

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

PRESS RELEASES

PRESIDENCY: GREECE

JULY-DECEMBER 1983

Meetings and press releases November-December 1983

Meeting number	Subject	Date
880 th	Energy	4 November 1983
881 st	Industry	4 November 1983
882 nd		Cancelled
883 rd	Agriculture	14-15 November 1983
884 th	Development Co-operation	15 November 1983
885 th	Budget	22-23 November 1983
886 th	Internal Market	25 November 1983
887 th	Environment	28-29 November 1983
888 th	Foreign Affairs	29 November 1983
889 th	Transport	1 December 1983
890 th	Labour/Social Affairs	8 December 1983
891 st	Economics/Finance	12 December 1983
892 nd	Consumer Protection	12 December 1983
893 rd	Agriculture	12-13 December 1983
894 th	Research	13 December 1983
895 th	Iron and Steel	14 December 1983
896 th	Fisheries	14 December 1983
897 th	Budget	13 December 1983
898 th	Foreign Affairs	19 December 1983
899 th	No records for the meeting	19 December 1983
900 th	Transport	20 December 1983
901 st	Iron and Steel	22 December 1983

PRESS RELEASE

10306/83 (Presse 182)

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880th meeting of the Council

- Energy -

Brussels, 4 November 1983

President: Mr Evangelos KOULOUMBIS,
Minister for Energy and Natural Resources
of the Hellenic Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr Etienne KNOOPS
State Secretary for Energy

Denmark:

Mr Knud ENNGAARD
Minister for Energy

Germany:

Mr Dieter von WÜRZEN
State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Economic
Affairs

Greece:

Mr Evangelos KOULOUMBIS
Minister for Energy
and Natural Resources

France

Mr Jean AUROUX
State Secretary responsible to the
Minister of Research and Industry,
responsible for Energy

Ireland:

Mr E. COLLINS
Minister of State at the
Department of Industry and
Energy

Italy:

Mr Renato ALTISSIMO
Minister for Industry

Luxembourg:

Mr Josy BARTHEL
Minister for Energy

Netherlands:

Mr H.A.L. VIJVERBERG
Deputy Permanent Representative

United Kingdom:

Mr Alick BUCHANAN-SMITH
Minister of State
Department of Energy

Commission:

Viscount Etienne DAVIGNON
Vice-President

ROLE OF ENERGY STRATEGY

As part of the preparation for the European Council in Athens, and in response to a request from the Special Council on 10/12 October, the Council held a political discussion on the role of energy strategy in the general policy of the Community.

At the end of the discussion the Council adopted certain guidelines which will be transmitted by the Presidency to the Special Council on 9/11 November as the Energy Council's contribution to preparation for the European Council in Athens.

SOLID FUELS - FINANCIAL AID FOR COMMUNITY PRODUCING INDUSTRIES

The Council held a detailed discussion on the key aspects of the Commission proposal on Community financial aid for Community industries producing solid fuel.

The Council set out guideline conclusions both as to parameters and procedural provisions for future proceedings on the matter. Certain aspects of these conclusions will be finalized by the Permanent Representatives Committee and are to be transmitted by the Presidency to the Special Council on 9/11 November.

The Council will discuss this important matter further at its December meeting.

SYSTEM FOR COKING COAL AND COKE FOR THE IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRY

The Council carried out a detailed examination of factors which could help in the introduction of a future system for disposing of coking coal and coke intended for the Community iron and steel industry in intra-Community trade, since present arrangements expire at the end of the year.

At the end of the discussion, the Council laid down certain guidelines which will enable the Commission to submit a new proposal for Council assent. The Commission said that this new proposal would be for aid arrangements over a three-year period and involving a maximum quantity of 10 mio t/per year and financing of 36 MECU (with a maximum of 24 million MECU being borne by the 6 original Member States of the Community, 6 MECU by the iron and steel industry and 6 MECU by the ECSC budget), giving average aid of 3,6 ECU per tonne.

The Council agreed to resume its discussions on the matter with a view to reaching a decision at its next meeting in December.

DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS IN THE FIELD OF ENERGY

During its discussions on the matter on 14 and 15 March 1983 the Council had reached a basic decision as regards 1983, but emphasized the multiannual nature of this programme of Community financial support. It had also agreed to continue its discussions as soon as possible with a view to adopting for the period 1984-1987 Regulations on financial support for:

- demonstration projects relating to the exploitation of alternative energy sources, energy saving and the substitution of hydrocarbons;
- pilot industrial projects and demonstration projects relating to the liquefaction and gasification of solid fuels.

At this meeting the Council examined the question of the amounts considered necessary. After looking at certain compromise proposals, the Council agreed to return to this important issue at its December meeting with a view to taking a decision.

SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY PROJECTS IN THE HYDROCARBONS SECTOR (1983)

The Council reached agreement on the Commission's proposal (slightly amended) for a Decision on the granting of support for Community projects in the hydrocarbons sector (1983).

The Decision concerns 38 projects. Financial cover for the Decision will be provided by a sum of approximately 28,5 MECU, partly from the 1983 budget and partly from appropriations carried over from 1982.

ADDITIONAL FUNDS FROM THE ECSC

The Council held a policy debate on certain key questions raised by the Commission's proposal for a Decision concerning a contribution to the ECSC from the general budget of the Communities with a view to the financing of social measures linked with the restructuring and modernization of the coal industry.

At the end of its debate the Council, recognizing the importance of the problems involved, agreed to have its relevant subsidiary bodies carry out a detailed examination of the various aspects and to return to the issue at its next meeting.

The Council agreed to postpone until its December meeting examination of the item concerning the payment of financial incentives in support of certain categories of investment in the rational use of energy.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

10307/83 (Presse 183)

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881st Council meeting

- Industry -

Brussels, 4 November 1983

President: Mr Constantinos VAITSOS,
State Secretary,
Ministry of Economic Affairs
of the Hellenic Republic

PRESS RELEASE

10307/83 (Presse 183) Corr. 1

C O R R I G E N D U M

to Press Release
10307/83 (Presse 183)

- Industry -
of 4 November 1983

On page 5:

NEW COMMUNITY INDUSTRIAL POLICIES AND CONVERGENCE OF THE ECONOMIES
OF THE MEMBER STATES

Add a third paragraph reading as follows:

"The Council noted that this topic may also be discussed at the
Special Council on 9 to 11 November."

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

Belgium:

Mr Mark EYSKENS
Minister for Economic Affairs

Denmark:

Mr Ib STETTER
Minister for Industry

Germany:

Mr Dieter von WURZEN
State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Economic
Affairs

Greece:

Mr Constantine VAITSOS
State Secretary,
Ministry of Economic Affairs

France:

Mr Laurent FABIUS
Minister for Industry, Research,
Energy, Post and Telecommunications

Ireland:

Mr Edward COLLINS
Minister of State,
Department of Industry
and Energy

Italy:

Mr Renato ALTISSIMO
Minister for Industry

Luxembourg:

Mr Josy BARTHEL
Minister for Energy

Netherlands:

Mr H.A.L. VIJVERBERG
Deputy Permanent Representative

United Kingdom:

Mr Alexander FLETCHER
Parliamentary Under-Secretary
of State (Corporate and Consumer
Affairs)
Department of Trade and Industry

For the Commission:

Viscount Etienne DAVIGNON
Vice-President

INDUSTRIAL ASPECTS OF THE COMMISSION COMMUNICATIONS ON
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND BIOTECHNOLOGY

At the request of the "Special" Council in charge of preparations for the Athens European Council, the Council discussed in detail the industrial aspects of the Commission communications on telecommunications and biotechnology, focussing on both the political options and the specific suggestions by the Commission regarding the Community's role in these major areas.

All delegations emphasized that telecommunications particularly was a key sector as regards continuing and developing competitiveness of Community industry in the future. The Council noted the importance and urgency of determining options and priorities for Community action in this area.

Discussions also centred on the opening up of markets, problems of standardization and balanced industrial development in the sector.

In this connection the Commission was asked to establish contacts with officials working closely with Ministers for Industry with a view to determining - in conjunction with the industrial circles concerned and with the PTT authorities - the basis for an action programme to develop this sector, to be submitted by the end of December.

Discussions on the biotechnology sector - unanimously felt to constitute a prime sector for innovation, with major development prospects - centred fundamentally on the four themes stated by the Commission, viz. access to raw materials, the determination of standards for this new sector, training of future research workers and technicians and aspects of intellectual property and dissemination of knowledge in this area. The potential major role of the SMU was also cited in this context.

On the conclusion of the discussion, since the Research Council meeting the following day was due to examine the research aspects of this communication, the Presidency was asked to inform the Special Council, meeting on 9/11 November in its two specialist compositions, of the progress of discussions.

NEW COMMUNITY INDUSTRIAL POLICIES AND CONVERGENCE OF THE ECONOMIES OF THE MEMBER STATES

Having heard an introduction by the Greek delegation concerning its memorandum on new industrial policies and the problem of intra-Community convergence, the Council held an exchange of views on the subject which enabled the other delegations to restate their thinking in this area.

The Commission stated that it was prepared to examine in detail the ideas contained in the Greek memorandum in the framework of meetings of member States' Directors-General for Industry, with a view to the Council's resumption of examination of the whole question.

COMMUNITY MEASURES LIKELY TO FOSTER CO-OPERATION AMONG BUSINESS UNDERTAKINGS

The Council conducted a general discussion on the Commission's suggestions with a view to determining areas in which priority action might be considered at the technological, fiscal and legal level.

In conclusion, the Council confirmed its political agreement to making the climate more conducive to the strengthening of co-operation among business undertakings, on the understanding that it would pursue examination of the Commission's suggestions.

VARIOUS DECISIONS

Commercial questions and Customs Union

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

- opening, allocating and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas for:
 - = silver hake (*Merluccius bilinearis*) falling within subheading ex 03.01 B I t) of the Common Customs Tariff (1984)
 - = frozen cod (*Gadus morhua*) fillets falling within subheading ex 03.01 B II b) I of the Common Customs Tariff (1984)
 - = certain qualities of ferro-chromium falling within subheading ex 73.02 E I of the Common Customs Tariff (1984) and
- increasing the volumes of the autonomous Community tariff quotas opened for certain qualities of ferro-chromium falling within subheading ex 73.02 E I of the Common Customs Tariff (1983)
- temporarily suspending the autonomous Common Customs Tariff duties on certain products intended for use in the construction, maintenance and repair of aircraft
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 950/68 on the Common Customs Tariff
- derogating from Regulation (EEC) No 2915/79 in respect of the annual tariff quotas for certain types of cheese from Finland
- opening, allocating and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas for
 - = yarn of poly (p-phenylene terephthalamide), for use in the manufacture of tyres, or of products used in the manufacture of tyres, falling within subheading ex 51.01 A of the Common Customs Tariff
 - = sweet cherries, marinated in alcohol and intended for the manufacture of chocolate products, falling within subheading ex 20.06 B I e) 2 bb) of the Common Customs Tariff
- temporarily suspending the autonomous common customs tariff duties on a number of agricultural and fishery products.

In addition, the Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision authorizing extension or tacit renewal of certain trade agreements concluded between Member States and third countries.

Finally, the Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulations concerning tariff quotas, ceilings and import arrangements for Mediterranean countries (1984), viz.:

- Yugoslavia: - wines with a registered designation of origin (1983)
 - ceilings for and surveillance of certain industrial products
 - ECSC products (decision by the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the ECSC, meeting within the Council)
- Malta : - certain textile products
- Spain : - petroleum products
 - other cotton fabrics.

Relations with the ACP States and the OCT

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation and the Decision revising the amounts for the documentary requirements in:

- Protocol No 1 concerning the definition of the concept of originating products and methods of administrative co-operation to the Second ACP-EEC Convention;
- Annex II concerning the definition of the concept of originating products and methods of administrative co-operation to Decision 80/1186/EEC on the association of the overseas countries and territories with the European Economic Community.

Agricultural Decision

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 482/82 providing for special aid for raw tobacco following the earthquake in Italy in November 1980 and derogating from Article 12a of Regulation (EEC) No 727/70.

Fisheries

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation amending the conditions for mackerel fishing (carry-forward from 30 November 1983 to 1 December 1983 of the start of the mackerel fishing ban in the section of ICES VI a) division north of 58°N).

Social Affairs

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation relating to the organization of surveys of labour costs in industry, wholesale and retail distribution, banking and insurance.

Appointments

On a proposal from the Irish Government, the Council appointed Mr Patrick HAYDEN, Social Affairs Attaché at the Irish Permanent Representation, an alternate member of the Advisory Committee on Freedom of Movement for Workers in place of Mr T. WALSH, alternate member who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, i.e. until 20 September 1984.

The Council also appointed, on a proposal from the Netherlands Government, Mr F.H.A.M. KRUSE, Directeur-Generaal, Arbeidsvoorziening, a full member of the Advisory Committee on Freedom of Movement for Workers in place of Mr W.A. RENARDEL DE LAVALETTE, member who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, i.e. until 20 September 1984.

Finally, the Council appointed, on a proposal from the United Kingdom Government, Miss A.M. MACKIE, Unilever PLC, and Mr R.H. AMIS, Chairman, Alfred Booth & Co Ltd., respectively member and alternate member of the Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work in place of Mr R.H. AMIS and Miss A.M. MACKIE, respectively member and alternate member, who have resigned, for the remainder of the latter's terms of office, i.e. until 1 April 1985.

There 882nd meeting was cancelled

PRESS RELEASE

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10512/83 (Presse 187)

883rd meeting of the Council

- Agriculture -

Brussels, 14 and 15 November 1983

President: Mr Constantinos SIMITIS,
Minister for Agriculture
of the Hellenic Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr Paul de KEERSMAEKER
State Secretary for European
Affairs and Agriculture

Denmark:

Mr Niels Anker KOFOED
Minister for Agriculture

Germany:

Mr Hans-Jürgen ROHR
State Secretary,
Federal Ministry for Food,
Agriculture and Forestry

Greece:

Mr Constantinos SIMITIS
Minister for Agriculture
Mr Panayiotis KATSAROS
State Secretary
Ministry of Agriculture

France:

Mr René SOUCHON
State Secretary
Ministry of Agriculture

Ireland:

Mr Austin DEASY
Minister for Agriculture

Italy:

Mr Filippo Maria PANDOLFI
Minister for Agriculture

Luxembourg:

Mr Ernest MUHLEN
Minister for Agriculture,
Viticulture, Water Control
and Forestry

Netherlands:

Mr G. BRAKS
Minister for Agriculture
and Fisheries

United Kingdom:

Mr John MacGREGOR
Minister of State
Ministry of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food

Commission:

Mr Poul DALSAER - Member

OLIVE OIL

On the basis of a proposal from the Commission, the Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities, in accordance with the voting procedure set out in Article 43(2) of the Treaty, the Regulation on the final details of the price fixing and other measures for the 1983/1984 marketing year in the olive oil sector.

The main figures are the following:

- Representative market price = 196,87 ECU/100 kg
- Threshold price = 193,25 ECU/100 kg
- Consumption aid = 52,29 ECU/100 kg.

NEW ZEALAND BUTTER

On the basis of a report from the Special Committee on Agriculture, the Council held a detailed examination of the Commission proposal on the continuation of New Zealand butter imports into the United Kingdom under special conditions particularly with regard to:

- = the duration of the proposed new arrangements (5 years from 1 January 1984)
- = the quantities to be imported (83 000 tonnes in 1984 decreasing annually by 2 000 tonnes)
- = the safeguard clause (possibility of a temporary reduction in the quantities, particularly in the event of a substantial drop in the direct consumption of butter)
- = the size of the levy (25% of the Community intervention price level for butter = 87,28 ECU/100 kg).

Following the debate, in which it was noted that there were still differences of opinion, the Council agreed to resume examination of the matter at its December meeting with a view to reaching a solution.

BEEF AND VEAL

Without prejudice to the Opinion of the European Parliament, the Council was favourably disposed to an amended proposal from the Commission extending for 1984 the formula adopted in 1982 and 1983 for allocation among Member States of the Community tariff quota for frozen beef and veal falling within subheading 02.01 A II b) of the Common Customs Tariff.

