

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

PRESS RELEASES

PRESIDENCY: GERMANY

JANUARY-JUNE 1988

Meetings and press releases March-April 1988

Meeting number	Subject	Date
1225 th	Economics/Finance	7 March 1988
1226 th	Agriculture	7-9 March 1988
1227 th	Transport	14 March 1988
1228 th	Environment	21 March 1988
1229 th	Internal Market	22 March 1988
1229 th	Internal Market - German text	
1230 th	General Affairs	22 March 1988
1231 st	Agriculture	28-30 March 1988
1232 nd	Research	11 April 1988
1233 rd	Economics/Finance	18 April 1988
1234 th	Agriculture	18-19 April 1988
1235 th	General Affairs	25-26 April 1988
1236 th	Budget	28 April 1988

PRESS RELEASE

4932/88 (Presse 26)

1225th Council meeting
- Economic and Financial Affairs -
Brussels, 7 March 1988
President: Mr Gerhard STOLTENBERG

Minister for Finance
of the Federal Republic of Germany

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

Belgium

Mr Mark EYSKENS Minister for Finance

Denmark:

Mr Knud ENNGAARD Minister for Economic Affairs

Germany:

Mr Gerhard STOLTENBERG Minister for Finance

Mr Otto SCHLECHT State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs
Chairman of the Co-ordinating Group for Economic and Financial Policies

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

France:

Mr François SCHEER Ambassador, Permanent Representative

Ireland:

Mr Ray MacSHARRY Minister for Finance

Italy:

Mr Giuliano AMATO Minister for the Treasury

FOLLOW-UP TO THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL MEETING ON 11 AND 12 FEBRUARY 1988

Under this head the Council discussed the implementation of the European Council's conclusions on budgetary discipline; it recorded agreement on the Presidency's suggestions regarding the procedure to be followed for contacts with the European Parliament and the Commission on the matter.

COURT OF AUDITORS' REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 1986 BUDGET

The Council heard a statement by the President of the Court of Auditors, Mr MART, drawing the Council's attention to a number of salient points in the Court's report on implementation of the 1986 budget.

The Council took note of these comments and adopted a Recommendation, drawn up in the light of the Court of Auditors' report, to be sent to the European Parliament so as to allow the latter to give a discharge to the Commission in respect of the implementation of the general budget of the European Communities for the financial year 1986.

This Recommendation is accompanied by comments from the Council.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE SPRING MEETINGS OF THE IMF AND THE WORLD BANK

The Council discussed the progress of preparations for the meetings of the IMF and the World Bank to be held in Washington on 14 and 15 April. It asked the Monetary Committee to continue these preparations and to finalize the speech to be made by the President of the Council on that occasion on behalf of the Member States of the Community.

FIRST QUARTERLY REVIEW OF THE ECONOMIC SITUATION IN THE COMMUNITY

In accordance with Article 2 of the 1974 "convergence" Decision, the Council conducted the first quarterly review of the economic situation in the Community.

To that end the Council had before it a Commission communication of 18 February 1988 which had undergone prior examination within the Co-ordinating Group for Economic and Financial Policies in the Community.

In concluding its examination, the Council agreed with the Commission that while there was no need to amend the economic policy guidelines for 1988, they should be applied consistently in all areas.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Other economic/financial decision

The Council adopted the Decisions giving a discharge to the

- Management Board of the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training

- Administrative Board of the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions

in respect of the implementation of the statement of revenue and expenditure of these bodies for the financial year 1986.

Customs Union

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

- on the rules of origin for trade between Spain and Portugal in the period during which the transitional measures are applied;

- concerning the definition of the concept of "originating products" and methods of administrative co-operation in the trade between the Customs Territories of the Community, Ceuta and Melilla and the Canary Islands.

Relations with Romania

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Community a Regulation on the conclusion of the Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the European Economic Community and the Socialist Republic of Romania amending Annex II to the Protocol annexed to the Agreement on Trade in Industrial Products.

Relations with the ACP States and the OCT

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, a Decision and Regulations on the discharge to be given to the Commission in respect of the operations of the 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th European Development Funds (financial year 1986).

Convention on a European Pharmacopoeia

The Council had before it an interim report from the Commission on the first phase of the negotiations which the Commission had conducted with the Council of Europe Secretariat on the accession of the European Community to the Convention on the Elaboration of a European Pharmacopoeia. The Council decided that the outcome of the negotiations allowed the Community to accede to the Convention.

Appointment

Acting on a proposal from the German Government, the Council appointed Dr Jörg HOPPE an alternate member, in the category of experts from the practising profession, of the Advisory Committee on Medical Training to replace Dr Heinz-Peter BRAUER for the period ending on 11 May 1989.

PRESS RELEASE

4933/88 (Presse 27)

1226th Council meeting

- Agriculture -

Brussels, 7, 8 and 9 March 1988

President:

Mr Ignaz KIECHLE
Federal Minister for Food,
Agriculture and Forestry
of the Federal Republic of Germany

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

Belgium:

Mr Paul DE KEERSMAEKER State Secretary for European
Affairs and Agriculture

Denmark:

Mr Laurits TOERNAES Minister for Agriculture

Germany:

Mr Ignaz KIECHLE Federal Minister for Food,
Agriculture and Forestry

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

Greece:

Mr Yiannis POTTAKIS Minister for Agriculture

Spain:

Mr Carlos ROMERO HERRERA Minister for Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food

France:

Mr François GUILLAUME Minister for Agriculture

Ireland:

Mr Michael O'KENNEDY Minister for Agriculture

Italy:

Mr Filippo Maria PANDOLFI Minister for Agriculture

Mr Carlo DONAT CATTIN Minister for Health

Luxembourg:

Mr Marc FISCHBACH	Minister for Agriculture and Viticulture
Mr René STEICHEN	State Secretary for Agriculture

Netherlands:

Mr Gerrit BRAKS	Minister for Agriculture
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Portugal:

Mr Arlindo CUNHA	State Secretary for Agricultural Development
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United Kingdom:

Mr John McGREGOR	Minister of Agriculture
Mr John GUMMER	Minister of State, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

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Commission:

Mr Frans H.J.J. ANDRIESSEN	Vice-President
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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL IN
FEBRUARY 1988 CONCERNING AGRICULTURE

Further to the agreement reached within the European Council from 11 to 13 February 1988 as regards agriculture, the Council particularly focussed its attention on the proposals for Regulations necessary for implementing the decisions taken by the Heads of State or of Government.

Following its discussions, the Council, pending the Opinion of the European Parliament, noted that there was informal agreement on the texts relating to stabilizers for cereals, oilseeds and high-protein products, sheepmeat and goatmeat, sugar, milk, fruit and vegetables and raw tobacco. The substantive discussion on these products is thus closed. As regards wine, for which the Council recently received proposals from the Commission, discussions are to continue. The Special Committee on Agriculture was requested to examine this matter in greater depth so as to enable the Council to decide on it at its next meeting.

Certain points emerging from these discussions deserve to be highlighted:

Dates of entry into force of the stabilizers:

23 May 1988 for sheepmeat and goatmeat in all Member States,
1 July 1988 for cereals.

Cereals - small producers and co-responsibility

The questions concerning, in particular, the definition of small producers and the detailed rules for applying the principle of exemption from the co-responsibility levy, which was included in the European Council's conclusions, will be incorporated in the 1988/1989 price package.

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Under the same conditions, the Council also reached informal agreement on the Regulation concerning set-aside and the Regulation on the cessation of farming:

SET-ASIDE

The Council agreed that the new Regulation would enter into force from 1 July 1988, at the same time as the entry into force of the stabilizers for cereals (1988/1989 marketing year). The Commission undertook to take the necessary implementing measures falling within its sphere of competence before 30 April 1988.

As regards the extensification and conversion aspects, implementation by the Member States of the measures needed to comply with the Regulation were postponed until 1 January 1989.

CESSATION_OF_FARMING_(early_retirement)

The Council agreed to apply provisionally the scheme proposed by the Commission and to review it, and more particularly the financing arrangements, after two years.

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It is understood that the stabilizers and related measures form part of a package which will have to be approved as a whole once the European Parliament has delivered its Opinion.

OLIVE OIL

The Council examined the proposals for Regulations concerning the granting of aid for the production of olive oil and the fixing, for the 1987/1988 marketing year, of the percentage of the aid to be withheld for producer organizations.

Following its exchange of views, the Council noted that certain questions had still to be examined in greater depth and therefore agreed to carry this item over to its next meeting on 28 and 29 March 1988.

LESS-FAVOURED AREAS OF THE WEST OF IRELAND

Pending the Opinion of the European Parliament, the Council arrived at a common approach, based on a compromise, on the proposal concerning the stimulation of agricultural development in the less-favoured areas of the west of Ireland.

The proposal is designed to make certain amendments to the basic Regulation (No 1620/80) in the light of experience gained to date.

In the main, these proposed amendments are the following:

- extension of the project to all the less-favoured areas of Ireland;
- inclusion of certain complementary measures to improve the living conditions of farming families and increase their incomes by creating activities other than traditional farming;
- abandonment of plans to shift production towards beef, and introduction of measures to alleviate the problems of wintering cattle on farms;
- increase in the rate of Community financing, modulated as follows:
 - = 70% for the measures for improving rural infrastructure, developing forestry and re-direction of production;
 - = 60% for land improvement and agricultural training;
 - = 50% for the improvement of living conditions.

HORMONES

The Council adopted by a qualified majority the Directive prohibiting the use of certain substances having a hormonal action in livestock farming; the content of this Directive is identical to that of the Directive of 31 December 1985 which was annulled for infringement of a procedural requirement by the Court of Justice.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Other agricultural decisions

The Council approved the report from the Special Committee on Agriculture concerning the proposal for a Regulation on a specific common measure to encourage the development of agriculture in certain regions of Spain. This Regulation can be formally adopted once the European Parliament's Opinion has been received.

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Directive complying with the judgment of the Court of Justice in Case 131/86. This Directive confirms the adoption of Council Directive 86/113/EEC of 25 March 1986 laying down minimum standards for the protection of laying hens kept in battery cages, which had been annulled by the Court.

Appointment at the General Secretariat of the Council

The Council appointed Mr Raffaello FORNASIER, who has been occupying ad interim the post of Legal Adviser to the Council since 1 November 1987, to grade A/1 ad personam with effect from 1 November 1987.

PRESS RELEASE

4936/88 (Presse 30) 433

1227th meeting of the Council

- Transport -

Brussels, 14 March 1988

President: Mr Jürgen WARNKE

Federal Minister for Transport
of the Federal Republic of Germany

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

Belgium:

Mr Herman de CROO
Minister for Transport
and Foreign Trade

Denmark:

Mr F. Noer CHRISTENSEN
Minister for Transport and
Public Works

Mr Joergen HALCK
State Secretary,
Ministry of Public Works

Germany:

Mr Jürgen WARNKE
Federal Minister for Transport

Mr Wilhelm KNITTEL
State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Transport

Greece:

Mr Costas BADOUVAS
Minister for Transport and
Communications

Spain:

Mr Abel Ramon CABALLERO
ALVAREZ
Minister for Transport,
Tourism and Communications

France:

Mr Jacques DOUFFIAGUES
Minister attached to the Minister
for Infrastructure, Housing,
Town and Country Planning and
Transport with responsibility
for Transport

14.III.88

Ireland:

Mr John WILSON

Minister for Tourism and Transport

Italy:

Mr Calogero MANNINO

Minister for Transport

Luxembourg:

Mr Thierry STOLL

Deputy Permanent Representative

Netherlands:

Mr Ch. R. VAN BEUGE

Deputy Permanent Representative

Portugal:

Mr Oliveira MARTINS

Minister for Public Works,
Transport and Communications

United Kingdom:

Mr Paul CHANNON

Minister for Transport

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For the Commission:

Mr Stanley CLINTON DAVIS

Member

ACCESS TO THE MARKET FOR THE CARRIAGE OF GOODS BY ROAD

The Council made a detailed examination of the proposal on access to the market for the carriage of goods by road on the basis of a compromise proposal from the Presidency.

