

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

PRESS RELEASES

PRESIDENCY: UNITED KINGDOM

JANUARY-JUNE 1977

Meetings and press releases January-March 1977

Meeting number	Subject	Date
434 th	Foreign Affairs	18 January 1977
435 th	Foreign Affairs	8 February 1977
436 th	Economics/Finance	14 February 1977
437 th	Agriculture	14-15 February 1977
438 th	Foreign Affairs	8 March 1977
439 th	Economics/Finance	14 March 1977
440 th	Agriculture	14-15 March 1977
441 st	Taxation	Postponed
442 nd	Development Co-operation	22 March 1977
443 rd	Taxation	22 March 1977
444 th	Agriculture	25-29 March 1977
445 th	Energy	29 March 1977
446 th	Research	29 March 1977

PRESS RELEASE

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434th Council meeting

- Foreign Affairs -

Brussels, 18 January 1977

President: Mr Anthony CROSLAND,
Secretary of State for Foreign
and Commonwealth Affairs
of the United Kingdom

Netherlands:

Mr N. VAN DER STOEL	Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr A.P.L.M.N. VAN DER STEE	Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries
Mr L.J. BRINKHORST	State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr Anthony CROSLAND	Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs
Mr David OWEN	Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Mr John TOMLINSON	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Mr Hugh BROWN	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Scottish Office

Commission:

Mr Roy JENKINS	President
Mr Finn Clay GUNDELACH	Vice-President
Mr Wilhelm HAFERKAMP	Vice-President
Mr Lorenzo NATALI	Vice-President
Mr François-Xavier ORTOLI	Vice-President
Mr Clause CHEYSSON	Member
Viscount Etienne DAVIGNON	Member

RELATIONS WITH JAPAN

After hearing a report by the Commission on the talks currently being held with the Japanese authorities, the Council confirmed the serious concern it felt at the present state of trade relations with Japan and agreed to discuss this question again at its next meeting.

CIEC

In the spirit defined at the European Council meeting in The Hague, the Council held an initial exchange of views on the resumption of the CIEC. Discussions centred particularly on the timetable for and preparation of the ministerial meeting and the continuation of the finalization of the Community's basic position.

The Council agreed to include an item concerning the CIEC on the agendas for its forthcoming meetings in order to continue to prepare the Community's position in parallel with the consultations to be held by the Community authorities with the Group of Eight, and particularly the new United States' administration and the new Japanese Government, and with the co-Chairmen of the Conference.

The Council and the Commission also agreed to appoint Mr Stanley PAYTON, Chief of the Overseas Department of the Bank of England, to replace His Excellency Mr D. SPIERENBURG as co-Chairman of the Commission on Financial Affairs of the CIEC.

PORTUGAL

The Council discussed prospective developments in relations between the European Communities and Portugal. Following this, the Permanent Representatives Committee was instructed to embark on detailed preparation of the discussions the Council proposed to hold at its next meeting on 8 February 1976 in anticipation of the intended visit by Mr SOARES to the capitals of the Nine, beginning on 14 February 1976.

EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE

After discussion of a draft Resolution on the financing of co-operation projects in connection with the Euro-Arab Dialogue, the Council agreed to continue preparing the ground, at its meeting on 8 February, for the coming meeting of the General Commission of the Dialogue, scheduled for 10 and 11 February 1977 in Tunis.

18.I.77

ACCESSIONS TO THE LOME CONVENTION

The Council settled the last remaining problems concerning the detailed arrangements for application of the Lomé Convention to the three former overseas countries and territories - Surinam, Seychelles and the Comoro State - which have already acceded to the Convention by depositing their acts of accession. It agreed in particular that in connection with this accession 30.6 MUA would be transferred from the OCT aid allocation to the ACP allocation.

The Council also reached agreement on all the terms for the accession of three further States to the Lomé Convention - Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Cape Verde and Papua New Guinea. It decided inter alia that in connection with this accession the financial aid granted to the ACP States would be increased overall by 22.5 MUA.

Accordingly, once the texts have been finalised, the acts concerning the accession of these three countries should be signed in the very near future.

FISHERIES

The Council made significant progress regarding the interim measures for monitoring fishing by non-member countries in the Community 200-mile zone, and especially on establishing a Community system of fishing licences for some non-member countries, and on prior notification to the Community of fishing by vessels from these countries.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to draft, on the basis of appropriate Commission proposals, the communications to be sent to the countries concerned, indicating further details to supplement the communications sent to them in December, and defining their fishing potential until 31 March 1977.

The Council also discussed other aspects of this topic, in particular the Commission proposal laying down interim measures for the conservation of fishery resources, after which it agreed to instruct the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its examination of the subject so as to prepare for the Council's discussions at the forthcoming meetings both of the Ministers of Agriculture on 24 and 25 January, and of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs on 8 February 1977.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

On the subject of the Association with Greece, the Council recorded its agreement in principle to the Second EEC-Greece Financial Protocol, and instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to take the necessary steps to enable the Protocol to be signed as soon as possible.

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

- the regulations
 - concerning import arrangements for some products (tomato concentrates, fruit salads, prepared and preserved sardines) originating in various countries of the Mediterranean basin;
 - concerning import arrangements for certain textile products originating in Malaysia, Singapore and Macao respectively;
- the Directive on a derogation accorded to the Kingdom of Denmark relating to the rules governing turnover tax and excise duty applicable in international travel;

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The Council adopted the Decision on the signing of an Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Colombia on trade in textile products.

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The Council took note of the first report on the activities of the European Regional Development Fund (1975) and agreed to discuss the subject in depth at a forthcoming meeting.

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On a proposal from the "Vereniging de Nederlandse IJzer en Staalproducerende Industrie", the Council appointed Mr J.D. HOOGLANDT, "Voorzitter van de Raad en Bestuur van Hoogovens IJmuiden BV", as a member of the ECSC Consultative Committee in place of Mr Van VEELLEN, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which expires on 9 July 1978.

On a proposal from the French Government, the Council also appointed Mr J. LAURENS, member of the "Directoire du Syndicat National du Commerce des Produits Sidérurgiques", as a member of the ECSC Consultative Committee in place of Mr MARMASSE, deceased, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which expires on 9 July 1978.

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The Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the European Coal and Steel Community, meeting within the Council, adopted the Decision extending the period of validity of Decision 75/373/ECSC opening tariff preferences for products covered by that Community and originating in Israel.

PRESS RELEASE

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435th Council Meeting

- Foreign Affairs -

Brussels, 8 February 1977

President: Mr Anthony CROSLAND
United Kingdom Secretary of State
for Foreign and
Commonwealth Affairs

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

Belgium:

Mr Renaat VAN ELSLANDE Minister for Foreign Affairs

Denmark:

Mr Ivar NØRGAARD Minister for External Economic Affairs

Mr Poul DALSGER Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries

Mr Jens CHRISTENSEN State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Germany:

Mr Hans-Dietrich GENSCHER Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs

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

France:

Mr Louis de GUIRINGAUD Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Marcel CAVAILLE State Secretary for Transport

Ireland:

Mr Garret FITZGERALD Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Patrick DONEGAN Minister for Fisheries

Italy:

Mr Arnaldo FORLANI Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Vito ROSA Deputy State Secretary for Shipping

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Luxembourg:

Mr Gaston THORN Minister for Foreign Affairs

Netherlands:

Mr M. VAN DER STOEL Minister for Foreign Affairs

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

Mr L.J. BRINKHORST State Secretary, Foreign Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr Anthony CROSLAND Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs

Mr David OWEN Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Mr John TOMLINSON Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Mr Hugh BROWN Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Scottish Office

Commission:

Mr Roy JENKINS President

Mr Wilhelm HAFFERKAMP Vice-President

Mr Finn Olav GUNDELACH Vice-President

Mr Lorenzo NATALI Vice-President

Mr Claude CHEYSSON Member

Viscount Etienne DAVIGNON Member

EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE

The Council approved the Community position for the next meeting of the General Committee of the Euro-Arab Dialogue, which is to take place in Tunis on 10/11/12 February 1977. In this connection, the Council adopted a draft Financial Resolution and also approved the guidelines for the European delegation with regard to both the commercial and social aspects of the Dialogue.

At this meeting, the Council reiterated the importance which the Community and its Member States attach to the Dialogue and to the future development of the close links which already exist between the two regions.

RELATIONS WITH JAPAN

The Council heard a report from the Commission on progress in the talks being held with Japan and asked the Commission to continue with the talks.

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RELATIONS WITH SPAIN

The Council held an exchange of views on ways and means of regularizing relations between Spain and the Community before the end of the transitional period provided for in the Act of Accession of the United Kingdom, Denmark and Ireland to the Communities. So as to be in a position if possible to resolve the question at its meeting on 8 March, it instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee, in collaboration with the Commission, to complete its preparation of the dossier and report back to it.

In the same context, the Council also hoped that it would be possible for the Commission, at that meeting, to submit a report on its assessment of the effects of the Mediterranean policy.

RELATIONS WITH GREECE

The Council adopted the text of the second Financial Protocol with Greece, which could therefore be signed in the very near future.

RELATIONS WITH TURKEY

The Council agreed on the substance of the text of the third Financial Protocol with Turkey and instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to make the necessary arrangements for it to be signed as soon as possible.

EXTERNAL FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS - MEDITERRANEAN

Following an exchange of views, the Council expressed the hope that the question of cover of the guarantee for EIB loans could be resolved as soon as possible.

