

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

PRESS RELEASES

PRESIDENCY: IRELAND

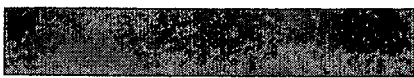
JULY-DECEMBER 1984

Meetings and press releases November 1984

Meeting number	Subject	Date
960 th	Development Co-operation	6 November 1984
961 st	Research	6 November 1984
962 nd	Transport	8 November 1984
963 rd	Foreign Affairs	12-13 November 1984
964 th	Economics/Finance	12 November 1984
965 th	Agriculture	12-13 November 1984
966 th	Energy	13 November 1984
967 th	Industry/Steel	22 November 1984
968 th	Culture	22 November 1984
969 th	Foreign Affairs	26-28 November 1984
970 th	Budget	29-30 November 1984



COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT



PRESS RELEASE

10286/84 (Presse 180)

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960th meeting of the Council
- Development Co-operation -
Brussels, 6 November 1984

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

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

Belgium:

Mr François-Xavier DE DONEA
State Secretary,
Development Co-operation

Denmark:

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

Germany:

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

Greece:

Mr Antonios GEORGIADIS
State Secretary,
Ministry for National Economic
Affairs

France:

Mr Christian NUCCI
Minister attached to the
Minister for Foreign Relations,
responsible for Co-operation
and Development

Ireland:

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

Italy:

Mr Mario FIORET
State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Luxembourg:

Mr Joseph WEYLAND
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Netherlands:

Mr M.H.J.Ch. RUTTEN
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

United Kingdom:

Mr Timothy RAISON
Minister for Overseas
Development

Commission:

Mr Edgard PISANI
Member

FAMINE IN AFRICA

The Council devoted a large part of its discussions to the tragic famine situation currently affecting millions of people in Ethiopia and in several of the Sahel countries, in Kenya, Sudan and certain countries of Southern Africa.

An emergency plan was implemented by the Community in April 1984. The Commission has just prepared a new emergency plan, to which the Council has lent its full support.

It particularly welcomed the fact that, thanks to co-operation between the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission, it has been possible to set up this emergency plan in a few days, operations having already commenced. It thanked the Commission for its initiative and action.

A first meeting will be held on 13 November 1984 in Brussels to co-ordinate the action taken by the Commission and the Member States for the implementation of the emergency measures.

The Council and the Commission also stressed the need actively to continue other long-term aid measures in the framework of co-operation with the countries in question with a view to developing self-sufficiency in food.

Following its discussions on this item, the Council adopted the following Resolution:

"THE COUNCIL,

Seriously concerned about the famine which is affecting millions of people in Ethiopia as well as in several of the Sahel countries, in Kenya, Sudan and certain countries of Southern Africa;

Takes note of the significant emergency food and financial aid measures already taken by the Community and the Member States as a contribution towards relieving the situation;

Notes that the Community has already undertaken, in April 1984, an emergency plan of almost 80 Mio ECU aimed at alleviating the dramatic consequences of the famine in several of these countries, having already at the end of 1983 initiated swift and sizeable aid to Mozambique;

Recalls that so far in 1984 the Community had been the major donor to Ethiopia with aid amounting to 43,8 MECU;

Conscious nevertheless that these measures are still most inadequate in view of the deterioration in the situation;

Notes with satisfaction that the Commission with commendable rapidity has set in motion a new Community emergency plan for certain African countries comprising:

- immediate aid measures amounting to 32 MECU, under which are envisaged the purchase locally of some food products and the transport internally by road and rail of up to 100 000 tonnes of cereals, the internal air lift of 4 000 tonnes of cereals, and medical, nutritional and other programmes;
- short-term food aid actions equivalent to 100 000 tonnes of cereals (estimated value: 25 MECU);

AGREES to give its full support to this initiative and requests Member States to ensure, in co-ordination with their bilateral aid, that the Community's emergency humanitarian food and financial assistance responds in a flexible way and to the maximum extent possible to the needs and expectations of the peoples concerned in the African countries in question;

REQUESTS the Commission to take straightaway, and in conformity with the usual procedures, the decisions necessary to implement its emergency plan;

Convinced of the importance of close co-ordination between donors and, in particular, between the Community and the Member States in order to assist the countries in question to confront in the most effective way possible the present tragedy;

Conscious of the need for more intensive contacts with NGOs, taking account of their important role in the distribution of aid in the countries concerned, and with organizations of the Red Cross family and the UN System;

DRAWS the attention of the Commission and the Member States to the necessity of maintaining appropriate contacts both on the spot and in Europe and takes note in this regard of the co-ordination meeting scheduled to take place in Brussels on 13 November next in the context in particular of the plan to combat the effects of an exceptional drought in the Sahel;

RESOLVES to pursue actively the Community's long term efforts aimed at ensuring food security in the recipient countries;

INSTRUCTS the Permanent Representatives Committee to follow the evolution of the situation in the disaster-hit countries and to seize the Council in the event of difficulties arising hindering the proper implementation of the plan."

FOOD STRATEGIES

On the basis of an interim Commission report, the Council thoroughly discussed the experience gained in connection with the support given by the Community to the food strategy implemented by four African countries (Mali, Kenya, Zambia, Rwanda), with a view to developing their self-sufficiency and food security).

The Council welcomed the generally positive results already obtained in the framework of this method of co-operation and evolved a number of guidelines with a view to continuing to implement it in practice.

The Commission will submit in 1985 a more systematic assessment of strategies and lay the basis for future methodological analysis, together with technical notes on the situation in other developing countries to which the methods of food-strategy support could be extended.

At the close of the discussions, the Council adopted the following conclusions:

- "1. At the request of the Development Council at its last meeting, the Commission has provided a report on the experience gained up to now in the four African countries (¹) whose food strategies have been supported by the Community in concert with the Member States and other donors.

(¹) Mali, Kenya, Zambia, Rwanda.

This report, which has been welcomed with interest, shows clearly the progress which has been made on several aspects of the application of the strategies, in particular that of appropriate incentives to producers. The Commission will continue its efforts to evaluate, at an appropriate time and after a detailed analysis of the economic situation, whether overall agricultural production and the nutritional situation of the most needy part of the population in each of the four countries has improved compared to what it would have been had the approach not been applied. The assessment should also concern the constraints and difficulties encountered. It is already clear that the food strategy efforts have succeeded in bringing food issues to the centre of the governments' attention in the four countries.

2. The delegations confirm their opinion that the approach, as far as possible, should be generalized. In this respect they note with satisfaction that the draft future Lomé Convention allows for the support of strategies and policies in the field of agricultural co-operation and that action has already been taken to integrate food aid into agricultural and rural development projects and programmes. It is also encouraging that a number of developing countries other than the four already chosen have expressed their wish for Community support for their food strategies. The possibilities of extending the approach to other developing countries receiving Community aid should be further studied in the light of their needs and of the feasibility of the application of such an approach.
3. The general philosophy behind the new approach which, it is emphasized, is a method of co-operation rather than an instrument, has now been sufficiently studied. Concentration should therefore be on its concrete application.

4. Taking note with particular interest of the recommendations contained in the Commission's communication, the delegations agreed on the following points:

- food strategies, which are specific to individual countries, should be of a flexible nature, capable of being readily adapted to take account of changing economic or other circumstances (for example, drought, climatic changes, harvest levels);
- although producer pricing policies are clearly of great importance, it is necessary to ensure an appropriate balance between the interests of the producer and those of the consumer, particularly as regards the most needy sections of the population;
- it appears important, in this context, to put more emphasis on crops which correspond to local consumption habits such as sorghum, millet, cassava and pulses as well as on livestock, fisheries and rural non-agricultural income-generating activities;
- it is also necessary to improve the position of women in their role as food producers and to encourage the involvement of farmers' organizations so as to help to obtain better balanced food strategies;
- more detailed diagnosis is necessary especially at the level of particular population classes and regions; this diagnosis, as well as the analysis of the different policy options and the monitoring and assessment of the food strategies should preferably be carried out by the countries themselves; their capacity should therefore be reinforced in the framework of existing instruments by technical assistance and training, having recourse, should the need arise, to the services of NGOs.

5. Co-ordination on the spot, avoiding as far as possible administrative rigidities which sometimes hinder this sort of operation, is of crucial importance to the successful implementation and monitoring of the strategies and must be actively pursued. In this regard, a detailed assessment should be prepared of the results of co-ordination efforts between donors - including third countries and organizations - in support of the food strategies in the four countries. It would also be desirable that the Representatives of the Member States on the spot in the four countries make known their views on the effectiveness of the approach.

6. In the medium and long term, it would also be desirable to take account of the links which exist between food strategies and other considerations such as the environment, population and regional co-ordination."

PLAN TO COMBAT AN EXCEPTIONAL DROUGHT IN THE SAHEL

Further to a suggestion made by the French delegation at the last Council meeting concerning a plan to combat the effects of an exceptional drought in the Sahel, the Council adopted the conclusions set out below.

These conclusions are designed to ensure closer co-ordination between the Community and its Member States and the Governments of the Sahel countries, the relevant bodies and other donors in order to make the measures to be taken more effective and make better use of the available resources.

This co-ordination will cover the anticipation of critical situations, evaluation of aid requirements and implementation of aid. The Commission will lend its assistance to this co-ordination which will take place on the spot and in Brussels. The first co-ordination meeting will take place on 13 November 1984 in Brussels.

In the light of experience this method may be extended to cover other regions regularly hit by drought.