Following the discussions, the President recorded the agreement of the great majority of delegations. He then asked the Commission to consider whether it could go along with the Presidency's proposal so that the Council could act.

WIDTH OF REFRIGERATED VEHICLES

The Council reached agreement on an amendment to Directive 85/3/EEC on the weights and dimensions of certain road vehicles, viz. refrigerated vehicles.

The aim of this amendment is to allow a derogation from the maximum permissible width of 2,50 metres laid down by Directive 85/3/EEC and permit refrigerated vehicles to have a width of up to 2,60 metres, so as to enable two pallets of standard international dimensions to be accommodated side by side in vehicles with lateral insulated walls not less than 45 millimetres thick.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to finalize the texts so that the Directive could be adopted as soon as possible.

FIXING OF RATES FOR THE CARRIAGE OF GOODS BY ROAD

Pending receipt of the European Parliament's Opinion, the Council recorded a favourable position on the part of most Member States to the proposal for a Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 3568/83 on the fixing of rates for the carriage of goods by road.

It asked the Permanent Representatives Committee to finish examining this proposal as soon as the European Parliament's Opinion was known.

UNIFORM IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMUNITY SOCIAL LEGISLATION IN THE CARRIAGE OF GOODS BY ROAD

The Council took note of the Commission's preliminary draft for the adoption of a Directive on the uniform implementation of Regulation (EEC) No 3820/85 on the harmonization of certain social legislation relating to road transport and Council Regulation (EEC) No 3821/85 on recording equipment in road transport. It requested the Permanent Representatives Committee to expedite its discussions on this matter so as to enable the Council to adopt a Directive on the uniform implementation of Community social legislation in June 1988.

It also requested the Commission to submit to it without delay a situation report comparing Community social legislation with the AETR provisions and the related problems of supervision. The Council also requested the Commission to initiate exploratory talks on the adaptation of the AETR to Community social legislation and to submit a draft of a suitable mandate to the Council by its June meeting.

CHARGING OF TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE COSTS TO HEAVY GOODS VEHICLES

The Council held a general exchange of views on the proposal for a Council Directive on the charging of transport infrastructure costs to heavy goods vehicles.

In concluding its discussions, the Council asked the Permanent Representatives Committee to expedite examination of the Commission proposal so that the Council could discuss it in greater depth at its next meeting in June.

WEIGHTS AND DIMENSIONS

The Council took note of progress to date with proceedings on the provisions concerning, on the one hand, the weight of certain categories of heavy goods vehicle intended for the transport of goods and, on the other, the weights and dimensions of coaches and buses.

It asked the Permanent Representatives Committee to expedite proceedings so as to allow the Council to reach a decision on the dossier at its meeting in June 1988.

COMMISSION REPORTS

The Council took note of a set of Commission reports on:

- the negotiations between the EEC and transit countries (interim report on negotiations with Austria, Switzerland and Yugoslavia);
- the medium-term transport infrastructure programme.
The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine the new Commission proposal as soon as it was received, in the light of delegations' comments;
- air transport
 - = proceedings of the European Civil Aviation Conference (ECAC) in the field of market access and scheduled inter-regional services;
 - = amendment of the Directive concerning the authorization of scheduled inter-regional air services;
- the conditions for admission to the occupation of road haulier.
The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine the new Commission proposal as soon as it was received, in the light of delegations' comments.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Control of transfrontier movements of hazardous waste

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, a Decision authorizing the Commission on behalf of the Community, to negotiate within the OECD an International Agreement on the Control of Transfrontier Movements of Hazardous Wastes.

The draft International Agreement provides in particular for a series of identification, notification, authorization and accompanying procedures without which all imports, transit journeys or exports of hazardous wastes would be prohibited.

Fisheries

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

- opening, allocating and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas for certain fishery products;
- opening and providing for the administration of Community tariffs for certain fishery products;
- opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for certain eels (1 July 1988 - 30 June 1989).

(See Press Release 4738/88 Presse 21, page 4).

ECSC

The Council gave the consultation requested by the Commission on the basis of a Commission memorandum on the financial aids granted by the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Belgium and the United Kingdom to the coal industry in 1986; it agreed with the Commission's conclusions that these aids were compatible with Decision 528/76/ECSC and with the proper functioning of the common market.

PRESS RELEASE

5050/88 (Presse 34)

1228th meeting of the Council

- Environment -

Brussels, 21 March 1988

President: Mr Klaus TOEPFER,
Federal Minister for the Environment,
Nature Conservation and
Reactor Safety
of the Federal Republic of Germany

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

Belgium:

Mrs Miet SMET State Secretary for the Environment

Denmark:

Mr Mogens BUNDGAARD-NIELSEN State Secretary,
Ministry of the Environment

Germany:

Mr Klaus TOEPFER Federal Minister for the Environment,
Nature Conservation and Reactor
Safety

Mr Clemens STROETMANN State Secretary at the Federal
Ministry of the Environment,
Nature Conservation and Reactor
Safety

Greece:

Mr Evangelos KOULOUMBIS Minister of Public Works, Regional
Planning and the Environment

Spain:

Mr Javier SAENZ COSCULLUELA Minister for the Public Works and
Town Planning

France:

Mr Alain CARIGNON Minister attached to the Minister
for Infrastructure, Housing, Town
and Country Planning and Transport,
with responsibility for the
Environment

Ireland:

Mr Pdraig FLYNN Minister for the Environment

Italy:

Mr Enrico PIETROMARCHI Deputy Permanent Representative

Luxembourg:

Mr Robert KRIEPS

Minister for the Environment

Netherlands:

Mr E.H.T.M. NIJPELS

Minister for Housing,
Planning and the Environment

Portugal:

Mr Luis VALENTE DE OLIVEIRA

Minister for Planning and
Territorial Administration

Mr MACARIO CORREIA

State Secretary for the
Environment and Natural Resources

United Kingdom:

The Earl of CAITHNESS

Minister of State,
Department of the Environment

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Commission:

Mr Stanley CLINTON-DAVIS

Member

CLOSE OF THE EUROPEAN YEAR OF THE ENVIRONMENT

The Council approved the following Resolution:

"The Council of the European Communities,

- referring to the decision of the European Council of 29 and 30 March 1985 designating 1987 as the "European Year of the Environment" and to the Council Resolution of 6 March 1986 on an action programme for that year;
- noting that, following adoption of the Single Act, environment protection policy has become a fully established policy of the European Community;
- THANKS the Commission and all those who have contributed, under the aegis of the Steering Committee and the National Committees, to the success of the European Year of the Environment;
- WELCOMES the impact made by and response to the European Year of the Environment in the Community, enabling awareness to be increased among a large number of those in positions of responsibility in administrations, industry and trade unions, local authorities and associations and also a broad spectrum of European public opinion, particularly young people;
- IS PLEASED that events were organized around practical projects and in a decentralized way, thereby enabling numerous regional and local bodies in the Community to participate;

- NOTES with interest the efforts made to encourage in particular, European, multinational or bilateral projects and to involve the business world in the European Year of the Environment;
- TAKES NOTE of the initiatives to encourage the submission and implementation of projects with an environmental aspect which may be eligible for the various Community Funds;
- NOTES with satisfaction that some non-member countries were involved in the European Year of the Environment and that the Commission carried out information, education and awareness projects directed at developing countries;
- HOPES that the information and awareness activities undertaken during the European Year of the Environment will have follow-on effects well beyond it and bring benefits and practical progress for the protection of the environment and of the world we live in;
- CALLS ON the Commission, on the basis of experience in the European Year of the Environment, and in co-operation with the Member States, to continue its information and education efforts and to carry out practical measures to that end, in association with interested organizations;
- EMPHASIZES in this connection that, if Community environmental policy is to progress in both its framing and its implementation, there is a need for greater convergence of interests and attitudes on the importance of environmental problems on the part of public opinion and the sectors concerned in all Member States;
- CALLS upon the Member States to pursue the objectives which inspired the European Year of the Environment in collaboration with interested groups and the Commission."

WATER QUALITY OBJECTIVES FOR CHROMIUM

On the basis of a compromise proposal from the Presidency, the Council continued its examination of the proposal for a Directive on water quality objectives for chromium and limits for chromium in waters.

After the discussion the Presidency noted that the Council was unable to reach agreement at this stage. The Presidency would consider what further action should be taken in this matter.

CHLOROFORM

The Council reached agreement on the proposal for a Directive laying down limit values and quality objectives for discharges of chloroform in the aquatic environment.

The aim of the Directive is to regulate chloroform Community-wide in the view of the dangerous nature and wide diffusion of this substance.

The Directive will be adopted after finalization of the texts and will mark a further stage in the Community-level regulation of dangerous substances falling within Annex I to Directive 76/464/EEC.

WASTE FROM THE TITANIUM DIOXIDE INDUSTRY

The Council acknowledged that the Directive on this matter was one of great importance and that every effort should be made to enable it to be adopted at the Council meeting on 16 June 1988. The Council therefore instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue seeking solutions to the various problems arising in the light of its discussion.

LARGE COMBUSTION PLANTS

On the basis of a compromise proposal from the Presidency, the Council continued the examination of the proposal for a Directive on the limitation of emissions of pollutants into the air from large combustion plants.

After the discussion, the Council asked the Permanent Representatives Committee to press ahead with its discussions on the subject so that it could take a decision at its meeting in June.

ENVIRONMENT AND EMPLOYMENT CREATION

The Council resumed the examination of the proposal for a Decision establishing a five-year Community-wide programme of projects illustrating how action taken in the environmental field can also contribute to employment creation. The Council mainly concentrated on the financial aspects of the proposal.

After the discussion, the Council asked the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its examination of this proposal and to resubmit it in due course.

CONTROL OF SUBSTANCES WHICH DEplete THE OZONE LAYER

The Council held an initial exchange of views on the proposal for a Decision concluding and implementing the Vienna Convention for the protection of the ozone layer and the Montreal Protocol on substances that deplete the ozone layer, and on the proposal for a Regulation on the implementation of the Montreal Protocol in the Community.

The Council noted that the political will existed for taking a decision on this matter in good time to enable the Montreal Protocol to come into force on 1 January 1989. It stressed the importance it attached to all the Member States ratifying the Vienna Convention as soon as possible and in any event by 1 October 1988. It instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to press ahead with its discussions so that it could act on the proposal for a Decision and the proposal for a Regulation at the next meeting in June.

POLLUTION FROM MOTOR VEHICLES (small cubic capacity)

Pending the European Parliament's Opinion, the Council held an initial exchange of views on the proposal for a Directive relating to measures to be taken against air pollution by gases from the engines of motor vehicles (small cubic capacity).

After the discussion, the Council stressed the need to reach an early decision on the subject. It therefore instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue the discussions with all due speed so that it could reach an agreement at its meeting in June, after the European Parliament's Opinion had been received.

Agricultural_policy

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

- amending Regulation No 804/68 on the common organization of the market in milk and milk products. The aim of this amendment is to increase the effectiveness of the supplementary levy in the milk sector where Formula B applied (dairy quotas) (see Press Release 4443/88 Presse 13);
- amending Regulation No 1820/80 for the stimulation of agricultural development in the less-favoured areas of the West of Ireland. A common position on this matter was established by the Agriculture Council at its meeting on 7-9 March 1988 (see Press Release 4933/88 Presse 27).

Fisheries_policy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Decision fixing the customs duties on imports of redfish (*Sebastes Spp*), fresh, chilled or frozen, falling within codes 0302 69 31, 0302 69 33, 0303 79 35, 0303 79 37, ex 0304 10 99 and 0304 90 31 of the Combined Nomenclature and originating in Iceland.

Relations with the EFTA countries

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, Regulations on the application of Decisions No 3/87 of the EEC-EFTA Joint Committees amending Protocol No 3 with a view to determining the rules for the application of Decision No 3/86 in the case of Spain and the Canary Islands, Ceuta and Melilla.

Social affairs

The Council agreed on the arrangements for the Community's participation in the proceedings of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (Vienna, 14 to 23 March 1988).

