



EN

**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**GENERAL SECRETARIAT**

# Review of the Council's work in 1996

44th Report by the Secretary-General





General Secretariat of the Council  
of the European Union

# **Review of the Council's work in 1996**

44th Report by the Secretary-General

A great deal of additional information on the European Union is available on the Internet.  
It can be accessed through the Europa server (<http://europa.eu.int>).

Cataloguing data can be found at the end of this publication.

Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, 1999

ISBN 92-824-1507-4

© European Communities, 1999  
Reproduction is authorised provided the source is acknowledged.

*Printed in Italy*

PRINTED ON WHITE CHLORINE-FREE PAPER

This review, drawn up under the responsibility of the Secretary-General of the Council, is intended to give the public brief, documentary information concerning the Council's activities during the preceding year. It seeks to ensure greater transparency; neither the Council, nor the other Community institutions, nor the governments of the Member States are responsible for its contents.

The review consists of two parts: an explanatory part and summary tables.

The explanatory part lays emphasis on the principal Council decisions or initiatives in their general context stressing, where appropriate, the role of the European Council as the body which provides political impetus and defines the Union's priorities. Reference is also made to the participation of other Community institutions in the decision-making process.

The summary tables contain a list of the principal acts adopted by the Council in 1996 in the various fields of its activities. These lists include references to the various aspects of legislative transparency, namely the outcome of votes taken and any explanations of vote and statements for the minutes which the Council has decided may be released to the public when acting in its legislative capacity.



# Contents

	Page
Introduction	9
I. Intergovernmental Conference	13
II. Functioning of the institutions and financing of the Union	15
A. Functioning of the institutions	15
a) Interinstitutional relations	15
b) Legislative process	16
c) Court of Justice and Court of First Instance	16
d) Transparency	17
e) Information policy	18
B. Financing of the Union	18
a) Budget procedure for 1997	18
b) Continuation of the 1996 budgetary procedure	25
c) Other budgetary matters	26
III. Internal policies	29
A. General economic situation and convergence	29
a) Economic policy	29
b) Preparation for the third phase of economic and monetary union	30
B. Employment	31
C. Internal market	31
a) Tax harmonisation	33
b) Financial area	33
c) Food sector	34
d) Telecommunications	34
e) Postal services	35
f) Statistics	36
D. Agriculture and fisheries	36
a) Agriculture	36
b) Fisheries	38

	Page
<b>E. Transport</b>	<b>39</b>
a) Inland transport	39
b) Air transport	40
c) Shipping	41
<b>F. Social policy</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>G. Education and youth</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>H. Culture</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>I. Information society and audiovisual matters</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>J. Public health</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>K. Consumer protection</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>L. Industry</b>	<b>47</b>
a) Industrial policy	47
b) Steel industry	48
<b>M. Regional policy and economic and social cohesion</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>N. Research and technological development</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>O. Environment</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>P. Energy</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>Q. Civil protection</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>R. Justice and home affairs</b>	<b>53</b>
a) Asylum and immigration	54
b) Police and customs cooperation	56
c) Judicial cooperation	58
<b>IV. External policies</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>A. Common foreign and security policy (CFSP)</b>	<b>61</b>
a) Human rights	61
b) Diplomatic and consular protection	62
c) Political dialogue	62
d) International organisations and conferences	62
e) Security	65



	Page
f) Drugs	66
g) Terrorism	66
B. European Economic Area – Relations with the EFTA States	67
C. Relations with the associated countries of central and eastern Europe (CCEE)	68
D. Relations with eastern Europe and Central Asia	71
E. Relations with former Yugoslavia	73
F. Relations with south-east Europe	75
G. Transatlantic relations	76
H. Euro-Mediterranean partnership – Relations with the Maghreb and Mashreq countries	77
I. Middle East peace process – Relations with the Gulf States and the Middle East	79
J. Relations with Africa	81
K. Relations with Asia	82
L. Relations with Latin America	84
M. Development cooperation	85
a) Relations with the ACP States	87
b) Relations with the OCTs	88
N. Trade policy	88
O. Relations with the OECD	92
P. Financial aid for non-member countries	92
Q. Chronology of activities	93
V. Annexes	109
Annex 1 Acts adopted by the Council within the framework of the Treaties establishing the European Communities (ECSC, EC and EAEC Treaties)	111
Table I Co-decision procedure	112
Table II Cooperation procedure	127

