

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

PRESS RELEASES

PRESIDENCY: IRELAND

JANUARY-JUNE 1975

Meetings and press releases April-June 1975

Meeting number	Subject	Date
336 th	Foreign Affairs	14-15 April 1975
337 th	Agriculture	15 April 1975
338 th	Economics/Finance	21 April 1975
339 th	Agriculture	28-29 April 1975
340 th	Foreign Affairs	5 May 1975
341 st	Economic/Finance	20 May 1975
342 nd	Agriculture	26-27 May 1975
343 rd	Foreign Affairs	26 May 1975
344 th	Economics/Finance	16 June 1975
345 th	Social Affairs	17 June 1975
346 th	Agriculture	23-24 June 1975
347 th	Foreign Affairs	24 June 1975
348 th	Energy	26 June 1975
349 th	Research	26 June 1975

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

LIBRARY

336th meeting of the Council

- Foreign Affairs -

Luxembourg, 14 and 15 April 1975

President: Mr Garret FITZGERALD
Minister for Foreign Affairs (Ireland)

14.IV.75

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
Relations and Nordic Affairs

Mr Jens CHRISTENSEN State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Germany:

Mr Hans-Jürgen WISCHNEWSKI State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

France:

Mr Jean SAUVAGNARGUES Minister for Foreign Affairs

Ireland:

Mr Justin KEATING Minister for Industry and
Commerce

Italy:

Mr Mariano RUMOR Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Adolfo BATTAGLIA Deputy State Secretary
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Luxembourg:

Mr Gaston THORN

President of the Government
Minister for Foreign AffairsNetherlands:

Mr M. VAN DER STOEL

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr L.J. BRINKHORST

State Secretary,
Foreign AffairsUnited Kingdom:

Mr James CALLAGHAN

Secretary of State for Foreign
and Commonwealth AffairsCommission:

Mr François-Xavier ORTOLI

President

Sir Christopher SOAMES

Vice-President

Mr Claude CHEYSSON

Member

Mr Albert BORSCHETTE

Member

o

o

o

CONSUMERS

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Resolution on the preliminary programme for a consumer protection and information policy.

Aware of the need for the Community to conduct a policy which consolidates and reinforces the various activities in this field, the Council affirmed its commitment to improving the quality of life for European consumers. The various experiments in progress in the countries of the enlarged Community are conducive to the rise of new ideas in this field which, combined with the action being taken by the Member States as a whole, make it possible to view the status of consumers and the quest for a better balance in the defence of their interests differently than in the past.

The main aims of the programme are:

- effective protection against risks to the health or safety of consumers
- effective protection against threats to the economic interests of consumers
- compensation for damages and appropriate aid and advice in obtaining them
- educating consumers and keeping them informed
- consultation and representation of consumers when decisions affecting them are in preparation.

Lists of priority action will assist in the attainment of these objectives.

The fields which are of particular importance for consumer health protection and safety are as follows: food, cosmetics and detergents, tools and consumer durables, automobiles, textiles, toys, dangerous substances, objects which come into contact with food products, medicinal preparations, fertilizers and pesticides, and veterinary products for animal feeding uses.

The programme further provides for the harmonization of the general conditions governing consumer credit, including hire-purchase, consumer protection against untruthful or misleading advertising and against certain abusive trade practices. The information required by the Commission to put forward proposals towards this end will be supplemented by studies.

As for assistance and compensation, the programme also provides for a series of studies, with particular reference to systems of aid and advice in the Member States and also on systems for making complaints, arbitration and out-of-court settlement on disputes.

Priority forms of action concerning consumer information comprise more widespread publicity on the relevant general principles and rules, as for example on labelling, and comparative tests and studies on consumer behaviour. As for consumer training, provision is made for additional studies by the Commission in conjunction with the Member States

and consumer organizations to promote consumer education at school, university and other educational establishments and by furthering teacher training and the dissemination of information on a wider scale.

This latter aim will be pursued by means of a comparative study of the various types of consumer consultation, representation and participation employed in the Member States, by improved co-ordination of work carried out by national consumer organizations and by reminding Member States that consumer representatives may be appointed to the Economic and Social Committee.

When implementing this programme the Commission will take account of the studies and work already undertaken by the Member States, international bodies and consumer organizations, with which it will engage in collaboration with the latter in order to enable the Community to take advantage of work which has already been carried out.

This programme is to be considered as the first stage of a more extensive programme which may well need to be developed in the course of time.. The aim is to include this first phase within four years.

RAW MATERIALS

The Council conducted a general debate on raw materials in the context of relations with developing countries, thereby following the instructions given to the Council by Heads of Government at the European Council held in Dublin.

In the course of this discussion the Council noted that

- it was a matter of urgency that a common policy be framed covering all the various aspects of raw materials and in particular relations with developing countries
- the Member States should engage in close co-ordination at Community level as regards their positions within the various international bodies dealing with raw materials.

Consequently, the Council directed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its discussions on the basis of the guidelines evolved in the course of the meeting with a view to elaborating a joint policy on the matter, which would take account of the timetable of the various international meetings now scheduled.

EEC-GREECE ASSOCIATION

The Council signified its agreement to the texts of the Additional Protocol to the EEC-Greece Association Agreement and the Interim Agreement to be concluded consequent on the accession of new Member States to the Community.

These texts will enable the association between the Community and Greece to be applied to the three new Member States of the Community in accordance with the agreed provisions. The Interim Agreement is aimed at the advance implementation of certain provisions under the Additional Protocol relating to trade.

In addition, the Council agreed to propose to the Greek delegation that these texts be signed at a meeting of the EEC-Greece Association Council to be held at Ambassador level in Brussels on 28 April.

FISH FATS AND OILS

Following a brief discussion, the Council agreed to direct the Permanent Representatives Committee to resume its examination with a view to finding a solution to the matter as quickly as possible.

OVERALL MEDITERRANEAN APPROACH

The Council held a full exchange of views on the progress made in the negotiations with the various countries of the Mediterranean basin.

The Council approved the substance of the outcome of the negotiations with Israel and consequently agreed to take the necessary steps for the entry into force of the Agreement between the EEC and Israel on 1 July.

The Council also agreed to speed up the internal proceedings still to be completed concerning the overall Mediterranean approach, so that the Commission may bring the negotiations with the Maghreb countries to a close with all possible speed.

Lastly, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to begin work on the development of the overall approach.

EMERGENCY AID TO VIETNAM

The Council signified its agreement to the Commission proposals for the grant of immediate aid to victims of the recent events in Vietnam. This emergency humanitarian aid totals 590 metric tons of skimmed-milk powder together with 300,000 UA for the purchase and transport of back-up food aid and medical supplies (through UNICEF), as well as 1,000 metric tons of cereals and 100 metric tons of skimmed-milk powder as part of an agreement with the Red Cross.

Finally, the Council welcomed the Commission's intention to submit similar proposals within the near future.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

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

- the Regulations

- fixing, for the 1975/1976 marketing year, the monthly price increases for cereals, wheat and rye flour and wheat groats and meal;
- amending Annex I to Regulation (EEC) No 865/68 concerning certain products (fruit and vegetables) falling within the subheading 20.06 B II of the Common Customs Tariff;
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 1052/68 on the import and export system for products processed from cereals and rice;

- the Decision establishing a programme of technological research in the textile sector;

- the Directive on the restriction of the use of petroleum products in power stations.

As regards the Community regulations concerning relations with the German Democratic Republic, the Council approved the Regulations

- amending Regulation (EEC) No 803/68 on the valuation of goods for customs purposes;
- extending to other products, in respect of the German Democratic Republic, the Annex to Regulation (EEC) No 109/70 establishing common rules for imports from state-trading countries.

The Council approved the allocation of the second instalment of the Community contribution to the United Nations emergency operation to assist the countries most seriously affected by the recent price fluctuations.

o

o

o

The Council approved the substance of the three Agreements between the European Economic Community and, respectively, the Kingdom of Laos and the Republic of Sri Lanka on trade in fabrics of silk or of waste silk other than noil, or of cotton woven on handlooms on the one hand, and with the Kingdom of Laos on trade in hand-made products (handicrafts) on the other.

o

o

o

The Council gave the consultation, requested by the Commission, on a draft Commission Decision amending ECSC Decision No 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.

o

o

o

The Council approved the Opinion of the Scientific and Technical Research Committee (CREST) on the interest for the Community of the draft agricultural research projects proposed by the Yugoslav delegation in the context of co-operation in scientific and technical research (COST).

o

o

o

The Council gave the assent requested by the Commission pursuant to Article 56 (2)(a) of the ECSC Treaty for the granting of an interest-free reconversion loan of 4.6 million guilders (approximately 1.38 MUC) to ORNATEX B.V.; this loan is intended for the extension of the Kerkrade West (Netherlands) factory, which specializes in the treatment of synthetic fibres.

o

o

o

Acting on a proposal from the Netherlands Government the Council appointed Mr C.A. BOS, Lector Vrije Universiteit, member of the Economic and Social Committee, to replace Mr JANSEN, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office (i.e. until 16 September 1978).

In addition, the Council, acting on a proposal from the Danish Government, appointed Mr J. STENJERRE, Dansk Arbejdsgiverforening, as a full member of the Advisory Committee on Social Security for Migrant Workers to replace Mr AREUNDSEN, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office (i.e. until 26 April 1976).

o

o

o

FOOD AID

The Council adopted the following Decisions on the Food Aid Convention:

- Decision on the financing by the Community of certain expenditure concerning food aid in the form of cereals incurred in respect of certain categories of the population in Chile through the Catholic Relief Service (1972/73 implementation plan);
- Decision concluding the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Turkish Republic on the supply of common wheat as food aid (5,000 metric tons of common wheat under the 1973/74 implementation plan).

New procedure for the management of food aid

The Council approved a simplified procedure for aid management by the Commission in order to accelerate the implementation of its own food aid decisions. Such food aid will still be managed on the basis of Council Decisions, but formal agreements will not be concluded in each individual case.

This procedure will apply to all forms of food aid granted by the Council as from the date of implementation of the 1974/75 cereals aid programme.

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

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

337th Council meeting
- Agriculture -

Luxembourg, 15 April 1975

President : Mr Mark CLINTON
Minister of Agriculture of Ireland

LIBRARY

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

Belgium:

Mr Albert LAVENS Minister of Agriculture

Denmark:

Mr Paul DALSGER Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries

Germany:

Mr Josef ERTL Minister of Agriculture

Mr Hans-Jürgen ROHR State Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture

France:

Mr Christian BONNET Minister of Agriculture

Mr Jean-François DENIAU State Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture

Ireland:

Mr Mark CLINTON Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries

Italy:

Mr Giovanni MARCORA Minister of Agriculture

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean HAMILIUS Minister of Agriculture

Mr Albert BERCHEM State Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture

15.IV.75

Netherlands:

Mr A.P.L.M.M. VAN DER STER Minister of Agriculture and
Fisheries

United Kingdom:

Mr Frederick PEART Minister of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food

Mr Hugh BROWN Minister of State,
Department of Agriculture for
Scotland

Commission:

Mr Carlo SCARASCIA MUGNOZZA Vice-President

Mr P.J. LARDINGIS Member

FISHERIES SECTOR

The Council heard a statement by the United Kingdom delegation emphasizing that in the very near future Community measures would have to be put in hand in the fisheries sector to counteract certain difficulties obtaining on the market and that the problems arising from the discussions conducted by the Conference on the Law of the Sea should be examined.

By way of conclusion to the discussions, during which a number of delegations indicated that they concurred with the viewpoint expressed by the United Kingdom delegation, the Council agreed to resume at its next meeting its examination of the problems currently affecting the market situation on the basis of proposals which the Commission undertook to submit to it in the very near future, and to carry out a joint examination of the outcome of the Conference.

OVERALL APPROACH TO THE MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES

The Council agreed to direct the Special Committee on Agriculture to examine the agricultural aspects of the ongoing discussions in the context of the overall approach to the Mediterranean countries in order to enable it to take the necessary decisions at its next meeting.

WINE

The Council conducted a detailed discussion of the short-term economic and structural problems affecting the wine sector.

At the close of the discussions it adopted the Regulation laying down general rules governing the distillation of table wines during the period from 7 June to 31 July 1975. The intervention price for these operations is fixed at 1.56 UA per degree per hectolitre.

In order to meet the special situation of certain distilleries in the Community, the date of application of the Regulation may vary in certain countries provided that the distillation period does not exceed 55 days.

In order to counteract the temporary overloading of the French market, aid may be granted for the stocking of Italian table wines imported into France on the basis of earlier contracts with French buyers.

