

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

PRESS RELEASES

PRESIDENCY: GREECE

JULY-DECEMBER 1988

Meetings and press releases July-October 1988

Meeting number	Subject	Date
1258 th	Economics/Finance	11 July 1988
1259 th	Agriculture	18-19 July 1988
1260 th	General Affairs	25 July 1988
1261 st	Budget	26 July 1988
1262 nd	General Affairs	26 September 1988
1263 rd	Agriculture	26-27 September 1988
1264 th	Internal Market	14 October 1988
1265 th	Cancelled	
1266 th	Agriculture	17-18 October 1988
1267 th	Fisheries	19-20 October 1988
1268 th	General Affairs	24-25 October 1988
1269 th	Transport	26 October 1988



COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT



PRESS RELEASE

7604/88 (Presse 113)

1258th Council meeting

- Economic and Financial Affairs -

Brussels, 11 July 1988

President: Mr Panayotis ROUMELIOTIS,
Minister for Economic Affairs
of the Hellenic Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr Philippe MAYSTADT Minister for Finance

Denmark:

Mr Niels HELVEG PETERSEN Minister for Economic Affairs

Germany:

Mr Otto SCHLECHT State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs

Mr Hans TIETMEYER State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Finance

Greece:

Mr Panayotis ROUMELIOTIS Minister for Economic Affairs

Spain:

Mr Guillermo DE LA DEHESA State Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs

France:

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

Ireland:

Mr Noel TREACY Minister of State, Department of Financial Affairs

Italy:

Mr Pietro CALAMIA Ambassador, Permanent Representative

Luxembourg:

Mr Jacques POOS

Minister for Economic Affairs
and the Self-Employed

Netherlands

Mr O.C.R. RUDING

Minister for Finance

Portugal:

Mr Miguel CADILHE

Minister for Finance

United Kingdom:

Mr Peter LILLEY

Economic Secretary to the Treasury

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Commission:

Lord COCKFIELD

Vice-President

Mr Peter M. SCHMIDHUBER

Member

SECOND QUARTERLY REVIEW OF THE ECONOMIC SITUATION IN THE COMMUNITY

The Council carried out the second quarterly review of the economic situation in the Community, in accordance with the "convergence" decision of 1974.

The Council broadly shared the Commission's analysis of the economic situation as set forth in its communication, and the main principles which governments should follow in the conduct of their economic policies. However, some delegations disagreed with the Commission's forecasts for their countries for next year.

The Council also shared the Commission's view that there was no reason to alter the economic policy guidelines agreed last December in the context of the annual report.

ABOLITION OF FISCAL FRONTIERS

After hearing a statement from Lord COCKFIELD, Vice-President of the Commission, on the political issues involved in the abolition of fiscal frontiers on which the Council would have to decide as a matter of priority, the Council agreed to continue examining this matter at its informal meeting in Crete on 17 and 18 September.

The Council had, moreover, just received the supplementary opinion from the Economic Policy Committee and the catalogue of priority questions drawn up by the high-level ad hoc Working Party which it had requested following the general policy discussion on this item at the informal meeting in Travemünde.

MAJOR HOLDINGS IN A LISTED COMPANY

The Council approved by a qualified majority the common position on the proposal for a Directive on the information to be published when a major holding in a listed company is acquired or disposed of. This common position will be forwarded to the European Parliament under the co-operation procedure provided for in the Single Act, after the text has been finalized.

The Directive is designed to introduce at Community level an appropriate information policy for investors in the field of transferable securities in order to improve the transparency of these markets and to help to establish a genuine European capital market. Investors and the public at large will be informed of major holdings and of changes affecting voting rights above certain thresholds in Community companies the shares of which are officially listed on stock exchanges situated or operating within the Community.

Where a natural person or legal entity acquires or disposes of a holding with the result that the proportion of voting rights held reaches, exceeds or falls below one of the thresholds of 10%, 20%, 1/3, 50% or 2/3, he must notify the company and at the same time the competent authorities within seven days. The Member States also have the option of applying a single threshold of 25% instead of 20% and 1/3, and a single threshold of 75% instead of 2/3.

The Directive also stipulates that at the first general meeting of a company to take place more than three months after the Directive has become national law, a stock holder must inform the company and at the same time the competent authorities where he holds 10% or more of its voting rights, specifying the percentage actually held.

Member States may provide for the disclosure to the public to be made by the competent authorities of the Member State concerned or by the companies themselves. The information must be published in newspapers with wide circulation in the State or States concerned.

Member States will have a period of two years from the date of its notification in which to implement the provisions of the Directive.

The Directive is particularly important in view of the restructuring that can be expected in preparation for the large markets scheduled to be set up by the end of 1992.

WESTERN ECONOMIC SUMMIT

The Council was informed by the Commission and the delegations which had attended of the discussions that had taken place at the Western Economic Summit in Toronto from 19 to 21 June 1988.

EUROPEAN COUNCIL MEETING IN HANOVER

The Council held an exchange of views on the follow-up to the European Council meeting in Hanover on 27 and 28 June 1988. It noted in this connection information from the Greek Presidency on the work on economic and financial matters planned for the next 6 months.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

I. Commercial policy

Community tariff quotas

The Council adopted Regulations

- increasing the volume of the Community tariff quota opened by Regulation (EEC) No 4100/87 for a certain form of polyvinylpyrrolidone (CNC Code ex 3905 90 00). The volume is increased from 70 to 160 tonnes;

- increasing the volume of the Community tariff quota opened for 1988 for ferro-chromium containing more than 6% by weight of carbon.

This volume is increased from 210 000 to 390 000 tonnes. The additional volume is broken down as follows: Benelux 6 516 t., Germany 29 340 t., Spain 10 602 t., France 17 937 t., Italy 16 308 t., United Kingdom 9 297 t.; a second tranche of 90 000 t. will be added to the reserve, increasing it from 52 500 to 142 500 t.

Anti-dumping

The Council adopted Regulations

- on protection against dumped or subsidized imports from countries not members of the European Economic Community.

This Regulation both consolidates the various texts in force on the matter and introduces certain amendments to them, notably with regard to cases where the payment of anti-dumping duties by the exporter threatens to undermine the effectiveness of these duties, and in addition certain technical amendments in the light of experience gained in applying these arrangements;

- amending Regulation (EEC) No 1022/88 as it concerns certain electronic typewriters assembled in the Community by Canon Bretagne SA.

This Regulation provides that the anti-dumping duty concerned is no longer to apply to electronic typewriters assembled in the Community by Canon Bretagne SA as that firm has offered an undertaking on prices which the Commission, after examining it, found to be satisfactory;

- imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of oxalic acid originating in Taiwan or South Korea.

This Regulation imposes on imports of oxalic acid (NC code 2917 11 00) originating in Taiwan and South Korea (except for supplies from Uranus Chemicals Co. Ltd, Hsin Chu, Taiwan), already subject to a provisional anti-dumping duty, a definitive anti-dumping duty of 20,21% on the net free-at-Community-frontier price.

II. Agriculture

The Council adopted a Decision on special support for the development of agricultural statistics in Ireland. This Decision provides for a financial contribution by the Community to Ireland to enable that country to carry out a programme for the modernization of its system of agricultural statistics. The Community contribution is 50% of the total cost of the programme, or 3,5 MECU for the financial years 1988, 1989 and 1990.

PRESS RELEASE

7606/88 (Presse 115)

1259th Council meeting
- Agriculture -
Brussels, 18-19 July 1988

President:

Mr Yiannis POTTAKIS
Minister for Agriculture
of Greece

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 Laurits TOERNAES Minister for Agriculture

Germany:

Mr Ignaz KIECHLE Federal Minister for Food,
Agriculture and Forestry

Mr Walter KITTEL

State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Food,
Agriculture and Forestry

Greece:

Mr Yiannis POTTAKIS Minister for Agriculture

Mr Dimitri PITSIORIS State Secretary for Agriculture

Spain:

Mr Carlos ROMERO HERRERA Minister for Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food

France:

Mr Henri NALLET Minister for Agriculture

Ireland:

Mr Michael O'KENNEDY Minister for Agriculture

Italy:

Mr Calogero MANNINO Minister for Agriculture

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Luxembourg:

Mr Marc FISCHBACH

Minister for Agriculture and
Viticulture

Mr René STEICHEN

State Secretary for Agriculture

Netherlands:

Mr Gerrit BRAKS

Minister for Agriculture

Portugal:

Mr Alvaro BARRETO

Minister for Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food

Mr Arlindo CUNHA

State Secretary, Deputy Minister for
Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Mr Alvaro AMARO

State Secretary for Food

United Kingdom:

Mr John MacGREGOR

Minister for Agriculture

Commission

Mr Frans H.J.J. ANDRIESSEN

Vice-President

PRICES AND RELATED MEASURES FOR 1988/1989

The Council again examined the agri-monetary questions that remained unresolved in the 1988/1989 prices package.

At the conclusion of its discussion agreement was reached on the degree of dismantling of Greek MCAs. The dismantling is to be 15 MCA points for animal products and 20 MCA points for plant products.

In the context of that agreement the Council and the Commission have agreed that on the next dismantling, which is to be carried out in accordance with the Luxembourg overall compromise decisions, appropriate measures will be taken in the case of Greece in the light of its economic situation and the development of its trade in order to continue along the lines laid down in the decision taken for Greece.

For Greece and Portugal the new green rates will apply from the beginning of the marketing year for each product except in the case of marketing years already begun, for which the new rates will apply from 25 July 1988. In the other Member States, the new green rates will apply from 1 January 1989.

In conclusion, the Council formally adopted all the Regulations relating to the prices and related measures package for 1988/1989 and thus completed its consideration of the matter.

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OLIVE GROVES IN GREECE

Pending receipt of the European Parliament's Opinion, the Council worked out a joint guideline on the Regulation introducing a common measure for the re-establishment of olive groves partially or totally destroyed by frost in certain regions of Greece in the winter of 1986/1987. That guideline involves the introduction of a system of

- investment aid aimed at the re-establishment of olive groves through collective or individual operations;
- additional aid to compensate farmers from their loss of earnings.

This measure is an exceptional one and concerns the major oil producing areas where at least 50% of olive groves were damaged by frost and where the farms eligible under these measures suffered damage corresponding to at least 20% of the number of their olive trees. It is limited to two years, and the Community will bear 40% of the eligible costs. The total cost will be 73 MECU.

This measure will apply to work begun after 1 January 1988.

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AGRICULTURAL AREAS OF THE REGIONS OF VALENCIA AND MURCIA (SPAIN)

Pending receipt of the European Parliament's Opinion, the Council developed a joint guideline on an exceptional emergency measure to help the agricultural areas of the regions of Valencia and Murcia, which suffered serious flooding in November 1987.

This measure comprises investment aid aimed at the re-establishment and improvement of the rural infrastructure, irrigation, the prevention of soil erosion and the improvement of farm land and farm buildings.