The 50 000 tonnes are broken down as follows:

BENELUX	:	4 760 tonnes
DENMARK	:	235 tonnes
GERMANY	:	8 985 tonnes
GREECE	:	2 550 tonnes
FRANCE	:	4 990 tonnes
IRELAND	:	5 tonnes
ITALY	:	14 415 tonnes
UNITED KINGDOM:		14 060 tonnes.

The Council agreed to adopt this Regulation formally following the most suitable procedure on receipt of the Opinion of the European Parliament and after finalization of the texts in the official languages of the Communities.

AMENDMENT OF THE COMMUNITY LIST OF LESS-FAVOURED FARMING AREAS

The Council resumed its examination of the three proposals for a Directive recommending amendment of the Community list of less-favoured farming areas in Italy, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands within the meaning of Directive 75/268/EEC.

Following its discussion, the Council agreed to return to the subject as a whole at one of its next meetings on agricultural questions.

EXTENSION OF THE COMMON MEASURE ON THE ACCELERATION OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN CERTAIN REGIONS OF GREECE

The Council held a detailed discussion of the proposal for application in all rural regions of Greece of measures relating to infrastructure, irrigation and forestry already applicable in certain regions of the country by virtue of the common measure introduced for a period of five years by Council Regulation No 1975/82.

Following its discussion, the Council agreed to return to this subject at one of its next meetings on agricultural questions.

JOINT RESEARCH PROGRAMMES AND PROGRAMMES FOR CO-ORDINATING AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

On the basis of a compromise proposal from the Presidency the Council reached agreement in principle on the allocation of a total appropriation of 30 MECU for the implementation at Community level of a series of co-ordinated activities and joint projects on agricultural research to be carried out between 1 January 1984 and 31 December 1988.

The Council moreover asked the Commission to submit to it a report on the progress of the five-year programme before the end of 1985.

This Decision will be adopted formally following the most appropriate procedure after the texts have been finalized in the official languages of the Communities.

COMMON ORGANIZATION OF THE MARKET IN SHEEPMEAT AND GOATMEAT

The Council listened to a presentation by the Commission of a report on the functioning of the common organization of the market in sheepmeat and goatmeat.

After an initial discussion the Council asked the Special Committee on Agriculture to carry out a detailed technical examination of the report and report back to it at its meeting in December 1983.

PRESERVATIVES AUTHORIZED FOR USE IN FOODSTUFFS

The Council agreed to postpone discussion of this subject until its December 1983 meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS STATEMENTS

The Council heard statements on the following questions:

- Question of minimum quality standards for exports of cereals
(United Kingdom delegation)
- Problem of restrictions on imports of inedible horticultural
products into Greece
(Belgian delegation)
- Question of the progress of the survey on the application
of the maximum price for meat in Greece
(Belgian delegation)

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Other agricultural decisions

The Council took note of a Commission communication on the research programme on varroa-mite disease for the 1983-1984 marketing year.

In addition, the Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Regulations:

- = laying down, in respect of hops, the amount of aid to producers for the 1982 harvest;
- = approving the Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters amending the text of Table II annexed to Protocol No 2 to the Free Trade Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Swiss Confederation;
- = on the application of Decisions No 1/83 of the EEC-Switzerland/EEC-Austria Joint Committees - Community transit - amending the Agreements between the European Economic Community and the Swiss Confederation/Republic of Austria on the application of the rules on Community transit;
- = on the procedure to facilitate the issue of movement certificates EUR 1 and the making out of forms EUR 2 under the provisions governing preferential trade between certain countries and the EEC;
- = amending Regulation (EEC) No 1035/72 on the common organization of the market in fruit and vegetables;
- = laying down general rules for the extension of certain rules issued by producers' organizations in the fruit and vegetable sector.

The Council also adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Regulation temporarily suspending the autonomous Common Customs Tariff duty on certain industrial products.

Commercial policy

With the aim of updating and as a first step towards the simplification of Community regulations vis-à-vis State-trading countries, the Council adopted the Regulations:

- on certain detailed rules for the implementation of the Agreement between the Community and Romania on trade in industrial products;
 - on import arrangements for products originating in State-trading countries, not liberalized at Community level;
 - laying down certain detailed rules for the implementation of the Trade Agreement between the Community and China.
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COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

LIBRARY

10543/83 (Presse 189)

884th meeting of the Council
- Development Co-operation -
Brussels, 15 November 1983

President: Mr Theodoros PANGALOS

State Secretary,
Ministry of Trade
of the Hellenic Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr Paul NOTERDAEME
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

Germany:

Mr Volkmar KOHLER
State Secretary,
Federal Ministry for
Economic Co-operation

France:

Mr Jacques LEPRETTE
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

Italy:

Mr Mario FIORET
State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Netherlands:

Ms E. SCHOO
Minister for Development
Co-operation

Denmark:

Mr Gunnar RIBERHOLDT
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

Greece:

Mr Theodoros PANGALOS
State Secretary,
Ministry of Trade

Ireland:

Mr James O'KEEFFE
Minister of State,
Department of Foreign Affairs

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean DONDELINGER
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

United Kingdom:

Mr Timothy RAISON
Minister of
Overseas Development

Commission:

Mr Edgard PISANI - Member

IMPLEMENTATION OF FOOD STRATEGIES

The Council received a progress report on food strategies in the four countries to which the Community had agreed to give its support, namely Mali, Kenya, Rwanda and Zambia, and also on the exploratory talks that the Commission was holding with a fifth country, Tanzania.

The Council expressed its gratitude to Commissioner Pisani for the efforts he was making to ensure the success of the operation, whose underlying concept had now become an important feature of Community development policy.

Noting the progress made in implementing the actions in support of food strategies, the Council observed that these had reached the stage of practical achievement.

The Council was also informed by Mr Pisani of the interest shown in the operation by other developing countries.

It asked the Commission to continue its activities, while closely co-ordinating them at various levels with the Member States and noted that the Commission would present a consolidated report in the following six months. It also noted the Commission's intention to submit forthwith to the Council a proposal on the implementation of the appropriations entered in Article 929 of the budget (projects in place of food aid) and to take shortly the necessary steps to enable decisions to be taken within the framework of the Council Regulation implementing the special programme to combat hunger in the world.

FOOD AID POLICY

Having held an initial discussion on the Commission communication on "Food aid for development" at its June meeting, the Council now approved a Resolution defining a number of guidelines for improved integration of food aid in the development process in recipient countries. In this context the Council held a wide-ranging debate on the importance and role of food aid for development. The text of the Resolution reads as follows:

"The Council, having examined the Commission communication entitled "Food Aid for Development", emphasizes the importance of the food problem and of food security in developing countries, and the need to deal with these problems as effectively as possible. It recognizes the provisional nature of the solution constituted by food aid, and recalls in this connection the action taken by the Community in the context of the plan of action to combat hunger in the world, in particular by supporting food strategies, and the encouragement which it is endeavouring to provide for increasing the food self-sufficiency of the countries concerned by supporting their efforts towards autonomous and self-sustained development of their economies, particularly by strengthening their food farming.

The Council is therefore of the opinion that the Community's aid policy, the framework for which is outlined in Council Regulation No 3331/82, would be all the better able to contribute to this aim if it met the following guidelines:

1. The Community's food aid must be integrated as thoroughly as possible into the development policies, and particularly the agricultural and agri-foodstuffs development policies, of the countries concerned.

It is therefore desirable to establish a dialogue with the recipient country. Possible participation of other donors is also to be hoped for. Efforts should be made to ensure that food aid is more consistent with other development measures, and food aid should, as far as possible, be linked with other forms of aid, particularly aid for agricultural production. Greater consistency of Community and national measures, taking account, where possible, of measures by other donors would be necessary here.

2. Every decision to grant food aid should take account not only of quantitative, but also qualitative criteria.

Food aid would continue to concentrate on low income food deficit countries in which food aid may be expected to make an effective contribution to overcoming existing food shortages without excluding the most deprived sectors of the population with special needs in other developing countries, or emergency situations.

3. Multiannual food aid programmes of well-defined duration may, in certain cases and given appropriate detailed arrangements, make a positive contribution to development in the recipient country.

Such programmes are intended to encourage the development of food production and the rural sector, and they should preferably be implemented in countries which intend to take related food self-sufficiency measures. Such programmes may also be envisaged in conjunction with international or non-governmental organizations specializing in development aid.

These programmes will ensure some security of supplies to recipients insofar as those countries at the same time take measures to attain the abovementioned objectives.

The risk of increased and prolonged dependence of the recipients on such aid should be minimized through the integration of such programmes into agricultural and rural development projects or programmes, the aims of which would have to be clearly defined in consultation between the Community and the countries concerned.

In this connection, multiannual programmes would be drawn up following a dialogue with the recipient country on the basis of an assessment of the latter's overall situation, taking account of quantitative and qualitative factors.

The written conclusions of such a dialogue on mutual intentions would have to involve indicating, for each of the countries concerned, the overall aid requirements and conditions for the use of the aid; they could lay down detailed arrangements for the substitution, in due course, of other forms of aid for that aid where the necessary conditions are fulfilled.

As part of the dialogue with the recipient countries, the latter would have to indicate their approach to the use of the aid offered.

Each programme of limited duration (the maximum being five years) and of an indicative nature, would deal with the quantity and type of aid envisaged throughout its duration. The quantity to be supplied would be determined each year by the relevant Community body, taking account inter alia of the requirements of recipients and the resources available for aid of this kind. The programme should also lay down the conditions under which it might be revised or terminated.

The possibility of nutritional programmes on a multiannual basis aimed at certain less-favoured sectors of the population would be examined in due course.

Multiannual programmes would constitute a reasonable share of the annual volume of Community aid.

4. International organizations and NGOs play a very useful and sometimes indispensable role in the matter of food aid. A significant proportion of such aid is supplied through these bodies, in particular for regions where for various reasons the Governments do not intervene, or where food aid to refugees and displaced persons is involved. In the latter case the aid, which is frequently vital to those concerned, is distinguished by certain special features. Food aid to refugees has to enable their real needs to be met in a swift, planned manner, while not making their subsequent economic and social reintegration more difficult.
5. The choice and possible diversification of the products to be supplied is of great importance in ensuring the effectiveness of food aid.

The products must in the first place meet the recipients' needs and comparison of different products must take account of the cost/specific nutritional quality ratio (e.g. animal or vegetable protein content, calorific value) and their suitability as regards consumer habits.

The greatest heed should be paid, when selecting products, to possible harmful effects on recipients (particularly the risk of changing eating habits, the risk of permanent dependence upon food or upon expensive food imports, etc.).

This being ensured, and subject to increased use of local products (by triangular operations), purchases must first of all take account of products available on the Community market, as provided for in Article 3(1) of the framework Regulation.

6. Triangular operations (the purchase of food products by the Community in a developing country which has products available for export to a country in deficit) are to be encouraged, as trade between neighbouring countries under the above conditions contributes to a system of regional food security.

Triangular operations make it possible, with a view to national development, to meet the needs of the recipients, to fit into a balanced production policy on the part of the supplier developing country and to ensure transport savings where appropriate, without delaying the actual availability of the aid.

7. The balance of payments situation remains one of the factors to be taken into consideration for the granting of food aid to a given country. With a view to development, support of the balance of payments cannot in any eventuality be the objective of such aid, but it can in certain circumstances usefully contribute to relieving the financial burden on the country concerned;

Care should be taken to avoid food aid having the result of providing a disincentive to efforts to develop local production or giving rise to difficulties counter to the efforts of the recipient countries to re-establish their balance of payments by other appropriate means.

8. Counterpart funds ought not to be the primary justification for food aid. They must in principle be used for financing the implementation and/or the operation of agricultural development projects or programmes in recipient countries in order to support a policy of food self-sufficiency.

Greater consistency between Community and national measures should also be considered here.

Checks on the use of counterpart funds should be improved wherever possible, in particular under multiannual programmes, in the interests of the recipient country's development. The Commission will each year provide the necessary information on the use of counterpart funds.

9. The Council acknowledges the importance of examining, on the basis of a proposal to be made by the Commission on the general criteria relating to the transporting of aid beyond the FOB stage, in the light of practice and from the point of view of the effectiveness of aid, the question of the Community bearing the cost of transporting food aid.

10. In the light of experience and in due course the Commission will submit a communication to the Council on the results achieved in implementing these guidelines in order to enable the Council to make any adjustments to it which may prove necessary."

FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL AID FOR NON-ASSOCIATED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES - GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR 1984

The Council held a general discussion on the guidelines to be followed for the programme of aid for non-associated developing countries in 1984. This discussion enabled the delegations to voice their comments on the implementation of the programme, the size of which forms a significant part of the Community's activities in the development sphere.

The Council then noted that agreement was emerging on the 1984 guidelines on which it would be requested to take a final decision when it had received the European Parliament's Opinion.

TRADE PROMOTION

The Council had before it a Commission working document on guidelines for the promotion of trade with the developing countries.

It agreed to consider this matter at its next Development Co-operation meeting.

OTHER MATTERS CONCERNING DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION

The Council agreed to examine the following topics at its next Development Co-operation meeting:

- co-ordination and harmonization of aid from the Community and the Member States (request by the German delegation);
- implementation of the substantial new programme of action of the Paris Conference for the least developed countries (request by the French delegation);
- measures with a specific theme.

As regards the first two points, the Commission said it would submit documents to the Council in the near future; as for the third point, it submitted a communication to the Council at this meeting.

PRESS RELEASE

10714/83 (Presse 195)



885th meeting of the Council

- Budget -

Brussels, 22 and 23 November 1983

President: Mr Antonios GEORGIADIS,

State Secretary
at the Ministry of the National Economy
of the Hellenic Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr Paul de KEERSMAEKER
State Secretary for
European Affairs and Agriculture

Denmark:

Mr Knud Erik TYGESEN
State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Germany:

Mr Hans TIETMEYER
State Secretary
Federal Ministry of Finance

Greece:

Mr Antonios GEORGIADIS,
State Secretary,
Ministry of the National Economy
Mr Constantinos PITSIORIS,
State Secretary,
Ministry of Finance

France:

Mr Jean VIDAL
Deputy Permanent Representative

Ireland:

Mr Jim O'KEEFFE
Minister of State at the
Department of Foreign Affairs

Italy:

Mr Carlo FRACANZANI
State Secretary,
Ministry of the Treasury

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean FEYDER
Deputy Permanent Representative

Netherlands:

Mr W.F. VAN EEKELEN
State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr Ian STEWART
Economic Secretary
to the Treasury

Commission:

Mr Christopher TUGENDHAT
Vice-President

MEETING WITH A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT DELEGATION

During its discussions on drawing up the Communities' general budget for 1984, the Council had a meeting with a European Parliament delegation led by Mr DANKERT, President of the Parliament. Other members of the delegation were: Mrs SCRIVENER, Rapporteur on the Budget (section III); Mr PFENNIG, Rapporteur on the Budget (Other sections); Mr LANGE, Chairman of the Committee on Budgets; Mr NOTENBOOM, First Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Budgets; Mrs BARBARELLA, Second Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Budgets; Mr ROSSI, Third Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Budgets; Mr AIGNER, Chairman of the Committee on Budgetary Control; Mr ARNDT, Rapporteur, Committee on Budgets (future financing); Mr BALFOUR, Member, Committee on Budgets; Mr ANSQUER, Member, Committee on Budgets; Mr BONDE, Member, Committee on Budgets; Mr OPITZ, Secretary-General of the European Parliament.

At the meeting, the European Parliament delegation explained the reasons for the amendments and proposed modifications it had made to the draft general budget for 1984, and Members of the Council gave the Parliament their views on the matter.

After the exchange of views, the President of the Council said the Council would hold discussions straightaway on the Parliament's amendments and proposed modifications to the draft budget, taking account of the points raised during the meeting with the Parliament delegation.

DRAFT GENERAL BUDGET FOR 1984

Following the meeting with the European Parliament, the Council examined the amendments and proposed modifications to the 1984 draft budget, taking particular account of the comments made by the European Parliament delegation.

