

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(82) 56 final

Brussels, 12 February 1982

PARTICIPATION
OF THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY
IN THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME
PLEDGING CONFERENCE

(Commission Communication to the Council)

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SUMMARY

1. The World Food Programme has, from the outset, operated on a two-year budget, the sum of which represents the target for contributions from donors supporting the Programme.
2. To achieve this target, the W F P organizes every two years in New York a Pledging Conference to which all potential donors are invited with a view to announcing their contributions for the two-year period concerned.
3. These announcements are, however, provisional in the case of almost all donors, and thus are subject to confirmation or invalidation at the annual approval of each donor's budget.
4. It should be noted that, hitherto, the Community as such has never announced its contribution at the pledging conferences, citing as justification its specific organizational structure and the fact that its budget is established annually despite the fact that it is the W F P's third largest contributor after the United States and Canada.
5. This practice is particularly regrettable since the Community's contribution to the W F P is not only very substantial but is expressed in terms of quantity rather than value and therefore guarantees that the W F P will be supplied a given tonnage that will not be affected as a result of price fluctuations.
6. The Commission considers it essential, from a political point of view, that the Community participate henceforward in W F P pledging conferences with the further aim of enabling the W F P to programme its aid sufficiently in advance, given its particular organizational structure (project-by-project approach). This proposition is made in the context of the Council Decision which foresaw the possibility of granting food aid on a multi-annual basis (Council Resolution of 18.11.80 concerning food aid).

7. Moreover, it should be noted that, at the last session of the W F P's Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes, which was held in Rome in October 1981, the Committee was agreed that the W F P should organize a pledging conference for the International Emergency Food Reserve as well.

8. Proposed decision

The Commission accordingly proposes to the Council :

- on a general level, that the Community participate in W F P pledging conferences and there announce its contributions for the two-year period in question;
- specifically, that the Community announce its contributions to the W F P for the period 1983-1984 at the next pledging conference to be held in New York on 2 March 1982.

These contributions, subject to the annual approval of the Community budget, could amount for each year of the two-year period to a minimum of :

- 65,000 t of cereals,
- 32,000 t of milk,
- 6,000 t of butteroil, and
- 50,000 t for the I E F R

(these quantities correspond to those proposed by the Commission in the context of the 1982 programmes).