

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

PRESS RELEASES

PRESIDENCY: LUXEMBOURG

JULY-DECEMBER 1980

Meetings and press releases December 1980

Meeting number	Subject	Date
674 th	Transport	4 December 1980
675 th	Agriculture	8-9 December 1980
676 th	Environment	12 December 1980
677 th	Economics/Finance	15 December 1980
678 th	Fisheries	15-17 December 1980
679 th	Foreign Affairs	15-16 December 1980
680 th	No record of a meeting	
681 st	Agriculture	18 December 1980
682 nd	Budget	15 December 1980
683 rd	Budget	22 December 1980

PRESS RELEASE

11981/80 (Presse 182)

674th Council meeting

- Transport -

Brussels, 4 December 1980

President: Mr Josy BARTHEL,
Minister of Transport, Communications
and Informatics of the Grand Duchy of
Luxembourg

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

Belgium:

Mr Marc LEPOIVRE Deputy Permanent Representative

Denmark:

Mr Joergen HALCK State Secretary,
Ministry of Public Works

Germany:

Mr Volker HAUFF Federal Minister of Transport

France:

Mr Daniel HOEFFEL State Secretary,
Ministry of Transport

Ireland:

Mr Padraig FLYNN Minister of State,
Ministry of Transport

Italy:

Mr Salvatore FORMICA Minister of Transport

Mr Giuseppe CAROLI State Secretary,
Ministry of Shipping

Luxembourg:

Mr Josy BARTHEL Minister of Transport,
Communications and Informatics

Netherlands

Mr D.S. TUIJNMAN

Minister of Transport and Water
Control

Mrs N. SMIT-KROES

State Secretary,
Ministry of Transport and Water
Control

United Kingdom:

Mr Norman FOWLER

Minister of Transport

Mr Norman TEBBIT

Under-Secretary of State,
Ministry of Trade

Commission:

Mr Richard BURKE

Member

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Also attended as an observer:

Greece:

Mr Jean FIKIORIS

Minister of Shipping

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HARMONIZATION OF SOCIAL LEGISLATION RELATING TO ROAD TRANSPORT

Following an exchange of views the Council recorded its agreement on the following Resolution:

"The Council of the European Communities, mindful that at its 647th meeting on 24 June 1980 it agreed to continue examining, at its next meeting on transport questions, the application of Council Regulation (EEC) No 543/69 of 25 March 1969 on the harmonization of certain social legislation relating to road transport, in the light of the latest Commission reports available on the matter:

- takes formal note of the seventh Commission report to the Council on this matter;
- notes that this report shows that the application of the social legislation is still encountering difficulties in the various Member States and has not yet been adequately standardized throughout the Member States;
- emphasizes once again the importance of applying this legislation uniformly and correctly;
- accordingly considers that the following steps should be taken:
 - = checks on the application of the provisions of the Regulation in all the Member States should be carried out as effectively and correctly as possible;
 - = both the frequency and the thoroughness of these checks should be increased in certain Member States;

- = to this end, the tachograph should be introduced and used in all the Member States within the prescribed periods;
- = the Member States should hold a watching brief on the observation of the provisions imposing a ban on certain types of payment of a kind likely to jeopardize road safety;
- = the competent authorities of the Member States should endeavour to increase their mutual assistance in this area;
- = measures should be taken to keep both road transport crews and employers better informed; the Council accordingly notes the Commission's intention of preparing a specimen Community information leaflet, agreed with national experts;
- = the information mentioned in the standard report form provided for in Article 17(2) of Regulation (EEC) No 543/69 should be given in accordance with the headings in that form, particularly as regards the number of checks and infringements recorded and the type and extent of the penalties imposed."

INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS FOR TRANSPORT SAFETY

The Council took note of the oral report by the Presidency on current work on the proposal for a Directive concerning the enforcement, in respect of shipping using Community ports, of international standards for shipping safety and pollution prevention and a statement by the French Minister of Transport on the recent Conference on Shipping Safety held in Paris on 1 and 2 December 1980.

All the delegations stressed the importance of co-ordinated and effective action to improve shipping safety and to prevent pollution.

The Council noted, finally, the intention of the next Council Presidency, which will be assumed by the Netherlands as from 1 January next, to invite the Council to act on the Commission proposal before the end of June 1981. In conclusion, the Council directed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue work on this subject, bearing in mind the statements by various delegations during today's debate, with a view to reporting back at the earliest opportunity.

MUTUAL ASSISTANCE IN THE EVENT OF AIR ACCIDENTS

The Council agreed to the draft Directive on future co-operation and mutual assistance between Member States in the field of air accident investigation.

Under the terms of this Directive, which features on the list of priority items in the field of air transport approved by the Council in 1978, the Member States will make the necessary resources (installations, facilities, equipment and accident investigation experts) available to the Member State conducting an investigation. This Directive will thus contribute towards the improvement of air safety and accident prevention, since the complexity of modern aviation makes such mutual assistance necessary.

The approved measures will be implemented from 1 July 1981.

COMMUNITY DRIVING LICENCE

Confirming its decision of 24 June 1980, the Council adopted the first Directive on the introduction of a Community driving licence in the official languages of the Communities.

This Decision introduces a system of mutual recognition and exchange of driving licences without a test from 1983 in cases where a national of a Member State takes up residence in another Member State.

Initially the driving licence will still be a national one but produced in all the Member States on the basis of a standard Community model.

The Council has thus taken a first step towards the harmonization of Member States' legislation in a new field.

SUPPORT FOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

Following a short discussion on the proposal for a Regulation on support for worthwhile projects in transport infrastructure, the Council drew the following conclusions:

"The Council:

- recalling the conclusions adopted at the meeting on 23 November 1978 concerning the proposal for a Council Regulation on support for projects of Community interest in transport infrastructure and notably the importance it had consequently attached to rapid progress being made in this connection;
- noting the report which the Commission submitted to it on 19 June 1980 on bottlenecks in transport infrastructures and possible modes of finance;
- noting the Commission's intention to submit to it as soon as possible a report on the criteria for assessing projects of Community interest, to be prepared in collaboration with the Committee on Transport Infrastructures;

- also noting the amendment to the said proposal which the Commission submitted to it on 4 March 1980 with the aim of extending the scope of the system of financial support to infrastructure projects situated in the territory of non-member countries and of considerable interest to the Community, in particular as regards traffic between Member States;
- taking the view that all necessary preparatory work on support for projects of Community interest in transport infrastructure should continue so as to establish all the factors required for the Council to take a decision on the matter as soon as possible;
- instructs the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue active examination of the proposal for a Regulation and the amendment to the proposal submitted by the Commission and to report back at the appropriate time."