CIEC - COMMON FUND

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to prepare, with the assistance of the high-level Group, the Community position for the Conference on the Common Fund and to continue preparing the Community position with a view to the resumption of the CIEC. It will discuss these issues at its next meeting.

RELATIONS WITH PORTUGAL

The Council and the Representatives of the Member States meeting within the Council defined the elements of the joint stance they intend to adopt on the occasion of the visits which Mr SOARES, Prime Minister of Portugal, is to pay to the nine capitals during the next few weeks.

FISHERIES

The Council took note of a report by Mr GUNDELACH on progress in negotiations with the United States. It instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to take the appropriate steps so that a fisheries agreement between the Community and the United States can be signed before 15 February 1977.

After discussing the situation regarding the arrangements currently applicable to vessels flying the flag of the USSR, Poland and the GDR, the Council signified its agreement in principle to a Regulation laying down certain interim conservation and management measures applicable to vessels flying the flag of a number of other third countries (Spain, Finland, Portugal, Sweden, Canada and the United States) and instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to finalize the text of this Regulation with a view to its formal adoption at the earliest opportunity.

As regards the internal aspects of the fisheries policy, the Council held a wide-ranging exchange of views at the end of which it reached consensus ⁽¹⁾ on certain measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources. These measures comprise in particular:

- the immediate examination of the NEAFC recommendations on the use and transport of different mesh, with a view to the introduction of wider mesh under certain conditions; the Commission is to submit proposals on the matter to the Council before 15 March;

(¹) Although one delegation reserved its position.

- subsequent examination of restrictions on the use of seines;
- a ban on the direct fishing of herring stocks in the North Sea (with the exception of unavoidable and limited by-catches) from 28 February to 30 April 1977; for the rest of 1977 the Council will take a decision in the light of scientific opinion and on the basis of a Commission proposal;
- a ban on the direct fishing of herring stocks in the Celtic Sea from 1 March to 31 December 1977;
- subsequent examination of the herring stocks situation in the Irish Sea and in the waters close to the north-west and south-west coasts of Ireland.

The Council agreed to instruct the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine certain conservation measures outstanding so that it can take the appropriate decisions at its meeting on agricultural questions on 14 and 15 February 1977.

In order to expedite further proceedings in the field of the common fishing policy, the Council set up a high-level Group under the aegis of the Permanent Representatives Committee to assist in examining short-term and longer-term measures in this sector.

APPLICATION ON THE PROVISIONS OF THE TREATY WHICH RELATE TO NATIONAL AID

The Council noted a statement by the Danish delegation on the application of Article 93 of the Treaty, with particular regard to the granting of temporary aid to pig-breeders in the United Kingdom, at the end of which several delegations indicated that they could agree to this United Kingdom action.

SITUATION OF A DANISH UNDERTAKING IN GHANA

The Council took note of a communication from the Danish delegation regarding the latest available information on the situation of a Danish undertaking in Ghana.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Trade policy

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

- concluding the Agreements between the European Economic Community and the Federative Republic of Brazil, Macao, the Republic of Korea and the Republic of Colombia respectively on trade in textile products;
- opening, allocating and administering a Community tariff quota for ferro-chromium containing not less than 4% by weight of carbon, falling within subheading ex 73.02 E I of the Common Customs Tariff, and extending the benefit of this quota to certain imports of ferro-chromium containing a quantity of between 3 and 4% by weight of carbon (1977);
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 97/69 on measures to be taken for uniform application of the nomenclature of the Common Customs Tariff.

The Council also adopted the Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters relating to Article 3 of Protocol 8 of the EEC-Portugal Agreement: prepared tomatoes.

The Council furthermore signified its agreement to certain Recommendations of the EEC-Austria and EEC-Switzerland Joint Committees on Community Transit concerning amendments to the EEC-Austria and EEC-Switzerland Agreements on the implementation of Community transit regulations. It also agreed to certain Decisions of these Joint Committees amending Appendices I to IX to the EEC-Austria and EEC-Switzerland Agreements on the implementation of the transit regulations.

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Agricultural policy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 1794/76 introducing a derogation from Regulation (EEC) No 155/71 on the production refund on olive oil used in the manufacture of certain preserved foods.

The Council took note of the fifth financial report concerning the European Agricultural Guarantee and Guidance Fund for 1975.

The Council also noted the extension of the undertaking given by the Member States on 20 and 21 December 1976 regarding the production of glucose syrup with a high fructose content.

ECSC

The Council gave the assents requested by the Commission in accordance with

- the second paragraph of Article 54 of the ECSC Treaty, to the partial financing of the purchase, by the German company Gewerkschaft Norbert Metz, of the shares of the mining company Red Ash Sales Company Inc., West Virginia, (USA) and to the partial financing of its planned investment;
- Article 56(2)(a) of the ECSC Treaty (Société SAVIEM).

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Food Aid

The Council agreed on the 1977 cereals aid programme, involving a total quantity of 1,287,000 tonnes, of which 720,500 tonnes will be granted in the form of Community aid and 566,500 tonnes in the form of national aid. This aid is intended for the 42 countries and 6 international bodies shown in the following table:

Recipient countries and bodies	1976/1977 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN		
	Total aid	Community projects	in thousands of tonnes National projects
<u>LATIN AMERICA</u>			
Honduras	1	1	
Peru	8.5	7.5	1
Bolivia	2.5	2.5	
Haiti	3		3
<u>AFRICA</u>			
	42		42 (1)
Angola	11.5	10 (2)	1.5
Benin	2.5	2.5	
Botswana	0.5	0.5	
Burundi	4.5	1	3.5
Cape Verde	9.5	8.5	1
PR Congo	3		3
Ethiopia		2.5	(*)
Ghana	3.5	3.5	
Guinea-Bissau	4.5	3	1.5
Guinea-Conakry	6.5	3.5	3
Lesotho	0.130	0.130	
Liberia	3	3	
Mauritius	6.5	3.5	3
Mozambique		15	(*)
Rwanda	5	2.5	2.5
CAS	1	1	
Sao Tome and Principe	1.5	1.5	
Senegal	11	8	3
Somalia	34	25	9
Sudan	3.5	3.5	
Tanzania	15	5	10
Tunisia	26.5	3.5	23
Zaire	15	15	
Zambia	6	6	

(1) To be allocated at a later date

(2) Via the UNHCR

in thousands of tonnes			
Recipient countries and bodies	Total aid	Community projects	National projects
<u>MIDDLE EAST</u>			
Egypt	150	100 (1)	50
Jordan	21	18 (2)	3
Yemen Arab Republic	6	6	
P.D.R. of Yemen	7	6	1
Lebanon	32.5	25 (3)	7.5
Syria	5	5	7.5
<u>ASIA</u>			
Bangladesh	142	100 (4)	42
Indonesia	31.5	10	21.5
Laos			(*)
Pakistan	49	25	24
Philippines	10.5	7.5	3
Sri Lanka	69.5	30	39.5
Vietnam		30	(*)
<u>OTHER COUNTRIES</u>			
Malta	5.5	1	4.5
<u>ORGANIZATIONS</u>			
WFP	154.1	55	99.1
ICRC	15	15	
UNICEF	18	15	3
UNRWA	42.5	35	7.5
League of RC Societies	5	5	
Catholic Relief Service	15	15	
<u>RESERVE</u>	183.97	78.370	105.6
<u>TOTAL</u>	1,287	720.5	566.5

- (1) Including 25,000 t as a special reserve to be released depending upon the situation.
- (2) For Palestinian refugees.
- (3) Special reserve for Lebanon which the Commission has been empowered to release in whole or in part depending upon developments.
- (4) Including 30,000 t as a special reserve to be released following a further examination of the situation.
- (*) National projects to be specified or allocated subsequently.

The Council also accorded its agreement on emergency measures for Syria (refugees) involving 5,000 tonnes of cereals, 700 tonnes of skimmed-milk powder and 500 tonnes of butteroil.

The Council appointed,

- acting on a proposal from the National Coal Board,
Mr R.V. FINDLAY, National Coal Board, as member of the Consultative Committee of the European Coal and Steel Community, to replace Mr Ch. HOWARD, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which runs until 9 July 1978;

- acting on a proposal from the French Government,
 - = Mr Bernard DIZIER, Secretary-General of the CFDT Gas and Electricity Federation, as member of the Committee of the European Social Fund, to replace Mr A. GLOMIEUX, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which runs until 28 October 1977;
 - = Mr Pierre BOURGEOU, Chairman of the Economic and Social Committee of Franche Comté, as member of the Economic and Social Committee, to replace Mr Paul NODDINGS, who has died, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which runs until 16 September 1978;
 - = Mr Charles MASSABIEUX, Assistant at the CGT Bureau Confédéral, as member of the Economic and Social Committee, to replace Mr Joannès GALLAND, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which runs until 16 September 1978;

- acting on a proposal from the German Government,
Mr T.R. MEYER, Referent in der Rechtsabteilung des Bundesverbandes der Deutschen Industrie e.V., as member of the Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work, to replace Dr EBERSTEIN, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office which runs until 4 May 1978;

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- acting on a proposal from the Netherlands Government, as alternate members of the Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work,

= Mr H.B.W. SCHMITZ, Beleidsmedewerker van de Federatie van Nederlandse Vakverenigingen, to replace Mrs NIEUWENHUIS, who has resigned,

= Mr P.H. KORTEN, Medewerker van het Nederlands Christelijk Werkgeversverbond, to replace Mr B.C.J.C. RUYGROK, who has resigned,

for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which runs until 4 May 1978;

- acting on a proposal from the Commission of the European Communities, Mr Lino RAVECCA, Confederal Secretary of the Unione Italiana del Lavoro (UIL) as Member of the Management Board of the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training, to replace Mr QUERENGHI, who has been called to other duties, for the period ending on 15 October 1978;

- acting on a proposal from the Commission of the European Communities, as members of the Administrative Board of the European Foundation for the improvement of living and working conditions, in the workers' category:

= Mr Bent NIELSEN, Landsorganisationen i Danmark to replace Mr A.F. THORGRIMSON, who has resigned,

= Mr Henry DUNKEL, Central Secretary of the Confédération luxembourgeoise des syndicats chrétiens, to replace Mr J.P. HUPPERICH, who has resigned,

for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which runs until 14 March 1979;

The Council adopted the Decision appointing the members and alternate members of the Advisory Committee on Social Security for Migrant Workers.

