

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

PRESS RELEASES

PRESIDENCY: BELGIUM

JANUARY-JUNE 1987

Meetings and press releases March-April 1987

Meeting number	Subject	Date
1147 th	Agriculture	2-4 March 1987
1148 th	Economics/Finance	9 March 1987
1149 th	General Affairs	16-17 March 1987
1150 th	Industry	19 March 1987
1151 st	Environment	19-10 March 1987
1152 nd	Transport	23-24 March 1987
1153 rd	Agriculture	30-31 March 1987
1154 th	Consumers	7 April 1987
1155 th	Internal Market	7 April 1987
1156 th	General Affairs	26-27 April 1987
1157 th	Agriculture	27-29 April 1987

PRESS RELEASE

4899/87 (Presse 33)

1147th Council meeting

- Agriculture -

Brussels, 2, 3 and 4 March 1987

President: Mr Paul de KEERSMAEKER,
State Secretary for European Affairs
and Agriculture of the
Kingdom of Belgium

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:

Ms Britta SCHALL HOLBERG Minister for Agriculture

Germany

Mr Ignaz KIECHLE Federal Minister for Food,
Agriculture and Forestry

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

Greece

Mr Yiannis POTTAKIS Minister for Agriculture

Spain

Mr Julián AREVALO Deputy Minister,
Ministry of Agriculture

France

Mr François GUILLAUME Minister for Agriculture

Ireland

Mr Austin DEASY Minister for Agriculture

Italy

Mr Filippo Maria PANDOLFI Minister for Agriculture

Luxembourg

Mr René STEICHEN

State Secretary,
Ministry of Agriculture and
Viticulture

Netherlands

Mr Gerrit BRAKS

Minister for Agriculture

Portugal

Mr Alvaro BARRETO

Minister for Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food

Mr Arlindo CUNHA

State Secretary for Agricultural
Development

United Kingdom

Mr Michael JOPLIN

Minister for Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food

Mr John GUMMER

Minister of State,
Ministry of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food

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Commission

Mr Frans H.J.J. ANDRIESEN

Vice-President

MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS

Further to the political agreement reached at its meeting in December 1986 on the adjustments to be made to the organization of the market in milk and milk products, the Council made a fresh examination of the proposals for Regulations necessary to implement that agreement.

To that end, after a long discussion, it agreed by a qualified majority on the following milk-sector Regulations:

- amending Regulation (EEC) No 804/68 on the common organization of the market in milk and milk products;
- temporarily withdrawing a proportion of the reference quantities mentioned in Article 5c(1) of Regulation (EEC) No 804/68 on the common organization of the market in milk and milk products;
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 1336/86 fixing compensation for the definitive discontinuation of milk production;
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 857/84 adopting general rules for the application of the levy referred to in Article 5c of Regulation (EEC) No 804/68 in the milk and milk products sector;
- modifying the intervention arrangements for butter;
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 2990/82 on the sale of butter at reduced prices to persons receiving social assistance.

All these measures are designed, amongst other things, to tighten up the quota system and make the intervention arrangements more flexible and more in tune with market realities.

With particular reference to the criteria whereby the Commission will be allowed to suspend intervention for butter and skimmed-milk powder in certain circumstances, the Council agreed on the following:

1. Butter intervention

The current intervention system will be continued during a transitional period. The current payment periods including periods for takeover of purchases, will also be continued. The transitional period will be ended when offers of sales into intervention after 1 April 1987 exceed 150 000 tonnes. In order to avoid speculation in the month of March, when normally 30 000 tonnes might be offered for sale, this trigger point will be implemented by counting offers from 1 March, and setting the figure at 180 000 tonnes.

Once the quantity of 180 000 tonnes of butter offered is exceeded, the Commission, while still respecting the principle of non-discrimination, may suspend intervention purchases in the whole Community or, if the market situation so warrants, part of it. The Commission will use the alternative means described in the Regulation to support the market price, and to avoid a downward spiral. If however such a spiral develops, and the market price in one or more Member States falls to the level of 92% of the intervention price, the Commission will reintroduce intervention purchases in the Member States concerned. The payment periods will remain, but the Commission will abolish the takeover periods.

If however physical stocks at any time exceed 250 000 tonnes, excluding quantities offered before 1 March 1987, the "floor price" of 92% will be reduced to 90%.

2. Skimmed-milk powder intervention

During the period 1 March - 30 August purchases of skimmed milk powder may be suspended as soon as the quantities offered for intervention exceed 100 000 tonnes, account not being taken of quantities offered prior to 1 March.

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Request by the German delegation

The Council agreed by a qualified majority to the German request that the reduction and withdrawal of quotas planned for 1988 be brought forward to 1987.

Request by the French delegation

The Council also authorized the French Government, under Article 93 of the Treaty, to grant national aid to small milk producers.

This will involve the French Government making a contribution to the social security payments of certain milk producers who are in financial straits because of the constraints needed to control milk production.

SOCIO-STRUCTURAL MEASURES

Further to the guidelines adopted at its December meeting for a socio-structural policy which was more attuned to the present agricultural situation, the Council resumed its examination of this matter and reached agreement by a qualified majority on a common approach to a number of points, including:

- aid for less-intensive production of surplus produce;
- aid in sensitive areas from the point of view of environmental protection;
- certain adjustments to the compensatory allowance scheme in mountain and hill and less-favoured areas.

On the subject of the termination of farming, the Council noted that the Commission intended to reconsider the measures it proposed when drawing up fresh proposals on aid for agricultural earnings, as announced by President DELORS. It consequently agreed to suspend examination of this aspect pending new Commission proposals.

The measures will apply for a period of three years from the entry into force of the Regulation.

Before the end of the third year, the Commission will place before the Council a report on the application of the measures to include trends in expenditure.

Acting on a proposal from the Commission by a qualified majority, the Council will decide before that period elapses whether the measures are to be extended.

If no decision is taken by that date, the period of application of the measures will be extended by two years.

The Council also agreed to the Commission proposal allocating a further 20 MECU to the agricultural research programme.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Other agricultural decisions

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Regulation increasing the volume of the Community tariff quota opened by Regulation No 1726/86 for animals of certain mountain breeds. The volume is increased from 38 000 to 42 600 head to take account of Spanish and Portuguese accession.

(See Press Release 11128/86 (Presse 197) - 8/9/10 and 13/14/15/16 December 1986).

The Council also adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Regulation applying to Spain the common prices in the beef and veal sector.

The Council then adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Directive amending Directive 77/93/EEC on protective measures against the introduction into the Member States of organisms harmful to plants or plant products. Under this Directive, the specimen certificates approved in the International Plant Protection Convention of 6 December 1951, as amended on 21 November 1979, should be adopted in a standardized form worked out in close collaboration with international organizations.

Fisheries

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Regulation establishing for the period from 1 March to 30 June 1987, certain measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources applicable to vessels flying the Japanese flag in waters falling under the sovereignty or jurisdiction of Portugal. The Regulation extends for this period the arrangements applied in 1986.

Social affairs

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Directive amending, on account of the accession of Spain, Directive 80/987/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the protection of employees in the event of the insolvency of their employer.

Research

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Decision approving an amendment to the Statutes (articles of association) of the Joint Undertaking "Société belgo-française d'énergie nucléaire mosane" (SEMO).

Appointments

On a proposal from the Italian Government, the Council appointed Mrs T. GUIDICI a member of the Committee of the European Social Fund in place of Mr G. DI PALMA, member, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which runs until 11 December 1987.

The Council also appointed, on a proposal from the United Kingdom Government, Mr J. PLOWMAN an alternate member of the Committee of the European Social Fund in place of Mr J. CURRIE, alternate member, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which runs until 11 December 1987.

The Council then appointed, on a proposal from the United Kingdom Government, Mr J. PLOWMAN an alternate member of the Advisory Committee on Freedom of Movement for Workers in place of Mr J. CURRIE, alternate member, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which runs until 6 October 1987.

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ECSC

The Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the European Coal and Steel Community, meeting within the Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decisions concerning the opening of a zero-duty tariff quota for:

- chromium-coated sheets and plates;

- laser-irradiated, grain-oriented electrical sheet and plate.



COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT



PRESS RELEASE

4900/87 (Presse 34)

1148th Council meeting
- Economic and Financial Affairs -
Brussels, 9 March 1987

President: Mr Mark EYSKENS
Minister for Finance
of the Kingdom of Belgium

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

Belgium:

Mr Mark EYSKENS Minister for Finance

Denmark:

Mr Anders ANDERSEN Minister for Economic Affairs

Germany:

Mr Otto SCHLECHT State Secretary attached to the Federal Minister for Economic Affairs

Greece:

Mr Constantin SIMITIS Minister for Economic Affairs

Spain:

Mr Carlos SOLCHAGA CATALAN Minister for Economic Affairs and Finance

France:

Mr François SCHEER Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

Ireland:

Mr John BRUTON Minister for Finance

Italy:

Mr Giovanni GORIA Minister for the Treasury

Luxembourg:

Mr Jacques POOS Minister for Economic Affairs and for the Self-Employed

Mr Jean-Claude JUNCKER Minister attached to the Minister for Finance

Netherlands:

Mr C. MAAS

General Treasurer,
Ministry of Finance

Portugal:

Mr Miguel CADILHE

Minister for Finance

United Kingdom:

Mr Peter BROOKE

Minister of State, Treasury

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Commission:

Mr FRANS H.J.J. ANDRIESSEN

Vice-President

Mr Henning CHRISTOPHERSEN

Vice-President

Lord COCKFIELD

Vice-President

Mr Abel MATUTES

Member

Mr Alois PFEIFFER

Member

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The meeting was also attended by:

Mr Marcel MART

President of the Court of Auditors

Mr Hans TIETMEYER

Chairman of the Monetary Committee

Mr Jean-Claude MILLERON

Chairman of the Economic Policy
Committee

Mr KOEUNE

Chairman of the Co-ordinating Group

FIRST QUARTERLY REVIEW OF THE ECONOMIC SITUATION IN THE COMMUNITY

The Council:

- conducted the first quarterly review of the economic situation in the Community in accordance with Article 2 of the 1974 convergence decision and on the basis of the Commission communication of 25 February 1987;
- shared the Commission's view that there was no need at present to amend the economic policy guidelines contained in the 1986/1987 annual report adopted by the Council in December 1986.