The measure will last two years; the expenditure to be borne by the EAGGF Guidance Section will amount to 21 MECU.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Other decisions in the agricultural field

The Council formally adopted the Regulations:

- amending Regulation No 1873/84 authorizing the offer or disposal for direct human consumption of certain imported wine which may have undergone oenological processes not provided for in Regulation No 337/79. This amendment is intended to prolong this authorization until 31 July 1989;
- amending Regulation No 1594/83 on the subsidy for oilseeds. This amendment is intended to extend to sunflower seed the aid system already applied to colza and rape seed used directly for incorporation in animal feedingstuffs;
- authorizing the processing into alcohol of nectarines withdrawn from the market during the 1988 marketing year;
- amending Regulation No 3828/85 on a specific programme for the development of Portuguese agriculture. This amendment is intended to facilitate the harmonized integration of Portuguese agriculture into the common agricultural policy;
- fixing an intervention threshold for lemons in Spain. The fixing of this threshold is done on the basis of the same criteria as those adopted for the Community of Ten;
- providing for the grant of special aid for soya beans produced and processed in Portugal with a view to encouraging the introduction of this crop in Portugal, which is still encountering difficulty.

The Council also formally adopted the Decision on the conclusion of an Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Economic Community and the Republic of India on the guaranteed prices for cane sugar for the 1987/1988 delivery period. Those prices are the same as those applied to Community producers.

The Council also formally adopted the Directive amending Directive 75/275/EEC concerning the Community list of less-favoured farming areas within the meaning of Directive 75/268/EEC (Netherlands). That Directive is intended to extend the less-favoured farming areas in the Netherlands, thus bringing to 1,2% the proportion that the total of those areas bears to the area of the whole country.

Fisheries policy

The Council formally adopted the Regulations:

- fixing customs duties on imports of redfish (*Sebastes spp*), fresh, chilled or frozen, falling within Codes 0302 6931, 0302 6933, 0303 7935, 0303 7937, ex 0304 1099 and 0304 9031 of the Combined Nomenclature originating in Iceland. That Regulation is intended to continue until 31 December 1988 the tariff preference - customs duty reduced by 2% ad valorem - for imports of redfish, fresh, chilled or frozen, originating in Iceland;
- amending Regulation No 1866/86 laying down certain technical measures for the conservation of fishery resources in the waters of the Baltic Sea, the Belts and the Sound. That amendment takes account of the recommendations by the International Baltic Sea Fishery Commission concerning fishing for salmon and sea trout and certain technical provisions concerning fishing equipment.

Relations with Switzerland

The Council formally adopted the Decisions concerning the conclusion of two co-operation agreements between the European Economic Community and the Swiss Confederation on research and development in the field of

- wood, including cork, as a renewable raw material;
- advanced materials (EURAM).

The co-operation provided for in these Decisions is intended to co-ordinate Community and Swiss programmes in both fields and to encourage their completion with a view to increasing the return from research efforts made on both sides.

Appointments

The Council appointed Mr Brendan NEVILLE a Member and Mr J.P. GOULDING an Alternate member of the Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work in place, respectively, of Miss M. O'CALLAGHAN and Mr B. NEVILLE, who have resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which expires on 16 December 1988.

PRESS RELEASE

7823/88 (Presse 120)

1260th Council meeting

- General Affairs -

Brussels, 25 July 1988

President: Mr Theodoros PANGALOS
Deputy Minister for
Foreign Affairs of the
Hellenic Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr Leo TINDEMANS

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Paul DE KEERSMAEKER

State Secretary for European Affairs

Denmark:

Mr Knud-Erik TYGESEN

State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Germany:

Mr Werner UNGERER

Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

Greece:

Mr Theodoros PANGALOS

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs

Spain:

Mr Francisco FERNANDEZ ORDONEZ

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Pedro SOLBES MIRO

State Secretary for Relations with
the European Communities

France:

Mr François SCHEER

Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

Ireland:

Mr Sean CALLEARY

Minister of State at the Department
of Foreign Affairs

Italy:

Mr Giulio ANDREOTTI

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Luxembourg:

Mr Jacques F. POOS

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Netherlands:

Mr P.C. NIEMAN

Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

Portugal:

Mr João de DEUS PINHEIRO

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Vitor MARTINS

State Secretary for European
Integration

United Kingdom:

Mr Lynda CHALKER

Minister of State, Foreign and
Commonwealth Office

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Commission:

Mr Jacques DELORS

President

Mr Lorenzo NATALI

Vice-President

Mr Claude CHEYSSON

Member

Mr Willy DE CLERCQ

Member

RELATIONS WITH THE CMEA AND ITS MEMBER STATES

1. Following the major developments in relations between the Community and the CMEA and its Member States, the Council held a general debate on the outlook for these relations.

After taking stock of the situation, the Council focussed on relations with those East European countries with which exploratory talks were in progress.

The Council confirmed the importance the Community attaches to developing these relations on the basis of a pragmatic and flexible approach, taking account of the special features of each individual case, and on the basis of reciprocity and mutual advantage.

A favourable view was taken of the Commission approach to the development of relations between the Community and the East European countries, including the exploration of the possible content of an agreement with the Soviet Union.

A series of suggestions and ideas were put forward and will be further examined by the Commission and the Council. The Commission will also continue its exploratory contacts and talks.

2. The Council also instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to give detailed consideration to the problems concerning participation by the Community, as such, in the Economic Conference proposed within the framework of the CSCE.

FOLLOW-UP TO THE HANOVER EUROPEAN COUNCIL

The Council reviewed the questions arising with regard to the organization of work to implement the conclusions of the Hanover European Council in the various areas concerned; in this connection, it took note of the intentions of both the Presidency and the Commission on this point.

SETTING-UP OF A COURT OF FIRST INSTANCE

The Council decided to set up a Court of First Instance of the European Communities. This decision is in response to the request from the Court of Justice to have attached to it a court with jurisdiction to hear and determine at first instance certain classes of action or proceeding brought by natural or legal persons, particularly in those areas where proceedings require scrutiny of complex facts. The purpose of this institution is to improve the judicial protection of individual interests and also, by relieving the Court of Justice of responsibility for examining questions of fact, to enable it to concentrate its activities on its fundamental task of ensuring uniform interpretation of Community law.

The Court will consist of 12 members, including the Advocates-General.

The Court of First Instance will exercise at first instance the jurisdiction conferred on the Court of Justice by the Treaties establishing the Communities and by the acts adopted in implementation thereof:

- in disputes between the Communities and their servants;
- in actions brought against an institution of the Communities by natural or legal persons and relating to the implementation of the competition rules applicable to undertakings;
- in actions brought against the Commission by undertakings or associations of undertakings and relating to matters covered by the ECSC Treaty.

As regards the jurisdiction of the Court of First Instance, the Council further provided that, in the light of experience, including the development of case law, it would, after the Court had been operational for 2 years, re-examine the proposal by the Court of Justice to give the Court of First Instance competence also to hear and determine actions in connection with dumping or subsidies.

The decision will be formally adopted in September after finalization of the text.

PARTIAL RENEWAL OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COURT OF JUSTICE

The Conference of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States reached substantive agreement on the appointment of:

- as judges to the Court of Justice for the period from 7 October 1988 to 6 October 1994 inclusive:

Mr Fernand GREVISSE
Mr Thymen KOOPMANS
Mr Giuseppe Federico MANCINI
Mr José Carlos de Carvalho MOITINHO DE ALMEIDA
Sir Gordon SLYNN
Mr Manfred ZULEEG;

- as Advocates-General to the Court of Justice for the period from 7 October 1988 to 6 October 1994 inclusive:

Mr Marco DARMON
Mr Giuseppe TESAURO
Mr Walter VAN GERVEN;

- as Advocate-General to the Court of Justice for the period from 7 October 1988 to 6 October 1991 inclusive:

Mr Francis JACOBS.

The formal decision appointing the above members of the Court will be adopted in September, once the Conference of Representatives of the Governments of the Member States has also found a solution for the appointment of the 13th judge of the Court.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Research policy

Following the agreement reached by the Research Council on 29 June 1988 on a joint guideline and following the European Parliament decision to waive the conciliation procedure, the Council formally adopted the Decisions:

- adopting a multiannual research and training programme in the field of controlled thermonuclear fusion;
- amending the Statutes of the Joint European Torus (JET) Joint Undertaking

(see Press release 7217/88 Presse 106 of 29.VI.88).

The Council further adopted two decisions:

- amending Decision 63/27/Euratom on the establishment of the "Kernkraftwerk RWE-Bayernwerk GmbH" Joint Undertaking;
- amending the Decision of 18 June 1963 on the conferring of advantages on the "Kernkraftwerk RWE-Bayernwerk GmbH" (KRB) Joint Undertaking and on the transfer of knowledge by that undertaking.

The Council also adopted a decision on the transition of the EUROTRA programme to the third phase (as at 1 July 1988).

Finally, the Council adopted the decision authorizing the conclusion by the Commission of the memorandum of understanding between the European Atomic Energy Community and the Government of Canada on the involvement of Canada in the European Atomic Energy Community contribution to the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) Conceptual Design Activities.

Commercial policy

The Council formally adopted the Regulation amending Regulation No 1022/88 as regards certain electronic typewriters assembled in the Community by Sharp Manufacturing (UK) Ltd.

The Regulation provides that the anti-dumping duty concerned no longer applies to electronic typewriters assembled in the Community by Sharp Manufacturing (UK) Ltd., as this firm offered a price undertaking which the Commission, after examination, accepted as satisfactory.

Co-operation with EFTA countries

The Council approved the 11th report from the Permanent Representatives Committee on co-operation with the EFTA countries.

The report highlights the two major events that took place in EEC-EFTA relations during the period considered, namely:

- the ministerial meeting on the Internal Market held in Brussels on 2 February 1988 between the European Community and its Member States, led by Mr BANGEMANN, German Minister for Economic Affairs, and the European Free Trade Association led by Mr SALOLAINEN, Finnish Minister; and
- the meeting held in Tampere (Finland) on 15 June 1988 between the EFTA Ministers and Mr Willy DE CLERCQ, Member of the Commission of the European Communities responsible for External Relations and Commercial Policy.

The joint statement of Brussels and the joint conclusions of Tampere bear witness to a substantive improvement in EC-EFTA relations.

The full EC-EFTA ministerial meeting in the context of the Internal Market programme provided the necessary momentum for progress in EC-EFTA relations. This increased the credibility of EC-EFTA co-operation at a time when the Community was making substantial progress towards its 1992 objective.

The Tampere meeting was also a particularly successful one; the practical outcome of the meeting was a number of measures which are of particular importance in the context of the Luxembourg declaration and the creation of a European Economic space.

ECSC

The Council gave its assent pursuant to Article 56(2)(a) of the Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community for:

- EFIBANCA 6 Ente Finanziario Interbancario, S.p.a. (Italy)
- Barclays Bank PLC (United Kingdom)
- Karstadt AG, Essen (Federal Republic of Germany)
- Centrobanca - Banca Centrale di Credito Popolare (Italy)
- Mediocredito Lombardo, Milan (Italy).

The Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, formally adopted the decisions amending the decisions on the opening of zero-duty tariff quotas for flat-rolled products of silicon-electrical steel for the Federal Republic of Germany, Benelux and Spain (in the sole Article of the Decisions, "30 June 1988" is replaced by "31 December 1988").