The term of office of the following appointments covers the period from 8 February 1977 to 7 February 1979.

The following are appointed:

GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES

	(a) <u>Members</u>		(b) <u>Alternates</u>
Belgium	Mr DONIS	Mr MERTENS	Mr DUPUIS
Denmark	Mr RAASCHOU-NIELSEN	Mr ERIER	Mr EDELBERG
Germany	Mr HAASE	Mr KAUPFER	Mr BURCHARDT
France	Mr FONTENEAU	Mr CASTELLA	Mr DECISIER
Ireland	Mr HYNES	Mr COLLINS	Mr TRANT
Italy	Mr BOVA	Mr CHRISTOFANELLI	Mrs PIRRONE
Luxembourg	Mr NOSEBUCH	Mr BELFFERS	Mr DERATTE
Netherlands	Mr DIRKEN	Mr van NIJNANTEN	Mr BIESTA
United Kingdom	Mr REFFELL	Mr SEABOURN	Mr OAKES

REPRESENTATIVES OF TRADE UNION ORGANIZATIONS

	(a) <u>Members</u>		(b) <u>Alternates</u>
Belgium	Mr DENNEL	Mr DECLERCO	Mr POTTILIUS
Denmark	Mr VOGNBJERG	Mr F.B. SIMONSEN	Mr NIELSEN
Germany	Mr KONSTANTY	Mrs WULF-MATHIES	Mr SCHUPETA
France	Mr CAPPE	Mr BRIDIER	Miss PINOT
Ireland	Mr MURPHY	Mr MULHALL	Mr NEVIN
Italy	Mr MOTTA	Mr DEGANO	Mr PERIOLI
Luxembourg	Mr PIZZAFERRI	Mr DUNKEL	Mr KRATOCHWIL
Netherlands	Mr MADLENER	Mr FIJN van DRAAT	Mr NELEMANS
United Kingdom	Mr ECCLES	Mr MAWER	Mr MACGOUGAN

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REPRESENTATIVES OF EMPLOYERS' ORGANIZATIONS

(a) Members

(b) Alternates

Belgium	Mr FRANSMAN	Mrs DE SCHRIJVER	Mr VAN HOLM
Denmark	Mr STENBJERRE	Mrs H. SIMONSEN	Mr CHRISTENSEN
Germany	Mr SCHNABEL	Mr LÖW	Mr GLAUBITZ
France	Mr MARTIN	Mr VRILLON	Mr de LAMER
Ireland	Mr HARRINGTON	Mr YATES-HALE	Mr RICE
Italy	Mr TORELLA	Mr MASONI	Mr MISSEVILLE
Luxembourg	Mr PAULY	Mr SAUBER	Mr JUNG
Netherlands	Mrs de QUANT	Mr van RENS	Mr ZWARTS
United Kingdom	Mr ROGERS	Mr COBB	Mrs HARRISON

PRESS RELEASE

436th meeting of the Council
- Economic and Financial Affairs -
Brussels, 14 February 1977

President: Mr Denis HEALEY,
Chancellor of the Exchequer
of the United Kingdom

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

Belgium:

Mr Willy DE CLERCQ Minister for Finance

Denmark:

Mr Per HAEKKERUP Minister for Economic Affairs
Mr Kurt HANSEN State Secretary,
Ministry of Economic Affairs

Germany:

Mr Hans APEL Federal Minister of Finance
Mr Karl Otto POEHL State Secretary,
Ministry for Finance
Mr Otto SCHLECHT State Secretary,
Ministry of Economic Affairs

France:

Mr Luc de La BARRE de NANTEUIL Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

Ireland:

Mr Richie RYAN Minister for Finance

Italy:

Mr Gaetano STAMMARI Minister for the Treasury

Luxembourg:

Mr Marcel MART Minister for Economic Affairs
Mr Jacques POOS Minister for Finance

Netherlands:

Mr R.F.M. LUBBERS

Minister for Economic Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr Denis HEALEY

Chancellor of the Exchequer

Commission:

Mr François-Xavier ORTOLI

Vice-President

Mr Christopher Samuel TUGENDHAT

Member

The Council held an exchange of views on the economic situation in the Community and drew up the general outlines of its work schedule for the coming months.

The Council also heard a statement by Mr TUGENDHAT, Member of the Commission, on the budgetary implications of the Commission proposals concerning agricultural prices and related measures for 1977/1978.

PRESS RELEASE

437th meeting of the Council

- Agriculture -

Brussels, 14-15 February 1977

President: Mr John SILKIN
Minister for Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food
of the United Kingdom

PRESS RELEASE

Brussels, 16 February 1977
201/77 (Presse 19) Corr. 1

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C O R R I G E N D U M
to Press Release
No 201/77 (Presse 19)
of 14/15 February 1977

Page 6, "FISHERIES", First paragraph :

Read : Concluding its examination of the interim measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources, the Council today agreed a series of measures in this sector, subject to a reservation by the Danish delegation.

Page 7, penultimate paragraph :

Read : The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine the text containing this series of decisions subject to a reserve by one delegation, so that it could adopt them, after their legal finalization, at the earliest opportunity.

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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 Pierre MEHAIGNERIE State Secretary,
 Ministry of Agriculture

Ireland:

Mr Mark CLINTON Minister for Agriculture
Mr Patrick DONEGAN Minister for Fisheries

Italy:

Mr Giovanni MARCORÀ Minister for Agriculture
Mr Arcangelo LO BIANCO Deputy State Secretary,
 Ministry of Agriculture

Luxembourg:

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

15.II.77

Netherlands:

Mr A.P.L.M.M. VAN DER STEE

Minister for Agriculture

Mr L.J. BRINKHORST

State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr John SILKIN

Minister for Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food

Mr Gavin STRANG

Parliamentary Secretary,
Ministry of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food

Mr Robert MACLENNAN

Parliamentary Under-Secretary
of State,
Department of Prices and Consumer
Protection

Commission:

Mr Roy JENKINS

President

Mr Finn Olav GUNDELACH

Vice President

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15.02.77

PROPOSALS ON AGRICULTURAL PRICES

Mr GUNDELACH, Commissioner responsible for agriculture, introduced the Commission proposals on the fixing of prices for certain agricultural products for 1977/1978 and related measures.

Following this introduction, preliminary reactions both of a general and of a specific nature were made by delegations on this subject.

The Council agreed to examine the substance of these proposals, in the light of the Opinions to be delivered by the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee, at its forthcoming meetings devoted to agriculture on 14 and 15 and 25, 26 and 27 March 1977.

MARKET IN POTATOES

The Council held a general discussion on the proposal for a Regulation on the common organization of the market in potatoes.

Following this discussion, it instructed the Special Committee on Agriculture to examine in greater depth the questions raised by this proposal in the light of today's discussions in order to enable the Council to resume its discussions on this subject at a forthcoming meeting.

The Council also agreed to extend the total and temporary suspension of the Common Customs Tariff duties on potatoes in accordance with the arrangements given on page II of this Press Release.

FISHERIES

Concluding its examination of the interim measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources, the Council today agreed a series of measures in this sector.

Specifically, it reached agreement on measures relating to by-catches and the ban on fishing for Norway pout, and was able to confirm the consensus reached at its meeting on 8 February last.

In summary, the decisions reached then concerned:

- the immediate examination of the NEAFC recommendations on the use and transport of different mesh, with a view to the introduction of wider mesh under certain conditions;
- subsequent examination of restrictions on the use of seines;
- a ban on the direct fishing of herring stocks in the North Sea (with the exception of unavoidable and limited by-catches) from 28 February to 30 April 1977;
- a ban on the direct fishing of herring stocks in the Celtic Sea from 1 March to 31 December 1977;
- subsequent examination of the herring stocks situation in the Irish Sea and in the waters close to the north-west and south-west coasts of Ireland.

The specific measures agreed today concern:

- a reduction of by-catches to 20% as from 1 April 1977, and a further examination of this issue in the light of scientific advice and on the basis of Commission proposals before the end of May 1977;
- fixing the limits of the zone in the North Sea within which fishing for Norway pout is to be banned at longitude 0° - 4° W and latitude 56° - 60° N as from 21 February until the end of March 1977; a further decision on action applicable as from 1 August 1977 is to be taken in the light of scientific advice and on the basis of a Commission proposal.

The Council also agreed to prohibit the use of vessels which carry out processing operations additional to those of salting, boiling of shrimps, filleting, freezing, reducing offal and reducing unavoidable by-catches subject to the authorized maximum.

The Council instructed the Commission to continue its study of transshipment in order to enable it to reconsider the matter at a forthcoming meeting.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine the text containing this series of decisions subject to a waiting reserve by one delegation, so that it could adopt them, after their legal finalization, at the earliest opportunity.