NCI IV

The Council held a conciliation meeting with the European Parliament on the package of decisions contemplated on 8 December 1986. (See Press Release 11127/86 (Presse 196) - 8 December 1986.) This meeting enabled a number of questions to be clarified and the two Institutions reached agreement on the measures to be implemented.

Under these circumstances, the Council adopted the Decision relating to NCI IV, an outline of which is given in the abovementioned press release.

The EIB informed the Council that it was willing to play a part in implementing the decisions envisaged on 8 December, i.e.:

- the granting of 750 MECU in the form of loans from its own resources for small and medium-sized undertakings outside assisted areas;
- the granting of 750 MECU in the form of loans within the framework of the Decision relating to NCI IV.

DISCHARGE PROCEDURE FOR 1985

After hearing an introductory statement by Mr MART, President of the Court of Auditors, the Council discussed the main problems raised by the Court in its 1985 report.

At the same time, the Council adopted the Recommendation on the discharge to be given to the Commission in respect of the implementation of the 1985 budget, to be forwarded to the European Parliament.

FINANCIAL IMPACT ON SPAIN AND PORTUGAL OF THE COUNCIL REGULATION
LAYING DOWN THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR A PROGRAMME TO DISPOSE OF BUTTER
STOCKS

The Council heard statements from the Spanish and Portuguese delegations in support of their memoranda. It asked the Commission to examine the problems raised by the Spanish and Portuguese delegations, with particular reference to the specific consequences of the Regulation for those two Member States, and to report to it as soon as possible on the questions raised by the two countries.

MUTUAL ASSISTANCE TO ENSURE APPLICATION OF THE LAW ON CUSTOMS OR
AGRICULTURAL MATTERS

The Council agreed to a proposal to amend Regulation No 1468/81 with the general aim of extending and strengthening the capacity of the Commission and the Member States to take action to combat fraud in trade in agricultural products with third countries.

In order to achieve this aim, the Regulation established a co-ordinated procedure for:

- exchanging information between the Member States and between Member States and the Commission;
- organizing Community administrative co-operation missions and investigative missions in the third countries concerned.

These texts would be formally adopted as soon as possible so as to permit entry into force before 1 July 1987.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Further economic and financial decisions

The Council approved:

- the draft Decision giving a discharge to the Administrative Board of the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions in respect of the implementation of the statement of revenue and expenditure of the Foundation for 1985; and
- the draft Decision giving a discharge to the Management Board of the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training in respect of the implementation of the statement of revenue and expenditure of the Centre for 1985.

The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities the instruments giving a discharge to the Commission in respect of the implementation of the operations of the third, fourth and fifth European Development Funds for 1985.

Agriculture

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Directive amending the Annex to Directive 79/117/EEC prohibiting the placing on the market and the use of plant protection products containing certain active substances.

Relations with Romania

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

Company law

The Council was pleased to note the Commission's intention of submitting to it at the earliest opportunity a proposal designed to incorporate into Directive 80/390/EEC the principle - that it approved - of the mutual recognition of admission listing particulars drawn up pursuant to that Directive, so that the issuer was required to draw up only one set of listing particulars valid for all stock exchanges throughout the Community, subject to certain technical details such as any translations which might be needed.

The Council hoped to be able to discuss the proposal at the same time as the proposal for a Directive on the prospectus for offers to the public, at its meeting scheduled for May 1987.

Iron and steel: external aspects 1987

The Council gave its assent under Article 95 of the ECSC Treaty to the draft Commission Decision prohibiting the alignment of Community prices on those accorded to certain third countries.

Social matters

The Council adopted the following conclusions concerning vocational training for young people in the European Community:

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

notes with approval the Commission report on youth training in the European Community, prepared in response to the Council Resolution of 11 July 1983 concerning vocational training policies in the European Community in the 1980s, and adopts the report's conclusions;

refers to the conclusions of the European Council held in Milan on 28 and 29 June 1985 approving the proposals of the ad hoc Committee on a People's Europe concerning vocational training for young people;

refers also to the conclusions of the European Council held in the Hague on 26 and 27 June 1986 regarding the efforts which are needed to assist the long-term unemployed and to encourage the employment of school-leavers;

draws attention to the discussions of the Education Committee which have implications for youth training and to the importance of a successful transition from school to work;

confirms that it is in particular essential for young people to be provided, after full-time compulsory education, with:

- vocational education and training programmes of quality;

- access to recognized qualifications, in particular to those enabling them to exploit the potential of the new technologies;
- vocational training lasting at least six months and up to, at least two years;
- training for traditional occupations in cases where, given the characteristics of the Member States, technological development is not yet very advanced;

emphasizes also that Ministers for Employment and Education, the social partners, within the framework of their autonomy, educational institutions and guidance services, and young people themselves should co-operate openly and effectively in the sphere of vocational training;

considers that undertakings ought to be encouraged to invest more in vocational training, both in their own interest and in the interest of potential trainees;

notes that the Community plays an important role in the area of vocational training, particularly where Community financial support through the European Social Fund is essential to the development and maintenance of vocational training activities;

also notes that the Community should play a part in guiding young people towards the occupations of the future;

notes that the Commission intends to submit, without losing sight of the interests of the long-term unemployed in the matter:

- proposals with regard to vocational training for young people, taking into account in particular the opinion delivered on 28 May 1986 by the Advsiroy Committee on Vocational Training, and

- a final report on the implementation of the Council Resolution of 11 July 1983 concerning vocational training policies in the European Community in the 1980s.

Appointment

On a proposal from the German Government, the Council appointed Dr Heinz-Peter BRAUER as a full member of the Advisory Committee on Medical Training to replace the late Dr Wolfgang BECHTOLDT for the remainder of his term of office, i.e. until 11 May 1989.

PRESS RELEASE

5280/87 (Presse 40)

1149th Council meeting

- General Affairs -

Brussels, 16 and 17 March 1987

Presidents: Mr Leo TINDEMANS
Minister for Foreign Relations
of the Kingdom of Belgium

and

Mr Paul de KEERSMAEKER
State Secretary for European Affairs
of the Kingdom of Belgium

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

Belgium:

Mr Leo TINDEMANS	Minister for Foreign Relations
Mr Herman DE CROO	Minister for Transport and Foreign Trade
Mr Paul de KEERSMAEKER	State Secretary for European Affairs

Denmark:

Mr Uffe ELLEMANN-JENSEN	Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Knud-Erik TYGESEN	State Secretary, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Germany:

Mrs Irmgard ADAM-SCHWAETZER	Minister of State, Federal Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Mr Jürgen RUHFUS	Secretary of State, Federal Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Greece:

Mr Theodoros PANGALOS	Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs
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Spain:

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

France:

Mr Jean-Bernard RAIMOND	Minister for Foreign Affairs
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Ireland:

Mr John H.F. CAMPBELL

Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

Italy:

Mr Francesco CATTANEI

State Secretary for European
Affairs

Luxembourg:

Mr Jacques F. POOS

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Netherlands:

Mr H. VAN DEN BROEK

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mrs Y. VAN ROOY

Minister for Foreign Trade

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

State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Portugal:

Mr Victor MARTINS

State Secretary for European
Affairs

United Kingdom:

Sir Geoffrey HOWE

Secretary of State for Foreign
and Commonwealth Affairs

Mrs Lynda CHALKER

Minister of State, Foreign and
Commonwealth Office

Mr Alan CLARK

Minister for Trade

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Commission:

Mr Jacques DELORS

President

Mr Frans ANDRIESSEN

Vice-President

Mr Claude CHEYSSON

Member

Mr Willy DE CLERCQ

Member

MEDITERRANEAN POLICY OF THE ENLARGED COMMUNITY

- FINANCIAL PROOCOTOLS

The Council reached agreement on the total amount of funds for the third Financial Protocols with the Mediterranean countries.

RELATIONS WITH HUNGARY

The Council noted progress with regard to preparation of the brief for negotiations with Hungary.

The Council confirmed the importance it attached to approval of the brief at its next meeting in April.

RELATIONS WITH JAPAN - CONCLUSIONS OF THE COUNCIL

The Council discussed in detail relations between Japan and the Community, on the basis of a Commission communication.

The Council confirms the analysis of the situation and the guidelines adopted at its earlier meetings, particularly the meeting on 10 March 1986, and gives its full backing to the measures taken by the Commission on these bases.

The Council declares the continuing deterioration of the trade imbalance, which is explained by the lack of genuine balance between the mutual benefits.

The Community intends to work within the framework of the Uruguay Round to re-establish this balance of benefits. The Council invites the Commission to ensure, in accordance with GATT rules, that the balance of benefits is not tilted further in Japan's favour as a result of tariff changes consequent upon enlargement.

The Council expects Japan to open up its market further as advocated in its action programme. It stresses the need for the Japanese Government to incorporate in its economic policy objectives a quantified import target with a timetable for a significant increase in its imports of manufactured goods and processed agricultural products. The Council urges the Japanese Government to stimulate internal demand in accordance with its recently confirmed commitments and to implement the structural reforms recommended in particular by the Maekawa report.

The Council requests the Commission to step up its efforts to improve the access of European firms to the Japanese market.

In particular, it thinks that the sectoral measures currently being taken should continue and that further measures should be put in hand:

- action in respect of Japan in the wine and alcoholic beverages sector, particularly within GATT, will continue in line with the conclusions of 27 October 1986;
- it encourages the Commission to follow up actively with the Japanese Government the measures already initiated in the medical equipment and motor vehicle sectors and to submit a report to it;
- it asks the Commission to submit to the Japanese authorities dossiers in other sectors such as milk products and cosmetics and on the problem of counterfeit goods;
- it is concerned at the unsatisfactory implementation of the agreement on leather and leather footwear and demands a genuine improvement in access to the Japanese market;
- it invites the Commission to look at other requests, particularly those contained in its communication or under examination within the Council bodies;
- it thinks that it is for the Japanese Government to ensure the participation of foreign firms and products in such major projects at Kansai airport.

The Council invites the Commission to report progress on all these issues at the July meeting so as to allow the Council to consider what further action may be appropriate.

The Council requests the Commission to continue to exercise particular vigilance as regards Japanese exports in sectors made sensitive through the build-up of Japanese exports.

The Council also asks the Commission to defend Community interests in the semi-conductors sector vigorously within GATT.

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The Council notes with interest the launching of the pilot phase of a Centre of Industrial Co-operation between the Community and Japan in the field of industrial and scientific co-operation and welcomes the contribution of industry towards its implementation.

