

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

PRESS RELEASES

PRESIDENCY: GREECE

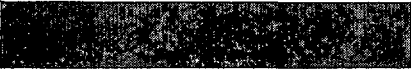
JULY-DECEMBER 1988

Meetings and press releases December 1988

Meeting number	Subject	Date
1282 nd	Transport	8 December 1988
1283 rd	No record of a meeting	
1284 th	Fisheries	9-11 December 1988
1285 th	Economics/Finance	12 December 1988
1286 th	Agriculture	12-15, 19-20 December 1988
1287 th	Industry	13 December 1988
1288 th	Tourism	14 December 1988
1289 th	Health	15 December 1988
1290 th	Research	15 December 1988
1291 st	Labour/Social Affairs	16-17 December 1988
1292 nd	General Affairs	19 December 1988
1293 rd	Internal Market	21 December 1988



COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT



PRESS RELEASE

10063/88 (Presse 199)

1282nd Council meeting

- Transport -

Brussels, 8 December 1988

President: Mr Yannis HARALAMBOUS

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 Marc LEPOIVRE Deputy Permanent Representative

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

Greece:

Mr Yannis HARALAMBOUS Minister for Transport and Communications

Mr Kosmas SPHIRIOU Deputy Minister for Transport and
Communications

Spain:

Mr José BARRIONUEVO PENA Minister for Transport, Tourism and
Communications

France:

Mr Jean CADET Deputy Permanent Representative

Ireland:

Mr John WILSON Minister for Tourism and Transport

Italy:

Mr Giorgio SANTUZ Minister for 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

Mr Michael PORTILLO State Secretary, Ministry of Transport

For the Commission:

Mr Stanley CLINTON DAVIS Member

- PROJECT 6 - High-speed railway line,
London-Paris-Brussels-Amsterdam-Cologne

London-Folkestone
Brussels-Aachen
- PROJECT 7 - Improvement of the North-South transit route in Ireland
Dublin ring road - Northern Cross Route
- PROJECT 8 - Scanlink

Ringsted-Odense electrification
- PROJECT 9 - Modernization of transit routes to Greece

Evzoni-Athens-Corinth motorway, sections:
= Elefsina-Corinth
= Malakassa-Inofita

Thessalonika-Idomeni line
- PROJECT 10 - International links in frontier regions

Boxmeer-Venlo-Germany motorway
Luxembourg Eastern Ring Road
- PROJECT 11 - Transalpine routes to Italy

Brenner line - second track for Verona-Bologna line

The financial support could not exceed 25% of the total cost or 50% in the case of preparatory studies. Contributions from all Community budget sources could not normally exceed 50% of the total cost.

This Regulation should not prejudice any follow-up to the Commission proposals for developing a Community transport infrastructure policy.

The Council said it would resume examination of this topic as soon as it received the Opinion of the European Parliament, with a view to taking a final decision.

WEIGHTS AND DIMENSIONS

The Council agreed by a large majority on three proposals concerning the weights and dimensions of commercial road vehicles. The text adds the following points to Annex I to Directive 85/3/EEC:

1. Maximum authorized weight (MAW) of the tandem axles of motor vehicles where the distance between axles is 1,3 m or greater but less than 1,8 m: 18 tonnes; 19 tonnes where the driving axle is equipped with double tyres and pneumatic suspension or its equivalent.
2. Maximum authorized weight of 2-axle motor vehicles: 18 tonnes.
3. Maximum authorized weight of road trains consisting of a 2-axle motor vehicle and a 2-axle trailer: 36 tonnes.
4. Maximum authorized weight of articulated vehicles with 4 axles consisting of a 2-axle motor vehicle and a 2-axle semi-trailer: where the distance between the axles of the semi-trailer is
 - 1,3 m or greater but not more than 1,8 m: 36 tonnes
 - greater than 1,8 m : 36 tonnes + 2 tonnes tolerance where the MAW of the motor vehicle (18 t) and the MAW of the tandem axle of the semi-trailer (20 t) are complied with and the driving axle is equipped with double tyres and pneumatic suspension or its equivalent.
5. 3-axle articulated buses
 - maximum authorized weight: 28 tonnes
 - maximum authorized length: 18 m.
6. Maximum authorized weight of 3-axle motor vehicles: 25 tonnes; 26 tonnes when the driving axle is equipped with double tyres and pneumatic suspension or its equivalent.
7. Maximum authorized weight of 4-axle motor vehicles with two steering axles: 32 tonnes, although the maximum authorized weight in tonnes of this vehicle may not exceed 5 times the distance in metres between the axes of the foremost and rearmost axles of the vehicle (calculation of the MAW on the basis of the wheelbase).
8. Maximum authorized weight for the driving axle of 4-axle vehicles and combined vehicles: 11,5 tonnes.

The following temporary derogations are allowed for the United Kingdom and Irish:
point 2: 17 tonnes; point 3: 35 tonnes; point 4: 35 tonnes; point 5: 27 tonnes;
point 7: 30 tonnes; point 8: 10,5 tonnes.

However, since there are still major reservations on points 4 and 8, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue discussing the issue.

NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE EEC AND TRANSIT THIRD COUNTRIES

The Council adopted a Decision instructing the Commission to open the second phase of negotiations with Austria, Switzerland and Yugoslavia in the transport sphere in order to resolve the problems arising in connection with transit traffic through these countries, in particular in the run-up to the 1992 internal market. The Commission will endeavour to complete the negotiations by the end of 1989.

ADMISSION TO THE OCCUPATION OF HAULAGE OPERATOR

The Council discussed three proposals for Directives on admission to the occupation of road haulage operator and the recognition of diplomas. The aim of these proposals is to harmonize the essential features of admission to this occupation, including:

- the good repute requirement
- the financial standing requirement
- the professional competence requirement.

Having noted that there were still differences of opinion, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its discussions on this matter so that the Council could reach a decision.

INTERNATIONAL CARRIAGE OF PASSENGERS BY COACH AND BUS

The Council took note of the current state of discussions on a proposal for a Regulation designed to establish freedom to provide passenger transport services in the Community and at the same time to improve road safety monitoring systems.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its proceedings on this file.

STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS IN INLAND WATERWAY TRANSPORT

The Council had a discussion on a proposal for a Regulation on structural improvements in inland waterway transport. It examined in particular the question of the non-repayable Community contribution to the scrapping scheme.

At the close of the discussions the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its proceedings in the light of that day's discussions so that it could take a decision as soon as possible.

CHARGING OF INFRASTRUCTURE COSTS

The Council had a thorough discussion on a proposal for a Directive on the charging of transport infrastructure costs to heavy goods vehicles. The Council based its discussions in particular on the recent Commission communication presented in the meeting concerning the technical procedures which should make it possible to apply the principle of territoriality, i.e. charging on the basis of the use of the road infrastructure.

At the close of the discussions the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its deliberations so that the Council could work out guidelines as soon as possible. The Council took note of the Commission's wish that these guidelines be forwarded to the ECOFIN Council by 30 June 1989 so that the latter could decide on the measures needed to eliminate fiscal distortions of competition.

AIDS FOR COMBINED TRANSPORT

The Council discussed a proposal for a Regulation on the granting of aids for transport by rail, road and inland waterway: aids for combined transport.

The main points at issue were the extension of the existing aid system - covering investments - to aids intended to cover part of the costs of operating combined transport services and the setting of a deadline - 31 December 1992 - for the whole system.

NATIONAL ROAD HAULAGE SERVICES (CABOTAGE)

The Council resumed its examination of a proposal for a Regulation providing essentially for the possibility for any road haulage operator established in a Member state and entitled to provide international road haulage services to be allowed to provide national road haulage services in another Member State.

At the close of the discussion, during which it was possible to make some progress on this file, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to expedite its proceedings so that the Council could reach agreement as soon as possible at least on the establishment of a transitional system with a view to the completion of the single market.

AIR TRAFFIC SYSTEM CAPACITY

On the basis of an oral communication from the Commissioner, Mr CLINTON DAVIS, the Council had an initial exchange of views on the problems connected with the capacity of the air traffic system and the solutions the Commission was contemplating in this respect.

Mr CLINTON DAVIS referred in particular to the possibilities for improving air traffic control and better utilization of European air space.

FURTHER TRANSPORT DECISION

The Council adopted the Resolution on the extension, until 31 December 1990, of the system for observing the markets for the carriage of goods by rail, road and inland waterway between the Member States, as laid down by the Resolution of 18 June 1986.

The Resolution states that, before 31 December 1990, the Council, acting on a Commission proposal submitted by 1 July 1990, and following an in-depth review of the existing system, will take a decision on the permanent establishment of a system adapted to the final arrangements for organization of the inland transport market, taking into account the needs of users and the need to reduce running costs to a minimum.

The Resolution also stipulates that the Member States and the Commission will ensure close co-operation between their relevant departments as regards the compilation and analysis of the data forming part of the market observation system.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONSIron and steel products

The Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the ECSC, meeting within the Council, adopted Decisions on certain measures to be applied, in respect of State-trading countries, to trade in iron and steel products covered by the ECSC Treaty, i.e. Decisions on the opening of three zero-duty tariff

quotas for flat-rolled products of silicon-electrical steel: 400 tonnes for Spain, 300 tonnes for Benelux and 1 500 tonnes for Germany.

Customs union

The Council adopted the Regulation suspending wholly or in part the duties applicable to imports of certain silk products (1989) (raw silk at 0 duty, silk yarn at 2,5% duty and noil at 0 duty).

EEC-Malta relations

The Council adopted Decisions on the conclusion of:

- a supplementary protocol to the Agreement establishing an Association between the European Economic Community and Malta;
- the Protocol to the Agreement establishing an Association between the European Economic Community and Malta consequent on the accession of the Kingdom of Spain and the Portuguese Republic to the Community.

The Protocols are to be signed in the next few days.

Fisheries imports into Spain

The Council adopted the Regulation opening tariff quotas for the importation into Spain of certain fisheries products originating in the Canary Islands or Ceuta and Melilla (1989).

Manioc - import arrangements

The Council adopted the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 430/87 concerning the import arrangements applicable to products falling within subheading 07.06 A of the Common Customs Tariff and coming from third countries - collection of a levy of not more than 6% ad valorem:

- Thailand for the quantities arranged in the agreement as renewed for 1988, 1989 and 1990;
- Indonesia: 825 000 tonnes per year for 1988 and 1989;
- other countries which are at present Contracting Parties to the GATT, with the exception of Thailand and Indonesia: 145 590 tonnes per year for 1988 and 1989;
- China: 350 000 tonnes per year for 1988 and 1989;
- third countries which are not members of the GATT, other than China: for 1989 the quantities are to be fixed by the Council, acting by a qualified majority on a proposal from the Commission.

Relations with Norway - cheese

The Council authorized the Commission to begin negotiations with Norway in order to determine certain provisions of the 1986 Agreement on cheese and in particular the level of tariff quotas for the years to come.

Research

The Council adopted the Decision concerning the conclusion of a Community COST Concertation Agreement on seven concerted action projects in the field of the environment:

- Physico-chemical behaviour of atmospheric pollutants (COST 611/2)
- Air-pollution effects on terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems (COST 612/2)
- Organic micropollutants in the aquatic environment (COST 641/2)
- Treatment and use of organic sludges and liquid agricultural wastes (COST 681/2)
- Coastal benthic ecology (COST 647/2)
- Indoor-air quality and its impact on man (COST 613/1)
- Protection of species (COST 691/1).

Campaign against drug abuse

The Council adopted the common position to be adopted by the Community in the negotiations on a new International Convention on Illicit Trafficking in Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

Appointments

The Council adopted the Decision appointing members and alternate members of the Advisory Committee on Vocational Training.

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

The Council also appointed members to replace several members of the European Social Fund Committee who have resigned as well as a member and an alternate member of the Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work.

There is no record of a 1283rd meeting.



COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT



PRESS RELEASE

10147/88 (Presse 204)

1284th Council meeting

- FISHERIES -

Brussels, 9, 10 and 11 December 1988

President: Mr Yannis POTTAKIS
Minister for Agriculture
of the Hellenic Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr Paul DE KEERSMAEKER State Secretary for European Affairs

Denmark:

Mr Lars P. GAMMELGAARD Minister for Fisheries

Mr Thomas LAURITSEN State Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries

Germany:

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

Greece:

Mr Yannis POTTAKIS Minister for Agriculture

Spain:

Mr Carlo ROMERO HERRERA Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

France:

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

Ireland:

Mr Pat GALLAGHER Deputy Minister for the Marine

Italy:

Mr Enrico PIETROMARCHI Deputy Permanent Representative

Luxembourg:

Mr Jim CLOOS

Embassy Secretary at the Permanent
Representation

Netherlands:

Mr Gerrit BRAKS

Minister for Agriculture and
Fisheries

Portugal:

Mr Manuel OLIVEIRA GODINHO

State Secretary for Fisheries

United Kingdom:

Mr John MC GREGOR

Minister for Agriculture

Mr Donald THOMPSON

State Secretary at the Ministry of
Agriculture

Lord SANDERSON

Minister of State, Scottish Office

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Commission:

Mr Antonio Jose Baptista CARDOSO E CUNHA

Member

Mr Stanley CLINTON DAVIS

Member

NORTH SEA POLLUTION

The Council noted a report presented by Commission Member CLINTON DAVIS on the effects of North Sea and Baltic Sea pollution upon fishing activities.

Mr CLINTON DAVIS laid particular emphasis on the possibilities still open for reducing such pollution through the proper application by Member States of the Community standards currently applicable.

TACs AND QUOTAS FOR 1989

After detailed discussions and on the basis of a compromise prepared by the Commission and the Presidency, the Council approved by a qualified majority the Regulation fixing, for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks, the total allowable catches for 1989 and certain conditions under which they may be fished. These totals are set out in the Annex.

ANNUAL FISHERIES ARRANGEMENTS RESULTING FROM THE ACT OF ACCESSION
OF SPAIN/PORTUGAL

The Council adopted by a qualified majority three Regulations fixing, for 1989, certain measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources, applicable to vessels flying the flag of:

- one of the ten Member States, in the waters of:
 - = Spain;
 - = Portugal;

- Portugal, in the waters of the Community of Ten.

NORWAY

The Council approved by a qualified majority the Regulations:

- allocating certain quotas between Member States for vessels fishing in the Norwegian Exclusive Economic Zone and the fishing zone around Jan Mayen;
- laying down, for 1989, certain measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources applicable to vessels flying the flag of Norway.

The first Regulation involves in particular the allocation to the Community of quotas in Norwegian waters as follows:

- 7 500 tonnes of Norwegian Arctic cod;
- 3 000 tonnes of Norwegian Arctic haddock;
- 3 000 tonnes of redfish.

SWEDEN

The Council approved by a qualified majority two Regulations:

- laying down, for 1989, certain measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources applicable to vessels flying the flag of Sweden;
- allocating certain quotas among the Member States for vessels fishing in Swedish waters.

The latter Regulation will be supplemented by any quotas that might be granted to the Community in the Swedish part of the "white zone" once the negotiations scheduled for 12 and 13 December have been completed.

FAROE ISLANDS

The Council approved by a qualified majority the Regulations:

- allocating certain quotas among the Member States for vessels fishing in Faroese waters;
- laying down, for 1989, certain measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources applicable to vessels registered in the Faroe Islands.

The latter Regulation contains quotas for Faroe Islands vessels fishing in the Community zone, and in particular:

- 5 250 t. of mackerel (- 12,7% compared with 1988);
- 7 000 t. of horse mackerel (- 15% compared with 1988).

GREENLAND

The Council adopted by a qualified majority the Regulation allocating, for 1989, Community catch quotas in Greenland waters.

