

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

PRESS RELEASES

PRESIDENCY: BELGIUM

JULY-DECEMBER 1993

Meetings and press releases 3-10 December 1993

Meeting number	Subject	Date
1712 th	General Affairs	2 December 1993
1713 th	Environment	15 December 1993
1714 th	Development	2 December 1993
1715 th	General Affairs	6-7 December 1993
1716 th	Research	8 December 1993
1716 th continued	Research	22 December 1993
1717 th	Telecommunications	7 December 1993
1718 th	Economics/Finance	5 December 1993
1719 th	Energy	10 December 1993

PRESS RELEASE

10643/93 (Presse 217)

1712th Council meeting

- GENERAL AFFAIRS -

Brussels, 2 December 1993

President: Mr Willy CLAES

Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Kingdom of Belgium

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

Belgium:

Mr Willy CLAES	Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Robert URBAIN	Minister for Foreign Trade and European Affairs

Denmark:

Mr Niels HELVEG PETERSEN	Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Jorgen ØSTRØM MØLLER	State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Germany:

Mr Klaus KINKEL	Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Günther REXRODT	Minister for Economic Affairs
Mrs Ursula SEILER-ALBRING	Minister of State, Foreign Affairs

Greece:

Mr Theodoros PANGALOS	Minister for Foreign Affairs
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Spain:

Mr Javier SOLANA	Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Javier GÓMEZ-NAVARRO	Minister for Trade and Tourism
Mr Miguel Angel FEITO HERNANDEZ	State Secretary for Trade

France:

Mr Alain JUPPE	Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Gérard LONGUET	Minister for Industry and Foreign Trade

Ireland:

Mr Dick SPRING	Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Joe WALSH	Minister for Agriculture, Food and Forestry
Mr Charlie MCCREEVY	Minister for Tourism and Trade

Italy:

Mr Beniamino ANDREATTA	Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Paola BARATTA	Minister for Foreign Trade

Luxembourg:

Mr Jacques POOS	Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Georges WOHLFART	State Secretary for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade

Netherlands:

Mr P.H. KOOIJMANS	Minister for Foreign Affairs
Ms Yvonne VAN ROOY	Minister for Foreign Trade
Mr Piet DANKERT	State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Portugal:

Mr José Manuel DURAO BARROSO	Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Fernando FARIA DE OLIVEIRA	Minister for Trade and Tourism
Mr Vitor MARTINS	State Secretary for European Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr Douglas HURD	Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs
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Commission:

Mr Jacques DELORS	President
Sir Leon BRITTAN	Member
Mr René STEICHEN	Member

URUGUAY ROUND - PRESIDENCY CONCLUSIONS

1. The Council held an in-depth discussion on the progress of negotiations, working on the basis of a written Commission report supplemented by oral briefings from Sir Leon BRITTAN and Mr René STEICHEN on their negotiations with the United States delegation on 1 and 2 December 1993.
 2. The Council confirmed its conclusions of 20 September, 4 October and 8 November, in particular the need to do everything possible to bring the Uruguay Round to a satisfactory conclusion by 15 December 1993.
 3. The Council reaffirmed that the overall balance of the outcome of the Uruguay Round remained the sine qua non for its success.
 4. The Council expressed its confidence in and support for the Commission's efforts, over the next few days and in the light of the views expressed by delegations, to obtain the improvements needed to safeguard the Community's essential interests and to make headway on the major problems still to be overcome. The Council emphasized that in this final phase of the negotiations the Commission could rely on the Member States to pull together in the common interest.
 5. A number of delegations stressed the importance they attached to the problem of commercial policy instruments. The Presidency said it would try to make progress on this question at the same time as the Uruguay Round issue. With this objective clearly in view, it called on all the delegations to give thought to the flexibility necessary if a reasonable, comprehensive and balanced decision was to be reached on this matter.
 6. The Council agreed to continue its discussions at its meeting on 6 and 7 December 1993 on the basis of a fresh Commission report on all the questions raised today. The Council would meet subsequently in the light of the progress of the negotiations.
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PRESS RELEASE

11193/93 (Presse 240)

Continuation of 1713th meeting of the Council

- ENVIRONMENT -

Brussels, 15 December 1993

President: Ms Magda DE GALAN,
Minister for the Environment
of the Kingdom of Belgium

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

Belgium:

Ms Magda DE GALAN Minister for the Environment
Mr Didier GOSUIN Minister for the Environment (Brussels Regional Executive)

Denmark:

Mr Svend AUKEN Minister for the Environment
Mr Leo BJØRNESKOV State Secretary for the Environment

Germany:

Mr Klaus TOEPFER Minister for the Environment

Greece:

Mrs Elizabeth PAPAZOI State Secretary for the Environment, Regional Planning and Public Works

Spain:

Ms Cristina NARBONA State Secretary for the Environment

France:

Mr Michel BARNIER Minister for the Environment

Ireland:

Mr John BROWNE Minister of State for the Environment

Italy:

Mr Valdo SPINI Minister for the Environment

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean-Marc HOSCHEIT Deputy Permanent Representative

Netherlands:

Mr J.G.M. ALDERS Minister for Housing, Planning and the Environment

Portugal:

Ms Teresa GOUVEIA Minister for the Environment and Natural Resources

United Kingdom:

Mr Timothy YEO Minister of State, Department of the Environment

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Commission:

Mr Yannis PALEOKRASSAS Member

PACKAGING AND PACKAGING WASTE

By a qualified majority the Council reached political agreement on its common position, under the co-decision procedure with the Parliament, on the Directive harmonizing national measures for the management of packaging and packaging waste ⁽¹⁾.

The objectives of this Directive are to ensure a high level of protection of the environment and to ensure the functioning of the internal market.

The agreement provides for the adoption by the Member States of measures aimed, as a first priority, at preventing the production of packaging waste and, as further fundamental principles, at re-using packaging, at recycling and the other forms of recovering packaging waste and, hence, at reducing the final disposal of such waste.

Regarding prevention, Member States should ensure the implementation of measures which may consist of national programmes or similar actions adopted, if appropriate in consultation with all economic operators.

In the case of re-use, Member States could encourage the re-use of packaging which can be re-used in an environmentally sound manner in accordance with the Treaty.

Regarding recovery and recycling, Member States should take the necessary measures to realize, during an initial phase of five-years from the entry into force of

(¹) This concerns all packaging placed on the market in the Community and all packaging waste, whether it is used or released at industrial, commercial, office, shop, service, household or any other level, regardless of the material used.

the Directive, the following objectives:

- recovery: 50% as a minimum and 65% as a maximum by weight of the packaging waste;
- recycling: 25% as a minimum and 45% as a maximum by weight of the totality of packaging materials contained in waste with a minimum of 15% for each material.

Within 10 years a substantial increase in these percentages should be decided on by the Council on a proposal from the Commission.

Transitional derogations would be granted on certain conditions to Greece, Ireland and Portugal, owing to their specific geographic situation and the low level of consumption in this area.

Moreover, any Member States which establish or have established programmes whose recovery and recycling targets go beyond those provided for and which therefore have the appropriate capacity would, in order to make possible a high level of environmental protection, be authorized to pursue those targets provided that the relevant measures do not lead to distortion of the internal market and do not prevent the other Member States from complying with the Directive. There is therefore provision for a procedure whereby the Commission will verify, together with the Member States, that the measures in question are in accordance with the internal market.

Other provisions are included concerning return, collection and recovery systems to achieve the objectives laid down.

Regarding the composition of packaging, the text lays down that within three years of adoption of the Directive, Member States must ensure that packaging cannot be placed on

the market unless it complies with the essential requirements defined by the Directive.

Member States should comply with the Directive no later than 18 months after its adoption.

The common position will be adopted in the near future after finalization of the texts.

COMMUNITY STRATEGY ON CLIMATE CHANGE - COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

"The Council

1. RECALLS one of the conclusions of the European Council of 10 and 11 December 1993: "fiscal measures possibly relating, inter alia, to the environment could be one of the means of offsetting a drop in social contributions, within a general context of stabilizing all statutory contributions and reducing the tax burden".
2. FURTHER RECALLS the conclusions of the ECOFIN Council on 13 December 1993, that the ad hoc working party needs to continue actively the work on the Commission's proposal on energy/CO₂ taxation in the light of the above conclusions.
3. DECLARES that, in this context and in the light of the Community's commitment to stabilize CO₂ emissions on the terms agreed by the Joint Energy/Environment Council of 29 October 1990, it is necessary to create a mix of additional various instruments at Community level and to conclude ongoing work taking account of the Commission's proposal on energy/CO₂ taxation as soon as possible, and at the latest by the end of 1994.

4. REQUESTS the Commission to take, as soon as possible, the necessary decisions on the methodologies to be used for the national reports in the framework of the Council Decision of 24 June 1993 establishing a monitoring mechanism in order to have a good basis for analyzing national efforts, and to present an evaluation on the progress made towards reaching the Community's CO₂ stabilization target, as required by that Decision.
5. REQUESTS the Commission to report on the national instruments, in particular economic and fiscal instruments, of the Member States, relevant to reaching the Community's CO₂ stabilization target, which have been implemented or which will be implemented shortly.
6. REQUESTS the Commission to prepare and submit to the next Council meeting a plan that will ensure:
 - the submission by the European Union and its Member States of the reports required by the Framework Convention on Climate Change within six months of its entry into force;
 - demonstration in this report on how the European Union and its Member States will collectively reach, as set out in the conclusions of 29 October 1990, 13 December 1991, 5 May 1992 and 26 May 1992, the objective of stabilization of CO₂ emissions at 1990 levels by the year 2000 in the Community as a whole.
7. AGREES in this context to adopt the proposal for a Council Decision on the conclusion by the Community of the Framework Convention on Climate Change, recognizing the importance for the Community of ratifying the Convention before it enters into force and alongside its Member States, so as to allow the fulfilment of the commitment relating to the limitation of CO₂ emissions in the Convention by the Community as a whole through action by the Community and its Member States, within their respective competences."

CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

The Council, with the United Kingdom delegation abstaining, adopted the Decision concluding the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change signed in June 1992 in Rio de Janeiro.

