

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

PRESS RELEASES

PRESIDENCY: THE NETHERLANDS

JULY-DECEMBER 1976

Meetings and press releases July-October 1976

Meeting number	Subject	Date
400 th	ACP-EEC Council	14 July 1977
401 st	Foreign Affairs	19-20 July 1976
402 nd	Agriculture	19-20 July 1976
403 rd	Budget	22 July 1976
404 th	Economics/Finance	26 July 1976
405 th	Foreign Affairs	27 July 1976
406 th	Agriculture	9 September 1976
407 th	Economics/Finance	20 September 1976
408 th	Foreign Affairs	20 September 1976
408 th addendum	Election of the Assembly	20 September 1976
409 th	Agriculture	4-5 October 1976
410 th	Foreign Affairs	18-19 October 1976'
411 th	Energy	19 October 1976
412 th	Research	21 October 1976
413 th	Fiscal Affairs	21 October 1976
414 th	Agriculture	25-26 October 1976

PRESS RELEASE

400th meeting
(Brussels, 14 July)

2435. *President:* Mr Van der Stoep, Netherlands Foreign Minister.

From the Commission: Mr Cheysson, Member.

The meeting was devoted to preparations for the first meeting of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers.³

Brussels, 29 June 1976
767/76 (Presse 75)

433

Bulletin of the European Communities
No. 7/8, 1976, p. 92

The 400th meeting of the Council of the European Communities will be held at 14.30 on Monday 5 July 1976 at the Council Secretariat, Charlemagne Building, 170 rue de la Loi, Brussels, with Mr W.F. DUISENBERG, Minister of Finance of the Netherlands in the Chair.

The meeting will be devoted to the second quarterly examination of the economic situation in the Community, pursuant to Article 3 of the Decision on Convergence dated 18 February 1974.

The President will give a Press Conference after the meeting.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

400th meeting of the Council

- Foreign Affairs -

- Preparation of the 1st ACP-EEC Ministerial -

Brussels, 14 July 1976

The official press release was not available. A summary of the ACP-EEC ministerial has been reproduced from the Bulletin of the European Communities, No. 7/8-1976.

400th meeting
(Brussels, 14 July)

2435. *President: Mr Van der Stoep, Netherlands Foreign Minister.*

From the Commission: Mr Cheysson, Member.

The meeting was devoted to preparations for the first meeting of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers.³

African, Caribbean and Pacific countries

ACP-EEC Convention of Lomé

First meeting of the Council of Ministers

2347. The ACP-EEC Council of Ministers held its first meeting on 14 and 15 July under the chairmanship of Mr King, President of the ACP Council of Ministers. The Community Delegation was led by Mr Van der Stoep, President of the Council of the European Communities. The Commission was represented by Mr Cheysson.

The Council approved its Rules of Procedure and those of the ACP-EEC Committee of Ambassadors and adopted the report of the Interim Committee. It then went on to examine the various items on its agenda.

Industrial cooperation — The Council adopted a decision on the composition and functioning of the Committee on Industrial Cooperation, which is the body responsible for guiding the activities of the Centre for Industrial Development. A decision on the statutes and functioning of the Centre was also adopted. The Director of the Centre will be assisted by a consultative council composed of economic operators.

Originating products — The Council, taking into account the special situation of Mauritius, took a decision granting that country a derogation from the concept of 'originating products'¹ in respect of certain textiles. This derogation is limited to twelve months and concerns 832 tonnes of unbleached cloth.² The decision was declared applicable in the Community by a Council Regulation of 3 August 1976.²

Trade — Following statements of a general nature by the President of the ACP-EEC Council and by the President of the Council of the Commu-

¹ OJ C 185 of 9.8.1976.

² OJ L 210 of 4.8.1976.

nities, the Council examined questions relating to sugar, beef and veal, rum, bananas and groundnuts, about which the ACP States had expressed particular concern. At the end of the discussions, the two Presidents agreed that they would examine together and with the relevant Member of the Commission the trade matters which were not yet resolved. This 'presidential' meeting will take place in the autumn, but the exact date and place have yet to be decided. Moreover, the Council expressed its satisfaction at the successful outcome of the procedures for the presentation of the Lomé Convention to GATT.

Stabilization of export earnings — The ACP States and the Community expressed their satisfaction at the fact that Stabex had been implemented so rapidly and they paid tribute to the Commission for its work in this field.¹ The ACP States requested that the list of products benefiting from the system should be extended to cover all the products which were of vital importance to the ACP States. However, under the terms of the Lomé Convention no amendment could be made to Stabex until one year after the entry into force of the Convention, in other words not until 1 April 1977.

Financial and technical cooperation — Mr Cheysson pointed out that programming had been completed in forty-five ACP States and that thirty-six indicative programmes had been adopted. A sectoral breakdown of these programmes shows that the ACP States—which are responsible for determining their priorities themselves—earmarked the largest share (37 %) for rural development; this represents a new and important departure. One hundred financing decisions are to have been taken by the end of the year.

The representative of the European Investment Bank gave an account of his institution's means of action and stated that the first financing proposals would be submitted to the competent authorities at the end of the month.

PRESS RELEASE

401st meeting of the Council

- Foreign Affairs -

Brussels, 19 and 20 July 1976

President: Mr Max VAN DER STOEL,
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Netherlands

19.VII.76

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

Belgium:

Mr Rennat VAN ELSLANDE Minister for Foreign Affairs

Denmark:

Mr Ivar NØRGAARD Minister for External Economic Affairs

Mr Jens CHRISTENSEN State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Germany:

Mr Hans-Dietrich GENSCHER Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Hans-Jürgen WISCHNEWSKI Minister of State,
Federal Foreign Office

France:

Mr Jean SAUVAGNARGUES Minister for Foreign Affairs

Ireland:

Mr Garret FITZGERALD Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Justin KEATING Minister for Industry and Commerce

Italy:

Mr Mariano RUMOR Minister for Foreign Affairs

Luxembourg:

Mr Gaston THORN Minister for Foreign Affairs

Netherlands:

Mr Max VAN DER STOEL

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr L.J. BRINKHORST

State Secretary for Foreign
Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr Anthony CROSLAND

Secretary of State for Foreign
and Commonwealth Affairs

Mr Roy HATTERSLEY

Minister of State,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Commission:

Mr Francis-Xavier ORTOLI

President

Sir Christopher SOAMES

Vice-President

Mr Claude CHEYSSON

Member

Mr Guido BRUNNER

Member

Mr Finn Olav GUNDELACH

Member

Mr Cesidio GUZZARONI

Member

APPOINTMENTS

The Conference of Representatives of the Governments of the Member States appointed Mr Raymon VOUEL a Member of the Commission of the European Communities for the period from 20 July 1976 to 6 January 1977 inclusive, to replace Mr Albert BORSCHETTE, who has been compulsorily retired by the Court on account of permanent invalidity.

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Furthermore, in connection with the partial replacement of the Court of Justice, the Conference of Representatives of the Governments of the Member States appointed,

- as Judges at the Court of Justice of the European Communities for the period from 7 October 1976 to 6 October 1982 inclusive:

- Mr Giacinto BOSCO
- Mr Hans KUTSCHER (reappointment)
- Mr A.M. DONNER (reappointment)
- Lord MACKENZIE STUART (reappointment)

- as Advocate-General at the Court of Justice of the European Communities for the period from 7 October 1976 to 6 October 1982 inclusive:

Mr Francesco CAPOTORTI (heretofore a Judge at the Court).

JET PROJECT

The Council held an exchange of views on the JET research programme on controlled thermonuclear fusion. It formulated a favourable opinion on the rapid initiation of this project in the framework of the Community multiannual research and training programme (1976-1980); the necessary decisions will be submitted to the next Council of Ministers responsible for research.

20.VII.76

TURKEY

The Council agreed to the content of the package offer which the Community delegation intends to submit to Turkey. The offer covers the agricultural sphere, the free movement of workers, the content of the new Financial Protocol, the development of the Association and the establishment of a more thoroughgoing form of economic and commercial co-operation.

It agreed that this offer should be submitted to the Turkish delegation so as to enable the Association Committee to continue with preparations for the next Association Council without delay.

GREECE

The Council discussed the content of the statement which the President of the Council is due to make as Community spokesman at the meeting to be held in Brussels on Tuesday 27 July 1976 to open negotiations for Greece's accession to the Communities.

A ministerial level meeting of the Association Council will be held on the same day.

20.VII.76

RELATIONS WITH SPAIN

The Council noted the recent submission by the Commission of proposals for Directives on negotiations with Spain for an Additional Protocol to the 1970 Agreement and instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine these proposals in September and to report back to it.

CIEC

The Council took note of current progress by the Conference on International Economic Co-operation following the meeting of the Commissions from 12 to 17 July.

ELECTION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT BY DIRECT UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE

As a follow-up to the conclusions of the European Parliament concerning the election of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage, the Council concentrated on the questions still outstanding.

Progress was made towards settling these questions and the Council agreed to continue its discussion of the matter on 27 July next.

RELATIONS WITH THE MASHREK COUNTRIES

After deciding on the breakdown of the Community's financial commitments towards Mashrek countries, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to define the practical arrangements for financial co-operation with these countries in the form of supplementary directives to be given to the Commission for resuming the negotiations with the countries concerned and bringing them to a successful conclusion.

RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to report to it on the proposals for directives submitted by the Commission for the negotiation with Israel of an additional Protocol to the 1975 Agreement concerning economic and financial co-operation.

FISHING ZONES

The Council devoted its discussions in this area primarily to the wording of a declaration of intent on the question of extending the Community fishing zone to 200 miles.

Although broad agreement was reached, certain delegations were obliged to maintain reservations at this stage.

On relations with third countries, the Council noted that the Commission intended submitting a report to it before the end of September on its talks with a number of such countries; together with proposals for Directives for the opening of negotiations. At the same time, parallel discussions would take place in the Council on the internal problems facing the Community as regards fishing arrangements.

LAW OF THE SEA

The Council examined the problems raised for the Community by the IIIrd United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, a further session of which will commence in New York on 2 August.

It discussed in particular a number of options which the Community might put forward as joint positions at New York.

PASSPORT UNION

The Council briefly discussed outstanding issues concerning the introduction of a uniform passport.

It instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue examination of this question, prior to its further discussion at the next Council meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities,

- the Regulations

- on the application of Decisions No 1/76 of the Joint Committees of the EFTA Agreements, amending List A annexed to Protocols No 3 concerning the definition of the concept of "originating products" and methods of administrative co-operation;
 - concluding the Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters amending Tables I and II annexed to Protocol No 2 to the Agreement between the Community and the EFTA countries;
 - concluding the exchange of letters amending certain provisions of Protocol No 6 to the Agreement between the Community and the Republic of Iceland;
- the Directive on the application of Directive 67/73/EEC concerning inward processing authorizations for certain products originating in EFTA States and the Faroe Islands.

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The Council agreed to the signing by the Community of the 2nd International Cocoa Agreement (open for signature at the United Nations in New York until 31 August 1976).

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The Council approved the results of the negotiations conducted within its terms of reference by the Commission and agreed that the Community sign the Barcelona Convention on the Protection of the Mediterranean against pollution and the Protocol on the prevention of the pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by dumping from ships and aircraft, subject to conclusion at a later date.

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Under the Community's generalized preferences scheme for 1976 the Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, a Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 3015/75 of 17 November 1975 in respect of flue-cured Virginia tobacco.

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The Council gave the assent requested by the Commission under Article 55 (2)(c) of the Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community to the granting of financial aid to 54 iron and steel technology research projects.

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The Council confirmed the importance which it attached to the effective implementation of the employment statistics programme, took note of the Commission communication of 14 October 1975 on the subject and approved the guidelines set out in it.

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On a proposal from the Italian Government, the Council appointed Mr Augusto BARGONI, membro del Consiglio di Amministrazione dell'I.N.A.I.L., a member of the Economic and Social Committee to replace Mr TRANQUILLI LEALI, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, i.e. until 16 September 1978.

On a proposal from the United Kingdom Government, the Council appointed Mr Michael T. WALSH, Assistant Secretary, International Department of the Trades Union Congress, a member of the Economic and Social Committee to replace Lord Briginshaw, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, i.e. until 16 September 1978.

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The Council appointed

- on a proposal from the Italian Government, Mr TASSELLI, Managing Director of NIRA, in place of Mr R. PURI, who has resigned
- on a proposal from the French Government, Mr J.C. LENY, Directeur Général of Framatome and Président Directeur Général of Framatag, in place of Mr BAUMGARTNER, who has resigned,

as members of the Scientific and Technical Committee for the remainder of the term of office of the resigning members, i.e. until 31 March 1978.

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Food Aid

The Council formally agreed on the content of the new Convention with the UNRWA on aid to the refugees from the countries of the Middle East.

It also decided:

- to supply 10,000 tonnes of cereals to Niger, to be delivered free to the place of destination, from the special reserve for the Sahel under the 1975/1976 implementation plan;
- to supply 100 tonnes of butteroil to Mali, to be delivered free to the place of destination, from the 1975 butteroil programme reserve.

Finally, it agreed - in view of the urgency of the measure - to the advanced implementation by Denmark, under the 1976/1977 implementation plan, of aid consisting of 3,700 tonnes of cereals for Mozambique.

PRESS RELEASE

402nd meeting of the Council

-- Agriculture --

Brussels, 19/20 July 1976

President: Mr A.P.L.M.M. VAN DER STEE

Minister for Agriculture
of the Netherlands

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

Belgium:

Mr Albert LAVENS Minister for Agriculture

Denmark:

Mr Poul DALSGER Minister for Agriculture

Germany:

Mr Josef ERTL Federal Minister for Agriculture

Mr Hans-Jürgen ROHR State Secretary,
Ministry of Agriculture

France:

Mr Christian BONNET Minister for Agriculture

Mr Pierre MEHAIGNERIE State Secretary,
Ministry of Agriculture

Ireland:

Mr Mark CLINTON Minister for Agriculture and
Fisheries

Italy:

Mr Giovanni MARCORA Minister for Agriculture

Mr Arcangelo LO BIANCO State Secretary,
Ministry of Agriculture

Luxembourg:

Mr Albert BERCHEM State Secretary,
Ministry of Agriculture

Netherlands:

Mr A.P.L.M.M. VAN DER STEE

Minister for Agriculture and
Fisheries

United Kingdom:

Mr Frederick PEART

Minister for Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food

Mr Robert McLENNAN

Parliamentary Under Secretary,
Department of Prices and
Consumer Protection

Commission:

Mr P.J. LARDINOIS

Member

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CONSEQUENCES OF THE DROUGHT

The Council held a thorough discussion of the consequences of the drought afflicting a number of regions of the Community and on the measures to be taken in the immediate future and in the longer term to solve the problems arising in various sectors.

It noted that there were urgent problems with regard to animal feedingstuffs and the beef and veal market. It therefore agreed on a series of measures which the Commission will adopt in the framework of its own powers by the Management Committee procedure, namely:

- extension until 15 September of intervention for meat coming from cows for the same quantities as authorized until 31 July (France: 10,000 tonnes, Germany: 5,000 tonnes, Netherlands: 1,200 tonnes, Belgium: 1,200 tonnes, Luxembourg: 500 tonnes);
- increase in the quantities of beef and veal for which aid for private storage is granted (from 80,000 tonnes to 100-120,000 tonnes);
- export refunds for beef and veal (and possibly pigmeat) will be adapted.

- increase in the aid granted for liquid skimmed milk used as an animal feedingstuff;
- measures to release certain stocks of intervention beef and veal.

In addition, the Commission stated that it was prepared to give favourable consideration to any measures which Member States might have to take to facilitate the transport of fodder.

Finally, the Council agreed to keep a close watch on developments with a view to taking the necessary measures at a forthcoming meeting, by which time it will have received a comprehensive report on the consequences of the drought.

HOPS

Following a discussion on the new guidelines for stabilizing the market in hops, the Council adopted the following Resolution:

"The Council notes the Commission's intention:

- to submit an amendment to its proposal for revising the basic Regulation on the market in hops in order to
 - (a) supplement the structural measures already envisaged under a two-year joint action programme by a ban on extending areas under hops and possibly by rules governing conversions to new varieties during that period
 - (b) supplement the existing measures for controlling the market by making provision for preventive measures to avoid the creation of structural surpluses and disturbances of the market supply structure,
- to submit, if necessary, on these new bases and taking into account the present market situation and its prospects, suitable proposals permitting marketing to be carried out under improved market conditions,

undertakes to adopt Decisions on the basis of the above-mentioned proposals by 15 December 1976 at the same time as it fixes the amount of aid to hop producers in respect of the 1975 harvest; to this end, invites the Commission to submit appropriate proposals before 15 October 1976".

FRENCH OVERSEAS DEPARTMENTS

Confirming the agreement which it reached in December, the Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Regulation concerning the application of Article 40(4) of the Treaty to the French overseas departments.

This Regulation provides for the extension of the EAGGF (Guidance) to the French overseas departments, which will no longer receive aid from the European Development Fund.

WINE SECTOR

The Council discussed three measures proposed by the Commission in the wine sector, in the context of the agreement reached in March and May 1976 on the amendments to be made to the basic regulation on Wines; at the end of the discussion the Council adopted in the official languages of the European Communities:

- the regulation relating to the distillation of the by-products of wine-making,
- the regulation laying down general rules in respect of the distillation of certain wines ⁽¹⁾.

It also recorded its agreement in principle on the regulation laying down general rules for imports of wines, grape juices and grape musts, which will be formally adopted as soon as possible ⁽²⁾.

(¹) See also in this connection the Regulation laying down, for the 1976/1977 wine-growing year, the prices to be paid under the obligation to distil the by-products of wine-making, set out under the heading "Other Decisions".

(²) The United Kingdom delegation recorded its agreement subject to confirmation.

MILK PRODUCTS

The Council discussed the 1977-1980 action programme with a view to the progressive achievement of balance in the milk market and then agreed to postpone the detailed debate on this issue until September, by which time the European Parliament would have delivered the requested Opinions on the specific measures and would be able to assess the consequences of the disastrous drought currently afflicting part of Europe.

The Council recorded its agreement to the proposal for a Regulation amending the Regulation concerning the financing of intervention expenditure on the internal market in milk and milk products. The aim of this Regulation is to increase the exports of skimmed-milk powder by means of credit facilities, with interest costs resulting from a delay in payment for the purchaser of intervention milk powder being borne by the EAGGF.

MUTTON AND LAMB

After a thorough discussion of the proposal for a Regulation on the interim common organization of the market in mutton and lamb, the Council concluded that the proposals formed a good basis for discussion. It took note of the suggestions by the French delegation and, whilst ascertaining that there were still differences of opinion, recognized that sufficient consensus existed for it to be able to express its intention of deciding on the interim measures at its next meeting on 20 September 1976.

FODDER SUPPLIES FOR THE ITALIAN MARKET

In view of supply difficulties affecting the Italian market in animal feedingstuffs the Council, as a gesture of Community solidarity, recorded its approval of the Commission's intention of setting aside for this market 100,000 tonnes of barley, or the equivalent thereof, and 10,000 tonnes of skimmed-milk powder from intervention stocks.

The Council also agreed to extend until 1 August 1977 the import refund on maize for Italy at the level of 3 UA/tonne.

FROZEN AND DEEP-FROZEN FOWL CARCASSES

The Council agreed to postpone examination of the amended proposal for a Regulation laying down common standards for the water content of frozen and deep-frozen fowl carcasses until its meeting in October.

LONG-FINNED TUNNY

The Council agreed to come back to the proposal for a Regulation amending the conversion factor applicable to long-finned tunny at its meeting planned for September.

ERUCIC ACID

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Directive relating to the fixing of a maximum level of erucic acid in fats and oils intended as such for human consumption and in foodstuffs containing added oils or fats.

Under the provisions of this Directive, the maximum level of erucic acid shall be fixed

- as from 1.7.1977 at a level not exceeding 10%;
- as from 1.7.1979 at a uniform level of 5%.

STRUCTURAL POLICY

The Council agreed to postpone examination of the four proposals for Regulations and Directives relating to structural policy which appeared on its agenda, until its meeting in September.

STARCH PRODUCTS

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Regulation amending Regulation No 2742/75 on production refunds in the cereals and rice sector, which will be applicable from 1 August 1976, the opening of the new marketing year.

