

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

PRESS RELEASES

PRESIDENCY: UNITED KINGDOM

JULY-DECEMBER 1981

Meetings and press releases November-December 1981

Meeting number	Subject	Date
735 th	Development Co-operation	3 November 1981
736 th	Research	9 November 1981
737 th	Foreign Affairs	10 November 1981
738 th	Foreign Affairs	16-17 November 1981
738 th	Foreign Affairs continued	19 November 1981
739 th	Agriculture	16 November 1981
740 th	Economics/Finance	17 November 1981
741 st	Budget	23-25 November 1981
742 nd	Environment	3 December 1981
743 rd	Foreign Affairs	7-8 December 1981
744 th	Labour/Social Affairs	8 December 1981
745 th	No record of a meeting	
746 th	Economics/Finance	14 December 1981
747 th	Transport	15 December 1981
748 th	Agriculture	15 December 1981
749 th	Budget	21 December 1981

PRESS RELEASE

10431/81 (Presse 138)

735th Council meeting
- Development Co-operation -
Brussels, 3 November 1981

President: Mr Neil MARTEN,
Minister for Overseas Development
of the United Kingdom

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

Belgium:

Mr Daniel COENS Minister for Development Co-operation

Denmark:

Mr Otto MØLLER State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Germany:

Mr Alwin BRÜCK Parliamentary State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Economic Co-operation

Greece:

Mr Marcos ECONOMIDES Ambassador, Permanent Representative

France:

Mr Luc de La BARRE de NANTEUIL Ambassador, Permanent Representative

Ireland:

Mr James O'KEEFFE Minister of State for Development Co-operation

Italy:

Mr Roberto PALLESCHI State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Luxembourg:

Mr Paul HELMINGER State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Co-operation

Netherlands:

Mr C.P. van DIJK

Minister for Development Aid

United Kingdom:

Mr Neil MARTEN

Minister for Overseas Development

Commission:

Mr Edgard PINSANI

Member

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NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE

The Council held a general exchange of views on progress with and prospects for the North-South Dialogue in the light of the outcome of the recent international conferences.

The Council began by welcoming the positive contribution the Community had been able to make, thanks to its co-ordinated action, to the outcome of the Nairobi Conference on new and renewable sources of energy and the Paris Conference on the least developed countries.

The Council then turned its attention to the results of the Cancún Summit. During the discussions, particular stress was laid on the need for the Community to play a positive role on the basis of common positions, in the coming discussions concerning global negotiations. In this connection, the Council noted that work was continuing in the appropriate Community fora.

STOCKTAKING OF COMMUNITY AID

The Council, which had agreed at its meeting on 28 April 1981 to conduct periodic stocktaking of Community aid, carried out such an exercise for the first time. The topic selected was Community aid in the sectors of agricultural production and food aid.

A wide-ranging discussion was held on the subject, in the course of which delegations stressed the importance they attached to this exercise and emphasized one or other aspect of the dossier, in particular the balance to be achieved between aid to agricultural production and food aid, the importance of the recipient countries establishing food strategies, the responsibilities of the States benefiting from Community aid, the need for co-ordination between donor countries and between the latter and the recipient countries, the possibilities offered by recourse to non-governmental organizations and finally the supply of certain means of production such as seeds, grain, etc.

In concluding its discussions, the Council approved the Resolution set out in Annex I, which is intended to serve as a guide for the implementation of Community aid in the future with the aim of increasing its effectiveness. The Council agreed to take stock again at one of its future meetings and instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to select the topic for this exercise and to prepare the discussions.

EMERGENCY AID PROCEDURES

The Council recorded its agreement on the improved procedures for dealing with emergency aid (within the meaning of Article 950 of the Community budget) drawn up in the light of experience.

The Council considered that these procedures should strengthen the Community's capacity to provide help rapidly in emergencies, while ensuring that the necessary decisions are well prepared.

It took note that the Commission intended to make suitable contacts with the European Parliament to consider the extent to which the parliamentary procedures for transferring appropriations could also be speeded up.

FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL AID TO NON-ASSOCIATED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES -
GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR 1982

The Council held a policy debate on the draft Decision determining the general guidelines for 1982 concerning financial and technical aid to non-associated developing countries proposed by the Commission, on which the European Parliament has been asked for its Opinion.

The Council reached general consensus on the matter.

It was in particular confirmed that the requirements of the poorest countries and of the neediest sections of the population should determine Community action. It was also emphasized that the Community must continue to give priority to projects for agricultural and rural development, in particular those designed to improve the food situation, with a view to helping to combat hunger in the world.

PLAN OF ACTION TO COMBAT HUNGER IN THE WORLD

Following an initiative from the Italian Government and several European Parliament Resolutions, the Commission submitted to the Council a Plan of Action to Combat Hunger in the World on which the General Affairs Council had recorded its agreement on 26 and 27 October 1981 and the implementation of which the Development Council was required to discuss at this meeting.

The main features of this plan are:

- exceptional food aid for the least developed countries amounting to 40 million ECU (1st type of action) on which the Commission has submitted a proposal for a Regulation.
- other longer-term projects:
 - = aid for food strategies (2nd type of action)
 - = thematic and regional measures (3rd type of action)
 - = international action (4th type of action).

In this context the Council adopted the conclusions set out in Annex II.

In the same context it noted in particular that, without prejudice to the European Parliament's Opinion, a consensus already existed in support of the draft Regulation on the grant of exceptional food aid to the least developed countries up to a ceiling of 40 MECU.

The purpose of this aid is to supply the population of the least developed countries as speedily as possible with foodstuffs such as cereals, oils, legumes and sugar. A proportion of this aid, equivalent to 100,000 tonnes of cereals, will be made available to the World Food Programme for use under the International Emergency Food Reserve.

ENERGY SUPPLIES IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

The Council again referred, with particular reference to the outcome of the United Nations Nairobi Conference on new and renewable sources of energy, to the problems arising with respect to the needs of developing countries and asked the Permanent Representatives Committee to submit a report for the next Council meeting on the basis of a detailed document promised by the Commission.

TRADE PROMOTION

The Council requested the Commission to submit in the near future a communication on the Community's activities on trade promotion, with a view to the discussion the Council proposed holding at its next meeting.

ROLE OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT

The Council agreed to hold a policy discussion on this question at its next meeting on the basis of a communication the Commission was to prepare in conjunction with experts from the Member States following consultation of its Delegates in the developing countries.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Taxation

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision authorizing the Italian Republic to derogate provisionally from the VAT arrangements applicable to aid to earthquake victims in southern Italy.

Fisheries

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation temporarily suspending the autonomous Common Customs Tariff duties on certain herrings falling within subheading ex 16.04 C II.

Trade in iron and steel products

The Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the ECSC, meeting within the Council, adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision on certain measures to be applied, in respect of State-trading countries, to trade in iron and steel products covered by the ECSC Treaty, including pig iron, cast iron and high-carbon ferro-manganese.

Appointment

On a proposal from the Belgian Government the Council appointed Dr A. SOULIER Inspecteur-Chef de Service à l'Inspection du Commerce des Viandes au Ministère de la Santé Publique, alternate member of the Advisory Committee on Veterinary Training in place of Dr LENELLE, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which runs until 17 February 1983.

STOCKTAKING OF COMMUNITY AID

RESOLUTION

ON

AID TO AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND FOOD AID

(Ministers for Development - Brussels, 3 November 1981)

I. INTRODUCTION

The Council of Ministers for Development decided at their meeting on 28 April to conduct a periodic stocktaking of Community aid with the aim of improving its effectiveness. It was decided that the first such exercise should be conducted at the "Development" Council in the second half of 1981.

At the suggestion of the Presidency, the Member States agreed to limit the first stocktaking to Community aid to agricultural production, taking account of the influence of food aid on food production.

Hunger is one of the most serious and pressing problems facing the developing countries - and the situation is getting worse. The Community has recognized the vital importance of effective action to deal with it. The Council's Resolutions on aid and the European Parliament's Resolution have made a valuable contribution to the formulation of Community policies. The Council has taken note of the Parliament's Resolution of 17 September 1981 on the evaluation of Community development policies. The Italian Government recently took an important initiative within the Community on the subject of hunger in the world.

The main elements of the Community's contribution to alleviating the problem of hunger are:

Commitments (\$ US millions)

	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980 (3)
1. Community food aid (1)	206	247	199	281	356	409
2. Community aid for agriculture (2)	63	168	292	254	340	344
3. Community aid total	487	791	1.065	1.149	1.787	1.816
4. Agriculture aid as a percentage of total aid	12,9	21,2	27,4	22,1	19,0	18,9

This reflects also, of course, the priorities of the developing countries themselves, since the sectoral allocation of the greater part of Community aid is agreed with them.

The Community has a particular responsibility to ensure that the considerable assistance which it provides in the form of aid to agricultural production and food aid is used as effectively as possible to relieve hunger and improve the self-reliance of recipient countries.

A large number of relevant studies have been conducted on the Community's policies in this sector. The Commission is working on others. There has also been an important joint study by ACP and EEC experts in this field. The following recommendations are intended to improve the effectiveness of the Community's efforts to cope with the problem of hunger.

(1) at world prices

(2) in the wide OECD sense

(3) provisional figures

II. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Priority for the agriculture and food sectors

In the present alarming situation the Community reaffirms the priority which it gives to aid for the agriculture and food sectors. This priority should be reflected throughout its aid programmes in a consistent manner, bearing in mind that the greater part of the Community's aid priorities have to be determined in consultation with the developing countries themselves.

2. The place of aid to agriculture and food in the development policies of both the Community and the recipient states

The Community's aid to agricultural production as well as food aid must be considered in the context of its overall development co-operation policy. Aid to agricultural production will be effective only if it is integrated into the developing countries' wider policies on social and economic development. It also requires a stable and satisfactory framework of supporting policies and adequate structures, and above all a food sector strategy, which should ideally be harmonized with those of neighbouring countries and meet regional needs.

3. The adoption of food sector strategies by the developing countries

An important contribution which the Community can make to improving the effectiveness of its aid in this sector is to encourage and provide assistance for the adoption of food sector strategies. These should pay particular attention to:

- production policy, which determines whether crops should be produced for food or cash,
- pricing policies, which balance the consumer's need for adequate supplies at reasonable prices with encouraging financial returns for the producer, and
- marketing and distribution policies, which ensure both the necessary inputs and an infrastructure capable of handling output.

The Community should use all the instruments available so as to persuade developing countries to adopt such strategies. In this respect, the Community should, in making decisions on food aid, take account of the extent to which the recipient countries agree to integrate the aid in their food sector policy or strategy. Among other means, the use of counterpart funds, where appropriate, to promote this objective should not be neglected.

4. Balance between aid to agricultural production and food aid

The Community should continue to make a substantial contribution to the food security needs of the developing countries. The right balance must be struck between aid to agricultural production and food aid. Food aid can contribute to the maintenance of well-managed and economically justified reserves and buffer stocks, and there is a useful role in this respect for multiannual programmes. The Council's agreement on a common position on the **food-aid management Regulation**, the adoption of which should enable the Community to improve its contribution in this respect, is greatly welcomed, **but no less important in contributing** to adequate food stocks is help to the developing countries in the elimination of waste and losses from harvests. Actions taken by the Community to help increase production must include measures to improve conservation of products, including at the local level, and of the means of production. There is scope for greater attention to this factor in the Community's aid programmes, though the difficulties of persuading farmers to change their ways should not be **underestimated.**

5. Avoidance of adverse effects of external food supplies

At the same time, every effort must be made to prevent external food supplies, including food aid, from having adverse effects such as the depression of producer prices or the masking of poor policies. This can best be achieved by integrating such external food supplies more carefully with national food strategies.

6. Management of the food aid programme

Ministers took note of the comments by the Court of Auditors on the Community's food aid programme, and look forward to early recommendations for improvements as a result of the analysis being conducted within the framework of the Council. Particular attention should be given to the elimination of delays in implementing actions.

7. Specific proposals for improving the efficiency of Community aid

The effectiveness of the Community's aid to agricultural production could be further enhanced by attention to the following factors:

- the importance of close consultation with the local beneficiaries of a project. Such consultation is sufficiently important to justify provision for it in financing proposals. NGOs can often play a useful role in this respect;
- rural development programmes, in which social and infra-structural improvements are linked to activities aimed at increasing production, can in carefully defined conditions make a major contribution to accelerated development, but they are difficult to manage and experience with them so far has been disappointing. Community programmes should concentrate further on more gradual and phased development, mainly involving simpler projects. Particular attention should also be given in project planning to the role of women.

- the Community should ensure at the planning and design stage that farmers taking part in an agricultural project will have adequate incentives to increase their production and adequate resources to do so, including access to local financing;
- the Community should take care not to establish projects which will be beyond the financial means of the recipient to take over on completion;
- Community projects should always include training for local replacements for the technical cooperation staff originally administering the projects and provision for them to remain for a reasonable period. This will often mean greater attention to strengthening appropriate local institutions to carry out programmes and afford continuity.

8. Agricultural technology

An area of particular importance is the transfer of relevant agricultural technology, between the Community and the developing countries and among developing countries themselves (the latter applies to quite simple agricultural techniques). The early establishment of the Technical Centre for Agricultural Development, to be set up under the second Lomé Convention, should enable the Community to improve its contribution in this respect. Agricultural technology should, in addition to facilitating increased production and reliable yields, pay adequate attention to socio-economic and environmental considerations. Special attention should be given to the selection and reasonable use of pesticides, soil and water conservations, reafforestation with fast-growing trees **and pollution control**.

9. Practical application of agricultural research

The link between agricultural research and its practical application also needs to be greatly strengthened. In this respect also the Technical Centre for Agricultural Development has a role to play. Extension services should be designed to act as a conduit by which research workers keep in touch with farmers' needs and through which farmers can inform themselves. Research data should be tested under field conditions to ensure their relevance.

10. Monitoring and evaluation

Regular monitoring and evaluation of the Community's aid in conjunction with the recipient countries is essential. The important role of the Commission's evaluation procedure in this respect is stressed. Evaluation should be regarded as a vital contribution to the more effective design and implementation of policies and operations.

11. Importance of recipient countries' policies

A thread which runs through all these conclusions is the importance of helping developing countries to adopt policies which promote agricultural development. Above all where pricing policies are concerned, these can spell the difference between failure and success. The difficulties are substantial. Since the importance of any individual project in relation to the macro-economic policy of the government concerned is likely to be small, the Community should not try to attach over-ambitious conditions to its support for projects and wherever possible these conditions should be arrived at by agreement.

However, conditions relating to sectoral policies in particular may be necessary and the Community should not shy away, in important cases, from withholding its support for particular projects if it judges that they cannot succeed without a modification of existing policies.

12. Supply of agricultural inputs

In the light of the outcome of the studies in hand, the Community should also be ready to consider the supply, in special circumstances, of inputs to agricultural production, e.g. seeds, fertilisers, pesticides. But this can best be considered in the context of adequate sectoral policies in the recipient country and should generally be linked with project aid and technical assistance.

