

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

PRESS RELEASES

PRESIDENCY: DENMARK

JULY-DECEMBER 1987

Meetings and press releases October-November 1987

| Meeting number | Subject | Date |
|--------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1194 th | Internal Market | 5 October 1987 |
| 1195 th | General Affairs | 19-20 October 1987 |
| 1196 th | Agriculture | 19-20 October 1987 |
| Special meeting | General Affairs | 8 November 1987 |
| 1197 th | Development Co-operation | 9 November 1987 |
| 1198 th | Energy | 13 November 1987 |
| 1199 th | Economics/Finance | 16 November 1987 |
| 1200 th | Agriculture | 16-18, 23-26 November 1987 |
| 1201 st | General Affairs | 23-24 November 1987 |
| 1202 nd | Cancelled | |
| 1203 rd | Internal Market | 30 November 1987 |

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

8721/87 (Presse 162)

1194th Council Meeting
- Internal Market -
Luxembourg, 5 October 1987

President: Mr Nils WILHJELM

Minister for Industry
of the Kingdom of Denmark

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 Finance

Greece:

Mr Panayotis ROUMELIOTIS

Minister for Commerce

Spain:

Mr Pedro SOLBES MIRA

State Secretary for Relations
with the European Communities

France:

Mr Jean CADET

Deputy Permanent Representative

Ireland:

Mr Sean McCARTHY

Minister of State,
Office of Science and Technology,
Department of Industry and
Commerce

Italy:

Mr Antonio LA PERGOLA

Minister for Community Affairs

Luxembourg:

Mr Thierry STOLL

Deputy Permanent Representative

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 Alan CLARK

Minister for Trade

Commission:

Lord COCKFIELD

Vice-President

Mr Peter SUTHERLAND

Member

PUBLIC SUPPLY CONTRACTS

The Council held a detailed discussion on the draft Directive amending Directive 77/62/EEC relating to the co-ordination of procedures on the award of public supply contracts and repealing certain provisions of Directive 80/767/EEC.

At the end of the discussion, the Council drew up its common position which will be transmitted to the European Parliament according to the provisions of Article 149 of the Treaty.

GENERAL SYSTEM OF RECOGNITION OF HIGHER EDUCATION DIPLOMAS

The Council considered the present state of work on the proposed Directive on a general system for the recognition of higher-education diplomas awarded on completion of vocational courses of at least three years duration, which is an important element in the establishment of a Citizens' Europe. Note was taken in particular of the significant progress made in a number of areas, especially with regard to the clarification of the various definitions included in the draft Directive.

In conclusion, the Council invited the Permanent Representatives Committee to pursue its work as a matter of urgency with a view to the Council resolving at its meeting of 30 November a number of questions, in particular with regard to the application of the Directive to the public sector, and regarding the different adaptation mechanisms designed to allow the professional who wishes to establish himself in another Member State to adapt fully to his new professional environment.

NOISE LEVELS OF LAWMOWERS

The Council reached agreement in principle on certain of the remaining problems with respect to proposed amendments to Directive 84/538/EEC. Two draft Directives are involved, the first introducing sound pressure levels at the operator's position and the second extending Directive 84/538/EEC to cylinder mowers.

The Council invited the Permanent Representatives Committee to pursue its work on the remaining issues in order to allow the adoption of a common position in the near future.

CONTROL OF CONCENTRATIONS

The Council heard a declaration from Commissioner SUTHERLAND on the draft Regulation on merger control which has been under discussion by the Council for a number of years.

The Council agreed to return to this subject at its meeting of 30 November 1987, in response to the Commission's request for its definitive conclusion on the main principles of the proposal.

OTHER DECISIONS

Other Internal Market Decisions -

Community Programme on Trade Electronic Data Interchange Systems (TEDIS)

The Council adopted, in the languages of the Communities, the Decision introducing a communications network Community programme on trade electronic data interchange systems (TEDIS).

The programme will cover a period of two years from 1 January 1988. The amount estimated necessary to cover the Community's contribution to the carrying out of the programme is 5,3 million ECU for the duration of the programme.

The aims of the programme are:

- 1) co-ordination at Community level of work going on in the various Member States on the development of trade electronic data interchange systems;
- 2) to alert potential users;
- 3) to alert European hardware and software manufacturers to the opportunities offered by electronic data interchange;
- 4) logistic support for European sectoral groups;
- 5) consideration of the specific requirements of trade electronic data interchange within Member States and between the Member States and the Community in telecommunications and standardization policies; carrying out of preparatory work for that purpose;

- 6) help in the setting up of conformance testing centres for software and hardware used in trade electronic data interchange systems;
- 7) to seek solutions to legal problems that might inhibit the development of trade electronic data interchange and to see to it that restrictive telecommunications regulations cannot hamper the development of trade electronic data interchange;
- 8) to study security requirements for trade electronic data interchange systems so as to guarantee confidentiality of messages transmitted;
- 9) to study specific problems caused by the multiplicity of languages in the Community and, to this end, to examine the possibility, for the purposes of multilingualism, of using the results obtained or expected under the machine translation programmes Systran and Eurotra;
- 10) to study the advisability of promoting the development of the specialized software needed for trade electronic data interchange;
- 11) to list existing or potential sectoral projects on trade electronic data interchange and to make a comparative analysis of them;
- 12) identification of special requirements emerging during the implementation of trade electronic data interchange systems that could be met more easily with Community assistance;
- 13) to make a particular study of the assistance that could be given to small and medium-sized businesses to help them to take an active part in trade electronic data interchange;
- 14) to give thought to possible support for pilot projects the gradual implementation of which would be likely to encourage solutions, capable of being generalized, to problems of common interest encountered by most trade electronic data interchange systems.

Research

The Council adopted, in the languages of the Communities, the Decision containing Directives for the Commission to conduct negotiations on co-operation between the European Atomic Energy Community, Japan, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America concerning conceptual design activities for an experimental thermonuclear reactor.

Fisheries

The Council adopted, in the languages of the Communities, the Decisions:

- amending Regulation (EEC) No 4034/86 fixing, for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks, the total allowable catches for 1987 and certain conditions under which they may be fished;
- 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 Islamic Republic of Mauritania on fishing off the coast of Mauritania.

(See Press Release Fisheries Council of 29.9.87 8590/87 (Presse 158)).

Agriculture

The Council adopted, in the languages of the Communities, the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 804/68 on the common organization of the market in milk and milk products.

By the introduction of this amendment, Member States may authorize, at the beginning of each twelve month period and for the duration thereof, temporary transfers of that part of the individual reference quantity which the producer who is entitled thereto does not intend to use. Member States may limit the transfer operations to certain categories of producers on the basis of the milk production structure in the regions or collecting areas concerned.

PRESS RELEASE

8725/87 (Presse 166)

1195th Council meeting
- General Affairs -
Luxembourg, 19 and 20 October 1987
President: Mr Uffe ELLEMANN-JENSEN
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Kingdom of Denmark

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

Belgium:

Mr Leo TINDEMANS Minister for Foreign Affairs

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

Greece:

Mr Theodoros PANGALOS Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs

Spain:

Mr Francisco FERNANDEZ ORDONEZ Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Pedro SOLBES State Secretary for Relations with
the European Communities

Mr Angel FERNANDEZ ORDONEZ State Secretary for Trade

France:

Mr Bernard BOSSON Minister with responsibility for
European Affairs

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

Ireland:

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| Mr Brian LENIHAN | Minister for Foreign Affairs |
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Italy:

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| Mr Giulio ANDREOTTI | Minister for Foreign Affairs |
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Luxembourg:

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| Mr Jacques F. POOS | Minister for Foreign Affairs |
| Mr Robert GOEBBELS | State Secretary for Foreign Affairs |

Netherlands:

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| Mr H. VAN DEN BROEK | Minister for Foreign Affairs |
| Mr P.R.H.M. VAN DER LINDEN | State Secretary for Foreign Affairs |

Portugal:

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| Mr Victor MARTINS | State Secretary for European Affairs |
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United Kingdom:

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| Sir Geoffrey HOWE | Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs |
| Mrs Lynda CHALKER | Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office |

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Commission:

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| Mr Jacques DELORS | President |
| Mr Frans H.J.J. ANDRIESSEN | Vice-President |
| Mr Henning CHRISTOPHERSEN | Vice-President |
| Mr Claude CHEYSSON | Member |
| Mr Willy DE CLERCQ | Member |
| Mr Grigoris VARFIS | Member |

MAKING A SUCCESS OF THE SINGLE ACT - THE COPENHAGEN DECISIONS

In preparation for the proceedings of the Copenhagen European Council, and on the basis of proposals which the Commission submitted for the various chapters, the Council carried out a full examination of the problems posed with regard to strengthening budgetary discipline, adjusting the own resources system and reforming structural funds.

For this purpose it had before it texts drawn up by the Presidency, on the basis of work by the Permanent Representatives Committee, the objective of which was to clearly identify issues in the three fields and to indicate options and practical alternatives for possible solutions.

The aim pursued by the Presidency in the Council's discussions was to bring the positions of delegations closer together, wherever possible, in order to reduce the number of different arguments being considered and to determine guidelines which might constitute the basis for decisions in Copenhagen.

At the end of its discussions, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to press ahead with its work, in the same spirit as the Council and in the light of its discussions, so that at its next meeting the Council could concentrate on the major political issues to be discussed by the Copenhagen European Council.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN IN CASES OF ABNORMAL LEVELS OF RADIOACTIVITY OR
OF A NUCLEAR ACCIDENT

Community system of rapid exchange of information

Pending the Opinion requested of the European Parliament, the Council established a joint position on the content of a Community system of rapid exchange of information in cases of abnormal levels of radioactivity or of a nuclear accident.

In essence, this system provides for the notification and provision of information whenever a Member State decides to take measures of a wide-spread nature in order to protect the general public in case of radiological emergency following:

- an accident in its territory involving facilities or activities listed in the joint position on the system from which a significant release of radioactive material occurs or is likely to occur;
- the detection, within or outside its own territory, of abnormal levels of radioactivity which are likely to be detrimental to public health in that Member State;
- accidents other than those specified above involving facilities or activities also listed in the joint position from which a significant release of radioactive material occurs or is likely to occur;
- lastly, other accidents from which a significant release of radioactive materials occurs or is likely to occur.

The Member State will immediately notify the measures it decides to take to the Commission and those Member States which are or are likely to be affected by them. Such notification shall be accompanied by an indication of the reasons for taking such measures.

IAEA Convention on early notification of a nuclear accident

The Council also reached agreement in substance on the conclusion by the Community of the IAEA Convention of 26 September 1986 on early notification of a nuclear accident. It will formally adopt its decision on the matter when it has taken a final decision on the Community system of rapid exchange of information.