CONCLUSIONS:

- I. At the Council meeting on development on 5 June 1984 the French delegation submitted a memorandum on a plan to combat the effects of an exceptional drought in the Sahel. The Council received this communication with great interest and instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to report to it at its next meeting.
- II. On 12 June 1984 the Permanent Representatives Committee set up an ad hoc Working party to examine the French communication.
- III. In the light of the discussions which have taken place in its subsidiary bodies, the Council has agreed on the following guidelines:

The Council notes that the calculation of the aid, including food aid, required for the Sahel region has more often than not been carried out belatedly and inaccurately. As a result the arrival of aid has been delayed, sometimes until as late as the next harvest, to the detriment of local agricultural production. In addition, non-existent or inadequate co-ordination between donors has too often meant overloading of the transport network and a build-up of supplies at ports and railway terminals.

In order to improve this situation the Council agrees to promote better co-ordination between donors at the following stages:

- anticipation of critical situations and evaluation of aid requirements in emergencies;
- "pre-programming" and co-ordinated planning by donors on the basis of known needs for the following year;
- co-ordinated mobilization and, in particular, delivery of aid in adequate time.

This improvement of procedures should assist the triggering and implementation of a plan to combat the effects of exceptional drought in the Sahel in case of necessity.

Some parts of this plan, which is intended to achieve the most efficient possible use of resources in an exceptional situation, might also prove positive in the handling of "normal" situations.

The Council considers that its Resolution of 5 June 1984 on the co-ordination of aid should be the basis for the measures described below.

The Council considers that the arrangements suggested could be applied mutatis mutandis in regions other than the Sahel which are regularly stricken by drought.

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(i) Anticipation of critical situations and evaluation of aid requirements

Each year the Commission will gather and collate all the advance information available on the harvests expected in the Sahel.

Relevant information will be made available to the Member States and, where exceptional situations are expected to arise, to the various other donors.

In advance of the co-ordination meeting in late October or early November (see below under (ii)), the Commission will distribute to the Member States an introductory note giving an overall picture of the harvest situation in the Sahel.

The above information will be culled, inter alia, from the following sources:

- the forward indications afforded by the satellite weather-watch programme, which are derived inter alia from monitoring the surface temperature of the sea and cold currents in the Gulf of Guinea;
- the Sahel States;
- the AGRHYMET project (collecting meteorological and hydrological data) set up by the Sahel States under the ICDCS;
- the representatives of the Member States and the Commission in post in the Sahel States;

- the data transmitted by the various United States meteorological satellites;
- FAO worldwide information and early-warning system.

The bulk of the work on anticipating critical situations and evaluating needs should take place in preparatory meetings in the Sahel countries themselves, with the back-up of the information supplied from Brussels and the participation of the other donors. Both the potential recipient countries themselves and organizations with a particular interest in the region (particularly and immediately the ICDCS and the Sahel Club) should be closely involved with these proceedings.

At the end of this phase it should be possible to have a proper picture of the harvest situation in the Sahel and thus to decide whether or not to implement the plan.

(ii) "pre-programming" and joint planning by donors on the basis of known needs for the following year

- (a) Each year in late October or early November the Commission will hold a co-ordination meeting between the Commission and the Member States ⁽¹⁾ to take general stock, on the basis of all the available data, of the food situation in the Sahel region and the measures to be taken, particularly if an exceptional situation were to arise, by the implementation of a co-ordinated plan of action according to the following timetable.

⁽¹⁾ In 1984 this meeting will be held on 13 November in Brussels.

Each Member State and the Commission will, as far as possible, indicate what aid it will be able to offer in the coming year. The participants in the meeting will bear in mind the impact on the food strategies of the Sahel countries of the intended food aid, particularly as regards its effect on the local food markets.

Other donors will be informed of the results of that meeting if it is deemed useful to do so.

- (d) During November and until mid-December the evaluation of requirements should be continuously updated, particularly in the light of the results of multi-donor missions.

(iii) Decision and mobilization of aid

- (a) As from mid-December the donors concerned will be able to take decisions to grant aid on the basis of the outcome of the joint donor missions.

The Member States will also inform the Commission forthwith of the periods within which they intend to deliver aid. These indications, which will not represent a detailed scheduling of aid deliveries, will enable each donor to allow for the intentions of the others and to time delivery in such a way as to avoid bottlenecks.

In this connection, account must be taken of the crucial role played by the WFP. Donors should rely on the information which can be supplied by that body regarding ports and railways, storage capacities and internal transport and distribution facilities.

Co-ordination should also take account of commercial deliveries of food products.

- (b) Aid deliveries should take place as from mid-January until June. Problems connected therewith may be the subject of on-the-spot multi-donor consultation with the support of the WFP and local co-ordination groups where they exist."

NUTRITIONAL VALUE OF FOOD AID

Commissioner PISANI submitted to the Council the study which had been requested by several delegations at a previous meeting on the nutritional value (cost/effectiveness ratio) of the various products which the Community supplies as food aid.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to carry out a thorough examination of this study and to report to it at a subsequent meeting.

AID TO NON-ASSOCIATED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

The Council held a brief exchange of views on the general guidelines for 1985 on financial and technical aid for non-associated developing countries.

The Council will give its final decision on these guidelines once it has received the Opinion of the European Parliament.

THE NEW APPROACH OF LOME III IN TERMS OF DEVELOPMENT

The Council heard a statement by Mr PISANI on the new aspects of the future Lomé Convention that concerned development.

ENVIRONMENTAL DIMENSION IN THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT POLICY

The Council, which had before it a communication from the Commission on environmental considerations in Community development policy, adopted the Resolution set out below, which among other things, instructs the Permanent Representatives Committee to prepare for the discussions of the Council on this subject at its next meeting.

"THE COUNCIL AND THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE MEMBER STATES, MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL,

Whereas the Resolution of the Council and of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, of 7 February 1983, on the continuation and implementation of a European Community policy and action programme on the environment (1982-1986), provides inter alia for co-operation with developing countries on environmental matters and consideration for environmental problems in the Community's development aid policy;

Whereas the Commission and the European Investment Bank are signatories to the Declaration on Environmental Policies and Procedures relating to Economic Development, signed in New York on 1 February 1980;

Whereas the European Parliament has adopted Resolutions concerning the environment and in particular that of 20 May 1980 concerning compliance by the Community with the aims of the World Conservation Strategy by giving effect to them within all its policies;

Whereas the accelerating deterioration of the environment and the depletion of natural resources in large areas of the developing world require that particular attention be devoted to environmental problems and to action to conserve the environment and its resources;

Whereas the protection of the environment and the restoration of natural balances are now provided for in the context of ACP-EEC co-operation which will contribute to them in particular by measures to combat drought and desertification or by other thematic measures;

Whereas the Council Resolution of 5 June 1984 on the co-ordination of co-operation policies and action within the Community vis-à-vis developing countries must also apply to areas of development involving the environment;

Having regard to the Resolution of the Council and of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, of 3 October 1984, on the link between the environment and development ⁽¹⁾,

CONFIRM the principles and objectives of Community policy, as defined in the aforementioned texts; with regard to the need to integrate the environmental dimension into Community development aid policy,

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 272, 12.10.1984

NOTE with interest the proposals contained in the new Commission communication on the environmental dimension of the Community's development aid policy and agree actively to continue the examination of that document with a view to laying down guidelines for future action by the Community and its Member States in this area,

INSTRUCT the Permanent Representatives Committee to submit, in preparation for their discussions at the next meeting of the Council (Development), a report on all the measures designed to assure the effective implementation of the principles and objectives concerning the environment in the Community's development aid policy."

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Relations with the ACP States

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, Regulation (EEC) concerning the conclusion of the agreements in the form of an exchange of letters between the European Economic Community and on the one hand Barbados, Belize, the People's Republic of the Congo, Fiji, the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, the Republic of the Ivory Coast, Jamaica, the Republic of Kenya, the Democratic Republic of Madagascar, the Republic of Malawi, Mauritius, the Republic of Uganda, St Christopher and Nevis, the Republic of Suriname, the Kingdom of Swaziland, the United Republic of Tanzania, the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and the Republic of Zimbabwe and on the other hand the Republic of India, on guaranteed prices for cane sugar for the 1984-1985 delivery period.

On 26 September 1984, the Community concluded the negotiations with the ACP States concerning the guaranteed prices for preference sugar for the 1984-1985 delivery period. The negotiations, which were conducted in accordance with the negotiating brief issued by the Council, resulted in the following prices:

- for raw sugar : 44,34 ECU/100 kg
- for white sugar: 54,68 ECU/100 kg.

These prices also apply to sugar originating in the Republic of India.

Relations with Mediterranean countries

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, a first series of Regulations concerning Community tariff quotas and ceiling on the importation of certain products originating in various Mediterranean countries (1985), viz.:

- Yugoslavia (slivovica, Prilep tobacco, wines of designated origin)
- Cyprus (wine of fresh grapes, liqueur wines, dried grapes, salad beetroot, sweet peppers)
- Tunisia (sardines)
- Morocco, Tunisia, Israel (apricot pulp)
- Malta, Cyprus (certain textile products)
- Yugoslavia (certain industrial products, ECSC products).

ECSC

The Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the European Coal and Steel Community, meeting within the Council, adopted in the official languages of the Communities the decision concerning the opening of a zero-duty tariff quota for chromium-coated sheets and plates.

EEC-ASEAN relations

The Council recorded its agreement to the text of the Protocol on the extension of the Co-operation Agreement between the European Economic Community and Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, member countries of the Association of the South-East Asian Nations, to Brunei Darussalam. It also decided on the signing of this Protocol by the Council, subject to subsequent conclusion. The signing would take place at the 5th EEC-ASEAN Ministerial meeting in Dublin on 15 and 16 November 1984.

Fisheries

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Regulation on the conclusion of an arrangement in the form of an exchange of letters between the European Economic Community and the Government of Canada on the establishment of a scientific observation programme in the regulatory area of the NAFO Convention.

