

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

PRESS RELEASES

PRESIDENCY: ITALY

JULY-DECEMBER 1975

Meetings and press releases November-December 1975

Meeting number	Subject	Date
366 th	Foreign Affairs	5-6 November 1975
367 th	Agriculture	10-11 November 1975
368 th	Economics/Finance	17 November 1975
369 th	Tax Questions	24 November 1975
370 th	Budget	3 December 1975
371 st	Environment	8 December 1975
372 nd	Foreign Affairs	9 December 1975
373 rd	Education	10 December 1975
374 th	Transport	10-11 December 1975
375 th	Research	15 December 1975
376 th	Agriculture	15-16 December 1975
377 th	Community Patent	15 December 1975
378 th	Social Affairs	18 December 1975

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

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366th Council meeting

- Foreign Affairs -

Brussels, 5 and 6 November 1975

President : Mr Mariano RUMOR,
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Italian Republic

1284/75 (Presse 119)

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean DONDELINGER

Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

Netherlands:

Mr Max VAN DER STOEL

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Laurens Jan BRINKHORST

State Secretary for Foreign
Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr James CALLAGHAN

Secretary of State for Foreign
and Commonwealth Affairs

Mr Roy HATTERSLEY

Minister of State,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Commission:

Mr François-Xavier ORTOLI

President

Mr Albert BORSCHETTE

Member

Mr Finn Olav GUNDELACH

Member

Mr Claude CHEYSSON

Member

MEETING WITH A DELEGATION FROM THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

The Council received a delegation from the European Parliament consisting of its President, Mr SPENALE, and Mr GIRAUDO, Mr RADOUX and Lord GLADWYN, Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Political Affairs Committee, and Mr PATIJN, Rapporteur, and discussed the question of the direct elections of Members of the European Parliament.

The Parliamentary delegation took the opportunity, during this wide-ranging discussion, of replying to questions from members of the Council and clarifying certain points relating to the Parliament's position on the major questions as set out in its Resolution. (Patijn report).

In closing the discussion, the President of the Council said that the Council would keep in mind the extremely useful points which had been raised, when drawing up its report for the European Council.

Finally, both Presidents expressed satisfaction at the atmosphere and spirit in which the meeting had been held, and pointed out that it was a further example of very close collaboration between the two Institutions.

5.XI.1975

ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT BY DIRECT
UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE

The Council examined the main aspects of this matter, such as electoral procedure, the date of elections, the composition of the European Parliament and the status of Members of the European Parliament on the basis of a report by the ad hoc Working Party responsible for examining the question of electing Members of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage.

As a result of discussions, the Council was able to finalize the report which it will submit to the European Council on 1 and 2 December.

PASSPORT UNION

The Council was informed of a report on current progress regarding the attainment of a passport union for the countries of the Community.

Following a short discussion, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to finalize the report to be drawn up on this matter for the next meeting of the European Council.

LONG-TERM CONTRACTS FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

The Council held a wide-ranging exchange of views regarding long-term contracts for the supply of agricultural products, at the end of which it recognized the political expediency of concluding such an agreement between the Community and the Arab Republic of Egypt, bearing in mind the discussions of the Council of Ministers of Agriculture and under the conditions laid down in the present debate.

The Council agreed to instruct the Permanent Representatives Committee to use the unanimous guidelines defined by the Council of Ministers of Agriculture and the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs as a basis for finalizing the directives authorizing the Commission to commence negotiations with the Arab Republic of Egypt, so that these directives could be formally adopted at the earliest opportunity.

CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION

The Council took note of the progress made in preparing the general position to be adopted by the Community at the Conference on International Economic Co-operation which is to open in Paris on 16 December 1975.

The statement of the Community's position will comprise a general introduction and four sections on energy, raw materials, development and financial problems.

At this meeting, the Council concentrated on a number of important questions submitted to it by the Permanent Representatives Committee.

After noting that considerable progress had already been made, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to complete the task of preparing the Community's general position by 20 November at the latest, so that the draft may be submitted for the approval of the Community authorities before the Conference opens.

GENERALIZED PREFERENCES

The Council discussed the generalized preferences scheme for 1976. It established guidelines to be dealt with in consultations with the Associated States, in particular the African, Caribbean and Pacific States signatory to the Convention of Lomé.

The Council will take a final decision once these consultation procedures have been completed.

GUIDELINES EVOLVED AT LUCCA

The Council formally confirmed the guidelines on Community matters evolved by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs at their meeting in Lucca.

These guidelines are mainly concerned with the internal organization of the work of the Council, co-ordination of its work in the various sectors of Community activity and the convening of joint meetings with the Ministers responsible for specific sectors.

EEC--TURKEY ASSOCIATION COUNCIL

The Council accepted Turkey's invitation to hold the next meeting of the Association Council in Ankara in February 1976 on a date as yet to be fixed and instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue with the preparation of the next ministerial meeting of the EEC-Turkey Association Council, with particular reference to the agricultural re-examination under Article 35 of the Additional Protocol and the questions of social security connected with the implementation of Article 39 of that Protocol.

OVERALL MEDITERRANEAN APPROACH

The Council was pleased to learn that the Commission hoped shortly to resume negotiations with the three Maghreb countries and to conclude them, if possible, by the end of the year.

It then discussed the opening of negotiations with the Machrak countries -- the Arab Republic of Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon -- and instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to finalize the negotiating directives in this matter as soon as possible.

The Council also heard a communication from the Commission on the situation in Lebanon which drew the attention of the Member States to the financial difficulties facing UNWRA.

OTHER DECISIONS

The Council approved the second letter of amendment to the draft general budget of the European Communities for the financial year 1976.

This letter of amendment, which will be forwarded without delay to the European Parliament for inclusion in its discussions on the draft budget, follows the Council decisions to grant aid to Portugal (12 MUA for interest rate subsidies) and to assist the trade promotion of products from non-associated developing countries (3.5 MUA).

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On being consulted by the Commission, the Council agreed, under Article 5 (1) of Decision 3/71/ECSC, to the Member States' granting financial assistance to the coal industry in 1975.

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FOOD AID

The Council approved the grant of emergency food aid to UNRWA for the supply of 5,000 more tonnes of cereals. This grant came under the Food Aid Convention - 1974/75 implementation plan.

Pursuant to its decision in principle on emergency food aid to Angolan refugees in Portugal, the Council recorded its agreement to

- food aid amounting to 550 tonnes of skimmed milk powder and 400 tonnes of butteroil to be transported via the WFP (to be delivered cif or fob + flat-rate contribution) and to be charged to 1975 programme reserves;

- financial aid amounting to 150,000 UA to the League of Red Cross Societies to buy clothes, medicines and other vital goods.

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the European Communities, Regulations on the opening; allocation and administration of the Common Customs Tariff quotas for

- Setubal muscatel wines falling within subheading ex 22.05 of the common customs tariff, coming from Portugal (1976);
- Port wine, falling within subheading ex 22.05 of the common customs tariff, coming from Portugal (1976).
- Madeira wine, falling within subheading ex 22.05 of the common customs tariff, coming from Portugal (1976).

The overall figures for these quotas remain the same as for 1975.

The Council also adopted, in the official languages of the European Communities, the Regulation extending for the fourth time Regulations (EEC) Nos 2313/71 and 2823/71 on the temporary partial suspension of the Common Customs Tariff duties on wine originating in and coming from Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey.

The Council finally adopted, in the official languages of the European Communities, the Decision authorizing the Commission to negotiate the Community's participation in the scientific and technical co-operation project on electronic traffic aids on major roads (COST project 30).

PRESS RELEASE

367th meeting of the Council
- Agriculture -
Brussels, 10 and 11 November 1975
Chairman: Mr Giovanni MARCORA,
Minister for Agriculture
of the Italian Republic

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Luxembourg:

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

Netherlands:

Mr A.P.L.M.M. VAN DER STEE	Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries
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United Kingdom:

Mr Frederick PEART	Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
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Commission:

Mr P.J. LARDINOIS	Member
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PREMIUMS FOR PRODUCERS OF BOVINE ANIMALS

While awaiting the opinion of the European Parliament, the Council held a preliminary discussion of the Commission proposal for amending the Regulation of 27 February 1975 establishing a system of premiums for producers of bovine animals.

The aim of the proposal is to charge 50% (i.e. 62.5 MUA) of the expenditure hitherto borne by the Guarantee section of the EAGGF to the Guidance Section for 1975 and 1976.

The Council agreed to discuss this proposal again shortly.

11.XI.75

WINE

During a short discussion, the Council took stock of current market price trends and of progress in the procedure concerning the French tax on wine imports from Italy. It was agreed to continue examining this item at a forthcoming meeting.

The Council also instructed the Special Committee on Agriculture to set to examining the Commission proposal on the granting of a conversion premium in the wine sector.

11.XI.75

CEREALS AND RICE

The Council briefly discussed the Regulations amending the basic Regulations on the common organization of the markets in cereals and rice.

The purpose of these Regulations is to re-introduce the possibility of granting production refunds for maize groats and meal and for rice broken intended for the brewing industry.

In view of the fact that the European Parliament has not yet delivered its Opinion on these two Regulations, the Council agreed to continue its examination of this item at a forthcoming meeting.

MILK PRODUCTS

In view of the available Community supplies of butter, the Council agreed to the Regulation prohibiting the use of inward processing arrangements for certain milk products (butter and butteroil). This Regulation makes provision for suspending inward processing arrangements until 31 March 1977, from a date to be decided by the Management Committee procedure.

After certain technical aspects have been finalized, the Council will formally adopt the Regulation at its next meeting.

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The Council took formal note of a Commission communication concerning special arrangements for New Zealand butter after 1977, which the Commission forwarded pursuant to Protocol 18 of the Act of Accession. After a brief exchange of views, the Council agreed to take a decision on this subject at a later meeting.

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The Council signified its agreement to the proposal submitted by the Commission on 10 November amending the Regulation regarding the CIF price to be respected upon importation of New Zealand butter and cheese into the United Kingdom.

The prices to be respected, from 1 January 1976, will be:

for butter	107.16 UA/100 kg
for cheese	92.52 UA/100 kg.

STOCKTAKING OF THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY

The Council once again examined in detail the various problems with regard to the stocktaking of the common agricultural policy.

The general opinion of the Council was that this stock-taking should be regarded as positive; agricultural policy is currently the most advanced of the Community policies and has shown the best results as regards the development of production and of trade, the protection of farmers' incomes, security of supplies and stability of prices.

Nonetheless, it is inevitable that such a large-scale undertaking should give rise to difficulties. The Council acknowledged that it was necessary to make certain improvements, particularly in order to achieve a better market balance, to further structural policy, to control expenditure and to attain better balanced treatment of the various products and various regions of the Community.

The Council formulated a number of thoughts with regard to future policy and agreed the text of a document reflecting the points on which views converged, which will be included in the documentation for the Heads of State or of Government for the next meeting of the European Council.

The specific measures resulting from the desire to improve the common agricultural policy, which was unanimously expressed within the Council, may obviously not be improvised and will be taken only after careful consideration.

The Council consequently intends to continue its discussions on the matter with the aim of reaching at its forthcoming meetings a number of decisions which will give substance to these general guidelines.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

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

- on the tariff treatment applicable in the Community as originally constituted to certain products imported from the new Member States
- on the temporary suspension of the autonomous Common Customs Tariff duty for mechanically propelled aircraft of an unladen weight exceeding 15,000 kg falling within subheading No ex 88.02 B II(c).