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The Council also agreed to the signing of the Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the European Economic Community on fishing off the coasts of the United States. This Agreement will be signed in Washington today.

WINE SECTOR

The Council discussed the problems arising with regard to the situation on the market and trends in intra-Community trade during the new wine year, and particularly since the entry into force last December of the new guide and activating prices. The matter of the effects of indirect taxes on trends in trade was also raised in this context.

Following its discussions, the Council took note of a statement by the Commission representative, who pointed out that the Commission would expedite its study of the proposals to be submitted in order to contribute to the solution of structural problems and to adjust certain aspects of the organization of the market.

STRUCTURAL POLICY

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Regulation on common measures to improve the conditions under which agricultural products are processed and marketed (to which it had agreed in principle at its meeting on 20 December last). The particular purpose of this Regulation is to encourage investments intended to rationalize and improve intermediate activities between farmers and consumers.

In the context of the adoption of this Regulation, the Council agreed to expedite proceedings concerning the proposal for a Regulation concerning producer groups and associations thereof. In a resolution, it undertook to take a decision before 30 June 1977 on the new proposals, including proposals concerning the financial implications, to be submitted to it by the Commission before 30 April.

The Council also raised the matter of the adjustment of the amounts of aid provided for in various texts concerning the socio-structural policy. It agreed to continue its discussions on this matter at a forthcoming meeting.

MONETARY COMPENSATORY AMOUNTS FOR PIGMEAT

The Council discussed the problem raised by the United Kingdom concerning the methods used for calculating monetary compensatory amounts for pigmeat.

In this context, several delegations also commented on the general aspects of the system of monetary compensatory amounts and on the difficulties in implementing it.

The Commission said it would continue to examine attentively all the problems raised in this area with a view to finding appropriate Community solutions.

MISCELLANEOUS STATEMENTS

The Council took note of various statements concerning

- the transfer of common wheat for intervention to Italy (Italian delegation), following which the Council agreed in principle to the transfer of 300,000 tonnes of common wheat from the German intervention agency and 50,000 tonnes of durum wheat from the French intervention agency to the Italian intervention agency. The arrangements for this transfer will be examined by the Permanent Representatives Committee at the earliest opportunity;
- the market in hops (German delegation), drawing attention to the persistence of structural problems in this sector and inviting the Commission to make the necessary proposals. Matters relating to this sector will be included on the agenda for the next Council meeting devoted to agriculture;
- monetary compensatory amounts on processed products (Irish delegation), drawing attention to the importance of certain discrimination problems which might arise from the non-application of monetary compensatory amounts to these products;
- imports of tomato concentrates (Italian delegation), drawing attention to the fact that imports of tomato concentrates, which were disrupting the Community market in these products, had been able to be made from third countries to certain Member States at prices lower than the Community minimum price as a result of the application of different rates of exchange.

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a series of measures concerning the beef and veal sector contained in

- the Regulations
 - repealing Regulations (EEC) Nos 888/68, 990/68 and 752/74 concerning the beef and veal sector;
 - adapting Regulations (EEC) Nos 885/68 and 1302/73 following amendments to the system applicable to the common organization of the market in beef and veal;
 - amending Regulation (EEC) No 989/68 laying down general rules for granting private storage aid for beef and veal;
 - amending Regulation (EEC) No 98/69 laying down general rules for the disposal of frozen beef and veal by intervention agencies;
 - laying down general rules for the system of compensatory amounts for beef and veal;
- the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 2453/76 on the transfer to the Italian intervention agency of frozen beef held by the intervention agencies of other Member States;
- the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 805/68 on the common organization of the market in beef and veal and adapting Regulation (EEC) No 827/68 and Regulation (EEC) No 950/68 on the Common Customs Tariff.

The Council further adopted in the official languages of the Communities.

- the estimate of young male bovine animals weighing 300 kg or less and intended for fattening for the period from 1 April to 31 December 1977.

II

The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities

- the Regulations

- amending Regulation (EEC) No 315/68 fixing quality standards for flowering bulbs, corms and tubers;
- temporarily and totally suspending the autonomous Common Customs Tariff duties on new potatoes falling within subheading 07.01 A II a) (from 1 March to 31 March 1977) and on other potatoes falling within subheading 07.01 A III b) (from 1 March to 15 April 1977);
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 2511/69 laying down special measures for improving the production and marketing of Community citrus fruit;
- laying down special measures in respect of the Beneventano variety of tobacco.

In this connection, the Council took note of a Commission report to the Council concerning the quantities of raw tobacco from the 1973 crop taken over by the intervention agencies;

- the Directives

- amending Directive 76/625/EEC concerning the statistical surveys to be carried out by the Member States in order to determine the production potential of plantations of certain species of fruit trees;
- amending Directive 75/271/EEC concerning the Community list of less-favoured farming areas within the meaning of Directive 75/268/EEC (France).

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MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONSRelations with the ACP and the OCT

The Council approved the texts relating to the accession to the Lomé Convention of Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Cape Verde and Papua New Guinea and the draft exchanges of letters on the advance implementation of the trade provisions between the Community and these three countries.

These Agreements will be signed very shortly.

The Council further adopted the following decisions and regulations:

- the Decision adjusting the Decision of 29 June 1976 on the association of the OCT with the Community (adjustments necessitated by the already effective accession of three former OCT -- Surinam, Seychelles, Comoro State -- to the Lomé Convention);
- the Decision adjusting the amounts made available to the EDF (1975) for the ACP States on the one hand and for the OCT and FOD on the other;
- the Regulation amending the list of countries and territories in Regulation No 706/76 on the arrangements applicable to agricultural products and certain goods resulting from the processing of agricultural products originating in the ACP States or in the OCT;
- the Decision amending the list of countries and territories in Decision 76/198/EEC on import arrangements for rum, arrack and tafia falling within subheading 22.09 C I of the CCT and originating in the OCT;
- the Regulation amending Regulations (EEC) Nos 1464/76 and 1465/76 on the opening, allocation and administration of Community tariff quotas for rum, arrack and tafia falling within subheading 22.09 C I of the CCT and originating in the ACP States and the OCT.

Commercial policy

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Regulation concerning the application of an anti-dumping duty on chains, for cycles and motorcycles, originating in Taiwan.

The Council also approved the signing of an Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Arab Republic of Egypt on trade in textiles.

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Food aid in the form of milk products

Within the framework of the second instalment of the 1976 programme of aid in the form of milk products, the Council agreed to the break-down by recipient body and country of destination of 12,000 tonnes of skimmed milk powder allocated to the NGO's (non-governmental organizations). It also adopted a number of technical arrangements concerning the distribution and routing of the aid.

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The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities

- the Directives

- on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the safeguarding of employees' rights in the event of transfers of undertakings, businesses, or parts of businesses;
- amending the first Directive on the establishment of common rules for certain types of carriage of goods by road between Member States;

- the Decisions

- adopting a technological research programme in the footwear sector;
 - on the exporting of crude oil and petroleum products from one Member State to another in the event of supply difficulties,
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PRESS RELEASE

438th meeting of the Council

- Foreign Affairs -

Brussels, 8 March 1977

President: Dr David OWEN,
United Kingdom Secretary of State
for Foreign
and Commonwealth Affairs

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 K.B. ANDERSEN Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Jens CHRISTENSEN State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Germany:

Mr Hans-Dietrich GENSCHER Federal Minister for
Foreign Affairs

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

France:

Mr Louis de GUIRINGAUD Minister for Foreign Affairs

Ireland:

Mr Patrick DONEGAN Minister for Fisheries

Mr John KELLY Parliamentary Secretary,
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Italy:

Mr Arnaldo FORLANI Minister for Foreign Affairs

Luxembourg:

Mr Gaston THORN Minister for Foreign Affairs

Netherlands:

Mr M. VAN DER STOEL Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr L.J. BRINKHORST State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr David OWEN Secretary of State for
Foreign and Commonwealth
Affairs

Mr Edmund DELL Secretary of State for Trade

Mr Frank JUDD Minister of State,
Foreign and Commonwealth
Office

Mr John TOMLINSON Parliamentary Under-Secretary
of State,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Commission:

Mr Roy JENKINS President

Mr Wilhelm HAFERKAMP Vice-President

Mr Finn Olav GUNDELACH Vice-President

Mr Lorenzo NATALI Vice-President

Mr Claude CHEYSSON Member

Viscount Etienne DAVIGNON Member

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8.III.77

RELATIONS WITH PORTUGAL

The Council took note of the details given by the French Minister for Foreign Affairs of the talks held in Paris on Monday with Mr SOARES, who has been visiting London, Dublin, Copenhagen and Rome in the last few weeks and has still to visit the other capitals of the Nine.

The Permanent Representatives Committee was instructed to make preparations for the forthcoming discussions of the Council on this subject.

RELATIONS WITH SPAIN

On the basis of discussions held by the Permanent Representatives Committee since its last meeting, the Council held an exchange of views on ways and means of regularizing relations between Spain and the Community before the end of the transitional period provided for by the Act of Accession of the United Kingdom, Denmark and Ireland to the Communities. It authorized the Commission to conduct further exploratory talks with the Spanish delegation and asked the Permanent Representatives Committee to co-operate with the Commission and submit draft negotiating directives to it by its next meeting in April.

It also took note in this context of the Commission's intention to submit to it very shortly its assessment of the effects of the Mediterranean policy.