Those quotas encompass the Community's allocation of the full quantities to be granted under the EEC-Greenland Protocol on fisheries, because of the increase in certain stocks, notably those of "western" cod.

NORTH-WEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES ORGANIZATION (NAFO)

The Council adopted by a qualified majority the Regulation fixing, for 1989, autonomous quotas for the NAFO Regulatory Area.

Those quotas are at the same level as for 1988, with the following exceptions:

<u>Species</u>	<u>ZONE</u>	<u>EEC QUOTA 88</u>	<u>EEC QUOTA 89</u>
- American plaice	NAFO 3LNO	9,000 t.	6,820 t.
- Yellowtail flounder	NAFO 3LNO	5,000 t.	1,670 t.
- Capelin	NAFO 3NO	375 t.	700 t.

MEASURES FOR THE CONSERVATION OF FISHERY RESOURCES

The Council approved by a qualified majority a Regulation amending the conservation standards in force by introducing a system for the protection of sole and young plaice. Those amendments include:

- a ban on the use of beam trawls whose total beam length exceeds 24 metres;
- a ban on beam trawls in the Kattegat;
- extension of the arrangements applicable to the use of beam trawls within the 12 nautical miles to a zone along the coasts of Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands, as defined in the Regulation, for the period from 1 April to 30 September.

MULTIANNUAL GUIDANCE PROGRAMMES FOR COMMUNITY FISHING FLEETS

A number of delegations referred, within the Council, to problems regarding the implementation, at national level, of the multiannual guidance programmes for Community fishing fleets.

At the end of the discussion, the Council noted the Commission's undertaking to continue its consultations with a view to resolving the problems outstanding as soon as possible.

RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION

The Council discussed relations between the Community and the USSR as regards conclusion of a fisheries agreement.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONSOther decisions in the fisheries sector

In line with the agreement reached at its meeting on 28 November 1988, the Council formally adopted the Regulations fixing, for 1989, the guide prices for the fishery products listed in Annex I(A), (D) and (E) and in Annex II to Regulation No 3796/81 as well as the producer price for tuna intended for the canning industry.

The price variations for the various species compared with the 1988 prices are as follows:

A. Guide prices - fresh products

1. Herring	
- from 1.1 to 31.7 and from	
1.10 to 31.12.1989	- 2%
- from 1.8 to 30.9.1989	- 11%
2. Sardines	
(a) Atlantic	- 1%
(b) Mediterranean	- 1%
3. Dogfish	- 1%
4. Spotted dogfish	- 1%
5. Redfish	+ 1%
6. Cod	0%
7. Saithe	- 1%
8. Haddock	+ 1%
9. Whiting	0%
10. Ling	0%
11. Mackerel (scomber scombrus)	0%

12. Spanish mackerel (scomber japonicus)	+ 1%
13. Anchovy	0%
14. European plaice - from 1.1 to 30.4.1989	0%
- from 1.5 to 31.12.1989	0%
15. Hake	+ 1%
16. Megrin	+ 1%
17. Pomfret	0%
18. Anglerfish	
- with head	+ 1%
- without head	+ 0%
19. Shrimps	0%
20. Edible crab	0%
21. Norway lobster	
- whole	0%
- tails	- 5%

B. Guide prices for frozen products

1. Sardines	0%
2. Bream	+ 2%
3. Squid (loligo)	+ 2%
4. Squid (Ommastrephes)	- 12%
5. Squid (Illex)	- 16%
6. Cuttlefish	0%
7. Octopus	0%

C. Producer price

Tuna (Albacore)	- 2%
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French Guiana

The Council also formally adopted the Regulation laying down for 1989 certain measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources applicable to vessels flying the flag of certain non-member countries in the 200-nautical-mile zone off the coast of the French department of Guiana.

ANNEXTACs BY STOCK AND BY AREA
FOR 1988 - COMMUNITY SHARES

SPECIES	ZONE	1989 TAC	COMMUNITY SHARE IN 1989 (tonnes)
Herring	III a	138.000	57.100
Herring	III b,c,d (1)	38.000	35.150
Herring	II a (1), IV a,b	484.000	312.675
Herring	IV c, VII d	30.000	30.000
Herring	V b (1), VI a North, VI b	58.000	51.540
Herring	IV a South, VII b,c	20.000	20.000
Herring	VI a Clyde	3.200	3.200
Herring	VII a	6.000	6.000
Herring	VII e,f	500 (x)	500
Herring	VII g,h,i,k	20.000 (x)	20.000
Sprat	III a	80.000 (x)	57.000

(^x₁) Precautionary TAC
(₁) EC Zone

SPECIES	ZONE	1989 TAC	COMMUNITY SHARE IN 1989 (tonnes)
Sprat	III b,c,d (1)	13.000	13.000
Sprat	II a (1), IV (1)	59.000 (x)	50.000
Sprat	VII d,e	12.000 (x)	12.000
Anchovy	VIII	32.000	32.000
Anchovy	IX, X, COPACE (1)	6.000 (x)	6.000
Salmon	III b,c,d (1)	800 (x)	800
Capelin	II b Svalbard		0
Cod	II b Svalbard	11.550	11.550
Cod	III a Skagerrak	20.500	16.910
Cod	III a Kattegat	12.500	7.540
Cod	III b,c,d	75.000	74.500
Cod	II a (1) IV	124.000	118.750

^x
 () Precautionary TAC
 () EC zone

SPECIES	ZONE	1989 TAC	COMMUNITY SHARE IN 1989 (tonnes)
Cod	V b (1), VI, XII, XIV	18.430	18.430
Cod	VII b,c,d,e, f,g,h,j,k, VIII, IX, X CECAF (1)	23.900	23.900
Cod	VII a	15.000	15.000
Haddock	III a, III b, c,d (1)	10.000 (x)	8.630
Haddock	II a (1), IV	68.000	62.500
Haddock	V b (1), VI, XII, XIV	35.000	35.000
Haddock	VII, VIII, IX X, CECAF (1)	6.000 (x)	6.000
Saithe	II a (1), III a, III b, c,d (1), IV	170.000	88.100
Saithe	V b (1), VI, XII, XIV	30.000	30.000
Saithe	VII, VIII, IX X, CECAF (1)	14.000 (x)	14.000

^x
(1) Precautionary TAC
() EC zone

SPECIES	ZONE	1989 TAC	COMMUNITY SHARE IN 1989 (tonnes)
Pollack	V b (1), VI, XIII, XIV	1.100 (x)	1.100
Pollack	VII	14.000 (x)	14.000
Pollack	VIII a,b	2.600 (x)	2.600
Pollack	VIII c	800 (x)	800
Pollack	VIII d	50 (x)	50
Pollack	VIII e	100 (x)	100
Pollack	IX, X, CEECAF (1)	450 (x)	450
Norway pout	II a (1), III a, IV (1)	200.000 (x)	171.000
Blue whiting	II a (1) IV (1)	90.000	50.000
Blue whiting	V b (1), VI, VII	534.000	297.000
Blue whiting	VIII a,b,d	26.500 (x)	26.500
Blue whiting	VIII e	1.000 (x)	1.000
Blue whiting	VIII c, IX, X, CEECAF (1)	50.000 (x)	50.000
Whiting	III a	17.000 (x)	15.080

x
(1) Precautionary TAC
() EC zone

SPECIES	ZONE	1989 TAC	COMMUNITY SHARE IN 1989 (tonnes)
Whiting	II a (1), IV	115.000	83.480
Whiting	V b (1), VI XII, XIV	16.400	16.400
Whiting	VII a	18.170	18.170
Whiting	VII b,c,d,e, f,g,h,j,k	19.300 (x)	19.300
Whiting	VIII	5.000 (x)	5.000
Whiting	IX, X, CECAF (1)	2.640 (x)	2.640
Hake	III a, III b, c,d (1)	1.300 (x)	1.300
Hake	II a (1), IV (1)	2.120 (x)	2.120
Hake	V b (1), VI, VII, XII, XIV	33.750 (x)	33.750
Hake	VIII a,b,d,e	22.500 (x)	22.500
Hake	VIII c, IX, X, CECAF (1)	20.000 (x)	20.000
Horse mackerel	II a (1), IV (1)	45.000 (x)	45.000

(x) Precautionary TAC
(1) EC zone

SPECIES	ZONE	1989 TAC	COMMUNITY SHARE IN 1989 (tonnes)
Horse mackerel	V b (1), VI, VII, XII, XIV	121.500 (x)	114.500
Horse mackerel	VIII a,b,d,e	28.000 (x)	28.000
Horse mackerel	VIII c	28.000 (x)	28.000
Horse mackerel	IX, X, CECAF (1)	45.000 (x)	45.000
Mackerel	II a (1), III a, III b, c,d (1), IV	49.200	14.200
Mackerel	II, V b (1) VI, VII, VIII a,b,d,e, XII, XIV	349.200	324.750
Mackerel	VIII c, IX, X, CECAF (1)	36.570 (x)	36.570
European plaice	III a Skagerrak	15.000 (x)	14.100
European plaice	III a Kattegat	4.000	3.600
European plaice	III b,c,d (1)	3.000 (x)	3.000
European plaice	II a (1), IV	185.000	182.700

(x) Precautionary TAC
(1) EC zone

SPECIES	ZONE	1989 TAC	COMMUNITY SHARE IN 1989 (tonnes)
European plaice	V b (1), VI XII, XIV	2.000 (x)	2.000
European plaice	VII a	5.800	5.800
European plaice	VII b,c	200 (x)	200
European plaice	VII d,e	11.700	11.700
European plaice	VII f,g	2.500	2.500
European plaice	VII h,j,k	1.150 (x)	1.150
European plaice	VIII, IX, X, CECAF (1)	700 (x)	700
common sole	III a, III b, c,d (1)	800	800
common sole	II, IV	14.000	14.000
common sole	V b (1), VI, XII, XIV	110 (x)	110
common sole	VII a	1.480	1.480
common sole	VII b,c	60 (x)	60
common sole	VII d	3.850	3.850

(^x) Precautionary TAC
(1) EC Zone

SPECIES	ZONE	1989 TAC	COMMUNITY SHARE IN 1989 (tonnes)
Common Sole	VII e	1.000	1.000
Common Sole	VII f,g	1.000	1.000
Common Sole	VII h,j,k	720 (x)	720
Common Sole	VIII a,b	4.800	4.800
Common Sole	VIII c,d,e, IX, X, CECAF (1)	1.860 (x)	1.860
Megrim	V b (1), VI, XII, XIV	4.840 (x)	4.840
Megrim	VII	15.880 (x)	15.880
Megrim	VIII a,b,d,e	2.220 (x)	2.220
Megrim	VIII c, IX, X, CECAF (1)	13.000 (x)	13.000
Anglerfish	V b (1), VI, XII, XIV	8.600 (x)	8.600
Anglerfish	VII	33.080 (x)	33.080
Anglerfish	VIII a,b,d	9.910 (x)	9.910
Anglerfish	VIII e	100 (x)	100

(^x₁) Precautionary TAC
 () EC zone

SPECIES.	ZONE	1989 TAC	COMMUNITY SHARE IN 1989 (tonnes)
Anglerfish	VIII c, IX, X, CECAF (1)	12.000 (x)	12.000
Shrimps	French Guiane	4.810 (x)	4.040
Deep-water prawn	III a Skagerrak	3.100 (x)	3.100
Norway lobster	V b (1), VI	16.000 (x)	16.000
Norway lobster	VII	26.000 (x)	26.000
Norway lobster	VIII a,b	7.500 (x)	7.500
Norway lobster	VIII c	600 (x)	600
Norway lobster	VIII d,e	50 (x)	50
Norway lobster	IX, X, CECAF (1)	4.720 (x)	4.720

(⁺₁) Precautionary TAC
(₁) EC zone

PRESS RELEASE

10149/88 (Presse 206)

1285th Council meeting
- Economic and Financial Affairs -
Brussels, 12 December 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 Gerhard STOLTENBERG Minister for Finance

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 Carlos SOLCHAGA CATALAN Minister for Economic Affairs and Finance

Mr Pedro PEREZ State Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs

France:

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

Ireland:

Mr Albert REYNOLDS Minister for Finance

Italy:

Mr Giuliano AMATO Minister for the Treasury

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 Nigel LAWSON

Chancellor of the Exchequer

o

o

o

Commission:

Mr Jacques DELORS

President

Mr Henning CHRISTOPHERSEN

Vice-President

Lord COCKFIELD

Vice-President

Mr Peter M. SCHMIDHUBER

Member

Mr Abel MATUTES

Member

OWN FUNDS OF CREDIT INSTITUTIONS

The Council reached a common position on the Directive on own funds of credit institutions.

The establishment of common rules in this area is a key element in achieving an internal market in the banking sector, since own funds ensure continuity in the activity of credit institutions and protect savings. This harmonization is one of the corner stones of the European market in financial services, the others being, on the one hand, the liberalization of capital movements and supervision on a consolidated basis, and on the other, measures in preparation for more thorough harmonization of banking legislation and solvency coefficients.

To avoid distortions in competition between credit institutions, definitions and rules regarding own funds must be equivalent throughout the Community. These common rules have been defined in a sufficiently general manner to cover all elements comprising own funds in the various Member States. Details of certain elements making up own funds will be provided later. The Member States may still apply stricter provisions for some elements.

Adequacy of capital is the basis for effective prudential supervision and will improve comparability between institutions finding themselves side by side in a market more open to competition.

A flexible review and updating procedure has been provided for which will permit the implementing rules to be brought into line with the continuing development of financial techniques. This procedure will take the form initially of amending the Directive through co-operation with the European Parliament, as laid down in the Single Act, and will be replaced shortly by a more streamlined procedure which will take account of the specific features of the financial sphere as a whole.

Once the texts have been finalized, the Council will adopt the common position before the end of the year in order that the co-operation procedure with the European Parliament may be set in motion in January 1989.

PROSPECTUS TO BE PUBLISHED WHEN TRANSFERABLE SECURITIES ARE OFFERED
TO THE PUBLIC

The Council agreed on a common position on the Directive co-ordinating the requirements for the drawing up, scrutiny and distribution of the prospectus to be published when transferable securities are offered for subscription or sale to the public.

This Directive will apply to transferable securities offered for the first time to the public in a Member State before being quoted on the stock exchange in that State and supplements Directive 80/390/EEC requiring a prospectus to be published at the time of application for admission to official stock exchange listing. The advantage of it is that it brings forward the time of provision of information to the point at which the securities are first offered to the public.

Like that of the other Directives already adopted in the field of transferable securities, the aim of the above Directive is twofold: to protect the investor through the provision of appropriate and complete information on transferable securities, on the basis of which he can evaluate the risks entailed, and to encourage investment. The Directive does, however, provide for relief in the case of small and medium-sized undertakings wishing to arrange for public funding of their activities.

The Directive lays down that certain types of offer or security are, by their nature and volume, excluded from its scope. One of the questions calling for a Council decision in this area was whether Euro-issues should be included in the scope of the Directive, and if so to what extent. Under the terms of the solution adopted, the Directive does not apply to transferable Euro-securities which are not the subject of a full-scale campaign of advertising or canvassing.

The Council concluded by instructing the Permanent Representatives Committee to finalize the texts encompassed by the common position, so that they could be formally adopted by the end of the year and then forwarded to the European Parliament in January 1989 under the co-operation procedure.

APPLICATION OF THE DECISION ON THE SYSTEM OF OWN RESOURCES

After initially discussing the proposal for a Regulation applying the Decision of 24 June 1988 on the system of Community own resources, the Council thought that it would be able to reach a common position before 31 December 1988 without prejudice to the European Parliament's Opinion on the proposal. The Regulation could not, however, be formally adopted prior to that date.

