The proposed approach is similar to the one used for motor cars, lorries and agricultural tractors and is based on an approval procedure for each type of vehicle and each component.

The Directive will constitute the framework within which the procedures for the type-approval of two- and three-wheel vehicles and their components will be set. The actual technical rules will be the subject of individual regulations which the Commission intends to submit to the Council during the first half of 1992.

Amendment of the tariff and statistical nomenclature ("Yellow Grease")

The Council adopted the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87 on the tariff and statistical nomenclature and on the Common Customs Tariff, the aim of which is to correct the error which occurred when transferring "yellow grease" (mixture of animal and vegetable oils and fats) from the Common Customs Tariff to the harmonized system: the applicable duty was wrongly changed from 2% to 12%.

This Regulation is intended to replace the partial solution introduced from 1 July 1989, consisting in temporary suspension of the Common Customs Tariff duties; suspension has been renewed yearly but is due to end on 31 December 1992.

The planned measure provides for reinstatement of the 2% duty, backdated to 1 January 1988 (entry into force of the harmonized system).

#### Sweeteners for use in foodstuffs

Following the agreement reached at its meeting on 22 July 1991, the Council adopted the common position on the Directive on sweeteners for use in foodstuffs (see Press Releases 7450/91 and 9124/91).

#### Marks identifying the lot to which a foodstuff belongs

The Council adopted the common position on the proposal for a Directive extending the time limit for implementation of Directive 89/396/EEC on indications or marks identifying the lot to which a foodstuff belongs.

#### Marketing of compound feedingstuffs

The Council adopted the Directive amending Directive 90/44/EEC

amending Directive 79/373/EEC on the marketing of compound feedingstuffs.

The aim of amending the Directive is to authorize the marketing, until 31 December 1992, of compound feedingstuffs manufactured before 22 January 1992 in accordance with the legislation then in force, viz. with labelling complying with the rules applied up to that date.



## II. Further miscellaneous decisions

### Temporary or mobile work sites - minimum safety and health requirements

After the agreement reached at its meeting on 14 October 1991, the Council adopted the common position on the Directive on the implementation of minimum safety and health requirements at temporary or mobile work sites (see Press Release 8529/91 Presse 164 of 14.X.91).

### Protection of pregnant women

The Council adopted the common position with a view to the adoption of a Directive concerning measures to encourage improvements in the safety and health of pregnant workers and workers who have recently given birth or are breastfeeding (ninth individual Directive within the meaning of Article 16(1) of Directive 89/391/EEC).

### Protection of the dignity of women and men at work

Following the agreement reached at its meeting on 3 December 1991, the Council adopted the following Declaration:

"THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Considering that on 29 May 1990 the Council adopted a Resolution on the protection of the dignity of women and men at work;

Considering that on 27 November 1991 the Commission made a Recommendation on the protection of the dignity of women and

men at work, to which is annexed a code of practice to combat sexual harassment;

Considering that on 21 May 1991 the Council adopted a Resolution on the third medium-term Community action programme on equal opportunities for women and men (1991-1995);

Considering that the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee have adopted respectively on 22 October 1991 a Resolution and on 30 October 1991 an Opinion on the protection of the dignity of women and men at work;

Considering that the efforts already made to promote the integration of women on the labour market must be intensified and developed; considering that sexual harassment is a serious problem for many women working in the Community and an obstacle to their full integration into active life;

- 1) ENDORSES the general objective of the Commission Recommendation;
- 2) INVITES THE MEMBER STATES to develop and implement consistent, integrated policies to prevent and combat sexual harassment at work, taking account of the Commission Recommendation;
- 3) INVITES THE COMMISSION:
  - (a) to promote an adequate exchange of information with a view to developing existing knowledge and experience in the Member States as regards the prevention and combating of sexual harassment at work;
  - (b) to examine the assessment criteria for the evaluation of the effectiveness of the measures taken in the Member States, taking account of the criteria already in use there;
  - (c) to endeavour to implement the criteria referred to in (b) when drawing up the report referred to in Article 4 of the Commission Recommendation;
  - (d) to submit the report referred to in Article 4 of the Commission Recommendation to the European Parliament, the Council and the Economic and Social Committee not more than three years after the adoption of this Declaration."

## Research

The Council adopted

- the Decision adopting the work programme for the implementation of the specific programme of research and technological development in the field of industrial and materials technologies (1991-1994);
- the Decision on a research and training programme in the field of controlled thermonuclear fusion (1990-1994);
- the Decision approving amendments to the Statutes of the Joint European Torus (JET);
- the common position on adopting a specific research and technological development programme in the field of measurement and testing (1990-1994).

## International Sugar Agreement

The Council authorized the Commission to participate in negotiations to draw up a new International Sugar Agreement and laid down guidelines for this purpose.