COMMUNITY QUOTA

The Council discussed in depth the Commission proposal on increasing the Community quota for the carriage of goods by road between Member States.

The Council did not take a decision at this meeting on the increase in the Community quota as requested by the Commission. It did, however, agree to make this a priority item for discussion at its next meeting, scheduled for March 1981, in view of the concern voiced by certain delegations regarding the need to both increase the Community quota and to achieve some progress towards finalizing a rail policy and harmonizing the conditions of competition.

Having regard to the various factors to have emerged from today's discussion, including the memoranda from the German delegation and the Commission on rail policy, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to prepare for the next round of discussions in this area.

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With a view to Greece's accession to the Communities on 1 January 1981, the Council agreed to the allocation to Greece of 76 authorizations in addition to the Community quotas laid down in Regulation (EEC) No 3164/76.

PRIORITY TASKS

The Council took note of a statement by the Commission on priorities and the timetable for the decisions to be taken by the Council on transport matters in the period up to the end of 1983. The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue examining this question, particularly in the light of the Opinions awaited from the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee in this area, and to report to it at its next meeting on transport questions.

FIXING OF RATES FOR INTERNATIONAL GOODS TRANSPORT BY RAIL

The Council took note of the state of play with regard to the draft Decision on the fixing of rates for international goods transport by rail. Having noted that no progress had been made on this question since its last discussion, the Council directed the Permanent Representatives Committee to conduct a more detailed examination to allow it to adopt a position at a forthcoming meeting.

FUEL CONTAINED IN THE TANKS OF COMMERCIAL ROAD VEHICLES

The Council took note of a statement by the Commission on the increase of the amount of fuel contained in the tanks of commercial road vehicles allowed duty-free entry under Directive 68/297/EEC. The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to resume its examination of the Commission proposal and to report to it at a forthcoming meeting.

RAILWAY POLICY

Having noted a memorandum from the Commission on Community railway policy, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine the memorandum and the proposals annexed thereto and to report as soon as possible (see also reference to the memorandum under the "Community quota" item).

COMBINED ROAD/RAIL TRANSPORT

Having noted a statement by the Italian delegation outlining a possible solution to the question still outstanding at the close of the discussions at the last meeting, the Council directed the Permanent Representatives Committee to finalize the requisite negotiating directives concerning road/rail transport with third countries, with a view to their formal adoption at a forthcoming meeting.

FLAGS OF CONVENIENCE

Having noted a statement by the German delegation on flags of convenience, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine the statement and in particular to consider whether to adopt a common position for the work currently being carried out within the UNCTAD Committee on Shipping.

PERMANENT LINK BETWEEN EUROPE AND AFRICA

The Council took note of a statement by the Belgian delegation on the project being envisaged by Spain and Morocco for the construction of a permanent link between Europe and Africa across the Straits of Gibraltar.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Transport policy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Directives amending by reason of the accession of Greece:

- Directive 74/561/EEC on admission to the occupation of road haulage operator in national and international transport operations;
- Directive 74/562/EEC on admission to the occupation of road passenger transport operator in national and international transport operations;
- Directive 77/796/EEC aiming at the mutual recognition of diplomas, certificates and other evidence of formal qualifications for goods haulage operators and road passenger transport operators, including measures intended to encourage these operators effectively to exercise their right of freedom of establishment.

Furthermore, it adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Decision amending and supplementing Decision 79/4/EEC of 19 December 1978 on the collection of information concerning the activities of carriers participating in cargo liner traffic in certain areas of operation (primarily extension for two years).

At this meeting the Council also adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Directive on statistical returns in respect of carriage of goods by rail, as part of regional statistics.

Relations with the ACP States, OCT and India

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation on the conclusion of the agreements in the form of exchanges of letters on guaranteed prices for cane sugar from the ACP States and the Republic of India and on the fixing of guaranteed prices for cane sugar from the OCT for the 1980/1981 marketing year.

Commercial policy and customs union

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities:

- the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 2051/74 on the customs procedure applicable to certain products originating in and coming from the Faroe Islands following the accession of the Hellenic Republic to the European Communities;
- the Regulation prolonging the anti-dumping duty on certain chemical fertilizers originating in the United States of America
- the Regulation on import arrangements in respect of State-trading countries
- the Regulations opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for 1981 for
 - = certain handwoven fabrics, pile and chenille falling within headings ex 50.09, ex 55.07, ex 55.09 and ex 58.04 of the Common Customs Tariff,
 - = certain handmade products,
 - = raw silk (not thrown) falling within heading 50.02 of the CCT,
 - = yarn, entirely of silk, other than yarn of noil or other waste silk, not put up for retail sale, falling within heading ex 50.04 of the CCT,

- = yarn, spun entirely from silk waste other than noil, not put up for retail sale, falling within subheading 50.05 A of the CCT,
- = rosin, including "brais resineux", falling within subheading 38.08 A of the CCT,
- = ferro-silicon falling within subheading 73.02 C of the CCT,
- = ferro-silicon-manganese falling within subheading 73.02 D of the CCT,
- = ferro-chromium containing not more than 0.10% by weight of carbon and not less than 30% and not more than 90% of chromium (super-refined ferro-chromium) falling within subheading ex 73.02 E I of the CCT.

Appointment

On a proposal from the United Kingdom Government, the Council appointed Mr David STANLEY, Head of the Education and Training Department, Confederation of British Industry, a Full Member of the European Social Fund Committee in place of Mr M.F. DOWNING, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which runs until 9 November 1982.

Other decisions

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Directive providing for the technical adaptation, consequent upon the accession of the Hellenic Republic to the European Communities, of Directive 67/548/EEC on dangerous substances.

The Council gave the assents requested pursuant to Article 56(2)(a) of the ECSC Treaty in respect of Société Valenciennoise d'équipements pétroliers (France) and Nationale Investeringsbank (Netherlands).

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the decisions on the conclusion of agreements relating to concerted action in the field of teleinformatics (COST Project 11 bis) and concerted action in the field of the effects of processing and distribution on the quality and nutritive value of food (COST Project 91).

Under the terms of the first decision, the Community will participate with Finland and Sweden in the concerted action in the field of COST 11 until 11 September 1983, while under the terms of the second decision, it will participate with Sweden and Switzerland in the concerted action in the field of COST 91 until 26 October 1982.