PRESS RELEASE

10641/93 (Presse 215)

1714th Council meeting

DEVELOPMENT

Brussels, 2 December 1993

President: Mr Erik DERYCKE
State Secretary for Co-operation and
Development of the Kingdom of Belgium

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

Belgium:

Mr Erik DERYCKE

State Secretary for Co-operation and Development

Denmark:

Ms Helle DEGN

Minister for Development Co-operation

Germany:

Mr Hans-Peter REPNIK

Parliamentary State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Economic Co-operation

Greece:

Mr Theodoros PANGALOS

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs

Spain:

Mr José Luis DICENTA

State Secretary for International Co-operation and Latin America

France:

Mr Alain LAMASSOURE

Minister with special responsibility for European Affairs

Ireland:

Mr Tom KITT

Minister of State for European Affairs and Overseas Development Aid

Italy:

Mr Carmelo AZZARA

State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Luxembourg:

Mr Georges WOHLFART

State Secretary for Co-operation

Netherlands:

Mr Jan PRONK

Minister for Development Co-operation

Portugal:

Mr José Manuel BRIOSA E GALA

State Secretary for Co-operation

United Kingdom:

Baroness Lynda CHALKER

Minister for Overseas Development

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Commission:

Mr Manuel MARIN

Member

FIGHT AGAINST POVERTY – COUNCIL RESOLUTION**A. INTRODUCTION**

1. The Council and its Member States, taking due account of the Treaty on European Union, have opted for the fight against poverty in developing countries as one of the main priorities of their development co-operation programmes. On 25 May 1993 they agreed to co-ordinate their policies in this field and asked the Commission to prepare proposals.
2. After examining the Commission communication, whose analysis and main recommendations it broadly endorses, the Council and the Member States are agreed on the following guidelines for policies in the fight against poverty.

B. BASIC PRINCIPLES AND GENERAL OBJECTIVES

3. In common with the Commission, the Council notes that despite the progress achieved in many countries and the significant effort that has been under way for a very long time, poverty levels have generally persisted in the developing countries, and have even been on the increase over the last ten years in some regions, notably in sub-Saharan Africa.

4. The Council and the Member States recognize that the objective of combating poverty in the developing countries cannot be achieved without improving the international environment and reducing the constraints, in many instances decisive, that are imposed by economic relations with the outside world on the effectiveness of national policies to combat poverty. Such external factors, including debt, movements in commodity prices and the inadequacy of policies, have made it more difficult to implement measures to combat poverty.
5. The Council emphasizes that the objective of reducing poverty can be achieved in each country only on the basis of a clear and lasting political will based on national consensus and directed in particular towards reducing the uneven distribution of the benefits of growth and unequal access to productive resources and social services. It is essential to develop the capacity of the poor to provide for their own needs. The fight against poverty should be the joint task of government and the civil authorities.

It ensues from this basically political dimension of the fight against poverty that the democratization processes, the rule of law and proper public administration, as well as the participation of the poor in the process of political, economic and social decision-taking, are important conditions for the fight against poverty. At the same time the Council stresses that poverty must be regarded as a major problem likely to hamper sustainable world economic development and the progress of democracy.

6. The fight against poverty should not be regarded as an intervention "sector" amongst, or complementary to, others, but rather as a basic component of development, insofar as the persistence of poverty is one of the central problems of the developing countries and not a secondary effect of under-development. The fight against poverty should therefore be integral to the preparation and implementation of all development policies or programmes.
7. Strategies to combat poverty should promote a method of sustainable growth geared to the reduction of inequalities and the preservation of social integration links and be based on the strengthening of the productive capacities of the poor, inter alia through the promotion of job-creating activities, notably in small undertakings and craft industries, and wider access to productive resources. Special attention must be paid to informal sector channels.

In social terms they should encourage access for the poor to basic social services so as to permit an improvement in their living conditions and the development of human resources and the establishment of mechanisms for the redistribution of resources and the protection of the most vulnerable groups.

C. MAIN THRUST OF THE POLICY TO COMBAT POVERTY

8. The Council considers that the fight against poverty should occupy a central position in the framing of development co-operation policies and programmes.

The Council stresses that the fight against poverty should be a central theme of the dialogue with the developing countries and in the co-operation agreements between the Community and the developing countries.

Policies to combat poverty should take the following into consideration:

(i) An integrated, long-term approach

The need for an integrated, long-term approach concerning all development instruments forming a part of a consistent strategy, as provided for in Article 130v and the second paragraph of Article C of the Treaty on European Union.

(ii) Priorities

The necessary priority to be given in this field to the least-advanced countries and the most deprived sections of the population of the developing countries.

(iii) Political nature

The political and economic nature of the causes of poverty.

(iv) Dialogue on policies

The importance of the dialogue on policies between the authorities of donor countries and the authorities of recipient countries in order to ensure that the objective of reducing poverty is taken into account in the formulation and implementation of all their programmes.

(v) Definition of policies

Support as a priority for policies to combat poverty in countries in which the principles and objectives of the national strategy correspond to the general guidelines defined by the Council, including in this Resolution; that objective will have to be reconciled with the importance of helping development partners define and introduce valid policies to combat poverty.

(vi) Participation of populations

Essential participation of beneficiary populations in the political process and in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of development programmes and projects.

(vii) Differentiated approach

The varying nature of poverty problems from one country to another and the need to adopt a differentiated approach defined at national level; such differentiation might also be necessary within a country, in rural and urban areas, depending on local circumstances, even though the fight against poverty could generally speaking best be carried out at national level.

(viii) Targeting

The importance of adequate targeting of intervention on the poorest or most vulnerable groups.

(ix) Role of women

The role of women, who must be systematically integrated into all policies to combat poverty as into development measures in general; that role is often decisive in ensuring the effectiveness of policies in this field.

9. The Council considers that structural adjustment programmes should take account of the essential components of the fight against poverty, such as wider access to productive resources, rural development and the improvement of the urban environment, the creation of jobs in industry and services, the reduction of inequalities in income distribution and access by the poor to social services.

In addition, these programmes should be geared to the specific circumstances of each country and take into account the constraints on the poorest countries and the objectives of lasting economic and social development, democratization and sound administration.

10. With regard to the sectoral policies already identified by the Council, the fundamental guidelines for intervention by the Community and the Member States must be the improvement of the living conditions of the poor and investment in human resources in order to promote the economic and social integration of the poor.

D. CO-ORDINATION BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY AND THE MEMBER STATES

11. The Resolution adopted on 2 December 1993 concerning procedures for co-ordination between the Community and the Member States applies to the policy for combating poverty.
12. The Council stresses the importance of improving general and particularly specific knowledge of the circumstances and problems of poverty from one country to another, and of assessing the impact on poverty of all development programmes and projects. In this context there is a need to take account of work carried out by relevant international bodies.
13. The Community and its Member States emphasize their determination to strengthen their dialogue with the governments of the developing countries in the context of the fight against poverty.

That dialogue could define the objectives, priorities and instruments of the fight against poverty, and envisage reciprocal commitments where appropriate, in each country concerned.

14. The Council calls on the Commission to draft precise proposals on co-ordination in the context of the fight against poverty, after convening a group of experts from the Member States.

In this connection the Council would request the group of experts to consider how co-ordination in this area between the Community and the Member States could be quickly put into effect on a trial basis, initially, in a small number of developing countries.

15. The Council emphasizes the importance of the beneficiary countries developing their own capacities and strategies for combating poverty and expresses its readiness to support the strengthening of institutions in a co-ordinated manner.
16. The Council will assess the implementation of this Resolution at its meeting in the first half of 1995.

PROGRESS REPORT ON

- Health – AIDS
- Food security
- Education and training
- Demography; family planning
- Women and development

The Council took note of the preparatory work carried out by the Commission in the different areas of the declaration on the run-up to 2000 which the Council had not yet examined in detail.

After its discussion the Council agreed to reach operational conclusions

- as regards "Health – AIDS" and "Food Security", at its next meeting in spring 1994,
- as regards "Education and Training", at its meeting in autumn 1994,
- as regards "Women and Development" and "Demography", in 1995.

In this context, the Council stressed the importance of the Community's co-operating in the WHO AIDS programme and of co-ordination in preparation for the Cairo conference on population. It also emphasized the necessity of taking systematic account of the role of women in all development programmes.

**PROCEDURES FOR CO-ORDINATION BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY
AND ITS MEMBER STATES – COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

A. INTRODUCTION

1. Articles 130u and 130x of the Treaty on European Union stipulate that Community policy in the sphere of development co-operation is to be complementary to the policies pursued by the Member States, and that the Community and its Member States are to co-ordinate their policies and consult each other on their aid programmes, including in international organizations and during international conferences.
2. In their declaration of 18 November 1992 on the run-up to 2000, the Council and the Member States invited the Commission to make recommendations for improvements to co-ordination procedures at both political and operational levels. The Council also recommended that the Presidency and/or the Commission should systematically plan co-ordination in international fora.

In response to the request from the Council and the Member States, the Commission submitted a communication proposing procedures for a more systematic approach to co-ordination between the Community and its Member States when formulating policies, at operational level and in international fora.

At its meeting on 25 May 1993, the Council adopted conclusions on the co-ordination of policies. These set the criteria for co-ordination and identify certain priority sectors for which joint guidelines should be adopted.

3. The main aim of co-ordination is to make the development co-operation of the Community and its Member States, and more generally of all providers of funds, more effective. It should also promote consistency and convergence of the development effort in terms of dialogue, objectives and instruments, reduce the administrative load on beneficiary countries and maximize the ability of the Community and its Member States to exercise an influence on the area of development.
4. As the three levels at which co-ordination is required (co-ordination on policy, operational co-ordination, co-ordination in international fora) are highly interdependent, the Council feels, without prejudice to its own competence, that co-ordination procedures should be applied in such a way as to ensure that the guidelines adopted at these three levels are consistent. In this context, the Council considers that stepping up co-ordination should first of all mean making better use of existing co-ordination mechanisms and instruments.

B. OPERATIONAL ASPECTS OF POLICY CO-ORDINATION

5. In a limited number of areas identified by the Council for enhanced policy co-ordination, the Council recommends that priority be given to the use of Resolutions of the Council and the Representatives of the Member States in order to lay down, on a case-by-case basis, guidelines and lines of action for the Community and the Member States in their respective policies.

The Council emphasizes the importance of defining progress indicators, decided on case by case, in Resolutions on topics on which there is to be enhanced co-ordination, so that implementation of these texts by the Community and by the Member States can be monitored. In particular, it recommends that the Commission, in co-operation with the Member States, or possibly the Member States themselves, continue periodically drawing up analytical reports for the Council on the implementation of these Resolutions.

C. OPERATIONAL CO-ORDINATION

6. Bearing in mind the Commission communication and recalling its previous Resolutions, the Council notes that there has been significant progress in this area over recent years. It nevertheless feels that co-ordination might usefully be strengthened in a number of fields, bearing in mind the following recommendations.
7. The main channel for operational co-ordination should be the representatives of the Commission and the Member States on the spot in beneficiary countries. While it acknowledges that this co-ordination already works satisfactorily in some cases, the Council emphasizes the need to build it up further and make it systematic. The Council feels that regular contacts between Commission delegations and representatives of the Member States on the spot are essential to reciprocal exchanges of information on measures envisaged or under way in the country concerned. Such contacts should also promote greater coherence in the discussions by either party with local authorities on the support measures to be implemented or the sectoral policies they adopt.