It also adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Regulation fixing the monthly increases in the market target price, the intervention price and the threshold price for olive oil for the 1975/76 marketing year.

Finally, the Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Decision approving the conclusion by the Commission of the Agreement for co-operation in the field of controlled thermo-nuclear fusion and plasma physics between the European Atomic Energy Community and Sweden and also the corresponding exchange of letters.

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At the proposal of the Netherlands Government, the Council appointed Mr A.H. KOELINK, of the Ministerie van Onderwijs en Wetenschappen, alternate member of the Advisory Committee on Vocational Training to replace Mr WOUSTEN, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, i.e. until 30 January 1976.

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At the proposal of the French Government, the Council appointed Mr Yvan CHARPANTIE, President of the Confédération Générale des Cadres, member of the Economic and Social Committee to replace Mr MALTERRE, who has died, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, i.e. until 16 September 1978.

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TEXTILE AGREEMENTS

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

- concluding the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Republic of India on trade in textile products;
- concluding the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan on trade in textile products;

and laying down provisions for their application.

These Agreements are the first to have been negotiated and concluded by the Community on the basis of Article 4 of the Geneva Multilateral Arrangement (multifibres arrangement), drawn up within GATT, which entered into force on 1 January 1974 for a period of 4 years and to which the Community acceded in March 1974.

These Agreements contribute towards the attainment of the principle objective of the abovementioned Arrangement which is to bring about expansion in trade and the gradual removal of barriers to trade in textile products while providing for orderly and equitable development and avoiding the dangers of market disorganization.

PRESS RELEASE

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368 th Council meeting

- Economic and Financial Questions -

Brussels, 17 November 1975

President: Mr Emilio COLOMBO,
Minister of the Treasury of
the Italian Republic

17.XI.75

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

Belgium:

Mr Willy CLERQ	Minister for Finance
Mr Fernand HERMAN	Minister for Economic Affairs
Mr Cécil de STRYCKER	Governor of the National Bank of Belgium

Denmark:

Mr Knud HEINESEN	Minister for Finance
Mr Per HAEKKERUP	Minister for the Economy
Mr Kurt HANSEN	State Secretary, Ministry of the Economy
Mr Erik HOFFMEYER	Governor of the National Bank

Germany:

Mr Hans FRIDERICHS	Federal Minister for the Economy
Mr Otto SCHLECHT	State Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs
Mr Joachim HIEHLE	State Secretary, Ministry of Finance

France:

Mr Jean-Pierre FOURCADE	Minister for the Economy and Finance
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Ireland:

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

17.XI.75

Italy:

Mr Emilio COLOMBO

Minister for the Treasury

Luxembourg:

Mr Raymond VOUEL

Minister for Finance

Netherlands:

Mr W.F. DUISENBERG

Minister for Finance

Mr J. ZIJLSTRA

President of the Nederlandse
Bank

United Kingdom:

Mr Denis HEALEY

Chancellor of the Exchequer

Commission:

Mr Wilhelm HAFERKAMP

Vice-President

Mr Claude CHEYSSON

Member

17.XI.75

THE ECONOMIC SITUATION IN THE COMMUNITY

Pursuant to its Decision of 18 February 1974 concerning the attainment of a high degree of convergence of the economic policies of the Member States, and on the basis of the Commission proposal, the Council proceeded to examine the economic situation and concluded by approving the annual report for 1976.

The Council noted that the various aspects of this report could serve as a useful basis for the discussions on this matter at the next European Council in Rome on 1 and 2 December 1975.

In this connection the Council took note of the Commission's intention of submitting to the European Council an outline paper concerning the economic and social situation in the Community and a communication on Community policy.

budget

*correction
11-19-75*

Account was also taken of the different aspects of the 1976 annual report in the Council's preparation for the Conference to be held tomorrow, 18 November, between the Ministers for Economic Affairs and Employment, the Commission and both sides of industry.

ECSC UNIT OF ACCOUNT

The Council gave its unanimous assent to the draft Commission Decision (ECSC) on the rates for the conversion of the currencies of the Member States into the unit of account used in Decisions, Recommendation, Opinions and Communiqués for the purposes of the Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community.

This Commission Decision represents the third instance of the Community applying the new European unit of account the other two instances being that of the decision on the amounts of aid granted under the Convention of Lomé and of the decision concerning EIB transactions.

PREPARATION OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Council held a discussion on the questions raised in the memorandum from the Netherlands Government on the preparation of Council meetings on economic and financial questions.

This discussion, which forms part of the Council's endeavours to improve its working procedures, enabled certain specific measures to be outlined.

EURATOM LOANS

The Council continued its discussions on the draft Decision on the floating of Euratom loans for the purpose of making a Community contribution to the financing of nuclear power stations. In particular, it discussed the management of these loans, and also borrowings.

The Permanent Representatives Committee was instructed to continue the examination of this proposal in the light of the Council's discussions at this meeting.

17.XI.75

OTHER DECISIONS

GENERALIZED PREFERENCES

1. The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a series of Regulations and Decisions concerning the application in 1976 of generalized preferences for developing countries. This decision was taken following consultation of the associated States affected and the ACP States.

Despite difficult economic circumstances, the Community has agreed to make a further effort to assist the developing countries, particularly the least favoured of them, thus confirming - in accordance with the Council Resolution of 3 March 1975 on the future development of Community generalized preferences - that generalized preferences are still a cornerstone of the Community's overall policy to assist the Third World.

2. As regards industrial products falling within Chapters 25 to 99 of the CCT (other than textiles), the Community will in 1976 grant the developing countries duty-free access to its market for goods worth a total of approximately 2.650 thousand million UA, as compared with 2.3 thousand million UA in 1975.

This represents an overall increase of 15% in the level of the ceiling for most products.

A special solution was worked out as regards the quota for plywood and blockboard, and the Council further agreed that the ceilings for certain petroleum products, previously expressed in terms of value, should henceforth be expressed in tonnages.

It also extended the arrangements applied in the textile sector in 1975 for another year, subject to an overall increase of 5%. This decision means that the market is open to goods worth 600 million UA.

Import facilities in the industrial sector therefore amount to a total of 3.25 thousand million UA.

3. As regards processed agricultural products falling within Chapters 1 to 24 of the CCT, the margin of preference has been increased by means of an additional across-the-board reduction of 10% for most of the products already covered by the GPS. It was also decided to extend preferences to certain other products.

The Council also decided to renew the quotas for soluble coffee and cocoa butter for another year.

With regard to tinned pineapple, agreement was also reached on an increase in the tariff quota of 10,000 tonnes for tinned pineapple other than sliced, and on the opening of a tariff quota for sliced tinned pineapple of 28,000 tonnes.

Finally, the Council, agreed to the opening of a new quota of 38,000 tonnes for raw "Virginia flue-cured" tobacco, under subheading ex 24.01 E (the quota opened for 1975 amounted to 30,000 tonnes).

All of these improvements (including those concerning pepper and certain tropical vegetable oils, particularly palm oil and coconut oil which were included in July 1975) should lead to an increase of the order of 200 million UA in the possibilities for preferential imports, which already amounted to 650 million UA for 1975.

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

- Regulations

- on the tariff treatment of certain products intended for use in the construction, maintenance and repair of aircraft;
- on the tariff treatment applicable within the Community as originally constituted to certain products imported from the new Member States for use in the construction, maintenance and repair of certain aircraft;
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 950/68 on the Common Customs Tariff;
- on temporary total suspension of the customs duties applicable within the Community as originally constituted to a number of chemical products imported from the new Member States;
- temporarily suspending the autonomous Common Customs Tariff duties on a number of industrial products;
- on the standard amount for unrefined olive oil produced entirely in Greece and transported direct from that country into the Community;
- a directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States concerning fruit juices and certain similar products;
- a Decision on the approval of an amendment to the statutes of the joint undertaking "Schnell-Brüter-Kernkraftwerksgesellschaft mbH (SBK)".

The Council also adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Regulation concluding the Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters relating to Article 3 of Protocol No 8 to the Agreement between the European Communities and the Portuguese Republic (arrangements governing imports of tomato concentrates into the Community).

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Acting on a proposal from the United Kingdom Government, the Council appointed Mr E. de B. MARSH, Director, Engineering Employers' Federation, as a full member of the Consultative Committee for Vocational Training, to replace Mr LANGRIDGE, who has resigned, until the latter's original term of office expires on 30 January 1976.

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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 Decisions

- concerning certain tariff measures for the first half of 1976;
 - 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.
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PRESS RELEASE

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369th meeting of the Council

- Tax Questions -

Brussels, 24 November 1975

President: Mr Bruno VISENTINI
Minister for Finance of
the Italian Republic

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean DONDELINGER

Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

Netherlands:

Mr M.J. VAN ROOIJEN

State Secretary, Ministry
for Finance

United Kingdom:

Mr Edmund DELL

Paymaster-General

Commission:

Mr Henri SIMONET

Vice-President

COMMON BASIS FOR ASSESSING VAT

Continuing its work on the implementing of the Decision of 21 April 1970 on own resources, the Council held a wide-ranging discussion on a number of basic questions arising in connection with the draft sixth Directive on the harmonization of the laws of the Member States relating to turnover taxes.

The discussions dealt mainly with possible transitional derogations from the principle of a uniform basis of assessment for VAT in all Member States, and more specifically with zero ratings, reduced rates, special schemes for small undertakings and for farmers, real estate transactions and excise duties, with a view to developing guidelines for future discussions.

The guidelines on these derogations were concerned with the following aspects:

- the exceptional nature of the derogations;
- the financial compensation to which they give rise;
- the method of calculating this compensation;
- the periodic review of transitional derogations.

Some differences of opinion were narrowed in the Council discussion on the specific treatment of the different types of derogation under examination.

At the end of a productive discussion, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to conduct, in the light of the guidelines and pointers which had emerged from today's meeting, a detailed discussion of the complex technical and political problems which remained outstanding in order to prepare a further Council meeting on this subject in the near future.

ACTION PROGRAMME FOR TAXATION

The Council held a policy discussion on the Commission communication concerning an action programme for taxation.

This discussion gave the delegations an opportunity to state their views on what priorities to adopt in work on this important aspect of the attainment of economic integration.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities

- Regulations

- on tariff quotas, import arrangements or the suspension of customs duties for certain products originating in the various countries of the Mediterranean basin for 1976;
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 1445/72 concerning the Nomenclature of Goods for the External Trade Statistics of the Community and Statistics of Trade between Member States (NIMEXE);
- temporarily and partially suspending the autonomous Common Customs Tariff duties on a certain number of agricultural products;
- amending Regulations (EEC) No 1059/69, (EEC) No 1060/69, (EEC) No 2582/72, 120/67/EEC, (EEC) No 3330/74, (EEC) 765/68 and (EEC) No 950/68 as regards the classification in the Common Customs Tariff of certain types of sorbitol;
- the Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the sulphur content of certain liquid fuels.

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

- amending Regulation (EEC) No 226/73 as regards the price to be observed at the cif stage for imports of New Zealand butter and cheese into the United Kingdom;
- relating to the prohibition of the use of inward processing arrangements for butter.

In conclusion, the Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Financial Regulation derogating from Article 6(1) of the Financial Regulation of 25 April 1973 applicable to the general budget of the European Communities (automatic carry-forward over two financial years of the Social Fund appropriations corresponding to commitments contracted in 1974).