ECSC

The Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the ECSC, meeting within the Council, agreed on the additional protocols to the ECSC/Switzerland Agreement of 28 July 1956 and ECSC/Austria Agreement of 26 July 1957 on the introduction of direct international rail tariffs for the transport of coal and steel.

PRESS RELEASE

12089/80 (Presse 186)

675th meeting of the Council

- Agriculture -

Brussels, 8 and 9 December 1980

President: Mr Camille NEY,
Minister for Agriculture, Viticulture,
Water and Forestry of the
Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

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

Belgium:

Mr Albert LAVENS Minister for Agriculture and
for Small Firms and Traders

Denmark:

Mr Poul DALSGER Minister for Agriculture

Germany:

Mr Josef ERTL Federal Minister for Food,
Agriculture and Forestry

Mr Hans-Jürgen ROHR State Secretary, Federal Ministry
of Food, Agriculture and Forestry

France:

Mr Pierre MEHAIGNERIE Minister for Agriculture

Mr Michel DEBATISSE State Secretary, attached to the
Prime Minister, for agricultural
and food industries

Mr Jacques FOUCHIER State Secretary, Ministry of
Agriculture

Ireland:

Mr Ray MacSHARRY Minister for Agriculture

Italy:

Mr Giuseppe BARTOLOMEI Minister for Agriculture and
Forestry

Mr Mario CAMPAGNOLI State Secretary, Ministry of
Agriculture

Mr Bruno ORSINI State Secretary, Ministry of
Health

Luxembourg:

Mr Camille NEY

Minister for Agriculture,
Viticulture, Waters and Forestry

The Netherlands:

Mr Gerrit BRAKS

Minister for Agriculture

The United Kingdom:

Mr Peter WALKER

Minister for Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food

Mr Alick BUCHANAN-SMITH

Minister of State,
Ministry of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food

Commission:

Mr Finn Olav GUNDELACH

Vice-President

Also present as observers:

Greece:

Mr Athanase CANELLOPOULOS

Minister for Agriculture

Mr George CONTOGEOORGIS

Minister in charge of Relations
with the European Communities

EXTENSION OF THE RULES OF THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY
TO GREECE

Having defined a joint approach among the Nine on the extension to Greece of the Community rules on agriculture as a result of the accession of that country to the Community as from 1 January 1981, the Council initiated a discussion with the Greek delegation in an effort to achieve a joint approach among the Ten. The outcome of this discussion, which reflects the adjustment of Greek agriculture to the provisions of the common agricultural policy and of the Treaty concerning the Accession of the Hellenic Republic to the Community, has to be confirmed by Council acts at the beginning of 1981.

Following detailed discussions which pinpointed the problems existing with regard to the extension of the agricultural rules to Greece, the Greek delegation requested more time to enable it to give thorough examination to the various proposals relating in particular to production sectors of considerable importance to Greece. The Council agreed to revert to this question at its next meeting scheduled for 18 December 1980. By that date it hopes also to have received the Opinion which the European Parliament is due to deliver at its part-session beginning on 15 December.

USE OF SUBSTANCES WITH A HORMONAL ACTION

The Council exchanged views on the proposal for a Regulation on the use of substances with a hormonal or thyrostatic action in domestic animals.

The Council confirmed the favourable approach already expressed at its meeting on 30 September 1980 towards the idea of prohibiting the use of hormonal substances for the purposes of meat production, and instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its examination of the questions raised by this proposal, with particular reference to any exceptions to be made, the legal form of the rules and the system of monitoring to be laid down. It also instructed the Committee to report back to it so that a Council decision could be taken at an early meeting.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

A number of other items on the agenda - imports of New Zealand butter, the new sugar market organization and beef and veal - were discussed; the Council agreed to place these items on the agenda for its next meeting on 18 December.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Agricultural decisions

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities:

- the Regulations
 - = fixing for the 1981/1982 milk year the guideline figure for the fat content of standardized whole milk imported into Ireland and the United Kingdom;
 - = amending for the second time Regulation (EEC) No 351/79 concerning the addition of alcohol to products in the wine sector;
 - = fixing the activating prices for table wines for the period 16 December 1980 to 15 December 1981;
- the Directive amending Directives 70/457/EEC and 70/458/EEC on the common catalogue of varieties of agricultural plant species and on the marketing of vegetable seed.

Commercial policy and customs union

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities:

- the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 1224/80 on the customs valuation of goods;
- Regulations opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota (1981) for:
 - = silver hake (*Merluccius bilinearis*) falling within subheading ex 03.01 B I c) of the Common Customs Tariff;
 - = frozen cod fillets falling within subheading 03.01 B II b) 1 of the Common Customs Tariff;
 - = dried grapes in immediate containers of a net capacity of 15 kilogrammes or less falling within subheading 08.04 B I of the Common Customs Tariff.

The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation concluding the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Republic of the Philippines on trade in textile products.

Other decisions

The Council agreed on the Decision on the signing of the Protocols of Adaptation to the Agreements with Cyprus, Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon required as a result of Greek accession to the European Communities.

In addition, it adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulations on the conclusion of the Additional Protocols to the Agreements between the EEC and ECSC/EFTA countries (with the exception of Portugal) following the accession of the Hellenic Republic to the Community.

Finally, the Council gave an assent requested under Article 56(2)(a) of the ECSC Treaty with regard to Control Data Ltd., United Kingdom.

Appointment

Acting on a proposal from the Danish Government, the Council appointed Mr Finn THORGRIMSON, Sekretær, Landsorganisationen i Danmark, a member of the European Social Fund Committee for the remainder of the Committee's term of office, i.e. until 9 November 1982.

PRESS RELEASE

12364/80 (Presse 192)

676th Council meeting

- Environment -

Brussels, 12 December 1980

President: Mr Josy BARTHEL,
Minister for the Environment of the
Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

LIBRARY

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

Belgium:

Mr Marc LÉPOIVRE Deputy Permanent Representative

Denmark:

Mr Erik HOLST Minister for the Environment
Mr Holger LAVESEN State Secretary,
Ministry of the Environment

Germany:

Mr Gerhart Rudolf BAUM Federal Minister of the Interior

France:

Mr Michel D'ORNANO Minister for the Environment
Mr François DELMAS State Secretary to the Minister
for the Environment and the
Quality of Life

Ireland:

Mr Gerard CONNOLLY Minister of State at the
Department of the Environment

Italy:

Mr Pier Luigi ROMITA Minister for Scientific Research

Luxembourg:

Mr Josy BARTHEL Minister for the Environment

Netherlands:

Mr L. GINJAAR

Minister for Health and the
Environment

United Kingdom:

Mr Marcus FOX

Parliamentary Under Secretary
of State,
Department of the Environment

Commission:

Mr Lorenzo NATALI

Vice-President

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The following also attended as observers:

Greece:

Mr Antoine EXARCHOS

Deputy Permanent Delegate

Mr M. GEROULANOS

Director-General at the
Ministry of the Environment

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MAJOR ACCIDENT HAZARDS OF CERTAIN INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITIES

The Council held an exchange of views on a number of questions in connection with the Directive on the major accident hazards of certain industrial activities ⁽¹⁾ which had remained unresolved at its previous meeting.