The Council asks the Commission to continue its various export promotion measures in close conjunction with and with the support of industrial circles and the national authorities.

RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES: TRADE BILLS

- CONCLUSIONS OF THE COUNCIL

The Council recalls the commitments to uphold and strengthen a free and open trading system jointly entered into by the United States and the Community.

It expresses its deep concern at the prospects of restrictive trade legislation being enacted in the United States - including proposed legislation in textiles - in contradiction with its international commitments.

The adoption of such legislation could not fail to have an adverse effect on the multilateral negotiating process which has just begun and on bilateral relations between the Community and the United States.

The Council confirms that, if the United States took unilateral restrictive measures, the Community would have no choice but to respond in accordance with its rights under the GATT.

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EXERCISE OF THE IMPLEMENTING POWERS CONFERRED ON THE COMMISSION

The Council examined the outstanding questions regarding the draft Decision laying down the procedures for the exercise of implementing powers conferred on the Commission in accordance with Article 145 of the EEC Treaty. The discussion enabled the Council to define more accurately the problems existing in this area.

In conclusion, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue discussing the matter at its level and endeavour to prepare solutions which would enable the Council to take a decision at its meeting in April.

EXTERNAL ASPECTS OF THE COMMISSION PROPOSAL IN THE OILS AND FATS SECTOR

The Council held an exchange of views on the implications for the Community's external policy of the Commission proposal on the introduction of a system for stabilizing consumer prices in the oils and fats sector.

RELEASE OF BUTTER FROM STORAGE

Following a further exchange of views, the Council formally adopted by a qualified majority an amendment to Regulation (EEC) No 1883/78 laying down general rules for the financing of interventions by the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund, Guarantee Section, in order to enable an additional programme for the disposal of butter held in public stocks to be implemented.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Trade relations with the Mediterranean countries

The Council decided to sign the Agreements in the form of exchanges of letters with Algeria, Morocco and Turkey fixing the additional amount to be deducted from the levy on imports into the Community of untreated olive oil, originating in these countries, for the period 1 November 1986 to 1 November 1987, and adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Regulations concluding those Agreements together with the relevant implementing Regulations.

The Council also decided to sign the Agreements in the form of exchanges of letters (1987) negotiated with Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia and Israel on fruit salads and with Algeria on tomato concentrates, and adopted in the official languages of the Communities, the Regulations concluding those Agreements.

Finally, the Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation suspending the Common Customs Tariff duty applicable to apricot pulp originating in Turkey from 1 January 1987 to 30 June 1987 within the tariff quota of 90 tonnes laid down by Regulation 1910/86.

EEC/United States relations

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 950/68 on the Common Customs Tariff, following the recent agreement between the Community and the United States pursuant to Article XXIV(6) of GATT.

Agricultural policy

As a follow-up to the political agreement reached by the Ministers for Agriculture in December 1986 concerning adjustments to the organization of the market on the milk sector, and following the overall compromise reached in the Agriculture Council at its meeting on 2, 3 and 4 March 1987, the Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities the Regulations :

- amending Regulation (EEC) No 804/68 on the common organization of the market in milk and milk products;
- temporarily withdrawing a proportion of the reference quantities mentioned in Article 5c(1) of Regulation (EEC) No 804/68 on the common organization of the market in milk and milk products;
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 1336/86 fixing compensation for the definitive discontinuation of milk production;
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 857/84 adopting general rules for the application of the levy referred to in Article 5c of Regulation (EEC) No 804/68 in the milk and milk products sector;
- modifying the intervention arrangements for butter and for skimmed-milk powder;
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 2990/82 on the sale of butter at reduced prices to persons receiving social assistance;

and also the Decision on national aid, in the form of partial coverage of the social security contributions of certain milk producers, to be granted by the French Government.

The Council also adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Regulation on the common organization of the market in wine. This consolidates the current basic Regulation on wine, and had become necessary following numerous amendments to that Regulation.

The Council went on to adopt, in the official languages of the Communities, the Regulation consolidating the special provisions relating to quality wines produced in specified regions.

In addition, the Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 1837/80 on the common organization of the market in sheepmeat and goatmeat.

Duty free allowances for travellers

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities, the Directive amending Directive 69/169/EEC and extending until 31 December 1988 the derogation granted to the Kingdom of Denmark relating to the rules governing turnover tax and excise duty on imports in international travel.

Appointments

The Council, on a proposal from the Italian Government, appointed Mr Carlo BOSSO a member of the Advisory Committee on Vocational Training in place of Mr Cataldo DI NAPOLI, member, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which runs until 14 July 1987.

The Council also appointed, on a proposal from the Luxembourg Government, Mr Norbert HAUPERT a member of the Advisory Committee on Vocational Training in place of Mr Paul LENERT, member, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which runs until 14 July 1987.

The Council went on to appoint, on a proposal from the German Government, Mr Thomas GIESEN a member of the Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health protection at work in place of Mr Hans-Dietrich WOLFF, member, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which runs until 16 December 1988.

Finally, on a proposal from the Italian Government, the Council appointed Mr Pietro FIORENTINO, a member of the Committee of the European Social Fund in place of Mr Flavio MONDELLO, member, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which runs until 11 December 1987.

PRESS RELEASE

5281/87 (Presse 36)

1150th Council meeting

- Industry -

Brussels, 19 March 1987

President: Mr Philippe MAYSTADT
Minister for Economic Affairs
Kingdom of Belgium

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

Belgium:

Mr Philippe MAYSTADT Minister for Economic Affairs

Denmark:

Mr Hans DUBORG State Secretary,
Ministry of Industry

Germany:

Mr Martin BANGEMANN Federal Minister for Economic
Affairs

Greece:

Mr Giorgos PETSOS State Secretary for Industry,
Energy and Technology

Spain:

Mr Luis Carlos CROISSIER
BATTISTA Minister for Industry and Energy

France:

Mr François SCHEER Ambassador,
Permanent Representation

Ireland:

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

Italy:

Mr Clelio DARIDA Minister for State Holdings

Mr Giorgio SANTUZ State Secretary for Industry,
Trade and Craft Trades

Luxembourg:

Mr Jacques POOS
Mr Johny LAHURE

Minister for Economic Affairs
State Secretary for Economic
Affairs

Netherlands:

Mr R.W. DE KORTE

Minister for Economic Affairs

Portugal:

Mr Luis Manuel PEGO TODO-BOM

State Secretary for Industry and
Energy

United Kingdom:

Mr Giles SHAW

Minister of State for Industry

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Commission:

Mr Karl-Heinz NARJES
Mr Peter SUTHERLAND

Vice-President
Member

ORGANIZATION OF THE IRON AND STEEL MARKET IN 1987 - COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

1. Restructuring

The Council has taken note of the Commission's report on the initiative by the Eurofer undertakings and notes the progress which has been made in the intended closures concerning, on the one hand, reversing-mill plate, and on the other hand, wire rod and commercial-quality steel.

However, the Council considers that overall, the proposed closures and reductions remain substantially below the capacity surpluses.

The Council appreciates the efforts made by Eurofer to rationalize the market situation, although it intends that the reduction in capacity should reach a level such that the objectives for the current transitional period are met.

The Council therefore requests the Commission to clarify within a brief period of time the questions which the Eurofer consultant's report has left open, and in particular to seek with Eurofer and the undertakings further capacity reductions for flat products and heavy structural sections. In its consultations, the Commission will take into account the level of profitability and financial viability of the undertakings.

The Commission will contact the Governments particularly concerned, as appropriate, to discuss with them the problems that may arise from the proposed closures, so as to ensure in particular that considerations not related to the future viability of the undertakings do not impede the process of rationalization.

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2. Aid code

The Council formally confirms the full compliance with the rules of the aid code which are currently in force, which constitutes a sine qua non for the pursuit of a rationalization policy.

3. Social aspects

The Council is aware of the seriousness of the social problems which may result from the proposed closures. It accepts, as it did during the period 1981-1985, the need for social protection for workers losing their jobs in the steel industry.

The Council has noted that the Commission will submit proposals on the social aspects and on the way in which they would be financed.

4. Article 58 arrangements

The Council, together with the Commission, notes the ever greater difficulties in implementing the current quota system.

It has noted the Commission's intention of proposing a new system of quotas drawn up on the basis of studies carried out in conjunction with undertakings and associations of undertakings.

After consulting the ECSC Consultative Committee, the Commission will seek the Council's assent to this system for 1 June 1987 provided that it is convinced that the capacity reduction put forward by the undertakings is sufficient.

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The Council agrees to resume its examination of this matter at its meeting on 1 June 1987 on the basis of a report from the Commission. In the meantime the Permanent Representatives Committee will continue examining developments in the situation in order to assure the Commission and the undertakings concerned of the Council's desire to carry forward the necessary rationalization of the sector.

PLAN FOR THE TRANSNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE SUPPORTING
INFRASTRUCTURE FOR INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER - "SPRINT"
PROGRAMME

Without prejudice to the Opinion of the European Parliament, which is expected during the April part-session, the Council has reached a consensus on the amount considered necessary to carry out the revised "SPRINT" programme. The revision involves extending the initial programme beyond the period 1984 to 1986 for a further two years (1987 and 1988) with extra funds which the Council intends to set at 8,6 MECU.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Appointment

Acting on a proposal from the Netherlands Government, the Council appointed Mr C.A. BIRKHOFF as a member of the Committee of the European Social Fund in place of Mrs M.E. VAN RIJN-VAN DER TAS, member, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which runs until 11 December 1987.

PRESS RELEASE

5453/87 (Presse 42)

1151st meeting of the Council

- Environment -

Brussels, 19/20 March 1987

President: Mrs Miet SMET

State Secretary for the Environment
of the Kingdom of Belgium

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

Belgium:

Mrs Miet SMET State Secretary for the Environment

Denmark:

Mr Christian CHRISTENSEN Minister for the Environment and
Minister for Nordic Affairs

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

Germany:

Mr Walter WALLMANN Federal Minister for the Environment

Mr Martin GRUENER Parliamentary State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs

Mr Wolfgang GROEBL Parliamentary State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs

Greece:

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

Spain:

Mr Javier SAENZ COSCULLUELA Minister for Public Works and
Town Planning

France:

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

Ireland:

Mr Ger CONNOLLY Minister of State at the Department
of the Environment

Italy:

Mr Francesco de LORENZO Parliamentary State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs

Luxembourg:

Mr Roberts KRIEPS

Minister for the Environment

Netherlands:

Mr E.H.T.M. NIJPELS

Minister for Housing,
Planning and the Environment

Portugal:

Mr Carlos PIMENTA

State Secretary for the Environment
and Natural Resources

United Kingdom:

Mr William WALDEGRAVE

Minister for the Environment,
Countryside and Planning

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Commission:

Mr Stanley CLINTON DAVIS

Member

SULPHUR CONTENT OF CERTAIN LIQUID FUELS (GAS OIL)

The Council agreed to the Directive amending Directive 75/716/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the sulphur content of certain liquid fuels (gas oil).