Institutional question

The Council decided that it was not necessary to replace Mr François-Xavier ORTOLI, who resigned with effect from 26 October 1984, for the remainder of his period of office.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE
10287/84 (Presse 181)

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COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

961st meeting of the Council

- Research -

Brussels, 6 November 1984

President: Mr John BRUTON
Minister for Industry, Trade,
Commerce and Tourism
of Ireland

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 Bertel HAARDER
Minister of Education
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 Hubert CURIEN
Minister of Research and
Technology

Ireland:

Mr John BRUTON
Minister for Industry, Trade,
Commerce and Tourism
Mr Edward COLLINS
Minister of State at the Department
of Energy and at the Department of
Industry, Trade, Commerce and
Tourism

Italy:

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

Luxembourg:

Mr Johny LAHURE
State Secretary for Economy

Netherlands:

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

United Kingdom:

Mr Geoffrey PATTIE
Minister of State for Industry
and Information Technology

Commission:

Vicomte Etienne DAVIGNON
Vice President

R&D PROGRAMME

The Council, at its meeting on 6 November 1984, undertook a detailed examination of ways and means by which a satisfactory development of the common research and development policy might be ensured, taking account at the same time of the exceptional financial and budgetary constraints which the Community is currently experiencing.

In line with the conclusions of the European Councils at Stuttgart and Fontainebleau, it confirmed its wish that scientific and technical activities should be maintained as high priorities for the Community and that the goals and criteria set out in the "Framework Programme for Community scientific and technical activities 1984-1987" should be used as the basis for programme decisions. The Council confirmed that the principles of the Framework Programme should also be based on a commitment to solidarity in relation to the establishment of Community programmes. It also reaffirmed its agreement to a gradual increase in expenditure for Community R&D activities.

The Council decided that the Presidency and the Commission should take all necessary steps, taking account of the comments made by delegates, to define the elements of the decisions which the Council has committed itself to take on 19 December 1984, after due preparation by COREPER, on the following 8 programmes:

- Radiation Protection
- BRITE
- Stimulation
- Biotechnology
- Non Nuclear Energy
- Reactor Safety
- Fusion
- Radioactive Waste

It was also agreed that the Commission would give further consideration to the proposed "Programme of assistance for the development of indigenous scientific and technical research capacities in the developing countries" and would report to the Council as soon as possible.

EUROPEAN SYNCHROTRON FACILITY

The Council agreed that, following the meeting which is to take place on 5 December of the standing committee which is considering this question, a report would be made available for discussion at the next meeting of the Research Council in December. At this time a note will also be available from the Commission on the possible involvement of the Community in the European Synchrotron Radiation Facility.

VIDEOCOMMUNICATIONS PROJECT

An interim report on the intergovernmental video-communications project was submitted by the Commission to the Council.

The Council took note on this occasion that a first demonstration of the technical feasibility of videoconferencing communication will be organized on Tuesday, 13 November, linking the videoconference studio in Paris successively with Frankfurt, The Hague, London and Rome.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

10362/84 (Presse 182)

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962nd meeting of the Council

- Transport -

Brussels, 8 November 1984

President: Mr Jim MITCHELL
Minister for Communications
of Ireland

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

Belgium:

Mr Herman de CROO
Minister for Transport,
Post and Telecommunications

Denmark:

Mr Arne MELCHIOR
Minister for Public Works

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

Germany:

Mr Werner DOLLINGER
Federal Minister for Transport

Greece:

Mr Yannis PAPADONIKOLAKIS
Minister for Transport

Mr Kostas ASLANIS,
Secretary of State,
Ministry of Transport

France:

Mr Jean-Claude PREVEL
Secretary-General of the Inter-
Ministerial Committee for
Questions of European Economic
Co-operation

Ireland:

Mr Jim MITCHELL
Minister for Communications

Mr Ted NEALON
Minister of State,
Department of Communications

Italy:

Mr Claudio SIGNORILE
Minister for Transport

Luxembourg:

Mr Marcel SCHLECHTER
Minister for Transport,
Public Works and Energy

Netherlands:

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

United Kingdom:

Mrs Lynda CHALKER
Minister of State for Transport

Commission:

Mr Georges CONTOGEOGRIS
Member

IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISIONS IN PRINCIPLE TAKEN ON 10 MAY 1984

The Council agreed politically on all matters decided in principle on 10 May 1984.

As concerns the question of weights and dimensions, at this meeting the Council agreed politically to adopt in December 1984 a first Directive on weights and dimensions covering aspects of traffic between Member States in relation to:

- dimension standards already agreed;
- all weight standards so far agreed (including 40 tonnes overall laden weight of 5 and 6 axle vehicles and 44 tonnes for ISO 40 ft. containers in combined transport).

This first directive will make provision for a derogation in favour of the United Kingdom and Ireland, the conditions and a target date for the expiration of which will be laid down before the 31 December 1986.

The Council also undertook to settle outstanding problems in relation to the fixing of driving axle standards of 5 and 6 axle vehicles before 31 December 1985. Meanwhile, national legislation will continue to apply to these standards. In that connection national standards in those Member States which allow higher weights than those provided in the Directive or which concern characteristics not provided for in the Directive, will apply only to vehicles registered in the Member State concerned and used for carrying out national traffic.

The Council agreed to invite the Commission to begin work immediately on all necessary preparations in order that, after formal decisions are taken by the Council in 1984, the 1983 and 1984 infrastructure aid projects can be financed.

LAND TRANSPORT AND AIR TRANSPORT

The Council took note of interim reports concerning the work of the two High Level Groups which it set up in May 1984.

It is recalled that the High Level Group on Inland Transport was instructed, in conjunction with the Commission, to submit to the Council by the end of 1984 suggestions for specific measures as a suitable follow-up to the guidelines for the transport sector drawn up by the European Council in March 1984 and for determining in particular the substance and deadlines for the parallel process of the harmonization and liberalization of road transport. The High Level Group on Air Transport was instructed, in conjunction with the Commission, to submit to the Council before the end of 1984 a report concerning the question of how the present intra-Community air transport system should be adapted to ensure greater flexibility and so increased economic and social efficiency.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Other Transport Decision

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Decision on common action by those Member States which are contracting parties to the revised Convention for the Navigation of the Rhine, with a view to adopting a Resolution concerning the conditions for issuing the document certifying that a vessel belongs to Rhine Navigation.

GATT

The Council formally adopted the Decision to accelerate the Tokyo Round tariff reductions as agreed at the Foreign Affairs Council on 22/23 October 1984 ⁽¹⁾.

Social policy

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Directive derogating in favour of Greece from Directive 82/606/EEC relating to the organization by the Member States of surveys on the earnings of permanent and seasonal workers employed in agriculture.

1985 Budget

The Council decided to inform the European Parliament of its intention not to take action on the letter of amendment submitted by the Commission concerning the creation of new posts in the Commission's Directorate-General for Regional Policy.

The Council also approved the letter of amendment N° 2 to the preliminary draft budget of the European Communities for 1985. This letter, involving 28.500.000 ECU in commitment appropriations, relates to the granting of special aid for adjusting capacity in the fisheries sector in Spain.

⁽¹⁾ Cf. Press release 9904/84 (Presse 168 of 22/23.X.84, p. 5

PRESS RELEASE

10438/84 (Presse 187)

963rd meeting of the Council

- Foreign Affairs -

Brussels, 12 and 13 November 1984

President:

Mr Peter BARRY

Minister for Foreign Affairs
of Ireland

LIBRARY

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 Knud-Erik TYGESEN
State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Germany:

Mr Hans-Dietrich GENSCHER
Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs

Greece:

Mr Théodoros PANGALOS
State Secretary for European
Economic Community Affairs

Mr Jürgen RUHFUS
State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs

France:

Mr Claude CHEYSSON
Minister for Foreign Relations

Mr Roland DUMAS
Minister for European Affairs

Ireland:

Mr Peter BARRY
Minister for Foreign Affairs

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

Italy:

Mr Mario FIORET
State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Luxembourg:

Mr Robert GOEBBELS
State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Netherlands:

Mr H. van den BROEK
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr W.F. van EEKELEN
State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr Malcolm RIFKIND
Minister of State,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Mr Timothy RAISON
Minister for Overseas Development

Commission:

Mr Gaston THORN
President

Mr Lorenzo NATALI
Vice-President

Vicomte Etienne DAVIGNON
Vice-President

Mr Edgard PISANI
Vice-President

ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS

The Council discussed in detail the position the Community is to adopt in the final stage of the negotiations with Spain and Portugal on several key chapters of the negotiations, such as fisheries and some aspects of agriculture. The discussions will continue on Tuesday 20 November.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL IN FONTAINEBLEAU

Having resolved the last outstanding difficulty, the Council confirmed the agreement reached by the Ministers for Economic and Financial Affairs at their meeting on 12 November on the draft conclusions on the measures necessary to ensure the effective implementation of the conclusions of the European Council on budgetary discipline.

The draft was immediately forwarded, as a joint position, to the European Parliament with a view to the talks with the Parliament on 21 November.

ACP-EEC NEGOTIATIONS

Having taken note of the conclusive results obtained by the Commission in the negotiations with the ACP countries on most of the problems that had remained outstanding after the restricted ministerial meeting between 9 and 13 October, the Council studied the last questions still undecided with a view to the meeting between the two co-Presidents which is to be held shortly in Brussels in accordance with the conclusions of the meeting between 9 and 13 October. The Council intends to finalize the Community position for that meeting in the next few days.

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The Representatives of the Governments of the Member States appointed Mr Edgard PISANI Vice-President of the Commission of the European Communities for the period up to and including 5 January 1985, replacing Mr François-Xavier ORTOLI, who resigned with effect from 26 October 1984.

