

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

PRESS RELEASES

PRESIDENCY: GERMAN

JANUARY-JUNE 1983

Meetings and press releases March-April 1983

Meeting number	Subject	Date
830 th	Internal Market	1 March 1983
831 st	Agriculture	8-9 March 1983
832 nd	Research	10 March 1983
833 rd	Foreign Affairs	14 March 1983
834 th	Agriculture	14-15 March 1983
835 th		21 March 1983, cancelled
836 th	Agriculture	18-21 April 1983
837 th	Economics/Finance	18 April 1983
838 th	Agriculture	27-28 April 1983
839 th	Energy	21 April 1983
840 th	Foreign Affairs	25-26 April 1983
841 st	Iron and Steel	25 April 1983

PRESS RELEASE

5305/83 (Presse 41)

830th Council meeting

- Internal Market -

Brussels, 1 March 1983

President: Mr Otto SCHLECHT,
State Secretary,
Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs
of the Federal Republic of Germany

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 Isi FOEGHEL
Minister for Fiscal Affairs

Germany:

Mr Otto SCHLECHT
State Secretary,
Federal Ministry for
Economic Affairs

Greece:

Mr Antonis YEORGIADIS
State Secretary,
Ministry for the National Economy

France:

Mr André CHANDERNAGOR
Minister delegate to the Ministry
for Foreign Affairs with
responsibility for European
Affairs

Ireland:

Mr James O'KEEFE
Minister of State at the Department
of Foreign Affairs

Mr M. MOYNIHAN
Minister of State at the Department
of Commerce and Tourism

Italy:

Mr Mario FIORET
State Secretary,
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean MISCHO
Deputy Permanent Representative

Netherlands

Mr W.F. van EEKELEN
State Secretary,
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr Peter REES
Minister for Trade

For the Commission:

Mr Etienne DAVIGNON - Vice-President
Mr Karl-Heinz NARJES - Member

PROCEDURE FOR THE PROVISION OF INFORMATION IN THE FIELD OF
TECHNICAL STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS

The Council signified its agreement on the substance of the Directive laying down a procedure for the provision of information in the field of technical standards and regulations.

The aim of this Directive is to avoid the creation of barriers to free trade in goods as a result of the introduction of new technical standards (private) and regulations (by public authorities). The Directive accordingly makes provision for a system of prior exchange of information both on the standards programmes drawn up by national bodies, the individual draft standards they envisage and the technical regulations contemplated by the public authorities.

As far as standards are concerned, the exchange of information is to enable the Commission and standards institutes to be aware in good time of what standards are under preparation. Thus, at the beginning of each year, the annual work programmes drawn up by the standards institutes will be submitted in a form which makes comparative examination possible, and the draft standards prepared by institutes will be sent to the Commission every quarter. Periodically, a Standing Committee consisting of members appointed by the Member States will examine the situation in this area and attempt to provide solutions to any barriers which might be created by certain national standards.

As far as technical regulations are concerned, since these are even more likely to create barriers, given their legally binding nature, it has become apparent that the action being taken in the framework of the General Programme for the removal of technical barriers to trade, adopted by the Council in 1969 and 1973, is extremely useful but, judging from experience over the last few years, inadequate and in need of expansion.

Under the Directive provision is therefore firstly made for the introduction of a prior exchange of information on drafts concerned with all industrial products and not only those covered by the General Programme of 1969 and 1973; information will have to be supplied at a stage of preparation allowing substantial amendments still to be made and the deadlines for postponing adoption to be extended, since experience has shown that those imposed in the Standstill Agreement are too short.

The Directive also provides for the possibility of postponing the adoption of a draft technical regulation for a limited period, in particular where the Commission intends to propose or adopt a Directive in the sphere in question.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to finalize the texts with a view to their formal adoption at a forthcoming meeting.

COMMUNITY CERTIFICATION FOR PRODUCTS ORIGINATING IN THIRD COUNTRIES

The Council continued its discussions on the formulation of a "third country" clause for Community certification, agreement on which would permit the adoption of a large number of Directives of great significance to the development of the internal market; this problem was virtually the only one outstanding in connection with those Directives.

At the close of very thorough discussions, the Council worked out certain guidelines for the future discussions of the Permanent Representatives Committee.

SIMPLIFICATION OF TRADE FORMALITIES WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

The Council continued its examination of three proposals on the simplification of trade formalities within the Community.

Single document

The Council resumed its examination of a Commission proposal to replace the administrative documents used for customs and tax purposes by a single document.

The council concluded its discussions by requesting the Permanent Representatives Committee, together with the Commission, to review the situation and to establish, in the light of the Council's discussions, how progress could be made on the single document.

Deferred payment of VAT payable on importation

The Council continued its examination of the Commission proposal concerning the deferred payment of VAT payable on importation (14th VAT Directive). At the close of the discussions, it was agreed that the Commission would contact certain delegations in an attempt to overcome their objections to this proposal for a Directive. In the light of the outcome of those talks, the Permanent Representatives Committee and the Council would resume their examination of the whole subject.

Formalities and inspections in respect of the carriage of goods
between Member States

After taking note of progress with regard to the proposal for a Directive on the facilitation of formalities and inspections in respect of the carriage of goods between Member States, the Council stressed that it attached great importance to the Permanent Representatives Committee's expediting its work with a view to submitting a draft as soon as possible on which it could act.

PROPOSALS FOR COUNCIL DIRECTIVES ON TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR
- CERTAIN MEANS OF TRANSPORT TEMPORARILY IMPORTED
- PERMANENT IMPORTS OF THE PERSONAL PROPERTY OF INDIVIDUALS

The Council reached agreement, subject to finalization of the texts, on two Directives designed to abolish certain tax barriers to free movement of goods and persons within the Community.

The first of these Directives concerns tax exemptions for the temporary importation of certain means of transport for both private and professional use. It is also intended to cover certain specific cases, for example that of students abroad, who will be able to use a vehicle registered in their normal country of residence for the actual period of their studies, and of frontier workers.

The second of these Directives is intended to enable individuals to move their personal property within the Community without paying tax when transferring their residence from one Member State to another and in certain special cases, such as inheritance, marriage or furnishing of a second residence.

DUTY-FREE ADMISSION OF FUEL CONTAINED IN THE TANKS OF COMMERCIAL
MOTOR VEHICLES

The Council noted that the Commission had called for the last remaining reserves regarding the increase in the duty-free quantity to 200 l to be withdrawn as soon as possible.

COMMUNITY PATENT

The Council took note of a statement by the Commission on progress with regard to ratification of the Luxembourg Convention on the Community Patent. Following a brief discussion, it was decided to take stock of that progress again at the next Council meeting on the internal market.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

ECSC

The Council gave a consultation pursuant to Article 6(1) of Commission Decision No 528/76/ECSC on the financial aid awarded by the Member States to the coal industry in 1982.

The Council also gave its assent on the following:

- under Article 56(2)(a) of the ECSC Treaty
 - = Industriekreditbank AG - Deutsche Industriebank, Düsseldorf, Federal Republic of Germany;
 - = Bergrohr GmbH, Herne, Federal Republic of Germany,
 - under the second paragraph of Article 54 of the ECSC Treaty
 - = the financing of the construction by Charbonnages de France of a coal-fired generating station in Carling (Moselle) (second loan);
 - = co-financing of the coal-fired Reuter West base load power station in Berlin.
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PRESS RELEASE

5461/83 (Presse 43)

831st meeting of the Council

- Agriculture -

Brussels, 8 and 9 March 1983

President: Mr Josef ERTL,
Federal Minister for Food,
Agriculture and Forestry of
the Federal Republic of Germany

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 Niels Anker KOFOED
Minister for Agriculture
Mr H.J. KRISTENSEN
Permanent Secretary, Agriculture

Germany:

Mr Josef ERTL
Federal Minister for Food,
Agriculture and Forestry
Mr Hans-Jürgen ROHR
State Secretary,
Federal Ministry for Food,
Agriculture and Forestry

Greece:

Mr Costas SIMITIS
Minister for Agriculture

France:

Mrs Edith CRESSON
Minister for Agriculture

Ireland:

Mr Austin DEASY
Minister for Agriculture

Italy:

Mr Calogero MANNINO
Minister for Agriculture
Mr Mario CAMPAGNOLI
State Secretary,
Ministry of Agriculture

Luxembourg:

Mr Ernest MUHLEN
Minister for Agriculture,
Viticulture, Lakes, Rivers and
Forests

Netherlands:

Mr G. BRAKS
Minister for Agriculture and
Fisheries

United Kingdom:

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

Commission:

Mr Lorenzo NATALI - Vice-President
Mr Poul DALSGER - Member

ADJUSTMENT OF THE "ACQUIS COMMUNAUTAIRE" FOR MEDITERRANEAN PRODUCTS
(FRUIT AND VEGETABLES - OLIVE OIL)

The Council continued its discussions on the adjustment of the existing provisions concerning fruit and vegetables and olive oil, with a view to Community enlargement.

