

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

PRESS RELEASES

PRESIDENCY: GERMANY

JANUARY-JUNE 1988

Meetings and press releases May 1988

Meeting number	Subject	Date
1237 th	Internal Market	3 May 1988
1238 th	ACP/EEC Ministerial	10-11 May 1988
1239 th	Agriculture	16-17 May 1988
1240 th	General Affairs	24 May 1988
1241 st	Education	24 May 1988
1242 nd	Culture	27 May 1988
1243 rd	Health	31 May 1988
1244 th	Development Co-operation	31 May 1988

PRESS RELEASE

5932/88 (Presse 53)

1237th Council meeting
- Internal Market -
Brussels, 3 May 1988

President: Mr Martin BANGEMANN
Federal Minister for Economic 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 Paul DE KEERSMAEKER State Secretary for European
Affairs and Agriculture

Denmark:

Mr Nils WILHJELM Minister for Industry

Germany:

Mr Martin BANGEMANN Federal Minister for Economic
Affairs

Greece:

Mr Elias LYMBEROPOULOS Deputy Permanent Representative

Spain:

Mr Luis Javier CASANOVA Secretary-General for the
European Communities

France:

Mr Jean CADET Deputy Permanent Representative

Ireland:

Mr Seamus BRENNAN Minister of State at the
Department of Industry and Commerce

Italy:

Mr Antonio LA PERGOLA Minister with responsibility for
Community Affairs

Luxembourg:

Mr Johny LAHURE State Secretary for Economic
Affairs

Netherlands:

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

State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Portugal:

Mr Vitor A.M. da COSTA MARTINS

State Secretary for European
Integration

United Kingdom:

Mr Francis MAUDE

Under-Secretary of State,
Department of Trade and Industry

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Commission:

Lord COCKFIELD

Vice-President

SYSTEM FOR THE RECOGNITION OF HIGHER-EDUCATION DIPLOMAS

The Council discussed in detail some key points arising from the proposal for a Directive on a general system for the recognition of higher-education diplomas awarded on completion of vocational courses of at least three years' duration, concentrating its attention on the inclusion in the Directive of an aptitude test.

Following the discussion, the Council asked the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue proceedings, on the basis of a working hypothesis put forward by the Presidency, with a view to the adoption of a common position in June 1988.

RIGHT OF RESIDENCE

The Council again discussed the proposal concerning a right of residence. It considered in particular the main problems still unresolved: resources required of students, inequalities between Member States' health insurance schemes and the form, legal basis and scope of the act to be adopted.

Following the discussion, in which progress was made towards resolving those problems, the Council asked the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue consideration of the points still outstanding and to submit a further report for the next Council meeting.

TYPE-APPROVAL OF TRACTORS

The Council formally adopted the Directive amending Directive 74/150/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the type-approval of wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors. The amendment takes into account progress in tractor construction since the framework Directive was adopted in 1974.

HEALTH MATTERS

The Council adopted by a qualified majority Directives amending:

- Directive 64/433/EEC on health problems affecting intra-Community trade in fresh meat.

The aim is in particular to harmonize the additional conditions to be met by frozen meat and to adopt hygiene rules for intra-Community trade in sliced offal;

- Directive 72/462/EEC on health and veterinary inspection problems upon importation of bovine animals and swine and fresh meat from third countries.

The purpose of this amendment is to give the Commission sole responsibility for administering the list of approved establishments for exports to the Community and to extend to imports from third countries the relaxation of the rules on admission of sliced livers of bovine animals already adopted for intra-Community trade.

This decision should enable certain traditional trade flows from one of the Community's main trading partners to continue.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Other decisions concerning the internal market

The Council formally adopted the Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States concerning the safety of toys (see press release 10583/88 (Presse 229) of 18 December 1987, pages 4 and 5).

Cyprus

The Council adopted the Regulation on Community tariff quotas for Cyprus for:

- new potatoes (16 May - 30 June 1988)
- fresh table grapes (8 June - 4 August 1988).

Environment

The Council adopted the Resolution on the close of the European Year of the Environment (see press release 5050/88 (Presse 34) of 21 March 1988, pages 4 and 5).

Fisheries

The Council adopted the:

- Decision on the conclusion of an Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters providing for provisional application of the Protocol setting out the fishing rights and financial compensation provided for in the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Senegal and the European Economic Community on fishing off the coast of Senegal for the period from 29 February 1988 to 28 February 1990;
- Regulation on the conclusion of the Protocol setting out the fishing rights and financial compensation provided for in the Agreement between the Governments of the Republic of Senegal and the European Economic Community on fishing off the coast of Senegal for the period from 29 February 1988 to 28 February 1990;

- Regulation on the conclusion of the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros on fishing off the Comoros.

Customs union

The Council adopted Regulations:

- extending until 30 June 1989 the validity of Council Regulation (EEC) No 3/84 introducing arrangements for movement within the Community of goods sent from one Member State for temporary use in one or more other Member States;
- amending Regulation No 2658/87 on the tariff and statistical nomenclature and on the Common Customs Tariff and Regulation No 918/83 setting up a Community system of reliefs from customs duty.

Generalized preferences

The Council adopted the Regulation applying supplementary generalized tariff preferences in respect of certain industrial products originating in developing countries and sold at the Berlin "Partners in Progress" Fair.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

1238th meeting of the Council

- ACP/EEC Ministerial-

Mauritius, 10-11 May 1988

The official press release was unavailable. A summary of the meeting has been reproduced from the Bulletin of the European Communities, No. 5-1988

Number, place and date of meeting	Subject	President	Commission	Main items of business
1238th Mauritius 10 and 11 May	ACP/EEC			

ACP States

2.2.51. The ACP-EEC Council of Ministers held its 13th meeting in Mauritius on 10 and 11 May.⁴ It was chaired by Mr Soumaila, Niger's Minister for National Planning, and Mr Schaefer, Minister of State in the German Foreign Office and President of the Council. The Commission was represented by Mr Natali. Mr Latortue, Haiti's Foreign Minister, was admitted to the proceedings, but without observer status; the Dominican Republic did not send a representative.

The Council discussed short- and long-term aspects of food security, and heard a detailed report from Mr Natali on the operations carried out by the Community in this area.

As regards agricultural commodities, the Council examined the situation of the ACP States, the Cocoa⁵ and Coffee Agreements⁶ and the prospects for the Common Fund coming into force.

Much of the Council's work was taken up by trade questions. It took stock of the Uruguay Round negotiations and stressed the importance of ACP-EEC consultations. Lastly, the Council examined a joint paper concerning the reasons behind the poor trade performance of ACP States. The representatives of Togo and Senegal (the main phosphate exporters) protested about the Community's intention to draw up legislation on the cadmium content of phosphates. The Community reserved its position regarding an ACP request to participate in the studies.

On the matter of the Accession Protocol to Lomé III for Spain and Portugal,⁷ the Community reaffirmed its rejection of additional ACP requests regarding sugar and rice.

The two parties examined problems in trade in certain products, such as rice, yams, fresh beans, tropical timber and molasses. Discussions were also held on the Harmonized

System (for which the Council delegated its responsibility to the Committee of Ambassadors).

On Stabex, the Council looked at the replenishment of resources under Lomé I (left in abeyance until the Community established its position), the ACP request for an 'all destinations' derogation (on which the Commission confirmed its opposition) and the 1986 and 1987 application years. The Council discussed possible solutions for the shortage of resources available for 1987; the ACP side likened the situation to that of 1980-81, stressed that special solutions were called for and suggested changing the system in the next Convention.

The question of the accession of Papua New Guinea and Zambia to the Sugar Protocol was held over for lack of a settled Community position on the issue, and the two parties took stock of 1988-89 sugar prices. The ACP proposal for a joint study, with particular reference to transport costs, was adopted.

The Council also turned its attention to the indebtedness of ACP countries, concentrating particularly on the special Community programme for certain low-income highly indebted sub-Saharan countries.¹

The Council received the report on financial and technical cooperation from the Committee set up under Article 193 of Lomé III. This Committee had met at ministerial level in Mauritius on 9 May and adopted a document on the evaluation of development operations financed by the Community. Progress was still slow on the general conditions for contracts. Mr Natali reported on implementation of the Sixth EDF.

Regarding investment, the Council asked that study work be speeded up. A discussion was also held on the resolutions from the ACP-EEC Joint Assembly.²

The atmosphere for discussions on southern Africa was a good one, with the ACP countries obviously very satisfied by the ministerial meeting in Luxembourg on 26 April.³

⁴ 12th meeting: Bull. EC 5-1987, point 2.2.38.

⁵ Bull. EC 7/8-1986, point 2.2.32.

⁶ Bull. EC 6-1983, point 2.2.58; Bull. EC 9-1983, point 2.2.33.

⁷ OJ L 172, 30.6.1987; Bull. EC 6-1987, point 2.2.37.

¹ Bull. EC 9-1987, point 1.4.1 *et seq.*

² Bull. EC 3-1988, point 2.2.68.

³ Bull. EC 4-1988, point 2.2.40.

Mr Natali reported on the implementation of regional cooperation and explained the Commission's work on cultural cooperation. He rejected both the ACP idea of setting up a joint working party and the proposal to allocate an overall sum to the Foundation for ACP-EEC Cultural Cooperation, which is a private body.

It was decided that the Council's consultations with ACP-EEC business and labour groups would take place on 20 and 21 October.

Lastly, the Council took stock of the implementation of the Community Directive on aircraft noise⁴ and devoted some time to maritime transport and the Dakar symposium on debt and structural adjustment in relation to commodities.

⁴ OJ L 117, 4.5.1983; Bull. EC 4-1983, point 2.1.86.