With regard to the question of informing the population and the procedure for any information and consultation between Member States on transfrontier hazards, after discussion in depth, the Council examined elements likely to provide a basis for a solution on which all delegations might later reach agreement. Given the nature and importance of the question, it instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to seek a balanced and satisfactory solution to this problem so that the Council could take a formal decision in this connection at its next meeting on environmental questions.

IMPORTS OF WHALE PRODUCTS

Following a detailed exchange of views, the Council recorded its agreement on the Regulation on common rules for imports of whale products.

Under this Regulation all imports of the products in question into the Community after 1 January 1982 will be subject to permit and no import permit will be issued for products intended for commercial purposes.

⁽¹⁾ See Press release 8279/80 (Presse 99) of 30.VI and 1.VII.80.

RE-USE OF WASTE PAPER AND THE USE OF RECYCLED PAPER

Following an exchange of views on the re-use of waste paper and the use of recycled paper, the Council recorded its agreement in principle - subject to further study of the question in the light of the European Parliament's Opinion - on a Recommendation suggesting that Member States define and implement policies to promote the use of recycled paper and board made from waste paper and in particular

- = encourage the use of recycled and recyclable paper and board, especially in national administrations, public bodies and those national official services which can set an example;
- = encourage, where feasible, the use of recycled paper and board containing a high percentage of mixed waste paper;
- = re-examine in the light of recent technological advances the existing specifications for paper products which restrict, for reasons other than adequacy of a product for its purpose, the re-use of waste paper and the use of recycled paper and board;
- = implement programmes of consumer and manufacturer education to promote paper and board products made from recycled paper and board;
- = develop and promote uses for waste paper other than as a raw material for the manufacture of paper and board;
- = encourage the use of products (inks, glues, etc.) which do not preclude the subsequent recycling of paper and board.

MOTOR VEHICLE EXHAUST GASES

On the basis of a memorandum from the German delegation, the Council held a policy discussion on the situation as regards motor vehicle exhaust gases.

This short discussion concentrated on the standards accepted in the context of the ECE Agreements in Geneva and the prospects for more stringent medium-term standards within the Community.

The President concluded by referring to the progress which had been made in standards for exhaust gases within both the Community and the ECE and requested the Commission to submit the proposals required to implement the provisions adopted in Geneva within the Community.

The Council also took note of the German delegation's suggestions on the prospect of a medium-term reduction (1985) and asked all the delegations to provide the Commission with all the relevant information in preparation for possible proposals in this area.

DISCHARGES OF MERCURY

The Council held a substantive discussion of the proposal for a Directive on the limit values and quality objectives for discharges of mercury by the chlor-alkali electrolysis industry, the first Directive implementing the principles adopted in basic Directive 76/464/EEC. The latter Directive advocates a dual approach in this area whereby either uniform Community emission standards or quality objectives may be applied.

The Council's discussion enabled it to identify the major questions yet to be resolved, in particular that of the arrangements to be laid down for new plants in those Member States which used the quality objectives system.

In conclusion, the Council agreed to instruct the Permanent Representatives Committee to give further detailed examination to the Directive in question, in particular in the light of the comments made by the delegations during the discussion, in preparation for a Council decision on the matter at a future meeting.

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS ON THE ENVIRONMENT

An exchange of views took place on six international conventions on the environment - the Geneva Convention (on transboundary air pollution), the Strasbourg Convention (on the conservation of European wildlife and natural habitats), the Bonn Convention (on the conservation of migratory species of wild animals), the Barcelona Protocol (combat against pollution of the Mediterranean by oil), the Bonn Agreement (combat against pollution of the North Sea) and the Oslo Convention (on the prevention of marine pollution by dumping from ships and aircraft) - which have been before the Council for some time.

Following this discussion, the Council recorded its agreement in principle on conclusion by the Community of the Geneva and Strasbourg Conventions. It instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to finalize the texts of Decisions on the conclusion of these Conventions so that the Council could adopt them formally at a forthcoming Council meeting.

The Council also instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to seek a solution to the questions still outstanding as regards the Bonn Convention, the Barcelona Protocol, the Bonn Agreement and the Oslo Convention.

VARIOUS STATEMENTS

The Council took note of the following statements, some of which were accompanied by replies or comments from other delegations and the Commission:

- = on the implementation of Council Directive No 76/464/EEC of 4 May 1976, on pollution caused by certain dangerous substances discharged into the aquatic environment of the Community (Commission statement);
- = on the results of the senior officials' meeting on the future of the Communities' environmental policy (Commission statement);
- = on discharge into the North Sea of sulphuric acids resulting from the production of titanium dioxide (statement by the German delegation);
- = on pollution caused by cadmium (statement by the Danish delegation);
- = on chlorofluorocarbons (Commission statement).

VARIOUS DECISIONS

1980 and 1981 budgets

The Council adopted draft supplementary budget No 2 for the 1980 financial year which will be forwarded forthwith to the European Parliament. Following the deliberations of the European Council on 1 and 2 December, this draft budget allocates 40 MEUA for emergency Community aid to the victims of the earthquake in Italy and contains an adjustment in Social Fund payment appropriations (60 MEUA).

The Council also adopted draft letter of amendment No 3 to the draft General Budget of the European Communities for 1981 opening a special heading dealing with the annual servicing of the interest rebate for exceptional loans to Italy, together with an entry of a provisional appropriation of 20 MEUA for this purpose; the Council should state its views on the substance of this action in the very near future.

Miscellaneous decision

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulations implementing Decisions No 1/80 and No 2/80 of the EEC-Morocco Co-operation Council, derogating from the rules of origin in the Co-operation Agreement with Morocco as regards carpets and certain textile products.