## Relations with the Mediterranean countries

The Council adopted two Regulations on Community tariff quotas (1992) for certain agricultural products originating in: Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt and Israel. These Regulations provide in particular that the customs duties and quota volumes

concerned are to be calculated in accordance with the provisions of, respectively, the additional Protocols concluded with Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia and Egypt in 1987/1988 and the 4th additional EEC-Israel Protocol.

#### EEC-Cyprus Association

##### The Council

- approved Decision No 1/91 of the EEC-Cyprus Association Council derogating from the rules of origin applicable to certain textile products and adopted the Regulation determining the method of implementing that Decision;
- adopted the Regulation opening and providing for the management of Community tariff quotas for certain agricultural products originating in Cyprus (1992).

#### Relations with the USSR and its Republics

The Council formally adopted the Regulation concerning emergency measures to the sum of ECU 95 million for the supply of food to the population of Moscow and St Petersburg in particular (see Press Releases Nos 10321/91 Presse 137 and 10323/91 Presse 239).

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### Common rules for exports

The Council adopted an amendment to the Regulation establishing common rules for exports to take account of the fact that Member States have abolished most of the restrictions they were applying to their exports, which would if maintained beyond 31 December 1992 be incompatible with the single market involving the removal of goods inspections at intra-Community borders. This amendment establishes the principle of total liberalization of exports from 31 December 1992. Until that date, the principle will not apply to:

- a number of products of slight economic importance;
- exports which have been made subject to restrictions by the Member States following a decision adopted in the context of European Political Co-operation;
- certain petroleum products until adoption by the Council of appropriate measures in accordance with the international undertakings given by the Community or all its Member States.

### EEC-ACP Relations

The Council

- approved the new decision-making procedure to the special financing facility for mineral products (SYSMIN) under Part Three, Title II, Chapter 3, of the Fourth ACP-EEC Convention.

The new procedure differs from the previous one in order to

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- take account of the amendments made in this area in the Fourth Convention and the provisions of the 1990 internal Agreement on the financing and management of Community aid;
- adopted the Decision laying down, for the financial year 1992, the schedule of calls for Member States' contributions under the Sixth European Development Fund.

#### EEC-EFTA Relations

The Council adopted the Decision on the conclusion of the Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters on Recommendation No 1/91 of the EEC-EFTA Joint Committee on Common Transit amending the Convention of 20 May 1987 on a common transit procedure.

#### Fourth EEC-Tunisia Financial Protocol

Since the European Parliament had given its assent, the Council adopted the Decision on the conclusion of the Fourth EEC-Tunisia Financial Protocol, which was signed in Brussels on 20 June 1991 (see Press Release CEE-TU 2601/91 Presse 113).

#### EEC-United States Relations: GATT Article XXIV.6

The Council adopted the Regulation prolonging the measures taken under the Agreements between the EEC and the United States of America for the conclusion of negotiations under GATT Article XXIV.6.

EEC-Andorra Relations: rules of origin

The Council

- recorded its agreement to draft Decision No 7/91 of the EEC-Andorra Joint Committee providing for a derogation from the rules of origin for certain processed agricultural products traditionally exported by Andorra to the Community, within the limits of the quantities indicated in the Decision;
- adopted the Regulation on the procedures for applying the above Decision.

EEC-Malta Relations

The Council adopted the Regulation totally or partially suspending the duties applicable to certain agricultural products originating in Malta for 1992. These arrangements are the same as those applied to the products concerned in 1991.

Textiles

The Council adopted a series of Regulations concerning the import arrangements for several third countries:

- Yugoslavia: Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 3301/91. This renews for 1992 the quantitative quotas and other provisions applicable to imports of certain textile products originating in Yugoslavia following the suspension of trade concessions provided for by the EEC-Yugoslavia Co-operation Agreement.

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- Taiwan: Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 4134/86. This extends the provisions contained in the existing Regulation and fixes quantitative limits for 1992;
- Bulgaria and Romania: Decisions on the provisional application of the agreed minutes amending the EEC-Bulgaria and EEC-Romania Agreements on trade in textile products. These minutes involve adjustments to the Agreements decided on following requests by Bulgaria and Romania with a view to improving access to the Community market for textile products in the context of the PHARE programme;
- Regulation amending Regulation No 4136/86 on common rules for imports of certain textile products originating in third countries, following the bilateral Agreements concluded recently;
- Decision on the provisional application, as from 1 January 1992 and pending formal conclusion, of Agreements between the EEC and certain third countries.

#### Anti-dumping

The Council adopted the Regulation imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of dihydrostreptomycin originating in the People's Republic of China and definitively collecting the provisional anti-dumping duty.