As regards the fruit and vegetables sector, the Council in particular examined in more detail the internal aspects - the strengthening of producers' organizations, extension of constraints, the serious crisis on the wholesale markets, the limitation of intervention to products from the current marketing year, and certain external aspects. With regard to the olive oil sector, the Council considered in greater detail the problems of the measures which could be contemplated in order to amend or supplement the existing regulations as well as the financial and budgetary questions arising.

At the conclusion of its discussions, the Council noted that there were still differences of opinion on both fruit and vegetables and olive oil. It therefore agreed to submit to the European Council a report, to be finalized at the meeting scheduled for 14 and 15 March, on the outcome of the discussions it had held on the whole subject of the "acquis communautaire" and the various political and economic aspects they covered.

MANIOC

The Council signified its agreement on the substance of a proposal for a Regulation on the import system applicable to manioc from 1983 to 1986.

The purpose of this Regulation is to permit imports under a levy limited to a maximum of 6% ad valorem in compliance with the manioc agreements concluded by the Community with Thailand, Indonesia and Brazil, as well as for third countries benefiting from the most-favoured-nation clause.

It should be noted that as regards the products in question - manioc, arrowroot, salep and other similar roots and tubers with high starch content, excluding sweet potatoes, the import levy fixed at a maximum of 6% ad valorem in 1983 is limited to the following quantities per third country of origin:

- Indonesia 750 000 tonnes
- Brazil 132 355 tonnes
- China 370 000 tonnes

1 252 355 tonnes

- Thailand: the quantities arising from the EEC-Thailand Co-operation Agreement (5 500 000 tonnes).

In the light of existing commitments and on the basis of a proposal from the Commission, the Council will decide by a qualified majority on the quantities for 1984 to 1986.

Furthermore, the Regulation will enable yam imports to the United Kingdom to be continued.

MISCELLANEOUS STATEMENTS

The Council heard statements on the following matters:

- milk (amendment of the proposal on the intervention price) and butter (opening of export refunds) (Commission)
- sales of French alcohol in other Member States (United Kingdom, German and Irish delegations)
- EAGGF expenditure - Guarantee Section - in 1983 (United Kingdom delegation)
- extension of the list of certain establishments in Argentina authorized to export fresh meat to the Community (Italian delegation).

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Other Decision concerning agriculture

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation derogating from Article 21 of Regulation (EEC) No 1035/72 on the common organization of the market in fruit and vegetables.

Commercial policy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities:

- the Decisions

- = concerning the extension of the temporary agreement on concerted disciplines between the European Economic Community and Spain concerning imports of cheese into Spain;
- = amending the Temporary Arrangement for a concerted discipline between Austria and the European Economic Community concerning reciprocal trade in cheese;

- the Regulations

- = imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of a certain type of sodium carbonate originating in the United States of America;
- = imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on kraftliner paper and board originating in the United States of America and accepting undertakings given in connection with the review of the anti-dumping proceeding on kraftliner paper and board originating in Austria, Canada, Finland, Portugal, the Soviet Union and Sweden.

ECSC

The Council gave its assent in accordance with Article 56(2)(a) of the ECSC Treaty concerning Smith Kendon Ltd., United Kingdom.

Appointments

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision appointing the members and alternate members of the Advisory Committee on the Training of Midwives, for a three-year term:

A. Experts from the practising profession

	<u>Member</u>	<u>Alternate member</u>
Belgium	Mrs Mimi MEES	Mrs Christiane DESCAMPS
Denmark	Mrs Tove SCHMIDT	Mrs Ella GJERMAN
Germany	Mrs Jutta KOBERG	Mrs Hildegard BING
Greece	Mrs Anna PAPAIOANNOU	Mrs Irini BENETAROU
France	Mrs Francine DAUPHIN	Mrs PASCAL
Ireland	Miss L. KELLY	Miss A. MULHALL
Italy	Mrs Lucia SASSI	Mrs Maria Grazia FAVA
Luxembourg	Mrs Joseph ROBINET-	Miss Denise ROCK
Netherlands	Mrs T.M. VOORWALD- SCHMITZ TAS	Mrs C.B. MASTBOOM-RINGELBERG
United Kingdom	Miss Ruth ASHTON	Miss M.M. TURNER

B. Experts from the institutions responsible for the training of midwives

	<u>Member</u>	<u>Alternate member</u>
Belgium	Mrs Madeleine LEDOQUE	Mrs Maria CATTEEUW
Denmark	Mrs Bente ZEBITZ	Mrs Marit BONES
Germany	Prof. Dr.Dr. H.C. Kurt SEMM	Mrs Elisabeth FRANK
Greece	Mrs Victoria ROZOU	Mrs Ekaterini TATAKI
France	Prof. David LEWIN	Mrs Marthe MOTTIN
Ireland	Miss A. MANAGHAN	Miss C. McCOMISH
Italy	Prof. Silvio BETTOCCHI	Mrs Amalia BUSATO
Luxembourg	Mrs Simone KERSCHEN- HOFFMAN	Miss Danielle SCHOL
Netherlands	Mr W. DUJARDIN	Mrs Mr. J. KLOMP
United Kingdom	Miss M. UPRICHARD	Mrs R. DAVIES

C. Experts from the competent authorities of the Member States

	<u>Member</u>	<u>Alternate member</u>
Belgium	Mrs Helga LAKIERE	Mr Jan BRUSSELEERS
Denmark	Mrs Kirsten BLINKENBERG	Mrs Ulla THORSTEINSSON
Germany	Mr Hermann KURTENBACH	Dr.med. Werner ERDMANN
Greece	Mrs Panayiota NICOLOPOULOU	Mrs Angueliki SIDIROPOULOU
France	Mrs Djemila SIMONOT	Dr. Pierre LABROUSSE
Ireland	Miss K. KEANE	Mrs H. BARLOW
Italy	Dr. Giuseppe MAZZOTTI	Dr Maria Luisa MARINO
Luxembourg	Miss Angie DASBOURG	Mr Guy BOSSELER
Netherlands	Mr R.M.A. KRUL	Mrs A. KUITEMS-TERHAAK
United Kingdom	Miss A.S. GRANT	Mrs D. JONES

PRESS RELEASE

5533/83 (Presse 44)

832nd meeting of the Council

- Research -

Brussels, 10 March 1983

President: Mr Heinz RIESENHUBER,
Federal Minister for Research and
Technology of the
Federal Republic of Germany

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

Belgium:

Mr Paul NOTERDAEME
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Denmark:

Mr Bertel HAARDER
Minister for Education

Germany:

Mr Heinz RIESENHUBER
Federal Minister for Research
and Technology

Mr H-H. HAUNSCHILD
State Secretary, Federal
Ministry for Research and
Technology

Greece:

Mr George LIANIS
Minister for Research and
Technology

France:

Mr Jacques LEPRETTE
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

Ireland:

Mr Eddie COLLINS
Minister of State
Department of Industry and
Energy

Italy:

Mr Pier Luigi ROMITA
Minister for Scientific
Research

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean DONDELINGER
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Netherlands:

Mr W.F. van EEKELLEN
State Secretary
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
(with responsibility for
European Affairs)

United Kingdom:

Mr John MacGREGOR
Parliamentary Secretary
of State,
Department of Industry

For the Commission:

Mr Etienne DAVIGNON - Vice-President

THE COUNCIL'S CONCLUSIONS (*)

THE COUNCIL

- referring to the conclusions reached at its meeting on 8 February 1983 on the revision of the current JRC programme for 1983 (Super-SARA project);
- referring to the Commission communications to the Council on proposals concerning:
 - = the future activities of the Joint Research Centre;
 - = improvement of the decision-making process in connection with the Joint Research Centre;
- 1. Notes that JRC resources will no longer be used for the Super-SARA project;
- 2. (a) considers that the JRC must continue to play a key part in the Community's research strategy and to carry out activities of common interest;
 - (b) approves, in their entirety, as a basis for future activities, the programme guidelines proposed by the Commission for the period 1984-1987 so as to enable the Council to adopt a final position in the light of the detailed proposals the Commission intends to submit to it by June 1983.