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VARIOUS DECISIONS

Customs union

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

- increasing the volumes of the Community tariff quotas, opened for 1984, for
 - = certain grades of ferro-chromium falling within subheading ex 73.02 E I of the Common Customs Tariff
 - = ferro-phosphorus falling within subheading ex 28.55 A of the Common Customs Tariff and
- opening, allocating and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas for 1985 for
 - = wines of fresh grapes and grape must with fermentation arrested by the addition of alcohol, falling within heading No 22.05 of the Common Customs Tariff and originating entirely in Greece
 - = certain hand-woven fabrics, pile and chenille falling within heading Nos ex 50.09, ex 55.07, ex 55.09 and ex 58.04 of the Common Customs Tariff
 - = certain hand-made products
 - = raw silk (not thrown), falling within heading No 50.02 of the Common Customs Tariff
 - = yarn, entirely of silk, other than yarn of noil or other waste silk, not put up for retail sale, falling within heading No ex 50.04 of the Common Customs Tariff
 - = yarn, spun entirely from waste silk other than noil, not put up for retail sale, falling within subheading 50.05 A of the Common Customs Tariff
 - = 2-tert-pentylanthraquinone, falling within subheading ex 29.13 F of the Common Customs Tariff
 - = certain plywoods of coniferous species falling within heading No ex 44.15 of the Common Customs Tariff.

GATT

The Council authorized the Commission to enter into negotiations with a view to adapting the Community's tariff concession schedules to the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System.

Telecommunications

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

- the implementation of harmonization in the field of telecommunications
- the first phase of opening up access to public telecommunications contracts.

(See Press Release 9759/84 (Presse 162) of 15 October 1984, pp. 3 and 4)

Appointments

On the proposal of the United Kingdom Government, the Council appointed Miss Joan GREENWOOD, Nursing Officer, Department of Health and Social Security, alternate member of the Advisory Committee on the Training of Midwives, to replace Mrs D. JONES, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, i.e. until 7 March 1986.

On the proposal of the United Kingdom Government, the Council also appointed Miss Ellen HYNES, Grampian Health Board, Aberdeen Maternity Hospital, alternate member of the Advisory Committee on the Training of Midwives, to replace Miss M.M. TURNER, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, i.e. until 7 March 1986.

Finally, on the proposal of the Netherlands Government, the Council appointed Mrs E. KRUITHOF, Hoofd Verplegingsdienst van het IKAZIA Ziekenhuis te Rotterdam, alternate member of the Advisory Committee on Nursing Training, to replace Mrs J. VINK, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, i.e. until 7 October 1985.

PRESS RELEASE

LIBRARY

10439/84 (Presse 188)

964th meeting of the Council
- Economic and Financial Affairs -
Brussels, 12 November 1984

President: Mr Alan DUKES
Minister for Finance
of Ireland

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

Belgium:

Mr Willy de CLERCQ
Deputy Prime Minister,
Minister for Finance

Denmark:

Mr Anders ANDERSEN
Minister for Economic Affairs

Germany:

Mr Gerhard STOLTENBERG
Federal Minister for Finance

Mr Hans TIETMEYER
State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Finance

Greece:

Mr Theodoros PANGALOS
State Secretary for European
Economic Community Affairs

France:

Mr Pierre BEREGOVY
Minister for Economic Affairs,
Finance and the Budget

Ireland:

Mr Alan DUKES
Minister for Finance

Italy:

Mr Carlo FRACANZANI
State Secretary,
Ministry of the Treasury

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean-Claude JUNCKER
Minister attached to the
Department of Finance with
responsibility for the Budget

Netherlands:

Mr H. RUDING
Minister for Finance

United Kingdom:

Mr Ian STEWART
Economic Secretary to the
Treasury

Commission:

Mr Christopher TUGENDHAT
Vice-President

Mr Wilhelm HAFERKAMP
Vice-President

Viscount Etienne DAVIGNON
Vice-President

BUDGETARY DISCIPLINE

The Council reached agreement ⁽¹⁾ on the texts to implement the principles of budgetary and financial discipline defined by the European Council on 19 and 20 March and 25 and 26 June 1984.

These texts will be forwarded to the Ministers for Foreign Affairs for their meeting on 12 and 13 November to enable those Ministers to approve them as the joint position of the Council. This joint position will then be forwarded to the European Parliament with a view to talks with the Parliament on 21 November.

EXPORT CREDITS

Sectoral agreement on aircraft

With a view to the opening of negotiations, at the beginning of December 1984, for a sectoral agreement on aircraft with the other Participants in the Arrangement on guidelines for officially supported export credits, the Council reached agreement in principle on the Community's position as regards large aircraft. As for other aircraft, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue discussions to enable the Council to adopt the negotiating brief before the end of November.

Tied aid credits

The Council had an initial discussion on the brief to be given to the Commission as regards tied aid credits with a view to the negotiations between the participants in the Arrangement on export credits.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its discussions on this subject to enable the Council to adopt the negotiating brief before the end of November.

⁽¹⁾ With a reservation on the part of the Greek delegation.

FINANCING OF THE AGRICULTURAL STRUCTURES POLICY

In the light of the discussion that had already taken place within the Agricultural Council on the future financing of the agricultural structures policy, the Council - at the request of the German delegation - had an exchange of views on this complex problem.

At the end of the discussion, the Commission said it would duly take into account the comments of the different delegations in considering the Commission's position on this subject.

PRESS RELEASE

LIBRARY

10440/84 (Presse 189)

965th meeting of the Council

- Agriculture -

Brussels, 12 and 13 November 1984

President: Mr Austin DEASY
Minister for Agriculture
of Ireland

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 Ignaz KIECHLE
Federal Minister for Food,
Agriculture and Forestry

Mr Walther FLORIAN
State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Food,
Agriculture and Forestry

Greece:

Mr Constantinos SIMITIS
Minister for Agriculture

France:

Mr Michel ROCARD
Minister for Agriculture

Ireland:

Mr Austin DEASY
Minister for Agriculture

Mr Paddy HEGARTY
Minister of State,
Department of Agriculture

Italy:

Mr Filippo Maria PANDOLFI
Minister for Agriculture

Mrs Paola CAVIGLIASSO,
Deputy State Secretary,
Ministry of Agriculture

Luxembourg:

Mr Marc FISCHBACH
Minister for Agriculture and
Viticulture

Mr René STEICHEN
State Secretary,
Ministry of Agriculture and
Viticulture

Netherlands:

Mr Gerrit 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 Paul DALSAGER
Member

WINE SECTOR

On the basis of a compromise proposal from the Presidency, the Council again discussed in depth the reform of the common organization of the market in wine.

It noted that since serious differences of opinion existed between the delegations principally concerned, no agreement was possible at this stage.

The Presidency will take the appropriate procedural decisions for further examination of the dossier.

STRUCTURAL POLICY

On the basis of a document prepared by the Presidency in co-operation with the Commission, the Council continued its discussion on improving the efficiency of agricultural structures. It noted that progress had been made on a number of points.

It instructed the Working Party of Senior Officials on Agricultural Structures to continue its proceedings on the matter on the basis of the guidelines given by the Council with a view to further progress on the dossier and to report back to it at its next meeting in December.

It also instructed the appropriate Council bodies to examine the financial implications of the proposals under discussion on the basis of the data supplied by the Commission.

FOOD AID

The Council heard a statement from the Commission representative on the immediate problems experienced in providing food aid to the famine victims in the African countries (particularly Ethiopia and the Sahel countries).

The Commission will shortly be supplying the Council with further details to enable it to define how the common agricultural policy might help food aid policy to be better applied.

Finally, the Council noted with satisfaction the emergency measures the Commission had taken to assist the countries most affected by famine. It also approved the initiative taken by a number of professional organizations in the Member States to make direct contributions from their own funds to the aid operations.

The Council agreed to continue its proceedings on the agricultural aspects of the dossier at its meeting in December 1984 on the basis of documents promised by the Commission.

OILS AND FATS

Pending the Opinion of the European Parliament, the Council took a favourable attitude to the proposal for an amendment to Article 4 of basic Regulation No 136/66/EEC on the common organization of the market in oils and fats. ⁽¹⁾

The Council consequently agreed to take a final decision on this Regulation as soon as the European Parliament's Opinion was received and once the text had been finalized in the official languages of the Communities.

SHEEPMEAT AND GOATMEAT SECTOR

The Council discussed the problem of extending the ewe premium arrangements to the production of goatmeat.

It instructed the Special Committee on Agriculture to expedite its examination of the question in the light of the various suggestions made by the Council and to report back at a future meeting.

⁽¹⁾ See Press Release 9905/84 (Presse 169) of 22 and 23 October 1984.

VETERINARY QUESTIONS

The Council discussed the question of the uniform covering of inspection costs in the veterinary sector.

Following its discussions the Council agreed to instruct the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue examining the question so as to report back to it at its next meeting.

MILK SECTOR

The Council discussed in depth the results to date of implementing the superlevy system in the milk products sector.

Following these discussions, it noted that although some positive results had already been achieved, several Member States had experienced considerable technical difficulty in implementing the system. As a result, a large majority of delegations within the Council asked the Commission, in view of this situation, to make the necessary arrangements to postpone until 15 February 1985 the levy of the advances due for the period 2 April to 31 December 1984.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Other agricultural decisions

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 591/79 laying down general rules concerning the production refund for olive oils used in the manufacture of certain preserved foods. The purpose of the Regulation is to extend the scope of the production refunds arrangements in this sector and to improve the system for calculating the level of these refunds.

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

- amending Regulation (EEC) No 1207/84 introducing provisions to support the incomes of small-scale milk producers during the 1984/1985 and 1985/1986 milk years,
- determining the Community scale for grading pig carcasses.