This Regulation provides for the following refunds:

- common wheat intended for starch manufacture 20 UA/tonne
- maize intended for starch manufacture, potato starch and maize groats and meal intended for the manufacture of glucose 14 UA/tonne
- broken rice intended for starch manufacture 17.2 UA/tonne

The minimum price to be paid to the potato producer by the starch manufacturer was fixed at 172 UA/tonne.

When making this amendment, the Council discussed the advisability of abolishing these production refunds in 1978, and it noted the Commission's intention of submitting to the Council, as soon as possible, a report based on detailed studies of this matter.

At this meeting, the Council recorded its agreement in principle on the abolition, as from 1 August 1977, of the refund for maize intended for the manufacture of high fructose syrup, although this refund is to remain at its present level of 10 UA/tonne for the next marketing year.

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities

- the Regulations

- on special measures for linseed;
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 619/71 laying down general rules for granting aid for flax and hemp;
- laying down, in respect of hops, the amount of the aid to producers for the 1975 harvest;
- introducing a derogation from Regulation (EEC) No 155/71 on the production refunds on olive oil used in the manufacture of certain preserved foods;
- on special measures for soya beans;
- supplementing Regulation (EEC) No 620/71 as regards the outline provisions for contracts for the sale of flax and hemp straw;
- determining for the 1976/1977 marketing year the threshold prices for husked rice and broken rice (280.60 UA/tonne and 182.40 UA/tonne respectively);
- amending Council Regulation (EEC) No 1930/75 laying down special provisions applicable to trade in tomato concentrates between the Community as originally constituted and the new Member States (the accession compensatory amounts for Community exports to the three new Member States have been fixed at 50% and 25% of the export refund for tomato concentrates and peeled tomatoes respectively);
- determining for the 1976/1977 wine-growing year the prices to be paid under the compulsory distillation of the by-products of wine-making and the maximum contribution from the Guarantee Section of the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund;

- the Directives

- concerning the statistical surveys to be carried out by the Member States in order to determine the production potential of plantations of certain types of fruit trees, together with the report on experience acquired during the first surveys carried out by the Member States in order to determine the production potential of certain types of fruit trees;
 - concerning surveys of pig production to be made by Member States together with the report on the experience gained in the surveys and forecasts of pig production to be carried out by the Member States, submitted to the Council by the Commission in accordance with Article 6 of the Council Directive of 31 July 1972 (72/281/EEC);
 - on a fourth amendment to Directive 73/241/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to cocoa and chocolate products intended for human consumption;
 - for a 12th amendment to Directive 64/54/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States concerning the preservatives authorized for use in foodstuffs intended for human consumption;
 - concerning the Community list of less-favoured farming areas within the meaning of Directive 75/268/EEC (France - Overseas departments).
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PRESS RELEASE

403rd meeting of the Council

- Budget -

Brussels, 22 July 1976

President:

Mr L.J. BRINKHORST

State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands

Netherlands:

Mr L.J. BRINKHORST

State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr Robert GOLDSMITH

Minister Plenipotentiary,
Deputy Permanent Representative

Commission:

Mr Claude CHEYSSON

Member

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ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DRAFT GENERAL BUDGET FOR 1977

The Council began its discussions on the establishment of the draft general budget for 1977 by holding, in preparation of the meeting with a delegation from the European Parliament, an exchange of views on a number of general questions which had been raised during the preparatory work on the preliminary draft submitted by the Commission.

In the context of the co-operation between the European Parliament and the Council, the abovementioned meeting took place with the European Parliament's delegation which consisted of Mr Spenale (President of the European Parliament), Mr Lange (Chairman of the Committee on Budgets), Mr Aigner, Mr Durand, Mr Maigaard (Deputy-Chairmen of the Committee on Budgets), Lord Bruce (Rapporteur on the 1977 budget) and Mr Shaw (Rapporteur on the amendments to the Financial Regulation).

This meeting enabled the European Parliament's delegation to bring to the attention of the Council, as is customary, but on this occasion according to a new budget timetable, the European Parliament's initial reactions to the preliminary draft budget for 1977 and to raise a number of related questions which had also already been discussed by the Council at the beginning of its meeting. These concerned in particular the extension to several new cases of the distinction between commitment appropriations and payment appropriations - heretofore provided for in only two cases in the Financial Regulation.

22.VII.76

Following this meeting, both parties expressed their satisfaction that the meeting had made a fruitful contribution to an understanding of the various positions and had brought to light aspects which gave positive grounds to hope that agreement could be reached, particularly on the amendments to the Financial Regulation.

Resuming its own discussions, the Council then agreed that in order to give the budget more clarity and to ensure better management of the budget it would at this stage adopt the principle of extending the distinction between commitment appropriations and payment appropriations to certain other sectors for 1977, in accordance with the Commission proposal.

Under this proposal, the distinction between commitment appropriations and payment appropriations would apply to the appropriations for hydrocarbon research (Article 320), to the three-year plan of action on scientific and technical information and documentation (Item 3620), to the new Social Fund (Title 5) and to the Guidance Section of the EAGGF (Title 8).

The Council then examined, item by item, the problems outstanding following the preparatory discussions in the Permanent Representatives Committee. In conclusion to this discussion, the Council established the draft general budget of the European Communities for the financial year 1977.

This draft budget, totalling approximately 8,659 MUA, will be forwarded to the European Parliament in September in accordance with the new budgetary timetable agreed for this year.

PRELIMINARY DRAFT OF THE SECOND SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET FOR 1976

Following a thorough examination of the preliminary draft of the second supplementary and rectifying budget of the European Communities, the Council established the draft and decided to forward it to the European Parliament to enable it to adopt its position concerning this draft at its September 1976 part-session.

The additional expenditure provided for in the draft (832,724,725 UA) will be devoted mainly to the Guarantee Section of the EAGGF, food aid and interest relief on financial aid to Portugal.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Decision adopting a series of joint projects on data processing (data bank for matching organs and blood, legal document retrieval systems in the Community, computer-aided design) and the Decision setting up an Advisory Committee for the abovementioned projects.

The Council also adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 2306/70 on the financing of intervention expenditure in respect of the domestic market in milk and milk products.

Commercial policy

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities,

- the Regulations

- concluding the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Government of Japan on trade in textiles and the exchange of letters relating thereto;
- on the customs treatment applicable to goods imported for testing;
- concluding the Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters amending Annex A to Protocol No 1 to the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Austria, the Republic of Finland, the Republic of Iceland, the Kingdom of Norway, the Kingdom of Sweden and the Swiss Confederation;

- the Decision authorizing Ireland to take protective measures as regards footwear with uppers of leather imported from Finland, Iceland, Austria, Norway, Switzerland and Sweden;
- the Directive amending Directives 69/74/EEC, 69/75/EEC and 71/235/EEC on the harmonization of provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action relating respectively to customs warehousing procedure, free zones and to the usual forms of handling which may be carried out in customs warehouses and in free zones.

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The Council recorded its agreement on the granting of the second instalment of emergency aid for the repatriates from Angola in Portugal through the WFP (500 tonnes of skimmed-milk powder and 250 tonnes of butteroil) and on the modification of the geographical allocation of certain food aid supplied to UNICEF.

PRESS RELEASE

404th meeting of the Council

- Economy/Finance -

Brussels, 26 July 1976

President: Mr W.F. DUISENBERG,

Minister for Finance of
the Netherlands

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

Belgium:

Mr Willy DE CLERCQ	Minister for Finance
Mr Fernand HERMAN	Minister for Economic Affairs

Denmark:

Mr Svend JAKOBSEN	Minister for Fiscal Affairs
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Germany:

Mr Karl Otto POEHL	State Secretary, Ministry for Finance
Mr Otto SCHLECHT	State Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs

France:

Mr Jean-Pierre FOURCADE	Minister for Economic Affairs and Finance
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Ireland:

Mr Richie RYAN	Minister for Finance
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Italy:

Mr Emilio COLOMBO	Minister for the Treasury
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Luxembourg:

Mr Jacques POOS	Minister for Finance
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Netherlands:

Mr W.F. DUISENBERG

Minister for Finance

United Kingdom:

Mr Harold LEVER

Chancellor of the Duchy of
Lancaster

Commission:

Mr Wilhelm HAFERKAMP

Vice-President

PREPARATION OF PUBLIC BUDGETS FOR 1977

The Council carried out the second quarterly examination - for 1976 - of the economic situation in the Community, in accordance with its Decision of 18 February 1974 on the attainment of a high degree of convergence of the economic policies of the Member States of the European Economic Community.

Following this examination, the Council adopted the Decision on the preparation of public budgets for 1977 which lays down the economic and budgetary policy guidelines to be followed by the Member States in 1976/1977.

FINANCIAL PROBLEMS IN THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE

The Council held an exchange of views on certain matters of a specifically financial nature concerning the North-South Dialogue, particularly the problem of indebtedness.

CO-ORDINATION OF ECONOMIC POLICIES AND MONETARY RELATIONS

At the start of his term of office as President, Mr W.F. DUISENBERG put to the Council a number of ideas on strengthening economic and financial convergence in the European Communities; the main features of his remarks are summarized in the Annex hereto.

The Council invited the Economic Policy Committee, the Monetary Committee and the Permanent Representatives Committee to study these suggestions, while also taking into account those put forward by Mr FOURCADE in September 1974, and to report back to the Council in time for its meeting in October.

Mr DUISENBERG's suggestions aim at reinforcing the policies and procedures of the Community in the two related areas of economic policy co-ordination and monetary relationships.

On economic policy, Mr DUISENBERG suggests that the medium-term economic policy programme of the Community should be made to play a central role in a periodic review of national programmes. These national programmes should be examined both on their consistency with the agreed Community programme and on the objective that national measures shall not jeopardize the functioning of the common market. The results of these reviews should be included in the Annual Report on the Economic Situation of the Community.

The utilization of Community funds should be geared as much as possible to the objectives and measures agreed to in the Medium-Term Policy Programme. All member countries should commit themselves to follow the guidelines of the medium-term programme. In order to reinforce the process of convergence of economic policies, Mr DUISENBERG further suggests to make the credit mechanisms of the Community more instrumental to that end. In particular, he proposes to examine the possibility of granting credits in tranches, the release of following tranches to be made conditional upon the countries concerned satisfying the policy conditions.