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

1229th meeting of the Council

- Internal Market -

Brussels, 22 March 1988

President: Mr. Martin Bangemann
Federal Minister for Economic Affairs
Federal Republic of Germany

The official press release was only available in German.. A English summary of the meeting has been reproduced from the Bulletin of the European Communities, No. 3-1988

Number, place and date of meeting	Subject	President	Commission	Main items of business
1229th Brussels 22 March	Internal market	Mr Bangemann	Lord Cockfield	Public supply contracts: adoption ⁵ Completion of the internal market: oral statement by Lord Cockfield Broadcasting: policy debate

Council

2.1.7. On 22 March the Council adopted a Directive designed genuinely to open up public supply contracts (→ point 2.1.26). The Council also held a preliminary policy debate on the proposal for a Directive aimed at the harmonization of the pursuit of broadcasting activities² which made it possible to clarify Member States' positions concerning the work in progress within the Council of Europe on the conference to be held in Vienna in April on a convention on

the subject, and to give a political impetus to the discussions on the proposal. Lastly, Lord Cockfield, the Commission Vice-President with special responsibility for the internal market, made a statement concerning progress with the completion of the internal market³ (→ point 2.1.9).

Implementing the White Paper

2.1.9. On 16 March the Commission adopted⁴ its third report to the Council and Parliament on the implementation of its White Paper on completing the internal market.⁵ The report mainly covers developments since April 1987. The Commission has, to date, presented the Council with 208 of the 300 proposals originally envisaged in the White Paper programme (as a result of a revision of the original programme, there are now only 286 proposals envisaged). The Commission intends to present another 50 proposals this year so that over 90% of the programme can be implemented.

The Council has adopted only 69 of the proposals and has partially adopted another six. Some 126 others are still being examined and the Council has already adopted a common position on 14 of these. The Commission deplores the fact that there are so many proposals pending before the Council despite the undertaking given by the Heads of State or Government, politically and in the Treaty, to complete the single market by 1992. However, the delays in the Council can to some extent be attributed to the way in which the decision-making process provided for in the Single

Act works. Parliament's workload has increased appreciably with the introduction of the cooperation procedure provided for in the Single Act.

¹ OJ C 109, 26.4.1988; COM(88) 98 final.

² OJ C 179, 17.7.1986; Supplement 5/86 — Bull. EC; Bull. EC 3-1986, point 1.2.1 *et seq.*

³ Bull. EC 6-1985, point 1.3.1 *et seq.* (White Paper).

⁴ COM(88) 134 final.

⁵ Bull. EC 5-1987, point 2.1.7 (second report).

Public procurement

2.1.26. On 22 March the Council adopted a Commission proposal¹ for a Directive amending the Directive of 21 December 1976 coordinating procedures for the award of public supply contracts² and deleting certain provisions of the Directive of 22 July 1980.³ This new Directive applies the recent GATT government procurement obligations⁴ aiming, in particular, at keeping all concerned, particularly businesses, better informed and at improving the transparency of public supply contracts. For example, the national contracting authorities are now required regularly to publish a programme of all supply contracts to be awarded over the next 12 months and to extend the time-limits to give firms from other Member States time to respond. Another safeguard to ensure that contracts are awarded fairly is the obligation to report to the Commission on the results of all contracts awarded. The Directive calls for reference to European standards and other technical specifications (except in specific cases). It also covers defence contracts

(apart from a few specifically military products). The Directive allows, until 1992, the application of national provisions aimed at the exercise of regional preferences provided that the provisions in question are compatible with the Treaty.

¹ OJ C 173, 11.7.1986; Bull. EC 6-1986, points 1.2.1 to 1.2.6; OJ C 161, 19.6.1987; Bull. EC 6-1987, point 2.1.18; OJ C 303, 13.11.1987; Bull. EC 10-1987, point 2.1.18.

² OJ L 13, 15.1.1977.

³ OJ L 215, 18.8.1980; Bull. EC 7/8-1980, point 2.1.20.

⁴ GATT, 1979, para. 2.1.1.

5051/88 (Presse 35)

1229. Tagung des Rates

- Binnenmarkt -

Brüssel, den 22. März 1988

Präsident: Herr Martin BANGEMANN

Bundesminister für Wirtschaft
der Bundesrepublik Deutschland

Niederlande

Herr P.R.H.M. VAN DER LINDEN

Staatssekretär für auswärtige
Angelegenheiten

Portugal

Herr Vitor A.M. da COSTA MARTINS

Staatssekretär für die europäische
Integration

Vereinigtes Königreich

Herr Alan CLARK

Minister für Handel

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Kommission

Lord COCKFIELD

Vizepräsident

OEFFENTLICHE LIEFERAUFTRAEGE

Der Rat verabschiedete eine Richtlinie zur Aenderung der einschlägigen Richtlinie aus dem Jahr 1977, damit es zu einer tatsächlichen Oeffnung der nationalen Märkte im Vergabewesen kommt.

Die Richtlinie ist entsprechend dem durch die einheitliche Akte eingeführten Verfahren in enger Zusammenarbeit zwischen Kommission, Rat und Europäischem Parlament entstanden.

Durch die Richtlinie wird eine grössere Transparenz bei den Verfahren für die Vergabe öffentlicher Lieferaufträge hergestellt. Unternehmer haben nun hinlänglich gesicherte Möglichkeiten, sich an in anderen Mitgliedstaaten vergebenen Lieferaufträgen zu beteiligen. Gleichzeitig können die nationalen Verwaltungen bei ihren Beschaffungen das wirtschaftlich günstigste Angebot auswählen.

Mit der Richtlinie wird die Anwendung der europäischen Normen für technische Spezifikationen, die insbesondere in den Lastenheften zur Festlegung der erforderlichen Produkteigenschaften enthalten sind, zum ersten Mal verbindlich vorgeschrieben, ohne dass dadurch Innovationen und der technische Fortschritt behindert werden. Die Richtlinie berücksichtigt ausserdem den seit Februar 1988 geltenden einschlägigen neuen GATT-Kodex, wodurch sich der Wettbewerb auch über die Gemeinschaftsgrenzen hinaus vergrössert.

Dem Rat liegt des weiteren ein Vorschlag für öffentliche Bauaufträge zur Beschlussfassung vor; er hofft, dass er diesen Vorschlag so bald wie möglich verabschieden kann.

VERWIRKLICHUNG DES BINNENMARKTS

Der Rat nahm eine mündliche Mitteilung von Lord COCKFIELD zum Stand der Arbeiten hinsichtlich der Verwirklichung des Binnenmarktes zur Kenntnis.

RUNDFUNKTÄTIGKEIT

Der Rat führte eine Orientierungsaussprache über den Vorschlag für eine Richtlinie über die Harmonisierung der Ausübung der Rundfunktätigkeit. Im Mittelpunkt der Aussprache standen folgende Fragen:

- Förderung der Verbreitung und Herstellung von Gemeinschaftsprogrammen,
- Werbung: Unterbrechung der Programme,
- Werbung: Umfang,
- Schutz von Kindern und Jugendlichen,
- Urheberrechte,

sowie der Hörfunk, Investitionen in der audiovisuellen Produktion des Empfängerlandes und die Reihenfolge der Vorführung der Werke durch die Medien und Quoten für die einzelnen Sprachen.

Der Präsident stellte am Ende der Aussprache fest, dass die mit der Orientierungsaussprache verfolgten Ziele, nämlich einerseits Klärung der Standpunkte der Mitgliedstaaten hinsichtlich der im Rahmen des Europarats laufenden Arbeiten für eine Konferenz in Wien, die im April stattfinden soll und eine Konvention über die Rundfunktätigkeit zum Gegenstand hat, und andererseits Vermittlung politischer Impulse für die Arbeiten an dem Richtlinienvorschlag, erreicht worden seien.

Der Präsident äusserte ferner den Wunsch, dass bald ein gemeinsamer Standpunkt zu diesem Vorschlag festgelegt wird.

SONSTIGE BESCHLUESSE

Weitere den Binnenmarkt betreffende Beschlüsse

Der Rat genehmigte - in den Sprachen der Gemeinschaften - die Richtlinien

- zur Aenderung der Richtlinie 76/116/EWG hinsichtlich flüssiger Düngemittel.

Mit dieser Aenderung wird der Anwendungsbereich der Richtlinie von 1976, in der ursprünglich die Vorschriften für die Vermarktung von festen Düngemitteln geregelt wurden, auf flüssige Düngemittel ausgeweitet.

- zur Aenderung der Richtlinie 83/189/EWG über ein Informationsverfahren auf dem Gebiet der Normen und technischen Vorschriften.

Mit dieser Aenderung werden in das seit 1983 geltende Informationsverfahren einige Bereiche einbezogen, die zunächst davon ausgenommen waren, so dass künftig alle gewerblichen und landwirtschaftlichen Produkte erfasst werden.

Der Rat genehmigte ferner (in den Sprachen der Gemeinschaften) die Richtlinien zur Aenderung der Richtlinie 84/538/EWG zur Angleichung der Rechtsvorschriften der Mitgliedstaaten betreffend den zulässigen Schalleistungspegel von Rasenmähern.

Diese Aenderungen zielen darauf ab,

- am Bedienerplatz von Rasenmähern mit einer Schnittbreite von mehr als 120 cm einen zulässigen Schalleistungspegel von 90 dB(A) festzulegen;
- in die Richtlinie 84/538 Bestimmungen über Spindelmäher aufzunehmen.

Anlagepolitik bestimmter Organismen für gemeinsame Anlagen in Wertpapieren (OGAW)

Der Rat hat eine Richtlinie zur Aenderung der Richtlinie 85/611/EWG zur Koordinierung der Rechts- und Verwaltungsvorschriften betreffend bestimmte Organismen für gemeinsame Anlagen in Wertpapieren (OGAW), mit der die Grenzen nach Artikel 22 der Richtlinie vom 20. Dezember 1985 in bezug auf die Anlagepolitik bestimmter OGAW geändert werden sollen, in den Sprachen der Gemeinschaften verabschiedet. (Vgl. Mitteilung an die Presse Nr. 9598/87 Presse 188 vom 16.XI.1987.)

PRESS RELEASE

5049/88 (Presse 33)

1230th Council meeting

- General Affairs -

Brussels, 22 March 1988

President: Mr Hans-Dietrich GENSCHER

Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Federal Republic of Germany

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

Belgium:

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

Denmark:

Mr Jakob Esper LARSEN	Permanent Representative
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Germany:

Mr Hans-Dietrich GENSCHER	Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs
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Greece:

Mr Theodoros PANGALOS	Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs
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Spain:

Mr Pedro SOLBES	State Secretary for Relations with the European Communities
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France:

Mr Jean-Bernard RAIMOND	Minister for Foreign Affairs
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Ireland:

Mr Brian LENIHAN

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Italy:

Mr Luigi FRANZA

State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Luxembourg:

Mr Robert GOEBBELS

State Secretary for Foreign
Affairs

Netherlands:

Mr P.R.H.M. VAN DER LINDEN

State Secretary for European
Affairs

Portugal:

Mr João 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

Commission:

Mr Jacques DELORS

President

Mr Henning CHRISTOPHERSEN

Vice-President

Mr Claude CHEYSSON

Member

Mr Willy DE CLERCQ

Member

FOLLOW-UP TO THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL

The Council took stock of progress in implementing the conclusions of the European Council meeting from 11 to 13 February 1988 in the various areas concerned.

The Council is to return to the matter at its next meeting in April.

RELATIONS WITH HUNGARY

The Council heard a statement by Mr DE CLERCQ on progress in negotiations with Hungary for the conclusion of a trade and co-operation agreement. The Council emphasized the importance it attached to the swift completion of those negotiations.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Relations with Cyprus

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Regulation opening and providing for the administration of two Community tariff quotas for carrots (2 625 tonnes at 6,1% duty for the period 1 April to 15 May 1988) and aubergines (egg-plants) (315 tonnes at 5,8% duty for the period 1 October to 30 November 1988) originating in Cyprus.

Relations with the USA

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Decision authorising the Commission to negotiate an agreement with the United States of America on procedures for monitoring shipments of hazardous waste.