The increases decided on by the Council in non-compulsory expenditure (NCE) totalled 466.8 MECU in commitment appropriations, including 67 MECU for the Esprit programme, and 377,1 MECU in payment appropriations (compared with the draft established by the Council in July 1983).

Regarding the most important NCE items in the draft budget, the Council agreed to the following increases in payment appropriations as compared with the draft it had established in July 1983:

European Social Fund:	+ 122,5	MECU
European Regional Development Fund:	+ 110	"
Special programme on hunger in the world:	+ 42	"
Restructuring of the coal industry:	+ 25	"
ECSC social aspects:	+ 12,5	"
Food aid:	+ 27	"
Research - direction action:	+ 14	"
Encouragement of energy investment:	+ 20	"

The Council agreed to enter 350 MECU of EAGGF (Guarantee Section) expenditure in Chapter 100. It also decided to create a new budget heading, with a token entry, for a Community measure on the development of a European industrial area.

The draft budget thus amended will be sent to the European Parliament for discussion at its next plenary sitting from 12 to 16 December in Strasbourg.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Commercial policy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities:

- a Decision accepting undertakings offered by Japanese exporters of dicumyl peroxide and terminating the proceedings;
- a Regulation maintaining the export arrangements for aluminium waste and scrap;
- Regulations
 - = establishing ceilings and Community surveillance of imports of certain textile products originating in Cyprus (1984);
 - = on the arrangements applicable to imports of wines originating in Algeria;
 - = opening, allocating and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas for certain textile products falling within headings Nos 55.05 and 55.09 and subheading ex 58.01 A of the Common Customs Tariff and originating in Turkey (1984);
- the Decisions authorizing the Commission to negotiate Agreements in the form of exchanges of letters with Israel, Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia respectively concerning fruit salads and with Algeria concerning tomato concentrates.

Relations with Israel

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Regulation concluding the second Financial Protocol between the EEC and the State of Israel.

It will thus be possible for this Protocol, which was signed on 24 June 1983, to come into force on 1 January 1984 (after the instruments of notification relating to it have been exchanged with the Israeli delegation; this should occur before the end of November).

Under the Protocol, the Community will participate, in the framework of financial co-operation, in the financing of projects designed to contribute to the economic development of Israel.

Consequently, for a period of five years with effect from the expiry of the first Protocol, i.e. until 31 October 1985, the Community will ask the European Investment Bank to make available to Israel 40 MECU in the form of loans granted out of its own resources, in accordance with the conditions, detailed rules and procedures laid down by the EIB Statute.

Energy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Decision on the granting of support for Community projects in the hydrocarbons sector.

PRESS RELEASE

LIBRARY

10862/83 (Presse 199)

886th Council meeting

- Internal Market -

Brussels, 25 November 1983

President: Mr Georgios MORAITIS,
Minister for Trade
of the Hellenic Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr Paul de KEERSMAEKER
State Secretary,
European Affairs and Agriculture

Denmark:

Mr Ib STETTER
Minister for Industry

Germany:

Mr Otto SCHLECHT
State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs

Greece:

Mr Georgios MORAITIS
Minister for Trade

Mr Theodoros PANGALOS
State Secretary,
Ministry of Trade

France:

Mr Jean VIDAL
Deputy Permanent Representative

Ireland:

Mr Jim O'KEEFFE
Minister of State,
Department of Foreign Affairs

Mr Michael MOYNIHAN
Minister of State,
Department of Trade, Commerce
and Tourism

Italy:

Mr Paolo GALLI
Deputy Permanent Representative

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean FEYDER
Deputy Permanent Representative

Netherlands:

Mr W.F. van EEKELEN
State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr Paul CHANNON
Minister for Trade

Commission:

Mr Etienne DAVIGNON
Vice-President

Mr Karl-Heinz NARJES
Member

SIMPLIFICATION OF FORMALITIES IN TRADE WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

The Council made substantial progress by agreeing on two fundamental aspects for simplifying the formalities in trade within the Community.

MOVEMENT WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

First, the Council approved the Regulation introducing arrangements for movement within the Community of goods sent from one Member State for temporary use in one or more other Member States. The Regulation will be formally adopted by the Council after the texts have been finalized in the official languages of the Communities.

This Regulation introduces arrangements enabling a large number of goods to be moved within the Community under cover of a Community movement carnet. The arrangements will provide Community operators and citizens with a new procedure which is simpler than the ATA Carnet: the Community carnet will be issued by the customs authorities, and the goods covered by it will be able to be moved without the need for the beneficiary to provide a guarantee.

SINGLE DOCUMENT

The Council then agreed on a short, harmonized list of the data which the Member States may demand in trade within the Community, thereby making very substantial progress towards the simplification of formalities.

It instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue work on the draft Regulation establishing the single document and the Regulation establishing the layout of the form. It also instructed an ad hoc Working Party of Senior Officials to undertake a study to see whether it was possible to set up at Community level a computerized procedure for use in trade within the Community.

ABOLITION OF TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE

As agreed at its meeting in October 1983, the Council resumed its examination of the Directives on harmonization concerned. At the end of its discussions, it found that the technical proceedings which have been actively pursued now gave scope for broad agreement on these Directives. The hope was expressed that this agreement could be reached as soon as possible.

NEW COMMERCIAL POLICY INSTRUMENT

Noting that the basic question of the decision-making mechanism would be dealt with by the Foreign Affairs Council on 29 November, the Council did not pursue its examination of this matter in depth.

INSURANCE - MOTOR VEHICLES

The Council resumed its examination of the proposal for a second Council Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to insurance against civil liability in respect of the use of motor vehicles.

The Council worked out compromise solutions to the main problems arising in connection with the proposal which were acceptable to almost all the delegations. It instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to finalize these solutions and submit the text of the Directive for formal adoption as soon as possible.

MULTIANNUAL PROGRAMME (1979-1983) IN THE FIELD OF DATA-PROCESSING

The Council began its examination of the proposal for a Decision the aim of which is to extend the means and duration of the second part of the multiannual programme in the field of data processing adopted by the Council in 1979. The Council mainly discussed the duration and financial resources to be envisaged for the new programme.

The Council concluded that it was not in a position to reach agreement at this stage. It was, however, agreed that if any new developments occurred before the next meeting of the Foreign Affairs Council on 29 November the item would be put on the agenda.

INSURANCE - MOTOR VEHICLES

The Council resumed its examination of the proposal for a second Council Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to insurance against civil liability in respect of the use of motor vehicles.

The Council worked out compromise solutions to the main problems arising in connection with the proposal which were acceptable to almost all the delegations. It instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to finalize these solutions and submit the text of the Directive for formal adoption as soon as possible.

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RAW MATERIALS PROGRAMME

The Council began its discussion of the proposal for a Regulation on loans for projects covered by an exploration programme for non-energy mineral raw materials within the territories of the Member States.

Following these discussions, the Council asked the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its examination of the proposal.

STANDARDIZATION

The Council again discussed the approach advocated by the Commission on standardization with a view to improving the competitive position of European firms.

After a thorough discussion, the Council agreed to submit draft conclusions on the principles of a European standardization policy to the Special Council on 28 November with a note of the points of political concern raised by the delegations.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Other internal market decisions

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Directive amending Directive 71/307/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to textile names. (*)

The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision concerning a plan for the transnational development of the supporting infrastructure for innovation and technology transfer (1983-1985). (*)

Agricultural decision

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Directive amending for the 17th time Directive 64/54/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States concerning the preservatives authorized for use in foodstuffs.

(*) See press release 10064/83 (Presse 177) of 26.10.1983.

PRESS RELEASE

LIBRARY 10880/83 (Presse 201)

887th meeting of the Council

- Environment -

Brussels, 28 and 29 November 1983

President: Mr Andonios TRITSIS,

Minister for Regional Planning and
the Environment of the Hellenic Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr Firmin AERTS
State Secretary for Public Health
and the Environment

Denmark:

Mr Christian CHRISTENSEN
Minister for the Environment
and for Nordic Affairs

Germany:

Mr Carl-Dieter SPRANGER
State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of the Interior

Greece:

Mr A. TRITSIS
Minister for Regional Planning
and the Environment

France:

Ms Huguette BOUCHARDEAU
State Secretary attached to the
Prime Minister,
Ministry of the Environment and
the Quality of Life

Ireland:

Mr Ruari QUINN
Minister of State,
Department of the Environment

Italy:

Mr Alfredo BIONDI
Minister for Ecology

Luxembourg:

Mr Josy BARTHEL
Minister for the Environment

Netherlands:

Mr P. WINSEMIUS
Minister for Housing, Regional
Planning and the Environment

United Kingdom:

Mr William WALDEGRAVE
Parliamentary Under-Secretary
of State,
Department of the Environment

Commission:

Mr Karl-Heinz NARJES
Member

COMBATING AIR POLLUTION FROM INDUSTRIAL PLANTS

The Council held an initial exchange of views on the proposal for a Directive on combating air pollution from industrial plants. This proposed Directive, of a general nature, stipulates that Member States must make the building of industrial plants subject to prior authorization and that certain criteria must be met before such authorization is granted.

Discussion concentrated on the three main questions raised by this proposal, namely: the scope of the Directive; definition of the economic criterion for issuing authorization; the possible fixing of Community limit values for emissions.

At the end of the debate the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue to seek solutions which could enable it to take a decision at its next meeting.

IMPACT STUDIES

Following further detailed discussion of the main problems outstanding, the Council noted the agreement of nine delegations on the text of the proposal for a Directive concerning the assessment of the environmental effects of certain public and private projects.

Since one delegation had a general reservation on this proposal, the Council instructed the Permanent Representative Committee to take up the matter again in due course.

MEDITERRANEAN SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS - PROTOCOL TO THE BARCELONA CONVENTION

The Council discussed a proposal for a Decision on the conclusion of the Protocol to the Barcelona Convention concerning Mediterranean specially protected areas.

This Protocol, the fourth to the Convention, is designed to protect marine areas which are important in safeguarding the natural resources and natural sites of the Mediterranean Sea area.

Since one delegation wanted further clarification regarding the financial rules of the Protocol, the Council postponed examination of the dossier.

WASTE FROM THE TITANIUM DIOXIDE INDUSTRY

The Council held a policy debate on the proposal for a Council Directive on procedures for harmonizing the programmes for the reduction of pollution caused by waste from the titanium dioxide industry.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to expedite its work on this proposal so that the Council could take up the matter again.

LEAD IN PETROL

The Council noted a statement by the Commission on the progress of work on lead in petrol. It also took note of a statement by the Greek delegation on the subject.

In the course of discussion, the Council confirmed its procedural decision of June 1983 inviting the Commission to submit appropriate proposals before April 1984.

At the end of its discussion on the above items the Council agreed to suspend its meeting until 16 December with a view to continuing its proceedings on the following items in particular:

- surveillance and control of transfrontier shipments of hazardous waste
- action by the Community relating to the environment (ACE)
- joint declaration on environmental policy
- limit values and quality objectives for mercury discharges.

OTHER DECISION ON THE ENVIRONMENT

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, a Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 3626/82 on the implementation in the Community of the Convention on international trade in endangered species of wild fauna and flora.

PRESS RELEASE

10914/83 (Presse 202)

LIBRARY

888th meeting of the Council

- Foreign Affairs -

Brussels, 29 November 1983

President: Mr Grigoris VARFIS,
State Secretary For Foreign Affairs
of the Hellenic Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr Leo TINDEMANS	Minister for External Relations
Mr Paul de KEERSMAEKER	State Secretary for European Affairs and for Agriculture

Denmark:

Mr Uffe ELLEMANN-JENSEN	Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Jonathan MOTZFELD	Prime Minister of Greenland
Mr Knut-Erik TYGESEN	State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Germany:

Mr Hans-Dietrich GENSCHER	Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Hans-Werner LAUTENSCHLAGER	State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mr Dieter von WÜRZEN	State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs

Greece:

Mr Grigoris VARFIS	State Secretary for Foreign Affairs
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France:

Mr Claude CHEYSSON	Minister for External Relations
Mr André CHANDERNAGOR	Minister responsible for European Affairs to the Minister for External Relations

Ireland:

Mr P. BARRY	Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Jim O'KEEFFE	Minister of State at the Department of Foreign Affairs
Mr Michael MOYNIHAN	Minister of State at the Department of Commerce, Trade and Tourism

Italy:

Mr Giulio ANDREOTTI

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Mario FIORET

State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr Francesco MAZZOLA

State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Trade

Luxembourg:

Ms Colette FLESCH

Vice-President of the Government,
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Netherlands:

Mr H. van den BROEK

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr F. BOLKESTEIN

Minister for External Trade

Mr W.F. van EEKELEN

State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

United Kingdom:

Sir Geoffrey HOWE

Secretary of State for Foreign and
Commonwealth Affairs

Mr Paul CHANNON

Minister of State for Trade

Commission:

Mr Gaston THORN

President

Mr François-Xavier ORTOLI

Vice-President

Mr Wilhelm HAFERKAMP

Vice-President

Mr Lorenzo NATALI

Vice-President

Viscount Etienne DAVIGNON

Vice-President

Mr Christopher TUGENDHAT

Vice-President

Mr Richard BURKE

Member

Mr Georges CONTOGEOGRIS

Member

29.XI.83

PREPARATION FOR THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL

The Council carried out the customary preparation for the proceedings of the forthcoming European Council in Athens on 4, 5 and 6 December.

REPORT ON EUROPEAN UNION

In the context of preparation for the European Council, the Council also approved a draft annual report on progress towards European Union.

This report will be submitted to the European Council and forwarded to the European Parliament in accordance with the Stuttgart Solemn Declaration.

PORTUGUESE ACCESSION

The Council prepared for the 15th meeting at Ministerial level of the Conference on the accession of Portugal to the European Communities, which was held in the late afternoon of the same day. The Portuguese delegation was led by Mr Ernâni Rodrigues Lopes, Minister for Finance and Planning.

CYPRUS

The Commission informed the Council of its intention of going to Cyprus in the very near future to discuss with the Cyprus Government the development of co-operation under the EEC/Cyprus Association Agreement.

The Council took note of this information and of the Commission's intention of submitting a report to the Council following these talks.

29.XI.83

NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE RENEWAL OF THE ACP-EEC CONVENTION

The Council brought up the matter of the date of the next Ministerial Meeting in the negotiations with the ACP States for renewal of the second Lomé Convnetion which began on 6 and 7 October 1983 in Luxembourg.

It noted that France, which will take over the Presidency on 1 January, will submit a proposal on the subject.

RELATIONS WITH THE ACP STATES AND INDIA - PREFERENTIAL SUGAR

The Council reached agreement on the conditions to be proposed for the reintroduction of a preferential sugar quota for India and accession by the Ivory Coast to the Sugar Protocol annexed to the Lomé Convention.

CENTRAL AMERICA

Following an initiative by Mr GENSCHER, the Council asked the Commission to look into the possibility of fostering relations with countries in this region and to report to it as soon as possible.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN ON THE GREEK MEMORANDUM

The Council discussed the various measures which should be taken in response to the Greek memorandum of 19 March 1982.

During the discussion the Greek delegation expressed its concern about progress in this matter, particularly in view of the conclusions of the European Council in Stuttgart. The discussion also enabled the Commission to provide explanations relating both to the specific proposals and to the day-to-day administration of the existing instruments.

In accordance with the Stuttgart conclusions it was felt that work should continue with a view to facilitating Greece's integration into the Community.

In conclusion, the President noted that the Permanent Representatives Committee had been instructed to draw up a report for the attention of the European Council which would enable it to examine this question.

GREENLAND

On the basis of a report from the Presidency, the Council held a wide-ranging discussion on all the aspects of the Greenland question. At the meeting the Presidency also submitted some suggestions on certain specific points relating to fisheries.

During the discussion the Danish delegation expressed its concern about progress in this area.

At the end of the discussion the Council expressed its willingness to find satisfactory solutions as soon as possible, taking into account both the interests of Greenland and of the Member States. It asked the Permanent Representatives Committee to prepare in this spirit for its discussions at its December meeting.

