

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

PRESS RELEASES

PRESIDENCY: PORTUGAL

JANUARY-JUNE 1992

Meetings and press releases January-February 1992

Meeting number	Subject	Date
Special meeting	General Affairs	10 January 1992
1552 nd	No record of a meeting	
1553 rd	Agriculture	27-28 January 1992
1554 th	General Affairs	3 February 1992
1555 th	Economics/Finance	10 February 1992
1556 th	Agriculture	10-11 February 1992
1557 th	Internal Market	25 February 1992

PRESS RELEASE

4022/92 (Presse 4)

Special meeting
GENERAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL
- Political Co-operation -

Brussels, 10 January 1992

Presidents: Mr João PINHEIRO
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Fernando FARIA DE OLIVEIRA
Minister for Trade and Tourism
of the Portuguese Republic

10. I. 92
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The Governments of the Member States and the Commission of the European Communities were represented as follows:

Belgium:

Mr Marc EYSKENS	Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Robert URBAIN	Minister for Foreign Trade
Mr Paul DE KEERSMAEKER	State Secretary for European Affairs

Denmark:

Mr Laurits TOERNAES	Minister for Agriculture
Mr Ulrik FEDERSPIEL	State Secretary for Foreign Affairs
Mr Henrik IVERSEN	Deputy State Secretary for Trade and Economic Affairs

Germany:

Mr Hans-Dietrich GENSCHER	Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Jürgen MOELLEMANN	Federal Minister for Economic Affairs
Mr Ignaz KIECHLE	Federal Minister for Food, Agriculture and Forestry
Mr Walter KITTEL	State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Forestry

10.I.92
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Greece:

Mr Antonio SAMARAS	Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Sotirios HATZIGAKIS	Minister for Agriculture
Mr G. THEOPHANOUS	Secretary-General, Ministry of Economic Affairs

Spain:

Mr Francisco FERNANDEZ ORDOÑEZ	Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr José Claudio ARANZADI	Minister for Industry and Energy
Mr Pedro SOLBES MIRA	Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Mr Carlos WESTENDORP	State Secretary for Relations with the European Communities
Mr Miguel Angel FEITO	State Secretary for Trade

France:

Mr Roland DUMAS	Ministre d'Etat, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Louis MERMAZ	Minister for Agriculture and Forestry
Mr Dominique STRAUSS-KAHN	Minister for Industry and Foreign Trade

Ireland:

Mr Desmond O'MALLEY	Minister for Industry and Commerce
Mr Michael WOODS	Minister for Agriculture and Food
Mr Sean CALLEARY	Minister of State at the Department of Foreign Affairs with special responsibility for Overseas Aid

Italy:

Mr Gianni DE MICHELIS	Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Vito LATTANZIO	Minister for Foreign Trade
Mr Giovanni GORIA	Minister for Agriculture

Luxembourg:

Mr Jacques F. POOS	Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr René STEICHEN	Minister for Agriculture
Mr Georges WOHLFART	State Secretary for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade

Netherlands:

Mr Hans VAN DEN BROEK	Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Piet BUKMAN	Minister for Agriculture, Nature Conservation and Fisheries
Ms Yvonne van ROOY	Minister for Foreign Trade

10.I.92
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Mr Piet DANKERT

State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Portugal:

Mr João PINHEIRO

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Fernando FARIA DE OLIVEIRA

Minister for Trade and Tourism

Mr Arlindo CUNHA

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries
and Food

Mr Vitor MARTINS

State Secretary for European Integration

Mr Jose Manual DURÃO BARROSO

State Secretary for Foreign Affairs
and Co-operation

Mr Antonio SOUSA

State Secretary for Foreign Trade

United Kingdom:

Mr Douglas HOGG

Minister of State, Foreign and
Commonwealth Office

Mr Peter LILLEY

Secretary of State for Trade and Industry

Mr John Selwyn GUMMER

Minister for Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food

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Commission:

Mr Frans H.J.J. ANDRIESSEN

Vice-President

Mr Ray MACSHARRY

Member

RELATIONS WITH THE FORMER USSR

A. SITUATION IN THE FORMER USSR

1. The Council undertook an appraisal with a view to adapting the Community's policy as regards the new situation in the former USSR and laying down guidelines for its future action vis-à-vis the Republics. The appraisal was carried out on the basis of papers from the Presidency and the Commission.

2. In particular, the Council discussed:
 - the tailoring of the Community's technical-assistance and humanitarian-aid programmes to the Republics' needs;

 - the Commission's suggestions for the conclusion with the main independent States of specific co-operation agreements geared to the particular situation of each partner;

 - the opening by the Commission of delegations in the main independent States;

 - the possibility of combined diplomatic representation of the Commission and Member States in some capitals of independent States;

 - the desirability of organizing meetings at a political level with leading figures from the Republics.

The Commission is to submit appropriate proposals in the light of the Council's discussions.

3. The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue examining the papers from the Presidency and the Commission, to which it would return at its next meeting.

B. WASHINGTON CONFERENCE

The Council held a discussion in preparation for the Conference to be held in Washington on 22 and 23 January 1992 concerning emergency humanitarian aid for the independent States of the former USSR and related technical assistance.

The Community and its Member States, which are at present providing the bulk of the aid effort, consider that Conference politically important as a display of solidarity in the critical situation currently facing the former USSR and in order to make the various donors' efforts more effective by means of better co-ordination.

The Community and its Member States will participate in the Conference on the basis of a common position to be closely co-ordinated beforehand.

The four working party co-chairmanships assigned to Member States or the Commission will be held under a dual arrangement involving the Member State concerned and the Commission. It was agreed that the proceedings of the working party on technical assistance should also cover nuclear reactor safety.

The Council considered that the recipient Republics should be involved in subsequent proceedings in an appropriate manner.

The Community will express its willingness in principle to organize a follow-up Conference.

SOUTH AFRICA

- Repeal of restrictive trade measures

The Council took note of Denmark's withdrawal of its reservations on two Community decisions repealing restrictive measures vis-à-vis imports into the Community from South Africa of gold coins and certain products covered by the ECSC Treaty. At its next meeting, the Council will have before it texts for the formal adoption of those decisions.

URUGUAY ROUND

- Presidency conclusions

1. As a key world trading partner, the Community has consistently aimed at achieving growth in international trade as a basis for sustained economic development. It is indeed the most open economic area in the world. In the Uruguay Round the Community has displayed greater commitment to freer trade and the strengthening of multilateralism than any other contracting party.
2. The Council continued its examination of the paper submitted by Mr Dunkel, in his capacity as Chairman of the GATT Trade Negotiations Committee, as a reference document for the final phase of the negotiations. The Council confirmed the general conclusions which it had reached following an initial

examination of this document on 23 December 1991 (see press release 10394/91 Presse 250).

3. The Council examined the various dossiers and listed the priority problems. It called on the Commission to take the appropriate action.
4. The Council stressed once again the importance of reaching an early successful conclusion to the Uruguay Round negotiations and asked the Commission to make every effort during the phase of the negotiations following the TNC meeting on 13 January to obtain the substantial improvements and crucial amendments which will be necessary to achieve a balanced, coherent overall result.
5. In conclusion, the Council repeated its call for all the main partners to make genuine efforts to negotiate the compromises necessary for the Round to achieve success. It also stressed that it was vitally important that the negotiations on access to markets and on initial undertakings regarding services should achieve the significant results advocated in the decisions taken following the Montreal mid-term review.



COOPERATION POLITIQUE EUROPEENNE

COMMUNICATION A LA PRESSE

P. 6/92

Bruxelles, le 10 janvier 1992

DECLARATION SUR LA YUGOSLAVIE

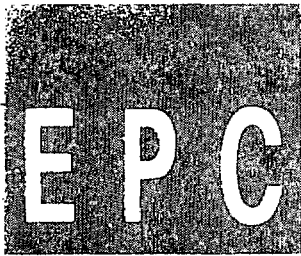
La Communauté et ses Etats membres se félicitent de la reprise de la Conférence sur la Yougoslavie sous la Présidence de Lord Carrington et lancent un appel à toutes les Républiques pour qu'elles s'engagent pleinement à oeuvrer pour son succès.

La Communauté et ses Etats membres soutiennent fermement les efforts de l'émissaire spécial du Secrétaire Général des Nations Unies pour promouvoir le cessez-le-feu agréé à Sarajevo, le 2 janvier 1992. Ils se félicitent chaleureusement de la décision du Conseil de Sécurité des Nations Unies d'envoyer immédiatement en Yougoslavie un groupe d'officiers de liaison, qui travailleront ensemble de façon étroite avec la Mission de vérification.

La Communauté et ses Etats membres réitèrent leur indignation au sujet de l'agression intolérable contre les hélicoptères de la Mission de vérification, d'autant plus que des garanties formelles sur la sécurité des membres de la Mission de Vérification avaient été données par les parties au conflit. Ils demandent instamment aux autorités à Belgrade, ainsi qu'à la JNA de coopérer pleinement avec la Commission d'Enquête, sous les auspices du Chef de la Mission de vérification, pour permettre que les responsables soient déférés en justice.

La Communauté et ses Etats membres soutiennent pleinement les efforts du Chef de la Mission de Vérification visant à s'assurer, par des garanties strictes et claires sur la sécurité des membres de la Mission de Vérification, que d'autres incidents ne se produisent.

La Communauté et ses Etats membres soulignent que les activités de la Mission de Vérification de la Communauté Européenne en Yougoslavie restent un élément clé d'une solution pacifique de la crise actuelle. Ils soulignent une fois encore le courage dont font preuve les membres de la Mission de Vérification et espèrent que le processus de paix se poursuivra avec une détermination renouvelée.