In the field of monetary relationships Mr DUISENBERG rejects the idea of a weakening of the present snake arrangement for the purpose of allowing the EEC countries, that do not participate at present in the European snake arrangement, to join. Rather, he suggests creating a general Community framework for consultation and surveillance of exchange rate policies, based on the "guidelines for floating" which the EEC countries have already agreed to recommend for adoption in the context of the International Monetary Fund. These guidelines centre around the concept of agreed "target zones" for exchange rates.

The guidelines do not impose any obligation on a country to keep its exchange rate within these target zones, but they do create the presumption that countries will not engage in policy measures which are designed to push the rates away from the target zone. Periodic review of the target zones, and Community surveillance of national policies on the basis of such guidelines, could provide the start of an effective framework for Community action in this area.

PRESS RELEASE

LIBRARY

405th meeting of the Council

- Foreign Affairs -

Brussels, 27 July 1976

President: Mr Max VAN DER STOEL,
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Netherlands

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

Belgium:

Mr Renaat VAN ELSLANDE Minister for Foreign Affairs

Denmark:

Mr Ivar NØRGAARD Minister for External Economic
Affairs

Germany:

Mr Hans-Dietrich GENSCHER Federal Minister for
Foreign Affairs

France:

Mr Jean SAUVAGNARGUES Minister for Foreign Affairs

Ireland:

Mr Garret FITZGERALD Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Justin KEATING Minister for Industry and
Commerce

Italy:

Mr Mariano RUMOR Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Francesco CATTANEI State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

27.VII.76

Luxembourg:

Mr Gaston THORN

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Netherlands:

Mr M. VAN DER STOEL

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr L.J. BRINKHORST

State Secretary for Foreign
Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr Roy HATTERSLEY

Minister of State,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Commission:

Mr François-Xavier ORTOLI

President

Sir Christopher SCAMES

Vice-President

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FISHING INDUSTRY PROBLEMS - 200 MILE ZONES

The Council adopted the following declaration of intent regarding the problems raised for the Community fishing industry by the establishment of 200-mile economic zones:

"The Council notes an increasing trend amongst countries with large-scale sea fishing industries to extend unilaterally their fishing zones to 200 miles, without awaiting the outcome of the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea. Certain countries which have been very active in fishing in coastal zones, particularly in the North Atlantic, have already extended the boundaries of their jurisdiction or taken a decision to do so as from 1 January 1977. This trend is bound to result in over-exploitation of the fish stocks, thus jeopardizing the maintenance of the Community's fishing resources.

The Council expresses its resolve to protect the legitimate rights of Community fishermen.

The Council, convinced of the necessity for the Member States to act jointly:

- // - considers that measures must be adopted in order to deal with this situation and that they must be taken in accordance with the conclusions of the Third Conference of the United Nations on the Law of the Sea: it is aware however, that the trend referred to above could force the Member States to act as soon as circumstances render action necessary, i.e. before the proceedings of the Conference are brought to a conclusion;

- to this end, adopts the principle of concerted action under which Member States would be led to extend the limits of fishing zones to 200 miles, fishing within these limits being subject to the common fisheries policy of the Community;
- agrees to decide on the ways of implementing such action in the light of the outcome of the next meeting of the Conference on the Law of the Sea and not later than 1 October 1976."

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE LAW OF THE SEA

With a view to the next session of the third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, due to begin shortly in New York, the Council defined joint positions to be submitted by the Community representatives at the Conference.

The joint positions relate in particular to the following matters: establishment of a 200-mile economic zone, extension of the continental shelf and exploitation of the sea bed.

It should also be pointed out that the Community representatives have been given a brief to negotiate a clause allowing the Community to participate as such in the future Convention on the Law of the Sea.

ELECTION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT BY DIRECT UNIVERSAL
SUFFRAGE

The Council held an exchange of views on elections to the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage. The firm intention was noted of all delegations to resolve the last remaining difficulties and thus to achieve what was agreed by the European Council. With this in mind, the Council expressed its intention of finding a solution to any points still outstanding at its next meeting on 20 September 1976.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Technical barriers (1)

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a series of Council Directives on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to:

- the installation of lighting and light-signalling devices on motor vehicles and their trailers;
- reflex reflectors for motor vehicles and their trailers;
- the end-outline market lamps, front position (side) lamps, rear position (side) lamps and stop lamps for motor vehicles and their trailers;
- direction indicator lamps for motor vehicles and their trailers;
- the rear registration plate lamps for motor vehicles and their trailers;
- motor-vehicle headlamps which function as mainbeam and/or dipped-beam headlamps and to incandescent electric filament lamps for such headlamps;
- front fog lamps for motor vehicles and filament lamps for such lamps;
- passenger seats for wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors;
- clinical mercury-in-glass, maximum-reading thermometers;

(1) See in this connection the press release of 29 and 30 June 1976, document No 759/76 (Presse 73), which contains a summary published when the 18 Directives in this area were adopted as to substance.

- alcoholometers and alcohol hydrometers and alcohol tables;
- common provisions for pressure vessels and methods of inspecting them.

The Council further adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Directives on:

- the approximation of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States relating to restrictions on the marketing and use of certain dangerous substances and preparations;
- the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to cosmetic products;
- amending Directive 71/354/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to units of measurement.

EEC - Turkey Association

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Regulation extending for the fifth time the temporary partial suspension of Common Customs Tariff duties on wines originating in and coming from Turkey as provided for in Regulation (EEC) No 2823/71.

The Council gave its approval to the 11th Annual Report of the EEC - Turkey Association Council to the Joint Parliamentary Committee (1 January/31 December 1975).

Portugal

The Council approved a Decision authorizing the Commission to open negotiations with Portugal for the conclusion of an Interim Agreement, so that the trade provisions of the Additional Protocol with Portugal could quickly be implemented.

Food aid

The Council adopted the Regulations and Decisions on emergency aid to:

- Zambia
 - 1 500 tonnes of cereals (1975/1976 reserve)
 - 450 tonnes of skimmed milk powder (1976 reserve)
 - 300 tonnes of butteroil (of which 279 tonnes from the 1975 reserve and 21 tonnes from the 1976 reserve)
- Mozambique
 - 5 000 tonnes of cereals (1975/1976 reserve)
 - 200 tonnes of butteroil (1975 reserve)
 - 300 tonnes of skimmed milk powder (1976 reserve)
- Chilean communities, through the intermediary of the Catholic Relief Service
 - 1 000 tonnes of cereals (1975/1976 reserve)
 - 400 tonnes of butteroil (1975 reserve)
 - 500 tonnes of skimmed milk powder (1976 reserve)

and on the financing by the Community of the transport costs involved in the aid operation decided on by the Council on 6 April 1976 concerning the supply, through the intermediary of the UNHCR, of 10 000 tonnes of cereals and 650 tonnes of butteroil to needy communities in Cyprus.

Under the milk products aid programme for 1976, the Council approved the second instalment of supplies in the form of skimmed milk powder to the following countries and international organizations:

Recipient countries or organizations	Distribution of the 150,000 t	Distribution of the 1st instalment of 55,000 t. already decided	Distribution of the 2nd instalment of 95,000 t
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I. COUNTRIES

EUROPE

Malta	750	100	650
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WESTERN AND CENTRAL

AFRICA

Upper Volta	2,300	700	1,600
Mali	2,900	800	2,100
Mauritania *	1,200	500	700
Niger *	2,450	350	2,100
Senegal	3,400	350	3,050
Guinea Bissau *	500	500	-
Cape Verde *	450	450	-
Sao Tomé-Príncipe *	150	100	50
Rwanda	1,000	200	800
Zaire	3,000	-	3,000

EASTERN AFRICA

Ethiopia *	500	500	token entry
Mauritius	1,000	200	800
Comoro Islands	500	-	500
Kenya	300	200	100
Somalia *	3,000	850	2,150
Tanzania	1,350	350	1,000
Sudan	170	170	-
Mozambique *	750	-	750

(*) Emergency aid

Recipient countries or organizations	Distribution of the 150 000 t	Distribution of the 1st instal- ment of 55 000 t already decided	Distribution of the 2nd instal- ment of 95 000 t
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MIDDLE EAST

Egypt	6 000	800	5 200
Jordan*	1 100	600	500
North Yemen	1 500	200	1 300
South Yemen	token entry	-	token entry

FAR EAST

Afghanistan	300	200	100
Bangladesh	18 000	4 000	14 000
India	7 500	5 000	2 500
Indonesia	500	-	500
Pakistan	3 500	2 500	1 000
Philippines	3 500	500	3 000
Sri Lanka	1 300	850	450

AMERICA

Haiti*	1 000	1 000	token entry
Honduras*	1 000	800	200
Peru	4 500	600	3 900
Uruguay	500	200	300
Grenada*	400	100	300
El Salvador	700	-	700

(*) Emergency aid

Recipient countries or Organizations	Distribution of the 150 000 t.	Distribution of the 1st instalment of 55 000 t. already decided	Distribution of the 2nd instalment of 95 00 t.
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II. INSTITUTIONS

ICRC	3,500	2,000	1,500
LEAGUE RCS	2,000	1,000	1,000
UNICEF	15,000	4,000	11,000
WFP	30,000	20,000	10,000
UNRWA	700	700	-
NGOs reserve	10,000	-	10,000

III. RESERVE 11,830 3,630 8,200

TOTAL 150,000 55,000 95,000

Agricultural policy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a series of Regulations

- laying down general rules for the import of wines, grape juices and grape must;
- temporarily suspending the whole of the autonomous Common Customs Tariff duty on potatoes falling within subheading 07.01 A III b);
- on the transfer to the Italian intervention agency of feed-grain held by the intervention agencies of the other Member States;
- on the transfer to the Italian intervention agency of skimmed milk powder by the intervention agencies of the other Member States;
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 2742/75 on production refunds in the cereals and rice sectors;
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 2749/75 on the reduction of the levy applicable to certain imports of feed-grains into the Italian Republic.

The Council approved the Commission guidelines for the development of a permanent information system on social security in agriculture.

Credit insurance

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision amending Decision 73/391/EEC on consultation and information procedures in matters of credit insurance, credit guarantees and financial credits.

Mexico

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Regulation maintaining in effect the rules whereby imports into the Benelux countries of cotton yarn not put up for retail sale originating in Mexico are subject to import authorizations.