13. Improved co-ordination of donors

Finally, there is scope for substantial improvement in donor co-ordination, both within the Community and with other donors, including international organizations. Within the Community there is already provision for better co-ordination of bilateral and Community aid with the aim of improving efficiency and quality. More use should be made of these provisions to ensure the most efficient use of resources and to remove duplication. Such coordination, which should also extend to monitoring and evaluation, could take place both within the Council framework and between Community representatives in developing countries.

The latter is particularly important. A current experiment in Africa where donors (both within and outside the Community) are to make forward commitments of food aid and the authorities concerned is to introduce new food pricing policies, will be interesting to follow. It may provide a valuable model for co-ordination among donors and with recipients elsewhere, though a still broader approach covering financial and technical aid as well as food aid might also be considered. There is also scope for more regular consultation between the Commission departments and Member States' aid administrations. Individual developing countries should also be encouraged to establish and strengthen mechanisms for donor co-ordination.

CONCLUSIONS OF THE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (3 NOVEMBER 1981)
ON THE COMMISSION PROPOSAL ON HUNGER IN THE WORLD

1. The Council held a full discussion of the Commission's paper "Towards a Plan of Action to Combat Hunger in the World", prepared in response to a request from the General Affairs Council of 14 September 1981 following an initiative of the Italian Government. It congratulated the Commission on the speed with which it had put forward concrete proposals for action to which the General Affairs Council of 26 October 1981 had given approval in principle.

2. The Council noted with satisfaction the decision of principle by the Foreign Affairs Council that the Community should make available an additional 40 MECU from the 1981 Community budget, on a non-recurrent basis, for food aid to the least developed countries. Within this amount, the Council agreed in principle to an additional contribution equivalent to 100,000 tonnes of cereals which would enable the International Emergency Food Reserve to achieve, for the first time, its target for resources. The Council invited the other donors to contribute to maintaining the reserve at its target level in the future. The Council called on the Commission to arrange, in accordance with existing procedures, for the speediest possible distribution of the remaining food aid, and to make particular efforts to ensure that the aid reaches those in the greatest need.

3. The Council recalled its earlier statements of support for food sector strategies to be defined and put into operation by the developing countries themselves. In this context the Council welcomed the Commission's suggestion that there should be greater **co-ordination** between Community actions and those of Member States designed to help developing countries adopt and implement such strategies. It agreed that the Community and its Member States should contribute to this objective within their existing programmes, namely through food aid and financial and technical assistance. It stressed that for such assistance to be as effective as possible both sides should be ready to make mutual commitments. The Council concluded that the practical aspects of the Commission's proposal to establish task forces to **co-ordinate** donor activities should be decided upon as soon as possible after urgent study by a group of experts. Such **co-ordination** should be done in a pragmatic way and according to modalities to be fixed. The Council encouraged the Commission to start exploratory contacts meanwhile to identify recipient countries which might be ready to take part in such a **co-operative** venture, and stressed that invitations for donor participation should not be restricted to Member States of the Community.

4. The Council agreed that the Community should consider further how it might contribute to international support for regional or thematic measures to safeguard and realize the agricultural potential of developing countries. It invited the Commission to put forward specific proposals in due course under normal procedures.

5. The Council underlined the need to continue and intensify efforts to achieve a more secure food supply situation in the developing countries both by means of its own action and of that taken in an international context. In this connection it recalled the relevant conclusions of the stocktaking exercises on aid to agriculture production including food aid (see Annex I).
 6. Member States confirmed their intention to make efforts individually to achieve the target of 0.15% of GNP for their aid to the LLDCs, as agreed at the United Nations Conference on the best developed countries.
 7. The Council welcomed the intention of the Italian Government to organize discussions in Rome on the problem of world hunger with a view to greater co-ordination among donors and between the latter and the beneficiary countries.
 8. The Council invited the Permanent Representatives Committee to implement the conclusions which it had reached on the Commission's plan of action and to give a progress report at the next Council meeting on development.
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COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT



PRESS RELEASE

10597/81 (Presse 140)

736th meeting of the Council

- Research -

Brussels, 9 November 1981

President: Mr Kenneth BAKER,
Minister for Industry and Information
Technology of the United Kingdom

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

Belgium:

Mr Philippe MAYSTADT
Minister of the Civil Service and
for Policy on Science, responsible
for Environment Co-ordination

Denmark:

Mr Otto MØLLER
State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Germany:

Mr Hans-Hilger HAUNSCHILD
State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Research and
Technology

Greece:

Mr Evangelos KOULOUMBIS
Minister for Research and
Technology

France:

Mr Jean-Pierre CHEVENEMENT
Minister for Technology

Ireland:

Mr Barry DESMOND
Minister of State,
Department of Finance

Italy:

Mr Giancarlo TESINI
Minister for Scientific Research

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean DONDELINGER
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

Netherlands:

Mr J.C. TERLOUW

Deputy Prime Minister,
Minister for Economic Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr Kenneth BAKER

Minister for Industry and
Information Technology

Mr John WAKEHAM

State Secretary,
Department of Industry

Commission:

Vicomte Etienne DAVIGNON

Vice-President

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GUIDELINES FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH

On the basis of the Commission communication of 12 October 1981 entitled "Scientific and Technical Research and the European Community - Proposals for the 1980's", the Council held a wide-ranging policy discussion on the broad outlines for the planning and organization of Community research activities in coming years.

The discussion concentrated essentially on the need to define a Community R & D strategy and the objectives and scope of the latter and took place within the framework of the current proceedings under the 30 May Mandate. It was understood that the guidelines emerging in the course of the Council's discussions would be taken into consideration by the Working Party on the Mandate and by the Foreign Affairs Council in preparing the discussions of the European Council to be held in London on 26 and 27 November 1981.

In his summing up, the President of the Council noted that a broad consensus existed on:

- the need to develop scientific and technical research at Community level in order to support the policy objectives of the Community and the Member States, in particular in areas where Community activity offered advantages as compared with other forms of action, be they national or co-ordinated amongst the States;
- the encouragement to be given to the Community's plans to improve the efficiency of the Community's R & D activities and particularly its catalyzing role as regards Member States' research activities;
- a wish that the Commission develop its ideas and submit concrete proposals - which the Council might examine at its next meeting - in particular on the following areas:

- = the concept of a general framework programme involving an overall strategy
- = the stimulation of the efficiency of the European research system
- = optimum utilization of the resources available
- = co-ordination between national policies
- = orientation of the R & D programmes towards the needs of industrial innovation
- = consideration of the social consequences of scientific developments.

The discussion also highlighted the need to improve the consultation machinery for preparing the Community's R & D policies and the Council urged the Commission to ensure that its ideas were soundly backed by the necessary scientific and technical opinions. It also stressed the importance of the Commission's continuing its efforts to improve the dissemination of information within the Community.

A major topic of discussion was mobility within the scientific Community and the Commission was asked to make suitable proposals to promote such mobility.

With respect to the funds to be assigned to scientific and technical research, the Council acknowledged that the Community's efforts to develop research activities might also have financial implications. It would take a decision on this question once it received the proposals the Commission was due to submit in the next few months.

On a general note, the Council agreed to meet more frequently in order to play an active role in defining and implementing the new scientific and technical strategy necessary for the industrial prosperity of the Community.

COMMUNITY ACTION IN THE FIELD OF MICROELECTRONIC TECHNOLOGY

As a first practical step towards implementation of its Resolution of September 1979 on microelectronic technology, the Council recorded its agreement ⁽¹⁾ on a Regulation concerning Community projects in this field.

In order to attain the Community objectives in this domain, the Regulation makes provision for co-ordination at Community level of the activities undertaken by the Member States and for the implementation of Community projects to supplement and reinforce these activities.

With a view to attaining the objective of co-ordination, a system for information and consultation concerning initiatives aimed at promoting the diffusion and the development of microelectronic technology and its applications has been established between the Member States and the Commission. Under this system, the Member States are obliged to supply the Commission with all relevant information concerning activities aimed at:

- the promotion of applied industrial research and development on equipment, processes, instruments and techniques, both hardware and software, for use in the design, industrial manufacture and testing of advanced integrated circuits;
- the dissemination of basic knowledge and the training and education of management and staff specializing in the design, utilization and testing of advanced integrated circuits;
- the encouragement of the establishment within the Community of an industry capable of designing and producing the equipment, materials and techniques used in the manufacture of advanced integrated circuits.

⁽¹⁾ The Danish delegation gave its agreement ad referendum.

The joint projects receiving Community support will be high-priority key projects; they will qualify for Community aid in the form of subsidies normally covering 30% of the costs of their execution, but possibly as much as 50% in certain cases. The appropriations necessary for this financial support will amount to 40 MECU, which corresponds to the amount adopted by the European Parliament at its first reading of the draft budget for 1982.

These projects cover the following sectors:

- step and repeat on wafer
- electron beam for direct-writing on wafer
- plasma etching and deposition
- test equipment
- Computer Aided Design (CAD) for Very Large Scale Integration circuitry (VLSI) in the domains of
 - = Architecture
 - = Language and Data Structure
 - = Testing
 - = Device modelling.

BIOMOLECULAR ENGINEERING PROGRAMME

The Council recorded its agreement ⁽¹⁾ on a multiannual research and training programme in the field of biomolecular engineering, taking the form of indirect action.

This programme, the first of its kind, covers a four-year period; it will be implemented in two stages: the first extending from 1 April 1982 until the revision to be carried out not later than 31 March 1984 and the second stage extending from the revision until 31 March 1986. The appropriations of 8 MECU currently provided for implementation of the programme already adopted are designed to cover the first phase; the amount will be re-evaluated when the programme is revised.

The programme comprises the following projects:

- Development of new reactors using immobilized multienzyme systems including those requiring multiphase environment and cofactor regeneration,
- Development of bioreactors for human detoxification,
- The transfer of genes from diverse sources to the bacterium *escherichia coli*, the yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* and other suitable organisms,
- Development of cloning systems,
- Gene transfer to micro-organisms and in plants important to agriculture,
- Improvement of methods for detecting contamination and for the assessment of possible risks associated with applications in agriculture and industry of biomolecular engineering.

⁽¹⁾ The Danish delegation gave its agreement ad referendum.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Commercial policy and customs union

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

- amending Regulation (EEC) No 3439/80 imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of certain polyester yarn originating in the United States of America;
- extending the period of validity of the provisional anti-dumping duty on phenol originating in the United States of America.

The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation implementing Decision No 1/81 of the EEC-Morocco Co-operation Council derogating from certain provisions concerning the definition of the concept of originating products contained in the Co-operation Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Kingdom of Morocco.

Finally, the Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulations opening, allocating and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas for the year 1982 for:

- silver hake (*Merluccius bilinearis*) falling within subheading ex 03.01 B I q) of the Common Customs Tariff;
- frozen cod fillets falling within subheading 03.01 B II b) 1 of the Common Customs Tariff;
- dried grapes in immediate containers of a net capacity of 15 kg or less falling within subheading 08.04 B I of the Common Customs Tariff;
- rosin (including "brais résineux") falling within subheading 38.08 A of the Common Customs Tariff,

and increasing the Community tariff quota, opened for 1981, for ferro-chromium containing not less than 4% by weight of carbon, falling within subheading ex 73.02 E I of the Common Customs Tariff.

Agricultural policy

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

- relating to the financing by the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund, Guarantee Section, of certain intervention measures, particularly those involving the buying-in, storage and sale of agricultural products by intervention agencies;
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 2915/79 as regards the annual tariff quota for Cheddar cheese.

Appointment

On a proposal from the French Government, the Council appointed Mr André RAMOFF, Conseiller Référendaire à la Cour des Comptes Délégué à la Formation Professionnelle, a member of the Management Board of the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training to replace Mr Gabriel DUCRAY, member, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which runs until 14 January 1982.

PRESS RELEASE

10617/81 (Presse 141)

737th meeting of the Council

- Foreign Affairs -

Brussels, 10 November 1981

President: Mr Humphrey ATKINS,
Lord Privy Seal of the
United Kingdom

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

Belgium :

Mr Robert URBAIN Minister for External Trade

Denmark :

Mr Flemming HEDEGAARD Deputy Permanent Representative

Germany :

Otto Graf LAMBSDORFF Federal Minister for Economic Affairs

Greece :

Mr Dimitrios PITSIORIS State Secretary for Industry and Energy

France :

Mr Pierre DREYFUS Minister for Industry

Ireland :

Mr Edward COLLINS Minister of State for Industry and Energy

Italy :

Mr Giovanni MARCORA Minister for Industry

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean MISCHO Deputy Permanent Representative

Netherlands:

Mr H. van den BROEK

State Secretary for Foreign
Affairs

Mr W. DIK

State Secretary for Economic
Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr Humphrey ATKINS

Lord Privy Seal

Mr Peter REES

Minister of State,
Department of Trade

Commission:

Mr Wilhelm HAFERKAMP

Vice-President

Viscount Etienne DAVIGNON

Vice-President

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TEXTILES

Multifibre Arrangement

The Council continued its discussion of the problems arising in connection with renewal of the MFA, in preparation for the planned resumption of negotiations in Geneva on 18 November.

During the discussion the Commission submitted a number of suggestions to take account of the views expressed and will in the next few days be submitting a further document giving specific form to its ideas.

The Council will resume its discussions on the afternoon of Tuesday 17 November.

STEEL

The Council heard an outline by Viscount DAVIGNON of the recent measures taken by the USA on exports of Community steel. He was seriously concerned by these measures and gave his full support to the approach being made by the Commission to the United States authorities with a view to finding a solution to the whole problem.

PRESS RELEASE

10788/81 (Presse 146)

738th meeting of the Council

- Foreign Affairs -

433

Brussels, 16 and 17 November 1981

Presidents: Lord CARRINGTON,
Secretary of State for
Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs

and

Mr Humphrey ATKINS,
Lord Privy Seal
of the United Kingdom

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

Belgium:

Mr Charles Ferdinand NOTHOMB Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Robert URBAIN Minister for Foreign Trade

Denmark:

Mr Kjeld OLESEN Minister for Foreign Affairs

Germany:

Mr Hans Dietrich GENSCHER Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Peter CORTIER Minister of State,
Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Otto Graf LAMSDORFF Federal Minister for Economic
Affairs

Greece:

Mr Jean CHARALAMBOPOULOS Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Grigoris VARFIS State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

France:

Mr Claude CHEYSSON Minister for Foreign Relations
Mr Pierre DREYFUS Minister for Industry
Mr André CHANDERNAGOR Minister attached to the Minister
for Foreign Relations, responsible
for European Affairs

Ireland:

Mr James DOOGE Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Alan DUKES Minister for Agriculture

Italy:

Mr Emilio COLOMBO	Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Giuseppe BARTOLOMEO	Minister for Agriculture
Mr Giovanni MARCORA	Minister for Industry
Mr Mario FIORET	State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Luxembourg:

Mrs Colette FLESCH	Minister for Foreign Affairs
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Netherlands:

Mr Max van der STOEL	Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr H. van den BROEK	State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mr W. DIK	State Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs

United Kingdom:

Lord CARRINGTON	Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs
Mr Humphrey ATKINS	Lord Privy Seal
Mr Peter REES	Minister of State to the Treasury
Mr Douglas HURD	Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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Commission:

Mr Gaston THORN	President
Mr François-Xavier ORTOLI	Vice-President
Mr Wilhelm HAFERKAMP	Vice-President
Mr Lorenzo NATALI	Vice-President
Mr Etienne DAVIGNON	Vice-President
Mr Antonio GIOLITTI	Member
Mr Karl-Heinz NARJES	Member
Mr Ivor RICHARD	Member

MANDATE OF 30 MAY

In preparation for the European Council in London on 26 and 27 November next, the Council continued its discussions on all the problems covered by the mandate of 30 May 1980, namely the development of Community policies other than agricultural policy, adjustments to the common agricultural policy and budgetary problems.