The Council would point to the advantages of carrying out studies, analyses and evaluations in beneficiary countries jointly, with the aim of helping to institute a common approach to be followed by the Commission and the Member States. Joint measures, particularly in areas where joint guidelines have been adopted, can also help to make co-ordination more effective.

The Council feels that the experiment of co-ordination in a limited number of developing countries (three or four) in which the Community has a significant presence should be continued. An assessment should be made at its autumn 1994 meeting, on the basis of an evaluation of the experiment, of the lessons to be drawn for improving co-ordination in all developing countries which are partners of the Community.

8. Aid programming and the definition of sectoral strategies at beneficiary country level are areas where more effective co-ordination is of particular importance. Here, the Council feels that there should be exchanges of information and bilateral contacts, especially on the spot, at a very early stage in the programming process.

The Council stresses the importance of the role of management committees in the programming phase and in the co-ordination of approaches on a country-by-country basis. That role must make it possible to improve the consistency and complementarity of Community measures vis-à-vis those of the Member States, in the spirit of the provisions which apply for the EDF Committee.

9. Regular informal meetings of the Directors-General for Development can contribute to the efficiency of co-ordination by providing a framework and follow-up. These meetings could cover, inter alia, essential questions of the policies and approaches to be followed, examine the progress achieved in the implementation of Resolutions fixing joint guidelines in a particular area and examine co-ordination practice in general.

The Commission, which organizes these meetings, is requested to ensure that appropriate documentation and a sufficiently structured agenda are prepared and distributed in good time, and to forward a record of the proceedings to the Member States.

10. As regards operational co-ordination at technical level, there should be informal bilateral contacts between experts from national administrations and the Commission, at geographical and sectoral levels. Furthermore, meetings of experts, of a preparatory nature, may be held either at the suggestion of the Commission or at the suggestion of a Member State with special expertise regarding a beneficiary or a topic. The Council emphasizes in particular the role which expert groups should play in the "Run-up to 2000" process, both at the preparatory stage and by contributing to the follow-up.
11. The Council, drawing attention to its conclusions of 4 May 1992, emphasizes the need for a selective exchange of information, possibly in summary form, between the Commission and the Member States, on their envisaged or ongoing action and on the results of evaluations in the beneficiary countries, especially in areas identified as priorities for policy co-ordination.

12. The Council emphasizes that it would be useful to hold regular meetings between those responsible at the Commission (ECHO) and national humanitarian aid departments. These meetings would be able to ensure that the overall Community response to disasters is as effective and consistent as possible.

REHABILITATION AID – COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

1. At its meeting on 25 May 1993, the Council expressed its concern about the extent and urgency of the rehabilitation needs facing many developing countries. At that meeting, it requested the Commission to finalize swift rehabilitation programmes to help certain African countries affected by man-made or natural disasters.

The Council takes note of the Commission report on the implementation of current rehabilitation programmes and new measures decided on, in particular as part of the special initiative for Africa adopted by the Council at its meeting last May. The Council reiterates the importance it attaches to effective and timely assistance to the countries in question, welcomes in particular the fact that the target of MECU 100 for Africa has been achieved rapidly through new decisions and appreciates the co-operation which has been established in this matter between the Commission and the NGOs.

2. The Council has examined in detail the Commission communication on a special rehabilitation support programme in developing countries and draws the following conclusions from its discussions.

3. The Council confirms that it is important in certain developing countries to move from emergency humanitarian aid to rehabilitation aid. Such aid involves a series of measures to restore production, repair infrastructure, resettle persons and restore institutions, which are necessary following a state of war, civil unrest or natural disaster. Rehabilitation support constitutes a stage of limited duration which gradually takes over from humanitarian action and prepares the way for resumption of long-term development aid.
4. The aim of rehabilitation aid programmes is to help re-establish the normal functioning of the economy and institutional facilities, which are necessary in order to restore the social and political stability of these countries and to satisfy the needs of their peoples.
5. The Council thinks that decisions on rehabilitation support programmes should be taken on a case-by-case basis in the light of the situation and requirements of each recipient country.

The drawing up and implementation of such programmes must be the subject of close co-operation between the Commission and the Member States and must be defined in collaboration with the United Nations bodies and other donors concerned.

It is to be hoped that the NGOs will play an active role in the implementation and, where appropriate, the drawing up of Community rehabilitation aid programmes.

6. Regarding the criteria of eligibility for rehabilitation aid, the Council will display all the necessary flexibility but shares the Commission's view that account should be taken of the following aspects in particular:
- request made by the partners, and in particular those operating at national and local level in the country concerned;
 - serious disaster situation which prevents the essential needs of the population being met;
 - existence of a minimum level of security;
 - actual commencement of a transition process which respects democratic values and fundamental freedoms;
 - ability of the Authorities and/or other partners involved to implement rehabilitation measures.
7. Since rehabilitation measures are of an exceptional nature and in certain cases require very swift implementation, the Council thinks it desirable in individual cases to simplify and speed up the Community's decision-making and implementing procedures. If it feels this is necessary, the Commission could propose such a simplification and speeding up to the appropriate Management Committee (EDF, ALADE, MED). In the more specific case of the implementing procedures applicable to the EDF, the Council accepts that, in agreement with the Management Committee, procedures provided for in Article 300 of Lomé IV may be used.
8. The Council considers that rehabilitation measures may be introduced in any developing country, taking account of the objectives and criteria referred to above.

9. On the question of financing, the Council notes that:

- the Commission thinks that rehabilitation programmes could, depending on the individual case, be financed from EDF resources on the one hand and from the Community budget on the other. The financial arrangements will depend, for each country, on the nature of the proposed measures and the sources of finance for which the country is eligible;
- Member States will consider the best ways of supporting this initiative through co-ordinated bilateral measures.

COMPLEMENTARITY BETWEEN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT POLICY AND THE DEVELOPMENT POLICIES OF THE MEMBER STATES

The Council had an initial discussion on the definition of the concept of complementarity between the Community's development policy and the development policies of the Member States as referred to in Article 130u of the Maastricht Treaty, and instructed a high-level ad hoc working party to prepare the ground for its future discussions on the subject.

MIGRATION AND DEBT PROBLEMS

With regard to migration and debt problems as seen from the point of view of development-co-operation policy, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to prepare the ground for its intended discussion of the subject at its next Development Co-operation meeting.

MID-TERM REVIEW OF LOME IV

The Council took note of the progress of the preparatory work to define the Community position for the mid-term review of the fourth ACP-EEC Convention, which will start in May 1994.

Its thorough discussion of this item showed that there was broad agreement on the main political guidelines proposed by the Commission. These were aimed at making ACP-EEC co-operation more effective and better adapted to recent political and economic developments and at enabling better account to be taken, in future relations with the ACP, of the priorities and purposes of the European Union's development-co-operation policy.

The Council drew up guidelines on certain topics of particular importance to the negotiations, with the aim of enabling the discussions to be continued and negotiating directives to be defined within the required time frame.

RELATIONS WITH ERITREA

The Council took note of a statement by the Italian delegation drawing its attention to the need to assist Eritrea in the difficult development phase which it was currently going through following its recent attainment of independence.

HUMAN RIGHTS

The Council took note of the conclusions of a working party which had reached a consensus in favour of examining in more detail and stepping up the effective implementation of the principles of the Council Resolution of November 1991 on human rights, democracy and development. These conclusions stress the importance of intensifying information exchanges and improving consultation procedures, and of inserting human-rights clauses in co-operation agreements between the Community and non-member countries.

FOLLOW-UP TO UNCED – FINANCIAL ASPECTS

The Council examined the financial aspects of the follow-up to the Rio summit.

It confirmed that the follow-up to UNCED would take the form of a system of ex-post reports on the commitments entered into, leaving under examination proposals aimed at identifying a number of programmes in advance.

The Council furthermore agreed to continue examining the detailed procedures and criteria for the possible implementation of the proposal on labelling.

RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA

Following the statement by the Development Council on 25 May 1993 on the future of development co-operation with South Africa, and in accordance with the European Council's conclusions on 29 October 1993, a joint action will shortly be decided on in order to support the process of democratic and multi-racial transition in South Africa by means of a co-ordinated programme of assistance in preparing for, and observing, the elections and by the establishment of a co-operation framework which will consolidate the economic and social bases of the transition.

With this end in view, the Council held a discussion with the Commission on the setting up of the Community framework of support for democratic transition in South Africa. It also referred to the longer-term prospects for relations between the Community and South Africa.

MEASURES TO PROTECT TROPICAL FORESTS

The Council arrived at guidelines on certain key questions concerning measures to protect tropical forests, namely acceptance of the principle of a Regulation for the financing of measures in the Latin American and Asian developing countries and in the ACP countries for a period of 3 years (1993–1995), involving a sum of ECU 150 million, i.e. ECU 50 million per year.

These guidelines will be used by the Permanent Representatives Committee in its discussions on the revised proposal to be submitted shortly by the Commission in order to prepare the Council's common position.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

1715th meeting of the Council

- General Affairs -

Brussels, 6-7 December 1993

The official press release was unavailable. A summary of the meeting has been reproduced from the Bulletin of the European Communities, No. 12-1993.

1715th meeting

1.7.15. General affairs (Brussels, 6 and 7 December).

Previous meeting: point 1.7.12 of this Bulletin

President: Mr Claes, Belgian Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Commission: Mr Delors, Sir Leon Brittan, Mr Steichen and Mr Vanni d'Archirafi.

Main items

- ☐ Public access to Council and Commission documents: code of conduct agreed (→ point 1.7.6).
- ☐ Making Council voting records and explanations public: enacting terms amended (→ point 1.7.10).
- ☐ Revision of the Council's Rules of Procedure: new Rules adopted by simple majority; Danish, Greek and Netherlands delegations voted against (→ point 1.7.11).
- ☐ South Africa: decision adopted (→ point 1.4.3).
- ☐ Relations with Russia: draft joint statement agreed (→ point 1.3.29).
- ☐ Europe Agreements with Poland and Hungary: agreed (→ point 1.3.20).
- ☐ Interim Agreement with Bulgaria: agreed (→ point 1.3.15).
- ☐ Right to vote and stand for election in European elections: Directive adopted (→ point 1.2.254).
- ☐ Relations with Morocco: Directives adopted (→ point 1.3.33).
- ☐ Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market: proposal for a Regulation agreed (→ point 1.2.38).