	Page	
Table III	Procedure for consultation of the European Parliament (assent and consultation)	133
Table IV	Simplified procedure	145
Table V	Council assents within the framework of the ECSC Treaty	162
Table VI	Other acts published	165
Table VII	International agreements	168
Annex 2	Acts adopted by the Council within the framework of cooperation in the fields of justice and home affairs	185
Annex 3	Acts adopted by the Council within the framework of common foreign and security policy	191
Table I	Joint actions	192
Table II	Common positions	194
Table III	CFSP declarations	195
Annex 4	Acts adopted by the Council within the framework of the accession procedure	201
Annex 5	Acts adopted by the representatives of the Governments of the Member States	203
Annex 6	Acts adopted by the Association Councils	205
Annex 7	Number of days spent on Council meetings and meetings of preparatory bodies	207
Annex 8	Council meetings in 1996	209
Annex 9	Open Council debates in 1996	211
Annex 10	Association/Cooperation Councils in 1996	213
Annex 11	Participation by the Presidency in plenary sessions of the European Parliament	215
Annex 12	Attendance by Presidents-in-Office of the Council at meetings of European Parliament committees in 1996	219
Table I	Italian Presidency	219
Table II	Irish Presidency	222

# Introduction

In 1996, the European Union continued its development with the twofold aim of resolving the many problems it has to confront and changing its foundations in order to adapt the European construction to the new challenges. In the course of the year, an examination was begun of how to revise the Treaties with the aim of creating an even closer Union between the peoples of Europe. New decisions were taken on preparation for the transition to economic and monetary union; strategic guidelines were adopted on employment, growth and competitiveness; several Community policies received a new impetus; action was also begun on a number of questions relating to justice and home affairs and the common foreign and security policy.

From 29 March 1996 onwards the Intergovernmental Conference has been providing the opportunity to face up more effectively to both the internal and external challenges of the years to come, including future enlargement, which is a historic task and a great opportunity for Europe. During an initial phase, the work of the conference made it possible to identify the main issues on the basis of the guidelines issued by the Turin European Council. Subsequently, the conference concentrated on seeking balanced solutions to the essential political questions raised. In Dublin, the European Council welcomed the general outline for a draft revision of the Treaties submitted by the Irish Presidency and felt that this outline was a sound basis for the final phase of the Intergovernmental Conference due to conclude in Amsterdam in June 1997.

Further decisive progress was made in preparation for economic and monetary union (EMU), which will begin on 1 January 1999. The structure of the new exchange mechanism and the principles and main features of the Stability and Growth Pact, designed to ensure budgetary discipline within the EMU, were approved and the finishing touches were made to the legal framework necessary for use of the euro with a view to adoption in the near future.

The European Council took note of the progress made by the Member States as regards convergence and of the efforts made to correct continuing public deficits.

The level of unemployment remains unacceptable. Although the battle for jobs is principally the responsibility of the Member States, it remains the most important of the Union's priorities. On several occasions throughout the year, the European Council reaffirmed the degree of priority it attaches to job creation and invited all those concerned at European, national and local level, including both sides of industry, to continue to support the strategy defined in Essen.

The European Council again stressed the essential contribution made by the internal market to promoting growth and employment in the Union. It pointed out that the trans-European networks, the development of SMEs and scientific and technical research could make a vital contribution to job creation and competitiveness and underlined the potential of the information society for education and training, for the organisation of work and for employment creation.

In 1996, considerable progress was made in a number of areas, such as culture and audiovisual matters, education and training, health, social policy and the environment. The year was marked by a very important stage in the establishment of the internal energy market with the adoption, after several years of discussions, of the directive concerning common rules for the internal market in electricity and the adoption of conclusions on common rules for the internal market in natural gas. Intensive efforts were made to apply the measures needed for establishing the internal market in postal services, which is of considerable importance in economic and social terms. In addition, tangible progress was made in the field of telecommunications with a view to the forthcoming liberalisation of markets.