PRESS RELEASE

7825/88 (Presse 122)

1261st Council meeting

- Budget -

Brussels, 26 July 1988

President:

Mr Yannis PAPANTONIOU

State Secretary for Economic Affairs
of the Hellenic Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr Hugo SCHILTZ Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for the Budget and Science Policy

Denmark:

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

Germany:

Mr Hans TIETMEYER State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Finance

Greece:

Mr Yannos PAPANTONIOU State Secretary for Economic Affairs

Spain:

Mr Javier ELORZA Deputy Permanent Representative

France:

Mr Michel CHARASSE Minister attached to the Minister of State, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Finance and the Budget, with responsibility for the Budget

Ireland:

Mr Noel TREACY Minister of State at the Department of Finance

Italy:

Mr Tarcisio GITTI State Secretary, Ministry of the Treasury

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean-Claude JUNCKER

Minister for the Budget

Netherlands:

Mr Ch. R. VAN BEUGE

Deputy Permanent Representative

Portugal:

Mr Rui ALVAREZ CARP

State Secretary for the Budget

United Kingdom:

Mr Peter BROOKE

Paymaster General

Commission:

Mr Henning CHRISTOPHERSEN

Vice-President

BUDGET PROCEDURE 1989

Before beginning its examination of the preliminary draft general budget for 1989, the Council met a delegation from the European Parliament, led by its President Lord PLUMB, and comprising Mr COT, Chairman of the Committee on Budgets, Mr von der VRING, Rapporteur on the Budget - Section III, Commission, Mr HACKEL, Rapporteur on the Budget for the other sections, Mr CHRISTODOULOU, Mr MALAUD, Mr PRICE, Mrs BARBARELLA, Mr BONDE, members of the Committee on Budgets, and Mr SCHON, Chairman of the Committee on Budgetary control.

The Council and the Parliamentary delegation welcomed the new instruments which the Community had provided itself with in the Community finances sector, viz. in particular the inter-institutional agreement on budgetary discipline and improving the budget procedure, and the Council decisions on own resources and budgetary discipline, which were adopted in June 1988; these instruments, which will be applied in full for the first time to the 1989 financial year, should ensure that in future the budget procedure is free of the problems encountered in the past.

The meeting enabled the participants to state their views on the main problems and priorities to be taken into account when drawing up the draft budget for 1989.

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The Council then began its first reading of the 1989 budget. At the end of its discussions, the Council drew up the draft budget for 1989, which will be sent to the European Parliament in accordance with the budget procedure; the President of the Council will present this draft at the European Parliament's plenary part-session on Tuesday 13 September 1988.

The main features of this draft are as follows:

OVERALL AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE AS A RESULT OF THE COUNCIL'S DISCUSSIONS
(IN MECU) ⁽¹⁾:

Commitment appropriations (C/A)	47 515
Payment appropriations (P/A)	46 006

including non compulsory expenditure:

(C/A)	13 513
(P/A)	11 981

The breakdown of appropriations is as follows: (in MECU) ⁽¹⁾

	C/A	P/A
EAGGF Guarantee Section	28 127	28 127
EAGGF Guidance Section	1 413	1 369
Set-aside/income aids	80	80
Depreciation of agricultural stocks	1 449	1 449
Monetary reserve	1 000	1 000
Regional Fund (ERDF)	4 495	3 920
Social Fund (ESF)	3 387	2 950
PEDIP (Prog. for development of Portuguese industry)	103,5	80
IMPs (Integrated Mediterranean Programmes)	254	243
Research (framework programme)	1 328,8	1 105
Other policies		
including: Food aid	389	420,5
Aid to Latin America and Asia	353,5	236
Administration: - Commission	1 371	1 371
- Other Institutions	731,6	731,6
Refunds to Member States	1 527,1	1 527,1

⁽¹⁾ Provisional rounded-off figures.

In its discussions the Council had to take a decision on the following points in particular:

- the share of the budget appropriations for the structural funds to be allocated to the various objectives;
- the classification and nomenclature of expenditure for the EAGGF Guidance Section, pending the adoption of the new specific regulation for this fund;
- the appropriate level of non-privileged NCE;
- the staffing requests from the Commission, pending a report from the latter on the use of the first tranche allocated;
- the appropriations to be entered for transport infrastructure support.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Election of the European Parliament

The Council decided that the third election of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage would be held from 15 to 18 June 1989.

RENAVAL programme

The Council officially adopted the regulation instituting a Community programme to assist the conversion of Community industrial areas in decline affected by restructuring of the shipbuilding industry.

The purpose of this programme is to contribute, in the areas concerned, to the removal of obstacles to the development of new, job-creating economic activities. To this end, the programme provides for the implementation of a series of consistent, multiannual measures aimed at improving the infrastructure and the physical and social environment in the areas concerned, as well as the establishment of new activities, the growth of small and medium-sized undertakings and the development of innovation. The Community programme thereby seeks to provide a better link between the Community's objectives for the conversion of regions and the objectives of the Community's policy on shipbuilding.

Information services market

Following the agreement of 7 June 1988 on a common position, the Council officially adopted the Decision concerning the establishment of a plan of action for setting up an information services market. (See Press release No 6635/88 of 7 June 1988.)

Transport

The Council officially adopted the Directive amending Directive 77/143/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to road worthiness tests for motor vehicles and their trailers.

(See Press release 7005/88 Presse 94 of 20 and 21 June 1988.)

Agricultural policy

The Council officially adopted the Regulation amending Regulation No 2179/83 laying down general rules for distillation operations involving wine and the by-products of wine making.

PRESS RELEASE

8236/88 (Presse 137)

1262nd Council meeting

- General Affairs -

Brussels, 26 September 1988

President: Mr Theodoros PANGALOS

Deputy Minister for
Foreign Affairs of the
Hellenic Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr André GEENS Minister for Development Co-operation
Mr Paul DE KEERSMAEKER State Secretary for European Affairs

Denmark:

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

Germany:

Mrs Irmgard ADAM-SCHWAETZER Minister of State,
Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Greece:

Mr Theodoros PANGALOS Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs

Spain:

Mr Pedro SOLBES MIRA State Secretary for Relations with the
European Communities
Mr Luis YANEZ BARNUEVO State Secretary for International
Co-operation and Latin America

France:

Mrs Edith CRESSON Minister for European Affairs

Ireland:

Mr Sean CALLEARY Minister of State at the Department of
Foreign Affairs

Italy:

Mr Renato RUGGIERO

Minister for Foreign Trade

Mr Gianni MANZOLINI

State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Luxembourg:

Mr Joseph WEYLAND

Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

Netherlands:

Mr P.C. NIEMAN

Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

Portugal:

Mr José Manuel DURAO BARROSSO

State Secretary for Foreign Affairs
and Co-Operation

Mr Vitor MARTINS

State Secretary for European
Integration

United Kingdom:

Mr Christopher PATTEN

Minister for Overseas Development

Mrs Lynda CHALKER

Minister of State, Foreign and
Commonwealth Office

Commission:

Mr Lorenzo NATALI
Mr Grigoris VARFIS
Mr Willy DE CLERCQ

Vice President
Member
Member

RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES - TRADE ACT

- COUNCIL DECLARATION

The Council

- expresses serious concern at the protectionist potential of the "Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988", as well as those provisions thereof which could lead to greater recourse to unilateral measures by the United States which would be inconsistent with the Punta del Este declaration and with our common commitment to the multilateral trading system,
- while recognizing that the Act grants to the Administration the authority to negotiate in the Uruguay Round, stresses the necessity for the provisions of the Trade Act to be applied in full conformity with the rules of the GATT,
- declares that the Community will monitor the implementation of the Trade Act very closely, and will take prompt action to defend its legitimate rights if its interests are affected,
- in order to avoid further risk of confrontation and of undermining the multilateral trade negotiations, urges the United States to maintain the dialogue.

The Council recalls the formal objections which it has made to the draft legislation in the field of textiles, apparel and footwear now approved, by Congress and expresses the hope that it would not be enacted since such a development would seriously affect trade in this sector and jeopardize the Uruguay Round negotiations.

26.IX.88

RENEWAL OF THE ACP-EEC CONVENTION

The Council carried out a detailed examination of the Community position with respect to the negotiations for the renewal of the Lomé Convention, which will begin in Luxembourg on 12 and 13 October 1988. It instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to finalize this position.

REFORM OF THE STRUCTURAL FUNDS

The Council noted an oral progress report by the Chairman of the Permanent Representatives Committee on the four implementing Regulations, which the Commission submitted to the Council at the end of July, following the adoption in June of the framework Regulation on the reform of the structural funds.

The Council invited the Permanent Representatives Committee and the ad hoc Working Party on Structural Funds to expedite their discussions in order to enable the Council to hold as detailed and conclusive a discussion as possible at its October meeting.

AUDIO-VISUAL CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE

The Council took note of a statement by the French Minister on the French Government's initiative in launching wide-ranging co-operation in Europe in the audio-visual field - audio-visual Eureka - encompassing the legal framework, technical standards and programme production. The French delegation will be submitting an operational proposal to its partners shortly.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Trade policy and customs union

The Council adopted the Regulations

- temporarily suspending the autonomous Common Customs Tariff duty on crude proteinaceous material extracts for purification to human interferon (CN ex 3504 00 00).
- 3% duty from 1 October to 31 December 1988;
- on Community tariff quotas to be opened for:
 - = certain wines having a registered designation of origin, originating in Tunisia (50 000 hl at 0% duty for certain quality wines in bottles holding 2 litres or less having an alcoholic strength of 15° or less);
 - = cut flowers and flower buds, fresh, originating in Cyprus (55 tonnes at reduced rates of duty in accordance with a seasonal timetable).

The Council also approved a draft Decision to be adopted by the EEC-Yugoslavia Co-operation Council amending the "Origin" Protocol to take account of Spanish and Portuguese accession to the European Communities.

The Council then adopted the Decision concerning the provisional application of an agreed minute modifying the Agreement between the EEC and Hong Kong on trade in textile products. (Pending conclusion of this minute, the modifications agreed to therein will be applied with effect from 1 January 1988 in the Community subject to reciprocity by Hong Kong).

26.IX.88

RESEARCH

The Council adopted the Decisions concerning

- the conclusion of a Co-operation Agreement between the EEC and the Republic of Austria on research related to advanced materials (EURAM)
- the conclusion of a Co-operation Agreement between the EEC and the Kingdom of Sweden on research in the field of wood, including cork, as a renewable raw material
- the conclusion of a Co-operation Agreement between the EEC and the Republic of Finland on research in the field of wood, including cork, as a renewable raw material
- the conclusion of a Co-operation Agreement between the EEC and the Kingdom of Sweden on research in the field of the recycling and utilization of waste

Technological problems of nuclear safety

After examining a report from the Commission dated 14 April 1987 on the implementation of the Resolution of 22 July 1975 on the technological problems of nuclear safety, the Council adopted the following conclusions:

26.IX.88

"Having discussed the Commission report on technological problems of nuclear safety, which was primarily devoted to light water reactors and fast breeder reactors (6058/87 ATO 44), the Council shared the Commission's view that the Council Resolution of 22 July 1975 ⁽⁺⁾ shall continue to provide the framework for developing a harmonized approach at Community level and to facilitate co-operation on a broader international scale.