Fisheries

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation amending for the sixth time Regulation (EEC) No 320/84 (1984 TACs and quotas). This amendment increases the TACs and quotas for sole in Divisions VII d and VII e and increases the TAC for cod within the region of Saint Pierre and Miquelon from 7 940 t to 8 500 t.

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COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

10441/84 (Presse 190)

LIBRARY

966th meeting of the Council

- Energy -

Brussels, 13 November 1984

President: Mr Dick SPRING
Tánaiste (Deputy Prime Minister)
and Minister for Energy
of Ireland

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 Eleftherios VERIVAKIS
Minister for Energy
and Natural Resources

France:

Mr Martin MALVY
State Secretary responsible to
Minister for Industrial
Reorganization and Foreign Trade,
responsible for Energy

Ireland:

Mr Dick SPRING
Tánaiste (Deputy Prime Minister)
and Minister for Energy

Mr Edward COLLINS
Minister of State at the
Department of Energy and the
Department of Industry, Trade,
Commerce and Tourism

Italy:

Mr Bruno ORSINI
State Secretary
Ministry of Industry

Luxembourg:

Mr Marcel SCHLECHTER
Minister for Energy

Netherlands:

Mr G.M.V. van AARDENNE
Deputy Prime Minister
and Minister for Economic Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr Alick BUCHANAN-SMITH
Minister of State
Department of Energy

Commission:

Viscount Etienne DAVIGNON
Vice-President

MEMBER STATES' ENERGY POLICIES

In the light of the guidelines agreed at its 929th meeting on 22 May 1984 the Council resumed discussion of the Commission's review of Member States' energy policies and progress towards long-term energy objectives.

The Council welcomed the progress already made by Member States in reducing dependence on oil and increasing the efficiency of energy use. It recognized the need for this progress to be sustained despite the current relaxed energy market situation, given the major uncertainties about the long-term outlook for supply and demand. The Council reaffirmed the importance in that context of appropriate and common long-term energy objectives as a framework for both national and Community action.

The Council agreed that progress in each Member State and at Community level towards such objectives should continue to be monitored through in-depth reviews carried out by the Commission on its own responsibility, the results of which should be reported to the Council on a regular basis.

The Council noted the importance of realizing the further potential for savings in energy use identified in both the Commission's review of Member States' energy policies and the review of Member States' energy savings programmes. It agreed that in future the Commission's review of Member States' energy policies should incorporate the results of detailed examinations of Member States'

energy savings programmes, thus updating the procedures laid down in its Resolution of 1980 on energy savings policies (and taking into account the guidelines set out in its new Resolution on this subject).

The Council also stressed the importance of detailed examination by COREPER of future reviews by the Commission in contributing to better mutual understanding by Member States of each others policies, as well as in updating and, if necessary, amending or supplementing the information in the Commission's reports. It took note in this context of the report by the Council Secretariat on the detailed discussions that had taken place since 22 May, and also of the Commission document on the conclusions in the light of those discussions.

The Council is awaiting the Commission's proposed new objectives in the energy sector for the 1990s, taking into account the results of the detailed examination of Member States' energy policies and, in the light of consultations with Member States, the Commission's study of energy supply and demand options in the year 2000. Such guidelines should aim to provide a framework of ambition and a stimulus to action at national and Community level whilst taking account, however, of the need for flexibility to respond to possible changes in energy conditions during the rest of this century.

ENERGY PRICES

The Council considered a Commission report on the application of energy pricing principles in the Member States with particular reference to the gas and electricity sectors.

The Council's debate focussed on the following four points:

- the advisability of basing energy prices on considerations of cost and energy policy alone, or, possibly, on other considerations of for example social and industrial policy;
- the need to ensure the financial viability of gas and electricity undertakings;
- the need to avoid discrimination between different categories of consumer by charging different prices for energy which are not justified by differences in supply costs;
- the need for greater transparency in energy prices, particularly in the case of contracts concluded with large consumers of gas or electricity.

The Council stressed that energy prices were of particular importance in energy policy and instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee, in the light of this debate, to examine the report in question further with a view to subsequent discussions by the Energy Council.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT IN FAVOUR OF INDUSTRIES PRODUCING SOLID FUELS

The Council discussed in detail the various aspects of Community solid fuels policy.

Approaches continued to vary, thereby making agreement difficult at this stage.

Nevertheless since all the delegations were keen to improve the efficiency of Community energy policy, they recorded their resolve to achieve the goal they had set themselves: to make headway towards an equitable overall Community solid fuels strategy.

They decided, in particular, to pursue their efforts to increase the proportion of solid fuels in the Community energy statement. To realize this without prejudice to the final decisions taken on the various suggestions put before them, they wished to examine how to increase solid fuel penetration to benefit the Community economy on conditions acceptable for the environment.

HYDROCARBONS

The Council examined a Commission communication on the programme of support for Community projects in the hydrocarbons sector.

The Council took note on this occasion of the Commission's intention to submit a proposal in the near future for a Regulation amending the basic Regulation on support for Community projects in this sector.

In connection with the financial year 1984, the Council formally adopted a Decision on the granting of support amounting to approximately 35 MECU for Community projects in the hydrocarbons sector.

ENERGY IMPLICATIONS OF CERTAIN QUESTIONS CONCERNING MEASURES TO COMBAT
AIR POLLUTION

The Council discussed the energy implications of the following questions concerning measures to combat air pollution, currently under consideration in the relevant environmental bodies:

- limits on pollutant emissions into the atmosphere from large combustion plants;
- certain aspects tied to motor vehicle traffic;
- the specific problems of leaded petrol.

Following the discussions, the Council asked the President to bring its findings to the attention of the Presidency of the Environment Council before its meeting on 6 December.

NATURAL GAS

The Council held a preliminary discussion on a Commission communication concerning natural gas.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine the Commission communication in detail in preparation for the Council's discussions on this dossier at its next meeting on energy matters.

ENERGY-SAVING PROGRAMMES IN THE MEMBER STATES

The Council recorded its agreement on the substance of the Resolution set out below. It also noted that the Commission was intending to submit a study in the near future on the implications for energy-saving of the legislation and practices in force in the transport sector in the Member States.

"THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Commission communication of 2 February 1984 entitled "Comparison of Energy-Saving Programmes of EEC Member States";

Having regard to the Council Resolution of 9 June 1980 concerning the increase in the Community of efforts to save energy and reduce oil consumption and imports, which recommended to Member States guidelines for a basic energy-saving programme;

Having regard to the Commission Recommendation of 29 July 1980 on the rational use of energy in industrial enterprises;

Having regard to the Council Recommendation of 28 July 1982 concerning the encouragement of investment in the rational use of energy;

Whereas, although encouraging progress has been made in the Member States of the Community during the past years, there still remains great potential in the Community for improving energy efficiency;

Whereas account should be taken of the factors of experience in defining new guidelines for a basic programme recommended to all the Member States having regard to the priorities and conditions peculiar to each of them;

1. invites Member States to pursue and where necessary increase their efforts to promote the more rational use of energy by the further development of integrated energy-saving policies;
2. recalls that such policies should be based on the principles of energy price policy and on the measures set out in the Resolution of 9 June 1980;
3. notes that such policies should also be based on the guidelines contained in the Annex;
4. also notes the advisability of ensuring as far as possible that any measure affecting price levels is consistent with the objectives of energy-saving policy;
5. takes note of the Commission's intention to pursue its action in favour of the rational use of energy, in particular by:
 - promoting the development of standardized measuring methods and, if necessary, of indicative reference standards for appliances and materials;
 - drawing up sectoral programmes comprising, in the light of the results already achieved and possible improvements, specific proposals (e.g. in the building and transport sectors);
 - disseminating throughout the Community the results obtained by national and Community research, development and demonstration programmes;
6. notes that Member States will keep the Commission informed of the development of their energy-saving policies, thus enabling the latter to analyse the contribution they are making towards Community energy objectives and to report to the Council.

ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES
FOR A BASIC ENERGY-SAVING PROGRAMME
RECOMMENDED TO ALL THE MEMBER STATES

A. ENERGY PRICING

1. It is particularly important from the point of view of the rational use of energy that energy be priced with due regard for the market and costs.
2. For this reason, the practical implementation of the price policy conclusions and recommendations adopted by the Council since 1980 remains as important as ever.
3. Any effective energy pricing in the context of the rational use of energy must above all seek to ensure that prices are not being maintained artificially below the real market level. It is urgent that efforts to implement this principle in the Member States be intensified.

B. MEASURES TO ENCOURAGE THE RATIONAL USE OF ENERGY

Without prejudice to the measures set out in the Council Resolution of 9 June 1980 and in the light of experience gained, with a view to maximum efficiency, recourse to the following measures in whole or in part is recommended to the Member States depending on their specific priorities and conditions.

1. Information and consultation

(a) Main guidelines

- Information programmes with a view to stimulating further public awareness on the efficient use of energy by advertising campaigns based on specific topics;

- Accompanying measures in the form of concrete advice and practical proposals;
- Technical consultation measures, such as diagnostic measures (including, where appropriate, the idea of the energy bus).

(b) Means

- Development of possibilities for the consumer to obtain useful advice at regional and local level on energy efficiency;
- Encouragement to associations for the efficient use of energy, in order to stimulate exchanges of experience between energy managers (particularly in industry) and energy-saving advisers;
- Taking account in information and consultation measures of the fact that there are still differing degrees of awareness of the problems of energy efficiency, and research into the most effective means of remedying this;
- Inclusion of energy efficiency aspects in the teaching curricula of schools and universities, as well as in vocational training and driving schools;
- Means to ensure that consultants and persons selling and installing energy consuming equipment have adequate professional competence (e.g. membership of associations which apply appropriate professional standards of competence);
- Information, in addition to that dealing with heating, on making better use of electricity in all its forms;
- Encouraging the commitment of management to the efficient use of energy.