Other business

- ☐ European Council meeting on 10 and 11 December: ground prepared.
- ☐ Former Yugoslavia: situation examined.
- ☐ Controls on exports of dual-use goods and technologies: item deferred.
- ☐ Uruguay Round: discussed in detail.
- ☐ Relations with Tunisia: examined.
- ☐ Middle East — joint action: state of play.
- ☐ Agreement with Israel: examined.

Democracy, transparency and subsidiarity

1.7.6. Code of conduct concerning public access to Council and Commission documents (93/730/EC) and Council Decision 93/731/EC on public access to Council documents.

References:

Conclusions of the Birmingham European Council: Bull. EC 10-1992, point 1.8

Conclusions of the Edinburgh European Council: Bull. EC 12-1992, point 1.5

Commission communication on public access to the institutions' documents: OJ C 156, 8.6.1993; COM(93) 191; Bull. EC 5-1993, point 1.1.1

Agreed by the Council (general affairs) on 6 December.

Adopted by the Council (general affairs) on 20 December. With this code of conduct, the Council and the Commission agree the principles to govern access to their documents. These principles will be implemented by means of specific regulations.

As part of the increased effort to bring European integration closer to the citizen, the Council and the Commission have agreed to grant the greatest possible access to documents held by the institutions, but will make the necessary exceptions to protect the interests of the public, individuals, and industry and commerce.

OJ L 340, 31.12.1993

1.7.10. Amendments to the enacting terms for making Council voting and voting explanations public.

References:

Amendments to the Council's Rules of Procedure: Bull. EC 10-1993, point 1.6.8

Interinstitutional declaration on democracy, transparency and subsidiarity: Bull. EC 10-1993, point 1.6.2

Adopted by the Council on 6 December. In view of the difficulties encountered in the practical implementation of its decision of 4 October on making voting records public and in order to comply with the commitments made to Parliament in the joint statement on subsidiarity, democracy and transparency the Council has amended the enacting terms to incorporate the following:

☐ making records of votes public systematically — unless the Council decides otherwise by a simple majority — whenever the Council is acting as legislator;

☐ in other cases, making records of votes public at the request of a Member State, where the Council decides by a simple majority except:

— where the Council is acting under Titles V and VI of the Treaty on European Union, when a unanimous decision is required;

☐ finally, making voting explanations public automatically where the voting records are made public, with due regard for the Rules of Procedure, legal certainty and the interests of the Council.

1.7.11. Revision of the Council's Rules of Procedure.

Reference: Conclusions of the Edinburgh European Council: Bull. EC 12-1992, points 1.24 to 1.26

Previous amendment: Bull. EC 10-1993, point 1.6.8

New Rules of Procedure adopted by the Council on 6 December, containing amendments which take account of the entry into force of the Treaty on European Union, and in particular Titles V and VI thereof, and a number of amendments resulting from the conclusions of the Edinburgh European Council regarding transparency (public meetings, making voting records public).

OJ L 304, 10.12.1993

Bull. EC 12-1993

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South Africa

References:

Conclusions of the Brussels (I) European Council: Bull. EC 10-1993, point 1.4

Statement by the European Union: point 1.4.11 of this Bulletin

1.4.3. Council Decision 93/678/CFSP on a joint action concerning support for the transition towards a democratic and multiracial South Africa.

Adopted by the Council on 6 December. On the basis of the general guidelines issued by the European Council meeting in Brussels in October and pursuant to Article J.3 of the Treaty on European Union, the Council approved the implementation of a coordinated programme of assistance for preparing and monitoring the elections to be held in South Africa in April 1994. The programme would comprise the provision of advisory services, technical assistance and training, and also the provision of a number of European observers forming a 'European electoral unit' acting in the framework of an overall international effort coordinated by the United Nations.

OJ L 316, 17.12.1993

Bull. EC 12-1993

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1.3.29. Joint EC/Russian Federation Declaration.

Agreed by the Council on 6 December.

Declaration signed in Brussels on 9 December. The declaration was signed by Mr Yeltsin, Mr Delors and Mr Jean-Luc Dehaene, Prime Minister of Belgium and President of the European Council. It summarizes the backing given to democracy and economic reform in the Russian Federation and emphasizes the new bilateral relations which will be brought into being by the signing in the near future of the partnership and cooperation agreement. The declaration also sets out the principles of the new political dialogue between the European Union and the Russian Federation: twice-yearly meetings between the President of the Russian Federation and the Presidents of the Commission and European Council, greater bilateral contact between Members of Parliament and closer official links through regular meetings between summits.

Bull. EC 12-1993

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1.3.20. Europe (Association) Agreements between the European Communities and their Member States and Hungary and Poland respectively.

References:

Conclusions of the Copenhagen European Council: Bull. EC 6-1993, point I.26

Commission communication to the Council on the follow-up to the European Council in Copenhagen: market-access measures to help the Central and East European countries: COM(93) 321; Bull. EC 7/8-1993, point 1.3.10
Commission recommendation: Bull. EC 11-1990, point 1.4.1

Negotiating directives: Bull. EC 12-1990, point 1.4.6

Council conclusions on the Community position in the negotiations: Bull. EC 4-1991, point 1.3.4

Commission communication on the resumption of the negotiations: Bull. EC 9-1991, point 1.3.16

Council agreement regarding amendments to the negotiating directives: Bull. EC 9-1991, point 1.3.16

Initialling: Bull. EC 11-1991, point 1.3.9

Proposals for Commission Decisions concerning the conclusion of the Agreements: Bull. EC 12-1991, point 1.3.2

Council agreement: Bull. EC 12-1991, point 1.3.2

Signing of Agreements: Bull. EC 12-1991, point 1.3.2

Parliament assent: OJ C 284, 2.11.1992; Bull. EC 9-1992, point 1.3.11

Agreed by the Council on 6 December.

Decisions on the conclusion of Europe Agreements with Hungary and Poland adopted by the Council on 13 December. The aim of these Agreements is to establish the closest of political and economic links between the Community and Hungary and Poland. They cover not only political dialogue, but also many aspects of cooperation in trade, economic matters, finance and culture and movements of capital, the right of establishment, movement of workers and approximation of legislation. The aim of the trade provisions, brought into force on 1 March 1992 by the Interim Agreements, is to establish free trade according to an asymmetric timetable (that is, biased in favour of Poland and Hungary) over a maximum period of 10 years. The Copenhagen European Council speeded up implementation of the trade concessions in order to encourage the associated countries of Central Europe to export to the Community. The Agreements will enter into force on 1 February 1994.

Bulgaria and Romania

References:

Interim Agreement on trade and trade-related matters between the EEC and ECSC and Romania: OJ L 81, 2.4.1993; Bull. EC 3-1993, point 1.3.10

Draft Europe (Association) Agreements between the European Communities and their Member States and Bulgaria and Romania respectively: Bull. EC 10-1993, points 1.3.12 and 1.3.16

Interim Agreement on trade and trade-related matters between the EEC and ECSC and Bulgaria: point 1.3.15 of this Bulletin

1.3.15. Interim Agreement on trade and trade-related matters between the EEC and ECSC and Bulgaria.

Initialling of the Agreement: Bull. EC 12-1992, point 1.4.12

Proposal for a Council Decision and draft Commission Decision on the conclusion of the Agreement: COM(93) 46; Bull. EC 1/2-1993, point 1.3.8

Council Decision on the signing of the Agreement and Agreement signed: Bull. EC 3-1993, point 1.3.9

Parliament opinion: OJ C 150, 31.5.1993; Bull. EC 4-1993, point 1.3.9

ECSC Consultative Committee opinion: Bull. EC 4-1993, point 1.3.9

Agreed by the Council on 6 December.

Decision 93/690/EC on the conclusion of the Agreement on behalf of the European Community adopted by the Council on 10 December.

OJ L 323, 23.12.1993

Assent No 20/94 given by the Council pursuant to Article 95 of the Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community on 10 December.

OJ C 35, 3.2.1994

Decision 93/691/ECSC on the conclusion of the Agreement on behalf of the European Coal and Steel Community adopted by the Commission on 10 December.

OJ L 323, 23.12.1993

Bull. EC 12-1993

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European citizenship

Right to vote

1.2.254. Council Directive 93/109/EC laying down detailed arrangements for the exercise of

the right to vote and stand as a candidate in elections to the European Parliament for citizens of the Union residing in a Member State of which they are not nationals.

Draft Commission proposal: COM(93) 291; Bull. EC 6-1993, point 1.2.223

Council agreement on the draft proposal: Bull. EC 10-1993, point 1.2.166

Commission proposal: OJ C 325, 2.12.1993; COM(93) 534; Bull. EC 10-1993, point 1.2.166

Parliament opinion: OJ C 329, 6.12.1993; Bull. EC 11-1993, point 1.2.190

Adopted on 6 December. This Directive lays down detailed arrangements for the exercise of the right to vote and stand in elections to the European Parliament for citizens of the Union residing in a Member State of which they are not nationals, in accordance with Article 8b(2) of the EC Treaty.

It does not set out to harmonize the national legislation currently in force but to apply the principle of equality and non-discrimination between citizens of the Union by ensuring that citizens who are not nationals of the Member State in which they reside are free to decide where to vote or stand for election on the basis of the same electoral laws and administrative arrangements as apply to nationals. It is also designed to prevent people from voting twice or standing as a candidate in more than one Member State by requiring them to make a formal declaration (the declarant being liable to sanctions if the declaration is false) and by arranging for the exchange of information between the competent authorities in the different Member States. It provides for the concurrent application of sets of rules disqualifying candidates from standing for election in the home country and country of residence but leaves the Member State of residence free to decide whether or not to take account of a disqualification from voting in the home Member State. With regard to the residence requirement imposed by certain Member States, periods of residence in other Member States (including the home State) are to be counted towards the period required by the Member State where the right to vote is to be exercised. The Directive also makes provision for derogations by a Member State, subject to specific conditions, if the proportion of nationals of

other Community countries of voting age exceeds 20%.

The Directive contains transitional provisions to enable it to be in operation in time for the forthcoming European elections in June 1994.

OJ L 329, 30.12.1993

Morocco

1.3.33. New draft Agreement with Morocco.

Reference: EEC-Morocco Cooperation Agreement: OJ L 264, 27.9.1978

Recommendation for a Commission decision: Bull. EC 12-1992, point 1.4.20

Recommendation for a decision on additional directives adopted by the Commission: Bull. 6-1993, point 1.3.25

Negotiating directives adopted by the Council on 6 December. The Agreement will allow the Community and Morocco to establish a new economic and political partnership. Besides a regular political dialogue, it will provide for close cooperation in trade matters (possibility of establishing a free trade area for industrial products and progressive liberalization for agricultural products and services) and in the financial, economic, industrial, agricultural, scientific, social and cultural fields. The Agreement will also include an explicit reference to democratic principles and human rights.