Laying down maximum permitted radioactivity levels for foodstuffs

On the basis of a suggestion for an overall compromise submitted by the Presidency, the Council discussed this important issue which is also a matter of urgency since the Regulation drawn up after the Chernobyl accident expires on 31 October 1987.

At the end of the discussion, the President of the Council had to note that at this stage agreement could not be reached, despite the efforts made by the various delegations.

In the circumstances, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue to make every effort to try to reach a solution by the end of the month.

GATT - URUGUAY ROUND - NEGOTIATIONS ON AGRICULTURE

After having had an exchange of views on the basis of the Commission's communication, the Council noted that, in the light of the views expressed by delegations and the clarifications and assurances provided by the Commission, the guidelines - set out in the Annex to the Commission communication - constitute an adequate basis for the Commission Representative to present at the forthcoming meeting of the GATT negotiating group on Agriculture the broad outlines of an EEC submission for negotiations in the agriculture sector in the framework of the multilateral trade negotiations.

The Council noted that the Commission will ensure that throughout the negotiations their global nature as agreed on at Punta del Este will be respected and that the basic principles and mechanisms of the CAP will be preserved.

The Council noted that Community negotiating proposals on Services and Intellectual Property are to be finalized by the end of the year.

RELATIONS WITH THE GULF CO-OPERATION COUNCIL

The Council conducted a wide-ranging exchange of views on the recent Commission proposal. It confirmed the political and economic importance it attaches to the rapid conclusion of an Agreement with the Gulf Co-operation Council and agreed to resume its discussions in this spirit at its November meeting.

RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES

The Agriculture Council heard a statement by the Commission on the possibilities of avoiding a new trade conflict with the United States from 1 January 1988 while ensuring the application of the hormones Directive at the scheduled date.

The Agriculture Council approved the approach set out and asked the Commission to bring its efforts to a successful conclusion.

The General Affairs Council endorsed these conclusions.

NEGOTIATIONS UNDER ARTICLE XXIV.6 OF THE GATT

After taking note of the reports from the Commission concerning the negotiations it had conducted under Article XXIV.6 of the GATT with Argentina, Canada and Japan, the Council:

- approved the outcome of these negotiations with Argentina;
- approved the Commission proposal concerning the continuation of negotiations with Canada;
- after discussing the questions raised by the case of Japan, asked the Commission to continue its negotiations with that country and to report back to it with a view to a final decision in November.

EXPORT CREDITS FOR SHIPS

After examining the questions raised as regards the position to be adopted by the Community in negotiations at the OECD on revising the Understanding on Export Credits for Ships, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its work on this matter in order to enable a decision to be reached quickly.

SCHEME OF GENERALIZED PREFERENCES FOR 1988

The Council reached agreement in substance on three sectors in the scheme of generalized preferences for 1988, viz. industrial products, iron and steel products and agricultural products. As regards the fourth sector, textile products, after examining the Commission proposals on the matter the Council invited the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its examination of some aspects in the light of information which emerged in the course of discussions.

In taking its decision in October on the three sectors mentioned, the Council wished in particular to give business circles and customs authorities the necessary time to make preparations in the SGP area for implementing the new harmonized system for classifying goods and the new customs tariffs with effect from 1 January 1988.

The submission of the texts of regulations for formal approval should take place as soon as possible in November.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Customs union

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation increasing the volume of the Community tariff quota, opened for 1987, for ferro-chromium containing not less than 6% by weight of carbon, falling within subheading ex 73.02 E I of the Common Customs Tariff.

This quota is raised from 220 000 to 400 000 tonnes, 162 000 t of which are divided as follows: Benelux: 10 500 t; Germany: 56 600 t; Spain: 14 000 t; France: 38 700 t; Italy: 24 500 t; United Kingdom: 17 700 t. 18 000 t is added to the reserve, raising it from 21 770 to 39 770 t.

The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation temporarily suspending the autonomous CCT duties on a number of industrial products, viz.:

1. Extract of dewaxed pyrethrem (CCT heading no ex 13.03 A V)
2. Polyvinyl alcohol film (CCT heading no ex 39.02 C XI)
3. Liquid poly(oxypropylene) (CCT heading no ex 39.01 C VII).

Relations with the EFTA countries

The Council adopted a common position on draft Decision No 2/87 of the EEC/EFTA Joint Committees supplementing and amending Protocol No 3 concerning the definition of the concept of originating products and methods of administrative co-operation, to provide for further simplification of documentation required as evidence of origin.

In addition, the Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulations concluding an Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters on the amendment of the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Austria/ the Swiss Confederation on the application of the rules on Community transit and concerning the application in the Community of Decision No 1/87 of the EEC-Austria/Switzerland Joint Committee on Community transit.

Relations with the Mediterranean countries

The Council approved the outcome of the negotiations conducted by the Commission concerning:

- the 2nd EEC-Yugoslavia Financial Portocol, and decided to proceed with the signing of the Protocol in question subject to its approval;
- the 3rd Financial Protocols between the Community and Tunisia, Egypt, Israel, Algeria and Jordan, together with recommendations for Council Decisions for the conclusion of these Protocols, and decided to proceed with the signing of the Protocols in question subject to their approval.

Relations with Cyprus

The Council decided to proceed with the signing of:

- the Protocol laying down the conditions and procedures for implementation of the second stage of the Agreement establishing an Association between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Cyprus and adapting certain provisions of the Agreement;
- the Protocol to the Association Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Cyprus consequent on the accession of the Kingdom of Spain and the Portuguese Republic to the Community.

(See joint press release CEE-CY 702/87 (Presse 172) issued on the occasion of the signing of these Protocols on 19.10.1987).

Transport policy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision concerning co-ordinated action to safeguard free access to ocean trades with West African and Central African States.

Environment

The Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Resolution on the continuation and implementation of a European Community policy and action programme on the environment (1987-1992). (See text published in Press Release 5453/87 (Presse 42) - Environment Council - 19/20 March 1987).

Appointments

The Council appointed members of the Court of Auditors for the period 18 October 1987 to 17 October 1993 inclusive:

New appointment: Mr Fernand HEBETTE (B)

Extension of term of office: Mr Aldo ANGIOI (I)

Mr Carlos Manuel BOTELHEIRO MORENO (P)

Mr Keld BRIXTOFTE (DK)

Mr Richie RYAN (IRL)

Mr Josep SUBIRATS PINANA (E)

On a proposal from the French Government, the Council appointed Mr Jean-Louis DURAN-DROUHIN a member of the Committee of the European Social Fund, replacing Mr Didier BUREAU, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, i.e. until 11 December 1987.

Also on a proposal from the French Government, the Council appointed Mr Philippe DELABY an alternate member of the Advisory Committee on Veterinary Training to replace Mr Pierre RANCIEN for the remainder of the latter's term of office, i.e. until 15 December 1989.

Finally, on a proposal from the Spanish Government, the Council appointed Mr Luis Julian DEL VAL HERNANDEZ, Mr Eduardo GONZALEZ GOMEZ and Mr Manuel MONTES PONCE DE LEON members of the Scientific and Technical Committee until 31 March 1988.

PRESS RELEASE

9018/87 (Presse 167)

1196th Council meeting

- Agriculture -

Luxembourg, 19 and 20 October 1987

President: Mr Laurits TOERNAES
Minister for Agriculture
of the Kingdom of Denmark

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

Belgium:

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| Mr Paul DE KEERSMAEKER | State Secretary for European Affairs and Agriculture |
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Denmark:

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| Mr Laurits TOERNAES | Minister for Agriculture |
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Germany:

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| Mr Ignaz KIECHLE | Federal Minister for Food, Agriculture and Forestry |
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| Mr Walter KITTEL | State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Forestry |
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Greece:

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| Mr Yiannis POTTAKIS | Minister for Agriculture |
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Spain:

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| Mr Carlos ROMERO HERRERA | Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food |
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France:

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| Mr François GUILLAUME | Minister for Agriculture |
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Ireland:

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| Mr Michael O'KENNEDY | Minister for Agriculture |
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Italy:

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| Mr Filippo Maria PANDOLFI | Minister for Agriculture |
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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

Mr Arlindo CUNHA

State Secretary for Agricultural
Development

United Kingdom:

Mr John McGREGOR

Minister for Agriculture

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Commission:

Mr Frans H.J.J. ANDRIESSEN

Vice-President

CONCILIATION MEETING WITH THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

A conciliation meeting between the Council and a European Parliament delegation, in which the Commission participated, was held on 19 October 1987 in connection with the Regulation introducing special rules for the financing of the common agricultural policy.

The European Parliament delegation was led by Mr ALBER, Vice-President of the European Parliament, and consisted of Mr COT, Chairman of the Committee on Budgets; Mr PASTY, First Deputy Chairman of the Committee on Budgets; Sir James SCOTT-HOPKINS, Second Deputy Chairman of the Committee on Budgets; Mr CORNELISSEN, Third Deputy Chairman of the Committee on Budgets; Mrs SCRIVENER, Rapporteur of the Committee on Budgets; Mr AIGNER, Chairman of the Committee on Budgetary Control; Mr TOMLINSON, Member of the Committee on Budgetary Control; Mr FRUH, First Deputy Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture and Mr WOLTJER, Member of the Committee on Agriculture.

The following joint declaration was adopted at the close of the conciliation meeting:

"In order to ensure the financing of agricultural expenditure in 1987, the two arms of the budgetary authority consider it important to achieve a political agreement on this provisional Regulation.

The Council and the Commission confirm their intention that a decision on a permanent and detailed solution will be taken in the context of the decisions on the future financing of the Community and before 31 October 1988, taking into account the need for improving budget management including control of expenditure.

Without prejudice to a definitive arrangement, the 1988 budget and those for following years shall be established in such a way that they do not have to bear the burden of more than twelve months' expenditure".

FINANCING OF THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY

Following the conciliation meeting with the European Parliament on 19 October 1987, the Council formally adopted, by a qualified majority, the Regulation introducing special rules for the financing of the common agricultural policy, on which a common position had been evolved at the Agricultural Council meeting on 13 July 1987 (see Press Release No 7697/87 (Presse 124)) and confirmed at the meeting of the Agricultural Council on 22 September 1987.

In brief, this involves introducing a transitional arrangement enabling the Community to honour its commitments regarding the common organization of agricultural markets to enable them to pursue their objectives, even in a situation where the appropriations available for the EAGGF-Guarantee Section were exhausted. The Regulation enables the continuity of payments to be secured pending the adoption of a definitive system in conjunction with the decisions regarding the future financing of the Community.

IMPLEMENTATION OF AGRICULTURAL STABILIZERS

On the basis of a report from the High-Level Working Party of Directors-General for Agriculture, the Council discussed in depth, by product sector, the Commission proposals for the introduction of agricultural stabilizers in the various common organizations of the markets.