PRESS RELEASE

5285/88 (Presse 38)

1231st Council meeting

- Agriculture -

Brussels, 28, 29 and 30 March 1988

President: Mr Ignaz KIECHLE
Federal Minister for Food,
Agriculture and Forestry
of the Federal Republic of Germany

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

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

United Kingdom:

Mr John McGREGOR

Minister of Agriculture

Commission:

Mr Frans H.J.J. ANDRIESSEN

Vice-President

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL IN
FEBRUARY 1988 AS REGARDS AGRICULTURE - WINE SECTOR

Continuing its proceedings on the implementation of the conclusions of the last European Council meeting as regards agriculture, the Council examined the proposals for Regulations concerning stabilizers in the wine sector.

Pending the Opinion of the European Parliament, the Council noted that there was informal agreement on a compromise text essentially including the following points:

(1) Buying-in price for compulsory distillation (Article 39)

50% of the guide price for the quantity to be distilled not exceeding 10% of normal utilization.

7,5% for the quantity exceeding those 10%; the level of 7,5% would be attained progressively over the next three marketing years.

(2) Abandonment measures

(a) Level of premiums

For areas of more than 25 ares planted with wine-grape varieties, provision is made for the following premiums:

hl per hectare	ECU
up to 20	1,200
20 - 30	2,800
30 - 40	3,500
40 - 50	3,800
50 - 90	5,250
90 - 130	7,150
130 - 160	9,200
more than 160	10,200

The premiums for the other types of wine-growing areas are increased by 20% over the amounts laid down in Regulation (EEC) No 777/85.

(b) Scope

All areas planted with vines come within the scope of the measure. However, the Commission may, upon a justified request by a Member State, decide on exceptions to this principle on the basis of a number of objective conditions of a technical, social or economic nature. These exceptions may not concern more than 10% of the production potential of the Member State in question.

(c) Financing

The Community contribution amounts to 70% of the expenditure. For the 1988/1989 and 1989/1990 marketing years, it will be shared equally between the Guidance and Guarantee Sections of the EAGGF. The detailed arrangements for this allocation over the subsequent marketing years will be fixed in the light of the results obtained in the reorganization of markets.

It is planned that an examination will be carried out before 1 April 1990 of the application of the grubbing-up measures adopted, with a view to any readjustment.

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The Council thus completed its examination of the agricultural stabilizers package. This package could therefore be adopted formally as soon as the European Parliament's Opinion was received.

OLIVE OIL SECTOR

The Council formally adopted two Regulations in the olive oil sector. The first amends Regulation No 2261/84 laying down general rules on the granting of aid for the production of olive oil and of aid to olive oil producer organizations.

In particular, it is stipulated that producer organizations will in future no longer have to carry out on-the-spot checks of the crop declarations submitted by their associates; this task will henceforth be carried out by specialized agencies. The Regulation also contains the implementing rules for the system of guaranteed maximum quantities introduced into the basic Regulation in July 1987 (Regulation No 1915/87).

The second Regulation fixes, for the 1987/1988 marketing year, the percentage of production aid which may be withheld for recognized olive oil producers' organizations or associations thereof.

In view of the abovementioned limitations on the monitoring activities of these organizations, this percentage is fixed at 1,9%.

On that occasion, it was agreed by the Commission and the Council that provision would be made for measures in favour of Greece in order to take into account the damage caused to Greek production following the particularly unfavourable climatic conditions in that country in 1987.

STRUCTURES

The Council devoted a considerable part of its discussions to examining the proposal comprising a series of amendments to the Regulation on improving the efficiency of agricultural structures, and particularly the limits on investment aids in the pigmeat sector.

At the close of its discussions, the Council agreed to a Presidency compromise which was accepted by the Commission. This agreement essentially concerned the following points:

- extension until 1 April 1989 for Greece and Italy of the specific conditions concerning access to investment aid measures for holdings which do not meet the accounting requirement ⁽¹⁾;
- introduction of a provision authorizing Member States to restrict application of the investment aid measures to family holdings;
- extension until 31 December 1989 of the 10% increase in aid for the improvement plans for Greece, Ireland, Italy and Portugal ⁽²⁾;

⁽¹⁾ In the case of Portugal and Spain, this measure is in force and expires on 31 August 1989 and 30 June 1990 respectively.

⁽²⁾ In the case of Spain, this measure is in force and expires on 31 December 1989.

- definition of further restrictions on investment aid for the purpose of increasing pig production capacity.

As regards the applications made after 31 March 1988 and before 31 December 1990, the number of pig places eligible for aid is set at three hundred places per holding. In addition, the grant of aid is subject to the condition that the total number of pig places after the investment is made does not exceed eight hundred places per holding.

The Council, acting on a proposal from the Commission by a qualified majority, will before 31 December 1990 adopt the arrangements applicable to applications made after 1 January 1991. Failing a Council decision on that date, the grant of aid for investments having the effect of increasing pig production capacity will be suspended.

Furthermore, where an improvement plan provides for an investment in pig production, the grant of aid for that investment is subject to the condition that, upon completion of the plan, at least the equivalent of 35% of the quantity of feed consumed by the pigs can be produced by the holding.

On the latter point, the Council took note of the Commission's undertaking to submit a report on the problems which this condition could create for certain Member States. This report will have to be submitted to the Council before 30 September 1988, if necessary together with the appropriate proposals. The Council will take a decision on it before the end of December 1988.

FIXING OF THE PRICES OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND CERTAIN RELATED MEASURES (1988/1989)

The Council heard an introductory statement by Vice-President ANDRIESSEN on the Commission proposals for the fixing of agricultural prices and certain related measures for the 1988/1989 marketing year.

The Council then held a preliminary exchange of views on these proposals, thus enabling delegations to give their initial reactions. It agreed to carry out a detailed examination of these proposals at its next meeting in Luxembourg.

In the meanwhile, it instructed the Special Committee on Agriculture to prepare for its discussions on the subject.

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Since the 1987/1988 marketing year for milk and milk products and beef and veal had expired, the Council extended that marketing year for those sectors by one month.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Other agricultural decisions

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision on a system for health control of imports from third countries at frontier inspection posts. The aim of this Decision is to entrust to the Commission the task of co-ordinating the computerization of veterinary inspection procedures upon importation.

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

- Regulation No 775/87 temporarily withdrawing a proportion of the reference quantities referred to in Article 5(c)(1) of Regulation No 804/68 on the common organization of the market in milk and milk products. The aim of this amendment is to extend the period during which the compensation for the withdrawal of the reference quantities must be paid to producers;
- Regulation No 1336/86 fixing compensation for the definitive discontinuation of milk production. The aim of this amendment is to enable unutilized Community funds intended for the payment of compensation to be allocated also to the financing of restructuring measures;
- Regulation No 985/68 laying down general rules for intervention on the market in butter and cream. The aim of this amendment is to supplement, for the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, the grade names of butter which may be bought in by intervention agencies.

1987-1991 framework programme for research

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision supplementing the Decision of 28 September 1987 adopting the framework programme of Community R & TD activities (1987-1991).

This Decision unblocks the amount of 417 MECU out of the total amount of 5,396 MECU provisionally deemed necessary for the 1987-1991 framework programme for Community R & TD activities.

Association with Turkey

The Council decided to proceed with the signing of two Protocols (EEC and ECSC) to the Association Agreement between the Community and Turkey consequent on the accession of the Hellenic Republic to the Community. It also agreed to request the European Parliament for its assent concerning the aforementioned EEC Protocol.

The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation implementing autonomously, pending completion of the formalities necessary for the conclusion of the Protocols, the trade provisions of the EEC Protocol.

Commercial policy and customs union

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

- totally suspending certain customs duties applicable by the Community of Ten to imports from Spain and Portugal (as from 1 July 1988);
- temporarily suspending (from 1 April to 30 June 1988) the autonomous Common Customs Tariff duty on an industrial product (film of a copolymer of ethylene with methylacrylate, having a thickness of not more than 0,05 mm, for the manufacture of medical gloves to be used only once).

The Council authorized the Commission to take part in the negotiations within GATT for the definitive accession of Costa Rica and the provisional accessions of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras to the general Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities the decision authorizing the automatic renewal or continuance in force of provisions governing matters covered by the common commercial policy contained in the friendship, trade and navigation treaties and similar agreements concluded between Member States and third countries.

With a view to implementing the Agreement concluded with Argentina under Article XXIV.6 of the GATT, the Council adopted the Regulation on imports of bran, sharps and other residues derived from the sifting, milling or other working of cereals, other than of maize and rice, and amending Regulation No 2658/87 on the tariff and statistical nomenclature and on the Common Customs Tariff.

Food_aid

The Council adopted a common position, to be forwarded to the European Parliament as part of the conciliation procedure, on the amendment of Regulation No 3972/86 on food-aid policy and food-aid management.

Appointments

On a proposal from the Permanent Representation of Ireland, the Council appointed Mr Joseph REA as a member of the Economic and Social Committee in place of Mr Donal CASHMAN, who has resigned, for the remaining term of office, which runs until 20 September 1990.

The Council also appointed the following as members and alternate members of the Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work:

- on a proposal from the Netherlands Government, Mrs K.Y.I.J. ADELMUND, in place of Mr E.R. BUNT, member, who has resigned;
- on a proposal from the Danish Government, Mr Peter SKOV, in place of Mr K.E. LINIUS, alternate member, who has resigned;
- on a proposal from the Danish Government, Mrs Marianne KODAHN, in place of Mr P.S. DALBERG, alternate member, who has resigned,

in the employers' representatives category, for the remaining term of office, which runs until 16 December 1988.

PRESS RELEASE

5415/88 (Presse 41)

1232nd meeting of the Council

- Research -

Luxembourg, 11 April 1988

President: Mr Heinz RIESENHUBER

Federal Minister for Research
and Technology

of the Federal Republic of Germany

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

Belgium:

Mr L. BRIL State Secretary for Science Policy

Denmark:

Mr Bertel HAARDER Minister for Education

Germany:

Mr Heinz RIESENHUBER Federal Minister for Research and Technology

Mr Gerhard ZILLER State Secretary, Federal Ministry for Research and Technology

Greece:

Mr Anastassios PEONIS Minister for Industry, Energy and Technology

Spain:

Mr Juan Manuel ROJO ALAMINOS State Secretary for the Universities and Research

France:

Mr Jacques VALADE Minister attached to the Minister for Education, with responsibility for Research and Higher Education

Ireland:

Mr Sean McCARTHY Minister of State at the Department of Industry and Commerce

Italy:

Mr Antonio RUBERTI Minister for Research and Universities

Luxembourg:

Mr Joseph WEYLAND

Ambassador, Permanent Representative

Netherlands:

Mr R.W. de KORTE

Minister for Economic Affairs

Portugal:

Mr Luis VALENTE DE OLIVEIRA

Minister for Planning and Territorial
Administration

Mr Eduardo de ARANTES E OLIVEIRA

State Secretary for Science and
Technology

United Kingdom:

Mr Kenneth CLARKE

Minister for Trade and Industry

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Commission:

Mr Karl-Heinz NARJES

Vice-President

SECOND PHASE OF THE ESPRIT PROGRAMME

The Council adopted the Decision on the second phase of the European Strategic Programme for Research and Development in the field of Information Technologies (ESPRIT II).

This programme, established for a period of five years beginning on 1 December 1987 with a Community contribution to funding amounting to 1 600 MECU ⁽¹⁾, is designed to:

- provide the European IT industry with the basic technologies to meet the competitive requirements of the nineties;
- promote European co-operation in precompetitive R & D in Information Technology;
- pave the way for internationally-accepted standards.

⁽¹⁾ corresponding to line 2.1. of the framework programme - see too indicative internal allocation of these funds given on page 8.

The first phase of the programme was decided on at the beginning of 1984, and the first assessments made indicated that the programme had been successfully established and should meet its original objectives, that it was even progressing faster than expected and that trans-European co-operation had developed at all levels, especially where small and medium-sized companies were concerned.

That assessment also concluded by recommending that, for the future development of ESPRIT, emphasis should continue to be on precompetitive research and development.