PRESS RELEASE

12414/80 (Presse 195)

677th meeting of the Council
- Economics/Finance -
Brussels, 15 December 1980

President: Mr Jacques SANTER,
Minister for Finance
of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

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

Belgium:

Mr Willy CLAES	Minister for Economic Affairs
Mr Mark EYSKENS	Minister for Finance

Denmark:

Mr Ivar NØRGAARD	Minister for Economic Affairs
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Germany:

Mr Otto SCHLECHT	State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Economics
Mr Horst SCHULMANN	State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Finance

France:

Mr René MONORY	Minister for Economic Affairs
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Ireland:

Mr Michael O'KENNEDY	Minister for Finance
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Italy:

Mr Nino ANDREATTA	Minister for the Treasury
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Luxembourg:

Mr Jacques SANTER	Minister for Finance
Mr Ernest MÜHLEN	State Secretary for Finance

Netherlands:

Mr A.P.J.M.M. van der STEE	Minister for Finance
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United Kingdom:

Sir Geoffrey HOWE

Chancellor of the Exchequer

The Commission:

Mr François-Xavier ORTOLI

Vice-President

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The following attended as observer:

Greece:

Mr Jean PALAIOKRASAS

Minister without Portfolio,
Ministry of Co-ordination

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The meeting was also attended by:

Mr Jean-Yves HABERER

Chairman of the Monetary
Committee

Mr F.W. RUTTEN

Chairman of the Economic Policy
Committee

Mr Corneille BRUCK

Chairman of the Co-ordinating
Group for Economic and Financial
Policies

Mr Giorgio BOMBASSEI FRASCANI
de VETTOR

Vice-President of the European
Investment Bank

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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE ECONOMIC SITUATION IN THE COMMUNITY

After an exchange of views on the economic situation in the Community the Council adopted the Decision adopting the annual report and laying down the economic policy guidelines for 1981.

ENERGY AND ECONOMIC POLICY

Concluding an exchange of views on the Commission communication concerning energy and economic policy, the Council recognized the relevance of the issues identified by the Commission in its communication.

It requested the Commission, in the light of the comments made by the delegations, to give the matter further consideration and to submit a further communication during the first quarter of 1981.

MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL AID

The Council adopted the Decision extending the medium-term financial aid mechanism until 31 December 1982, unless the definitive phase of the European Monetary System should be implemented before that date.

SPECIAL MEASURES FOR ITALY

The Council held a policy debate on the proposal for a Decision which the Commission had submitted to it in accordance with the mandate issued by the European Council on 1 and 2 December concerning the granting of subsidized loans for the devastated areas.

It will be remembered that the European Council decided to grant exceptional aid to assist the devastated areas of Southern Italy and asked the Council to decide without delay, on a proposal from the Commission and using the normal budgetary procedure, to grant, in addition to the emergency aid, exceptional aid measures intended as an effective contribution, particularly by means of a subsidized loan, to the programme for the reconstruction of the affected areas in order to mitigate the effects of the disaster on the economic and social situation in these areas, and to see to it that these measures could be put into effect as soon as possible.

At the end of its debate the Council unanimously expressed itself in favour of the Commission proposal. As soon as the Parliament has given its Opinion, the Council will adopt the Decision in the light of this Opinion, if possible before the end of the year.

EXPORT CREDITS

In order to be able to give an additional mandate to the Commission for the next meeting in Paris on 18 and 19 December between the Participants in the Arrangement on Guidelines for export credits concerning the amendment of this Arrangement, the Council signified its agreement to conclusions whereby the following would be proposed to the Participants with regard to the level of the minimum interest rates:

- an immediate increase of 1% for Categories I and II and 0.8% for Category III;
 - a review, in mid-1981 and before the end of 1981 at the latest, of the advisability of adjusting the minimum interest rates in the light of the then prevailing economic and monetary situation.
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COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

678th meeting of the Council

-Fisheries-

Brussels, 15-17 December 1980

President: Mr. Hilming
State Secretary, Luxembourg Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The official press release was unavailable. A summary of the meeting has been reproduced from the Bulletin of the European Communities, No. 12-1980.

Fisheries

Resources

Internal aspects

2.1.102. The Council meeting on fisheries on 15, 16 and 17 December found itself unable to agree on the Commission's compromise proposal covering the main features of a common overall fisheries policy, which was to have been introduced by 1 January 1981 at the latest. This meant that the Council's undertaking of 30 May 1980¹ was not honoured.

The main problems which it proved impossible to resolve were:

- conditions of access by fishermen to fishing areas, especially in connection with the application of the regime established by Articles 100-103 of the 1972 Act of Accession;
- the allocation among the Member States of the total catch quotas available to the Community (1980 quotas).

At the Council meeting, the United Kingdom differed from the other Member States, especially France, on the access issue. The United Kingdom wanted to limit the historical rights of other Member States in the 12-mile zone and asked for a preferential regime in some parts of the 200-mile zone. France favoured application of the principle of equal access.

No agreement could be reached on the allocation of quotas among the Member States, which was linked to the question of access, because of differences over the weighting of the individual criteria (traditional fishing activities, losses in the waters of non-member countries, preferential treatment for regions heavily dependent on fishing).

The structural measures put forward by the Commission in the context of the overall compromise formula on fisheries were opposed by the Federal Republic of Germany, which considered that the size of the Community contribution required was incompatible with the budget situation facing the Community and more particularly with the financial ceiling applying to the EAGGF Guidance Section.

2.1.103. The only decisions taken at the December meeting of the Council were, accordingly, to renew the Regulation on conservation measures² until 31 January 1981 and to extend during 1981 the interim system applied to Spanish vessels in the Community zone.³ On the other hand, the Council did not decide to prolong the interim system for fishing by Member States in the Community zone (roll-over). At the end of the meeting, the United Kingdom delegation called for an undertaking from Member States to observe the TAC proposals put forward by the Commission for 1981 (maintaining the ban on herring fishing in the North Sea). This was not opposed by the other delegations.

¹ OJ C 158 of 27.6.1980; Bull. EC 5-1980, point 1.1.8.

² OJ L 360 of 31.12.1980.

³ OJ L 344 of 19.12.1980.