ECSC

The Council gave effect to the consultation requested by the Commission on:

- a draft Decision (ECSC) implementing Decision 528/76/ECSC on the Community system of measures by Member States in aid of the coal industry;
- a draft Decision (ECSC) amending Decision 2/52 of 23 December 1952 determining the mode of assessment and collection of the levies provided for in Articles 49 and 50 of the ECSC Treaty.

The Council gave its assent, as requested by the Commission pursuant to Article 54(2) of the ECSC Treaty, for the financing by Dalmine SPA, Milan, of an investment to increase production capacity for seamless tubes.

PRESS RELEASE

LIBRARY

406th meeting of the Council

- Agriculture -

Brussels, 9 September 1976

President: Mr A.P.L.M.M. VAN DER STEE,
Minister for Agriculture
of the Netherlands

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

Belgium:

Mr Albert LAVENS Minister for Agriculture

Denmark:

Mr Poul DALSGER Minister for Agriculture

Federal Republic of Germany:

Mr Josef ERTL Federal Minister for Agriculture

Mr Hans-Jürgen ROHR State Secretary,
Ministry of Agriculture

France:

Mr Christian BONNET Minister for Agriculture

Mr Pierre MEHAIGNERIE State Secretary,
Ministry of Agriculture

Ireland:

Mr Mark CLINTON Minister for Agriculture
and Fisheries

Italy:

Mr Giovanni MARCORA Minister for Agriculture

Mr Arcangelo LO BIANCO Deputy State Secretary,
Ministry of Agriculture

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean HAMILIUS Minister for Agriculture

Mr Albert BERCHEM State Secretary,
Ministry of Agriculture

Netherlands:

Mr A.P.L.M.M. VAN DER STEE

Minister for Agriculture
and Fisheries

United Kingdom:

Mr Frederick PEART

Minister for Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food

Commission:

Mr P.J. LARDINOIS

Member

DROUGHT

In the light of a Commission communication concerning the drought in agriculture, the Council made a detailed analysis of the situation and took stock, as far as possible at this stage, of production and the supply prospects for the 1976/1977 marketing year.

It established that a serious situation might arise during the winter, especially in the feed sector, and it noted the measures already undertaken to avert this danger, particularly by encouraging the transfer of feed from surplus areas to shortfall areas. It also noted the Commission's intention to submit in the near future a list of feed products in respect of which suspension of customs duties might help boost supply on the Community market.

The Council also noted that the Commission intends to extend the application of measures already taken so as to release supplies of skimmed milk powder at favourable prices to producers affected by the drought and to make certain technical improvements to the intervention arrangements for beef and veal.

The Council furthermore took the opportunity to discuss the approach to be adopted towards various problems raised by the possible introduction of a system of non-marketing subsidies for milk and milk products and of conversion premiums for dairy cow herds.

9.IX.76

With regard to vegetables, the Council acknowledged the need to increase availability in the coming months, particularly in the case of potatoes and fresh vegetables. To that end, it extended the total and temporary suspension of customs duties for white and red cabbages, fresh peas and carrots until 1 November 1976. In addition, the Council decided partially to suspend customs duties on rib celery (from 1 October), beans and onions until 1 November 1976. The temporary level of duty will be 8% for these three products. The Council also extended the total and temporary suspension of customs duties on potatoes and seed potatoes until 31 December 1976. Customs duties on preserved green beans are to be reduced from 24 to 16% until the same date.

As a longer-term prospect, the Council favoured the proposals put forward by various delegations and the Commission concerning the possibility of Community action in the sphere of structural policy. In this connection, it referred to the implementation programme for developing water resources and measures for improving the environment.

SALES OF BUTTER AT REDUCED PRICES TO PERSONS ON SOCIAL WELFARE

The Council noted that, at the request of a number of delegations, the Commission proposed examining the possibilities and conditions for proposing the reintroduction by the Member States of sales of butter at reduced prices to persons on social welfare.

WORK PROGRAMME

The Council agreed to hold its next meeting on 4 and 5 October in Luxembourg.

PRESS RELEASE

407th meeting of the Council
- Economics/Finance -
Brussels, 20 September 1976
President: Mr W.F. DUISENBERG,
Minister for Finance
of the Netherlands

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

Belgium:

Mr Willy DE CLERCQ	Minister for Finance
Mr Fernand HERMAN	Minister for Economic Affairs

Denmark:

Mr Svend JAKOBSEN	Minister for Fiscal Affairs
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Germany:

Mr Hans APEL	Minister for Finance
Mr Karl Otto POEHL	State Secretary, Ministry for Finance

France:

Mr Michel DURAFOUR	Deputy Minister for Economic Affairs and Finance
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Ireland:

Mr Richie RYAN	Minister for Finance
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Italy:

Mr Gaetano STAMNATI	Minister for the Treasury
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Luxembourg:

Mr Jacques POOS	Minister for Finance
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Netherlands:

Mr W.F. DUISENBERG

Minister for Finance

United Kingdom:

Mr Harold LEVER

Chancellor of the Duchy of
Lancaster

Commission:

Mr Wilhelm HAFERKAMP

Vice-President

CONSOLIDATION OF THE COMMUNITY LOAN

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, a Decision on the basis of which the Commission would be able to change into a fixed interest loan a proportion of the variable interest loans which it had contracted on behalf of the Community in March 1976.

This operation comprises firstly the repayment of US dollars 100 million borrowed at variable rates, and secondly a public issue at a fixed rate in the United States of notes to the same amount denominated in US dollars. The Decision will be published shortly in the Official Journal of the European Communities.

ECONOMIC SITUATION IN THE COMMUNITY

The Council held an exchange of views on the economic situation in the Community, using as a basis a working document submitted by the Community.

The Italian, French, Danish and Netherlands ministers in particular described the various developments in their national economies and indicated the economic policies they intended to follow in the next few months.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE IMF

On the basis of a report from the Chairman of the Monetary Committee, the Council decided on the common position to be presented by its President, Mr DUISENBERG at the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund in Manila, scheduled for early October 1976.

The report recalled that the main items on the agenda for this meeting were

- the world economic situation and the functioning of the international monetary system
- the functioning and liquidity of the IMF.

PRESS RELEASE

LIBRARY

408th meeting of the Council

- Foreign Affairs -

Brussels, 20 September 1976

President: Mr Max VAN DER STOEL,
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Netherlands

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

Belgium :

Mr Renaat VAN ELSLANDE Minister for Foreign Affairs

Denmark :

Mr Ivar NØRGAARD Minister for External Economic Affairs

Mr Jens CHRISTENSEN State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Germany :

Mr Hans-Dietrich GENSCHER Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Hans-Jürgen WISCHNEWSKI Minister of State,
Federal Foreign Office

France :

Mr Louis de GUIRINGAUD Minister for Foreign Affairs

Ireland :

Mr Garret FITZGERALD Minister for Foreign Affairs

Italy :

Mr Arnaldo FORLANI Minister for Foreign Affairs

Luxembourg :

Mr Jean DONDELINGER Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

Netherlands:

Mr Max VAN DER STOEL

Minister for Foreign Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr Anthony CROSLAND

Secretary of State for Foreign and
Commonwealth Affairs

Mr David OWEN

Minister of State,
Foreign Office

Commission:

Mr François-Xavier ORTOLI

President

Sir Christopher SOAMES

Vice-President

Mr Claude CHEYSSON

Member

Mr Finn Olav GUNDELACH

Member

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WORK BEING CARRIED OUT IN THE COUNCIL

In the role conferred on it by the Paris Summit in December 1974 - i.e. that of providing co-ordination and impetus - the Council reviewed, on the basis of a document prepared by the President, the main problems outstanding in those Councils composed of Ministers other than those for foreign affairs.

This review of outstanding problems enabled the members of the Council to take stock of persisting difficulties and to consider what action should be taken so that decisions could be reached within the desired time limits.

FISHING - 200-MILE LIMIT

The Council took stock of the situation for the Community regarding the question of extending fishing limits to 200 miles following the third session of the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea.

It noted that the Commission would shortly be submitting proposals on the various aspects of the question, and agreed to return to it at its meeting in October.

NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE

The Council noted a report from the Chairman of the Permanent Representatives Committee on the work of the four Commissions of the Paris Conference on International Economic Co-operation since proceedings were resumed on 13 September.

It agreed to continue its work on this subject at its next meeting, to be held on 18 and 19 October 1976.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Commercial policy

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Decision authorizing the prolongation or tacit renewal of certain trade agreements concluded between the Member States and Non-Member countries.

The Council also adopted the Decision on the notification (before 30 September 1976) of the provisional application by the European Economic Communities of the 1976 International Coffee Agreement.

In addition, the Council adopted the Decision concluding the Framework Agreement for Commercial and Economic Co-operation signed on 6 July 1976 in Ottawa between Canada and the European Economic Communities, and approved this Agreement on behalf of Euratom. The Council also adopted the Decision on practical measures of economic co-operation within the Joint Committee.

Lastly, the Council adopted the Decision amending and supplementing the Directives for negotiations with the ARE, Lebanon, Jordan and Syria.

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Appointments

Acting on a proposal from the German Government, the Council appointed Mr Dietmar CREMER, Mitglied des geschäftsführenden Bundesvorstandes des Deutschen Gewerkschaftsbundes, as a member of the Economic and Social Committee to replace Mr LAPPAS, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, i.e. until 16 September 1978.

Acting on a proposal from the United Kingdom Government, the Council appointed Dr B.S. BLACKADDER, Senior Employment Medical Adviser (Scotland), as an alternate member of the Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work to replace Dr BUCHANAN, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, i.e. until 4 May 1978.

On a proposal from the United Kingdom Government, the Council appointed Mr B.D. WINKETT, Department of Employment, and Mr R. CONNELL, Employment Services Agency, as members of the Advisory Committee on Freedom of Movement for Workers for the period ending 17 March 1977 to replace Mr SULLIVAN and Mr WEAVER, who have resigned.

On a proposal from the Commission, the Council appointed the members of the Committee of Experts of the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions.

These are:

Mrs E. ROBERTS	Mr F.J. JANSEN
Mr G. BIANCHI	A. LA FONTAINE
J.J. COFFEY	D. MOYEN
G. CORNU	W. POEHLER
R. FOEHR	E.J. ROBERTSON
T. HERBORG NIELSEN	R. WEIL

The Council approved the Rules of Procedure of the Advisory Committee on Social Security for Migrant Workers, in the official languages of the Communities.