The programme would consequently comprise precompetitive research and development projects, actions in basic research aimed at complementing the precompetitive R & D effort and accompanying measures.

These projects - and actions - are to be carried out by means of contracts, to be concluded by the Commission with companies, including small and medium-sized undertakings, universities and other bodies established in the Community.

The projects and actions will be submitted by the interested parties in reply to a public call for proposals published in the Official Journal of the European Communities. The projects - and actions - must involve the participation of at least two independent industrial partners - two universities or research institutions for actions - not established in the same Member State.

Up to a maximum of 30% of the Community's total contribution to new projects launched under this programme may for each year be allocated to new projects which fall below the 5 MECU threshold.

Each contractor will be expected to bring a significant contribution to projects and actions, and the contractors will be expected to bear a substantial proportion of the costs, 50% of which will normally be borne by the Community.

Alternatively, in respect of universities and research institutes carrying out projects or actions, the Community may bear up to 100% of the additional expenditure involved.

Derogations are laid down for exceptional cases as regards the public call for proposals, the participation of at least two partners established in different Member States, the rate of the Community's financial participation and the percentage figure concerning new "small projects".

Where framework agreements for scientific and technical co-operation have been concluded with other European countries, particularly EFTA countries, the participation of partners established in those countries will be possible. The Commission will also be able to negotiate agreements with the countries participating in COST with a view to ensuring concerted action between the Community activities relating to co-operation in the field of basic research and accompanying measures.

In general terms, the Commission will ensure that the programme is properly performed and take the appropriate implementation measures.

The Commission will be assisted in the performance of its tasks by a Committee consisting of two representatives of each Member State.

Specifically, the Commission will establish for each year, and update as required, a work programme defining the detailed objectives, the type of projects to be undertaken and the corresponding financial plans. The Commission will establish calls for proposals for projects on the basis of the annual work programmes.

The Commission will forward a report to the Council and to the European Parliament after 30 months on the basis of an evaluation of the results so far achieved. This report will be accompanied by suggestions for changes which may be necessary in the light of those results.

After completion of the programme, the Commission will send Member States and the European Parliament a report on the performance and results of the programme.

11.IV.88

INDICATIVE INTERNAL ALLOCATION OF FUNDS

	<u>MECU</u>
I. <u>R&D Sectors</u> (1)	<u>1490</u>
Microelectronics and Peripheral Technologies	475
Information Processing Systems	475
IT Application Technologies	548
II. <u>Staff and administrative costs</u>	<u>110</u>
Staff costs	64
Administrative costs	38
 Total	 <u>1600</u>

(1) These figures include approximately 65 MECU for actions in basic research and 80 MECU for accompanying measures related to the three R&D sectors mentioned above.

LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES - DELTA Programme

The Council adopted a common position, which will be forwarded to the European Parliament under the co-operation procedure, on a Community action in the field of learning technologies - development of European learning through technological advance (DELTA): exploratory action.

This exploratory Community action is for a period of 24 months commencing on 1 June 1988. The amount of the funding estimated as necessary to cover the Community's contribution to implementation of the action is 20 MECU, including expenditure on a staff of 12.

The action is designed to stimulate incremental research and development which will enable new technologies to be incorporated in the tools and infrastructure supporting advanced learning, in particular open and distance learning, in the Community. The action will be based on concertation with the corresponding activities of the Member States of the Community, in order to make available to the final users, at minimum cost and with minimum delay, the learning equipment and systems which will enable an increased demand for education, training and retraining to be met in the most economical way.

The Programme will cover five main areas of action:

- concertation between the authorities, academic circles, the users and the industrial companies, including publishers and information providers, to establish present and future learning support requirements;
- co-operative development of technology appropriate to the progression through the three main stages identified in the Programme;
- on-going testing and validation of the concepts on the basis of a shared resource ("test-bed") and selected experimental implementations;
- determined efforts to achieve a considerable degree of harmonization of the many standards and practices which, in this field, would otherwise constitute a continuing obstacle to development and use, by means of reinforcement of the on-going work;
- the promotion of favourable conditions for the development of Learning Technology and its use in Open Learning. Measures which are proposed for further consideration include the reduction of the "cost of entry" for learners and companies, and of an appropriate regulatory regime facilitating the introduction of new learning support techniques (Open Learning).

The action will consist of prenormative and precompetitive technology exploration as required for the objective of concerting European efforts in the domain of learning technology.

Projects relating to the Programme will be executed by means of shared costs contracts. Contractors will have to bear a substantial proportion of the costs, which should normally be at least 50% of the total expenditure; for universities and research institutes, the Community may bear up to 100% of the additional expenditure involved.

Where framework agreements for scientific and technical co-operation have been concluded with other European countries, particularly EFTA countries, the participation of partners established in those countries will be possible.

STIMULATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION AND INTERCHANGE
NEEDED BY EUROPEAN RESEARCH SCIENTISTS (SCIENCE)

The Council adopted a common position, which will be forwarded to the European Parliament under the co-operation procedure, on a programme plan to stimulate the international co-operation and interchange needed by European research scientists, envisaged for a five-year period from 1 January 1988.

The funds estimated as necessary for the execution of the Stimulation Plan amount to 167 MECU, including expenditure on a staff of 18.

The Community financial support in this area will be 100% of the cost of the actions.

The overall objective of the Stimulation Plan is to improve the efficacy of scientific and technological research in all the Member States and to contribute thereby to the reduction of scientific and technical development disparities between the different Member States of the European Community. It covers all fields of science and technology (the exact and natural sciences).

Its specific objectives are to:

- promote training through research and, by means of co-operation, the better use of high-level researchers in the Community;
- improve the mobility of research scientists of the Member States of the Community;
- develop and support intra-European scientific and technical co-operation on high-quality projects;

- promote the setting-up of intra-European co-operation and interchange networks with a view to reinforcing the overall scientific and technical competitiveness of the Community and thereby strengthening its economic and social cohesion.

The Commission will implement the Stimulation Plan by means of research bursaries, research grants, grants for high-level courses, contracts encouraging the twinning of laboratories and operations contracts including equipment and accompanying measures where appropriate. It will be assisted by the Committee for the European Development of Science and Technology (CODEST) and by consultants.

The Commission will be authorized to negotiate, in accordance with Article 130n of the EEC Treaty, agreements with international organisations, with those countries participating in European Co-operation in the field of Scientific and Technological Research (COST) and with those European countries having concluded framework agreements in S/T co-operation with the Community with a view to associating them wholly or partly with the programme.

REVISION OF THE RESEARCH PROGRAMME IN THE FIELD OF BIOTECHNOLOGY

The Council adopted a common position, which will be forwarded to the European Parliament under the co-operation procedure, on the revision of the multiannual research action programme for the EEC in the field of biotechnology (1985-1989)

Revision will be directed at the following objectives:

- Extension to Spain and Portugal of the activities envisaged by the programme.
- Intensification of the current research effort in the sector of the programme that concerns the assessment of risks associated with modern biotechnology, and particularly with the deliberate release of genetically engineered organisms.
- Intensification of the current research effort in the area of information technology with emphasis upon processing data related to culture collections, genome sequences and protein modelling.
- Increase in the volume of current activities (visits, publications, electronic networks, meetings, summer workshops, etc....) aiming at a timely dissemination of information on the programme and of research results to all appropriate groups; involvement of Community industry in the research activities and in the utilisation of the data, materials and methods stemming from the research work under contract.
- Studies and feasibility pilot projects for the preparation of future Community R&D activities in biotechnology during the period 1990-1994.
- Increase in training activities in all parts of the current programme.

To finance this intensification and expansion of biotechnological research, the funds estimated as necessary will be increased from 55 MECU to 75 MECU, including expenditure on an additional staff of five.

Following the adoption of this common position, the Council held an informal exchange of views on other issues relevant to biological research possibilities and constraints. It reserved the right to return on another occasion both to the matter of the Community's strategy on biological research and to issues relating to bio-ethics in genetical research.

APPLIED METROLOGY AND CHEMICAL ANALYSES (Community Bureau of Reference)

The Council adopted a common position, which will be forwarded to the European Parliament under the co-operation procedure, on a research and development programme for the EEC in the field of applied metrology and chemical analyses (1988-1992) (The Community Bureau of Reference).

This programme is for a 5-year period from 1 January 1988, with funds estimated as necessary of 59,2 MECU, including expenditure on a staff of 32.

Its objective is to improve the reliability of chemical analyses ⁽¹⁾ and physical measurements (applied metrology) ⁽²⁾ so as to achieve agreement of results in all Member States.

Experimental work will be carried out under contract. The participants may be industrial organizations, research institutes, laboratories and universities established in the Community.

⁽¹⁾ Especially in the biochemical field and the fields of food and agriculture and metals and relating to the environment.

⁽²⁾ With the emphasis being placed on the measurement and calibration of the most important parameters for test laboratories and industrial laboratories, in particular for quality control.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS APPLIED TO ROAD
TRANSPORT - DRIVE programme

The Council adopted a common position, which will be forwarded to the European Parliament under the co-operation procedure, on a Community programme in the field of information technology and telecommunications applied to road transport (DRIVE)(Dedicated Road Infrastructure for Vehicle Safety in Europe).

This programme is for an initial period of 36 months from 1 June 1988; the funding estimated as necessary to cover the Community contribution will be 60 MECU, including expenditure on staff, which will not exceed 4,5% of the Community contribution.

The programme is designed, in concertation with public and private actions in the field of road transport informatics undertaken at national and international level, to promote the competitiveness of the Community's industries, operators and service providers in order to make available to the final users, at minimum cost and with minimum delay, the improvements in road transport efficiency and safety as well as minimizing the environmental impact of road transport, thereby contributing to social as well as economic objectives.

The programme will include Community activity relevant to Eureka actions (in particular PROMETHEUS, EUROPOLIS and CARMINET) in this field with respect to standardization and common functional specifications relating to the development of advanced infrastructure systems.

The programme will consist of the development of a common conceptual framework for co-operation, prenormative work and technology exploration and the investigation of the non-technological factors as required for the objective or concerting European efforts in improving road transport efficiency, road safety and reduction of environmental impact. The work includes the following parts:

- I. RTI Technologies
- II. Evaluation of Strategic Options
- III. Specifications, protocols and standardization proposals.

Projects relating to the Programme will be executed by means of shared-cost contracts. Contractors will be expected to bear a substantial proportion of the costs, which should normally be at least 50% of the total expenditure; for universities and research institutes, the Community may bear up to 100% of the additional expenditure involved.

Where framework agreements for scientific and technical co-operation have been concluded with other European countries, particularly EFTA countries, the participation of partners established in those countries will be possible.

THERMONUCLEAR FUSION

The Council held a policy debate on the Commission proposal on the continued application of a rolling programme for the long-term research activity involved in the Fusion programme, replacing the current (1985-1989) programme by a five-year programme ending in 1991.

The Council paid particular attention to the question of the Community financial contribution to the Fusion programme for 1987-1991, taking into account the commitment appropriations remaining available at 1 January 1987 for the current programme and the new commitment appropriations drawn from those authorized under the 1987-1991 framework programme.

In conclusion the Council, emphasizing the importance and urgency of this issue, instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to press ahead with work on the matter in the light of that day's discussions, with a view to reaching a common position at the earliest opportunity and if possible even before the next Research Council meeting, on 29 June 1988.

STANDARDS

The Council held a constructive exchange of views on the basis of a memorandum from the Presidency on development-related standardization for the promotion of technological development in Europe.

It was clear from the discussion that the delegations shared the Presidency's approach on the importance of European pre-standards for technological development and the need to expand Community action in that area.

Winding up the discussion, the Council called upon the Commission to submit a communication giving its ideas on the matter as regards the field of research and development.

RELATIONS BETWEEN COMMUNITY RESEARCH AND EUREKA PROJECTS

On the basis of a memorandum from the Presidency dated 16 March 1988 concerning ways of increasing Community participation in EUREKA projects, the Council held an exchange of views on relations between Community research as defined in the multiannual framework programme and the research projects carried out in the EUREKA framework.

The discussion, which was most constructive, highlighted a number of important aspects of the issue and revealed a wide convergence of views on the definition of future relations between Community research and EUREKA projects.