8.III.77

RELATIONS WITH CYPRUS

With regard to the outstanding problems in the context of the EEC-Cyprus Association, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to complete its preparations for the next Council meeting on 5 April 1977.

RELATIONS WITH YUGOSLAVIA

Having reiterated the importance which it attached to the development of relations between the Community and Yugoslavia, and to the implementation of the Belgrade declaration of 2 December 1976, the Council welcomed the fact that the Joint EEC-Yugoslavia Committee is to meet on 29 March 1977.

FISHERIES POLICY

After hearing an interim report from Mr GUNDELACH, the Commissioner responsible for fisheries policy, the Council reviewed progress in the current discussions from both the external and internal points of view.

The Council wished to emphasize the urgency of making definitive arrangements in this sector, and duly noted that the High-Level Working Party on Fisheries would be meeting on 9 March 1977.

The Council also decided to proceed as soon as possible with the signing of the fisheries agreement between the European Economic Community and the Government of Denmark and Local Government of the Faeroe Islands.

SITUATION WITH REGARD TO A DANISH UNDERTAKING IN GHANA

The Council reviewed the situation with regard to a Danish undertaking in Ghana.

8.III.77

ARRANGEMENT REGARDING INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN TEXTILES

Following the Council's discussions, very broad agreement was noted on the aims to be attained during the talks for the renewal of the Multifibres Arrangement, and on most of the negotiating directives to be given to the Commission.

The Permanent Representatives Committee was instructed to re-examine as soon as possible, on the basis of a Commission document, the question still outstanding of the most appropriate methods to cope with cumulative market disturbances in order to enable the Community to enter into negotiations which must begin on 16 March in Geneva.

CSCE - SOVIET PROPOSALS FOR PAN-EUROPEAN CONFERENCES

On the basis of a report on the Soviet proposals for pan-European conferences on the environment and transport and energy, the Council drew up several guidelines for the continuation of the work as regards the discussion of these proposals at the 32nd plenary session of the Economic Commission for Europe.

8.III.77

NEGOTIATING CONFERENCE ON A COMMON FUND

The Council worked out the details of a joint initial position to be adopted by the Community for the negotiating Conference on a Common Fund (Geneva, 7 March - 1 April 1977), subject to one question in respect of which it instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to complete its deliberations.

VARIOUS DECISIONSHuman rights

The Council approved the text of the joint statement made on human rights by the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission.

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EIB loan guarantee

The Council decided that the Community was prepared on certain conditions to guarantee the loans to be granted by the European Investment Bank under the Community's financial commitments towards certain third countries. This decision principally affects Greece, Turkey, the various countries covered by the Community's overall Mediterranean approach, and Portugal in respect of the Financial Protocol.

Mediterranean

The Council decided on the signing of the Co-operation Agreement and of the ECSC Agreement negotiated with the Lebanese Republic. At the same time it authorized the Commission to negotiate an interim agreement with Lebanon regarding trade in goods.

These agreements will be signed in the near future.

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The Council authorized the Commission to negotiate with the Kingdom of Morocco the exchange of letters provided for in Article 14, subparagraph 2, of the EEC-Morocco Interim Agreement relating to Moroccan wines with designations of origin.

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The Council adopted, the third EEC-Turkey Financial Protocol in the official languages of the Communities.

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

- = maintaining in effect the arrangements for imports into the Penelux countries of certain textile products originating in the Republic of Korea;
- = on the entries in the budget of the Communities relating to the financial effect of the different conversion rates applied for measures financed by the Guarantee Section of the EAGGF;
- = amending Regulations (EEC) Nos 787/69, 2305/70 and 2306/70 on the financing of intervention expenditure in respect of the internal market in cereals and rice, in beef and veal and in milk and milk products;
- the Directive amending Directive 70/157/EEC relating to the permissible sound level and the exhaust system of motor vehicles.

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Research/Energy

The Council took note of the Commission memoranda concerning Community programmes on coal research techniques, particularly in the field of mining technology and product beneficiation.

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The Council authorized the Commission to extend until the end of 1979 the EURATOM-OECD Agreement on the Computer Library of the Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA).

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Appointments

On a proposal from the Irish Government the Council appointed Mr John KENNA, Director of Transport and Foreign Trade, Confederation of Irish Industry, as a member of the Economic and Social Committee to replace Mr BYRNE, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, i.e. until 16 September 1978.

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On a proposal by the Commission of the European Communities, the Council has appointed Mr H.P.W. SCHMITZ, Beleidsmedewerker van de Federatie van Nederlandse Valverenigingen, a member of the Administrative Board of the European Foundation for the improvement of living and working conditions in the workers' representatives category, in place of Mr BODE, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office which expires on 14 March 1979.

PRESS RELEASE

439th meeting of the Council

- Economic and Financial Affairs -

Brussels, 14 March 1977

President: Mr Denis HEALEY
Chancellor of the Exchequer
of the United Kingdom

14.III.77

The Governments of the Member States and the Commission of the European Communities were represented by the following:

Belgium

Mr Willy DE CLERCQ Minister for Finance

Denmark

Mr Per HAEKKERUP Minister for Economic Affairs
Mr Kurt HANSEN State Secretary
 Ministry of Economic Affairs

Federal Republic of Germany

Mr Hans APEL Federal Minister of Finance
Mr Hans FRIDERICHS Federal Minister for Economic
 Affairs
Mr Karl Otto POEHL State Secretary
 Ministry for Finance
Mr Otto SCHLECHT State Secretary
 Ministry of Economic Affairs

France

Mr Michel DURAFOUR Minister responsible for
 Economic and Financial Affairs

Ireland

Mr Richie RYAN Minister for Finance

Italy

Mr Gaetano STAMMATI Minister for the Treasury

Luxembourg

Mr Jacques POOS Minister for Finance

Netherlands

Mr W.F. DUISENBERG

Minister for Finance

Mr R.F.M. LUBBERS

Minister for Economic Affairs

United Kingdom

Mr Denis HEALEY

Chancellor of the Exchequer

Commission

Mr François-Xavier ORTOLI

Vice-President

Mr Henk VREDELING

Vice-President

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FIRST QUARTERLY EXAMINATION OF THE ECONOMIC SITUATION

In accordance with Article 2 of the convergence Decision of 18 February 1974, the Council carried out the first quarterly examination of the economic situation in the Community.

Following this examination, the Council agreed to a Decision adjusting economic policy guidelines for 1977. This Decision commits the Member States to follow an economic policy in compliance with the guidelines laid down by the Council.

FOURTH MEDIUM-TERM ECONOMIC POLICY PROGRAMME

In accordance with Article 6 of the Decision on the attainment of a high degree of convergence of the economic policies of the Member States, the Council adopted the fourth medium-term economic policy programme.

This programme provides a framework for Community economic activities for the years 1976 to 1980. It lays down desirable medium-term economic development and states its implications for economic policy.

The Decision provides that this programme will be followed and reviewed during its period of validity and the Council has asked the Commission to implement the appropriate arrangements this end.

The Fourth Programme will be published in the Official Journal of the European Communities as soon as possible.

INCREASED INTERNAL COHESION IN ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

On the basis of reports by the Monetary Committee and the Committee of Governors of the Central Banks, the Council held a discussion on certain suggestions contained in Mr DUISENBERG'S communication on target zones for exchange rates in the Community.

The Council asked the two Committees to continue their work on the matter and to report back to it at regular intervals.

14.III.77

PREPARATION FOR THE NEXT MEETING OF THE IMF INTERIM COMMITTEE

The Council reviewed preparations for the various subjects likely to appear on the agenda for the meeting of the IMF Interim Committee and noted that a good deal of progress had been made. It instructed the Monetary Committee to continue the preparations and submit a final report in time for the next Council meeting.

14.III.77

CIEC - FINANCIAL ASPECTS

Pending the resumption of the Conference on International Economic Co-operation, the Council took note of a report from the Chairman of the Permanent Representatives Committee on progress in the Community discussions and the scheduled programme of work.

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The next meeting of the Council on Economic and Financial Questions will take place on 18 April 1977 (in Luxembourg).

EXPORT CREDITS

The Council adopted a Decision on the guidelines to be applied to medium and long-term export credits which enjoy official support.

By fixing the credit terms applicable particularly as regards the duration and interest rate, this Decision makes possible - over and above Community case-by-case consultations, which will in any case be maintained - substantial progress in the development of an export credits policy.

Furthermore, it gives practical expression to the Community's objective of rationalizing existing practices and of contributing to the development of convergent guidelines between countries which provide export credits.

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COMMUNITY LOANS

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision relating to the transformation of a tranche of a variable rate Community loan into a fixed rate loan.

The purpose of this operation is to transform into a fixed rate loan a second tranche of 100 million dollars of that part of the variable rate Community loan - 300 million dollars - granted to Italy and Ireland which was the object of a Council Decision on 15 March 1976.