The aim of these proposals is to introduce into the various common organizations of the markets maximum guaranteed quantities, beyond which the application of penalties would be triggered.

At the close of its discussions and having regard to the urgency of submitting its conclusions on the matter in the framework of preparations for the European Council in Copenhagen, the Council instructed the High-Level Working Party to discuss the question further and in greater detail on the basis of the general approach already evolved and to submit a comprehensive report to it for its meeting on 16 and 17 November 1987.

AIDS TO AGRICULTURAL INCOME

The Council examined the proposals on aids to income and the cessation of farming.

These three proposals, forming an income support package to accompany the current effort to adjust the common agricultural policy, consist in particular of:

- a Community system of income aids for main occupation farms which are affected by market policy adjustments but are potentially viable;
- a framework system for national aids to non-viable farms;
- an early pension scheme.

In view of the complex nature of the subject-matter and the still quite divergent positions of delegations, the Council examined more particularly a number of the fundamental aspects of the question.

At the conclusion of its discussions the Council instructed the Special Committee on Agriculture to continue its proceedings in this connection and to report back to it as soon as possible.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE DIRECTIVE ON HORMONES

The Commission gave the Council a situation report on this matter, which concerns implementation of the Directive banning, as from 1 January 1988, the use of hormones as anabolic agents, following the representations made by the United States.

The Council asked the Commission to continue its talks with the United States with a view to finding appropriate solutions to this question and confirmed its attachment to the principles set out in the Directive.

VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT AGREEMENT ON TRADE IN SHEEPMEAT AND GOATMEAT

The Council adopted the Decision on the conclusion of an Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the European Economic Community and the Government of the German Democratic Republic on trade in sheepmeat and goatmeat.

Pursuant to the Agreement the GDR undertakes to limit its exports to the EEC to 2 400 tonnes of live animals per annum (10% customs duties ad valorem).

OLIVE OIL

The Council formally adopted the Regulation fixing the representative market price and the threshold price for olive oil for the 1987/1988 marketing year.

These prices are as follows:

- representative market price : 174,61 ECU/100 kg
- threshold price : 177,15 ECU/100 kg.

The level of consumption aid for that marketing year has accordingly been fixed at 77 ECU/100 kg.

From this aid:

- 1,3% will be withheld to finance professional organizations,
- 8% will be withheld for consumption promotion measures.

FOODSTUFFS

- Flavourings

The Council adopted a common position - under the co-operation procedure with the European Parliament - as regards the Directive establishing a Community legislation framework for flavourings used in foodstuffs and source materials for their production.

The Council also approved the Decision on the establishment by the Commission of an inventory of the source materials and substances used in the preparation of flavourings. It will be adopted definitively at a later stage when the Directive is being adopted.

- Extraction solvents

The Council adopted a common position - under the co-operation procedure with the European Parliament - concerning the Directive aimed at introducing Community rules on extraction solvents used in foodstuffs, in particular by the establishment of positive lists of authorized solvents, either for all uses or subject to certain clearly specified conditions of use.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Other agricultural decisions

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

- amending Decision 85/355/EEC on the equivalence of field inspections carried out in third countries on seed-producing crops;
- amending Decision 85/356/EEC on the equivalence of seed produced in third countries.

The purpose of these amendments is to extend by one year the period of examination by the Community of the information supplied by certain third countries on seed produced there and to extend the equivalence of field inspections and seed to certain species in the case of Australia and the United States.

The Council then adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Directive amending Directive 74/63/EEC on undesirable substances and products in feedingstuffs. This Directive supplements Community legislation in the area of feedingstuffs with a view to protecting human health in particular. (See Press Release 7019/87 (Presse 104) of June 1987).

The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation laying down special measures for imports of olive oil originating in Tunisia. The Regulation, which is a follow-up to two similar Regulations adopted in 1987, permits the importation under special conditions of a quantity of 6 000 tonnes of olive oil from Tunisia for the 1986/1987 marketing year.

The Council further adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 822/87 on the common organization of the market in wine. The aim of the amendment is to extend the benefit of aid granted in the wine sector to the use of concentrated grape musts in feedingstuffs.

In addition, the Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Directive amending Directive 81/527/EEC on the development of agriculture in the French overseas departments. The aim of the amendment is to extend for two years the duration of the development measure introduced by the Directive.

Moreover, the Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 1940/81 on an integrated development programme for the Department of Lozère. The aim of the amendment is to extend for two years the duration of the common measure introduced by the Regulation.

The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 1975/82 on the acceleration of agricultural development in certain regions of Greece. The aim of the amendment is to readjust the various measures by taking account of the real needs and the new situations in the areas concerned in order to attain the objectives of the Regulation in question.

Finally, the Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 1942/81 for the stimulation of agricultural development in the less-favoured areas of Northern Ireland. The amendment permits the development measures already under way in Northern Ireland to be continued.

Fisheries policy

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

- on the conclusion of an Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters concerning the provisional application, from 1 June 1987, of the Agreement amending the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe on fishing off Sao Tome and Principe signed in Brussels on 1 February 1984;
- authorizing the Commission to negotiate fisheries agreements with Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Ghana and Liberia.

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

- establishing an interim autonomous scheme of control in respect of Community vessels operating in the Regulatory Area of the North West Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO);
- on the co-ordination and promotion of research in the fisheries sector;
- adopting Community research and research co-ordination programmes in the fisheries sector for the period 1988-1992.

PRESS RELEASE

9418/87 (Presse 181)

Special Council meeting

- General Affairs -

Brussels, 8 November 1987

President: Mr Knud-Erik TYGESEN
State Secretary,
Ministry for Foreign Affairs
of the Kingdom of Denmark

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

Belgium:

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| Mr Paul DE KEERSMAEKER | State Secretary for European Affairs |
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Denmark:

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| Mr Knud-Erik TYGESEN | State Secretary, Ministry for Foreign Affairs |
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Germany:

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| Mrs Irmgard ADAM-SCHWAETZER | Minister of State, Federal Ministry for Foreign Affairs |
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Greece:

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| Mr Constantinos LYBEROPOULOS | Ambassador, Permanent Representative |
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Spain:

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| Mr Carlos WESTENDORP | Ambassador, Permanent Representative |
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France:

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| Mr François SCHEER | Ambassador, Permanent Representative |
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Ireland:

Mr Sean CALLEARY

Minister of State for Foreign
Affairs

Italy:

Mr Pietro CALAMIA

Ambassador, 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
Affairs

United Kingdom:

Sir David HANNAY

Ambassador, Permanent Representative

Commission:

Mr Stanley CLINTON DAVIS

Member

MAXIMUM PERMITTED RADIOACTIVITY LEVELS FOR FOODSTUFFS

At its special meeting the Council held a full discussion of the problems raised by this issue, which are:

firstly

- the future permanent arrangements involving the fixing of maximum permitted radioactivity levels for foodstuffs, feedingstuffs and drinking water in the case of abnormal levels of radioactivity or of a nuclear accident,

secondly

- "post-Chernobyl" safeguards relating to the conditions under which agricultural products originating in third countries may be imported following the accident at the Chernobyl power station.

At the close of the proceedings, despite progress on certain specific questions, the Council was obliged to acknowledge that it was impossible for the time being to arrive at a joint position, particularly as the Opinion of the European Parliament on the central issue of maximum permitted levels of radioactivity was still awaited.

That being the case, the following statement was drawn up:

"The Presidency notes that further work is needed on the proposal of the Commission for a Council Regulation (Euratom) laying down maximum permitted radioactivity levels for foodstuffs, feedingstuffs and drinking water in the case of abnormal levels of radioactivity or of a nuclear accident.

The Council has therefore decided to resume its discussion at its meeting on 24 November 1987.

Eleven Member States (¹) will in the meantime ensure that the maximum tolerances applied to agricultural and processed products for human consumption are not changed. In addition, the Member States recall their statement of 12 May 1986 in which they gave an undertaking not to apply maximum tolerances to such products originating in other Member States which were more stringent than those applied to domestic products."

(¹) The Greek delegation reserved its position.

PRESS RELEASE

9491/87 (Presse 182)

1197th meeting of the Council
- Development Co-operation -
Brussels, 9 November 1987

President: Mr Bent HAAKONSEN
State Secretary
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Of the Kingdom of Denmark

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

Belgium:

Mr A. KEMPINAIRE

State Secretary,
Development Co-operation

Denmark:

Mr Bent HAAKONSEN

State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Germany:

Mr Volkmar KOEHLER

Parliamentary State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Development
Co-operation

Greece:

Mr Yannis KAPSIS

Deputy Minister,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Spain:

Mr Luis YANEZ

State Secretary,
International Co-operation

France:

Mr Michel AURILLAC

Minister for Co-operation

Ireland:

Mr Sean CALLEARY

Deputy Minister,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
responsible for Development Aid

Italy:

Mr Luigi FRANZA

State Secretary,
Foreign Affairs

Luxembourg:

Mr Joseph WEYLAND

Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

Netherlands:

Mr P. BUKMAN

Minister for Development
Co-operation

Portugal:

Mr José Manuel DURAO BARROSO

State Secretary,
Foreign Affairs and Co-operation

United Kingdom:

Mr Christopher PATTEN

Minister for
Overseas Development

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Commission:

Mr Lorenzo NATALI
Mr Claude CHEYSSON

Vice-President
Member

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

ECONOMIC SITUATION AND ADJUSTMENT PROCESS

On the basis of a Commission working document the Council held an exchange of views on the economic situation of the Sub-Saharan African States, on the process of structural adjustment currently under way and on possible support from the Community and its Member States.

In view of the importance of this subject, the Council agreed to continue its discussions with a view to drawing practical conclusions at its next meeting.

The Council agreed at this stage that co-ordination between the Commission and the Member States should be improved as regards support for structural adjustment and that these questions should be tackled in the dialogue between the Community and its African partners and within the bodies responsible for co-ordinating with the persons providing the capital, with a view to making the reforms both effective and acceptable from the political, economic and social points of view.

It was also agreed that the Community should endeavour to be as flexible as possible in using the support mechanisms available to it with a view to strengthening the structural aspect.

SPECIAL COMMUNITY PROGRAMME TO AID CERTAIN HIGHLY INDEBTED LOW-INCOME COUNTRIES IN
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Pending the Opinion of the European Parliament, the Council approved the common position set out below relating to the Commission communication concerning a special programme to aid certain highly indebted low-income countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The Community intends this special programme to be its contribution to solving the serious problems confronting these countries and to give concrete form to the initiative it took at the Summit in Venice, when it invited the international community to take appropriate measures to assist these countries.

"The Council approves the Commission's intention to implement a special Community programme to aid certain highly indebted low-income countries in sub-Saharan Africa, as set out in its communication to the Council.