In the light of that day's discussion, the Council called upon the Commission to submit a communication on the issue, so that it could pursue its discussions at its next research meeting, on 29 June 1988.

It also instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue examining the Presidency's memorandum and to examine the Commission communication, and to report back to it so that the Council could reach conclusions on 29 June.

JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE

The Council held a very detailed exchange of views on four main aspects of the Commission communication entitled "A new outlook for the Joint Research Centre", viz.:

- the new role envisaged for the Board of Governors;
- staff policy;
- financial questions (relationship of the different modalities of JRC activity to the Framework Programme; short and medium term financial targets);
- the application of the customer/contractor principle.

The discussion enabled the delegations to comment on all these issues, so that the Commission could take their views into account in preparing a further communication on the matter which it was to submit by the end of May.

At the end of the discussion the Council approved the following conclusions:

The strengthening of the role of the Board of Governors

1. In the Commission decision to be adopted in respect of the powers of the Board of Governors, the Council invites the Commission, within the limits imposed by the Treaties, to strengthen the powers of the Board relating to the organization of the JRC, its staff and financial management, and the implementation of its programmes. The Council invites the Commission, when adopting its decision, to have particular regard to the improvements suggested by the Member States with respect to the tasks of the Board of Governors and the procedure for co-operation between Commission and Board of Governors in carrying out those tasks.

2. The Council further requests the Commission to seek a solution to the question of the future consultative structure (after abolition of the Scientific Council) in collaboration with the Board of Governors and CREST, and to take it into account in the Decision referred to in 1.
3. The Council urges the Commission to submit a proposal for a Council Decision providing for the delegation of powers to the Board of Governors with respect to the adaptation of the Council Decision on the multiannual programmes of the JRC in the light of today's discussion in the Research Council and within the limits of the financial provisions of the Framework Programme.

Staff policy

The Council accepts the opinion of the Board of Governors that the annual rate of mobility at the JRC should be between 5 and 10% of the total research staff.

In this context, the Commission has made available to the Council a model forecast designed to achieve this aim, within the framework of existing staff regulations.

The Council considers that the measures envisaged by the Commission, while aiming to improve the scientific vitality of the JRC, must also be demonstrated to lead, during the period 1988 to 1991, to a diminution in the overall percentage of Community resources to be devoted to staff costs.

The Council invites the Permanent Representatives Committee to pursue its examination of this question.

The customer/contractor principle and financial questions

1. The Council notes the supplementary information provided by the Commission in respect of the application of the customer/contractor principle at the JRC.
2. The Council welcomes the application of the customer/contractor principle with regard to JRC activities on behalf of third parties and Commission services.
3. The Council agrees that income from work of any kind carried out on behalf of external third parties is not included within the Framework Programme contribution to JRC's programme funding.

The Council also notes that scientific/technical services performed for other Commission departments are similarly not included in the Framework Programme contribution to JRC funding, where these are not classifiable as research under the Framework Programme's guidelines. The Council emphasises that, where research in support of Commission's services is an integral part of the specific research programme under the Framework Programme, the funding for such research is provided by the Framework Programme.

4. The Council takes note of the details given by the Commission on the short and medium-term targets for the proportion of work in relation to the specific programmes and the proportion of work on behalf of third parties, and is of the opinion that in the medium term a considerable increase in the amount of work done for external third parties is necessary.
5. The Council considers that the principle of carrying out "preparatory research" is justified, but takes the view that such work must be funded by readjusting the provisions for overall resources.

The Council fixed these amounts as set out below:

<u>Modalities of Activity</u>	<u>Appropriations</u>
	<u>MECU</u>
A. Specific research programmes	700
B. Work for third parties	
B.1. S/T Support to the Commission	120
B.2. Work for external private or public bodies	130
 TOTAL	 <hr/> 950 <hr/>

Final conclusion

In conclusion, the Council invites the Permanent Representatives Committee to conclude its work on the aforementioned items and to examine the Commission's modified proposals with a view to the adoption by the Council at its next session of common orientations on the nuclear programme proposals and a common position on the non-nuclear programme proposal.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Other Decisions in the field of research

The Council gave its assent under Article 55(2)(c) of the ECSC Treaty on the implementation and execution of a coal research programme (1988 financial year), namely the draft Commission Decision on the granting of financial aids to 61 technical coal research projects for 1988.

Transport

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Directive amending Directive 85/3/EEC on the weights, dimensions and certain other technical characteristics of certain road vehicles (width of refrigerated vehicles) (see press release 4936/88 Presse 30 of 14.3.1988, p. 4).

Relations with the OCT

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the decision on the amounts of the transfers to be paid to the Falkland Islands and French Polynesia under the system for the stabilization of export earnings for the year of application 1986 pursuant to Decision 86/283/EEC.

Financial Regulation

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation (EURATOM, ECSC, EEC) amending temporarily the Financial Regulation of 21 December 1977 applicable to the general budget of the European Communities.

This Regulation incorporates the changes in the financing of the agricultural policy, adopted by the Council on 19 October 1987 in Regulation No 3183/87, in the provisions of the Financial Regulation of 21 December 1977.

Appointments

The Council, acting on a proposal from the Italian Government, appointed Dr Giovanni MANTOVANI, a member of the Economic and Social Committee to replace Mr Umberto EMO CAPODILISTA, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, i.e. until 20 September 1990.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

5419/88 (Presse 45)

1233rd Council meeting

- Economic and Financial Affairs -

Luxembourg, 18 April 1988

President: Mr Gerhard STOLTENBERG

Minister for Finance
of the Federal Republic of Germany

Presse 45 - G

5419 en/88 (Presse 45) erd/BS/hmcg

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

Belgium:

Mr Mark EYSKENS Minister for Finance

Denmark:

Mr Knud ENNGAARD Minister for Economic Affairs

Germany:

Mr Gerhard STOLTENBERG Minister for Finance
Mr Hans TIETMEYER State Secretary, Federal Ministry
of Finance

Greece:

Mr Theodoros KARATZAS State Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs

Spain:

Mr Carlos SOLCHAGA CATALAN Minister for Economic Affairs and Finance
Mr Guillermo DE LA DEHESA State Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs
Mr José BORREL State Secretary, Ministry of Finance

France:

Mr Alain JUPPE Minister attached to the Minister for
Economic Affairs, Finance and Privatization,
with responsibility for the Budget

Ireland:

Mr John CAMPBELL Ambassador, Permanent Representative

Italy:

Mr Giuliano AMATO Minister for the Treasury
Mr Renato RUGGIERO Minister for Foreign Trade

ABOLITION OF FISCAL FRONTIERS

The Council heard a statement by the Chairman of the Economic Policy Committee introducing the Committee's report on the economic aspects of the harmonization of indirect taxation in the Community, which was requested by the Council in November 1987.

The Council then held an exchange of views on this matter which will be continued in greater detail at its informal meeting in Travemünde from 13 to 15 May 1988.

CREATION OF A EUROPEAN FINANCIAL AREA

In this connection, the Council had before it three Commission proposals concerning:

- the implementation of Article 67 of the EEC Treaty on the liberalization of capital movements,
- the amendment of Directive 72/156/EEC on regulating international capital flows,
- establishing a single facility providing medium-term financial support for balances of payments.

The Council based its discussion on reports from the Monetary Committee and the Committee of Governors of the Central Banks. These reports were introduced by the respective Chairmen of the two Committees.

The Council also examined a report from the Permanent Representatives Committee submitting a number of questions which are fundamental for the liberalization of movements of capital, such as:

- abolition of the two-tier foreign exchange market,
- arrangements applicable to certain instruments for regulating banking operations,
- specific safeguard clause,
- deadline for implementation,
- transitional arrangements for 4 countries,
- principle of all-round liberalization of capital movements.

The Council concentrated on these questions with a view to working out some guidelines for further discussions by the Permanent Representatives Committee.

The Council agreed to continue its examination of this at its informal meeting in Travemünde and stressed that it would do its utmost to reach a position enabling it to agree to these proposals before the end of the present half-year.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL ON BUDGETARY DISCIPLINE

The Council dealt with the following two aspects of budgetary discipline:

- draft provisions in the field of compulsory expenditure;
- a draft which could provide a basis for the President of the Council to hold discussions with the other Institutions at the next meeting of the Trialogue on budgetary discipline planned for 22 April 1988.

Regarding the first text the Council reached an agreement in principle which should make it possible for the Permanent Representatives Committee to finalize a text swiftly once the Commission has submitted its formal proposal.

On the second point, the position defined by the Council aims to take account of the desire both to avoid affecting the respective responsibilities of the Institutions in budgetary matters as laid down by the Treaties and to implement the European Council's conclusions on budgetary discipline.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Trade policy and customs union

The Council adopted the Regulations:

- amending Regulation No 2658/87 on the Tariff and Statistical Nomenclature and on the Common Customs Tariff;
- determining the persons liable for payment of a customs debt;
- extending the anti-dumping duty introduced by Regulations:
 - = No 1058/86 to cover certain electronic scales assembled in the Community;
 - = No 1698/85 to cover certain electronic typewriters assembled in the Community.

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

Social affairs

The Council adopted the Decision establishing a second Community action programme to promote the vocational training and rehabilitation, economic integration, social integration and independent way of life of handicapped persons (HELIOS Programme) for the period from 1 January 1988 to 31 December 1991 with an amount of 19 MECU being deemed necessary for its implementation.

The objectives of the programme are as follows:

- (a) to develop, in the fields of vocational training and rehabilitation, economic integration, social integration and an independent way of life for disabled people, a Community approach based on the best innovatory experience in the Member States;
- (b) in the fields referred to in point (a), to develop exchange and information activities which fall outside the scope of the European Social Fund but can make a useful contribution in these areas;
- (c) to contribute to the implementation of Recommendation 86/379/EEC and of the Resolution of the Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council of 21 December 1981;
- (d) to continue and, where necessary, extend Community support to the European co-operation of non-governmental organizations in the fields referred to in point (a);
- (e) to give appropriate attention to:
 - the vocational needs of disabled women and the promotion of their social integration and independent way of life,
 - those with special responsibilities in caring for disabled children or adults at home.

Appointments

The Council adopted the Decision appointing the members of the Consultative Committee of the European Coal and Steel Community:

PRODUCERS CATEGORY

Coal Sector

Steel Sector

BELGIUM

Mr Pierre VANDERGOTEN

Mr Christian OURY
Mr Rudolf GAUDER

DENMARK

-

Mr K. STAUSHOLM-PEDERSEN

GERMANY

Mr Heinz HORN
Mr Karl-Heinrich JAKOB
Mr Kurt SPÖNEMANN
Mr Günter MEYHÖFER

Mr Heinz KRIWET
Mr Ruprecht VONDRAN
Mr Herbert KOHLER

GREECE

-

Mr Georgios KOUTSOUMARIS

SPAIN

Mr Manuel ARROYO QUIÑONES

Mr Luis GUERECAS TOSANTOS
Mr Javier PENACHO

FRANCE

Mr Marc IPPOLITO
Mr Marcel ASSAYAG

Mr Michel COLLAS
Mr Yves-Pierre SOULE

IRELAND

-

Mr L.S. COUGHLAN

Coal Sector

Steel Sector

ITALY

-

Mr Adamo ADANI

Mr Giuseppe CORSINI

LUXEMBOURG

-

Mr Georges FABER

Mr André ROBERT

NETHERLANDS

-

Mr O.H.A. VAN ROYEN

PORTUGAL

-

Mr José de ALMEIDA SERRA

UNITED KINGDOM

Sir Kenneth COUZENS

Mr R. SCHOLEY

Mr M.J. EDWARDS

Mr D. GRIEVES

Mr W.G. JENSEN

Mr I.J. BLAKEY

WORKERS CATEGORY

BELGIUM

Mr François CAMMARATA
Mr Antoine CUYVERS
Mr Georges DUHIN

GERMANY

Mr Karl KRÄMER
Mr Fritz KOLLORZ
Mr Karl-Heinz SABELLEK
Mr Georg IPPERS
Mr Albrecht HEROLD
Mr Dieter WIESHOFF