(*) One delegation had to report to its Government before adopting a final decision on these conclusions, and another maintained a reservation at this stage.

(c) approves the Commission's intention of studying ways of putting the infrastructure and host potential of the JRC to better use and in particular of proposing the Ispra establishment as a site for the installation of major projects.

In the context of the special role which it has assigned to the JRC in the field of nuclear and non-nuclear safety, a role which is reflected in the approval of the programme guidelines proposed by the Commission for the period 1984-1987 (see 2(b) above), the Council has decided that detailed studies will be submitted to it with a view to including in the Community's research programme, and installing at Ispra, European research activities of particular significance. These studies will cover in particular:

- a laboratory to work on the development of tritium-handling techniques for fusion-reactor applications and to study the related safety problems;
- a large-capacity vibration generator for research into the resistance of large nuclear or non-nuclear structures to disaster disturbances (earthquake, impact, etc.). As well as being used in the JRC programme, this machine will be made available to national laboratories which do not possess machines of this capacity;
- an increase in JRC participation in work on the projects that will succeed JET.

The Commission will submit the relevant proposals, on the basis of which the Council will make its choice and - once the feasibility and desirability of the projects have been confirmed - take its formal decisions.

3. (a) considers that the appropriate level of resources for the period 1984 to 1987 is the equivalent of the present level.

On the basis of the Commission's calculations of the present level and subject to verification, this would mean a level of financial resources of up to 700 MECU for the next four years. The Council will examine the proposals the Commission is to submit allowing specific research appropriations to be weighted to allow for inflation, and instructs the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine these proposals and to report back to it;

- (b) the number of staff would remain at the present level of 2260;

The Council has taken note of the concern expressed by the Commission on several occasions regarding staff mobility and revamping the capabilities of the JRC, and its intention of making concrete proposals in accordance with the requirements of the programme which it will propose. It will act on the corresponding proposals at the same time as the proposal for the 1984-1987 programme;

4. Approves the Commission's intention of using the resources made available in 1983 (approximately 20 MECU), specifically for the dismantling of the ESSOR reactor, the part conversion of the ESSOR complex and the strengthening of certain nuclear-safety projects in 1983;

5. The Council takes note of the content of the paper on the improvement of the decision-making process for the JRC. It confirms the conclusion it reached on this subject at its meeting on 8 February 1983. It approved the principle of setting up a JRC Council of Administration.

The Council also takes note of the Commission's intention of submitting detailed proposals which also cover the allocation of tasks between the Council and the Council of Administration early enough to enable it to take a final decision on this question at its next meeting.

6. Has decided to conduct its proceedings in such a way that a formal decision can be taken on the JRC programme for the period 1984-1987 as soon as possible. In any event, all decisions must be taken with an eye to the schedule for the 1984 budgetary procedure.
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PRESS RELEASE

5600/83 (Presse 48)

833rd Council meeting

- Foreign Affairs -

Brussels, 14 March 1983

President: Mr Hans-Dietrich GENSCHER,
Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Federal Republic of Germany

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

Belgium:

Mr Leo TINDEMANS	Minister for External Relations
Mr Paul de KEERSMAEKER	State Secretary for European Affairs and Agriculture

Denmark:

Mr Uffe ELLEMANN-JENSEN	Minister for Foreign Affairs
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Germany:

Mr Hans-Dietrich GENSCHER	Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Hans-Werner LAUTENSCHLAGER	State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Greece:

Mr Grigoris VARFIS	State Secretary for Economic Co-ordination responsible for relations with the European Communities
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France:

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

Ireland:

Mr James O'KEEFFE	Minister of State at the Department of Foreign Affairs
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Italy:

Mr Emilio COLOMBO	Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Mario FIORET	State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Luxembourg:

Miss Colette FLESCHE

Vice-President of the Government,
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Netherlands:

Mr W.F. van EEKELEN

State Secretary for Foreign
Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr Francis PYM

Secretary of State for Foreign
and Commonwealth Affairs

Mr Peter REES

Minister of State for Trade

o

o

o

Commission:

Mr Gaston THORN

President

Mr François-Xavier ORTOLI

Vice-President

Mr Wilhelm HAFERKAMP

Vice-President

Mr Lorenzo NATALI

Vice-President

Viscount Etienne DAVIGNON

Vice-President

Mr Christopher TUGENDHAT

Vice-President

Mr Karl-Heinz NARJES

Member

Mr Edgard PISANI

Member

Mr Richard BURKE

Member

NEW INTERNATIONAL SUGAR AGREEMENT

The Council adopted the Decision on the directives to be followed by the Commission for negotiating a new International Sugar Agreement. These directives should enable the Commission to play an active and constructive part in the third meeting of the Preparatory Committee now being held in London with a view to the opening of formal negotiations in Geneva at the end of April.

PORTUGUESE ACCESSION

The Council prepared for the 12th ministerial meeting of the Conference for the accession of Portugal to the European Communities, held on the morning of Tuesday 15 March 1983 on the occasion of this Council meeting.

COMPENSATION FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM

Further to the conclusions reached by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs on 26 October 1982 with regard to compensation for the United Kingdom for 1982, the Council adopted the following two Regulations:

- Regulation amending Regulation No 2744/80 establishing supplementary measures in favour of the United Kingdom;
- Regulation establishing specific measures of Community interest relating to energy strategy.

ENERGY DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

After examining the only question still in abeyance, namely financing, the Council worked out the following solution:

In order to give the programme a solid foundation, it must be established on a multiannual basis. However, further discussions will be needed to ensure that this objective is expressed in legal terms.

In the meanwhile and in order to avoid any interruption in the programme, the Council decided to adopt two Regulations - within the abovementioned multiannual framework - for one year only, thus enabling the appropriations already available under the budget to be committed in 1983.

For following years the Council envisaged altering these Regulations as regards financing and duration to cover a total period of 5 years, and doing so prior to the adoption of the draft budget for the financial year 1984. The Commission undertook to provide the necessary information to enable this objective to be fulfilled.

GREENLAND

The Council took note of an interim progress report from the Permanent Representatives Committee on discussions concerning the Danish proposal that Greenland be given a new status vis-à-vis the Community.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to provide it with a full report on this matter for its meeting in April, so that it could conduct an examination on the substance of this subject.

FUTURE FINANCING OF THE COMMUNITY, INCLUDING THE EVENTUAL SOLUTION TO THE UNITED KINGDOM BUDGETARY PROBLEM

The Council held a detailed exchange of views on the Commission communication (green paper) on the future financing of the Community. The debate enabled Ministers to express their Governments' positions on the various possible solutions outlined in the Commission's green paper, so that the latter could take account of them when preparing its formal proposals announced for early May.

The Council agreed to resume its examination of this dossier after it had received the Commission proposal.

PREPARATION FOR THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL MEETING

The Council prepared the Community topics likely to be discussed at the European Council meeting, namely, implementation of the Copenhagen work programme with particular emphasis on enlargement problems, the economic and social situation, especially with a view to the preparations for the Williamsburg Summit in May, budgetary problems, the recognition of diplomas and certain environmental questions. Further topics will be a progress report from the Presidency on the German-Italian initiative and topics coming under the heading of political co-operation.

NEGOTIATIONS UNDER ARTICLE XXIV.6 OF GATT

After examining the problems arising in connection with the negotiations under Article XXIV.6 of GATT following the accession of Greece, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to take up examination of this matter at its level again and report back in due course.

1970 EEC-SPAIN AGREEMENT

After noting the information supplied by Mr NATALI, Vice-President of the Council, on the outcome of the Commission's talks with the Spanish authorities about implementation of the 1970 Agreement, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue examining this question in conjunction with the Commission and to report back.