This Directive, with which Member States will have to comply by 1 January 1989, represents a distinct advance on the existing Directive. It provides for air pollution to be reduced, particularly in urban areas, by limiting the sulphur content of gas oil to 0,3%. In addition, Member States may make the use of gas oils with a 0,2% sulphur content compulsory in certain environmentally sensitive areas.

It is stipulated that, three years after notification of the Directive, the Commission shall submit to the Council a report accompanied by an appropriate proposal on which the Council must decide before 1 December 1991.

FOURTH COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PROGRAMME (1987-1992)

Pending receipt of the Opinions of the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee, the Council reached in principle on the following Resolution on the continuation and implementation of a European Community policy and action programme on the environment (1987-1992):

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

Note that the projects to which the appended programme will give rise should in some cases be carried out at Community level and in others be carried out by the Member States;

With regard to the projects to be carried out by the Member States, the latter will supervise their proper execution, it being understood that for these projects the Council will exercise the co-ordinating powers laid down in the Treaties;

With regard to the projects in the programme to be carried out by the institutions of the European Communities;

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Whereas the Treaties establishing the European Communities, as amended by the provisions of the Single European Act, provide for the development and implementation of a Community policy on the environment, and lay down the objectives and principles which should govern such policy;

Whereas the declaration of the Council of the European Communities and of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, of 22 November 1973 calls for the implementation of a European Communities programme of action on the environment; whereas the action programme was extended and supplemented for the period 1977 to 1986 by the Resolutions of the Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, of 17 May 1977 and of 7 February 1983; whereas the programme of action is still valid and whereas it should be updated, further implemented and supplemented for the period 1987 to 1991 by new tasks which prove to be necessary;

Whereas it is necessary, in accordance with the Treaty as amended by the Single Act, to avoid the adoption by the Member States of divergent measures likely to produce economic and competition distortions in the Common Market;

Whereas the European Year of the Environment, which begins on 21 March 1987, offers a welcome opportunity of initiating the changes of attitude and promoting the action necessary to give practical effect to these perceptions;

RECALLS that the Single European Act, which constitutes a new legal basis for Community policy on the environment, lays down that action by the Community relating to the environment shall have the following objectives:

- to preserve, protect and improve the quality of the environment,
- to contribute towards protecting human health,
- to ensure a prudent and rational utilization of natural resources.

RECALLS that the Single Act lays down that:

- action by the Community relating to the environment shall be based on the principles that preventive action should be taken, that environmental damage should as a priority be rectified at source, and that the polluter should pay;
- environmental protection requirements shall be a component of the Community's other policies;
- within their respective spheres of competence, the Community and the Member States shall co-operate with third countries and with the relevant international organizations.

RECALLS. in conclusion, that in preparing its action relating to the environment, the Community will take account of:

- available scientific and technical data;
- environmental conditions in the various regions of the Community;
- the potential benefits and costs of action or of lack of action;
- the economic and social development of the Community as a whole and the balanced development of its regions;

RECALLS, moreover, that the Single Act provides that the Community shall take action relating to the environment to the extent to which the above objectives can be attained better at Community level than at the level of the individual Member States; that, without prejudice to certain Community measures, Member states shall be responsible for financing and implementing other measures;

RECALLS, finally, that under the single Act, the Commission, in its proposals on health and environmental protection, takes as a basis a high level of protection;

RECOGNIZES that the protection of the environment can help to improve economic growth and facilitate job creation;

WELCOMES the Commission's intention of working closely with industry, trade unions and interested non-governmental organizations in the elaboration and implementation of environmental policy and programmes;

UNDERLINES the particular importance it attaches to the implementation of the Community legislation and INVITES the Commission to review systematically the application and the practical effects of existing Community policy and to provide regular reports on this to the Council and the European Parliament so that an assessment of the effectiveness of such a policy can be made and, inter alia, useful guidelines for future proposals determined;

DECLARES that, in view of the foregoing, and on the basis of past achievements, it is important for Community action to concentrate on the following priority areas; having regard to the respective powers of the Community and of the Member States:

Pollution prevention

(a) reduction at source of pollution and nuisance in various areas:

- combating air pollution, inter alia by effective implementation of existing Council Directives on air quality and air pollution from industrial plants, and by adopting and implementing measures concerning emissions from large combustion plants and motor vehicles;
- combating fresh-water and marine pollution from specific or diffused sources inter alia by the application of Council Directive 76/464/EEC on pollution caused by certain dangerous substances discharged into the aquatic environment of the Community, and by the general improvement of the Community's aquatic environment in particular the North Sea and the Mediterranean ;
- combating soil pollution, among others that caused by agro-chemical products and toxic wastes;
- harmonized implementation of the existing Directives on toxic and dangerous wastes, in particular the transfrontier transport thereof.

In this context, Community action shall take particular account of the need to:

- = prevent the transfer of pollution from one part of the environment to another;
- = combat transfrontier pollution;

(b) control of chemical substances and preparations

- evaluation, in particular through greater use of multi-environment studies, of risks to the environment and human health caused by chemical substances and preparations,
- identification and application of the most efficient and economical control measures for these substances which are a potential hazard for the environment and consumers' health;

(c) prevention of industrial accidents:

Measures for the general prevention of industrial accidents and an effective response and restriction of the consequences of accidents which might nevertheless occur, by:

- more effective application of Council Directive 82/501/EEC on the major-accident hazards of certain industrial activities;
- review of this Directive, if necessary, to include inter alia a possible widening of its scope;
- greater exchange of information on the matter between Member States;

(d) combating noise pollution at source;

(e) measures concerning the evaluation and best use of biotechnology with regard to the environment;

(f) effective action to protect the health of the population and the environment from harm through nuclear radiation both as a result of normal operations and in the circumstances of an accident;

Improvement in management of resources.

(g) measures to protect and enhance Europe's natural heritage, in particular:

- implementation of existing Council acts such as Council Regulation (EEC) No 3626/82 on the implementation in the Community of the Convention on international trade in endangered species of wild fauna and flora and Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds:

- the protection, as laid down in the Treaty, of areas of importance in the Community, inter alia in the framework of Directive 79/409/EEC, or of areas which are particularly sensitive environmentally, and encouragement of the revival of areas which are environmentally impaired;

- protection of forests against atmospheric pollution and forest fires, including the implementation of the measures laid down in Regulations (EEC) No 3528/86 on the protection of forests against atmospheric pollution and No 3529/86 on the protection of the Community's forests against fires;

(h) measures relating to natural or man-made hazards or disasters affecting public health and the environment, including both evaluation of risk and adequate response;

(i) encouragement of agricultural practices which are environmentally beneficial;

(j) protection of the soil, in particular by combating erosion, by conserving plant cover, by the prevention of damage caused by certain industrial and agricultural activities and by combating such damage while bearing in mind the various geomorphological characteristics of the different areas;

- (k) improving water resources and the management of water, in particular by reducing water pollution, protecting catchment areas and encouraging the re-use of waste water;
- (l) the development of improved waste management in relation to reduction of quantities, treatment, recycling and re-use;
- (m) overall and integrated environmental protection of the Mediterranean region, taking particular account of all the specific aspects of that region when giving practical application to the action programme;

International activities

- (n) support and, where appropriate, active participation by the Community and the Member States in the activities of international organizations concerned with environmental protection within the framework of their respective powers;
- (o) co-operation with developing countries on environmental matters and on protection of natural resources, having particular regard to questions of desertification and water supply, tropical forests and the production and use of dangerous substances or products and technological co-operation;

Development of appropriate instruments

- (p) improving the scientific bases of environment policy, inter alia, through appropriate research programmes;
- (q) effective implementation of Directive 85/337/EEC on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment and the integration of the environmental dimension in other Community policies;

- (r) implementation of appropriate standards in order to ensure a high level of public health and environmental protection;
- (s) development of efficient economic instruments such as taxes, levies, State aid, authorization of negotiable rebates with a view to implementing the principle that the polluter pays, in accordance with the Council Recommendation of 3 March 1975 regarding cost allocation and action by public authorities on environmental matters (the "polluter pays" principle)
- (t) encouraging the development, dissemination and distribution of clean technology, notably in the case of heavily polluting industries;
- (u) improved access to information on the environment;
- (v) increased effort to promote environmental education and training at appropriate levels, and greater public awareness;

NOTES the action programme and approves in general the guidelines;

UNDERTAKES to act on the Commission proposals wherever possible within nine months of the date on which they are submitted or, as the case may be, of the date on which the Opinions of the European Parliament and of the Economic and Social Committee are submitted;

STATES that the decision to make available the financial resources necessary for implementing this Resolution and the action programme attached thereto will be taken in accordance with the usual procedures, in compliance with Article 130 R of the Single Act, and in particular paragraph 4 thereof.