2. Financial incentives

(a) Main guidelines

- Recourse to financial incentives inasmuch as the obstacles to investments for more efficient use of energy are financial;
- Introduction of such incentives for a specific objective and a limited period of time such that any extension or adaptation can be conditional upon an evaluation of their effectiveness;
- When devising financial incentives, taking account of the restraints on energy efficiency, especially in small and medium-sized undertakings, posed by the restricted availability of capital;
- Particular attention to the rented accommodation sector.

(b) Best use of incentives

- Evaluation of energy efficiency before and, if possible, after the granting of the financial incentive to the investment;
- To this end, use of all suitable means of information and consultation to ensure that the financial incentive measure has a favourable cost/effectiveness ratio, also taking into account certain non-financial factors likely to play a significant role in investment decisions.

3. Regulations and standards

(a) Guiding principles

- Use of such standards where the forces obtaining on the market and its transparency are not sufficient to guarantee efficient use of energy;

- Taking into consideration, when drawing up these measures, of their economic consequences and of the experience acquired in other States;
- Clear definition of the standard to be prescribed or, as the case may be, of the best standard to be attained which it is proposed to introduce after a suitable period of time;
- Introduction of adequate control or, failing that, use of recommendations rather than binding regulations;
- Periodic revision of the regulations and standards in the light of possible changes in the conditions which obtained when they were drawn up.

(b) Sectoral applications

(i) Building sector

- Application of appropriate construction codes taking into account general and specific energy circumstances and requirements;
- Elaboration, where justified technically and economically, of efficient performance and operation standards for heating systems and boilers;
- Development of means to enable the consumer better to regulate his own use of energy (individual meters in residential and tertiary buildings; selection of more reliable and economical meters);

- Development of effective standards for ventilation and air-conditioning, with particular respect to heat recovery;
- indication on domestic electrical appliances of their energy power provided this is justified technically and economically (depending in particular on the potential energy-saving involved).

(ii) Transport sector

- Taking into account the particular importance of increased efforts given that this sector is one of the major and growing users of oil products: to this end, monitoring the adequacy of the regulations and standards relating to specific fuel consumption;
- Advantage for rational use of energy of further improvements in means of transport and in particular in public transport, in their use and in traffic patterns (for example, where appropriate: to design and servicing of road networks, the synchronization of traffic lights, traffic lanes reserved for public transport, speed limits, limiting of tolls and frontier controls, etc.).

(iii) Industry sector

Recommendations stressing the advantage of planning new investments also with a view to the efficient use of energy on an economic basis.

This text will be finalized and formally approved at a forthcoming Council meeting.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

10793/84 (Presse 196)

TURKEY

967th Council meeting
- Industry/Steel -

Brussels, 22 November 1984

President: Mr John BRUTON
Minister for Industry, Trade
Commerce and Tourism
of Ireland

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 Martin BANGEMANN
Federal Minister for Economic Affairs

Greece:

Mr Constantine VAITSOS
Minister for Economic Affairs

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

France:

Mrs Edith CRESSON
Minister for Industrial Redeployment
and Foreign Trade

Ireland:

Mr John BRUTON
Minister for Industry, Trade,
Commerce and Tourism

Mr Edward COLLINS
Minister of State at the
Department of Energy and at the
Department of Industry, Trade,
Commerce and Tourism

Italy:

Mr Pietro CALAMIA
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

Luxembourg:

Mr Jacques F. POOS
Vice-President of the Government,
Minister for Foreign Affairs,
External Commerce and Co-operation

Netherlands:

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

United Kingdom:

Mr Norman LAMONT
Minister of State,
Department of Trade and Industry

Commission:

Viscount Etienne DAVIGNON
Vice-President

EXPORTS OF TUBES TO THE UNITED STATES

The Council instructed the Commission to negotiate an arrangement with the United States for Community exports of tubes to that country.

STEEL INDUSTRY INTERNAL ASPECT - RESTRUCTURING AND AMENDING THE AIDS CODE

The Council examined in detail the communication from the Commission on the restructuring of the Community steel industry and the proposal to amend the aids code in order to extend the payment of aids to continued operation until 31 December 1985 and to fix new deadlines for the giving of notice and the authorization of projects for additional aids.

The Council noted that some of the proposed amendments still gave rise to problems in the Council and that before a final discussion could take place, additional information was called for, and agreed to continue its discussions on the matter at another "steel" meeting on 17 December next.

The Council also agreed to discuss at that meeting, in the light of further discussions, questions on the agenda concerning the amendment of Decision 234/84 on the system of monitoring and production quotas: amendment of Article 14 B and adjustment of the arrangements for coated sheets.

MARKET SITUATION IN SCRAP

The Council discussed the difficulties which had arisen in some Member States as a result of fluctuations in scrap metal prices. This problem will be tackled again at the meeting on 17 December, on the basis of a Commission communication.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Commercial policy and Customs Union

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities:

- the Regulations
 - = amending the definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of certain ball bearings originating in Japan and exported by NTN Toyo Bearing Co. Ltd.
 - = opening, allocating and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas (1985) for
 - . resin, including "brais résineux", falling within subheading 38.08 A of the Common Customs Tariff
 - . ferro-silicon falling within subheading 73.02 C of the Common Customs Tariff
 - . ferro-siliconmanganese falling within subheading 73.02 D of the Common Customs Tariff
 - . ferrochromium containing not more than 0,10% by weight of carbon and more than 30% but not more than 90% by weight of chromium (super-refined ferrochromium), falling within subheading ex 73.02 E I of the Common Customs Tariff
 - = temporarily suspending the autonomous Common Customs Tariff duties on a number of agricultural products
- the Decisions
 - = authorizing the extension or tacit renewal of certain trade agreements concluded between Member States and third countries
 - = concerning the conclusion of an Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Economic Community and the Government of Australia on the Arrangement between Australia and the Community concerning cheese
 - = concerning the conclusion of an Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Economic Community and the Government of New Zealand amending the Joint Discipline Arrangement between New Zealand and the Community concerning cheese.

Relations with the Mediterranean countries

The Council adopted the Directives enabling the Commission to negotiate a 3rd Additional Protocol to the EEC-Israel Co-operation Agreement.

The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities a second series of Regulations on Community tariff quotas, ceilings and arrangements for imports of products originating in various Mediterranean countries (1985) viz.:

- Algeria: wine (extension), wine of designated origin (quota)
- Israel, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia: fruit salad
- Algeria: tomato concentrates
- Tunisia: petroleum products
- Spain : dried figs, dried grapes, certain petroleum products,
other cotton fabrics

Data processing

The Council adopted a Decision extending the resources and duration of the first part of the multiannual data processing programme (1979 - 1983).

The main aim of this extension is to assist the development of standardization in the field of data processing. It also provides for other general measures relating to public procurement, data security and confidentiality and protection of software.

Specific measures for fundamental research in data processing are also envisaged.

This new programme has a duration of two years for the various measures, except for certain activities connected with standardization which are to be completed by 31 December 1985, thereafter being continued in the context of a specific policy for the standardization of data-processing techniques.

The appropriations necessary for the realization of this programme are estimated at 11 MECU.

Agricultural policy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Council Regulation (EEC) fixing for the 1984/1985 marketing year the percentage of the amount of the production aid which may be withheld by recognized organizations of olive-oil producers or associations thereof.

ECSC

The Council granted the consultation, pursuant to Article 12 of Commission Decision 73/287/ECSC of 25 July 1973 on coking coal and coke for the Community's iron and steel industry, concerning a draft Commission Decision amending Decision 3544/73/ECSC implementing Decision 73/287/ECSC on coking coal and coke.

In addition, the Council gave its assent, pursuant to Article 95 of the ECSC Treaty, to draft Commission Decision (ECSC) amending for the third time Decision 3717/83/ECSC introducing for steel undertakings and steel dealers a production certificate and an accompanying document for deliveries of certain products.

Finally, the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the ECSC, meeting within the Council, adopted in the official languages of the Communities the 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.

Shipbuilding

The Council approved a Directive extending until 31 December 1986 the fifth Directive on aid to shipbuilding which makes provision for a Community discipline for the granting of State aid in this sector.

Appointments

On a proposal from the German Government the Council appointed Mr Ulrich BÖSHAGEN, Bundesverband der Deutschen Industrie e.V., as a member of the Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work, to replace Mr G. SCHLICHT for his remaining term of office, i.e. until 1 April 1985.

On a proposal from the Commission the Council also appointed Mr Tom McGRATH, Industrial Officer, Irish Congress of Trade Unions, as a member of the Management Board of the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training, to replace Mr F. KENNEDY for his remaining term of office, i.e. until 19 April 1985.