SPAIN

Mr José Antonio SAAVEDRA RODRIGUES
Mr Luis Maria CONTRERAS PUENTE
Mr Francisco Javier de CASTRO ESTEBAN

IRELAND

Mr Chris KIRWAN

LUXEMBOURG

Mr Mario CASTEGNARO

PORTUGAL

Mr José Antonio SIMÕES

DENMARK

Mr Dines SCHMIDT-NIELSEN

GREECE

Mr Nicolaos SIAS

FRANCE

Mr Henri ZIBELLI
Mr Jacques DEZEURE
Mr Henri MALLEY
Mr Gilbert BORDONNE

ITALY

Mr Geris MUSETTI
Mr Giancarlo BATTISTELLI
Mr Pietro IMBERTI

NETHERLANDS

Mr Piet SWART
Mr H.W.J. PEPERKAMP

UNITED KINGDOM

Mr R.L. EVANS
Mr E. LINTON
Mr B. FISHER
Mr P.E. HEATHFIELD
Mr Peter McNESTRY
Mr R. LYNK

CONSUMERS AND DEALERS CATEGORY

BELGIUM

Mr Roger PAQUET
Mr Lodewijk COOSEMANS

GERMANY

Mr Hans Jurgen REITZIG
Mr Justus FÜRSTENAU
Mr Walther JANSSEN
Mr Eberhard H. BRAUNER
Mr Heins MOHR
Mr Joachim GRAWE

SPAIN

Mr Enrique KAIBEL MURCIANO
Mr Ignacio INDA ARANA

IRELAND

Mr Anthony J. MAHER

LUXEMBOURG

Mr Lucien JUNG

PORTUGAL

Mr Jorge CORREIA DA SILVA BARTOLA

DENMARK

Mr Erik OHRT

GREECE

Mr Nicolaos SVORONOS

FRANCE

Mr Georges IMBERT
Mr Jean LAURENS
Mr Edmond PACHURA
Mr René GARREC
Mr Armand JACQUIER

ITALY

Mr Giorgio RIGAZZI
Mr Giancarlo LONGHI
Mr Francesco NOLI
Mr Mario CIMENTI

NETHERLANDS

Mr F.H.M. VAN EYNDHOVEN
Mr S.J.G. WIJNANDS

UNITED KINGDOM

Mr Astley WHITTAL
Mr John SAFFORD
Mr Richard F. RAWLINS
Mr B.E.F. JONES
Mr J.I. WOOLLEY
Mr D. MARSHAL

PRESS RELEASE

5418/88 (Presse 44)

1234th Council meeting

- Agriculture -

Luxembourg, 18 and 19 April 1988

President: Mr Ignaz KIECHLE

Federal Minister for Food,
Agriculture and Forestry
of the Federal Republic of Germany

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

Belgium:

Mr Paul DE KEERSMAEKER State Secretary for European
Affairs and Agriculture

Denmark:

Mr Laurits TOERNAES Minister for Agriculture

Germany:

Mr Ignaz KIECHLE Federal Minister for Food,
Agriculture and Forestry

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

Greece:

Mr Yiannis POTTAKIS Minister for Agriculture

Spain:

Mr Vicente ALBERO Chairman of the Fund for the
Control of Agricultural Products
and Prices (FORPPA)

France:

Mr François GUILLAUME Minister for Agriculture

Ireland:

Mr Michael O'KENNEDY Minister for Agriculture

Italy:

Mr Calogero MANNINO Minister for Agriculture

Mr Felice CONTU State Secretary for Health

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

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

United Kingdom:

Mr John McGREGOR

Minister of Agriculture

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o

o

Commission:

Mr Frans H.J.J. ANDRIESSEN

Vice-President

FARM PRICES AND CERTAIN RELATED MEASURES (1988/1989)

The Council continued its discussions on the fixing of farm prices and certain related measures for 1988/1989, concentrating at this stage on the major problems raised during preparatory work, with regard to cereals, fruit and vegetables, sugar, beef and veal and tobacco. The Commission proposals for other sectors still need technical examination before the Council itself can assess them.

After its discussions, the Council instructed the Special Committee on Agriculture to continue its discussions in more detail and submit a general report in time for the meeting in May 1988.

In the meantime, the Council decided to extend the milk year until 31 May 1988 and the beef and veal marketing year until 5 June 1988. It took note of the Commission's intention of taking certain interim protective measures for cauliflowers and dried fodder, to ensure a smooth transition from the 1987/1988 marketing year to the 1988/1989 marketing year.

AGRI-MONETARY MEASURES

The Commission held an exchange of views on the Commission's proposal on agri-monetary measures (a 10 point dismantling of negative MCAs for Greece) submitted as part of the farm prices and related measures package for the 1988/1989 marketing year.

The discussions enabled the delegations to give their reactions on this issue.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Council took note of a report from the Permanent Representatives Committee on the financial impact of the Commission's price proposals.

It found that it had little room for manoeuvre on the basis of the Commission's estimates of EAGGF Guarantee expenditure for 1988.

FOODSTUFFS

The two proposals for this sector form part of the rolling programme for completing the internal market.

- Quick-frozen foodstuffs

The Council worked out a majority approach on the technical aspects of this proposal.

The aim is to establish Community rules for quick-frozen foodstuffs covering all the different stages of the cold chain, including manufacture, storage, transport, distribution and retail sale, thus offering the consumer a high-quality finished product.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue examining the procedure for subsequent amendments to the Directive, in order to submit a compromise solution.

- Additives in foodstuffs for human consumption

The Council examined this proposal, which is designed to establish a framework for Community legislation on additives authorized for use in foodstuffs.

It instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to look into the technical and procedural questions still outstanding, in order to submit a compromise solution as soon as possible, and to report back at its next meeting.

VETERINARY QUESTIONS

- Trade in certain animals and their meat as referred to in Article 7 of the Hormones Directive;
- Amount of the fees to be charged for health inspections and controls
- Health rules for fresh meat reserved for the domestic market and level of fees
- Health problems affecting intra-Community trade in fresh meat.
- Health problems upon importation of bovine animals and swine and fresh meat from third countries.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine these issues in greater detail and to report back for its next meeting.

CONCILIATION MEETING WITH THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

On 19 April 1988 a conciliation meeting, attended by the Commission, was held between the Council and a delegation from the European Parliament, at which the cessation of farming (early retirement) and all the agricultural aspects of the follow-up to the conclusions of the European Council were discussed.

The European delegation was headed by Mr DANKERT, Vice-President of the Parliament. Other members of the delegation were:
Mr COLINO SALAMANCA, Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture, Mr WOLTJER, the Committee's rapporteur on stabilizers for certain agricultural products, Mr CARDOZO, Mr N. PISONI, Mr F. PISONI and Mr CLINTON, members of the Committee on Agriculture, Mr O'MALLEY and Mr COLOM I NAVAL, members of the Committee on Budgets.

At the close of the conciliation meeting, the following joint statement was adopted:

"The European Parliament, the Council and the Commission, meeting within the framework of the Conciliation Committee in Luxembourg on 19 April 1988, note that the text of the Council Regulation (EEC) introducing a Community scheme to encourage the cessation of agricultural activity, which resulted from the common position of the Council meeting on 7, 8 and 9 March 1988, includes a clause for a review at the end of a two-year period.

They agree to carry out that review in close co-operation with each other.

They also confirm the terms of the Joint Statement of Tuesday 16 June 1987, adopted at the end of a meeting of the Conciliation Committee, concerning a Council Regulation on agricultural structures and the adaptation of agriculture to the new situation of the markets and maintenance of the rural environment including the sphere of forestry. The Council will act on the proposals announced by the Commission as soon as possible.

The Council and the Commission note the European Parliament's comments on the difficulties facing it as a result of the time-limits allowed for it to deliver its Opinions, and undertake to adopt the necessary measures to enable the Parliament to prepare its Opinions under reasonable conditions.

The Council and the Commission recognize the need for an overall approach to the adjustment of the common agricultural policy. In the light of the conclusions of the European Council in Brussels on 11 and 12 February 1988 and further to the observations of the European Parliament on the need for measures to stabilize agricultural production to be accompanied by measures to support farmers' incomes, the Council and the Commission consider that decisions must be taken as soon as possible on the issue of direct aid to incomes.

Due account will be taken of the Opinions of the European Parliament and the latter will be fully associated with future revisions of regulations concerning agricultural stabilizers, with the conciliation procedure being used if necessary. To this end, the President of the Council will maintain appropriate contacts with the Committee on Agriculture of the Parliament and will keep the Parliament informed of progress in the Council's proceedings.

The Council, the Commission and the Parliament recall the agreement reached at the European Council in Brussels on the reform of the CAP and the restructuring of the structural funds and stress that compliance with the budgetary discipline agreed requires close inter-institutional co-operation."

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Other agricultural decisions

The Council adopted Regulations opening, for 1988, as autonomous measures:

- a special unilateral tariff quota for imported high-quality fresh beef and veal falling within heading 0201 and subheading 0206 10 95 of the Combined Nomenclature. The total volume of the quota is 1 000 tonnes at 20% duty;
- a special import quota for high-quality, fresh, chilled or frozen beef and veal falling within headings 0201 and 0202 and for products falling within subheadings 0206 10 95 and 0206 29 91 of the Combined Nomenclature. The volume is 8 000 tonnes at zero duty.
(see press release No 4443/88 Presse 13)

Fiscal questions

The Council adopted a Decision authorizing the French Republic to apply in its overseas departments and in metropolitan France, by way of derogation from Article 95 of the Treaty, a reduced rate of the revenue duty imposed on the consumption of "traditional" rum produced in those departments.

In metropolitan France, this derogation is limited to the following annual quotas:

- in 1988: 99 000 hl of pure alcohol,
- in 1989: 97 000 hl of pure alcohol,
- in 1990: 95 000 hl of pure alcohol,
- in 1991: 92 000 hl of pure alcohol,
- in 1992: 90 000 hl of pure alcohol.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

5698/88 (Presse 49)

1235th Council meeting
- General Affairs -
Luxembourg, 25 and 26 April 1988

President: Mr Hans-Dietrich GENSCHER
Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Federal Republic of Germany

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

Belgium:

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

Denmark:

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

Germany:

Mr Hans-Dietrich GENSCHER Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mrs Irmgard ADAM-SCHWAETZER Minister of State,
Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Greece:

Mr Theodoros PANGALOS Deputy Minister for
Foreign Affairs

Spain:

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

France:

Mr Michel NOIR Minister attached to the
Minister for Economic Affairs,
Finance and Privatization,
with responsibility for Foreign
Trade

Ireland:

Mrs Maire GEOGHEGAN-QUINN Minister of State for European
Affairs

Italy:

Mr Giulio ANDREOTTI Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Renato RUGGIERO Minister for Foreign Trade

Luxembourg:

Mr J. POOS Minister for Foreign Affairs

Netherlands:

Mrs Y. VAN ROOY Minister for Foreign Trade
Mr P.R.H.M. VAN DER LINDEN State Secretary for European
Affairs

Portugal:

Mr João de DEUS PINHEIRO Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Vitor de COSTA 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

o

o

o

Commission:

Mr Jacques DELORS President
Mr Henning CHRISTOPHERSEN Vice President
Mr Claude CHEYSSON Member
Mr Willy DE CLERCQ Member

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL

The Council received a report from the Presidency detailing progress in all the areas covered by the conclusions of the European Council of 11 and 12 February 1988 in Brussels.

The Council was thus able to establish that progress had been achieved on all dossiers. It noted in particular the exemplary success of the Agriculture Ministers' discussions on stabilizers for the various farm products, set-aside and early cessation of agricultural activities. Following these discussions, the Council was able today to adopt formally the whole range of texts with the exception of those on wine, which can be adopted once the European Parliament has delivered its Opinion.

The Council also noted the major contribution made by the ECO/FIN Council as regards budgetary discipline and the conduct of the Trialogue with the European Parliament and the Commission in this area.

With regard to the latter sector and all the other areas, particularly own resources and the reform of the Structural Funds, the Council confirmed its determination to do its utmost to conclude its proceedings within the specified deadline, i.e. the end of May.