The Council agreed to complete these preparations - after delegations had been able to consult their Governments in the light of the discussions that had taken place - on Thursday 19 November (10.00).

EUROPEAN ACT

The Council and the Ministers for Foreign Affairs (Political Co-operation) heard the statements made by Ministers GENSCHER and COLOMBO introducing the German-Italian draft for a "European Act" and explaining the scope and significance of this initiative.

The other Members of the Council and the Ministers for Foreign Affairs (Political Co-operation) expressed their initial reactions and it was agreed that the document would be submitted to the European Council in London.

RENEWAL OF THE MULTIFIBRE ARRANGEMENT

The Council gave the supplementary directives necessary to enable the Commission to participate on the Community's behalf in further negotiations on the renewal of the Multifibre Arrangement.

The Commission will keep the Council informed of the progress of these negotiations and the Council will continue its discussion of the matter at its next meeting.

VARIOUS DECISIONS

Food Aid

The Council recorded its approval of the breakdown between the Member States of the national measures for food aid in the form of cereals (1981-1982):

Belgium	44,000 tonnes
Denmark	16,501 "
Federal Republic of Germany	193,500 "
France	200,000 "
Ireland	4,080 "
Italy	95,400 "
Luxembourg	1,360 "
Netherlands	50,200 "
United Kingdom	117,296 "
	<hr/>
	722,337 "
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Commercial policy and customs union

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

- amending Regulation (EEC) No 3501/80 establishing ceilings and Community surveillance of imports of certain products originating in Portugal (1981);
- amending Regulations (EEC) Nos 2053/81, 2054/81, 2055/81, 2056/81 and 2057/81 opening, allocating and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas for certain wines falling within subheading ex 22.05 of the Common Customs Tariff and originating in Portugal (1981/1982).

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

The Council went on to adopt in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 950/68 on the Common Customs Tariff.

Finally the Council adopted in the official languages of the Community the Regulations opening, allocating and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas for 1982 for

- ferro-silicon falling within subheading 73.02 C of the Common Customs Tariff
- ferro-silico-manganese falling within subheading 73.02 D of the Common Customs Tariff
- newsprint falling within subheading 48.01 A of the Common Customs Tariff and extending this quota to include certain other types of paper
- certain plywoods of coniferous species, falling within heading No ex 44.15 of the Common Customs Tariff
- raw silk (not thrown), falling within heading No 50.02 of the Common Customs Tariff
- yarn, entirely of silk, other than yarn of noil or other waste silk, not put up for retail sale, falling within heading No ex 50.04 of the Common Customs Tariff
- yarn, spun entirely from silk waste other than noil, not put up for retain sale, falling within subheading 50.05 A of the Common Customs Tariff.

Export credits

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision amending the Decision of 4 April 1978 concerning the application of certain guidelines in the field of officially supported export credits.

PRESS RELEASE

10788/81 (Presse 146) Add. 1

738th meeting of the Council

- Foreign Affairs -

Brussels, 19 November 1981

President: Lord CARRINGTON,
Secretary of State for
Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs
of the United Kingdom

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

Belgium:

Mr Charles Ferdinand NOTHOMB
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Denmark:

Mr Kjeld OLESEN
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Germany:

Mr Peter CORTERIER
Ministry of State,
Federal Ministry of Foreign
Affairs

Greece:

Mr Grigoris VARFIS
State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

France:

Mr André CHANDERNAGOR
Minister attached to the Minister
for Foreign Relations, responsible
for European Affairs

Ireland:

Mr James DOOGE
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Italy:

Mr Renato RUGGIERO
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

Luxembourg:

Miss Colette FLESCH
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Netherlands:

Mr Max van der STOEL
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr H. van den BROEK
State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

United Kingdom:

Lord CARRINGTON
Secretary of State for Foreign
and Commonwealth Affairs
Mr Douglas HURD
Minister of State,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Commission:

Mr Gaston THORN
President

Mr François-Xavier ORTOLI
Vice-President

Mr Christopher TUGENDHAT
Vice-President

Mr Etienne DAVIGNON
Vice-President

MANDATE OF 30 MAY

The Council continued the discussions it had held on 16 and 17 November on the Mandate of 30 May and completed the preparations for the European Council meeting on 26 and 27 November in London.

PRESS RELEASE

10789/81 (Presse 147)

739th Council meeting

- Agriculture -

Brussels, 16 November 1981

President: Mr Peter WALKER,
Minister for Agriculture
of the United Kingdom

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

Belgium:

Mr Albert LAVENS
Minister for Agriculture

Denmark:

Mr Bjoern WESTH
Minister for Agriculture

Germany:

Mr Hans-Jürgen ROHR
State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Food,
Agriculture and Forestry

Greece:

Mr Costas SIMITIS
Minister for Agriculture

France:

Mrs Edith CRESSON
Minister for Agriculture

Ireland:

Mr Alan DUKES
Minister for Agriculture

Italy:

Mr Giuseppe BARTOLOMEI
Minister for Agriculture
Mr Fabio FABRI
State Secretary,
Ministry of Agriculture

Luxembourg:

Mr Camille NEY
Minister for Agriculture,
Viticulture, Water Control and
Forestry

Netherlands:

Mr Jan de KONING
Minister for Agriculture and
Fisheries

United Kingdom:

Mr Peter WALKER
Minister for Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food
Mr Alick BUCHANAN-SMITH
Minister of State
Ministry of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food

Commission:

Mr Poul DALSGER
Member

COMMISSION COMMUNICATIONS ON GUIDELINES FOR EUROPEAN AGRICULTURE AND
LINES OF ACTION FOR MEDITERRANEAN PROGRAMMES

The Council held a thorough discussion of the Commission communications on guidelines for European agriculture. The debate allowed delegations to put forward their respective points of view both on the general principles which form the basis of the Commission communication and on the practical suggestions set out therein.

While emphasizing the interest of the Commission communication, the Council agreed that its work on this subject should be continued on a detailed basis, taking account both of whatever general guidelines might emerge from the next meeting of the European Council and of the technical examinations which the experts will make.

PROPOSALS RELATING TO CHANGES IN THE "ACQUIS COMMUNAUTAIRE" IN RESPECT OF MEDITERRANEAN PRODUCTS

The Council heard a report by the Chairman of the Special Committee on Agriculture on the proposals submitted by the Commission for changes in the common organization of markets in the olive oil and wine sectors and in the fruit and vegetables sector, including citrus fruits.

It held a thorough discussion of the proposed measures, particularly in the case of olive oil and wine; it considered the various possibilities for improving market organization for these products, bearing in mind, amongst other things, the effects of the prospective enlargement of the European Economic Community on these sectors. The Special Committee on Agriculture was asked to continue its technical examination of this whole matter, taking into account the points of view expressed.

FRAMEWORK AGREEMENTS RELATING TO THE MULTI-ANNUAL SUPPLY OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

On the basis of a statement by the Chairman of the Special Committee on Agriculture on the progress made by the Committee on the Commission communication on the negotiation of framework agreements relating to the multiannual supply of agricultural products, the Council discussed the aims and scope of such agreements as well as their effectiveness with regard to trade.

KEEPING OF LAYING HENS IN CAGES

The Council took note of the latest situation as regards minimum standards for the protection of laying hens kept in battery cages ⁽¹⁾ and instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue examining the matter, on the understanding that a decision would be taken once the European Parliament's Opinion was known.

HOTHOUSE HORTICULTURE

The Council heard a statement by Commissioner DALSAGER on the Commission's latest approaches to the Netherlands Government over the question of eliminating the differences between the price of natural gas in the horticultural sector and that prevailing in the industrial sector in the Netherlands. The Commissioner said that in his view these differences should be eliminated by 1 October 1982 and stated that the Commission would take a decision on this subject on Wednesday 18 November. Several delegations expressed their grave concern over the heating season which had just begun.

⁽¹⁾ See Resolution of 22 July 1980, OJ No C 196, 2.8.1980, p. 1.

GUARANTEED PRICE FOR ACP SUGAR

The Council took note of the latest progress report on the negotiations with the ACP countries for fixing the guaranteed price for preferential sugar for the 1981/1982 delivery period.

Mr DALSAGER informed the Council that the Commission felt that the negotiating brief should be adapted so as to make it easier to reach rapid agreement on this matter.

The Council asked the Commission to submit suitable proposals as soon as possible so that they could be examined by the Special Committee on Agriculture.

BEEF AND VEAL

The Council took note of a Commission report on the implementation of the Community tariff quota opened for frozen beef and veal in 1981.

It also discussed three proposals for Regulations determining the quotas for beef and veal for 1982.

It agreed to return to this matter when it had received the European Parliament's Opinion.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Council also discussed the following subjects:

- measures restricting imports of poultry and eggs into the United Kingdom (request by the Netherlands delegation)
 - inclusion of apricots in Regulation No 516/77 (request by the Greek delegation)
 - granting of the marketing premium for citrus fruits (request by the Greek delegation).
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OTHER AGRICULTURAL DECISION

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the 4th Decision on the equivalence of seed potatoes produced in non-member countries.

PRESS RELEASE

10790/81 (Presse 148)

740th meeting of the Council

- Economic Affairs/Finance -

Brussels, 17 November 1981

President: Sir Geoffrey HOWE,
Chancellor of the Exchequer
of the United Kingdom

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

Belgium:

Mr Marc LEPOIVRE
Deputy Permanent Representative

Denmark:

Mr Fleming HEDEGAARD
Deputy Permanent Representative

Germany:

Mr Horst SCHULMANN
State Secretary
Federal Ministry of Finance

Greece:

Mr Antoine EXARCHOS
Deputy Permanent Representative

France:

Mr Jacques DELORS
Minister for the Economy
and Finance

Ireland:

Mr John SWIFT
Deputy Permanent Representative

Italy:

Mr Giovanni MARCORA
Minister for Industry

Luxembourg:

Mr Ernest MUHLEN
State Secretary for Finance

Netherlands:

Mr R.A. van SWINDEREN
Deputy Permanent Representative

United Kingdom:

Sir Geoffrey HOWE
Chancellor of the Exchequer
Mr Nicholas RIDLEY
Financial Secretary to the
Treasury

Commission:

Mr Christopher TUGENDHAT
Vice-President

INSURANCE OTHER THAN LIFE ASSURANCE

The Council held a detailed discussion on the problems faced with regard to the treatment of major risks, checking and supervision procedures, the role of agencies and branches, the confusion which might arise where an undertaking provided services in a Member State in which an establishment of the same undertaking was located (the so-called "aggregation" problem), and the question of the tax arrangements to be applied to insurance contracts.

During the discussion the Council was able to arrive at a number of positive guidelines. Consequently, it has instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its work on the subject for the Council's next meeting on economic and financial questions, planned for 14 December.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Travel-allowances

The Council has adopted two Directives and a Regulation which will increase from January next year the tax and duty reliefs for travellers and for small consignments of goods sent to private individuals in the Member States.

As a result of these increases, which should contribute to a further simplification of formalities at the Community's frontiers, the new allowances from 1 January 1982 will be:

- for travellers entering the Community from third countries:
45 Ecus;
 - for consignments of goods sent from third countries:
35 Ecus and
 - for goods sent within the Community: 70 Ecus.
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PRESS RELEASE
11008/81 (Presse 154)

741st meeting of the Council

- Budget -

Brussels, 23, 24 and 25 November 1981

President: Nicholas RIDLEY
 Financial Secretary to the
 Treasury of the United Kingdom

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

Belgium

Mr Guy MATHOT
Minister for the Budget

Denmark

Mr Otto MØLLER
State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Germany

Mr Horst SCHULMANN
State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Finance

Greece

Mr Antoine EXARCHOS
Deputy Permanent Representative

France

Mr André CHANDERNAGOR
Minister-Delegate to the
Ministry of External Relations,
responsible for European
affairs

Ireland

Mr Barry DESMOND
Minister of State,
Ministry of Finance

Italy

Mr Carlo FRACANZANI
State Secretary,
Ministry of the Treasury

Luxembourg

Mr Ernest MUHLEN
State Secretary for Finance

Netherlands

Mr H. van den BROEK
State Secretary for
Foreign Affairs

United Kingdom

Mr Nicholas RIDLEY
Financial Secretary to the Treasury

Mr Jock BRUCE-GARDYNE
Minister of State at the Treasury

Commission

Mr Christopher TUGENDHAT
Vice-President

MEETING WITH A DELEGATION FROM THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

In its proceedings on the preparation of supplementary and amending budget No 2 of the Communities for 1981 and on the preparation of the General Budget of the Communities for 1982, the Council met a delegation from the European Parliament led by Mrs VEIL, President of the European Parliament. The delegation also included:

Mr LANGE, Chairman of the Committee on Budgets;
Mr NOTENBOOM, 1st Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Budgets;
Mr SPINELLI, 2nd Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Budgets
and Rapporteur for Section III of the Budget;
Mr ROSSI, 3rd Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Budgets;
Mr ANSQUER, Rapporteur for Sections I, II, IV and V of the 1982 Budget;
Mr ADONNINO, Rapporteur for amending budget No 2 - 1981;
Mr DANKERT, Member of the Committee on Budgets and Vice-President
of the European Parliament; Mr BALFOUR and Mr LANGES, Members of the
Committee on Budgets.

The meeting enabled the delegation from the European Parliament to give the reasons for its amendments and proposed modifications to the draft 1981 supplementary and amending budget and the draft 1982 General Budget and also enabled the Council to inform the European Parliament of its views on the matter. The discussions also made it possible for those taking part to consider together the question of classification of the Communities' budget expenditure.

Following this exchange of views the President of the Council said that the Council would forthwith consider the Parliament's amendments and proposed modifications to the draft budgets in the light of the comments made at the meeting.

DRAFT SUPPLEMENTARY AND AMENDING BUDGET No 2 FOR THE FINANCIAL
YEAR 1981

The Council examined the amendments and a proposed modification to draft supplementary and amending budget No 2 for 1981, bearing in mind the views of the European Parliament delegation.