PRESS RELEASE

6085/88 (Presse 57)

1239th Council meeting

- Agriculture -

Brussels, 16 and 17 May 1988

Presidents:

Mr Ignaz KIECHLE

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

Mr Walter KITTEL

State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of 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 Henri NALLET 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

United Kingdom:

Mr John McGREGOR

Minister of Agriculture

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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.

Initially, it concentrated on examining sectors which it had not previously looked at, viz.: oils and fats, protein products, textile fibres, milk, sheepmeat and goatmeat, pigmeat and wine.

The Council then turned to certain major problems which had arisen during preparatory work, such as - in the cereals sector - the measure incorporating cereals into feedingstuffs and the question of the co-responsibility levy and exemptions for small producers. On this last question, the Council gave the Special Committee on Agriculture a number of guidelines for drawing up arrangements to apply during the next marketing year, pending a Community definition of small producers, which should be adopted before the end of 1988. These arrangements could thus enter into force before 1 June 1988, the date on which the cereals marketing year begins in the southern countries of the Community.

The Council also considered the tobacco, fruit and vegetable and beef and veal sectors, and agri-monetary problems.

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At the close of discussions, the Council found that although some progress had been made, political agreement was still not possible; further discussions were needed.

It agreed to resume its discussions on the subject in Luxembourg on 13, 14 and 15 June 1988.

In the meantime, the Council decided to extend the present marketing years:

- for milk and milk products until 30 June 1988;
- for beef and veal until 3 July 1988.

CLASSICAL SWINE FEVER

The Council found that the vast majority of delegations were agreed on a Decision recognizing certain parts of the territory of the Community as being either officially swine fever free or swine fever free, but that one delegation still had a reservation linked with its national scrutiny procedures.

The Decision will be formally adopted as soon as this reservation is withdrawn, if possible at the Council's next meeting.

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The Decision covers the following subject-matter:

Some parts of Community territory are already recognized as being officially swine fever free or swine fever free. However, as the classic swine fever situation has improved considerably in the Federal Republic of German, France, Greece and the Netherlands, other parts of the territory now fulfill the requisite conditions (vaccination had been stopped and no case of disease has been detected for more than a year) for recognition as officially swine fever free or swine fever free.

This recognition will remove barriers to intra-Community trade in pigs and pigmeat between these regions and Denmark, the United Kingdom and Ireland.

HORMONES DIRECTIVE

The Council formally adopted, by a qualified majority, a Directive on trade in animals treated with certain substances having a hormonal action and their meat, as referred to in Article 7 of Directive 88/146 (hormones).

The Directive is designed to authorize trade in animals intended for reproduction or their meat, and in reproductive animals at the end of their career which have undergone therapeutic or zootechnical treatment during their existence.

The Directive lays down the guarantees needed for therapeutic and zootechnical treatment to be possible, by way of derogation from the general ban on treatment laid down in Directive 88/146/EEC. These guarantees concern, amongst other things, the products or substances that can be used, conditions of use - in particular compliance with the necessary waiting time - and monitoring arrangements.

In order not to create trade barriers, the text entrusts the Commission with the task of drawing up shortly a provisional list of products or substances which may be used by all the Member States for therapeutic and zootechnical treatment.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Other agricultural decisions

The Council formally adopted a Directive amending Annex II to Directives 76/895/EEC and 86/362/EEC relating to the fixing of maximum levels for pesticide residues in and on fruit and vegetables and cereals respectively. The main aims of this Directive are to reduce, in the light of developments in scientific and technical knowledge, the maximum residue levels for a number of pesticides and add provisions on some other residues not covered at present, to protect human health.

More specifically, the Council agreed to take a decision on the inclusion of maleic hydrazide in the list of pesticides authorized at Community level before 31 December 1988.

The Council also formally adopted a Decision on the conclusion of the European Convention for the Protection of Animals for Slaughter. The aim of the Decision is the conclusion by the Council, on behalf of the Community, of the European Convention for the Protection of Animals for Slaughter, the provisions of which are in accordance with Community rules but wider in scope by virtue of being drawn up by the Council of Europe.

The Council then formally adopted a Regulation amending Regulation No 3444/87 on the transfer of 150 000 tonnes of barley held by the Spanish intervention agency. The aim is to extend until 31 May 1988 the time limit for transporting to Greece residual quantities of barley which could not be transferred within the time limit laid down by the Regulation.

Fisheries policy

The Council formally adopted a Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 3983/87 allocating, for 1988, Community catch quotas in Greenland waters. The purpose of the Regulation is to allocate among the Member States the catch shares (of deep-water prawns) available to the Community in 1988 under the Fisheries Agreement between the European Economic Community, on the one hand, and the Government of Denmark and the Local Government of Greenland, on the other (NAFO area 1: France 425 t., Denmark 425 t.; ICES area XIV: France 500 t. + 150 t. to be fished north of 67°30'N; Denmark 500 t. + 150 t. to be fished north of 67°30'N.

Import arrangements for sweet potatoes and manioc starch

The Council formally adopted a Decision concerning the conclusion of an Agreement between the EEC and Thailand negotiated under Article XXVIII of the GATT relating to the unbinding by the Community of the duties applicable to sweet potatoes for use other than human consumption and a Regulation concerning the arrangements applicable to imports of sweet potatoes and manioc starch.

The Agreement provides for the:

- opening of a bound zero-duty tariff quota for 5 000 tonnes a year of sweet potatoes for use other than human consumption;
- opening of a tariff quota with duty bound at 150 ECU per tonne for the following products:
 - = 8 000 tonnes of manioc starch intended for processing into food products;
 - = 2 000 tonnes of manioc starch intended for processing into medicaments.

To implement the Agreement, the Council also adopted a Regulation concerning the arrangements applicable to imports of sweet potatoes and manioc starch intended for certain uses and amending Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87 on the tariff and statistical nomenclature and on the Common Customs Tariff.

Relations with Morocco

The Council:

- approved the outcome of negotiations for:
 - = an Additional Protocol (economic adaptation) to the Co-operation Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Kingdom of Morocco;
 - = a Protocol (technical adaptation) to the Agreement between the EEC and the Kingdom of Morocco consequent on the accession of Spain and Portugal to the Community;
 - = a Protocol (technical adaptation) to the Agreement between the ECSC and the Kingdom of Morocco consequent on the accession of Spain and Portugal to the Community;
 - = a Protocol on financial and technical co-operation between the Community and the Kingdom of Morocco.
- decided to proceed to the signature of these Protocols and seek the assent of the European Parliament in accordance with Article 238 of the EEC Treaty.

These Protocols and the EEC-Morocco Fisheries Agreement will be signed in Rabat on 26 May 1988.

The Decision on signing the EEC-Morocco Fisheries Agreement was approved by the Council on 29 February 1988.

Anti-dumping

The Council formally adopted a Regulation amending Regulation No 1022/88 as regards certain electronic typewriters assembled in the Community by Kyushu Matsushita (UK) Ltd. The Regulation excludes electronic typewriters assembled in the Community by Kyushu Matsushita (UK) Ltd from the scope of the anti-dumping duty imposed by Regulation No 1698/85 - and extended by Regulation No 1022/88 to cover machines assembled in the Community by certain Japanese firms - since, after consultation, the Commission has accepted the undertaking proposed by the firm.

PRESS RELEASE

6372/88 (Presse 67)

1240th Council meeting

- General Affairs -

Brussels, 24 May 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
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Germany:

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

Greece:

Mr Yiannos KRANIDIOTIS	Executive Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
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Spain:

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

Mr Roland DUMAS	Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mrs Edith CRESSON	Minister for European Affairs

Ireland:

Mrs Maire GEOGHEGAN-QUINN Minister of State for European Affairs

Italy:

Mr Giulio ANDREOTTI Minister for Foreign Affairs

Luxembourg:

Mr Jacques F. POOS Minister for Foreign Affairs

Netherlands:

Mr H. VAN DEN BROEK Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr P.R.H.M. VAN DER LINDEN State Secretary for European Affairs

Portugal:

Mr João des DEUS PINHEIRO Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Vitor MARTINS State Secretary for European Integration

United Kingdom:

Sir Geoffrey HOWE Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs

Mrs Lynda CHALKER Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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Commission:

Mr Jacques DELORS President

Mr Henning CHRISTOPHERSEN Vice-President

Mr Claude CHEYSSON Member

Mr Willy DE CLERCQ Member

Mr Grigoris VARFIS Member

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL ON 11 AND 12 FEBRUARY 1988

The Council received a general report from the Permanent Representatives Committee which took stock of what had been achieved to date. It was apparent from the report that the Permanent Representatives Committee had cleared the ground well, allowing the Council to concentrate on the essential points still outstanding.

The Council therefore looked principally at the problems relating to:

- the system of own resources (arrangements for financing the United Kingdom compensation and for the rebate granted to Spain and Portugal with regard to their contribution towards the compensation);
- the financial prospects for 1989-1992 and budgetary discipline (notably the charging of the amounts required for financing set-aside and aids to income);
- reform of the Structural Funds (in particular the list of regions covered by Objective No 1 and the Presidency's compromise suggestions on a number of other questions).

The Council had a constructive discussion covering all these questions and managed to achieve considerable progress on several of them. Concerning reform of the Structural Funds in particular, the approaches contained in the Presidency's compromise suggestions were confirmed as the basis for the continuation of discussions within the Permanent Representatives Committee, and concerning regional coverage for Objective No 1 an agreement in principle is emerging on the basis of the Commission proposal, to take account of the courses of action which are open under other objectives covering regions at a level of development close to that of Objective No 1 regions.

The Council also reached a consensus on financial compensation to Spain and Portugal, for their participation in the financing of the depreciation of agricultural stocks.