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The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Decision authorizing the opening of negotiations with the Arab Republic of Egypt on outline agreements for the supply of agricultural products.

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The Council drew up a joint position on the draft decisions of the Joint Committees set up under the EFTA Agreements amending

- Protocol No 3 concerning the definition of "originating products" and methods of administrative co-operation and amending Joint Committee Decision No 3/73 repealing Joint Committee Decision No 4/73 (amending the use of form EUR 2, simplifying the form, increasing value limits);
- Article 23 of Protocol No 3 on the definition of originating products and methods of administrative co-operation (abolition of the drawback rules).

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COUNCIL STATEMENT
ON RELATIONS BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY AND SURINAM

I. The Council has held a detailed discussion on the relations between the Community and Surinam, since Surinam is due to become independent on 25 November 1975.

II. The following points were agreed on in the discussion:

1. The Council refers to its statement of 12 November 1974 on Surinam and the Netherlands Antilles whereby as soon as developments lead to a change in the status of Surinam and/or the Netherlands Antilles which requires an adjustment of their association with the European Economic Community, the latter is prepared to offer Surinam and the Netherlands Antilles an opportunity to continue their relations with it on the basis of one of the schemes adopted for the African, Caribbean and Pacific States, while maintaining the advantages of the association arrangements existing at the time of the changes in status referred to above, provided that they opt for an association relationship.

As soon as it becomes independent Surinam will be able to take a decision on its future relations with the Community; in particular, it will have the right to apply for accession to the Lomé Convention under Article 89 thereof. Annex VI to the Final Act states that the Community and the ACP States are prepared to allow the countries and territories referred to in Part Four of the Treaty which have become independent to accede to the Convention, if they wish to continue their relations with the Community in this form.

Should Surinam accede to the Lomé Convention, the Council, acting on a proposal from the Commission, will decide, in pursuance of Article 1(4) of the Internal Financial Agreement signed on 11 July 1975, to reduce the total appropriations earmarked for the overseas countries and territories and make a corresponding increase in the amount earmarked for the ACP States.

2. As regards the situation during a transitional period:

A. The Council states that the provisions at present governing relations between the Community and the overseas countries and territories shall continue to apply to Surinam, namely:

- Council Regulation (EEC) No 1957/75 of 30 July 1975 on the interim trade arrangements with the "overseas countries and territories" associated with the European Economic Community ⁽¹⁾,
- Council Regulation (EEC) No 1599/75 of 24 June 1975 on the arrangements applicable to agricultural products and certain goods resulting from the processing of agricultural products originating in the African, Caribbean and Pacific States or in the "overseas countries and territories" ⁽²⁾.
- Council Decision of 25 February 1975 on imports of cane sugar originating in the overseas countries and territories,

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 201, 31.7.1975, p. 5
⁽²⁾ OJ No L 166, 28.6.1975, p. 67

- Council Regulation (EEC) No 1958/75 of 30 July 1975 extending certain transitional measures for rum, arrack and tafia in relation with certain overseas countries and territories ⁽¹⁾,
 - Decision 75/371/ECSC of the representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the European Coal and Steel Community, meeting in Council on 24 June 1975 opening tariff preferences for products within the province of that Community originating in the African, Caribbean and Pacific States and in the overseas countries and territories associated with the Community ⁽²⁾,
 - Council Decision 75/463/EEC of 22 July 1975 on the extension of certain transitional measures in relation with certain overseas countries and territories ⁽³⁾,
 - the provisions adopted for the implementation of these Regulations and Decisions;
- B. Provided that Surinam opts for an association relationship with the Community, and pending the definition of such association, the Council will take the necessary measures to ensure that Surinam benefits from arrangements identical to those for the overseas countries and territories.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 201, 31.7.1975, p. 73

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 166, 28.6.1975, p. 83

⁽³⁾ OJ No L 201, 31.7.1975, p. 77

3. As regards financial and technical co-operation, however, the following provisions shall apply:
- (a) pursuant to Article 25 of the Internal Agreement on the financing and administration of Community aid, signed on 29 July 1969, the provisions relating to operations in favour of Surinam financed under the first three European Development Funds shall continue to apply until such operations have been carried out completely;
 - (b) financing projects of the first three European Development Funds shall be handled directly by the authorities of Surinam and the Community;
 - (c) as regards future financial and technical co-operation, the Community will, from 25 November 1975 and until Surinam accedes to the Lomé Convention, apply interim measures to Surinam which are similar to those now being applied to the ACP States.
4. The Council also wishes to state that:
- (a) if Surinam applies for accession to the Lomé Convention and, pending such accession, requests to take part in the proceedings of the ACP-EEC institutions as an observer, the Community will support that request;
 - (b) if Surinam wishes to accredit a representative to the Community, the latter will give a favourable reply to a request to that effect.

5. The Council hopes that Surinam will:

- inform it as soon as possible of its intentions regarding its future relations with the Community and, in particular, whether it wishes to accede to the Lomé Convention;
- undertake to ensure the transition from the present system to the future one and will, in particular, respect the provisions governing relations between the Community and the overseas countries and territories.

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On a proposal from the Deutscher Gewerkschaftsbund, the Council appointed Mr Volker JUNG, DGB-Bundesvorstand, Abteilung Gesellschaftspolitik, as a Member of the ECSC Consultative Committee, to replace Mr HENSCHKE, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which runs until 24 June 1976.

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On a proposal from the United Kingdom Government, the Council appointed Mr D. McGARVEY, General President, Amalgamated Society of Boilermakers, Shipwrights, Blacksmiths and Structural Workers, and Mr C.H. URWIN, Assistant General Secretary, Transport and General Workers Union, as Members and Mr K. GRAHAM, OBE, Trades Union Congress, as a deputy Member of the Committee of the European Social Fund for the period ending 28 October 1977.

PRESS RELEASE

370th meeting of the Council

- Budget -

Brussels, 3 December 1975

President: Mr Francesco FABBRI,
Deputy State Secretary
Ministry of the Treasury
of the Italian Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr Gaston GEENS State Secretary for the Budget and Scientific Research

Denmark:

Mr Jens CHRISTENSEN State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Germany:

Mr Joachim HIERLE State Secretary Ministry of Finance

France:

Mr Christian PONCELET State Secretary to the Minister for Economic Affairs and Finance

Ireland:

Mr Michael BEGLEY Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Finance

Italy:

Mr Francesco FABBRI Deputy State Secretary, Ministry of the Treasury

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean DONDELINGER Ambassador, Permanent Representative

DRAFT GENERAL BUDGET OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES FOR 1976

Prior to holding its own discussions on the budget for the financial year 1976, the Council, in the presence of the Commission, met a delegation from the European Parliament led by Mr SPENALE, President of the European Parliament, and consisting also of Mr LANGE, Chairman of the Committee on Budgets, Mr COINTAT, rapporteur and Mr AIGNER, Mr BERTRAND, Mr KOFOED, Mr DELMOTTE and Mr DESCHAMPS.

The President and the members of the Council were able at this meeting to hear the political views of the European Parliament delegation on the draft supplementary budget No 3 for 1975, to which the Council had agreed. As regards the amendments and proposed modifications to the draft budget for 1976, the European Parliament delegation stressed that it attached great importance to a political discussion on the guidelines for the budget policy, in particular the options to be taken to define priorities and the progress made by the Community towards establishing the own resources system.

The Council and the European Parliament delegation then held a frank and constructive dialogue on several basic problems raised by the budgetary procedure and by the budget for the financial year 1976, in particular on the "maximum rate" and the "margin for manoeuvre" granted to the European Parliament in respect of the increase in non-obligatory expenditure and the development of the bulk of the budget.

In its subsequent discussions on the 1976 budget the Council bore in mind the preoccupations of the European Parliament delegation and the main points of the exchange of views which had followed.

At the end of its discussions the Council took decisions on the Parliament's amendments and proposed modifications to the draft general budget of the Communities for the financial year 1976.

The Parliament will be called upon to vote on the modifications made to its amendments by the Council and subsequently to adopt the budget under the conditions laid down in Article 203 of the EEC Treaty.

The Council, taking broad account of the spirit of the amendments of the Parliament, agreed to the setting of a new maximum rate of 26.48%, which corresponds to an overall increase of 90.7 MUA in non-compulsory expenditure as compared with the non-compulsory expenditure entered in the draft budget drawn up on 29 September 1975.

In this connection the Council proposed certain modifications to the principal amendments made by the Parliament to the major items of the draft budget, namely the proposal of 35 MUA for the Chapter on Research, 35 MUA for the Chapter on the Social Fund and 20 MUA for financial co-operation with non-associated developing countries.

Both sides expressed their satisfaction at the spirit of open-mindedness which had marked this concertation and which had enabled them to move towards better mutual comprehension on budgetary matters auguring well for future discussions.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation amending Regulation No 17/64/EEC on the conditions for granting aid from the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund.

The Council likewise adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation totally or partially suspending Common Customs Tariff duties on certain products in Chapters 1 to 24 of the Common Customs Tariff, originating in Malta (1976).

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Upon the proposal of the French government, the Council appointed Mr F. MINNAED as member of the Advisory Committee of the Euratom Supply Agency in place of Mr A. PELTIER, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's period of office, which runs until 31 December 1976.

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Upon the proposal from the French government the Council has appointed Mr Jean-Daniel LEROY, Administrateur Civil, Head of the International Agreements Branch at the Ministry of Labour, full member of the Advisory Committee on Freedom of Movement for Workers, in place of Mrs VIOT, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's period of office, which runs until 17 March 1977.

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Upon a proposal from the Netherlands Government, the Council appointed Mr D. PRONK, Medewerker voor internationale zaken bij de Christelijke Nederlandse Vakverbond, member of the Economic and Social Committee, in place of Mr FIJN van DRAAT, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's period of office, which runs until 16 September 1978.

PRESS RELEASE

371st meeting of the Council

- Environment -

Brussels, 8 December 1975

President: Mr Mario PEDINI,
Minister for Scientific Research,
The Italian Republic

8.XII.75

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

Belgium:

Mr Jos DE SAEGER	Minister of health
Mr Karel POMA	State Secretary for the Environment

Denmark:

Mr Helge NIELSEN	Minister for the Environment
Mr Holger LAVESSEN	State Secretary, Minister of the Environment

Germany:

Mr Werner MAIHOFER	Minister for the Interior
Mr Gerhart Rudolf BAUM	Parliamentary State Secretary, Ministry of the Interior

France:

Mr André JARROT	Minister for the Improvement of Living Conditions
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Ireland:

Mr James TULLY	Minister for Local Government
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Italy:

Mr Mario PEDINI	Minister for Scientific Research
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Luxembourg:

Mr Emil KRIEPS	Minister of Health
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Netherlands:

Mrs I. VORRINK

Minister for Health and the
Environment

Mr L.J. BRINKHORST

State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr Denis HOWELL

Minister of State for Sport,
Department of the Environment.

Commission:

Mr Carlo SCARASCIA MUGNOZZA

Vice-President

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DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES DISCHARGED INTO THE AQUATIC ENVIRONMENT

The Council resumed the discussion begun at its meeting on 16 October on the proposal for a Decision on the reduction of pollution caused by certain dangerous substances discharged into the aquatic environment of the Community, and especially on the question of whether this Decision should be based on the introduction of emission standards or the establishment of quality objectives.