In addition, the Council adopted the following Resolution concerning the new guidelines designed to balance the market in this sector:

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Whereas the present serious surplus on the table wine market proves the need for new guidelines in order to curb the development of wine production and restore the balance of the market in both the long and the short term;

15.IV.1975

Whereas the last report of the Commission had shown that wine production already exceeds normal foreseeable utilization;

Whereas account should also be taken of the need to improve the quality of Community wine production in the context of measures aimed at improving the wine market situation;

Whereas exceptional measures for distillation have been taken in order to permit a rapid improvement in the market situation,

Agrees with the Commission on the need to adopt measures within the context of Article 17(5) of Regulation (EEC) No 816/70 as regards regulations concerning planting and replanting to prevent the formation of structural surpluses while promoting a policy of quality,

Undertakes to adopt these measures by 1 August 1975; the Commission will submit appropriate proposals to the Council in good time,

Agrees to examine as having priority all the various amendments to be made to the basic Regulations in the wine sector, on the basis of the proposals already made by the Council and in the light of its discussions on 15 April 1975 and to take a decision by 1 August.

Notes the Commission's intention of

- adopting a restrictive attitude towards national aid under Article 15 of Regulation (EEC) No 816/70,
- proposing to the Council measures for adapting the application of Directive No 72/159/EEC of 17 April 1972 to the objectives listed above,
- to re-examine after 1 January 1977 whether the three last-named measures should be continued in the light of the effect of all the measures taken.

HOPS

In response to a request from the German delegation, the Commission stated that it intended to make proposals for amendments to the regulation on hops in time for the Council meeting in May.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

338th Meeting of the Council
Luxembourg, 21 April 1975
- Economics / Finance -

President:

Mr Richie RYAN,
Minister for Finance, Ireland

LIBRARY

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

Denmark

Mr Per HAAKKERUP Minister for Economic Affairs

Mr Kurt HANSEN State Secretary for Economic Affairs

Germany

Mr Hans APEL Minister for Finance

France

Mr Christian PONCELET State Secretary,
Ministry for Economy and Finance

Ireland

Mr Richie RYAN Minister for Finance

Mr Charles MURRAY Permanent Secretary,
Department of Finance

Italy

Mr Giorgio POMBASSEI de VESTOR Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

21.IV.75

Luxembourg

Mr Marcel MART

Minister for Economic Affairs

Netherlands

Mr W.F. DUISENBERG

Minister for Finance

United Kingdom

Sir Douglas WASS

Permanent Secretary to the
Treasury

Commission

Mr Wilhelm HAFERKAMP

Vice-President

o

o

o

ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL QUESTIONS

Under the item entitled "Economic Situation", the Council in particular took note of a statement by the United Kingdom delegate on the broad lines of the new budget which has just been submitted to Parliament by the United Kingdom Government.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue examining the question of a possible meeting in the Council of Ministers for Finance, for Economic Affairs and for Social Affairs.

The Council also held a brief discussion on the financial and economic aspects of the energy problem. It instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue work on the matter in close consultation with the Co-ordinating Committee on Short-Term Economic and Financial Policies.

Finally, the Council examined the question of Community participation in OECD Understandings concerning export credits. The Permanent Representatives Committee was instructed to continue examining this matter so that it could be submitted again to a future Council meeting.

BUDGETARY QUESTIONS

The Council examined Draft Supplementary and Rectifying Budget No 1 of the European Communities for the financial year 1975.

It instructed the President to inform the European Parliament of the position it had adopted on this matter at a meeting with a delegation from the Parliament on Tuesday 22 April.

The Council also drew up Draft Supplementary Budget No 2.

UNIT OF ACCOUNT

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Community, the Decision on the definition and conversion of the European monetary unit of account used for expressing the amounts of aid mentioned in Article 42 of the ACP-EEC Convention of Lomé.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities,

- Regulations

- increasing the size of the Community tariff quotas opened for 1975 for certain textile products originating in Malta by Regulations (EEC) Nos 2917/74, 2918/74, 2919/74 and 2920/74;
- laying down general rules governing the distillation of table wines during the period from 7 June to 31 July 1975;
- a Resolution concerning new guidelines designed to balance the market in table wine
- a Decision on the system of aid applicable in France to the private stocking of table wine.

o

o

o

The Council agreed on the reply to be given to the FAO by the Community regarding the International Undertaking on World Food Security.

o

o

o

Pursuant to its decision in principle to grant emergency aid to the victims of events in South Vietnam, the Council adopted measures for the supply of 590 metric tons of skimmed milk powder to victims through UNICEF.

At the proposal of the Belgian Government, the Council appointed Mrs M. L. DE SCHRIJVER, Attaché bij de dienst "Internationale sociale aangelegenheden" van Fabrimetal, as an alternate member on the Advisory Committee on Social Security for Migrant Workers in place of Mr LAMAL, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which expires on 28 April 1975.

The Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the European Coal and Steel Community, meeting within the Council, adopted the Decisions

- on the rules applicable to imports of iron and steel products covered by the ECSC Treaty, including pig iron, cast iron and high-carbon ferro-manganese, originating in State-trading countries;
 - on certain measures to be applied, in respect of State-trading countries, to trade in iron and steel products covered by the ECSC Treaty, including pig iron, cast iron and high-carbon ferro-manganese.
-

PRESS RELEASE

LIBRARY

339th Meeting of the Council

- Agriculture -

Brussels, 28 and 29 April 1975

President: Mr Mark CLINTON

Minister for Agriculture of Ireland

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 Hugh BROWN

Parliamentary Under Secretary,
Scottish Office

Commission:

Mr P.J. LARDINOIS

Member

o

o

o

FRESH POULTRYMEAT

The Council discussed certain problems entailed in the amendments to the Directive of 15 February 1971 concerning health problems in trade in fresh poultrymeat, and instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to deal with this matter once more in the light of the initial points of view which emerged from the debate, so that it could submit to the Council a draft which the latter could adopt at its next meeting.

MOUNTAIN AND HILL FARMING

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Directive on mountain and hill farming and farming in certain other less-favoured areas, and the Directives concerning the Community lists of the less-favoured agricultural areas of the Member States.

The financing rate chargeable to the EAGGF was fixed at 25%, on the understanding that the Commission could propose an increase in this rate for future years before the end of 1975.

COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY STOCKTAKING

The Council took note of a verbal report by the Chairman of the Special Committee on Agriculture concerning progress in the work on the common agricultural policy stocktaking.

After a brief discussion, the Council instructed the Special Committee on Agriculture and the Permanent Representatives Committee to resume their proceedings, so that the Council could discuss the matter thoroughly at a forthcoming meeting.

29.IV.75

FISHERY PRODUCTS

The Council signified its agreement in principle to a Regulation including hake in the Annexes to the basic Regulation on fisheries and on a second Regulation fixing for the 1975 fishing year a guide price for hake, as a direct consequence of the first decision. The guide price was fixed at 1,000 UA per metric ton.

On the basis of this measure the Commission will be able, by dint of the "Management Committee" procedure, to fix a derived guide price for imports of frozen hake fillets from third countries.

Finally, with an eye to alleviating the difficulties obtaining in the fisheries sector, the Council, pending the Opinion of the European Parliament delivered pursuant to a Commission proposal, indicated that it was favourably disposed to the temporary institution of aid for private storage of the fisheries products listed in Annexes IIIA and IVB to the basic Regulation (frozen products), on the understanding that the Commission would submit a survey on storage measures by 1 November. The Commission did not exclude the possibility of its having to undertake certain measures at Management Committee level within three months, should storing still prove necessary.

CULTIVATION UNDER GLASS

In an introductory statement, the Commission representative submitted to the Council the proposal for a Regulation laying down certain measures for the rationalization of horticulture under glass.

The purpose of this proposal is to institute a premium for demolition which would be granted on condition that producers opting for the premium undertake not to extend their surface under glass for the next six years. Aids likely to increase the surface under glass would be prohibited during the time of the project (until the end of 1975).

The Special Committee on Agriculture was instructed to brief the Council on this subject.

COMPENSATION FOR THE RISE IN THE PRICE OF FUEL

The Commission representative also stated his Institution's intention to amend the communication of 12 June 1974 to Member States concerning national aid for the adaptation of the horticultural and fishery sectors to developments on the energy market. Pursuant to this amended communication, Member States will be authorized to continue until 30 June 1976 to grant degressive subsidies to compensate for the rise in energy prices which have occurred since September 1973.

In the fishery sector, the system for authorizing subsidies is extended for six months, i.e. until the end of the current year.

BEEF AND VEAL MARKET SITUATION

The Council discussed the current situation on the beef and veal market.

In particular it examined two decisions that the Commission had taken to lend flexibility to the arrangements in this sector pursuant to the safeguard clause by setting up

- a system of import certificates for certain beef and veal products, known by the name of EXIM
- a special arrangement for imports of calves and heifers for fattening during the period when the safeguard measures are to be applied.

Following a vote called for by some delegations pursuant to the provisions of the basic Regulation, the Council noted that there was no majority in favour of rescinding or amending these measures, which will accordingly continue to apply.

29.IV.75

OVERALL MEDITERRANEAN APPROACH

The Council conducted a detailed discussion on the problems concerning the finalization of the market organization measures governing the agricultural concessions under the overall Mediterranean approach, particularly as regards processed fruit and vegetables, citrus fruit, new potatoes and wine.

The Council agreed to resume its discussions on the matter at its next meeting on agriculture.

COMPENSATORY AMOUNTS

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Regulation on the ceilings for compensatory amounts in respect of pigmeat, eggs, ovalbumin, lactalbumin and poultrymeat.

The purpose of this Regulation is to limit compensatory amounts, in the sectors concerned, only to the amounts of the import levies, so as to avoid deflections of trade between one Member State and another and administrative complications.

VARIOUS DECISIONS

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities

- Regulations

- determining for the 1975/76 marketing year the single intervention prices for barley, rye, durum wheat and maize, the principal marketing centres for common wheat and the derived intervention prices applicable at those centres;
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 1397/69 fixing standard qualities for certain cereals and categories of flour, groats and meal and the rules for fixing the threshold prices of these categories of products;
- fixing the threshold prices for cereals for the 1975/76 marketing year;
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 2305/70 on the financing of intervention expenditure in respect of the domestic market in beef and veal;
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 2824/72 as regards the financing of certain measures by the Guarantee Section of the EAGGF;
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 766/68 as regards the suspension of the periodic fixing of export refunds on molasses and syrups;
- on the organization of a survey on the earnings of permanent workers in agriculture;
- the second Council Directive amending Directive No 70/524/EEC concerning additives in feedingstuffs.

The Council took formal note

- of the Member States' agreement to the extension until 1 December 1975 of the Gentleman's agreement on maintenance of the status quo with regard to national provisions on the common standards applicable to the moisture content of certain fowl carcasses;
- of the third financial report on the EAGGF in 1973.

o

o

o

The Council also adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Regulation extending to other imports the Annex to Regulation (EEC) No 109/70 establishing common rules for imports from state-trading countries.

o

o

o

The Council gave its assent, as requested by the Commission, pursuant to Article 54(2) of the ECSC Treaty, to the granting of loans to beneficiaries other than undertakings, for the financing of accommodation for staff in the ECSC industries.

o

o

o

On a proposal from the Danish Government, the Council appointed Mr H. Find ANDERSEN, Civil Engineer, Head of Department, Danish Sammenslutningen af Arbejdegivere inden for Jern-og Metalindustrien, as Member of the Advisory Committee on Vocational Training as a replacement for Mr RASMUSSEN, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which runs until 30 January 1976.

o

o

o

FOOD AID

Pursuant to the Food Aid Convention, the Council adopted a Decision concluding an Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Mali for the supply of maize (6,000 metric tons of maize - 1973/1974) plan of action as food aid.

Under the aid programme in the form of milk products, the Council adopted a Decision concluding an Agreement between the European Economic Community and the World Food Programme for the supply of skimmed milk powder (20,000 metric tons of skimmed milk powder) to developing countries as food aid.

[REDACTED]

PRESS RELEASE

340th meeting of the Council

- Foreign Affairs -

Brussels, 5 May 1975

President: Mr Garret FITZGERALD,
Minister for Foreign Affairs (Ireland)

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 Relations and Nordic Affairs

Mr Jens CHRISTENSEN State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Germany:

Mr Hans-Jürgen WISCHNEWSKI State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

France:

Mr Bernard DESTREMAU State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ireland:

Mr Justin KEATING Minister for Industry and
Commerce

Italy:

Mr Mariano RUMOR Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Adolfo BATTAGLIA Deputy State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Luxembourg:

Mr. Gaston THORN

President of the Government
Minister for Foreign AffairsNetherlands:

Mr M. VAN DER STOEL

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr L.J. BRINKHORST

State Secretary,
Foreign AffairsUnited Kingdom:

Mr. Roy HATTERSLEY

Minister of State,
Foreign and Commonwealth OfficeCommission:

Mr Francois-Xavier ORTOLI

President

Mr Albert BORSCHETTE

Member

Mr Claude CHEYSSON

Member

Mr Altiero SPINELLI

Member

o

o

o

5.V.75

ENERGY AND PRIMARY PRODUCTS

The Council discussed the results of the preparatory meeting for the Conference proposed by the President of the French Republic, held in Paris from 7 to 15 April 1975. It was noted that the meeting had clarified the various points of view and that all those taking part had expressed a desire to continue the dialogue.