1. The Council noted the fact that in the case of light water reactors and fast breeder reactors significant progress had been made in mutual understanding between Member States as regards safety criteria and guidelines.

It took note of the Commission's undertaking to publish shortly a document, drawn up with the assistance of experts from the Member States, setting out the consensus on light water reactor safety and following up the Commission communication to the Council of 5 October 1981 in 9778/81 ATO 74.

2. The Council reiterated the importance which it attached to co-operation on nuclear plant safety. Such co-operation helped to ensure mutual awareness and understanding of methodologies and plans used in checking on that safety, to increase the general level of knowledge and to encourage the use of better practices.

(+) OJ No L 185, 14.8.1975, p. 1.
8236 en/88 (Presse 137) kin/AH/bt

In this connection, the Council took note of the Commission's intention of continuing with its work under the Council Resolution of 22 July 1975.

3. At this stage, the Council endorsed in particular the Commission's intention of continuing with its work and

- extending it to all types of nuclear power reactors in the Community;
- promoting co-operation in the field of safety reviews at national level;
- in order to facilitate optimum use of R & D resources in the Community and assist the Commission in preparing research and training programmes to that end, periodically establishing a list of:
 - = human resources and major facilities in the Community devoted to research and development regarding nuclear plant safety;
 - = current projects.

4. The Council also attached prime importance to the strengthening of co-operation on nuclear safety between on the one hand the Member States together with the Community and on the other the IAEA along with other relevant international organizations involving non-member States where there were major nuclear activities whose safety was very important to the people of the Community.

Accordingly, it stressed the importance it attached to the Community and its Member States continuing to develop their support in the field of nuclear safety for international co-operation activities at a level wider than the Community, in particular the NUSS ("Nuclear Safety Standards") programme of the IAEA and the operational safety assessment services offered by the IAEA, e.g. OSART ("Operational Safety review Teams").

5. The Council noted that the Commission reports referred to in point 8 of the above Resolution would make it possible to monitor progress under that Resolution and these conclusions."

ECSC

The Council gave its assent to

- the draft Commission decision fixing the delivery levels of ECSC steel products of Spanish origin onto the rest of the common market, excluding Portugal;
- the draft Commission decision fixing the delivery levels of ECSC steel products of Portuguese origin onto the rest of the common market, excluding Spain.

Appointments

The Council appointed

- on a proposal from the United Kingdom Government, Mr Anthony FAGIN alternate member of the Advisory Committee on Education and Training in the field of Architecture to replace Mrs Jenny WILLIAMS for the remainder of the latter's term of office, i.e. until 22 March 1990;
- on a proposal from the Italian Government, Maestra Ostetrica Daniela CALISTRI alternate member of the Advisory Committee on the Training of Midwives in place of Mrs Adriana PAMPALONI for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which runs until 6 October 1989.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

8237/88 (Presse 138)

1263rd Council meeting
- Agriculture -
Brussels, 26-27 September 1988

President:

Mr Yiannis POTTAKIS
Minister for Agriculture
of Greece

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 Laurits TOERNAES Minister for Agriculture

Germany:

Mr Ignaz KIECHLE Federal Minister for Food, Agriculture and Forestry

Mr Walter KITTEL State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Forestry

Greece:

Mr Yiannis POTTAKIS Minister for Agriculture

Mr Dimitri PITSIORIS State Secretary for Agriculture

Spain:

Mr Carlos ROMERO HERRERA Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

France:

Mr Henri NALLET Minister for Agriculture

Ireland:

Mr Michael O'KENNEDY Minister for Agriculture

Italy:

Mr Calogero MANNINO

Minister for Agriculture

Luxembourg:

Mr Marc FISCHBACH

Minister for Agriculture and
Viticulture

Mr René STEICHEN

State Secretary for Agriculture

Netherlands:

Mr Gerrit BRAKS

Minister for Agriculture

Portugal:

Mr Alvaro BARRETO

Minister for Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food

United Kingdom:

Mr John McGREGOR

Minister for Agriculture

Mr Richard RYDER

Minister of State
Ministry of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food

o

o

o

Commission:

Mr Frans H.J.J. ANDRIESSEN

Vice-President

FUTURE OF THE RURAL WORLD

The Council noted with interest the Commission communication, introduced by Commission Vice-President Mr ANDRIESEN, on the future of the rural world.

It then held an initial discussion of that communication, which put forward an overall approach to the development of the rural world and also voiced the concern that economic and social disruption be avoided and a European pattern of rural development be conserved, based on the encouragement of family businesses and on balanced land-use planning.

The Council agreed to examine the matter in detail as soon as the Commission had submitted its specific proposals.

REFORM OF THE STRUCTURAL FUNDS

The Council heard a statement by the Chairman of the Permanent Representatives Committee giving information of the position regarding the reform of the structural funds further to the decision taken by the General Affairs Council on 24 June 1988.

It then discussed the matter, enabling delegations to make their comments, which would be communicated to the Permanent Representatives Committee.

Several ministers hoped that the Agriculture Council would take an active part in the decision-making process, particularly as regards the principal aspects of the revision of the EAGGF (Guidance Section) Regulation.

AIDS TO AGRICULTURAL INCOME

The Council took note of a communication from the Vice-President of the Commission on the proposals concerning income aids.

The Commission drew attention to the urgent need for an early decision on the matter and reminded the Council of its undertaking to take this type of measure before the end of the year to accompany the price restriction policy.

WITHDRAWAL OF ARABLE LAND (SET-ASIDE)

The Council heard a statement by Commission Vice-President Mr ANDRIESSEN on the situation regarding the implementation of the registration on the withdrawal of arable land.

It emerged from the statement that certain Member States were encountering difficulties in the practical application of set-aside.

It was agreed that bilateral contacts between the Commission and those Member States would be continued with a view to finding a satisfactory solution and bringing about the general application of set-aside throughout the Community.

REFORM OF THE MILK QUOTAS SYSTEM (SLOM) AND RELATED MEASURES

The Council held an initial discussion on a set of Commission proposals concerning the milk-products sector intended to implement the judgments of the Court of Justice on the SLOM question.

The discussion gave delegations the opportunity to advance certain basic viewpoints regarding the conduct of work on the matter, concentrating more particularly on the essential questions, namely:

- the approach to be followed;
- the criteria for determining the parties eligible;
- financing.

After its discussion the Council instructed the Special Committee on Agriculture to continue examining the matter - on the basis of the views expressed - and to report back to the Council at its next meeting in October.

CO-RESPONSABILITY LEVY IN THE CEREALS SECTOR

The Council held an exchange of views on various problems raised by the implementation of co-responsibility levies in certain Member States.

The exchange of views showed that it was necessary to maintain the existing rules on co-responsibility. The Commission did not, however, rule out the possibility of examining the current arrangements in order to see whether adjustments aimed at improving the administration of the system might be considered.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Other agricultural decisions

The Council formally adopted the corrigenda to:

- Regulation No 2185/88 amending Regulation No 1678/85 fixing the conversion rates to be applied in agriculture;
- Regulation No 2228/88 fixing the monthly price increases for cereals, wheat and rye flour and wheat groats and meal for the 1988/1989 marketing year.

These corrigenda rectify clerical errors in those Regulations.

The Council also formally adopted the Regulation amending Regulation No 822/87 on the common organization of the market in wine. That amendment provides from 1 October 1988 for purchases made by intervention bodies, and for a payment to account against the cost of marketing distillation products.

The Council also formally adopted the Decisions:

- adopting a pilot project on remote sensing applied to agricultural statistics, which provides for the incorporation of space data into the Community agricultural information system, in particular for the estimation and forecast of areas under cultivation and crops.

This project is to last five years starting on 1 January 1989. The cost over the total duration of the project is estimated at 35,5 MECUs;

- extending the period of application of Decision 82/530/EEC authorizing the United Kingdom to permit the Isle of Man authorities to apply a system of special import licences to sheepmeat and beef and veal. This authorization is granted until 31 December 1991.

Fisheries policy

The Council formally adopted the Decisions authorizing the Commission to negotiate fisheries agreements with:

- Nigeria and
- Sri Lanka and the Maldives.

The Council also formally adopted the Regulation amending Regulation No 3983/87 allocating, for 1988, Community catch quotas in Greenland waters. That amendment increases the cod quota from 4 000 to 7 000 tonnes.



COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT



PRESS RELEASE

8674/88 (Presse 151)

1264th Council meeting
- Internal Market -
Luxembourg, 14 October 1988

President: Mrs Vasso PAPANDREOU
Deputy Minister for Trade
of the Hellenic Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr Paul DE KEERSMAEKER State Secretary for European
Affairs and Agriculture

Denmark:

Mr Nils WILHJELM Minister for Industry

Germany:

Mr Martin BANGEMANN Federal Minister for Economic
Affairs

Greece:

Mrs Vasso PAPANDEOU Deputy Minister for Trade

Spain:

Mr Pedro SOLBES State Secretary for Relations with
the European Communities

France:

Mrs Edith CRESSON Minister for European Affairs

Ireland:

Mr Sean McCARTHY Minister of State at the
Department of Industry and Commerce
with special responsibility for
Science and Technology

Italy:

Mr Antonio LA PERGOLA Minister with responsibility for
Community Affairs

Luxembourg:

Mr Thierry STOLL Deputy Permanent Representative

Netherlands:

B.J.M. Baron van VOORST
tot VOORST

State Secretary for Foreign
Affairs

Portugal:

Mr Vitor A.M. da COSTA MARTINS

State Secretary for European
Integration

United Kingdom:

Mr Francis MAUDE

Under-Secretary of State,
Department of Trade and Industry

Commission:

Lord COCKFIELD

Vice-President

ELECTROMAGNETIC COMPATIBILITY

The Council reached agreement in principle on a common position on the proposal for a Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to electromagnetic compatibility. This will be the fourth Directive drawn up in the context of the Resolution of 7 May 1985 on a new approach to technical harmonization and standards.

The enacting terms of the Directive will apply to apparatus which might cause electromagnetic disturbance or whose performance might be affected thereby.

It determines the relevant protection requirements and monitoring arrangements.

Apparatus covered by the Directive must be constructed in such a way that:

- the electromagnetic disturbance it generates does not exceed a level allowing radio and telecommunications equipment and other apparatus to operate as intended;
- the apparatus has an adequate level of intrinsic immunity to electromagnetic disturbance to enable it to operate as intended.

By way of illustration, the Directive will apply to radios and televisions, industrial equipment, medical and scientific apparatus, domestic appliances, educational and electronic equipment, fluorescent lamps, etc. Such equipment forms part of a sector of major importance for Community trade.

The Directive is of general application, but does not exclude requirements for specific Community protection being established for certain particular appliances, which would then replace the general provisions.