1. As regards eligibility of countries for Community assistance under this programme, the Council and the Commission consider that the following criteria should be applied ⁽¹⁾:

- low-income countries, i.e. eligible for financing from the International Development Association;
- a debt burden that seriously affects their capacity to import;
- a commitment and action to undertake significant efforts to carry out economic adjustment.

Countries undertaking an IMF or World Bank adjustment programme would clearly have demonstrated that they are making such efforts. However, given the special Community character of this programme, it may be possible to assist countries which currently have no formal IMF or World Bank approved programme, provided that their macro-economic policies or sectoral adjustments are deemed sustainable and that the assistance provided is directly related to the action they are taking in pursuance of such adjustment. Community assistance in the form of general and sectoral import programmes must not run counter to such sustainability and should be planned and implemented in close co-ordination with the World Bank or the IMF.

2. On the basis of this approval by the Council, the Commission is invited to make contact with other donors with a view to preparing a report on overall allocations under this programme to be submitted to the Programming Committee prior to the presentation of specific proposals to the EDF Committee.
3. The Council welcomes the intention of Member States and the Commission to seek effective consultation and co-ordination among themselves and with OECD partners, with a view to the donor conference to be held on 3-4 December and similar future meetings on measures to be taken to help highly indebted low-income countries in sub-Saharan Africa.
4. As far as the financial aspects are concerned, the Council:
 - welcomes the Commission's intention, while implementing the third ACP-EEC Convention and in agreement with each country concerned, to increase the proportion of quick-disbursing aid to eligible countries under the special programme to about 20% of programmable aid;

- considers it necessary to devote a further amount of 100 MECU to implement the special Community programme, this amount being financed:
 - = to the extent of 40 MECU, by balances outstanding from earlier ACP-EEC Conventions; and
 - = to the extent of 60 MECU, by partially recycling repayments accruing to Member States of interest and capital made or to be made by the ACP States relating to special loans and risk capital accorded by the Community.

5. The Council intends to take the necessary legal measures to that effect as soon as it has had the opportunity to consider the Opinion of the European Parliament.⁴

FOOD SITUATION IN ETHIOPIA

The Council examined the food situation in Ethiopia, which is once again giving cause for concern.

It noted that action had been taken by the Community and its Member States. It emphasized the need to maintain close co-ordination between the Community, the Member States and other donors and the need to place particular emphasis on solving the problems which the logistics of delivering the aid might pose.

ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Having held an exchange of views on the need to integrate the environmental dimension into the development policies of the Community and its Member States, the Council adopted the following Resolution:

1. The Council has on a number of occasions reiterated the need to integrate the environmental dimension into the Community's development policy.

The Council notes that the Single European Act lays down that environmental protection requirements shall be a component of all Community policies; that Community environment policy has increasingly developed a preventive character and that the fourth Community Environmental Action Programme (1987-1992) underlines the importance of participation by the Community and its member States in co-operation with developing countries on environmental matters. The Council further notes the recommendations adopted by the OECD Council in 1985 and 1986 concerning the environmental assessment of development projects and programmes. The Report by the World Commission on Environment and Development highlights the relevance of environmental issues in the implementation of sustainable development policies.

The Council broadly welcomes the progress report submitted by the Commission on the integration of environmental aspects in the Community's development policy, which demonstrates that the Community has taken firm action in pursuit of the objectives formulated by previous Council resolutions on this topic in 1984 and 1986. The Council has

noted with interest the recommendations of the experts' meeting held recently by the Commission and requests that such meetings should be organised on a regular basis.

2. A major objective of development assistance is that all programmes and projects form part of and contribute to economically and environmentally sustainable development. Environmental aspects should therefore be taken into account in all sectors of activity under all Community and Member State development policies.

Projects to restore, protect and improve the ecological basis for development must run for a sufficient period of time to take account of the complexities of the situations and leave a sustainable mark. Therefore donors should make a long-term commitment in specific regions and allow sufficient flexibility to local personnel responsible for implementation to adapt to changing circumstances.

3. In order to meet this challenge of integrating environmental aspects in development policy, action should be taken which would encompass, inter alia

- support for developing countries' efforts to elaborate and implement a general strategy for the integration of the environment in their overall policy planning;
- ensuring compatibility of programmes and projects with these national strategies and with sustainable use of natural resources;
- elaboration of sector-specific and operational guidelines on how to take account of these objectives in the main aid sectors;

- setting up an environmental focal point in donor administrations whose main responsibilities would be to raise awareness and enhance the technical capabilities of operational administrative units on environmental issues.

4. The Council emphasizes the importance of co-ordinating aid operations so that they complement each other and have a more significant impact in any given area. Co-financed operations between Member States and between Member States and the Commission should be encouraged.

However, the Council recognises that development aid projects financed by the Community and its Member States, whatever their size, will not, on their own, be able to solve the considerable environmental problems of the developing countries. It therefore stresses that the awareness and support of the local authorities, population and enterprises is of fundamental importance.

The Council acknowledges the importance of institution building and the need to assist developing partners in enhancing their administrative capacity and technical expertise in this field. Decentralized decision-making should be encouraged in order to ensure that local habits and practices contribute to sustainable development.

5. Operations co-financed with NGOs active in this area should therefore be encouraged. The Council notes with interest the Commission's initiative of inviting European or developing country NGOs to take responsibility for implementing certain Community-funded projects and programmes.

6. The Council considers that further reflexion on the environmental aspects of development policy is particularly timely given that 1987 has been declared the European Year of the Environment.

The Council invites the Commission and Member States to continue their efforts to implement the European Action Plan to counter desertification adopted by the Council in April 1986 and to broaden its scope and application so that environmental aspects are taken into account in all sectors and activities under all Community and Member State development policies."

FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL AID FOR LATIN AMERICAN AND ASIAN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Pending the Opinion of the European Parliament and on the basis of an introductory statement by the Commissioner, Mr CHEYSSON, the Council held a preliminary exchange of views on the general guidelines proposed by the Commission for 1988 as regards financial and technical aid for the developing countries of Latin America and Asia.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue with its examination of the Commission proposal, in the light of today's debate, so that the Council, after noting the European Parliament's Opinion, could take a decision by the end of the year.

WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT

Following an exchange of views on the subject, the Council adopted the following conclusions:

1. The Council has on previous occasions underlined the importance which it attaches to the issue of Women in Development (WID). In April 1986 the Council concluded that priority should be given to the implementation of the Forward Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women to the Year 2000 (FLS), with special attention in the first instance to women's participation in sectors such as agriculture and food production. It has noted with interest the progress report drawn up by the Commission on the implementation of Community policy in relation to women in development and welcomes the conclusions and recommendations of the meeting between Member States' officials responsible for "Women in Development" and the Commission in Brussels on 17-18 September 1987. It encourages the Commission to organise similar meetings on a regular basis to exchange views on experience and the implementation of the following conclusions.
2. Evidence clearly shows that the WID issue is relevant for all development processes. Programmes and projects which integrate WID are likely to be more effective. The Council therefore underlines the need for the WID issue to be fully integrated into all co-operation agreements between the Community and its development partners (ACP, Latin American, Asian and Mediterranean countries).

The Council notes the Commission's intention to carry out a thematic evaluation of a number of mainstream development programmes and projects implemented in different countries and sectors as to the involvement of women. The results of this evaluation could be used when preparing new conventions, co-operation agreements, indicative programmes and financing proposals. They could also serve as useful material for staff training.

3. The Council is aware that despite the greater attention paid to this issue in recent years, much still needs to be done in order to establish operational mechanisms to ensure the integration of women in all phases of the programme and project cycle.

The Council therefore notes with satisfaction that a number of steps shall be taken by the Commission and Member States to integrate the WID issue into all development policies. In particular, an action programme will be drawn up, based on the Forward Looking Strategies, encompassing inter alia: practical measures to ensure that development policies with regard to WID are properly implemented by all relevant administrative units, and sector specific guidelines, where appropriate, and training on how to incorporate this issue into the main aid sectors and country or regional profiles setting out principle guidelines for assistance to women in developing countries. The OECD/DAC report "From Nairobi to the year 2000" and the experience of Member States which have already elaborated such action programmes should be taken into account.

4. During all phases of the programme and project cycle, particular attention should be paid to the socio-economic position and role of women. Documents such as financing proposals, implementation and evaluation reports should

include specific information on the expected impact of the project on women and on the integration of women into programme or project activities.

Since WID activities should be an integral part of all programmes and projects, financing proposals should provide for the necessary funding. It is essential to establish the needs and wishes of local women and all appropriate proposals should involve consultation at the identification stage.

Special efforts should also be made to assist development partners in involving local women in programme and project planning, implementation and evaluation. WID expertise should be included in all stages of the programme and project cycle. Efforts should be made to strengthen local female expertise of developing countries.

The Commission should work closely with NGOs and give special attention to cofinancing projects which increase awareness of WID and by associating NGOs in the implementation of Community programmes and projects, thereby involving the local population.

5. Qualified staff and material resources in development administrations of the Commission and Member States should be sufficient to ensure the full integration of women in all appropriate programmes and projects.
6. The Development Council invites the Commission to submit to it for its first meeting in 1989 a report on progress achieved in implementing these conclusions, including an outline of an action programme. This report should take into consideration, inter alia, the results of the meetings and exchanges of views referred to in paragraph 1.

EVALUATION OF DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION

Following a discussion on this, the Council approved draft guidelines for improving the work of evaluation in the Community and co-operation in this area between the Commission and the Member States:

- "1. The Development Council has repeatedly stressed the importance which it attaches to the function of evaluation of development co-operation, most recently on 21 May 1987. It considers that it is essential to learn from past mistakes and successes and to use experience gained over the last 20 or 30 years of execution of development policies to improve the quality of future aid.

At its last meeting, the Council emphasized that the support of public opinion for development aid was essential. The dissemination of the results obtained by evaluating development activities, which should be done without breaching the necessary confidentiality, is an important means of increasing public awareness.

The need for evaluation is recognized in the third Lomé Convention, where Articles 193 and 224 provide for evaluation procedures. The Council considers that activities in all areas of Community development assistance should be evaluated. The practical lessons learnt in any one geographical area or operational sector of Community development co-operation should also be drawn on when evaluating other areas or sectors. The Commission and Member States may moreover, where appropriate, draw on results and reports by other institutions.

2. Member States and the Commission agree in general to make available to each other on request all evaluation studies completed as well as future work programmes. The

Council has noted with satisfaction that the Commission departments and their colleagues in the administrations of the Member States dealing with evaluation have initiated a dialogue. It feels that closer collaboration between the Member States and the Commission in this field would be of benefit to all. Where appropriate, joint evaluations by the Commission and one or more Member States could be useful.