At the end of discussions, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to press on with its work on all these problems and find solutions also to the questions still outstanding, concerning certain amendments to the Financial Regulations on some points of budget management, financial support for Portugal (PEDIP), and the harmonization of definitions of GNP, so that the Council will be able to hold satisfactory discussions at its next meeting on 13 and 14 June with the aim of reaching an overall agreement on the package for the implementation of the conclusions of the Brussels European Council. In addition, the Council expects that before then it will have received the European Parliament's Opinions on the various Commission proposals.

ELECTIONS TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

The Council once again examined the problems arising with regard to fixing the date of the forthcoming elections for Members of the European Parliament. At the end of discussions, it was agreed to return to the question at the next Council meeting on 13 and 14 June for the purpose of reaching a conclusion.

RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL

The Council prepared for the 6th meeting of the EEC-Israel Co-operation Council, which was held in the early afternoon of the same day.

RELATIONS WITH THE CMEA

The Council was informed by Commissioner De Clercq of the results of recent meetings between representatives of the Commission and of the CMEA, which will allow the Commission to proceed with the initialling of the joint statement at the next negotiating session, to be held in Moscow between 8 and 10 June.

On the basis of a report it will receive from the Commission on the outcome of these negotiations, the Council will decide at its meeting on 13 and 14 June on the signing of this joint statement and the consultation of the European Parliament pursuant to Article 235 of the EEC Treaty.

YOUTH FOR EUROPE

The Council approved the substance of the Decision adopting an action programme for the promotion of youth exchanges in the Community - Youth for Europe.

This programme, which is to run for the period from 1 July 1988 to 31 December 1991 with an estimated amount needed to finance it of 15 MECU for the period 1989 to 1991 (the Commission will also have the use of the appropriations amounting to 3,5 MECU available in the 1988 budget for preparatory measures), is designed to promote the development of bilateral exchanges and multilateral exchanges and encounters arranged on the basis of joint plans between groups of young people between the ages of 15 and 25 years of a minimum duration of one week in a Member State other than the Member State in which they reside and which are specifically planned in such a way as to enable them to develop skills for active and working life as young people and adults in the Community by:

- gaining understanding at first hand of the economic, social and cultural life of other Member States (including the situations and problems of young people) through direct contact with the local community in the host country;
- establishing co-operative relationships between groups of young people from different Member States;
- exchanging ideas and identifying common interests with young people from other Member States and developing an awareness of a European identity;
- strengthening their awareness of belonging to Europe.

The objectives of the programme are as follows:

- (a) to promote youth exchanges within the European Community for an increasing number of young people from all the Member States, including, in particular, regions in which few opportunities for such exchanges are customarily available;
- (b) to promote improvements in the quality of youth exchanges, in particular through assistance with the preparation and organization of exchanges, so as to achieve the maximum impact and maximize the benefit to the young people concerned, in particular by enabling them to play an active part in organizing the exchanges;

- (c) to encourage as far as possible diversification in youth exchanges and achieve an improved balance between Member States, inter alia by the promotion of multilateral exchanges, so as to extend participation, in particular, to young people from all kinds of social, economic and cultural backgrounds;
- (d) to support the pursuit of European activities aimed at developing ongoing links between young people and groups of young people in the various Member States;
- (e) to indentify ways and means of overcoming the various financial, legal and administrative obstacles which may inhibit participation in or the organization of youth exchanges;
- (f) to define, in the light of the experience gained, new actions that may be undertaken aimed at filling any gaps discovered in existing youth exchange programmes.

The programme is in particular intended to encourage the participation of young people who have the most difficulties in being included in existing programmes of exchanges between the Member States.

The Commission has been given the task of implementing the programme; it will be assisted by a Committee of an advisory nature. The Member States will lend their support to achieving the objectives of the programme. Each Member State will designate or set-up one or several competent bodies responsible for co-ordinating the implementation of the programme at national level.

24.V.88

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

EEC-EFTA

The Council adopted the Regulations on the application of Decision No 1/88 of the EEC-EFTA Joint Committees supplementing and amending Protocol No 3 on the definition of the concept of "originating products" and methods of administrative co-operation (adjustment of the rules of origin to the Harmonized System).

Syria

The Council decided to sign the following Protocols:

- Additional Protocol to the Co-operation Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Syrian Arab Republic;
- (technical adaptation) Protocol to the above Co-operation Agreement consequent on the Accession of Spain and Portugal to the Community;
- (technical adaptation) Protocol to the Agreement between the Member States of the ECSC and the Syrian Arab Republic consequent on the Accession of Spain and Portugal to the Community.

Community tariff quota

The Council adopted the Regulation on a Community tariff quota to be opened for apricot pulp originating in Turkey (1 July 1988 - 30 June 1989).

24.V.88

Agriculture

The Council formally adopted the Regulations:

- amending Regulation (EEC) No 822/87 on the common organization of the market in wine;
- on the granting, for the 1988/1989 to 1995/1996 wine years, of permanent abandonment premiums in respect of wine-growing areas.

These Regulations form part of the package of agricultural stabilizers. The Council has thus completed the formal adoption of all the Regulations necessary for the implementation of the conclusions of the European Council of February 1988 in the agricultural sector.

The Council also formally adopted:

- the Decision recognizing certain parts of the territory of the Community as being either officially swine fever free or swine fever free (see Press Release (Agriculture) No 6085/88 of 16 and 17 May 1988);

and the Regulations:

- on the granting of aid for certain varieties of rice of the "Indica" type or profile in Portugal;
- amending the Annexes to Regulation (EEC) No 3878/87 on the production aid for certain varieties of rice.

The purpose of these Regulations is to ensure the achievement of the objectives of varietal conversion in Portugal, where otherwise the common organization of the market does not apply before 1 January 1991. To this end provision should be made for the immediate application in that country of the system of production aid for varieties of the Indica type or profile, and for the addition of the Estrela A variety to the list of varieties eligible for such aid.

24.V.88

ECSC

The Council has given its assent pursuant to Article 56(2)(a) of the ECSC Treaty concerning:

- Commerzbank, Düsseldorf (Federal Republic of Germany)
 - Savings banks established in the provinces of Vizcaya, Guipuzcoa, Alava and Asturias (Spain) and associated with the Confédération Espanola de Cajas de Ahorro.
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PRESS RELEASE
6371/88 (Presse 66)

1241st meeting of the Council
and the Ministers for Education
meeting within the Council

Brussels, 24 May 1988

President: Mr Jürgen MÖLLEMANN

Federal Minister for Education
and Science
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 Yvan YLIEFF Minister for Education
 Mr Luc VAN DEN BOSSCHE State Secretary for Education, assistant
 to Mr W. CLAES, Minister for Education

Denmark:

Mr Torben Mailand CHRISTENSEN Deputy Permanent Representative

Germany:

Mrs Irmgard KARWATZKI Parliamentary State Secretary, Federal
 Ministry of Education and Science
 Mr Wolfgang GERHARDT Minister of State, Ministry for Science of the
 Land Hesse, Chairman of the Conference of
 Education Ministers

Greece:

Mr Elias LYMBEROPOULOS Deputy Permanent Representative

Spain:

Mr José Maria MARAVALL HERRERO Minister for Education and Science

France:

Mr Lionel JOSPIN Minister of State for Education

Ireland:

Mrs Mary O'ROURKE Minister for Education

Italy:

Mr Luigi COVATTA State Secretary for Education

Luxembourg:

Mr Thierry STOLL

Deputy Permanent Representative

Netherlands:

Mr W.J. DEETMAN

Minister for Education and Science

Portugal:

Mr Roberto CARNEIRO

Minister for Education

United Kingdom:

Mr Kenneth BAKER

Minister for Education and Science

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Commission:

Mr Manuel MARIN

Vice-President

TRANSITION OF YOUNG PEOPLE FROM EDUCATION TO ADULT AND WORKING LIFE

The Council and the Ministers for Education meeting within the Council adopted the conclusions set out in Annex I.

THE EUROPEAN DIMENSION IN EDUCATION

The Council and the Ministers for Education meeting within the Council adopted the Resolution set out in Annex II.

EDUCATION ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

The Council and the Ministers for Education meeting within the Council adopted the Resolution set out in Annex III without prejudice to any action that might be taken on the proposal for a Decision that the Commission has submitted on this matter.

MEDIUM-TERM EDUCATION PROSPECTS IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

On the basis of a Commission communication the Council and the Ministers for Education meeting within the Council held an exchange of views on the topics and areas for priority action on which education co-operation and Community actions should concentrate in the period ending 1992. They noted the Commission's intention of submitting a medium-term programme in the light of the discussion.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING

The Council and the Ministers held an exchange of views on foreign language teaching on the basis of a Commission communication and a report by the Education Committee. They noted the Commission's intention of submitting a proposal on the matter, in the light of the discussion, in the second half of 1988.

ERASMUS - COMETT

The Council noted the two reports that the Commission submitted. It agreed to discuss in detail, at its next meeting, the experience gained from the implementation of these two programmes.