The Council also confirmed the need to give priority consideration to formulating an overall Community attitude in respect of primary products, with particular reference to the problems of developing countries and, in this connection, to preparing a constructive Community position for forthcoming international meetings and in particular the 7th special session of the United Nations General Assembly.

The Council noted that during May the Commission would be forwarding a further communication on the problem of primary products. The meeting also heard a speech by the United Kingdom delegation summarizing the discussions which the Kingston Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference had held on the question of primary products, on the basis of suggestions put forward by the United Kingdom Government.

Finally, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue actively with its study of this subject.

OVERALL MEDITERRANEAN APPROACH

The Council examined the situation regarding the negotiations with the various countries of the Mediterranean basin in the context of the overall approach.

The Council agreed to propose to Israel that the signing of the Agreement with that country should take place between now and 15 May, so that the Agreement might enter into force on 1 July, with the proviso that the application of certain of its agricultural provisions would be suspended until the adoption of internal Community measures for organization of the market.

The Council authorized the Commission to continue negotiations with the Maghreb countries under the same terms.

Finally, as regards negotiations with Spain, the Council asked the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine outstanding problems and, if possible, to arrive at conclusions which would enable negotiations to be resumed.

EXTENSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL WHEAT AGREEMENT

The Council discussed the problems arising in connection with the new internal allocation of costs incurred under the Food Aid Convention and asked the Permanent Representatives Committee to resolve this question in time for the Community to accede to the Protocol extending the Food Aid Convention for a further year.

COUNCIL MEETING OF HEADS OF GOVERNMENT

The Council briefly discussed preparations for the next Council meeting of Community Heads of Government scheduled for 16 and 17 July in Brussels.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities.

- the Regulation
 - supplementing Annex I (A) and Annex IV (B) of Regulation (EEC) No 2142/70 on the common organization of the market in fishery products;
 - fixing the guide price for hake for the 1975 fishing year;
 - on the allocation for 1974 of appropriations from the Guidance Section of the EAGGF and on certain final dates for the years 1974 and 1975;
- the Decision authorizing the Commission to negotiate a legal instrument enabling the European Economic Community to become a Contracting Party to the Customs Convention on the International Transit of Goods (ITI Convention).

The Council also adopted the Regulation on the conclusion of the Interim Agreement between the European Economic Community and Greece in consequence of the accession of new Member States to the Community.

o

o

o

The Council authorized the Commission to initiate negotiations with Colombia and Mexico for the conclusion of voluntary restraint agreements on textile products.

o

o

o

The Council delivered the Assent, requested by the Commission, pursuant to Article 55 (2) (c) of the Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community, to grants of financial aid to 63 iron and steel technical research projects.

o

o

o

The Council adopted the Decision appointing members and alternate members of the Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work for the period from 5 May 1975 to 4 May 1978.

The following have been appointed:

	<u>Member</u>	<u>Alternate</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Alternate</u>
A. <u>GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES</u>				
Belgium	Mr LAURENT	Mr BENS	Mr DENONNE	Mr MEDAETS
Germany	Mr KLIESCH	Mr OPFERMANN	Dr WAGNER	Dr MILDE
Denmark	Mr SAXILD	Mr TOFT	Mrs JENSEN	Mr BLOU
France	Mr LEVY	Mr PASTY	Mrs NETTER	Mr CORVAISIER
Ireland	Mr KENNEDY	Mr MORRISON	Mr LUMSDEN	Mr O'BRIEN
Italy	Dott. FREDELLA	Dott. GUERRIERI	Dott. FIORE	Dott. FIORENTINO
Luxembourg	Mr SCHUSTER	Mr MOUSEL	Mr NEOSEN	Mr DEMUTH
Netherlands	Dr WINCK	Mrs ROOYAKKERS BEEMSTER	Mr ELDERING	Mr RIKMENS- POEL
United Kingdom	Mr RICHARDSON	Mr BARGER	Mr OWEN	Mr BUCHANAN
B. <u>TRADE UNION REPRESENTATIVES</u>				
Belgium	Mr SAUVAGE	Mr SILON	Mr THYRE	Mr COLLE
Germany	Mr KONSTANTY	Mr MARKS	Mr PARTIKEL	Mr SCHUPETA
Denmark	Mr JØRGENSEN	Mr THORGRIMSON	Mrs STALL- KNECHT	Mr ELIKOFER
France	Mr ATLAN	Mr ROUXEL	Mr GUILLON	Mr GAISNE
Ireland	Mr CASSELLS	Mr O'HALLORAN	Mr DALY	Mr KEATING
Italy	Mr TRACARICO	Mr ROTA	Mr FERIOLI	Mr ROCCHI
Luxembourg	Mr RECH	Mr DUNKEL	Mr MIRKES	Mr KLEIN
Netherlands	Mr HOGENES	Mrs NIEUWENHUIS	Mr de BRUIN	Mr JANSSEN
United Kingdom	Mr	Mr	Mr	Mr

Member Alternate Member Alternate

C. REPRESENTATIVES OF EMPLOYERS' ORGANIZATIONS

Belgium	Mr VAN GAEVER	Mr CLOQUET	Mr CORDY	Mr LEONARD
Germany	Mr EBERSTEIN	Mr WINCKLER	Mr ORTLEPP	Mr BISCHOFF
Denmark	Mr KAHR	Mr STENBJERRE	Mr RASMUSSEN	Mr HOLM
France	Mr CAVE	Mr DELAGE	Mr TASSIN	Mr DUBUISSON
Ireland	Mr RICE	Mr DOHERTY	Mr CLARKE	Mr CASSIDY
Italy	Avv. BIOCCA	Mr PALLADINO	Ing. BUSSETTI	Dott. PACI
Luxembourg	Mr SCHMIT	Mr BERWEILER	Mr MATHGEN	Mr BEFFORT
Netherlands	Mr den BOER	Miss de QUANT	Mr van GORKOM	Mr RUYGROK
United Kingdom	Mr BRADBURY	Mr ROBSON	Mr COBB	Mr REA

PRESS RELEASE

1975
MAY 20
10 10 10

341st meeting of the Council
- Economic Affairs / Finance -
Brussels, 20 May 1975
President: Mr Richie RYAN,
Minister of Finance of Ireland

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 Cecil DE STRYCKER	Governor of the National Bank of Belgium

Denmark

Mr Per HAEKKERUP	Minister for Economic Affairs
Mr Kurt HANSEN	State Secretary for Economic Affairs
Mr Eric HOFFMEYER	Governor of the National Bank

Germany

Mr Hans APEL	Minister for Finance
Mr Otto SCHLECHT	State Secretary for Economic Affairs
Mr Karl-Otto POEHL	State Secretary for Finance
Mr Karl KLASSEN	President of the Bundesbank

France

Mr Jean-Pierre FOURCADE	Minister for Economy and Finance
Mr Bernard CLAPPIER	Governor of the Bank of France

Ireland

Mr Charles MURRAY	Secretary-General, Ministry of Finance
Mr T.K. WHITAKER	Governor of the Central Bank

Italy

Mr Emilio COLOMBO

Minister of the Treasury

Mr Rinaldo OSSOLA

Vice-President of the Bank of
Italy

Luxembourg

Mr Raymond VOUEL

Vice-President of the Government,
Minister for Finance

Netherlands

Mr W.F. DUISENBERG

Minister for Finance

Mr J. ZIJLSTRA

President of the Netherlands
National Bank

United Kingdom

Mr Denis HEALEY

Chancellor of the Exchequer

Commission

Mr Wilhelm HAFERKAMP

Vice-President

The meeting was also attended by:

Mr C.J. CORT	Chairman of the Monetary Committee
Mr Eric HOFFMEYER	Chairman of Govenors of Central Banks
Mr Charles MURRAY	Chairman of the Co-ordinating Committee on Short-term Economic and Financial Policy
Mr E. MALINVAUD	Chairman of the Committee on Economic Policy

o

o

o

WORK OF THE I.M.F.

In preparation for the next meeting of the I.M.F. Interim Committee in Paris from 9 to 13 June 1975, the Council examined the problems to be discussed especially the problem of the increase in the I.M.F. quotas and certain amendments to the I.M.F. statutes.

The Council worked out a number of guidelines for the Member States at the meeting in Paris.

COMMUNITY EXCHANGE SYSTEM

The Council heard a statement from the French Minister on the return of the French franc to the Community exchange system, known as the "snake".

It noted this statement with satisfaction and stressed that it was an encouraging contribution to the extension of the area of monetary stability in Europe.

The Council instructed the Committee of the Governors of the Central Banks, concurrently with the experts from the Governments of the Member States which belong to the snake, to examine the technical arrangements for reintegrating the French franc and report to it at its meeting on 16 June next.

EXPORT CREDITS

Following an exchange of views on the Community's participation in the OECD arrangements for export credits, the Council agreed to resume discussion of this item at a future meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities

- the Regulations
 - deleting certain products from the Annex to Regulation (EEC) No 2603/69 establishing common rules for exports
 - amending Regulations (EEC) Nos 2901/74, 2903/74, 2905/74 2906/74 and 2907/74 establishing Community supervision of imports of certain products originating in Austria, Iceland, Portugal, Sweden and Switzerland respectively
 - temporarily suspending the autonomous duties of the Common Customs Tariff on a number of industrial products
 - temporarily and totally suspending the customs duties applicable in the Community as originally constituted on a number of products imported from the new Member States
 - supplementing Annexes I and II of Regulation (EEC) No 3042/74 on the tariff treatment of certain products intended for use in the construction, maintenance and repair of aircraft
 - modifying Regulation (EEC) No 1107/70 on aids granted in the field of transport by railway, road and inland waterway
- the Decisions
 - on the improvement of the situation of railway undertakings and the harmonization of rules governing financial relations between such undertakings and States
 - on the import arrangements applied in France in respect of unwrought aluminium from State-trading countries
 - amending Decision 71/237/EURATOM adopting a five-year research and training programme of the European Atomic Energy Community in the field of fusion and plasma physics

- the Directives
 - on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to aerosol dispensers
 - obliging the Member States to maintain minimum stocks of fossil fuels at thermal power stations.

The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities (¹),

- the second Directive on the approximation of provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action relating to proprietary medicinal products
- the Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to analytical, pharmaco-toxicological and clinical standards and protocols in respect of the testing of proprietary medicinal products
- the Decision setting up a Pharmaceutical Committee.

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

- the steering equipment of wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors
- the power connection fitted on wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors for lighting and light-signalling devices on tools, machinery or trailers intended for agriculture or forestry
- the suppression of radio interference produced by spark-ignition engines fitted to wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors.

These Directives form part of a series of texts intended to harmonize national technical requirements for the safety of motor vehicles.

(¹) See press release No 173/75 (Presse 19) of 11 February 1975.

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decisions concluding agreements between the European Economic Community and

- the Malagasy Republic on the supply of flour of soft wheat as food aid (4,000 metric tons of soft wheat in the form of 2,649 metric tons of flour of soft wheat - 1971/72 implementation plan)
- the World Food Programme on the supply of cereals to developing countries as food aid (30,000 metric tons of unprocessed cereals-1973/74 implementation plan).

o

o

o

On a proposal from the Italian Government, the Council has appointed Dott. Edoardo BAGLIANO, Confindustria - Director of the Legal Department of FIAT, a member of the Economic and Social Committee to replace Mr GARINO, who has resigned, for the remainder of Mr GARINO's term of office, that is until 16 September 1978.

o

o

o

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decisions on the formation of the joint undertaking "Schnell-Bruter-Kernkraftwerksgesellschaft mbH (SBK)" under Article 49 of the Euratom Treaty and on the granting to that undertaking of certain advantages referred to in Annex III to the Treaty (tax exemptions).

[REDACTED]

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

[REDACTED]

PRESS RELEASE

342nd Council Meeting

- Agriculture -

Luxembourg, 26 and 27 May 1975

President: Mr Mark CLINTON
Minister for Agriculture, Ireland

LIBRARY

674/75 (Presse 55)

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 and Fisheries

Germany:

Mr Josef ERTL Minister for Agriculture
Mr Hans-Jürgen ROHR State Secretary,
Ministry for Agriculture

France:

Mr Christian BONNET Minister for Agriculture

Ireland:

Mr Mark CLINTON Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries

Italy:

Mr Giovanni MARCORA Minister for Agriculture
Mr Arcangelo LO BIANCO State Secretary,
Ministry for Agriculture

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean HAMILIUS Minister for Agriculture
Mr Albert BERCHEM State Secretary,
Ministry for 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

Also present on Tuesday 27 May 1975:

France:

Mr Marcel CAVAILLE State Secretary,
Ministry of Transport

BEEF AND VEAL

The Council briefly discussed the situation in the beef and veal market.