3. In order to be able to carry out their function effectively and to ensure that experience gained is systematically fed into future programmes and projects, evaluation services in the Member States and the Commission should have sufficient material and personnel resources at their disposal, taking into account the relative size of aid programmes of the Community and Member States.
4. The major problem involved in evaluation is ensuring that there is adequate feedback into operational practice. Evaluation and monitoring should therefore be incorporated explicitly and systematically into all programmes and projects from the earliest phases of preparation and planning up to the final ex-post phase. Throughout the programme and project cycle, the relevant documents should note knowledge gained from past experience on similar programmes and projects or from earlier phases of the same activity and how this knowledge has been used. Efforts should be made to modify or re-orientate activities during implementation where monitoring shows that such modification is necessary.
5. It is important that the question of sustainability of benefits after programme or project completion be systematically considered during the stages of identification, feasibility study, appraisal/financing, monitoring and evaluation. Criteria such as fulfilling a genuine need, contributing in a positive way to the overall

development of the beneficiary, success in reaching target groups and environmental impact are all considerations which are important in ensuring such sustainability. Member States and the Commission should come to a broad common understanding on the major factors conditioning sustainability, giving due consideration to work currently being done within the OECD.

6. The Council recommends that the application of existing evaluation procedures be reviewed in order to ascertain to what extent improvements could be made under future conventions, co-operation agreements and other development instruments.
7. The Council stresses that representatives of recipient countries and where possible of the target groups should be involved at all stages of the evaluation exercise in order to ensure maximum effectiveness.
8. Meetings between the evaluation services of the Commission and Member States are essential for the implementation of these guidelines and making progress in evaluation work. To this effect, the Commission is invited to present a concise annual report containing the current state of work and a work programme for the coming year. This report should also review progress achieved in intra-Community co-operation in accordance with the present guidelines.
9. In view of its interest in the subject, the Council expresses its wish to review progress in evaluation of development activities on a regular basis. "

COMMUNITY PROGRAMME TO COMBAT AIDS IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

The Council took note of a report from Vice-President NATALI on the implementation of the Community programme to combat AIDS in the developing countries; this programme was approved by the Council at its last meeting on 21 May 1987.

Anti-dumping

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities:

- the Regulation imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of ferro-silico-calcium/calcium silicide originating in Brazil.

This Regulation makes definitive the provisional anti-dumping duty imposed on such imports by Regulation No 1361/87 ⁽¹⁾;

- the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 96/85 imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of pentaerythritol originating in Canada.

The new anti-dumping duty corresponds to the amount by which the free-at-Community-frontier price, before duty, to the first independent importer in the importing Member State is less than 871 ECU per tonne.

Trade policy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation on the application of the combined nomenclature to the statistics of trade between Member States and amending Regulation (EEC) No 1736/75 on the external trade statistics of the Community and statistics of trade between its Member States.

Textiles

The Council took note of the Commission report on the outcome of negotiations for the renewal of administrative co-operation arrangements between the Community and preferential Mediterranean countries on trade in textile products.

⁽¹⁾ See Press Release 8362/87 (Presse 151), p. I, of the Council of 17/18.IX.87.

Export credits

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision extending until 15 October 1988 the Decision of 4 April 1978 on the application of certain guidelines in the field of officially supported export credits.

Transport

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Directive on access to the occupation of carrier of goods by waterway in national and international transport and on the mutual recognition of diplomas, certificates and other evidence of formal qualifications for this occupation. ⁽¹⁾

Steel products

The Council gave its assent to the Commission Decisions establishing the 1987 delivery levels of ECSC steel products

- of Spanish origin onto the rest of the Community market, excluding Portugal (935 000 tonnes);
- of Portuguese origin onto the rest of the Community market, excluding Spain (100 000 tonnes).

⁽¹⁾ See Press Release 7293/87 (Presse 111), p. 10.

Agriculture

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation concerning special measures for the processing of certain varieties of oranges and amending Regulation (EEC) No 2601/69.

This makes it possible for the 1987/1988 marketing year

- to grant financial compensation in respect of oranges of the "Shamouti" variety grown in several Member States and sold for processing, up to a quantity of 3 000 tonnes, to be shared between the various producer Member States;
- to grant financial compensation in respect of the following three other varieties: "Cadenera", "Castellana" and "Macetera", up to a quantity of 10 000 tonnes, in Spain, the only Member State in which these varieties are grown.

The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities

- the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 3643/85 concerning the import arrangements applicable to certain third countries in the sheepmeat and goatmeat sector as from 1986.

This amendment is the follow-up to the voluntary restraint undertaking concerning this sector given to the Community by the German Democratic Republic.

- the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 2195/81 on a special programme concerning drainage operations in the less-favoured areas of the West of Ireland.

This amendment extends until 31 December 1988 the common action provided for in 1981.

Culture

The Council and the Ministers meeting within the Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Resolution on the promotion of translation of important works of European culture (see Annex).

Appointments

On a proposal from the Danish Government, the Council appointed Mr P. SCHADE-POULSEN a member of the Economic and Social Committee to replace Mr H.C. SPRINGBORG, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which expires on 20 September 1990.

On a proposal from the Belgian Government, the Council also appointed Mrs Annie SANTUCCI a member of the Advisory Committee on Training in Nursing to replace Mrs Liliane MOTTE for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which expires on 11 May 1989.

On a proposal from the United Kingdom Government, the Council appointed Mr Edward HANNINGTON a member of the Advisory Committee of the Euratom Supply Agency for the remainder of that Committee's term of office, which expires on 28 March 1989.

RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL
AND OF THE MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR CULTURAL AFFAIRS,
MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL,
of

on the promotion of translation of important works
of European culture

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

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic
Community,

Having regard to the paragraphs of the Solemn Declaration on
European Union (Stuttgart, 19 June 1983) concerning an improvement
of information on European culture and wider dissemination of the
works of writers of the Member States both inside and outside the
Community,

Having regard to the Resolutions of the European Parliament of
18 January 1979 and 18 November 1983 dealing with literary translation,

Taking account of the Commission communication to the Council of 27 November 1985 on the European dimension with regard to books, and noting that the Commission has set up a Consultative Committee on Books,

Taking account also of the work being accomplished in this field by certain Member States as well as by UNESCO and the Council of Europe,

Bearing in mind the possibility of participation in this activity by the European Foundation after establishment,

With a view to giving publishers an incentive to publish translations of European literary works and to achieving the highest possible quality of such translations,

Whereas furthermore the promotion of translation contributes to the removal of obstacles to the free movement of books and the improvement of conditions of employment of translators, within the terms of the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community ;

AGREE on the desirability of promoting the translation into other European languages of important works of European culture, including works of contemporary European literature, with priority to translations from minority European languages ;

AGREE to undertake a suitable pilot scheme to provide support for translations, taking into account existing Member State action concerning translation from certain languages, and to encourage the widest possible distribution of works thus translated ;

AGREE on the creation of annual prizes to encourage European translation ;

AGREE to encourage the highest possible quality of translation and recognize the vital role of well-trained translators in this connection ;

INVITE the Commission to consider how it will contribute to the realization of the above measures.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

9597/87 (Presse 187)

1198th meeting of the Council

- Energy -

Brussels, 13 November 1987

President: Mr Svend Erik HOVMAND

Minister for Energy
of the Kingdom of Denmark

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

Belgium:

Mr Firmin AERTS

State Secretary for Energy

Denmark:

Mr Svend Erik HOVMAND

Minister for Energy

Germany :

Mr Otto SCHLECHT

State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Economic
Affairs

Greece:

Mr Anastassios PEPONIS

Minister for Industry, Energy and
Technology

Spain:

Mr Carlos WESTENDORP Y CABEZA

Ambassador, Permanent Representative

France:

Mr François SCHEER

Ambassador, Permanent Representative

Ireland:

Mr Michael SMITH

Minister of State at the Ministry
of Energy

Italy:

Mr Pietro CALAMIA

Ambassador, Permanent Representative

13.XI.87

Luxembourg:

Mr Marcel SCHLECHTER

Minister for Energy

Netherlands:

Mr P. C. NIEMAN

Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

Portugal:

Mr Luis Fernando de MIRA AMARAL

Minister for Industry and
Energy

United Kingdom:

Mr Peter MORRISON

Minister of State for Energy

o

o

o

Commission:

Mr Nicolas MOSAR

Member

13.XI.87

OIL MARKET SITUATION

The Council held an exchange of views on the oil market situation.

DEVELOPING THE EXPLOITATION OF RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES IN THE COMMUNITY

Pending receipt of the Opinions of the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee, the Council established a common position on a Recommendation to the Member States on developing the exploitation of renewable energy sources in the Community.

This text proceeds on the basis that these energy sources are indigenous and that their exploitation can have a favourable effect on the diversification and security of the Community's energy supply and on the development of less-favoured regions. It addresses a series of recommendations to the Member States on, among others, the following aspects:

- appropriate legislative, administrative and financial measures;
- need to pursue the optimum exploitation of these energy sources in the Community taking account of their economic prospects and their availability in the Member States;
- need to ensure, at Community level, that the measures launched are mutually compatible and that the results and experience gained are widely disseminated so that the efforts made are profitable;
- need to facilitate co-operation among industries producing renewable energy exploitation equipment and the extension of markets.

In the present state of the technology, the sources offering the most practical development prospects in the short and medium term are solar, geothermal and wind energy, biomass and energy from waste and hydroelectricity, especially low-power installations.

PROMOTING THE MARKET PENETRATION OF RENEWABLE FORMS OF ENERGY

The Council noted the information provided by the Commissioner, Mr MOSAR, on the initiatives which the Commission had taken or was proposing to take regarding the carrying out of studies on the barriers which renewable forms of energy might encounter on the market.

The Council noted in particular that the Commission intended to organize a conference in the autumn of 1988 with the participation of the public authorities in the Member States, industries including SMEs, specialized financial bodies, the scientific and trade circles concerned and the specialist press. The aim of the conference would be to identify renewable forms of energy which had major potential and development prospects and the conditions under which these could be realized. The conference would also pinpoint the obstacles which currently existed to the marketing of these energy forms and suggest ways of overcoming them.

IMPROVING THE EFFICIENCY OF ELECTRICITY USE - CONCLUSIONS

After hearing a statement by the Commissioner, Mr MOSAR, introducing the Commission's communication on this item, the Council held a policy debate on the subject.

In the light of this debate and the comments made by certain delegations, it:

- acknowledged the importance of the objective of improving the efficiency of electricity use;
- noted with interest the fact that the Commission intended to prepare a work programme in this sector and to submit it to the Council in the second half of 1988;
- asked the Commission to involve the electricity supply industry and the other partners concerned.