EUROPEAN POLITICAL COOPERATION

PRESS RELEASE

P. 6/92

Brussels, 10 January 1992

DECLARATION ON YUGOSLAVIA

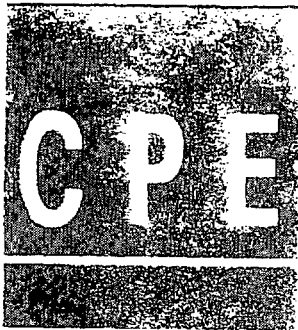
The Community and its member States welcome the resumption of the Conference on Yugoslavia under the Presidency of Lord Carrington and call upon all Republics to commit themselves fully to its successful outcome.

The Community and its member States also strongly support the efforts of the special envoy of the Secretary General of the United Nations to promote the cease-fire agreed in Sarajevo on 2 January 1992. They warmly welcome the decision by the United Nations Security Council to send immediately to Yugoslavia a group of liaison officers, who will work closely together with the Monitor Mission.

The Community and its member States reiterate their outrage at the intolerable aggression directed against the helicopters of the Monitor Mission all the more so when the parties to the conflict had given formal guarantees on the security of the monitors. They strongly urge the authorities in Belgrade and the JNA to cooperate fully with the Commission of Inquiry, under the auspices of the Head of the Monitor Mission, so that those responsible can be brought to justice.

The Community and its member States fully support the efforts of the Head of the Monitor Mission to secure strict and explicit guarantees with regard to the security of the monitors so as to avoid any further incident.

The Community and its member States underline that the activities of the Monitor Mission of the European Community in Yugoslavia remain a key element of the peaceful settlement of the current crisis. They stress once again the courage shown by the Monitors and express the hope that the peace process will continue with renewed determination.



COOPERATION POLITIQUE EUROPEENNE

COMMUNICATION A LA PRESSE

P. 7/92

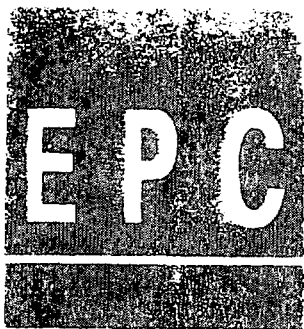
Bruxelles, le 10 janvier 1992

DECLARATION SUR LE MONTENEGRO

La Communauté et ses Etats membres se félicitent de la reprise de la Conférence sur la Yougoslavie, le 9 janvier 1992 à Bruxelles et notent avec satisfaction que toutes les parties au conflit ont été présentes.

La Communauté et ses Etats membres reconnaissent la contribution apportée par les parties yougoslaves pour faire avancer une solution pacifique au conflit. Dans ce contexte, ils notent en particulier la contribution du Monténégro dans la création des conditions nécessaires à la poursuite de la Conférence, permettant par la que les négociations sur une solution politique globale progressent.

La Communauté et ses Etats membres s'approprient en conséquence à adopter en faveur de cette République des mesures positives similaires à celles existant vis à vis d'autres Républiques.



EUROPEAN POLITICAL COOPERATION

PRESS RELEASE

P. 7/92

Brussels, 10 January 1992

DECLARATION ON MONTENEGRO

The Community and its member States welcome the reconvening of the Conference on Yugoslavia on 9 January in Brussels and note with satisfaction that all parties to the conflict were present.

The Community and its member States recognise the contribution made by the Yugoslav parties to the furtherance of a peaceful solution to the conflict. In this context, they note in particular the contribution by Montenegro to creating the necessary conditions for the continuation of the Conference, thus allowing the negotiations on a comprehensive political settlement to move forward.

The Community and its member States are therefore ready to prepare for the adoption of positive measures in favour of this Republic similar to those measures which exist for other Republics.

No record of a 1552nd meeting.

PRESS RELEASE

4025/92 (Presse 7)

1553rd Council meeting

- AGRICULTURE -

Brussels, 27 and 28 January 1992

President: Mr Arlindo CUNHA,

Minister for Agriculture
of the Portuguese Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr Paul de KEERSMAEKER State Secretary for European Affairs
and Agriculture

Denmark:

Mr Laurits TOERNAES Minister for Agriculture

Mr Nils BERNSTEIN State Secretary for Agriculture

Germany:

Mr Ignaz KIECHLE Federal Minister for Food, Agriculture
and Forestry

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

Greece:

Mr Sotirios HATZIGAKIS Minister for Agriculture

Spain:

Mr Pedro SOLBES MIRA Minister for Agriculture

France:

Mr Louis MERMAZ Minister for Agriculture

Ireland:

Mr Michael WOODS Minister for Agriculture

Italy:

Mr Giovanni GORIA Minister for Agriculture

Luxembourg:

Mr René STEICHEN Minister for Agriculture and
Viticulture

Netherlands:

Mr Piet BUKMAN Minister for Agriculture,
Nature Conservation and
Fisheries

Portugal:

Mr Arlindo CUNHA Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and
Food

Mr Alvaro AMARO State Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture

United Kingdom:

Mr John GUMMER Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Mr David CURRY Parliamentary Secretary, Agriculture

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Commission:

Mr Ray MAC SHARRY Member

DEVELOPMENT AND FUTURE OF THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY

The Council continued its discussion on reform of the CAP. In this connection, it examined a working document submitted by the Presidency with a view to more detailed study of the topic and the finding of solutions for key aspects of the reform.

In its document, the Presidency took account of the principles and objectives laid down by the Commission in its proposals and suggested some general approaches to the various sectors concerned by the reform, i.e. arable crops, tobacco, milk and milk products, beef and veal, accompanying measures and control measures. The Council's exchange of views enabled all delegations to give a detailed account of their ideas and reactions.

Following this exchange of views, which was deemed very constructive, the Presidency noted that a stage in the process leading to reform had been successfully completed and that work should continue towards that objective.

URUGUAY ROUND - AGRICULTURAL ASPECT

The Council was informed by Commissioner Mr Mac Sharry of the stage currently reached in the Uruguay Round negotiations.

The Council was unanimous in its assessment of the situation following submission of Mr Dunkel's document and accordingly confirmed the position adopted by the Council on 23 December 1991 and the Presidency's conclusions of 10 January 1992.

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The Council reaffirmed its support for the Commission in further negotiations along the lines thus defined so that a balanced and consistent result could be achieved by making indispensable changes to Mr Dunkel's document.

HEALTH RULES FOR THE PRODUCTION AND PLACING ON THE MARKET OF MEAT PRODUCTS

The Council recorded its unanimous agreement to the Directive laying down the harmonized health conditions applicable to the production and placing on the market of meat products and other products of animal origin obtained from or with by-products of slaughtering (e.g. rendering and fat products) intended after treatment for human consumption or for the preparation of other foodstuffs.

In the case of meat products, the Directive extends to production reserved for national markets the requirements currently laid down for intra-Community trade (Directive 77/99/EEC) taking account of the principles decided on by the Council when extending to national markets the rules governing intra-Community trade in fresh meat (Directive 91/497/EEC). In particular, as from 1 January 1993, all meat products will have to satisfy the same health requirements (protection of human health). Simplified conditions for approval of certain structural aspects are provided for in the case of establishments having a limited capacity.

Moreover, incorporating as it does several proposals included among the aims of the White Paper, the Directive established health rules for all other by-products of slaughtering which are intended after treatment for human consumption.

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Making all these products subject to harmonization at Community level means that they are automatically included in the list of products which may, in accordance with the decision taken by the Council on the abolition of veterinary controls at borders between Member States, be subject in the course of trade to the principles and rules of controls and the safeguard measures provided for in Directive 89/662/EEC.

In particular, this Directive imposes on establishments producing meat products and other animal products resulting from slaughtering an approval procedure that is adapted to the specified health conditions. It also establishes the principle of continuous self-regulation of manufacture by the farmer or the manager of such an establishment as well as a national and Community inspection procedure to ensure compliance with the health requirements of the Directive.

The health certificate for controlling the destination of certain products will be maintained.

With this important Directive, the Council is continuing the introduction of conditions for the liberalization of trade in the various products of animal origin while ensuring adequate consumer protection .

Formal adoption will take place in the near future after finalization of the texts.

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MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Other decisions concerning agricultural policy

The Council adopted

- the estimate concerning young male bovine animals weighing 300 kg or less and intended for fattening for the period 1 January to 31 December 1992 (198 000 head);
- the estimate concerning beef and veal intended for the processing industry for the period 1 January to 31 December 1992 (zero);
- the Regulation amending Regulation No 3285/83 laying down general rules for the extension of certain rules issued by producers' organizations in the fruit and vegetable sector. This maintains for Spain and Portugal the provisions establishing the threshold requirement relating to representativeness, i.e. 50% of the producers and more than 50% of the production in a given economic area;
- the Regulation laying down derogating provisions as regards storage contracts for olive oil in Greece, Spain and Portugal. These derogating provisions lay down that storage contracts may, in the absence of producer groups, be concluded in these countries by producers' organizations and their unions recognized in accordance with the provisions of the basic Regulation No 136/66/EEC on oils and fats.

OTHER DECISIONS

South Africa

- Repealing of Community restrictive measures

The Council adopted a Regulation repealing the Regulation suspending imports of gold coins from the Republic of South Africa.

The Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the ECSC, meeting within the Council, decided to repeal the Decision suspending imports of certain iron and steel products originating in South Africa.