ANNEX ITRANSITION OF YOUNG PEOPLE FROM EDUCATION TO ADULT AND WORKING LIFE

The Council and the Ministers for Education meeting within the Council,
referring to their Resolutions

- of 9 February 1976 comprising an action programme in the field of education;
- of 12 July 1982 and 5 December 1985 concerning measures to be taken to improve the preparation of young people for work and to facilitate their transition from education to working life;

referring to the conclusions of the joint session of the Council (Labour and Social Affairs)/Council and the Ministers for Education meeting within the Council of 3 June 1983 on the transition of young people from education to adult and working life;

referring to the Resolution of the Council of 11 July 1983 concerning vocational training policies in the Community in the 1980s;

referring to the Resolution of the Council and the Ministers for Education meeting within the Council of 19 September 1983 on measures relating to the introduction of new information technology in education;

referring to the Resolution of the Council and of the Ministers for Education of 3 June 1985 on an action programme on equal opportunities for girls and boys in education;

referring to the conclusions of the Council and of the Ministers for Education meeting within the Council of 4 June 1984, in particular Section V thereof, concerning measures to combat illiteracy;

referring to the decision of the Council (Social Affairs) of 1 December 1987 concerning an action programme on the vocational training of young people and their preparation for adult and working life; and the need for the school systems to complement and support the measures already agreed by the Council;

recalling that at their meeting on 14 May 1987,

- they drew attention to the special importance of in-service training for teachers in view of current social, technological, economic and demographic changes;
- they adopted a work programme to combat the lack of basic skills, especially illiteracy;
- they noted their common concern at the failure of a significant number of young people at school and called on the Commission to submit a communication on this problem;

observing

- the continuing high levels of youth unemployment in many parts of the European Community, and the need to reduce regional and sectoral disparities in the Community which contribute to it;
- that structural changes in the labour market, the wider and further use of new technologies and new forms of employment and career patterns, continue to make new demands on the competences and skills of young people;

- that new policy initiatives in secondary education, some of them large-scale, have been taken or are being prepared in a number of Member States, to face the challenges of the 1990s;
- the importance of a full and effective contribution by education systems to the achievement and exploitation of the internal market, as well as to the strengthening of the economic and social cohesion of the Community;
- the need to strengthen the capacity of education systems to manage and monitor innovation and change, so that these may be in a better position to respond to regional and local economic developments, as well as wider economic and social change, and to individual needs;

welcome the final report of the Commission on the second Community action programme (1982-1987) on the transition of young people from education to adult and working life;

endorse the conclusions of the Commission's final report of the second transition programme and the emphasis placed by it on the need for continuing innovation in the school systems, particularly secondary schools, and for partnership and co-operation with the world of the economy;

welcome the contribution made by the programme to making European co-operation and partnership in education a stronger reality at national, regional and local levels;

invite Member States, in accordance with their distinctive structures, to promote and develop further policies which take into account the main conclusions in the report, and in particular:

1. in the area of schools and the world of work

- to create dynamic partnerships between economic and work organizations, including the social partners, and education authorities and institutions at all levels, and especially between schools and firms in local areas;
- to develop effective work experience opportunities for all pupils, and schemes based on the concept of education for enterprise;
- to promote more active co-operation between schools and Community-based organizations, including the voluntary sector, on projects both inside and outside the school which will widen pupils' experience of adult life;
- to encourage education authorities at local and/or regional level to consider the need for co-operation structures to develop and maintain such links;
- to promote a more active role by education systems, notably at upper secondary level, in local and regional economic development, particularly in disadvantaged areas;

2. in the field of guidance

- to encourage all secondary schools to review their role in providing guidance and counselling for all their pupils, and to develop approaches to meeting pupils' needs which promote co-operation with others concerned in the guidance process;;
- to review and extend their provision of appropriate training for teachers and specialists with guidance responsibilities;
- to promote continuing guidance for school-leavers, especially those facing difficulty in entering employment or training, over a stated period (e.g. 2 years) and encourage schools to play a more active role in this field;
- to help young people to appreciate the potential of continuing education and training throughout adult life, so as to encourage them to make effective use of the opportunities available to them;

3. in regard to school failure and early drop-out

- to encourage and assist schools to review their teaching provisions for their weakest pupils, with special reference to its content, style and methods of assessment, so that these pupils can develop the full range of their abilities;
- to use the possibilities offered by learning modules, learning through practical experience, personal guidance, and the provision of facilities outside the school with a remedial/training character, to sustain, restore or enhance motivation in such pupils, and enable more of them to obtain a recongnized qualification;
- to review whether existing certification systems need to be adapted or extended so as to come nearer to the goal of giving recognition to the achievement of all pupils;

4. in the field of in-service training and school development

- to promote policies which encourage schools to consider, on a regular basis, their needs for staff training, and which enable regional or national teacher training provision to respond to the need for school-based in-service training programmes;
- to enable as many teachers as possible to take part in regular in-service training;
- to relate the future development of the content of such training more closely to the school's needs in the area of contact and co-operation with the outside world; so that teachers can gain more experience outside the education system, and widen their knowledge of the guidance process, of new forms of assessment; and to assist teachers in involving parents more actively in the life of their children's school;
- to enable teachers and schools, through appropriately designed in-service training programmes, to draw more widely on cross-curricular approaches and interdisciplinary project work;
- to promote task-based working contacts between teaching staff from different types of schools in a local area, especially those in general education and vocational education and training so as to strengthen curriculum continuity, and increase awareness of vocational training opportunities on the part of secondary schools; and to develop opportunities for combining the further training of teachers of compulsory and general education with that of teachers and trainers responsible for vocational training in schools and firms;

5. in the field of gender equality

- to encourage action on the part of all schools to raise awareness among teachers, pupils and parents of the issue of gender equality and to formulate and carry out action to change teaching/learning practices, and guidance processes for pupils and their parents accordingly;
- to promote joint action and exchange of experience between schools at the local level on this issue, and co-operation between schools and their partners in training and employment, so as to concert action and policies and so as to make optimum use of staff and resources, thereby providing greater opportunities for girls to study non-traditional subjects, including the disciplines involving new information technology;
- to provide for the monitoring and evaluation of measures taken to ensure equality of opportunity, with a view to the further development of policy and the dissemination of positive experience;

6. in regard to parents' involvement

- to encourage active partnership between schools and parents, the fuller involvement of parents in the guidance process, and the schools' use of parents as a resource to support learning activities, especially those linking the school and economic world;

invite Member States and the Commission, to this end, to arrange for the final report of the Commission, and supporting documentation, to be made available to policy-makers, teacher-trainers and practitioners, so as to disseminate the European experience and conclusions as widely as possible;

consider that the following themes, which are of central importance for the transition from education to adult and working life, require further examination at European Community level;

- the possibility of closer links and new forms of co-operation between school systems and the world of the economy;
- the need for school systems to develop more effective educational counselling and advice for pupils, as a complement to and co-ordinated with vocational guidance, and to exploit the potential of the new technologies in this regard;
- the motivation and training of the teaching force to work towards greater co-operation and partnership with agencies outside schools with a view to encourage the entrepreneurial spirit of young people and their understanding of the world of work;

- the need to reduce the number of those entering the workforce without qualifications;
- the need to intensify and extend action aimed at ensuring equality of opportunity for girls and young women in education, so as to encourage them to consider the full range of choices for training and employment;
- the importance of involving parents more actively as partners with schools in support of their children's education;

invite the Commission:

- to bring forward as soon as possible proposals for specific activities, over the period 1989-1992, designed to support developments in the Member States in these areas and with the aim of enhancing the role of education systems in the economic and social life of the Member States. In this context the European network of contacts in this field, established during the second action programme, should be further exploited;
- to clarify, when making its proposals, to what extent the abovementioned themes can be treated in the framework of the Council Decision of 1 December 1987 on the training and the preparation of young people for working life.



ANNEX IITHE EUROPEAN DIMENSION IN EDUCATION

The Council and the Ministers for Education meeting within the Council,
referring to their conclusions of 27 September 1985,
reaffirming their resolve to strengthen the European dimension in education in
accordance with the "Solemn Declaration on European Union" of Stuttgart
(June 1983), the conclusions of the European Council in Fontainebleau (June 1984)
and the "People's Europe" report adopted at the European Council in Milan
(June 1985);
considering enhanced treatment of the European dimension in education to be an
element contributing to the development of the Community and achievement of the
objective of creating a unified internal market by 1992;
noting the Resolution of the European Parliament adopted on 20 November 1987;
noting the report of the Education Committee;
stressing the link between improving the presence of the European dimension in
education and all the activities undertaken as part of:

- the action programme on education (9 February 1976)
- the programme of pilot projects for the improvement of the transition from school to working life
- the ERASMUS, COMETT and Youth for Europe (YES) programmes;

emphasizing the particular importance for understanding among Europeans of the learning of languages of other Member States and of exchanges among young people,

HEREBY ADOPT THIS RESOLUTION:

I. OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this Resolution is to strengthen the European dimension in education by launching a series of concerted measures for the period 1988-1992; these measures should help to:

- strengthen in young people a sense of European identity and make clear to them the value of European civilization and of the foundations on which the European peoples intend to base their development today, that is in particular the safeguarding of the principles of democracy, social justice and respect for human rights (Copenhagen Declaration, April 1978);
- prepare young people to take part in the economic and social development of the Community and in making concrete progress towards European Union, as stipulated in the European Single Act;
- make them aware of the advantages which the Community represents, but also of the challenges it involves, in opening up an enlarged economic and social area to them;
- improve their knowledge of the Community and its Member States in their historical, cultural, economic and social aspects and bring home to them the significance of the co-operation of the Member States of the European Community with other countries of Europe and the world.

II. ACTION

In accordance with the decision of the European Council on a People's Europe, new impulses should be given to the achievement of these objectives, involving strengthened measures both at Member States level and Community level.