PRESS RELEASE

12416/80 (Presse 197)

679th meeting of the Council

- Foreign Affairs -

Brussels, 15 and 16 December 1980

President: Miss Colette FLESCH,
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

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

Belgium:

Mr Charles-Ferdinand NOTHOMB Minister for Foreign Affairs

Denmark:

Mr Kjeld OLESEN Minister for Foreign Affairs

Germany:

Mr Klaus von DOHNANYI Minister of State,
Federal Ministry of Foreign
Affairs

France:

Mr Jean FRANCOIS-PONCET Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Pierre BERNARD-REYMOND State-Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ireland:

Mr Brian LENIHAN Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Denis GALLAGHER Minister for the Gaeltacht

Italy:

Mr Emilio COLOMBO Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Edoardo SPERANZA State-Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Luxembourg:

Miss Colette FLESCH Minister for Foreign Affairs

Netherlands:

Mr C.A. ven der KLAAUW	Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr D.F. ven der MEI	State-Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mr K.H. BEYEN	State-Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs

United Kingdom:

Sir Ian GILMOUR	Lord Privy Seal
Mr Cecil PARKINSON	Minister of State, Department of Trade
Mr Adam BUTLER	Minister of State, Department of Industry

Greece:

(as an observer):

Mr Constantine MITSOTAKIS	Minister for Foreign Affairs
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Commission:

Mr Roy JENKINS	President
Mr François-Xavier ORTOLI	Vice-President
Mr Wilhelm HAFERKAMP	Vice-President
Mr Henk VREDELING	Vice-President
Mr Claude CHEYSSON	Member
Mr Antonio GIOLITTI	Member
Viscount Etienne DAVIGNON	Member

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SUPPLY OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS TO POLAND

It will be recalled that the Luxembourg European Council of 1 and 2 December 1980 signified the willingness of the Nine to respond, within their means, to the requests for economic support made to them by Poland.

In response to the urgent needs for agricultural and food products which Poland has made known to the Community authorities the Council has decided that, in the present circumstances and as an exceptional measure, the Community will give Poland the possibility of buying the following products and quantities at favourable prices:

Sugar	50,000 tonnes
Butter	30,000 tonnes
Whole milk powder	3,000 tonnes
Beef	15,000 tonnes
Pigmeat	35,000 tonnes
Rape seed	40,000 tonnes
Olive oil	600 tonnes
Barley	100,000 tonnes
Rye	100,000 tonnes
Rice	25,000 tonnes

COMMUNITY GENERALIZED PREFERENCES FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
- NEW SCHEME FOR 1981

- I. In the light of the Opinions delivered by the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee, the Council approved the new generalized preferences scheme for 1981. The texts containing the relevant regulations will be published in the Official Journal of the European Communities in the near future. The initial 10-year period of application of the generalized preferences system, which the Community was the first to implement in 1971, comes to an end on 31 December 1980.
- II. The Council also agreed in this context that the generalized preferences - which are granted autonomously by the Community to the developing countries - will be maintained for a further 10-year period of application, which also coincides with the Development Strategy established by the United Nations for the decade 1981 - 1990. The Council also stated that it was willing to examine with an open mind the situation which will arise at the end of the further 10-year period, with a view to subsequent extension of the Community's generalized preferences scheme.
- Furthermore, it should be noted that, as in the past, the scheme will be revised each year by the Council's subordinate bodies in order to take account of any changes which may occur in the economic situation.
- III. The GSP for the eighties will centre on new approaches in the industrial products sector. The Community has noted that the use of preferential benefits during the seventies was concentrated on a small number of beneficiary countries and on a limited number of products which already formed part of traditional patterns of exports to the EEC.

In order to ensure a better balance in the distribution of preferential benefits, to provide tangible assistance for the industrial development of a greater number of developing countries, in particular the least-developed, and to take account of the competitive position of EEC producers in the years to come, the Community considered that the new GSP should be based on the following guidelines. First, it seemed necessary to phase in steadily a distinction between the benefits granted to the beneficiary countries, in the light, among other things, of the changes which had occurred in the economic situation (basically, this involves extending preferential access as much as possible for the developing countries which need it most, particularly the least-developed, and restricting the preferences on particular products enjoyed by countries regarded as already very competitive). Secondly, arrangements have been adopted which should make it possible to simplify the operation of the GSP.

IV. From the general viewpoint outlined above, the main features of the GSP for 1981 may be summarized as follows:

1. Products covered by the GSP

The 1981 GSP provides for total exemption from customs duties for all industrial products (with certain limits on amount or volume, however). As regards processed agricultural products, the Community offer involves partial or total exemption for some 313 products (but without any limit on preferential imports).

(a) Industrial products (including ECSC products)

First, the Community has decided to abolish global quotas and ceilings, which is a prerequisite for the introduction of distinctions between beneficiary countries. The preferential amounts will in future be determined on an individual basis: the abolition of the global ceiling system thus guarantees that each beneficiary is able to use the ceiling established for it. Likewise, if duties are re-introduced because the preferential amount has been exceeded, this will only apply to the beneficiary country whose preferential exports have attained this ceiling.

Secondly, in order to simplify the administration of the GSP, the Community has selected two categories of products (strictly monitored sensitive products and non-sensitive products) instead of the four groups of products which were a feature of the GSP in the seventies. Thus, preferential imports of 64 sensitive industrial products (including 6 ECSC products) from very competitive countries will be administered by means of individual quotas, while the same imports from the other beneficiary countries will be administered by means of individual ceilings.

In this context it should be pointed out that, as a general rule, imports from those considered to be the poorest beneficiary countries will not be subject to quotas.

(b) The Council thought that the arrangements introduced on 1 January 1980 for textile products should be extended for one year (subject, however, to a 2% increase in the quantities covered by the GSP, as a result of the enlargement of the Community in 1981). The Community does not yet have all the facts which would enable it to assess the operation of the present system, as these statistics will only be available for use in the course of next year. It is understood that this extension will not prejudice arrangements for the Community offer in future years.

The duties on jute products are completely suspended vis-à-vis the main supplier third countries which have concluded voluntary restraint agreements with the Community for their exports of certain jute products (India, Bangladesh) or which have undertaken to conclude such agreements (Thailand), where appropriate. The duty-free entry which the beneficiary countries concerned currently enjoy will be maintained in 1981 and will be extended to Nepal and the other least developed countries.

The duties on coir products are completely suspended in the case of India and Sri Lanka. The Council has decided that duty-free entry will be maintained for these two countries in 1981 and will also be extended to the least developed countries.

(c) With regard to processed agricultural products, the Council has agreed to:

- an increase in the preferential margin for 36 products already included;
- duty-free entry or exemption from duty for 6 products (nutmeg, preparations containing malt extract, cereal products and certain yeasts);
- the introduction of some new products (spices: thyme and bay leaves);
- the inclusion of a new product (fish meal) exclusively for the least developed countries.