At the end of its discussions, the Council recorded its agreement in principle to a system based on the concept of emission standards, while allowing for the possibility, as an exception, of using quality objectives in certain circumstances.

The Council will determine quality objectives for the most dangerous substances contained in a priority list. These objectives will be fixed principally on the basis of the toxicity, the persistence and the accumulation of these substances in living organisms and in sediment as indicated by the latest conclusive scientific data, taking into account the characteristic differences between salt and fresh water.

Limit values established by the Council will be applied, except in cases where a Member State can prove to the Commission that quality objectives are being met and continually maintained in any geographical area affected by discharges because of the action taken, among others, by the relevant Member State.

The Commission will report to the Council the instances where it has accepted the application of the quality objectives method. Every five years the Council will review, on the basis of a Commission proposal and within the meaning of Article 148 of the EEC Treaty, the instances where the quality objectives method has been applied.

The Council agreed to instruct the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine the few minor technical points still outstanding in order to prepare the ground for a final decision on this proposal at one of the next Council meetings.

PROTECTION OF THE RHINE AGAINST CHEMICAL POLLUTION

The Council authorized the Commission to participate in the negotiations for the Convention on protection of the Rhine against chemical pollution.

This Convention is currently being discussed by the Council of Europe.

8.12.75

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities:

- the Decisions

- establishing a common procedure for the preparation and constant updating of an inventory of sources of information on the environment in the Community ⁽¹⁾;
- authorizing the Commission to participate in negotiations on an outline Convention for the protection of the Mediterranean against marine pollution ⁽¹⁾;
- the Directive relating to the quality of bathing water ⁽¹⁾.

⁽¹⁾ See Press Release 1185/75 (Presse 115) of 16.10.1975.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

On a proposal from the Belgian Government, the Council appointed Mr J. DENYS, Directeur d'Administration, Administration de l'Emploi, member of the Committee of the European Social Fund in place of Mr MISSOTEN, member for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which runs until 28 October 1977.

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On a proposal from the French Government, the Council appointed Mrs LAMIRAND, Administrateur Civil hors classe chargée des fonctions de Sous-Directeur de l'Hygiène et de la Sécurité du Travail, member of the Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work to replace Mr LEVY, who has resigned, for the rest of the latter's term of office, which runs until 4 May 1978.

On a proposal from the United Kingdom Government, the Council also appointed Mr P. JACQUES, Trades Union Congress, and Mr G. LLOYD, Union of Construction Allied Trades and Technicians, as members, and Mr J.P. HAMILTON, Trades Union Congress, and Mr T. PARRY, O.B.E., General Secretary, the Fire Brigades Union, as alternates on the Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work for the period ending on 4 May 1978.

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8.12.75

On a proposal from the United Kingdom Government, the Council appointed Mr J. MACGOUGAN, General Secretary, National Union of Tailors and Garment Workers, and Mr T.W. MAWER, Trades Union Congress, as members, and Mr J.F. ECCLES, Lancashire Regional Secretary, National Union of General and Municipal Workers, as an alternate member of the Advisory Committee on Social Security for Migrant Workers for the period ending on 28 April 1976.

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On a proposal from the United Kingdom Government, the Council appointed Mr L.P. EDMONDSON, Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, and Mr F.F. JARVIS, M.A., General Secretary, National Union of Teachers, as members, and Mr L.W. BUCK, General Secretary, National Union of Sheet Metal Workers, Copper Smiths, Heating and Domestic Engineers, as an alternate member of the Advisory Committee on Vocational Training for the period ending on 30 January 1976.

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On a proposal from the United Kingdom Government, the Council appointed Mr F.F. JARVIS, M.A., General Secretary, National Union of Teachers, and Mr S. PEMBERTON, Vice-Chairman, Transport and General Workers Union, as members, and Mr J. MACGOUGAN, General Secretary, National Union of Tailors and Garment Workers, as an alternate member of the Advisory Committee on Freedom of Movement for Workers for the period ending 17 March 1977.

PRESS RELEASE

LIBRARY

372nd meeting of the Council

- Foreign Affairs -

Brussels, 9 December 1975

President: Mr Mariano RUMOR
Minister for Foreign Affairs of
the Italian Republic

1469/75 (Presse 141)

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 Minister of State, Federal Foreign Office

France:

Mr Jean SAUVAGNARGUES Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Bernard DESTHEMAU State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ireland:

Mr Garret FITZGERALD Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Justin KEATING Minister for Commerce and Industry

Italy

Mr Mariano RUMOR Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Adolfo BATTAGLIA Deputy State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean DONDELINGER

Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

Netherlands:

Mr Laurens Jan BRINKHORST

State Secretary, Foreign Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr Roy HATTERSLEY

Minister of State,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Commission:

Mr François-Xavier ORTOLI

President

Mr Henri SIMONET

Vice-President

Mr Albert BORSCHETTE

Member

Mr Finn Olav GUNDELACH

Member

Mr Claude CHEYSSON

Member

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ELECTION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

In the light of the conclusions reached by the European Council on this subject at its meeting on 1 and 2 December, the Council continued its work on the election of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage.

Discussion centred on the question of the distribution of seats: the principle of proportionality and of minimum representation of the populations of the Member States.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to undertake a detailed examination of the various formulae available and to continue work on finalizing the draft Convention.

After the appropriate contacts with the European Parliament, the Council would thus be able to submit to the European Council a complete report enabling the latter to reach a decision on the Convention.

PASSPORT UNION

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue finalizing provisions for the introduction of a uniform passport.

CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION

The Council prepared for the Conference on International Economic Co-operation which is to meet in Paris from 16 December. In particular, it approved the Community's general position for this Conference.

In this connection, and with reference to the conclusions reached by the European Council at Rome in the energy sector, the Council took note of the Commission's intention to submit proposals to it in the near future, and in any case before the end of January next, with a view, in accordance with the conclusions of the European Council at Rome, to establishing appropriate mechanisms for protecting the Community's existing energy resources and ensuring the development of its replacement energy resources under reasonable economic conditions and to encouraging the conservation of energy. The Council agreed to discuss these proposals as soon as possible and in any case, as far as possible, before the basic problems are broached in the Commission for Energy of the Conference on International Economic Co-operation.

YUGOSLAVIA

The Council examined a suggestion from the Chair for the establishment of financial co-operation with Yugoslavia.

Although it was not able to reach a definitive decision at its current meeting, the Council agreed to resume examination of this subject at its January meeting in order to finalize its position.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

The Council held a brief exchange of views on the Community's participation in the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). It agreed to return to the subject at its next meeting.

OVERALL MEDITERRANEAN APPROACH

Malta

The Council approved additional directives for the negotiations with Malta on the agricultural sector and rules of origin; it also established the Community position on economic and financial co-operation to be put to Malta. In this way, the Community hopes to conclude these negotiations rapidly.

Machrak

The Council recorded its agreement on the substance of directives which should enable the Commission to open negotiations shortly with Egypt, Lebanon, Syria and Jordan.

The agreements to be negotiated with the Machrak countries will thus confirm the Community's readiness to develop its relations with the countries of the Mediterranean basin to a significant extent.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to finalize the Directives and to arrange for their approval by the quickest possible procedure.

Greece

The Council took note of a report from the Chairman of the Permanent Representatives Committee on progress in the harmonization of the agricultural policies and on the directives for the negotiation of the second Financial Protocol.

The Council had an exchange of views on this subject, at the end of which it asked the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its work, giving this file the priority appropriate to it, so as to enable the Council to act as soon as possible.

Portugal

The Council examined all the points still open as regards the finalization of the directives for the opening of negotiations with Portugal with a view to developing the 1972 Agreement. After making some progress, the Council agreed to resume its examination of this file at its January meeting with the intention of reaching a final decision then.

RELATIONS WITH CANADA

The Council had a brief exchange of views on the terms of reference authorizing the Commission to open negotiations with Canada with a view to concluding an outline agreement on commercial and economic co-operation. It instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to solve the last problems remaining open.

PROTOCOL No 2 TO THE EFTA AGREEMENTS

The Council discussed the possible inclusion in Protocol No 2 to each of the EFTA Agreements of other products from Chapters 1 to 24 of the Brussels Nomenclature. The Danish and United Kingdom delegations, which are those most affected, expressed their concern about the employment situation in the manufactured tobacco sector.

The Council agreed to ask the Commission to examine the matter and to inform it of the results of its deliberations as soon as possible.

9.XII.75

BEEF AND VEAL ORIGINATING IN THE ACP STATES

While awaiting the Opinion of the European Parliament, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee, taking today's discussions into account, to finalize the decision renewal of the arrangements for the reduction of import charges on beef and veal originating in the ACP States, and to arrange for it to be approved by the Council as soon as possible.

OTHER DECISIONS

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities:

- the Decision accepting the Customs Co-operation Council's recommendation of 1 January 1975 designed to enable statistical data on international trade collected on the basis of the Brussels nomenclature to be expressed in terms of the second revision of the standard international trade classification;
- the Resolution fixing a short-term energy-saving target for 1976-1977.

Agriculture

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities:

- Regulations
 - modifying Regulation (EEC) No 1877/74 on the distillation of the by-products of wine-making;
 - amending for the second time Regulation (EEC) No 1876/74 concerning the addition of alcohol to products in the wine sector;
 - fixing the activating prices for table wines for the period from 16 December 1975 to 15 December 1976 (R I - 1.71 UA, R II - 1.71 UA, A I - 1.61 UA per degree/hl; R III - 26.70 UA, AII - 35.58 UA, AIII - 40.63 UA per hl);
- the Decision on a financial contribution to the campaign against foot-and-mouth disease in South-East Europe.

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ACP questions

In the context of relations with the ACP States and the OCT, the Council recorded its agreement on exemption from customs duties for imports of cut flowers and foliage from the ACP and the OCT (amendment to Article 19 of Regulation No 1599/75).

It also adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulations:

- concerning the proof of the origin of products required for the application of Regulation (EEC) No 1598/75 and of Regulation (EEC) No 1957/75;
 - on rum originating in the ACP States (period from 1 July 1975 - 30 June 1976).
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PRESS RELEASE

LIBRARY

373rd Council meeting

- Education -

Brussels, 10 December 1975

President: Mr Franco Maria MALFATTI,
Minister of Education
of the Italian Republic

1491/75 (Presse 146)

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

Belgium:

Mr Antoine HUMBLET	Minister for Education (F)
Mr Herman DE CROO	Minister for Education (N)

Denmark:

Mrs Ritt BJERREGAARD	Minister for Education
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Germany:

Mr Helmut ROHDE	Federal Minister for Education and Science
Mr Joise GROLLE	Minister for Arts and Sciences, Land Niedersachsen
Mr Reimut JOCHIMSEN	State Secretary, Education

France:

Mr René HABY	Minister for Education
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Ireland:

Mr Brendan DILLON	Ambassador, Permanent Representative
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Italy:

Mr Franco-Maria MALFATTI	Minister for Education
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Luxembourg:

Mr Guy LINSTER State Secretary, Education

Netherlands:

Mr Laurens Jan BRINKHORST State Secretary, Foreign Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr Frederick MULLEY Secretary of State for Education
and Science

Commission:

Mr Guido BRUNNER Member

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ACTION PROGRAMME IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION

The Council and the Ministers of Education, meeting within the Council, held a general discussion on the current situation and the future prospects for co-operation in the field of education in the light of the Resolution of 6 June 1974 on the subject.