IRON AND STEEL: EXTERNAL ASPECTS

- ARRANGEMENT WITH SPAIN FOR 1983

The Council held an exchange of views on the progress of the talks which the Commission is holding with Spain, on which basis the Commission will continue its discussions with the Spanish authorities.

LEBANON

The Council decided on exceptional Community aid of 20 MECU for Lebanon for an investment project for the pumping and piping of drinking water for the town of Beirut.

MALTA

The Council held a detailed discussion on the content of the new Financial Protocol which the Commission is proposing should take over from the current Protocol which is due to expire at the end of October 1983.

It instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine this item further and report back as soon as possible.

CYPRUS

The Council held a detailed discussion on the progress of the negotiations with Cyprus to define the contractual trade arrangements to govern EEC-Cyprus trade.

It instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue examining this matter and report back as soon as possible.

VOTING RIGHTS OF MEMBER STATES' NATIONALS

The Council again examined the matter of the voting rights of Member States' nationals residing in the territory of another Member State. It agreed that the Ministers would give further consideration to this question at the meeting of the European Council, while the delegations undertook to reflect on the ideas for a solution which had been discussed at the present meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Commercial policy

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

- amending the import arrangements provided for in Regulation (EEC) No 3799/81 in respect of certain products originating in Romania;
- on the conclusion of the Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the European Economic Community and the Socialist Republic of Romania amending Annex II to the Protocol to the Agreement on trade in industrial products.

Commodities

The Council approved the common position for the negotiation of an international agreement on tropical timber.

Education

On the basis of a report from the Education Committee, the Council approved the conclusions regarding measures to be taken to improve the preparation of young people for work and to facilitate their transition from education to working life.

Social policy

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, a Regulation on the organization of a sample survey of manpower in the spring of 1983.

Appointment

Acting on a proposal from the United Kingdom Government, the Council appointed Mrs G. CATTO, Health and Safety Executive, Baynards House, alternate member of the Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work, to replace Mr V.G. MUNNS, resigning alternate member, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, i.e. until 1 April 1985.

PRESS RELEASE

5601/83 (Presse 49)

834th meeting of the Council

- Agriculture -

Brussels, 14 and 15 March 1983

President:

Mr Josef ERTL,
Federal Minister for Food,
Agriculture and Forestry of
the Federal Republic of Germany

.../...

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 Niels Anker KOFOED
Minister for Agriculture
Mr H.J. KRISTENSEN
Permanent Secretary, Agriculture

Germany:

Mr Josef ERTL
Federal Minister for Food,
Agriculture and Forestry
Mr Hans-Jürgen ROHR
State Secretary
Federal Ministry for Food,
Agriculture and Forestry

Greece:

Mr Costas SIMITIS
Minister for Agriculture

France:

Mrs Edith CRESSON
Minister for Agriculture
Mr André CELLARD
State Secretary to the
Minister for Agriculture

Ireland:

Mr Austin DEASY
Minister for Agriculture

Italy:

Mr Calogero MANNINO
Minister for Agriculture
Mr Mario CAMPAGNOLI
State Secretary,
Ministry of Agriculture

Luxembourg:

Mr Ernest MUHLEN
Minister for Agriculture,
Viticulture, Lakes, Rivers and
Forests

Netherlands:

Mr G. BRAKS
Minister for Agriculture and
Fisheries

United Kingdom:

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

Commission:

Mr Poul DALSGER - Member

FIXING OF PRICES FOR CERTAIN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND CERTAIN RELATED MEASURES

The Council continued discussing the farm price fixing for 1983/1984. It first examined specific questions relating to the sectors affected by the Commission proposals.

After devoting special attention to these sectors giving rise to the most complex problems, in particular milk products, cereals and rice and beef and veal, the Council broadly discussed the general level of prices, the problems of monetary compensatory amounts and the financial and budget impact of the Commission proposals.

At the conclusion of its discussions, the Council noted progress to date and worked out priority guidelines for further proceedings on basic issues; it then instructed the Special Committee on Agriculture to continue actively its discussions on all the technical questions relating to prices with the aim of identifying all the points likely to accelerate its proceedings and to lead to a decision within the scheduled time-limits.

ADJUSTMENT OF THE "AQUIS COMMUNAUTAIRE" FOR MEDITERRANEAN PRODUCTS
(FRUIT AND VEGETABLES - OLIVE OIL)

As agreed at its meeting on 8 and 9 March 1983, the Council finalized the report on the outcome of its proceedings on the subject of the "aquis communautaire" and the various aspects covered by it to be presented to the European Council.

NEW ZEALAND BUTTER

The Council formally adopted the Regulation authorizing the United Kingdom to import 65 250 tonnes of New Zealand butter on special terms from 1 April to 31 December 1983.

OTHER STATEMENTS

The Council heard statements on the following subjects:

- Exports of alcohol from France to the Member States (United Kingdom delegation)
- United Kingdom imports of UHT milk (French delegation)

OTHER DECISIONS

Further agricultural decision

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation on the import system applicable in 1983-1986 to products falling within subheading 07.06 A of the Common Customs Tariff and amending Regulation (EEC) No 950/68 on the Common Customs Tariff.

Fisheries

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation on the conclusion of the Agreement on the regulation of fisheries in the Skagerrak and the Kattegat in 1983 between the European Economic Community, Norway and Sweden.

Budgetary questions

The Council adopted the text of the recommendation to be submitted to the European Parliament giving discharge to the Commission in respect of the implementation of the budget and of the supplementary and amending budgets for 1981.

The 835th meeting, scheduled for 21 March 1983, was cancelled.

PRESS RELEASE

6289/83 (Presse 61)

836th meeting of the Council
- Agriculture -
Luxembourg, 18 to 21 April 1983

President: Mr Ignaz KIECHLE,
Federal Minister for Food,
Agriculture and Forestry of
the Federal Republic of Germany

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 Neils Anker KOFOED
Minister for Agriculture

Germany:

Mr Ignaz KIECHLE
Federal Minister for Food,
Agriculture and Forestry

Greece:

Mr Costas SIMITIS
Minister for Agriculture

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

Mr Panayiotis KATSAROS
State Secretary
Ministry of Agriculture

France:

Mr Michel ROCARD
Minister for Agriculture

Ireland:

Mr Austin DEASY
Minister for Agriculture

Italy:

Mr Calogero MANNINO
Minister for Agriculture

Luxembourg:

Mr Ernest MUHLEN
Minister for Agriculture
Viticulture, Water Control
and Forests

Netherlands:

Mr G. BRAKS
Minister for Agriculture and
Fisheries

United Kingdom:

Mr Peter WALKER
Minister of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food

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

Commission:

Mr Poul DALSGER - Member

FIXING OF PRICES FOR CERTAIN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND RELATED MEASURES

On the basis of compromise proposals, the Council continued its discussions regarding the fixing of agricultural prices for the 1983/1984 marketing year. The discussions mainly concerned the general level of prices and related measures, agri-monetary problems and financial and budgetary repercussions.

Considerable progress was made on various aspects of the matters under discussion. However, several questions remained unresolved, in particular the general level of prices and certain measures concerning the milk products, cereals and Mediterranean products sectors and the more specific problems and the measures to be taken with a view to a reduction of the positive and negative monetary compensatory amounts.

In view of the complex nature of the subject as a whole and as it was aware of the need to reach a balanced compromise, the Council felt that it was worthwhile suspending its discussions at this stage to enable delegations to consider the outstanding questions in greater depth, and it therefore agreed to resume its discussions on Wednesday 27 April 1983 (16.00) with the aim of reaching a decision on the whole question.

With this in mind, the Council decided to extend the current marketing year for milk products until 30 April 1983 and for sheep and goat meat until 1 May 1983.

It also extended the Regulation fixing the flat-rate production aid and the guide price for certain types of dried fodder for the period from 25 to 30 April 1983.

PRODUCTS NOT COVERED BY ANNEX II

The Council extended until 30 June 1983 the provision of Regulation (EEC) No 3035/80 concerning the differentiation of the export refund for certain products with a high butter content not covered by Annex II (Butter-Mix).

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Other decisions on agriculture

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities:

- Regulations
 - = repealing Regulation (EEC) No 3534/82 suspending certain provisions of Regulation (EEC) No 2915/79 as regards the application of a reduced levy to certain types of cheese;
 - = fixing the basic and buying-in prices for apples for June 1983,
- a Directive on the fixing of guidelines for the assessment of certain products used in animal nutrition.