PRESS RELEASE

LIBRARY

440th meeting of the Council

- Agriculture -

Brussels, 14 and 15 March 1977

President:

Mr John SILKEN

Minister for Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food of
the United Kingdom

15.III.77

Member States' Governments 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

Mr Svend JACOBSEN Minister for Fisheries

Mr Jørgen Peder HANSEN Minister for Greenland

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 Pierre MEHAIGNERIE State Secretary,
Ministry of Agriculture

Ireland:

Mr Mark CLINTON Minister for Agriculture

Mr Patrick DONEGAN Minister for Fisheries

Italy:

Mr Giovanni MARCORA Minister for Agriculture

Mr Arcangelo LO BIANCO Deputy State Secretary,
Ministry of Agriculture

Mr Vito ROSA Deputy State Secretary for the
Merchant Navy

15.III.77

Luxembourg:

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

Netherlands:

Mr A.P.L.M.N. VAN DER STEE Minister for Agriculture

United Kingdom:

Mr John SILKIN Minister for Agriculture,
 Fisheries and Food
Mr Bruce MILLAN Secretary of State,
 Scottish Office
Mr Gavin STRANG Parliamentary Secretary,
 Ministry of Agriculture,
 Fisheries and Food
Mr Alec JONES Parliamentary Under-Secretary
 of State,
 Welsh Office
Mr Robert MACLENNAN Parliamentary Under-Secretary
 of State,
 Department of Prices and
 Consumer Protection

Commission:

Mr Finn Olav GUNDELACH Vice-President

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FISHERIES POLICY

The Council held a detailed discussion on the preparation of certain interim measures concerning fishing activities in waters off the Irish coasts.

The Council welcomed the Commission's recent proposals on this matter, and instructed the High-Level Working Party to continue its discussions on this basis. It agreed to continue its examination of this problem at its meeting arranged for 25, 26 and 27 March.

The Council agreed on the need to determine as soon as possible fishing quotas for the fishing zones of Member States for the rest of 1977.

Stressing the urgent need to introduce a permanent fisheries régime, the Council was pleased to note that the Commission intended to submit further suggestions in April.

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In addition, the Council decided to proceed to the signing of the framework agreement governing relations in the fishery sector between the European Economic Community and Sweden. This agreement will be signed in the near future.

15.III.77

HOPS

The Council noted the requests by the German and Belgian delegations that urgent provision be made for measures to deal with current difficulties which have arisen on the hop market.

After a brief discussion, the Council instructed the Special Committee on Agriculture to examine these problems very carefully as soon as possible, in the light of appropriate suggestions which could be submitted by the Commission.

VARIOUS STATEMENTS

The Council took note of the following statements

- on the suspension of the Common Customs Tariff for potatoes (United Kingdom delegation)
- on the state of the poultry market (Danish delegation)
- on compensatory amounts in the processed products sector (Irish delegation)
- on the extension of Article 14 (2)(a) of Directive 159/72 beyond the five years envisaged (Irish delegation).

15.III.77

SKIMMED MILK AND SKIMMED-MILK POWDER

Without prejudice to any subsequent discussions of the problem of balance in the milk sector, the Council noted some consensus on the principle of the Commission proposal for a Regulation amending the Regulation laying down general rules for granting aid for skimmed milk and skimmed-milk powder for use as feed.

The main aim of the proposal is to grant additional aid over and above the amounts of aid already granted for liquid skimmed milk used by pig rearers and for skimmed-milk powder used in the manufacture of compound feeding-stuffs for pigs or poultry (including fresh powder).

The Council has instructed the Special Committee on Agriculture to settle certain technical aspects of the proposal so that the Council may act formally on the matter when approving the whole action programme for the milk sector.

15.III.77

TRANSPORT COSTS IN THE BEEF AND VEAL SECTOR

The Council has adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation amending Regulation No 2305/70 on the financing of intervention expenditure in respect of the domestic market in beef and veal as far as certain transport costs are concerned.

The aim of the Regulation is to harmonize the financial rules for this particular sector with those for other sectors, where transport costs for products taken over by intervention bodies are refundable by the EAGGF on authorization from the Commission even if this is a posteriori.

15.III.77

FIXING OF AGRICULTURAL PRICES

The Council continued its examination of the Commission proposals concerning the fixing of prices for the 1977/1978 marketing year.

During the discussion, the President informed the Council of his talks on 14 March with a delegation from the Committee of Professional Agricultural Organizations and on 15 March with a delegation from the European Bureau of Consumers.

In the course of the discussion, the Council examined at some length general agri-monetary questions, and specific questions concerning milk products and cereals.

After making some progress in its attempt to reach agreement on these proposals, the Council instructed the Special Committee on Agriculture to continue its study of certain technical aspects.

The Council agreed to resume its discussion of the proposals at its next meeting planned for 25, 26 and 27 March.

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities

- the Regulations

- codifying the acts adopted concerning products processed from fruit and vegetables;
- fixing for the 1977/1978 milk year the guideline figure for the fat content of standardized whole milk imported into Ireland (3.52%) and the United Kingdom (3.77%);
- amending for the third time Regulation (EEC) No 1163/76 as regards the postponement of the dates for applications for the grant of conversion premiums in the wine sector (31 December 1977 for the 1977/1978 marketing year and 31 December 1978 for the 1978/1979 marketing year);
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 2452/76 on the transfer to the Italian intervention agency of butter held by the intervention agencies of other Member States (extension of the deadline to 1 July 1977);
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 816/70 as regards the rules on the maximum sulphur dioxide (SO₂) content of wine;
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 2893/74 on sparkling wines produced in the Community and specified in item 12 of Annex II to Regulation (EEC) No 816/70 and Regulation (EEC) No 817/70 laying down special provisions relating to quality wines produced in specified regions;
- on the transfer to the Italian intervention agency of common wheat held by the German intervention agency.

15.III.77

The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 1848/76 laying down general rules for the import of wines, grape juice and grape must.

The aim of this amendment is both to extend exemption from the production of the certificate and analysis report - as laid down in the Regulation above-mentioned - to products not intended for normal trade and to stipulate the maximum capacity of small containers.

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The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the decision concerning employment aid for certain slaughterhouses in Northern Ireland.

Under the terms of this decision, the Government of the United Kingdom is authorized, as an exceptional measure and in order to avoid any possible deflection of trade to the disadvantage of slaughterhouses situated in Northern Ireland, to continue to pay an employment aid on cattle and pigs slaughtered in Northern Ireland for as long as a difference in parity exists between the representative rate of the pound sterling and that of the Irish pound; this aid does not apply to quantities exported to Ireland.

The Government of the United Kingdom is authorized to adjust this aid in order to take into account any variation in the difference between representative rates in the United Kingdom and in Ireland. For an initial period from 17 January to 31 March 1977, the Council has limited the amount of this aid to 9.05 pence per lb. (19.95 pence per kilogram) deadweight for cattle and to 74 pence per score (8.16 pence per kilogram) deadweight for pigmeat.

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The Council noted the Commission communication to it concerning the measures taken and the results obtained in the campaign against irregularities. This is in response to the Council Resolution of 16 December 1975 concerning more vigorous prevention and prosecution of irregularities perpetrated in the financing of the common agricultural policy.

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MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Industrial policy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the following Statement on industrial policy in the aeronautical sector.

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Commission communication of 3 October 1975 on an action programme for the European aeronautical sector and, in particular, to those aspects relating to the establishment of a joint programme for the construction of large civil transport aircraft,

Having regard to the Opinion of the European Parliament,

Having regard to the Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee,

CONSCIOUS of the fact that the scale of investments and risks involved in civil aircraft construction programmes means that no longer can any European country launch new programmes in isolation and also that European countries should not launch rival programmes;

HEREBY agrees upon the following objectives for the implementation of the Council Resolution of 4 March 1975 on concerted action and consultations between the Member States on industrial policy in the aeronautical sector:

- (a) the establishment, in close consultation with all interested circles, of a coherent strategy with regard to any new construction programme for large civil transport aircraft, whereby the various options will be examined and duplication avoided from the outset;
- (b) optimum use of design and construction capacities, including subcontracting to competitive industries, within the various Member States;
- (c) joint action by European manufacturers in the search for possible formulae for co-operation with United States industry, in order to promote penetration of the world market by European industry;
- (d) definition of economic viability criteria for deciding on the launching of any new programme such as, for instance, a sufficient number of orders or options;
- (e) implementation of procedures to bring together representatives of manufacturers and airlines for the purpose of defining aircraft types for pre-project discussions leading up to the decision to launch;

- (f) adoption of all possible measures to ensure that airline companies give competitive European aircraft a fair chance;
- (g) exploration of the opportunities and the procedures for a joint effort with regard to basic research with a view particularly to developing the know-how required for the future generation of aircraft and to making the best use of the resources and capacities of the Member States.

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Commercial policy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities

-- the Regulations

- amending Regulation (EEC) No 1631/76 maintaining in effect the rules whereby imports into the United Kingdom of sacks and bags of woven polyolefin fabrics originating in the Republic of Korea are subject to import authorization;
- repealing Regulation (EEC) No 1823/76 maintaining in effect the rules whereby imports into the Benelux countries of cotton yarn not put up for retail sale, originating in Mexico, are subject to import authorization;
- concluding the Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the European Economic Community and the Portuguese Republic concerning tariff quotas for certain paper products;

- the Decisions

- extending the period of validity of Decision 76/274/EEC authorizing Ireland to take protective measures in respect of footwear with uppers of leather originating in Austria, Switzerland, Norway, Finland, Iceland and Sweden;
- concluding the Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the European Economic Community and the Portuguese Republic concerning the export of certain textile products to the United Kingdom market.

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The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Council Decision concerning negotiations for the Community to accede to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (Washington Convention).

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Acting on a proposal from the Danish Government, the Council appointed Mr K. STORM HANSEN, Grossererersocietetet, as a Member of the Economic and Social Committee, to replace Mr RØMER, who is resigning, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, viz. until 16 September 1978.