These two Community acts are the follow-up to the statement made by the European Council in Rome on 14 and 15 December 1990, which provided for the easing of the set of measures adopted in 1986 as soon as the Government of the Republic of South Africa took certain steps towards the abolition of Apartheid. At the Political Co-operation meeting on 15 April 1991, the Ministers noted that the conditions laid down by the European Council had been fulfilled and since the internal procedures of the Member States had in the meantime been completed, the Council adopted the acts in question.

Trade policy

- (a) In application of Regulation No 1134/91 on the tariff arrangements applicable to imports into the Community of products originating in the occupied territories, the Council adopted the Regulation opening and providing for the administration for 1992 of a Community tariff quota for fresh strawberries originating in the occupied territories and laying

down the procedure applicable to certain agricultural products subject to reference quantities originating in the said territories. The aim of this Regulation is to reduce by 50% the customs duties applicable to fresh strawberries within the limits of a Community tariff quota of 1 200 tonnes for the period from 1 January to 31 March 1992. It should be noted that the remaining second series of customs duties will be abolished as from 1 January 1993.

- (b) The Council adopted the Regulation authorizing extension or tacit renewal of certain trade agreements concluded between Member States and third countries, for which the expiry or termination date falls between 1 November 1991 and 31 January 1992 (4th tranche for 1991).
- (c) The Council adopted the Regulation extending for an additional two-month period the provisional anti-dumping duty on imports of certain polyester yarns (man-made staple fibres) originating in Taiwan, Indonesia, India, the People's Republic of China and Turkey.

This extension has raised no objections from the exporters concerned and makes it possible to complete examination of the facts on which introduction of the provisional duty was based.

- (d) The Council adopted the Decision on the conclusion of the EEC-Norway Agreement on the adaptation of the present Agreement concerning reciprocal trade in cheese.

It should be noted that the existing Agreement between the EEC and Norway signed on 22 March 1989 is an Agreement of unlimited duration mainly involving reciprocal tariff quotas which were, however, fixed

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only for the period 1989 to 1991. The Agreement being adopted by the Council maintains unchanged for 1992 the quantities and the import duties decided on in the existing Agreement and stipulates that consultations for subsequent years must be held during the second half of 1992.

Conferences of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States with a view to amending the Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community and the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community respectively

The Council came out in favour of convening the above two Conferences, which will be held at the time of the General Affairs Council on 3 and 4 February 1992. These Conferences, which are geared to the process of extending the scope of the Conference on Political Union, are being held to make amendments to the said Treaties resulting from the planned amendments to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community. It should be noted that the Commission and the European Parliament already expressed favourable opinions on 6 December 1991 and 16 January 1992.

Abolition of fiscal frontiers

As a follow-up to the political agreement reached at its meeting on 11 November 1991 (see Press Release 9131/91 Presse 199), the Council formally adopted the Regulation on administrative co-operation in the field of indirect taxation (VAT).

Fisheries

- Guinea-Bissau

The Council adopted the Regulation on the conclusion of the Protocol establishing for the period 16 June 1991 to 15 June 1993 the fishing rights and financial compensation provided for in the Agreement between the Community and Guinea-Bissau.

Fishing rights are fixed as follows:

1. (a) freezer shrimp trawlers: 11 000 GRT per month, annual average;
(b) freezer fin fish and cephalopod trawlers: 6 000 GRT per month, annual average;
2. freezer tuna seiners: 20 vessels;
3. pole-and-line tuna vessels and surface longliners: 12 vessels.

The financial compensation for these fishing rights is fixed at ECU 12 million.

The Community will also contribute the sum of ECU 1,4 million towards the Guinea-Bissau scientific and technical activities and the training of specialists in the various disciplines relating to fisheries.

It should be noted that this Protocol has applied provisionally since 16 June 1991 pursuant to an Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters.

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- Morocco

The Council adopted the Regulation on the conclusion of Protocol No 2 establishing for the period 1 April 1991 to 29 February 1992 the crawfish fishing opportunities and financial compensation provided for in the Agreement between the Community and Morocco.

Under this Protocol, Morocco will grant the Community five licences each month for fishing crawfish (using pots only) for a total not exceeding an average of 600 GRT in the Southern Zone.

The Community's financial compensation for the period in question is fixed at ECU 360 000.

It should be noted that this Protocol has applied provisionally since 1 April 1991 pursuant to an Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters.

NAFO

In accordance with the political agreement reached at the Fisheries Council on 8 July 1991 (see Press Release 7149/91 Presse 126) and following finalization of the texts, the Council adopted the Regulation applying at Community level a NAFO control measure known as the "hail system".

Under this system, fishing vessels are required at the same time to inform the Commission and the competent authorities of the flag Member State of their arrivals, departures and other movements in the area governed by the North-West Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO).

- Technical conservation measures

In accordance with the political agreement reached at the Fisheries Council on 28 October 1991 on a compromise covering three proposals amending for the tenth, eleventh and twelfth times Regulation No 3094/86 concerning technical measures for the conservation of fishery resources (see Press Release 8746/91 Presse 178), the Council formally adopted the text after legal/linguistic finalization.

This is a consolidated text amending for the eleventh time the Regulation and covering all the enacting terms of the three original proposals as amended by the Council. The Regulation will enter into force on 1 June 1992.

Summertime

The Council adopted its common position on the Directive on summertime arrangements for the period 1993 to 1994. This period in which the time will be one hour earlier than during the rest of the year, has been fixed in accordance with the common position to run from the last Sunday in March (1993: 28 March; 1994: 27 March) until the last Sunday in September (1993: 26 September; 1994: 25 September).

However, Ireland and the United Kingdom may fix the end of summertime for 1993 and 1994 as the fourth Sunday in October (1993: 24 October; 1994: 23 October).

Appointments

The Council replaced

- a member of the Economic and Social Committee;
- two members of the Scientific and Technical Committee (CST);
- one full member and two alternate members of the Advisory Committee on Education and Training in the field of architecture;
- a full member of the Administrative Board of the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions;
- a full member of the Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work;
- a member of the ECSC Consultative Committee.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

4392/92 (Presse 12)

1554th Council meeting

- GENERAL AFFAIRS -

Brussels, 3 February 1992

President: Mr João PINHEIRO

Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Portugal

3.II.92
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The Governments of the Member States and the Commission of the European Communities were represented as follows:

Belgium:

Mr Marc EYSKENS Minister for Foreign Affairs

Denmark:

Mr Uffe ELLEMANN-JENSEN Minister for Foreign Affairs

Germany:

Mr Hans-Dietrich GENSCHER Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mrs Ursula SEILER-ALBRING Minister of State, Foreign Affairs

Greece:

Mr Georges PAPASTAMKOS State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Spain:

Mr Francisco FERNANDEZ-ORDOÑEZ Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Carlos WESTENDORP State Secretary for Relations with the
European Communities

France:

Mrs Elizabeth GUIGOU Minister for European Affairs

Ireland:

Mr Sean CALLEARY Minister of State at the Department of
Foreign Affairs with special responsibility
for Overseas Aid

Italy:

Mr Gianni DE MICHELIS Minister for Foreign Affairs

Luxembourg:

Mr Jacques POOS Minister for Foreign Affairs

Netherlands:

Mr Hans VAN DEN BROEK Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Piet DANKERT State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Portugal:

Mr João PINHEIRO Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Vitor MARTINS State Secretary for European Integration

United Kingdom:

Mr Douglas HURD Secretary of State for Foreign and
Commonwealth Affairs

Mr Tristan GAREL-JONES Minister of State, Foreign and
Commonwealth Office

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Commission:

Mr F.H.J.J. ANDRIESSEN Vice-President

Mr Manuel MARIN Vice-President

Mr Abel MATUTES Member

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CONFERENCES OF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE MEMBER STATES ON
AMENDMENT OF THE ECSC AND EURATOM TREATIES

The Conferences of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, which were called in accordance with Article 96 of the ECSC Treaty and Article 204 of the EURATOM Treaty, adopted the amendments to be made to these two Treaties consequent on the amendments agreed to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community.

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SITUATION IN THE FORMER SOVIET UNION, INCLUDING FOLLOW-UP TO THE WASHINGTON
CONFERENCE

1. The Council assessed the outcome of the Washington Conference on assistance to the Independent States of the former USSR.

It stressed the need for the follow-up to the Conference to produce tangible results without delay.

The Council also stressed the importance of the follow-up Conference in Lisbon on 17 February in preparation for which it had asked the Commission to submit a communication dealing with the whole matter.

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The Presidency will maintain close Community co-ordination as regards both the follow-up to the Working Groups and the follow-up Conference in Lisbon.

2. The Council discussed the progress of the various food-aid measures decided on by the Community to help the former USSR. It noted that the initial aid in the form of grants amounting to ECU 250 million had to a very large extent been implemented. The second instalment of aid in the form of grants totalling ECU 200 million was being implemented in Moscow and St. Petersburg and the Commission was asked whether this aid could be extended to other cities. It was also informed of the problems arising from the new situation in the former USSR which were blocking the implementation of the credit guarantee (ECU 500 million) and the medium-term loan (ECU 1 250 million) for imports into the former USSR of agricultural and food products, and noted that these problems would be considered at the ECOFIN Council on 10 February.
3. Given the magnitude of the macro-economic problems facing the Independent States, the Council considered that the procedures enabling those States to become party to the Bretton Woods Institutions should be speeded up.
4. The Council held an exchange of views on the content of the Community's contractual relations with the various Independent States and noted broad agreement both on the approach and on the framework of these relations. Particular emphasis was laid on the need for political and economic conditionality and on the advisability of promoting maximum co-operation between the Independent States.

The Council's discussions provided the Commission with the information required to begin exploratory talks.