Bull. EC 12-1993

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Intellectual property

1.2.38. Council Regulation (EC) No 40/94 on the Community trade mark.

Reference: Council Directive 89/104/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to trade marks: OJ L 40, 11.2.1989; Bull. EC 12-1988, point 2.1.37, as last amended by Directive 92/10/EEC: OJ L 6, 11.1.1992

Commission proposal: OJ C 351, 31.12.1980; COM(80) 635; Bull. EC 11-1980, point 2.1.13

Economic and Social Committee opinion: OJ C 310, 30.11.1981

Parliament opinion: OJ C 307, 14.11.1983; Bull. EC 10-1983, point 2.1.19

Amended Commission proposal: OJ C 230, 31.8.1984; COM(84) 470; Bull. EC 7/8-1984, point 2.1.21

Second Parliament opinion: OJ C 280, 28.10.1991; Bull. EC 10-1991, point 1.2.8

Second amended Commission proposal: COM(92) 443; Bull. EC 11-1992, point 1.3.41

Agreed by the Council on 6 December.

Formally adopted by the Council on 20 December. This Regulation will enable Community firms to obtain, by means of a single procedure, a Community trade mark providing uniform protection throughout the Community. This protection will enable the proprietor of a Community trade mark to prevent any other person from using the mark for the same products or services or for similar products if there is a danger of confusion. The Community trade mark will be granted for a period of 10 years, which is renewable, by the Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market, the language arrangements of which will permit any economic operator to file an application for a trade mark in any one of the nine Community languages. Protection will be reinforced by the existence of quasi-judicial bodies — the Boards of Appeal of the Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market (trade marks and designs) — whose decisions may be challenged before the Court of Justice of the European Communities. This system supplements the national trade-mark systems which exist in the Member States and were harmonized by Directive 89/104/EEC.

OJ L 11, 14.1.1994

PRESS RELEASE

10647/93 (Presse 221)

1716th Council meeting

- RESEARCH -

Brussels, 6 December 1993

President:

Mr Jean-Maurice DEHOUSSE,

Minister for Science Policy and Scientific
and Cultural Institutions of the Kingdom of
Belgium

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

Belgium:

Mr Jean-Maurice DEHOUSSE	Minister for Science Policy and Scientific and Cultural Institutions
Mr Luc VAN den BRANDE	Chairman of the Flemish Community Executive

Denmark:

Mr Svend BERGSTEIN	Minister for Research and Technology
Mr Knud LARSEN	State Secretary, Ministry of Research and Technology

Germany:

Mr Paul KRÜGER	Minister for Research and Technology
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Greece:

Mr Constantin SIMITIS	Minister for Industry, Energy and Technology
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Spain:

Mr Elías FERERES	State Secretary for the Universities and Research
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France:

Mr François FILLON	Minister for Higher Education and Research
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Ireland:

Mr Seamus BRENNAN	Minister for Science and Technology
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Italy:

Mr Umberto COLOMBO	Minister for Scientific Research
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Luxembourg:

Mr Marc FISCHBACH	Minister for Education and Scientific Research
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Netherlands:

Mr J.E. ANDRIESEN	Minister for Economic Affairs
Mr M.J. COHEN	State Secretary, Ministry of Education

Portugal:

Mr Luis VALENTE DE OLIVEIRA	Minister for Territorial Planning and Management
Mr Manuel FERNANDES THOMAZ	State Secretary for Science and Technology

United Kingdom:

Mr William WALDEGRAVE	Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster with responsibility for Science
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Commission:

Mr Martin BANGEMANN	Member
Mr Antonio RUBERTI	Member

EC AND EURATOM FRAMEWORK PROGRAMMES OF RESEARCH (1994–1998)

The Council discussed in great detail the remaining points still unresolved concerning the proposals on the respective framework programmes of research (1994–1998) of the European Community and Euratom.

There was unanimous agreement on the shares for each of the Activities envisaged and on the breakdown between the themes of the First Activity (see table below), but opinions still differed over:

- the overall amount
- the role of the JRCs in the framework programmes.

In the light of the discussion, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to report back on the two points still unresolved and on the proposed breakdown within each heading, with the aim of achieving an overall agreement on all aspects of the framework programmes before the end of the year.

The Presidency indicated that the question of the overall amount could be raised at the European Council meeting on 9 and 10 December 1993.

FRAMEWORK PROGRAMMES (1994 to 1998)
BREAKDOWN IN PERCENTAGE TERMS

	Percentage
First Activity (Research, Technological Development and Demonstration Programmes)	87,3
Second Activity (Co-operation with Third Countries and International Organizations)	4,0
Third Activity (Dissemination and Optimization of Results)	2,5
Fourth Activity (Stimulation of the Training and Mobility of Researchers)	6,2
MAXIMUM OVERALL AMOUNT	[]

Indicative breakdown of the themes and subjects
in the First Activity

A. Information and Communication Technologies	28,2
1. Telematics	[]
2. Communication technologies	[]
3. Information technologies	[]
B. Industrial Technologies	16,0
4. Industrial and materials technologies	[]
5. Measurements and testing	[]
C. Environment	9,0
6. Environment and climate	[]
7. Marine sciences and technologies	[]
D. Life Sciences and Technologies	13,1
8. Biotechnology	[]
9. Biomedicine and health	[]
10. Agriculture and fisheries (including agro-industries, food technologies, forestry, aquaculture and rural development)	[]
E. 11. Non-nuclear Energy	18,15
F. 12. Transport	2,0
G. 13. Targeted socio-economic research	0,85

	[]

PRESS RELEASE

11395/93 (Presse 251)

Continuation of the
1716th Council meeting

- RESEARCH -

Brussels, 22 December 1993

President: Mr Jean-Maurice DEHOUSSE,

Minister for Science Policy and Scientific
and Cultural Institutions of the Kingdom of Belgium

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

Belgium:

Mr Jean-Maurice DEHOUSSE

Minister for Science Policy and Scientific and Cultural Institutions

Denmark:

Mr Svend BERGSTEIN

Mr Knud LARSEN

Minister for Research and Technology
State Secretary, Ministry of Research and Technology

Germany:

Mr Paul KRÜGER

Minister for Research and Technology

Greece:

Mr Nikos CHRISTODOULAKIS

Secretary-General,
Ministry of Industry, Energy and Technology

Spain:

Mr Elias FERERES

State Secretary for the Universities and Research

France:

Mr François FILLON

Minister for Higher Education and Research

Ireland:

Mr Seamus BRENNAN

Minister for Science and Technology

Italy:

Mr Umberto COLOMBO

Minister for Scientific Research

Luxembourg:

Mr Marc FISCHBACH

Minister for Education and Scientific Research

Netherlands:

Mr Ate OOSTRA

Deputy Permanent Representative

Portugal:

Mr Luis VALENTE DE OLIVEIRA

Mr Manuel FERNANDES THOMAZ

Minister for Territorial Planning and Management
State Secretary for Science and Technology

United Kingdom:

Mr William WALDEGRAVE

Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster,
Minister for Public Service and Science

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Commission:

Mr Martin BANGEMANN

Mr Antonio RUBERTI

Member

Member

RESEARCH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMMES (1994-1995)

The Council reached political agreement on the common position on the 4th framework programme of Community activities in the field of research, technological development and demonstration (1994-1998) and on the Decision concerning a framework programme of Community activities in the field of research and training for the European Atomic Energy Community (1994-1998).

The common position will be formally adopted at a later meeting, following finalization of the texts.

Following the agreement reached at the European Council meeting in Brussels on 10 and 11 December 1993, the maximum overall amount for Community financial participation in the research framework programmes was set at ECU 12 billion.

By 30 June 1996 at the latest, the European Parliament and the Council, acting in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 1301(1) of the Treaty, will, in the light of an assessment of the progress made in implementing the framework programme, re-examine the maximum overall amount and may increase it to ECU 13 billion.

The planned overall amount for the Joint Research Centre is ECU 875 million.

The respective shares of each of the Activities envisaged and the breakdown between the themes of the First Activity are indicated in the annexed table.

ANNEX

Breakdown between the 13 headings of the First Activity and the two headings of the EURATOM framework programme (headings 12 and 13)

	in percentage terms	out of a total amount of ECU 12 billion
A. INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES	28,20	3 384
1. Telematics	6,85	822
2. Communication technologies		630
3. Information technologies	5,25	1 932
	16,10	
B. INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGIES	16,00	1 920
4. Industrial and materials technologies	13,60	1 632
5. Measurements and testing	2,40	288
C. ENVIRONMENT	9,00	1 080
6. Environment and climate	7,10	852
7. Marine sciences and technologies	1,90	228
D. LIFE SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGIES	13,10	1 572
8. Biotechnology	4,60	552
9. Biomedicine and health	2,80	336
10. Agriculture and fisheries	5,70	684
E. ENERGY	18,65	2 238
11. Non-nuclear energy	8,20	984
12. Nuclear fission safety	3,45	414
13. Controlled thermonuclear fusion	7,00	840
F. TRANSPORT	2,00	240
14. Transport		
G. TARGETED SOCIO-ECONOMIC RESEARCH	0,85	102
15. Socio-economic research		
TOTAL FIRST ACTIVITY	87,8	10 536
SECOND ACTIVITY	3,50	420
THIRD ACTIVITY	2,50	300
FOURTH ACTIVITY	6,20	744

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Economic and Monetary Union

Following the political agreement reached by the Ecofin Council on 13 December 1993, the Council formally adopted the Council Recommendation on the broad guidelines of the economic policies of the Member States and of the Community.

Interest subsidies on EIB loans to SMEs

Further to the conclusions of the European Council meetings in Copenhagen and Brussels, the Council reached political agreement – subject to the Opinion to be delivered by the European Parliament – on the proposal for a Decision on the provision of Community interest subsidies on loans for SMEs extended by the EIB under its temporary lending facility.

That Decision provides for the Community to grant 2% subsidies for the purpose of lowering the interest rate on EIB loans to SMEs in the Community for a total amount of ECU 1 billion in principal. Those loans are to be extended by the Bank – for a maximum period of 5 years under the terms and conditions applying to loans granted under the temporary facility originally established by the Board of Governors of the Bank on 10 February 1993 and extended by the Board on 30 November 1993. The benefit of the subsidies will be restricted to investment projects involving the creation of employment.

Sixth VAT Directive

The Council adopted the Decision authorizing the Federal Republic of Germany to apply a measure derogating from Article 2(1) and Article 17 of the sixth VAT Directive (77/388/EEC) on the harmonization of the laws of the Member States relating to turnover taxes.