A. At the level of the Member States

Within the limits of their own specific educational policies and structures, the Member States will make every effort to implement the following measures:

Incorporation of the European dimension in educational systems

1. to set out in a document their current policies for incorporation of the European dimension in education and make this available to schools and other educational institutions;
2. to encourage meaningful initiatives in all sectors of education aimed at strengthening the European dimension in education;

School programmes and teaching

3. to include the European dimension explicitly in their school curricula in all appropriate disciplines, for example literature, languages, history, geography, social sciences, economics and the arts;

Teaching material

4. to make arrangements so that teaching material takes account of the common objective of promoting the European dimension;

Teacher training

5. to give greater emphasis to the European dimension in teachers' initial and in-service training. The following can contribute to achieving this objective:

- making suitable teaching material available,
- access to documentation on the Community and its policies,
- provision of basic information on the educational systems of the other Member States,
- co-operation with teacher training institutions in other Member States, particularly by developing joint programmes providing for student and teacher mobility,
- making provision in the framework of in-service training for specific activities to enhance serving teachers' awareness of the European dimension in education and give them the opportunity of keeping up-to-date with Community developments,
- opening up, to some teachers from other Member States, certain in-service training activities, which would constitute the practical expression of belonging to Europe and a significant means of favouring the integration process;

Promotion of measures to boost contacts between pupils and teachers from different countries

6. to encourage contacts and meetings across borders between pupils and teachers from different Member States at all levels in order to give them direct experience of European integration and the realities of life in other European countries;

to use these contacts and meetings both for improving linguistic proficiency and for gaining knowledge and experience on cultural, scientific and technical matters; in this way the largest possible number of young people and teachers should be covered by these initiatives;

to encourage parents and parents' organizations to participate in organizing contacts, exchanges and visits;

to provide information and advice to schools, teachers and pupils interested in contacts, exchanges and visits abroad and to support them in the implementation of contacts and exchanges;

to examine the conditions for longer-term stays abroad by pupils and to promote such stays abroad;

Complementary measures

7. to give a new stimulus in the perspective of 1992 to the strengthening of the image of Europe in education, in the sense of the People's Europe Report, by organizing particular events: in this connection the following would appear appropriate:
- colloquia and seminars on effective ways of introducing the European dimension in education and on the use and preparation of teaching material adapted to the different levels of teaching;
 - the promotion of school initiatives and extra-curricular activities such as school twinning and the formation of "European Clubs", opening up new paths for the strengthening of the European dimension;
 - the participation of schools in activities organized as part of Europe Day (9 May);
 - the participation of schools in the European schools competition and encouragement of co-operation between competitions in the linguistic, artistic, scientific or technical fields organized in individual Member States;
 - increased co-operation between the Member States in the area of school sports.

B. At the level of the European Community

In order to back up the action of the Member States and achieve effective collaboration in this field, the Commission, assisted by the working party mentioned in paragraph 19 below, is invited:

Information exchange

8. - to promote an exchange of information on concepts and measures in the different Member States, thereby ensuring that the results of the experience acquired are known in all Member States;

Teaching material

9. - to prepare basic documentation on the Community (its institutions, aims and current tasks) for schools and teaching staff;
- to facilitate the exchange, by subjects or groups of subjects, of information on teaching material aimed at strengthening the European dimension in teaching;
 - to carry out comparative analysis of the substance and new forms of treatment of teaching material;
 - to make authors and publishers of teaching material more aware of the need to include the European dimension in their production;

Teacher training

10. to use the programme of study visits for education specialists (ARION Programme) for the aim of introducing the European dimension in education;
11. to use the possibilities offered by the ERASMUS programme for providing students training to be teachers with experience of a foreign country during their training and for intensifying co-operation between training institutions and between trainers;
12. to support co-operation by institutions of initial and further training for teachers of several Member States in the development of teaching material promoting the European dimension in education;
13. to promote each year, in the period 1989-1992, the organization of a European Summer University for trainers in order to enable them to exchange the experience acquired and to identify new ways of improving the introduction of the European dimension in teacher training;

Specific additional measures

14. to encourage co-operation and exchange of views among the national bodies responsible for the encouragement of exchanges of pupils and teachers;
15. to promote the participation of non-governmental organizations in the introduction of the European dimension in education;

16. to examine the possibilities for reinforcing the European dimension in education by using audio-visual means at European level;
17. to foster co-operation between educational research institutes and centres in the various Member States working towards the introduction of the European dimension in education, taking into account the potential contribution of the European University Institute (Florence), the College of Europe (Bruges), the European Institute of Public Administration (Maastricht) and the European schools;
18. to examine how school sport can be better used for European contact and mutual understanding and on what conditions the establishment of European school games would be possible.

Working Party

19. In the implementation of these tasks and to achieve effective collaboration in this field, the Commission will be assisted by a working party composed of representatives of the Member States with co-ordinating responsibilities in European dimension questions, appointed by the Commission on the proposal of the Member State concerned.

III. REPORT ON MEASURES UNDERTAKEN

The Council and the Ministers for Education meeting within the Council invite the Education Committee to submit an initial report by 30 June 1991 on the development of measures undertaken at the level of the Member States and the Community to reinforce the European dimension in teaching.

IV. FINANCE

Community finance for the measures referred to in Point II B and the amount thereof are to be decided on in accordance with the Community's rules and procedures.

ANNEX IIIENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

THE COUNCIL AND THE MINISTERS FOR EDUCATION MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL,

AWARE of the increasing need to protect the environment so as to improve living conditions and ensure the harmonious development of economic activities throughout the Community;

REAFFIRM their determination to strengthen, in accordance with the European Community environmental action programmes of 1973, 1977, 1983 and 1987, public awareness of problems relating to the conservation and improvement of the environment by means of appropriate action in the education sphere;

RECALL that in accordance with Article 130r(2) and (4) of the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, requirements relating to the protection of the environment shall be a component of the other policies of the Community and that the Community shall take action in this field to the extent to which the common objectives can be attained better at Community level than at the level of the individual Member States;

BELIEVE that, as stated in the Resolution of the Council of the European Communities of 19 October 1987 concerning the continuation and implementation of a European Community policy and action programme on the environment (1987-1992), it is important, whilst observing the respective competences of the Community and the Member States to concentrate Community action on certain priority fields, amongst which is the promotion of education and training in environmental matters at the appropriate levels;

RECOMMEND that measures be taken, in accordance with the Resolution of the Council and the Ministers for Education meeting within the Council of 9 February 1976, comprising an action programme in the field of education, with a view to promoting closer relations between systems of education for the purpose of furthering environmental education;

CONSIDER that all sectors of education (preschool, general and vocational, higher and further education) should make a contribution to carrying out the task of environmental education;

NOTE the growing demand for staff with specialized knowledge of environmental protection matters and the consequent need to intensify and improve action in the sphere of education, vocational training and advanced education, to respond to this demand;

AGREE to establish certain principles concerning environmental education so as to promote the full development of such education throughout the Community;

POINT OUT, bearing in mind action already taken under Community environmental programmes to set up schools networks as well as action by international organizations such as OECD and UNESCO, that concepts of environmental education and measures for their implementation are being developed in all Member States and that it appears appropriate to establish a systematic exchange of information and experience in the Community;

AGREE on the need to take concrete steps for the promotion of environmental education, so that this can be intensified in a comprehensive way throughout the Community;

HEREBY ADOPT THIS RESOLUTION:

I. OBJECTIVE AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The objective of environmental education is to increase the public awareness of the problems in this field, as well as possible solutions, and to lay the foundations for a fully informed and active participation of the individual in the protection of the environment and the prudent and rational use of natural resources. For the achievement of this objective environmental education should take into account particularly the following guiding principles:

- the environment as the common heritage of mankind;
- the common duty of maintaining, protecting and improving the quality of the environment, as a contribution to the protection of human health and the safeguarding of the ecological balance;
- the need for a prudent and rational utilization of natural resources;
- the way in which each individual can, by his own behaviour, particularly as a consumer, contribute to the protection of the environment.

II. MEASURES

The achievement of this objective and implementation of the guiding principles should be promoted both at the level of the Member States and at European Community level.

A. Action to be taken at Member State level

Within the limits of their own specific educational policies and structures, the Member States may make every effort to implement the following measures:

- (a) Each Member State, taking account of regional particularities and in co-operation with parents, local bodies and other relevant bodies, should promote the introduction of environment education in all sectors of education, including vocational training and adult education. It would appear appropriate that its current policy on environmental education should be set out in a document and made available to schools and other educational institutions.

The document should take account of the fact that environmental education is an interdisciplinary subject of relevance to many fields of teaching.

(b) For the carrying out of these tasks, it would appear important for the relevant authorities of the Member States:

- to give consideration to the basic aims of environmental education when drawing up curricula and organizing interdisciplinary courses;
- to encourage extracurricular school activities by means of which theoretical knowledge of the environment acquired in school can be put into practice;
- to take appropriate measures to develop teachers' knowledge of environmental matters in the context of their initial and in-service training;
- to undertake specific action to provide teachers and pupils with appropriate teaching materials.

It would appear appropriate to prepare, implement and improve these priority activities with the help of pilot and research projects.

(c) Specialists who are particularly concerned with environmental problems should, through appropriate vocational training facilities, have the opportunity to acquire new knowledge or bring their knowledge in this field up-to-date. Relevant environmental content should also be introduced into initial vocational training and university training, with a view to influencing those with future professional responsibilities in a direction which is most favourable to the conservation of the environment and natural resources.

B. Action to be taken at Community level

In order to reinforce the action of the Member States and achieve effective collaboration in this field, the Commission, assisted by a working party of representatives of Member States, appointed by the Commission on the proposal of the Member States concerned, is invited to take the following initiatives:

(a) Exchange of information

- production of an inventory of initiatives taken in the Member States and at Community level with a view to facilitating their transposition and systematic comparison;
- organization of meetings, seminars and symposia about aims and methods of environmental education, as well as for examining the specifically European aspects;

(b) Improvement of the documentation for teachers and pupils

- measures to place basic documentation on various Community issues in the environment sphere, as well as results of Community research programmes, at the disposal of teachers and pupils;
- organization of summer courses at European institutes of higher education for teaching specialists so as to enable them to exchange experience and identify new methods of teaching in the environment sphere;
- production of a European guide to institutes of higher education offering courses in disciplines concerned with environment problems;

(c) Incorporation of environmental education into current activities

- encouragement for initiatives by young people for young people or partnerships in the environment sphere based on the existing Community ad hoc arrangements;
- promotion of meetings between young Europeans on topics of environmental protection through the ["Youth for Europe Scheme" (YES) and the] "Exchanges between Young Workers" scheme;
- insertion of the topic "Environmental education" into the "Study visits for education specialists" (ARION) programme so as to enable a certain number of national, regional or local specialists in environment education to visit another Member State in order to exchange information and improve their work through incorporation of a European dimension;
- encouragement for co-operation between institutes of higher education operating in the environment sphere by using the opportunities offered by the ERASMUS programme to promote the mobility of students and European teaching staff and the development of common teaching materials;

- encouragement, in the environment sphere, for co-operation between institutes of higher education and industry as regards training in new technologies by using the COMETT programme.