5. The Council also took stock of relations with the Baltic States, in particular of the measures already decided on or planned with a view to helping those States overcome their difficulties and of the progress of negotiations on co-operation agreements. It reiterated the Community's resolve to establish close relations with the Baltic States. In this connection, the Council took note of suggestions by the Danish delegation concerning emergency assistance to those States.
6. The Council concluded by agreeing to return to relations with the former USSR at its meeting on 2 March and with this in mind invited the Commission to draw up an overall document containing concrete proposals.
7. In this context, the Council took note of the Commission's shortage of staff and noted that the Commission intended to submit appropriate proposals to remedy this situation.

EEA AGREEMENT: ACTION TO BE TAKEN ON THE COURT'S OPINION

The Council:

- heard a report from the Commission on progress in the negotiations with the EFTA partners to make the necessary amendments to the EEA Agreement in the light of the Opinion of the Court of Justice;

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- reaffirmed the importance the Council attached to the establishment of the European Economic Area on 1 January 1993 and its political resolve to reach agreement as quickly as possible;
- shared the Commission's view that as part of a balanced approach, a solution should be sought that would guarantee maximum consistency in interpreting the provisions governing the four freedoms and conditions of competition;
- invited the Commission to complete the negotiations in close contact with the Permanent Representatives Committee and in the light of the Council's discussions.

POSITIVE MEASURES IN FAVOUR OF THE REPUBLICS OF CROATIA AND SLOVENIA AND THE YUGOSLAV REPUBLICS OF BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA, MACEDONIA AND MONTENEGRO

The Council adopted the Regulations laying down the arrangements applicable to the import into the Community of products originating in the above Republics. The purpose of these Regulations is to restore to those Republics which are co-operating in the peace process all the trade concessions previously granted to Yugoslavia which had been partially restored to them from 15 November 1991. In accordance with the conclusions reached on 10 January 1992 in the EPC framework, Montenegro was added to the list of Republics qualifying for these measures.

The Council confirmed that the terminology used to define the various

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geographical entities involved was purely geographical and in no way prejudged the future political status and names of these entities.

MEDITERRANEAN FINANCIAL PROTOCOLS

The Council examined the situation arising from the recent European Parliament Resolutions on the Mediterranean Financial Protocols and in particular from the fact that the Parliament had withheld its assent in respect of Morocco and Syria.

Following its discussions, the Council agreed on the content of a letter to be sent to the European Parliament which would set out the various general and specific considerations underlying the Council's request to the Parliament to re-examine the two Protocols in question with a view to giving its assent to them, the Council being extremely concerned that the Parliament should examine these Protocols in the near future, in particular the Protocol with Morocco.

The Presidency would contact the Parliament to this end.

EXPORT CONTROLS

The Commission submitted to the Council its communication on export controls on dual-purpose goods and technology with a view to completion of the internal market.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to prepare for the initial discussions which the Internal Market Ministers might hold on this

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communication following the meeting on 25 February, on the understanding that the Ministers for Foreign Affairs would deal, when the time came, with those aspects of the communication which could have implications for the external relations of the Community and its Member States.

EEC/PARAGUAY FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT

The Council decided to sign the Framework Co-operation Agreement between the Community and the Republic of Paraguay, subject to its conclusion. The signing took place the same day (see Press Release No 4393/92 Presse 13).

THIRD-GENERATION AGREEMENT WITH BRAZIL AND THE ANDEAN PACT

The Commission submitted to the Council the draft negotiating directives for a third-generation framework co-operation agreement between the Community and Brazil and announced that it was intending to submit draft directives in the near future concerning a similar co-operation agreement with the Andean Pact countries.

The Council stressed that the negotiation of such agreements was a reflection of the Community's will to strengthen relations with the Latin American countries and to adjust them to the new guidelines that the Council had laid down for those relations. Accordingly, it instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine the Commission proposals so that the negotiations could begin without delay.

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HAITI

The Community and its Member States expressed their deep concern at the current situation in Haiti and the continuing violation of human and democratic rights.

The Ministers drew attention to the fact that the Community had already suspended all economic co-operation with Haiti with the exception of humanitarian aid, which directly benefited the people of Haiti who were victims of the situation.

The Community intended to adopt further measures if the situation in Haiti did not change. It referred in this connection to the guideline already adopted by the Council concerning denunciation of the Lomé Convention with respect to Haiti.

The Community would keep a very close eye on developments in Haiti and, in this context, would contact the Organization of American States. The Ministers would return to this topic at their meeting on 17 February 1992 in Lisbon in the framework of EPC.

ALA DEVELOPING COUNTRIES REGULATION AND EC INVESTMENT PARTNERS REGULATION

The Council and a European Parliament delegation led by Mr SABY ⁽¹⁾ held a meeting under the conciliation procedure on the ALA Developing Countries Regulation and the EC Investment Partners Regulation.

(1) The European Parliament delegation included Mrs RUIZ-GIMENEZ, Mrs BELO, Mrs BRAUN-MOSER and Mrs GEODMAKERS and Mr JACKSON, Mr TELKAMPER, Mr TITLEY and Mr LANGES.

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The two delegations and the Commission noted from the outset that there was unanimous agreement on the political importance of Community co-operation with the third countries concerned and on the main lines of such co-operation, and this meeting accordingly brought the positions of the two Institutions on the issues outstanding much closer.

Given the results thus achieved, the Council was then able to adopt the two Regulations in question, including the amendments agreed upon with the European Parliament.

It should be noted that:

- (a) the implementing Regulation on financial and technical assistance and economic co-operation with the developing countries in Asia and Latin America reflects the resolve of the Community, confirmed on several occasions by the European Council, to step up co-operation with those regions of the world where the level of development is still insufficient through increased, co-ordinated and diversified action by the Community and the Member States.

This Regulation will enable the guidelines for co-operation with the developing countries in Asia and Latin America for the 1990s, which were adopted by the Council on 4 February 1991, to be put into effect.

While confirming the traditional areas of action, the Regulation contains new priorities, in particular concerning the environment, the human dimension of development and the promotion of human rights and economic co-operation.

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(b) The EC Investment Partners Regulation is designed to implement this financial instrument for countries of Latin America, Asia and the Mediterranean over a three-year trial period.

This instrument which the Commission has been implementing since 1988 as a pilot project is designed to encourage mutually beneficial investment by Community operators, in particular in the form of joint ventures, and by local operators in the eligible countries concerned.

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MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Community Generalized Scheme of Preferences for 1992:

Albania, Baltic States, Republic of Korea

The European Parliament having delivered its Opinion, the Council adopted the Regulation

- temporarily granting Albania, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania entitlement to the GSP to increase their exports so as to speed up their economic development, promote industrialization and increase their growth rate;
- withdraw the suspension on Korea's entitlement to the GSP now that the former had rescinded the discriminatory treatment it applied to the Community in the field of intellectual property.

The Regulation concerning ECSC products (Korea) will be adopted shortly.

Norway - tariff quotas for certain fishery products

In accordance with the Agreement between the EEC and Norway on agriculture and fisheries, the Council adopted a Regulation opening, from 1 April to 31 December 1992 two tariff quotas at zero duty for cod and fish of the species *Boreogadus saida*: the first one for 13 250 tonnes of fish dried or salted; the second for 10 000 tonnes for fish salted but not dried.

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Steel: relations between the EEC and the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic

The Council delivered an assent in accordance with Article 95 of the ECSC Treaty on the draft Commission decision concluding a Protocol on trade and commercial and economic co-operation between the ECSC and the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic. The European Association Agreement signed on 16 December 1991 will replace this Protocol once the ratification procedures have been completed.

Textiles

The Council recorded its agreement to an addendum to the Regulation of 19 December 1991 concerning the common rules for imports of certain textile products originating in third countries which have concluded agreements with the Community, the purpose of this addendum being to take account of the agreements concluded with Bangladesh, Pakistan and India.

Shipments of radioactive waste

The Council adopted a Directive based on Articles 31 and 32 of the Euratom Treaty on the supervision and control of shipments of radioactive waste between Member States and into and out of the Community.

The purpose of this Directive is to supplement the Directives on basic safety standards ⁽¹⁾ and thus to offer maximum protection for the general population and workers against the dangers of ionizing radiation.

(1) In particular, Directive 80/836/EURATOM (OJ No L 246, 17.9.1980, p. 1).

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This Directive lays down in particular the criteria to be met by such shipments and the general procedural framework - especially as regards authorizations and exchanges of information - governing such shipments and the import, export and reconsignment of such waste.

The duties incumbent on the competent authorities of the Member States are likewise laid down, without prejudice to the responsibilities of any legal or natural person involved in such shipments.

Lastly, a Consultative Committee is set up to prepare the technical documents laid down under this Directive.

Research

The following were adopted by the Council:

- following the common position adopted on 25 November 1991, the Decision concerning the conclusion of bilateral Co-operation Agreements between the EEC and the Republic of Austria, the Republic of Finland and the Kingdom of Norway on Science and Technology for Environmental Protection (STEP);
- following the common position adopted on 25 November 1991 the Decision concerning the conclusion of bilateral Co-operation Agreements between the EEC and the Republic of Iceland and the Kingdom of Sweden on research and development in the field of the environment/Science and Technology for Environmental Protection (STEP) and the European Programme on Climatology and Natural Hazards (EPOCH);

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- following the common position adopted on 14 October 1991, the Decision concerning the conclusion of a Co-operation Agreement between the EEC and the Republic of Turkey in the field of Medical and Health Research.