That Decision follows a German Government request for authorization to simplify the present transitional VAT rules applicable to certain repairs and haulage services which give rise to difficulties for firms.

Establishment of the Europol Drugs Unit

The Council agreed on the recommendations concerning the establishment of the Europol Drugs Unit (EDU) and the Project Team.

The recommendations concern, in particular, the appointment of the caretaker co-ordinator, the 1994 budget and the financial principles of the EDU, the financial arrangements for the co-ordinator and assistant co-ordinators for 1994 and the work programme for the implementation of EDU for 1994.

Steel industry

Following the discussions of the Industry Council on 17 December 1993, the Council adopted assents pursuant to the first paragraph of Article 95 of the ECSC Treaty concerning draft Commission Decisions relating respectively to the:

- restructuring of the steel company SIDENOR – Spain ;
- privatization of Sächsische Edelstahlwerke GmbH – Freital/Saxony (former GDR) ;
- restructuring of the Spanish Integrated Steel Company (Corporacion de la Siderurgia Integral (CSI)) – Spain ;
- restructuring of the steel company ILVA – Italy ;
- privatization, modernization and restructuring of EKO Stahl AG – former GDR ;
- restructuring of the company Siderurgia Nacional – Portugal.

Agriculture

Following the agreement reached at the Council meeting on 14, 15, 16 and 17 December 1993 (see Press Release 11188/93 Presse 235), the Council adopted:

the Regulations

- amending:
 - = Regulations Nos 2328/91, 866/90, 1360/78, 1035/72 and 449/69 with a view to expediting the adjustment of production, processing and marketing structures within the framework of the reform of the common agricultural policy
 - = Regulation No 805/68 on the common organization of the market in beef and veal
- on
 - = special arrangements for imports of maize into Portugal
 - = the suspension of the import levy on sheepmeat and goatmeat sector products

= the continued import of New Zealand butter into the United Kingdom on special terms.

the Decisions

- amending Decision 90/218/EEC on the placing on the market and administration of Bovine Somatotropin (BST)
- concerning the extension of the voluntary restraint agreements between the Community and
 - = Argentina, Australia, New Zealand and Uruguay on trade in mutton, lamb and goatmeat
 - = Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, the Slovak Republic, Hungary and Poland on trade in mutton, lamb and goatmeat

the Directives

- on the protection of animals at the time of slaughter or killing
- amending Directive 85/73/EEC on the financing of health inspections and controls of fresh meat and poultrymeat.

The Council also adopted

- the Directives
 - = amending Directive 90/539/EEC on animal health conditions governing intra-Community trade in and imports from third countries of poultry and hatching eggs
 - = amending Directive 91/494/EEC on animal health conditions governing intra-Community trade in and imports from third countries of fresh poultrymeat
- the Resolution on the strengthening of veterinary epidemiological surveillance measures.

Wines originating in Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania

The Council adopted the Regulation opening and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas for certain wines originating in Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania for the period 1 January to 31 December 1994.

The following quotas are involved:

- Bulgaria: quality sparkling wine – 1 100 hl quality wine, including quality wine with a designation of origin 247 200 hl – quality wine, including wine obtained from grapes of the "Gamza" and "Kadarka" vine varieties 118 000 hl, at a 60% quota duty rate;

- Hungary: wine of fresh grapes 70 000 hl - quality sparkling wine 2 700 hl - quality wine, including wine of superior quality and quality wine bearing the geographical indication "Tokaj" or the name "Tajbor" 130 000 hl, at a 60% quota duty rate;
- Romania: wine of fresh grapes, including sparkling wine and liqueur wine 120 000 hl, at a 60% quota duty rate.

Energy

Following the agreements reached at the Energy Council meeting on 10 December 1993 (see Press Release 10897/93 Presse 230), the Council:

- adopted its common position on the proposal for a Directive on the conditions for granting and using authorizations for the prospection, exploration and production of hydrocarbons
- gave its assent concerning a draft Commission Decision establishing Community rules for State aid to the coal industry.

Anti-dumping

The Council adopted by a qualified majority, with the United Kingdom voting against, the Regulation imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty of 18,6% on imports into the Community of photo albums in book bound form originating in the People's Republic of China and collecting definitively the provisional anti-dumping duty.

The Council also adopted the Regulation on the suspension of anti-dumping measures against EFTA countries in respect of the following products:

- container corner fittings originating in Austria
- silicon carbide originating in Norway
- urea originating in Austria
- ferrosilicon originating in Iceland, Norway and Sweden
- diesel engines originating in Sweden and Finland.

Customs Union

The Council adopted the Regulation opening and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas for certain industrial products (2nd series 1994).

Relations with the former Yugoslavia

The Council adopted the arrangements applicable in 1994 to imports into the Community of EC and ECSC products originating in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia, the Republic of Slovenia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

**COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
GENERAL SECRETARIAT**

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

10891/93 (Presse 224)

1717th Council meeting

- TELECOMMUNICATIONS -

Brussels, 7 December 1993

President: **Mr Guy COËME**

Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Transport,
Public Undertakings and Public Buildings of
the Kingdom of Belgium

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

Belgium:

Mr Guy COËME Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Transport, Public Undertakings and Public Buildings

Denmark:

Mr Arne MELCHIOR Minister for Communications
Mr Helge ISRAELSEN State Secretary for Communications

Germany:

Mr Wolfgang BÖTSCH Federal Minister of Posts and Communications

Greece:

Mr Athanasios TSOURAS State Secretary for Transport and Communications

Spain:

Mr José BORRELL FONTELLES Minister for Public Works, the Environment and Transport

France:

Mr Pierre SELLAL Deputy Permanent Representative

Ireland:

Mr Noel TREACY Minister of State for Communications

Italy:

Mr Maurizio PAGANI Minister for Posts and Telecommunications

Luxembourg:

Mr Alex BODRY Minister for Telecommunications

Netherlands:

Mr A. OOSTRA Deputy Permanent Representative

Portugal:

Mr Carlos COSTA State Secretary for Housing

United Kingdom:

Mr Patrick McLOUGHLIN Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Trade and Industry

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Commission:

Mr Martin BANGEMANN Member
Mr Karel VAN MIERT Member

DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY POSTAL SERVICES

The Council agreed on the following Resolution, which will be formally approved at a forthcoming Council meeting after the finalization of the text.

"THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to the Green Paper on the development of the single market for postal services, published on 11 June 1992;

Having regard to the communication from the Commission on guidelines for the development of Community postal services;

Whereas the development of postal services is an important feature of the development of the single market for the promotion of the economic and social development of the Community and its Member States;

Whereas the provisions of the Treaty on the freedom to provide services cover the postal sector;

Whereas the Green Paper and the abovementioned communication identify the aspects of postal services which are of Community interest;

Whereas in view of these aspects it appears that efforts should be made at Community level to improve the efficiency and quality of postal services;

Whereas the Commission has undertaken broad public consultation and has received contributions from interested parties in the postal sector;

Whereas it is necessary to fix the main objectives of the development of postal services in the Community, in accordance with the Treaty;

1. GIVES ITS SUPPORT:

to the general approach contained in the Commission's Green Paper on the development of the single market for postal services;

2. TAKES NOTE OF:

the consultation which took place between the interested parties and the resulting Commission communication on the guidelines for developing Community postal services, certain aspects of which nevertheless remain to be considered in detail with a view to reaching an overall agreement;

3. REAFFIRMS:

that a political agreement with the full participation of both the European Parliament and the Council is the best way of encouraging the implementation of the future Community policy in the postal sector;

4. DECLARES THE FOLLOWING POINTS TO BE MAJOR POLICY GOALS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF POSTAL SERVICES IN THE COMMUNITY:

- 4.1. defining at Community level a universal service that will be the minimum set of quality services which must be provided in each Member State at reasonable prices for all users and with non-discriminatory access to the universal service;
- 4.2. ensuring the economic and financial viability of the provision of the services constituting the universal service at a reasonable price for all, by defining a sector of appropriate dimensions which may be reserved for universal service providers according to the principle of proportionality;
- 4.3. furthering the gradual, controlled liberalization of the postal market in accordance with the objectives set out above, the rules of the Treaty and users' interests and a durable guarantee of the provision of the universal service and reconciling the two;

- 4.4. working out quality standards for the services constituting the universal service, monitoring independently the quality of the services and publishing the results. The standards will have to be laid down at national level by the national regulatory authorities and will have to be compatible with the standards laid down by the Council at Community level for intra-Community services within the universal service, on the understanding that such standards, taking account of national characteristics, must reflect a certain quality level the improvement of which should be actively sought; as regards international traffic, a similar approach should be followed in collaboration with third countries;
- 4.5. establishing tariff principles for the universal service related to real costs and ensuring that they are applied and that any subsidies considered necessary are transparent in relation to their objective, size and scope and ensuring that they are compatible with Community law;
- 4.6. introducing a terminal dues system based on real costs and quality that takes account of national characteristics while granting the universal service providers appropriate protection against deflections of trade based on abuse of that system and making provision for appropriate transitional arrangements;
- 4.7. furthering harmonization of technical standards, taking users' interests into account;
- 4.8. ensuring that fair conditions of competition outside the reserved sector exist mutually between universal service providers and between them and other operators;
- 4.9. separating regulatory and operational functions in the Member States;
- 4.10. ensuring that the needs of users, including consumers, the interests of postal sector employees as well as the contribution of the postal sector to economic, cultural and social development in the Community are taken into account, when regulating this sector;

- 4.11. taking account of the objectives of cohesion in the Community and in particular specific difficulties encountered by peripheral regions when measures in this area are taken.

5. INVITES THE COMMISSION:

- 5.1. to propose to the Council, before 1 July 1994, the measures necessary for the realization of the policy goals set out under 4.1 to 4.11 above with a view to implementing without delay a Community policy on postal services, particularly measures
- containing the definition of the universal service, describing the obligations of the providers of the universal service and defining the services which could be reserved;
 - relating to the quality of the universal intra-Community service;
 - relating to technical standardization;
- 5.2. to base its proposals for future regulation of the postal services on measures which are transparent, simple and easy to manage, to ensure the best possible conditions of monitoring and enforcement;
- 5.3. to contribute actively, on the basis of current proceedings and in co-operation with the Member States, to the definition of a clear framework for a new terminal dues system, bearing in mind the need to ensure satisfactory protection against deflections of trade based on abuse and to forward to the Council before 1 March 1994 any further action which could prove necessary in this area;

6. INVITES THE MEMBER STATES:

- 6.1. to support the above major policy goals;
- 6.2. to work in association with the Commission, particularly within the SOGP and a high-level committee of the authorities, in the implementation of a Community postal services policy in conformity with the above major policy goals;

- 6.3. to conduct, in association with their universal service providers, appropriate discussions in order to agree on a new terminal dues system, including steps to ensure compatibility with other systems."