The Council agreed to provide 10 million ECU for the supply of food aid to Poland. This supply would be financed from the EAGGF under the same heading as previous similar supplies.

DRAFT GENERAL BUDGET FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1982

The Council then examined point by point the amendments and proposed modifications to the draft 1982 budget in the light of the wishes expressed by the European Parliament delegation.

As regards the most important items of non-compulsory expenditure (NCE) in this draft budget, the Council reached agreement on the following increases in commitment appropriations to the draft drawn up by the Council in July 1981:

European Regional Development Fund	:	+ 157 MECU
European Social Fund	:	+ 174 MECU
Energy policy	:	+ 18 MECU
Aid to non-associated developing countries	:	+ 25 MECU
Microelectronics	:	+ 30 MECU.

The increases in commitment appropriations to the NCE decided on by the Council amounted to 425 MECU in all. The Council decided to propose the fixing of a new rate for payment appropriations to the European Parliament. In addition the Council agreed to some of the European Parliament's proposed modifications in the area of compulsory expenditure and agreed to a reduction in expenditure under the EAGGF. This reduction mainly involves expenditure in connection with the consequences of monetary adjustments and with certain aspects of the milk sector.

The amended draft budget will be forwarded to the European Parliament for discussion at its next plenary session from 14 to 18 December in Strasbourg.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Food aid

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities,

- a Decision on the granting of exceptional food aid to Tanzania in the form of 10,000 tonnes of cereals;
- a Regulation on the supply of 500 tonnes of skimmed milk powder as food aid to the Sudan.

Relations with Yugoslavia

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation providing for a reduction in the levy applicable to imports into the Community of certain beef and veal products originating in and coming from Yugoslavia.

Relations with the ACP States

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision on the application of derogations from the definition of the concept of originating products under the second ACP-EEC Convention.

Commercial policy and customs union

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision concerning the conclusion of the Protocol for the accession of Colombia to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

It also adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation temporarily suspending the autonomous Common Customs Tariff duties on certain industrial products.

Fisheries

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 2228/81 concerning the management and control of certain catch quotas for 1981 for vessels flying the flag of a Member State and fishing in the Regulatory Area defined in the NAFO Convention.

Agriculture

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Directive amending for the third time Directive 70/357/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States concerning the antioxidants authorized for use in foodstuffs intended for human consumption.

Appointments

Acting on a proposal from the Danish Government the Council appointed Mr Iwan NØRLOV, Arbedjs- og socialrad, Danmark faste repraesentation ved De europæiske Faellesskaber, a full member of the European Social Fund to replace Mr Morton FENGER, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, i.e. until 9 November 1982.

Acting on a proposal from the United Kingdom Government, the Council also appointed Mr H.W.L. MORTON, Director of Social Affairs, Administration and Advisory Services, Confederation of British Industry, a full member of the Advisory Committee on Freedom of Movement for Workers to replace Mr Paul BRADBURY, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, i.e. until 16 March 1982.

Lastly, acting on a proposal from the United Kingdom Government, the Council appointed Mr M. WESTON, Manpower Services Commission, Training Services Division, an alternate member of the Advisory Committee on Vocational Training to replace Mr J.D. RIMINGTON, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, i.e. until 16 September 1983.

PRESS RELEASE

11421/81 (Presse 158)

742nd Council meeting

- Environment -

Brussels, 3 December 1981

President: Mr Tom KING
Minister for Local Government
and Environment Services of the
United Kingdom

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

Belgium:

Mr Luc DHOORE
Minister for Social Security
and Health

Denmark:

Mr Erik HOLST
Minister for the Environment

Germany:

Mr Gerhart Rudolf BAUM
Federal Minister for the Interior

Mr Andreas VON SCHOELER
State Secretary,
Federal Minister for the Interior

Greece:

Mr A. TRITSIS
Minister for Regional Development
and the Environment

France:

Mr Michel CREPEAU
Minister for the Environment

Ireland:

Mr Donald CREED
Minister of State,
Ministry of the Environment

Italy:

Mr Giancarlo TESINI
Minister for Scientific Research

Luxembourg:

Mr Josy BARTHEL
Minister for the Environment

Netherlands:

Mrs S. LAMBERS-HACKEBARD
State Secretary,
Ministry of Health and
Environment Protection

Mr H. van der BROEK
State Secretary for
Foreign Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr Tom KING
Minister for Local Government
and Environment Services

Mr Giles SHAW
Under-Secretary of State,
Ministry of the Environment

Mr H.A. de BOER
State Secretary for Cultural
Affairs, Recreation and
Social Work

Commission:

Mr Karl-Heinz NARJES
Member

RECIPROCAL EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION FROM NETWORKS AND INDIVIDUAL STATIONS MEASURING AIR POLLUTION WITHIN THE MEMBER STATES

While awaiting the Opinions of the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee the Council expressed a favourable opinion on the proposal for a Decision on the reciprocal exchange of information from networks and individual stations measuring pollution within the Member States. The Council said it would act on the proposal for a Decision once it had received the Opinions of the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee.

MAJOR ACCIDENT HAZARDS OF CERTAIN INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITIES

The Council examined the latest problems relating to the Directive on the major accident hazards of certain industrial activities (¹), known as the SEVESO Directive.

After a detailed discussion covering in particular procedures for information and consultation between the Member States with regard to transboundary hazards, the Council reached final agreement on the draft Directive.

After legal and linguistic finalization of the text, the Council will adopt the directive at a forthcoming meeting.

(¹) See press release 7400/81 (Presse 77) of 11 June 1981.

IMPLEMENTATION IN THE COMMUNITY OF THE CONVENTIONS ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA (WASHINGTON CONVENTION)

The Council examined the Commission proposal for a Regulation on the accession of the Community to the Washington Convention, which was drawn up in 1973 as part of the United Nations Programme on the Environment and which is intended to protect endangered species of wild fauna and flora.

The discussions enabled the Council to reach a wide measure of agreement. It accordingly asked the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue discussing the remaining problems with the aim of reaching agreement on the entire dossier.

AIR QUALITY STANDARDS FOR LEAD

The Council resumed its discussions on a system of regular measuring by sampling stations to ensure that air quality standards for lead are observed. The Council was able to resolve certain substantive questions. It accordingly instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to complete the discussions so that the Directive could be adopted at a forthcoming meeting.

MERCURY DISCHARGES

The Council resumed its discussions on the proposal for a Directive on the limit values and quality objectives applicable to discharges of mercury by the chlor-alkali electrolysis industry. The discussions covered in particular the arrangements to be laid down for new plants. After resolving this problem and the other outstanding questions, the Council approved the text of the Directive. The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to finalize the text.

Adoption of this Directive will help to combat pollution of the aquatic environment by mercury from the chlor-alkali electrolysis industry and will also enable considerable progress to be made towards applying basic Council Directive 76/464/EEC of 4 May 1976 on pollution caused by certain dangerous substances discharged into the aquatic environment of the Community. The Directive on mercury discharges is in fact the first implementing Directive of the basic Directive. Its adoption should simplify work on the proposals for Directives submitted to the Council covering discharges of aldrin, dieldrin and endrin and discharges of cadmium.

THIRD EUROPEAN COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAMME ON THE ENVIRONMENT
(1982-1986)

The Council held a wide-ranging discussion on the third action programme on the environment proposed by the Commission. This discussion enabled the members of the Council to state their views on the various aspects of the draft programme. The Council said it would act on the proposal for a Decision once it had received the Opinions of the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee, during the Belgian presidency.

CHLOROFLUOROCARBONS IN THE ENVIRONMENT

The Council discussed the Commission proposal for a Decision on the consolidation of precautionary measures concerning chlorofluorocarbons in the environment. It will be remembered that on 26 March 1980 the Council adopted a decision providing for a 30% reduction from 1976 levels of use of fluorocarbons in aerosols.

After a policy debate which enabled each delegation to state its views on the subject, the Council said it would act on this proposal for a Decision once it had received the Opinion of the European Parliament, during the Belgian presidency.

EXHAUST GASES EMITTED BY MOTOR VEHICLES

The Commission representative and a number of delegations made statements to the Council on the reduction of exhaust gases emitted by motor vehicles. The Council decided to return to this matter at its next meeting.

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The Commission representative also made two statements to the Council on:

- progress in the proceedings of the Regional Ministerial Conference in Paris on safety at sea (progress as regards information on oil tankers);
- the situation regarding ratification by the Member States of the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Other decisions: Environment

-- Re-use of waste paper and use of recycled paper

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Recommendation designed to promote the use of recycled paper and board and in particular to:

- encourage the use of recycled and recyclable paper and board, especially in Community Institutions and national administrations, public bodies and those national official services which can set an example;
- encourage, where feasible, the use of recycled paper and board containing a high percentage of mixed waste paper;
- re-examine in the light of recent technological advances the existing specifications for paper products which restrict, for reasons other than adequacy of a product for its purpose, the re-use of waste paper and the use of recycled paper and board;
- implement programmes of consumer and manufacturer education to promote paper and board products made from recycled paper and board;
- develop and promote uses for waste paper other than as a raw material for the manufacture of paper and board;
- encourage the use of products (inks, glues, etc.) which do not preclude the subsequent recycling of paper and board.

- Community information system for the control and reduction of pollution caused by hydrocarbons discharged at sea

The Council adopted in the Communities' official languages a Decision to establish an information system to make available to the competent authorities in the Member States the data required for the control and reduction of pollution caused by hydrocarbons discharged at sea.

The information system is to comprise in particular:

- an inventory of the means of combating such pollution;
 - a list of national and joint contingency plans comprising brief descriptions of their content and details of the authorities responsible for them;
 - a compendium of hydrocarbon properties and their behaviour and of methods of treatment and end uses of mixtures of water-hydrocarbon solid matter recovered from the sea or along the coast.
- Commission communication concerning the preparation of Directives on heptachlor and chlordane

The Council took note of the Commission communication concerning the preparation of Directives on heptachlor and chlordane. In this the Commission said in particular that no useful purpose would be served by preparing and submitting proposals for Council Directives on heptachlor and chlordane in view of the fact that little use was made of these substances in the Community. The Commission was of the opinion that it would suffice at this stage to keep the use of these substances under review.

- Conservation of European wildlife and natural habitats

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision concerning the conclusion of the Convention on the conservation of European wildlife and natural habitats (the Berne Convention). The aims of this Convention are to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats, especially those species and habitats whose conservation requires the co-operation of several States, and to promote such co-operation. Particular emphasis is given to endangered and vulnerable species, including endangered and vulnerable migratory species.

Customs union and commercial policy

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

- temporarily suspending the autonomous Common Customs Tariff duties on a number of agricultural products;
- opening, allocating and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas for
 - = ferro-chromium containing not more than 0.10% by weight of carbon and more than 30% but not more than 90% by weight of chromium (super-refined ferro-chromium) falling within subheading ex 73.02 E I of the Common Customs Tariff (1982)
 - = certain hand-made products (1982)
 - = certain hand-woven fabrics, pile and chenille, falling within headings ex 50.09, ex 55.07, ex 55.09 and ex 58.04 of the Common Customs Tariff (1982)
 - = yarn of poly (p-phenyleneterephthalamide) for use in the manufacture of tyres or for products used in the manufacture of tyres, falling within subheading ex 51.01 A of the Common Customs Tariff;
- amending Council Regulation (EEC) No 2761/81 imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on o-xylene (ortho-xylene) originating in Puerto Rico and the United States of America.

Relations with the Mediterranean countries

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities Regulations on a number of tariff quotas, ceilings and import arrangements for 1982 for certain products originating in various Mediterranean countries (Cyprus, Spain, Israel, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey).

The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities three Regulations on the application of Decision No 1/81 of the EEC-Cyprus Association Council and of the EEC-Egypt and EEC-Lebanon Co-operation Councils replacing the unit of account by the ECU in the Protocol on the definition of "originating products" and methods of administrative co-operation to the Agreements between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Cyprus, the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Lebanese Republic.

The Council also adopted decisions on signing Protocols of adjustment to the Co-operation Agreements and ECSC Agreements with Morocco and Syria, consequent on the accession of Greece to the European Communities. It further adopted autonomous measures to be taken by the Community and the Representatives of the Member States of the ECSC, meeting within the Council, pending entry into force of the Protocols.

Lastly, the Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Council Regulations on the conclusion and implementation of the exchanges of letters between the EEC on the one hand and Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria and Turkey on the other, concerning untreated olive oil.

Relations with the ACP States

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 1700/81 opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for rum, arrack and tafia falling within subheading 22.05 C I of the Common Customs Tariff and originating in the African, Caribbean and Pacific States.

The Council agreed to the draft Decision of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers approving the request by Belize, which became independent on 21 September 1981, for accession as the 62nd State to the second ACP-EEC Convention signed in Lomé on 31 October 1979.

Pending entry into force of that Decision, once also approved by the ACP States, the Council adopted a Decision on the provisional application to Belize of the arrangements provided for in Decision 80/1186/EEC on the association of the OCT.

Under those arrangements Belize will retain until it actually accedes to the Lomé Convention certain chiefly financial and commercial advantages from which it benefits under the association of the OCT with the Community.

Relations with the EFTA countries

The Council agreed to draft Decisions No 1/81 of the EEC-Austria and EEC-Switzerland Joint Committees - Community transit - amending Appendix II to the Agreements between the European Economic Community and Austria and Switzerland on the application of the rules on Community transit.

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Decision on the conclusion of an Agreement resulting from the negotiations and consultations between Finland and the European Economic Community concerning trade in various agricultural products.

Agriculture

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

- amending Regulation (EEC) No 337/79 on the common organization of the market in wine;
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 338/79 laying down special provisions relating to quality wines produced in specified regions;
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 3035/80 laying down general rules for granting export refunds on certain agricultural products exported in the form of goods not covered by Annex II to the Treaty, and the criteria for fixing the amount of such refunds.

Energy pricing: policy and transparency

Following its meeting on energy on 27 October 1981 and the subsequent finalization of the text by the Permanent Representatives Committee in the light of the positions taken in Council by delegations, the Council agreed on the following conclusions:

"The Council, having taken note of the Commission's communication on "Energy pricing: policy and transparency":

1. emphasizes the particular importance which it attaches to energy pricing as an essential element of the energy strategy of the Community and of its Member States;

2. reaffirms the need for all Member States to observe the principles agreed by the Council in June 1980, namely the following:

- consumer prices should reflect representative conditions on the world market, taking account of longer-term trends;
- one of the factors determining consumer prices should be the cost of replacing and developing energy resources;
- energy prices on the market should be characterized by the greatest possible degree of transparency.