POLLUTANT EMISSIONS FROM MOTOR VEHICLES

The Ministers for the Environment of Belgium, Germany, Greece, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal and the United Kingdom meeting within the Environment Council on 19 and 20 March 1987;

- having taken note of the progress of recent discussions at every Community level on the problem of limiting and controlling pollutant emissions from motor vehicles;
- having established that significant progress is being made towards the regulation of the emission of pollutant gases by the diesel engines of heavy commercial vehicles and that discussions are continuing in order to develop a similar standard as regards the particles emitted by the diesel engines of motor vehicles;
- having been obliged, on the other hand, to recognize that no significant progress has recently been made on the proposal for the amendment of Directive 70/220/EEC, submitted as long ago as 1984 with the intention of achieving greater reductions in the emissions of petrol-driven motor vehicles;
- recalling that at the Council meeting on the Environment held in Luxembourg on 27 June 1985 the countries represented reached broad convergence on all the principal aspects of that further reduction, expressing the intention formed in a document known as the Luxembourg Agreement;

- recognizing the growing concern expressed by their own people at the fact that the original, more important part of the efforts to limit the emissions in question, the part that concerns petrol-driven motor vehicles and was the subject of the Luxembourg Agreement, still awaits approval by the Council;

consider it necessary to make in this statement a solemn confirmation of the value they continue to attach to all the conclusions reached in the Luxembourg Agreement of 27 June 1985 and supplemented by the same parties at the Council meeting on the Environment on 28 November 1985;

consider it necessary to examine as soon as possible the proposals to be submitted by the Commission on the appropriate measures for pollution in Athens, as agreed on 27 June 1985;

undertake, accordingly, to take decisively every appropriate initiative to bring about the amendment of Directive 70/220/EEC in accordance with the Luxembourg Agreement within the framework of the procedures laid down in the Treaty;

undertake, finally, to continue all action taken in the field of the reduction of pollutant emissions by motor vehicles, whether petrol-driven or diesel-driven, bearing in mind the need to regard the various existing proposals as part of a set of co-ordinated measures.

The Danish Minister said that Denmark continued to consider that the proposals submitted concerning air pollution by motor vehicles were far too weak. Denmark could not therefore co-operate in a decision which would in reality bring to a standstill the endeavours to make progress for many years to come.

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As regards the proposal for a Directive on the emission of particles by the engines of private motor vehicles the President established that although positions had moved somewhat closer together it was not possible to reach agreement at that meeting.

As regards the proposal for a Directive concerning heavy commercial vehicles, pending the delivery of the European Parliament's Opinion 11 Member States agreed on a common approach on the basis of a Presidency compromise while the Danish delegation entered a formal reservation.

LARGE COMBUSTION INSTALLATIONS

1. The Council examined a proposal from the Presidency dealing on the one hand with a new approach to the problem of reducing emissions from large combustion installations and on the other with the various unresolved points with regard to the limit values to be set for new installations.

2. As regards the reduction of emissions, the Council acknowledged that the chief problem was to fix an overall objective aimed at reducing, at Community and Member State level, emissions of SO₂ and NO_x from large combustion installations. The three key elements remain the level of the final reduction target, the final date by which the reduction will be achieved and the phasing within this time frame. In view of the need for a balanced level of effort, account should also be taken of the different conditions obtaining in the Member States.

3. While unable at this point to agree finally on all aspects of the new approach of the Presidency, the Council thought that it represented a useful framework for achieving progress in discussions in this area.

4. With regard to the limit values to be fixed for the new installations, the Council considered that the set of proposals from the Presidency amounted to a guideline which should produce acceptable solutions. In particular, the Council noted with satisfaction the significant progress achieved with regard to the level of the proposed limit values. Although it recognized the need for detailed examination of the solutions that might be contemplated for certain specific situations, the Council also particularly emphasized the wisdom of aiming in principle at uniform arrangements applicable to all new plants.

5. Finally, the Council noted that some progress had been made on all outstanding problems. It reaffirmed its determination to reach swift agreement and instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to press ahead with discussions on the basis of the proposals currently being looked at, with a view to submitting specific proposals for decision at its next meeting.

All delegations will strive to contribute to the achievement of agreement at the next Council meeting in May.

LEAD IN PETROL

Recalling its conclusions of 24 November 1986, the Council was favourably inclined towards the possibility of a Member State prohibiting the distribution of leaded regular petrol without adopting a position at this juncture on the legal instruments provided for in the Treaty to be used to that end. It stipulated that this was not a first step towards prohibiting leaded regular petrol at Community level and could not be invoked as a precedent for justifying such a prohibition.

It called upon the Permanent Representatives Committee to prepare a formal decision for its next meeting in the light of the Opinions expected from the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee.

CFCs

The Council considered the progress made concerning the draft Protocol to the Vienna Convention, the purpose of which is to reduce the release into the atmosphere of certain chlorofluorocarbons likely to deplete the ozone content of the stratosphere. It should be recalled that the Commission has been taking part in these international negotiations on the Community's behalf since December 1986.

Concluding its discussions, the Council instructed the Commission to continue the negotiations taking account of the various comments made in the course of the debate and to report back to it on the progress of the negotiations at the Council's meeting in May.

COMMUNITY EXPORTS AND IMPORTS OF CERTAIN DANGEROUS CHEMICALS

The Council conducted a preliminary examination of the proposal for a Council Regulation concerning export from and import into the Community of certain dangerous chemicals.

The Council stressed the importance it attaches to the control of dangerous chemicals exported to third countries. In this context, it instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue proceedings on the problems outstanding with a view to reaching agreement on the proposal on the basis of the principles adopted by the OECD and the UNEP so that the Community instrument can be approved by the Council at its next meeting on 21 May 1987.

The Council also noted that certain Member States had already implemented additional measures in their territory, including the system of "prior informed choice" of the country importing the dangerous chemicals. The Commission would welcome other Member States taking steps to test the practical value of such approaches and to acquire experience of their application. The Council invites the Commission to examine this question in greater detail and to submit, where necessary, in the light of the information supplied by the Member States and developments in relevant international practices, appropriate proposals with a view to the possible adjustment of the Community instrument.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Other decisions in the environmental field

- Asbestos -

The Council adopted the Directive on the prevention of environmental pollution by asbestos.

It should be recalled that asbestos is already within the scope of a certain number of Community Directives on the management of toxic and dangerous waste, combatting atmospheric pollution from industrial installations and, in particular, the Directive fixing limit values for atmospheric pollution caused by asbestos in order to protect workers exposed to it.

This new Directive is intended to supplement Community legislation in this area and is aimed at preventing or reducing emissions from all sources causing pollution of the environment in general (air, water and the soil) and constituting a risk to human health. In particular, it will apply to activities involving the production of raw asbestos, the manufacturing and the industrial finishing of a certain number of products containing raw asbestos, activities which are likely to release asbestos into the environment, and the transport and deposition of asbestos waste.

- Major accident hazards of certain industrial activities

The Council then adopted the Directive amending the Directive (82/501/EEC) on the major-accident hazards of certain industrial activities.

Some of the amendments which the Council approved are intended to strengthen the provisions concerning certain industrial activities which involve, or may involve particularly dangerous substances (chlorine, phosgene and methyl isocyanate). The other amendments are intended to improve the definition of certain substances and the corresponding threshold quantities in order to highlight the various degrees of danger (e.g., ammoniumnitrate, nickel compounds and cobalt compounds).

As the basic Directive has been applicable for a short time only, experience and the knowledge acquired in this connection are still limited and the new Directive involves only a limited revision of the existing legislation. The Commission will constantly monitor the situation as regards the substances under surveillance pursuant to this Directive and, if appropriate, will submit proposals for amendments concerning these substances, if necessary, even before the overall systematic review of the Directive which has already been announced.

It should be recalled that at its meeting on 24 November 1986 the Council also invited the Commission to examine the possibility of negotiating with European non-member countries bilateral or multilateral agreements aimed at extending the provisions of Directive 82/501/EEC and Decision 81/971/EEC (Decisions establishing a Community information system for the control and reduction of pollution caused by hydrocarbons discharged at sea).

Agriculture

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision amending Decision 83/641/EEC adopting joint research programmes and programmes for co-ordinating agricultural research. This amendment involves the allocation of an additional amount of 20 MECU to these programmes.

(See Press Release 4899/87 (Presse 33) - 2 and 3 March 1987)

The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 8/81 on the disposal by the Hellenic Republic of raw tobacco stocks existing in Greece and coming from harvests prior to accession. The purpose of this amendment is to extend until 1 January 1989 the period allowed for the disposal of those stocks.

PRESS RELEASE

5561/87 (Presse 46)

1152nd meeting of the Council

- Transport -

Brussels, 23 and 24 March 1987

President : Mr Herman DE CROO

Minister of Transport
and Foreign Trade
of the Kingdom of Belgium

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

Belgium:

Mr Herman de CROO Minister for Transport and Foreign Trade

Denmark:

Mr F. Noel CHRISTENSEN Minister for Transport and Public Works
Mr Joergen HALCK State Secretary,
Ministry of Public Works

Germany:

Mr Jürgen WARNKE Federal Minister for Transport

Greece:

Mr Costas BADOUVAS Minister for Transport and Communications

Spain:

Mr Abel CABALLERO Minister for Transport and Communications

France:

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

Ireland:

Mr John WILSON

Minister for Communications

Italy:

Mr Enrico PIETROMARCHI

Deputy Permanent Representative

Luxembourg:

Mr Marcel SCHLECHTER

Minister for Transport, Public
Works and Energy

Netherlands:

Mr Ch. R. van BEUGE

Deputy Permanent Representative

Portugal:

Mr Oliveira MARTINS

Minister for Public Works,
Transport and Communications

United Kingdom:

Mr John MOORE

Minister for Transport

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For the Commission:

Mr Stanley CLINTON DAVIS

Member

ZEEBRUGGE FERRY DISASTER

The Council observed a minute's silence in memory of the victims of the capsized ferry the "Herald of Free Enterprise". It took note of the tributes paid by the United Kingdom Minister to the Belgian search and rescue operations, police and hospital services, as well as to the help given by other Member States. Gratitude was also expressed to the Commission for its contribution of 250 000 ECU to the Fund set up for the victims of the disaster. Finally, the Council took note of the Presidency's intention to hold a symposium on maritime safety in the coming months.

ELIMINATION OF DISTORTIONS OF COMPETITION OF A FISCAL NATURE IN THE TRANSPORT OF GOODS BY ROAD

The Council held a detailed exchange of views on the Commission's communication on the elimination of distortions of competition of a fiscal nature in the transport of goods by road, on the basis among other things of a questionnaire drawn up by the Permanent Representatives Committee.

Concluding its exchange of views, the Council noted the Commission's intention of submitting proposals in this area as soon as possible, and in any event not later than the autumn.

COMMUNITY QUOTA

Pending the European Parliament's Opinion, the Council examined the proposal for a Regulation on access to the market for the carriage of goods by road between Member States. Under this proposal the Community and bilateral quotas would be abolished as from 1992 and for the transitional stage from 1987 to 1991 there would be a 40% per annum increase in the Community quota as from 1987. The Council also had before it a specific proposal concerning the Community quota for 1987.

The Council's discussion focussed on the automaticity of the annual increase during the transitional stage and the advisability of introducing a Community safeguard mechanism for the transitional stage.