GENERALIZED PREFERENCES FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: COMMUNITY SCHEME FOR 1984

In the light of the Opinions of the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee the Council gave its agreement in principle to the new Community generalized scheme of preferences for 1984. In adopting its Decision, the Council followed the guidelines it had sketched out in 1980. The aim of the guidelines is to achieve gradual and progressive discrimination in favour of countries which have most need of generalized preferences, in particular the least-developed countries.

The generalized scheme of preferences for 1984 may be summarized as follows:

Iron and steel products

The arrangements for 1983 have been renewed without change.

Industrial products

As in 1983, the 1984 GSP provides for the duty-free import of industrial products, subject to quotas or ceilings for certain sensitive products.

A number of products have been transferred from the sensitive products category to the non-sensitive products category and vice versa.

Furthermore, in the course of its revision of the list of sensitive products, the Council introduced additional quotas for some countries, while in several cases it replaced quotas by the more flexible system of ceilings.

In the case of certain products there was an increase in the number of quotas of the order of 5 to 10% and a general increase in the number of ceilings of the order of 5 to 15%. The Council agreed to an increase of 8,6% for non-sensitive products.

Textile products

As far as MFA textile products were concerned, the Council thought that the 1984 GSP could be improved by taking 1981 (instead of 1977) as the basis for working out the zero duty preferential amount due to beneficiaries.

However, the 1983 offer was maintained unchanged for countries regarded as dominant and for all countries whose exports to the Community have remained at a standstill or have fallen.

The Council reduced the number of ceilings allocated among the Member States and replaced these by the more flexible system of non-allocated Community ceilings.

The Council also agreed to retain the 1983 arrangements for non-MFA textiles as well as the arrangements relating to jute products and coir.

Finally, it agreed to add one country, Honduras, to the list of beneficiary countries under the GSP for textiles.

Agricultural products

The Council agreed to improve the preferential margins for all beneficiaries of the GSP in the case of several products already included in the Community GSP. ⁽¹⁾

The Council retained the 1983 GSP arrangements for products governed by quotas or ceilings, i.e. cocoa butter, soluble coffee and raw tobacco, and also pineapple, subject to a change in the breakdown of the quota for sliced pineapple.

The Council agreed to grant concessions for some products (melon and water melon juice) to the least-developed countries.

China and Romania

The arrangements for China included the addition of certain fruit juices and two industrial products. In the case of Romania the arrangements were extended.

⁽¹⁾ Including certain crustaceans, certain cut flowers, dried bananas, bilberries and fresh papaws, certain fruit juices, cinnamon, banana flour, stearic acid, chewing gum, white chocolate, crusty bread, pains d'épices, fruit puree and paste, extracts of other roasted coffee substitutes, certain cereal grains and manufactured tobacco.

Beneficiaries

The list of beneficiaries of the GSP for 1984 ⁽¹⁾ includes 127 countries following the addition of St-Christopher-Nevis, which became independent in 1983.

Publication of the official texts of the Regulation

The official texts relating to the 1984 GSP will be formally adopted in December 1983 and will then be published as soon as possible in the Official Journal of the European Communities.

⁽¹⁾ The Greek delegation maintained a reservation on the list of beneficiaries.

COMMERCIAL POLICY ACTION FOLLOWING THE OECD MINISTERIAL CONCLUSIONS
AND THE WILLIAMSBURG DECLARATION

The Council reaffirmed the importance it attached to international declarations on the dismantling of protectionist measures.

It thought that the Commission proposal had some very positive features.

The proposal to speed up tariff reductions agreed on at the Tokyo Round should be implemented vigorously by the Article 113 Committee in co-operation with the Community's main trading partners.

The Article 113 Committee should also continue to examine the proposal to eliminate quantitative restrictions for the least-developed countries.

The Council anticipates that it will be able to take a decision on this matter in the very near future.

EEC-JAPAN RELATIONS: CONCLUSIONS OF THE COUNCIL

1. The Council noted the declaration of Mr NAKASONE, Prime Minister of Japan, and the measures announced on 21 October 1983 by the Government of Japan, to stimulate domestic demand and facilitate imports from third countries to Japan.
2. The Council welcomes the desire to encourage imports which these measures represent, but remains profoundly concerned by the continual deterioration in the balance of trade between the Community and Japan. In this respect it recalls its conclusions of 17 October 1983.
3. The Council noted the assurances of moderation given by Japan concerning the export of certain sensitive products to the Community in 1984. It stressed the need to monitor closely the implementation of these assurances. It asked the Article 113 Committee to examine problems that might arise out of the implementation of these assurances and report to the Council on suggestions for possible further action.

AMENDMENT TO THE GATT TARIFF CONCESSION ON CERTAIN SOUND REPRODUCERS
(DIGITAL AUDIO DISC)

The Council approved the Commission proposal for an amendment to the GATT tariff concession on sound reproducers with laser optical reading system (digital audio disc).

The amendment consists in doubling the customs tariff for the above equipment for a period of five years (on the understanding that the duty will be progressively reduced to its present level).

At the same time the Council decided on appropriate compensation for third countries.

CHINA: TEXTILES - CONCLUSIONS OF THE COUNCIL

1. The Commission reported on the state of the negotiations on the bilateral agreement between EEC and CHINA on trade in textiles. The Commission emphasized the gap which exists between the respective positions, particularly on the quantitative aspects.
2. The Council took note of the report of the Commission. It confirmed its directives of 25 February 1982 for the negotiation of bilateral textiles agreements.
3. The Council invited the Commission to make further efforts using if needed flexibility allowed within these directives to the extent that equivalent efforts are made by the Chinese side both on quantitative aspects and on the Community's proposals concerning certain specific provisions and taking account of the Community agreements with other trading partners.

NEWSPRINT

The Council examined the proposal for a Regulation increasing the Community tariff quota opened for 1983 for newsprint.

Having concluded its discussions, in view of the urgency of the matter the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to seek a solution to the problem at the very earliest opportunity.

NEW COMMERCIAL POLICY INSTRUMENT

The Presidency reserved the right to raise this question in the context of the European Council proceedings.

The three items contained in the following pages were dealt with in a meeting held alongside the Council which was chaired by Mr Constantinos VAITSOS, Deputy Minister at the Ministry for Economic Affairs of the Hellenic Republic.

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

Belgium:

Mr Mark EYSKENS
Minister for Economic Affairs

Germany:

Count Otto LAMBSDORFF
Federal Minister for Economic
Affairs

Mr Dieter von WURZEN
State Secretary at the
Federal Ministry for
Economic Affairs

France:

Mr Jean VIDAL
Deputy Permanent Representative

Italy:

Mr Bruno ORSINI
State Secretary
at the Ministry of Industry

Mr Francesco MAZZOLA
State Secretary
at the Ministry of Foreign Trade

Netherlands:

Mr G. van AARDENNE
Deputy Prime Minister,
Minister for Economic Affairs

Denmark:

Mr Aage ANDERSEN
State Secretary at the
Ministry of Industry

Greece:

Mr Constantinos VAITSOS
Deputy Minister
at the Ministry for Economic
Affairs

Ireland:

Mr Edward COLLINS
Minister of State at the
Department of Industry and Energy

Luxembourg:

Ms Colette FLESCH
Minister for Economic Affairs
and the Self-Employed

United Kingdom:

Mr Norman TEBBIT
Secretary of State for
Trade and Industry

Commission:

Viscount Etienne DAVIGNON
Vice-President

STEEL - INTERNAL ASPECT

On the basis of two Commission communications, the Council held a wide-ranging exchange of views on the measures to be taken as a matter of urgency - fixing of minimum prices and introduction of securities and an accompanying certificate - to halt the fall in prices for certain steel products and strengthen the monitoring of trade.

Discussion showed that there was broad identity of views on the analysis of the serious situation on the steel market and the need to take rapid measures to remedy the situation.

The Council agreed to meet again on the morning of 14 December to take a decision on the consultation and assents requested on the detailed proposals to be submitted or finalized forthwith by the Commission in the light of today's discussion.

STEEL - EXTERNAL ASPECT

The Council defined the directives which would allow the Commission to negotiate the arrangements for 1984 with the third countries which were the Community's main suppliers.

SPECIAL STEELS - CONCLUSIONS OF THE COUNCIL

1. The Council took note of the progress of the negotiations held under Article XIX of GATT concerning the measures taken by the United States on 20 July 1983 regarding imports of special steels.
2. The Council considered that although progress had been made, the United States' offer still needed to be effectively improved and clarified.
3. The Council approved the list of compensatory withdrawals and authorized the Commission to deposit this list with GATT unless subsequent negotiations concluded satisfactorily by 15 January 1984.
4. The Council agreed that the deadline of 30 November 1983 for the conclusion of negotiations could be postponed until 14 January 1984.
5. Subsequent negotiations with the United States should enable the Community to determine clearly whether the United States' offer was adequate, taking account in particular of:
 - the level of exemptions from duties which would be included in compensation for products subject to the tariff, the list of products which would be included in the compensatory offer and the level of tariff exemptions authorized for each product;
 - the problems concerning small-scale suppliers;
 - the fact that a significant effort would have to be made regarding the volume of imports which would be allocated to the Community for products subject to a quota.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Relations with Israël

The Council agreed to Israël's request to be allowed to introduce a customs duty of 8% on offset printing plates in accordance with Article 3 of Protocol No 2 to the EEC-Israël Agreement.

The Council also agreed to the draft Decision of the EEC-Israël Co-operation Council amending Article 30 of Protocol No 3 to the EEC-Israël Agreement.

Relations with Cyprus

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation on the conclusion of the EEC-Cyprus Protocol concerning trade arrangements which were to apply in 1983 in the context of the decision taken on 24 November 1980 by the EEC-Cyprus Association Council providing for the process of transition to the second stage of the Association Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Cyprus.

Commercial policy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision authorizing the automatic renewal or continuance in force of certain friendship, trade and navigation treaties and similar agreements concluded between Member States and non-member countries.

Regional policy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision enabling grant aid from the European Regional Development Fund for infrastructure investment projects to exceed the 70% limit for the period 1981-1983.

PRESS RELEASE

LIBRARY

10969/83 (Presse 204)

889th meeting of the Council

- Transport -

Brussels, 1 December 1983

President: Mr Nikolaos AKRITIDIS

Minister for Communications
of the Hellenic Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr Herman de CROO
Minister for Transport
and for Posts and Telecommunications

Denmark:

Mr J.L. HALCK
State Secretary
Ministry of Public Works

Germany:

Mr Werner DOLLINGER
Federal Minister for Transport

Greece:

Mr Nikolaos AKRITIDIS
Minister for Communications
Mr Constantine ASLANIS
State Secretary
Ministry of Communications

France:

Mr Charles FITERMAN
Minister of State
Minister for Transport

Ireland:

Mr D.B. FITZPATRICK
Deputy Director General
Ministry for Transport

Italy:

Mr Claudio SIGNORILE
Minister for Transport

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean FEYDER
Deputy Permanent Representative

Netherlands:

Mrs N. SMIT-KROES
Minister for Transport
and Public Works

United Kingdom:

Mr Nicholas RIDLEY
Secretary of State for Transport

Commission:

Mr Georges CONTOGEOORGIS
Member

RESOLUTION ON THE COMMON POLICY

The Council held a detailed discussion on the draft Resolution on the implementation, in stages, of a series of measures in the field of the common policy for inland transport.

TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURES

The Council held an initial policy debate on the proposal of 9 August 1983 for a Council Regulation on financial support for a multiannual transport infrastructure programme.

The Council intends to continue examination of this proposal at its meeting on 20 December 1983.

WEIGHTS AND DIMENSIONS

Working on the basis of suggestions put forward by certain delegations, and following an initial exchange of views, the Council agreed to try and find out whether a new method of approach would enable discussions on the proposal for a Directive on the weight, dimensions and certain related characteristics of certain road vehicles to be resumed on a new basis.

The Council will continue its discussions on this issue at its meeting on 20 December 1983.

QUOTAS FOR THE CARRIAGE OF GOODS BY ROAD BETWEEN MEMBER STATES

The Council held an initial exchange of views on the proposal for a Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 3164/76 on the Community quota for the carriage of goods by road between Member States.

This proposal, submitted on 15 June 1983, is designed to organize the market in the carriage of goods by road between the Member States in such a way as to enable market forces to operate as freely as possible. Among other things, it is proposed to abolish the present system of quotas and to replace it, after a transitional period of five years, by a system of access to the market based on taking into account the characteristics of, and the services provided by each individual undertaking in accordance with a number of precise criteria.

Following this exchange of views, the Council agreed to continue examining the proposal at a later date, in the light of the European Parliament's Opinion.

FIXING OF RATES

The Council adopted a Regulation on the provisions for the fixing of rates for the carriage of goods by road between Member States. This Regulation replaces Council Regulation (EEC) No 283/77, which expires on 31 December 1983.

The new Regulation will be valid for a period of five years. It provides for the introduction, as a general rule, of non-compulsory reference tariffs, leaving the final decision on the fixing of individual rates to the transport undertakings. However, two or more Member States may decide, by common agreement, to apply compulsory tariff brackets to links between their respective countries. Thus, Germany, France, Italy and the Benelux countries have undertaken to apply compulsory tariff brackets to links between their respective countries except within Benelux. In addition, the Regulation provides for the possibility, by way of derogation, of not fixing tariffs for certain links with low traffic density.

CARRIAGE OF GOODS BY ROAD - ADAPTATION OF THE FIRST DIRECTIVE TO GREECE

Following an exchange of views on the proposal for a Directive amending the first Council Directive on the establishment of common rules for certain types of carriage of goods by road between Member States, particularly in order to take account of the geographical situation of Greece, the Council asked the Permanent Representatives Committee to look at the issue in more detail.

NEGOTIATIONS WITH AUSTRIA

The Council considered the progress of the negotiations with Austria, which were being conducted on the basis of the Council Decision of 15 December 1981. It took note of the conclusions of the Commission survey which the Council had asked the Commission to carry out concerning the extent to which both sides were using the transport infrastructures.

The Council was also informed of the Austrian authorities' decision to increase under new tax legislation the road tax introduced by the 1978 Law. In this connection, it stressed the importance of complying with the principle of non-discrimination between Austrian vehicles and foreign vehicles.

At its meeting on 20 December 1983 the Council will examine the amendments to be made to the Decision of 15 December 1981 in order to extend the negotiating brief.

AIR TARIFFS

The Commission took note of a report on the progress of discussions on the proposal for a Directive on tariffs for scheduled air transport between Member States.

Several delegations stressed how important it would be for the strengthening of the internal market to adopt Community measures designed to improve the organization of air transport within the Community, and how urgently progress on the matter was needed.

The Commission took this opportunity of announcing that it would be forwarding a Memorandum on the development of the common air transport policy in January 1984. This Memorandum would be accompanied by an amendment of the proposal for a Directive on air transport tariffs.

The Council took note of these statements.

FACILITATION OF FORMALITIES AND INSPECTIONS IN RESPECT OF THE
CARRIAGE OF GOODS BETWEEN MEMBER STATES

The Council adopted a Directive which constitutes an important step towards the abolition of barriers to trade between Member States. Among other things, this Directive provides for a number of measures to reduce waiting time at frontiers when goods are being transported between Member States.

These measures concern the following in particular:

- physical inspection and administrative formalities to be carried out as quickly as possible and at one time and place;
- physical inspections by means of spot checks, except in duly justified circumstances;
- mutual recognition of inspections carried out and documents drawn up by the competent authorities of Member States at previous inspections;
- fixing opening hours at frontier crossings;
- co-operation between inspection departments and users;
- appropriate organization of business hours and staff available;
- appropriate arrangement of frontier crossings;
- consultation between Member States in case of difficulties;

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Appointments

The Council appointed:

- at the suggestion of Irish Steel Ltd., Mr Liam COUGHLAN, Chief Executive, Irish Steel Ltd., as a member of the ECSC Consultative Committee, in replacement of Mr Gerard FARREN, Member, who has resigned, for the remainder of his term of office, which runs until 2 December 1984;
- at the suggestion of the Groupement des Industries Sidérurgiques Luxembourgeoises, Mr Jean-Marc WAGENER, Directeur Général de l'ARBED, as a member of the ECSC Consultative Committee, in replacement of Mr Paul METZ, who has resigned, for the remainder of his term of office, which runs until 2 December 1984;
- at the suggestion of the National Association of Colliery Overmen, Deputies and Shotfires, Mr Peter McNESTRY, National Secretary, Simpson House, as a member of the ECSC Consultative Committee, in replacement of Mr A.E. SIMPSON, who has resigned, for the remainder of his term of office, which runs until 2 December 1984;
- at the suggestion of the Confédération Générale du Travail, Mr Bertrand LAMIRAND, membre du Bureau de la Fédération de la Métallurgie C.G.T., as a member of the ECSC Consultative Committee, in replacement of Mr Alain TACQUIN, who has resigned, for the remainder of his term of office, which runs until 2 December 1984.