To that end, it instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to expedite its proceedings in order to enable the Council to reach decisions on all the subjects under discussion, at the next meeting of the General Affairs Council in May.

URUGUAY ROUND - STATE OF PLAY OF THE NEGOTIATIONS

The Council was briefed by the Commission on the state of play and future prospects of the Uruguay Round negotiations and held a general exchange of views on this subject.

The Council took the view that progress to date in the negotiations has generally proved satisfactory.

It underlined the importance for the open multilateral trading system and the world economy as a whole of making every effort to ensure a successful conclusion to the negotiations. In line with the general guidelines of the overall approach, the Community will continue to play a leading and constructive role with a view to maintaining the momentum of the negotiations.

The Council called on all participants to play their part in the negotiations and avoid taking any unilateral action which might endanger the successful outcome of the negotiations.

RELATIONS WITH JAPAN - COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

On the basis of a communication by the Commission, the Council had a thorough discussion of relations between the Community and Japan, in which it confirmed the Commission's analysis. It adopted the following conclusions:

1. The Council takes note of certain aspects of recent economic and trade developments that are contributing to the improvement of relations with Japan, in particular the present growth of the Japanese economy and the fact that this is led by domestic rather than export demand. It urges Japan to continue to support domestic demand adequately, so as to make a significant and lasting contribution to the process of international adjustment.
2. The Council welcomes the confirmation by the new Japanese Government of its commitment to structural reforms. It hopes that further progress will be made in putting them into effect and that present projects for changes in economic legislation, including a general tax reform will make a positive contribution to this end.
3. The Council recognizes the increase in Japan's imports from the Community but remains concerned by the persistence of her large surplus and by continuing difficulties of access to her markets.
4. The Council therefore confirms the general guidelines of the conclusions on relations with Japan adopted at its meeting on 16 March 1987. In this context, it recalls the need for a genuine balance of benefits in trade with Japan and confirms its intention of striving to achieve that within the framework of the Uruguay Round.
5. The Council requests the Japanese Government to take specific measures further to improve access to markets, on an open and non-discriminatory basis, and to avoid trade bilateralism.
6. The Council has been informed of the recent agreement between Japan and the United States on the participation of foreign firms in public works projects in Japan; it requests the Japanese Government to ensure that the benefits of this agreement are available to foreign companies on an open and non-discriminatory basis.
7. The Council expects the Japanese Government fully and rapidly to implement the recommendations of the GATT panel on wines and spirits.

8. The Council expects the Japanese Government to implement, swiftly and completely, the agreement on further market opening reached in the negotiations under Article XXIV-6 on the consequences of enlargement.
9. The Council expects the Japanese Government to accept the GATT Panel report on semi-conductors and to implement its recommendations fully.
10. The Council emphasizes the importance of developing co-operation in different fields and of strengthening the dialogue with Japan, so as to create a closer and more widely based relationship.
11. The Council therefore strongly supports the Commission's intention of:
 - continuing discussions with the Japanese authorities on the unsolved problems of access to the markets for motor vehicles and medical devices, monitoring the implementation of the commitments made on cosmetics and proposing new initiatives to improve market access;
 - holding discussions with the Japanese authorities which should start as soon as possible in the first half of 1988 and will involve:
 - . on the industrial side, the launching of discussions on pharmaceuticals and the protection of intellectual property;
 - . on the agricultural side, the intensification of the dialogue on both multilateral and bilateral questions, the latter including dairy products, pigmeat and plant-health questions;
 - following closely the implementation of the commitments entered into by the Japanese authorities in the consultations under Article XXIV-6 of GATT and safeguarding the Community's interests as regards the implementation of the recommendations of the GATT Panel on quantitative restrictions on agricultural products;
 - ensuring that Community suppliers are given fair, non-discriminatory access to procurement for Kansai International Airport and other major infrastructure projects, and supporting the efforts of Community industry to that effect;

- developing co-operation in the fields of telecommunications and information technology, so as to further the application of open standards by Japan in the interests of international competition;
 - reinforcing industrial co-operation, inter alia with the aim of strengthening European companies' understanding of and presence on the Japanese market;
 - further developing scientific and technological co-operation in the interests of both partners;
 - continuing to pursue its different measures to promote exports to Japan;
 - continuing to develop an active programme of information in the various regions of Japan.
12. The Council requests the Commission and the Member States to make every effort to encourage Community firms to re-assess the greater opportunities now offered by the Japanese market.
13. The Council requests the Commission and the competent authorities of the Member States to continue their efforts to impress on the Japanese authorities the need to improve the funding situation of Community banks in Japan and further to liberalize financial markets, in particular through the further deregulation of interest rates and the improvement of the inter-bank market.

ELECTIONS FOR THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

The Council held an exchange of views on the fixing of the period for the next elections of the Members of the European Parliament. The debate revealed the various possibilities and preferences of the Member States. The Council agreed to return to this question at its next meeting on 24 and 25 May 1988, with a view to reaching a conclusion.

FRAMEWORK REGULATION ON FOOD AID

The Council and a European Parliament delegation, led by Lady Elles and consisting of Mr McGowan and Mr Turner for the Committee on Development, Mr Scott-Hopkins, Mr Langes and Mrs Hoff for the Committee on Budgets and Mrs Fullet for the Committee on Budgetary Control, held a conciliation meeting on draft Regulation No 3972/86 on food-aid policy and food-aid management (problem of the arrangements for the operation of the Food Committee).

The meeting enabled the Parliament delegation and the Council to set out their respective positions.

The Council and the Parliament delegation agreed to consider what action should be taken following the conciliation meeting.

MANIOC - Import arrangements

The Council adopted a Regulation concerning the autonomous import arrangements to apply in 1988 to manioc originating in certain third countries which are not members of GATT, other than the People's Republic of China.

The Regulation maintains these countries' quota for imports of manioc at the 1987 level, i.e. 30 000 tonnes subject to a levy of not more than 6% ad valorem. The quantitative limit does not, however, apply to imports of manioc exclusively used for human consumption.

FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL AID TO LATIN-AMERICAN AND ASIAN
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

The Council adopted the general guidelines for 1988 concerning financial and technical aid to Latin-American and Asian developing countries.

EEC-TURKEY ASSOCIATION

The EEC-Turkey Association Council meeting was deferred by common accord to a later date to be set jointly by the two Presidents.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Agricultural policy

Further to the substantive agreement reached at the Agriculture Council meeting from 7 to 9 March and following receipt of the Opinions of the European Parliament and the conciliation meeting with a European Parliament delegation on 19 April, the Council formally adopted the Regulations on the implementation of the conclusions of the European Council meeting from 11 to 13 February 1988 in the sphere of agriculture. The Regulations relate to the cessation of agricultural activity (early retirement), set-aside and the various agricultural stabilizers for cereals, oilseeds and protein products, sheepmeat and goatmeat, sugar, milk, fruit and vegetables and raw tobacco.

The Regulations on wine will be formally adopted following delivery and receipt of the Opinion of the European Parliament.

The Council also adopted a Regulation on a specific common measure to encourage the development of agriculture in certain less-favoured regions of Spain, in particular mountain and hill areas and the most disadvantaged areas. The measure involves the following:

- improving rural infrastructure
- irrigation and drainage
- re-parcelling agricultural land
- combating erosion
- improving agricultural land
- improving woodlands
- improving farm housing.

The overall estimated cost of the measure to the EAGGF Guidance Section is 420 MECU over a period of 5 years from approval of the first programme.

The Council then adopted a Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 1035/72 on the common organization of the market in fruit and vegetables. The purpose of the amendment is to ban henceforward the marketing of Class III fruit and vegetables, except in exceptional cases.

Relations with Egypt

The Council adopted the Regulation opening and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for onions, fresh or chilled, originating in Egypt (1988), covering a volume of 2 500 tonnes subject to a duty of 8,7%.

Commercial policy

The Council adopted the Regulation imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of roller chains for cycles originating in the People's Republic of China and definitively collecting the provisional anti-dumping duty imposed on those imports.

PRESS RELEASE

5699/88 (Presse 50)

1236th Council meeting

- Budget -

Luxembourg, 28 April 1988

President:

Mr Hans TIETMEYER

State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Finance
of the Federal Republic of Germany

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 Knud Erik TYGESEN State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Germany:

Mr Hans TIETMEYER State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Finance

Greece:

Mr Yannis PAPANTONIOU State Secretary for
Economic Affairs

Spain:

Mr Javier ELORZA Deputy Permanent Representative

France:

Mr Jean CADET Deputy Permanent Representative

Ireland:

Mrs Maire GEOGHEGAN-QUINN Minister of State for
European Affairs

Italy:

Mr Tarcisio GITTI State Secretary,
Ministry of the Treasury

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean-Claude JUNCKER Minister for the Budget

28.IV.88

Netherlands:

Mr Ch. R. VAN BEUGE

Deputy Permanent Representative

Portugal:

Mr Rui ALVAREZ CARP

State Secretary for the Budget

United Kingdom:

Mr Peter BROOKE

Paymaster General

o

o

o

Commission:

Mr Henning CHRISTOPHERSEN

Vice-President

28.IV.88

RESUMPTION OF THE 1988 BUDGETARY PROCEDURE

Before examining the draft general budget of the European Communities for the financial year 1988, the Council met a delegation from the European Parliament, led by its Vice-President, Mr DANKERT, and comprising the following Members: Mr COT, Chairman of the Committee on Budgets; Ms BARBARELLA, Rapporteur for the Budget - Section III, Mr PASTY, 1st Deputy Chairman of the Committee on Budgets and Rapporteur on the Budget for Sections I, II, IV and V, Sir James SCOTT-HOPKINS, 2nd Deputy Chairman of the Committee on Budgets, Ms SCRIVENER, Mr COLOM I NAVAL, Mr CHRISTODOULOU, Mr LANGES and Mr PRICE, Members of the Committee on Budgets, and Mr SCHON, Chairman of the Committee on Budgetary Control.

The Council then gave a second reading to the draft budget, together with the European Parliament's amendments and proposed modifications.

The Council stated its position on all the draft modifications and amendments which the European Parliament had voted at the time of its first reading of the Budget, and instructed its Presidency to ensure that the results of its discussions at the second reading were forwarded to the European Parliament within the period stipulated by the Treaty.

The expenditure upon which the Council agreed was essentially as follows:

	(in MECU) (¹)	
	C/A	P/A
EAGGF Guarantee Section	27 500	27 500
EAGGF Guidance Section	1 130	1 202
Depreciation of agricultural stocks	1 240	1 240
Monetary reserve	1 000	1 000
Regional Fund (ERDF)	3 684	2 980
Social Fund (ESF)	2 866	2 600
SPDPI (Prog. for development of Portuguese industry)	100	50
IMPs (Integrated Mediterranean Programmes)	134	86
Research, energy, industry	1 262	1 115
Other policies	1 708	1 409
- including		
= Food aid	375	320
and		
= Aid to non-associated developing countries	307	262
Administration:		
- Commission (²)	1 271	1 271
- Other Institutions	695	695
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Refunds to Member States	2 486	2 486
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	45 076	43 634

(¹) Provisional rounded-off figures.

(²) The difference between the Council's 1st and 2nd readings is, in respect of 53 MECU, due to a change in the nomenclature. The net difference is 6 MECU.

Rates of increase in respect of NCE were thus 10,48% for commitment appropriations and 8,06% for payment appropriations.

OTHER DECISIONS

Agricultural policy

The Council adopted the Regulation establishing Community supervision for imports of certain agricultural products originating in the Canary Islands (1988). The purpose of this Regulation is to specify the circumstances under which the Member States regularly notify the Commission of imports of avocados, melons and kiwis from the Canary Islands.

The Council then adopted the Regulations establishing:

- a surveillance mechanism for imports of sour cherries, fresh or chilled, originating in Yugoslavia,
- import mechanisms for certain processed products obtained from sour cherries and originating in Yugoslavia.

The purpose of these Regulations is to implement the Additional Protocol concluded with Yugoslavia and to ensure the correct application of the provisions stipulated therein.