After the discussion the Council agreed to resume its examination of the proposal once the European Parliament's Opinion was available.

TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURES

Pending the European Parliament's Opinion, the Council continued examining the proposal for a Regulation on financial support in the framework of a medium-term programme for transport infrastructure. The discussions dealt among other things with the Commission's proposal that a specific instrument be created for financial support in this area, the advisability of including ports and airports in the scope of the provisions and the procedure to be chosen for deciding on the grant of financial support.

The Council asked the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue work on this issue in the light of its discussions.

AIR TRANSPORT

The Council continued its discussions on air transport.

Subject to agreement on the issue as a whole, the Council managed to establish a consensus on the main questions unresolved as regards fares, in particular discount fares and deep-discount fares, and on the distribution of capacity. The Council also held a detailed discussion on the questions concerning access to the market.

In order to reach final agreement on this matter, the Council agreed to hold a special meeting on 9 June 1987.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Fisheries policy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Decision on the conclusion of the agreement in the form of an exchange of letters concerning the provisional application of the Agreement amending the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Madagascar on fishing off the coast of Madagascar.

The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Decision on the conclusion of an agreement in the form of an exchange of letters concerning the provisional application of the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Government of the People's Republic of Mozambique on fishing off the coast of Mozambique.

In addition, the Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Regulation on the conclusion of an agreement between the European Economic Community and the Government of the Republic of the Gambia on fishing off the Gambia and adopting provisions for its application.

Commercial policy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Regulation opening, allocating and providing for the administration (in respect of a volume of 2 500 tonnes) of a Community tariff quota for carrots falling within subheading ex 07.01 G II of the Common Customs Tariff and originating in Cyprus (1987).

The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Regulation imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of standardized multi-phase electric motors having an output of more than 0,75 kW but not more than 75 kW, originating in Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Poland or the Soviet Union, and definitively collecting the amounts secured as provisional duties (which will be published in the Official Journal on 27 March 1987).

Customs Union

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Regulation temporarily suspending the autonomous Common Customs Tariff duties on a number of industrial products (Nos ex 38.19 X; ex 81.04 F I and ex 85.21 D II).

The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Regulation opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for unroasted malt falling within subheading 11.07 A II b) of the Common Customs Tariff originating in and coming from Finland.

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

- opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota of 12 000 tonnes for dried, dehydrated or evaporated onions falling within subheading 07.04 A of the Common Customs Tariff;
- increasing from 600 000 to 650 000 m³ the volume of the Community tariff quota opened by Regulation (EEC) no 3741/86 for certain plywoods of coniferous species, falling within heading ex 44.15 of the Common Customs Tariff (1987).

Relations with the EFTA countries

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities Regulations on the application of Decisions No 3/86 of the EEC-EFTA countries Joint Committees supplementing and amending Protocol No 3 concerning the definition of the concept of "originating products" and methods of administrative co-operation with a view to simplifying the documentation relating to evidence of origin.

Appointments

On a proposal from the Irish Government, the Council appointed the following as members and alternate members of the Advisory Committee on the Training of Dental Surgeons for the period up to 15 December 1989:

A. Experts from the practising profession

	<u>Member</u>	<u>Alternate</u>
Ireland	Dr David HARRIS	Dr D.I. KEANE

B. Experts from the dental teaching institutions

	<u>Member</u>	<u>Alternate</u>
Ireland	Prof. D. SHANLEY	Prof. B.E. BARRETT

C. Experts from the competent authorities in the Member State

	<u>Member</u>	<u>Alternate</u>
Ireland	Dr Seamus O'HICKEY	Mr Colin A. SULLIVAN

On a proposal from the Belgian Government, the Council also appointed Professor Michel FRANCOIS an alternate member of the Advisory Committee on the Training of Dental Surgeons to replace Professor Dr J. KOHL for the remainder of the latter's term of office, i.e. until 15 December 1989.

On a further proposal from the Belgian Government, the Council appointed Dr A. VAN ORSHOVEN an alternate member of the Advisory Committee on Medical Training to replace Dr J. VAN DEN BROUCKE for the remainder of the latter's term of office, i.e. until 11 May 1989.

Finally, on a proposal from the Governments of the Member States, the Council appointed the following as members and alternates of the Advisory Committee on Education and Training in the Field of Architecture:

A. Experts from the practising profession

	<u>Member</u>	<u>Alternates</u>
Belgium	Mr G. VRANCKX	Mr E. VAN STEENBERGEN
Denmark	Mr Ebbe MELGAARD	Mr Finn POULSEN
Germany	Mr Gerhard SCHWAB	Mr Jost SCHRAMM
Greece	Mr Dionysios DIYENIS	Ms Elisabeth SIOLA-BOTOUROPOULOU
Spain	Mr Rafael de la HOZ ARDERIUS	Mr Jordi QUEROL PIERA

	<u>Members</u>	<u>Alternates</u>
France	Mr Yves ALEXANDRE	Mr Antoine DEBRE
Ireland	Mr Kevin FOX	Mr John O'REILLY
Italy	Dr Luigi MORETTI	Dr Bruno MICHELIN
Luxembourg	Mr Georges REUTER	Mr Chrescht KLEIN
Netherlands	Mr R. VAN DER SLUYS	Mr P.A.M. MERTENS
Portugal	Mr Francisco SILVA DIAS	Ms Olga QUINTANILHA
United Kingdom	Mr David WATERHOUSE	Mr Peter JONES

B. Experts from universities or equivalent teaching institutions in the field of architecture

	<u>Members</u>	<u>Alternates</u>
Belgium	Dr J. JANSSENS	Prof. J. ENGLEBERT
Denmark	Mr Mogens Brandt POULSEN	Mr Bente BEEDHOLM
Germany	Prof. Elmar WERTZ	Prof. Dietrich KRUPPA
Greece	Prof. Ioannis LIAPIS	Mr Panayotis TZONOS
Spain	Mr Fernando RAMOS	Mr Antonio FERNANDEZ ALBA
France	Mr Roland SCHWEITZER	Mr Alain SARFATI
Ireland	Prof. Cathall O'NEILL	Mr John O'KEEFFE
Italy	Prof. Corrado BEGUINOT	Prof. Giovanni CARBONARA
Luxembourg	Mr Ernest WEIS	Mr Fred GREGOIRE
Netherlands	Prof. M.F.T. BAX	Mr U.F. HYLKEMA
Portugal	Prof. Fernando Luis CARDOSO de MENEZES de TAVARES	Prof. Doutor Antonio Francisco de CARVALHO QUINTELA
United Kingdom	Prof. John TARN	Prof. Hans HAENLEIN

C. Experts from the competent authorities of the Member States

	<u>Members</u>	<u>Alternates</u>
Belgium	Ms J. ROUSSEAU	Mr DEDECKER
Denmark	Mr Fleming LETHAN	Mr Peter van ZAANE
Germany	Dr Martin SEIDEL	Mr Hubert KRAUS
Greece	Ms Athina MORAITOU	Mr Michalis TYLIANAKIS
Spain	Ms Amparo PRECIOSO DE MURGA	Mr Carlos LAVESA DIAZ
France	Mr Jean-Pierre DUPORT	Mr Pierre LAJUS
Ireland	Mr R.N. DE CHENU	Mr N HEGARTY
Italy	Dr Gabriele GIANNINI	Dr Arturo CORNETTA
Luxembourg	Mr Paul MACKEL	Ms Bernadette FRIEDERICI- CARABIN
Netherlands	Mr P. FENGER	Mr K.I. ANG
Portugal	Mr António OLIVEIRA FARIA	Mr João Manoel ALVES de SOUZA
United Kingdom	Prof. Denys HINTON	Ms Jenny WILLIAMS

PRESS RELEASE

5563/87 (Presse 48)

1153rd Council meeting

- Agriculture -

Brussels, 30 and 31 March 1987

President: Mr Paul de KEERSMAEKER,
State Secretary for European Affairs
and Agriculture of the
Kingdom of Belgium

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

Ms Britta SCHALL HOLBERG Minister for Agriculture

Germany

Mr Ignaz KIECHLE Federal Minister for Food,
Agriculture and Forestry

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

Greece

Mr Yiannis POTTAKIS Minister for Agriculture

Spain

Mr Vincente ALBERO President of the Fund for the
Guidance and Control of
Agricultural Products (FORPA)

France

Mr François GUILLAUME Minister for Agriculture

Ireland

Mr Michael O'KENNEDY Minister for Agriculture

Italy

Mr Filippo Maria PANDOLFI Minister for Agriculture

Luxembourg

Mr Marc FISCHBACH

Minister for Agriculture and
Viticulture

Netherlands

Mr Gerrit BRAKS

Minister for Agriculture

Portugal

Mr Alvaro BARRETO

Minister for Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food

Mr Arlindo CUNHA

State Secretary for Agricultural
Development

United Kingdom

Mr Michael JOPLING

Minister for Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food

Mr John GUMMER

Minister of State,
Ministry of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food

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Commission

Mr Frans H.J.J. ANDRIESEN

Vice-President

FIXING OF PRICES FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND RELATED MEASURES
1987/1988

The Council held an initial exchange of views on the Commission proposals on the prices for agricultural products and on related measures for the marketing year 1987/1988.

As regards the various agricultural products, the Council gave particular attention to:

- price levels and price hierarchies between sectors;
- amendments to the intervention arrangements
- the extension and strengthening of the guarantee threshold systems;
- strengthening of the quality policy.

This general discussion gave delegations the opportunity to express their initial reactions both on general policy lines and on specific points relating to particular products.

The Council asked the Special Committee on Agriculture to make a more detailed technical examination of a number of problems in the light of the views expressed in the meeting, so that discussions could progress.

OILS AND FATS SECTOR

The Council held a wide-ranging discussion on the comprehensive Commission proposal relating to the adjustment of the Community patrimony, price levels, and the introduction of a consumer price stabilization mechanism.

The Commission pointed out that the proposal was for an indivisible package of measures, each of which had to be considered in the overall context of a redistribution of burdens in the sector concerned.

Concerning in particular the stabilization mechanism, delegations expressed their initial reactions.

At the end of the discussion, it appeared that delegations were divided in their positions on a number of points, especially where the stabilization mechanism was concerned. It was agreed that a technical study was necessary.

The Council therefore asked the Special Committee on Agriculture to make a more detailed examination of this file and report back for the next Council meeting in April.