The Directive will permit the free movement of appliances with electromagnetic compatibility provided that they meet its provisions:

- either by satisfying national standards transposing the harmonized standards, the references of which are published in the Official Journal of the European Communities, given that such harmonized standards will be drawn up by the CENELEC which has been recognized as the competent body in the field;
- or by complying with national standards corresponding to the protection objectives of the abovementioned Directive in instances where harmonized standards do not yet exist for the relevant fields. In that case, a specific Community monitoring procedure will be established to ensure that the standards fully comply with the requirements of the Directive.

Compliance of equipment with the provisions of the Directive will be certified by an EC declaration of conformity issued by the manufacturer and by an EC conformity mark affixed to the appliance.

Once the texts have been finalized, the common position will be forwarded to the European Parliament under the co-operation procedure laid down in the Single Act.

The provisions of the Directive are scheduled to enter into force by 31 December 1992.

PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTS

The Council agreed in principle to the common position on the proposal for a Directive on public works contracts amending the Directive which had been in existence since 1971.

The Council took this decision unanimously, with one delegation abstaining.

Public contracts are of increasing importance within the European economy and, accordingly, this agreement represents a major step towards the completion of the internal market in 1992.

The text of the forthcoming Directive will make the procedures for awarding public works contracts more transparent, by giving entrepreneurs a chance to compete in all Member States on an equal footing.

Compared to the 1971 Directive, the new text extends the scope of the Directive to private undertakings for infrastructure works which are directly subsidized by more than 50% and to concessions for the execution of public works. The threshold above which public contracts will be covered by the provisions of the Directive has been set at 5 000 000 ECU;

Advertising rules have been extended. The Directive specifies, inter alia, that prior notice of the essential characteristics of forthcoming contracts must appear in the Official Journal of the European Communities so that undertakings can prepare their tenders properly. It also specifies that notice of contracts awarded is to be published.

The forthcoming Directive also provides, for the first time, that public authorities must refer to European standards and technical specifications agreed at European level, which have to be met by the undertakings executing the contract.

This common position will be forwarded to the European Parliament for a second reading, in accordance with the co-operation procedure instituted under the Single Act. Once it is adopted, Member States will have one year to implement this Directive. That period will however be extended until 1 March 1992 for Spain, Greece and Portugal.

The Council has moreover received a proposal for a Directive introducing certain measures for appealing against and monitoring public contracts, which is intended to strengthen effective implementation of the rules laid down by the Directive on public works contracts and by the Directive on public supply contracts adopted on 22 March 1988.

Lastly, the Council has just received from the Commission two proposals for Directives on the opening up of contracts awarded in the sectors of energy, water, transport and telecommunications which have hitherto been excluded from the scope of the Directives on public works and supply contracts.

DIETARY FOOD

After thoroughly discussing the still unresolved aspects of foodstuffs intended for particular nutritional uses, the Council noted that progress had been made, particularly on drawing up the list of products for which specific provisions would be adopted by means of individual Directives.

As for the free movement of foodstuffs not included in that list and the powers to be conferred on the Commission, the Council noted that there were still a number of differences of opinion. The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue examining those problems so that the matter could be discussed again at the next meeting of the Internal Market Council on 18 November 1988.

LABELLING, PRESENTATION AND ADVERTISING OF FOODSTUFFS

The Council held a far-ranging discussion of the still outstanding aspects of this Directive which was essentially intended to extend the scope of Directive 79/112/EEC to foodstuffs intended for mass caterers, to include an indication of any irradiation treatment and, by means of a simplified procedure, to abolish the derogations hitherto granted to Member States.

The Council noted that, although some progress had been made, opinions still differed on those points and it instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its examination so that the matter could be discussed afresh at the Internal Market Council's next meeting on 18 November 1988.

JAMS, JELLIES AND MARMALADES

The Council reached agreement on the substance of certain proposed amendments to Directive 79/693/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to fruit jams, jellies and marmalades and chestnut purée.

Formal approval will follow at the earliest opportunity.

The main purpose of these amendments is to give the Commission responsibility here for administering the "acquis communautaire", apart from questions relating to additives which are to remain within the Council's purview, and to make a number of amendments to Community rules in the light of experience gained since the Directive was adopted.

Acting on a proposal from the Commission, the Council will decide by 31 December 1992 on the Community names applicable to products with a reduced sugar content, which are of increasing importance in European consumer habits.

In order to improve consumer information, the Directive was also instituting a requirement that where the sulphur dioxide content exceeded 30 mg/kg it should be indicated in the list of ingredients.

Lastly, the Directive provides that the name "jams" may be applied to certain products manufactured from plants treated as fruit (carrots and sweet potatoes).

FRUIT JUICES

The Council reached agreement on the substance of a common position on the Directive amending for the third time Directive 75/762/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States concerning fruit juices and certain similar products.

This common position will be adopted in the very near future.

The purpose of this Directive is to give the Commission responsibility for administering the "acquis communautaire" here, and to make certain technical adjustments to the existing provisions.

To accommodate changes in eating habits, the Directive introduces the possibility of producing fruit nectars without the addition of sugar. The use of fruit purée in the manufacture of certain tropical fruit juices is also permitted.

To prevent fraud, the Directive prohibits the sweetening of concentrated fruit juices, except when these are intended for direct sale to the consumer. A derogation is allowed so that the acidity of concentrated orange juice may be corrected up to a maximum of 15 gr per litre.

Finally, the Directive extends to all fruit nectars the option of replacing all sugars by honey (within the limits specified) and also authorizes the addition of citric acid (5 gr/l) or lemon juice to apple nectars.

EUROPEAN COMPANY

The Council's preliminary discussion on the Commission memorandum on the statute of the European company concentrated on the following three characteristics which the Commission might use as a basis for the new proposal which it envisages submitting, viz:

- the optional nature of the statute for the European company
- the independence of that statute from any national legislation
- the provision of a number of models for worker participation.

The Council agreed to resume its discussion of this communication at its next meeting on 18 November when it also hoped to have further details from the Commission on the question of taxation applicable to the European company.

The outcome of its deliberations will serve for the preparations of this item for the proceedings of the Rhodes European Council on 2 and 3 December.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Other decisions concerning the internal market

- the Directive amending Directive 78/1015/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the permissible sound level and exhaust system of motor cycles.

The initial Directive, as last amended by Directive 87/56/EEC, lays down limits for the sound level of motor cycles and the technical provisions governing exhaust systems fitted as original equipment to motor cycles. Since replacement exhaust systems very frequently differ from original equipment, an EEC type-approval procedure needed to be laid down by this amendment so that it would be possible to check that such exhaust systems met the technical requirements;

- the Directive supplementing and amending Directive 76/116/EEC in respect of fertilizers.

To permit free movement between Member States, the initial Directive laid down rules for the marketing of solid EEC fertilizers; this amendment extends those provisions to include the calcium, magnesium, sodium and sulphur contents of such fertilizers.

Trade policy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation establishing the arrangements for Spain's and Portugal's trade with Morocco and Syria; the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the ECSC, meeting within the Council, adopted the relevant decision for products covered by the ECSC Treaty.

The Council also adopted Regulations:

- opening and administering a Community tariff quota for cut flowers and flower buds, fresh, originating in Jordan (1989);

- extending the provisional anti-dumping duty on imports of synthetic fibres of polyesters originating in Mexico, Romania, Taiwan, Turkey, the United States of America and Yugoslavia for a period not exceeding two months beginning on 18 October 1988;
- extending the provisional anti-dumping duty on imports of paracetamol originating in the People's Republic of China for a period not exceeding two months beginning on 23 October 1988;
- extending the provisional anti-dumping duty on imports of polyester yarn originating in Mexico, South Korea, Taiwan and Turkey for a period not exceeding two months beginning on 18 October 1988.

Joint Research Centre

Following the adoption of common positions on 29 June 1988 which were approved by the European Parliament at its September part-session, the Council formally adopted the decisions adopting specific research programmes to be implemented by the Joint Research Centre for

- the European Economic Community (1988-1991)
- the European Atomic Energy Community (1988-1991),

as well as the decision adopting a supplementary research programme to be implemented by the Joint Research Centre for the European Atomic Energy Community.

(See Press Release on the adoption of common positions - Research - 29.VI.88 - 7217/88 (Presse 109)).

Fisheries

The Council adopted a Regulation intended to amend the Regulation on 1988 TAC and quotas in respect of the following points:

- introduction of a seasonal limitation on herring fishing off the west coast of Ireland in order to give extra protection to the spawning concentrations in this area;
- retention of the TAC for herring in ICES Divisions VI a South and VII b,c (West of Scotland, West of Ireland and Porcupine Bank) at 14 000 tonnes (any increases being postponed until 1989) and increasing the TAC from 13 000 to 18 000 tonnes in Divisions VII g, h,j,k (Celtic Sea);
- retention of the TAC for herring in ICES Division VII a (Irish Sea) at 10 500 tonnes;
- transposition into Community law of the arrangement concluded with Sweden whereby the Community may fish certain quotas of cod (2 000 tonnes) and salmon (170 tonnes) in the Swedish part of the formerly disputed area of the Baltic Sea ("White zone").

Environment

Further to the substantive agreement reached at its meetings on 16 and 28 June 1988, the Council formally adopted:

- the decision concluding and implementing the Vienna Convention for the protection of the ozone layer and the Montreal Protocol on substances that deplete the ozone layer;
- the Regulation on certain chlorofluorocarbons and halons which deplete the ozone layer;
- the Resolution for the limitation of use of chlorofluorocarbons and halons.

(see Press Release - Environment - 16/17.VI.88 6895/88 (Presse 90)).

Relations with the EFTA countries

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:

- Additional Protocols to the Agreements between the ECSC and the EFTA countries consequent on the implementation of the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System
- Supplementary Protocol to the Additional Agreement concerning the validity, for the Principality of Liechtenstein, of the Agreement between the Member States of the ECSC and the Swiss Confederation, following the implementation of the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System.

Appointments

The Council, considering nominations submitted by the French Government, appointed:

- Mr E. CHENEVIER, member of the Advisory Committee of the Euratom supply agency, in place of Mr J.M. CHAROUD, member who had resigned, for the remainder of the Committee's term of office, namely until 28 March 1989;
- Mr J. BEAUFRERE, member of the Advisory Committee of the Euratom supply agency, in place of Mrs C. LEWINER, member who had resigned, for the remainder of the Committee's term of office, namely until 28 March 1989.

