

GROUPE DU PORTE-PAROLE

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S P O K E S M A N ' S G R O U P

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COMMUNIQUE DE PRESSE DU GROUPE DU PORTE-PAROLE
DU GOUVERNEMENT COMMUNAUTAIRE

"POLICY ON THE BOND MARKET IN THE COUNTRIES OF THE
EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY"

To find at the Information Room of the European Institute (IP)
1000 Brussels, Avenue Louise 200, Belgium

The Report on bond market policy in the Community countries is the result of the first studies made by the Working Party on Securities Markets, set up at the end of 1967 by the Monetary Committee and presided over by Mr F. de Voghel, Deputy Governor of the National Bank of Belgium.

This comparative study, supported by a major statistical annex, takes stock of the procedures and instruments used to ensure equilibrium on the bond markets of the several Member States of the Community and analyses the policies which these States pursued in this field from 1966 till mid-1969.

The Report shows how the Member States drew closer together during this period as a result of reforms introduced in various countries, especially in Germany and France. It suggests, however, that there will have to be further alignments if the Member States are to avoid conflicts of policy on their markets.

It shows too that the problems with which the Member States were faced, even though sometimes with a time-lag, tended to be more and more the same. In addition, there was a considerable advance in the joint dependence of their markets on the Euro-markets, and the degree of mutual dependence also increased.

Even if allowance is made for the fact that exchange controls and other obstacles impede communication between the markets, the links between them are undoubtedly tending to become stronger still, owing to the general emergence of a common atmosphere and even more to the influence of expectations about rises or falls in interest rates. Consequently, the policies followed by Member States in this field are more dependent on external considerations than was previously the case.

The Report therefore stresses that there is a basic need for mutual information and for coordination among the authorities supervising the capital markets. Progress in this field constitutes a first and necessary step towards any alignment at Community level, and especially towards subsequent progress on the road to economic and monetary union.

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In short, the need for closer cooperation in the planning of schemes to reform the structure of the capital market and in the implementation of Member States' policies has led the Monetary Committee to keep the Working Party on Securities Markets in being and to extend its terms of reference to include all problems connected with the capital markets; its tasks will include :

- (i) The drafting, at the request of the Monetary Committee, of any opinions called for in this field;
 - (ii) Periodical discussion of developments on Community markets and of their contacts with international markets;
 - (iii) The examination of all aspects of the policies pursued by the Member States with regard to the capital markets and of practical opportunities for promoting and facilitating their gradual integration.
- The Working Party has already set in motion a procedure for carrying out quarterly surveys of the situation on the markets of the Member States and on the Euro-bond market.

Aussi le rapport souligne-t-il l'existence d'un double besoin fondamental d'information mutuelle et de concertation entre les autorités de tutelle des marchés financiers. Un progrès en ce domaine constitue un premier pas nécessaire pour tout rapprochement sur un plan communautaire, et en particulier pour des progrès ultérieurs vers l'union économique et monétaire.

En définitive, la nécessité d'une coopération plus étroite dans l'élaboration des réformes de structure de ces marchés et dans la mise en oeuvre des politiques des Etats membres à leur égard, a conduit le Comité Monétaire à maintenir en activité de groupe de travail et à lui confier une mission élargie à l'ensemble des problèmes des marchés financiers. Il a notamment pour tâche :

- d'élaborer à la demande du Comité Monétaire, les avis qu'il serait amené à donner en ce domaine;
- de procéder à des échanges de vues périodiques sur l'évolution des marchés de la Communauté et leurs liaisons avec les marchés internationaux;
- d'examiner tous les aspects des politiques suivies par les Etats membres à l'égard des marchés financiers et les possibilités concrètes de promouvoir et de faciliter leur intégration progressive.
- D'ores et déjà ce groupe de travail a engagé une procédure d'examens trimestriels de la situation des marchés des Etats membres et de celle du marché international des euro-émissions.