PRESS RELEASE

10736/84 (Presse 194)

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968th session of the Council
and the Ministers for Cultural Affairs
meeting within the Council
Brussels, 22 November 1984

President : Mr Edward NEALON
Secretary of State,
Department of the Prime Minister
of Ireland

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 Ph. MOUREAUX
Ministre-Président de l'exécutif
de la Communauté française

Mr K. POMA
Ministre-Vice-Président de
l'exécutif de la Communauté
flamande

M. B. FAGNOUL
Ministre-Président de l'exécutif
de la Communauté germanophone

Denmark :

Mrs Mimi Stilling JAKOBSEN
Minister for Cultural Affairs

Germany :

Mr Alois MERTES
Minister of State,
Foreign Affairs

Greece :

Mrs Melina MERCOURI
Minister for Culture and Science

France :

Mr Jack LANG
Minister for Culture

Ireland :

Mr Edward NEALON
Secretary of State,
Department of the Prime Minister

Italy :

Mr Francesco SISINNI
Directeur Général au
Ministère des Biens Culturels

Luxembourg :

Mr Robert KRIEPS
Minister for Cultural Affairs

Netherlands :

Mr L.C. BRINKMAN
Minister for Welfare, Health
and Culture

United Kingdom :

The Earl of GOWRIE
Minister for the Arts

Commission :

Mr Gaston THORN
President

CULTURAL WORKERS AND THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND

Further to their meeting on 22 June 1984, the Council and the Ministers responsible for cultural affairs approved the following Resolution :

THE COUNCIL AND THE MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR CULTURAL AFFAIRS
MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL

draw attention to the pressing need for measures to alleviate unemployment and underemployment of cultural workers;

reaffirm the vital importance of vocational training and retraining opportunities as a basic element in improving employment prospects and in particular aiding the realization of human potential in the cultural sector of the economy;

note, in particular, the importance of measures to help young people to develop their occupational skills and also to improve their social motivation in this sector;

draw attention to the need for improved guidance and counselling regarding the whole range of career opportunities in the cultural sector, especially those careers which combine both technical and cultural skills;

in this context recognize the potential uses of new technology in the cultural sector and the need for a wider familiarity with new developments;

note that the cultural sector is particularly susceptible to action by individual initiative and is therefore an appropriate area for the promotion of employment opportunities for the self-employed, as well as for small enterprises and co-operatives, especially those which meet specific local or regional cultural needs;

draw attention to the need for improved training and employment opportunities for women;

welcome the strengthening of Community vocational training and employment activities, including the introduction by the Council in October 1983 of new rules under the European Social Fund providing for the funding of innovatory projects linked to Community action programmes; particularly those related to the themes mentioned above;

declare their willingness to play their part as fully as possible in the implementation of these action programmes in the cultural sector, in co-operation with the other authorities concerned, at regional, national and Community level;

accordingly draw Member States' attention to the possibility of preparing and submitting projects for European Social Fund aid, and invite the Commission to give careful consideration, within the framework of the existing regulations of the Social Fund, to proposals for the vocational training and the employment of artists and cultural workers in the knowledge that art and culture constitute an important source of income and employment as well as enriching the artistic, cultural and social life of communities.

STRENGTHENING OF EUROPEAN CULTURAL CO-OPERATION

After a lengthy discussion on intensification of cultural co-operation in the framework of the Solemn Declaration on European Union, nine delegations were able to support a Presidency draft Resolution on this subject. It was therefore agreed to refer it back to the Permanent Representatives Committee.

All Ministers agreed in principle on a programme of work on specific cultural projects contained in the draft Resolution: the Commission announced its intention to continue its work in this field and noted the encouragement given to it.

The current projects are as follows :

- European Music Year
- European Community Youth Orchestra and Eurojazz
- Young Theatre companies and young public
- Theatre of Europe in Paris and Milan
- European Festival at Wiltz, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg
- European Film Festival
- Itinerant exhibition of contemporary painting
- Support for the translation of contemporary literary works.

Agreement was reached on the naming of a European City of Culture each year, with Athens confirmed for 1985.

It was decided, with the agreement of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs meeting in the context of political co-operation, to intensify cultural co-operation in third countries, particularly by providing material for European Film Weeks, which would be able to combine cultural co-operation with commercial promotion of films ;

It was agreed to examine, at an early date, the possibility of establishing in Florence a European information centre on stolen works of art, on the basis of an Italian government project showing the specific role of such a centre ;

Further preparatory work should be done on the following projects and measures with a view to taking early decisions :

- a European scheme for concerted national sculpture competitions ;
- exchanges among cultural workers, including a proposal for funding visits by artists to residential centres for artists in other Member States ;
- the encouragement of traditional song and dance by appropriate methods ;
- joint action to promote the cultural heritage ;
- promoting transnational itineraries for cultural tourism ;
- measures designed to overcome language barriers, as well as measures aimed at improving knowledge of the other Member States of the Community, and greater information about European history and culture.

MULTILATERAL SYSTEM OF SUPPORT FOR THE EUROPEAN FILM AND
T.V. PROGRAMME INDUSTRY

The Council and the Ministers of Culture welcomed the progress made by the Working Party of experts on the various possible aspects of a multilateral support system for the programme industry. In this connexion, the meeting also had before it a study from the Commission which will serve as a basis for future deliberations. At the beginning of the debate, Ministers heard a report from the President on his recent discussions with representatives of the European Broadcasting Union.

At the conclusion of the debate it was recognised that further progress had been made and the different positions clarified. Consequently the Working Party was invited to press ahead with its work in the light of today's debate. It is understood that the Commission will make a proposal in due course.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE MEMBER STATES

The Ministers of Culture took note of a progress report as regards the implementation of three Resolutions concerning : measures to combat audio-visual pirating, rational distribution of films to all media, and measures to ensure that an appropriate place is given to audio-visual programmes of European origin. In the context of the first of these Resolutions, Ministers welcomed the offer of the incoming Italian Presidency to convene, in the first half of 1985, a meeting of the national agencies responsible for combating audio-visual pirating.

PRIVATE COPY

The Council and the Ministers of Cultural Affairs agreed to take up their discussion on private copy after publication by the Commission of a "Green Paper" on this subject.

FREE CIRCULATION OF WORKS OF ART

The Council and the Ministers of Cultural Affairs noted with interest a working document submitted by the services of the Commission on the problems encountered by artists in exhibiting their works in other Community countries. Work on this matter will continue.

BOOK TRADE POLICY

During a discussion the Ministers of Culture expressed their interest in a document from the French delegation concerning the possibility of introducing a pricing system based, among other things, on the possibility of establishing a single price for books.

It was agreed to come back to this subject after the Court of Justice has given its judgement on a relevant case currently before it.

EUROPEAN FOUNDATION

The President reported on progress in regard to the ratification of the agreement establishing the European Foundation. He hoped that it would be able to start its work at the latest towards the end of 1985.

PRESS RELEASE

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10855/84 (Presse 197)

969th meeting of the Council

- Foreign Affairs -

Brussels, 26/27/28 November 1984

Presidents: Mr Peter BARRY
 Minister for Foreign Affairs
 of Ireland
 and
 Mr Jim O'KEEFFE
 Minister of State at the
Department of Foreign Affairs
 of Ireland

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 Knut-Erik TYGESEN State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Germany:

Mr Hans-Dietrich GENSCHER Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Jürgen RUHFUS State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Greece:

Mr Theodoros PANGALOS State Secretary for European Economic
Community Affairs

France:

Mr Roland DUMAS Minister for European Affairs

Ireland:

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

Italy:

Mr Giulio ANDREOTTI Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Mario FIORET State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Luxembourg:

Mr Jacques F. POOS

Vice-President of the Government,
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Robert GOEBBELS

State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Netherlands:

Mr H. van den BROEK

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr W.F. van EEKELEN

State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

United Kingdom:

Sir Geoffrey HOWE

Secretary of State for Foreign and
Commonwealth Affairs

Mr Malcolm RIFKIND

Minister of State,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Commission:

Mr Gaston THORN

President

Mr Wilhelm HAFERKAMP

Vice-President

Mr Lorenzo NATALI

Vice-President

Viscount Etienne DAVIGNON

Vice-President

Mr Christopher TUGENDHAT

Vice-President

Mr Poul DALSAGER

Member

ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS

The Council discussed in detail the Community position to be adopted in the final stage of the negotiations with Spain and Portugal on a number of fundamental aspects of the negotiations, such as: in respect of agriculture, wine and the supplementary trade mechanism for fruit and vegetables and certain northern-European products, fisheries, steel problems and industrial tariff dismantling.

At the end of the discussion, the President noted that substantial progress had been made, but that there were still some problems of a political nature to be resolved. These problems, which particularly concerned wine, would be raised at the European Council so that further progress could be made on all fronts.

The Council informed the Spanish delegation, headed by Mr Fernando MORAN, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and the Portuguese delegation, headed by Mr Ernani RODRIGUES LOPES, Minister for Finance and the Plan, of progress in Community work, as well as the arrangements decided on for further negotiations after the European Council.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL

The Council prepared the topics likely to be discussed at the next meeting of the European Council on 3 and 4 December in Dublin.

THE FAMINE IN AFRICA

Mr O'KEEFFE, in his capacity as President of the Development Council, reported on his recent visit to Kenya and Ethiopia which had enabled him to assess the gravity of the food situation, particularly in Ethiopia. He would be submitting proposals on the measures to be taken to the European Council.

ANNUAL REPORT ON EUROPEAN UNION

The Council approved the draft text of the annual report drawn up for the European Council in Dublin, further to Section 2.1.4. of the Stuttgart Solemn Declaration on European Union.

INTEGRATED MEDITERRANEAN PROGRAMMES

The Council held an in-depth discussion on the amended proposal instituting integrated Mediterranean programmes. .

At the end of the discussion, the Council agreed to refer the matter to the European Council in Dublin.

COMMUNITY EXPORTS OF STEEL PIPES AND TUBES TO THE UNITED STATES

The Council was informed by the Commission that the United States Government had refused the Community's offer of voluntary restraint regarding Community exports of steel pipes and tubes decided on by the Council at its meeting of 22 November.

It was also informed that the United States Government had consequently confirmed its intention to limit, as from 29 November, imports of pipes and tubes from the Community to 5,9% of the United States market - a decision which meant a suspension of these imports for the rest of 1984.

The Council deeply regretted the attitude of the United States Government; it decided to denounce unilaterally the exchange of letters of 21 October 1982 regarding the aforementioned products and instructed Mr DAVIGNON, Vice-President, to undertake the necessary steps to this end.

It noted the intention of the Commission to submit to the Council shortly suggestions as to what further action should be taken, in particular within GATT.