In pursuing the implementation of these principles, the Council declares that:

- 2.1. consumer prices must permit an adequate level of investment in energy supply and encourage energy efficiency; to this end they must not be kept at artificially low levels and thereby prevented from providing reliable market signals;
- 2.2. government policies which contribute to the formation of energy prices must take account of the need for a realistic reflection of market trends. Differences in pre-tax energy prices within the Community may arise from the existence of a genuine competitive advantage (arising for example from favourable location, prudent investment, superior productivity or specific market conditions) or alternatively from the existence of priorities consistent with the Community's own energy objectives, in particular the objective of reduced dependence on oil. Any differences which do not correspond to these guidelines must be clearly identified and, to the extent that they arise from differences in public policy, progressively reduced.

3. reaffirms that transparency is a necessary and urgent condition for the implementation of the principles in paragraph 2 above. This means that consumers should have adequate access to information on energy prices and on the methods by which both prices and tariffs are determined. Although satisfactory progress has been made in recent years, transparency remains insufficient in a number of important areas. The Council notes the Commission's plans for future work on the improvement of transparency. It invites the Governments of the Member States to co-operate with the Commission in clarifying transparency aims and in defining appropriate procedures to improve transparency.
4. invites the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine the Commission communication, to analyse further the issues involved, and to submit before the end of February a report to the Council with appropriate proposals for the further elaboration of the principles set out in paragraph 2 above, notably as regards clarification of transparency aims and action to increase transparency and to improve the consistency of policies which contribute to the formation of energy prices."

Euratom

The Council approved the Commission's intention of concluding the Agreement between the United States Department of Energy and the EAEC represented by the Commission in the field of Nuclear Material Safeguards Research and Development.

ECSC

The Council gave the consultation under Article 53 of the ECSC Treaty requested by the Commission on a draft Decision relating to the extension of the authorization concerning the equalization fund established by the United Kingdom Chamber of Coal Traders and the National Coal Board to reduce the price of anthracite and anthracite briquettes imported from Community and non-Community countries.

Appointment

Acting on a proposal from the Italian Government, the Council appointed Dr Francesco NOLI, Amministratore della S.p.A. F.lli Canessa, Presidente dell'Associazione Commercianti Acciai Assofermet, as a Member of the ECSC Consultative Committee in place of the late Mr Mario PORTANOVA for the remainder of his term of office, which runs until 24 November 1982.

PRESS RELEASE

11502/81 (Presse 161)

743rd meeting of the Council

- Foreign Affairs -

Brussels, 7 and 8 December 1981

Presidents: Lord CARRINGTON,
Secretary of State for
Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs
and
Mr Humphrey ATKINS,
Lord Privy Seal
of the United Kingdom

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

Belgium:

Mr José DESMARETS

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Small Firms and Traders, for Planning and Deputy Minister for the French Community

Denmark:

Mr Gunnar RIBERHOLDT

Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

Germany:

Mr Peter CORTERIER

Minister of State,
Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr Otto SCHLECHT

State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs

Greece:

Mr Grigoris VARFIS

State Secretary,
Economic Co-ordination, responsible for relations with the European Economic Community

France:

Mr Pierre DREYFUS

Minister for Industry

Mr André CHANDERNAGOR

Minister attached to the Minister for Foreign Relations, responsible for European Affairs

Ireland:

Mr James DOOGE

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Edward COLLINS

Minister of State,
Ministry of Industry and Energy

Italy:

Mr Giovanni MARCORA

Minister for Industry

Mr Mario FIORET

State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Luxembourg:

Miss Colette FLESCH Minister for Foreign Affairs

Netherlands:

Mr Max van der STOEL Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr H. van den BROEK State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr W. DIK State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

United Kingdom:

Lord CARRINGTON Secretary of State for
Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs

Mr Humphrey ATKINS Lord Privy Seal

Mr Peter REES Minister of State to the Treasury

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Commission:

Mr Gaston THORN President

Mr Wilhelm HAFERKAMP Vice-President

Mr Etienne DAVIGNON Vice-President

Mr Christopher TUGENDHAT Vice-President

Mr Poul DALSAGER Member

Mr Edgard PISANI Member

COMMUNITY GENERALIZED PREFERENCES IN FAVOUR OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES -
NEW SCHEME FOR 1982

In the light of the Opinions of the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee, the Council approved the new Generalized Scheme of Preferences for 1982. This scheme was drawn up within the framework of the Council's decision of 16 December 1980 to maintain the Generalized Scheme of Preferences (GSP) in force for a further 10-year period.

In finalizing the 1982 scheme the Council took account of the changes which had occurred in the economic situation in 1981 and of new guidelines in the field of industrial products to which the GSP for the 1980s is geared.

The new approaches involve continuing the gradual and progressive differentiation of the advantages granted in favour of the beneficiary countries whose need is greatest.

1. Products covered by the GSP

The 1982 Scheme may be summarized as follows:

(a) Industrial products (including ECSC products)

As in 1981, the 1982 GSP provides for total exemption from customs duties for all industrial products, up to certain amounts or volumes.

To simplify administration of the GSP, the Community has adopted, as in the 1981 GSP, two categories of products (strictly controlled sensitive products and non-sensitive products). Thus for 65 sensitive industrial products (including 6 ECSC products), preferential imports from highly competitive countries will be subject to individual quotas, whereas imports from other beneficiaries will be subject to individual ceilings.

The Council also removed certain exclusions affecting Romania and China for particular products.

In general, imports from beneficiary countries considered to be the poorest are not subject to quotas.

- (b) As regards textile products the Council considered it appropriate to continue unchanged for 1982 the 1981 GSP arrangements both for products covered by the Multifibre Arrangement (MFA) and for those not covered by it.

(c) As regards agricultural products, the 1982 Community offer will include partial or total exemption for some 327 products. The Council has agreed on the following arrangements:

- increase in the preferential margin for 36 products already included in the GSP;
- introduction of 14 new products for all the beneficiary countries (fresh papaya, certain spirituous beverages: Pisco and Singani), certain unrooted cuttings, trees, shrubs, cut flowers, parts of plants and certain pineapple juice;
- inclusion of eleven new products for the exclusive benefit of the least developed countries, namely: certain vegetables, lentils, certain provisionally preserved fruits, cocoa beans, cocoa shells and waste, fish meal, offals of sheep and goats, frozen trout, certain tunny products, fresh haddock and other sea fish;
- for the least developed countries, exemption from quantitative restrictions for almost all products.

Lastly, China will benefit from some new concessions in 1982 for certain fruit which has been prepared or preserved with added alcohol.

2. Beneficiaries

The list of beneficiaries for 1982 contains 125 countries, including two new ones (Belize and Antigua and Barbuda) which have become independent in 1981.

China and Romania will continue to benefit from preferences under special arrangements.

The legal texts will be published very shortly in the Official Journal of the European Communities.

SUPPLY OF FOODSTUFFS TO POLAND

The Council decided to provide Poland with emergency supplies of 8,000 tonnes of beef which, exceptionally, would take the form of a gift. This decision follows on from a budget initiative taken by the European Parliament. The Commission will take the necessary measures to see that delivery takes place before the end of the year.

NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE

The Council adopted a second report on Community policy for the North/South Dialogue which constituted a sequel to the report adopted last June by the European Council in Luxembourg, the purpose of which is to guide the Community in any further action in the North/South context. The report approved by the Council spells out and expands upon the basic guidelines contained in the 1st report. The Council also reaffirmed the importance the Community attaches to the North/South Dialogue in all its forms and its desire to take part in the efforts under way within the United Nations framework with a view to reaching a basic general agreement which would enable the global negotiations to begin.

COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS ON JAPAN

The Council agreed that the Community must continue to emphasize to the Japanese authorities the urgency and importance of bringing about adequate changes in the trade situation between Japan and the Community, which remained a matter of serious concern.

The Council approved the recommendations in the Commission's report and requested the Commission to transmit to the Japanese authorities a list of the Community's requests, with a view to early consideration and action - apart from medium or long-term economic policy measures which were also required. The tariff measures which the Japanese authorities were considering constituted a step in the right direction, but would not address the central problem.

The Council requested the Commission to report in time for consideration at its meeting in February 1982 on any further developments. On that occasion, the Council will assess the Japanese response.

FOLLOW-UP TO THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL IN LONDON ON 26 AND 27 NOVEMBER

The Council agreed that the informal meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs to discuss the problems in connection with the mandate of 30 May 1980 still outstanding at the close of the European Council would be held on 14 and 15 December (beginning on 14 December at 18.00) in London.

CYPRUS

The Council recorded its agreement in principle to an extension on an autonomous basis of the trading arrangements currently applied between the Community and Cyprus for a period of six months from 1 January 1982.

The Council agreed that in the meantime the Community would actively pursue its work on the negotiating Directives for the Commission in respect of the trading arrangements to be negotiated between the Community and Cyprus.

COKING COAL AND COKE FOR THE IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRY

Following its debate on 27 October 1981 (Energy Council) the assent to be given to the Draft Commission Decision amending the 1973 aid arrangements for coking coal and coke for the iron and steel industry in the Community, the Council briefly discussed the reservations still outstanding.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The Council examined the final difficulties still remaining in the way of approval of three recommendations on co-operation between the administrations of the Member States in the sizeable telecommunications sector.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to bring the work on these drafts to a successful conclusion.

AID TO NON-ASSOCIATED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR 1982

The Council agreed to resume examination of the conditions for using Africa's share (5%) of the aid to non-associated countries in the light of the information gathered by Commissioner PISANI as a result of his trip to Africa in February 1982.

IRON AND STEEL

External aspects

The Council formulated directives enabling the Commission to negotiate the 1982 arrangements with those third countries which are the Community's main suppliers.

Social aspects

The Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, adopted the Decision allocating additional contributions of 50 MECU to the ECSC for the financial year 1981.

The Member States' contributions are as follows:

	ECU		ECU
Belgium	2,737,109	Ireland	310,206
Denmark	1,368,556	Italy	6,386,588
Germany	16,459,150	Luxembourg	69,340
Greece	243,000	Netherlands	3,175,048
France	10,583,490	United Kingdom	8,667,513

Having regard to its conclusions of 24 June 1981 on social measures by the ECSC for certain categories of projects on behalf of workers in the iron and steel sector (early retirement and partial unemployment), and those of 24 November on financing, the Council also discussed the supplementary resources to be placed at the disposal of the ECSC budget to that end.

At the close of the discussions the President expressed the hope that it would soon be possible to reach a decision, particularly after the informal meeting of Industry Ministers in London on 10 December.

ACP SUGAR

On the basis of the Commission's new proposals and the report from the Special Committee on Agriculture, the Council carried out a thorough examination of amendments which might be made to the negotiating brief it had given to the Commission for negotiating with the ACP States the guaranteed prices for ACP sugar for the 1981/1982 marketing year, pursuant to the Lomé Convention.

Urging the political importance of reaching a conclusion as quickly as possible, the Council agreed to continue its discussion at the meeting of the Agriculture Council on 15 December both as regards possible amendments to the Commission negotiating brief and the application of arrangements for the equalization of storage costs.

The President of the Council was asked that those ACP States which have requested a special meeting of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers on this issue should be informed of this situation.

TEXTILES

The Council discussed the supplementary directives to the Commission concerning the negotiations in Geneva for the renewal of the Multifibre Agreement.

It also discussed the directives to the Commission concerning the Mediterranean countries.

At the end of its discussions the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to finalize the text of its conclusions, which will be submitted to it for formal approval as soon as possible.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Trade policy and customs union

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

- concerning a number of tariff quotas or import arrangements for certain products originating in various countries of the Mediterranean basin (Cyprus, Spain, Morocco) for 1982 (2nd series);
- temporarily suspending the autonomous Common Customs Tariff duties on certain apparatus for the treatment of Leukemia falling within heading ex 90.20;
- on export arrangements for certain types of non-ferrous metal waste and scrap.

Relations with the EFTA countries *

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

- establishing indicative ceilings and Community surveillance of imports of certain products originating in Austria, Finland, Norway and Sweden (1982);
- establishing ceilings and Community surveillance of imports of certain products originating in Portugal (1982).

In addition, the Council approved the Community position on the draft Decisions by the EEC-Austria, EEC-Switzerland, EEC-Sweden, EEC-Portugal, EEC-Finland, EEC-Norway and EEC-Iceland Joint Committees amending Protocols Nos 1 and 2 to the Agreements between the EEC and these countries.

(*) Provisional reservation by the Greek delegation.

Food Aid

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

- 260 tonnes of butteroil;
- 300 tonnes of skimmed milk powder,

from the 1979 reserve to Ghana as food aid.

Technical barriers

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities, the Directive amending Directive 79/113/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the determination of the noise emission of construction plant and equipment.

Research

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Decision adopting a multiannual research and training programme for the European Economic Community in the field of biomolecular engineering (Indirect Action April 1982 to March 1986) ⁽²⁾.

The Council also adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Council Regulation concerning Community projects in the field of microelectronics technology ⁽¹⁾.

⁽¹⁾ Provisional reservation by the Greek delegation.

⁽²⁾ See Press Release 10597/81 (Presse 140) of 9.XI.81.

ECSC

The Council gave its assent, pursuant to the second subparagraph of Article 54 of the ECSC Treaty:

- to the co-financing of investment projects relating to the conversion to coal of oil-fired heating in the various cement works of the Société Heidelberg Zement AG, Heidelberg;
- to the partial financing of a project for the construction of railway wagons specially designed to carry coal and steel products.

Appointments

The Council appointed, on a proposal from the Danish Government, Mr Bent NIELSEN, Sekretær i Landsorganisationen i Danmark, as member of the Economic and Social Committee in place of Mr Knud CHRISTENSEN, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, i.e. until 18 September 1982.

The Council also appointed Miss Rita McARDIE as alternate member of the Committee of the European Social Fund in place of Mr J. SWEENEY, alternate member, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, i.e. until 9 November 1982.

In addition, the Council appointed, on a proposal from the Danish Government, Mr Bent RASMUSSEN as alternate member of the Advisory Committee on Training in Nursing to replace Mr Niels BENTSEN for the remainder of the latter's term of office, i.e. until 14 January 1982.

Finally, the Council appointed, on a proposal from the Danish Government, Mr Poul TOFTEGAARD as alternate member of the Advisory Committee on the Training of Dental Practitioners to replace Mrs Jette MERSING for the remainder of the latter's term of office, i.e. until 25 March 1983.