Application of the CAP to the Canary Islands

The Council adopted a Regulation amending Regulation No 1911/91 with a view to changing the final date from which the CAP will apply to the Canary Islands from 1 January 1992 to 1 July 1992. This amendment was found necessary to enable the specific supply arrangements applicable to the Canary Islands to be determined, these arrangements are a pre-requisite and the Commission intends to submit the relevant proposals for them shortly.

Code of Conduct against Doping in Sport

The Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, adopted the Code set out in Annex I with a view to the Olympic Games in Albertville and Barcelona in 1992.

Safety and/or health signs at work

The Council adopted a common position on the Directive concerning the minimum requirements for the provision of safety and/or health signs at work (tenth individual Directive within the meaning of Article 16(1) of Directive 89/391/EEC). (See Press Release 9559/91 of 3.12.91).

Telecommunications

The Council adopted the conclusions on the procedures to be followed by the Community at the World Administrative Radio Conference (WARC 1992, Torremolinos, 3 February to 3 March 1992) concerning the three topics that might be dealt with on the Conference agenda which come within the sphere of competence exercised by the Community, viz.:

- co-ordinated introduction of pan-European cellular digital land-based mobile communications in the Community (Directive 87/137/EEC)
- co-ordinated introduction of pan-European land-based public radio paging (Directive 90/544/EEC)
- co-ordinated introduction of digital European cordless telecommunications (Directive 91/287/EEC).

Action programme on information for young Europeans

The Council and the Ministers, meeting within the Council, adopted the conclusions set out in Annex II.



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ANNEX I

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

on a Code of Conduct against
Doping in Sport

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

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community,

Referring to their Resolution of 3 December 1990 on Community action to combat
the use of drugs, including the abuse of medicinal products, particularly in
sport ⁽¹⁾,

Referring also to the Declaration made on this subject on 4 June 1991 ⁽²⁾,

Noting with interest the communication from the Commission to the Council on
doping in sport and, in particular, the analysis of the phenomenon of doping and
its effects on health,

Considering that the draft Code of Conduct against Doping in Sport included in
that communication fulfils the aims of the aforementioned Resolution, and is
particularly appropriate in view of the Albertville and Barcelona Olympic Games
in 1992,

(1) OJ No C 329, 31.12.1990, p. 2.

(2) OJ No C 170, 29. 6.1991, p. 1.

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APPROVE the Code of Conduct, as annexed hereto, as an instrument serving to inform and educate the public in general, and, more specifically, young people, as well as the circles concerned;

INVITE the Commission and the Member States:

- to ensure the widest possible dissemination of this Code, in particular on the eve of the sporting events to be held in 1992, in collaboration with the Member States more specifically involved in organizing them,
- to use this code to reinforce the training, information and education initiatives taken to combat doping.

Annex

Code of conduct
against doping in sport

1. Young people shall be encouraged to play the leading role in advocating that participation in sport should be free from doping and urged to promote this attitude amongst themselves.
2. Parents shall be encouraged to foster in their children a positive attitude to participation in sport, to provide them with moral support in their efforts and to reinforce the basic values of good health, fair play and team spirit.

3. Schools, universities and other training centres shall promote the attainment of success through fair play and advocate that participation in sporting activities shall be free of doping agents and methods.
4. Athletes, as role models, shall help to re-establish confidence in both sport and society being free from doping.
5. Health professionals have an obligation to be fully informed of the effects of doping agents and methods and to provide advice to the individuals who come into professional contact with them.
6. Those forming the entourage of sportsmen and women (managers, trainers, coaches, etc.) must play an active role in preventing doping and encouraging fair play.
7. Organizations involved with sports activities, including those related to the Olympic Movement, shall re-emphasize the spirit of fair competition.
8. Sports organizations at national and international levels shall co-operate on issues related to the status and control of doping.
9. Testing laboratories shall continue to maintain high-quality and reliable drug-testing procedures. They shall also monitor for the presence of new substances having the potential for performance-enhancement and inform the appropriate authorities for action to be taken.

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10. The media shall provide the general public with information about athletes' training programmes and not merely the outcome of sporting events, as well as relevant information on the negative consequences of doping for health.
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ANNEX II

CONCLUSIONS
OF THE COUNCIL AND THE MINISTERS
MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL

concerning an action programme
on information for young Europeans

Following the examination by the Working Party on Youth of the Commission communication entitled "Keeping young Europeans informed", the Council and the Ministers meeting within the Council invite the Commission to submit an action programme on information for young Europeans, taking into account the points outlined in the Annex to these conclusions.

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ANNEX

OUTLINE OF A COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAMME
ON INFORMATION FOR YOUNG EUROPEANS

RELEVANT INITIATIVES

- Council and Ministers Resolution of 26 June 1991 ⁽¹⁾ on priority actions in the youth field: agreement to develop actions in the field of information for young people;
- Council Decision of 29 July 1991 ⁽²⁾ adopting the "Youth for Europe" programme (second phase): provision of information to young people and youth workers on activities supported under the "Youth for Europe" programme (Action Programme II, Annex 2b);
- Council Decision of 22 July 1991 ⁽³⁾ amending Decision 87/569/ EEC concerning an action programme for the vocational training of young people and their preparation for adult and working life (PETRA); one of the aims is that the Community will support national systems for the exchange of information on vocational guidance and on good and efficient working methods in the field of vocational guidance.

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR NATIONAL AND/OR COMMUNITY ACTIONS

Information for young people is an important contribution to the process of creating a People's Europe and can contribute significantly to promoting youth mobility in Europe.

Information for young people should as far as possible be geared to the circumstances of their daily life and to the need for the Community to reinforce their knowledge of Europe and its institutions and programmes.

(1) OJ No C 208, 9.8.1991, p. 1.

(2) OJ No L 217, 6.8.1991, p. 25.

(3) OJ No L 214, 2.8.1991, p. 69.

In the process of conveying information to young people, youth workers and other intermediaries working in the youth field can play an important role.

Promotional efforts to provide information to young people in the Community should be mainly directed at young people under the age of 25, with special attention being paid to the disadvantaged.

Activities in this area should take place in the Community with regard to the principle of subsidiarity.

ACTION AT MEMBER-STATE LEVEL

Member States should be invited:

1. to promote an increase in and/or the dissemination of the quality information available to young people via the appropriate channels in the Member States;
2. to designate one (or more) central point(s) in the field of information so that the information flow can be co-ordinated and adequate links can be created to facilitate the exchange of information between Member States and at European level.

ACTION AT COMMUNITY LEVEL

Proposals for Community action in the field of information for young people should supplement the activities carried on in the Member States and:

1. tie in with Community co-ordinated programmes affecting young people and take account of those established by other international organizations, particularly the Council of Europe;

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2. contribute, through the transfer of knowledge and experience, to action in Member States relating to:
 - the exchange of expertise
 - information on mobility and exchange opportunities for young people within Europe;

 3. (a) facilitate and contribute to the co-operation between Member States on matters of common concern - especially regarding information on mobility and exchange opportunities;

(b) assist Member States in the dissemination of information from the Community towards young people through the national central points;

 4. respond to common areas of interest which create among young people an awareness of Europe and of cultural diversity in Europe.
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COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

4502/92 (Presse 19)

1555th meeting of the Council

- ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL QUESTIONS -

Brussels, 10 February 1992

President: Mr Jorge BRAGA DE MACEDO

Minister for Finance
of the Republic of Portugal

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

Belgium:

Mr Philippe MAYSTADT Minister for Finance

Denmark:

Mr Anders FOGH RASMUSSEN Minister for Economic Affairs

Germany:

Mr Horst KÖHLER State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Finance

Mr Franz Christoph ZEITLER State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Finance

Mr Johann EEKHOF State Secretary, Federal Ministry of
Economic Affairs

Greece:

Mr Eythymios CHRISTODOULOU Minister for Economic Affairs

Spain:

Mr Carlos SOLCHAGA CATALAN Minister for Economic Affairs and Finance

France:

Mr Pierre BEREGOVOY Ministre d'Etat, Minister for Economic and
Financial Affairs and the Budget

Ireland:

Mr Bertie AHERN Minister for Finance

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Italy:

Mr Guido CARLI

Minister for the Treasury

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean-Claude JUNCKER

Minister for Finance

Netherlands:

Mr Wim KOK

Minister for Finance

Portugal:

Mr Jorge BRAGA DE MACEDO

Minister for Finance

Mr José BRAZ

State Secretary, Treasury

United Kingdom:

Mr John MAPLES

Economic Secretary to the Treasury

°

° °

Commission:

Mr Henning CHRISTOPHERSEN

Vice-President

Also attended:

Mr Cees MAAS

Chairman of the Monetary Committee

Mr Erik HOFFMEYER

Chairman of the Committee of Governors
of the Central Banks

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CONVERGENCE PROGRAMMES: IRELAND

On 10 February 1992, the Council examined the Irish Programme for Economic Convergence 1991-1993. The Council expressed its appreciation of the programme and welcomed Ireland's achievement to date in reducing inflation and putting the public finances on a sound basis.

On the follow-up from Maastricht the Council welcomed the fact that Ireland at present complied with the objective criteria for the move to the third stage of EMU. However, the vulnerability of the Irish Public Finances to adverse movements in the economic cycle meant that vigilance must be maintained. Ireland's firm commitment to continued budgetary consolidation despite slow economic growth was acknowledged by the Council, which took note of the 1993 target of 89% set for the Public Debt to GDP ratio.

Ireland's progress in recent years showed that it was possible to combine growth with stabilization, and in particular to combine the catching-up process with successful pursuit of monetary stability. It was particularly welcomed that the the successful adjustment policies received the support of the social partners. The Council stressed two contributions from the Community: the hard-currency option within the EMS, which has promoted adjustment while the strong growth performance has drawn substantial support from the Structural Funds.