GENERALIZED PREFERENCES FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: COMMUNITY SCHEME FOR 1985.

In the light of the Opinions of the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee the Council agreed in principle (1) to the substance of the new Community generalized scheme of preferences for 1985. 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 1985 may be summarized as follows:

Iron and steel products

The arrangements for 1984 have been renewed without change.

Industrial products

As in 1984, the 1985 GSP provides for the duty-free import of industrial products, subject to quotas or ceilings for certain sensitive products.

Eleven products have been transferred from the sensitive products category to the non-sensitive products category and eleven other products from the latter category to the former.

(1) Pending the Opinions of the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee on the inclusion of Greenland in the GSP, in which the Council expressed a favourable position.

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

For certain products there is to be an increase in the volume of quotas of the order of 5 to 10% and an increase in the volume of ceilings of the order of 5 to 15%. The Council agreed to an increase of 10% for non-sensitive products.

Textile products

As far as MFA textile products were concerned, the Council agreed to the same increase in volume as was made in the 1984 GSP.

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 1984 arrangements for non-MFA textiles as well as the arrangements relating to jute products and coir.

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). It also added bamboo shoots to the list of products covered.

(1) Meat and meat offals, meat of furred game, certain fishery products, bilberries, flour of dried vegetables, flour of fruits, prepared meat, prepared fish, preserved fruits, roasted nuts, coffee substitutes, mustard, baking powders, prepared rice, palm tree cores, beer made from malt.

The Council also agreed to improvements of the GSP arrangements for some products governed by quotas or ceilings, i.e. raw tobacco and pineapple. As regards cocoa butter and soluble coffee the 1984 arrangements are to be maintained subject to a change in the breakdown of the quota.

China and Romania.

In the case of China and Romania the 1984 arrangements are to be extended.

Beneficiaries

The list of beneficiaries of the GSP for 1985 comprises 127 independent countries. The list of OCT beneficiaries, other than Greenland, comprises 21 countries and territories.

Publication of the official texts of the Regulation

The official texts relating to the 1985 GSP will be formally adopted in December 1984 and will then be published as soon as possible in the Official Journal of the European Communities.

BUDGETARY DISCIPLINE

The Council held a discussion on the outcome of the meeting which took place on 21 November with a delegation from the European Parliament on the Council's common approach for conclusions on the measures necessary to guarantee the effective implementation of the conclusions of the European Council on budgetary discipline.

The President was forced to conclude that the Council would have to continue its discussions on the question of the form to be given to the conclusions on inter-institutional co-operation in this respect.

LAW OF THE SEA

The Council examined the question of the signature by the Community of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which was open for signature until 9 December 1984 at the UN Headquarters in New York.

After noting that not all Member States had yet adopted their final position on the matter, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to take up this question again so as to enable the Council to take a decision in due course.

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION WITH JAPAN

At the initiative of Viscount DAVIGNON, the Council discussed progress in co-operation with Japan on Science and Technology. The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine this matter further.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Trade and Customs Union matters

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

- imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on certain imports of dense sodium carbonate originating in the United States of America;
- temporarily suspending the autonomous Common Customs Tariff duties on
 - = a number of products intended for use in the construction, maintenance and repair of aircraft and
 - = a number of industrial products
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 950/68 on the Common Customs Tariff.

Relations with the EFTA countries

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulations on the application of Decisions No 1/84 of the EEC-Switzerland and EEC-Austria Joint Committees - Community transit - amending the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Swiss Confederation/Republic of Austria on the application of the rules on Community transit.

Export credits

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Directive concerning the reciprocal obligations of export credit insurance organizations of the Member States acting on behalf of the State or with its support, or of public departments acting in place of such organizations, in the case of joint guarantees for a contract involving one or more subcontracts in one or more Member States of the European Communities.

Company law

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Directive revising the amounts expressed in ECU in Directive 78/660/EEC.

Agriculture

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

- amending Regulation (EEC) No 2915/79 as regards the implementation of new rules for importing certain cheeses from Australia and New Zealand;
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 2772/75 on certain marketing standards for eggs and laying down special provisions for application of Regulation (EEC) No 1831/84.

Research

The Council adopted the Decision on a five-year programme (1984-1988) for the development of the specialized information market in Europe. This programme, which is partly based on the three previous consecutive three-year plans of action, the last of which expired on 31 December 1983, continues, redirects and extends Community activities in connection with the specialized information market in the light of recent events and urgent requirements which are emerging.

The specialized information market involves high-level information intended for those working in science and technology, social, cultural and economic development, trade and industry, business and finance, marketing, etc.

The programme is designed to ensure the continuation of EURONET-DIANE operations, together with a series of important information projects for which contracts have been signed with some 55 public and private bodies in the Member States.

These projects include:

- patent-related information;
- biotechnology information network;
- materials data bank;
- electronic publishing and image data banks;
- information for industry, particularly directed at small and medium-sized undertakings (SMUs);
- application of new information technology, such as Videotex.

The amount estimated necessary for implementing this programme is 25 MECU. This amount may be revised following a review at the end of the second year.

Social affairs

The Council took note of the Commission report - Twelfth activity report on the European Social Fund, 1983, and the comments from the delegations and the Commission representative.

The Council also approved the Rules of Procedure of the Committee of the European Social Fund, which had already received a favourable opinion from the Commission.

ECSC

The Council gave its assent, pursuant to Article 56(2)(a) of the ECSC Treaty, to the granting of a global loan to Hellenic Industrial Development Bank (ETVA), Athens, Greece.

Appointments

The Council appointed, on a proposal from the Irish Government, Mr M. AHERNE and Mr W. HANNON, Department of Labour, as members of the Advisory Committee on Freedom of Movement for Workers in place of Mr B. FITZPATRICK and Mr B. O'RIORDAN, pending the replacement of the Committee.

In addition, the Council appointed, on a proposal from the United Kingdom Government, Mr D. ASTON as member of the Advisory Committee of the Euratom Supply Agency in place of Mr W. ROOKE for the remainder of the latter's term of office, i.e. until 28 March 1985.

Finally, the Council appointed, on a proposal from the French Government, Mr J.S. LETOURNEUR as member of the Advisory Committee of the Euratom Supply Agency, in place of Mr A. NOE for the remainder of the latter's term of office, i.e. until 28 March 1985.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

109~~80~~/84 (Presse 200)

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970th meeting of the Council

- Budget -

Brussels, 29 and 30 November 1984

President: Mr Jim O'KEEFE
Minister of State,
Department of Foreign Affairs
Ireland

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 Panayotis ROUMELIOTIS
State Secretary,
Ministry of the National Economy

France:

Mr Henri EMMANUELLI
State Secretary with responsibility
for the Budget

Ireland:

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

Italy:

Mr Carlo FRACANZANI
State Secretary
Ministry of the Treasury

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean-Claude JUNCKER
Minister attached to the Department
of Finance, with responsibility
for the Budget

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

Before commencing the second reading of the draft 1985 budget as amended and modified by the European Parliament at its sitting on 14 November 1984, the Council had a meeting with a European Parliament delegation, led by the President of the latter, Mr Pierre PFLIMLIN, and also including: Mr COT, Chairman of the Committee on Budgets, Mr FICH, Rapporteur on Section III - Commission - of the Budget, Mr CURRY, Rapporteur on the other Sections of the Budget, Mrs BARBARELLA, 3rd Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Budgets, Mr AIGNER, Chairman of the Committee on Budgetary Control and Mr ARNDT, Mr LANGES, Lord DOURO, Mrs SCRIVENER, Mr PASTY, Mr d'ORMESSON and Mr BONDE, Members of the Committee on Budgets.

This meeting enabled the European Parliament delegation to explain the reasoning behind its preparation of the amendments and proposed modifications to the draft general budget for 1985 and the Council members to inform the European Parliament of their feelings in the matter.

Following the exchange of views, the President of the Council stated that the Council would press ahead very shortly with discussions on the Parliament's amendments and proposed modifications to the draft budget in the light of the views expressed at this meeting.

1985 BUDGET

The Council, having discussed in detail at the first reading the draft budget as amended and modified by the European Parliament, acted on the amendments and proposed modifications voted by the Parliament on 14 November.

Referring, on the question of the financing of the common agricultural policy, to its statement on 2/3 October reading as follows:

"In deciding on a budget appropriation for the 1985 EAGGF of 18 000 MECU, i.e. a reduction of 1 315 MECU with regard to the figure considered necessary by the Commission in the preliminary draft budget, the Council for its part, while emphasizing the need for rigorous market management, undertakes to meet by 1 October 1985 the additional budgetary requirements which will arise in 1985 including the obligations entered into vis-à-vis the United Kingdom as prescribed under the Fontainebleau agreement through a supplementary and amending budget, for which additional funds will be provided."

the Council agreed to enter 1 315 MECU in square brackets against additional revenue and expenditure, which means that they are not, by definition, included in the present budget total.

In the case of non-compulsory expenditure, the Council agreed to increases over the draft budget of 410 MECU in commitment appropriations and 189 MECU in payment appropriations.

With regard in particular to the integrated Mediterranean programmes, it agreed to enter a reserve of 50 MECU in commitment appropriations.

It also agreed to increases in commitment appropriations over the draft budget of 50 MECU for the ERDF and 70 MECU for the European Social Fund.

In addition, the Council gave special consideration to appropriations for food aid and aid for disaster victims in third countries.

Finally, it agreed on an appropriation, additional to the initial draft amount, of 30 MECU in commitment appropriations and 12 MECU in payment appropriations for non-associated developing countries, mainly intended for Central America further to the San José Conference.

OTHER DECISION

Agricultural decision

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the third Directive amending Directive 70/524/EEC concerning additives in feedingstuffs.