In view of the fact that the situation of the market in adult bovine animals and calves in certain Member States, particularly Ireland, was causing concern, the Council requested the Commission to keep a close watch on market trends in this sector.

IMPORT OF TUNNY FISH

Following discussions on the decisions taken by the Commission to extend the safeguard measures applicable to the import of tunny fish intended for industrial processing, the Council took note of the Commission's intention to take the necessary decisions to extend beyond 1 July 1975 the temporary application of the safeguard clause to the market in France and to increase the amount of aid for private storage.

In this connection it noted that the Commission intended using this period of time to prepare a proposal to increase the reference price for tunny fish.

OVERALL APPROACH TO THE MEDITERRANEAN

The Council examined in depth the various problems in the agricultural sector posed by the negotiations with the countries of the Mediterranean.

The debate enabled the Council to appreciate more clearly the different aspects of the problems before it. Substantial progress was made concerning the guidelines along which solutions could be reached.

The debate brought to light a number of points requiring more detailed analysis. The Special Committee on Agriculture will continue its work in this respect on the basis of, in particular, further figures and suggestions which the Commission will present.

Conscious of the urgent need to reach concrete conclusions, the Council has agreed to proceed in the following manner:

- the Ministers of Agriculture will hold an informal exchange of views aimed at working out more precise guidelines at their meeting in Dublin on 9 June 1975;
- the Council will take its decision concerning this subject at its session devoted to agricultural affairs on 23 and 24 June 1975 in Luxembourg.

MISCELLANEOUS STATEMENTS

The Council took formal note of miscellaneous statements on

- national aid measures;
- the situation on the colza market;
- refunds to producers of maize;
- certain veterinary problems (policy towards non-member countries, the veterinary fund, fresh poultrymeat);
- the varieties of common wheat suitable for making bread which are cultivated in the Community;
- the situation on the sugar market.

It also took formal note of observations made by certain delegations and the Commission on these topics.

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

- fixing the market target price (149.96 UA/100 kg) and the intervention price (142.71 UA/100 kg) for olive oil for the 1975/1976 marketing year
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 1878/74 laying down, for the 1974/1975 wine-growing year, the price to be paid for alcohol delivered to intervention agencies under the obligation to distil the by-products of wine-making and the maximum amount of the contribution towards this price by the Guarantee Section of the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund
- extending the scope of Regulation (EEC) No 1067/74 on the common organization of the market in dehydrated fodder to cover certain products processed from potatoes
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 1192/74 on aid for dehydrated fodder.

o

o

o

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the European Communities, the Regulation setting up a European Foundation for the improvement of living and working conditions.

The Foundation will have its headquarters in Ireland.

The Council adopted the text of the draft EEC - Turkey Association Council Decision amending the concept of originating products for the purposes of the implementation of Chapter I of Annex 6 of the EEC - Turkey Additional Protocol. The draft Decision will be submitted for adoption by the EEC - Turkey Association Council by means of the written procedure.

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the European Communities, the Community implementing regulation for the above Decision.

The Council approved the draft Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Austria on the simplification of formalities in respect of goods traded between the European Economic Community on the one hand and Greece and Turkey on the other hand when the said goods are re-exported from Austria.

o

o

o

On a proposal from the United Kingdom Government, the Council appointed Mr D.J. SULLIVAN - Department of Employment - Member of the Advisory Committee on Freedom of Movement for Workers in place of Mr SMART for the remainder of the latter's term of office, i.e. until 17 March 1977.

o

o

o

FOOD AID

Under the 1972/73 implementation plan, the Council adopted the Decision concluding an Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Catholic Relief Service for the supply of soft wheat flour (11,952 metric tons of soft wheat, in the form of 7,915 metric tons of soft wheat flour) as food aid.

Under the 1975 programme of aid in the form of milk products, the Council adopted

- a Regulation laying down general rules for the supply of skimmed milk powder (43,010 metric tons) under the 1975 food aid programme to certain developing countries and to certain international organizations
 - a Regulation on the supply of skimmed milk powder (43,010 metric tons - with a reserve of 3,800 metric tons) to certain developing countries and to certain international organizations
 - a Decision on the establishment of the procedure for implementing food aid in the form of skimmed milk powder (39,210 metric tons).
-

PRESS RELEASE

LIBRARY

343rd meeting of the Council
- Foreign Affairs -
Dublin, 26 May 1975

President: Mr Garret FITZGERALD
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ireland

26.V.75

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 and Nordic Affairs

Mr Jens CHRISTENSEN State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Germany

Mr Hans-Dietrich GENSCHER Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Hans-Jürgen WISCHNEWSKI Minister of State,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

France

Mr Jean SAUVAGNARGUES Minister for Foreign Affairs

Ireland

Mr Paul KEATING Secretary-General,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Italy

Mr Mariano RUMOR Minister for Foreign Affairs

Luxembourg

Mr Gaston THORN Minister for Foreign Affairs

Netherlands

Mr M. VAN DER STOEL

Minister for Foreign Affairs

United Kingdom

Mr Roy HATTERSLEY

Minister of State
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Commission

Mr François-Xavier ORTOLI

President

Sir Christopher SOAMES

Vice-President

o

o

o

PORTUGAL

The Council discussed the position to be taken by the Community delegation at the meeting of the Joint Committee entrusted with the task of applying the current Agreement between the EEC and Portugal, to be held in Brussels on 28 May for the purpose of carrying out the procedure laid down in Article 35 (1) of the Agreement.

The Council also agreed on the steps to be taken by the Community and the Member States before the summer recess with regard to continuation of the procedure. It also asked the President to discuss with the Portuguese authorities, on the occasion of his forthcoming visit to Lisbon, the arrangements and conditions for a meeting at ministerial level between the Community and Portugal, to be held in the near future with a view to strengthening their ties and furthering Portugal's development.

PROBLEMS OF RAW MATERIALS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE FORTHCOMING
INTERNATIONAL DEADLINES

The Council took stock of the situation with regard to preparation for the Ministerial meeting of the OECD to be held in Paris on 28 and 29 May 1975.

The Council then heard a speech by President Ortoli introducing the communication submitted by the Commission to the Council on the problems of raw materials in the context of relations with the developing countries which export raw materials.

The communication attempts to define an overall approach based on a series of concrete actions, with a view to resolving the problems and concerns of the developing countries in the field of raw materials.

It takes account of the forthcoming international deadlines, in particular the 7th special session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, and is designed to allow the Community to take an active part in these international discussions in a spirit of constructive dialogue.

The Council thanked the Commission for this important communication, which was greeted favourably by all the delegations at this initial stage.

The Permanent Representatives Committee was instructed to proceed with dispatch to a detailed examination of this communication.

PRESS RELEASE

344th meeting of the Council

- Economics / Finance -

Luxembourg 16 June 1975

President: Mr Richie RYAN
Minister for Finance of Ireland

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 Cécil DE STRYCKER	Governor of the National Bank of Belgium

Denmark:

Mr HAEKKERUP	Minister for Economic Affairs
Mr Knud HEINESEN	Minister for Finance
Mr Kurt HANSEN	State Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs
Mr Eric HOFFMEYER	President of the National Bank

Germany:

Mr Hans APEL	Minister for Finance
Mr Otto SCHLECHT	State Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs
Mr Karl KLASSEN	President of the National Bank

France:

Mr Jean-Pierre FOURCADE	Minister for Economic Affairs and Finance
Mr Bernard CLAPPIER	Governor of the Bank of France

Ireland:

Mr Richie RYAN	Minister for Finance
Mr T.K. WHITTAKER	Governor of the Central Bank

16.VI.75

Italy:

Mr Emilio COLOMBO

Mr Rinaldo OSSOLA

Minister for the Treasury

Deputy Governor of the Bank
of Italy

Luxembourg:

Mr Raymond VOUEL

Deputy President of the
Government,
Minister for Finance

Netherlands:

Mr W.F. DUISENBERG

Mr J. ZIJLSTRA

Minister for Finance

President of the Netherlands
Bank

United Kingdom:

Mr Robert SHELDON

Minister of State,
H.M. Treasury

Commission:

Mr François-Xavier ORTOLI

Mr Wilhelm HAFERKAMP

President

Vice-President

OFFICIAL VISIT OF THE PRESIDENT OF IRELAND

As part of his official visit to the Institutions of the European Communities, the President of Ireland, Mr Cearbhall O'DALEIGH, visited the Council during its 344th meeting, accompanied by Mr Garret FITZGERALD, Minister for Foreign Affairs.

At the ceremony which marked this occasion, speeches were made by Mr Richie RYAN, President of the Council, Mr François-Xavier ORTOLI, President of the Commission, and by President O'DALAIGH. The texts of these speeches are given in the Annex in the order in which they were delivered.

ECONOMIC SITUATION

The Council briefly discussed the economic situation and problems in the Community in mid-1975 and the outlook for further development and requested the Commission to take account of the information supplied by the Members of the Council when drawing up the second quarterly report on the economic situation in the Community which it will submit to the Council for its meeting in July.

COMMUNITY EXCHANGE SYSTEM

The Council noted with satisfaction the progress so far made towards the de jure rejoining of the "snake" by the French franc. Having heard and taken note of the statements on this matter by Mr Willy DE CLERCQ, Minister for Finance of Belgium, on behalf of the snake countries and by the Chairman of the Monetary Committee, it hoped that definitive reports could be submitted to it for its next meeting on 10 July.

DISCUSSIONS WITHIN THE IMF

The Council heard a statement by Mr Willy DE CLERCQ, Minister for Finance of Belgium, on the conclusions to be drawn from the meeting of the Interim Committee of the IMF in Paris last week. The Council agreed that the agenda for its meeting in July would include preparations for the next meeting of the Interim Committee of the IMF, scheduled for the end of August.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Freedom of establishment and freedom to provide services

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

- the Directive concerning the mutual recognition of diplomas, certificates and other evidence of formal qualifications in medicine, including measures to facilitate the effective exercise of the right of establishment and freedom to provide services;
- the Directive concerning the co-ordination of provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action in respect of activities of doctors;
- the Decision setting up an Advisory Committee on Medical Training;
- the Decision setting up a Committee of Senior Public Health Officials;
- the Recommendation concerning nationals of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg who hold a diploma in medicine conferred in a third country;
- the Recommendation on the clinical training of doctors.

This series of instruments comprises all the rules necessary for the effective exercise of the right of establishment and of freedom to provide services by doctors in the Community. Besides their practical implications for medicine, these rules should set an example for achieving the same objectives in other sectors, and particularly in the other liberal professions and the para-medical professions.

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

- measures to facilitate the effective exercise of freedom of establishment and freedom to provide services in respect of various activities (ex ISIC Divisions 04 to 85 concerning in particular the production and maintenance of certain transport equipment, certain transport and postal telecommunications services, and certain recreational and personal services) and, in particular, transitional measures in respect of those activities;
- measures to facilitate effective exercise of freedom of establishment and freedom to provide services in respect of itinerant activities and, in particular, transitional measures in respect of those activities.

Environment.

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

- concerning the quality required of surface water intended for the abstraction of drinking water in the Member States;
- on the disposal of waste oils.

Food Aid

Under the 1970/71 and 1973/74 plans of action, the Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision concluding the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Rwanda on the supply of common wheat flour (1,500 metric tons under the 1970/71 programme and 1,500 metric tons under the 1973/74 programme).

Under the programme of aid in the form of milk products for 1975, the Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities,

- the Regulations
 - laying down general rules for the supply of milk fats as food aid to certain developing countries and certain international organizations under the 1975 food aid programme;
 - on the supply of milk fats (4,550 metric tons of butteroil) as food aid to certain developing countries and certain international organizations under the 1975 food aid programme;
- the Decision on the arrangements to be made for the supply of milk fats as food aid (total quantity of fats corresponding to 43,400 metric tons of butteroil).

Commercial Policy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities

- the Regulations

- temporarily suspending the Common Customs Tariff duties on a number of agricultural products,
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 950/68 on the Common Customs Tariff,
- extending the common list of liberalized products annexed to Regulation (EEC) No 1439/74 on common rules for imports;

- the Decisions

- authorizing the Commission to negotiate a legal instrument enabling the European Economic Community to become a Contracting Party to the European Agreement on the Exchange of Tissue-typing Reagents,
- authorizing the extension or tacit renewal of certain trade agreements concluded between Member States and third countries;
- the directives authorizing the Commission to begin negotiations with Macao, Singapore and Malaysia with a view to concluding voluntary restraint agreements on textiles.

o

o

o

On a proposal from the United Kingdom Government, the Council appointed Miss B.D. MAC LEAN a member of the Advisory Committee of the Euratom Supply Agency to replace Mr P. DAWSON, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, that is until 31 December 1976.

o

o

o

The Council adopted the Opinion of the Scientific and Technical Research Committee (CREST) on the interest to the Community of the food technology research projects proposed by the Swedish delegation in the context of co-operation in the field of scientific and technical research (COST).

o

o

o

After being consulted, pursuant to Article 5(1) of Commission Decision No 3/71/ECSC, the Council agreed to additional financial measures by certain Member States to assist the coal mining industry in 1973 and to financial measures by Member States to assist the coal mining industry in 1974.