INFORMATION ON THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY OF BUILDINGS -
CONCLUSIONS

1. Pending delivery of the Opinions of the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee the Council held a discussion on the proposal forwarded by the Commission, on 14 September 1987, for a Council Directive on information on the energy efficiency of buildings.
2. The Council began by pointing out the importance it attached to the problems of energy efficiency. In this connection the Council confirmed:
 - the objective of further improvements in energy efficiency of at least 20% before 1995, as adopted in its Resolution of 16 September 1986;
 - its statement of 26 November 1986 on energy efficiency, in which it was agreed that the Community and the Member States would publicize the need for greater energy efficiency, making available full information and advice on how this could be achieved.
3. The Council noted that on average the building sector accounted for more than 38% of the Community's total final energy consumption and that the potential for improving energy efficiency in the sector was as yet insufficiently exploited.

In line with its Resolution of 15 March 1985 on the rational use of energy in this sector, the Council noted the contribution to be made by improving sources of information to the parties concerned in the property market and giving

credit to the efforts made by the builders/owners. In this connection the Council recognized the need to establish a procedure for spreading information on the energy efficiency of buildings.

4. The Council asked the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue examining its ideas in the light of the exchange of views which it had held and taking account of the Opinions of the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee, which were currently awaited.

In this context, the Council asked the Commission to consider the possibility of the Council's conclusions taking the form of a Recommendation to the Member States rather than a Directive.

REFINING INDUSTRY AND COST OF PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

The Council examined the various aspects of this issue and decided that it should be studied in further detail, in particular through contacts between the Member States and the Commission.

ENERGY ASPECTS OF ETHANOL

The Council held an exchange of views on the energy aspects of ethanol, from which it became apparent that the research being done into this substitute fuel should be followed closely.



COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT



PRESS RELEASE

9598/87 (Presse 188)

1199th Council meeting

- Economic and Financial Affairs -

Brussels, 16 November 1987

President: Mr Palle SIMONSEN
Minister for Finance
of the Kingdom of Denmark

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 Palle SIMONSEN Minister for Finance

Mr Knud ENGGAARD Minister for Economic Affairs

Germany:

Mr Gerhard STOLTENBERG Minister for Finance

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

Mr Hans TIETMEYER State Secretary, Federal Ministry
of Finance

Greece:

Mr Constantin SIMITIS Minister for Economic Affairs

Spain:

Mr Carlos SOLCHAGA CATALAN Minister for Economic Affairs
and Finance

France:

Mr Edouard BALLADUR Minister of State for Economic
Affairs, Finance and Privatization

Ireland:

Mr Ray MacSHARRY Minister for Finance

Italy:

Mr Giuliano AMATO Minister for the Treasury

Mr Renato RUGGIERO Minister for Foreign Trade

Luxembourg:

Mr Jacques SANTER Prime Minister, Minister of State
and Minister for Finance

Mr Jacques POOS Minister for Economic Affairs and
Small Firms and Traders

Netherlands:

Mr O.C.R. RUDING

Minister for Finance

Mr H.E. KONING

State Secretary for Finance

Portugal:

Mr Leonardo MATHIAS

Ambassador, Permanent Representative

United Kingdom:

Mr Nigel LAWSON

Chancellor of the Exchequer

o

o

o

Commission:

Mr Jacques DELORS

President

Lord COCKFIELD

Vice-President

Mr Peter M. SCHMIDHUBER

Member

Also attended:

Mr Joern BOERGLUM-JENSEN

Chairman of the Co-ordinating
Group for Economic and Financial
Policies

Sir Geoffrey LITTLER

Chairman of the Monetary Committee

Mr Carlo CIAMPI

Chairman of the Committee of
Governors of the Central Banks

ECONOMIC AND MONETARY PROSPECTS - THE COUNCIL'S CONCLUSIONS

Within the framework of the EEC-Ecofin Council the European Finance Ministers today discussed the most recent developments on the financial and foreign exchange markets.

Taking note of some improvements during the last days they agreed that a more stable market situation is very important for the further economic development in Europe and worldwide.

For this purpose common and co-ordinated efforts by all countries are needed.

It is of high importance that the fiscal and monetary co-operation agreed at the Louvre be continued and the commitments undertaken implemented by all parties in full and without delay. Especially urgent are early and appropriate decisions on a further substantial reduction of the US budget deficit for fiscal 1988 and fiscal 1989. A further decline of the dollar would aggravate the disadvantages for the world economy including the US.

The European countries are determined to improve the conditions for further internally - generated non-inflationary growth and to contribute to the reduction of external imbalances. The European countries intend to co-operate actively with other countries in decisions to ensure a more stable development of world financial and foreign exchange markets.

The events of the last weeks have emphasized the advantages within the context of the objectives of the Single European Act, of setting up a large integrated European market of goods, services and capital. The progressive realization of these objectives will create in the coming years new opportunities for growth in Europe.

The EMS has played and will play an important role in the co-ordination of policies between the member countries and in preserving stable relationships between European currencies. All member countries will continue to meet in full their obligations within the existing margins of the EMS. Recent developments have demonstrated that the EMS has been strengthened in appropriate ways by the September decisions of Basle and Nyborg.

CREATION OF A EUROPEAN FINANCIAL AREA

The Council heard an introductory statement by Mr DELORS, President, - and by Lord COCKFIELD, Vice-President on the fiscal aspects - outlining the Commission communication on the creation of a European financial area containing proposals

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

The Council asked the Monetary Committee and the Committee of Governors of the Central Banks to give their opinions on the Commission proposals at the earliest opportunity and agreed to examine them as soon as it had received the opinions requested.

ABOLITION OF FISCAL FRONTIERS

The Council heard a statement by Lord COCKFIELD, Vice-President, outlining the Commission's overall communication on the abolition of fiscal frontiers containing the following proposals:

- approximation of VAT rates;
- abolition of fiscal frontiers in connection with VAT (abolition of the present system of exemptions in the country of purchase and of taxation in the consumer country);
- establishment of a clearing mechanism for VAT on intra-Community transactions;
- harmonization of taxes on cigarettes and other manufactures tobaccos;
- harmonization of excise duties on petroleum products;
- harmonization of excise duties on alcoholic beverages and on alcohol contained in other products;
- a process for the alignment of VAT rates and excise duties.

At the close of a preliminary exchange of views, the Council confirmed the Economic Policy Committee's brief to give its opinion on the macro-economic aspects of the Commission proposals as soon as possible and agreed to hold a policy discussion on the overall package once it had received this opinion.

COMMON SYSTEM OF VAT FOR USED GOODS

The Council noted that the Commission which had withdrawn its proposal for a 7th Directive on the introduction of a common system of VAT for works of art, antiques and used goods was shortly to submit a fresh proposal in this area.

ABOLITION OF CERTAIN VAT DEROGATIONS

The Council continued its examination of the 18th VAT Directive (abolition of certain VAT derogations), with the benefit of a compromise suggestion from the Presidency.

The aim of the compromise is to eliminate, by 1 January 1989, certain derogations provided for in the 6th VAT Directive of 1977; it also makes provisions for the Council to take a decision before 1 January 1990 on the abolition of the other derogations.

At the close of the discussion, the Council requested the Permanent Representatives Committee to settle the few issues outstanding so that a decision would be taken at the Council's next meeting.

INVESTMENT POLICIES OF CERTAIN UNDERTAKINGS FOR COLLECTIVE INVESTMENT
IN TRANSFERRABLE SECURITIES (UCITS)

By a qualified majority, the Council arrived at a common position on a proposal for a Directive amending, as regards the investment policies of certain UCITS, the limits set in Article 22 of Directive 85/611/EEC which was adopted on 20 December 1985.

Pursuant to the new paragraphs (4) and (5) of Article 22, a Member State may raise the limit on holdings of transferrable securities issued by a single issuer from 5% to 25%, where such securities are issued by a credit institution which is subject to special supervision and where the sums deriving from the issue of these bonds must be invested in conformity with the law in assets which, during the whole period of validity of the bonds, are capable of covering claims attaching to the bonds and which, in the event of failure of the issuer, would be used on a priority basis for the reimbursement of the principal and payment of the accrued interest.

Member States must draw up a list of the bonds to which they may wish to apply the derogation and notify the Commission accordingly; they must also specify the nature of the guarantees offered.

The limits set in Article 22 cannot be combined.

Under the co-operation procedure instituted by the Single Act, the European Parliament must be notified of this common position, the European Parliament then has three months in which to take a decision, after which the Directive may be adopted definitively by the Council.

The amendments provided for in paragraphs 4 and 5 will come into force at the same time as Directive 85/611/EEC, of which they will form a part, i.e. 1 October 1989 except in the case of Greece and Portugal, for which the operative date is 1 April 1992.

GATT

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the European Communities, the Decision concluding on behalf of the Community the Protocol amending the GATT Agreement on Public Contracts.

PRESS RELEASE

9599/87 (Presse 189)

1200th Council meeting
- Agriculture -

Brussels, 16, 17 and 18 November 1987
23, 24, 25 and 26 November 1987

President: Mr. Laurits TOERNAES
Minister for Agriculture
of the Kingdom of Denmark

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

Belgium:

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| Mr Paul DE KEERSMAEKER | State Secretary for European Affairs and Agriculture |
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Denmark:

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| Mr Laurits TOERNAES | Minister for Agriculture |
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Germany:

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| Mr Ignaz KIECHLE | Federal Minister for Food, Agriculture and Forestry |
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| Mr Walter KITTEL | State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Forestry |
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Greece:

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|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Mr Yiannis POTTAKIS | Minister for Agriculture |
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Spain:

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| Mr Carlos ROMERO HERRERA | Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food |
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| Mr Vincente ALBERO | Chairman of the Fund for the Guidance and Control of Agricultural Products (FORPPA) |
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France:

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| Mr François GUILLAUME | Minister for Agriculture |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|

Ireland:

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|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Mr Michael O'KENNEDY | Minister for Agriculture |
|----------------------|--------------------------|

Italy:

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|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 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

Mr Arlindo CUNHA

State Secretary for Agricultural
Development

United Kingdom:

Mr John McGREGOR

Minister for Agriculture

Mr John GUMMER

Secretary of State,
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries
and Food

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Commission:

Mr Frans H.J.J. ANDRIESSEN

Vice-President

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IMPLEMENTATION OF AGRICULTURAL STABILIZERS

The Council continued its discussions on the introduction of agricultural stabilizers in the various common organizations of the markets, in line with its instructions from the Brussels European Council, to adopt the additional provisions necessary to enable the Commission to keep the level of agricultural expenditure within the budget framework.

After lengthy and difficult negotiations, although a solution was close in some sectors, the Council did not manage to achieve an overall solution.

In point of fact, there are still major differences on essential sectors such as cereals, oilseeds and protein products.

In conclusion, the Council agreed that the President would make a progress report to the Foreign Ministers, who would be meeting in Brussels, in conclave, the following Sunday and Monday, so that they could finish preparation for the European Council in Copenhagen on 4 and 5 December.