The Representatives of the Governments of the Member State meeting within the Council noted, therefore, that Regulation No 2891/77 remained in force and agreed, in the case of the 4th resource, to apply the provisions of the draft Regulation as they emerge either from the Council's discussions or else from a common position established by 31 December 1988.

It was agreed that payments thus made would be adjusted as and when necessary in accordance with the new Regulation, once it entered into force with retroactive effect from 1 January 1989.

The Commission endorsed this Council conclusion.

UNIFORM ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE COLLECTION OF VAT OWN RESOURCES

Having reached substantive agreement on the proposed Regulation concerning uniform arrangements for the collection of VAT own resources, the Council felt it would be able to establish a joint guideline by 31 December 1988, although it would not be possible formally to adopt the Regulation before that date.

In these circumstances, the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, agreed that Member States' obligations, particularly those under Article 5 of the Treaty, would be met in line with the provisions of the draft Regulation as they emerge either from the Council's discussion or else from a common position to be established by 31 December 1988.

It was understood that payments thus made would be adjusted as and where necessary in accordance with the new Regulation, once it entered into force with retroactive effect from 1 January 1989.

The Commission endorsed this Council conclusion.

ANNUAL ECONOMIC REPORT 1988-1989

On the basis of the text submitted by the Commission and the discussions held by the Co-ordinating Group for Economic and Financial Policies, the Council held an in-depth exchange of view on the economic situation in the Community and on the guidelines to be followed by Member States in 1989.

At the close of its discussion, the Council signified its agreement to the annual economic report 1988-1989, which will be formally adopted before the end of the year, once the text has been finalized.

ABOLITION OF FISCAL BARRIERS

The Council heard a statement by Lord COCKFIELD on the contacts he had had with Member States' Governments following the meeting of the ECO/FIN Ministers in Crete in October, concerning problems arising in the abolition of fiscal barriers with regard to VAT and excise duty.

The Council also took note of Lord COCKFIELD's suggestions concerning the organization of work in this area.

Here, the Council held an exchange of views and the Spanish Minister, in his capacity as future President of the Council, announced that he would be making procedural proposals in January.

DUTY-FREE ALLOWANCES FOR TRAVELLERS AND SMALL CONSIGNMENTS WITHIN
THE COMMUNITY

The Council approved two Directives aimed at adjusting the allowances for travellers and small consignments within the Community so as to maintain the value in real terms as requested by the European Parliament.

The duty-free allowances concerned are therefore increased as follows from 1 July 1989:

- allowance for travellers within the Community from 350 ECU to 390 ECU;
- allowance for travellers less than 15 years old from 90 ECU to 100 ECU;
- derogation for Denmark and Greece from 200 ECU to 310 ECU;
- derogation for Ireland from 77 ECU to 85 ECU.

For small consignments, the general amount goes up from 100 to 110 ECU, in the case of Ireland from 75 to 85 ECU.

Should the conversion of the amounts of duty-free allowance expressed in ECU lead to a change of less than 5% in the allowance expressed in national currency or to a reduction in the allowance, Member States may maintain the existing amount thereof.

DEROGATIONS GRANTED TO DENMARK CONCERNING TRAVELLERS' ALLOWANCES

The Council had received from the Commission a proposal amending the derogation granted to Denmark concerning the rules governing import allowances for travellers.

This proposal aims to grant a further two-year extension from 1 January 1989 of the derogation granted to Denmark, subject however to certain amendments. Thus for cigarettes allowances would rise from 60 to 80 and from 100 to 150 grams for smoking tobacco (fine cut). Denmark would moreover apply from 1 January 1989 the Community allowance of 5 liters for still wines (instead of 4 liters); on the other hand, nothing will change for alcoholic beverages with a strength of more than 22% vol. (no allowance).

In addition, as from 1 January 1989, Denmark may exclude from the general allowance only goods whose unit value is in excess of 340 ECU instead of 280 ECU hitherto.

Pending the European Parliament's Opinion the Council responded favourably to this derogation as amended.

PRESENTATION OF THE NCI V PROPOSAL

The Council heard a statement by Commissioner MATUTES, putting forward the Commission proposal empowering it to borrow under the New Community instrument to stabilize the level of debt outstanding for the purpose of promoting investment within the Community by SMEs. The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to prepare its discussions on this matter.

OTHER ECO/FIN DECISIONMajor holdings in a listed company

As a result of the substantive agreement reached on 11 July 1988 on a common position, formalized on 23 August 1988 and following the European Parliament's approval of the common position on 26 October 1988, the Council adopted a Directive on the information to be published when a major holding in a listed company is acquired or disposed of (see Press Release 7604/88 Presse 113 of the ECO/FIN Council of 11.VII.88).

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONSRelations with Austria - wine

The Council adopted two Decisions on the conclusion of

- a new Agreement between the Community and the Republic of Austria on the control and protection, in particular against unfair competition in trade, of certain quality wines bearing a geographical ascription, originating in the territory of the other Contracting Party;
- an Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the Community and the Republic of Austria on the reciprocal establishment of tariff quotas for certain quality wines (basically 85 000 hl of quality wines and 2 000 hl of quality sparkling wines at zero duty on a reciprocal basis).

Anti-dumping

The Council adopted a Regulation imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of polyester yarn originating in Mexico, South Korea, Taiwan and Turkey.

This Regulation imposes a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of partially oriented, non-textured polyester yarn (POY) originating in Mexico (15,8% of the net, free-at-frontier price of the product not cleared through customs), Taiwan (8,7%), and Turkey (2,7%). For the first two years certain firms' imports are exempt from duty.

The Regulation also imposes a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of textured polyester yarn (PTY) from South Korea (8,1%), Mexico (26,7%), Taiwan (6,2%) and Turkey (13,2%). For all four countries, certain firms' imports are subject to duties set at lower than the abovementioned duties.

The Council also adopted a Regulation imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of paracetamol originating in the People's Republic of China and making permanent the provisional duty levied on these imports (the amount is equal either to the difference between the net price per kilogram and 5 ECU, or to 15% of this net, free-at-frontier price per kilogram, not cleared through customs, whichever is the higher).

PRESS RELEASE

10148/88 (Presse 205)

1286th Council meeting

- Agriculture -

Brussels, 12/13/14/15/19/20 December 1988

President:

Mr Yannis POTTAKIS

Minister for Agriculture
of the Hellenic Republic

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

Belgium

Mr Paul DE KEERSMAEKER State Secretary for European Affairs
and Agriculture

Denmark

Mr 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 Yannis POTTAKIS Minister for Agriculture

Mr Dimitri PITSIORIS State Secretary for Agriculture

Spain

Mr Carlo 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

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

The Council held a detailed examination of the problems raised by the Commission proposals concerning the following sectors:

- Income support
- SLOM milk quotas
- Reform in the beef sector
- Reform in the sheepmeat/goatmeat sector
- Nut-growing
- Definition of small cereal producers
- Green rates.

Following its deliberations, the Council succeeded in considerably reducing the differences between delegations' positions on the various proposals under consideration.

It was nevertheless impossible to reach final conclusions at this stage. Difficulties still remained in various sectors, in particular beef, income support and SLOM milk quotas.

The Council extended until 5 March 1989 the existing arrangements applicable to intervention and to premiums in the beef and veal sector which were due to expire on 31 December 1988.

NEW ZEALAND BUTTER

The existing arrangements concerning the importation of certain quantities of New Zealand butter into the United Kingdom on special terms expire on 31 December 1988.

The Council being unable at this stage to reach a decision on new longer-term import arrangements, noted broad agreement in favour of a temporary authorization for the period from 1 January to 31 March 1989.

18 625 tonnes may be imported during that period, which is a pro rata temporis extension of the current arrangements.

This agreement will be formalized shortly as soon as one delegation has made known its final position.

The outcome of the Council's deliberations on the other items on the agenda is set out below:

GATT TRADE NEGOTIATIONS (MONTREAL - MID-TERM REVIEW)

The Council noted with interest a report from the Vice-President of the Commission providing information on the GATT multilateral trade negotiations which had just been held in Montreal.

Those Ministers present who had taken part in the negotiations also voiced their comments.

The Council emphasized the importance of the cohesion shown by the Community and drew attention to the great internal efforts made by the Community to adapt the CAP. Those efforts must be fully taken into account.

It also pointed out that this was a mid-term meeting and that the discussion would be resumed in April 1989.

BEEF AND VEAL SECTOR

Tariff quotas

The Council formally adopted Regulations:

- opening a Community tariff quota for 1989 of 34 300 tonnes of high quality, fresh, chilled or frozen meat of bovine animals (Hilton beef) falling within CN codes 02 01 and 02 02 and products falling within CN codes 02 06 10 95 and 02 06 29 91 at a 20% rate of duty;
- opening a Community tariff quota for 1989 of 2 250 tonnes of frozen buffalo meat falling within CN code 02 02 30 90 at a 20% rate of duty;
- opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for 1989 of 53 000 tonnes of frozen meat of bovine animals falling within CN code 02 02 and products falling within CN code 02 06 29 91 at a 20% rate of duty, with the establishment of a Community reserve of 5 300 tonnes; the remainder (47 000 tonnes) being allocated among the Member States as follows:

BENELUX	4 559,5 tonnes	
DENMARK	445	"
FEDERAL REPUBLIC		
OF GERMANY	9 679	"
GREECE	1 438,5	"
SPAIN	1 330	"
FRANCE	6 942,5	"
IRELAND	381	"
ITALY	10 094,5	"
PORTUGAL	652,5	"
UNITED KINGDOM	12 177,5	"

SPIRIT DRINKS

After six years of long and difficult negotiations, the Council, on the basis of a compromise text tabled by the Presidency, unanimously reached a common position on the Council Regulation laying down general rules on the definition, description and presentation of spirit drinks.

Given the economic importance of these products, it was necessary to adopt common provisions thereon in order to assist the functioning of the common market.

As spirit drinks constitute a major outlet for Community agriculture, the Regulation aims at preserving this outlet and in particular at ensuring:

- minimum production standards for spirit drinks with a minimum alcoholic strength of 15% vol. and over;
- suitable protection of geographical and traditional designations;
- exclusive reservation of the following descriptions:
 - = grappa for grape marc spirit produced in Italy;
 - = ouzo for the aniseed-flavoured spirit drink produced in Greece;
 - = Korn and Kornbrand for the grain spirit produced in Germany and in those regions of the Community where German is an official language, provided that this beverage is traditionally produced in these regions;
 - = pacharan for the fruit spirit drink produced in Spain.

The Common position adopted will be forwarded to the European Parliament for a second reading under the co-operation procedure.

PREPARATION AND MARKETING OF LIQUEUR WINES

The Council examined an amended proposal for a Regulation on the preparation and marketing of liqueur wines produced in the Community.

The proposal aims in particular at making liqueur wines subject to a system of rules governing preparation, marketing and controls, together with common rules. This system, while maintaining quality distinctions, will make it possible to avoid distortions of competition, facilitate free circulation and protect consumers.

Following its discussion, the Council, on the basis of a compromise text, agreed in principle on a draft Regulation containing common provisions for this sector.

The Special Committee on Agriculture was instructed to finalize this text (including the few technical points which had not been examined by the Council) and to make the corresponding adjustments to the basic wine Regulation.

Those texts will subsequently be formally adopted by the Council at a forthcoming meeting.

CEREALS

Use of cereals in animal feed
(1989/1990 marketing year)

The Council discussed a proposal introducing a premium for the increased use of cereals in animal feed during the 1989/1990 marketing year, which the Community submitted as a follow-up to the agreement reached in the context of the 1988/1989 price decisions.

The Council confirmed the importance it attached to measures which could increase the use of cereals in animal feed. It nevertheless considered that further detailed examination of all aspects of the Commission proposal was required before it could express an opinion on the the possibility of reaching the objective aimed at by this means.

The Council therefore instructed the Special Committee on Agriculture to continue its discussions.

VETERINARY SECTOR

Health problems affecting minced meat

The Council unanimously adopted a compromise text of the Directive laying down the requirements for the production of, and trade in, minced meat, meat in pieces of less than one hundred grams and meat preparations and amending Directives 64/433/EEC (fresh meat), 71/118/EEC (poultrymeat) and 72/462/EEC (third countries).

Under the above Directives, rules governing the conditions of production and trade in this meat were exclusively a matter for national law. This Directive aims at laying down common rules to govern intra-Community trade in these products as from 1 January 1992.

To this end, the Council has harmonized the provisions relating to the preparation, packaging, storage and transport of the above meat and the health requirements which it must fulfil at the time of its production.

Given the perishable character of these products, the Council's concern to protect consumers suitably led it to lay down minimum rules governing composition, to oblige establishments to comply with microbiological production standards for these products and to limit the additives used for their manufacture, pending a Community decision on fixing common rules, in accordance with the common position adopted by the Council on 22 June 1988.

It has also proved necessary to ensure that consumers are adequately informed about the composition of these products.

The general rules already laid down for Community inspection of slaughterhouses have been extended to establishments specializing in the production of the meat and meat preparations covered by the Decision.

Finally, the Council provided forthwith for the extension of the rules governing trade to products intended for the home market, saving any specific derogations to be decided on by the Council before 1 January 1991. Failing re-examination before that date, the microbiological standards laid down by the text will apply to Community production as a whole. The other inspection rules will apply on the date set for the application of Community inspection rules to meat for the home market.

That text is one of the objectives laid down in the White Paper.

Health problems affecting intra-Community trade in meat products

The Council unanimously adopted a Directive amending Directive 77/99/EEC on health problems affecting intra-Community trade in meat products in order to harmonize the rules applicable to meat and meat products.

This Directive provides inter alia for:

- the taking into account of scientific and technical developments and of the adjustments recently decided by the Council for fresh meat which constitutes the raw material for the production of meat products;
- the inclusion in the scope of the Directive of rules governing trade in prepared meals and meat products obtained from minced meat, meat in pieces of less than 100 grams and meat preparations meeting the requirements of the "minced meat" Directive;
- the introduction of hygiene rules to be followed with regard to containers;
- the amendment of the procedures governing the inspection, approval and withdrawal of approval from establishments, so as to extend Community inspection to establishments producing meat products.

This text features among the objectives of the white paper. Its adoption in conjunction with the adoption of the text on minced meat makes the Community Regulations complete in that it removes the grey area which existed between the Directive on fresh meat and Directive 77/99/EEC.

Classical swine fever

The Council unanimously adopted the Decision to describe certain new regions of the Community as being either officially swine-fever-free or swine-fever-free.

This Decision confirms the improvement in the situation in the Community with regard to classical swine fever.

Recognized as being officially swine-fever-free are certain parts of the territory of France, the Federal Republic of Germany and the Netherlands where for the past twelve months at least no vaccinations have been authorized and no cases of classical swine fever have been detected; the status of four French departments however remains to be confirmed by the Commission on 7 February 1989.

Recognizing areas as being officially swine-fever-free gives the regions concerned by the Council Decision the opportunity to export without restriction to other officially swine-fever-free States or regions.

Certain parts of the territory of Belgium, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Spain and Italy are recognized as being swine-fever-free since no cases of swine fever have been detected in these regions for more than a year.

AFRICAN SWINE FEVER

The Council adopted a Decision granting certain parts of the territory of Spain a derogation from the prohibition of exports to other Member States of live pigs, fresh pigmeat and certain meat products, provided certain health requirements were met.

These derogating measures will apply as from 14 May 1989 for all animals born on or after 14 December 1988.

EMERGENCY AID FOR FARMERS IN CERTAIN AREAS OF PORTUGAL HANDICAPPED AS A RESULT OF ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS IN 1988

The Council noted with interest the request by the Portuguese delegation for special emergency aid for farmers in areas of Portugal handicapped as a result of adverse climatic conditions in 1988.