In accordance with the above Resolution, the Education Committee submitted to the Ministers, meeting within the Council, a report containing suggestions on the priority spheres of action referred to in the Resolution. Discussions at the Council meeting were centred on finalizing a series of measures -- in the form of a resolution (1) -- under the following headings:

- better facilities for the education and training of nationals and the children of nationals of the Member States of the Communities and of non-member countries;
- promotion of closer relations between educational systems in Europe;
- co-operation in the field of higher education;
- compilation of up-to-date documentation and statistics on education;
- teaching of foreign languages;
- achievement of equal opportunity for free access to all forms of education.

(1) the text of which is appended

To co-ordinate and follow up the implementation of the action programme thus laid down, the resolution re-establishes the Education Committee, composed of representatives of the Member States and of the Commission. This Education Committee will also be responsible for preparing the Ministers' discussions in accordance with customary Community procedure, including those concerning future developments in the field of education.

The discussion gave the delegations the opportunity to voice their opinions on the various topics discussed, in particular on existing measures or reserves which are being considered, to prepare young people for work and to facilitate their transition from school to working life. All the delegations emphasized in this connection, that they considered it important that the practical aspects of the transition from school to work and in particular of efforts to combat unemployment among young persons be discussed at Community level within the near future. Various delegations also stressed the importance they attached to the schooling of migrant workers' children.

Upon completion of its discussions, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to finalize the wording of the Resolution with a view to publication of the final version in the Official Journal as soon as possible.

Resolution comprising an action programme in the field of education

"THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES AND

THE MINISTERS OF EDUCATION, MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL,

- having regard to the Treaties establishing the European Communities,
- referring to the Resolution of the Ministers of Education meeting within the Council on 6 June 1974, concerning co-operation in the field of education;
- referring to points 5 and 9 of the Communiqué of the Conference of Heads of Government of Member States meeting in Paris on 9 and 10 December 1974;
- recalling the Council Resolution of 21 January 1974 concerning a Social Action Programme and the proposals in favour of migrant workers and their families submitted by the Commission to the Council on 19 December 1974 and on the education of migrant children of 28 July 1975;
- considering that at its sitting on 22 September 1975 the European Parliament stressed the importance of the Community's activity in the field of education;

- considering that at its session on 23 and 24 April 1975 the Economic and Social Committee recalled that "education is central to the full and healthy development of the Community";
- reaffirming their desire to achieve European co-operation in education;
- aware of the contribution such co-operation can make to the development of the Community;
- taking note of the report of the Education Committee,

HEREBY ADOPT THIS RESOLUTION:

- I. The action programme set out under point IV shall be implemented.

11.XII.75

- II. 1. An Education Committee shall be set up consisting of representatives of the Member States and the Commission. The Committee's chairman shall come from the country exercising the office of President of the Council of Ministers.

The Committee shall co-ordinate and have oversight of the implementation of the programme, and report on its execution in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 4 of the Treaty establishing a single Council and a single Commission of the European Communities, to the Council and the Ministers of Education meeting within the Council.

It shall in the same way prepare their proceedings, including those concerning future developments in the field of education.

2. The Commission is invited to undertake, in close collaboration with the Education Committee, the appropriate measures to be implemented at Community level.

In implementing at Community level co-operation between the Member States decided upon by the Ministers of Education, the Commission shall act in agreement with the Education Committee, in accordance with the procedure laid down in the second subparagraph of paragraph 1 above.

- III. The Council and the Ministers of Education meeting within the Council shall meet regularly to follow the implementation of the action programme, to establish future guidelines, and to compare their policies.

IV. The action programme is as follows:

Better facilities for the education and training of
nationals and the children of nationals of other
Member States of the Communities and of non-member
countries

1. The Council and the Ministers of Education, meeting with the Council, having noted the guidelines submitted to the Council by the Commission on 19 December 1974 within the framework of the social action programme, stress the educational dimension of such a programme.

The Ministers hereby express the willingness of Member States to pursue and develop, on behalf of nationals and the children of nationals of other Member States of the Communities and of non-member countries, suitable measures to improve reception facilities for these children and to enable them to adapt to the host country's school system and way of life. To this end, they agree to support the following measures:

- organizing and developing a reception system which would include intensive study of the language or languages of the host country;
- providing the necessary facilities for teaching these children their mother tongue and culture, if possible in school and in collaboration with the country of origin;
- providing more information for families on the training and educational opportunities available to them.

2. The following action will be implemented at Community level:
- exchange of information and experience concerning the organization of suitable types of teaching, taking the form of a limited number of pilot schemes to enable these types of teaching to be compared and assessed, and of co-operation in the training of teachers required to assume responsibility in this field;
 - educational studies and research on the following topics
 - = adapted language-teaching methods
 - = the place and importance of the mother tongue and culture in school curricula
 - = existing conditions and provisions for access to education at all levels, and special needs with regard to educational guidance
 - = present and proposed provisions for educational and language-teaching programmes on radio and television
 - = assessing the need for the setting up of schools in which teaching would be done through the medium of more than one language.

Promotion of closer relations between educational systems in Europe

3. It is necessary to improve mutual understanding of the various educational systems in the Community and to ensure continuous comparison of policies, experience and ideas in the Member States.
4. The following will be organized to this end:
- at Community level, regular meetings between the persons responsible for education policies;
 - by the Member States, study visits to the other Member States for local, regional and national administrators of schools and institutions of higher education.

5. In order to give a European dimension to the experience of teachers and pupils in primary and secondary schools in the Community, Member States will promote and organize:
- short study visits and exchanges for teachers, with special emphasis on student teachers of languages;
 - development of the national information and advisory services necessary to promote the mobility and interchange of pupils and teachers within the Community;
 - contacts between the authorities of establishments concerned with teacher training;
 - educational activities with a European content.

Co-operation in these areas at Community level will be developed in the light of the activities and experience of Member States.

6. The following will be studied at Community level:
- extension of the practice of recognizing periods of study abroad;
 - the possibility of enabling teachers to practise their profession for a time in a Community country other than their own;
 - the setting up of European or international-type establishments following specific curricula and using several teaching languages.
7. In order to assist pupils from the Member States moving from one country to another within the Community to make the transition from one educational system to another, the idea and means of introducing a standard school record card will be studied at Community level with a view to taking a decision at the earliest possible date.

Compilation of up-to-date documentation and statistics on education

8. It is necessary to increase and improve the circulation of information between those responsible for education and its recipients at all levels.
9. To this end, an information network will be set up by appointing in each Member State a national information service on education in the Communities. The organization of work at Community level will be studied once the appropriate national measures have been taken.
10. In collecting information, Member States will try out the norms agreed in the framework of EUDISED.
11. In order to enable the Community to bring its specific powers to bear in promoting better mutual understanding of educational systems, a study will be made at Community level of the best way of bringing existing information to the attention of the citizens of the Community. Information handbooks for students will be drawn up.
12. The Council and the Ministers of Education meeting within the Council are desirous of supporting the efforts undertaken by the Statistical Office of the European Communities to expand, as part of a continuing programme, data concerning co-operation in the field of education.

Co-operation in the field of higher education

It is necessary to promote co-operation in the field of higher education.

13. While respecting the independence of higher education institutions, the following action will be undertaken at Community level in order to increase contacts between them:

- the strengthening of links with and between organizations representing higher education institutions;
- the organization of short study visits for specific purposes for teaching and administrative staff and for researchers;
- promotion of joint programmes of study or research between institutions in several Member States;

14. In order to promote the free movement and mobility of teaching staff, students and researchers, the following action will be undertaken at Community level:

- the arrangement of a discussion involving representatives of higher education institutions on the question of developing a common policy on the admission of students from other Member States to higher education institutions;

- the drawing up of a report in order to establish whether and to what extent the national schemes for scholarships, studentships and research and teaching fellowships should be extended to increase mobility in the Community and, where appropriate, the submission of suitable proposals;
- the drawing up of proposals designed to eliminate obstacles to the mobility of students and of university teaching and research staff.

15. To this same end, Member States will invite the competent authorities, when calculating seniority, to take into account periods of service in teaching or research spent in other Member States, and to examine ways and means of enabling periods of teaching or research spent in other Member States to be aggregated for the purposes of calculating pension entitlements.

16. To increase the possibilities for the academic recognition of diplomas and study periods the following action will be undertaken at Community level:

- the drawing up of a report analysing the current situation with regard to the academic recognition of diplomas and containing proposals for the improvement of the situation and, if necessary, for the development of a network of agreements;
- the organization of consultations between those responsible for education policy and of co-operation between higher education institutions to facilitate the recognition of periods of study.

Teaching of foreign languages

17. In order to enable the greatest possible number of students to learn the languages of the Community, the following objectives will be promoted:
- offering all pupils the opportunity of learning at least one other Community language;
 - the principle that before qualifying as a foreign language teacher a student should have spent a period in a country or region where the language he is to teach is spoken;
 - the promotion (e.g. on radio and television) of language teaching outside the traditional school system, in particular to meet the vocational training requirements of adults.
18. As initial measures, the following action will be undertaken at Community level:
- organization of consultation between those responsible for organizing language teaching and specialized researchers in that field;
 - examination at Community level of the results of research into the methodology of language teaching and particularly that undertaken in the C.C.C. of the Council of Europe.
19. At the same time, Member States will
- organize regular extended periods abroad for teachers and encourage the exchange system for foreign language assistants;
 - encourage exchanges of pupils or groups of pupils.

Achievement of equal opportunity for free access to all forms of education

20. The achievement of equality of access to all forms of education is an essential aim of the education policies of all the Member States and its importance must be stressed, in conjunction with other economic and social policies, in order to achieve equality of opportunity in society.

21. In addition to the action taken in each Member State, an exchange of views and experience on concepts and trends will be organized at Community level in order to identify specific areas in which joint action might be undertaken. This exchange of views will focus initially on the following questions:

- (a) the organization of nursery education and of its link with primary education as well as the organization of primary education itself in such a way as to give all children the opportunity of benefiting from access to secondary education, with special reference to the interests of underprivileged groups;
- (b) the organization of compulsory secondary education in such a way as to give all children the opportunity to develop their full potential; adoption of appropriate measures to help them succeed in this, due consideration being given to their personal aspirations and abilities and their vocational opportunities.

22. Without prejudice to the action taken in the Member States, the following will be considered priority matters at Community level:

- (a) the measures to be taken in the field of education to prepare young people for work, to facilitate their transition from study to working life, to improve their chances of finding employment, thereby reducing the risks of unemployment;
- (b) the possibility, in the context of continuous training, of further education to enable young workers and young unemployed persons to improve their chances of finding employment.

To this end, the Education Committee will draw up, before 1 July 1976, a report for the Council of the Ministers of Education, meeting within the Council, which will place particular emphasis on the problems raised by (a) and (b) and on the measures which could help to resolve them under the systems of education."