PRESS RELEASE

11543/81 (Presse 162)

744th meeting of the Council

- Labour and Social Affairs

Brussels, 8 December 1981

President: Mr Norman TEBBIT,
Secretary of State for Employment
of the United Kingdom

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

Belgium:

Mr Roger DEWULF
Minister for Labour
and Employment

Denmark:

Mr Jens WANDALL
State Secretary,
Ministry of Labour

Germany:

Ms Anke FUCHS
Parliamentary State Secretary,
Ministry of Labour and
Social Welfare

Greece:

Mr Eleftherios SARRIS
Embassy Counsellor,
Social Affairs

France:

Mr Jean AUROUX
Minister of Labour

Ireland:

Ms Eileen DESMOND
Minister for Health and
Social Welfare

Mr Liam KAVANAGH
Minister of Labour and
Minister of the Public Service

Italy:

Mr Mario COSTA
State Secretary,
Ministry of Labour

Luxembourg:

Mr Jacques SANTER
Minister for Labour and
Social Security

Netherlands:

Mr Joop den UYL
Deputy Prime Minister,
Minister for Social Security
and Employment

United Kingdom:

Mr Norman TEBBIT
Secretary of State for Employment

Mr Hugh ROSSI
Minister of State,
Department of Health and
Social Security

Mr Michael ALISON
Minister of State,
Department of Employment

Commission:

Mr Ivor RICHARD
Member

PROTECTION OF WORKERS FROM RISKS CONNECTED WITH LEAD

The Council held a thorough discussion of the proposal for a Directive on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to metallic lead. It will be remembered that this proposal for a Directive falls within the framework of the Directive adopted on 27 November 1980 ⁽¹⁾, which included a series of framework measures which were to serve as a basis for future legislation in the field of the protection of workers from harmful agents at both national and Community level.

The discussion centred on the levels of action and the limit values to be envisaged and also on the protection of female workers from risks during pregnancy.

At the close of its discussion, the Council agreed to return to this question at the next meeting of the Ministers for Labour and Social Affairs.

⁽¹⁾ see Presse release 11743/80 (Presse 178).

SOCIAL INTEGRATION OF DISABLED PEOPLE

The Council held an exchange of views on the basis of a Commission communication laying down a framework for the development of Community action for the social integration of disabled people. The Council welcomed the communication which, in the International Year of Disabled Persons, marked the interest which the Community and its Member States attached to these problems.

At the close of its discussion, the Council and the Ministers for Labour and Social Affairs meeting within the Council adopted the Resolution given in the Annex which provides inter alia for the continuation or strengthening of action by Member States to promote the economic and social integration of handicapped people in order to enable them to make a productive and creative contribution to society.

EXTENSION OF REGULATION (EEC) No 574/72 (SOCIAL SECURITY) TO SELF-EMPLOYED WORKERS AND MEMBERS OF THEIR FAMILIES

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation extending Regulation (EEC) No 574/72 to self-employed persons and members of their families. The aim of this Regulation is to apply to self-employed persons the social security measures already applied since 1972 to wage-earners.

The adoption of this Regulation represents an important step towards improving the situation of self-employed persons in the Community. The complex task of co-ordinating the social security arrangements applicable to self-employed persons has now been completed and all the Community rules concerning them will enter into force seven months after the publication of this Regulation in the Official Journal.

SOCIAL SECURITY FOR EMPLOYED PERSONS

The Council had an exchange of views on the proposal for a Regulation on the application of social security schemes to employed persons and their families moving within the Community. The Commission submitted this proposal in view of the present situation on the Community employment market where there is high unemployment and no prospect of improvement in the short term, so that periods of considerable length elapse before fresh employment is found. In this context, the Commission proposed provisions enabling the right to unemployment benefits and pre-retirement benefits to be maintained in the event of the transfer of residence from one Member State to another.

At the close of its discussion, the Council asked the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its work on this question in the light of the approach worked out during the discussion.

COMMUNITY SOCIAL POLICY

The Council had an exchange of views on the main guidelines for the review of the European Social Fund due in 1982.

The importance was acknowledged of ensuring that in the present climate of economic recession and unemployment the limited resources of the Social Fund should be concentrated on the most acute problems. The discussion confirmed in particular the priority which should be given to measures in favour of young people, to specific action under programmes affecting employment and vocational training and to problems connected with the introduction of new technology. Certain delegations emphasized the need to develop an integrated strategy for the creation of jobs.

The Council also heard a statement by Mr AUROUX, the French Minister for Labour on the chapter entitled "Employment policy - European Social Area" from the French Government memorandum. The French Representative emphasized the French Government's desire to encourage all efforts to resolve the problems currently arising in connection with social policy and employment within the Community and in particular to put employment at the heart of Community policies. In particular, he underlined the possibilities offered by the adaptation of working time, the intensification of the dialogue between management and labour and the improvement of co-operation and concertation in social protection.

REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND (FINANCIAL YEAR 1980)

The Council took note of the report on the activities of the European Social Fund (financial year 1980).

PROTECTION OF WORKERS FROM THE RISKS RELATED TO ASBESTOS

The Council noted the overall progress achieved in this area and in particular the substantial progress on certain important problems arising from the proposal for a Directive on the protection of workers from the risks due to exposure to asbestos. It will be remembered that this proposal for a Directive comes within the framework of the Directive adopted on 27 November 1980 (see page 3 - item on the protection of workers from risks related to lead).

The Council confirmed its interest and its political will to adopt the Directive as soon as possible, since it is of considerable importance for the protection of a large number of workers exposed to asbestos.

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CONCLUSIONS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM PRESIDENCY

At the close of the Council's discussions, Mr TEBBIT drew a number of conclusions regarding the activities of the Presidency in the social and labour field, a summary of which is given in Annex II.

RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL AND THE MINISTERS FOR LABOUR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS,
MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL, ON THE SOCIAL INTEGRATION OF DISABLED PEOPLE

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES AND THE MINISTERS FOR
LABOUR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS, MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic
Community, and in particular Articles 118 and 128 thereof,

Having regard to the Council Resolution of 21 January 1974 concerning
a social action programme ⁽¹⁾,

Having regard to the Council Resolution of 27 June 1974 establishing
the initial Community action programme for the vocational rehabilitation
of handicapped persons ⁽²⁾,

Having regard to the Commission's report on the initial action programme
for the vocational rehabilitation of handicapped persons (1974-1979) and
to the conclusions of the Council, adopted at its meeting on 9 June 1980,
concerning the further implementation of this programme,

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 13/1, 12.2.1974
⁽²⁾ OJ No C 80/30, 9.7.1974

Having regard to the Commission's communication of 29 October 1981 on the social integration of disabled people and the comments made by the various delegations within the Council on that communication,

Having regard to the importance attached by the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee and to the economic and social integration of disabled people,

Noting that the United Nations Organization has designated 1981 as the International Year of Disabled People and that this initiative has been supported by the Community and its Member States;

Considering that disabled people should have the same right as other people to participate in and contribute to all aspects of economic and social life, and conscious of the difficulties they face in exercising that right in periods of economic recession;

Considering that the Community and the Member States have a responsibility to promote better living and working conditions for disabled people;

Taking account of the fact that all Member States have made the economic and social integration of disabled people a goal, and taking account of the steps that have already been taken in Member States to promote such integration;

Taking into account also the diversity of systems and structures in the Member States,

HAS AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

I. Member States are urged to continue, and if possible intensify, their measures to promote the economic and social integration of disabled people, in order to enable them to make a productive and creative contribution to society, and in particular to:

- ensure that due account is taken, in the development of all policies affecting the living and working environment of disabled people, of the need to remove barriers to the full participation of disabled people in society;
- facilitate the co-ordination, at national, regional and local levels, of services concerned with the disabled, and to encourage co-operation in this respect between the different bodies active in the field, including associations of disabled people and the social partners;
- promote the participation of disabled people, their representative organizations and where appropriate their families in the framing and implementation of measures which directly affect them;
- ensure that disabled people may lead as independent a way of life as possible;
- ensure that disabled people do not shoulder an unfair burden of the effects, on both employment and resources, of economic difficulties;
- promote measures to prepare disabled people for an active life, in particular by integrating them in normal education and training systems wherever possible;

- develop and implement measures on the housing and mobility of disabled people and improved access to public buildings, transport and other public facilities, so as to promote their fullest possible integration and participation;
- encourage information activities designed to enable the public to understand the contribution it can make to the integration of disabled people, and those activities directed at disabled people themselves;
- promote the development and availability of technical aids, the pooling of information and experience in the field and the application of new technologies, so as to facilitate the communication, mobility and employment of disabled people.

II. In order to complement and support the efforts of the Member States, the Commission is invited, within the limits of the financial resources available under the Social Fund, to set up, in close co-operation with the Member States a network of selected development actions to promote model co-ordination of the actions undertaken, especially at local level. This network will be based broadly on the guidelines set out in the Commission's communication and will operate for four years beginning early in 1983;

In addition, the Commission is invited to continue its efforts, in particular by:

- (a) further developing existing activity at Community level based on the network of rehabilitation centres in order to promote and disseminate good practice and to restructure the network, taking into consideration the institutions and associations that are especially well-placed to carry out the tasks of the network, so that all such institutions and associations are included in the information issued by the network and can benefit from the outcome of such work;
- (b) continuing to promote pilot projects on the housing of disabled people in order to identify those experiences which are worthy of Community application;
- (c) pooling information, taking into account existing national information systems, and ensuring an exchange of information between the services involved in framing and implementing social integration measures including representatives of disabled people.

III. The Commission is requested to prepare a progress report on measures taken by the Community by the end of 1984, and a final report by the end of 1986.

CONCLUSIONS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM PRESIDENCY

Speaking after the conclusion of the Social Affairs Council, Mr Norman Tebbit the UK Secretary of State for Employment in his role as President pointed out that the further growth in the appalling levels of unemployment in the community over recent months had made Ministers, the Commission, and the European Parliament acutely aware of the need for a coherent European response to the challenge it presents. It was not a matter of choice. The twin evils of inflation and unemployment together demanded a response.

Reviewing his term as President of the Social Affairs Council, Mr Tebbit said that the UK had concentrated attention on the major instrument available to ameliorate the worst effects of unemployment - the European Social Fund - and he hoped that the foundations had been laid for a thorough going review of the fund next year. Ministers, Commission and the Parliament all agree that the fund should be better directed to respond to today's problems and it should be concentrated on the areas of greatest need.

He hoped that one result of the UK Presidency would be that the Commission was now fully aware of Ministers' views on the fund before the review started at official level. A naive response to rising unemployment might be to say "Make more jobs available" but there was a limit to what could be done without distorting competition and diverting resources from investments. He looked therefore to other areas of the labour market where community action could ease the difficulties. Also at the problems of labour supply and particularly at the possibility of increasing it through training relevant to employers' needs.

Mr Tebbit was particularly pleased to have seen a positive response from Member States and the social partners to the Commission's proposals on the social aspects of new technology which had been discussed at the November meeting of the Standing Employment Committee on Employment. He also was pleased on the progress that had been made in discussions on hazards in the work place.

During the Presidency the UK had tried to ensure close contact between the Presidency and the European Parliament. In September, Mr Tebbit has spent a day with members of the Parliament and addressed the plenary session. In November, Michael Alison, his Minister of State had attended a session of the Parliament's Social Affairs and Employment Committee and had had a wide ranging discussion with them on the programme of social affairs work under the Presidency. Both of these contacts had been extremely useful for the Presidency as a means of complementing and re-enforcing the formal procedures by which the Parliament could bring its Opinion to bear on the Community's work.

The Presidency had also confirmed his feeling that Member States have much to learn from one another through exchanges of information and experience especially about innovative developments which need to be more widely known. He had had a particularly useful exchange of this kind at the informal meeting of Employment Ministers in London in September. This meeting had covered the problems of youth unemployment across the Community and the various remedies which Member States were applying. He was pleased to see this aspect featuring more prominently in Commission proposals. He was sure that succeeding Presidencies would wish, each in its own way, to continue to develop further this invaluable task of exchanging views and information on the most pressing problems.

There is no record of a 745th meeting of the Council.

PRESS RELEASE

11739/81 (Presse 168)

746th meeting of the Council
- Economic and Financial Questions -
Brussels, 14 December 1981
President: Sir Geoffrey HOWE,
Chancellor of the Exchequer
of the United Kingdom

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

Belgium:

Mr Willy CLAES, Deputy
Prime Minister and Minister
for Economic Affairs

Mr Robert VANDEPUTTE
Minister for Finance

Germany:

Mr Otto SCHLECHT
Secretary of State,
Federal Ministry of
Economic Affairs

France:

Mr Jean VIDAL
Deputy Permanent Representative

Italy:

Mr Nino ANDREATTA
Minister for the Treasury

Mr Francesco REBECCHINI
Secretary of State at the
Ministry of Industry

Netherlands:

Mr A.P.J.M.M. van der STEE
Minister for Finance

Denmark:

Mr Ivar NØRGAARD
Minister for Economic Affairs

Greece:

Mr Akis TSOCHATZOPOULOS
Minister for Construction

Ireland:

Mr Barry DESMOND
Minister of State at the Department
of Finance

Mr Michael BEGLEY
Minister of State at the Department
of Commerce and Tourism

Luxembourg:

Mr Ernest MÜHLEN
Secretary of State at the
Ministry of Finance

United Kingdom:

Sir Geoffrey HOWE
Chancellor of the Exchequer

Commission:

Mr Francois-Xavier ORTOLI
Vice-President

Mr Christopher TUGENDHAT
Vice-President

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE ECONOMIC SITUATION IN THE COMMUNITY

Following an exchange of views on the economic situation in the Community the Council adopted the Decision adopting the Annual Report and laying down the economic policy guidelines for 1982 to be followed by the Member States, with the exception of Greece. The guidelines to be followed by Greece will be laid down by the Council as soon as possible.

FOLLOW UP TO THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL - EUROPEAN MONETARY SYSTEM

In view of the intention of the European Council to review the European Monetary System at its next meeting, the Council heard reports from the Monetary Committee and the Committee of Central Bank Governors on their work on the improvement of the operations of the European Monetary System.

The Council agreed to return to this question at its meetings to be held in February and March, on the basis of the reflections which the Commission, in close consultation with the Monetary Committee and the Committee of Central Bank Governors, undertook to present before then, in order to prepare the discussions which the European Council would have at its meeting at the end of March.

AID FOR THE REGIONS AFFECTED BY THE GREEK EARTHQUAKES

The Council adopted the decision on Community aid granted by way of exception for the reconstruction of the regions affected by the Greek earthquakes in February and March 1981.

Pursuant to this decision, loans of up to 80 million ECU will be granted to Greece to finance investments designed to reconstitute means of production and to rebuild economic and social infrastructures, including housing, in the areas affected.

The Commission is authorized on behalf of the Community to borrow the necessary funds in financial markets in the framework of the NCI, apart from those operations to be carried out by the EIB from its own resources for the same purposes.

Loans - both under the NCI and the EIB - will benefit from an interest rebate of 3% per annum for a maximum period of twelve years, to be financed out of the budget of the European Communities. The Commission will fix the interest rebates each year on the basis of the projects submitted by the Greek authorities.

IRON AND STEEL: SOCIAL ASPECTS

The Council again discussed the problem of Community financing of special aid measures for steel workers, in particular the proposal for a Decision with regard to a contribution to be granted to the ECSC out of the general budget of the European Communities.

As far as the budget is concerned, the Council signified its agreement on an increase for 1981 of the maximum rate of increase applicable to non-compulsory expenditure corresponding to 62 MECU in the case of the social aspects of the iron and steel industry.