The Council adopted the Decision appointing members and alternates of the Advisory Committee on pharmaceutical training, as follows:

A. Experts from the practising pharmaceutical profession

	<u>Member</u>	<u>Alternate</u>
Belgium	Mr Michel SEGHIN	Miss Monique MONCLERCQ
Denmark	Mrs Ida GUSTAFSON	Mr Lars CLEMMENSEN
Germany	Mr Ernst-Dietrich AHLGRIMM	Mr Horst KIEFER
Greece	Mr Dimitrios VAGHIONAS	Mr Athanassios TRINGONIS
Spain	Mr Francisco Zaragoza GARCIA	Mr José Maria Gras ISERN
France	Mr Jean GAULIN	Mr Hubert COTEREAU
Ireland	Mr James PETTIT	Mr Michael SHANNON
Italy	Mr Giacomo LEOPARDI	Mr Salvatore GIUNTA
Luxembourg	Mr Pierre HIPPERT	Mr René PHILIPPART
Netherlands	Mr J.M.H.A. MARTENS	Mr A.J.M.M. BEIJENS
Portugal	Mr Alfredo Ribeiro Guimarães de Amaral e Albuguerque	Mr José Augusto Guimaraes Morais
United Kingdom	Mr W.M. DARLING	Mr Joshua KERR

B. Experts from the pharmaceutical science teaching institutions

	<u>Member</u>	<u>Alternate</u>
Belgium	Miss Claudine FOSSOUL	Mr A. DE LEENHEER
Denmark	Mrs Birthe JENSEN	Mr Poul R. KRUSE
Germany	Mr Karl-Heinz FRÖMMING	Mr Rudolf SCHMITZ
Greece	Mr Nikolaos HOULIS	Mr Panayotis KOUROUNAKIS
Spain	Mr Juan Segura DEL RIO	Mr Salvador RIVAS
France	Mr Claude DREUX	Mr Georges MAHUZIER
Ireland	Mr G. SHAW	Mr V.J. HARTE
Italy	Mr Bruno MACCHIA	Mr Paolo MANTEGAZZA
Luxembourg	Mr Pierre SECK	Mr Marc WIRTOR
Netherlands	Mr A. BULT	Mr R.A. DE ZEEUW
Portugal	Mr António Pinho de Brojo	Mr Rui Manuel Ramos Morgado
United Kingdom	Mr A. FLORENCE	Mr J. BROWN

C. Experts from the competent authorities of the Member States

	<u>Member</u>	<u>Alternate</u>
Belgium	Mr Jean ALLLARD	Mr N. VERCROYSE
Denmark	Mr Jens OVERØ	Mr Jørgen Bartels PETERSEN
Germany	Mrs Christine GAUDICH	Mr Walter KIRMAYER
Greece	Mrs Maria KANELLOPOULOU	Mrs Georgia MELISSARATOU
Spain	Mr Joaquin BONAL DE FALGAS	Mr Enrique Granda VEGA
France	Mrs Geneviève MAURAS	Mr Jean-Etienne CAIRE
Ireland	Mr T.A. McGUINN	Mr M.J. CAHILL
Italy	Mr Gabriele GIANNINI	Mr Romano CAPASSO
Luxembourg	Mrs Mariette BACKES-LIES	Mrs Marguerite SCHOLTES-LENNERS
Netherlands	Mr G.M. VAN WEEL	Mr G.W. VAN GRUTING
Portugal	Mr João Marcolino dos Santos	Mrs Maria Fernanda Gonçalves dos Santos Gouveia
United Kingdom	Mr J. FERGUSON	Mr Colin HITCHINGS

1265th meeting was cancelled.

PRESS RELEASE

8557/88 (Presse 147)

1266th Council meeting
- Agriculture -
Luxembourg, 17 and 18 October 1988

President:

Mr Yannis POTTAKIS

Minister for Agriculture
of the Hellenic Republic

Italy :

Mr Calogero MANNINO

Minister for Agriculture

Luxembourg :

Mr Marc FISCHBACH

Minister for Agriculture and
Viticulture

Mr René STEICHEN

State Secretary for Agriculture

Netherlands :

Mr Gerrit BRAKS

Minister for Agriculture

Portugal :

Mr Alvaro BARRETO

Minister for Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food

Mr Arlindo CUNHA

State Secretary,
Assistant to the Minister for
Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

United Kingdom :

Mr John MCGREGOR

Minister for Agriculture

Commission :

Mr Frans H.J.J. ANDRIESSEN

Vice-President

AIDS TO AGRICULTURAL INCOME

The Council held a policy debate on the Commission's amended proposal for establishing a system of transitional aids to agricultural income. The discussion centred on the issue of complementarity and the need for consistency with other Community measures.

After raising other, more technical aspects of the proposal, the Council noted that a detailed examination by the Special Committee on Agriculture was required.

It accordingly instructed the Special Committee on Agriculture to continue its discussions, concentrating especially on certain points under discussion, including:

- overall family income
- the aid ceiling
- categories of recipients
- rate of Community financing
- consistency with other Community measures
- other direct-aid arrangements.

OLIVE OIL

After agreeing to a compromise formula, the Council formally adopted a Regulation fixing for the 1988/1989 marketing year the representative market price and the threshold price for olive oil.

These prices are as follows:

- representative market price : 190,61 ECU/100 kg
- threshold price : 189,43 ECU/100 kg.

The level of consumption aid for the year in question is consequently set at 61 ECU/100 kg.

The following amounts will be withheld from this aid:

- 1,4% to finance the professional organizations
- 4% for measures to promote consumption.

ADJUSTMENT OF THE MILK QUOTA ARRANGEMENTS (SLOM) AND RELATED MEASURES

The Council held a detailed discussion aimed at resolving the delicate problem of allocating "SLOM" quotas following the judgment of the Court of Justice on the matter.

For the time being, the Council concentrated on the main questions arising, in particular as regards:

- the general approach to be followed
- the organization of the system
- the criteria for allocating a reference quantity
- the financing of the measures.

After its discussion, the Council instructed the Special Committee on Agriculture to continue examining the outstanding questions and to report back at the Council's November meeting on agriculture.

AID FOR SKIMMED MILK PROCESSED INTO CASEIN OR CASEINATES

The Council examined the Commission's proposal for making certain amendments to the general rules for granting aid for skimmed milk processed into casein or caseinates, largely in order to prevent abuses in the way these products are used for certain purposes.

After the discussions, the Commission said it would re-examine the matter in the light of the comments put forward, with the aim of finding a solution that would enable agreement to be reached in the very near future.

The Council instructed the Special Committee on Agriculture to continue its discussion on this basis and to report back on the subject.

REFORM OF THE STRUCTURAL FUNDS

The Council noted a detailed report from the Chairman of the ad hoc Working Party on Reform of the Structural Funds concerning the progress of the discussions and the possibility of a decision being taken on the subject at the meeting of the General Affairs Council on 24 and 25 October 1988.

An exchange of views was then held on the EAGGF Guidance Section. Several Ministers repeated their wish that the Agriculture Council should be more directly involved in drawing up and deciding on the EAGGF Guidance Regulation.

The Ministers' comments will be conveyed to their colleagues in the General Affairs Council.

SITUATION ON THE PIGMEAT MARKET

The Council noted the Commission's report on the situation on the pigmeat market, which gave the various delegations an opportunity to state their views on the subject and in some cases to make suggestions.

The Commission said it was willing to consider some of these suggestions, in particular with the aim of avoiding serious disturbances of the pigmeat market in the long term, although there would be no substantial change in the existing market organization.

FORESTRY SECTOR

The Council noted with interest the Commission's communication on Community strategy and action in the forestry sector.

In the communication, the Commission:

- indicated the general trends and broad lines of long and medium-term forestry strategy;
- proposed a Community action programme on forestry for the period 1989-1992.

The communication will be examined by the Council's subordinate bodies in the very near future.

PRESENTATION OF VARIOUS PROPOSALS BY THE COMMISSION

The Council noted the Commission proposals - presented by Mr ANDRIESEN, Commission Vice-President - concerning:

- reform of the beef and veal arrangements
- reform of the sheepmeat/goatmeat arrangements
- the negotiating brief concerning imports of sheepmeat from third countries
- imports of butter from New Zealand.

Delegations gave their initial reactions to this presentation.

The Council agreed to examine this dossier in detail as soon as it received the Commission's written proposals.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Other agricultural decisions

The Council formally adopted the corrigenda to:

- Regulation No 2268/88 fixing, for the 1988 harvest, the norm and intervention prices and the premiums granted to purchasers of leaf tobacco, the derived intervention prices for baled tobacco, the reference qualities, the production areas and the guaranteed maximum quantities and amending Regulation No 1975/87;
- Regulation No 2253/88 amending Regulation No 822/87 on the common organization of the market in wine;
- Regulation No 822/87 on the common organization of the market in wine.

The corrigenda rectified errors of substance contained in the Regulations mentioned.

The Council also formally adopted Regulations:

- laying down general rules for the system of minimum import prices for certain processed cherries. This Regulation establishes the legal framework which will be used for setting the minimum price and the countervailing charge for products in respect of which a minimum import price is imposed in third countries;

- amending Regulation No 3035/80 laying down general rules for granting export refunds on certain agricultural products exported in the form of goods not covered by Annex II to the Treaty, and the criteria for fixing the amount of such refunds. The Regulation is designed to remove an anomaly in the existing rules which operate to the disadvantage of exports of products whose manufacture requires the use of skimmed milk in liquid form;
- amending Regulation No 1307/85 authorizing the Member States to grant a consumption aid for butter. This will enable a national subsidy (up to 50 ECU/100 kg) to be granted for the 1988/1989 marketing year;
- amending Regulation No 2771/75 on the common organization of the market in eggs. This amendment adapts the Regulation to the Combined Nomenclature;
- amending Regulation No 2239/86 on a specific common measure to improve vine-growing structures in Portugal. This measure is designed to encourage the definitive abandonment of vine-growing by increasing the proportion of Community financing to 75% of the eligible expenditure;
- introducing a common measure for the re-establishment of olive groves damaged by frost in certain regions of Greece in 1987. This is an exceptional measure, limited to two years, with a Community contribution of 40% of the eligible expenditure. The total cost will be 73 MECU and the measure will apply to work begun on or after 1 January 1988.
(see Press Release 7606/88 Presse 115 (p. 5) of 18/19.VII.1988).

- amending Regulation No 2511/69 laying down special measures for improving the production and marketing of Community citrus fruit. This is an emergency measure to rectify a disastrous situation resulting from very hard frosts during the winter of 1986/1987 which destroyed or seriously damaged citrus fruit plantations in certain regions of Greece;

- introducing an emergency common measure to aid the agricultural areas of the regions of Valencia and Murcia (Spain). This is an exceptional measure following the serious floods of November 1987. The measure will last two years; the expenditure to be borne by the EAGGF Guidance Section will amount to 21 MECU.
(see Press Release 7606/88 Presse 115 of 18/19.VII.1988);

- opening, for 1988, a special unilateral import quota (2 000 tonnes) for fresh, chilled or frozen high quality beef and veal of codes 02.01 and 02.02 and for products of codes 02 06 10 95 and 02 06 29 91 of the Combined Nomenclature;

- amending Regulation No 2915/86 laying down socio-structural provisions applicable to agriculture in the Canary Islands. This amendment extends to the Canary Islands the scheme to encourage the cessation of farming and the system of aid to encourage the formation and facilitate the operation of producers' organizations in the fruit and vegetable sector;

- on the fixing of an intervention threshold in Spain for clementines for the 1988/1989 marketing year. The threshold is set at 10% of the average production grown for consumption as fresh fruit over the last five marketing years for which data are available;
- opening and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas for Chinese cabbages and fresh table grapes originating in the Canary Islands (1988/1989).