PRESS RELEASE

374th Council meeting

- Transport -

Brussels, 10 and 11 December 1975

President: Mr Mario MARTINELLI,
Minister of Transport
and Civil Aviation
of the Italian Republic

LIBRARY

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

Belgium:

Mr Josef CHABERT Minister for Transport and
Ports and Harbours

Denmark:

Mr Niels MATHIASSEN Minister for Transport
Mr Jørgen HALCK State Secretary,
Ministry of Public Works

Germany:

Mr Heinz RUHNAU State Secretary,
Ministry of Transport

France:

Mr Marcel CAVAILLE State Secretary
for Transport

Ireland:

Mr Michael O'Leary Minister for Labour

Italy:

Mr Mario MARTINELLI Minister for Transport
and Civil Aviation

Luxembourg:

Mr Marcel MART Minister for Economic Affairs,
Transport and Power

The Netherlands:

Mr T.E. WESTERTERP

Minister for Transport and
Water Control and Construction

Mr M.H.M. VAN HULTEN

State Secretary,
Ministry of Transport and
Water Control and Construction

United Kingdom:

Mr John GILBERT

Minister for Transport

The Commission:

Mr Carlo SCARASCIA MUGNOZZA Vice-President

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BRACKET RATES FOR THE CARRIAGE OF GOODS BY ROAD

The Council decided to extend for a period of one year (until 31 December 1976) the Regulation on the introduction of a system of bracket tariffs for the carriage of goods by road between Member States.

ADJUSTMENT OF THE NATIONAL SYSTEMS FOR TAXING COMMERCIAL VEHICLES

With a view to furthering definite progress in the Community's work concerning systems for charging for the use of infrastructure, the Council discussed the guidelines to be followed as regards the adjustment of national systems for taxing vehicles.

At the end of this discussion, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its work so that it could act on the First Directive in this matter at its next meeting devoted to transport. To this end, the Council laid down certain general guidelines as to the factors to be borne in mind when aligning the various national systems of taxation.

COMMUNITY QUOTA FOR THE CARRIAGE OF GOODS BY ROAD BETWEEN
MEMBER STATES

The Council examined the question of altering the Community quota system concerning the carriage of goods by road between Member States.

The Council made no change at this juncture to the provisions in force and decided to extend them for a year.

WEIGHTS AND DIMENSIONS OF COMMERCIAL ROAD VEHICLES

The Council examined all the problems arising in connection with Community harmonization of the weight and dimensions of commercial road vehicles, together with certain additional technical conditions.

Following the discussion the Council, having noted the compromise solutions proposed by the Chair and the Italian delegation's suggestion, asked the Permanent Representative's Committee to seek a practical solution to the weights and dimensions problem with the help of the Commission and in the light of the arguments put forward at the present meeting, and to report back to the Council at its next meeting on transport questions.

RECIPROCAL RECOGNITION OF NAVIGABILITY CERTIFICATES

The Council signified its agreement to the Directive on reciprocal recognition of navigability certificates for inland waterway vessels.

This Directive applies to vessels of more than 20 tonnes used for goods transport and vessels used for the transport of more than 12 passengers. It lays down the minimum particulars which must appear on the certificates and stipulates that these certificates, issued by a Member State in conformity with the Directive, must be recognized by other Member States on their national waterways. The Directive also contains a number of technical provisions concerning its application and observance.

It will apply until 31 December 1978.

SUMMER TIME

The Council noted the Commission's intention to submit a proposal shortly on the introduction of summer time to enable the Council to discuss the matter in due course.

REAR FOG-LIGHTS

The Council took formal note of a statement by the Belgian delegation concerning the compulsory installation of rear fog-lights on new vehicles in service in Belgium.

SOCIAL HARMONIZATION IN THE FIELD OF ROAD TRANSPORT

The Council examined in depth the various problems involved in adjusting Community legislation on the harmonization of social provisions applying to road transport and, in particular, their adaptation with a view to implementing the AETR in Member States.

The Council took note of the Commission's intention to submit as soon as possible, after the necessary consultation, appropriate proposals concerning certain amendments to Regulation No 543/69.

After these discussions, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue work on this file, to enable the Council to act on it as soon as possible.

TEMPORARY LAYING-UP OF GOODS VESSELS APPLICABLE TO CERTAIN WATERWAYS

The Council went on to discuss, on the basis of a Commission report, certain problems which have arisen in the negotiation of the agreement on the implementation of regulations concerning the temporary laying-up of goods vessels and applicable to certain waterways.

The Permanent Representatives Committee was instructed to prepare a final agreement and to have the formal decision approved at a forthcoming Council meeting.

COMMUNITY ACTION IN THE AREA OF SEA TRANSPORT

On the initiative of the French delegation, whose memorandum formed the basis of the discussions, the Council held an initial exchange of views on the development of Community action in the area of sea transport.

It agreed that the French memorandum should be examined by the Permanent Representatives Committee together with the Commission in order to decide in which sectors Community action could be considered.

MISCELLANEOUS

Aid for the Overseas Countries and Territories

The Council formally approved a decision, the principle of which it adopted at its 372nd meeting, and which concerns the allocation of the financial aid for the Overseas Countries and Territories associated with the Community.

The decision lays down the principle of a division of the aid into three equal parts, to be shared between the French, United Kingdom and Netherlands Overseas Countries and Territories. The economic situation of each Overseas Country or Territory will however be taken into consideration within each share by the division of the amount into subsidies and loans and by the arrangements for special loans.

PRESS RELEASE

LIBRARY

375th meeting of the Council

- Research -

Brussels, 15 December 1975

President: Mr Mario PEDINI,
Minister for Scientific Research
of the Italian Republic

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean DONDELINGER

Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

Netherlands:

Mr F.H.P. TRIP

Minister for Research

United Kingdom:

Mr Alexander EADIE

Parliamentary Under Secretary,
Department of Energy

Mr Neil CARMICHAEL

Parliamentary Under Secretary,
Department of Industry

Commission:

Mr Guido BRUNNER

Member

15.XII.75

OBJECTIVES, PRIORITIES AND RESOURCES FOR A COMMON
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT POLICY

On the basis of the Commission communication of 3 November, the Council held a policy debate on the objectives and priorities for the common science and technology policy, the community projects for achieving them and the principles to be adopted for their implementation.

It was clear from the debate that the Commission communication was generally welcomed as the first general definition of the lines along which the common policy in this field should develop. It also allowed delegations the opportunity of making additional observations and of making known those problems of particular concern to them.

At the close of the debate, the Council took formal note of the Commission communication. It invited the Commission to speed up its work on the objectives and development of the common science and technology policy and to submit a second document on this subject before the end of 1976, taking account of the opinion expressed in the report from the Permanent Representatives Committee and during the talks held by the Council.

OVERALL CONCEPT OF THE NEXT MULTIANNUAL JRC PROGRAMME

In accordance with its conclusions of 26 June last and on the basis of the Commission communication of 24 October, the Council held a thoroughgoing policy debate on the overall concept of the next multiannual JRC programme. It paid particular attention to matters connected with the following topics: concentration of JRC activities, programme priorities, form: relationship between direct and indirect action, size of staff complement and of budget.

At the end of the debate, the Commission said that the Council's discussions had provided it with sufficient concrete and positive material to enable it to go ahead and formulate its programme proposals. It referred in particular to the convergence of views which had been noted concerning concentration on a reduced number of programmes, the definition of priorities in the fields of energy (centred on nuclear safety) and the environment (essentially energy ecology) and the need to continue work on measures and references.

THERMO-NUCLEAR FUSION

16.XII.75

The Council examined in depth the problems arising in connection with the Commission proposal for a multiannual programme for the years 1976/1980 in the field of controlled thermo-nuclear fusion and plasma physics, with particular reference to the JET project (Joint European Torus).

Views on the programme converged to a large extent, and the Council agreed to resume its discussions on the subject at its next meeting on research, which should take place in February.

It was agreed that the Commission would in good time, submit further details of its proposal, particularly with regard to the JET site.

The Council agreed to discuss the other items on the agenda at its next meeting on research.

The Council approved the Opinion of the Scientific and Technical Research Committee (CREST) on the interest to the Community of a research project in the field of pollution on the topic "Analysis of organic micropollutants in water".

PRESS RELEASE

LIBRARY

376th meeting of the Council

- Agriculture -

Brussels, 15 and 16 December 1975

President: Mr Giovanni MARCORA,
Minister for Agriculture
of the Italian Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr Albert LAVENS Minister for Agriculture

Denmark:

Mr Poul DALSGER Minister for Agriculture

Germany:

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

France:

Mr Christian BONNET Minister for Agriculture
Mr Jean-François DENIAU State Secretary,
Ministry of Agriculture
Mr Marcel CAVAILLE State Secretary,
Ministry of Transport
Mr Olivier STIRN State Secretary for the Overseas
Territories and Overseas Departments

Ireland:

Mr Mark CLINTON Minister for Agriculture and
Fisheries

Italy:

Mr Giovanni MARCORA Minister for Agriculture
Mr Franco FOSCHI State Secretary,
Ministry of Health

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean HAMILIUS

Minister 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

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VETERINARY QUESTIONS

The Council briefly discussed the proposals for decisions relating on the one hand to the preparation of a list of countries from which Member States authorize the importation of bovine animals, swine and fresh meat and on the other to the financing of certain emergency measures in the field of animal health.

It was agreed to defer examination of these proposals until a subsequent meeting, the Permanent Representatives Committee being instructed to continue looking into the matter.

FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE INSTITUTE IN ANKARA

As part of its disease prevention activities the Council decided to contribute the amount of a million US dollars towards financing expenditure on new equipment for the Foot-and-Mouth Disease Institute in Ankara and the cost of veterinary technical assistance provided by Community experts.

The Commission was entrusted with the implementation and supervision of the Council's decision.

OLIVE OIL

The Council examined in the light of the world market situation certain problems raised by the proposals for special measures relating to the determination of offers of olive oil, both on the world market, and on the Greek market.

Following this discussion it was agreed that the Special Committee on Agriculture should be asked to study the matter in depth.

WINE

The Council took note of an interim report by the Special Committee on Agriculture on the progress of work on the proposal concerning the granting of a conversion premium in the wine sector, a measure constituting one of the essential aspects of the overall wine question with which it is dealing.

AGRICULTURE IN THE GRAND DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, a Regulation relating to agriculture in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, which deals with the application of the special fiscal arrangements laid down in the Benelux Treaty to Luxembourg wines, and their extension in accordance with a particular procedure until 31 December 1976.

MUTTON AND LAMB

On the basis of an interim report from the Special Committee on Agriculture, the Council held a broad discussion on how to achieve the gradual establishment of a common organization of the markets in mutton and lamb.

The Council agreed to instruct the Special Committee on Agriculture to expedite its examination of the Commission proposal so as to be in a position to report back in time for the next Council meeting on agriculture.

FISHERIES

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

- supplementing the Regulation (No 2455/70) determining common marketing standards for certain fresh or chilled fish (hake);
- fixing the guide prices for fishery products listed in Annex II to the Regulation (No 2142/70) for the 1976 fishing year

Sardines	315 UA/t
Sea bream	692 UA/t
Squid	1,375 UA/t
Cuttlefish	870 UA/t
Octopus	680 UA/t ;

- fixing the guide prices for the fishery products listed in Annex I (A) and (C) to the Regulation (No 2142/70) for the 1976 fishing year

Herrings	227 UA/t
Sardines	
(a) Atlantic	440 UA/t
(b) Mediterranean	274 UA/t
Redfish (Sebastes marinus)	478 UA/t

Cod	535 UA/t
Saithe	306 UA/t
Haddock	399 UA/t
Whiting	426 UA/t
Mackerel	221 UA/t
Anchovies	432 UA/t
Plaice	522 UA/t
Hake	1,120 UA/t
Shrimps of the genus sp.p.	1,076 UA/t

- fixing intervention prices for fresh or chilled sardines and anchovies for the 1976 fishing year

Sardines	
(a) Atlantic	198 UA/t
(b) Mediterranean	123 UA/t
Anchovies	194 UA/t

- fixing the Community producer prices for tunny intended for the canning industry for the first two months of the 1976 fishing year

Yellow-finned tunny	657 UA/t
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The Council also took note of a number of statements on the problems currently besetting the fisheries sector, especially the improvement of support and protection mechanisms.