Lastly, at the suggestion of the French Government, the Council appointed Mr H.L. TELLIER, Direction de la Sécurité Sociale, Ministère des Affaires Sociales et de la Solidarité Nationale, as a full member, and Mademoiselle J. GUIGEN, Direction de la Sécurité Sociale, Ministère des Affaires Sociales et de la Solidarité Nationale, as an alternate member, of the Advisory Committee on Social Security for Migrant Workers, in replacement of Mr C. THALAMY, full member, who has resigned, and Mr D. DECISIER, alternate member, who has resigned, respectively, for the remainder of their terms of office, which run until 20 September 1984.

PRESS RELEASE

11170/83 (Presse 211)

LIBRARY

890th Council meeting

- Labour and Social Affairs -

Brussels, 8 December 1983

President: Mr Evangelos YANNOPOULOS,
Minister for Labour
of the Hellenic Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr Michel HANSENNE
Minister for Labour and
Employment

Denmark:

Mrs Grethe FENGER MØLLER
Minister for Labour

Germany:

Mr Walter KITTEL
Deputy Permanent Representative

Greece:

Mr Evangelos YANNOPOULOS
Minister for Labour

France:

Mr Pierre BEREGOVY
Minister for Social Security
and National Solidarity

Ireland:

Mr George BIRMINGHAM
Minister of State for Labour

Italy:

Mr Gianni DE MICHELIS
Minister for Labour

Luxembourg:

Mr Jacques SANTER
Minister for Labour and
Social Security

Netherlands:

Mr J. de KONING
Minister for Employment and
Social Security

United Kingdom:

Mr Tom KING
Minister for Labour

Commission:

Mr Ivor RICHARD - Member

RESOLUTION ON THE PROMOTION OF EMPLOYMENT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

The Council signified its agreement to a Resolution on the promotion of employment for young people. It will be recalled that this Resolution is further to the conclusions of the European Council (meeting in June and December 1982 and March 1983), the Joint Council (Economic Affairs/Finance - Labour and Social Affairs) and the Standing Committee on Employment in November 1982.

The Resolution - following the Resolution of 11 July 1983 concerning vocational training policies in the European Community in the 1980's ⁽¹⁾ and in addition to the efforts made in this area - embodies the Community's commitment to deploy increased efforts over the next five years to create additional job opportunities in order to reduce gradually and significantly the rate of employment. With this in mind it lays down certain general guidelines and the scope of the measures to be taken into account in this context in the Member States, and the contribution which may be made by the European Social Fund, in particular by supporting the implementation of demonstration projects.

At the close of its discussion the Council agree to instruct the Permanent Representatives Committee to prepare the final text of the Resolution as approved, for formal adoption at a forthcoming Council meeting.

⁽¹⁾ See Press Release 7352/83 (Presse 94) of 3.6.1983.

SPECIAL MEASURES IN FAVOUR OF GREECE IN THE SOCIAL FIELD

Following a detailed discussion, the Council signified its agreement to the content of the measures provided for in the proposal for a Regulation - submitted by the Commission further to the Greek Memorandum - on special measures by the Community (1984-1988) for programmes to be drawn up by Greece for the construction, adaptation and equipment of:

- vocational training centres in the areas not covered by the ERDF (Athens and Thessaloniki);
- centres for the rehabilitation (particularly social rehabilitation) of the mentally ill and the mentally handicapped.

The Council agreed to adopt the proposal formally as soon as funding is ensured for the measures it contains.

RECOMMENDATION ON THE REDUCTION AND REORGANIZATION OF WORKING TIME

The Council held a thorough discussion of the proposal for a Recommendation submitted by the Commission, during which all the delegations were able to elaborate in detail their views on the matter.

It noted that there was a considerable degree of convergence on a number of aspects of the Commission proposal.

At the end of this discussion the Council directed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue discussions bearing in mind the various viewpoints put forward, in order to be in a position to express an opinion on the subject at its next meeting.

INFORMING AND CONSULTING EMPLOYEES

The Council heard a detailed report from Mr RICHARD, Member of the Commission, presenting the proposal for a Directive on procedures for informing and consulting the employees of undertakings with complex structures, in particular transnational undertakings, as amended by the Commission following the Opinions of the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee.

While all delegations generally acknowledged the importance of the objectives of the Commission proposal - viz. greater involvement of employees in decisions concerning them - differences of opinion became apparent at this stage on the approach advocated by the Commission for achieving these objectives.

At the end of its discussion, the Council agreed that the Commission proposal should undergo constructive scrutiny. It instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its proceedings on the matter in that spirit and to report back to it for its next meeting.

ELEVENTH REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE COUNCIL ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND (FINANCIAL YEAR 1982)

The Council took note of the report submitted by the Commission on the activities of the European Social Fund (financial year 1982).

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

EEC - Andean Pact Co-operation

The Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the ECSC meeting within the Council decided to sign the EEC-Andean Pact Framework Agreement and the ECSC Protocol relating thereto and to authorize the President of the Council to nominate the persons empowered to sign the Framework Agreement.

Signing is planned for Saturday, 17 December 1983, at Ministerial level, at Cartagena, Colombia.

Appointments

Acting on a proposal from the Danish Government, the Council appointed Fuldmaegtig Torben JEPSEN, Dansk Arbejdsgiverforening, a member of the Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work, in place of Mr D. von GRUMBKOW, member who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which runs until 1 April 1985.

Acting on a further proposal from the Danish Government, the Council appointed Fuldmaegtig Grethe ERSKOV, Undervisningsministeriet, Direktoratet for erhvervsuddannelserne, a member of the Management Board of the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training, in place of Mr A. HØJSTEEN, member who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which runs until 19 April 1985.

Finally, acting on a proposal from the Irish Government, the Council appointed Mrs Annette DONNELLAN, Nurse Tutor, St. Laurence's Hospital, a member of the Advisory Committee on Training in Nursing, in place of Mrs I. LEYDON, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which runs until 7 October 1985.

PRESS RELEASE

LIBRARY

11220/83 (Presse 214)

891st meeting of the Council
- Economics/Finance -
Brussels, 12 December 1983

President: Mr Gerasimos ARSENIS,
Minister for Economic Affairs
of the Hellenic Republic

12.XII.83

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

Belgium:

Mr Willy DE CLERCQ
Deputy Prime Minister,
Minister for Finance and
Minister for Foreign Trade

Germany:

Mr Hans TIETMEYER
State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Finance

Mr Otto SCHLECHT
State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of
Economic Affairs

France:

Mr Jacques LEPRETTE
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

Italy

Mr Renato RUGGIERO,
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

Netherlands:

Mr H. RUDING
Minister for Finance

Denmark:

Mr Gunnar RIBERHOLDT
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

Greece:

Mr Gerasimos ARSENIS
Minister for Economic Affairs

Ireland:

Mr Allan DUKES
Minister for Finance

Luxembourg:

Mr Jacques SANTER
Minister for Finance

United Kingdom:

Mr Ian STEWART
Economic Secretary to the Treasury

For the Commission:

Mr François-Xavier ORTOLI
Vice-President

Also present at this meeting:

Mr Michel CAMDESSUS,
Chairman of the Monetary Committee

Mr I. BYATT,
Chairman of the Economic Policy Committee

Mr Georgiou ZIGOYANNIS,
Chairman of the Co-ordinating Group for Economic and Financial
Policies

ANNUAL REPORT

The Council proceeded with the quarterly review of the economic situation in the Community in accordance with its Decision of 18 February 1974 on the attainment of a high degree of convergence of the economic policies of the Member States of the European Economic Community.

Winding up this review, the Council, on a proposal from the Commission, adopted the annual report on the economic situation in the Community and laid down the major economic guidelines for 1984.

COMMUNITY LOANS INTENDED AS SUPPORT FOR BALANCES OF PAYMENTS

The Council discussed a possible adjustment of the mechanisms of Community loans on the basis of an oral report from the Chairman of the Monetary Committee. This question had arisen at the time of the Council Decision in May providing for a loan to the French Republic under the mechanism of Community loans intended as support for Member States' balances of payments.

Concluding the discussion, the Council called upon the Monetary Committee to continue examination of this question in the light of today's discussion. It noted the Commission's intention of submitting appropriate proposals.

PRESS RELEASE

11221/83 (Presse 215)

LIBRARY

892nd meeting of the Council

- Consumer Protection -

Brussels, 12 December 1983

President: Mr Theodoros PANGALOS,
Deputy Minister for Trade
of the Hellenic Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr Marc LEPOIVRE
Deputy Permanent Representative

Denmark:

Mr Jakob RYTTER
Deputy Permanent Representative

Germany:

Mr Klaus KINKEL
State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Justice

Greece:

Mr Theodoros PANGALOS
Deputy Minister for Trade

France:

Mrs Catherine LALUMIERE
State Secretary at the Ministry
of Economic Affairs, Finance and
the Budget, with responsibility
for Consumer Affairs

Ireland:

Mr Michael MOYNIHAN
Minister of State at the
Department of Trade, Commerce
and Tourism

Italy:

Mr Nicola Maria SANESE
State Secretary,
Ministry of Industry, Trade and
Craft Trades

Luxembourg:

Ms Colette FLESCHE
Vice-President of the Government,
Minister for Foreign Trade and
Co-operation

Netherlands:

Mr P.H. van ZEIL
State Secretary,
Ministry of Economic Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr Alexander FLETCHER
Parliamentary Under-Secretary
of State for Corporate and
Consumer affairs

Commission:

Mr Karl-Heinz NARJES - Member

STATEMENT ON CONSUMER PROTECTION AND INFORMATION POLICY

On the occasion of the first meeting on the Community's consumer protection and information policy, the Council held a wide-ranging exchange of views on the basis of an oral statement which Mr NARJES made on behalf of the Commission.

During the discussion, all delegations stressed the importance they attached to the continuation of a Community policy in this area pursuant to the second action programme (1981-1986); they said that such a policy should also take into account other Community policies directly affecting consumer interests (including competition, agriculture and internal market). It was also acknowledged that improved consumer protection within a free and open market, under conditions of equal competition, should not lead to obstacles to the free movement of goods, cumbersome bureaucracy or inappropriate extra burdens on the productive sector.

After the discussion the Council asked the Commission to report back for its next meeting (Consumer Protection) on progress in the implementation of the measures provided for under the second consumer protection and information programme (1981-1986).

COMMUNITY SYSTEM FOR THE RAPID EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON DANGERS
ARISING FROM THE USE OF CONSUMER PRODUCTS

The Council approved the proposal for a Decision introducing a Community system for the rapid exchange of information on dangers arising from the use of consumer products. The aim of the Decision is to introduce a Community system for the rapid exchange of information between the Member States and the Commission to enable the Member States to take the appropriate urgent measures where it is found that a particular consumer product presents a danger to the health or safety of the consumer.

The Decision will be adopted formally after the legal/linguistic finalization of texts.

LIABILITY FOR DEFECTIVE PRODUCTS

The Council continued its discussions on the amended proposal for a Directive on the approximation of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States concerning liability for defective products. It took as a basis the overall compromise solution on which its discussions since February 1982 had been based and which concerned the fundamental questions raised by the proposal.

After discussion, the Council asked the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue seeking an overall compromise, in particular on the question of a financial limit, and to report back for its next meeting.

MISLEADING AND UNFAIR ADVERTISING

The Council held an initial exchange of views on the amended proposal on the approximation of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States concerning misleading and unfair advertising. It concentrated on the main questions raised by the proposal, in particular its scope and a number of problems concerning the administrative and judicial protection of consumers.

After the discussion, the Council asked the Permanent Representatives Committee to press forward actively with its discussions on this matter in order to enable it to take a final decision as soon as possible.

DOOR-TO-DOOR SALES

The Council examined the proposal for a Directive to protect the consumer in respect of contracts negotiated away from business premises, the main purpose of which was to grant consumers the right to cancel, within a period of seven days, contracts concluded away from the business premises of the trader.

The Council reached a broad consensus on the proposal. It noted, however, that it was unable to take a final decision at this stage, and accordingly asked the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue examining the issue.

PRESS RELEASE

11222/83 (Presse 216)

LIBRARY

893rd meeting of the Council

- Agriculture -

Brussels, 12 and 13 December 1983

President: Mr Constantinos SIMITIS,
Minister for Agriculture
of the Hellenic Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr Paul de KEERSMAEKER
State Secretary for European
Affairs and Agriculture

Denmark:

Mr Niels Anger KOFOED
Minister for Agriculture

Germany:

Mr Ignaz KIECHLE
Federal Minister for Food,
Agriculture and Forestry

Greece:

Mr Constantinos SIMITIS
Minister for Agriculture

Mr Hans-Jürgen ROHR
State Secretary,
Federal Ministry for Food,
Agriculture and Forestry

Mr Panayiotis KATSAROS
State Secretary,
Ministry of Agriculture

France:

Mr Michel ROCARD
Minister for Agriculture

Ireland:

Mr Austin DEASY
Minister for Agriculture

Mr René SOUCHON
State Secretary,
Ministry of Agriculture

Italy:

Mr Filippo Maria PANDOLFI
Minister for Agriculture

Luxembourg:

Mr Ernest MUHLEN
Minister for Agriculture,
Viticulture, Water Control
and Forestry

Netherlands:

Mr G. BRAKS
Minister for Agriculture
and Fisheries

United Kingdom:

Mr Michael JOPLING
Minister for Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food

Mr John MacGREGOR
Minister of State,
Ministry of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food

Commission:

Mr Poul DALSGER - Member

REVISION OF THE AGRICULTURAL STRUCTURES POLICY

On the basis of an interim report from the Presidency the Council held a wide-ranging exchange of views on progress with the revision of the agricultural structures policy.

Following the discussion the Council noted that in the light of the complex nature of the problems encountered in the technical examination of the Commission proposals and the linking of revision of the agricultural structures policy with the outcome of the review of the common agricultural policy in general, it was physically impossible to approve the revision of the agricultural structures policy by 31 December 1983.

The Council therefore asked the Commission to submit proposals for extension of the socio-structural Directives which were about to expire; these proposals would be formally approved upon receipt of the Opinion of the European Parliament.

AMENDMENT OF THE COMMUNITY LIST OF LESS-FAVOURED FARMING AREAS

Following a brief discussion of three proposals for Directives amending the Community list of less-favoured farming areas within the meaning of Directive 75/268/EEC in Italy, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands, the Council agreed to return to the issue at a future meeting on agricultural questions.

CONTINUATION OF NEW ZEALAND BUTTER IMPORTS INTO THE UNITED KINGDOM
UNDER SPECIAL CONDITIONS

Pending adoption of the five-yearly system initially proposed by the Commission the Council agreed in principle to a transitional measure fixing at 13 833 tonnes the amount of New Zealand butter which the United Kingdom is authorized to import under special conditions during the period 1 January 1984 to 29 February 1984, on the understanding that this interim decision is without prejudice to the final decision to be taken by the Council.

COMMON ORGANIZATION OF THE MARKET IN SHEEPMEAT AND GOATMEAT

On the basis of an interim report from the Special Committee on Agriculture on the conclusions drawn by the Commission from the first three years of operation of the common organization of the market in sheepmeat and goatmeat, the Council noted delegations' first reactions to the adjustments which the Commission proposes be made to the internal arrangements, and the points to be renegotiated in the voluntary restraint agreements with third countries.