Community membership of the FAO

Pursuant to its decision of 25 November 1991 on Community membership of the FAO, the Council approved the arrangement between the Council and the Commission on preparation for FAO meetings, statements and voting.

Travellers' allowances

The Council adopted the Directive amending Directive 69/169/EEC to extend and modify the exceptions granted to Denmark and Ireland relating to travellers' allowances.

Customs Union

The Council adopted Regulations

- amending Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87 on the tariff and statistical nomenclature and on the Common Customs Tariff;
- temporarily suspending the Common Customs Tariff duties on certain mixtures of residues from the manufacture of starch from maize and residues from the extraction of maize germ oil by the wet process.

The Council also adopted the Regulations opening and providing for the administration of

- a Community tariff quota for certain handmade products (1992);

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- a Community tariff quota for certain handwoven fabrics, pile and chenille;
- Community tariff quotas bound in GATT for certain agricultural and industrial products;
- Community tariff quotas for certain fruits and fruit juices;
- Community tariff quotas for certain industrial products (first series 1992);
- Community tariff quotas for certain industrial products (second series 1992).

#### Agricultural policy

The Council adopted

- the Directive on the marketing of ornamental-plant-propagation material and ornamental plants. This Directive forms part of implementation of the White Paper. It harmonizes at Community level the quality and plant-health standards which must be complied with by propagating material (including seeds) and ornamental plants marketed in the Member States, and ensures that material complying with those standards is able to move freely within the Community;
- the Directive amending Directive 89/437/EEC on hygiene and health problems affecting the production and placing on the market of egg products. This amendment adapts certain provisions of the Annex to the Directive to take account of scientific and technological progress, particularly regarding

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testing for staphylococci in egg products and the storage temperatures for certain egg products;

- the Regulation setting for the 1991/1992 marketing year the percentage mentioned in the second subparagraph of Article 3(1a) of Regulation (EEC) No 426/86 in connection with the premium granted for products processed from tomatoes. This measure is intended to encourage supply concentration in the case of fresh tomatoes in order to achieve a better balance between the quantities to be produced and the outlets available;
- the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 3493/90 laying down general rules for the grant of premiums to sheepmeat and goatmeat producers. This maintains for 1992 the current definition of eligible ewes;
- the Decision extending Decision 82/530/EEC authorizing the United Kingdom to permit the Isle of Man authorities to apply a system of special import licences to sheepmeat and beef and veal. This authorization is being granted until 31 March 1992 to enable the Council to examine the proposal for an extension submitted by the Commission (31.12.1995);
- the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87 on the tariff and statistical nomenclature and on the Common Customs Tariff, and Regulation (EEC) No 2915/79 determining the groups of products and the special provisions for calculating levies on milk and milk products (whey).

The Council also adopted the Directive amending Directive 77/93/EEC on protective measures against the

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introduction into the Member States of organisms harmful to plants or plant products.

This amendment eliminates all physical barriers to trade, in particular controls at customs posts or borders between the Member States, with a view to establishing the internal market in 1993.

#### Environmental protection

The Council formally adopted the Regulations on

- action by the Community relating to nature conservation (ACNAT) (see Press Release 6779/91 Presse 90 of 13/14.VI.1991);
- action by the Community to protect the environment in the coastal areas and coastal waters of the Irish Sea, North Sea, English Channel and Baltic Sea and of the North-East Atlantic Ocean (NORSPA) (see Press Release No 8086/91 Presse 153 of 1.X.1991).

#### ECSC

The Representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council adopted the Decisions on

- certain measures to be applied, in respect of Central and Eastern European countries, to trade in iron and steel products covered by the ECSC Treaty;

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- the opening of a zero-duty tariff quota for special wire rod for the manufacture of valve springs;
- the opening of a zero-duty tariff quota for flat-rolled products of silicon-electrical steel.

The Council gave its assent

- under the second paragraph of Article 54 of the ECSC Treaty, to the granting of an overall loan to the Sezione Speciale per il Credito Industriale presso la Banca Nazionale del Lavoro, Rome, Italy;
- to a Commission communication regarding a contribution to the financing of a top gas expansion plant at Dabrowa Gornicza (Poland);
- pursuant to Article 55(2)(c) of the ECSC Treaty, to a draft Commission Decision concerning studies into problems of derelict and despoiled land from the coal and steel industries;
- pursuant to Article 56(2)(a) of the ECSC Treaty, to
  - = Südwestdeutsche Landesbank, Federal Republic of Germany
  - = Marley Kanto Ltd., United Kingdom.

#### Appointments

The Council replaced a member and an alternate member of the Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work for the remainder of their terms of office, which run until 25 March 1993.

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

23.XII.91  
erd/AM/mh

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



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

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.