III. The Education Committee shall monitor implementation of the Resolution in liaison with the Working Party on the Environment.

IV. The Council and the Ministers of Education meeting within the Council invite the Education Committee to make an initial report to them within a period of two years following the adoption of this Resolution on the progress of action undertaken in the field of environmental education at Member State and Community level.

V. The decision relating to the financing by the Community of the action referred to under II.B shall be taken in accordance with the rules and procedures of the Community.



COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT



PRESS RELEASE

6518/88 (Presse 72)

1242nd meeting of the Council
and the Ministers for Culture meeting within the Council

Brussels, 27 May 1988

President: Mrs Irmgard ADAM-SCHWAETZER
Minister of State, 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 Valmy FEAUX	Minister, Executive of the French-speaking Community
Mr Patrick DEWAELE	Minister for Culture of the Flemish Community
Mr Bruno FAGNOUL	Minister for Culture of the German-speaking Community
Mr Paul DE KEERSMAEKER	State Secretary for European Affairs and Agriculture

Denmark:

Mr H.P. CLAUSEN	Minister for Cultural Affairs and Communications
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Germany:

Mrs Irmgard ADAM-SCHWAETZER	Minister of State, Foreign Affairs
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Greece:

Mrs Melina MERCOURI	Minister for Culture and Science
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Spain:

Mr Javier SOLANA MADARIAGA	Minister for Culture
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France:

Mr Thierry DE BEAUCE	State Secretary attached to the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, with responsibility for international cultural relations and relations with the French-speaking world
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Ireland:

Mrs Maire GEOGHEGAN-QUINN	Minister of State at the Department of the Taoiseach with special responsibility for the co-ordination of Government Policy and EEC matters
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Italy:

Mrs Vincenza BONO PARRINO

Minister for the Cultural Heritage
Ministry of Cultural Assets

Luxembourg:

Mr Thierry STOLL

Deputy Permanent Representative

Netherlands:

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

State Secretary for European Affairs

Portugal:

Mrs Teresa GOUVEIA

State Secretary for Culture

United Kingdom:

Mr Richard LUCE

Minister for the Arts

o

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o

Commission:

Mr Carlo RIPA DI MEANA

Member

The Council and the Ministers responsible for cultural affairs meeting within the Council examined the future organization of their work, and future priority actions in the cultural field.

They adopted a Resolution on the first aspect (Annex I) providing in particular for a committee on cultural affairs to be appointed to examine proposals in the field. With regard to the second aspect, they adopted conclusions (Annex II) giving priority to the following areas, without prejudice to actions which they considered desirable in other areas:

- promotion of the European audiovisual sector;
- book sector;
- training in the cultural sector;
- business sponsorship.

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EUROPEAN CITIES OF CULTURE

The Ministers approved the proposals from the Spanish and Belgian delegations that Madrid and Antwerp be designated European cities of culture for 1992 and 1993 respectively.

CREATION OF AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE AT THE COMMISSION

The Commission announced that it intended to set up an advisory committee on cultural activities composed of eminent people from the cultural field.

RESOLUTION
OF THE COUNCIL
AND OF THE MINISTERS FOR CULTURE
MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL
ON THE FUTURE ORGANIZATION OF THEIR WORK

The Council and the Ministers responsible for cultural affairs meeting within the Council, resolved to intensify their work on cultural affairs and having regard to their conclusions on future priority actions, have agreed that:

1. A Committee on cultural affairs shall be appointed consisting of the representatives of the Member States and of the Commission. The Chairman of this Committee shall come from the country holding the office of President of the Council.

The Committee shall evaluate all proposals relating to cultural co-operation and prepare the work of the Council and/or the Ministers responsible for cultural affairs meeting within the Council on cultural priorities and actions involving the Community and/or all the Member States, without prejudice to the procedure laid down in Article 4 of the Treaty establishing a Single Council and a Single Commission of the European Communities and current practice regarding the preparation of meetings of Ministers meeting within the Council.

The Committee shall also have the task of monitoring the implementation of actions decided on by the Council and/or the Ministers meeting within the Council and of reporting back regularly.

2. The Council and/or the Ministers meeting within the Council may invite European countries that are not members of the Community and organizations concerned with European cultural co-operation, especially the Council of Europe, to participate in specific cultural activities of mutual interest.
3. If, in the absence of a decision or agreement on certain actions at the level of the Council and/or the Ministers meeting within the Council, Member States continue their discussions on such actions, they shall report regularly to the Committee on the progress of their work.
4. Without prejudice to the dispositions of article 155 of the EEC treaty, the Commission shall implement, in close co-operation with the Committee on cultural affairs, actions decided on by the Council or the Council and the Ministers meeting within the Council that are to be implemented at Community level.

The Commission may be invited to assume a co-ordinating function, in agreement with the Committee on cultural affairs, in the implementation of the decisions of the Ministers meeting within the Council. The Commission may also be invited to ensure co-ordination of projects not involving all Member States of the Community and/or projects involving European countries which are not members of the Community.

CONCLUSIONS
OF THE COUNCIL AND OF THE MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE
FOR CULTURAL AFFAIRS MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL
CONCERNING FUTURE PRIORITY ACTIONS IN THE CULTURAL FIELD

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

1. note the Commission communication on the relaunching of cultural action in the European Community and the Opinions of the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee, as well as the French Government's Blue Book on Europe in Education and Culture;
2. recalling the discussion at their informal meeting on 10 and 11 December 1987 in Copenhagen, give priority to the following areas, without prejudice to actions which they consider desirable in other areas:
 - promotion of the European audiovisual sector;
 - book sector;
 - training in the cultural sector;
 - business sponsorship,

and accordingly consider that, for an initial pluriannual period, priority should be given to proposals for actions in these areas;

3. On this basis:

- with reference to promotion of the European audiovisual sector, having taken note of the Commission MEDIA programme, they invite the Commission to report on the results of these experimental projects and to make, if appropriate, any proposals arising from the pilot projects carried out.
They also confirm their willingness to consider other actions relating to promotion of the European audiovisual sector with all the attention which the importance of this sector warrants;
- with reference to the book sector, they consider that all aspects of this sector, including national pricing systems for books, reproduction of texts, promotion and distribution, should be examined in depth, and state their readiness to study any proposal on the matter.

They confirm their desire for accelerated implementation of the Resolution of 27 September 1985 on collaboration between libraries in the field of data processing and state their readiness to examine any new proposal in this connection; moreover, the question of conservation should be studied.

They also confirm their desire to see rapid implementation of the Resolution of 9 November 1987 on the promotion of translation of important works of European culture, including works of contemporary European literature, with priority to translations from minority European languages, and in particular the rapid launching of the pilot scheme referred to in the Resolution.

- in the context of vocational training, they stress the growing importance for the cultural sector:
 - = of sound and vision specialists;
 - = of restoration specialists for preservation of the cultural heritage;
- with reference to business sponsorship, while recalling that this sponsorship should provide complementary support to public cultural activities, they confirm the importance which they attach to the implementation of the Resolution of 13 November 1986; this implementation should also draw on the texts relative to the financing of culture adopted at the 5th Conference of the European Ministers responsible for cultural affairs (Sintra, 15 to 17 September 1987);

4. agree on the desirability of fully implementing the Resolutions adopted since 1984 in the cultural sector and invite the Commission and the Committee on Cultural Affairs to follow up their implementation and report on it regularly; the Member States could also, at particular times to be determined, furnish information on the implementation of these resolutions at national level;
5. agree that, in accordance with their Resolution on the future organization of their work, the question of the type of actions to be envisaged in the framework of these priorities and the nature of the bodies responsible for implementing them (private bodies, Member States, Community) will be decided in each individual case according to need and in line with the provisions of the Treaty and existing procedures.

The Committee on Cultural Affairs should also prepare the work of the Ministers on each proposal and on these particular aspects, as well as on the financing of the actions. It should ensure that each proposal for an action contains elements allowing for subsequent evaluation of the results of the action.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Relations with the EFTA countries

The Council adopted the Decision concerning the opening of negotiations with the EFTA countries for the reciprocal phasing out of the export restrictions which still exist in trade between the Community and those countries.

Commercial policy and Customs Union

The Council adopted

- a Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 1736/75 in respect of the recording of mode of transport in the external trade statistics of the Community;
- a Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 4134/86 on the arrangements for imports of certain textile products originating in Taiwan, with the aim of adjusting those arrangements to the new "Combined Nomenclature" in force since 1 January 1988.

ECSC

The Council gave its assent, pursuant to Article 55(2)(c) of the Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community, to a draft Commission Decision granting financial aid for steel research projects and pilot/demonstration projects.

Appointment

Acting on a proposal from the Netherlands Government, the Council appointed Mr A.A. WESTERLAKEN member of the Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work in place of Mr D. VAN DE KAMP for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which runs until 16 December 1988.