It instructed the Special Committee on Agriculture to examine the proposal relating to this aid in order that the Council might take a decision on receipt of the Opinion of the European Parliament.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Agricultural policy

The Council formally adopted Regulations:

- amending Regulation No 1360/78 on producer groups and associations thereof.

The purpose of this amendment is

= to extend this measure

(i) to Ireland in the cereals, the potato, beef and veal, sheepmeat and goatmeat sectors,

(ii) to certain Mediterranean regions of France in the fresh grapes sector,

= to amend the corresponding financial provisions,

= to adapt the text to conform with the combined nomenclature;

- amending Regulation No 1654/86 introducing a common measure for replanting and converting of olive groves damaged by frost in certain regions of the Community in 1985.

The purpose of this proposal is to extend the common measure for one year with regard to the measures to replant and convert olive groves in order to make up for the delays and implementation of this common measure and to achieve the set objectives;

- laying down general rules on the disposal of alcohol obtained from the distillation operations provided for in Articles 35, 36 and 39 of Regulation No 822/87 and held by intervention agencies.

This Regulation proposes a disposal procedure which will be uniform in that it will treat all alcohol from compulsory distillation held by intervention agencies in the same way; it will also be simpler in that sales will be carried out in a single stage;

- establishing a Community supervision for the imports of certain agricultural products originating in the Canary Islands.

This Regulation is applicable as from 1 January 1989;

- setting for the 1988/1989 marketing year the percentages mentioned in Article 3(1)(a) of Regulation No 426/86 in connection with aid for products processed from tomatoes.

These percentages are the following:

- = for the Community of 10: 70%
- = for Spain and Portugal: 26%;

- amending for the eleventh time Regulation No 351/79 concerning the addition of alcohol to products in the wine sector.

In the absence of a common organization of the market in the alcohol sector and in the absence of provisions harmonizing the definitions of aromatized wines, this amendment is intended to extend until the end of 1989 the existing provisions concerning the addition of alcohol to the products in question;

- amending Regulation No 2262/84 laying down special measures in respect of olive oil.

The purpose of this amendment is:

- = to extend by one year the period covered by the phase when expenditure is fully chargeable to the Community, without increasing the amounts already allocated, in view of the delays in certain Member States as a result of administrative problems in setting up or bringing into operation the agencies responsible for controls in the olive oil sector,
- = to extend until 31 October 1992 the period laid down in the Regulations in force in which 50% of the expenditure of these agencies is chargeable to the Community;
- fixing for the 1989/1990 milk year, the guideline figure for the fat content of standardized whole milk imported into Ireland and the United Kingdom.

The figure has been fixed:

- = for Ireland at 3,60%
- = for the United Kingdom at 3,90%;
- amending Regulation No 1975/82 concerning the acceleration of agricultural development in certain regions of Greece.
(see Press Release 9341/88 PRESSE 171 of 14 and 15.XI.88)
- amending, in respect of Spain, Regulation No 4007/87 extending the period provided for in Articles 90(1) and 257(1) of the Act of Accession of Spain and Portugal.

The purpose of this amendment is to extend the period of implementation of the transitional measures in force in certain market organizations.

The Council also formally adopted Directives:

- on the zootechnical standards applicable to breeding animals of the porcine species.

The purpose of this Directive is progressively to liberalize intra-Community trade in all breeding pigs;

- amending Directive 80/215/EEC on animal health problems affecting intra-Community trade in meat products.

The purpose of this amendment is to increase the weight limit for heat-treated hams;

- amending Directives 73/132/EEC, 76/630/EEC and 82/177/EEC on the statistical surveys to be carried out on Community livestock following the introduction of the Combined Nomenclature.

The purpose of this amendment is to adapt the references to the Common Customs Tariff in the above Directives to the Combined Nomenclature.

The Council also formally adopted the corrigendum to Directive 88/388/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to flavourings for use in foodstuffs and to source materials for their production. This corrigendum corrects a clerical error in the Directive.

ECSC

The Council gave its assent under Article 56(2)(a) of the ECSC Treaty concerning:

- Banks of the Groupe CIC operating in ECSC employment areas (France)
- Crédit National (FRANCE)
- Caisse Générale d'Epargne et de Retraite (CGER)(Belgium)
- Crédit Communal de Belgique (Belgium)
- Bayerische Landesbank, Girozentrale (Federal Republic of Germany)
- Dresdner Bank AG (Federal Republic of Germany)
- Deutsche Bank AG (Federal Republic of Germany)
- Westdeutsche Landesbank, Girozentrale (Federal Republic of Germany)
- Midland Bank (United Kingdom)
- Crediop (Italy)
- Société Générale et Société Générale Alsacienne de Banque (France)
- Caledonian Paper plc (United Kingdom)
- Warwick International Ltd. (United Kingdom).

The Council also gave its assent regarding a draft Commission Decision concerning the grant of financial aid to steel research projects in accordance with Article 55(2)(c) of the ECSC Treaty.

PRESS RELEASE

10218/88 (Presse 207)

1287th Council meeting

- Industry -

Brussels, 13 December 1988

President: Mr Kostas PAPANAYOTOU

Deputy Minister for Industry,
Energy and Technology
of the Hellenic Republic

Italy

Mr Adolfo BATTAGLIA Minister for Industry,
Trade and Craft Trades

Mr Carlo FRACANZANI Minister for State Holdings

Luxembourg

Mr Johny LAHURE State Secretary for Economic Affairs

Netherlands

Mr R.W. DE KORTE Minister for Economic Affairs

Portugal

Mr Luis Fernando de MIRA AMARAL Minister for Industry and Energy

United Kingdom

Mr Tony NEWTON Minister for Trade and Industry

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Commission

Mr Abel MATUTES Member

Mr Peter SUTHERLAND Member

RESTRUCTURING OF THE ITALIAN PUBLIC STEEL INDUSTRY

On the basis of the Commission communication on the restructuring of the Italian public steel industry, the Council held a far-reaching discussion in order to determine whether, and under what conditions, it could give its assent, pursuant to Article 95 ECSC, to the Commission decision authorizing the restructuring plan submitted by the Italian authorities.

Following the discussion, a large majority favoured a compromise solution prepared by the Commission in the light of discussions.

This solution provides in particular that two-thirds of the financing would be authorized now in exchange for the industrial restructuring indicated in the Commission communication. The discussion of the anticipated requirement for the balance of the aid and for the release of that aid would be postponed until September 1990 or earlier in the event of a rapid decline in the steel market. At such time a decision would be taken by the Commission, following Council assent pursuant to Article 95 ECSC, on the release of the aid and, in the light of the prevailing Community market situation, on the proportional additional reduction in production capacity in sectors where there is over-capacity.

One delegation reserved its position on this compromise at this stage and said that it would make known its position within the next few days. Accordingly the Council agreed to resume consideration of this item, if necessary, at its Internal Market meeting on 21 December next.

AIDS CODE FOR THE STEEL INDUSTRY

The Council gave its assent to the draft Commission decision extending, until 31 December 1991 and without amending its content, the aids code for the Community steel industry, due to expire on 31 December 1988.

STEEL INDUSTRY - SOCIAL ASPECT

The Council again discussed the problems arising as regards the financing of the social measures linked to the restructuring of the Community steel industry.

In order to be able to continue this social aid for the period from 1988 to 1990 at an estimated cost of 165 MECU, account has to be taken of three aspects, either together or separately: a contribution to the ECSC from the general budget, an appropriation levied on ECSC reserves and an increase in ECSC levies.

Following the discussion, the Council agreed to request the Commission to submit updated figures both as regards ECSC revenue and reserves and the expenditure necessary to finance the social measures.

CONCLUSIONS OF THE COUNCIL CONCERNING THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY

Further to the conclusions of the Council on General Affairs, which focussed principally on the forthcoming external negotiations and on the link between the situation of the industry in the Community and the Community's commercial policy, the Council discussed the industrial aspects of policy in the textile sector.

On this basis and following the suggestions of the Presidency, the Council:

- recalls the conclusions of the 1276th session of the Council of 21/22 November on trade policy;
- invites the Commission to make profound study of the presented analysis in order to reveal the particularities of the sub-sectors and of the regional situations which will enable it to adjust the different Community policies applied to textile and clothing industry;
- invites the Commission to elaborate further the present report with a view to evaluate the future developments of the industry in the perspective of the achievement of the internal market;
- requests the Commission to make the best use of the possibilities opened by the new co-ordinated approach to the structural funds in order to facilitate the important structural adjustments, including the effects on employment, resulting from the accentuation of the external and internal competition in the textile and clothing industry, and allow activities already in course under the present programme to be finalized;

- requests the Commission to study formulas in order to promote, between the different acting factors in the textile-clothing chain of activity, including the equipment industry, the necessary co-operation for the research, the technological development and the industrial innovation, for the establishment of their competitiveness and in particular in those production activities where the incidence of the labour-cost is still very high;

- wherever structural adjustments in the textile and clothing industry may be required, it requests the Commission to ensure the transparency of any interventions in a way that guarantees the correct application of the competition rules in this sector, and to report annually to the Council.

SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES

The Council took note of an interim report from the Commission on the extending of the Euro-Info-Centres project to SMEs and the arrangements therefor.

In this connection the Council had an exchange of views on the impact on SMEs of the large common market of 1992.

Following these discussions which high-lighted the importance of a common policy for SMEs in order to help them to derive full benefit from the completion of the Community's internal market, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine a draft statement on the development of the policy for SMEs with a view to enabling the Council to resume discussions on this question at its next Industry Council meeting scheduled for 6 March 1989.

MINING INDUSTRY

The Council noted that the Commission, further to a request from the Greek delegation, intended to put in hand a study of the situation of the mining industry in the Community with a view to submitting a report to the Council in the first half of 1989 on the possibility of developing a common mining policy.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONSEEC-Cyprus relations

The Council adopted the implementing Regulation concerning Decision No 1/88 of the EEC-Cyprus Association Council amending, as a consequence of the introduction of the Harmonized System, the Protocol concerning the definition of the concept of "originating products" and methods of administrative co-operation.

Appointments

The Council appointed replacements of Alternate Members for each of the following Advisory Committees on:

- medical training
 - pharmaceutical training
 - education and training in the field of architecture
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COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

10219/88 (Presse 208)

1288th Council meeting

- Tourism -

Brussels, 14 December 1988

President: Mr Nikos SKOULAS

Deputy Minister
for Economic Affairs
of the Hellenic Republic

Italy

Mr Franco CARRARO Minister for Tourism

Luxembourg

Mr Fernand BODEN Minister for Tourism

Netherlands

Mr A.J. EVENHUIS State Secretary,
Ministry of Economic Affairs

Portugal

Mr Joaquim Martins FERREIRA Minister for Trade and Tourism

Mr Licino CUNHA State-Secretary,
Department of Tourism

United Kingdom

Mr John LEE Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State,
Department of Employment

°

° °

For the Commission

Mr C. RIPA DI MEANA Member

1990 - EUROPEAN TOURISM YEAR

The Council reached agreement on the Decision declaring 1990 European Tourism Year. The Decision includes an action programme designed to:

- prepare for the coming of the large area without frontiers, turning the integrating role of tourism to account in the creation of a people's Europe;
- stress the economic and social importance of the tourism sector, inter alia in regional policy and job creation.

To this end, co-ordinated actions will be undertaken by the Community, the Member States and private organizations, in particular to:

- promote greater knowledge among the citizens of the Member States, particularly young people, of the cultures and life-styles of the other Member States;
- promote a better distribution of tourism over time and location while respecting the quality of the environment, particularly by encouraging the staggering of holidays and the development of alternatives to mass tourism, and of new destinations and new forms of tourism;
- promote intra-Community tourism, particularly by facilitating the movement of travellers and tourism from third countries to Europe.

The amount necessary to finance from the Community budget the actions under the programme, some of which will be voluntary while others will be partly financed by the Member States or private organizations, is estimated at 5 MECU.

The actions planned include prizes, competitions, information and publicity campaigns, pilot promotion schemes, etc.

PRIORITY ACTION TO BE UNDERTAKEN IN THE TOURISM SECTOR

The Council heard a statement by Commissioner RIPA DI MEANA introducing a Commission working paper on priority action to be undertaken in the tourism sector.

The working paper provides for, inter alia,:

- actions to be taken through close co-operation between the Member States and the Community, such as:
 - . the promotion of Europe's image as a tourist destination;
 - . the promotion of off-season tourism;
 - . encouraging approximation of the curricula of catering and tourism schools;
- actions involving Community regulation, such as:
 - . contracts governing relations between operators in the tourism/travel sector and their customers;
 - . the problem of overbooking of transport and accommodation.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to begin discussing the matter.

PACKAGE TRAVEL

The Council held an exchange of views on a proposal for a Directive on package travel, package holidays and package tours.

The purpose of this proposal is to harmonize national legislation on package travel with a view to striking a satisfactory balance between the rights and mutual obligations of travellers and organisers so as to provide consumers with adequate guarantees.

At the close of the discussion the Council noted that the proposal gave rise to certain difficulties, and instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its work in the light, among other things, of the Opinion of the European Parliament which was due to be given shortly, so that the Council might take a decision.

CO-ORDINATION WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

The Council held an exchange of views on the need to co-ordinate Member States' actions in negotiations on tourism held within the framework of international organizations such as the OECD and the WTO.



COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT



PRESS RELEASE

10220/88 (Presse 209)

1289th Council meeting

- Health -

Brussels, 15 December 1988

President: M. Apostolos KAKLAMANIS
Minister for Health and Social Welfare
of the Hellenic Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr Robert DELIZEE
State Secretary for Health and
Policy on the Disabled, attached
to the Minister for Social Affairs

Denmark:

Mr Joergen VARDER
State Secretary for Health

Germany:

Mr Jochen GRUENHAGE
Deputy Permanent Representative

Greece:

Mr Apostolos KAKLAMANIS
Minister for Health and Social Welfare

Mr Emmanouil SKOULAKIS
State Secretary for Health, Social
Welfare and Social Security

Spain:

Mr Julian GARCIA VARGAS
Minister for Health and Consumer
Affairs

France:

Mr Jean CADET
Deputy Permanent Representative

Ireland:

Mr Rory O'HANLON
Minister for Health

Italy:

Mr Carlo DONAT CATTIN

Minister for Health

Luxembourg:

Mr Johny LAHURE

State Secretary for Health

Netherlands:

Mr Ch.R. VAN BEUGE

Deputy Permanent Representative

Portugal:

Mrs Leonor BELEZA

Minister for Health

United Kingdom:

Mr David MELLOR

Minister of State, Department
of Health

Commission:

Mr Manuel MARIN

Vice-President

EUROPE AGAINST CANCER

Mr MARIN, Vice-President of the Commission, submitted a communication on the progress of the Europe against cancer programme.

The programme covers action in the field of prevention and screening, the training of health workers, health information and education, research, and the results of the "Europe Against Cancer Week" (1 to 8 May 1988).

In his communication Mr MARIN gave notice of the submission of a number of proposals, including one for a ban on smoking in public places.

MAXIMUM TAR YIELD OF CIGARETTES

The Council held a policy debate on a proposal for a Directive on the approximation of the Member States' standards for the maximum tar yield of cigarettes.

The proposal seeks to fix limit values for the tar yield of cigarettes on the basis of a high level of human health protection.

From the debate it emerged that certain difficulties remained concerning the content of the proposal and its possible economic, social and health implications for producers, processors and consumers.

At the end of its debate the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to speed up its proceedings so that the Council could take a decision at its next meeting in May.

TOBACCO LABELLING

The Council examined the points still outstanding in connection with this Directive and the amendments submitted by the Commission at the meeting in response to the Opinion delivered by the European Parliament the previous day.