The European Union reaffirmed its commitment to maintain and develop the European Union as an area of freedom, security and justice by putting to full use all of the instruments provided for in the Treaty on European Union. Thus, the European Union stressed the vital importance of reinforced cooperation between Member States to fight against drugs, organised crime and terrorism and reaffirmed the Union's determination to combat racism and xenophobia with the utmost resolve. A common approach was adopted to the sexual exploitation of children and trafficking in human beings with the aim of improving judicial cooperation and strengthening police cooperation.

The European Council settled the last outstanding question relating to the creation of Europol by authorising the Court of Justice of the European Communities to give preliminary rulings on the interpretation of the Europol Convention and invited the Member States to ratify the convention and the protocol.

Still in 1996, the European Union gave pride of place to respect for democratic principles and human rights, adopting many initiatives both on behalf of EU citizens and in the area of external relations.

In 1996, the political dialogue was stepped up and expanded with the aim of explaining the European Union's objectives to third countries and allowing them to share in these objectives. The inclusion of a political section in a growing number of agreements concluded or being negotiated with countries or groups of countries made political dialogue one of the main instruments for implementing the guidelines and strategies drawn up as part of the Union's external policy.

The security dimension is becoming increasingly important in the European Union's CFSP initiatives. There is therefore an increasing emphasis on security issues in its dialogue with its partners. The European Council welcomed the impulse given recently to EU-WEU relations which must be further developed, as well as the

decisions taken by the North Atlantic Council in Berlin on developing the European security and defence identity.

The European Union continued to emphasise the value it places on relations with the associated countries of central and eastern Europe (CCEE), stressing the importance of the strategy for preparing for accession, which now incorporates Slovenia.

The European Council welcomed the various regional cooperation initiatives under way in Europe, particularly those designed to increase cooperation in south-eastern Europe. It also reiterated the importance of the effective implementation of the Union's strategy towards the Baltic Sea region, among other things in relation to the need to further develop the Union's relations with Russia.

Notwithstanding the positive developments and the achievements in the relationship between the two sides of the Atlantic, the European Council expressed its deep concern over the extraterritorial effects of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (Libertad) Act adopted by the United States and similar legislation regarding Iran and Libya. In this respect, it asserted its right and intention to react in defence of the European Union's interest in respect to this legislation and any other secondary boycott legislation having extra-territorial effects.

The European Council, underscoring the great importance it attached to the Mediterranean dimension of the European Union, expressed satisfaction with the significant and balanced progress made in the first half of 1996 in implementing the declaration on the Euro-Mediterranean partnership and the work programme through a wide range of meetings at all levels.

The Middle East peace process was one of the main concerns of the Union's external action. It launched an appeal to the countries that had not yet decided to support the peace process to do so without delay. The Union showed its

willingness to make an even more active contribution by appointing a special envoy.

The European Council remains concerned about the violence which continues to mark the Great Lakes region. The European Union gave its full support to the peace efforts of the United Nations and the Organisation of African Unity, as well as regional leaders and other concerned personalities and, to this end, it appointed a special envoy for the Great Lakes region.

The first Europe-Asia meeting was held in Bangkok on 1 and 2 March 1996 marking a historic turning point in relations between the two continents. Relations with Latin America

and the Caribbean also developed significantly in 1996.

The first regular biannual WTO Ministerial Conference was held in Singapore in December 1996 and there the European Union once again demonstrated the importance it attaches to the multilateral trading system and the efficient operation of the WTO. The European Council expressed its satisfaction at the renewed impetus which the WTO Ministerial Conference in Singapore had given to the liberalisation of world trade. It particularly welcomed the broadening of the WTO work programme to encompass issues which the European Union had identified as priorities.



# I. Intergovernmental Conference

The scope of the conference's work has been set out on successive occasions, the aim being to provide the Union with the means to respond adequately, now and in the years ahead, to the challenges which confront it on the threshold of the twenty-first century: rapidly evolving international developments and the prospect of enlargement, globalisation of the world economy and its impact on employment, competitiveness and job creation; terrorism, drug trafficking and international crime, migratory pressure, and ecological imbalances. Future enlargement of the Union affords both a unique opportunity and an important challenge.