CHANGES IN THE COMMON ORGANIZATIONS OF THE MARKETS IN SUGAR, MILK
AND SHEEPMEAT

The Council took note of the progress that had been made with discussions on changes to the common organizations of the markets in these three sectors, in conjunction with the specific proposals on the implementation of stabilizers.

It instructed the Special Committee on Agriculture to continue examination of the Commission's proposals and suggestions on the subject and to report back as soon as possible.

FREE FOOD ACTION

The Council examined a proposal laying down the general rules for the supply of food from intervention stocks to designated organizations for distribution to the most deprived persons in the Community, which the Commission had submitted in view of the positive results of the aid measures applied by the Community during the winter of 1986/1987.

Discussions showed that the general tendency was in favour of such action.

In conclusion, the Council instructed the Special Committee on Agriculture to continue its discussions on the subject forthwith, so that the Council could bring this issue to a rapid conclusion.

HORMONES

The Commission had submitted to the Council a proposal on the transitional measures required to implement the provisions of the Directive on hormones. The Standing Veterinary Committee had not yet given an opinion on these measures.

Concluding its discussions, the Council:

- confirmed that the ban on the administration of hormonal substances for fattening purposes would be effectively implemented by all the Member States as from 1 January 1988;
- agreed, to take account of the possible presence in Community territory of animals to which anabolic substances have been legally administered up to 31 December 1987, or of meat from such animals, to maintain the existing arrangements as regards trade rules until 31 December 1988, i.e. to maintain the national arrangements currently in force, including practices and arrangements relating to the guarantees required on the import of such meat, so that it can be marketed on a temporary basis;
- made provision for similar treatment for imports from third countries.

The Council also noted that certain Member States undertook to limit the use of transitional measures to a minimum to guarantee that the requirements of the Directive on hormones are complied with as quickly as possible, thus making it unnecessary to maintain bilateral arrangements.

After the Commission had amended its proposals to take this into account, the Council adopted the decision on transitional measures by a qualified majority.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Other agricultural decisions

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

- amending Regulation (EEC) No 355/79 laying down general rules for the description and presentation of wines and grape musts. The amendment concerns a number of provisions, in the light of experience, and of the advisability of aligning the provisions more closely on those of the general Directive on labelling (79/112/EEC);
- on the transfer of 150 000 tonnes of barley held by the Spanish intervention agency. The barley will be made available to Greece to cope with the shortage of fodder there caused by the very cold weather at the beginning of 1987;
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 985/68 laying down general rules for intervention on the market in butter and cream. The amendment will bring salted butter back into the scope of the private storage aid arrangements;
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 2262/84 laying down special measures in respect of olive oil. The amendment is intended, amongst other things, to continue until 31 October 1989 the Community's financial contribution to the costs of the olive oil inspection agencies in Italy, Greece, Spain and Portugal;

- amending Regulation (EEC) No 3089/78 laying down general rules in respect of aid for the consumption of olive oil and providing for certain exceptional measures. The purposes of the amendment is to restrict consumption aid for olive oil to those grades of oil approved for retail sale, while providing for transitional measures;
- laying down general rules for imports of olive oil originating in Tunisia, pursuant to the Additional Protocol to the Co-operation Agreement between the EEC and the Tunisian Republic, which entered into force on 1 November 1987;
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 3828/85 on a specific programme for the development of Portuguese agriculture. The amendment is intended to make certain amendments to the specific programme for the development of Portuguese agriculture, which came into force on 1 January 1986, in order to take account of experience gained in the meantime;
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 389/82 on producer groups and associations thereof in the cotton sector. The aim is to extend the common measure for producer groups and associations thereof for 5 years in order to continue the modernization of structures in this sector.

The Council also adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, Regulations opening and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for:

- Chinese cabbages falling within subheading 07.11 ex III of the Common Customs Tariff and originating in the Canary Islands (1987);
- table grapes falling within No ex 08.06 10-15 of the Combined Nomenclature and originating in the Canary Islands (1988).

The aim - under the Regulation concerning certain adjustments to the arrangements applied to the Canary Islands - is to make the products eligible for reduced duties, within certain limits, when they are imported into the customs territory of the Community.

GSP

The Council adopted the texts of the Regulations on the 1988 GSP for industrial and agricultural products, and a Decision on steel products.

The Council's aim in adopting these Regulations in November is to give businessmen and customs authorities in the Member States the time needed to prepare, in the GSP area, for the entry into force of the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System and the new customs tariff (TARIC) on 1 January 1988.

In view of the exceptional situation obtaining this year because of the introduction of the Harmonized System, the Council agreed that apart from certain specific cases, the GSP arrangements for the industrial and agricultural sectors would remain unchanged in 1988. Thus, in the industrial sector, some differentiation measures have been taken on a product/country basis and some products have been transferred from a quota to a ceiling and vice versa; in the agricultural sector, provision has been made for tariff reduction for some products, taking account of the negotiations under Article XXIV-6 of GATT, and a concession has also been made for one product (pineapple juice) for the least developed countries.

The arrangements concerning steel products will be kept unchanged in 1988.

Regarding the textiles sector, as a solution has recently been worked out in the Permanent Representatives Committee, Regulations will be submitted to the Council for adoption in the coming weeks, after the texts have been finalized.

Relations with the EFTA countries

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

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 of 2 000 hl for concentrated pear juice falling within codes 2009.80-11 and 2009.80-19 of the Combined Nomenclature and originating in Austria (1988).

Research

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, a Decision relating to an R and D co-ordination programme of the European Economic Community in the field of medical and health research (1987-1991). (see presse release 8589/87 Presse 157 of 28.9.1987).

PRESS RELEASE

9791/87 (Presse 194)

1201st Council meeting

- General Affairs -

Brussels, 23 and 24 November 1987

Presidents: Mr Uffe ELLEMANN-JENSEN

Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Kingdom of Denmark

and

Mr Knud-Erik TYGESEN

State Secretary,
Ministry for Foreign Affairs
of the Kingdom of Denmark

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

Belgium:

Mr Leo TINDEMANS

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Paul DE KEERSMAEKER

State Secretary for European Affairs

Denmark:

Mr Uffe ELLEMANN-JENSEN

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Laurits TOERNAES

Minister for Agriculture

Mr Knud-Erik TYGESEN

State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Germany:

Mr Hans-Dietrich GENSCHER

Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mrs Irmgard ADAM-SCHWAETZER

Minister of State,
Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Greece:

Mr Theodoros PANGALOS

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs

Spain:

Mr Pedro SOLBES

State Secretary for Relations with the
European Communities

Mr Angel FENANDEZ ORDONEZ

State Secretary for Trade

France:

Mr Jean-Bernard RAIMOND

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Bernard BOSSON

Minister with responsibility for
European Affairs

Ireland:

Mr Brian LENIHAN

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mrs Maire GEOGHEGAN-QUINN

Minister of State for European
Affairs

Italy:

Mr Giulio ANDREOTTI

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Luxembourg:

Mr Jacques F. POOS

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Netherlands:

Mr H. VAN DEN BROEK

Minister for Foreign Affairs

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

State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Portugal:

Mr Joao de DEUS PINHEIRO

Minister for Foreign Affairs

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

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Commission:

Mr Jacques DELORS

President

Mr Frans H.J. ANDRIESSEN

Vice-President

Mr Henning CHRISTOPHERSEN

Vice-President

Mr Claude CHEYSSON

Member

Mr Stanley CLINTON DAVIS

Member

Mr Grigoris VARFIS

Member

MAKING A SUCCESS OF THE SINGLE ACT - THE COPENHAGEN DECISIONS

The Council continued its preparation of the discussions of the European Council on 4 and 5 December on the various aspects of this dossier, viz. strengthening of budgetary discipline, reform of the structural funds, adjustment of the system of own resources and budgetary imbalances.

The discussions were based on texts prepared by the Presidency in the light of the work carried out by the Permanent Representatives Committee since the last Council meeting on 19 and 20 October 1987.

The Council was also informed of progress within the Agriculture Council on the introduction of "agricultural stabilizers" designed to ensure effective compliance with budgetary discipline in the agricultural sphere.

In concluding the discussions the Presidency indicated that it would endeavour over the next few days to work out an overall compromise, in the light of the Council's discussions, covering the various chapters of the dossier ⁽¹⁾.

On that basis the Council would reconvene "in conclave" on 29 and 30 November to complete preparation of the decisions to be taken by the European Council in Copenhagen.

⁽¹⁾ Leaving aside only certain questions directly for the European Council, viz.: the amount of own resources, the budget for the structural funds and the question of compensation for the United Kingdom.

RELATIONS WITH THE GULF STATES

The Council adopted negotiating directives authorizing the Commission to open negotiations with the member countries of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) - Saudia Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Oman - with a view to the conclusion of a co-operation agreement.

JAPAN: NEGOTIATIONS UNDER GATT ARTICLE XXIV.6

The Council approved by a qualified majority the outcome of the negotiations the Commission had conducted with Japan under Article XXIV.6 of GATT following the enlargement of the Community; it also approved the resulting tariff measures.

The Council also asked the Commission to continue its current efforts towards opening up the Japanese market to European exports.

MAXIMUM PERMITTED RADIOACTIVITY LEVELS FOR FOODSTUFFS

The Council continued its discussion of the problems raised by this issue, which are:

firstly

- the future permanent arrangements involving the fixing of maximum permitted radioactivity levels for foodstuffs, feedingstuffs and drinking water in the case of abnormal levels of radioactivity or of a nuclear accident,

secondly

- "post-Chernobyl" safeguards relating to the conditions under which agricultural products originating in third countries may be imported following the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station.

Following a constructive discussion which brought certain positions closer together, the Presidency noted that the establishment of permanent arrangements required further work.

The Council accordingly decided to resume discussion of the question at its meeting on 14 and 15 December.

Eleven Member States ⁽¹⁾ will in the meantime continue to ensure that the maximum tolerances applied to agricultural and processed products for human consumption are not changed. In addition, the Member States recalled their statement of 12 May 1986 in which they gave an undertaking not to apply maximum tolerances to such products originating in other Member States which were more stringent than those applied to domestic products.

⁽¹⁾ The Greek delegation reserved its position.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Commodities

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision concerning the conclusion of the International Agreement on Jute and Jute Products (1982) on behalf of the Community.

Trade policy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) 2089/84 imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of certain ball bearings originating in Japan and Singapore.

Relations with Israel

The Council recorded the Community's agreement to certain Israeli requests regarding safeguard tariff measures under the Co-operation Agreement clause concerning emergent industries.