The proposal for a Directive seeks to harmonize the Member States' standards concerning the health warnings on tobacco and the indication of the tar and nicotine yields on cigarette packets.

The proposal provides, inter alia, that:

- the indications must be printed on the sides of cigarette packets in clearly legible print on a contrasting background so that at least 4% of the corresponding surface is covered;
- all unit packets of tobacco products must carry, on the most visible surface, the general warning "tobacco seriously damages health";
- in the case of cigarette packets, alternating warnings must also be printed on the reverse, covering at least 4% of the surface;
- in the case of tobacco products other than cigarettes, the above general warning must be printed in, or irremovably affixed to, a conspicuous place in such a way as to be easily visible, clearly legible and indelible. It must not in any way be hidden, obscured or interrupted by other written or pictorial matter;

- Member States may not, for reasons of labelling, prohibit or restrict the sale of products which comply with the Directive, but they will have the possibility - in due compliance with the Treaty - of laying down the requirements they deem necessary to ensure that public health is protected, insofar as this does not involve labelling which does not conform to the provisions of the Directive.

Following the Council's discussion, the President was able to record that the delegations' positions had moved closer together.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue examining the matter with a view to the adoption of a common position at the Council's next meeting in May.

AIDS IN THE COMMUNITY

The Council held an exchange of views on the present epidemiological situation in the Community on the basis of a report drawn up by the "Institut de médecine et d'épidémiologie africaines et tropicales" in Paris. That report states that "by 30 September 1988, 15 295 cases had been reported. This represents an increase of 97% (7 536 new cases) since September 1987 and 17% (2 185 new cases) since June 1988.

Although surveillance data on AIDS show a slight increase in the number of cases infected by heterosexual transmission, the increase among the IV drug user group continues at a similar rate (168%, 2 373 new cases between September 1987 and September 1988). Cases among IV drug users were reported mainly in southern Europe where the virus was introduced early on.

The decrease in the rates of HIV positive blood donations per thousand between 1986 and 1987 is related to self-deferral of infected donors or donors at risk, to a better selection of potential blood donors and to the gradual setting up of alternate test sites where HIV screening is frequently free of charge."

In conclusion, the President noted that the increase in AIDS cases and the rate of spread of HIV infection were less alarming than in the past but that efforts to combat AIDS should not be relaxed.

FIGHT AGAINST AIDS: CONCLUSIONS

The Ministers adopted the conclusions set out in Annexes I and II.

HEALTH ASPECTS - 1992

The President submitted an oral report on health aspects - 1992.

In that report he pointed out in particular that the internal market would inevitably have an effect on the efficiency and cost of Member States' health systems.

To achieve a better evaluation of that effect and the possible need for greater co-operation between the Member States in this area the President invited the Commission to carry out appropriate studies, with the help of the national authorities, and to submit the results to the Council and the Ministers for Health.

THE FIGHT AGAINST DRUGS

The President submitted an oral report on the health aspects of the fight against drugs.

The aim of that report was to arrange for an exchange of experience within the ad hoc Working Party on Drug Addiction on national measures involving health aspects.

ANNEX I

CONCLUSIONS

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

of 15 December 1988

concerning AIDS

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES AND THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
GOVERNMENTS OF THE MEMBER STATES, MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL,

1. agree to improve and extend the current system for the rapid and periodic exchange of epidemiological data on cases of AIDS at Community level
 - by stepping up the work of the ad hoc Working Party on AIDS, with the participation of the Commission, and the WHO collaborating centre in Paris, with a view to guaranteeing the quality and comparability of the epidemiological data;
 - while continuing to study the necessity and advantages of an exchange of actual epidemiological data including the greatest possible detail and affording guarantees for the protection of anonymity and confidentiality;

- and including in the exchange of data information based on agreed criteria which will make it easier to assess the effectiveness of the prophylactic measures taken in the Member States and which will provide an early indication of the development of epidemiological patterns and trends (such as, for instance, rates of HIV infection, notification rates for sexually transmitted diseases, changes in sexual behaviour, etc.).
2. agree on the need to intensify efforts, especially through programmes based on one-to-one counselling and support measures, to reduce the risk of HIV transmission amongst and from drug addicts. Such measures may include education and advertising campaigns, help and advisory services readily accessible to drug addicts, and access to sterile syringes and needles for drug addicts.
 3. agree on the need for firms to prepare themselves to deal with the problem of AIDS in an appropriate and sensible manner which takes account of the fact that, in almost all working relations and working contacts, there is no risk of infection (see Annex II).
 4. emphasize their interest in exchanges between Member States of qualified personnel, with current experience in combating AIDS, and call upon the Commission to study possibilities of facilitating such exchanges.
 5. instruct the ad hoc Working Party to continue its work in this sphere, with the participation of the Commission, in accordance with the conclusions of the Council and Ministers for Health of 15 May 1987 and 31 May 1988 ⁽¹⁾.

(1) OJ No C 178, 7.7.1987 and C 197, 27.7.1988.

ANNEX II

CONCLUSIONS
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
AND THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE MEMBER STATES
MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL

of 15 December 1988
concerning
AIDS and the place of work

The Council of the European Communities and the Ministers for Health of the Member States, meeting within the Council, have drawn the following conclusions from the exchange of views on experience acquired in the realm of AIDS and the workplace:

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In work settings, there is no risk of HIV infection or of acquiring AIDS. This is equally true of work settings in the health sector and activities such as manicure, pedicure, hairdressing, etc., provided the rules of hygiene are observed.

Nevertheless, firms may find themselves confronted with the problem of AIDS, even if at present such cases are still rare.

Firms should therefore prepare themselves to deal with this situation in an appropriate and sensible manner to avoid problems arising from fear or a panic response.

2. The following conclusions are based on WHO principles.

The Council of the European Communities and the Ministers for Health of the Member States, meeting within the Council, intend these conclusions merely to encourage firms to introduce education on AIDS and to promote humane treatment of employees infected by or suffering from AIDS. Large firms, with their greater resources, should take the lead in this.

3. Firms should consult or involve the employees' representative bodies in conducting these activities.

II. INFORMATION

4. Since social behaviour is frequently misguided by poor information, firms should, with the help of those who usually have a preventive role within the firm (company doctors, occupational health experts, etc., according to national practice), consider developing an effective AIDS education policy suited to their particular work environment even before any actual cases have occurred.

5. Managers, supervisors and employees' representatives are target groups for such a policy since they play an important role in forming the opinions and influencing the behaviour of their subordinates or those they represent.

Medical confidentiality should be maintained.

6. It might also prove necessary to target other groups of staff in order to allay unjustified fears.

Advice could, for instance, be given to first-aid teams on the importance of following rules of basic hygiene, and to staff travelling to countries where blood for transfusions is not tested for the presence of antibodies of the virus.

III. SCREENING

7. People infected with the HIV virus or suffering from AIDS pose no danger to their colleagues at work.

There are hence no grounds for screening potential recruits for HIV antibodies.

Testing for AIDS during regular medical check-ups at work is likewise an inappropriate way of combating AIDS.

IV. HIV-POSITIVE EMPLOYEES

8. Employees who are HIV positive but who do not show any symptoms of the disease should be looked on and treated as normal employees, fit for work.
9. Employees should be under no obligation to notify their employers of HIV infection.
10. Should it become known in a firm that an employee is HIV positive, supervisors and management should make every effort to protect that person from stigmatization and discrimination.

Understanding and moral support play an essential part in dealing sensibly with such cases.

V. DEALING WITH EMPLOYEES SUFFERING FROM AIDS

11. Employees suffering from AIDS should be treated on the same basis as employees with other serious illnesses affecting their performance.

Where fitness is impaired, duties or working hours should if possible be adjusted so that such employees may continue working as long as possible.

12. Such employees should have access to counselling and education programmes.



COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT



PRESS RELEASE

10221/88 (Presse 210)

1290th meeting of the Council

- Research -

Brussels, 15 December 1988

President: Anastassios PEPONIS

Minister for Industry, Energy
and Technology
of the Hellenic Republic

Italy:

Mr Antonio RUBERTI

Minister for Scientific Research and
Universities

Luxembourg:

Mr Fernand BODEN

Minister for Education

Netherlands:

Mr P.C. NIEMAN

Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

Portugal:

Mr José SUCENA PAIVA

State Secretary for Science and
Technology

United Kingdom:

Mr Tony NEWTON

Minister of Trade and Industry

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o

o

Commission:

Mr Karl-Heinz NARJES

Vice-President

INDUSTRIAL MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGIES AND ADVANCED MATERIALS APPLICATIONS -
BRITE/EURAM PROGRAMME (1989-1992)

On the basis of an amended proposal from the Commission - stemming from the position adopted by the European Parliament - which was submitted at the meeting, the Council reached a common position on the BRITA/EURAM programme which would be forwarded to the European Parliament under the co-operation procedure.

This pre-competitive research programme will hinge on the following five areas:

- Advanced materials technologies
- Design methodology and assurance for products and processes
- Application of manufacturing technologies
- Technologies for manufacturing processes
- Specific activities relating to aeronautics.

The programme will last for a period of four years commencing 1 January 1989 with funding of 499,5 MECU - including expenditure on staff which will be restricted to 4,5% of the Community contribution. That sum represents an increase of 60 MECU over the initial proposal.

464,5 MECU of the total amount will be used for financing the first four areas of research which initially had been all that had been proposed under BRITE/EURAM.

35 MECU will be used for funding research into aeronautics. As a result of discussions at this meeting, the Council agreed to the Commission's proposal that a fifth section on research specifically into aeronautics, to last for no more than two years, be added to the other four areas of research initially stipulated.

The Commission will be responsible for implementing the programme; it will be assisted by a Committee comprising representatives of the Member States which will have an advisory role for the first four areas of research. For aeronautics research, the Commission may take the measures proposed once it has a favourable opinion from the Committee: failing that, it will have to submit a proposal to the Council.

During the third year of implementation, the Commission will review the programme in order to propose any amendments to or extension thereof; for aeronautics, the review will be conducted in the second year.

Programme projects are open to organizations or firms in third countries with which Framework Agreements for scientific and technical co-operation have been concluded.

The main points of the programme are as follows:

PROGRAMME SUMMARY AND OBJECTIVES1. ADVANCED MATERIALS TECHNOLOGIES

The work in this area will focus on the development of improved or new materials and material processing for a wide range of possible applications except those directly related to IT covered in ESPRIT (1).

Including in particular:

1.1. Metallic Materials and Metallic Matrix Composites

Objectives:

- Extended working life of components
- Higher operating temperatures for increased thermal efficiency
- Better and more effective material processing techniques

(1) Developments of materials already covered by ESPRIT are, for instance, dealing with magnetic, magneto-optical, optical thin films for sensors, recording media and heads, optical layers and specific materials for opto-electronics, ceramics and polymers for IC packaging and specific substrates, superconducting thin films for low current applications and devices.

1.2. Materials for Magnetic, Optical, Electrical and Superconducting Applications

Objectives:

- Improved materials and materials processing for optical, magnetic, electrical and superconducting applications

1.3. High Temperature Non-metallic Materials

Objectives:

- Design methodologies for products based on ceramics, glasses and amorphous materials
- Improved monolithic and ceramic composites and metal/ceramic interfaces for industrial applications
- Better processing techniques and quality control strategies

1.4. Polymers and Organic Matrix Composites

Objectives:

- Development of polymers for specific applications
- More cost effective process techniques for parts made from polymer and polymer matrix composites
- Design rules for the specification and manufacture of engineering polymers and composites
- New polymers with improved recycling attributes
- Improved product assurance techniques

1.5. Materials for Specialised Applications

Objectives:

- Improved materials and their processing for specialised applications

2. DESIGN METHODOLOGY AND ASSURANCE FOR PRODUCTS AND PROCESSES

The development of techniques to improve product quality and the reliability and maintainability of structures and manufacturing systems by clarification of the design aims for both product and process, and by refinement of the criteria against which the attributes are measured. The exploitation of materials for application in sensors, and the reduction in the whole life costs of sensors are also included in this section. This will complement work in Community IT programmes, where on-line control is treated, including monitoring and diagnostics, predictive maintenance and quality assurance.

Including in particular:

2.1. Quality and Reliability and Maintainability in Industry

Objectives:

- Improved performance measurement for manufacturing operations in a wide variety of industries
- Improved and more predictable physical and environmental behaviour of products
- Improved quality control strategies
- Design rules for reliability and maintainability of components, structures and systems including machinery operating under varying conditions

2.2. Process and Product Assurance

Objectives:

- Reduction of whole life costs of sensor systems for process control;
- Exploitation of materials properties for applications in sensors;
- Use of advanced measurement techniques for more cost effective examination of topology;
- Improved energy control for industrial applications;
- Improved non-destructive testing methods for product assurance;

3. APPLICATION OF MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGIES

Here the task is to identify and address the needs of manufacturing industry and particularly the less advanced sectors, many of which have a major part made up of SME's. It is to be expected that modelling of physical processes will be a valuable instrument for progress. Also addressed is the challenge to the industries based on the use of flexible materials. The work will mainly focus on product and process development, transferring and adapting technology already used in other sectors. This should complement work in ESPRIT where IT systems for advanced manufacturing and CIM are being developed.

Including in particular:

3.1. Advancing Manufacturing Practices

Objectives

- Identifying means for improving manufacturing practices in specific sectors,
- Transfer and adaptation of technology already used in other sectors.

3.2. Manufacturing processes for flexible materials

Objectives:

- Increased process flexibility
- Reduced waste of material
- Improved process and product quality

4. TECHNOLOGIES FOR MANUFACTURING PROCESSES

Improved techniques for shaping, joining and assembly, surface treatment, chemical processes and particle technology are fundamental needs for industry. Advancement of these processes is essential for securing manufacturing competitiveness.

Including in particular:

4.1. Surface techniques

Objectives:

- Cost-effective surface treatments for industrial applications;
- Techniques for quality assurance and control of the treatment process.

4.2. Shaping, Assembly and Joining

Objectives:

- Improved methodologies for shaping processes and assembly;
- Improved joining techniques to improve reliability and reduce defect levels;
- Methods for testing welded and bonded joints to improve reliability of results and service predictability;
- Design methodology for joining;
- Better understanding of beam/workpiece interactions for industrial power beam processes.

4.3. Chemical processes

Objectives:

- Improved predictability and yield in chemical processes;
- Membrane materials with improved characteristics;
- Improved performance of membrane processes;
- New systems for separation in hostile environments.

4.4. Particle and powder processes

Objectives:

- Improved techniques for particle production to optimise produce shape, structure and stability;
- Cost-effective techniques for particle categorisation and process performance;
- Better approaches to handling and separation;
- Cost-effective routes for small lots of high quality powder.

5. SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES RELATING TO AERONAUTICS

This section covers precompetitive research in technological areas which are of primary relevance to aeronautics (in particular aeroplanes and helicopters) and are not yet covered in other programme areas.

5.1. Aerodynamics

Objectives:

- analysis and optimisation of configurations for supersonic aircraft, including an estimation of aerothermodynamic heat loads;
- investigation of laminar flow technology;
- development of numerical methods;
- integration of computerised design technologies.

5.2. Acoustics

Objectives:

- noise source identification, prediction and reduction;
- basic investigation of acoustic fatigue and related damage tolerance on advanced composites;

- investigation of different construction methods;
- development and application of simulation models for response calculations under selected acoustic loads.

5.3. Airborne systems and equipment

Objectives:

- integration and operation of modern systems and equipment and corresponding new architectures;
- investigations concerning the use of onboard intelligent knowledge base systems (IKBS);
- investigations into the concept of the "All Electric Aircraft".