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The Council gave the assent, requested by the Commission, in accordance with the second paragraph of Article 54 of the ECSC Treaty, to the granting of loans to bodies other than the undertakings themselves, for the financing of dwellings for the personnel of iron and steel firms in the region of Friuli.

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Regulation temporarily suspending the Common Customs Tariff duties on certain agricultural products for use mainly as feedingstuffs.

PRESS RELEASE

Brussels, 20 September 1976
1019/76 (Presse 106)

ELECTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY
BY DIRECT UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE

At its 408th meeting, held on 20 September 1976, the Council approved the texts concerning the election of the members of the Assembly by direct universal suffrage. Having approved the texts, the Council then signed them.

Election of the members of the Assembly by direct universal suffrage is provided for in Article 138 of the EEC Treaty and the corresponding Articles of the other Treaties.

These Articles stipulate that the Assembly shall draw up proposals for such elections.

The Assembly has drawn up two proposals:

- the first, known as the Dehousse report, was adopted on 17 May 1960,
- the second, known as the Patijn report, was adopted on 14 January 1975.

At its meeting on 15 and 16 July 1975 the European Council asked the Council to examine the problem of election of the Assembly by direct universal suffrage.

At its meeting in Rome on 1 and 2 December 1975 the European Council agreed that the election would be held on a single date during the period May-June 1978.

When it met in Luxembourg on 1 and 2 April 1976 the European Council reached a decision on the days on which the ballot would be held and the procedure whereby any implementing provisions concerning the texts adopted today would be adopted.

Finally, at its meeting on 12 and 13 July 1976 the European Council decided on the allocation of seats in the future Assembly elected by direct universal suffrage.

The texts approved and signed today comprise:

1. A Decision in which the Council adopts provisions laying down certain arrangements for the election of the members of the Assembly by direct universal suffrage, which it recommends the Member States to adopt in accordance with their respective constitutional requirements.

This Decision contains a recital to the effect that the Council intends "to give effect to the conclusions of the European Council in Rome on 1 and 2 December 1975, that the election of the Assembly should be held on a single date within the period May-June 1978".

2. An Act

The main provisions of this Act are as follows:

(a) Article 2 : determines the allocation of seats, as follows:

Belgium	24
Denmark	16
Germany	81
France	81
Ireland	15
Italy	81
Luxembourg	6
Netherlands	25
United Kingdom	81

(b) Article 3 : lays down the term of office of representatives (five years)

(c) Article 4 : representatives will vote on an individual and personal basis and will not be bound by any instructions or receive a binding mandate

(d) Article 5 : the office of representative in the Assembly is compatible with membership of the Parliament of a Member State.

(e) Article 6 : lays down the functions which are incompatible with the office of representative in the Assembly: membership of the Government of a Member State, membership of the Commission, office of Judge, Advocate-General or Registrar of the Court of Justice, etc...

- (f) Article 7: the Assembly will draw up a proposal for a uniform electoral procedure. Pending the entry into force of this procedure the electoral procedure will be governed in each Member State by its national provisions.
- (g) Article 8: each Member State will determine the date on which members of the Assembly will be elected, on the understanding that the date must fall within the same period for all the Member States, this period to start on a Thursday morning and end in the evening of the following Sunday. The counting of votes may not begin until that Sunday evening after the close of polling in the Member State whose electors are the last to vote.
- (h) Article 10: the period referred to above will be determined for the first elections by the Council acting unanimously after consulting the Assembly. Subsequent elections will take place in the corresponding period five years later. This period may be brought forward or put back one month should it prove impossible to hold the elections in the Community during the period which would result from a straight forward application of the texts.

- (i) Article 12: each Member State will lay down appropriate procedures for filling any seat which falls vacant during the five-year term of office for the remainder of that period.
- (j) Article 13: any necessary implementing measures will be adopted by the Council acting unanimously on a proposal from the Assembly after consulting the Commission.
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PRESS RELEASE

LIBRARY

409th meeting of the Council

- Agriculture -

Luxembourg, 4/5 October 1976

President: Mr A.P.L.M.M. VAN DER STEE,
Minister for Agriculture
of the Netherlands

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

Belgium:

Mr Albert LAVENS Minister for Agriculture

Denmark:

Mr Poul DALSGER Minister for Agriculture

Germany:

Mr Hans-Jürgen ROHR State Secretary,
Ministry of Agriculture

France:

Mr Christian BONNET Minister for Agriculture

Mr Pierre MEHAIGNERIE State Secretary,
Ministry of Agriculture

Ireland:

Mr Mark CLINTON Minister for Agriculture and
Fisheries

Italy:

Mr Giovanni MARCORA Minister for Agriculture

Mr Arcangelo LO BIANCO Deputy State Secretary,
Ministry of Agriculture

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean HAMILIUS Minister for Agriculture

Mr Albert BERCHEM State Secretary,
Ministry of Agriculture

Netherlands:

Mr A.P.L.M.M. VAN DER STEE

Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries

United Kingdom:

Mr John SILKIN

Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Mr Robert MACLENNAN

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State
Department of Prices and Consumer
Protection

Commission:

Mr P.J. LARDINOIS

Member

MUTTON AND LAMB

The Council resumed its discussions of the proposal for a Regulation establishing a transitional common organization of the market in mutton and lamb so that the delegations chiefly concerned could voice their concerns on the subject.

The Council agreed to instruct the Special Committee on Agriculture to continue its examination of the issue and define common positions for a future meeting.

GREEN POUND

The Council adopted the regulation amending the exchange rates to be applied in agriculture for the Irish pound. The Irish green pound will be calculated at the rate of 1.56778 units of account from 11 October 1976, which represents a devaluation of 7.5%.

With regard to the United Kingdom green pound, the Council held a detailed discussion on the situation and noted that the Commission would continue its talks with the United Kingdom Government in order to come to an agreement which the Council could subsequently adopt formally by the most rapid procedure.

The Council considered that it might prove useful to conduct a detailed examination of the effects of monetary problems on agriculture, and in particular of the operation of Regulation No 974/71 concerning monetary compensatory amounts, and agreed to do so at its next meeting, scheduled for 25 and 26 October 1976.

SKIMMED MILK POWDER

The Council examined a Commission proposal for the extension beyond 31 October 1976 of the compulsory purchase arrangements for skimmed milk powder.

It agreed to examine the matter further at its meeting on 25 October so that the appropriate decisions could be taken if necessary. It will for this purpose take into account the information available on that date as to the quantities of milk powder involved.

BEEF AND BUTTER FOR ITALY

The Council adopted the Regulations on the transfer to the Italian intervention agency of butter and frozen beef held by the intervention agencies of other Member States.

Concerned in particular to combat speculation and stabilize prices in Italy, the Council thereby made available to the Italian intervention agency 10,000 tonnes of butter and 40,000 tonnes of frozen beef and veal for sale on the Italian market. The transport costs will be borne by the EAGGF.

FISHERIES

The Council heard a statement from the Commission regarding the Commission communication concerning future fisheries policy, which drew attention to some key features of proposed policy, namely conservation of stocks, the nature of quotas and their supervision, reserved zones and traditional rights.

The Council agreed to give urgent and detailed study to the complex and important questions raised by the communication, and instructed the bodies responsible for so doing to prepare the ground for its later discussion with the utmost care.

WINE

The Council discussed the market situation and the progress of the grape harvest as the new wine year begins, and agreed to continue its discussions at its projected meeting on 12 and 23 November 1976, instructing the Special Committee on Agriculture to prepare its proceedings for these dates.

The Commission stated that it would shortly submit a proposal concerning the possible addition to be made to Article 9 of Regulation No 1910/74 (wine of secondary wine product deliveries in respect of accessory quality wines p.s.r.). The Council instructed the Special Committee on Agriculture to examine the matter without delay so that agreement could be reached if possible.

The Council adopted the draft balance sheet for the 1/7/1976 wine year.

STRUCTURAL POLICY

The Council held an exchange of views on various aspects of structural policy on the basis of a report on the proposal for adjusting the amounts laid down in the socio-structural Directives adopted since 1972.

It thereupon agreed to the increase in the maximum volume of investment for pigmeat and in aid for the keeping of accounts, both provided for in Directive 72/159/EEC.

The Council also took note of certain progress reports regarding the proposals on processing and marketing, producer groups, forestry measures and young farmers. It agreed to instruct the Special Committee on Agriculture to continue its work actively in the light of the day's discussion.

MISCELLANEOUS STATEMENTS

The Council took note of various statements on

- measures to mitigate the effects of the drought (United Kingdom delegation)
- arrangements for monetary compensatory amounts in the pigmeat sector (United Kingdom delegation)
- problems in the egg and poultry sector (Danish delegation)
- the situation of the Community as regards cereals supplies (Danish delegation)
- problems in the shrimp-fishing sector (Netherlands delegation)
- the price of imported alcohol in the Netherlands (Netherlands delegation)
- aid in the bee-keeping sector (Commission).

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulations

- fixing for the remainder of the 1976/1977 milk year the guideline figure for the fat content of standardized whole milk imported into Ireland and the United Kingdom;
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 1163/76 on the granting of a conversion premium in the wine sector;
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 2893/74 on sparkling wines produced in the Community and specified in item 12 of Annex II to Regulation (EEC) No 816/70 and Regulation (EEC) No 817/70 laying down special provisions relating to quality wines produced in specified regions;
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 827/68 on the common organization of the market in certain products listed in Annex II to the Treaty;
- amending Annex III(B) of Regulation (EEC) No 100/76 as regards the conversion factor applicable to long-finned tunny.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Commercial Policy

- The Council adopted in the languages of the Communities
- the decisions
 - authorizing extension or tacit renewal of certain trade agreements concluded between Member States and third countries;
 - authorizing the tacit renewal or continued operation of certain Treaties of Friendship, Trade and Navigation Treaties and similar agreements concluded between Member States and third countries;
 - the Regulation concerning import arrangements for certain textile products originating in the Republic of Korea.

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ACP

Following the decision in principle of the ACP-EEC Council on 15 July 1976 the Council adopted the decision authorizing the Commission to open negotiations with Papua New Guinea for the subsequent accession of the latter to the Convention of Lomé.