It agreed to place this item on the agenda for a forthcoming meeting.

AGRICULTURAL PRICE PROPOSALS FOR THE 1976/1977 MARKETING YEAR

The Council took note of the proposals on agricultural prices for the 1976/1977 marketing year and of the related measures proposed by the Commission.

The Council heard a general statement on this matter by Mr LARDINOIS, the Commission member responsible for agriculture. He outlined the principles which had guided the Commission in drawing up the proposals, particularly the concern for balanced markets and the equitable development of farmers' incomes.

These proposals involve an average increase in prices of 7.5%, expressed in units of account. They also advocate certain adjustments to the markets which are currently imbalanced, particularly the markets in milk products, beef and veal and wine, a series of agricultural and monetary measures relating to compensatory amounts and certain measures relating to structures and stocks.

The delegations expressed their initial views.

The Council announced its intention of deciding on the matter at the earliest opportunity. To this end, it agreed to hold substantive discussions at its meeting scheduled for 19 and 20 January next, in the light of the Opinions requested from the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee.

EAGGF INTERVENTION IN THE FOD

The Council held an exchange of views on the matter of applying Article 40(4) of the EEC Treaty, a provision relating to the Guidance Section of the EAGGF, to the French Overseas Departments in view of their complete integration into the French administrative system.

In the light of the various points raised in the discussion the Council, pending the Opinion of the European Parliament, gave a positive assessment of the proposal in question. In this connection, it emphasized that there should be no overlapping of aid from the EAGGF with aid from the European Development Fund. It took note of a statement by the French delegation endorsing this principle.

BEEF AND VEAL

The Council agreed to the Regulation on the opening, allocation and administration of the Community tariff quota for frozen beef and veal falling with subheading 02.01 A II(a) 2 of the CCT (1976), in accordance with the commitments entered into by the Community at the last GATT multilateral negotiations.

The total of the quota is 38,500 tonnes, expressed as boneless meat, including 22,000 tonnes as part of a quota consolidated under GATT, and 16,500 tonnes subject to the unilateral arrangements which comprise the levy of monetary compensatory amounts.

The quota will be allocated as follows:

Benelux	4,550 tonnes
Denmark	250 tonnes
Germany	7,700 tonnes
France	2,880 tonnes
Ireland	-
Italy	11,050 tonnes
United Kingdom	12,150 tonnes
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Total	38,500 tonnes

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The Council also discussed the estimates for 1976 of beef and veal for the processing industry on the basis of the industry's requirements and the availability of meat for processing in the Community.

The Council agreed to resume its discussions on the matter at its next meeting on agricultural affairs (19 January 1976).

PROBLEMS OF AGRICULTURAL FINANCING

While examining certain amendments to the Regulation establishing a system of premiums for producers of bovine animals, the Council became aware of certain financial problems for the Guarantee Section of the EAGGF at the end of the financial year 1975.

The Council evolved a method of finding a solution to this problem and instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to finalize the Decision.

MILK PRODUCTS

The Council, pending receipt of the Opinion of the European Parliament which would enable it to take a decision on the amendment of Regulation No 1411/75 as regards the fat content of full-cream milk, was favourably disposed towards extending until 1 April 1976 the transitional provisions currently in force in the new Member States and was prepared to act on the Commission proposal by that date.

The Council agreed to discuss the agenda items on structural policy and the adaptation of certain rules on the organization of the market in cereals and rice at its next meeting on agricultural questions.

The Council noted the undertaking given by the Member States, in view of the current discussions at Community level, to refrain until 30 April 1976 from taking any initiatives as regards laws, regulations or administrative measures concerning the moisture content of certain fowls marketed in their territory and the method of analysis for determining such content (extension of the Gentleman's Agreement).

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

- on the standardization of the treatment applied by the individual Member States to imports from non-member countries of live trees and other plants, bulbs, roots and the like, cut flowers and ornamental foliage;
- laying down detailed rules for applying protective measures in the market in live trees and other plants, bulbs, roots and the like, cut flowers and ornamental foliage.

The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Resolution on stricter prevention of and proceedings against irregularities in the financing of the common agricultural policy.

The Council further noted the report on the implementation of Regulation (EEC) No 283/72 of 7 February 1972 concerning irregularities and the recovery of sums wrongly paid in connection with the financing of the common agricultural policy and the organization of an information system in this field.

The Council took formal note of the fourth financial report on the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund - year 1974.

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Regulation on the allocation of the appropriations of the Guidance Section of the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund for 1975 and the extension of certain deadlines for 1975 and 1976.

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MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

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

- maintaining in effect interim protective measures adopted regarding imports into France and the United Kingdom of certain textile products originating in the Republic of Korea and in Taiwan;
- regarding systems of authorizations for imports in 1976 and 1977 into the Federal Republic of Germany, the Benelux countries and France of synthetic socks originating in Taiwan.

The Council also adopted a **Decision authorizing the tacit renewal or continued operation of certain Treaties of Friendship, Trade and Navigation and similar agreements concluded between Member States and third countries.**

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The Council granted the assent requested by the Commission pursuant to Article 55(2)(c) of the ECSC Treaty enabling it to grant 550,567.32 UA as financial aid to four research institutes for the purposes of carrying out a number of projects directly related to safety in coal mines.

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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, Decisions

- on certain tariff measures for the second half of 1975;
- concerning exports of ferrous scrap to third countries;
- concerning temporary imports of ferrous scrap;
- concerning temporary exports of ferrous scrap;
- in respect of exports of alloy steel scrap to third countries;
- in respect of exports of rolling-mill cylinders
- in respect of exports of ferrous scrap to third countries.

PRESS RELEASE

Signing of the Convention
on the Community Patent

- 377th meeting of the Council -
Luxembourg, 15 December 1975

President: Mr Francesco CATTANEI,
State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Italian Republic

THE COMMUNITY PATENT

The Representatives of the Member States, meeting within the Council today signed the Convention on the Community patent at the Kirchberg European Centre ⁽¹⁾.

Belgium:

Mr J. DESCHAMPS

Belgian Ambassador
to Luxembourg

Denmark:

Mr K.V. SKJØDT

Director,
Patents Directorate

Germany:

Dr Peter HERMES

State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

France:

Mr Emile CAZIMAJOU

Minister Plenipotentiary,
Deputy Permanent Representative

Ireland:

Mr John BRUTON

Parliamentary Secretary,
Ministry for Industry and
Commerce

(1) A brief statement on the results of the Conference is annexed hereto.

Italy:

Mr Francesco CATTANEI

State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Luxembourg:

Mr Marcel MART

Minister for Economic Affairs,
Small Firms and Traders and of
Tourism

Netherlands:

Mr T.H.M. HAZEKAMP

State Secretary,
Ministry of Economic Affairs

United Kingdom:

Lord GORONWY-ROBERTS

Minister of State,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

The Commission was represented by Mr Fernand BRAUN,
Director-General, Internal Market.

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After the signing ceremony, the Council formally adopted the following Resolution:

"THE COUNCIL of the European Communities,

HAVING REGARD to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community,

WHEREAS the representatives of the Member States of the European Economic Community have this day signed a Convention for the European Patent for the Common Market;

WHEREAS the Council is of the opinion and the representatives of the Member States have declared in the preamble to the Convention that the conclusion of the Convention is necessary to facilitate the achievement of the tasks of the European Economic Community and that therefore it is an appropriate measure to be taken by the Member States, subject to national ratification procedures, to ensure fulfilment of Community obligations;

RESOLVES that the Member States should become parties to the Convention for the European Patent for the Common Market and take all such measures as may be necessary to ensure its implementation."

BRIEF STATEMENT
ON THE RESULTS OF THE LUXEMBOURG CONFERENCE
ON THE COMMUNITY PATENT

The aim of the Convention is to introduce a common system of law for Contracting States regarding patents for invention: it is thus in keeping with the principles of the Treaty of Rome, one of the objectives of which is to abolish obstacles to the free movement of goods.

In order to achieve this aim, the Convention enshrines the following principles:

- the creation of a Community patent: European patents granted pursuant to the Munich European Patent Convention - one or more Member States of the Community are designated to grant these - are Community patents valid for the entire Community
- the unitary and autonomous nature of the Community patent: it has the same effect throughout the territory of the Community and is subject only to the provisions of the Convention
- precedence of the provisions of the Treaty of Rome over those of the Convention
- the setting up of special departments of the European Patent Office to rule on the validity of Community patents.

Certain provisions deviate from these general principles, such as those which recognize the existence of prior national rights to a Community patent; moreover, infringement proceedings remain within the jurisdiction of national courts and should be centralised at a later date; finally the applicant for a patent may, for a transitional period, have the choice between a Community patent and a European patent, but only in the case of some of the States of the Community.

There were extensive negotiations on several questions at the Conference. We may note in this connection the adoption of "economic clauses", which guarantee that a patented product which is put on the market either by the proprietor of a patent or with his express agreement may move freely throughout the entire territory of the Community; further, with regard to jurisdiction, the principle of the primacy of the Convention on Jurisdiction and Enforcement, signed in Brussels on 27 September 1969, was affirmed, except where there was special jurisdiction, particularly with regard to infringement.

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The Convention on the Community Patent is, for the Nine, the logical extension of the Munich Convention signed in 1973. It is a significant contribution to the difficult standardisation work which enables us to move gradually closer to the creation of a genuine common market; it is, finally, one aspect of international co-operation on patents.

PRESS RELEASE

LIBRARY

378th meeting of the Council

- Social Affairs -

Brussels, 18 December 1975

President: Mr Mario TOROS
Minister of Labour
and Social Security of the
Italian Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr Alfred CALIFICE Minister of Labour and Employment

Denmark:

Mr Erling DINESEN Minister of Labour
Mrs Eva GEDAL Minister of Social Security
Mr Gunnar COIN State Secretary,
Ministry of Labour

Germany:

Mr Walter ARENDT Federal Minister of Labour and
Social Affairs

France:

Mr Emile CAZIMAJOU Minister Plenipotentiary,
Deputy Permanent Representative

Ireland:

Mr Michael O'LEARY Minister of Labour
Mr Frank CLUSKEY Parliamentary Secretary to the
Minister for Social Welfare

Italy:

Mr Mario TOROS Minister of Labour and Social
Security
Mr Luigi GRANELLI Deputy State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mr Alberto DEL NERO Deputy State Secretary,
Ministry of Labour and Social
Security

Luxembourg:

Mr Maurice THOSS

State Secretary, Ministry of
Labour and Social Security

Netherlands:

Mr P.J.J. MERTENS

State Secretary,
Ministry of Social Security

United Kingdom:

Mr John FRASER

Parliamentary Under-Secretary,
Department of Employment

Mr Michael MEACHER

Parliamentary Under-Secretary,
Department of Health and Social
Security

Commission:

Mr Patrick John HILLERY

Vice-President

TEXTILE AND CLOTHING SECTORS

The Council recorded its agreement to the Decision on continuing assistance from the European Social Fund for persons employed in the textile industry and extension of such assistance to persons employed in the clothing industry.