5.4. Propulsion Systems

Objectives:

- integration of advanced propeller and propeller-rotor systems;
- provision of mathematical models for different design evaluation;
- specification and design of wind tunnel models and their components
- specific aspects of air-breathing engine combustion.

INDICATIVE INTERNAL ALLOCATION OF FUNDS

%

<u>I. SECTORS R&D</u>	
1. Advanced materials technologies	<u>28</u>
2. Design methodology and assurance for products and processes	<u>19</u>
3. Application of manufacturing technologies	<u>19</u>
4. Technologies for manufacturing processes	<u>20</u>
5. <u>Specific activities relating to Aeronautics</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>II. STAFF AND ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS</u>	
Staff costs	4.5
Administrative costs	2.5
	<hr/>
	<u>100.0</u>

Between 7 % and 10 % of the budget shall be available for fundamental research in the above areas where industrial progress is impeded by gaps in basic scientific knowledge.

Up to 0.45% of the available budget may be devoted to the the feasibility awards.

JOULE PROGRAMME - NON-NUCLEAR ENERGIES AND RATIONAL USE OF ENERGY
(1989-1992)

The Council adopted a common position on a specific research and technological development programme in the field of energy - non-nuclear energies and rational use of energy (1989-1992) - JOULE; this common position will be forwarded to the European Parliament under the co-operation procedure.

This programme will run for a period of three years and three months from 1 January 1989. The funds estimated necessary to implement the programme amount to 122 MECU, including expenditure on a staff of 34.

The Commission will be responsible for implementing the programme. It will be assisted by an advisory committee comprising representatives of the Member States.

During the second year of implementation, the Commission will review the programme in order to propose any amendments to or extension thereof.

Programme projects are open to organizations or firms from third countries with which Framework Agreements for scientific and technological co-operation have been concluded.

The main features of this programme are as follows:

Programme objectives

The objective of developing energy technologies is directly linked to the Community's energy strategy, the aim of which is to increase security of supply in the long term and to reduce energy imports to a reasonable cost, bearing in mind the environment. As far as the technologies involved are concerned, this objective requires the contribution of solid fossil fuels and new and renewable sources of energy to be increased in the medium and long term and energy efficiency and the rational use of energy to be greatly improved.

This primary objective must be accompanied by a research effort to reduce significantly nuisance and pollution caused by the production and use of energy.

The development of advanced energy technologies should stimulate and improve industrial competitiveness, including that of small and medium-sized enterprises in the Community, and, as a consequence, help to enhance the economic and social cohesion of the Community.

These objectives can be achieved through progress in the development and availability of techniques, processes and products allowing the rational use of energy, in the non-polluting use of solid fuels and hydrocarbons, in the efficient and economic use of renewable energy sources and in the development of models for energy and the environment.

PROGRAMME CONTENTS AND INDICATIVE INTERNAL ALLOCATION OF FUNDS

Funds estimated as necessary for
the execution of the subprogramme
(in MECU)

1. MODELS FOR ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT	6
2. RATIONAL USE OF ENERGY	35
2.1. Conservation in end-use sectors	
2.1.1. Buildings	
(a) Energy conservation	
(b) Solar energy applications	
2.1.2. Combustion technology	
2.1.3. Industry	
2.2. Energy conservation and storage	
2.2.1. Fuel cells	
(a) For large-scale power applications	
(b) For small-scale applications	
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- 4.2.1. Geothermal energy
- 4.2.2. Deep geology

TOTAL

122 (1)

(1) of which 13,727 MECU are foreseen for staff and administrative costs, including the cost of co-ordination activities and staff engaged in "intra muros" research for subprogramme 1.

FIRST REPORT ON THE STATE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN EUROPE

The Council heard a statement by Mr NARJES, Vice-President, introducing a first report on the state of science and technology in Europe. The report is in response to a request from the European Parliament for an analysis of the state of affairs in Europe in the various major sectors of science and technology, to serve as a basis for defining future European policy in this area.

The Commission's aim is to provoke discussion with a view in particular to a possible review of the framework programme on research.

The Council held a preliminary exchange of views on the report which it agreed to continue at a future date.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

EEC/Czechoslovakia Agreement

The Council approved the results of the negotiations with Czechoslovakia and decided to proceed with the signing of the Agreement between the EEC and the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic on trade in industrial products.

This signing will take place at the next meeting of the General Affairs Council on Monday 19 December.

STABEX transfer to French Polynesia

The Council adopted a decision on the transfer to be made to French Polynesia under the STABEX system for the 1987 year of application to compensate losses in export earnings on copra oil. The payment will amount to 800 000 ECU.



COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT



PRESS RELEASE

10222/88 (Presse 211)

1291st Council meeting

- Labour and Social Affairs -

Brussels, 16 and 17 December 1988

President: Mr Yorgos YENNIMATAS

Minister for Labour
of the Hellenic Republic

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

Belgium

Mr Luc VAN DEN BRANDE Minister for Labour and Employment

Denmark

Mr Torben Mailand CHRISTENSEN Deputy Permanent Representative

Germany

Mr Wolfgang VOGT Parliamentary State Secretary to the Federal Minister for Labour and Social Affairs

Mrs Irmgard KARWATZKI Parliamentary State Secretary to the Federal Minister for Research and Technology

Greece

Mr Yorgos YENNIMATAS Minister for Labour

Mr Petros MORALIS State Secretary at the Ministry of Labour

Spain

Mr Alvaro ESPINA Secretary-General for Employment

France

Mr Jean-Pierre SOISSON Minister for Labour, Employment and Vocational Training

Mr Claude EVIN Minister for Solidarity and for Health and Social Security

Ireland

Mr Bertie AHERN Minister for Labour

Italy

Mr Nino FORMICA Minister for Labour and Social Security

Luxembourg

Mr Jean-Claude JUNCKER

Minister for Labour

Netherlands

Mr J. DE KONING

Minister for Employment and Social Security

Mr W.J. DEETMAN

Minister for Education and Sciences

Portugal

Mr José Albino da SILVA PENEDA

Minister for Labour and Social Security

United Kingdom

Mr John COPE

Minister of State for Employment

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Commission

Mr Manuel MARIN

Vice-President

Mr Stanley CLINTON DAVIS

Member

MEETING WITH THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Before starting on its agenda, the Council received a delegation from the European Parliament, led by the President, Lord PLUMB, and made up of Mr GOMES, Chairman of the Committee on Social Affairs and Employment and Ms WEBER, Chairman of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection.

The Parliamentary delegation expressed a wish to contribute in a practical way to the development of the social dimension of the internal market. It referred to the need to look at certain aspects of it in more detail, including economic and social cohesion with the Structural Funds, improving health and safety at work, free movement of workers, continuing training and dialogue between both sides of industry.

The President of the Council thanked the Parliamentary delegation for its statement and likewise emphasized the need to make Article 118a of the Treaty of Rome a reality, so that the economic and social aspects of the internal market could develop at the same pace.

The President of the Council hoped that co-operation between the Parliament and the Council could be further improved and that the schedules of the two institutions could be brought more into line with each other, thus ensuring an efficient legislative procedure.

SOCIAL DIMENSION OF THE INTERNAL MARKET

The Council held a detailed exchange of views on creating the social dimension of the internal market, on the basis of a draft Resolution submitted by the Presidency.

At the close of the discussion, the President drew the following conclusions:

At this Council meeting, significant progress has been made along the lines set out in the conclusions of the European Council in Hanover and Rhodes.

The Commission will continue its discussions on the basis of its working document of 14 September 1988 and the draft Resolution from the Presidency.

The Presidency considers that an action programme in the social domain for the period up to completion of the internal market (31 December 1992) is essential for putting the European Council's conclusions into practice.

HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK - NEW FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE

The Council approved its common position on the proposal for a Directive on the introduction of measures to encourage improvements in the safety and health of workers at the workplace.

Summing up, the President emphasized that approval of this Directive was an important step towards bringing about the social dimension of the internal market.

The Directive constituted the basis for future implementation of Article 118a of the EEC Treaty, particularly for discussions on the proposals for Directives submitted by the Commission in March 1988.

In accordance with Article 118a of the EEC Treaty, the Directive would contain only minimum requirements. Compared with national legislation on the subject, it would be confined to essentials. Nevertheless, its ambit was very broad, covering sectors and working arrangements that had not so far been dealt with by most national legislation.

The Directive provides for future Directives on specific areas. In point of fact, the Commission has already submitted 5 proposals for Directives, on the workplace, machines, personal protective equipment, visual display units and heavy loads.

In accordance with Article 118a, the Directive tries to avoid imposing administrative, financial and legal constraints in a way which would hold back the creation and development of small and medium-sized undertakings.

The Directive's provisions include:

- general principles for the prevention of occupational risks and the protection of safety and health, the elimination of sources of accidents and hazards, the informing and consulting of workers, worker participation in accordance with

national practice and/or legislation, the training of workers and their representatives, as well as general principles concerning the implementation of such measures;

- measures covering all public- and private-sector activities (industrial, agricultural, commercial, administrative, educational, cultural, leisure and service activities, etc.).

BENZENE

After a short discussion, the President noted that it was not possible to meet the unanimity requirement for adoption of the Directive after the European Parliament had rejected the Council's common position.

The Council agreed to include benzene in the scope of the Directive on carcinogens.

CARCINOGENS

Pending the Opinion of the European Parliament, the Council noted that there was a broad consensus on the proposal for a Directive on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to carcinogens at work (sixth individual Directive within the meaning of Article 8 of Directive 80/1107/EEC).

It instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue examination of the proposal with a view to adoption of a common position at its next meeting.

COMETT II

The Council adopted a Decision on the second phase of the COMETT programme (COMETT II).

This second phase of the COMETT programme is geared mainly towards the following objectives:

- to improve the supply of training at local, regional and national level;
- to give a European dimension to co-operation between universities and industry in initial and continuing training relating to technologies and their applications and transfer;
- to foster the joint development of training programmes and the exchange of experience;
- to develop levels of training in response to technological and social change.

The Directive earmarks 200 MECU for COMETT II over a 5-year period. The funds will be broken down as follows: 40% for international exchanges, 40% for projects for continuing training in advanced technologies and multi-media distance learning, 12% for the European network and 8% for complementary measures.

Entry into force is scheduled for 1 January 1990.

CONTINUING TRAINING

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue examination of the draft Resolution on continuing training submitted by the Presidency, with a view to adoption of the Resolution at the Council's next meeting.

EXCEPTIONAL AID FOR GREECE

The Council adopted a Regulation extending until 31.12.1991 the exceptional Community financial support for Greece, intended for the construction, adaptation and equipment of vocational training centres in the Athens area and centres for the rehabilitation of the mentally and physically ill and handicapped.

This decision to extend the Regulation is accompanied by a new schedule of commitments and payments, which does not exceed the budget of 120 MECU laid down in the Regulation.

EQUAL TREATMENT FOR WOMEN - BURDEN OF PROOF

The Council failed to agree on the Commission proposal on the burden of proof in the area of equal pay and equal treatment for women and men.

It was proposed to seek a way out of the situation by means of bilateral contacts.

SOCIAL SECURITY FOR MIGRANT WORKERS- FAMILY BENEFITS

The Council discussed progress on the proposal for a Regulation amending Regulations (EEC) Nos 1408/71 and 574/72, aimed at uniform arrangements for the payment of family benefits.

It instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its discussions in order to reach a solution as soon as possible.

- NON-CONTRIBUTORY BENEFITS

The Council examined the proposal for a Regulation amending Regulation No 1408/71 concerning the question of eligibility for special non-contributory benefits.

It instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its discussions with a view to adoption of the Regulation at one of its forthcoming meetings.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONSOther decisions on social affairsLimit value

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Directive amending Directive 80/1107/EEC on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to chemical, physical and biological agents at work.

In particular, it provides for indicative limit values to be drawn up at Community level to cover as many dangerous chemical, physical and biological agents as possible, in addition to the binding limit values.

The Directive comprises a uniform measurement strategy at Community level which is an essential condition for the harmonization of limit values.

INTEGRATION OF WOMEN INTO WORKING LIFE

The Council adopted a Resolution on the reintegration and late integration of women into working life. In this Resolution, the Council pointed out, amongst other things, that a considerable number of women give up work on marriage or on childbirth on account of the difficulty of reconciling their working life and family life.

The Council called on the Member States and the Commission to take, each in their respective areas, a series of measures to help women who wish to return to work or make a late entry into employment.

Trade policy

The Council adopted Regulations opening, allocating and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas for 1989 for

- dried onions
- silver hake
- frozen cod fillets
- sweet, clear-fleshed cherries, marinated in alcohol, falling within CN code ex 2008 60 39 and intended for the manufacture of chocolate products
- certain cod and fish of the species *Boreogadus saida*, dried, salted or in brine
- dried figs and certain dried grapes from Spain
- certain kinds of prepared or preserved fish coming from Portugal
- certain fruit and fruit juices
- lemons and sweet almonds
- ferro-silicon
- ferro-silicon manganese
- ferro-chromium containing not more than 0,10% by weight of carbon and more than 30% but not more than 90% by weight of chromium (super-refined ferro-chromium)
- newsprint falling within code 4801 00 10 of the Combined Nomenclature and extending this quota to include certain other types of paper
- certain plywoods of coniferous species
- certain types of manufactured tobacco processed in the Canary Islands
- certain flat-rolled products falling within CN code ex 7226 10 91

- ferro-chromium containing by weight more than 6% of carbon
- certain qualities of magnesium
- ferro-phosphorus.

The Council also adopted Regulations opening, allocating and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas for products originating in the Canary Islands (1989), viz.:

- fresh flowers
- new potatoes and certain live plants
- beans (of the species Phaseolus), onions and sweet peppers
- tomatoes, cucumbers and aubergines.

Anti-dumping

The Council adopted a Regulation imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of synthetic fibres of polyesters originating in Mexico (22,1% of the free-at-Community-frontier price of the product, not cleared through customs), Romania (23,4%), Taiwan (15,8%), Turkey (11,9%), the United States of America (1,2%) and Yugoslavia (18,7%).

With regard to Mexico, Taiwan, Turkey, the United States and Yugoslavia, imports from certain firms are subject to adjusted duties, lower than those given above, and for the United States, imports from some firms are exempt from duty.

Furthermore, the definitive anti-dumping duty imposed on fiberfill is suspended for a period of five months as from the date of entry into force of the Regulation.



PRESS RELEASE

10365/88 (Presse 214)

1292nd Council meeting

- General Affairs -

Brussels, 19 December 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 Paul DE KEERSMAEKER State Secretary for European Affairs

Denmark:

Mr Uffe ELLEMANN-JENSEN Minister for Foreign Affairs

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 Francisco FERNANDEZ ORDONEZ Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Pedro SOLBES MIRA State Secretary for Relations with the
European Communities

Mr Apolonio RUIZ LIGERO State Secretary for Trade

France:

Mrs Edith CRESSON Minister for European Affairs

Ireland:

Mr Brian LENIHAN Minister for Foreign Affairs

Italy:

Mr Gianni MANZOLINI

State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Luxembourg:

Mr Jacques F. POOS

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Netherlands:

Mr H. VAN DEN BROEK

Mister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Y.M.C.T. van ROOY

Minister for Foreign Trade,
State Secretary for Economic Affairs

B.J.M. Baron van VOORST tot VOORST

State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign
AffairsPortugal:

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

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° °

Commission:

Mr F. ANDRIESSEN Vice-President
Mr Claude CHEYSSON Member
Mr Willy DE CLERCQ Member

UNITED STATES: HORMONES

After receiving a progress report from the Commission on this matter, the Council invited it to continue its contacts with the new United States Administration as well as the GATT proceedings with the aim of finding a mutually acceptable solution to the dispute between the United State and the Community regarding the application of the Directive on hormones.