PRESS RELEASE

Brussels, 11 March 1977
329/77 (Presse 30)

POSTPONED

The 441st meeting of the Council of the European Communities will be held on Wednesday 16 March 1977 (15.00) in the Charlemagne building, 170 rue de la Loi, Brussels, with Mr Robert SHELDON, Financial Secretary to the Treasury of the United Kingdom, in the Chair.

This meeting will be devoted to examination of the proposal for a sixth Directive on VAT.

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The President of the Council will hold a press conference after the meeting.

PRESS RELEASE

442nd Council meeting
- Development Co-operation -
Brussels, 22 March 1977

President: Mrs Judith HART,
Minister for Overseas Development,
United Kingdom

22.III.77

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
and Development Co-operation

Denmark:

Mr Jens CHRISTENSEN

State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Germany:

Mrs Marie SCHLEI

Federal Minister for Economic
Co-operation

France:

Mr Pierre-Christian TAITTINGER

State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ireland:

Mr John KELLY

Parliamentary Secretary to the
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Italy:

Mr Eugenio PLAJA

Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean DONDELINGER

Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

22.III.77

The Netherlands:

Mr L.J. BRINKHORST

State Secretary for
Foreign Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mrs Judith HART

Minister for Overseas
Development

Mr John TOMLINSON

Parliamentary Under Secretary
of State
Foreign and Commonwealth
Office

The Commission:

Mr Claude CHEYSSON

Member

22.III.77

CO-ORDINATION AND HARMONIZATION OF DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION
POLICIES

The Council noted an interim report from the Commission on progress already achieved and that which the Commission suggests be achieved in the near future in implementing the Resolution of 3 November 1976 on the co-ordination and harmonization of development co-operation policies within the Community.

The Council agreed to study certain specific problems, at its next meeting on development policy, on the basis of communications which the Commission will be submitting.

In the field of operational co-ordination, the Council approved, at its present meeting, a Resolution on the co-ordination of Community and Member States' emergency and humanitarian aid projects.

This Resolution aims at strengthening, through increased co-ordination and, in suitable cases, pooling of efforts, the efficiency and consistency of Community and national intervention measures designed to meet requirements created by natural disasters or comparable exceptional circumstances, on a case-by-case basis.

22.III.77

The Resolution lays down guidelines for achieving the above aims, both at the stage of providing immediate help and at the stage of providing short-term emergency aid.

The Resolution requests the Commission to submit proposals, before 1 July 1977, for the implementation of these guidelines, so that the Council may take the necessary decisions.

22.III.77

DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION PROSPECTS

The Council agreed to hold, at least once a year, and if possible twice, a general discussion on certain fundamental problems arising in the field of relations with the developing countries, with a view to achieving greater consistency between the development co-operation policies of the Community and of the Member States.

22.III.77

AID FOR NON-ASSOCIATED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

The Council held an initial exchange of views on the proposal for a Regulation on Community financial and technical aid for non-associated developing countries. As the Commission proposal is based on Article 235 of the Treaty, consultation of the European Parliament is mandatory. The Council will therefore continue its discussions at its next meeting, after receiving the opinion of the European Parliament.

The Council invited the Commission to continue its preparations for the allocation of 1977 financial and technical aid appropriations for non-associated developing countries, and to submit to it, in time for its next meeting, suggestions for the use of these appropriations so that decisions may be taken as soon as possible.

22.III.77

RELATIONS WITH THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

The Council noted an Interim Report from the Commission on the progress of relations between the European Communities and those Non-Governmental Organizations specializing in development, particularly in the field of co-financing.

The Commission said it was satisfied with the progress made in this new field which looked very promising for the future.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine the report.

22.III.77

FOOD AID

After its discussion on food-aid problems the Council reached agreement on a series of questions, namely: the general aims of food-aid; the criteria for selecting the recipient countries and determining quantities; a speeded-up decision-taking procedure for emergency action in the case of disasters of human origin (a procedure to complement that already in force for natural disasters); the possibility of undertaking triangular food-aid operations; certain special mobilization procedures for national food-aid measures in the form of cereals; certain procedural and administrative questions, including the expression of food-aid in financial terms.

On other topics, the Council agreed to continue its discussions at its next meeting (development). These topics included increasing the volume of food aid, the gradual transfer to the Community of responsibility for aid projects, the provision of aid for the constitution of stocks in recipient countries, the supply of processed cereal products.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Directive to facilitate the exercise by lawyers of freedom to provide services.

The provisions of this Directive, which apply solely to the activities of lawyers by way of provision of services, provide that activities relating to the representation of a client in proceedings or before public authorities shall be pursued in each Member State under the conditions laid down for lawyers established in that Member State, with the exception of any conditions requiring residence or registration with a professional organisation in that State.

A lawyer pursuing these activities will be obliged to observe the rules of professional conduct of the host Member State without prejudice to his obligations in the Member State from which he comes.

A lawyer pursuing other activities will remain subject to the conditions and rules of professional conduct of the Member State from which he comes, without prejudice to observance of the rules governing the profession in the host Member State, especially those concerning incompatibility of the exercise of the activities of lawyer with the exercise of other activities in that State, professional secrecy, relations with other lawyers, the prohibition on the same lawyer acting for parties with conflicting interests, and publicity.

In the case of some activities Member States may impose certain conditions on lawyers.

For the pursuit of activities relating to the representation of clients in legal proceedings, for example, they may require lawyers to be introduced in accordance with local rules or custom to the presiding judge and, where appropriate, to the President of the relevant Bar in the host Member State, or again, to work in conjunction with a lawyer who practises before the judicial authority concerned and who would where necessary be answerable to that authority, or with an "avoué" or "procuratore" practising before it.

Member States may furthermore exclude lawyers in the salaried employ of a public or private undertaking from representing that undertaking in legal proceedings where lawyers in the State concerned are not permitted to pursue such activities.

Notwithstanding anything in the Directive, Member States may reserve to prescribed categories of lawyers the preparation of formal documents for obtaining title to administer the estate of deceased persons and the drafting of formal documents creating or transferring interests in land.

Member States have a period of two years to take the measures necessary to comply with this Directive.

The Directive deals only with measures to facilitate the effective pursuit of the activities of lawyers by way of provision of services. More detailed measures will be necessary to facilitate the effective exercise of the right of establishment. It nonetheless constitutes a significant step - following the Directive on doctors adopted by the Council on 16 June 1975 - towards the achievement of the aims in the chapters of the Treaty relating to the right of establishment and services, in particular Article 57 on the taking up and pursuit of activities as self-employed persons in the liberal professions.

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The Council, acting on a proposal from the French Government, appointed Professor DORMONT of the University of Paris XI a member of the Advisory Committee on Medical Training to replace Mr BRUNET, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which runs until 5 April 1979.

PRESS RELEASE

443rd meeting of the Council

- Taxation -

Brussels, 22 March 1977

President: Mr Robert SHELDON
Financial Secretary to the Treasury,
United Kingdom

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

Belgium:

Mr Willy DE CLERCQ Minister for Finance

Denmark:

Mr Ole BECH Deputy Permanent Representative

Germany:

Mr Joachim HIENLE State Secretary for Finance

France:

Mr Christian PONCELET State Secretary to the Minister for Economy and Finance

Ireland:

Mr Andrew O'ROURKE Deputy Permanent Representative

Italy:

Mr Giuseppe AZZARO Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Finance

Luxembourg:

Mr Jacques POOS Minister for Finance

Netherlands:

Mr M. VAN ROOIJEN

State Secretary for Finance

United Kingdom:

Mr Robert SHELDON

Financial Secretary to the
Treasury

Mr Denzil DAVIES

Minister of State to the
Treasury

Commission:

Mr Richard BURKE

Member

SIXTH DIRECTIVE T.V.A.

The Council had a fruitful discussion on the outstanding problems on the draft text of the sixth directive on the introduction of a common system of value-added tax and in particular of a uniform basis of assessment.

The points discussed will now be put into form in all the official languages of the Community.

Provided that one delegation is prepared to lift a reserve on a specific point, and provided that another delegation, which was not yet in a position to express itself on the text as a whole, can subsequently give its approval, the text of the draft directive will be submitted to the Council for agreement as the common position of the Council and then transmitted to the European Parliament under the terms of the conciliation procedure.

PRESS RELEASE

LIBRARY

444th Council meeting

- Agriculture -

Brussels, 25 to 29 March 1977

President: Mr John SILKIN,
Minister for Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food
of the United Kingdom

26.III.77

Member States' Governments 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

Mr Svend JACOBSEN Minister for Fisheries

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 Pierre MEHAIGNERIE State Secretary,
Ministry of Agriculture

Ireland:

Mr Mark CLINTON Minister for Agriculture

Mr Patrick DONEGAN Minister for Fisheries

Italy:

Mr Giovanni MARCORA Minister for Agriculture

Mr Arcangelo LO BIANCO Deputy State Secretary,
Ministry of Agriculture

26.III.77

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

United Kingdom:

Mr John SILKIN

Minister for Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food

Mr Gavin STRANG

Parliamentary Secretary,
Ministry of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food

Mr Robert MACLENNAN

Parliamentary Under-Secretary
of State,
Department of Prices and
Consumer Protection

Commission:

Mr Finn Olav GUNDELACH

Vice-President

27.III.77

FISHERIES POLICY

The Council held a thorough examination of the Commission proposal designed to resolve certain questions regarding the catch quotas to be applied in the waters off the Irish coasts and the procedures relating to fishing activity in these waters.

Having concluded its examination the Council established that no agreement could be reached on this proposal. It agreed to continue its examination of the problem and instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to study the question as soon as possible.