AGRI-MONETARY MEASURES

The Council held an initial discussion on the Commission's proposals in the agri-monetary field, which were submitted in connection with the fixing of agricultural prices and related measures for the marketing year 1987/1988, in the light of the Commission report on the agri-monetary system.

The discussion gave delegations the opportunity to express their initial reactions in this area.

At the end of discussions, the Council asked the Commission to draw up, with the aid of experts from the Member States, statistics on the trend in production costs and farm incomes in the various Member States, in order to provide some factual data with which to continue discussions at its next meeting.

TRANSITIONAL MEASURES

- The Council decided to extend the current marketing years for milk, finishing on 31 March 1987, and beef and veal, finishing on 5 April 1987, from 1 April to 31 May 1987.

- MCA in the eggs and poultrymeat sector

By a qualified majority, the Council agreed to extend until 31 May 1987 the suspension of the monetary compensatory amounts relating to France (4,8 points) and the United Kingdom (4,5 points) in the eggs and poultrymeat sector, which were currently in force pursuant to Regulation No 2062/86.

EMERGENCY AID TO THE VICTIMS OF THE COLD SPELL IN WINTER 1986/1987

In January 1987 the Council adopted emergency aid measures following the particularly adverse weather conditions during the winter of 1986/1987.

To ensure distribution of the quantities of cereals for which charitable organizations had submitted requests before 1 April 1987, the Council took account of the administrative problems encountered by some Member States and extended Regulation No 230/87 on the free supply of intervention stocks of processed cereals to charitable organizations until 30 April 1987.

These measures are additional to those decided upon by the Commission within the terms of reference of its responsibilities for olive oil and sugar.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Other agricultural decisions

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Council Decision authorizing certain Member States to provide for derogations from certain provisions of Directive 77/93/EEC as regards new potatoes from Cuba. The purpose of this is to allow certain Member States to import such potatoes until 17 August 1987.

The Council also adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, amendments to the following Regulations:

- Regulation (EEC) No 1417/78 on the aid system for dried fodder. This amendment makes changes in the variable aid calculation method;
- Regulation (EEC) No 2743/75 concerning the advance-fixing of export refunds for cereal-based compound feeding-stuffs. This amendment introduces a provision allowing the export refund fixed in advance to be adjusted on the basis of the threshold price applicable to the cereals actually used;
- Regulations (EEC) Nos 4044/86, 4045/86, 4046/86, 4047/86 and 4048/86 opening, allocating and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas for certain agricultural products originating in the Canary Islands. The purpose of this Regulation is to extend the present arrangement by two months, pending definitive fixing of the quotas for importation from the Canary Islands in 1987;
- Regulation (EEC) No 1468/81 on mutual assistance between the administrative authorities of the Member States and co-operation between the latter and the Commission to ensure the correct application of the law on customs or agricultural matters;
- Regulation (EEC) No 1676/85 on the value of the unit of account and the conversion rates to be applied for the purposes of the common agricultural policy. This amendment extends the use of the ECU as an agricultural unit of account until 30 September 1987.

Mediterranean policy of the enlarged Community

- Mediterranean financial protocols

The Council approved the negotiating directives for the renewal of the Mediterranean Financial Protocols (Maghreb, Mashreq, Israel) for the period 1986/1991. The directives provide for an overall budget for the new Financial Protocols of 1 618 MECU, consisting of 615 MECU in budgetary funds and 1 003 MECU in EIB loans.

The decision relates to the Council statement of 30 March 1985 on the Mediterranean policy of the enlarged Community.

The statement confirmed the Community's desire to further strengthen co-operation with the Mediterranean countries following the enlargement of the Community, with a comprehensive approach comprising, firstly a commercial aspect essentially intended to maintain traditional trading patterns, and secondly a co-operation aspect designed to contribute in an appropriate way to the economic and social development of the countries concerned.

In this context, the priorities set for co-operation are essentially to help reduce the food-dependency of the partner countries and promote the diversification of their agricultural production; to develop economic links via the development of industrial, scientific, technological and trade co-operation projects, and to support regional and multilateral co-operation.

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Environment

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Directive amending Directive 75/716/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the sulphur content of certain liquid fuels (gas-oil). (See Press Release 5433/87 (Presse 42) on the 1151st meeting of the Environment Council on 19 and 20 March 1987.)

ECSC

The Council gave its assent pursuant to Article 56(2)(a) of the ECSC Treaty regarding S.A. Kredietbank, Antwerp (Belgium).

The Council also gave its assent, pursuant to the second paragraph of Article 54 of the ECSC Treaty, to the granting of a loan to Istituto Mobiliare Italiano (I.M.I.), for the financing of investment programmes which contribute to facilitating the marketing of Community steel.

Appointment

At the proposal of the Spanish Government, the Council appointed Mr Victor FORGAS I CARBERA a member of the Economic and Social Committee to replace Mr LARRANAGA LIZZARALDE for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which runs until 20 September 1990.

PRESS RELEASE

5797/87 (Presse 51)

1154th meeting of the Council
- Consumer protection and information -

Luxembourg, 7 April 1987

President: Mr Philippe MAYSTADT
Minister for Economic Affairs
of the Kingdom of Belgium

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

Belgium:

Mr Philippe MAYSTADT Minister for Economic Affairs

Denmark:

Mr Nils WILHJELM Minister for Industry

Germany:

Mr Otto SCHLECHT State Secretary attached to the Federal Ministry for Finance

Greece:

Mr Panayotis ROUMELIOTIS Minister for Trade

Spain:

Mr Carlos HERNANDEZ GIL State Secretary,
Ministry of Health and Consumer Affairs

France:

Mr Jean ARTHUIS State Secretary attached to the Ministry for Economic Affairs, Finance and Privatization

Ireland:

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

Italy:

Mr Enrico PIETROMARCHI Deputy Permanent Representative

Luxembourg:

Mr Thierry STOLL Deputy Permanent Representative

Netherlands:

Mr P.R.H.M. van der Linden

State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Portugal:

Mr Pedro José RIBEIRO DE MENESES

Deputy Permanent Representative

United Kingdom:

Mr David ELLIOTT

Deputy Permanent Representative

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Commission:

Mr Grigoris VARFIS

Member

DANGEROUS IMITATION PRODUCTS

Pending receipt of the European Parliament's Opinion, the Council held a policy debate on the proposal for a Directive on the harmonization of legislation on products which, appearing to be other than they are, endanger the health or safety of consumers.

The Council paid particular attention to the scope of the Directive, the procedure for implementing it and its legal basis.

After the debate, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to work out ways of enabling the Council to take a decision once the European Parliament's Opinion had been received.

SAFETY OF TOYS

The Council held an initial exchange of views on the proposal for a Directive on the harmonization of legislation on the safety of toys. It concentrated on the two key points of the proposal, namely certification procedures and essential safety requirements.

Afterwards, the Council asked the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue the proceedings on this subject so that a conclusive discussion could be held at the Council meeting in June.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Agriculture

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities:

- a Decision amending Directive 80/1095/EEC and Decisions 80/1096/EEC and 82/18/EEC with regard to the duration and the financial means of measures for the eradication of classical swine fever. This amendment extends by one year the duration of the Community's financial measure, pending the Council's decision on strengthening the measures to combat the disease;
- a Decision amending Directives 64/432/EEC and 72/461/EEC as regards certain measures relating to swine fever. This amendment strengthens the guarantees required in trade to Member States which have totally eliminated the disease in order to prevent its reintroduction into their territory.

Relations with the EFTA countries

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, Regulations on the application of Decision No 2/86 of the EEC-Switzerland/Austria Joint Committees - Community transit - extending Decisions Nos 2/78 and 2/79 amending the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Swiss Confederation/Republic of Austria on the application of the rules on Community transit.

Commercial policy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Decision authorizing extension or tacit renewal of certain trade agreements concluded between Member States and third countries.

ECSC

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Decision opening, for the period 1 January to 30 June 1987, a zero-duty tariff quota of 500 tonnes for laser-irradiated, grain-oriented electrical sheet and plate.

Customs union

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Decision concerning the conclusion of the International Convention on the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System and of the Protocol of Amendment thereto.

Appointments

On a proposal from the Netherlands Government, the Council appointed Mrs N. GOEDHARD as an alternate member of the Committee of the European Social Fund to replace Mrs M. HUIMSCHOTEL, an alternate member who had resigned, for the remainder of her term of office, which runs until 11 December 1987.

On a proposal from the French Government, it appointed:

- Mr Robert BONNET as a member of the Advisory Committee on Education and Training in the field of Architecture to replace Mr Jean-Pierre DUPORT for the remainder of his term of office, which runs until 22 March 1990;
- Miss Pascale BUCH as an alternate member of the Advisory Committee on Education and Training in the field of Architecture to replace Mr Pierre LAJUS for the remainder of his term of office, which runs until 22 March 1990.

On a proposal from the German Government, it appointed Dr Erich PILLWEIN as a member of the Advisory Committee on the Training of Dental Surgeons to replace Dr Horst SEBASTIAN for the remainder of his term of office, which runs until 15 December 1989.

PRESS RELEASE

5798/87 (Presse 52)

1155th meeting of the Council

- Internal Market -

Luxembourg, 7 April 1987

President: Mr Paul DE KEERSMAEKER
State Secretary for European Affairs
of the Kingdom of Belgium

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

Belgium:

Mr Paul DE KEERSMAEKER
State Secretary for
European Affairs

Denmark:

Mr Nils WILHJELM
Minister for Industry

Germany:

Mr Otto SCHLECHT
State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Economic
Affairs

Greece:

Mr Panayotis ROUMELIOTIS
Minister for Trade

Spain:

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

France:

Mr Jean CADET
Deputy Permanent Representative

Ireland:

Mr Seamus BRENNAN
Minister of State,
Department of Industry and
Commerce

Italy:

Mr Enrico PIETROMARCHI
Deputy Permanent Representative

Luxembourg:

Mr Robert GOEBBELS
State Secretary for Foreign
Affairs

Netherlands:

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

State Secretary
for Foreign Affairs

Portugal:

Mr Victor MARTINS

State Secretary
for European Integration

United Kingdom:

Mr David ELLIOTT

Deputy Permanent Representative

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Commission:

Lord COCKFIELD

Vice-President

BORDER CONTROLS

The Council resumed its discussions on the series of questions arising in connection with the easing of border controls.