Fisheries policy

- The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities,
- the Regulation amending Annex VI to Regulation (EEC) No 3796/81 on the common organization of the market in fishery products and the Annex to Regulation (EEC) No 950/68 on the Common Customs Tariff;

- the Regulation amending for the fourth time Regulation (EEC) No 4034/86 fixing, for certain stocks and groups of fish stocks, the TACs for 1987 and certain conditions under which they may be fished.

This amendment concerns an increase in the TAC for plaice in ICES zone VIIIf,g (Bristol Channel and South East Ireland) as follows:
1987 TAC: 2 000 tonnes; Community quota for 1987: 2 000 tonnes
(B: 495 t, F: 895 t, IRL: 140 t, UK 470 t);

- the Regulation concerning the conclusion of the Agreement amending the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Government of the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe signed at Brussels on 1 February 1984;
 - the Decision authorizing the Commission to negotiate fisheries agreements with Djibouti and Mauritius.
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The 1202th meeting was cancelled.

PRESS RELEASE

9948/86 (Presse 200)

1203rd meeting of the Council

- Internal Market -

Brussels, 30 November 1987

Presidents:

Mr Nils WILHJELM
Minister for Industry
of the Kingdom of Denmark

Mr Henning DYREMOSE
Minister for Employment
of the Kingdom of Denmark

30.XI.87

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

Belgium:

M. Paul DE KEERSMAEKER State Secretary for European
Affairs and Agriculture

Denmark:

Mr Nils WILHJELM Minister for Industry

Mr Henning DYREMOSE Minister for Employment

Germany:

Mr Otto SCHLECHT State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs

Greece:

Mr Elias LYMBEROPOULOS Deputy Permanent Representative

Spain:

Mr Javier CASANOVA Secretary General for Relations
with the European Communities

France:

Mr Bernard BOSSON Minister with responsibility
for European Affairs

Ireland:

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

Italy:

Mr Antonio LA PERGOLA Minister for Community Affairs

Mr Romeo RICCIUTI State Secretary for Industry
and Commerce

Mr Paolo BABBINI State Secretary for Industry
and Commerce

Luxembourg:

Mr Johny LAHURE

State Secretary for Economy

Netherlands:

Mr R. VAN DER LINDEN

State Secretary
for Foreign Affairs

Portugal:

Mr Victor MARTINS

State Secretary for
European Integration

United Kingdom:

Mr Francis MAUDE

Parliamentary Under-Secretary
of State, Department of Trade
and Industry

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Commission:

Lord COCKFIELD

Mr Peter SUTHERLAND

Vice-President
Member

NON-LIFE INSURANCE

The Council resumed its discussion of the proposal for a second Council Directive on the harmonization of direct insurance other than life insurance and the freedom to provide services in this area. To this end, the Council had before it an overall compromise proposal from the Presidency.

Since the Council was not able to reach an agreement on this proposal, the Presidency announced that it would reflect on further procedure.

CUSTOMS UNION

The Council adopted three Decisions accepting, on behalf of the Community,

- the Recommendation of the Customs Co-operation Council of 22 May 1984 concerning the use of codes for the representation of data elements and four of its Annexes;
- Annex E5 to the International Convention on the simplification and harmonization of customs procedures;
- Annex F3 to the International Convention on the simplification and harmonization of customs procedures.

The acceptance of the Recommendation will lead to broader use of codes in order to facilitate the exchange of data between customs administrations and between these administrations and traders. The four annexes accepted by the Community in its Decision concern the identification of containers, the Harmonized System commodity coding, the indication of customs regimes and ECE/UN codes on units of measurement.

Annex E5 to the "Kyoto Convention" concerns temporary importation. Annex F3 concerns customs facilities applicable to travellers. The acceptance of these Annexes brings the number of Annexes accepted by the Community to 16.

TYPE APPROVAL OF TRACTORS

The Council reached a common position to be communicated to the European Parliament in the context of the Cooperation Procedure laid down in the Single Act, with regard to the proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 74/150/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the type-approval of wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors.

This proposal involves technical and procedural modification of the framework Directive.

SOUND POWER LEVEL OF LAWNMOWERS

The Council reached common positions to be communicated to the European Parliament in the context of the Cooperation Procedure laid down in the Single Act, on two draft Directives amending Directive 84/538/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the permissible sound power level of lawnmowers. These proposals are designed to:

- introduce a permissible sound pressure level of 90 dB(A) at the operator's position for lawnmowers with a cutting width exceeding 120 cm;
- introduce into Directive 84/538 provisions relating to cylinder mowers.

TRADEMARKS

Harmonization of national laws

The Council reached broad agreement on the draft Directive on the harmonization of national laws on trademarks. This proposal appears in the White Paper on completion of the internal market, among the measures to be adopted during 1987. The Internal Market Council of 3 November 1986 agreed on a timetable for this Directive and for the Regulation on the Community trademark, based on the guidelines in the White Paper, and took 1 January 1990 as the target date for entry into force of the Community trademark system.

The Council invited the Permanent Representatives Committee to solve the few remaining problems in order to allow a common position to be drawn up before the end of the year.

Community Trade Mark

The Council also took note of a progress report on the amended proposed Regulation on the Community Trade Mark.

CUSTOMS DEBT PAYMENT ("DEBTOR" REGULATION)

The Council reached a common position to be communicated to the European Parliament in the context of the Cooperation Procedure laid down by the Single Act, on the draft Regulation determining the persons liable for payment of a customs debt ("debtor Regulation")(1). This proposal complements existing Community rules on customs debt and customs declarants.

(1) The United Kingdom delegation has maintained a Parliamentary scrutiny reservation in connection with this common position.

INFORMATION PROCEDURE ON STANDARDS AND TECHNICAL RULES

The Council reached in principle a common position to be communicated to the European Parliament in the context of the Cooperation Procedure laid down in the Single Act, on the modification of Directive 83/189 concerning the information procedure on standards and technical rules. This proposal seeks to include in the information procedure operating since 1983 a number of sectors hitherto provisionally excluded, thereby covering all products, both industrial and agricultural.

DANGEROUS PREPARATIONS

The Council reached agreement on the outstanding issues with regard to the draft Directive on the harmonization of national laws relating to the classification, packaging and labelling of dangerous preparations. The aim of this proposal is to supplement existing Community legislation in order to allow preparations to be classified and labelled according to the degree of risk they may present. The draft Directive will be re-submitted to the Council for formal adoption of the common position before the end of the year.

MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF HIGHER-EDUCATION DIPLOMAS

The Council resumed its work on the draft Directive in a general system for the recognition of higher-education diplomas awarded on completion of vocational courses of at least three years' duration. The Council took note of progress made since its last meeting, and re-examined certain key issues, in particular the question of the aptitude test which might be introduced as an alternative to the adaptation period foreseen in the draft Directive.

In conclusion, the Council invited the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue work on the basis of the guidelines indicated by it.

COSMETICS

The Council examined the draft Directive amending the Directive 76/768/EEC on the harmonization of national laws relating to cosmetic products, concentrating on the problem of labelling.

In conclusion, the Council invited the Permanent Representatives Committee to prepare further works and to resubmit this file for the adoption of a common position once the opinion of the European Parliament is known.

PRICING OF MEDICINAL PRODUCTS

While awaiting the opinion of the European Parliament, the Council held a preliminary discussion on the draft Directive relating to transparency of measures regulating the pricing of medicinal products for human use and their inclusion within the scope of national health systems.

At the end of the discussion, the Council noted considerable progress and invited the Permanent Representatives Committee to submit a common position once the opinion of the European Parliament has been given.

GOOD LABORATORY PRACTICE

The Council took up the examination of the draft Directive on the inspection and verification of the organizational processes and conditions under which laboratory studies are planned, recorded and reported for the non-clinical testing of chemicals.

At the conclusion of its debate the Council considered that further examination at a technical level was required. It therefore invited the Permanent Representatives Committee to pursue its work as a matter of urgency, with a view to enabling a common position to be reached before the end of the year.

CONTROL OF CONCENTRATIONS

The Council held a further debate on the issue of control of mergers at the Community level. It noted a generally positive reaction on the broad lines of the approach enunciated by the Commission, and the intention of the forthcoming German Presidency to pursue this matter actively.

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At the conclusion of the meeting, the Presidency announced that it would call another meeting of the Council (Internal Market) for the morning of 18 December 1987.

OTHER DECISIONS

Other Internal Market Decision

The Council reached a common position to be communicated to the European Parliament in the context of the Cooperation Procedure laid down in the Single Act, with regard to the proposal for a Directive amending Directive 76/116/EEC in respect of fluid fertilizers. (Extension of the scope of this Directive, initially laying down the rules governing the marketing of solid fertilisers, to cover fluid fertilisers.)

External relations

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

- opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for certain wines having a registered designation of origin falling within subheading ex 22.05 C of the Common Customs Tariff and originating in Tunisia (1987/1988) (50.000 hl duty free for wines with the following origins: Coteaux de Tebourba, Coteaux d'Utique, Sidi-Salem, Kelibia, Thibar, Mornag, grand cru Mornag);
- concerning the conclusion of the Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Tunisia amending the Agreement concerning certain wines originating in Tunisia and entitled to a designation of origin (inclusion of wines "Coteaux d'Utique").

The Council, and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council, adopted, in the languages of the Communities, a Decision on the opening of negotiations with partner countries in EFTA and the Mediterranean with a view to amending the Agreements concluded between the Community and those countries to take account of the introduction of the Harmonized System.

Fisheries

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

- concerning the conclusion of the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Government of the People's Republic of Angola on fishing off Angola;
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 3796/81 on the common organization of the market in fishery products. The main purpose of this Regulation is to update the nomenclature contained in the Annexes to Regulation 3796/81 to take account of the introduction of the Harmonised System from 1 January 1988;
- establishing, for 1988, certain measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources applicable to vessels flying the flag of:
 - = Member States, other than Spain and Portugal, in waters falling under the sovereignty or within the jurisdiction of Portugal;
 - = Member States, other than Spain and Portugal, in waters falling under the sovereignty or within the jurisdiction of Spain;
 - = Portugal, in waters falling under the sovereignty or within the jurisdiction of Member States apart from Spain and Portugal.

Customs Union

The Council adopted, in the languages of the Communities, the Regulation temporarily suspending the autonomous Common Customs Tariff duties for certain products intended for the construction, maintenance and repair of aircraft.

Appointments

Acting on a proposal from the Spanish Government, the Council appointed:

- Mr Alberto BERGUER SANDEZ a member of the Advisory Committee on Medical Training, in the category of experts from the practising medical profession, in place of Mr Luis HERNANDO AVENDANO for the remaining term of office, which runs until 11 May 1989, and
 - Mr Luis HERNANDO AVENDANO a member of the Advisory Committee on Medical Training, in the category of experts from the competent authorities of the Member States, in place of Mr Julio NADAL CAPARA for the remaining term of office, which runs until 11 May 1989.
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