The very high unemployment rate was a major policy issue. In order to tackle it, the gradualist strategy of tax reform, improved flexibility, adaptation of industrial policy and wage moderation pursued by the Irish Government was welcomed by the Council. Ireland was encouraged to continue this approach.

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Finally, the Council invited the Commission to monitor the implementation of the programme in close co-operation with the Monetary Committee, and to report before the end of 1992 as part of the regular procedure concerning convergence programmes.

MULTILATERAL SURVEILLANCE: CONCLUSIONS OF THE PRESIDENCY

The Council carried out the bi-annual examination of the Community's economic situation. This multilateral surveillance exercise was the first to be performed since the signing of the European Union Treaty. In the spirit of Maastricht the Council paid particular attention to the need for greater convergence, bearing in mind the criteria set out in Article 109j of the Treaty. Such an examination was to be a part of future multilateral surveillance exercises.

Economic growth in the Community was at present low. However, the Community as a whole would continue to expand at a higher rate than the world average. Unemployment was high. Slow growth and structural rigidities were at the root of the problem. Inflation was to be reduced marginally and budgetary consolidation to progress somewhat.

The present general orientation of economic policy towards sustainable non-inflationary growth remained valid. A better balance between savings and investment and a reduction of price and wage pressures would contribute to the conditions for easing monetary policy. Where macroeconomic imbalances were manifest and where corrective measures had been announced or decided, the implementation should be kept under close scrutiny in order to ensure timely compliance with the necessary conditions for the adoption of a single currency.

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The Council focused on three key issues: inflation, labour-market flexibility and savings. In each of these areas progress was badly needed.

Inflation, while moderating somewhat in recent months, still gave cause for concern. Structural rigidities, labour-market inflexibility in particular, were major obstacles to price stability, catching up and the decline of unemployment rates.

An adequate level of savings was required to maintain investment and economic growth, to support capital accumulation in lagging regions and to allow the Community to meet its external commitments.

The Council invited the Commission, the Committee of Governors, the Monetary and Economic Policy Committees to further examine these issues with a view to reporting in time for the next multilateral surveillance exercise.

ANNUAL ECONOMIC REPORT 1991-1992

The Council approved the annual report 1991/1992 on the economic situation in the Community and the economic-policy orientation for the Community in 1992. These texts would be formally adopted as soon as possible.

RELATIONS WITH CENTRAL AND EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES INCLUDING THE FORMER USSR

1. Food imports to the Commonwealth of Independent States (Credit guarantee of ECU 500 million and Community loan of ECU 1 250 million)

Ministers took note of the Commission report on the negotiations with the Russian Federation concerning the ECU 500 million credit guarantee. They agreed that for practical reasons the total amount of the ECU 500 million credit guarantee would be directed towards operations with the Russian Republic. Ministers underlined that this operation had to be seen in the context of the overall Community commitment to provide finance for food imports. The distribution of food imports among the various republics should be maintained by appropriate adjustment of the instalments under the Community loan of ECU 1 250 million. The Commission would rapidly - in close contact with the appropriate Council bodies - take the necessary steps to ensure such a balanced reallocation.

Concerning the Community loan, Ministers confirmed that only republics assuming joint and several responsibility for old debts and continuing to service debts which had not been the subject of a deferral would benefit from the loan.

2. Membership of former Soviet Republics of the IMF

Ministers agreed to lend their full support to early adherence of the independent republics and the Baltic republics to the Bretton Woods institutions. In this context they agreed to make all efforts necessary

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to ensure that a positive decision was taken on the membership of the 7 republics which had applied, at the meeting of the IMF Interim Committee on 26 April. Ministers agreed that on the question of the number of seats on the Board, Community countries would insist on an increase of the number of seats. It was not acceptable to reduce the European representation.

Ministers agreed on the essential role which the IMF should play in international efforts to support macroeconomic stability in the republics.

The Commission intended to submit a paper to the Council suggesting the basis for a Community position before the March meeting.

3. Macroeconomic Assistance by the Community and G-24 to individual countries

Ministers were informed by the Commission on the state of play as regards financial assistance by the Community and the G-24 to Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Bulgaria and Romania.

The Council took note of the Commission's intention to present in the context of the normal G-24 procedures and of IMF programmes proposals concerning 1992 exceptional macroeconomic assistance to Albania and the Baltic States as well as supplementary assistance to Romania and Bulgaria.

FINANCIAL PERSPECTIVE AND GENERAL BUDGET FOR 1992

The Council recorded its unanimous agreement on the compromise resulting from the tripartite inter-institutional dialogue on the financial perspective and budget for 1992.

This compromise provided in particular, in the light of the guidelines drawn up by the European Council, for an increase in appropriations for technical co-operation with the former Soviet Union of ECU 450 million in appropriations for commitments and ECU 200 million in appropriations for payments. It also provided for an increase in the allocations for the structural funds in order to keep pace with inflation, a special allocation for tropical forests, and an increase in the Commission's administrative appropriations to enable it to meet its new external obligations.

When all the institutions concerned had agreed, the entire compromise would be the subject of an amending and supplementary budget and of a joint decision on revision of the financial perspective.

ABOLITION OF FISCAL FRONTIERS

- Adoption of the Directive on the general arrangements for products subject to excise duty

After reaching a solution to the final problems still outstanding, the Council agreed to the draft Directive on the general arrangements for products subject to excise duty.

This text laid down both the rules for movement within the Community of products subject to excise duty (fuel, tobacco and spirits) and the rules for the collection of excise duties after the abolition of border controls.

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As regards trade operations, the new arrangements were similar to those currently in force within the Member States. They were based in particular on warehouses which are interconnected throughout the Community.

As regards individuals, the Directive would enable them from 1 January 1993 to purchase products of their own choice in other Member States, all taxes paid, for their personal use.

The general arrangements for excise duty were definitive, in contrast to the temporary VAT arrangements adopted on 16 December 1991.

The Council and the Commission emphasized the importance of urgently adopting the texts currently under discussion regarding the rates and structures of excise duties. They attached the highest priority to the adoption of the package of the directives at the latest in April 1992 as regards structures and in June as regards rates.

PROGRESS REPORT ON COMPLETION OF THE INTERNAL MARKET

The Council heard an oral report by the President on the progress made and on the work programme which the Portuguese Presidency intended to follow in this field.

COMPANY TAXATION

The Council instructed the ad hoc Working Party on Company Taxation to expedite its work on the proposals for directives on company taxation now being examined by the Council bodies so that they might be adopted under the Portuguese Presidency. These were:

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- the draft Directive concerning withholding taxes on interest and royalty payments;
- the draft Directive concerning arrangements for the taking into account by enterprises of the losses of their permanent establishments and subsidiaries situated in other Member States.

Regarding the first of these draft Directives (withholding taxes), the Council asked the Ad Hoc Working Party to submit a report at the meeting in March 1992.

PROTECTION UNDER CRIMINAL LAW OF REVENUE FROM VAT AND EXCISE DUTIES

The German delegation submitted to the Council a memorandum on the protection, by provisions of criminal law, of the VAT and excise revenue of all the Member States.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Former USSR: food aid for, inter alia, the cities of Moscow and St Petersburg

Following the Opinions of the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee, the Council adopted a Regulation concerning food aid worth ECU 100 million for, inter alia, the cities of Moscow and St Petersburg. With this Regulation, which was in addition to the Regulation covering an amount of ECU 95 million which was adopted by the Council on 19 December 1991 and the emergency humanitarian aid worth ECU 5 million authorized by the Commission (see Press Release 10393/91 Presse 249), the Council completed the adoption of the legislative texts required to implement the ECU 200 million action plan launched by the European Council at Maastricht.

Textiles: Brazil

The Council adopted a Decision on the provisional application, for the period 1 January 1992 to 31 March 1992 and for quantities adjusted pro rata, of the agreement with Brazil on trade in textile products.

It may be noted that Brazil only agreed to a three-month extension of the agreement whereas the agreements with the other third countries had been extended by one year (Regulation of 19 December 1991, supplemented by the Regulation of 3 February 1992: Press Releases 10393/91 Presse 249 and 4392/92 Presse 12).

Environment

The Council decided that the Community would sign the Protocol to the Geneva Convention of 1979 on long-range transboundary air pollution concerning the

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control of emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) or their transboundary fluxes, specifying 1990 as the reference year and subject to conclusion.

Among other things the Protocol is aimed at reducing VOC emissions by 30% between now and 1999 in relation to their level in 1988 or in any other year from 1984 to 1990.

The Council also authorized the Commission to negotiate a draft OECD Decision on the control of transfrontier movements of waste destined for recovery operations.

Transport

Following the agreements reached on 16/17 December 1991 (see Press Release 10387/91 Presse 243), and after the legal and linguistic finalization of texts, the Council adopted Directives:

- on the installation and use of speed limitation devices on heavy vehicles used for the carriage of goods and passengers;
- on the weights, dimensions and certain other technical characteristics of certain road vehicles (suspension).

Fisheries

The Council adopted a Regulation whereby the amendments to the Scheme of Joint International Inspection and Surveillance which were adopted by the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) on 13 September 1991 would become applicable in the Community.

The new Scheme thus amended replaces the one adopted by NAFO on 10 February 1988

which was implemented at Community level by Regulation No 1956/88.

Telecommunications

Having agreed in principle on 18/19 December 1991 (see Telecommunications Council Press Release 10391/91 Presse 247), and after finalization of the text, the Council adopted its common position on the Directive on the adoption of standards for satellite broadcasting of television signals (high-definition television).