NCI III

Following the results of the conciliation meeting with the European Parliament and the discussions of the Economic Affairs and Finance Council on 18 April 1983, the Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Decision empowering the Commission to contract loans under the New Community Instrument for the purpose of promoting investment within the Community (NCI III).

Research

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities Decisions on the conclusion of agreements between the European Economic Community and the Swiss Confederation on concerted action projects:

- in the field of cellular ageing,
- in the field of registration of congenital abnormalities (medical and public health research).

Commercial policy

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

- Regulations

- = amending Regulation (EEC) No 2940/81 imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on p-xylene (paraxylene) originating in Puerto Rico, the United States of America and the United States Virgin Islands;
 - = amending Regulation (EEC) No 2761/81 imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on o-xylene (orthoxylylene) originating in Puerto Rico and the United States of America
 - = amending Regulation (EEC) No 2870/82 on the restriction of exports of certain steel products to the United States of America (Nimexe/TSUSA concordance).
- a Decision terminating the anti-dumping proceedings in respect of imports of acrylonitrile originating in the United States of America.

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

- a Decision establishing ceilings and Community supervision for imports of certain goods originating in Yugoslavia (1983), and
- a Decision laying down the arrangements applicable to trade between Greece and Yugoslavia in products falling within the province of the ECSC.

They also adopted in the official languages of the Communities:

- a Regulation laying down the arrangements applicable to EEC trade between Greece and Tunisia, and
- a Decision laying down the arrangements applicable to ECSC trade between Greece and Tunisia

consequent on Greece's accession to the Communities.

Cocoa Agreement

The Council approved certain conclusions regarding both the report on the operation of the International Cocoa Agreement and guidelines for its future.

Appointment

The Council appointed on a proposal from the Netherlands Government, Mrs Th.M. SNELDERS as member of the Advisory Committee on Social Security for Migrant Workers in place of Mrs W.F. de Quant, member, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, i.e. until 20 September 1984.

PRESS RELEASE

6288/83 (Presse 60)

837th meeting of the Council
- Economic and Financial Questions -
Luxembourg, 18 April 1983

President: Mr Gerhard STOLTENBERG,
Federal Minister for Finance
of the Federal Republic of Germany

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

Belgium:

Mr Paul NOTERDAEME
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

Denmark:

Mr Anders ANDERSEN
Minister for Economic Affairs

Germany:

Mr Gerhard STOLTENBERG
Federal Minister for Finance
Mr Otto SCHLECHT
State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs
Mr Hans TIETMEYER
State Secretary
Federal Ministry of Finance

Greece:

Mr Gerasimos ARSENIS
Minister for National Economic
Affairs

France:

Mr Jacques DELORS
Minister for Economic Affairs
and Finance

Ireland:

Mr Maurice DOYLE
Secretary,
Department of Finance

Italy:

Mr Giovanni GORIA
Minister of the Treasury

Luxembourg:

Mr Jacques SANTER
Minister for Finance
Mrs Colette FLESCHE
Minister for Economic Affairs,
Small Firms and Traders

Netherlands:

Mr H. RUDING
Minister for Finance

United Kingdom:

Sir Geoffrey HOWE
Chancellor of the Exchequer

Commission:

Mr François-Xavier ORTOLI
Vice President

Also attending the meeting were:

Mr Otto SCHLECHT

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

Mr I. BYATT

Chairman of the Economic Policy
Committee

Mr Michel CAMDESSUS

Chairman of the Monetary Committee

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EXPORT CREDITS

The Council defined the position which, subject to on-the-spot co-ordination, the Community would adopt at the international negotiations in Paris from 25 to 28 April 1983 on the amendment of certain provisions of the Arrangement on Guidelines in the field of officially supported export credits.

It also approved the common position on the terms for officially supported credits for nuclear power stations.

FIRST QUARTERLY EXAMINATION OF THE ECONOMIC SITUATION

The Council made its first quarterly examination of the economic situation on the basis of a communication submitted by the Commission.

It concluded that there was no need to adjust the guidelines it had adopted in the annual economic report at its meeting in December 1982.

WILLIAMSBURG ECONOMIC SUMMIT

On the basis of the work carried out by the Co-ordinating Group for Economic and Financial Policies and the Economic Policy Committee and in the light of the latest information supplied by the Presidency, the Council examined the Community position on the economic, financial and monetary topics likely to be discussed at the forthcoming economic summit in Williamsburg.

CO-ORDINATION OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

On the basis of a Commission staff paper, the Council held an exchange of views on the co-ordination of Community financial instruments.

The Council agreed to discuss the matter again when examining the Commission's periodic reports on Community financial instruments.

PREPARATIONS FOR UNCTAD VI

The Council adopted the contents of the opinion delivered by the Monetary Committee on the monetary and financial aspects of UNCTAD VI as the Economic and Financial Affairs Council's contribution to the Community position for this important meeting.

CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNTS

The Council had before it an interim progress report on the proposal for a seventh Company Law Directive on consolidated accounts (group accounts). This Directive is a necessary adjunct to the fourth Directive on annual company accounts; it is therefore desirable that it be adopted without delay. The Council noted that substantial progress had been made and that there was now agreement on almost all of the essential rules for the establishment of consolidated accounts. However, a number of rather technical questions remained unresolved and the Council therefore instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to expedite its proceedings so that a final decision could be reached at a forthcoming meeting.

DIRECT INSURANCE

The Council took note of a statement by the Presidency on the subject of direct insurance other than life assurance. It stressed the weight it attached to rapid and decisive progress on this important proposal.

The Council therefore agreed to hold a substantive discussion on the matter as soon as possible and asked the Permanent Representatives Committee to expedite its preparation.

FINANCIAL INTEGRATION

The Council heard a statement from Vice-President ORTOLI introducing the Commission communication on the relaunching of Community financial integration.

NCI III

The Council held a conciliation meeting with a delegation from the European Parliament on the subject of the draft Decision empowering the Commission to contract loans under the New Community Instrument for the purpose of promoting investment within the Community NCI III.

The European Parliament delegation was led by Mr Pierre PFIMLIN, Vice-President, and the members were Mr MOREAU, Chairman/Rapporteur of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, Mr AIGNER, Chairman of the Committee on Budgetary Control, Mrs DESOUCHES, Mr DELOROZOY, Mr GIAVAZZI and Mr HOPPER, Members of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, Mr ADONNINO and Mrs HOFF, Members of the Committee on Budgets and Mr GOUTHIER, Rapporteur of the Committee on Budgets.

On 7 February 1983 the Council had worked out a common position ⁽¹⁾ on the draft Decision in which it had attempted to respond to the wishes of the Parliament on several important points.

The members of the Parliament delegation indicated points on which differences of opinion still remained between the Council and the European Parliament and made some suggestions for compromise.

Thanks to the efforts made on both sides to reach agreement, the conciliation meeting succeeded in bringing closer together the Council and Parliament positions on all the points outstanding, enabling the Council to take a decision on the NCI III Decision.

⁽¹⁾ See Press Release 4761/83 (Presse 21) of 7.II.83.

It should be noted that this Decision provides for a ceiling of 3 thousand million ECU to be activated in tranches. The Council acting by a qualified majority on a proposal from the Commission, after consulting the European Parliament, is to authorize the loan tranches and lay down the guidelines for the eligibility of projects.

The proceeds of these loans will be lent to finance investment projects which contribute to greater convergence and integration of the economic policies of the Member States and, inter alia, through the dissemination of new technology and innovation, to reinforcing the competitiveness of the Community economy.

These projects must be such that they serve the Community's priority objectives in the energy and infrastructure sectors, and in the financing of investment principally in small and medium-sized undertakings, in industry and in other productive sectors, taking account inter alia of their regional impact and the need to combat unemployment.

The mechanism may be used on its own or in conjunction with other Community financing instruments.

Implementation of the instrument shall be the responsibility firstly of the Commission, which shall negotiate the conditions for loans on capital markets and decide on the eligibility of projects, and secondly of the EIB, which shall be given a mandate to grant and administer loans.



COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT



PRESS RELEASE

6482/83 (Presse 68)

838th meeting of the Council

- Agriculture -

Luxembourg, 27 and 28 April 1983

President: Mr Ignaz KIECHLE,
Federal Minister for Food,
Agriculture and Forestry of
the Federal Republic of Germany

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 Neils Anker KOFOED
Minister for Agriculture

Germany:

Mr Ignas KIECHLE
Federal Minister for Food,
Agriculture and Forestry

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

Greece:

Mr Costas SIMITIS
Minister for Agriculture

Mr Panayiotis KATSAROS
State Secretary
Ministry of Agriculture

France:

Mr Michael ROCARD
Minister for Agriculture

Ireland:

Mr Austin DEASY
Minister for Agriculture

Italy:

Mr Calogero MANNINO
Minister for Agriculture

Luxembourg:

Mr Ernest MULLEN
Minister for Agriculture,
Viticulture, Water Control
and Forests

Netherlands:

Mr G. BRAKS
Minister for Agriculture and
Fisheries

United Kingdom:

Mr Peter WALKER
Minister of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food

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

Commission:

Mr Poul DALSGER - Member

.../...

FIXING OF PRICES FOR CERTAIN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND RELATED MEASURES

The Council made a further detailed examination of the problems arising in connection with prices and related measures, in particular the agri-monetary aspects. It concluded that a further period was needed for reflection and agreed to resume its discussions at a further meeting to be held at 15.00 on 16 May 1983.

In the meantime the Council decided to extend the current marketing year for milk products and for beef and veal, sheep and goat meat until 22 May 1983.

It also adopted the Regulation fixing the basic price and the buying-in price for cauliflower for the period from 1 May to 22 May 1983 and extended the Regulation fixing the flat-rate production aid and the guide-price for certain types of dried fodder for the period from 1 May to 22 May 1983.

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MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Further decision on agriculture

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 3035/80 laying down general rules for granting export refunds on certain agricultural products exported in the form of goods not covered by Annex II to the Treaty, and the criteria for fixing the amount of such refunds. (Extension of the arrangements for butter mix until 30 June 1983).

Common fisheries policy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulations laying down for 1983 certain measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources applicable to vessels

- flying the flag of Norway
- flying the flag of Sweden
- registered in the Faroe Islands.

Commercial policy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 3072/80 imposing a definitive countervailing duty on certain seamless tubes of non-alloy steels originating in Spain.

PRESS RELEASE

6290/83 (Presse 62)

839th meeting of the Council

- Energy -

Luxembourg, 21 April 1983

President: Mr Dieter von WÜRZEN
State Secretary
Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs

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

Belgium:

Mr Etienne KNOOPS
State Secretary for Energy

Germany:

Mr Dieter von WÜRZEN
State Secretary
Federal Ministry of Economic
Affairs

France:

Mr Jean AUROUX
State Secretary responsible to the
Minister of Research and Industry,
responsible for Energy

Italy:

Mr Filippo PANDOLFI
Minister for Industry

Netherlands:

Mr G.M.V. van AARDENNE
Deputy Prime Minister
and Minister for Economic Affairs

Denmark:

Mr Knud ENNGAARD
Minister for Energy

Greece:

Mr Evangelos KOLOUMBIS
Minister for Energy
and Natural Resources

Ireland:

Mr E. COLLINS
Minister of State at the
Department of Industry and
Energy

Luxembourg:

Mr Josy BARTHEL
Minister for Energy

United Kingdom:

Mr John MOORE
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of
State, Department of Energy

Commission:

Viscount Etienne DAVIGNON
Vice-President

ENERGY STRATEGY AND OIL-MARKET SITUATION : CONCLUSIONS OF THE COUNCIL

The Council discussed the latest developments on the oil market, in particular the effects of the fall in the price of oil on the Community's energy objectives and the need not to relax efforts to modify the structure of the energy economy.

Like the European Council on 21 and 22 March, the Council regards the fall in oil prices, despite the partially adverse effects of changes in exchange rates, as a positive element because such a fall supports the urgently needed recovery in the world economic situation. The trend of the oil market is also seen as a result of the joint efforts of governments, business and consumers to consume less oil. One very impressive result of this policy is the fact that the proportion of oil in the Community's total energy consumption has dropped from over 60% in 1973 to its present figure of less than 50%. The expansion of own energy reserves in the Community including nuclear energy has substantially improved security of supply; the proportion of oil imports which amounted to 62% in 1973 constituted only 36% of energy consumption in 1982. The economical and rational use of energy has brought about considerable progress, albeit to differing degrees, in the individual Member States.

The Council agreed that the easier oil supply situation must not lead to any relaxation of the joint efforts being made. The Council recognises that the future energy market situation is subject to uncertainties. It recalls the statement of the European Council that the development and consequences of falling oil prices should be kept under control. Considerable supply risks still exist, in particular in the case of oil. In the longer term, tense world markets and a tendency towards rising prices must therefore be expected again. The Council therefore emphasised the need for the Member States and the Community, especially in respect of the long-term necessities, to remain consistent in the pursuit of the energy policies aimed at restructuring of the national economies, particularly the rational use of energy as well as diversification of supply for a further reduction of the share of oil. The Council appeals to undertakings and consumers not to be misled in this respect by the present drop in prices.

The Council underlines the continued necessity to achieve the energy policy objectives of the Community for 1990. In this perspective, it will take as its objective at its next meeting the updating of the energy policy priorities of the Community. To facilitate this discussion and to permit a decision, the Commission will present an assessment and review of the energy policies of the Community and the Member States, including the financial implications. This report should be relevant for early decision on the execution of the conclusions of the informal meeting of Ministers in Copenhagen on solid fuels as well as of the General Affairs Council of 14/15 March concerning the continuation of the demonstration programme for 1984-1987, and on the Commission proposal for the rational use of energy. The Member States and the Commission will follow developments closely in the energy market, will keep each other informed on national developments and the Commission will suggest co-ordination if necessary.

SOLID FUELS

The Council held a wide-ranging policy debate on a working programme on solid fuels following which the President drew the following conclusions:

- (1) The Council reaffirmed its determination to develop a Community strategy for the production and consumption of solid fuels.

The Council discussed the following particularly important questions concerning the development of this policy:

- what are the obstacles to the increased use of solid fuels,
- how can research and development contribute to coal consumption,
- what significance has Community production on economically satisfactory terms for security of energy supplies and
- what is the role of the Community in solving the social problems in this connection.

- (2) The Council noted with satisfaction that in the context of general Community Instruments, the significance of the energy sector and of solid fuels had grown appreciably. The Council emphasized the need to continue this policy and in doing so to promote the use of solid fuels to an even greater extent than hitherto.

In this connection, the Council referred to its decisions to reduce the use of oil and gas, in particular in the electricity sector and to pay particular attention to the use of solid fuels in the Member States.

To support efforts to increase the use of solid fuels in industry and public buildings, the Council has adopted two recommendations. (see page 8 below)

(3) The Council examined in detail:

(a) Investment for modernization and restructuring

The Council welcomed the Commission's agreement to submit concrete proposals in this connection.

(b) Trade in coking coal

The Permanent Representatives Committee was requested to begin its deliberations on the proposal forthwith, and in so doing to take account of the altered energy policy situation and the situation of the steel industry as well as all aspects of the legal basis and financing and to submit proposals for decisions to the Council.

(c) Trade in steam coal

The Commission is awaiting additional information from the Member States.

(d) Producer stocks

Only one delegation adopted a position on this point.

(e) Lignite and peat

The Council acknowledged the importance of these sources of energy in the Community's energy strategy and looks forward to any proposals the Commission may submit.

(f) Environmental protection

The Council stressed the need for effective transboundary measures on environmental protection. Discussions on such measures in the Community and beyond must be vigorously pursued, taking into account the requirements of energy policy.

(g) R & D - Demonstration

The Council confirmed that suitable account must be taken of solid fuels in the 1984-1987 demonstration programme. It welcomed the Commission's intention to propose a coal research programme.

(h) Dialogue with exporting countries

The Council was in agreement that the Community and the Member States would continue in the future to promote the international coal trade and carry on the dialogue with exporting countries.

CONVERSION OF OIL-FIRED INSTALLATIONS TO SOLID FUELS

The Council recorded its agreement on two Recommendations to the Member States concerning the encouragement of investment in the conversion or reconversion to solid fuels of:

- oil-fired combustion installations in industry (with the exception of the iron and steel industry and the energy sector);
- oil-fired boilers in public buildings (administrative buildings, barracks, schools, etc.) and in district heating systems.