Speech of Welcome by the President-in-office of the Council of Ministers, Mr. Richie Ryan T.D., Minister for Finance of Ireland on the occasion of the official visit of the President of Ireland on Monday, June 16, 1975.

Mr. President,

Fágann an meath atá tagthamar chúrsaí eacnamaíochta ar fud an domhain - an meath is measa agus is faide a mhair le leathchead bliain - cūrainmí troma ar Airí Airgeadais agus Bacnamaíochta. Is cúis mhór áthais dúinn, a Uachtarán, tú a bheith i láthair ag cruinniú seo na n-Airí. Ní miste leat má ghlacaimid leis gurab ionann tú a theacht i láthair anseo agus aitheantas a bheith á thabhairt agat, mar cheann stáit, don tábhacht a bhaineann leis an obair atá ar siúl ag na hairí ag iarraidh fadhbanna ár linne a réiteach.

(The present global economic decline, the most serious and prolonged for almost half a century, imposes grave burdens upon Ministers for Finance and the Economy. It is therefore a cause of considerable pleasure to us, Mr. President, that you should grace this meeting of the Council of Ministers. We respectfully interpret your presence as a recognition by a Head of State of the importance of the work being discharged by Ministers in grappling with the problems of our time.)

It is a happy coincidence that your visit should take place during the Irish Presidency of the Council so that it falls to me to welcome you on behalf of my colleagues the members of the Council of Ministers. It is a great honour and a great pleasure for us all; and I bid you the warmest of welcomes - a Céad Mile Fáilte.

This is the first time that the Head of State of a Member country has paid an official visit to the Community Institutions in their own right; and your visit is therefore doubly memorable. And it provides in itself tangible evidence of the growing impact of the Community on the lives of all the citizens of all our countries. Moreover, that it should be the Head of State of the Most Western Atlantic bordering Member country who is visiting us is a reminder of the extended dimension the Community has acquired. I am sure that the Founding Fathers of our Community would have been happy to think that this visit, with all its implications, would have taken place in this year in which we are celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Schuman Declaration.

This is a Community in which personal examples have always played an important part. And your Excellency, Mr. President if I may say so, has made clear your devotion to the European ideal both as a Judge of the European Court of Justice and now in the highest office in your - and my - country. Because of this it seems to me that your presence here is the outward and visible sign of the attachment of Ireland to the European Community and her determination to participate fully in our common enterprise for the construction of Europe, and the betterment of the world.

Mr. President, I wish to assure you that the Council of Ministers shares your aims, your beliefs and your ideals. It too is determined to play its part in the building of Europe, for this is a determination which is a guiding force for all the governments which form this Institution. Our common purpose is strong; and we believe that it is a sound basis on which to build for all our peoples a future of prosperity, stability and peace.

ANNEXE II

Allocution de M. François-Xavier ORTOLI, Président de la Commission des Communautés européennes, lors de la visite officielle du Président de l'Irlande, M. Cearbhall O'DALAIGH, le 16 juin 1975 -- Luxembourg

Monsieur le Président de l'Irlande, j'aurai l'occasion demain, au nom de la Commission des Communautés européennes, de vous dire combien nous ressentons l'honneur que vous faites à nos Institutions en venant leur rendre visite ; aujourd'hui je ne peux que me joindre aux paroles que vient de prononcer M. RYAN. La Commission, dans ce Conseil des Ministres, partage les sentiments qui vous ont été exprimés.

Vous êtes venu voir le Conseil au travail et quel Conseil, celui des Ministres des Finances qui ont la responsabilité de nous aider à préparer l'union économique et monétaire, mais d'abord aujourd'hui, de rétablir dans nos pays et d'aider à rétablir dans le monde un équilibre fortement compromis : les hommes qui, au nom de la Communauté exercent directement la tâche si lourde de préparer un avenir économique plus heureux.

Votre présence, M. le Président, témoigne de votre attachement personnel à l'idée européenne. Permettez-moi de le dire, nous ne pouvons pas oublier que le Président de l'Irlande a été jusqu'à son élévation à la plus haute

dignité dans son pays, notre collègue, membre des Institutions comme nous-mêmes. Mais je vois dans votre visite plus que ce témoignage personnel du prix que vous attachez à l'Europe. Vous êtes venu - Premier Chef d'état à faire une telle visite aux Institutions en tant que telles - pour exprimer l'attachement de votre pays à l'idée de la Communauté. Oui, c'est la place de l'Irlande dans notre Communauté que vous marquez ainsi, et aussi ce que la Communauté représente pour l'Irlande.

M. le Président, les six mois qui sont en train de s'achever, nous ont donné un témoignage particulier de ce qu'est votre pays dans l'Europe et de ce qu'il peut faire pour l'Europe. Six mois d'une présidence courageuse, active, imaginative où nous avons vu les Ministres du Gouvernement irlandais assumer la responsabilité de la présidence des différents Conseils avec non seulement la volonté de faire triompher les intérêts de l'Europe mais aussi une capacité, et encore une fois, une ardeur qui nous ont beaucoup frappés. Voilà ce qu'apporte un pays comme le vôtre lorsqu'il s'engage dans une action qu'il juge capitale.

En venant aujourd'hui, vous situez cet engagement à son plus haut niveau. C'est ainsi que nous comprenons votre visite à nos Institutions. Il s'agit de faire l'Europe, ce qui est la tâche la plus urgente et la plus noble. Votre présence ici, à vous qui assumez les plus hautes responsabilités en Irlande, en témoigne avec éclat. Nous vous en remercions.

ANNEXE III

Text of address by the President of Ireland Mr Cearbhall O'DÁLAIGH to the Council of the European Communities
15th June 1975 - Luxembourg.

Monsieur le Président, Messieurs les Membres du Conseil, permettez-moi tout d'abord de vous remercier de l'honneur que vous m'avez fait en m'invitant ici à rendre visite à cette Institution très importante des Communautés. Permettez moi aussi, Monsieur le Président, et Monsieur le Président de la Commission, de vous remercier de la chaleur de l'accueil que vous nous avez réservé à mon épouse et à moi-même.

Il est difficile d'imaginer qu'il n'y a qu'un peu plus de vingt-cinq ans que Robert Schuman a exposé aux peuples d'Europe les grandes idées qui allaient être à la base des Communautés européennes. L'aspiration vers une Europe unie n'était pas quelque chose de nouveau, mais c'est à Robert Schuman, français né à Luxembourg, qu'il a appartenu d'expliquer comment cette aspiration pourrait devenir une réalité. Robert Schuman était un visionnaire, mais il a compris aussi que pour créer une Europe intégrée, il fallait qu'elle soit profondément enracinée dans la réalité quotidienne. Pour Robert Schuman, la construction de l'Europe représentait autre chose que la simple réalisation d'un dessein abstrait. Pour reprendre ses propres paroles : "l'Europe ne se fera pas d'un coup, ni dans une construction d'ensemble. Elle se fera par des réalisations concrètes créant d'abord une solidarité de fait".

Quiconque a habité Luxembourg et a traversé chaque jour le pont Grande-Duchesse Charlotte pour aller au Kirchberg connaît fort bien ces paroles, gravées sur le monument Robert Schuman, qui fut inauguré en 1966, le même jour que le pont.

Moins d'un an après que ces paroles eurent été prononcées, la France, l'Allemagne, l'Italie et les pays du Benelux signaient le 18 avril 1951 le Traité de Paris instituant la Communauté Européenne du Charbon et de l'Acier, jetant ainsi les bases d'une future Europe unie.

Si l'on jette un regard sur les vingt-cinq dernières années, en se souvenant de l'état de destruction et de division dans lequel se trouvait l'Europe à la fin de la deuxième guerre mondiale, la transformation qui s'est produite est rien moins que stupéfiante. Au sein de la Communauté, les barrières douanières ont été supprimées, les nouvelles politiques communes sont entrées en application et des Institutions supra-nationales ont été créées qui ont amené les Etats membres à un degré d'unité et d'intégration que même les plus optimistes d'entre nous n'auraient guère osé imaginer quant Robert Schuman fit sa célèbre déclaration. L'instance qui préside à cette transformation et qui dans une large mesure en détermine le rythme, c'est le Conseil. C'est à lui qu'appartient la tâche délicate de décider à tout moment de l'ampleur et de la rapidité du processus d'intégration. Réconcilier l'idéal avec la réalité, telle est peut-être la fonction essentielle du Conseil, auquel il incombe de rechercher ce qui est acceptable par tous dans le foisonnement des pratiques nationales des Etats membres.

Il y a, gravées sur un autre monument qui se trouve ici à Luxembourg, place Guillaume, d'autres paroles qui sont, à mon avis, de circonstance.

Je fais ici allusion aux mots gravés sur le mémorial du poète national luxembourgeois, Michel Rodage, dont on célèbre le centenaire cette année. Ces mots sont les suivants :

"mir plecke abrikosen un allen hecke gar wie get mir awer praffen am bambosch d'rosendar ?".

ce qui signifie :

"chacun voudrait pouvoir cueillir des abricots sur tous les buissons, mais qui ira greffer les églantiers du bambosch ?"

ou encore :

"chacun voudrait pouvoir cueillir les fruits de la Communauté, mais qui fera l'effort de greffer son arbre ?", disons pour être clair que l'avenir de la Communauté dépend de l'effort de tous.

Il ne fait pas de doute que les progrès accomplis grâce à la Communauté dans la construction de cette nouvelle Europe sont impressionnants. Mais la force que nous a donnée une unité et une intégration plus solides ne devrait pas nous faire oublier nos faiblesses, surtout dans la période de crise que nous traversons. Notre souci devrait être de reconnaître les défauts de la Communauté et d'y remédier, non pas tant par intérêt personnel en tant qu'européens, bien que l'intérêt personnel bien compris soit une chose parfaitement légitime, mais plutôt par

souci de voir la Communauté apporter au monde la contribution unique qu'elle est en mesure de lui fournir. La récente signature de la Convention de Lomé avec les A.C.P. est d'ailleurs la preuve de cette ouverture de la Communauté sur le monde.

Mr. le Président, Messieurs les Membres du Conseil, votre rôle est un rôle formidable, d'une portée et d'une dimension immenses, et je vous adresse tous mes vœux pour la réussite de vos travaux.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

LIBRARY

345th meeting of the Council

- Social Affairs -

Luxembourg, 17 June 1975

President: Mr Michael O'LEARY

Minister for Labour of Ireland

749/75 (Presse 63)

Luxembourg:

Mr Benny BERG

Minister for Labour and
Social Security

Mr Maurice THOSS

State Secretary to the Minister
for Labour and Social Security

Netherlands:

Mr J. BOERSMA

Minister for Social Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mrs Barbara CASTLE

Secretary of State for Social
Services

Lord HARRIS

Minister of State,
Home Office

Mr John FRASER

Parliamentary Under-Secretary
of State,
Department of Employment

Commission:

Mr Patrick John HILLERY

Vice-President

PRINCIPLE OF THE 40-HOUR WEEK AND 4 WEEKS' ANNUAL PAID HOLIDAY

The Council agreed to the Recommendation addressed to the Member States regarding the application before 31 December 1978 of the principle of the 40-hour week and 4 weeks' annual paid holiday.

The main aspects of the Recommendation are as follows:

- the normal working week should be a 40-hour week, apart from exceptions for certain specific sectors;
- the application of the principle may not entail a reduction in earnings;
- the minimum duration of annual paid holidays should be four weeks, and the paid public holidays falling within the period of annual paid holidays should be compensated in the form of an equivalent number of days to be added to the annual paid holidays;
- all provisions governing payment for holidays should be amended where necessary to take account of the application of the principle of 4 weeks' annual paid holiday, and the application of this principle should have no detrimental effect for workers in respect of holiday pay.

The Recommendation provides that the two principles shall be applied by 31 December 1978 at the latest, and if possible before that date. Member States are called upon to take appropriate measures to attain the objectives of the Recommendation in conformity with prevailing national practice and conditions, either by means of legislation, by encouraging employers and labour to conclude collective agreements or by any other means.

Member States shall inform the Commission of developments in the situation with regard to working hours and annual paid holidays to assist it in preparing its annual report on social developments in the Community.

FIGHT AGAINST POVERTY

The Council agreed in principle to the Decision concerning the programme of pilot schemes and studies to combat poverty.

The aim of this Decision, which was one of the priority measures in the Council Resolution of 21 January 1974, is to enable the Commission to promote or provide financial assistance for pilot schemes which:

- test and develop new methods of helping the poor and those threatened with poverty in the Community,
- are planned and carried out so far as possible with the participation of those concerned, and
- and of interest to the Community as a whole in that they deal with problems common to more than one Member State,

and also to promote, carry out or provide financial assistance for pilot studies which aim at improving understanding of the nature, causes, scope and mechanics of poverty in the Community.