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ECSC

The Council gave the assent requested by the Commission,

- under the second paragraph of Article 54 of the ECSC Treaty, on the partial financing of a project designed to increase the supply of industrial water to the British Steel Corporation's Redcar and South Teeside Works;
- under Article 56(2)(a) of the ECSC Treaty (Società Nazionale Cogne S.P.A., Italy; Société l'Unité Hermétique, France; National Gas Tubes, United Kingdom).

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The Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the European Coal and Steel Community, meeting within the Council, adopted the decision concerning exports of ferrous scrap to third countries.

PRESS RELEASE

410th meeting of the Council

- Foreign Affairs -

Luxembourg, 18 and 19 October 1976

President: Mr Max VAN DER STOEL,
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Netherlands

LIBRARY

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

Belgium:

Mr Renaat VAN ELSLANDE Minister for Foreign Affairs

Denmark

Mr Ivar NØRGAARD Minister for External
Economic Affairs

Mr Jens CHRISTENSEN State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Germany:

Mr Hans-Dietrich GENSCHER Federal Minister for Foreign
Affairs

Mr Hans-Jürgen WISCHNEWSKI Minister of State,
Federal Foreign Office

France:

Mr Louis de GUIRINGAUD Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Marcel CAVAILLE State Secretary for Transport

Ireland:

Mr Garret FITZGERALD Minister for Foreign Affairs

Italy:

Mr Francesco FABRI Minister of Shipping

Mr Luciano RADI Deputy State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Luxembourg:

Mr Gaston THORN

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Netherlands:

Mr M. VAN DER STOEL

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr L.J. BRINKHORST

State Secretary for Foreign
Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr Anthony CROSLAND

Secretary of State for Foreign
and Commonwealth Affairs

Mr Bruce MILLAN

Secretary of State for Scotland

Mr David OWEN

Minister of State,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Commission:

Mr François-Xavier ORTOLI

President

Mr Finn Olav GUNDELACH

Member

Mr Claude CHEYSSON

Member

CIEC

The Council took stock of progress in connection with the Conference on International Economic Co-operation as the October session of the four Commissions began in Paris.

PREPARATORY WORK WITHIN THE UNCTAD CONTEXT ON THE INTEGRATED PROGRAMME FOR COMMODITIES*

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to expedite the finalization of a letter to be sent by the Community to the Secretary-General of UNCTAD regarding the Common Fund.

ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS WITH GREECE

The Council adopted the Community position for the first ministerial meeting of the accession negotiations with Greece, which was also held on 19 October 1976 in Luxembourg and at which the procedure for and organization of future work were defined.

RELATIONS WITH IRAN

The Council agreed on the nature of the agreement to be sought with Iran, i.e. an outline economic and commercial co-operation agreement in accordance with the approach advocated by the Commission.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to make every effort to enable it to approve, at its next meeting, negotiating directives allowing negotiations to be opened.

RELATIONS WITH THE ACP STATES

The Council prepared for the meeting to be held on 20 October in Brussels between the President of the Council of the European Communities and the President of the Council of Ministers of the African, Caribbean and Pacific States, as decided on 14 and 15 July 1976 at the first meeting of the ACP-EEC Council, in order to discuss a number of specific questions put forward by the ACP States.

It had not been possible last July to examine these questions in sufficient detail for conclusions to be drawn on their substance.

The purpose of the meeting is to hold an exchange of views on the positions of both parties in order to assist the Lomé Convention bodies to take the appropriate decisions in the various matters as quickly as possible.

EXTERNAL FISHERIES POLICY AND INTERNAL SYSTEM

On the basis of the Commission communication of 23 September 1976, the Council closely examined the problems confronting the Community in connection with the extension of fishing limits to 200 miles, from the point of view of its future external fisheries policy and the related internal system.

The Council agreed to continue its discussions on these problems as a whole before the end of the month in order to reach an agreement.

RELATIONS WITH YUGOSLAVIA

The Council agreed to use the Community budget to cover the guarantee for the loans to be granted by the European Investment Bank to Yugoslavia pursuant to the Decision taken by the Council on 20 January 1976.

AID TO NON-ASSOCIATED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

In the context of financial and technical aid to developing countries not associated with the Community, the Council gave its agreement in principle to the commitment in 1976 of the 20 MUA appropriation entered in this year's general budget of the European Communities, on the understanding that the exact allocation of this sum would be considered at the Council meeting on Development Co-operation scheduled for 8 November next.

As regards the appropriation to be included for such aid in the draft general budget for 1977, the Council agreed ⁽¹⁾ to enter a sum of 30 MUA in Article 100 with the proviso that this appropriation would not be released until the Council had taken a formal decision on its allocation.

⁽¹⁾ One delegation's approval was subject to confirmation

LETTER OF AMENDMENT TO THE DRAFT GENERAL BUDGET OF THE
EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1977

The Council adopted a letter of amendment to the draft general budget of the European Communities for the financial year 1977 which deals mainly with appropriations relating to the EAGGF - Guarantee Section ⁽¹⁾.

(¹) Appropriations relating to financial co-operation with the developing countries and the creation of a new heading to cover the Community guarantee for loans granted by the EIB to Yugoslavia (see relevant text).

UNIFORM PASSPORT

The Council made a brief examination of the outstanding questions connected with the introduction of a uniform passport.

It instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue this examination with a view to the adoption of a conclusion at the earliest opportunity.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

The Council adopted directives to the Commission for negotiations with Israel on a Supplementary Protocol to the 1975 Agreement and a Financial Protocol.

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The Council adopted the Decision on the signing of an Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Federative Republic of Brazil on trade in textile products.

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In the commodities' sector, the Council adopted two Regulations on the implementation by the Community of

- the economic and control rules of the International Cocoa Agreement, 1975
- the system of certificates of origin of the 1976 International Coffee Agreement when quotas are not in force.

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19.X.76

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation increasing the indicative ceilings established by Regulation (EEC) No 91/76 for imports of certain products originating in Portugal.

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The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulations on the opening, allocation and administration of

- a Community tariff quota for rosin (including "brais résineux") falling within subheading No 38.08 A of the Common Customs Tariff (1977)
- a Community tariff quota for certain hand-woven fabrics, pile and chenille falling within subheadings Nos ex 50.09, ex 50.10, ex 55.07, ex 55.09 and ex 58.04 of the Common Customs tariff
- a Community tariff quota for certain hand-made products
- a Community tariff quota for certain plywoods of coniferous species, falling within heading No ex 44.15 of the Common Customs Tariff (1977).

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The Council adopted the Commission Regulation implementing the provisions on the Euratom safeguards system.

PRESS RELEASE

411th meeting of the Council

- Energy -

Luxembourg, 19 October 1976

President: Mr R.F.M. LUBBERS,
Minister for Economic Affairs
of the Netherlands

1135/76 (Presse 116)

19.X.76

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

Belgium:

Mr Fernand HERMAN Minister for Economic Affairs

Denmark:

Mr Jens CHRISTENSEN State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Germany:

Mr Detlev Kersten ROHWEDDER State Secretary,
Ministry of Economic Affairs

France:

Mr Paul MENTRE General Delegate responsible
for Energy

Ireland:

Mr Peter BARRY Minister for Transport and
Power

Italy:

Mr Gianuario CARTA Deputy State Secretary for
Industry

Luxembourg:

Mr Marcel MART Minister for Economic Affairs,
Transport and Energy

19.X.76

Netherlands:

Mr R.F.M. LUBBERS

Minister for Economic Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr Tony BENN

Secretary of State,
Department of Energy

Mr Dickson MABON

Minister of State,
Department of Energy

Commission:

Mr Henri SIMONET

Member

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COMMUNITY ENERGY POLICY

The Council held a general discussion on the Commission communication concerning Community energy policy and on the memoranda submitted by certain delegations.

All delegations considered the communication a true reflection of the energy situation, particularly from the point of view of the development of consumption, dependence and energy saving, and reiterated that the principal objective of Community energy policy should be to reduce the Community's dependence on energy imports.

The Council's discussions provided delegations with an opportunity to make known their positions and anxieties, inter alia as regards energy saving, national programmes, import security and the protection and development of the Community's energy resources.

Finally, having concluded that the Commission communication constituted a good basic guide for the Council's future deliberations, the Council agreed to decide on the various subjects as their technical preparation progressed, and accordingly instructed its President, in liaison with the Commission and in the light of the suggestions which had been or would yet be made to him by the delegations, to prepare a work programme for subsequent Council meetings and to convene, as of December 1976, a further Council meeting if certain matters were ready for decision by then.

PRESS RELEASE

412th meeting of the Council

- Research -

Luxembourg, 21 October 1976

President: Mr L.J. BRINKHORST,
State Secretary
for Foreign Affairs
of the Netherlands

Netherlands:

Mr F.H.P. TRIP

Minister for Research

Mr L.J. BRINKHORST

State Secretary for Foreign
Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr Gerald KAUFMAN

Minister of State,
Department of Industry

Mr Alexander EADIE

Parliamentary Under Secretary,
Department of Energy

Commission:

Mr Guido BRUNNER

Member

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The Council examined the proposal from the Commission relating to the Multiannual Research Programme of the Joint Research Centre, 1977-1980, and the proposal to include the JET project in the five-year fusion programme.

The Council noted with satisfaction the improvements made by the Commission in the management and direction of the JRC and welcomed in particular the adoption at this meeting of the Council of the new conditions of employment for research personnel at the JRC, which provided the necessary basis for a more flexible staffing policy.

With reference to the JRC programme itself, the Council was particularly pleased that the Commission proposals concentrated on a limited number of priority measures in accordance with the guidelines established by the Council at its meeting on 15 December 1975.

The Council decided to finalize its decisions on the proposed programme at its next meeting devoted to research matters planned for 18 November 1976.

Having confirmed its commitment to the JET project as a Community project, the Council reached agreement on the essential principles of a number of important aspects of the project such as financing (80% Community, 10% Associations, 10% host country), legal form (joint undertaking), decommissioning of the machine and the Community nature of the staffing arrangements.

21.X.76

The progress made on these items, which showed the resolve of all delegations to proceed with the project, enabled the President of the Council to draw the conclusions that this provided a sound basis for attaining an overall agreement at the next meeting.