1977/78 AGRICULTURAL PRICES

The Council held a thorough-going discussion on the basis of the Commission proposals on the fixing of agricultural prices for the 1977/78 marketing year.

The Council agreed to adjourn the debate until its next meeting, scheduled for 25 and 26 April in Luxembourg.

It consequently decided to extend the marketing year for beef and veal and for milk products, and the Regulation concerning the granting of a special aid for liquid skimmed milk for the feeding of certain animals in regions affected by the drought.

It also adopted the Regulation amending the existing regulations concerning the exchange rate to be applied in the agricultural sector for the Irish pound (minus 7 points), the French franc (minus 3 points), and the Italian lira (minus 8 points).

26.III.77

The Council decided to proceed with the signing of the agreement and of the agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the European Economic Community and the Republic of India on trade and commercial co-operation in jute products.

The Council also decided to proceed with the signing of the agreement and of the agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the European Economic Community and the Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh on trade in jute products.

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On a proposal from the British Steel Corporation the Council appointed Mr R. SCHOLEY, Deputy Chairman and Chief Executive of the British Steel Corporation, as member of the Consultative Committee of the European Coal and Steel Community in place of Lord LAYTON, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which runs until 9 July 1978.

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The Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the European Coal and Steel Community, meeting in the Council, adopted in the official languages of the Communities the decision concerning exports of ferrous scrap to third countries for the second quarter of 1977.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

LIBRARY

445th Council meeting

- Energy -

Brussels, 29 March 1977

President: Mr Tony BENN,
Secretary of State for Energy
of the United Kingdom

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

Belgium:

Mr Fernand HERMAN Minister for Economic Affairs

Denmark:

Mr Ivar NØRGAARD Minister of Commerce

Germany:

Mr Hans FRIDERICHS Federal Minister for Economic Affairs

France:

Mr Paul MENTRE Delegate-General for Energy

Ireland:

Mr Thomas FITZPATRICK Minister for Transport and Power

Italy:

Mr Gianuario CARTA State Secretary,
Ministry of Industry and
Commerce

Luxembourg:

Mr Marcel MART Minister for Economic Affairs

Netherlands:

Mr R.F.M. LUBBERS Minister for Economic Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr Tony BENN

Secretary of State for Energy

Mr Dickson MABON

Minister of State,
Department of Energy

Mr John CUNNINGHAM

Parliamentary Under-Secretary,
Department of Energy

Commission:

Mr Guido BRUNNER

Member

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WORK PROGRAMME

The Council took formal note of a report on the progress made in the implementation of the programme of work for the first half of 1977, adopted on 21 December 1976.

It instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue preparation of outstanding points so as to enable the Council to act before the end of June.

ENERGY SITUATION OF THE COMMUNITY

The Council held an exchange of views on the political aspects of the energy situation of the Community on the basis of a communication from the Commission.

This debate gave the members of the Council and the Commission the opportunity of comparing their views - in a constructive spirit - on the prospects for the traditional energy sectors - petroleum, coal and gas - as well as on the problems posed by the development of nuclear and other new sources of energy.

Concluding its discussion, the Council reaffirmed its will to help to improve the balance of the world energy market by the rapid implementation of specific aspects of a European energy policy, by a determined effort to economise on energy and by the development of both traditional and new indigenous sources of energy. In this connection, it also emphasized the importance of prices policy.

The Council agreed henceforth to hold a general exchange of views on the energy situation twice a year; furthermore it will discuss the particular problems relating to the development of nuclear energy at its next meeting on Energy due to be held in June.

ENERGY SAVING

The Council held a policy debate on the intensification of the Community's energy-saving programme; in this connection it referred to a communication from the Commission and a memorandum from the French delegation.

In conclusion, the Council requested the Energy Committee to hold a meeting, with an appropriate attendance, in the near future, to deal exclusively with questions concerning energy saving, with the aim of giving a political impulse to the continuation of discussions in this field.

The Commission will submit in the near future a new series of draft recommendations for the implementation of such specific projects as would make an early and effective contribution to the attainment of the Community's objectives in the area of energy saving.

The Council set itself the end of June 1977 as the time limit for a decision on these recommendations.

REFINING PROBLEMS

The Council held a preliminary discussion on a Community approach to refining problems in the Community, on the basis of a memorandum from several delegations and a communication from the Commission.

The discussion underlined the importance of the problems outstanding in this sector and enabled the Council to express its political willingness to reach a Community solution as soon as possible.

It asked the Commission to submit practical proposals that would enable it to act at its meeting in June.

PROMOTION OF INVESTMENT

The Council asked the Commission to submit to it - at its next meeting on energy -- proposals for a set of measures to promote and protect investment in the energy sector. The Commission's ideas in this connection should also deal with the problem of the MSP.

EURATOM LOANS

The Council adopted Decisions

- empowering the Commission to issue Euratom loans for the purpose of contributing to the financing of nuclear power stations
- implementing this Decision.

The first Decision empowers the Commission to issue loans, on behalf of the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) and within amounts fixed by the Council, the proceeds of which will be lent for the purpose of financing investment projects relating to the industrial production of electricity in nuclear power stations and to industrial fuel cycle installations.

The Commission is to borrow no more than the amounts of the loans for which it has received applications.

Borrowing transactions and the lending transactions related thereto are to be expressed in the same currency and carried out on the same terms as regards the repayment of principal and the payment of interest. The costs incurred by the Community in concluding and carrying out each transaction are to be borne by the beneficiary undertakings concerned.

The Decision lays down the conditions under which the Commission is to negotiate the terms for issuing and granting loans.

Under the second Decision, loans for which provision is made in Article 1 of the basic Decision may be issued up to a total of 500 million European units of account, as defined in Decision 75/250/EEC.

COAL MARKET

The Council discussed the situation on the common coal market; it agreed with the analysis made by the Commission in the communication which it had submitted to it on this matter.

The Council agreed on the need to collect information in the Member States on coal imports from third countries and to forward it to the Commission automatically.

It invited the Commission to study with each Member State appropriate ways of implementing this information system. The Council would examine the proposed system in June and decide if it was adequate.

COKING COAL ARRANGEMENTS

The Council examined the changes which the Commission proposed to make in the coking coal arrangements and agreed in principle ⁽¹⁾ to extend the validity of the existing arrangements until 1981, on the understanding that the arrangements to apply in 1980 and 1981 would be re-examined before the end of 1979, without however prejudging the question of the gradual reduction of aid in those two years.

⁽¹⁾ One delegation entered a provisional reservation

29.III.77

The Council adopted the Decision appointing members of the Advisory Committee of the Euratom Supply Agency.

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In addition, the Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Council Directive on biological screening of the population for lead.

PRESS RELEASE

LIBRARY

446th meeting of the Council

- Research -

Brussels, 29 March 1977

President: Mr Gerald KAUFMAN,
Minister of State,
Department of Industry,
of the United Kingdom

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 Policy

Denmark:

Mr Ivar NØRGAARD Minister for Commerce
Mr Jens CHRISTENSEN State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Federal Republic of Germany:

Mr Hans MATTHOEFER Federal Minister for Research and Technology
Mr Hans Hilger HAUNSCHILD State Secretary,
Ministry of Research

France:

Mr Bernard GREGORY General delegate responsible for Scientific and Technical Research

Ireland:

Mr Thomas FITZPARRICK Minister for Transport and Power

Italy:

Mr Mario PEDINI Minister for Research
Mr Giorgio POSTAL Under-Secretary of State,
Ministry of Research

Luxembourg:

Mr Marcel MART Minister for Economic Affairs

29.III.77

The Netherlands:

Mr R.F.M. LUBBERS Minister for Economic Affairs

The United Kingdom:

Mr Gerald DAUFMAN Minister of State,
Department of Industry

Mr Anthony Wedgwood BENN Secretary of State,
Department of Energy

Mr Alexander EADIE Parliamentary Under Secretary
of State,
Department of Energy

Mr Leslie HUCKFIELD Parliamentary Under Secretary
of State,
Department of Industry

For the Commission:

Mr Guido BRUNNER Member

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MULTIANNUAL RESEARCH PROGRAMME

The Council recorded its final agreement on the Multiannual Research Programme of the Joint Research Centre 1977-1980 (¹). It had already agreed, at its meeting on 18 November 1976, on the technical content of the programme and on the staff complement and overall appropriation to be provided for it.

In addition, the Council adopted a common position on the role to be played by the Ispra establishment in the field of fusion technology.

It instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to study the manner in which this fusion project could be included in the research activities at Ispra.

(¹) One delegation had however recorded its approval subject to confirmation by its Government.

JET PROJECT

The Council examined in detail the problems posed by the choice of the site of the JET and by the structures and management of the project.

It agreed to continue its discussions on the matter in the very near future - at a date to be agreed by the Permanent Representatives Committee - with a view to taking a final decision on the matter.

The Permanent Representatives Committee was instructed to examine, as a matter of urgency, the questions of structure and management on the basis of a document prepared by the Chair, with a view to submitting a report to the Council.

Meanwhile, the Council has authorized the Commission to extend employment contracts in order to retain the team working on the preparation of the project.

The Council adopted, as a joint position, the finalized text of the Sixth Directive on VAT and decided to forward this joint position to the European Parliament in accordance with the conciliation procedure.

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The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Council Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the driver-perceived noise level of wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors.

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The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Council Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 557/76 concerning the exchange rate to be applied in the agricultural sector for the French franc, the Irish pound and the Italian lira.