GSP: Republic of Korea

The Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the ECSC, meeting within the Council, adopted a Decision withdrawing, in respect of iron and steel products covered by the ECSC Treaty, the suspension of the Republic of Korea's entitlement to GSP now that the country had rescinded the discriminatory treatment it applied to the Community in the field of intellectual property.

On 3 February 1992 the Council adopted a similar Regulation for products covered by the EEC Treaty (see Press Release 4392/92 Presse 12).

Appointments

The Council adopted a Decision appointing, as from 1 January 1992 and for a period of four years, renewable, twenty-four member of the European Advisory Committee on Statistical Information in the Economic and Social Spheres.

The Council replaced:

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- a member of the Advisory Committee on Social Security for Migrant Workers;
 - two members and an alternate member of the Advisory Committee on Freedom of Movement for Workers;
 - three members of the ECSC Consultative Committee.
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COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

4503/92 (Presse 20)

1556th Council meeting

- AGRICULTURE -

Brussels, 10 and 11 February 1992

President: Mr Arlindo MARQUES DA CUNHA,

Minister for Agriculture of
the Portuguese Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr Paul de KEERSMAEKER State Secretary for European Affairs
and Agriculture

Denmark:

Mr Laurits TOERNAES Minister for Agriculture

Mr Nils BERNSTEIN State Secretary for Agriculture

Germany:

Mr Ignaz KIECHLE Federal Minister for Food, Agriculture
and Forestry

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

Greece:

Mr Sotirios HATZIGAKIS Minister for Agriculture

Spain:

Mr Pedro SOLBES MIRA Minister for Agriculture

France:

Mr Louis MERMAZ Minister for Agriculture

Ireland:

Mr Michael WOODS Minister for Agriculture

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Italy:

Mr Giovanni GORIA

Minister for Agriculture

Luxembourg:

Mr René STEICHEN

Minister for Agriculture and
Viticulture

Netherlands:

Mr Piet BUKMAN

Minister for Agriculture,
Nature Conservation and
Fisheries

Portugal:

Mr Arlindo MARQUES DE CUNHA

Minister for Agriculture

Mr Alvaro AMARO

State Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture

United Kingdom:

Mr John GUMMER

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Mr David CURRY

Parliamentary Secretary, Agriculture

Lord STRATHCLYDE

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State,
Scottish Office

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Commission:

Mr Ray MAC SHARRY

Member

10/11.II.92

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DEVELOPMENT AND FUTURE OF THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY

The Council continued its discussions on CAP reform. In this connection, the Presidency submitted a new working document developing certain approaches already outlined in its January document and expanding the latter on other points.

Speaking in turn, the delegations gave their reactions and concerns in relation to all of the sectors mentioned in the Presidency document, each setting out its position in the process.

The discussions ended with the Council entrusting a high-level Working Party and the Special Committee on Agriculture with the task of examining in greater detail certain specific problems brought up during the discussion.

The Council will continue discussing the matter at its next meeting which has been brought forward to 2 and 3 March.

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URUGUAY ROUND - AGRICULTURAL ASPECTS

On the basis of a statement from the Commissioner Mr MAC SHARRY, the Council took stock of the position regarding negotiations within the Uruguay Round.

After restating its main concerns on the issue the Council confirmed the position adopted by the Community in December 1991 and January 1992 and reiterated its support for the Commission in further negotiations aimed at reaching a balanced and consistent result.

The Council agreed to enter this item on the agenda of its next meeting.

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OTHER DECISIONS RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

The Council adopted

- the Regulation amending Regulation No 136/66/EEC on the establishment of a common organization of the market in oils and fats.

This amendment is intended to adjust the definitions of virgin olive oil so as to harmonize them with those adopted by the International Olive Oil Council.

- the Decision amending Decision No 90/218/EEC on the placing on the market and administration of Bovine Somatotrophin (BST). This will extend the ban on marketing or administering BST to dairy cows until 31 December 1993.

- the Directive amending and updating Directive 77/99/EEC on health problems relating to intra-Community trade in meat products and amending Directive 64/433/EEC. Political agreement on this important Directive establishing harmonized health rules for the production and placing on the market of meat products and by-products of slaughtering was reached at the Agriculture Council on 27-28 January 1992 (see press release No 4025/92, Presse 7).



PRESS RELEASE

4506/92 (Presse 23)

1557th Council meeting

- INTERNAL MARKET -

Brussels, 25 February 1992

President: Mr Vitor MARTINS

State Secretary
for European Integration
of the Portuguese Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr Paul DE KEERSMAEKER	State Secretary for European Affairs
Mrs Anne-Marie LIZIN	State Secretary for Europe 1992, attached to the Minister for Foreign Trade

Denmark:

Mr Niels Henrik SLIBEN	Deputy Permanent Representative
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Germany:

Mr Johann EEKHOFF	State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs
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Greece:

Mr Georges THEOFANOUS	Secretary-General, Ministry of Trade
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Spain:

Mr Carlos WESTENDORP	State Secretary for Relations with the European Communities
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France:

Mrs Elizabeth GUIGOU	Minister for European Affairs
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Ireland:

Ms Mary O'ROURKE	Minister for Trade and Marketing
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Italy:

Mr Pierluigi ROMITA

Minister for Community Policies

Luxembourg:

Mr George WOHLFART

State Secretary for Foreign Affairs
and Foreign Trade

Netherlands:

Mr A. OOSTRA

Deputy Permanent Representative

Portugal:

Mr Victor MARTINS

State Secretary for European
Integration

United Kingdom:

Mr Edward LEIGH

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of
State, Department of Trade and
Industry (Industry and Consumer
Affairs)

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Commission:

Mr Martin BANGEMANN
Mr Jean DONDELINGER
Mrs Christine SCRIVENER

Vice-President
Member
Member

SECURITY OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Pending receipt of the European Parliament's Opinion, the Council gave its unanimous agreement to the substance of the Decision concerning the development of a Community action to develop strategies to ensure security in the use of information systems throughout the Community, while enabling information to circulate freely within the single market. The Community action comprises:

- the development of overall strategies for the security of information systems for an initial period of 24 months, and
- the setting-up of a Senior Officials Group with a long-term remit to advise the Commission on actions in the field.

The action plan includes preparatory work under the following themes:

- (1) development of a strategic framework for the security of information systems;
- (2) identification of user requirements for the security of information systems;
- (3) solutions for certain immediate and interim needs of users, suppliers and service providers;

- (4) development of specifications, standardization, evaluation and certification in respect of the security of information systems;
- (5) technological operational developments;
- (6) provision of security of information systems.

The budget provided for the initial 24-month period is ECU 12 million, including ECU 2 million for 1992.

THIRD DIRECTIVE ON DIRECT NON-LIFE INSURANCE

Following the Opinion delivered by the European Parliament on 12 February 1992 at its first reading, the Council formally adopted the common position on the third Directive on direct insurance other than life assurance.

The purpose of the third Directive is to complete the process of liberalization of the insurance market as part of the creation of the single market in financial services. It specifically aims to set up a system of a single authorization enabling an undertaking with its head office in a Member State of the Community to open branches or supply services in all the Member States without having to undergo authorization procedures in those countries.

This instrument is intended to permit the free movement of insurance products within the Community and to enable any policy-holder to approach any Community insurer in search of the cover best suited to his needs, while affording him adequate protection.

FREE MOVEMENT OF CULTURAL OBJECTS

The Council listened to a presentation by the Commission of the two proposals on the free movement of cultural objects, one, in the form of a Regulation, establishing arrangements for export licences and another, in the form of a Directive introducing a system for the return from one Member State to another of national treasures unlawfully removed from the territory of the Member State of origin.

The Commission's statement and the delegations' contributions confirmed the great interest among the Member States in establishing appropriate Community measures to safeguard national treasures.

The Council noted that examination of this proposal would be undertaken with all due speed in the ad hoc Working Party under the aegis of the Permanent Representatives Committee.

ABOLITION OF FRONTIER CONTROLS AND COMPLETION OF THE INTERNAL MARKET

The Commission addressed the Council on the subject of the abolition of frontier controls and progress in transposing internal market directives. In that connection, the Commission also raised the specific problems facing customs agents following completion of the internal market.

The Council then held a general exchange of views indicating the fields in which a special effort still had to be made to ensure the internal market came into operation on 1 January 1993 in the desired conditions.

TRANS-EUROPEAN NETWORKS

The Council took note of a Commission communication concerning trans-European networks, welcoming the new prospects in this field which had been opened up by the signing of the Treaty on European Union, and stressing the vital importance of such networks in the internal market context.

EXPORT CONTROLS ON DUAL-USE GOODS AND TECHNOLOGIES

Informally, over lunch, the Ministers discussed questions relating to export controls on dual-use goods and technologies. The Presidency noted that work on this subject would continue on the basis of the Commission communication, that a high level ad hoc working party would be responsible for further action and that the Internal Market Council would discuss the matter again at a forthcoming meeting, it being agreed that the General Affairs Council would deal with the crucial aspects of the subject which might have ramifications for the external relations of the Community and its Member States.

STANDARDIZATION

Informally, over lunch, the subject of standardization in the European economy was also discussed on the basis of a Commission communication. The Presidency felt it appropriate to stress the importance at the "new approach" to standardization in the context of the completion of the internal market.

COMMUNITY PATENTS

Informally, over lunch, the Presidency announced its intention of convening an intergovernmental conference of the Member States at

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the beginning of May, in Lisbon, to negotiate the enacting terms of a protocol amending the conditions for the entry into force of the Agreement relating to Community Patents. The purpose of the conference would be to seek unanimous agreement on the way in which the Community patent system could be implemented at the time of completion of the internal market.