DIRECT INSURANCE OTHER THAN LIFE ASSURANCE

The Council continued its discussions on the main problems arising in connection with the draft Directive on direct insurance other than life assurance. These problems concern in particular the way in which large risks are treated, checking and supervision procedures, the role of agencies and branches, the problems which might arise where services are provided by an undertaking in a Member State in which an establishment of that same undertaking is situated (so-called mixing of establishment and services business), and the question of the tax arrangements to be applied to insurance contracts.

At the close of the discussions the President noted that as a result of very intensive work over recent months substantial progress had been made on this matter. He hoped that under the Belgian Presidency the proceedings on this important Directive could make decisive progress.

INFORMATION TO BE PUBLISHED BY COMPANIES ADMITTED TO OFFICIAL
STOCK-EXCHANGE LISTING

The Council examined an unresolved problem concerning the draft Directive on the information to be published on a regular basis by companies, the securities of which have been admitted to official stock-exchange listing. It reached agreement on the preparation of half-yearly reports by the companies concerned.

In this context, it took note of the fact that the Commission intended to prepare a proposal for a Directive for the mutual recognition of these interim reports throughout the Community.

The progress made today should enable the Directive on information to be published on a regular basis to be adopted in the near future. This Directive could thus be applied at the same time as the Directives, one of which concerns the conditions for admission to official stock-exchange listing and the other the listing particulars to be published by the companies concerned at the time of that admission.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Social Affairs

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

- derogating in favour of the Federal Republic of Germany from Directive 73/403/EEC on the synchronization of general population censuses
- derogating in favour of the Kingdom of the Netherlands from Directive 73/403/EEC on the synchronization of general population censuses

Right of establishment - Freedom to provide services

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Directive supplementing Directives 75/362/EEC, 77/452/EEC, 78/686/EEC and 78/1026/EEC concerning the mutual recognition of diplomas, certificates and other evidence of formal qualifications of doctors, nurses responsible for general care, dental practitioners and veterinary surgeons respectively, with regard to acquired Rights.

Customs Union

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Regulation temporarily suspending in full the autonomous Common Customs Tariff duties on reflecting self-adhesive sheeting made up of more than one layer of polyester, metallized, whether or not in rolls, falling within subheading ex 39.01 C III a).

Research

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Decision concerning the conclusion of a Co-operation Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Kingdom of Sweden on the interconnection of the Community network for data transmission (Euronet) and the Swedish data network for information retrieval purposes and concerning the conclusion of a trilateral protocol on the purport of the agreements for data network co-operation concluded by the European Economic Community with, on the one hand, the Swiss Confederation and, on the other hand, the Kingdom of Sweden.

Appointment

The Council appointed Mr Pierre WISELER a full member of the Advisory Committee on Vocational Training to replace Mr Gaston GLAESENER, a full member who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, i.e. until 16 September 1983.

PRESS RELEASE

11770/81 (Presse 169)

747th meeting of the Council

- Transport -

Brussels, 15 December 1981

President: Mr David HOWELL,
Minister of Transport
of the United Kingdom

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

Belgium:

Mr Valmy FEAUX
Minister of Communications

Germany:

Mr Volker HAUFF
Federal Minister of Transport

France:

Mr Charles FITERMAN
Minister of State,
Ministry of Transport

Italy:

Mr Antonio CALDORO
State Secretary,
Ministry of Transport

Netherlands:

Mr J.C.F. van den DOEF
State Secretary,
Ministry of Transport
and Water Control

Denmark:

Mr Knud HEINESEN
Minister of Transport

Greece:

Mr Evangelos YANNOPOULOS
Minister of Transport
Mr Efsthios YIOTAS
Minister of Shipping

Ireland:

Mr Noel McMAHON,
Secretary,
Department of Transport

Luxembourg:

Mr Josy BARTHEL
Minister of Transport,
Communications and Informatics

United Kingdom:

Mr David HOWELL
Minister of Transport
Mr Kenneth CLARKE
Parliamentary Secretary,
Ministry of Transport
Mr Iain SPROAT
Under-Secretary of State,
Department of Trade

Commission:

Mr George CONTOGEOORGIS
Member

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COUNCIL RESOLUTION ON PORT STATE CONTROL

In the Council's discussions on the Commission proposal for a Council Directive concerning the enforcement, in respect of shipping using Community ports, of international standards for shipping safety and pollution prevention, the Netherlands and French delegations first of all informed the Council of the progress of the preparatory work on the second Regional Ministerial Conference on Shipping Safety (Paris, 26 January 1982).

The Council then adopted the Resolution on port State control given in the Annex to this press release. In that Resolution the Council asks Member States and the Commission to play a full and active part in the second Regional Conference of Ministers in Paris for the establishment of a co-ordinated system of port State control in the European region. Moreover, the Council stated that it would subsequently examine what additional measures might prove necessary in this area at Community level. The Council also expressed the hope that the second Regional Ministerial Conference in Paris would be crowned with success.

COMMUNITY RAILWAY POLICY

The Council adopted a Resolution on Community railway policy, the text of which is given in the Annex to this press release. The Council asked the Commission actively to continue to implement the Community's railway policy and to submit a report with any appropriate proposals before 1 July 1982.

SHIPPING RELATIONS BETWEEN MEMBER STATES AND THIRD COUNTRIES

The Council discussed shipping relations between Member States and third countries. At the end of the discussion the Council noted that the trades to which the Convention on a Code of Conduct for Liner Conferences should not apply seemed to call for a more detailed examination. The Council also noted that all the Member States, in accordance with their undertaking to ratify the United Nations Convention on a Code of Conduct for Liner Conferences, or to accede to it, were currently preparing the national legal instruments necessary for the implementation and ratification of this Convention. The Council asked all the Member States to speed up this work as much as possible. It also noted that the Commission intended to submit a progress report on the ratification of this Convention to the next meeting of the "Transport" Council.

DEVELOPMENT OF COMBINED TRANSPORT THROUGH INVESTMENT AID

At this meeting the Council examined a proposal for a Regulation supplementing Regulation (EEC) No 1107/70 on aids for transport by rail, road and inland waterway by the addition of provisions on combined transport.

The Council agreed to continue its work on this subject in the context of examining the proposal for a Directive on certain measures to promote the development of combined transport.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR INLAND WATERWAY VESSELS

Following an exchange of views on the proposal for a Directive laying down technical requirements for inland waterway vessels, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its work on this subject in order to overcome the final obstacles which were preventing the adoption of this Directive so that it might be adopted as soon as possible.

INTER-REGIONAL AIR SERVICES

The Council held an exchange of views on the Commission proposal for a Council Regulation concerning the authorization of scheduled inter-regional air services of passengers, mail and cargo between Member States.

This exchange of views made it possible to identify the delegations' main preoccupations and to provide some guidelines for further discussions in the Permanent Representatives Committee.

NEGOTIATIONS WITH AUSTRIA

In order to intensify relations with Austria in the land transport sector, the Council adopted a Decision on the opening of negotiations with the Republic of Austria in this field.

The negotiations will be conducted by the Commission in conjunction with the Member States and will cover a wide range of transport topics of concern to both parties, the purpose being to identify specific problems and to seek possible solutions.

ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMON RULES FOR CERTAIN TYPES OF CARRIAGE OF GOODS
BY ROAD BETWEEN MEMBER STATES

The Council adopted a Directive amending the first Council Directive of 23 July 1962 on the establishment of common rules for certain types of carriage of goods by road between Member States.

The Council has thus further liberalized carriage by exempting a number of other categories of carriage from all quota and/or authorization arrangements and in particular carriage:

- of spare parts for sea-going vessels and aircraft;
- of supplies for sea-going vessels and aircraft;
- by vehicles replacing vehicles which have broken down;
- of works of art for exhibition or for commercial purposes;
- of information material;
- of material, properties and animals for cultural or sporting events.

SUPPORT FOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

The Council adopted the Resolution concerning Community support for transport infrastructure given in the Annex to this press release.

COMMUNITY QUOTA

The Council, subject to the European Parliament's Opinion, adopted a favourable attitude to a 5% increase in the Community quota for eight Member States. Half of this increase would be distributed between these Member States across the board and half in proportion to their utilization of existing quotas.

A 15% increase would be granted to Ireland and Greece in view of their special geographical situation.

The Council noted that the Commission would submit by July 1982, and sooner if possible, a report on the Community's railways policy and, by the summer of 1982, a report on social policy in the road transport sector (Regulation No 543/69).

COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR TRANSPORT
INFRASTRUCTURE

The Council

- recalling its agreement at its meeting on 26 March 1981 to discuss the proposal for a Council Regulation on support for projects of Community interest in transport infrastructure at a forthcoming meeting on transport questions, together with the conclusions adopted at its meeting on 4 December 1980 comprising guidelines for the continuation of work on this subject;
- having taken note of the Commission's report on the application of the Council Decision of 20 February 1978 instituting a consultation procedure and setting up a committee in the field of transport infrastructure, believes that the Transport Infrastructure Committee has made a useful contribution to the achievement of the aims set out in that Decision and looks forward to its continuing to do so;
- emphasizes the importance for the Community both of a continuous exchange of information on plans and programmes for transport infrastructure development and of the timely submission of projects of Community interest for consultation;

- takes note of the Commission's Report on the criteria for the evaluation of projects of Community interest, which meets the Council's request of 23 November 1978;
 - sees this Report, which should be considered in relation with the Commission's Report of 19 June 1980 on bottlenecks in transport infrastructure, as an important stage in the discussion of this subject;
 - asks the Commission, in collaboration with the Transport Infrastructure Committee, to apply on an experimental basis the methods of appraising Community interest in infrastructure projects recommended in the Report on the criteria for the evaluation of projects of Community interest to a limited number of specific projects and requests the Commission to submit its conclusions on this work by 1 October 1982;
 - instructs the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its examination of the Commission proposal particularly as regards:
 - = the scope of the Regulation;
 - = the possible forms of financial support for projects of Community interest and the conditions which should be attached to them;
 - = the suggested decision-making procedure with special reference to the role of the Council in this respect.
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MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Other decisions concerning transport

- AETR

The Council adopted a Decision authorizing the United Kingdom, as the Member State holding the Presidency, to communicate to the Secretary-General of the United Nations draft amendments to the European Agreement concerning the Work of Crews of Vehicles engaged in International Road Transport (AETR). The purpose of the draft amendments is to adapt the Agreement to the changes made to Community rules on the social aspects of road transport, particularly as regards use of the tachograph. The amendments in question were drawn up in the Inland Transport Committee of the Economic Commission for Europe.

- Combined road/rail carriage by containers

The Council adopted a Directive amending Directive 75/130/EEC on the establishment of common rules for certain types of combined road/rail carriage of goods between Member States, which provides inter alia for the freeing of such carriage from any quota or authorization arrangements.

By this Decision the Council has permanently extended the common rules of the Directive to combined road/rail carriage by containers of 20 feet and more and swap bodies which have no supports. Under Directive 79/5/EEC the rules in question only applied to this form of carriage on an experimental basis until 31 December 1981.

- Decision on the signing of the ASOR

In 1975 the Council authorized the Commission to negotiate an Agreement between the European Economic Community and third countries (all of which are members of the European Conference of Ministers of Transport - ECMT) on the arrangements applicable to the international carriage of passengers by road by means of occasional coach and bus services (ASOR).

These negotiations were begun in 1976 and concluded in 1980. At the present meeting the Council decided to sign the Agreement subject to approval and to authorize its President to designate the persons empowered to sign on behalf of the Community.

The Agreement lays down harmonized provisions on liberalization for occasional international road passenger services, on the facilitation of checks and on the reduction of administrative formalities. The Agreement will thus facilitate the operation of the services in question and will allow more effective and rational organization of this type of transport.

Trade policy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities:

- the Regulation amending Council Regulation (EEC) No 3449/80 on the implementation of the agreement on trade in industrial products with Romania;
- the Regulation on the agreement in the form of an exchange of letters with Romania, amending certain Annexes to the Agreement on trade in industrial products between the Community and Romania;
- the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 2940/81 imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on p-xylene (paraxylene) originating in Puerto Rico, the United States of America and the United States Virgin Islands.

The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision on the import quotas to be opened by the Member States in respect of State-trading countries in 1982.

Finally, the Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation postponing the date for the review of the common arrangements applicable to imports from State-trading countries and imports from the People's Republic of China.

Customs union

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

- temporarily suspending the autonomous Common Customs Tariff duty on certain red or green peppers falling within subheading ex 07.04 B of the Common Customs Tariff;
- amending for the second time Regulation (EEC) No 222/77 on Community transit;
- opening, allocating and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas for
 - = certain fish of the species *sardinops sagax* or *ocellata*, whole or headless, intended for processing, falling within subheading ex 03.01 B I q) of the Common Customs Tariff;
 - = sides of fish of the species *sardinops sagax* or *ocellata*, intended for processing, falling within subheading ex 03.01 B I q) of the Common Customs Tariff;
 - = certain anchovies (*Engraulis* spp.) salted or in brine, in packagings of a net capacity of 8 kg or more, falling within subheading ex 03.02 A I c) of the Common Customs Tariff.

Textiles

The Council formally adopted the conclusions reached by the Council at its meeting on 8 December 1981 with regard to the problem of textiles: multifibre arrangement/preferential countries/economic outward processing traffic.

Relations with the ACP States and the OCT

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision laying down the schedule of calls for Member States' contributions under the fourth European Development Fund for the financial year 1982.

Relations with the EFTA countries

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

- concluding the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Austria on the control and reciprocal protection of quality wines and certain wines bearing a geographical ascription;
- on the application of Decisions No 1/81 of the EEC-Austria and EEC-Switzerland Joint Committees - Community transit - amending Appendix II to the Agreement between the European Economic Community and Austria and Switzerland on the application of the rules on Community transit.

Relations with the Mediterranean countries

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

- on the importation into the Community of certain agricultural products originating in Turkey (suspension of the application of the preferential tariff to imports of certain agricultural products originating in Turkey if the import price laid down in Community rules is not respected) (1);
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 562/81 on the reduction of customs duties on imports into the Community of certain agricultural products originating in Turkey:
 - = follow-up to the multilateral trade negotiations 1973/1979;
 - = follow-up to the suspension of CCT duties decided on in Council Regulation No 3152/81 of 3.11.1981 (preserved herring);

(1) Provisional reservation by the Greek delegation.

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

- establishing ceilings and Community supervision for imports of certain goods originating in Yugoslavia (1982);
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 438/81 establishing the arrangements applicable to imports originating in Yugoslavia consequent upon the accession of the Hellenic Republic to the European Communities (1);
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 3508/80 (autonomous extension of arrangements applicable to trade with Malta until 30 June 1982 (1);
- on certain tariff quotas, ceilings or import arrangements for certain products originating in various Mediterranean countries (Malta, Turkey, Yugoslavia) for 1982 (3rd series) (1);
- laying down the arrangements applicable to trade with the Republic of Cyprus after 31 December 1981 (2);
- on the arrangements applicable to imports of wines originating in Algeria;
- opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for certain wines of designated origin falling within subheading ex 22.05 C of the common customs tariff and originating in Algeria (1981/1982).