The conference formally began its work on the occasion of the European Council meeting in Turin on 29 March 1996.

In accordance with the conclusions of the European Council meeting in Turin, the European Parliament is closely associated with the proceedings of the conference to which it makes an essential, ongoing contribution. All meetings of the Intergovernmental Conference have been preceded by an exchange of views with the President of the European Parliament. The two representatives designated by the Parliament have had a meeting every month with members of the group of ministers' representatives responsible for preparations for the conference.

The Italian Presidency addressed the task of examining the issues and exploring delegations' positions and priorities. It reported on the outcome of its work to the Florence European Council in June. At Florence, the European Council indicated that it expected its meeting in Dublin in December to mark decisive progress towards completing the Intergovernmental Conference by the middle of 1997. To that end it

requested the Presidency to prepare 'a general outline for a draft revision of the Treaties'.

The Irish Presidency organised the work of the conference with a view to fulfilling that mandate. The conference has met at Foreign Minister level on a monthly basis and the ministers' work has been prepared by the group of representatives, which has met weekly.

The special meeting of the European Council in Dublin on 5 October provided an important impetus for the work of the conference. The Heads of State or Government confirmed on that occasion that the conference should conclude as agreed in June 1997. They also reaffirmed that the conference should maintain a high level of ambition in order to equip the Union to address more effectively the concerns of its citizens and to play a role in international relations commensurate with its potential and responsibilities. An adaptation of the Union's institutions and the way they function must play a central role in that regard, particularly with a view to enlargement.

The European Council in Dublin on 13 and 14 December 1996 reaffirmed the importance of completing the conference at Amsterdam in June 1997 and welcomed the general outline for a draft revision of the Treaties submitted by the Irish Presidency which turns the outcome of proceedings to date, in most cases, into draft Treaty articles and also contains a clear explanation of the proposed amendments. The European Council considered the document a good basis for the work which lies ahead in order to achieve a balanced outcome in all areas, an outcome which will measure up to the aims and ambitions which the European Council has set for the conference.





## II. Functioning of the institutions and financing of the Union

### A. Functioning of the institutions

#### a) Interinstitutional relations

In 1996, relations between the Council, Parliament and the Commission developed on a regular basis in a constructive spirit, both in political dialogue in general and in actual legislative activity.

The political dialogue between the Council and Parliament was particularly intense throughout 1996. In the first instance it took the usual form of regular provision of information to Parliament by the Presidency with regard to the Council's intentions, its daily activity and the outcome of its action. The Italian and Irish Presidencies thus addressed a plenary session of Parliament to present their programme and later the outcome of their six months' activity and particularly the results of the European Council meetings.

Both Presidencies also took part in the major debates in plenary session on justice and home affairs, the single currency, employment and growth, the situation in the Middle East, agricultural prices for the 1996/97 marketing year, former Yugoslavia, the Union's common foreign and security policy, the organisation of working time and children who are victims of violence. The Council also took part in the second annual debate on the state of the Union (see Annex 10).

Through its replies to the increasing number of oral questions from the European Parliament, the Presidency has kept Parliament constantly informed of the Council's views on areas of Union activity. In addition, the Council answered 355 written questions in 1996.

The Council Presidents' participation in the proceedings of Parliamentary committees

proved particularly useful as a means of providing full and detailed information on current proceedings in the Council and of hearing the views of the European Parliament (see Annex 11, Tables I and II).

Parliament, the Council and the Commission have made extensive use of the informal dialogue on the occasion of plenary sessions of Parliament on issues of common interest, such as the political situation in former Yugoslavia, elections in Palestine, Parliament's powers in relation to the implementation of Article 109j(2) and (3) of the EC Treaty concerning the adoption of a single currency and the transition to the third stage of EMU, the review of the financial perspective for 1994-98 and providing information for Parliament on the statements entered in the Council minutes when a common position is adopted under the co-decision and cooperation procedures.

At the European Council meetings in Turin, Florence and Dublin, in accordance with what has now become normal practice, the President of the European Parliament engaged in direct dialogue with the Heads of State or Government, thus enabling the various parties involved in constructing Europe to exchange views at the highest political level.