In accordance with the provisions of this Decision, assistance from the Social Fund may be granted in particular to operations which are aimed at facilitating the employment and geographical and occupational mobility of persons occupied in the textile industry, including the processing of chemical fibres, and in the clothing industry, whose activities are directly affected, or in danger of being affected, by measures for structural adaptation.

This Decision repeals that of 19 December 1972 and shall be valid for one and a half years.

RESOLUTION CONCERNING A PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR MIGRANT WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Following a discussion of a political nature, the Council recorded its agreement to the Resolution concerning a programme of action for migrant workers and their families, which is given in Annex.

STATISTICS ON FOREIGN LABOUR

The Council recorded its agreement to the Regulation concerning the compilation of statistics on foreign labour.

The Regulation also provides that Member States shall, in respect of workers who are nationals of another Member State or of a non-Member State, compile statistics on the number of workers and the first employment taken up by the workers concerned in their territory in a given year. These statistics should comprise the following information: nationality, sex, age, branch of activity or group of professions, and region.

PROPOSED ACTION BY THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND TO ASSIST OPERATIONS CONNECTED WITH THE RECESSION

Following a very detailed discussion on the various aspects of the Commission proposal, the Council noted that there was not the necessary majority for its adoption.

TRADE UNION RIGHTS OF MIGRANT WORKERS

The Council recorded its agreement on the Regulation amending the provisions relating to the trade union rights of the workers referred to in the Regulation on freedom of movement for workers within the Community.

The Regulation adopted by the Council specifies that the equality of treatment as regards trade union rights enjoyed by workers who are nationals of one Member State and who are employed in the territory of another Member State shall also apply with respect to eligibility for administration or management posts within a trade union.

SOCIAL SECURITY FOR MIGRANT WORKERS

The Council discussed the Commission proposal aimed at the standardization within the Community of the conditions governing the payment of family benefits to workers, the members of whose families live in a Member State other than the country of employment.

The Council noted that, in the present circumstances, the system provided for in the Regulation of 14 June 1971 on the application of social security schemes to employed persons and their families moving within the Community should be maintained; however, a number of adjustments might need to be made to the solutions adopted in that Regulation to assist migrant workers and members of their families.

EQUAL TREATMENT FOR MEN AND WOMEN WORKERS

The Council signified its agreement to the Directive on implementating the principle of equal treatment for men and women workers as regards access to employment, advancement, vocational training and working conditions. With a view to ensuring the progressive implementation of the principle of equal treatment in matters of social security, the Council, acting on a proposal from the Commission, is later to adopt provisions defining its substance and scope and arrangements for its application.

Under the Directive not only are formal types of discrimination, including those embodied in collective agreements, individual contracts of employment, staff regulations or in rules governing independent occupations and professions to be abolished, but it also makes provision for a positive right to equal treatment in the various fields under consideration. This right is confirmed by the provision that any person who considers himself aggrieved as a result of the failure to apply the principle of equal treatment may pursue his claims by judicial process after recourse, where possible, to other competent authorities. This is to be without prejudice to the freedom granted to certain private educational and training establishments.

Finally, the Member States will have to take the necessary measures to protect employees against dismissal by the employer as a reaction to a complaint or legal proceedings, and are to take care that the provisions adopted pursuant to the Directive, or those already in force, are brought to the attention of employees by all appropriate means, for example at their place of employment.

They have a maximum period of 30 months in which to implement the Directive.

THIRD REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND

After hearing a statement from the Commission, the Council took note of the third report of the new European Social Fund concerning the financial year 1974.

Besides an analysis of the operation and activities of the Fund during the financial year 1974, the report contains a number of observations on its impact on employment policy as well as some guidelines for the future.

The Council also took note of the various comments submitted by the different delegations concerning this report.

SCHOOLING OF CHILDREN OF MIGRANT WORKERS

The Council held a preliminary discussion on the proposal for a Directive on the schooling of children of migrant workers. Pending the Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee, it examined certain guidelines which could be followed in this matter and instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its examination of this proposal with a view to a Council Decision at a later date.

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When the Permanent Representatives Committee had finalized the various texts of the items on which the Council agreed, these texts will be submitted to the Council for formal approval at a forthcoming meeting and afterwards published in the Official Journal.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION ON AN ACTION PROGRAMME FOR MIGRANT
WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

provisional version

1. TAKES NOTE of the Commission communication on an action programme for migrant workers and their families;
2. CONSIDERS that in the Community's present economic and social situation, action to benefit migrant workers and their families should concentrate on the improvement of the circumstances of migrant workers and their families within the Member States and in particular on measures which will:

- (i) continue and enhance the humanization of freedom of movement for workers as provided for in Articles 48 to 51 of the Treaty by means of measures designed to promote, in accordance with the rights deriving from Community acts in force, genuine equality of treatment with national workers, taking into account all the requirements arising in the various stages of migration.

These shall include in particular:

- (a) taking whatever organizational steps are appropriate to, and strengthening co-operation between, national employment services, particularly as regards official

compensation machinery, in order to encourage as many migrant workers as possible to use these services;

- (b) offering appropriate assistance to migrant workers and their families to facilitate their integration in the host country, particularly by improving the social infrastructure and making more information available, and by encouraging them to take advantage of the official services available to nationals;
 - (c) providing, during the stages of return to and reintegration in the country of origin, as part of the collaboration between the host country and the country of origin, appropriate assistance to those migrant workers and their families wishing to resettle in their country of origin;
- (ii) seek appropriate solutions with a view to eliminating progressively such unwarranted restrictions of the rights of workers who are nationals of other Member States and of their families as may still exist under Community regulations in force.
 - (iii) encourage the achievement of equality of treatment for migrant workers and their families, who are nationals of third countries but legally resident in the Member States, with regard to living and working conditions, wages and economic rights.

3. CONSIDERS that with a view to promoting the social and occupational wellbeing of migrant workers and their families, particular importance should be attached to measures concerning the fields of vocational training, housing, social services, medical and social care schemes including preventive medicine, schooling of children, information campaigns designed to make the general public in the host countries more aware of the problems of migrant workers and their families;
4. WISHES to see an acceleration of the work undertaken in pursuance of point 11 of the Conference of the Heads of State or of Government in Paris in December 1974, regarding the granting of special rights to citizens of Member States;
5. CONSIDERS that it is important to
 - (i) concert as appropriate migration policies vis-à-vis third countries.
 - (ii) strengthen co-operation between Member States in the campaign against illegal immigration of workers who are nationals of third countries and ensure that appropriate sanctions are laid down to repress trafficking and abuses linked with illegal immigration and that the obligations of employers are fulfilled and the rights of workers relating to the work they have carried out safeguarded, without prejudice to other consequences of the unlawful nature of their residence and employment.

6. CONSIDERS that the social problems arising for workers who are nationals of the Member States and their families residing in certain third countries should be examined as necessary;
 7. EXPRESSES the political resolve that the measures referred to in this Resolution be implemented, with due regard to competence of the Community institutions on the one hand and that of the Member States on the other.
 8. CONSIDERS that future developments arising from this Resolution should be examined in the light of the implementation of the Council Resolution of 21 January 1974 concerning a social action programme.
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On a proposal from the French Government, the Council appointed Mr Joannès GALLIAND, Secretary of the CGT and head of his Federation's "Common Market" Section, as a member of the Economic and Social Committee to replace Mr MASCARELLO who had resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, that is until 16 September 1978.

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OTHER DECISIONS

Economic and financial questions

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities, the annual report on the economic situation in the Community for 1976 and the Decision concerning changes in the timetable for drawing up the annual report on the economic situation in the Community.

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

- Directives

- amending Directive 72/464/EEC on taxes other than turnover taxes which affect the consumption of manufactured tobacco;
- adjusting the conditions governing the granting of medium-term financial assistance to the Italian Republic;

- a Decision renewing the machinery for medium-term financial assistance;
- Regulations
 - on the allocation of 62.5 million units of account from the Guidance Section to the Guarantee Section of the EAGGF;
 - on the conditions for applying Article 40(4) of the Treaty to the French Overseas Departments (provision concerning the Guidance Section of the EAGGF).

Domestic market

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities, the Directives on the approximation of the laws of the Member States

- concerning electrical equipment for use in potentially explosive atmospheres;
- relating to fertilizers;
- relating to statutory plates and inscriptions for motor vehicles and their trailers, and their location and method of attachment;
- relating to certain partially or wholly dried preserved milk intended for human consumption;
- relating to anchorages for motor-vehicle safety belts.

Commercial policy

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Directive on the harmonization of the provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action, in respect of outward processing and seven Regulations on the implementation of Decisions Nos 1/75 and 2/75 of the Joint Committees set up under the EEC/EFTA Agreements, concerning methods of administrative co-operation in customs matters.

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

- Regulations

- on the opening, allocation and administration of Community tariff quotas for
 - certain hand made products;
 - certain hand woven fabrics, pile and chenille falling within subheadings Nos ex 50.09, ex 50.10, ex 55.07, ex 55.09 and ex 58.04 of the Common Customs Tariff;
- fixing for 1976 the Community quantitative export quota for certain types of copper ash and residues and for certain types of copper and aluminium waste and scrap;

- Decisions

- amending for 1976 the import quotas laid down by Decision 75/210/EEC on unilateral import arrangements in respect of state-trading countries;
- on the application of Decision 75/210/EEC on unilateral import arrangements in respect of state-trading countries;
- extending, in respect of the United Kingdom, the time limit provided for in the Act of Accession for retaining quantitative restrictions on import of flax or remie yarn in respect of state-trading countries;
- on the acceptance of a draft Additional Protocol to the European Agreement on the Exchange of Tissue-Typing Reagents;
- concluding the Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters extending the Trade Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Argentine Republic;

- a Regulation concerning the conclusion of the Agreement between the European Economic Community and Australia, negotiated under Article XXVIII of GATT, and amending the Common Customs Tariff as regards lead and zinc.

The Council authorized the Commission to open negotiations with Yugoslavia in the textiles sector.

Other Decisions

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

- amending Regulation (EEC) No 3255/74 extending and amending Regulation (EEC) No 1174/68 on the introduction of a system of bracket tariffs for the carriage of goods by road between Member States;
- extending Regulation (EEC) No 2829/72 on the Community quota for the carriage of goods by road between Member States;
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 1599/75 on the arrangements applicable to agricultural products and goods resulting from the processing of agricultural products originating in the ACP States or the OCT;
- renewing the arrangements for the reduction of import charges on beef and veal products originating in the ACP States;
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 1411/71 in respect of the fat content of full cream milk.

General budget of the European Communities

The Council noted that the European Parliament today approved an increase of 102,900,301 UA in the total "non-obligatory" expenditure in the 1976 budget as compared with the draft budget for the financial year 1976 which had been given a first reading by the Council, and that the European Parliament had agreed to a new rate of increase in non-obligatory expenditure corresponding to this increase.

The Council therefore recorded its agreement, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Treaty, to a new rate representing an increase of 102,900,301 UA in non-obligatory expenditure.