These Recommendations invite Member States to take all environmentally compatible measures which they consider appropriate to encourage the conversion to solid fuels of existing combustion installations fired by fuel oil and the building of new solid-fuel-fired installations.

These texts also require the Member States to notify the Commission at the end of each year of the measures which they have taken in this respect so that the Commission can make an annual report to the Council in the appropriate form.

METHODS OF SETTING NATURAL GAS PRICES AND TARIFFS

The Council adopted a Recommendation on the methods of setting natural gas prices and tariffs in the Community.

The text of this Recommendation is set out in the Annex.

INVESTMENT IN THE RATIONAL USE OF ENERGY

The Council examined the proposal for a Council Regulation on the payment of financial incentives in support of certain categories of investment in the rational use of energy.

The Council concluded by instructing the Permanent Representatives Committee to resume examination of this proposal in due course in the light of the report the Commission was to submit (see page 4 above) on the energy policies of the Community and the Member States, including the financial implications.

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, and in particular Article 235 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal for a Recommendation from the Commission,

Having regard to the Opinion of the European Parliament ⁽¹⁾,

Whereas in its conclusions of 3 December 1981 and 16 March 1982 the Council emphasized the need for Member States to develop a common approach to energy price formation and laid down general principles to be observed by each Member State in its energy pricing policies;

Whereas, without prejudice to the various systems for the formation of natural gas prices which exist in the Member States, these principles should be adapted to the characteristics of the market in natural gas so as to ensure greater consistency in energy price formation in the Community;

Whereas, in view of the comparative scarcity of natural gas and the advantages of using it, the best possible use of available supplies and the optimum allocation of these resources should be ensured by means of an appropriate pricing policy;

Whereas natural gas prices should be allowed to adjust to trends in the cost of supply and to changes in the competitive position of natural gas;

Whereas pricing policies which would prevent the rational use of natural gas in certain areas of consumption should be avoided;

Whereas natural gas tariff systems should reflect as accurately as possible the structure of the supply and distribution costs for the various categories of supplies;

(1) OJ NO C 96, 11.4.1983, p. 105.

Whereas, in view of the quantities supplied, economies of scale in large-scale industry should be reflected in appropriate decreasing scales of charges;

Whereas, in order to ensure optimum use of the transmission networks and greater regularity in supplies during the year, provision should be made for special prices for interruptible supplies;

Whereas pricing policy plays a decisive role as regards trends on the market for natural gas and whereas consumption trends should be monitored with a view to adjusting natural gas prices accordingly;

Whereas consumers can make a valid choice only if there is an adequate degree of market transparency,

HEREBY RECOMMENDS TO THE MEMBER STATES:

(a) that they take appropriate steps, if they have not already done so, to ensure that natural gas prices and tariffs in the Community are based on the following common principles:

1. The formation of natural gas prices should make it possible to ensure the best possible use of gas supplies and the optimum allocation of this resource, taking into account production, acquisition and distribution costs. In forming prices, account should be taken of the rational use of energy and of the market value of natural gas in relation to the prices of other forms of energy with which natural gas is in competition.

Natural gas prices for consumers should therefore be as close as possible to the market value of natural gas in relation to the price of substitute forms of energy and guarantee sufficient proceeds to cover the cost of supply to consumers.

2. Methods of forming natural gas prices should be designed in such a way as to enable such prices to adjust to changes in the competitive situation on the market and to trends in costs, and more particularly the cost to gas undertakings of acquiring gas, changes in which should be passed on to tariffs and selling prices as soon as possible.
3. Prices should not be artificially low in relation to the market situation and to costs, thereby having the effect of subsidizing certain categories of consumption or certain uses and/or of encouraging waste.
4. The two-part tariff system, consisting of a fixed component to cover fixed costs, in particular the cost of permanent connection to the network, and a component which varies with the quantity of gas supplied, is the system which, of the various tariff options available, should be generally used for charging domestic users and small industrial users, taking account of local conditions.

This should be the case, in particular, for categories of users which have the same characteristics as regards use, scale of consumption and regularity of off-takes and which would be charged tariffs based on these characteristics.

5. For larger users subject to tariffs, to whom fixed costs represent only a small fraction of their overall costs, a single tariff should normally be applied, but provision should be made for two (or more) components which decrease as consumption rises, in order to take account of the economies of scale that are achievable in transmission as volume increases. The tariffs charged for a given location should also vary in relation to the off-take characteristics, such as the load factor, in order to pass on the costs better.
 6. In the case of non-tariff sales to large users (i.e. contractual sales) prices should be calculated in the light of cost and market conditions.
 7. With the aim of transferring demand to off-peak periods or to allow load-shedding, provision should be made for special tariffs or prices linked to arrangements for interruptible supplies,
- (b) that they carefully monitor the trend in demand for natural gas in the various sectors of use and its trend in the long term, in close co-operation at Community level with a view to further improving tariff structures;
- (c) that they ensure that natural gas prices are characterized by the greatest possible degree of transparency and that these prices and the cost to the consumer are made public as far as possible.
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OTHER DECISION

Transport

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Directive amending Directive 80/51/EEC on the limitation of noise emissions from subsonic aircraft.

PRESS RELEASE

6474/83 (Presse 66)

840th Council meeting

- Foreign Affairs -

Luxembourg, 25 and 26 April 1983

President: Mr Hans-Dietrich GENSCHER,

Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Federal Republic of Germany

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

Belgium:

Mr Leo TINDEMANS Minister for External Relations
Mr Paul de KEERSMAEKER State Secretary for European
Affairs and Agriculture

Denmark:

Mr Uffe ELLEMANN-JENSEN Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Otto MØLLER State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Germany:

Mr Hans-Dietrich GENSCHER Federal Minister for Foreign
Affairs
Mr Hans-Werner LAUTENSCHLAGER State Secretary, Federal
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mr Otto SCHLECHT State Secretary, Federal
Ministry of Economic Affairs

Greece:

Mr Yannis CHARALAMBOPOULOS Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Grigoris VARFIS State Secretary for Economic
Co-ordination responsible for
relations with the European
Communities
Mr Antonios GEORGIADIS State Secretary, Ministry of
the National Economy

France:

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

Ireland:

Mr P. BARRY Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr James O'KEEFFE Minister of State at the
Department of Foreign Affairs

Italy:

Mr Emilio COLOMBO

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Mario FIORET

State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Luxembourg:

Miss Colette FLESCHE

Vice-President of the Government,
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Netherlands:

Mr H. van den BROEK

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr W.F. van EEKELEN

State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr Francis PYM

Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs

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Commission:

Mr Gaston THORN

President

Mr Wilhelm HAFERKAMP

Vice-President

Mr Lorenzo NATALI

Vice-President

Mr Christopher TUGENDHAT

Vice-President

Mr Frans J.J.J. ANDRIESSEN

Member

Mr Antonio GIOLITTI

Member

Mr Edgard PISANI

Member

Mr Richard BURKE

Member

.../...

GREENLAND

The Council took note of an oral report from the Chairman of the Permanent Representatives Committee on progress with the Greenland dossier.

It agreed to hold a substantive discussion on this matter at its May meeting and instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to conclude its preparatory work with this in view.

EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

The Council discussed in depth the principal problems raised by the review of the European Regional Development Fund - in particular concentration of aid on the less prosperous countries, strengthening the non-quota section, programme financing, categories of eligible infrastructure, co-ordination of Community and national policies, etc. As a basis for its discussions the Council had before it a progress report from the Permanent Representatives Committee and a paper from the Presidency suggesting possible compromises.

The discussion showed that the members of the Council were anxious that the work on this dossier should culminate in substantive agreement at the meeting in May. To this end the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to press on with the preparatory work on the basis of the Presidency's suggestions for compromises and in the light of today's discussions.

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RENEWAL OF THE 1979 US EXPORT ADMINISTRATION ACT

The Council reiterated its very serious concern regarding certain aspects of the United States Administration's proposals (particularly their extra-territorial effects) for the renewal of the US Export Administration Act. It voiced the firm hope that the comments and suggestions made by the European Community and its Member States would be taken into account during the subsequent United States legislative process.