The Council approved the Commission's intention to take appropriate measures to resolve the problem of imports of pet food and thus to reduce substantially the scale of the dispute.

The Council approved the list of counter-measures to be taken by the Community if, despite all attempts to reach an amicable settlement, the United States were to apply the unilateral measures they had announced. The Council would decide when it would implement the Community counter-measures in keeping with developments in this case.

The Council also noted that the Directive on hormones would be implemented on the scheduled date of 1 January 1989.

URUGUAY ROUND: MID-TERM REVIEW

The Council heard a report by Commissioner DE CLERQ on the outcome of the Mid-Term Review of the Uruguay Round negotiations held from 5 to 8 December 1988 in Montreal.

The Council expressed its appreciation for the way in which the Commission had conducted the negotiations with the full support of the Council at the ministerial meeting.

The Council endorsed the Commission's assessment of the results of the Montreal proceedings.

The Council then decided that the Community offers concerning tropical products which formed part of the Scheme of Generalized Preferences would be implemented unilaterally under the GSP for 1989.

IRON AND STEEL: EXTERNAL ASPECT 1989

The Council examined the questions still outstanding on the basis of the Commission proposals for negotiating directives for the 1989 steel arrangements.

At the close of the discussion, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to finalize the decision on this matter so that the Council could adopt it in the near future.

TEXTILES: CHINA

The Council adopted by a qualified majority - the Greek and Portuguese delegations having voted against - the Decision on the provisional application on 1 January 1989 of the bilateral textile agreement which the Commission had recently initialled with China.

RELATIONS WITH YUGOSLAVIA

The Council adopted the Community position for the 7th meeting of the EEC-Yugoslavia Co-operation Council at ministerial level which was held early in the evening on the same day (see Press Release CEE-YU 1017/88 Presse 218).

3rd FINANCIAL PROTOCOLS WITH CYPRUS AND MALTA

The Council continued its discussions on the new Financial Protocols with Cyprus and Malta. It agreed to take up this matter again at its next meeting with a view to adopting negotiating directives for the Commission.

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR 1989 FOR FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO ASIAN AND LATIN AMERICAN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

The Council adopted general guidelines for 1989 for financial and technical assistance to Asian and Latin American developing countries. These are intended to guide the Commission in its management of the aid in question.

They stipulate that Community action must still be based on the needs of the least favoured countries and the neediest sections of the population.

Priority will be given to the rural sector and in particular to the improvement of the food situation, with the emphasis on production, support services, social infrastructures, training of farmers, etc. special encouragement of SMEs, and continuing support for regional integration efforts.

On the basis of these common principles aid will be tailored to the needs and priorities of each country and each region; in the case of Asia, there is a particular need for capital transfer with a view to increasing productive investment, which in that of Latin America aid covering activities designed to reduce social disparities will receive particular attention. Central America as a whole will continue to be an area for special attention.

Financially speaking, the Decision takes account of the fact that the Budget Authority introduced separate budget appropriations for the implementation of financial and technical co-operation in Asia and Latin America (Art. 9300 ASIA: 191 MECU in commitment appropriations and 130 MECU in payment appropriations; Art. 9310 LATIN AMERICA: 92 MECU in commitment appropriations and 61 MECU in payment appropriations).

Common reserves will be set up to support agricultural research and management costs and, within a limit of 10% of available appropriations to deal with exceptional circumstances (e.g. reconstruction following disasters).

FOLLOW-UP TO THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL MEETING IN RHODES (2 and 3 DECEMBER 1988)

The Council took note of a report from the Presidency on the follow-up to the European Council in Rhodes. It emphasized in particular the decisions already taken, such as that on transport infrastructures the decision of the Social Affairs Council on the Framework Directive and the formal adoption of four implementing Regulations for the reform of the Structural Funds. It also referred to the efforts still called for to complete the proceedings of the Internal Market Council of 21 December concerning several important dossiers. As regards "the internal frontier-free area", it reiterated the need for Member States to appoint leading figures to be in charge of inter-governmental co-ordination with the necessary authority to perform these duties. The President was confident that the Spanish Presidency which would be taking over on 1 January would continue the implementation of the conclusions of the European Council.

REFORM OF THE STRUCTURAL FUNDS

The Council adopted ⁽¹⁾ four implementing Regulations for the reform of the Structural Funds concerning respectively

- co-ordination of the activities of the different Structural Funds between themselves and with the operations of the EIB and other existing financial instruments;
- the European Regional Development Fund;
- the European Social Fund;
- the EAGGF, Guidance Section.

(1) However, one delegation upheld a parliamentary scrutiny reservation at this stage; the General Secretariat would be notified should the reservation be lifted.

The adoption of these four Regulations follows on from the co-operation procedure with the European Parliament as regards the Co-ordination and ERDF Regulations and from the conciliation procedure as regards the ESF and EAGGF-Guidance Section Regulations. Collaboration under the two procedures led to satisfactory results being achieved for the Council, the Commission and the European Parliament.

The four Regulations thus adopted ensure that the reform of the Structural Funds - in response to the conclusions of the European Council in February concerning increased resources for the Funds and the adoption on 24 June of the overall Regulation on the aims of the Structural Funds - can actually enter into force on 1 January 1989.

The overall Regulation stipulated that the Council, on a proposal from the Commission, would adopt the measures needed to implement it and also set aside for the implementing Regulations a number of specific questions essential to the reform.

In response to these demands, the Commission proposed in July the horizontal co-ordination Regulation and the three sectoral Regulations on which the Council has just taken a decision.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONSScheme of Generalized Preferences for 1989

As a result of the agreement reached at the General Affairs Council on 21 and 22 November 1988,

- the Council adopted the Regulations applying generalized tariff preferences for 1989 in respect of certain industrial, agricultural and textile products originating in developing countries

- the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the ECSC, meeting within the Council, adopted the Decision applying generalized preferences for 1989 in respect of certain iron and steel products originating in developing countries.

(See Press Release 9496/88 Presse 179 of 21 and 22 November 1988.)

Commercial policy and customs union- Anti-dumping

The Council adopted Regulations

- amending Regulation (EEC) No 3205/88 as regards certain plain paper photocopiers assembled in the Community by Matsushita Business Machines (Europe) GmbH and Toshiba Systèmes (France) S.A.

This Regulation lays down that the anti-dumping duty in question no longer applies to plain paper photocopiers assembled or manufactured in the Community by Matsushita Business Machines (Europe) GmbH and Toshiba Systèmes (France) S.A. since these firms have given undertakings which the Commission, after due examination, has accepted as satisfactory.

- extending (for a period not exceeding two months) the provisional anti-dumping duty on imports of certain video cassette recorders originating in Japan and the Republic of Korea;
- extending (for a period not exceeding two months) the provisional anti-dumping duty on imports of urea originating in Austria, Hungary, Malaysia, Romania, United States of America and Venezuela.
- Quotas for the Mediterranean countries

The Council adopted Regulations

- opening and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota (for 1989) for
 - = prepared or preserved sardines originating in Tunisia
 - = new potatoes originating in Egypt
 - = wine of fresh grapes originating in Yugoslavia
 - = cut flowers and flower buds, fresh, originating in Israel (1988/1989)
 - = apricot pulp originating in Tunisia and Israel
 - = apricot pulp originating in Morocco
 - = onions originating in Egypt
 - = sweet peppers, salad beetroot, dried grapes and certain types of concentrated grape juice, originating in Cyprus
 - = sweet peppers, frozen peas and garlic originating in Yugoslavia

- = Chinese cabbages, Iceberg lettuce, sweet peppers and peeled tomatoes, originating in Israel
- = wine of fresh grapes and liqueur wines, originating in Cyprus
- = "Sljivovica" plum spirit and tobacco of the "Prilep" type, originating in Yugoslavia
- = certain wines of designated origin, originating in Algeria
- = fresh or dried hazelnuts, shelled or not, originating in Turkey
- = prepared or preserved sardines originating in Morocco
- suspending wholly or in part the Common Customs Tariff duties on certain agricultural products originating in Turkey (1989)
- opening and providing for the administration of a Community preferential ceiling for certain petroleum products refined in Turkey and establishing Community surveillance for imports thereof (1989)
- establishing ceilings and Community supervision for imports of certain products originating in Yugoslavia (1989)
- totally or partially suspending the duties applicable to certain products falling within Chapters 1 to 24 of the CN and originating in Malta (1989)
- establishing ceilings and Community surveillance of imports of certain textile products originating in Malta (1989)
- opening, allocating and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas for apricot pulp, certain prepared or preserved sardines and certain wines of designated origin, originating in Morocco (adjustment of the 1988 Regulation)

The Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the ECSC, meeting within the Council, adopted a Decision establishing ceilings and Community supervision for imports of certain products originating in Yugoslavia (1989).

- Other quotas

The Council adopted Regulations

- increasing (from 600 000 to 630 000 tonnes) the volume of the Community tariff quota opened for 1988 for newsprint. This increase of 30 000 tonnes is added to the Community reserve which goes up from 240 000 to 270 000 tonnes
- opening and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota
 - = of 1 500 tonnes for a certain type of polyvinyl butyral falling within the CN Code ex 3905 90 00 (at zero duty)
 - = of 150 tonnes for a certain form of polyvinylpyrrolidone falling within CN Code ex 3905 90 00 (at zero duty)
- opening, allocating and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas for certain handmade products and certain hand woven fabrics, pile and chenille (1989).

- Trade agreements

The Council also adopted the Decision authorizing extension or tacit renewal of certain trade agreements concluded between Member States and third countries.

Transport

As a result of the agreement reached at the Transport Council meeting on 8 December 1988 the Council adopted

- a Regulation on the granting of financial support to transport infrastructure projects

- a Decision on the second stage of the negotiations between the EEC, Austria, Switzerland and Yugoslavia in the field of transport.

(See Press Release 10063/88 Presse 199) of 8 December 1988).



COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT



PRESS RELEASE

10463/88 (Presse 219)

1293rd Council meeting
- Internal Market -
Brussels, 21 December 1988

President: Mrs Vasso PAPANDEOU

Deputy Minister for Trade
of the Hellenic Republic

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

o

o

o

Commission:

Lord COCKFIELD
Mr Peter SUTHERLAND

Vice-President
Member

SAFETY OF MACHINERY

In the context of removing technical barriers to trade, the Council adopted a common position on one of the most important Directives following the "new approach" defined in the Council Resolution of 7 May 1985. It is part of the work programme set out in the white paper on completion of the internal market.

The common position will be forwarded to the European Parliament under the co-operation procedure.

This new legal instrument has been introduced in particular to harmonize national provisions concerning the safety of new machines and to eliminate barriers to trade arising out of the disparity of such provisions.

The Directive defines the essential general safety and health requirements, supplemented by a series of more specific requirements for certain categories of machinery. Harmonized European standards will be drawn up by the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) and the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization (CENELEC). Those standards will relate to the design and construction of machinery and will enable compliance with the essential requirements to be checked.

Manufacturers themselves will be able to declare that their machinery complies with the essential requirements, although they may, if need be, call on third parties to carry out examinations.

A more restrictive certification procedure has been laid down for certain types of machinery with a higher risk potential.

From an economic viewpoint, it covers just over half of the Community's mechanical engineering sector, i.e. approximately 110 to 120 thousand million ECU. Its scope is vast because it covers both machines of very simple design and very complex machinery installations such as manufacturing cells and flexible workshops.

From the social policy viewpoint, the impact of this Directive is also considerable. By means of the essential requirements which it defines, the Directive introduces real Community legislation concerning prevention of accidents at the workplace.

The Directive is due to enter into force by 1 January 1993 at the latest.

CONTROL OF CONCENTRATIONS BETWEEN UNDERTAKINGS

The Council had a further detailed discussion on the main problems arising in the context of the control of concentrations between undertakings.

The following subjects in particular were at issue:

- determination of the scope of the Regulation (definition of concentrations having a Community dimension - in particular thresholds);
- proceedings for authorization of a concentration and appraisal criteria (competition aspects and certain others, in particular of a general economic nature);
- automatic suspensory effect of notification or Commission decision to suspend putting a concentration into effect;
- treatment of public undertakings;
- the Commission's powers and safeguarding Member States' legitimate interests;
- the problem of applying the Regulation and Articles 85 and 86 of the EEC Treaty.

Following the Council's discussions, the President observed that substantial progress had been made and noted the Council's willingness to continue these discussions on the basis of that day's proceedings.

RESTRUCTURING OF THE ITALIAN STEEL INDUSTRY

As a follow-up to the proceedings at its Industry meeting on 13 December 1988, the Council resumed its discussions on restructuring the Italian public steel industry.

Noting a statement by the German delegation defining the German government's position, the Council unanimously gave its assent to the compromise solution drawn up at its meeting on 13 December 1988.

OFFICIAL INSPECTION OF FOODSTUFFS

The Council approved a common position on the Directive laying down general principles for official inspections of foodstuffs.

The recitals of the Directive emphasize the importance of trade in foodstuffs in the common market, the need to protect health and the problems which the existence of different types of inspection could create for the free movement of goods.

For the purposes of the Directive, inspection relates to:

- foodstuffs;
- food additives, vitamins, mineral salts, trace elements and other additives intended to be sold as such;
- materials and articles intended to come into contact with foodstuffs.

The inspections provided for by the Directive are aimed at preventing risks to public health, guaranteeing fair commercial transactions and protecting consumer interests.

FOODSTUFFS - APPROXIMATION OF LAWS

After completing the procedure of co-operation with the European Parliament, the Council adopted three Directives on the approximation of the laws of the Member States in the following fields:

- materials and articles intended to come into contact with foodstuffs. The purpose of this Directive is to determine the sectors for which it is necessary to draw up specific directives and to define procedures to be followed to that end;
- food additives authorized for use in foodstuffs intended for human consumption. This Directive aims in particular at laying the foundations for drawing up lists of authorized additives and the conditions for their use;
- quick-frozen foodstuffs for human consumption. This Directive aims at drawing up Community rules in this field covering the various stages of the entire cold chain, such as manufacture, storage, transport, distribution and retail sale.

MEDICINAL PRODUCTS DERIVED FROM HUMAN BLOOD

The Council adopted a common position - to be forwarded to the European Parliament under the co-operation procedure - on a Directive extending the scope of Directives 65/65/EEC and 75/319/EEC and laying down special provisions for industrially manufactured medicinal products derived from human blood and plasma.

This Directive provides in particular for the introduction of a rigorous system of testing at manufacture and severe tests guaranteeing the quality, safety and efficacy of these medicinal products before they are placed on the market, in order to prevent in particular the transmission of infectious diseases such as AIDS and hepatitis.

The Directive will moreover encourage the voluntary unpaid donation of human blood and plasma in order to promote Community-wide self-sufficiency in human blood.

RADIOPHARMACEUTICALS

The Council adopted a common position on the Directive extending the scope of Directives 65/65/EEC and 75/319/EEC and laying down additional provisions for radiopharmaceuticals.

This Directive aims at preventing disparities in the provisions currently laid down by law, regulation or administrative action by Member States from hindering trade in radiopharmaceuticals within the Community.

The Directive lays down in particular special provisions for guaranteeing the quality, safety and efficacy of these medicinal products. The provisions cover marketing authorization, the packaging and labelling and the instruction leaflet.

The common position will be forwarded to the European Parliament under the co-operation procedure.

HIGHER-EDUCATION DIPLOMAS

Having discussed the amendments proposed by the Commission following the second reading by the European Parliament under the co-operation procedure, the Council adopted the Directive on a general system for the recognition of higher-education diplomas awarded on completion of professional education and training of at least three years' duration.

The Directive differs from the previous "sectoral" Directives in a number of important ways.