PRESS RELEASE

6520/88 (Presse 74)

1243rd meeting of the Council
and of the Ministers for Health
meeting within the Council

Brussels, 31 May 1988

President: Mrs Rita SUESSMUTH
Federal Minister for Youth,
Family Affairs, Women and Health
of the Federal Republic of Germany

31.V.88

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

Belgium:

Mr Philippe BUSQUIN Minister for Social Affairs

Denmark:

Mrs Agnete LAUSTSEN Minister for Health

Germany:

Mrs Rita SUESSMUTH Federal Minister for Youth, Family Affairs, Women and Health

Greece:

Mr Yannis FLOROS Minister for Health, Social Welfare and Social Security

Spain:

Mr Julian GARCIA VARGAS Minister for Health and Consumer Affairs

France:

Mr Claude EVIN Minister attached to the Minister for Social Affairs and Employment with responsibility for Health and Social Security

Ireland:

Mr Rory O'HANLON Minister for Health

Italy:

Mrs Maria Pia GARAVAGLIA State Secretary for Health

Luxembourg:

Mr Benny BERG Minister for Health and Social Security

Netherlands:

Mr CH.R. van BEUGE

Deputy Permanent Representative

Portugal:

Mrs Leonor BELEZA

Minister for Health

United_Kingdom:

Lord SKELMERSDALE

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of
State, Deputy of Health and Social
Security

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o

o

Commission:

Mr Manuel MARIN

Vice-President

THE FIGHT AGAINST AIDS

The Council and the Ministers for Health meeting within the Council discussed in detail the progress of AIDS and the measures adopted by the Member States to combat the disease.

They strengthened and supplemented the common approach to the fight against AIDS, the broad outlines of which they had adopted at their meeting in May 1987. Their conclusions on the matter were as follows:

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

note with satisfaction that all the Member States are pursuing homogeneous policies in the fight against AIDS in accordance with the common approach outlined in their conclusions of 15 May 1987

reaffirm this common approach and their will to persist with and strengthen it

note in particular that all the Member States are ensuring complete freedom of movement of persons and equal treatment as laid down in the Treaties

stress their support for the principles of the WHO, the declaration of London of 28 January 1988 (World Summit of Ministers for Health) and the Recommendation of the Council of Europe of 26 November 1987

reaffirm their commitment to the following principles in particular:

- since AIDS is a public health problem, the fight against that disease must be based on public health considerations
- in combating AIDS, absolute priority is to be given to prevention through health information and education
- in terms of prevention, any policy of systematic and compulsory screening is ineffective
- any discrimination against or stigmatization of persons affected by AIDS, particularly as regards employment, must be avoided

agree to pay particular attention to the problem of drug abuse in the context of the fight against AIDS

take note of the Commission communication on its activities in this respect and request it to include those working to combat AIDS in the exchange programmes for research workers, teachers, etc.

welcome the work carried out by the ad hoc Working Party on AIDS with the co-operation of the Commission, and instruct it to continue its work, with the Commission's co-operation, in accordance with their mandate of 15 May 1987 as supplemented on 31 May 1988."

They also decided to set up a system for the regular, rapid exchange of epidemiological data at Community level and a procedure for a regular, intensive exchange of information and experience on the measures adopted at national level.

The texts relating to these two procedures are given in Annexes I and II.

THE FIGHT AGAINST CANCER

The Council and the Ministers also discussed in detail the fight against cancer in the Community and agreed on the following essential points:

"The Council and the Ministers for Health

1. confirm the high priority they attach to the fight against cancer;
2. take note of the progress achieved in the implementation of the "Europe against cancer" programme;
3. underline their great and abiding interest in this programme, while emphasizing that the various measures planned by the Commission can only be assessed on the basis of specific proposals compatible with the respective competences of the Community and the Member States;
4. consider anti-smoking measures to be a central element in the fight against cancer in the Community which should involve, among other things:
 - (a) protecting non-smokers, especially in public places
 - (b) encouraging the habit of not smoking (for example, by encouraging private initiatives).

- (c) protecting young people under 16 years of age by means of appropriate measures
- (d) restricting advertising
- (5) stress the importance of the training - including the vocational training - of health personnel; training should be facilitated by exchanges of such staff between Member States, in particular through the award of grants, and by comparing experience acquired in the training programmes
- (6) express the view that prevention and screening should be supplemented with an improvement in therapy and counselling aimed at helping patients to cope with their illness
- (7) point out that the establishment of cancer registers in the Member States and the Community constitutes an essential tool for research into cancer, and agree to examine this problem in more depth having regard to the protection of epidemiological data
- (8) stress the importance of the work on chemical carcinogens being carried out in other contexts (internal market, social policy, research)
- (9) give an undertaking, for European Information on Cancer Year (1989), to continue and increase the mobilization of all health and teaching personnel, who have a key role to play in this area
- (10) recommend that a European week of public awareness of the fight against cancer be repeated periodically
- (11) emphasize that an effective fight against cancer requires the close co-operation of all concerned, i.e. in particular, the Member States, public and private associations and bodies, cancer experts and the Commission. At Community level, this means among other things that the Commission will have to arrange for an ongoing process of dialogue and information."

TOXICOLOGY

The Council and the Ministers for Health gave the guidelines set out in Annex III for the continuation of the Community programme in this sphere.

ANNEX I

THE RAPID AND PERIODIC
EXCHANGE OF EPIDEMIOLOGICAL DATA ON AIDS
AT COMMUNITY LEVEL

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

Agree to set up a system for the rapid and periodic exchange of epidemiological data on AIDS at Community level;

Agree that this exchange will take place on a quarterly basis through the medium of the Institute for African and Tropical Medicine and Epidemiology (a WHO collaborating centre) in Paris on the basis of the activities already undertaken by the latter and that it will cover the points set out in the Annex;

Ask the Commission to continue and, if necessary, strengthen its co-operation to this end with the Paris Institute in the framework of the funds available under its research and health budget;

Instruct the ad hoc Working Party on AIDS, with the participation of the Commission, and together with the Institute, to adapt and update, if need be, the above procedures and to report back to them.

Aspects to be covered in the collection and dissemination of data concerning established cases of AIDS

- Number of cases per year, according to the date of diagnosis
- number of deaths (annual assessment)
- survival time
- doubling time for cases
- distribution of cases by:
 - = sex
 - = age group (*)
 - = risk group
- spread among heterosexuals
- spread among intravenous drug users
- prognoses

The trend of cases of HIV infection will be the subject of scientific studies as part of the Community programme for the co-ordination of research into AIDS.

(*) in the case of the 20 to 29 age group, further broken down, if possible, into age groups 20 to 24 and 25 to 29.

THE REGULAR EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION
AT COMMUNITY LEVEL ON NATIONAL MEASURES FOR
THE FIGHT AGAINST AIDS

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

Agree to set up at Community level a regular exchange of information
on the actions, measures and initiatives envisaged and adopted in
the Member States in the fight against AIDS;

Agree that the aim of this exchange will be to help Member States
in their fight against AIDS, to contribute towards safeguarding the
free movement of persons within the Community, to prevent contradictory
national policies from being developed in regard to third-country
nationals and to facilitate the establishment and implementation of a
common strategy for the fight against AIDS, in accordance with the
conclusions of the Council and the Ministers for Health of 15 May 1987;

Instruct the ad hoc Working Party on AIDS, with the participation of
the Commission, to implement this exchange within itself by means of
wide-ranging and detailed mutual information on national political,
administrative, legal and technical actions and measures, and on
scientific initiatives not covered by the Community research
co-ordination programme;

The Working Party will take the questionnaire it has prepared, which will be adapted and updated as required, as the basis for this exchange. It will take account of the World Health Organization's activities in this field.

Instruct the Working Party to supplement the exchange of information, with the participation of the Commission by an exchange of experience on the approaches, projects and programmes undertaken in the Member States which, allowing for national characteristics, could serve as a model in the areas for which an initial list is given in the Annex;

Instruct the Working Party to:

- propose, if appropriate, on the basis of the aforementioned exchange of information and experience, co-ordinated or concerted measures for the fight against AIDS;
- submit regular reports on its proceedings to the Council.

Initial list of areas
for the exchange of experience
by the ad hoc Working Party on AIDS

1. Greater effective prevention of AIDS
2. Improvement in the advice and care given in sero-positive people and to AIDS sufferers, including children and new-born babies
3. Efforts undertaken to prevent discrimination against and the stigmatization of AIDS sufferers, sero-positive persons and others affected by AIDS
4. Improving the competence of people engaged on a professional and voluntary basis in the fight against AIDS
5. Promotion of activities to enable AIDS sufferers and sero-positive persons to help themselves, and better integration of such activities into the health authorities' policies
6. Suitable approaches towards persons in high-risk groups who are hard to reach (prostitutes, homosexuals, intravenous drug users).

TOXICOLOGY

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

1. take note of the activities undertaken so far under the programme
2. record their interest in the activities in progress and planned by the Commission, to be carried out in close co-operation with the Member States and international bodies and to be closely co-ordinated with work under Community research programmes
3. support in particular the following activities:
 - collaborative studies in immunotoxicology
 - assessment of nephrotoxic health effects
 - validation of in-vitro testing programmes
 - the establishment of methodological guidelines for the assessment of reproductive effects
4. call on the Commission to step up its efforts to avoid duplication of work at Community and national level in assessing toxic substances and also, to that end, to increase co-operation with international bodies
5. call on the Commission also to consider in close co-operation with the Member States,
 - the problem of extrapolating data obtained on animals to man and the quantitative evaluation of carcinogenic risks for man
 - the question of establishing a data base concerning the normal variability of biochemical and physiological parameters in the older population more exposed, among other things because of their age, to chemical toxic risks
6. call on the Commission to provide the necessary organizational means for these activities, particularly for co-operation with the Member States.