It agreed that, to prepare for further discussions, the Presidency should be asked to ensure that work in this sector progressed alongside discussions by the Ministers for Justice and the Interior, further to the meeting held in London last October.

RIGHT OF RESIDENCE

The Council continued its discussions on the right of residence, devoting particular attention to the questions of sickness insurance schemes, the level of resources required for students and beneficiaries of the right of residence.

The Council agreed to ask the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue examining the unresolved questions and to report back to its meeting in May.

MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF DIPLOMAS

The Council held an initial detailed discussion of 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. The debate focused on two key aspects of the proposal: the status and nature of the ability test as an alternative to the period of supervised practice and the scope of the Directive.

At the close of these discussions, the Council asked the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue examining the various unresolved points to allow it to reach an agreement in principle on the basic problems at a forthcoming meeting.



PRESS RELEASE

6064/87 (Presse 57)

1156th Council meeting
- General Affairs -
Luxembourg, 26 and 27 April 1987

President: Mr Leo TINDEMANS
Minister for Foreign Relations
of the Kingdom of Belgium

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

Belgium:

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

Denmark:

Mr Uffe ELLEMANN-JENSEN	Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Knud-Erik TYGESEN	State Secretary, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Germany:

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

Greece:

Mr Theodoros PANGALOS	Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs
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Spain:

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

France:

Mr Jean-Bernard RAIMOND	Minister for Foreign Affairs
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Ireland:

Mr Brian LENIHAN	Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mrs Maire GEOGHAN-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 Foreign Affairs

Portugal:

Mr Pedro PIRES de MIRANDA Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Victor MARTINS State Secretary for European Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mrs Lynda CHALKER Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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Commission:

Mr Jacques DELORS President

Mr Frans ANDRIESEN Vice-President

Mr Henning CHRISTOPHERSEN Vice-President

Mr Claude CHEYSSON Member

Mr Willy DE CLERCQ Member

MAKING A SUCCESS OF THE SINGLE ACT

The Council held an initial overall discussion on the Commission proposals contained in the communication "Making a success of the Single Act - a new frontier for Europe" (on the basis of a report from the Presidency, reflecting the preparatory proceedings of the Permanent Representatives Committee.

The discussion gave delegations the opportunity to express their views in turn on the various sections of the Commission communication: the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy - the substance of which is dealt with by the Agriculture Council -, the structural funds with a view to cohesion, the financing of the community budget, budgetary discipline and budget management.

After discussion of each section, the President of the Council drew up conclusions regarding the organization of the Council's work at its meetings in May and June and the proceedings of the Permanent Representatives Committee, in order to ensure optimum conditions for the discussion which the Heads of State or of Government will hold on this subject. The Presidency indicated that it intended to obtain answers to the Commission's main questions from the European Council on 29 and 30 June 1987.

The Council also noted that the ECOFIN Council intended to hold an exchange of views on this question at its May meeting. The Presidency will report back on both these and the Agriculture Council's discussions to the next meeting of the General Affairs Council, in May.

During the weekend preceding the European Council the Ministers for Foreign Affairs will meet privately to complete preparation of the question.

RELATIONS WITH TURKEY

The Council decided to acknowledge receipt of the letters in which Mr Turgut OZAL, Prime Minister of the Government of the Republic of Turkey, applied on 14 April 1987, for the accession of Turkey to the European Communities.

On the same occasion, the Council decided to implement the procedure provided for by the Treaties in this respect, while bearing in mind the amendments agreed upon by the Luxembourg Conference on the Single European Act.

RELATIONS WITH HUNGARY

The Council approved the negotiating brief for an agreement on trade and commercial and economic co-operation between the Community and Hungary and authorized the Commission to open negotiations on that basis.

RELATIONS WITH YUGOSLAVIA

The Council held an initial general exchange of views on the new Commission proposals concerning the negotiation of a second Financial Protocol within the framework of the EEC-Yugoslavia Co-operation Agreement.

It instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine these proposals in greater detail in the light of this discussion and to report back to it at its next meeting.

ISRAEL - RISK CAPITAL

The Council heard a statement by Mr CHEYSSON, following which the Permanent Representatives Committee will continue to examine this question.

RELATIONS WITH ALGERIA

The Council prepared the Community position with a view to the 1st meeting of the EEC-Algeria Co-operation Council, which was held in the early evening of Monday 27 April (see press release CEE-AL 3103/87 Presse 59).

FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL AID TO ASIAN AND LATIN AMERICAN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

The Council adopted the general guidelines for 1987 concerning financial and technical aid to Asian and Latin American developing countries.

The geographical allocation of appropriations continues to be 75% for Asia and 25% for Latin America. The reserve of available appropriations constituted prior to the geographical allocation is increased from 5% to 10%; the Commission has stated its intention of using the amount of the reserve mainly for Central America.

QUADRILATERAL TRADE MEETING IN JAPAN

The Council took note of a communication from Commissioner DE CLERCQ on the course of the quadrilateral meeting between the Community, the United States, Canada and Japan, which was held in Kashikogima on 25 and 26 April, and on the bilateral talks which he held on that occasion, particularly with Japanese Ministers, on trade relations with Japan.

The Council confirmed its intention of returning to the dossier on Japan at its next meeting in May.

OECD MINISTERIAL MEETING

The Council heard a communication from the Commission concerning preparations for the OECD Ministerial meeting to be held in Paris on 12 and 13 May 1987.

In this connection, it took note of the Presidency's intention of ensuring smooth Community co-ordination throughout the preparatory work and during the Ministerial meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Cyprus

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for new potatoes falling within subheading 07.01 A II b) of the Common Customs Tariff and originating in Cyprus (1987) (suspension of the CCT at 9,4% - 10% in the Community - up to a limit of 60 000 tonnes from 16 May to 30 June 1987: 55 000 tonnes allocated among the Member States; 5 000 tonnes reserve).

Appointments

On a proposal from the Netherlands Government, the Council appointed Mr A.S.M. NUYTEN as a member of the Advisory Committee on the training of Midwives to replace Mr M.W. DUJARDIN, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which runs until 6 October 1989.

On a proposal from the Italian Government, the Council also appointed Professor Pier Luigi MASI as an alternate member of the Advisory Committee on the Training of Dental Surgeons to replace Professor Giorgio BOREA, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which runs until 15 December 1989.

Then, on a proposal from the German Government, the Council appointed Mr Jens VOJTA as an alternate member of the Advisory Committee on Vocational Training to replace Mr W. HEMPEL, who has died, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which runs until 14 July 1987.

Finally, on a proposal from the Commission, the Council appointed as alternate members of the Administrative Board of the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions:

- Mr S. BOGH, to replace Mr P. CARLSEN, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which runs until 17 February 1988;
- Mr Daniel DE NORRE, to replace Mr P. ARETS, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which runs until 17 February 1988.

PRESS RELEASE

6065/87 (Presse 58)

1157th Council meeting

- Agriculture -

Luxembourg, 27, 28 and 29 April 1987

President: Mr Paul de KEERSMAEKER
State Secretary for European Affairs
and Agriculture
of the Kingdom of Belgium

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:

Ms Britta SCHALL HOLBERG Minister for Agriculture

Germany:

Mr Ignaz KIECHLE Federal Minister for Food, Agriculture and Forestry

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

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

Greece:

Mr Yiannis POTTAKIS Minister for Agriculture

Spain:

Mr Carlos ROMERO HERRERA Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

France:

Mr François GUILLAUME Minister for Agriculture

Ireland:

Mr Michael O'KENNEDY Minister for Agriculture

Italy:

Mr Filippo Maria PANDOLFI Minister for Agriculture

Luxembourg:

Mr Marc FISCHBACH Minister for Agriculture and Viticulture

Mr René STEICHEN State Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Viticulture

Netherlands:

Mr Gerrit BRAKS

Minister for Agriculture

Portugal:

Mr Alvaro BARRETO

Minister for Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food

United Kingdom

Mr Michael JOPLIN

Minister for Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food

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Commission:

Mr Frans H.J.J. ANDRIESSEN

Vice President

AGRICULTURAL PRICES AND RELATED MEASURES (1987/1988)

The Council's discussions on the fixing of agricultural prices and on certain related measures for the 1987-1988 marketing year continued, entering into the negotiating phase proper.

From bilateral meetings, where the delegations were able to voice their main reactions to the Commission proposals, it appeared that the crucial problems lay in four sectors:

- cereals
- vegetable oils and fats
- fresh fruit and vegetables
- agri-monetary arrangements.

The Council therefore devoted its proceedings to these four issues, bearing in mind that this was not an exhaustive list of the questions which delegations had raised and which for some among them represented major aspects.

Winding up its discussions, the Council agreed to continue the negotiations on this subject at its next meeting on 18 and 19 May 1987 on the basis of guidelines to be submitted by the Presidency.

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The Council was unable to act on the Commission proposals regarding cauliflowers and dried fodder, the marketing year for which ends on 30 April 1987, as the European Parliament's Opinion had not been received.

Consequently the Commission stated that for cauliflowers and dried fodder it would take the interim protective measures that were essential for ensuring continuity in the operation of the market organization.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Other decisions on agriculture

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 1417/78 on the aid system for dried fodder.

Fisheries policy

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

- on the conclusion of the Agreement amending for the second time the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Government of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau on fishing off the coast of Guinea-Bissau;
- allocating additional catch quotas among Member States for vessels fishing in Swedish waters.

The Council also adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Decision on the conclusion of an Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters concerning the provisional application of the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Seychelles on fishing off Seychelles.

Convention with EFTA on the single document

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Decision concluding a Convention between the European Economic Community, the Republic of Austria, the Republic of Finland, the Republic of Iceland, the Kingdom of Norway, the Kingdom of Sweden and the Swiss Confederation on the simplification of formalities in trade in goods.

This Convention follows on from the Joint Declaration made in Luxembourg on 9 April 1984, in which the Ministers of the Member States of the Community, and of the EFTA countries and the Commission expressed their political will to extend co-operation between the Community and the EFTA countries by creating "a dynamic European economic space of benefit to their countries". By providing for the use of a single administrative document for all export, import and transit operations as from 1 January 1988, the Convention should lead to simplification of the formalities involved in trade in goods. The Convention is due to be signed at the EFTA Ministerial meeting in Interlaken on 20 May 1987. The instruments of ratification should then be deposited with the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Communities by 1 November 1987 in order to enable the Convention to be applied from 1 January 1988.