**THE DEVELOPMENT OF UNIVERSAL SERVICE IN THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SECTOR -
COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

"THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Whereas the Council Resolution of 22 July 1993 on the review of the situation of the telecommunications sector and the need for further development in that market ⁽¹⁾ established as a major goal for Community telecommunications policy the liberalization of all public voice telephony services, whilst maintaining universal service;

Whereas the importance of universal service was recognized in the Resolution of the European Parliament on the Commission communication of 21 October 1992 entitled "1992 review of the situation in the telecommunications services sector" and the Resolution of the European Parliament on the Commission communication entitled "Towards cost orientation and the adjustment of pricing structures - Telecommunications tariffs in the Community" and by the Opinion of the Economic and Social Committee on the 1992 telecommunications services review;

Whereas this Resolution provides assistance in achieving the goal of universal service in a competitive environment and to the progressive rebalancing of tariff structures, by setting out the major elements constituting universal service at Community level and by providing guidance as to the principles to be applied to the financing of universal service;

(1) OJ C 213, 6.8.1993, p. 1.

Whereas, in determining how to ensure the provision of universal service, national regulatory authorities must take due account of the fact that in numerous cases market forces would be expected to lead to such provision being made on a commercial basis, without further intervention;

Whereas however in numerous cases market operators could be obliged to provide a basic service to customers whom they would otherwise have insufficient economic incentive to serve; whereas in this particular case it is mainly a matter of the provision of a basic voice telephony service at an affordable price to all customers reasonably requesting it;

Whereas where under universal service obligations a basic voice telephony service can only be provided at a loss or provided under cost conditions falling outside normal commercial standards, that service may, where justified and subject to the approval of the national regulatory authority, be financed through internal transfers, access fees or other mechanisms which take due account of the principles of transparency, non-discrimination and proportionality, while ensuring compliance with competition rules in order to make a fair contribution to the burden which the provision of universal service represents;

Whereas national regulatory authorities may impose, within the limits laid down by Community law, other obligations with a view to adapting universal service to specific national circumstances, including town and country planning and the requirements of networks with a limited operating area, provided that it is possible to fulfil such obligations at a reasonable cost;

Whereas the concept of universal service must evolve in particular to keep pace with technical and economic progress,

NOTES:

that, in the framework of open network provision, the following Community acts have identified some elements to serve as a basis for a definition of universal service without altering either the legal nature of such acts or the obligations of the Member States in respect thereof:

- Council Directive 90/387/EEC of 28 June 1990 on the establishment of the internal market for telecommunications services through the implementation of open network provision ⁽²⁾,
- Council Directive 92/44/EEC of 5 June 1992 on the application of open network provision to leased lines ⁽³⁾,
- the common position adopted by the Council on 30 June 1993 on the proposal for a Council Directive on the application of open network provision to voice telephony,
- Council Recommendation 92/382/EEC of 5 June 1992 on the harmonized provision of a minimum set of packet-switched data services (PSDS) in accordance with open network provision (ONP) principles ⁽⁴⁾,
- Council Recommendation 92/383/EEC of 5 June 1992 on the provision of harmonized integrated services digital network (ISDN) access arrangements and a minimum set of ISDN offerings in accordance with open network provision (ONP) principles ⁽⁵⁾,

and that these elements have still to be examined in greater detail and, where necessary, adapted to take account of the future competitive environment and of practical experience.

(2) OJ L 192, 24.7.1990, p. 1.

(3) OJ L 165, 19.6.1992, p. 27.

(4) OJ L 200, 18.7.1992, p. 1.

(5) OJ L 200, 18.7.1992, p. 10.

RECOGNIZES:

- (a) that the maintenance and development of a universal telecommunications service, ensured through adequate financing, are a key factor for the future development of telecommunications in the Community;
- (b) that the principles of universality, equality and continuity are the basis for such a service to permit access to a defined minimum service of specified quality to all users everywhere and, in the light of specific national conditions, at an affordable price
- (c) that common principles for the provision of universal service would be necessary in order to achieve a balanced and fair regulatory environment throughout the Community, while taking account of specific national conditions regarding regulatory and market aspects;
- (d) that special and targeted provision of universal service for social reasons should be possible;
- (e) that in order to promote Community-wide telecommunications services there is a need to ensure interconnection of public networks and, in the future competitive environment, interconnection between different national and Community operators;
- (f) that where under universal service obligations a basic voice telephony service can only be provided at a loss or provided under cost conditions falling outside normal commercial standards, that service may, where justified and subject to the approval of the national regulatory authority, be financed through internal transfers, access fees or other mechanisms which take due account of the principles of transparency, non-discrimination and proportionality, while ensuring compliance with competition rules in order to make a fair contribution to the burden which the provision of universal service represents;

- (g) that in pursuing the objective of maintaining and developing a universal telecommunications service account will be taken of the specific circumstances of the peripheral regions with less-developed networks and of very small networks and the role which the appropriate Community support framework may play having regard to national priorities;
- (h) that the concept of universal service must evolve to keep pace with advances in technology, market development and changes in user demand;

WELCOMES:

the intention of the Commission to take full account of the requirement for universal service in preparing the future adjustment of the regulatory framework for the telecommunications sector, in particular by applying and adapting the open network provision principles;

CALLS UPON the Member States

to establish and maintain an appropriate regulatory framework and set appropriate targets, in accordance with the objectives and principles set out in this Resolution and with Community law, in particular competition rules, in order to ensure, in the light of specific national circumstances, including town and country planning and the requirements of networks with a limited operating area, universal service throughout their territory;

INVITES the Commission:

- (a) to study and consult, in particular with national regulatory authorities, on the issues raised by the definition of universal service and its means of financing, taking specific account of the need for adjustment in peripheral regions with less-developed networks;
- (b) to study in consultation with the Member States tariff principles, accounting principles and transfers with a view to facilitating the preparation of their national adjustment programmes;
- (c) to draw up common access charge principles, in close consultation with the high-level committees of the national regulatory authorities;
- (d) to submit a report to the European Parliament and the Council on this issue by 1 January 1996."

TRANS-EUROPEAN NETWORKS FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS

On the basis of a Presidency document the Council held a policy debate on the definition of trans-European networks for telecommunications as intended in the Treaty on Union.

From that debate it emerged that a large majority of delegations felt that in view of the objectives pursued, namely the free movement of goods, capital, persons and services and, on the other hand, the stress laid in the Treaty on the interconnection and interoperability of trans-European networks the telecommunications infrastructure and the networks of which it consists include all the physical and non-physical components required to make possible the circulation of information in all its different forms (vocal, written and visual), namely:

- the medium for the transmission of data, consisting of the physical network (cables and radio connections) with which the non-physical functions are connected (transmission, switching and signalling);
- generic services, which constitute the general-purpose vehicles for the data transmitted (electronic mail and access to data bases);
- applications services, which adapt generic services to users' specific requirements (e.g. inter-administration networks and networks associated with transport, health care and distance teaching).

After the policy debate the Council noted the Commission's presentation of its strategy on advanced trans-European communications, in which field the Commission submitted

- a communication on integrated broad-band communications (TEN-IBS) describing the preparatory measures which the Commission had adopted in that area and
- two proposals for Decisions on:
 - = a series of guidelines for the development of the ISDN as a trans-European network;
 - = the adoption of a multi-annual Community project on the development of the ISDN (TEN-ISDN).

It also noted that those proposals were to be considered in conjunction with the Commission's White Paper on growth, competitiveness and employment.

TRANS-EUROPEAN DATA-COMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS BETWEEN ADMINISTRATIONS

The Council discussed certain key questions concerning the trans-European data-communications networks between administrations. More specifically the discussion was based on a Commission communication on trans-European data-communications networks between administrations together with two proposals for Decisions on:

- a series of guidelines on trans-European data-communications networks between administrations and
- a multi-annual Community programme supporting the setting up of trans-European data-communications networks intended for exchanges of data between administrations (IDA).

In the Commission's view, these proposals constitute the first series of large-scale applications contemplated at Community level on trans-European data-communications networks. They constitute a body of measures intended to enable national administrations and Community institutions and bodies to process and exchange, through the implementation and use of trans-European data-communications networks, the data necessary for the operation of the Internal Market and the implementation of common policies.

On the conclusion of the debate the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to resume the examination of these proposals in the light of the Council's discussions with a view, in particular, to

- analysing in greater detail requirements and achievements in this area;
- preparing indicative figures for projects of common interest;
- identifying projects of common interest.

The Council agreed to resume the examination of this dossier at its next meeting, under Greece's Presidency.

**INTER-ADMINISTRATION TELEMATIC NETWORKS FOR STATISTICS RELATING TO THE
TRADING OF GOODS BETWEEN MEMBER STATES (COMEDI)**

The Council discussed a proposal for a Decision on inter-administration telematic networks for statistics relating to the trading of goods between Member States (COMEDI).

With a view to adopting a common position at the Council meeting on the Internal Market on 16 December 1993 the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue proceedings at the earliest opportunity.

MEASURES CONCERNING RADIO FREQUENCIES - THE COUNCIL'S CONCLUSIONS

"THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

1. CONSIDERS that the availability and allocation of radio frequencies is an important condition for the establishment of an internal market in radiocommunications equipment and services;
2. RECALLS its Resolution of 19 November 1992 on the implementation in the Community of European Radiocommunications Committee Decisions which inter alia invited the Commission to give full consideration in future to the mechanism of ERC decisions as the primary method of ensuring the provision of frequencies;
3. CONSIDERS it necessary to ensure that the mechanism of ERC decisions is implemented and invites the Commission to sign to that end the memorandum of understanding and the framework agreement with the ERC/ERO;
4. INVITES the Commission to submit before the end of 1994 a report evaluating the implementation of the mechanism of ERC decisions."

ADVANCED TELEVISION SERVICES IN EUROPE

The Council noted the Commission's oral presentation of

- a proposal for a Directive on the use of standards for television broadcasting;
- a communication on the framework for a Community policy concerning digital television.

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

"The Council welcomed the Commission's communication following the Council Resolution of 22 July 1993, and proceeded to an initial debate on the basis of Vice-President Bangemann's presentation.

The Council supports the initiative of the Digital Video Broadcasting Group to co-ordinate European activities, in conjunction with the Commission. The Council stressed that common standards are an essential basis for the orderly market-led development of digital video broadcasting. It also stressed the importance of conditional access systems based on standards that ensure fair and open competition, in the interests of service providers and viewers.