Future conditions of employment for research staff

The Council adopted the Regulation on future conditions of employment for staff of the Joint Research Centre (JRC) paid from research and investment appropriations.

The purpose of the Regulation is, in particular, to ensure the required mobility of the JRC scientific staff by means of temporary appointments restricted to five years but renewable.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Financial Regulation

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Regulation amending the Financial Regulation of 25 April 1973 applicable to the general budget of the Communities, aimed at introducing in the 1977 budget the distinction between commitment appropriations and payment appropriations for a number of new expenditure sectors.

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The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Regulation opening, allocating and providing for the administration of tariff quotas for certain paper and paperboard falling within sub-headings ex 48.01 C II and 48.01 E of the Common Customs Tariff, originating in Portugal.

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The Council adopted the Decision on the signing of an Agreement and of an Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Economic Community and the Republic of India on trade in coir products.

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The Council adopted the common position of the Community and its Member States at the forthcoming talks within the OECD on shipbuilding.

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The Council gave the assent requested by the Commission under Article 55(2)(c) of the ECSC Treaty (3rd medical research programme on chronic respiratory diseases).

PRESS RELEASE

413th meeting of the Council

- Fiscal Affairs -

Luxembourg, 21 October 1976

President: Mr W.F. DUISENBERG,
Minister for Finance
of the Netherlands

Netherlands:

Mr W.F. DUISENBERG
Mr M. VAN ROOLJEN

Minister for Finance
State Secretary for Finance

United Kingdom:

Mr Robert SHELDON

Financial Secretary to the
Treasury

Commission:

Mr Cesidio GUAZZARONI

Member

6th Directive on VAT

The Council held a broad exchange of views on the items on its agenda, i.e.:

- exemption (Articles 14 and 16 of the proposal for a 6th Directive on VAT)
- further examination of the five items examined by the Council at its meeting on 24 November 1975
 - . small undertakings
 - . national and international passenger transport
 - . real property transactions
 - . farmers
 - . zero rates and reduced rates
- non-deductibility of certain expenditure (Article 17(6)).

Following this examination, an overall agreement was reached on most of the questions discussed. The Council also decided to examine questions still outstanding, especially those requiring further technical study, at its next meeting on the proposal for a 6th Directive on VAT scheduled for 16 December 1976.

PRESS RELEASE

433

414th meeting of the Council

- Agriculture -

Luxembourg, 25 and 26 October 1976

President: Mr A.P.L.M.M. VAN DER STEE,
Minister for Agriculture
of the Netherlands

Italy:

Mr Giovanni MARCORA	Minister for Agriculture
Mr Gaetano STAMMATI	Minister for the Treasury
Mr Arcangelo LO BIANCO	Deputy State Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean HAMILIUS	Minister for Agriculture
Mr Jacques POOS	Minister for Finance
Mr Albert BERCHEM	State Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture

Netherlands:

Mr A.P.L.M.M. VAN DER STEE	Minister for Agriculture
Mr W.F. DUISENBERG	Minister for Finance

United Kingdom:

Mr John SILKIN	Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Mr Joel BARNETT	Chief Secretary to the Treasury
Mr Robert MACLENNAN	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Prices and Consumer Protection

Commission:

Mr Wilhelm HAFERKAMP	Vice-President
Mr P.J. LARDINOIS	Member
Mr Claude CHEYSSON	Member

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MILK MARKET

The Council conducted a general debate on the milk products sector; in particular in the light of the 1977-1980 action programme for the progressive achievement of balance in the milk market.

The action programme comprises proposals for Regulations

- introducing a system of premiums for the non-marketing of milk and milk products and for the conversion of dairy herds
- on a co-responsibility levy and measures for expanding markets in the milk and milk products sector
- concerning a charge on certain oils and fats
- on the supply of milk at reduced prices to pupils in schools
- temporarily suspending certain national and Community aids in the milk and milk products sector

and a proposal for a Decision setting up a Community action for the eradication of brucellosis, tuberculosis and leukosis in bovines.

In the course of discussions the delegations emphasized the importance which they attach to the achievement of balance in this market and the measures to be taken to that end.

At the close of its discussions the Council agreed to continue proceedings on this subject in order to act on the programme at its next meeting on agricultural matters.

SKIMMED-MILK POWDER

Following a discussion on protein imports and the disposal of skimmed-milk powder stocks, the Council agreed not to extend beyond 31 October 1976 the Regulation on the compulsory purchase of denatured skimmed-milk powder.

It noted that the arrangements for the termination of present rules would be decided by the Management Committee as soon as possible.

MISCELLANEOUS STATEMENTS

The Council noted the following statements:

- on feed-grain (Danish delegation);
- on progress in the high-protein syrups sector (Irish delegation);
- on the disposal of butter at low prices for the manufacture of butterfat (German delegation);
- on alcohol (French delegation);
- on grape juice (French delegation).

FISHERIES

When discussing the proposal for a Regulation establishing a Community system for the conservation and management of fishery resources the Council took note of the technical findings of the Special Committee on Agriculture concerning the measures for conserving resources and the system of supervision and sanctions needed to make such measures effective.

The Council instructed the Special Committee on Agriculture to continue its work on this subject.

WINE

The Council discussed a number of proposals concerning wine and adopted the Regulations

- on a special rate of wine deliveries for quality white wines psr of the 1976 harvest;
- amending Regulation No 1931/76 with respect to the distillation of wines suitable for producing certain potable spirits obtained from wine with a registered designation of origin.

With reference to the proposal for a Regulation amending Regulation No 817/70 laying down special provisions relating to quality wines produced in specified regions (Article 10), the Council agreed to resume in the near future its examination of this question in the light of contacts which the Commission is to undertake with the delegations concerned.

Two proposals for Regulations were laid before the Council, one amending Regulation No 1163/76 on the granting of a conversion premium in the wine sector and the second amending Regulation No 1162/76 on measures designed to adjust wine growing potential to market requirements. The Opinions of the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee had been sought on both.

The Council noted that the Commission intended to examine possible recourse to the derogation clause provided for in Article 24(b)(1) of Regulation (EEC) No 816/70 within the framework of the Management Committee.

The Council also agreed that at its next meeting on agricultural matters (22 and 23 November 1976) it would examine the market situation with reference to the conclusions of the Council on 29 April 1976.

AGRI-MONETARY MEASURES

The Council, meeting with the Agriculture and Finance Ministers in attendance, conducted a general discussion concerning problems arising from developments in the monetary situation and affecting the long-term functioning of the system of monetary compensatory amounts set up by Regulation No 974/71.

At the close of the discussion, in the course of which the Ministers voiced their concern with regard not only to the agricultural but also the financial and budgetary aspects of the matter, the Council agreed to re-examine these problems at a meeting with the same composition to be convened if possible in December. This examination will be carried out in the light of the opinions put forward by the Special Committee on Agriculture, the Monetary Committee and the Budget Committee on the basis of communications from the Commission on the subject and any constructive contributions made by delegations.

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After addressing itself to certain problems affecting the short-term functioning of the system of monetary compensatory amounts, the Council adopted the Regulation amending the Regulation regarding the exchange rate to be applied, in the agricultural sector, for the Danish krcner (devaluation by 4%).

It further noted the Commission's intention of placing before the Management Committee a proposal on the system of monetary compensatory amounts in the pigmeat sector.

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The Council also noted the Member States' agreement to extend for 1977 the present system as regards payment by exporting Member States of the monetary compensatory amounts to be granted by Italy or the United Kingdom.

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities

- the Regulations

- amending Regulation (EEC) No 1059/69 laying down the trade arrangements applicable to certain goods resulting from the processing of agricultural products;
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 3209/73 on the subsidy for olive oil;
- on the standard amount for unrefined olive oil produced entirely in Greece and transported direct from that country into the Community;
- fixing the threshold price for olive oil for the 1976/1977 marketing year;
- extending Regulations (EEC) Nos 601/76 and 602/76 laying down special measures, in particular for determining offers of olive oil on the world and Greek markets.

- the Directive amending Directive 72/159/EEC on the modernization of farms.

With a view to terminating proceedings on the amended proposal for a Regulation laying down common standards for the water content of frozen and deep-frozen fowl, the Council agreed to the extension for a limited period of the Gentlemen's Agreement on maintaining the status quo with regard to national provisions.

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MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities Regulations

- on the tariff treatment of certain products intended for use in the construction, maintenance and repair of aircraft;
- on the tariff treatment applicable within the Community as originally constituted to certain products imported from the new Member States for use in the construction, maintenance and repair of certain aircraft;
- on the opening, allocation and administration of a Community tariff quota for unwrought lead other than bullion lead, falling within subheading 78.01 A II of the Common Customs Tariff;
- on the opening, allocation and administration of a Community tariff quota for unwrought zinc, falling within subheading 79.01 of the Common Customs Tariff;
- on the opening, allocation and administration of a Community tariff quota for ferro-silicon falling within subheading 73.02 C of the Common Customs Tariff;
- on the opening, allocation and administration of a Community tariff quota for ferro-silico-manganese falling within subheading 73.02 D of the Common Customs Tariff;
- on the opening, allocation and administration of a Community tariff quota for ferro-chromium containing not more than 0.10% by weight of carbon and more than 30% but not more than 90% by weight of chromium (superrefined ferro-chromium) falling within subheading ex 73.02 E I of the Common Customs Tariff;

- on the opening, allocation and administration of a Community tariff quota for dried grapes falling within subheading No 08.04 B I of the Common Customs Tariff in immediate containers of a net capacity of 15 kg or less (1977);
- on the opening, allocation and administration of a Community tariff quota for certain eels falling within subheading ex 03.01 A II of the Common Customs Tariff (1st half of 1977);
- increasing the Community tariff quota opened for 1976 by Regulation (EEC) No 2888/75 for certain eels falling within subheading ex 03.01 A II of the Common Customs Tariff.

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As requested by the Commission, the Council gave assents

- under Article 55(2)(c) of the ECSC Treaty (Establishment of a research programme on safety in mines);
- under the second paragraph of Article 54 of the ECSC Treaty for the proposed part-financing of a programme of Hawley Charbon France, the French coal and steel joint venture comprising the acquisition of 80% of the capital of the Hawley Coal Mining Corporation (HCMC) in the United States.