The Council also agreed to maintain the preferences for agricultural products subject to quotas (or ceilings) on condition that there is a flat-rate increase of 2% as a result of the accession of Greece.

It will be noted that China is also included among the beneficiaries in respect of tropical fruit juices and cocoa butter.

2. Beneficiaries

With the addition of Zimbabwe, there will be 123 countries on the list of beneficiaries for 1981.

It should also be noted that China and Romania will continue to benefit from preferences under special arrangements.

3. Least developed countries

In accordance with UNCTAD Resolution 96 (IV), the Community has taken a whole series of measures in favour of the least developed countries. Under the 1981 scheme, these countries enjoy complete and unlimited exemption from duties for all industrial products (including textiles). They will also benefit from exemption for all the agricultural products included in the GSP (however, exemption for tobacco and pineapples is granted within the limits of the quotas adopted). A new product (fish meal) will also be included in the scheme for their exclusive benefit.

REGIONAL FUND - GREEK QUOTA

After noting the Opinion delivered today by the European Parliament, the Council adopted the Regulation on the distribution in 1981 between the ten Member States, following the accession of Greece; of the quotas of the European Regional Development Fund:

Belgium	1.11
Denmark	1.06
Germany	4.65
Greece	13.00
France	13.64
Ireland	5.94
Italy	35.49
Luxembourg	0.07
Netherlands	1.24
United Kingdom	23.80
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Total	100.00

The Council stressed that this distribution represented a provisional solution on an ad hoc basis for one year which in no way prejudiced the review of the ERDF Regulation scheduled for 1981 nor the solutions to be adopted in connection with subsequent accessions to the Community.

RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES

The Council approved a declaration on matters connected with certain imports from the United States.

The Council:

- expressed its concern about the US energy pricing policies and export restrictions and the element of artificial advantage these gave to United States exporters for a range of products such as synthetic textiles and also certain chemical products;
- took note of the increases in certain imports from the United States into the Community, particularly into certain regions, and their current high levels;
- noted that these factors continued to place added strains on the open trading system during a period of depressed trading conditions by increasing the relative effect of imports on production;
- noted that dumping has also occurred in the exports of certain US products to the Community market and that anti-dumping duties have been imposed on some US products in these sectors and that other cases are currently under consideration;

- no satisfactory outcome had been reached in the bilateral negotiations which had taken place between the European Community and the United States under Article XXIII(1) of the GATT;
- recalled also that an ad hoc EEC-USA joint study group with government and industry representatives had recently been set up to consider a number of problems in the petrochemical sector;
- agreed that developments necessitated a new and stronger initiative and invited the Commission to expedite its discussions with the US Administration on the whole range of problems and possible solutions and to report back to the Council as early as possible, with a first report in February.

PASSPORT UNION

The Council outlined the problems outstanding as regards the introduction of a uniform passport in the Community; it concluded by instructing the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue discussing these points in order to enable the Council to take a final decision at its meeting in March.

REPORT BY THE THREE WISE MEN

The Council briefly discussed the conclusions of the European Council regarding the Report by the Three Wise Men. These conclusions will be published shortly.

EUROPEAN FOUNDATION

The Council took note of a statement by the President on the setting up of the European Foundation.

STEEL - SOCIAL ASPECTS

The Council puts on record its support for the Commission's continuation of ECSC social measures in order to help alleviate the effects on employment of restructuring the steel industry, in accordance with Article 56(2)(b) of the ECSC Treaty.

At the Council meeting in January 1981, on the basis of information to be supplied to the Commission by the Member States, the Commission will endeavour to inform the Council of its procedures for continuing these measures.

Consideration will then be given to the possibility of making available to the ECSC an appropriation whose volume and method of financing are still to be decided.

FUNCTIONING OF THE COURT OF JUSTICE

The Council continued its examination of certain measures intended to improve the functioning of the Court of Justice, possibly including an increase in the Court's staff; the Council will continue this examination at its next meeting in January 1981.

FRAMEWORK REGULATION ON FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL AID TO NON-ASSOCIATED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

The Council carried out a further examination of the issues still arising in connection with the framework Regulation on financial and technical aid to non-associated developing countries and the conciliation procedure with the European Parliament on this matter. The Council concluded by agreeing to return to this question at a subsequent meeting.

MANIOC

The Council authorized the Commission to finalize the negotiations with Thailand for a Co-operation Agreement on manioc production, marketing and trade.

At the same time it invited the Commission to enter into negotiations with the other main manioc-exporting countries for the purpose of limiting their exports to the Community by means of voluntary restraint agreements or through negotiations under Article XVIII of the GATT with a view to amending the Community tariff concession for manioc. The Commission will report to the Council on these two alternatives at the earliest opportunity.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Relations with the ACP countries and the OCT

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision on the association of the Overseas Countries and Territories with the European Economic Community and related statements.

The OCT association Decision will come into force on 1 January 1981, at the same time as the second ACP-EEC Convention of Lomé. It gives the Overseas Countries and Territories (dependent on the French Republic, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands) rights and benefits similar to those given to the ACP States by the new Convention of Lomé. The Decision will be valid until 28 February 1985.

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

- the conclusion of the Interim Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Zimbabwe;
- the advance application of certain trade provisions of the second ACP-EEC Convention relating to trade in respect of Zimbabwe.

The effect of the acts relating to Zimbabwe is to grant that State from 1 January 1981 the same trading arrangements with the Community as those in force between the Community of 10 and all the ACP States. The other provisions of the second Convention of Lomé (financial aid, STABEX, industrial and agricultural co-operation, etc.) will apply to Zimbabwe when the accession agreement, signed in Luxembourg on 4 November 1980, has been ratified by all the signatory States and concluded by the Community.

Enlargement of the Community

In the context of the accession of Greece to the European Communities, the Council adopted a series of Decisions on:

- the signature of the additional protocol to the EEC-Spain Agreement following the accession of Greece;
- the autonomous arrangements applicable on 1 January 1981 to Greek trade with Egypt, Jordan, the Lebanon and Spain, countries with which the Community has completed the negotiation of protocols of adaptation to the agreements with them. Similar regulations for the ECSC were also approved;
- the autonomous arrangements applicable to Greek imports from Algeria, Israel, Malta, Morocco, Portugal, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey, countries with which the Community has not yet completed the negotiation of protocols of adaptation. Similar regulations for the ECSC were also approved.