Pursuant to Article 138c of the TEC and the detailed arrangements agreed between the three institutions in April 1995, the European Parliament set up two temporary committees of inquiry, one into the Community transit system and one into bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE). Both committees carried out their activities in 1996 and the Council and the Commission cooperated with them, particularly by providing the information requested.

The representatives of the governments of the Member States replaced one judge at the Court of Justice and one member of the Court of First Instance.

The two-yearly renewal of the Chairman and officers of the Economic and Social Committee took place and the plenary session of the Committee of the Regions elected its Chairman (for the second part of his four-year term), its first Vice-Chairman and its officers. In accordance with normal practice, the Presidencies of the Council also presented their work programme to the Economic and Social Committee and to the Committee of the Regions.

The European Ombudsman, who has been in office since September 1995, carried out his duties in 1996 in relation to instances of maladministration in the activities of the Community institutions or bodies.

## b) Legislative process

When examining Commission proposals, the Council took particular account of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality.

The cooperation procedure introduced by the Single Act and more especially the co-decision procedure put in place by the Treaty on European Union have brought Parliament very much into the Community legislative process.

In 1996, the Council communicated 37 common positions to Parliament under the cooperation procedure provided for in Article 189c of the EC Treaty. In more than 20 cases the cooperation procedure resulted in the adoption of a legal instrument during 1996 (see Annex 1, Table II).

The co-decision procedure, provided for in Article 189b of the EC Treaty, yielded satisfactory results in 1996. All the conciliation processes were successful, even if the procedure sometimes proved rather laborious (see Annex 1, Table I).

Fourteen acts were adopted without amendment by the European Parliament at second reading, eight acts were adopted with all the European Parliament's amendments and 10 conciliation procedures took place after the

second reading by the European Parliament. In addition, in 17 co-decision procedures, the Council has already established a common position, while there are 41 co-decision procedures in which a common position has not yet been established and 26 procedures are before the European Parliament for a first reading.

The Council held 188 simple consultations of the European Parliament and requested 10 assents under the second subparagraph of Article 228(3) of the TEC. For 25 of the consultations the Council requested the urgent procedure under Rule 97 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure, and the request was granted in 14 instances (see Annex 1, Table III).

The conciliation procedure was applied to the implementation of a special financial cooperation measure for Turkey, to the arrangements for making own resources available to the Community by Member States and to control provisions.

The Economic and Social Committee was consulted by the Council on 109 Commission proposals and also delivered a large number of own-initiative opinions.

The Committee of the Regions was consulted by the Council on 10 occasions and prepared opinions in 1996 on the regional impact of various policies and actions.

The Council consulted the Court of Auditors and the European Monetary Institute four and three times respectively.

## c) Court of Justice and Court of First Instance

### i) Rules of Procedure of the Court of Justice and of the Court of First Instance

The Council was asked to decide on draft amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Court of First Instance and also to the Rules of

Procedure and the Supplementary Rules of the Court of Justice of the European Communities.

The draft amendments were designed in particular to reflect in the Rules of Procedure the accession of three new Member States and to enable the Court of First Instance to organise its work more efficiently.

Agreement was reached in the Council on the amendments as well as on the Finnish and Swedish texts of the Rules of Procedure of the Court of Justice and the Court of First Instance.

#### ii) Cases before the Court of Justice

In the course of 1996 the Council was a party in six actions before the Court of Justice, including one appeal.

Six cases were brought under Article 173 of the EC Treaty. Three cases concerned actions brought by Member States to have Council acts declared void. The European Parliament brought one action for annulment against the Council. The Commission did so too. One such action was also brought by a natural person.

Furthermore, the Council was involved in five actions brought by a Member State against the Commission.

It also acted to defend the validity of its acts in 18 actions concerning applications for preliminary rulings brought by national courts under Article 177 of the EC Treaty.

#### iii) Cases before the Court of First Instance

In the course of 1995, the Council was a party in 30 actions before the Court of First Instance.

Of these actions, three concerned proceedings brought by natural or legal persons on the basis of the second paragraph of Article 215 in conjunction with Article 178 of the EC Treaty, requesting compensation for damage purportedly resulting from action by the Council, in particular following the entry into force of the additional milk quota arrangements.