OTHER INTERNAL MARKET DECISIONS

Medicinal products

The Council adopted:

- the common position on the Directive widening the scope of Directives 65/65/EEC and 75/319/EEC on the approximation of provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action relating to proprietary medicinal products and laying down additional provisions on homeopathic medicinal products for human use;
- the common position on the Directive widening the scope of Directive 81/851/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to veterinary medicinal products and laying down additional provisions on homeopathic veterinary medicinal products.

These two proposals are intended to extend Community pharmaceutical legislation to homeopathic medicinal products for human and veterinary use.

Intellectual property

Following the political agreement reached at its meeting on 19.XII.1991, the Council adopted its common position on the Regulation concerning the creation of a supplementary protection certificate for medicinal products. This Regulation is intended to improve legal protection in the Member States of medicinal products covered by a patent, the protection of which is diminished by the present system of marketing authorizations. By introducing a supplementary protection certificate which will take effect immediately after expiry of the patent, the Member States'

pharmaceutical industry will be placed in a position similar to that in certain non-Community states.

Public contracts - application of Community rules in the excluded sectors

The Council adopted the Directive co-ordinating the laws, regulations and administrative provisions relating to the application of Community rules on the procurement procedures of entities operating in the water, energy, transport and telecommunications sectors.

The purpose of the Directive is to guarantee minimum possibilities for review to undertakings which have incurred damage in the event of infringements of the Community rules on procurement procedures, to define the basic elements of a system for voluntary attestation to prove the conformity of the procurement procedures of a contracting entity with the rules in force, to set up a corrective mechanism that can quickly correct clear and manifest infringements and lastly, to establish a conciliation procedure which the parties may apply to settle amicably any disputes concerning the correct application of the rules governing public contracts.

Co-ordination of procedures for the award of public service contracts

Following the agreement in principle reached at its meeting on 19.XII.1991, the Council adopted its common position on the Directive relating to the co-ordination of procedures for the award of public service contracts. This proposal forms part of the Community system for public contracts, covering all purchases of services for which the contracts are sufficiently large to render cross-frontier operations of interest and the Directive will apply to all contracts which are neither supply contracts nor public works contracts and which include contracts for pecuniary interest, concluded in writing between a service provider and a contracting authority.

The Commission will review the Directive at the latest three years after its entry into force. It will periodically convene a monitoring body on public contracts to monitor the balanced opening up of all public service contracts in the contracts in the Community and any effects the Directive may have in relation to third countries.

Two or three-wheel motor vehicles

The Council adopted the common position on the Directive position on the Directive on the Community type-approval of these vehicles (see Press Release 10393/91 Presse 249).

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Abolition of fiscal frontiers

The Council formally adopted the Directive on the general arrangements for products subject to excise duty and the holding and

movement of such products which had already been the subject of political agreement at the Council meeting (ECOFIN) on 10 February 1992 (see Press Release 4502/92 Presse 19).

1991-1992 annual economic report

Further to the political agreement reached at the Council meeting (ECOFIN) on 10 February 1992 (Press Release 4502/92 Presse 19), the Council formally adopted the 1991-1992 annual report on the economic situation in the Community and adopted the economic policy guidelines to be followed in the Community in 1992.

Relations with the ACP States and the OCT

Pending the entry into force of the fourth Lomé Convention and the new Decision on the association of the OCT, the Community had adopted Regulation No 715/90, to apply to the ACP States and the OCT, in advance, the arrangements provided for under the Convention for agricultural and processed products originating in those countries.

The fourth Lomé Convention and the new Decision on the association of the OCTs had, in the meantime, entered into force. As a result, the Council adopted the regulation extending, until 29 February 2000, as regards the ACP States, the abovementioned Regulation No 715/90; the specific arrangements applicable to the OCT had already been laid down by the Decision on the association of the OCT with the Community (see OJ No L 263, 19.9.1991).

Relations with the countries of Latin America and Asia

The Council formally adopted the Regulation on financial and technical assistance to, and economic co-operation with the developing countries in Asia and Latin America for the 1990s, which

had already been the subject of political agreement in the Council (GENERAL AFFAIRS) on 3 February 1992 at the conclusion of the conciliation procedure with the European Parliament (see Press Release 4392/92 Presse 12).

ECSC

The Council gave its assent, under Article 54(2) of the ECSC Treaty, for the granting of a global loan to Interbanca, Italy.

Relations with the Faroe Islands

The Council adopted the Regulation on the opening and administration of an annual Community tariff quota for pet food falling within CN code 2309 10 11 and an annual Community tariff quota for fish food falling within CN code ex 2309 90 41, originating in and coming from the Faroe islands.

Specific research and technological development programmes

The Council adopted its common position with a view to the adoption of a Decision on the dissemination and exploitation of knowledge resulting from the specific RTD programmes.

Transport

Following the political agreement reached at its meeting on 16/17.XII.1991, the Council adopted

- the Decision on radionavigation systems for Europe (see Press Release 10387/91 Presse 243);
- the Regulation on the application of Article 85(3) of the Treaty to certain categories of agreements, decisions and concerted practices between shipping companies (consortia) (see Press Release 10387/91 Presse 243).

Environment

The Council adopted

- conclusions concerning Community participation in a draft Framework Convention on the protection and use of transboundary watercourses and international lakes;
- a Resolution concerning the European coastal zone and
- a Resolution on the future Community groundwater policy.

The texts are attached.

Agriculture

The Council adopted

- the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 4007/87 extending the period referred to in Article 90(1) of the Act of Accession of Spain and Portugal, as regards Spain.

This amendment aims to extend for a further year, until 31 December 1992, for Spain, the period during which transitional measures may be taken under Article 90 of the Act of Accession in order to enable certain difficulties in implementing agricultural market rules in that Member State to be overcome.

- the Regulation on temporary compensation for the impact of the situation in Yugoslavia on transport of fresh fruit and vegetables from Greece.

This Regulation is intended to provide financial assistance for operators following the interruptions to transport in Yugoslavia, to compensate for additional consignment costs in 1991, in order to enable them to adjust to the new situation as quickly as possible.

- the Regulations amending:

- = Regulation (EEC) No 2390/89 laying down general rules for the import of wines, grape juice and grape must.

- This will extend by three months, until 30 April 1992, the rules on derogations which introduce some flexibility as regards certificates of origin and analysis reports to be supplied by the United States, provided that they offer specific guarantees accepted by the Community;

- = Regulation (EEC) No 1873/84 authorizing the offer or disposal for direct human consumption of certain imported wines which may have undergone oenological processes not provided for in Regulation (EEC) No 822/87.

This amendment will extend by three months, until 30 April 1992, the derogation accorded to wines originating in the

United States as regards the application of certain oenological processes permitted in that country, but not in the Community.

Appointment

The Council appointed, on a proposal of the Irish Government, Mr William A. ATTLEY, Joint General President, Services, Industrial, Professional and Technical Union (SIPTU), a member of the Economic and Social Committee, to replace Mr Patrick MURPHY, a member, who has died, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which runs until 20 September 1994.

ANNEX I

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

of

**on the future Community policy concerning
the European coastal zone**

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

RECOGNIZING that the European coastal zone, including islands, is a fragile and vital common heritage, and that it is essential that its biological diversity, landscape value, ecological quality and its capacity to sustain life, health, economic activities and social wellbeing are safeguarded;

EMPHASIZING that a key to sustainable use and development of coastal zones lies in the full integration of economic, physical planning and environmental policies;

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ACKNOWLEDGING that the vulnerabilities of the environment, including the natural and cultural heritage, in coastal areas should explicitly be taken into account in developing coastal policies;

TAKES NOTE of the final declaration of the European Coastal Conservation Conference, held in The Hague, the Netherlands, from 19 to 21 November 1991 about the future policy with regard to the European coastal zone;

CONCLUDES that, taking into account the subsidiarity principle, there is a clear need for a Community strategy for integrated planning and management of the coastal zones based on the principles of sustainability and sound ecological and environmental practice;

CONCLUDES that conservation and sustainable use of coastal zones is one of the fundamental aspects of such a strategy and that accordingly high priority should be given to specific action in this field;

INVITES the Commission:

- to propose for consideration a Community strategy for integrated coastal zone management which will provide a framework for conservation and sustainable use;
- to incorporate this initiative into the Fifth Environmental Action Programme.

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ANNEX II

COUNCIL RESOLUTION
of
on the future Community
groundwater policy

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

UNDERLINES the vital importance of groundwater for all forms of life, for human health, and for safeguarding ecosystems;

STATES its concern about the lowering of groundwater levels and/or the pollution of certain aquifers;

NOTES that this important resource is limited, that its conservation for the future is a major political, economic and environmental imperative and that it can be exploited only in strict observance of the principle of sustainable development;

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OBSERVES that freshwater management policy can be conducted only through co-ordinated action by all agents in the public and private sectors, taking due account of the principle of subsidiarity;

TAKES NOTE of the final declaration of the ministerial seminar held on 26 and 27 November 1991 on the future Community groundwater policy;

CALLS UPON the Commission:

- to submit, if possible by the middle of 1993, a detailed action programme for which that declaration may provide guidelines;
- to draft a proposal for revising Council Directive 80/68/EEC of 17 December 1979 on the protection of groundwater against pollution caused by certain dangerous substances by incorporating it into a general freshwater management policy, including freshwater protection;

REQUESTS the competent authorities and groups involved to contribute to the conservation of this natural resource in the areas under their control.