PRESS RELEASE

6519/88 (Presse 73)

1244th meeting of the Council

- Development Co-operation -

Brussels, 31 May 1988

Presidents: Mr Hans KLEIN,
Federal Minister for Economic Co-operation
of the Federal Republic of Germany

and

Mr Volkmar KOEHLER,
Parliamentary State Secretary, Federal
Ministry of Economic Co-operation

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

Belgium:

Mr André GEENS
Minister for
Development Co-operation

Denmark:

Mr Bent HAAKONSEN
State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Germany:

Mr Hans KLEIN
Minister for Economic Co-operation

Mr Volkmar KOEHLER
Parliamentary State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Economic
Co-operation

Greece:

Mr Theodoros PANGALOS
Deputy Minister,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Spain:

Mr Carlos WESTENDORP Y CABEZA
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

France:

Mr Jacques PELLETIER
Minister for Development
Co-operation

Ireland:

Mr Sean CALLEARY
Deputy Minister,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
responsible for Development Aid

Italy:

Mr Gianni MANZOLINI
State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Luxembourg:

Mr Robert GOEBBELS

State Secretary,
Foreign Affairs and Co-operation

Netherlands:

Mr P. BUKMAN

Minister for Development
Co-operation

Portugal:

Mr José Manuel DURAO BARROSO

State Secretary,
Foreign Affairs and Co-operation

United Kingdom:

Mr Christopher PATTEN

Minister for Overseas Development

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Commission:

Mr Lorenzo NATALI

Vice-President

ECONOMIC SITUATION AND ADJUSTMENT PROCESS IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

- Council Resolution

1. At its last meeting on 9 November 1987, the Council (Development) agreed to give further thought to the economic situation in sub-Saharan Africa and to the support that the Community and its Member States could provide for the structural adjustment process under way in a large number of countries in that region.

2. The Council has taken note of the Commission's analysis of the situation, which it shares to a very large degree. In particular it notes that, in addition to the fact that internal structures are frequently ill-adapted, the problems posed by debt servicing, the fall in certain commodity prices and insufficient external financial input are jeopardizing the ability of many sub-Saharan African countries to pay for the imports essential to their development. The international financial situation of the last few years has made matters worse.

The Council notes with satisfaction that most of the countries in question have realized the seriousness of these problems and have undertaken restructuring and adjustment efforts. In that connection, it gives a reminder of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (1986-1990), adopted in May 1986.

3. The Community and its Member States reiterate their willingness to support the adjustment process now under way in those countries in whatever way they can.

4. After examining the problems posed by the implementation of structural reforms, the Council concludes that if viable and durable restructuring is to be achieved, the approach to be followed should take account of the following points:
 - reforms should be conceived and carried out in a pragmatic and differentiated manner, with due respect for economic policy options and taking account of the peculiarities and constraints of each country. It is essential in this connection that the governments of the countries concerned be involved to the greatest extent in analysing the difficulties to be resolved and in preparing reform programmes;

 - the Community's efforts to support sectoral policies should be continued within the framework of the priority given by numerous recipient countries to the objective of food security. However, sectoral policies should be designed to dovetail coherently with macro-economic adjustment measures;

 - although the adjustment programmes are intended to restructure the economy, re-establish macro-economic balances and bring lasting growth as quickly as possible, it is important to integrate into them other imperatives such as socio-cultural matters or environmental protection;

 - it is important, from the stage of planning any adjustment measure, to take into account its social dimension, particularly in order to reduce any negative effects it may have on the most vulnerable

sections of the population and to promote simultaneously the objectives of economic growth and social justice;

- the rate at which reforms are implemented must be compatible with the capacities and resources of each country and its development objectives, and must be bearable for its people;
- it must be stressed that in these countries the continuation and the successful outcome of adjustment efforts are essential conditions for a recovery of economic growth. The medium and long term support of development measures and the support of adjustment measures by fast-disbursing means are complementary and both are indispensable.

5. The Community already contributes to the adjustment efforts of the sub-Saharan countries through the instruments of co-operation under the third Lomé Convention, in particular fast-disbursing instruments. It has recently added a special programme for certain poor and heavily-indebted countries which, among other things, provides for the first time, under certain conditions, for the implementation of general import programmes. Through the same special programme the Community intends to increase and accelerate the fast-outlay sectoral import programmes provided for by the third Lomé Convention. These various measures will help to attenuate the shortage of currency and funds.

6. The Council invites the Commission and the Member States to ensure that the aid instruments at their disposal are used, as efficiently as possible, to support structural adjustment efforts as required, in particular by making available

fast-disbursing aid. As far as the Community is concerned, instruments such as Stabex and food aid and the SIPs mentioned above should be better co-ordinated and used with great flexibility so as to give greater support for the adjustment process.

7. The Council invites the Commission and the Member States to develop, in the States in question and in Brussels, more systematic co-ordination in the support for structural adjustment within the framework of the existing mechanisms and structures. In addition to a more systematic exchange of information, that will enable the operational measures decided on by each Member State to support the adjustment process in each country to be made more coherent.

Furthermore, in certain cases, co-ordination of certain support instruments, for example the use of counterpart funds from import programmes or from food aid, might be useful.

8. The Council emphasizes the need for effective co-ordination between the Community on the one hand and the World Bank and the IMF, which play a leading role in the dialogue on structural adjustment, on the other. Such co-ordination must develop at operational level, but also upstream, so as to ensure greater convergence of political approaches and positions. It hopes that the Commission and the Member States will impress on those institutions the Community approach defined above. This is based in particular on its thorough knowledge of the realities and local constraints of the sub-Saharan States, on its permanent dialogue with those countries, on the reliability and continuity of the aid it provides and on the contractual nature of the Convention of Lomé.

GUIDELINES FOR RENEWAL OF THE ACP-EEC CONVENTION

The Council held a detailed discussion on the guidelines for the renewal of the ACP-EEC Convention proposed by the Commission in its communication of 25 March 1988, which was considered an excellent basis for the Council's discussion on the subject.

The discussion revealed broad agreement on the main outlines of the approach advocated by the Commission for the renewal of the Convention, and gave the different delegations an opportunity to comment on various specific aspects.

The Commission will take account of this discussion when preparing its proposal for a negotiating brief for the future negotiations.

The General Affairs Council will complete the discussion of this point at its next meeting on 13 and 14 June.

EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT VOLUNTEERS

The Council heard an account by the French and German delegations of the experimental phase of the European development volunteers programme drawn up by France and Germany following the European Council meeting in Fontainebleau in June 1984.

The two delegations invited the other Member States to consider joining the programme.

FOOD SECURITY POLICIES IN AFRICA

The Council listened to a report by Vice-President NATALI on the experience acquired by the Community in supporting the food strategies implemented in a number of African countries.

It agreed to examine the communication on this issue promised by the Commission at its next meeting.

SYSTEM FOR COMPENSATION FOR LOSS OF EXPORT EARNINGS FOR NON-ACP LLDCs

The Council noted a report by the Commission on the administration during the first year - 1987 - of the system for compensation for loss of export earnings for non-ACP LLDCs.

ROLE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

The Council took note of a statement by the Commission on progress in the implementation of its conclusions of May 1987 on increasing the role of the private sector in the development process.

AID FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN LATIN AMERICA AND ASIA

The Council noted that the Commission would be submitting a report towards the end of 1988 on aid for developing countries in Latin America and Asia.

EVALUATION OF CO-OPERATION

At the request of the United Kingdom delegation, the Council assessed the progress made in implementing its conclusions on the evaluation of co-operation, adopted in November 1987.

STABEX 1987

The Council heard a statement by the French delegation expressing concern at the foreseeable deficit in the STABEX system for 1987, and the Commission's explanation of the situation.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Agriculture - Cereals sector

For the purposes of the application, during June 1988, of the co-responsibility levy and the additional co-responsibility levy in Greece, Italy and Spain, the Council formally adopted the Regulations fixing

- the intervention price for common wheat of bread-making quality with a view to application of the additional co-responsibility levy.

The price is fixed at

- = 179,44 ECU per tonne for Greece and Italy,
- = 174,86 ECU per tonne for Spain;

- the amount of the co-responsibility levy. This amount has been fixed at 5,38 ECU per tonne.

Fisheries

The Council adopted the Regulation amending for the fourth time Regulation (EEC) No 3094/86 laying down certain technical measures for the conservation of fishery resources (concerning in particular increased minimum mesh sizes for fishing for prawns and Norway lobster in the Skagerrak and Kattegat and certain other technical amendments).

Semiconductors

The Council adopted the Decision on the extension, from 1 June 1988, of legal protection of topographies of semiconductor products in respect of persons from certain countries and territories.

The extension also applies - subject to reciprocal arrangements for the Member States - to companies and other legal persons in those countries and territories.

The countries and territories concerned are the following:

Austria, Finland, French Polynesia, French Southern and Antarctic Territories, Iceland, Japan, New Caledonia and dependencies, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Collectivité territoriale de Mayotte, Collectivité territoriale de Saint-Pierre et Miquelon, Wallis and Futuna Islands.

Relations with Iceland

The Council adopted the Decision authorizing the Commission to negotiate a framework agreement for scientific and technical co-operation between the EEC, the EAEC and the Republic of Iceland.

Anti-dumping

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

The amount of the duty is equal to either the amount by which the free-at-Community-frontier price per kilogramme net, before duty, is less than 2,25 ECU or 20% of that price per kilogramme net, free-at-Community-frontier, before duty, whichever is higher.

Appointment

On a proposal from the Irish Government, the Council appointed Mr Tony BRISCOE an alternate member of the Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work, to replace Mrs C. CARROLL for the remainder of her term of office, which runs until 16 December 1988.