SPANISH ACCESSION

The Council prepared for the 15th Ministerial meeting of the Conference for the accession of Spain to the European Communities which took place on the morning of Tuesday 26 April. The Spanish delegation was led by Mr Fernando MORAN, Minister for Foreign Affairs.

RELATIONS WITH THE ACP STATES: GUIDELINES FOR THE FORTHCOMING ACP-EEC NEGOTIATIONS

The Council held an initial substantive exchange of views on the Commission communication on the guidelines for the forthcoming ACP-EEC negotiations, and stressed the considerable importance of the communication.

It agreed to suggest to the ACP States that the negotiations open in September. It instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to make the appropriate arrangements to enable it to adopt the necessary negotiating directives at its July meeting at the latest.

PREPARATION FOR UNCTAD VI

Having exchanged views on progress with the Community's preparatory work for UNCTAD VI in Belgrade, the Council

- confirmed the Community's determination to play as constructive a role as possible at that Conference on the basis of a joint position;
- instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to report back to it at its meeting on 24 May 1983 so that the Council could then define, on the basis of a Commission communication, the broad outlines of the Community's overall position.

TRADE PROTECTION MEASURES ADOPTED BY ITALY

Within the framework of the procedures under Regulation No 288/82 on common rules for imports, Italy introduced an appeal against the Commission decision of 23 February 1983 whereby imports into Italy of malleable cast-iron tube and pipe fittings originating in certain third countries should be subject to no quantitative restrictions.

At this meeting the Council decided to extend until 1 June 1983 the period within which it had to rule on this Commission decision and during which the measures adopted by Italy would thus continue to apply.

MEETING WITH THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

On the occasion of this Council meeting, a meeting was held with a European Parliament delegation led by the President, Mr DANKERT, and consisting of the Chairman of the Political Affairs Committee, Mr RUMOR, the Rapporteur on the uniform electoral procedure, Mr SEITLINGER, the Rapporteur on the date of the 1984 elections, Mr KLEPSCH, the Rapporteur on the Germano-Italian initiative, Mr CROUX, together with Mr HAAGERUP, Mr FERGUSSON, Mr de la MALENE and Mr d'ANGELOSANTE.

An exchange of views was held on the date for the 1984 elections to the European Parliament, the uniform electoral procedure and the voting rights of Member States' nationals and on the Germano-Italian initiative for a solemn declaration on European Union.

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DIALOGUE WITH THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ON INSTITUTIONAL PROBLEMS

The Council continued its examination of the question of the establishment of a structure for a dialogue on institutional problems between the European Parliament and the Council (contact group) as suggested at the meeting on 24 January 1983 between a European Parliament delegation and the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Member States of the Community.

25/26.IV.83

WILLIAMSBURG SUMMIT

The Council continued preparing the Community's position on topics likely to be discussed at the Williamsburg Economic Summit on 28, 29 and 30 May 1983. The Council will complete its preparations at its meeting on 24 May.

FUTURE FINANCING OF THE COMMUNITY

The Council agreed to deal with problems concerning the future financing of the Community, including the subsequent solution for the United Kingdom, at the informal meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs on 14 and 15 May 1983 at Gymnich in order to prepare for the discussions of the Council on 24 May and of the European Council in Stuttgart on 6 and 7 June.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN ON THE GREEK MEMORANDUM

The Council took note of a statement by the Greek Minister on the Commission communication of 13 April 1983 on the action to be taken on the Greek memorandum of 19 March 1982.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Commerical policy

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

- prolonging the provisional anti-dumping duty on imports of
 - = natural magnesite, dead-burned (sintered), originating in the People's Republic of China and in North Korea;
 - = natural magnesite, caustic-burned, originating in the People's Republic of China,
- opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for apricot pulp falling under subheading ex 20.06 B II c) 1 aa) of the Common Customs Tariff originating in Turkey.

Agriculture

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, a Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to materials and articles made of regenerated cellulose film intended to come into contact with foodstuffs.

Appointments

Acting on a proposal from the United Kingdom Government, the Council appointed Mr Keith M. TAMLIN, Secretary, Mail Order Traders Association member of the Economic and Social Committee in place of Mr J. GALLACHER, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, i.e. until 20 September 1986.

Acting on a proposal from the Danish Government, the Council also appointed Mr G. FEHRENBACH, Stellvertretender Vorsitzender des Deutschen Gewerkschaftsbundes, full member of the Advisory Committee on Vocational Training in place of Mrs Maria WEBER, full member,, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, i.e. until 16 September 1983.

PRESS RELEASE

6475/83 (Presse 67)

841st meeting of the Council
- Iron and Steel -
Luxembourg, 25 April 1983
President: Otto Count LAMBSDORFF,
Federal Minister for Economic Affairs
of the Federal Republic of Germany

PRESS RELEASE

Brussels, 27 April 1983
6475/83 (Presse 67) COR 1

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C O R R I G E N D U M

to Press Release
6475/83 (Presse 67) of 27 April 1983

page 3: EXTENSION OF THE SYSTEM OF PRODUCTION QUOTAS

In the final sentence of the first paragraph, after "The Council", add the following footnote 1:

(¹) With the exception of the French delegation which entered a reservation on this subject.

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

Belgium:

Mr Mark EYSKENS
Minister for Economic Affairs

Denmark:

Mr Ib STETTER
Minister for Industry

Germany:

Otto Count LAMSDORFF
Federal Minister for Economic
Affairs

Mr Dieter von WÜRZEN
State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Economic
Affairs

Greece:

Mr Nikos DIMADIS
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

France:

Mr Jean AUROUX
State Secretary for Industry

Ireland:

Mr John BRUTON
Minister for Industry and Energy

Italy:

Mr Filippo PANDOLFI
Minister for Industry

Mr Gianni De MICHELIS
Minister for State Holdings

Luxembourg:

Miss Colette FLESCH
Minister for Economic Affairs,
Small Firms and Traders

Netherlands:

Mr G. Van AARDENNE
Deputy Prime Minister,
Minister for Economic Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr Patrick JENKIN
Secretary of State for Industry

For the Commission:

Mr François-Xavier ORTOLI
Vice-President

Viscount Etienne DAVIGNON
Vice-President

Mr Frans J.J.J. ANDRIESSEN
Member

EXTENSION OF THE SYSTEM OF PRODUCTION QUOTAS

The Council has invited the Commission to put forward before 25 May proposals for the continuation of the Article 58 system which take account of the restructuring already accomplished, that to be accomplished in the programmes approved by the Commission, and the aids given. The Council agrees at this moment that such a system is necessary for a well-balanced development of the steel market.

The Council discussed several aspects of the problem of improving the fairness of the system and promoting restructuring.

The Commission indicates that it will be in contact with the Member Governments and the steel producers when preparing those proposals.

STEEL MARKET

The Council took note of a Commission communication on the situation on the steel market in the Community with particular reference to the present price situation and the Commission's pricing policy.

RESTRUCTURING OF THE STEEL INDUSTRY

The Council took note of the Commission's fourth report on the application of the aid code and on the situation regarding the restructuring of the steel industry. The ensuing discussion enabled the Council to express its views on the various problems considered in the Commission's report and in particular the questions of capacity reductions and the restructuring effort in the Member States. The Council concluded its discussion by inviting the Commission to continue applying the aid code and the Member States to communicate rapidly to the Commission all the relevant information to enable it to observe the deadline of 30 June for its decisions on the restructuring programmes. The Commission agreed to continue its discussion of this question at its next meeting.

EXTENSION OF ANNEX I TO THE ECSC TREATY

The Council heard a statement from Vice-President DAVIGNON on the proposals for the extension of Annex I to the ECSC Treaty submitted by the Commission and on the problem of alloy tool steel and high-speed steel. After discussing the question the Council invited the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine the Commission proposals in preparation for its next meeting.

FOLLOW-UP TO THE MINISTERIAL MEETING IN ELSINORE

The Council took note of the price checks already carried out by the Commission on steel undertakings and dealers in accordance with Articles 58 and 60 of the ECSC Treaty and of the measures to be considered to safeguard against any drop in prices.

It also instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its proceedings on dealer statistics to enable the Council to give its assent at the earliest opportunity.

EXTERNAL ASPECT 1983

The Council took note of an oral report by the Commission on progress in the proceedings on the external aspect 1983.

In particular it briefly discussed the problem posed by the talks in progress with Brazil.