The Council invited the Commission to take forward its work programme, but with particular early attention being paid to the issues of achieving satisfactory common standards and of ensuring appropriate conditional access arrangements which ensure fair and open competition, and invited Coreper to give urgent consideration to the communication and the draft Directive".

MISCELLANEOUS

Satellite communications

The Commissioner, Mr VAN MIERT, gave the Council an oral presentation of the draft Directive that the Commission had just approved provisionally with a view to extending to the field of satellite communications the liberalization measures adopted for telecommunications services and terminals.

Mr VAN MIERT said that the Commission intended to adopt this Directive definitively in 1994 once it had heard any views which the Council, the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee might wish to express.

Telecommunications services and the deaf

The Danish delegation told the Council and the Commission that systems that enabled the deaf to use voice telephones varied from one State to another, which prevented such people from communicating across Europe by telephone. It accordingly wanted this problem to be taken into account in European standardization work.

The Danish delegation again drew attention to the fact that the GSM pan-European cellular mobile system caused interference on deaf aids and wanted the problem to be taken in hand rapidly in the standardization work being done at Community level.

The Commission undertook to take action on those requests.

OTHER DECISIONS IN THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS FIELD

Satellite personal communication services

The Council adopted a Resolution on the introduction of satellite personal communication services in the European Community.

The text of the Resolution is set out below.

"THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to the Green Paper of 30 June 1987 on the development of the common market for telecommunications services and equipment,

Having regard to the Green Paper of 29 November 1990 on a common approach in the field of satellite communications in the European Community,

Whereas the Green Paper on a common approach proposed a future-oriented structure for the development of satellite communications in the European Community by outlining a framework of Community legal measures and actions; whereas, the Council Resolution of 19 December 1991 on the development of the common market for satellite communications services and equipment ⁽¹⁾ gave support to the general goals set out in the Commission's Green Paper;

Whereas, based on further Commission proposals, the Council has adopted Directive 93/97/EC of 29 October 1993 supplementing Directive 91/269/EEC concerning satellite earth station equipment ⁽²⁾;

(1) OJ C 8, 14.1.1992, p. 1.

(2) OJ L

Whereas the Commission communication of 23 September 1992 on the European Community and Space underlines the importance of a Community contribution to the European space effort by helping to establish the appropriate conditions for the development of space applications markets and a competitive European space industry; whereas that communication emphasizes the need for appropriate regulatory conditions allowing the development of new markets for satellite communications services and the need to encourage a competitive European space industry and promote its interests at international level;

Whereas the planned introduction of satellite personal communications networks and services on a global scale will play a role in the development of telecommunications services in the Community in general and in that of satellite and mobile services in particular, as well as in the development of the Community's space and telecommunications equipment and services industries;

Whereas it is becoming increasingly evident that the types of service which are envisaged give rise to a range of policy issues relating to the Community's telecommunications, trade, regional development and space policies; whereas, therefore, the introduction of these services merits early consideration;

Whereas the Community's telecommunications policy in general and the satellite communications policy in particular underline the need for competitive provision of services, in line with the rules on competition laid down in the Treaty; whereas the dichotomy of competitive service provision and limited availability of frequency resources will need careful consideration in any proposed introduction scenario;

Whereas the global dimension of these systems and their role in providing personal mobile telecommunications services as well as the related global regulatory structure under which they are provided should play an important part in the political considerations for the establishment of a Community policy; whereas the global regulatory framework under which these systems will have to operate is strategically and politically one of the most crucial aspects to be considered,

RECOGNIZES:

- (1) the importance of the planned use of satellites for personal communications, and of the opportunities this may offer for European industry, service providers, and users;
- (2) the global characteristics of satellite personal communications services, in particular if provided through non-geostationary satellite systems, and the need to clarify their particular characteristics as they affect the European and international regulatory regimes;
- (3) the challenge for the Community to develop a forward-looking regulatory framework which allows the introduction of satellite personal communications services, taking full account of the global nature of these systems, and the desirability of co-ordinated action;

NOTING:

- that the advantages of satellite personal communications may be extended to a vast range of potential users, in particular to those who do not have access to established services, including users in regions with a less-developed telecommunications infrastructure;
- noting also that any policy in this area may concern all the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) authorities, including those of Central and Eastern Europe;

THEREFORE STRESSES:

the importance of developing a Community policy with regard to satellite personal communications that will build on existing policies regarding telecommunications, in particular satellite communications, and on future policy on mobile communications based on the Green Paper on the subject and, if necessary, on regional development and trade policies in general;

INVITES THE MEMBER STATES

to make efforts towards developing as soon as possible a Community policy concerning satellite personal communications, and a co-ordinated position, in particular within the context of international organizations, such as the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), and in relation to third countries;

AND INVITES THE COMMISSION:

- (1) to investigate the significance of satellite personal communications in the formulation of Community policies for telecommunications, space, trade, industry and regional development;
- (2) to define, in collaboration with Member States, an effective joint policy on those systems, with the co-operation, where appropriate, of the European Space Agency (ESA) in order to improve the competitive position of the European space and related telecommunications industries so as to enable operators, service providers, industry and users to participate in a global, open market in satellite personal communications, in accordance with Community law and the general guidelines laid down in the said Council Resolution of 19 December 1991;
- (3) to continue to monitor closely international developments, particularly in this respect the regulatory proceedings outside the Community and to consult, where appropriate, with non-Community countries on the co-ordinated introduction of these systems at a global level;
- (4) to reinforce its co-operation with European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI), European Radiocommunications Committee (ERC) and European Committee for Telecommunications Regulatory Matters (ECTRA) in examining the related standardization, radio frequency and licensing issues respectively;
- (5) to set up as part of the consultation process a platform for strategic discussions among all interested parties;

- (6) to report regularly on developments in this area, in particular the granting of licences and any other matters affecting trade in services, and, where necessary, propose appropriate measures and/or actions."

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Customs tariff

The Council unanimously adopted a Regulation temporarily suspending - from 1 January to 31 December 1994 - the autonomous common customs tariff duties on a number of products for the construction, maintenance and repair of aircraft, subject to conditions to be laid down by the competent authorities.

Fisheries

The Council unanimously adopted a Regulation distributing to Member States for 1993 the increase in that part of the TAC of sprat allocated to the Community in the Baltic Sea and an additional quota of cod in the same waters (the third amendment of Regulation (EEC) No 3919/92).

The sprat quota in question has thus been increased to 48 020 tonnes for Denmark and 30 580 tonnes for Germany. The cod quotas have been increased to 9 800 tonnes for Denmark and 4 400 tonnes for Germany.

PRESS RELEASE

10646/93 (Presse 220)

1718th Council meeting

ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL QUESTIONS

Brussels, 5 December 1993

President: Mr Philippe MAYSTADT,
Minister for Finance
of the Kingdom of Belgium

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

Belgium:

Mr Philippe MAYSTADT

Minister for Finance

Denmark:

Ms Marianne JELVED

Mr Jens THOMSEN

Minister for Economic Affairs

State Secretary for Finance

Germany:

Mr Theo WAIGEL

Mr Günther REXRODT

Mr Gert HALLER

Minister for Finance

Federal Minister for Economic Affairs

State Secretary for Finance

Greece:

Mr Yiannos PAPANTONIOU

Deputy Minister for Economic Affairs

Spain:

Mr Pedro SOLBES MIRA

Minister for Economic Affairs and Finance

France:

Mr Edmond ALPHANDERY

Minister for Economic Affairs

Ireland:

Mr Bertie AHERN

Minister for Finance

Italy:

Mr Piero BARUCCI

Minister for the Treasury

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean-Claude JUNKER

Minister for Finance

Netherlands

Mr Wim KOK

Minister for Finance

Portugal:

Mr José BRAZ

State Secretary for the Treasury

United Kingdom:

Mr Kenneth CLARKE

Chancellor of the Exchequer

Commission:

Mr Henning CHRISTOPHERSEN

Member

The following also attended:

Sir Nigel WICKS

Mr François MONIER

Chairman of the Monetary Committee

Chairman of the Economic Policy Committee

PREPARATION FOR THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL

On the basis of a Commission recommendation, the Council proceeded with preparations for the discussions to be held by the European Council on 10 and 11 December on the broad guidelines of the economic policies of the Member States and the Community.

In accordance with Article 103 of the TEU, the Council drew up a draft of those guidelines, which it will submit for discussion by the Heads of State and Government.

The recommendation laying down these broad guidelines will subsequently be adopted by the ECOFIN Council, acting by a qualified majority, if possible on 13 December, and sent to the European Parliament. The guidelines will serve as the point of reference for the conduct of the economic policies of the Community and the Member States.

The Council also heard a presentation by Commissioner CHRISTOPHERSEN, concerning inter alia the section dealing with the major trans-European infrastructure networks in the White Paper on "Growth, competitiveness and employment", which the Commission has just adopted today with a view to the European Council on 10 and 11 December, in accordance with the conclusions reached in Copenhagen on 21 and 22 June 1992.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

1719th meeting of the Council

- Energy -

Brussels, 10 December 1993

The official press release was unavailable. A summary of the meeting has been reproduced from the Bulletin of the European Communities, No. 12-1993.

1719th meeting

1.7.19. Energy (Brussels, 10 December).

Previous meeting: Bull. EC 6-1993, point 1.6.12

President: Mr Wathelet, Belgian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Economic Affairs.

Commission: Mr Matutes.

Main items

- ☐ Grant and use of authorizations for the prospection, exploration and production of hydrocarbons: common position on a proposal for a Directive agreed(→ point 1.2.122).
- ☐ Aid code for the coal industry: assent on a decision agreed (→ point 1.2.125).

Other business

- ☐ Internal market in electricity and natural gas: exchange of views.
- ☐ Nuclear safety in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union: discussed.
- ☐ Energy policy between now and 2005: state of play.
- ☐ Trans-European energy networks and economic and social cohesion: exchange of views.
- ☐ European Energy Charter: state of play.
- ☐ Thermie programme: reviewed.

United Kingdom

1.2.222. Commission decision on launching aid for the Milk Marque cooperative.

Adopted on 8 December. Milk Marque will replace, on a voluntary membership basis, the Milk Marketing Board for England and Wales, to be abolished. The aid will cover expenditure on informing producers of the options open to them. The Commission has however opened the procedure in regard to the planned transfer of the Milk Marketing Board's assets to Milk Marque (→ point 1.2.223).

Decision to open procedure

Bull. EC 12-1993

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Italy

1.2.225. Commission decision on aid for farms affected by drought in Sardinia.

Adopted on 8 December. The Commission considered that the aid, consisting of reduced irrigation water charges, could be seen as an aid to popularize irrigation techniques and as such compatible with the common market.

Bull. EC 12-1993

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