Following its discussions the Council asked the Special Committee on Agriculture to continue its work pending specific proposals from the Commission and to report back to it at a future meeting on agricultural questions.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMUNITY SCALE FOR GRADING OF THE CARCASSES
OF ADULT BOVINE ANIMALS

On the basis of a report from the Special Committee on Agriculture the Council made a full examination of the proposal for a Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 805/68 on the common organization of the market in beef and veal, the purpose of which is, by applying the Community scale for the grading of carcasses to intervention, to ensure that the same buying-in price is paid for the same quality of product in all the Member States.

The Council then instructed the Special Committee on Agriculture to continue examining the various outstanding technical problems in the light of the Council's discussion and to report back to it in time for a decision before the start of the next marketing year.

AGRI-MONETARY SECTOR

Without prejudice to the Opinion of the European Parliament, the Council was favourable to a draft Regulation extending until 31 december 1984 Regulation (EEC) No 652/79 on the introduction of the ECU in the common agricultural policy, on the understanding that the Regulation would be formally adopted in the official languages of the Communities by the most appropriate means once the European Parliament's Opinion had been received.

FIXING OF THE ACTIVATING PRICES FOR TABLE WINES FOR THE PERIOD
16 DECEMBER 1983 TO 31 AUGUST 1984

On the basis of a proposal from the Commission the Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Regulation on the final points concerning the fixing of prices and other measures for table wines for the 1983/1984 marketing year, with reference to the period 16 December 1983 to 31 August 1984.

(This period is determined by the decision taken in the context of the changes made to the basic arrangements for table wines by Regulation (EEC) No 1595/83, whereby as from 1984 the price year starts on 1 September each year).

The figures are as follows:

Type of wine	Activating price
R I	3,19 ECU/% vol/hl
R II	3,19 ECU/% vol/hl
R III	49,84 ECU/hl
A I	2,92 ECU/% vol/hl
A II	65,13 ECU/hl
A III	74,37 ECU/hl

PRESERVATIVES AUTHORIZED FOR USE IN FOODSTUFFS

The Council resumed examination of an amended proposal for an amendment to Directive 64/54/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the member States concerning the preservatives authorized for use in foodstuffs.

Following its discussion the Council extended until 15.2.1984 the authorization of the use of thiabendazole, as an interim measure pending the decision on the entire proposal to be taken by that date.

MARKETING STANDARDS FOR EGGS

On the basis of a report from the Special Committee on Agriculture the council held a full discussion of various points of the proposal for a Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 2772/75 on marketing standards for eggs.

The Council then asked the Special Committee on Agriculture to expedite the technical examination of the last-remaining difficulties and report back to it at a future meeting on agricultural questions for a decision on the matter.

VETERINARY SECTOR

On the basis of a report from the Permanent Representatives Committee the Council held a wideranging discussion of progress in the veterinary sector and in particular of the situation regarding certain derogations (fresh poultrymeat and foot-and-mouth disease), taking into account that the proposals on the final arrangements for the problems to which these derogations relate have yet to be submitted.

As regards the derogations relating to foot-and-mouth disease, the Council noted that the commission was prepared to submit a formal proposal by the end of March 1984 and agreed to an extension for six months as from 1 January 1984 of the derogations granted in 1976 to Ireland, the United Kingdom and Denmark for live animals and to Ireland and the United Kingdom in respect of Northern Ireland for fresh meat.

As regards the derogations for fresh poultry-meat (in particular drawn poultry), the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue examining the matter, with particular reference to the question of responsibility for inspection costs, and to report back to it by 31 March 1984.

MISCELLANEOUS STATEMENTS

The Council heard statements relating to the following questions:

- Question concerning the beef and veal estimates
- Question concerning alcohol exports from France (United Kingdom delegation)
- Question relating to the common organization of the market in rice (United Kingdom delegation)
- Problem concerning the quality criteria for cereals intended for export (United Kingdom delegation)
- Information from the Commission on the timetable for the veterinary sector
- Question concerning the draft Commission Regulation amending Regulation No 1443/82 on the arrangements for applying the quota system in the sugar sector (Belgian and United Kingdom delegations)

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Other agricultural decisions

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities:

- the Regulations

- = amending, for the sixth time, Regulation (EEC) No 351/79 concerning the addition of alcohol to products in the wine sector;
- = laying down certain measures for acid oils from the refining of by-products of olive oil or olive-residue oil;
- = fixing for the 1984/1985 milk year the guideline figure for the fat content of standardized whole milk imported into Ireland and the United Kingdom;
- = amending Regulation (EEC) No 985/68 in respect of the classification of butter and cream;

- the Decisions

- = adopting common research programmes and programmes for the co-ordination of agricultural research;
- = approving derogations provided for by Italy from certain provisions of Council Directive 77/93/EEC in respect of seed potatoes originating in Canada, on the one hand, and in Poland, on the other hand;

- the Directives

- = extending the validity of Article 7(1) points C and E, of Directive 64/432/EEC.
- = amending for the second time Directive 76/118/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to certain partly or wholly dehydrated preserved milk for human consumption.

The Council also took note of the Commission communication concerning the final estimates for the 1981/1982 wine-growing year and of the Commission report on the foreseeable trends in the planting and replanting of vineyards in the Community and on the balance of production and consumption in the wine sector.

Fisheries

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

- fixing the guide prices for the fishery products listed in Annex I(A) and (D) to Regulation (EEC) No 3796/81 for the 1984 fishing year:

Species	Guide price (ECU per tonne)	Increase (as %)
1. Herrings	336	0
2. Sardines (Sardina Pilchardus):		
(a) Atlantic	537	0
(b) Mediterranean	428.	5
3. Dogfish (Squalus scanthias)	836	2
4. Dogfish (Scyliohinus spp.)	806	2
5. Redfish (Sebastea spp)	782	4
6. Cod	1.053	6
7. Saithe	606	4
8. Haddock	788	6
9. Whiting	725	5
10. Ling	867	2
11. Mackerel	277	2
12. Anchovies	540	6
13. Plaice		
- 1.1.-30.4.84	722	2
- 1.5.-31.12.84	976	7
14. Hake (Merluccius merluccius)	2.316	6
15. Shrimps of the genus Crangon crangon	1.401	2

- fixing the guide prices for the fishery products listed in Annex II to Regulation (EEC) No 3796/81 for the 1984 fishing year:

Species	Guide price (ECU per tonne)	Increase (as %)
1. Sardines	389	0
2. Sea-bream of the species <i>Dentex dentex</i> and <i>Pagellus</i> spp	1 178	3
3. Edible crabs (<i>Cancer pagurus</i>)	615	7
4. Norway lobster (<i>Nephrops norvegicus</i>)	1 751	6
5. Squid (<i>Loligo</i> spp)	2 332	7
6. Squid (<i>Todarodes sagittatus</i>)	1 151	5
7. Squid (<i>Illex</i> spp)	1 151	5
8. Cuttlefish of the species <i>Sepia officinalis</i> , <i>Rossia macrosoma</i> and <i>Sepiola rondeletti</i>	1 503	3
9. Octopus	1 120	7

- fixing the Community producer price for tuna intended for the canning industry for the 1984 fishing year:

Species	Community producer price (ECU per tonne)	Increase (as %)
Tuna (Albacore)	1 351	1

GATT

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities:

- the Decision concerning an amendment of the tariff concession, under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, on audio systems with laser pick-ups (CCT heading 92.11 A II);
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 950/68 on the CCT as regards this product.

See Press Release 202 of 29 November 1983 - p. 13.

Relations with the Mediterranean countries

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

- = opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for fresh or dried hazelnuts, shelled or not, falling within subheading ex 08.05 G of the Common Customs Tariff and originating in Turkey (1984);
- = opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for certain wines having a registered designation of origin falling within subheading ex 22.05 C of the Common Customs Tariff and originating in Algeria (1984);
- = opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for certain wines having a registered designation of origin falling within subheading ex 22.05 C of the Common Customs Tariff and originating in Yugoslavia (1984);
- = opening, allocating and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas for prepared or preserved sardines falling within subheading 16.04 D of the Common Customs Tariff and originating in Morocco (1984);
- = opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for prepared or preserved sardines falling within subheading 16.04 D of the Common Customs Tariff and originating in Tunisia (1984);
- = opening and providing for the administration of a Community preferential ceiling for certain petroleum products refined in Turkey and establishing Community supervision of imports thereof (1984).

Research

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision amending Decision 82/402/EEC establishing a programme of research and development (1982-1985) in the raw materials sector.

Appointment

On a proposal from the United Kingdom Government, the Council appointed Mr I.M. CAMPBELL, British Railways Board, Rail House, as a member of the Economic and Social Committee to replace Mr C.E. MILLS, who has died, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which runs until 20 September 1986.

PRESS RELEASE

11308/83 (Presse 219)

LIBRARY

894th meeting of the Council

- Research -

Brussels, 13 December 1983

President: Mr Georgios LIANIS,
Minister for Research and
Technology of the
Hellenic Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr Philippe MAYSTADT
Minister for Science Policy

Denmark:

Mr Flemming VOLDBY
State Secretary,
Ministry of Education

Germany:

Mr H-H. HAUNSCHILD
State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Research
and Technology

Greece:

Mr Georgios LIANIS
Minister for Research and
Technology

France:

Mr Jacques LEPRETTE
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

Mr Dimitri RAPACOULIAS
State Secretary,
Ministry for Research and
Technology

Italy:

Mr Luigi GRANELLI
Minister for the Co-ordination of
Scientific and Technological
Research

Ireland:

Mr Andrew O'ROURKE
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

Netherlands:

Mr G. van AARDENNE
Deputy Prime Minister,
Minister for Economic Affairs

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean DONDELINGER
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

United Kingdom:

Mr David TRIPPIER
Parliamentary Under-Secretary,
Department of Trade and Industry

For the Commission:

Mr Etienne DAVIGNON
Vice-President

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY - ESPRIT PROGRAMME

The Council reached total agreement on all aspects of the Decision on a first European R & D programme in the field of information technology (ESPRIT) except for the question of financing. In this connection most delegations nonetheless confirmed their agreement on an overall amount of 700 million ECU in appropriations considered necessary for financing the Community's participation in the programme over 5 years. However, two delegations stated that they still needed time to consider the matter before taking a decision on the question of financing.

RESEARCH PROGRAMME OF THE JRC 1984-1987

The Council managed to resolve the final outstanding problems and approved the 1984-1987 JRC Programme.

This approval covered, in particular, projects of European significance and also the course to be followed for the studies relating to the laboratory for tritium handling.

The programme will have a financial allocation of 700 million ECU and a staff of 2 260 employees. It will include the following:

Research Action Programme - Industrial Technologies

Nuclear measurements and reference materials
High-temperature materials

Research Action Programme - Fusion

Fusion technology and safety

Research Action Programme - Fission

Reactor safety
Management of radioactive waste
Safeguarding and management of fissile materials
Nuclear fuels and actinides research

Research Action Programme - Non-Nuclear Energy Sources

Techniques for solar energy tests
Management of energy in dwellings

Research Action Programme - Environment

Environmental protection
Application of remote-sensing techniques
Industrial hazards

Activities of Scientific Departments (complementary programme)

Exploitation of the HFR reactor.

JRC BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Following its decision of principle, concerning the setting up of a Board of Governors for the JRC, the Council arrived at agreement on a structure providing for the separation of

- the scientific advisory functions to be assigned to a Scientific Council, and
- the powers regarding the implementation and adjustment of programmes to be assigned to the Board of Governors,

while meeting the need for close co-operation between the two bodies.

The Council also arrived at an agreement of principle on the procedures for appointing the members of these two bodies.

It instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to finalize the texts giving the Council agreements legal form and to resolve the questions still outstanding, in particular the precise definition of the powers of the Board of Governors.

STRUCTURES AND PROCEDURES FOR COMMUNITY RESEARCH

The Council, having examined the Commission proposal concerning the structures and procedures for the common policy in the field of science and technology,

(a) with regard to Consultative Management and Co-ordination Committees (CGCs):

- noted the agreement to set up such Committees on a sectoral basis. These Committees will combine in their respective sectors the functions of:
 - = scientific and technical advice to the Commission on current or future R & D activities within the guidelines set by the framework programme,
 - = co-ordination between national and Community activities,
 - = assistance to the Commission in the management of approved programmes;
- recognized that CGCs should be able to organize their work in such a manner as to obtain the specific expert advice which they might require,
- instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to prepare the relevant Council decision; this decision should include the procedures for appointing members of CGCs, the terms of reference of CGCs, the list of committees to be created, abolished or maintained, and reflect the acknowledged need for the provision of expert advice to CGCs in an appropriate way; it should also include those horizontal aspects not dealt with by the sectoral CGCs and any problem arising from overlaps between areas of competence of the various bodies of the Commission;

(b) with regard to the establishment of a Higher Policy Committee for Science and Technology (HCST):

- instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its examination of this part of the Commission proposal.

EXTENSION OF THE 1979-1983 DATA-PROCESSING PROGRAMME

The Council considered the question of extending for two years the second part of the multiannual programme in the field of data-processing adopted in 1979. It noted that there was still disagreement on the overall appropriation to be allowed for this purpose and instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue seeking a solution at its level.

NON-NUCLEAR ENERGY

The Council examined once again the question of the funds needed for the research action programme in the field of non-nuclear energy (1983-1987) and noted that it was unable at this stage to reach agreement on this matter.

The Council therefore agreed to have as soon as possible a detailed re-examination made by its technical bodies of the various elements of this programme in order to have at its disposal all the information necessary for taking its decision.

BASIC TECHNOLOGIES

The Council examined the question of the funds needed for the action programme concerning:

- basic technological research (BTR);
- the applications of new technologies.

The Council noted that there was broad agreement among delegations on the scientific content of the programme but was unable at this stage to reach agreement on the appropriation. It therefore instructed its technical bodies to make a detailed re-examination of the various elements of the programme in order to provide it with the necessary information for taking its decision.

DECOMMISSIONING OF NUCLEAR INSTALLATIONS

The Council agreed to the programme of research on the decommissioning of nuclear installations (1984-1988), for which there is an appropriation of 12,1 MECU.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

11309/83 (Presse 220)

LIBRARY

895th meeting of the Council

- Iron and Steel -

Brussels, 14 December 1983

President: Mr Constantinos VAITSOS,
State Secretary,
Ministry of Economic Affairs
of the Hellenic Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr Mark EYSKENS
Minister for Economic Affairs

Denmark:

Mr Aage ANDERSEN
State Secretary
Ministry of Industry

Germany:

Otto Graf LAMBSDORFF
Federal Minister for Economic Affairs

Greece:

Mr Constantine VAITSOS
State Secretary
Ministry of Economic Affairs

Mr Dieter von WURZEN
State Secretary
Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs

France:

Mr Pierre GADONNEIX
Director
Ministry of Industry, Research,
Energy, Post and
Telecommunications

Ireland:

Mr Edward COLLINS
Minister of State
Department of Industry and Energy

Italy:

Mr Bruno ORSINI
State Secretary
Ministry of Industry

Luxembourg:

Miss Colette FLESCH
Minister for Economic Affairs,
Small Firms and Traders

Netherlands:

Mr G. Van AARDENNE
Deputy Prime Minister
Minister for Economic Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr Norman LAMONT
Minister of State
Department of Trade and Industry

For the Commission:

Viscount Etienne DAVIGNON
Vice-President

STEEL: SHORT-TERM MEASURES

The Council continued the discussion begun on 29 November on the various short-term measures proposed by the Commission to stabilize the prices of steel products, viz. the introduction of a system of minimum prices, a system of securities to ensure compliance with the minimum prices and the production quotas, an accompanying certificate for deliveries and monitoring of cross-border movements of steel products within the Community.

The Council reached broad agreement on the content of the decisions on minimum prices and the system of securities.

Although substantial progress was made in reconciling the Member States' positions on the accompanying certificate, the Council noted that some features, particularly the monitoring of cross-border movements, required further study in the Member States and more detailed consideration at technical level.