Under the terms of this Decision, the Commission will be able to grant Community assistance normally amounting to 50% of the cost of the projects recommended. This percentage may be exceeded in the case of certain pilot studies.

The Commission will be assisted in its tasks by an advisory group composed of independent experts and representatives of the Governments of the Member States.

In 1976 the Commission will submit to the Council and the European Parliament a report on the available results of the operations carried out with the financial assistance of the Community.

COMMISSION COMMUNICATION TO THE COUNCIL ON WORK IN THE FIELD
OF EMPLOYMENT

Confirming the importance which it attaches to co-ordinating employment policies and aware of the need to develop work in the fields of employment forecasts and research, the Council took note of the communication submitted to it by the Commission on 21 April 1975 on work in the field of employment and of the comments of the various delegations, which it requested the Commission to take into account in the work to be undertaken.

In particular, as regards

- Annex I to the Commission communication (Co-ordination of employment policies), the Council took note of the initial guidelines outlined by the Commission and requested it to strengthen their content and further evolve the methods for applying them;
- Annex II to the Commission communication (Employment forecasts), the Council confirmed its interest in the matter and emphasized the need to step up co-operation between the national departments and the Commission in this field;
- Annex III to the Commission communication (Research programme on labour markets), the Council considered that the research programme as it was outlined should be implemented following the discussions in the Council.

17.VI.75

The Council noted that the work referred to in the abovementioned Commission communication complemented the employment statistics programme requested by the Council from the Commission before the enlargement of the Communities.

It requested the Commission to expedite its work on this programme.

PRINCIPLE OF EQUAL TREATMENT FOR MEN AND WOMEN WORKERS

The Council conducted a detailed discussion on the Directive on the implementation of the principle of equal treatment for men and women workers (access to employment, vocational training and advancement and working conditions).

The Council discussions dealt in particular with the problems of defining the scope of the Directive, specifically those of including social security in the immediate future in view of the state of the social laws and social conditions in the Member States.

Concluding the discussion, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to reconsider all the problems posed by this Directive in order to prepare the decision which the Council will have to take at its next meeting on social affairs.

INTERVENTION BY THE SOCIAL FUND TO ENCOURAGE STRUCTURAL
ADJUSTMENT MEASURES

The Council held a policy debate on the proposal for a Decision on intervention by the Social Fund to encourage structural adjustment measures.

The Council discussions dealt mainly with the choice between the various possible approaches for ensuring that intervention by the Social Fund had genuine impact. In this connection, the criteria to be adopted to determine the sectors or categories and the fixing of any priorities were discussed in detail.

For this purpose the Council had before it the Commission proposal, the Opinion of the European Parliament and a report on the initial discussions in the Economic and Social Committee.

The Council also bore in mind the guidelines evolved on the matter by the Standing Committee on Employment at its last meeting on 3 June, which showed a clear preference for concentrating these measures on young workers in particular.

In conclusion, and pending the final opinion of the Economic and Social Committee, the Council agreed that during an initial period aid should be made available from the Social Fund for specific operations likely to facilitate the geographical and vocational mobility of young people under 25 years of age who are unemployed or seeking employment, on the understanding that priority would be given to young people seeking employment for the first time.

The Council also undertook to discuss by 30 November 1975 a proposal submitted by the Commission under Article 4 of the Council Decision of 1 February 1971 intended to facilitate the geographical and vocational mobility of people who are or have been employed in the sectors particularly affected by the recession-related employment imbalance, taking due account of the regions hardest hit by employment difficulties.

PROGRESS TO DATE: SOCIAL ACTION PROGRAMME

The Council took note of a Commission communication on progress to date in implementing the Council Resolution of 21 January 1974 concerning a social action programme.

[REDACTED]

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

[REDACTED]

PRESS RELEASE

LIBRARY

346th Council meeting

- Agriculture -

Luxembourg, 23 and 24 June 1975

President: Mr Mark CLINTON,
Minister for Agriculture of Ireland

PRESS RELEASE

EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

The Council

Luxembourg, 26 June 1975

786/75 (Presse 67) Corr. 1

C O R R I G E N D U M

TO THE

PRESS RELEASE

(786/75 (Presse 67))

of 23 and 24 June 1975

Page 8:

Delete the last 12 lines.

Page 18:

In the first line of the 6th paragraph, add the word "likely" after "are".

Page 20:

Delete the penultimate indent

Page I:

Add: "The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Regulation introducing a temporary system of aids for the private storage of certain fishery products".

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean HAMILLIUS
Mr Albert BERCHEM

Minister for Agriculture
State Secretary,
Ministry of Agriculture

The 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

The Commission:

Mr P.J. LARDINOIS

Member

VETERINARY QUESTIONS

The Council adopted ⁽¹⁾ the Directive, amending the previous Directives on the procedures of the Standing Veterinary Committee, and the Decision amending the previous Decision with the same aim. The Directive and Decision in question are concerned with the extension, for a period of six years, of the existing procedures, including the retention of the right of appeal to the Council against the Committee's decisions (so-called "safety-net" procedure).

The Council also adopted in principle ⁽²⁾ the Directive amending the Directive on health problems affecting trade in fresh poultrymeat. Inter alia, the Directive extends until 31 December 1977 the derogation allowing the "Spinchiller" process to be applied. In the meantime the Commission will prepare a study on alternative industrial measures, to be submitted to the Council not later than 1 July 1976.

⁽¹⁾ The Netherlands delegation abstained.

⁽²⁾ The German delegation abstained.

HORTICULTURE UNDER GLASS

The Council took note of an interim progress report by the Chairman of the Special Committee on Agriculture on work in connection with the proposal for a Regulation laying down measures for the rationalization of horticultural production under glass.

The various delegations commented on this matter and emphasized, for the most part, that the proposal should be viewed in a wider context taking account, in particular, of the questions of energy costs and national aids.

The Council instructed the Special Committee on Agriculture to examine this subject again in the light of the Council's discussions.

SUGAR SECTOR

The Council discussed the measures to be taken to supplement the provisions of the Regulation on the common organization of the markets in the sugar sector.

In this connection, the Council recorded its agreement in principle to a national structural aid to the production of sugar in the French overseas departments in view of the particular social, economic and climatic conditions obtaining in those departments. During the sugar marketing years 1975/76 to 1979/80, the French Republic is authorized to grant adaptation aid to sugar-cane producers and to the sugar-cane processing industry in the overseas departments. For both sectors together, such aid may not exceed 5 UA/100 kg of sugar, expressed as a value of white sugar. Aid may be granted only for a quantity of sugar not exceeding the basic quantity allocated to the French overseas departments.

At the end of the discussion, the Council agreed to instruct the Special Committee on Agriculture to re-examine the questions still outstanding in this sphere, so as to enable it to take the necessary decisions at its next meeting.

OLIVE OIL

The Council adopted a Regulation ⁽¹⁾ on the advance application of the threshold price for olive oil (146.96 UA/100 kg) for the 1975/76 marketing year on 27 June 1975 instead of on 1 November 1975, as originally planned.

This measure, together with the one already adopted by the Commission concerning the suspension of advance-fixing, proved necessary to stabilize the Community olive oil market with regard, firstly, to the level of stocks still held by producers and, secondly, to the number of recent applications for import licences, which far exceeded normal Community requirements, and also to the relationship existing between world and Community prices.

⁽¹⁾ The German delegation having abstained.

BEEF AND VEAL

In the context of its periodic review of the situation on the beef and veal market, the Council took note of a communication from the Irish delegation and a Commission communication regarding the latest market trends in this sector.

The Council noted that a certain number of new questions had arisen since the last meeting, namely

- the difficulty of maintaining arrangements as regards boning which complied with general Community standards;
- a request by one delegation to be allowed to sell quarters at reduced prices, so that it could free certain storage facilities before cattle were brought down from summer pasture;
- the advisability of temporarily suspending the purchase of cows by intervention bodies.

Finally, it agreed to request the Commission to keep an eye on market trends in this sector and to report back to the next agricultural Council.

WINE

- (a) The Council took note of an interim report by the Chairman of the Special Committee on Agriculture regarding progress on the Regulations amending the basic wine regulations.

During a brief debate, the Commission stated that it would shortly be submitting additional proposals, some of which would constitute amendments to its initial proposals. The Council agreed that the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee should be consulted immediately on these texts.

In the interests of keeping to the deadline of 1 August adopted at an earlier meeting, the Council agreed to instruct the Special Committee on Agriculture to push ahead with all speed in this sector so that a decision might be taken at the next meeting on agricultural questions on 21 and 22 July 1975.

- (b) Basing itself on a statement by the French delegation, the Council also held an exchange of views on the situation on the wine market, harvest forecasts and ways in which a wine slump could be avoided.

In the latter connection, it adopted a Regulation amending Regulation No 1036/75 laying down general rules governing the distillation of table wines during the period 7 June to 31 July 1975. This Regulation provides for additional distillation until 14 August 1975, since the original Regulation's purpose of restoring the balance on the wine market has not yet been fully achieved.

OVERALL MEDITERRANEAN APPROACH

The Council agreed in principle on certain measures for the organization of markets on which the agricultural concessions depend in the context of the overall Mediterranean approach. These measures concern in particular the processed fruit and vegetables sectors, citrus fruit and out of season fruit and vegetables, and wine.

Processed fruit and vegetables

The Council agreed to

- liberalize trade with third countries in products in this sector.
- apply a system of minimum import prices for tomato concentrates and a system of import licences.
- maintain until 31 December 1977 national measures on citrus fruit juices apart from grapefruit juices, the Council deciding before the end of that period on the arrangements to be introduced subsequently. If no decision is taken before the date mentioned, the previous arrangements will still apply.
- maintain until 31 December 1977 national arrangements for prunes.
- exclude from the scope of the new system trade with third countries in processed potatoes with a view to including them in a common organization of the market for all potatoes, the Council having to adopt the Regulation concerned before 31 December 1975.

- extend to all quantities of oranges for processing the processing premium provided for in Regulation No 2601/69:
- introduce a system of import certificates as provided for in Regulation No 193/75. Issue of the certificate would, however, take place only 5 working days after the request was filed and the period of validity would be restricted to 75 days.

The list of products covered by this system, amendments to which would be decided on by the Council in accordance with the voting procedure laid down in Article 43(2) of the Treaty, would be as follows:

ex 20.02 C	peeled tomatoes
ex 20.06 B	peaches
ex 20.07 B	tomato juice
20.02 A	mushrooms
ex 08.12	prunes (applicable from 1 January 1978
20.02 G	peas; beans in pod
ex 08.10 A	raspberries
ex 08.11 B	
ex 20.03	
ex 20.05 C	
ex 20.06 B	
ex 20.06 B	pears

The Council also agreed to introduce

- supervisory arrangements under Regulation No 109/70 in respect of a list of sensitive products, with the exception of products covered by the system of import certificates;

- the possibility of applying a system of floor prices for imports, as envisaged in the Commission's proposal for a Regulation already submitted to the Council. The products to be covered by this system would, however, have to be determined by the Council, at a later date, as and when necessary.

As regards tinned pineapple, the Council agreed to adopt the Regulation introducing a system of production aid for tinned pineapple, to be granted by the Member State on whose territory the tinned pineapple is produced. Production aid will be granted only to those processors who undertake to pay a minimum price to pineapple producers, the level of which will be established by the Council.

Finally, the Council noted that

- following the introduction of a system of trade with non-member countries, the Commission undertakes to keep the situation in the processed fruit and vegetables sector under surveillance, in particular as regards the influence of the cost of the basic product, and to take all the necessary measures to overcome any difficulties;
- if difficulties should arise in the fruit and vegetable processing industries following the introduction of this system, assistance from certain Community financial instruments (the Guidance section of the EAGGF, the European Regional Development Fund) could be envisaged, provided that the action proposed by the Member States falls within the scope of the regulations governing the said instruments.

Fresh fruit and vegetables

As regards oranges and small citrus fruits (mandarins, clementines etc.) the Council agreed to amend Regulation No 2511/69 (from the entry into force of the Mediterranean agreements) as follows:

- an increase of 11% in the amount of the marketing premiums for the 1975/76 marketing year in keeping with the increase in basic and purchase prices, which gives the following amounts:

	<u>UA/100 kg</u>
- Loro, Marecco, Ovale, Belladone, Navel, Valencia Late	7.8
- Sanguinello	6.7
- Sanguigno, Bianca comune	4.4
- Mandarins	6.7
- Clementines	3.9

(on the other hand the maintenance of the reference prices at the levels fixed for the 1974/75 marketing year).

- for the following marketing years, the updating of the marketing premiums by adjusting them by a percentage not greater than the variations in basic and purchase prices of the products considered.

It was also agreed to amend Regulation No 1035/72 involving, as from the implementation of the new system of marketing premiums for oranges and small citrus fruits, the limitation of any increase in reference prices to a percentage not greater than the difference between that adopted for the increase in the basic and purchase prices and that adopted for the increase in marketing premiums.