Freedom to provide services

The Council approved the substance of the Council Directive amending Directive 75/362/EEC concerning the mutual recognition of diplomas, certificates and other evidence of formal qualifications in medicine, including measures to facilitate effective exercise of the right of establishment and freedom to provide services, and Directive 75/363/EEC concerning the co-ordination of provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action in respect of activities of doctors (formal adoption will take place following legal and linguistic finalization).

(1) Provisional reservation by the United Kingdom delegation.
(2) Provisional reservations by the United Kingdom and Greek delegations.

Research

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision adopting a second research and development programme for the European Economic Community in the field of textiles and clothing (Indirect Action 1981-1983).

The Council also noted the Commission's intention to sign the Implementing Agreement drawn up within the framework of the International Energy Agency (IEA), relating to co-operation in energy technology systems analysis.

Lastly, the Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision concerning the conclusion of the Community-COST concertation agreement on a concerted action project in the field of treatment and use of sewage sludge (COST Project 68 ter).

Atomic questions

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision approving the conclusion by the Commission of the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) and the Government of Canada intended to replace the "Interim Arrangement concerning enrichment, reprocessing and subsequent storage of nuclear material within the Community and Canada" constituting Annex C of the Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters of 16 January 1978 between Euratom and the Government of Canada.

Fisheries

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision on the modification of the Agreement establishing fishing arrangements between the Community and the Kingdom of Norway for 1981.

Appointments

The Council appointed Mr H.M.L. MORTON a full member of the Advisory Committee on Social Security for Migrant Workers to replace Dr C.A. JAMES, a full member who has resigned, pending the replacement of the members of the Committee.

Lastly, the Council, acting on a proposal from the Netherlands Government, appointed Mr J.Ph. van HASSELT a member of the Advisory Committee of the Euratom Supply Agency to replace Mr H. HOOG, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which runs until 28 March 1983.

PRESS RELEASE

11771/81 (Presse 170)

748th meeting of the Council
- Agriculture -
Brussels, 15 December 1981

President: Mr Peter WALKER
Minister for Agriculture
of the United Kingdom

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

Belgium:

Mr Albert LAVENS
Minister for Agriculture

Denmark:

Mr Bjoern WESTH
Minister for Agriculture

Germany:

Mr Josef ERTL
Federal Minister for Food,
Agriculture and Forestry

Greece:

Mr Costas SIMITIS
Minister for Agriculture

France:

Mr André CELLARD
State Secretary,
Ministry of Agriculture

Ireland:

Mr J. O'MAHONEY
Secretary-General,
Ministry of Agriculture

Italy:

Mr Giuseppe BARTOLOMEI
Minister for Agriculture

Mr Bruno ORSINI
State Secretary,
Ministry of Health

Luxembourg:

Mr Camille NEY
Minister for Agriculture,
Viticulture, Lakes, Rivers
and Forests

Netherlands:

Mr Jan de KONING
Minister for Agriculture and
Fisheries

United Kingdom:

Mr Peter WALKER
Minister for Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food

Mr Alick BUCHANAN-SMITH
Minister of State,
Ministry of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food

For the Commission:

Mr Poul DALSGER
Member

ACP SUGAR

The Council studied the mandate for the Commission to continue negotiations with the ACP States on the guaranteed price for preferential sugar for the 1981/1982 delivery period and discussed various possible solutions to this question.

At this stage the Council did not reach agreement on the Commission's proposals for amending the negotiating mandate and applying the compensation system for storage costs to this sugar.

BEEF AND VEAL

With regard to imports of beef and veal and male bovine animals into the Community, the Council discussed a group of measures relating to:

- The Commission proposal on the opening, allocation and administration of a Community tariff quota for frozen beef and veal for 1982;
- the proposals for estimates of:
 - = beef and veal for the processing industry for the period from 1 January to 31 December 1982
 - = young male bovine animals weighing 300 kg or less intended for fattening for the period from 1 January to 31 December 1982.

As the Council was unable to take a decision on this matter at this stage, it will resume examination of this question at the earliest opportunity.

PROGRESS IN THE VETERINARY SECTOR

The Council took note of the Permanent Representatives Committee's report on progress in the veterinary sector. In this connection it noted the agreements in principle which had already been reached at Chief Veterinary Officers level, in particular, with regard to the continuation of the eradication programmes for brucellosis, tuberculosis and bovine leucosis, together with certain derogations from brucellosis and import arrangements from third countries.

The Council also held a discussion on some of the unreserved problems in this important area.

INCOME SUPPORT MEASURES FOR FARMERS IN FRANCE

The Council heard a statement by the French representative on the measures being considered by the French government to support the income of farmers in France.

Several of the delegations voiced their comments and misgivings about the measures and expressed the hope that the Commission would examine their effect and report to the Council at the earliest opportunity.

PROBLEMS OF MANIOC AND OTHER CEREAL SUBSTITUTES

The Council heard a report given by Commissioner DALSAGER on progress in the negotiations with regard to the unbinding of manioc in the GATT and the general problems of cereal substitutes. It emerged that the progress made in the negotiations should make it possible to stabilize all of the Community's imports of manioc from Thailand and the GATT countries at a progressively slightly lower level over the next few years.

After a brief discussion of the report, it was agreed that the Commission would shortly submit a written statement to the Council, accompanied, if need be, by appropriate proposals.

PRODUCTS USED IN FEEDINGSTUFFS - SYNTHETIC PROTEINS

The Council discussed in detail the problems still raised by the question of allowing certain synthetic proteins to be used in feedingstuffs. It will return to this matter at a later date.

PRODUCER GROUPS AND ASSOCIATIONS THEREOF IN THE COTTON SECTOR

The Council discussed the problems arising in connection with the proposal for a Regulation on producer groups and associations thereof in the cotton sector. The proposal aims to supplement - on the basis of the provisions of Protocol No 4 to the Act of Accession of Greece - the Community arrangements applicable to cotton, by granting aid for the establishment of producer groups and for certain investments, in particular for harvesting machines, which might be made by them.

Following its discussions, the Council asked the Special Committee on Agriculture to give priority to this matter, taking account of the guidelines worked out by the Council, so that a decision could be reached as soon as possible.

INTEREST RATE SUBSIDIES

The Council noted that the Commission had just submitted to it two proposals:

- on the level of the interest rate subsidy laid down in Directive 72/159/EEC;
- amending Decision 76/402/EEC on the level of the interest rate subsidy, provided for by Directive 72/159/EEC on the modernization of farms, to be applied in Italy

It asked the Special Committee on Agriculture to study these two proposals.

VARIOUS DECISIONS

Other agricultural decisions

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

- Regulations

- = amending Regulation (EEC) No 652/79 on the impact of the European monetary system on the common agricultural policy;
- = fixing the activating prices for table wines for the period 16 December 1981 to 15 December 1982;
- = amending for the fourth time Regulation (EEC) No 351/79 concerning the addition of alcohol to products in the wine sector;
- = extending Regulation (EEC) No 1145/81 laying down general rules for the application of the minimum price for table wine;
- = amending for the fourth time Regulation (EEC) No 355/79 laying down general rules for the description and presentation of wines and grape musts
- = fixing for 1982 the quantity of oil seeds and vegetable oils in respect of which the Hellenic Republic is authorized to apply a system of import controls;
- = amending Regulation (EEC) No 2771/75 on the common organization of the market in eggs;
- = fixing for the 1982-1983 milk year the guideline figure for the fat content of standardized whole milk imported into Ireland and the United Kingdom.

- Directives

- = extending the period of validity of derogations relating to brucellosis guarantees in trade in certain bovine animals as provided for in Article 7(1)C of Directive 64/432/EEC;
- = amending Directive 76/625/EEC concerning the statistical surveys to be carried out by the Member States in order to determine the production potential of plantations of certain species of fruit trees.

The Council also adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Regulation on interim measures concerning the application of the Agreements on cheese with the Republic of Austria and the Republic of Finland.

Fisheries

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

- fixing the guide prices for the fishery products listed in Annex I A and C to Regulation (EEC) No 100/76 for the 1982 fishing year;
 - fixing the guide prices for the fishery products listed in Annex II to Regulation (EEC) No 100/76 for the 1982 fishing year;
 - fixing the intervention prices for fresh or chilled sardines and anchovies for the 1982 fishing year;
 - fixing the Community producer price for tunny intended for the canning industry for the 1982 fishing year.
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PRESS RELEASE

11959/81 (Presse 172)

749th meeting of the Council

- Budget -

Brussels, 21 December 1981

President: Mr Nicholas RIDLEY,
Financial Secretary to the Treasury
of the United Kingdom

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

Belgium:

Mr Philippe MAYSTADT
Minister for the Budget

Denmark:

Mr Otto MØLLER
State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Germany:

Mr Horst SCHULMANN
State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Finance

Greece:

Mr Antoine EXARCHOS
Deputy Permanent Representative

France:

Mr André CHANDERNAGOR
Minister attached to the
Foreign Secretary,
responsible for European
Affairs

Ireland:

Mr Barry DESMOND
Minister of State,
Ministry of Finance

Italy:

Mr Carlo FRACANZANI
State Secretary,
Ministry of the Treasury

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean MISCHO
Deputy Permanent Representative

Netherlands:

Mr H. van den BROEK
State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr Nicholas RIDLEY
Financial Secretary to the
Treasury
Mr Jock BRUCE-GARDYNE
Minister of State to the
Treasury

Commission:

Mr Christopher TUGENDHAT
Vice-President

1982 BUDGET

The Council discussed the draft general budget of the European Communities for the financial year 1982 as amended and modified by the European Parliament at its second reading on 17 December 1981.

At the close of its discussions it agreed to send a letter to the President of the European Parliament drawing the Parliament's attention to the consequences for the Community if the 1982 budget were adopted in the state and forms in which it had been approved.

The Council considered that, as regards the classification of expenditure, a consensus was essential and that the classification could not be altered simply because a single branch of the budget authority wanted to do so. It referred to the procedural proposal it had submitted to the Parliament in this connection and which the latter had accepted.

The Council also pointed out that an agreement should be reached between the two Institutions on the new rates for the level of commitment appropriations and payment appropriations.

The Council therefore called upon the President of the European Parliament to defer the adoption of the 1982 budget until agreement had been reached on the determination of new rates, taking into account the classification of the expenditure linked with those rates and without prejudice to the other contentious items which would have to be the subject of a joint examination at a later date.

Lastly, the Council stated its readiness to hold constructive discussions with the European Parliament on these matters.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Commercial policy and customs union

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities:

- the Regulations:

= postponing the revision dates for the common rules on imports;

= opening, allocating and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas for prepared or preserved sardines falling within subheading 16.04 D of the Common Customs Tariff and originating in Morocco or Tunisia;

- the Decision authorizing prolongation or tacit renewal of certain Trade Agreements concluded between the Member States and third countries.

Food aid

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation on the granting of exceptional food aid to the least-developed countries (see Press Release 10431/81 (Presse 138) - page 8 "Plan of action to combat hunger in the world" - Development Co-operation Council on 3 November 1981).

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

- the Decision concluding the Convention between the EEC and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNWRA) on aid to refugees in the Middle East;

- the Regulation on the supply of sugar to UNWRA as food aid.

Relations with the ACP States

The Council signified its agreement to the draft Decision of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers approving the request by Antigua and Barbuda, which has been independent since 1 November 1981, to accede as 63rd State to the second ACP-EEC Convention signed in Lomé on 31 October 1979.

Pending the entry into force of that Decision following approval by the ACP States, the Council adopted the Decision on the provisional application to Antigua and Barbuda of the arrangements laid down in Decision 80/1186/EEC on the association of the OCT.

Under these arrangements, Antigua and Barbuda will retain until its actual accession to the Lomé Convention a number of advantages, particularly of a financial and commercial nature, which it enjoys by virtue of the association of the OCT with the Community.

The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation extending the arrangements applicable to trade between Greece and the ACP States.

The Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the ECSC, meeting within the Council, also adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decisions:

- extending the provisional arrangements applicable to trade between Greece and the ACP States for ECSC products;
- amending the Decision of 16 December 1980 opening tariff preferences for products within the province of that Community and originating in Zimbabwe.

Agricultural policy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities:

- Regulations:

- = amending Regulation (EEC) No 217/81 opening a Community tariff quota for high quality fresh, chilled or frozen beef and veal falling within subheadings 02.01 A II a) and 02.01 A II b) of the Common Customs Tariff;
- = amending Regulation (EEC) No 218/81 opening a Community tariff quota for frozen buffalo meat falling within subheading 02.01 A II b) 4 bb) 33 of the Common Customs Tariff;
- = amending Regulation (EEC) No 357/79 on statistical surveys of areas under vines;
- = amending Regulation (EEC) No 2358/71 on the common organization of the market in seeds, Regulation (EEC) No 2727/75 on the common organization of the market in cereals and Regulation (EEC) No 950/68 on the Common Customs Tariff;
- = amending Regulation (EEC) No 1660/81 fixing the amounts of aid granted for seeds for the 1982/1983 and 1983/1984 marketing years;
- = amending Regulation (EEC) No 315/68 fixing quality standards for flowering bulbs, corms and tubers;
- = extending the period of application of Regulation (EEC) No 3310/75 on agriculture in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg;
- the Directive amending, as regards the special conversion grant and the monetary unit used, Directive 78/627/EEC on the programme to accelerate the restructuring and conversion of vineyards in certain Mediterranean regions in France;
- the Decision postponing the date on which certain Member States must implement their national plans for the accelerated eradication of classical swine fever.

Tax questions

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Directive amending Directive 72/464/EEC on taxes other than turnover taxes which affect the consumption of manufactured tobacco.

Transport

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Directive amending Directive 75/130/EEC on the establishment of common rules for certain types of combined road/rail carriage of goods between Member States.

Energy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation amending Regulations (EEC) Nos 1893/79 and 2592/79 introducing registration for crude oil imports into the Community.

Social questions

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 social integration of disabled people. (*)

(*) Reservation by the German delegation.

Fisheries

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision concluding the Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters on the provisional application of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Senegal and the EEC amending the Agreement on fishing off the coast of Senegal and of the Protocol annexed thereto.

ECSC

The Council gave its assent, pursuant to Article 56(2)(a) of the ECSC Treaty (conversion loans), with regard to:

- Clydesdale Bank Ltd., United Kingdom
- Westfalenbank AG, FRG
- Société des Aciers fins de l'Est, France
- Krupp Stahl AG, FRG.

The Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the ECSC, meeting within the Council, also adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision on certain measures to be applied, in respect of State-trading countries, to trade in iron and steel products covered by the ECSC Treaty, including pig iron, cast iron and high-carbon ferro-manganese.