The Council accordingly agreed to continue its proceedings on 22 December 1983 with a view to taking a final decision then on all the short-term measures.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

11310/83 (Presse 221)

LIBRARY

896th meeting of the Council

- Fisheries -

Brussels, 14 December 1983

President: Mr Constantinos SIMITIS,
Minister for Agriculture
of the Hellenic Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr Paul de KEERSMAEKER State Secretary for European
Affairs and Agriculture

Denmark:

Mr Henning GROVE Minister for Fisheries
Mr Lars Emil JOHANSEN Minister in the Government of
Greenland

Germany:

Mr Hans-Jürgen ROHR State Secretary, Federal Ministry
of Food, Agriculture and Forestry
Mr Wolfgang von GELDERN Parliamentary State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Food,
Agriculture and Forestry

Greece:

Mr Constantinos SIMITIS Minister for Agriculture
Mr Panayiotis KATSAROS State Secretary,
Ministry of Agriculture

France:

Mr Guy LENGAGNE State Secretary,
Ministry of the Sea

Ireland:

Mr Patrick O'TOOLE Minister for Fisheries

Italy:

Mr Giuseppe CERAMI State Secretary for the Merchant Navy

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean FEYDER Deputy Permanent Representative

Netherlands:

Mr G.J.M. BRAKS

Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries

United Kingdom:

Mr Michael JOPLING

Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Mr John MacGREGOR

Minister of State, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Lord GRAY

Minister of State at the Scottish Office

Commission:

Mr Georges CONTOGEOGIS

Member

AGREEMENT ON FISHERIES

The Council reached overall agreement on:

- the allocation of herring fishing possibilities in the North Sea;
- the TACs and QUOTAS for 1983;
- the Fisheries Agreement with Canada ⁽¹⁾ and the Regulations implementing the results of the consultations with Norway on fishing activities in 1984.

Formal adoption of the instruments necessary to give these agreements legal shape will take place rapidly once the texts have been finalized.

HERRING FISHING

The Council agreed on the allocation of herring fishing possibilities for the Member States in the North Sea ⁽¹⁾.

It will be remembered that herring was the only major species not covered by the agreement of 25 January 1983.

Today's agreement provides that in future herring catch possibilities will be allocated in accordance with the following scale which will apply as from 1 January 1984.

	D	F	NL	B	UK	DK
Given a TAC of 155 000 t	13,3%	13,8%	27,6%	7,000t	24,15%	21,15%
Given a TAC of 251 000 t	15,0%	12,0%	27,0%	6,000t + 1%	23,0%	22,0 %
Quantities above 251 000 t to be divided	17,5%	8,5%	20,5%	1,0%	17,5%	35,0%

For TACs of between 155 000t and 251 000 t distribution would correspond to points on straight-line graphs in each case.

⁽¹⁾ Denmark agreed to the Fisheries Agreement with Canada subject to confirmation, as did Germany in the case of the agreement on herring fishing.

Pending a decision on the specific herring TACs and QUOTAS for 1984 the Council agreed to extend the present arrangements until 31 December 1983. After consultations with Norway the Commission will submit before that date a proposal for provisional allocation of herring catch possibilities in the North Sea during the first months of 1984, based on the above scale.

1983 TACs AND QUOTAS

Pursuant to the general rules adopted on 25 January 1983 implementing the new common fisheries policy the Council agreed on the total allowable catches (TACs) for 1983 for all the species covered by the agreement of 25 January 1983, the share available to the Community and the allocation between Member States (quotas).

1984 TACs AND QUOTAS

The Council held an initial exchange of views on the Commission proposals fixing for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks occurring in the Community's fishing zone provisional total allowable catches for 1984, the provisional share of these catches available to the Community, the allocation of that share between Member States and the conditions under which the total allowable catches may be fished.

It welcomed the fact that the Commission was submitting these proposals for the 1984 TACs and quotas before the end of 1983. All delegations said that the proposals were a sound basis for future discussions and ought to enable the Council rapidly to reach a decision for 1984. The Council will discuss the proposals at its next meeting on 31.1.1984.

Until such time as it is able to take a decision on the Commission proposals for the 1984 TACs and quotas the Council agreed as a provisional measure on a roll-over decision governing fishing in the waters of the Member States of the Community until its next meeting on 31 January 1984.

EXTERNAL ASPECTS

The Council approved the Agreement with Canada (¹) on the arrangements for implementing the EEC-Canada Fisheries Agreement concluded in 1981.

As regards Norway, the Council approved two Regulations laying down for 1984 certain measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources applicable to vessels flying the flag of Norway and allocating certain catch quotas between the Member States for vessels fishing in Norway's economic zone and in the fishing zone around Jan Mayen. These Regulations reflect the results of the consultations with Norway for 1984.

These texts will enter into force on 1 January 1984.

The Council also took stock of fisheries relations with various third countries, as follows:

- the Faroe Islands: the Commission has presented the results of the consultations which were completed on 14 December and the Permanent Representatives Committee was instructed to examine them;
- Sweden/Norway: the Commission reported on the consultations with these countries on the fishing in the Skagerrak/Kattegat;
- Senegal: the Commission reported on progress in the negotiations on a new fisheries agreement;
- Seychelles: the Council asked the Commission to submit a proposal for directives for the negotiations of a fisheries agreement on tunny;
- Tunisia: the Council noted that the Commission was still prepared to enter into negotiations on a fisheries agreement.

(¹) See footnote on page 4.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Further decision on fisheries

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 104/76 laying down common marketing standards for shrimps of the genus "Crangon" spp.

Commercial policy and customs union

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

- imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of certain glass textile fibres (rovings) originating in the German Democratic Republic and Czechoslovakia;
- increasing the Community tariff quota opened for 1983 by Regulation (EEC) No 3425/82 for newsprint falling within sub-heading 48.01 A of the Common Customs Tariff (increase of 180 000 tonnes, broken down as follows: Benelux 12 350 tonnes, Denmark 9 720 tonnes, Germany 44 625 tonnes, Greece 9 290 tonnes, France 14 370 tonnes, United Kingdom 84 645 tonnes, reserve 5 000 tonnes).

PRESS RELEASE

11360/83 (Presse 223)

LIBRARY

897th meeting of the Council

- Budget -

Strasbourg, 13 December 1983

President: Mr Antonios GEORGIADIS,

State Secretary
at the Ministry of the National Economy
of the Hellenic Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr Paul de KEERSMAEKER
State Secretary for
European Affairs and Agriculture

Denmark:

Mr Knud Erik TYGESEN
State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Germany:

Mr Hans TIETMEYER
State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Finance

Greece:

Mr Antonios GEORGIADIS,
State Secretary,
Ministry of the National Economy
Mr Dimitris TSOVOLAS
State Secretary,
Ministry of Finance

France:

Mr Henri EMMANUELLI
State Secretary responsible for
the Budget

Ireland:

Mr Jim O'KEEFFE
Minister of State at the
Department of Foreign Affairs

Italy:

Mr Carlo FRACANZANI
State Secretary,
Ministry of the Treasury

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean FEYDER
Deputy Permanent Representative

Netherlands:

Mr H.A.L. VIJVERBERG
Deputy Permanent Representative

United Kingdom:

Mr Ian STEWART
Economic Secretary
to the Treasury

Commission

Mr Christopher TUGENDHAT
Vice-President

Mr F.J.J.J. ANDRIESSEN
Member

DRAFT GENERAL BUDGET FOR 1984

The Council discussed the draft general budget for 1984 in the light of the second reading by the European Parliament Committee on Budgets and of the "Triialogue" meeting on 9 December.

In this connection the Council had meetings with a European Parliament delegation led by its President, Mr DANKERT, and consisting of the following members: Mr LANGE, Chairman of the Committee on Budgets; Mrs BARBARELLA, Mr NOTENBOOM and Mr ROSSI, Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Budgets; Mrs SCHRIVENER, Rapporteur for the 1984 budget; Mrs NEBOUT, Mr AIGNER, Mr ANSQUER, Mr ARNDT, Mr BALFOUR, Mr BONDE and Mr PFENNIG, members of the Committee on Budgets and Mr OPITZ, Secretary-General of the European Parliament.

The discussion concentrated on the main issues still in dispute between the two branches of the budget authority, in particular those concerning the EAGGF, Guarantee Section, the budget rebate for Germany and the United Kingdom, the amount of appropriations for payment and commitment, the European industrial area and the right to amend the statement of revenue.

Despite considerable efforts to reach agreement, it did not prove possible to achieve a solution acceptable to both sides of the budget authority.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

11505/83 (Presse 229)

LIBRARY

898th meeting of the Council

- Foreign Affairs -

Brussels, 19 December 1983

President: Mr Grigoris VARFIS,
State Secretary For Foreign Affairs
of the Hellenic Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr Leo TINDEMANS Minister for External Relations

Denmark:

Mr Uffe ELLEMANN-JENSEN Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Lars Emil JOHANSEN Minister in the Government of Greenland

Mr Knut-Erik TYGESEN State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Germany:

Mr Hans-Werner LAUTENSCHLAGER State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Greece:

Mr Grigoris VARFIS State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

France:

Mr Claude CHEYSSON Minister for External Relations

Ireland:

Mr P. BARRY Minister for Foreign Affairs

Italy:

Mr Mario FIORET State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Luxembourg:

Ms Colette FLESCHE Vice-President of the Government,
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Netherlands:

Mr F. BOLKESTEIN
Mr W.F. van EEKELEN

Minister for External Trade
State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

United Kingdom:

Sir Geoffrey HOWE

Secretary of State for Foreign
and Commonwealth Affairs

Commission:

Mr Lorenzo NATALI	Vice-President
Viscount Etienne DAVIGNON	Vice-President
Mr Christopher TUGENDHAT	Vice-President
Mr Antonio GIOLITTI	Member
Mr Georges CONTOGEOORGIS	Member
Mr Karl-Heinz NARJES	Member
Mr Richard BURKE	Member

GREENLAND

In the light of the progress made at Permanent Representatives Committee level, the Council continued its discussions in depth on all aspects of future relations between Greenland and the Community, i.e. the fisheries Agreement, access for Greenland fishery products to the community market, financial aid for Greenland and the legal nature of relations with Greenland.

The Council noted that the broad outline of future relations were beginning to take shape and that the Council could thus continue its proceedings in line with the working hypothesis advocated by the Commission and the authorities of Denmark and Greenland, viz. a change in Greenland's status as from 1 January 1985.

To this end, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to expedite its work and submit a new report for the Council's meeting in January, if necessary accompanied by draft texts. The Council set itself the target of acting on these draft texts in any event at its February meeting.

SPANISH ACCESSION

The Council carried out preparation for the 18th ministerial meeting of the conference on the accession of Spain to the European Communities, which was held at the end of the afternoon. The Spanish delegation was led by Mr Fernando MORAN, Minister for Foreign Affairs.

CYPRUS

The Council decided to sign the second EEC-Cyprus Financial Protocol.

This Protocol provides for financial and technical co-operation in favour of Cyprus, for a period expiring on 31 December 1988, up to 44 MECU, allocated as follows: 28 MECU in EIB loans from own resources, and 16 MECU from the Community's budgetary resources (6 MECU in the form of special loans and 10 MECU in the form of grants).

A number of procedural stages will have to be completed, notably consultation of the European Parliament, before the said Protocol enters into force.

The Council also took note of the information provided by the Commission on the procedures initiated for the rapid implementation of Community measures aimed at a follow-up to the communication submitted by the Government of Cyprus concerning trade formalities.

TRADE POLICY ACTION FOLLOWING THE OECD MINISTERIAL CONCLUSIONS AND
THE WILLIAMSBURG DECLARATION - COUNCIL DECLARATION

Having regard to the forecasts of economic growth of the Community in 1985 which are at present of the order of 2%, and subject to the forecasts of these economic trends being confirmed in the course of 1984, the EEC will on 1 January 1985 accelerate the Tokyo Round tariff reduction by one step, provided that its principal trading partners in the OECD do likewise.

The Council will decide on the implementation of this declaration on the basis of a Commission proposal at the beginning of Autumn 1984.

In parallel, the Council will eliminate to the maximum possible extent quantitative restrictions on imports from the least developed countries.

ERDF - SECOND SERIES OF MEASURES - NON-QUOTA SECTION

The Council examined in detail the questions still outstanding with regard to the second series of specific Community regional development measures under Article 13 of the ERDF Regulation (non-quota section).

The Council recorded that positions were substantially closer as regards the Regulations in question, which concern the following sectors:

- development of certain French and Italian regions in the context of Community enlargement;
- development of certain Greek regions in the context of Community enlargement;
- new economic activities in certain zones adversely affected by the restructuring of the shipbuilding industry;
- better use of new technologies for hydro-electrical power and alternative energy sources;
- new economic activities in certain zones adversely affected by the restructuring of the textile and clothing industry;
- new economic activities in certain zones adversely affected by the restructuring of the steel industry.

The Council agreed that certain problems still outstanding as regards the last-named Regulation will be examined at its meeting on steel on 22 December.

If agreement is then reached on this text, the six Regulations will be submitted for formal Council approval at the earliest opportunity.

1984 BUDGETARY PROCEDURE

In a letter to the President of the European Parliament, the Council gave a reminder of the position which it had taken on the amendments voted by the Parliament during the 2nd reading of the draft 1984 budget on 15 December 1983.

FOOD AID

The Council and the Commission agreed on procedural details for implementing Article 4 of the framework Regulation on food-aid policy and food-aid management.

NEWSPRINT

The Council signified its agreement to opening a provisional tariff quota of 500 000 t for 1984.

The other items on the agenda will be discussed at forthcoming Council meetings.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Trade questions and customs union

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities,

- Regulations

- = introducing arrangements for movement within the community of goods sent from one Member State for temporary use in one or more other Member States (see press release 10862/83 (Presse 199) of 25 November 1983, p. 3);
- = amending Regulation (EEC) No 616/78 on proof of origin for certain textile products falling within Chapter 51 or Chapters 53 to 62 of the Common Customs Tariff and imported into the Community and on the conditions for the acceptance of such proof;
- = amending Regulation (EEC) No 3589/82 on common rules for imports of certain textile products originating in third countries;
- = imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of hardboard originating in Czechoslovakia and Poland and definitively collecting the amounts secured by way of provisional duty on certain imports of hardboard originating in Sweden;
- = on the application of Decision 1/83 of the EEC-Israel Co-operation Council amending Article 30 of Protocol No 3 to the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the State of Israel;
- = on the conclusion of Agreements in the form of exchanges of letters between the European Economic Community and Israel, Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia respectively concerning fruit salads and between the European Economic Community and Algeria concerning tomato concentrates (extension for 1984 of the existing arrangements);
- = totally or partially suspending Common Customs Tariff duties on certain agricultural products originating in Malta and Turkey (1984);
- = autonomously extending until 30 June 1984 the arrangements applicable to trade with Malta;
- = extending until 31 December 1984 the period of suspension of application of the price condition to which imports into the Community of certain types of citrus fruit originating in Spain are subject;
- = on the conclusion of the Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the EEC and the Portuguese Republic regarding prepared or preserved tomatoes falling within subheading 20.02 C of the Common Customs Tariff.

The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Decision on the implementation of an EEC Decision on the import quotas to be opened by the Member States in respect of State-trading countries in 1984.

The Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the European Coal and Steel Community, meeting within the Council, adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Decision on certain measures to be applied, in respect of State-trading countries, to trade in iron and steel products covered by the ECSC Treaty, including pig iron, cast iron and high-carbon ferro-manganese.

Aid to non-associated developing countries

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Council Decision determining the general guidelines for 1984 concerning financial and technical aid to non-associated developing countries.

This Decision stipulates that the requirements of the poorest countries and of the most needy sections of the population must form the basis for Community action.

Priority is to be given to the rural sector, in particular to projects designed to improve the food situation with a view to helping to combat hunger in the world. Within the rural sector special attention is to be paid to production and support services, as well as to operations carried out in the field of production infrastructure and social infrastructure.

The geographical allocation of the appropriations is to be as follows: Asia 75%, Latin America 20%, Africa 5%.

VAT

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the fifteenth Directive on the harmonization of the laws of the Member States relating to turnover taxes - deferment of the introduction of the common system of value added tax in the Hellenic Republic until 1 January 1986.