The Council also recommends strengthening the system of reference prices in this sector.

To this end, the Council agreed to amend Regulation No 1035/72 by including provisions affording the possibility of levying a compensatory tax on products in respect of which a reference price is fixed not only, as laid down under present arrangements, when entry prices for such products are below the reference price on two consecutive market days, but also when, for a certain period, entry prices are alternately above and below the reference price.

As regards lemons, the Council agreed to

- amend Regulation No 2511/69 (as from the entry into force of the Mediterranean agreement) by introducing, for the 1975/76 marketing year, a marketing premium for lemons of 4.7 UA/100 kg (1.2 UA for there not being a contractual price and 3.5 UA for transport costs not having been included in the reference prices);
- amend Article 23(2) of Regulation No 1035/72 to offset, for that part of the 1975/76 marketing year still to run after the entry into force of the Mediterranean agreements, the non-inclusion of transport costs in the reference prices for lemons;
- review the situation for subsequent marketing years in the light of the results of the study to be carried out by the Commission on the situation on the market in lemons in the Community and to take appropriate steps with a view to remedying any difficulties which might occur in respect of the disposal of that product either in its fresh state or after processing.

As regards aubergines, avocados and fresh pineapple, the Council noted that the Commission had undertaken to follow market trends for these products and that it would either take or propose to the Council appropriate measures should these products encounter marketing difficulties in the Community.

Wine

In the case of wine imported from the Maghreb countries, when a quantity submitted to customs does not observe the reference price,

- the customs authorities are obliged to apply the full duty to this quantity. This obligation will be included in a Council Regulation based on Article 43 which will also prescribe the necessary document together with the practical rules enabling the customs authorities to apply this measure by simply comparing figures.

In order to enable the customs authorities to operate in such a manner, the document in question should consist of a certificate similar to that used for Emmenthal cheeses certifying that the free at frontier price has been observed. Also, the concept of the free at frontier price should be defined in an implementing regulation adopted in accordance with the Management Committee procedure. Finally, the free at frontier price could be supervised in accordance with the same principles as those applied for the rules governing the value for customs purposes.

- the customs authorities shall notify the Commission immediately in the event of the full duty being applied (telex)
- the Management Committee shall examine cases where the full

duty has been applied and notification given so that, if such cases are found to be significant, a Commission decision can be taken by the Management Committee procedure to:

- apply the compensatory tax on all imports originating in a country in accordance with Article 9 of Regulation (EEC) No 816/70,
- and/or re-establish the full duty on all imports originating in the said country.

Any measures decided upon will be reviewed monthly.

As regards imports from other non-member countries which have undertaken to comply with the reference price pursuant to Article 9(3) of Regulation No 816/70 and which are not eligible for tariff preferences, the present arrangements will be strengthened in the following ways:

- when a quantity submitted for customs clearance does not observe the reference price, the customs authorities shall immediately inform the Commission of the cases established (by telex).
- the Management Committee shall examine the cases established so that, if such cases are found to be significant, a Commission decision can be taken by the Management Committee procedure for the purpose of applying the compensatory tax laid down for each consignment imported from the country in question, in accordance with Article 9 of Regulation No 816/70.

Any measures decided on will be re-examined monthly.

New version of Article 33a concerning special distillation

Where the volume of existing stocks in the Community, plus the volume of imports of wine from Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia, causes disturbance on the Community market, a special distillation operation for table wines shall be carried out; it shall be confined to producers' organizations.

This distillation will be carried out at a price which will ensure that producers are compensated.

The Council, acting on a proposal from the Commission and in accordance with the voting procedure laid down in Article 43 (2) of the Treaty, shall adopt general rules for the application of this Article before 1 August 1975.

Implementing rules, and in particular the decision relating to the special distillation operation, shall be adopted in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 7 of Regulation No 24.

In an interpretative statement, the Council agreed to recognize that Article 33a does not derogate from Article 14. Consequently, since each of these two operations (safeguard clause and special distillation) is designed to meet specific and particular conditions, recourse to one does not preclude recourse to the other.

The following details of the special distillation operation are to feature in the proposal for general rules to be adopted by the Council under Article 33a (2) of Regulation 816/70

1. Criteria for establishing measures:

1.1. Definition of the concept of "Available stocks";

- the findings of the estimated balance sheet for the marketing year;
- where appropriate the findings of the amended estimated balance sheet.

1.2. Criteria for evaluating disturbance of the market:

When the market price for red wine which is comparable and in competition with wine from the Maghreb countries remains, for two consecutive weeks, lower than the trigger price.

2. The volume of wine benefiting from special distillation will be determined in keeping with the text of the new Article 33a in the context of the implementation procedures to be proposed by the Commission.

3. Technical aspects of special distillation:

3.1. The types of wine benefiting from special distillation:

Wine which is in direct competition with Maghreb wines.

3.2. Machinery for allocating quantities of table wines to be distilled to producers' associations:

The quota will be calculated on the basis of the volume of red wine of more than 11° strength as compared with the total volume produced by each of the producer associations.

3.3. Price which will be paid for wine delivered for special distillation:

Trigger price.

VARIOUS STATEMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

The Council took note of the statements and communications relating to the following subjects:

- aid to hops: establishment of a market stabilization fund;
- problem of price differentiation in the colza sector according to the erucic acid content of the different varieties;
- situation on the milk products market;
- action to be taken on the decision by the European Council in Dublin on milk products from New Zealand;
- question of the stabilization of the market in eggs and poultry;
- application of the safeguard clause in the olive oil sector;
- situation on the wheat market;
- grubbing-up grants for certain varieties of fruit trees;
- progress in respect of the organization of the market in mutton and lamb,
- regulation introducing a temporary system of aids for the private storage of certain fishery products;
- conclusion of long-term contracts in particular in the sugar sector.

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

- amending Regulation (EEC) No 229/73 as regards the "accession" compensatory amounts for cereals and the coefficients to be applied thereto;
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 1059/69 laying down the trade arrangements applicable to certain goods resulting from the processing of agricultural products;
- on the opening, allocation and administration of the Community tariff quota of 30,000 head of heifers and cows, not intended for slaughter, of certain mountain breeds falling within subheading ex 01.02 A II(b) 2 of the Common Customs Tariff;
- on the opening, allocation and administration of the Community tariff quota of 5,000 head of bulls, cows and heifers, not intended for slaughter, of certain alpine breeds, falling within subheading ex 01.02 A II(b) 2 of the Common Customs Tariff;
- fixing the main intervention centres for oil seeds for the 1975/1976 marketing year and the derived intervention prices applicable thereto;
- fixing for the 1975/1976 marketing year the monthly increase in the target and intervention prices for oil seeds;
- on the compensatory amounts for colza and rape seeds.

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

- the fourth Council Decision on the equivalence of field inspections carried out in third countries on seed-producing crops;
- the fourth Council Decision on the equivalence of seed produced in third countries;
- the second Council Decision on the equivalence of seed potatoes produced in third countries.

PRESS RELEASE

LIBRARY

347th Council meeting

- Foreign Affairs -

Luxembourg, 24 June 1975

President: Mr Garret FITZGERALD
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ireland

Luxembourg:

Mr Gaston THORN

President of the Government,
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Netherlands:

Mr M. VAN DER STOEL

Minister for Foreign Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr James CALLAGHAN

Secretary of State,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Mr Peter SHORE

Secretary of State for Trade

Commission:

Mr François-Xavier ORTOLI

President

Sir Christopher SOAMES

Vice-President

Mr Claude CHEYSSON

Member

Mr Albert BORSCHETTE

Member

REFERENDUM IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

The Council noted with satisfaction a statement by Mr CALLAGHAN, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of the United Kingdom, on the post-referendum situation in the United Kingdom and on his Government's attitude and aspirations with regard to its future role within the Community Institutions.

3/1/75

787 e/75 (Presse 68) ic

.../...

CANADA

The Council was generally in favour of the approach proposed by the Commission regarding the conclusion of an outline economic and commercial co-operation agreement with Canada.

It instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine the Commission communication in this positive light so that the Council might be able to take a decision on the opening of negotiations as soon as possible.

GREECE

The Council agreed to acknowledge receipt of the letters in which Mr C. KARAMANLIS, Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic, **submitted** Greece's application for accession to the European Communities.

The Council also asked for the Commission's opinion on this application.

PORTUGAL

The Council discussed possible ways of furthering Portugal's development and, with a view to taking a decision on this point at its meeting on 15 July 1975, instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine what procedures and sources might be used to make financial assistance available to Portugal.

The Council declared itself ready to hold a ministerial meeting with Portugal as soon after its meeting on July 15 as was consistent with its other international commitments.

RAW MATERIALS AND PREPARATION FOR THE 7th SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Council briefly discussed the problems of raw materials and preparations for the 7th Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly, following which it instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its studies on this question in anticipation of the Council's debates at its next meeting and entry of this item on the agenda of the European Council.

NEXT MEETING OF THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL

The Council continued its preparation for the next meeting of the Heads of Government meeting within the Council of the Community, which is to take place in Brussels on 16 and 17 July 1975.

ACP and OCT

Interim arrangements

The Council - or in certain cases the representatives of the Governments of the Member States - approved a whole series of measures designed to provide for the advance implementation on 1 July 1975 of the arrangements established by the ACP-EEC Convention of Lomé.

These measures were:

- a Council Regulation on the advance implementation of certain provisions of the ACP-EEC Convention of Lomé relating to trade in goods
- a Council Regulation on the arrangements applicable to agricultural products and certain goods resulting from the processing of agricultural products, originating in the ACP States or the OCT
- a Decision by the representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the ECSC meeting in Council opening tariff preferences for products within the province of that Community originating in the ACP States and the OCT.

These measures were a result of the undertaking given by the Community on 28 February last in Lomé that it would implement certain provisions of the ACP-EEC Convention on trade in goods unilaterally as from 1 July.

In this context, the Council also approved the arrangements by which rum originating in the ACP States will be governed until 31 December 1975.

These arrangements provide for a Community quota to be admitted free of duty.

The Regulation on agricultural products and the Decision on products within the province of the ECSC likewise apply to products originating in the OCT.

The Council also adopted a Regulation on interim trade arrangements with the OCT subject to the formulation of a supplementary Regulation on rum originating in the OCT.

Exports of ACP beef and veal to the Community

Certain ACP States, particularly Botswana, had on several occasions drawn the Council's attention to the major difficulties they were encountering as a result of the critical situation of their exports of beef and veal towards the Community, these being traditional exports and the mainstay of their economy.

In response to these moves and requests from several Member States, the Council held a detailed examination of measures which could be introduced to assist these countries which have particularly low incomes without the principles governing the operation of the common organization of the market in beef and veal being jeopardized.

To this end, the Council agreed to adopt provisions whereby levies will be reduced by an amount corresponding to 90% of the average levies actually charged, although this measure will apply only where

the exporter States concerned (Botswana, Swaziland, Kenya and Madagascar) have actually charged an export tax of an amount equal to the abovementioned reduction in the levy.

Internal agreements relating to the ACP-EEC Convention of Lomé

With a view to assuring implementation within the Community of the ACP-EEC Convention of Lomé, the representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting in Council approved

- firstly, the internal agreement on the measures and procedures required for implementation of the ACP-EEC Convention of Lomé,
- secondly, the internal agreement on the financing and administration of Community aid.

These two instruments, which will be signed as soon as possible, will be submitted for ratification in the Member States and will enter into force on the same day as the Convention of Lomé.

OVERALL MEDITERRANEAN APPROACH

The Council, having been informed of the completion of proceedings on the overall Mediterranean approach by the Council composed of Ministers of Agriculture, noted that the Commission was now in possession of the directives necessary for concluding negotiations with the Maghreb countries.

The Council also noted that the Commission felt that it would be possible for negotiations with Spain to be pursued shortly and that the negotiations with Malta could also be resumed in the near future on the basis of the recent Commission proposals which the Permanent Representatives Committee had been instructed to study with this in mind.

Finall , the Council undertook to devote itself actively to the elaboration of the negotiating directives for the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Lebanon, Jordan and Syria.

WORLD FOOD COUNCIL

The Council proceeded with preparations at Community level for the World Food Council which is meeting in Rome until 27 June 1975.

SRI LANKA

The Council noted that the outcome of negotiations with Sri Lanka for the conclusion of a commercial co-operation agreement with that country raised no further problems for the Community and that the procedures for the signing and conclusion of this agreement could thus go ahead without delay.

787 e/75 (Presse 68) moy/MCC/ic

.../...

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR LINER CONFERENCES

After a brief discussion, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to study the Commission proposal of 18 June on the opening of negotiations in respect of the United Nations Convention on a Code of Conduct for Liner Conferences.