Firstly, it has a broad scope since the new system is intended to be applied to all regulated professions requiring at least three years' university-level training which have not been covered by a specific Directive.

Secondly, recognition must be based on the principle of mutual confidence, without prior co-ordination of the educational and training systems providing training for the various professions concerned.

Thirdly, recognition is granted to the "finished product", i.e. the fully qualified professional having already received any professional training required in addition to a university diploma.

Fourthly, in the event of major differences in education and training or in the structure of the profession, the Directive provides for compensatory mechanisms, viz. an adaptation period or an aptitude test. In principle, the choice between these two mechanisms is left to the migrant person but in the case of professions whose practice requires precise knowledge of national law and in respect of which the provision of advice and/or assistance concerning

national law is an essential and constant aspect of the pursuit of the professional activity, the host Member State may stipulate either an adaptation period or an aptitude test.

A Co-ordinating Group is also being set up under the aegis of the Commission with the task of facilitating the implementation and application of the Directive.

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

COSMETIC PRODUCTS

The Council adopted a Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to cosmetic products.

This Directive amends for the fourth time the original Directive (76/768/EEC) in order to improve the provisions on labelling.

TRADE MARKS

Pursuant to the common position it adopted in June and after approval by the European Parliament in the course of the co-operation procedure, the Council adopted a Directive to approximate the laws of the Member States relating to trade marks.

The Directive is intended to harmonize the laws of the Member States on fundamental aspects of trade mark law. Such harmonization is deemed necessary as part of completion of the single market.

It applies to all registered national trade marks whether for goods or services and whether these are individual, collective or guarantee trade marks.

The Directive gives a uniform definition of signs of which a trade mark may consist. It lays down an exhaustive list of grounds for refusal or invalidity and makes some of these grounds optional for the Member States. The Member States remain completely free to fix procedural provisions for this.

The Directive provides a uniform definition of the rights conferred by a trade mark on the proprietor together with the limitations on such rights and the conditions in which exhaustion of the rights occurs. These provisions are of particular importance for the free movement of goods and services.

To the same end and in order to reduce as much as possible the number of trade marks registered and the ensuing risk of disputes, the Directive introduces a use obligation. If the trade mark has not been put to genuine use in the Member State concerned for five years, it is revoked and may not be invoked in connection with a later right.

Member States will have three years from the date on which it is formally adopted to transpose the Directive into their national legislation. A special procedural device may however make it possible for the Council to adapt this period so that it coincides with the date of the opening of the Community Trademark Office.

INTRODUCTION OF COMMON BORDER POSTS

The Council adopted the Regulation on the abolition of certain exit formalities at internal Community frontiers.

This Regulation echoes an idea set out in the conclusions of the European Council meeting in Fontainebleau on 25 and 26 June 1984, and in the White Paper on Completing the Internal Market.

The Regulation provides in particular that, when goods cross internal frontiers, they need to be presented, for purposes of the formalities and controls to be carried out at the office of exit under the ATA carnet, the Community carnet or the form 302 procedure, only at the office of entry unless the office of exit is at the same time the office of departure.

TERMS OF PAYMENT OF A CUSTOMS DEBT

The Council adopted a common position on the Regulation on the entry in the accounts and terms of payment of the amounts of the import duties or export duties resulting from a customs debt.

The Regulation introduces Community rules for inclusion in the accounts (entry in the accounts books by the authorities) of the amounts of customs duties, and also transforms into a Regulation the existing Directive on the deferment of payment of customs duties (introduced as Directive 69/76/EEC, as amended and extended by Directive 78/453/EEC).

EXPORTS OF NON-FERROUS METAL WASTE

The Council adopted a Regulation on export arrangements for certain types of non-ferrous metal waste and scrap (1989), which

- renews for 1989 the surveillance arrangements (in force until 31 December 1988) for exports of aluminium and lead waste and scrap and introduces the same arrangements for 1989 for zinc waste and scrap
- renews and increases the volume of the quota arrangements for exports of copper ash and residues (28 500 tonnes) and copper waste and scrap (41 430 tonnes).

SUMMERTIME

Following approval of its common position by the European Parliament on 16 December 1988, the Council adopted the fifth Directive on summertime arrangements.

Under this Directive, Member States will take the measures necessary to ensure that summertime for 1990, 1991 and 1992 begins at 1 am GMT on the last Sunday in March, that is to say:

in 1990: on 25 March

in 1991: on 31 March

in 1992: on 29 March,

and ends at 1 am on the last Sunday in September, that is to say:

in 1990: on 30 September

in 1991: on 29 September

in 1992: on 27 September.

In the case of the United Kingdom and Ireland, it will end on the fourth Sunday in October (unless they decide to bring their summertime into line with the period in the ten other Member States), that is to say:

in 1990: on 28 October

in 1991: on 27 October

in 1992: on 25 October.

By 1 January 1992 the Council will adopt the arrangements to apply from 1993 onwards.

OTHER DECISIONS CONCERNING THE INTERNAL MARKETConsumer information

The Council adopted the Decision on a Community system for the rapid exchange of information on dangers arising from the use of consumer products.

Approximation of laws - Construction products

The Council adopted the Directive on the approximation of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States relating to construction products.

This is the third Directive to be drawn up following those on pressure vessels and toys, pursuant to the Resolution of May 1985 on the new approach to harmonization of technical rules. Economically, this is probably the most important Directive since it is intended to facilitate the placing on the market and movement within the Community of a vast range of products representing a turnover of some 300 milliard ECU per annum.

Unlike the previous two Directives, this one contains safety and health protection requirements governing the works ("buildings") in which the construction products are intended to be used rather than the products themselves. It provides for the drawing up of documents ("interpretative documents") which will provide a link between the works requirements and the numerous product standards to be established by Commission "mandates" within the CEN (European Committee for Standardization).

The Council also adopted the Directive on requirements concerning the last components and characteristics needed to complete the full EEC type-approval procedure for new types of tractors. This Directive rounds off the work started in the Sixties, which has resulted in adoption in this sector of 22 Directives and six amendments to some of them. By making it possible to remove all technical barriers to trade in new tractors in the Community, it constitutes a major contribution to completion of the internal market.

The Council also adopted the Directive amending several Directives concerning the approximation of the laws of the Member States where there is provision in those Directives for publication in the Official Journal of attestations and certificates.

Food sector

The Council adopted the common positions on

- the Directive amending for the ninth time Directive 73/241/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to cocoa and chocolate products intended for human consumption
- the Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to foodstuffs intended for particular nutritional uses
(See Press Release - Internal Market Council - 18.XI.88, 9344/88 (Presse 174))

- the Directive amending Directive 79/112/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the labelling, presentation and advertising of foodstuffs for sale to the final consumer
(See Press Release - Internal Market Council - 18.XI.88, 9344/88 (Presse 174))

- the Directive on indications or marks identifying the lot to which a foodstuff belongs.
(See Presse Release - Internal Market Council - 18.XI.88, 9344/88 (Presse 174))

Medicinal products

The Council adopted the Directive relating to the transparency of measures regulating the pricing of medicinal products for human use and their coverage under national health insurance systems.

(See Press Release - Internal Market Council - 22.VI.88, 7006/88 (Presse 95)).

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Customs union

The Council adopted the Regulations

- amending Regulation (EEC) No 918/33 setting up a Community system of reliefs from duty (concerning imports of equipment for research establishments or organizations based outside the Community)

- amending Regulation No 2658/87 on the tariff and statistical nomenclature and on the Common Customs Tariff

- laying down the provisions applicable to goods brought into the customs territory of the Community ("customs treatment")
- amending regulation No 2144/87 on customs debt.

Tariff quotas

- State-trading countries

The Council adopted the Decisions

= on import quotas to be opened by Member States in respect of State-trading countries in 1988, and

= concerning the implementation of the Decision on import quotas to be opened by Member States in respect of State-trading countries in 1988.

- EFTA countries

The Council adopted the Regulations opening and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas for

= certain quality wines and sparkling wines originating in Austria

= certain products originating in the EFTA countries (1989).

- Mediterranean countries

The Council adopted the Regulations opening and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas for

= new potatoes, fresh tomatoes and peas and immature beans, prepared or preserved, originating in Morocco (1989)

= certain agricultural products originating in Israel (1989).

- ECSC

The Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the ECSC, meeting within the Council, adopted the Decisions on the opening of zero-duty tariff quotas for flat-rolled products of silicon-electrical steel for

= Spain

= the Benelux countries

= the Federal Republic of Germany.

- Other tariff quotas

The Council adopted the Regulations opening, allocating and providing for the administration of

= unilateral tariff quotas for coffee, unroasted and not freed of caffeine, and cocoa beans, whole or broken, raw or roasted, falling within CN codes 0901 11 00 and 1801 00 00 (1989)

= Community tariff quotas for 1989 for

(a) certain fishery products originating in the Canary Islands

(b) boysenberries, preserved by freezing, not containing added sugar, intended for any form of processing except for the manufacture of jam entirely from boysenberries

(c) certain petroleum products refined in Spain and certain woven products of cotton coming from Spain.

Commodities

The Council adopted the Decision on the provisional application of the 1987 International Natural Rubber Agreement.

Textiles

The Council adopted a Decision concerning the provisional application of a modification to the Agreement between the Community and Hong Kong on trade in textile products.

Relations with EFTA countries

The Council adopted

- the Decision on the conclusion of the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the EEC and Norway concerning reciprocal trade in cheese
- the Regulations concerning the safeguard clause provided for in Article 2 of Decisions No 5/88 of the EEC-EFTA Joint Committees amending Protocol No 3 in order to simplify the cumulation rules
- the Regulations concerning the implementation of Decisions Nos 2/88, 3/88 and 4/88 of the EEC-EFTA Joint Committees supplementing and amending Protocol No 3 concerning the concept of originating products and methods of administrative co-operation (perborate of sodium - used tyres - nuclear fuel elements)
- the Regulations on the application of Decisions No 5/88 of the EEC-EFTA Joint Committees modifying Protocol No 3 concerning the definition of the concept of "originating products" and methods of administrative co-operation in order to simplify the cumulation rules.

The Council also authorized the Commission to open negotiations with the EFTA countries in order to enable them fully to suspend as soon as possible the customs duties applicable to imports into their countries of industrial products from Spain.

ECSC products - Yugoslavia

The Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the ECSC, meeting within the Council, adopted the Decision extending the arrangements applicable to trade with Yugoslavia in products covered by the ECSC Treaty.

Relations with the Mediterranean countries

The Council

- approved the Agreements in the form of Exchanges of Letters negotiated by the Commission with

= Algeria, Morocco and Turkey on olive oil

= Algeria, Morocco and Israel on fruit salads

= Algeria on tomato concentrates

and decided to sign these Agreements

- adopted the Decisions concluding these Agreements and the Regulations implementing them.

Research

The Council formally adopted the common position reached on 15 December 1988 on a specific research and technological development programme of the EEC in the fields of industrial manufacturing technologies and advanced materials applications (BRITE/EURAM) (1989-1992).

(See Press Release of the Research Council on 15.XII.88, 10221/88 (Presse 210)).

Tax reliefs

The Council adopted the Directives

- amending for the ninth time Directive 69/169/EEC on the harmonization of provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action relating to exemption from turnover tax and excise duty on imports in international travel;
- amending for the fifth time Directive 74/651/EEC on the tax reliefs to be allowed on the importation of goods in small consignments of a non-commercial character within the Community.

(See Press Release of the ECOFIN Council on 12.XII.88, 10149/88 (Presse 206)).

Annual report

The Council adopted the Decision adopting the annual report on the economic situation in the Community and laying down economic policy guidelines for 1989.

(See Press Release of the ECOFIN Council on 12.XII.88, 10149/88 (Presse 206)).

Credit institutions - transferable securities

The Council adopted the Directive on the obligations of branches established in a Member State of credit institutions and financial institutions having their head offices outside that Member State regarding the publication of annual accounting documents ⁽¹⁾.

(See Press Release of the Internal Market Council on 7.VI.88, 6635/88 (Presse 78)).

The Council further adopted common positions

- on the Directive co-ordinating the requirements for the drawing up, scrutiny and distribution of the prospectus to be published when transferable securities are offered for subscription or sale to the public;
- on the Directive on the own funds of credit institutions.

(See press release of the ECOFIN Council on 12.XII.88, 10149/88 (Presse 206)).

Aid to the coal industry

The Council took note of the Commission report on the application of Community rules for State aid to the coal industry in 1987, together with comments made by certain Member States and the replies given by the Commission.

The Council gave the consultation requested by the Commission on the basis of its memorandum on the financial aids granted by Spain and Portugal to the coal industry in 1986. It agreed with the Commission's conclusions that these aids

(1) One delegation however, maintained a parliamentary scrutiny reservation at this stage. The General Secretariat will be informed as soon as the reservation has been withdrawn.

are compatible with Decision 528/76/ECSC and with the proper functioning of the common market.

Agriculture

The Council adopted the Regulations

- amending Regulation (EEC) No 354/79 laying down general rules for the import of wines, grape juice and grape must;
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 822/87 on the common organization of the market in wine;
- on the preparation and marketing of liqueur wines produced in the Community;
- amending regulation (EEC) No 2990/82 on the sale of butter at reduced prices to persons receiving social assistance;
- derogating from Regulation (EEC) No 3220/84 on the application of the Community scale for grading pig carcasses in Greece;
- amending, for 1989, the quota applicable for imports into Portugal of live swine from the Community as constituted on 31 December 1985;
- amending regulation (EEC) No 315/68 fixing quality standards for flowering bulbs, corms and tubers.

Fisheries

Following the discussions of the Fisheries Council on 9, 10 and 11 December 1988, the Council adopted the Regulations:

- fixing, for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks, the total allowable catches for 1989 and certain conditions under which they may be fished (TACs and quotas for 1989);
- amending for the seventh time Regulation (EEC) No 3094/86 laying down certain technical measures for the conservation of fishery resources;
- laying down, for 1989, certain measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources applicable to vessels flying the flag of Norway;
- allocating, for 1989, certain catch quotas between Member States for vessels fishing in the Norwegian Exclusive Economic Zone and the fishing zone around Jan Mayen;
- laying down, for 1989, certain measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources applicable to vessels flying the flag of Sweden;
- allocating among certain Member States the 1989 catch quotas for vessels fishing in Swedish waters;
- laying down, for 1989, certain measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources applicable to vessels registered in the Faroe Islands;

- allocating, for 1989, certain catch quotas between the Member States for vessels fishing in Faroese waters.

(See Press Release of the Fisheries Council on 9/10/11.XII.88, 10147/88 (Presse 204)).

Energy

The Council adopted the Regulation amending Regulations (EEC) No 1893/79 and (EEC) No 2592/79 introducing registration for crude oil imports into the Community (extension until 31.12.1991).

Environment

The Council adopted the Resolution concerning transfrontier movements of hazardous waste to third countries

(See Press Release of the Environment Council on 24/25.XI.88, 9580/88 (Presse 184)).

The Council further adopted the common position, reached on 24 November 1988, aimed at amending Directive 70/220/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to measures to be taken against air pollution by emissions from motor vehicles (cars with small-capacity engines, i.e. less than 1400 cc).

(See Press Release of the Environment Council on 24/25.XI.88, 9580/88 (Presse 184)).

Health

The Council adopted the Decision approving the amendments to the Protocol to the European Agreement on the Exchange of Blood-Grouping Reagents ⁽¹⁾.

Tourism

The Council formally adopted the Decision on an action programme for European Tourism Year (1990).

(See press release of the Tourism Council on 14.XII.88, 10219/88 (Presse 208)).

(1) One delegation, however, maintained a parliamentary scrutiny reservation at this stage. The General Secretariat will be informed as soon as the reservation has been withdrawn.