Commercial policy

The Council formally adopted a Regulation extending the anti-dumping duty imposed by Regulation No 535/87 to certain plain paper photocopiers assembled in the Community. The duty is extended to the following firms:

- Konica Business Machines Manufacturing GmbH, Lüneburg
(duty of 225 ECU per assembled unit);
- Matsushita Business Machine (Europe) GmbH, Neumünster
(duty of 192 ECU per assembled unit);
- Toshiba Systems (France) SA, Arques-la-Bataille
(duty of 28 ECU per assembled unit).

Appointments

On a proposal from the Italian Government, the Council appointed Dr Giorgio LIVERANI as a member of the Economic and Social Committee to replace Mr Maurilio SALOMONE for the remainder of his term of office, which runs until 20 September 1990.

The Council also formally adopted a Decision appointing members and alternate members of the Committee of the European Social Fund. The appointments are as follows:

I. GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES

(a) Members

Belgium	Mr A. VERLINDEN	Mr M. ANDRE
Denmark	Mr H.C. LAURBERG	Mr H. BOSEŔUP
Germany	Mr O. SCHULZ	Mr K. SOMMER
Greece	Mrs M. PATOULA	Mr A. POURNIAS
Spain	Mrs A. DOMINGUEZ GONZALES	Mr J. SAENZ GONZALES
France	Mr J.-L. DURAND-DROUHIN	Mr M. THEROND
Ireland	Mr P. LEONARD	Mr G. PYKE
Italy	Mr M. PISANI MASSAMORMILLE	Mr G. CACOPARDI
Luxembourg	Mr R. SCHINTGEN	Mr P. WISELER
Netherlands	Mr Th. KNOL	Mr C.A. BIRKHOFF
Portugal	Mrs L. COSTA FIGUEIRA	Mr J.L. CARVALHO DUMAS DINIZ
United Kingdom	Mr J.B. SHAW	Mr S.J. BARBER

(b) Alternate members

Belgium	Mr P. CHEVREMONT
Denmark	Mrs D. NØRGAARD ANDERSEN
Germany	Mr G. FAUST
Greece	Mr. P. BARLOS
Spain	Mr J. BARROSO BARRERO
France	Mrs H. MARSAULT
Ireland	Miss M. CULLINAN
Italy	Mr L. TASSONI ESTENSE DI CASTELVECCHIO
Luxembourg	Mr J.-P. LAHIRE
Netherlands	Mr J.R. van BLANKENSTEIN
Portugal	Mr M. AREIAS TAVEIRA
United Kingdom	Mr J. PLOWMAN

II. WORKERS' REPRESENTATIVES

(a) Members

Belgium	Mrs G. D'HONDT	Mr J.C. VANDERMEEREN
Denmark	Mr E. BALLE	Mr P. KARLSEN
Germany	Mr H. VIEHOF	Mr O. SEMMLER
Greece	Mr S. KOTSIAS	Mr P. EFSTATHIOU
Spain	Mr J. FRADES PERNAS	Mr J. ARAGON MEDINA
France	Mr A. BENLAZAR	Mr G. COSYNS
Ireland	Mr D. NEVIN	Mr D. MURPHY
Italy	Mr C. BOSSO	Mr G. COCCO
Luxembourg	Mr R. PIZZAFERRI	Mr DUNKEL
Netherlands	Mrs K.Y.I.J. ADELMUND	Mr G.A. CREMERS
Portugal	Mrs R.M. SIMOES de SILVA MARQUES	Mr V.H. de JESUS SEQUEIRA
United Kingdom	Mr R.A. GRANTHAM	Mr R.A. JACKSON

(b) Alternate members

Belgium	Mr A. VAN DER HAEGEN
Denmark	Mr H. HINRICH
Germany	Mr H.-H. RUBBERT
Greece	Mr V. PAPADOGAMVROS
Spain	Mr J. LUCAS VIEJO
France	Mr A. FAESCH
Ireland	Mr W.A. ATTLEY
Italy	Mrs T. GIUDICI
Luxembourg	Mr A. GROBEN
Netherlands	Mrs E.A. GOEDHARD
Portugal	Mr J.J. VIEIRA PINTO COELHO
United Kingdom	Mrs P. TURNER

III. EMPLOYERS' REPRESENTATIVES

(a) Members

Belgium	Mr D. DE NORRE	Mr J. BELLEFROID
Denmark	Mr N.J. HANSEN	Mrs B. JOHANSEN
Germany	Mr G. PREUSS	Mrs A.-F. Prinzessin zu SCHOENAICH-CAROLATH
Greece	Mr I. STASSINOPOULOS	Mr V. NEJADAS
Spain	Mr J. JIMENEZ AGUILAR	Mr J. I. RODRIGUEZ GARCIA-CARO
France	Mr T. LAFONT	Mr D. DELAGE
Ireland	Mr J.F. O'BRIEN	Mr C. POWER
Italy	Mr P. FIORENTINO	Mr G. CAPO
Luxembourg	Mr L. JUNG	Mr M. SAUBER
Netherlands	Mrs C. HAK	MR J.H.J. CRIJNS
Portugal	Mr J.L. SALGADO BARROSO	Mr R. TEIXEIRA MOTA
United Kingdom	Mr A. MOORE	Mr M. MORTON

(b) Alternate members

Belgium	Mrs M. THYSSEN
Denmark	Mr H. MØRKEBERG
Germany	Mr R. EBERT
Greece	Mr M. TANES
Spain	Mrs S. ENSENAT DE CARLOS
France	Mr C. AMIS
Ireland	Mr P. BRENNAN
Italy	Mr M. MASELLI
Luxembourg	Mr A. ROBERT
Netherlands	Mr B.J. VAN DER TOOM
Portugal	Mr A.P. CORREIA dos SANTOS
United Kingdom	Mrs J. HARVEY

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

8558788 (Presse 148)

1267th Council meeting

- Fisheries -

Luxembourg, 19 and 20 October 1988

President:

Mr Yannis POTTAKIS,
Minister for Agriculture
of Greece

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

Belgium:

Mr Marc LEPOIVRE Deputy Permanent Representative

Denmark:

Mr Lars P. GAMMELGAARD Minister for Fisheries
Mr Thomas LAURITSEN State Secretary,
Ministry of Fisheries

Germany:

Mr Wolfgang von GELDERN Parliamentary State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Food,
Agriculture and Forestry

Greece:

Mr Yannis POTTAKIS Minister for Agriculture

Spain:

Mr José LOIRA RUA Secretary-General for Fisheries

France:

Mr Jacques MELLICK Minister for the Sea
(Ministry of Transport)

Ireland:

Mr Brendan DALY Minister for the Marine

Italy:

Mr Giovanni PRANDINI Minister for Shipping

Luxembourg:

Mr René STEICHEN

State Secretary for Agriculture

Netherlands:

Mr Gerrit BRAKS

Minister for Agriculture and
Fisheries

Portugal:

Mr Alvaro BARRETO

Minister for Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food

Mr Manuel OLIVEIRA GODINHO

State Secretary for Fisheries

United Kingdom:

Mr Donald THOMPSON

Parliamentary Secretary (fish)
at the Ministry of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food

Lord SANDERSON

Minister of State, Scottish Office

Commission:

Mr Antonio José Baptista
CARDOSO E CUNHA

Member

SARDINE MARKET

The Council agreed on a Regulation to make a flat-rate reduction of 5 points in the customs duties applicable, pursuant to the Act of Accession, to preserved sardines from Spain and Portugal imported into the Community of Ten.

The Council also noted the Commission's intention to take measures in the field of the common organization of markets and in the structural field in order to find appropriate solutions to the problems facing the sardine sector Community-wide.

CONTROL MEASURES FOR FISHING ACTIVITIES

The Council agreed to an amendment to Regulation No 2241/87 establishing certain control measures for fishing activities.

This amendment is intended to speed up the forwarding of catch data and strengthen control measures regarding fishing vessels of the Member States which land or transship their catches in a Member State other than that whose flag they are flying.

CONCILIATION MEETING WITH THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

A conciliation meeting between the Council and a delegation from the European Parliament, with the participation of the Commission, was held over the review of the common organization of the markets in fishery products.

The European Parliament delegation, led by Mrs PERY, Vice-President, consisted of Mr STAVROU, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Mr ARIAS CANETE, Rapporteur, Mr VAZQUES FOUZ, Mr WOLTJER, Mr MARCK, Mr GARCIA, Mr GUERMEUR, Mr CERVERA CARDONA, members of the Committee on Agriculture and Mr LANGES, member of the Committee on Budgets.

The conciliation enabled the Parliamentary delegation to explain its proposals in detail and the Council to set out its position.

In this context, the Council pointed out that it had already taken account of various aspects of the European Parliament's Opinion in its common position, in particular:

- including bigeye tuna in the list of species qualifying for the new flat rate aid arrangements
- extending the maximum period for which private storage aid may be granted to three months
- raising the triggering threshold for the granting of the compensatory allowance for tuna
- raising the ceiling for the compensatory allowance for tuna.

The Council reiterated the importance it attaches to compliance with certain principles on which the common market organization in the fisheries sector is based, viz:

- the role of producers' organizations in market management;
- the share in responsibility accordingly taken on by the producers' organizations;
- the maintenance of market balance in compliance with budgetary constraints.

The Council also pointed out that both the intervention arrangements for new species and the thresholds laid down for tuna production eligible for the compensatory allowance would be reviewed in five years' time and at the end of 1992 respectively.

The Parliamentary delegation stated that it would report on the outcome of this meeting to the European Parliament at its plenary part-session.

COD FISHING IN THE SPITZBERGEN AREA

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Regulation amending Regulation No 3977/87 fixing, for Norwegian arctic cod stocks in the Spitzbergen area, the total allowable catches for 1988 and certain conditions under which they may be fished. Under this new Regulation, the autonomous TAC for cod for 1988 in ICES Division II b (Spitzbergen and Bear Island) was reduced from 21 000 to 18 500 tonnes.

CONSERVATION OF FISHERY RESOURCES

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, a Regulation extending until 1.1.1992 the provisions laid down in Article 8 of Regulation 3094/86 laying down certain technical measures for the conservation of immature mackerel in an area situated off the south-west coast of Britain and enlarging that protection area by moving its eastern boundary from longitude 3° west to longitude 2° west.

ACTIVITIES OF COMMUNITY VESSELS IN THE NAFO ZONE

The Council noted a Commission report on the activities of Community fishing vessels in the NAFO regulation zone.

The Council stressed the need to ensure that Community fishing vessels comply strictly with the Regulations laid down in the NAFO framework.

RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION

The Council noted a Commission report on the stage reached in negotiations with the USSR, aimed in particular at giving Community vessels access to the Soviet part of the former "White Zone" in the Baltic Sea.