Relations with Cyprus

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation laying down the arrangements applicable to trade with the Republic of Cyprus after 31 December 1980. The Annex to this Regulation provides for the unilateral application to Cyprus of the EEC-Cyprus Protocol of Adaptation following the accession of Greece to the European Communities.

Customs union and trade policy

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

- temporarily suspending unilateral Common Customs Tariff duties for certain micro-electronics products;
- opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for poly yarn (p-phenylene-terephthalamide) intended to be used in the manufacture of tyres, falling under subheading ex 51.01 A of the Common Customs Tariff.

The Council defined the participation procedure and joint position for the Community and its Member States at the forthcoming Conference on the negotiation of an international agreement on jute.

The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation on the conclusion of the Agreement on the establishment of the Joint Commission and the Agreement on trade in industrial products between the European Economic Community and the Socialist Republic of Romania.

Technical barriers

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

- on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the fuel consumption of motor vehicles;
- on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the engine power of motor vehicles;
- amending Directive 70/156/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the type-approval of motor vehicles and their trailers.

Financial matters

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities:

- a Financial Regulation amending the Financial Regulation of 21 December 1977 as regards the use of the ECU in the general budget of the European Communities;
- the Regulation on the replacement of the European unit of account by the ECU in Community legal instruments.

The Council also gave its assent to a draft Commission Decision amending Decision No 3289/75/ECSC on the definition and conversion of the unit of account to be used in decisions, recommendations, opinions and communications for the purposes of the Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community.

Transport policy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Directive on future co-operation and mutual assistance between Member States in the field of aircraft accident investigation (See Press Release 11981/80 (Presse 182) published after the Transport Council on 4 December 1980).

Research policy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Decision setting up a Consultative Committee for the Fusion Programme.

Emergency aid

Following the request by the authorities of the island of Montserrat for aid to finance part of the programme of urgent work undertaken immediately after cyclone ALLEN - the estimated overall cost of this programme is 660,000 EUA - the Council agreed that the Commission should make 150,000 EUA available to the authorities of Montserrat as emergency Community aid.

It will be remembered that after hurricane ALLEN struck the Caribbean islands on 4 and 5 August 1980, the Community granted emergency aid to Martinique and Guadeloupe (700,000 EUA), Saint Lucia and Jamaica (300,000 EUA each) and to the people of Haiti via international bodies (400,000 EUA).

Relations with Switzerland

Under the heading EEC/Switzerland agricultural topics, the Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities Decisions

- on the amendement of tariff concessions concerning certain cheeses;
 - concluding the Agreement in the form of exchanges of letters between Switzerland and the European Economic Communities concerning certain agricultural products.
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There is no record for a 680th meeting of the Council

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

681st meeting of the Council

- Agriculture -

Brussels, 18 December 1980

President: Mr. New

Luxembourg Minister of Agriculture, Viticulture, Water Control and Forestry

The official press release was unavailable. A summary of the meeting has been reproduced from Bulletin of the European Communities, No. 12-1980

Table 3 (continued)

Number, place and date of meeting	Subject	President	Commission	Main items of business
681st Brussels 18.12.1980	Agriculture	Mr Ney, Luxembourg Minister of Agriculture, Viticulture, Water Control and Forestry	Mr Gundelach, Vice-President	* <i>Greek accession</i> . Agreement on implementation of agricultural provisions of Act of Accession. ²²

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Market organizations

Amendment of basic regulations

Action with regard to Greece's accession

2.1.88. At its meeting of 18 and 19 December the Council, further to proposals made by the Commission in November and December, reached agreement on the implementation of the agriculture provisions in the Act of Accession of Greece to the European Communities.³

These measures apply to all the common market organizations affected by Greece's accession; they include both transitional measures and adjustments to the present Community arrangements, in accordance with the guidelines laid down in the course of the accession negotiations and set out in the Act of Accession or in the annexes thereto. Likewise, the Commission took certain decisions with a view to the extension of the market organizations to Greece from 1 January.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

682nd meeting of the Council

- Budget -

Brussels, 15 December 1980

President: Mr. Santer
Luxembourg Minister of Finance

The official press release was unavailable. There was no summary of the meeting in Bulletin of the European Communities, No. 12-1980

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

683rd meeting of the Council

- Budget-

Brussels, 22 December 1980

President: Mr. Santer
Luxembourg Minister of Finance

The official press release was unavailable. A summary of the meeting has been reproduced from Bulletin of the European Communities, No. 12-1980

Number, place and date of meeting	Subject	President	Commission	Main items of business
682nd Luxembourg 15.12.1980	Budget	Mr Santer, Luxembourg Minister of Finance		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Budget.</i> Conciliation meeting with delegation from Parliament on supplementary budget for 1980.
683rd Brussels 22.12.1980	Budget	Mr Santer, Luxembourg Minister of Finance		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Budget.</i> Council unable to take decision on amendments proposed by Parliament.²³

2.3.68. On 12 December the Council cut back the supplementary budget to 100 million EUA, reducing the extra appropriations requested by the Commission to cover Social Fund expenditure from 100 million EUA to 60 million EUA.

Parliament noted that there was a serious shortfall in the appropriations available to meet payments under the Social and Regional Funds. Since the Council did not appear willing to enter the necessary appropriations in the supplementary budget for 1980 or in the 1981 budget and as the budget for 1980, adopted on 9 July,² left its margin for manoeuvre intact, Parliament, on 18 December, approved a series of amendments raising the appropriations entered in draft supplementary budget No 2/1980 for the Social Fund by 326.4 million EUA (including the 60 million EUA already entered by the Council).

On 22 December the Council informed the President of Parliament that, in the view of a number of delegations, the amendments proposed by Parliament amounted to a departure from the budgetary procedure and that the Council had not been able to decide on the amendments.

2.3.69. On 23 December the President of Parliament, in accordance with the Treaties, declared that supplementary budget No 2 for 1980 had been finally adopted.³ Several Member States have contested the validity of the supplementary budget.

Including supplementary budget No 2 as adopted by Parliament, the final total appropriations for 1980 amount to 17 491.8 million EUA for commitments and 16 182.5 million EUA for payments. The amount to be financed from VAT own resources corresponds to a rate of 0.73%.

¹ Bull. EC 11-1980, point 2.3.18.

² Bull. EC 7/8-1980, point 2.3.70.

³ OJ L 373 of 31.12.1980.

⁴ Points 2.3.4 to 2.3.6.

⁵ Bull. EC 11-1980, point 2.3.49.