Agricultural decisions

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

- amending Regulation (EEC) No 652/79 on the impact of the European monetary system on the Common Agricultural Policy;
- opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for frozen beef and veal falling within subheading 02.01 A II b) of the Common Customs Tariff (1984);
- on the continuation of New Zealand butter imports into the United Kingdom under special conditions;
- extending Regulation (EEC) No 3310/75 on agriculture in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

Own resources

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Council Regulation amending Regulation (EEC, EURATOM, ECSC) No 2892/77 implementing in respect of own resources accruing from value added tax the Decision of 21 April 1970 on the replacement of financial contributions from Member States by the Communities' own resources.

Appointments

Acting on a proposal from the Industriegewerkschaft Bergbau und Energie, the Council appointed Mr Karl-Heinz SABELLEK, Abt. Wirtschaft, Industriegewerkschaft Bergbau und Energie, member of the ECSC Consultative Committee in place of Mr Volker JUNG, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office i.e. until 2 December 1984.

Finally, acting on a proposal from the French Government, the Council appointed Mr Robert MURARD, Ingénieur en chef des mines, retired, President de la société d'Achat et de Réception des Combustibles pour l'Industrie sidérurgique, member of the ECSC Consultative Committee to replace the late Mr René TERREL for the remainder of the latter's term of office i.e. until 2 December 1984.

There are no records for the 899th meeting, scheduled for 19 December 1983.

PRESS RELEASE

11547/83 (Presse 230)

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900th meeting of the Council.

- Transport -

Brussels, 20 December 1983

Presidents: Mr Nikolaos AKRITIDIS
Minister for Communications
of the Hellenic Republic

and

Mr Yeoryios KATSIFARAS
Minister for Merchant Shipping
of the Hellenic Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr Herman de CROO
Minister for Transport
and for Posts and Telecommunications

Denmark:

Mr J.L. HALCK
State Secretary,
Ministry of Public Works

Germany:

Mr Werner DOLLINGER
Federal Minister for Transport

Greece:

Mr Nikolaos AKRITIDIS
Minister for Communications
Mr Yeoryios KATSIFARAS
Minister for Merchant Shipping

France:

Mr Charles FITERMAN
Minister of State,
Minister for Transport
Mr Guy LENGAGNE
State Secretary
attached to the Minister for
Transport,
responsible for Maritime Affairs

Ireland:

Mr Ted NEALON
Minister of State,
Department of Transport

Italy:

Mr Claudio SIGNORILE
Minister for Transport
Mr Gianuario CARTA
Minister for Merchant Shipping

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean FEYDER
Deputy Permanent Representative

Netherlands:

Mrs N. SMIT-KROES
Minister for Transport
and Public Works

United Kingdom:

Mr Nicholas RIDLEY
Secretary of State
for Transport

Commission:

Mr Georges CONTOGEOORGIS
Member

TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURES

The Council further discussed the proposal for a Regulation on financial support for a multiannual transport infrastructure programme.

The Council concentrated on specific measures liable to be financed from appropriations available under the 1983 and 1984 budgets and on the criteria for selecting infrastructure projects of Community interest. It agreed to adopt the appropriate Regulations by 1 July 1984 in the course of further discussions on the policy which the Community could apply for financing transport infrastructures.

WEIGHTS AND DIMENSIONS

The Council resumed its discussions on the proposal for a Directive on weights, dimensions and certain related characteristics of certain road vehicles.

Although the Council was able to progress towards a solution by means of a new approach comprising various elements of an overall compromise, it found itself obliged to instruct the Permanent Representatives Committee to re-examine some of these elements.

COMMUNITY QUOTAS

The Council discussed the proposal for a Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 3164/76 on the Community quotas for the carriage of goods by road between Member States.

Since some delegations were unable to record their agreement to the proposal, the Council decided that the matter should be further examined by its subordinate bodies.

CARRIAGE OF GOODS BY ROAD - ADAPTATION OF THE FIRST DIRECTIVE TO GREECE

The Council continued its discussions on the amendment of the first Council Directive on the establishment of common rules for certain types of carriage of goods by road between Member States to take account in particular of the geographical situation of Greece.

At the end of the discussions, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue seeking a solution acceptable to all the delegations.

AUSTRIA

The Council continued the work it began on 1 December 1983 regarding the terms on which the transport negotiations with Austria might be continued.

It re-affirmed its resolve that the negotiations be conducted actively and determined, in the form of an interpretation of the negotiating directives of 15 December 1981, the various points enabling, in particular, a comparative balance-sheet of traffic and charges in road transport between the Community and Austria to be drawn up, thereby making it possible to begin the next stage of the negotiations.

RAILWAY POLICY

The Council took note of an interim progress report on a series of proposals for recommendations concerning co-operation between the railway undertakings of the Member States.

RESOLUTION ON COMMUNITY POLICY

The Council recorded that it was not possible to reach agreement on a draft Resolution on the implementation, in stages, of a series of measures in the field of the common policy for inland transport.

The Council will continue work on this topic at a later date.

SHIPPING

The Council turned its attention to the draft Resolution on shipping relations between Member States and third countries. This draft Resolution is mainly concerned with the problem of bilateral agreements on trades governed by the United Nations Convention on a Code of Conduct for Liner Conferences, the status of non-Conference shipping lines and competition in bulk trades.

At the end of its discussions the Council asked the Permanent Representatives Committee to seek a solution to these problems.

APPLICATION OF THE RULES OF COMPETITION IN THE TREATY TO MARITIME TRANSPORT

The Council took note of progress on the proposal for a Regulation laying down detailed rules for the application of the rules of competition laid down in the Treaty (Articles 85 and 86) to maritime transport.

It was hoped that the subsequent discussions would enable the Council to take a decision on the proposal as soon as possible.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Fisheries

The Council formalized the overall agreement (*) reached at its meeting on 14 December 1983 and adopted the following in the official languages of the Communities:

- Regulations

- = fixing for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks occurring in the Community's fishing zone, total allowable catches for 1983, the share of these catches available to the Community, the allocation of that share between the Member States and the conditions under which the total allowable catches may be fished;
- = laying down for 1984 certain measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources applicable to vessels flying the flag of Norway;
- = allocating certain catch quotas between Member States for vessels fishing in the Norwegian economic zone and the fishery zone around Jan Mayen,

- Decisions

- = on the allocation of the possibilities for catching herring in the North Sea as from 1 January 1984;
- = on the conclusion of an Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the European Economic Community and the Government of Canada concerning their fisheries relations.

(*) See Press Release 11310/83 (Presse 221) of 14 December 1983.

PRESS RELEASE

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11622/83 (Presse 233)

901st meeting of the Council

- Iron and Steel -

Brussels, 22 December 1983

President: Mr Constantinos VAITSOS,
Deputy Minister for
Economic Affairs
of the Hellenic Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr Mark EYSKENS
Minister for Economic Affairs

Denmark:

Mr Aage ANDERSEN
State Secretary
Ministry of Industry

Germany:

Otto Graf LAMBSDORFF
Federal Minister for Economic
Affairs

Greece:

Mr Constantinos VAITSOS
Deputy Minister for
Economic Affairs

Mr Dieter von WURZEN
State Secretary
Federal Ministry of Economic
Affairs

France:

Mr Pierre GADONNEIX
Director
Ministry of Industry, Research,
Energy, Post and Telecommunications

Ireland:

Mr John BRUTON
Minister for Industry and
Energy

Italy:

Mr Bruno ORSINI
State Secretary
Ministry of Industry

Luxembourg:

Miss Colette FLESCH
Vice-President of the Government,
Minister for Economic Affairs,
Small Firms and Traders

Netherlands:

Mr G. van AARDENNE
Deputy Prime Minister
Minister for Economic Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr Norman LAMONT
Minister of State
Department of Trade and Industry

For the Commission:

Viscount Etienne DAVIGNON - Vice-President
Mr Antonio GIOLITTI - Member
Mr F.J.J.J. ANDRIESEN - Member

STEEL: SHORT-TERM MEASURES

The Council continued its discussions begun on 29 November and 14 December on the package of short-term measures recommended by the Commission to stabilize the market in certain steel products; at the close of its debate, the Council agreed on a global solution involving the following four points which will apply as from 1 January 1984.

Minimum prices

Firstly, in the context of consultation in accordance with Article 61, the Council gave a favourable opinion on the draft Commission Decision providing for the fixing of minimum prices for certain steel products, namely;

- hot-rolled wide strip (coils),
- hot-rolled narrow strip,
- narrow strip obtained by slitting hot-rolled wide strip,
- hot-rolled sheet obtained by cutting hot-rolled wide strip,
- reversing mill plate,
- cold-rolled sheet,
- heavy sections and beams.

These minimum prices will be equivalent to the published guide prices for each of these products less a maximum temporary rebate.

This system will apply to all steel undertakings in the ECSC, their selling agencies and their intermediaries.

The system however allows for certain exceptions, in particular for long-term contracts, supplies to shipyards, and certain products used in the production of welded pipes.

Guarantees

The Council also gave its assent (Article 95 of the ECSC Treaty) to the draft Commission Decision introducing a system of guarantees for certain steel products and a system of verification of minimum prices.

This system will require undertakings other than small producers to provide for category Ia, Ib, II, III products subject to the production quota system, guarantees of 15 ECU/tonne depending on their production quota to ensure that they comply with their obligations under the minimum prices scheme and the production quota system. Under this system, undertakings will also have to entrust the verification of their orders and sales invoices for the products concerned and of payment against invoices to an auditing company or another organization authorized to carry out the same duties.

Accompanying certificate

The Council also gave its assent (Article 95 of the ECSC Treaty) to the draft Commission Decision introducing a production certificate and an accompanying document for deliveries of certain products for steel undertakings and steel dealers.

Under this Decision, steel undertakings and steel dealers will be required to provide an accompanying document to go with their deliveries to other Member States of steel products of the relevant categories, including products originating in third countries.

Undertakings will be required to hand over to steel dealers a production certificate in respect of their deliveries to other Member States.

In the case of products originating in third countries, steel undertakings and steel dealers will be required to use the accompanying document drawn up by the importer.

The accompanying document containing information on quantities and prices is intended, by means of customs controls in the exporting countries and the importing country, to provide transparency of cross-border movements of the steel products in question.

To this end, the Member States will periodically record, in accordance with the rules laid down by the Decision for each of the steel products concerned:

- the quantities received from the other Member States by Member State of consignment, these quantities being broken down by Member State of production;
- the quantities of products originating in the Community exported to third countries.

Traditional flows of trade

During its discussion of the package of short-term measures, the Council reached the following conclusions on the problem of the stability of traditional flows of trade:

The Council confirmed that the restructuring of the steel sector rests on a principle of solidarity as expressed in the regulations of the quota system and the provisions of the aids code.

This solidarity ensures a market situation compatible with the restructuring of undertakings where that is necessary, and allows each undertaking to achieve its agreed level of activity.

The maintenance of the traditional flows of trade is in line with this principle, and without this there would be the possibility of a diversion of trade by some undertakings at the expense of others.

Hence, the Council has already decided that the flows of trade from third countries should follow the lines indicated in the negotiating mandate given to the Commission, and in particular the triple clause.

With regard to the deliveries of Community undertakings, these must be in conformity with their traditional pattern of trade both in respect to their domestic markets and the markets of other Member States.

The Council recognises the necessity of providing for the monitoring, and comprehensive and precise identification, of these trade flows within the Community.

If a Member State considers that for categories Ic, Id, IVd, V and VI the flows of trade are not in conformity with the principles given above, it can lodge a complaint with the Commission.

The Commission will examine the complaint and its origin. Where the development of these flows is not in conformity with the principles given above, the Commission will take, after consulting the Council if need be, within the framework of the Treaty, all the appropriate measures.

Where a Member State, on the basis of the monthly statistics, considers that for the products governed by Articles 58 and 61 there is a disturbance of the traditional flows and that these flows are not in conformity with the principles set out above, the Member State will have, at most, a period of fifteen days from the communication of the quarterly statistics to lodge a complaint with the Commission; the Commission will examine the basis of the complaint and its causes.

If this examination reveals a change which does not conform with the principles given above, the Commission, after consulting the Member States concerned, will take the necessary corrective measures, that is to say, the Commission will calculate and, if another solution cannot be found, effect the necessary correction within the framework of Article 58.

FERROUS SCRAP MARKET

At the suggestion of the Italian delegation, the Council looked at the situation on the scrap market, which underwent considerable price increases in 1983.

The Council requested the Commission to study in greater detail both the situation and the consequences it might have for supplies to Community undertakings and to make any proposals it might deem necessary in January 1984.

ERDF - NON QUOTA SECTION

The Council settled the remaining difficulties with regard to specific regional development measures in certain zones adversely affected by the restructuring of the steel industry and agreed to initiate the written procedure for the formal adoption of the following six Regulations: enlargement, enlargement (Greece), shipbuilding, energy, textiles/clothing and steel, which make up the second series of specific regional development measures (non-quota section).

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Relations with the ACP States, the OCT and India

The Council agreed to the draft Decision of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers approving the request by St Christopher and Nevis to accede to the second ACP-EEC Convention (64th ACP State) and adopted a Regulation on the accession of St Christopher and Nevis to Protocol No 7 on sugar, annexed to the second ACP-EEC Convention.

In addition, the Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Decision laying down the schedule of calls for Member States' contributions under the fifth European Development Fund for the financial year 1984.

Finally, the Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities Regulations on the conclusion of Agreements in the form of exchanges of letters:

- between the European Economic Community and the Republic of India on the restoration to the latter of an agreed quantity of preferential sugar;
- between the European Economic Community, the ACP States party to Protocol No 7 on sugar, annexed to the second Convention, and the Ivory Coast, on the accession of the latter to the said Protocol.

Trade policy

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

- laying down the arrangements applicable to trade with the Republic of Cyprus beyond 31 December 1983;
- suspending the application of ceilings established by Regulation (EEC) No 3221/83 for imports of certain products originating in Yugoslavia;

- on the application of the system of certificates of origin provided for under the International Coffee Agreement 1983 when quotas are in effect;
- on the import arrangements for 1984 for products falling within Common Customs Tariff subheading 07.06 A originating in countries that are not members of GATT;
- opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for newsprint falling within subheading 48.01 A of the Common Customs Tariff (1984) and extending this quota to include other types of paper (the 500 000 tonne quota is allocated as follows: Benelux 50 960 tonnes, Denmark 620 tonnes, Germany 57 350 tonnes, Greece 120 tonnes, France 2 550 tonnes, Ireland 6 380 tonnes, Italy 620 tonnes, United Kingdom 331 400 tonnes, and 50 000 tonnes in reserve);
- on export arrangements for certain types of non-ferrous metal waste and scrap.

In addition, the Council authorized the Commission to negotiate the conclusion of Agreements in the form of exchanges of letters with Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey concerning the additional amount to be deducted from the levy applicable to imports into the Community of untreated olive oil originating in those countries (renewal, for the 1983/1984 marketing year, of the previous arrangements).

Agriculture

The Council took note of the eighth Commission communication concerning the programme for the utilization of co-responsibility levy funds in the milk sector for the 1984/1985 milk year.

Research

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Decision adopting a research programme to be implemented by the Joint Research Centre for the European Atomic Energy Community and for the European Economic Community (1984-1987). See press release 11308/83 (Presse 219) of 13 December 1983, pages 3 and 4.

Taxation

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Directive extending the derogation granted to Ireland regarding turnover tax and excise duty applicable in international passenger travel.

Fisheries

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

- on fishing activities, other than fishing for herring in the North Sea, in waters under the sovereignty or jurisdiction of the Member States, adopted provisionally pending the fixing of total allowable catches (TACs) and quotas for 1984;
- opening, allocating and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas for certain fishery products (1984);
- laying down for 1984 certain measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources applicable to vessels registered in the Faroe Islands;
- allocating catch quotas between Member States for vessels fishing in Faroese waters,

and a Decision supplementing the negotiating directives issued to the Commission for the negotiation of fishery agreements with the Republic of Seychelles and Mauritius.