PRESS RELEASE

8677/88 (Presse 154)

1268th Council meeting

- General Affairs -

Luxembourg, 24 and 25 October 1988

President: Mr Theodoros PANGALOS
Deputy Minister for
Foreign Affairs of the
Hellenic Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr Leo TINDEMANS Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Paul DE KEERSMAEKER State Secretary for European Affairs

Denmark:

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

Germany

Mrs Irmgard ADAM-SCHWAETZER Minister of State,
Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Greece:

Mr Theodoros PANGALOS Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Yorgos YENNIMATAS Minister for Labour

Spain:

Mr Francisco FERNANDEZ ORDONEZ Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Pedro SOLBES MIRA State Secretary for Relations with
the European Communities

France:

Mrs Edith CRESSON Minister for European Affairs

Ireland:

Mr Brian LENIHAN Minister for Foreign Affairs

Italy:

Mr Giulio ANDREOTTI Minister for Foreign Affairs

Luxembourg:

Mr Jacques F. POOS

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Netherlands:

B.J.M. Baron van VOORST tot VOORST

State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Portugal:

Mr Joao de DEUS PINHEIRO

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Vitor MARTINS

State Secretary for European Integration

United Kingdom:

Sir Geoffrey HOWE

Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs

Mrs Lynda CHALKER

Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Commission:

Mr Jacques DELORS

President

Mr Manuel MARIN

Vice-President

Mr Claude CHEYSSON

Member

Mr Gregoris VARFIS

Member

SETTING-UP OF A COURT OF FIRST INSTANCE

Following the political agreement reached on 25 July of this year, the Council formally adopted a Decision establishing a Court of First Instance of the European Communities.

This Decision is in response to the request from the Court of Justice to have attached to it a court with jurisdiction to hear and determine at first instance certain classes of action or proceeding brought by natural or legal persons, particularly in those areas where proceedings require scrutiny of complex facts.

The purpose of this institution is to improve the judicial protection of individual interests and also, by relieving the Court of Justice of responsibility for examining questions of fact, to enable it to concentrate its activities on its fundamental task of ensuring uniform interpretation of Community law.

The new Court will exercise at first instance the jurisdiction conferred on the Court of Justice by the Treaties establishing the Communities and by the acts adopted in implementation thereof:

- in disputes between the Communities and their servants;
- in actions brought against an institution of the Communities by natural or legal persons and relating to the implementation of the competition rules applicable to undertakings;
- in actions brought against the Commission by undertakings or associations of undertakings and relating to matters covered by the ECSC Treaty (levies, production, prices, restrictive agreements, decisions or practices, concentrations).

As regards the jurisdiction of the Court of First Instance, the Council further provided that, in the light of experience, including the development of case law, it would, after the Court had been operational for 2 years, re-examine the proposal by the Court of Justice to give the Court of First Instance competence also to hear and determine actions in connection with dumping or subsidies.

The Court of First Instance will consist of twelve members who elect the President of the Court from among their number for a term of three years. He may be re-elected.

The members of the Court of First Instance may be called upon to perform the task of an Advocate General; if so, the member performing the task of Advocate General in a case may not take part in the judgment of that case.

The Court will usually sit in chambers of three or five judges.

Any party which has been unsuccessful, in whole or in part, in its submissions may bring an appeal limited to points of law, before the Court of Justice against decisions of the Court of First Instance.

The Rules of Procedure will lay down the provisions applicable to the organization and operation of the Court, with particular reference to the designation of the Advocates General, the composition of the chambers and the assignment of cases.

REFORM OF THE STRUCTURAL FUNDS - IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS

Pending receipt of the Opinion of the European Parliament, the Council gave careful examination, on the basis of a draft compromise from the Presidency, to a set of questions arising with respect to the four implementing Regulations for the reform of the Structural Funds, namely: co-ordination between the Funds, the ERDF, the Social Fund and the EAGGF, Guidance Section.

In concluding its discussions, during which delegations' positions on several points moved considerably closer together, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its proceedings so that the Council could adopt a common position on the four proposals for Regulations at its November meeting.

GENERALIZED PREFERENCES SCHEME FOR 1989

Having examined a number of questions outstanding with respect to the fixing of the generalized preferences scheme for 1989, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its proceedings on the matter with a view to enabling the Council to take a decision in the very near future.

COMMON SOCIAL AREA

The Council took note of an oral communication from the President of the Social Affairs Council, Mr Yorgos YENNIMATAS, the Minister for Labour of the Hellenic Republic, and a statement by Vice-President MARIN, on progress within the Social Affairs Council with the various aspects having a bearing on the social dimension of the internal market.

SITUATION OF THE COMMUNITY TEXTILE INDUSTRY

At the behest of the Portuguese delegation, the Council agreed to hold a substantive discussion of the situation of the Community textile industry at its November meeting on the basis of a study which the Commission would submit in time for that meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Commercial policy

The Council adopted Regulations:

- confirming until 30 June 1990 Commission Regulation (EEC) No 1857/88 instituting a system for the authorization of imports into France of footwear originating in South Korea or Taiwan.

Having discussed the matter, the Council noted that the situation which had led the Commission to adopt the measure in question still existed and that maintenance of the measure was therefore justified;

- opening and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas for the period 1 November to 31 December 1988 for:
 - = Chinese cabbages originating in Morocco (100 tonnes at a quota duty of 10,9%) and Cyprus (100 tonnes at a quota duty of 13,6%); and
 - = "iceberg lettuce" originating in
 - . Morocco (November - 100 tonnes at a quota duty of 10,5 MIN 1,7 ECU/100 kg, and December - 9,1% MIN 1,1 ECU/100kg), and
 - . Cyprus (November - 100 tonnes at a quota duty of 13,6% MIN 2,2 ECU/100 kg and December - 11,8% MIN 1,4 ECU/100 kg).

The Council also adopted common positions on:

- draft Decisions No 3/88 of the EEC-EFTA Joint Committees supplementing and amending Annex I to Protocol No 3 concerning the definition of the concept of "originating products" and methods of administrative co-operation (used tyres);
- draft Decision No 4/88 of the EEC-EFTA Joint Committees amending, in relation to heading 84.01, the list in Annex III to Protocol No 3 concerning the definition of the concept of "originating products" and methods of administrative co-operation (nuclear fuel elements).

The Council then adopted a Decision authorizing the Commission to negotiate an additional protocol to each of the bilateral free trade agreements concluded by the European Economic Community with Austria, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland, respectively, in order to allow these countries to suspend duties of 2% or less on imports from Spain.

Relations with the ACP States

The Council approved the replies to be given to the applications by Papua New Guinea and Zambia to accede to the Protocol on ACP sugar.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

8876/88 (Presse 156)

1269th Council meeting
- Transport -

Luxembourg, 26 October 1988

President: Mr Yorgos PETSOS

Minister for Transport and
Communications of the
Hellenic Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr Jean-Luc DEHAENE Deputy Prime Minister and Minister
for Transport and Institutional
Reforms

Denmark:

Mr Hans-Peter CLAUSEN Minister for Transport and
Communications

Mr Joergen HALCK State Secretary,
Ministry of Public Works

Germany:

Mr Jürgen WARNKE Federal Minister for Transport

Mr Wilhelm KNITTEL State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Transport

Greece:

Mr Yorgas PETSOS Minister for Transport and
Communications

Mr Kosmas SPHIRIOU Deputy Minister for Transport
and Communications

Spain:

Mr José BARRIONUEVO PEÑA Minister for Transport, Tourism
and Communications

France:

Mr Michel DELEBARRE Minister for Transport and the Sea

Ireland:

Mr John WILSON Minister for Tourism and
Transport

Italy:

Mr Angelo CRESCO

State Secretary, Transport

Luxembourg:

Mr Marcel SCHLECHTER

Minister for Transport, Minister
for Public Works and Minister for
Energy

Netherlands:

Mrs N. SMIT-KROES

Minister for Transport and Public
Works

Portugal:

Mr Joao de OLIVEIRA MARTINS

Minister for Public Works,
Transport and Communications

Mr Carlos COSTA

State Secretary, Inland Transport

United Kingdom:

Mr Paul CHANNON

Minister for Transport

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For the Commission:

Mr Stanley CLINTON DAVIS

Minister

Before embarking on the agenda for the meeting, the Council and the Commission sent a message of sympathy to the Governments of the Member States concerned and the families of the victims of the accident to the "Jupiter" off Piraeus.

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The Council also offered its condolences to the Government of the Philippines and to the people of that country who had suffered during typhoon Ruby, and in particular the families affected by the disaster involving the "Dona Marilyn" and the accidents to other vessels damaged.

NEGOTIATIONS WITH NON-COMMUNITY TRANSIT COUNTRIES

On 7 December 1987 the Council authorized the Commission to open a first round of negotiations with Austria, Switzerland and Yugoslavia. The Commission gave the Council an oral briefing on the outcome of these negotiations at the Council meeting on 20 June 1988, whereupon the Council adopted conclusions relating to the negotiations (see Press Release on the Transport Council meeting on 20 and 21 June 1988 (7005/88)).

On 5 October 1988 the Council received a written report from the Commission on the outcome of the first round of negotiations with the three countries concerned. The report was coupled with a recommendation for a Decision concerning the second round of negotiations.

At today's meeting, the Council established guidelines on a number of key aspects of the second round of negotiations. These guidelines are intended to assist the Permanent Representatives Committee in drawing up a new negotiating brief to enable the Council to adopt the directives for the second round of negotiations by 31 December 1988.

The Council confirmed its wish that the Commission should conclude the negotiations by 31 December 1989.

TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURES

The Council examined certain points of the draft Regulation for an action programme in the field of transport infrastructures with a view to the completion of an integrated market in 1992.

The Council paid particular attention to the question of entering specific appropriations for transport infrastructures under a multiannual budget heading.

After its discussions the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue with the examination of the proposal. The President said he hoped it would be possible to reach a final decision on the issue at the next meeting on 8 December 1988.

STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS IN INLAND WATERWAY TRANSPORT

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to conduct a more detailed study of the Commission's proposal in preparation for a substantial discussion of this item at the Council's meeting on 8 December 1988.

In this connection the Council noted the details given by the Commission on its talks within the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine regarding the involvement of Switzerland in the scrapping scheme envisaged by the Community.

WEIGHTS AND DIMENSIONS OF ROAD VEHICLES

The Council continued the discussion begun at the meeting in June concerning the Commission's proposal for making a number of amendments and additions to the Directive on the weights, dimensions and certain other characteristics of commercial road vehicles.

The Council noted that there were still difficulties regarding a number of aspects of these proposals and instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue the discussions with a view to enabling the Council to take a decision at its next meeting.

ADMISSION TO THE OCCUPATION OF HAULAGE OPERATOR

The Council examined certain basic aspects of the proposal for a Directive amending the Directive on admission to the occupation of road haulage and road passenger transport operator, namely the requirements as to good repute, financial standing and professional competence.

After the discussion, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to expedite its proceedings so that the Directive could be adopted by the end of 1988.

AIDS FOR COMBINED TRANSPORT

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to pursue its discussions in such a way as to enable the Council to take a decision on the matter at its next meeting.

AIR SAFETY

The Council noted a statement by the Commission on the proposals which it intended to submit regarding air safety. Among other things, these proposals were designed to strengthen co-operation and co-ordination between the Community, the Member States and Eurocontrol.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONSAppointment

On a proposal from the Federal German Government, the Council appointed Mr F. BESCHORNER a member of the Advisory Committee of the Euratom Supply Agency in place of Mr C. JOHANNSEN, - who had resigned - for the remainder of the Committee's term of office, which ran until 28 March 1989.