PRESS RELEASE

LIBRARY

348th Council meeting

- Energy -

Luxembourg, 26 June 1975

President: Mr Peter BARRY
Minister for Transport
and Energy of Ireland

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

Belgium:

Mr Joseph VAN DER MEULEN	Ambassador, Permanent Representative
Mr Etienne DAVIGNON	Director-General

Denmark:

Mr Jens CHRISTENSEN	State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
---------------------	---

Germany:

Mr Detlev Karsten ROHWEDDER	State Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs
-----------------------------	--

France:

Mr Michel d'ORNANO	Minister for Industry
--------------------	-----------------------

Ireland:

Mr Peter BARRY	Minister for Transport and Energy
Mr Justin KEATING	Minister for Industry and Commerce

Italy:

Mr Carlo DONAT CATTIN	Minister for Industry, Trade and Craft Trades
-----------------------	--

Luxembourg:

Mr Marcel MART

Minister for Economic Affairs,
Transport and Tourism

Netherlands:

Mr R.F.M. LUBBERS

Minister for Economic Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr Anthony WEDGWOOD BENN

Secretary of State for Energy

Commission:

Mr Henri SIMONET

Vice-President

DEVELOPMENT OF ENERGY RESOURCES

After a detailed discussion of the policy to be adopted in this sector the Council agreed to instruct the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its examination of the two Commission communications on this matter:

- main guidelines for a policy for developing energy resources inside the Community and within a wider context of international co-operation
- financing of the energy policy by the Community

and to decide, in the light of its discussions on this subject, on the advisability of holding a Council meeting before the end of July or in early autumn with a view to adopting the necessary guidelines in this sector.

COMMON ARRANGEMENTS APPLICABLE TO IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF
HYDROCARBONS

The Council had a general discussion on whether to introduce common arrangements for imports and exports of hydrocarbons. The discussion enabled the delegations to state their positions on this matter.

At the close of the discussion the Commission announced its intention of reviewing the details of its proposal in the light of information given to certain delegations.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to resume examination of this subject at its level.

SUPPORT FOR JOINT HYDROCRABON PROSPECTING PROJECTS

The Council undertook a policy discussion on the proposal for a Regulation on support for joint hydrocarbon prospecting projects.

The discussion dealt in particular with the conditions under which such a support system could be envisaged, the geographical limits that might have to be imposed on the system and the guarantees which would have to be provided for such support with regard to the yield from any deposits discovered.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its work in the light of the policies emerging from the discussion, in order to enable the Council to act on this proposal as soon as possible.

FINANCIAL ASPECTS OF JOINT PROJECTS IN THE HYDROCARBONS SECTOR

The Council took note of a Commission communication specifying that the amount of 25 MUA initially set aside in 1973 for a system of Community support for technological development projects in the hydrocarbons sector was now inadequate for Community requirements in view of the considerable changes which had occurred since 1973, in particular in the cost of technological development activities in the hydrocarbons sector.

EURATOM LOANS FOR THE FINANCING OF NUCLEAR POWER STATIONS

The Council discussed the Commission proposal on the floating of Euratom loans by the Commission for the purpose of making a Community contribution to the financing of nuclear power stations.

The Council expressed a favourable opinion on the proposal and asked the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its work on this subject with all dispatch so as to allow the Council to act on the proposal as soon as possible.

EUROPEAN CO-ORDINATION OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SUMMER-TIME SYSTEM

In April the French delegation forwarded to the Council a memorandum urging Member States to adopt jointly a summer time system; in a speech to this meeting the delegation expanded on the information given in the memorandum.

The Council discussed the question and instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to assess the advantages and disadvantages of establishing such a system, with particular reference to energy saving aspects.

REDUCTION OF OIL CONSUMPTION

In the context of the reduction of oil consumption, the Council adopted the Resolution on the setting of a short-term target for 1975 and received a further communication from the Commission on energy saving targets for 1976-1977.

1. The text of the Resolution is as follows:

"THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community;

Having regard to the draft from the Commission;

Having noted the Commission communication entitled "Energy savings - short-term targets" which sets out, inter alia, measures for reducing oil consumption;

Considering the Council Resolutions of 17 December 1974 on Community energy policy objectives for 1985 and on the Community action programme on the rational utilization of energy;

Whereas reduction of the rate of growth of internal energy consumption by measures for the rational and economical use of energy without jeopardizing social and economic growth objectives is one of the aims of the Community's energy policy;

Whereas energy resources must be used rationally in order to conserve them as much as possible;

Whereas by reducing oil imports the Community can alleviate the burden on balances of payments resulting from the present level of oil prices;

Whereas it therefore appears desirable to establish a target for the reduction of oil consumption in the Community;

Whereas the Community should reserve the right also to set a short-term target for subsequent years.

1. APPROVES, in the light of Member States' current forecasts, the target set, namely to reduce the consumption of oil within the Community in 1975 to 500 million metric tons, that is to say a reduction of the order of 9% as compared with 1973;
2. REQUESTS the Member States, with a view to attaining this target, to continue the efforts already under way in this field and to take whatever measures are suited to their individual situations;
3. REQUESTS the Commission to submit a report to the Council on the attainment of this target and on measures taken by the Member States.

4. REQUESTS the Commission to submit to the Council before 30 June 1975 a proposal for a short-term target for the reduction of internal consumption in 1976.
5. AGREES to discuss this proposal before 31 July 1975 and to take a definitive decision on it as soon as possible and not later than 30 November 1975."

2. With regard to the 1976-77 targets, the Council received a communication from the Commission, delivered orally by Mr SIMONET, Vice-President.

The communication indicated that it would be possible to achieve the 9 % reduction in oil consumption in 1975, thanks mainly to favourable economic trends and climatic conditions. To attain the main target for 1976, which was to hold consumption down to the 1973 level despite the growth in the economy, and to achieve the 1977 objective, the Commission recommended measures aimed at effectively reducing the part played by non-useful energy consumption, viz. wastage and low efficiency.

The Council once more emphasized how important it felt this problem to be and confirmed its wish to achieve concrete results by the autumn. The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine the draft Resolution which the Commission intended to submit on this subject.

VARIOUS DECISIONS

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

- the Regulations
 - on the safeguard measures provided for in the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the State of Israel
 - establishing Community supervision of imports of certain products originating in the State of Israel
 - opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for apricot pulp falling within subheading ex 20.06 B II (c) (1) (aa) of the Common Customs Tariff, originating in Israel
 - on imports of fresh lemons originating in Israel
 - derogating from the definition of the concept of "originating products" to take account of the special situation of Mauritius with regard to certain textile products
- the Directive amending Directives Nos 66/400/EEC, 66/401/EEC, 66/402/EEC, 66/403/EEC and 69/208/EEC on the marketing of beet seed, fodder plant seed, cereal seed, seed potatoes and seed of oil and fibre plants.
- the Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the reverse and speedometer equipment of motor vehicles
- the second Directive amending Directive No 66/404/EEC on the marketing of forest reproductive material
- the Decision approving a proposal for EDF financing of improvements to the landing strip of the Bonaire airfield (Netherlands Antilles)

The Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the European Coal and Steel Community, meeting in Council, adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Decision opening tariff preferences for products coming under the ECSC and originating in Israel.

PRESS RELEASE

349th Council Meeting

- Research -

Luxembourg, 26 June 1975

President: Mr Justin KEATING,
Minister for Industry and Commerce
of Ireland

26.VI.75

Netherlands :

Mr R.F.M. LUBBERS

Minister for Economic Affairs

United Kingdom :

Mr Anthony WEDGWOOD BENN

Secretary of State for Energy

Lord BESWICK

Minister of State,
Department of Industry

Commission :

Mr Guido BRUNNER

Member

TECHNOLOGICAL PROBLEMS OF NUCLEAR SAFETY

The Council discussed this question on the basis of an oral progress report by the Chairman of the Permanent Representatives Committee. The debate revealed a trend broadly in favour of a draft Resolution on the intensification and acceleration of co-operation between Member States on a Community level in this sensitive sector.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its preparation of the draft Resolution with all despatch so that the Council might adopt it before the holidays.

REVIEW OF THE JRC MULTIANNUAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING PROGRAMME
AND THE NEW ACTIVITIES FOR THE PETTEN ESTABLISHMENT

At the close of a detailed discussion, eight delegations agreed on new proposals relating to the review of the JRC multiannual research and training programme and to new activities for the Petten establishment.

The German delegation said it was unable, at this juncture, to agree on these proposals and entered a reservation on them. It stated that it would announce as soon as possible whether it could change its position on this subject. If it could not, this item would be entered afresh on the Council's agenda.

The arrangements which met with the approval of eight delegations consisted of the following aspects :

- review of the allocations for the objectives of the JRC multiannual programme with no change in activities. In order to compensate for the effects of inflation, the maximum amount of the expenditure commitment for the multiannual programme would be increased to 216 MUA ;

- revision of certain objectives within a constant total sum (essentially technical adjustments);
- preparation of future JRC programmes (to this end, an appropriation of 0.9 MUA is provided to cover expenditure in 1975 and 1976);
- new activities to be undertaken at the Petten Establishment - research in the spheres of "high temperature materials" and "reference standards and substances". The additional resources involved under these programmes would be 5.2 MUA and 70 staff (some of which are entered in the 1975 budget).

MANAGEMENT AND STORAGE OF RADIOACTIVE WASTE

The Council adopted a five-year environmental programme concerning the management and storage of radioactive waste. The aim of the programme will be the joint development and perfecting of a system of management of radioactive waste produced by the nuclear industry which, at its various stages, affords man and his environment the best protection possible.

This programme, to which an amount of 19.16 MUA is allocated, will have a staff of 4 employees and will cover work to

- solve certain technological problems posed by the processing, storage, and disposal of radioactive waste.

Processing :

- medium activity solid waste : coating with plastic resins;
- high-activity solid waste: decontamination and conditioning of irradiated fuel element cladding;
- high activity solid waste: immobilization of calcined waste from fission products in a metal matrix;
- plutonium-contaminated solid waste: incineration process;
- comparative study of the properties of various materials suitable for the immobilization of high-activity waste.

Storage and disposal :

- storage of solidified radioactive waste in engineered structures;
- disposal of radioactive waste in suitable geological formations, including those formations already being studied ;
- storage of gaseous waste.

Study of an advanced management model :

- separation and recycling of long-life waste (actinides).
- to contribute towards the definition of a general framework (legal, administrative and financial) within which implementation of storage and disposal of radioactive waste will be effective.

COMMON POLICY ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

The Council took note of a statement by the Belgian State Secretary on the progress of the preparation of a common policy on science and technology.

The Belgian State Secretary emphasized in this connection that the Community was half way through the period laid down in the Council Resolutions of 14 January 1974 for preparing the implementation of a common policy in the sphere of science and technology.

These preparations included, inter alia, a comparison and examination of Member States' national policies and of the objectives aimed at by them, in order to work out common objectives.

The Belgian State Secretary said that this aspect of the work of preparation had lagged behind the programme of work appended to the Resolutions of 14 January 1974.

He stressed that the comparison of national research policies must be speeded up and given enough real impetus by focussing on certain sectors, in line with the wish expressed by the CREST Committee at its meeting on 10 January 1975.

789 e/75 (Presse 70) kin/JM/ic

He also stated his concern that the Community should avoid theoretical discussion and academic activity in the field of research. The target to be achieved promptly and one which would justify the preparatory activity referred to in the Résolutions of 14 January 1974 was the implementation of specific research projects.

The State Secretary also drew his colleagues' attention to the problems arising from the great number and, on occasions, from the insufficiently precise terms of reference, of the various working parties and committees responsible for the Community's scientific research.

In view of the importance and complexity of the matters which he raised, the Belgian State Secretary asked the Council to fix a fresh date for a meeting to discuss the abovementioned points in detail. In his opinion, the next Council meeting on energy should also concern itself with preparations for the Joint Research Centre's new multiannual programme and adopt the multiannual programme on thermonuclear fusion.

ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Seven delegations agreed on the energy research and development programme proposed by the Commission, involving a maximum amount of 59 MUA, a staff of 27 and a period of four years from 1 July 1975.

The programme would be reviewed before the end of 1976 so as to allow the implementation of any amendments to the programme resulting from this review in early 1977 at the latest.

It would also be agreed to make available a first budgetary instalment of 12 MUA reserved for the first stage of the programme, from 1 July 1975 to 31 December 1976, and to decide on the second budgetary instalment after the programme had been reviewed.

The German delegation reserved its position at this juncture; it will inform the Council, after its Government has made a fresh examination, whether it will be able to give its agreement. If not, the matter will be submitted to the Council afresh.

The Italian delegation also maintained its reservation on this matter at this stage of the proceedings.

The technical content of this programme, in the form of indirect action, will cover the following sectors:

- energy conservation (maximum amount 11.38 MUA);
- production and utilization of hydrogen (maximum amount 13.24 MUA);
- solar energy (maximum amount 17.50 MUA);
- geothermal energy (maximum amount 13.00 MUA);
- systems analysis: development of models (amount 3.88 MUA).