Twenty actions were brought by natural or legal persons under Article 173 of the EC Treaty to have a Council act declared void.

The Council was involved in seven actions brought by natural or legal persons to have a Commission act declared void.

It consulted the Court of Justice 3 times in 1996.

#### iv) Appointments

On 8 July 1996, the representatives of the governments of the Member States of the European Communities appointed:

- Mr Romain Schintgen, judge at the Court of Justice of the European Communities, in place of the deceased Mr Fernand Schockweiler
- Mr Marc Jaeger, member of the Court of First Instance of the European Communities, in place of Mr Romain Schintgen.

#### d) Transparency

During 1996, measures to increase transparency continued to be applied in the working procedures and methods of the institutions.

The Council thus adopted 229 legislative acts within the meaning of the annex to its Rules of Procedure in 1996. These acts prompted 398 statements in the Council minutes which were released to the public in accordance with the Code of Conduct of 2 October 1995 on public access to the minutes and statements in the minutes of the Council acting as legislator (see Tables in Annex 1, pp. 143 et seq.).

In the context of the procedure for public access to Council documents, there was a clear growth in the number of applications for documents by comparison with previous years and a significant increase in the number of successful applications (58.7% for the period 1994-95); 70.5% of documents were supplied at first instance by the General Secretariat and 67 additional

documents were supplied by the Council as a result of 24 confirmatory applications made by some applicants. In total, therefore, 78 % of applications were successful.

On the basis of a report from the Secretary-General, the Council also amended the decision on public access to Council documents in the light of experience.

As to open debates, in addition to policy debates on the Presidencies' six-monthly work programmes, a total of 14 issues of Community interest were the subject of Council discussions relayed to the public in 1996 (see Annex 9).

### e) Information policy

The task of public relations at Community level is to keep the population of the European Union Member States, as well as public opinion in other European countries and outside Europe, constantly informed of developments in the process of European integration, and thereby to increase acceptance thereof.

In 1996, the Member States continued to cooperate closely within the working party on information in order to further develop a joint information policy. *Inter alia*, the joint European programme known as 'Contact magazine' was produced and distributed to television channels throughout the world.

## B. Financing of the Union

### a) Budget procedure for 1997

#### i) Commission's preliminary draft budget

The Commission submitted in June 1996 a preliminary draft budget for 1997 which evidenced a slowing in the growth of

Community expenditure compared with the 1996 budget. The Commission had thus wanted to apply budgetary rigour to the preliminary draft on the model of the efforts made by Member States to limit public expenditure and enable economic and monetary union to be launched. Expenditure growth in 1997 could have been limited even further had there not been the added costs arising out of the crisis in the beef and veal sector.

The preliminary draft budget for 1997, supplemented with the other institutions' estimates, provided for expenditure to the tune of ECU 90 072 million in c/a and ECU 84 521 million in p/a. These amounts represent an overall increase of 4.10 % in c/a and 3.22 % in p/a over the budget adopted for the financial year 1996 (including SAB No 1/96). The Commission proposed an increase of 7.34 % in c/a and 5.48 % in p/a for non-compulsory expenditure (NCE), in accordance with its own classification.

The Commission's preliminary draft provided for:

- the financing of additional costs relating to measures to combat bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE);
- the reallocation of expenditure left over from 1995 under structural actions;
- the continuation of external action with priority for development and cooperation with Mediterranean third countries and with central and eastern European countries;
- allocations for action likely to stimulate economic growth and employment, such as research and development projects;
- increased amounts for the trans-European networks;
- the continuation of projects in the sectors of education, information, promotion of SMEs and youth.

ii) Letter of amendment No 1  
to the preliminary draft budget for 1997

1. The preliminary draft budget was amended a first time by letter of amendment No 1, sent to the Council in October, which raised commitment appropriations to ECU 88 995.8 million and payment appropriations to ECU 83 444.7 million. Given the other Institutions' estimates, this brought the appropriations in the preliminary draft budget to ECU 89 071.8 million for commitments and ECU 83 520.7 million for payments.

The purpose of that letter of amendment was to take into account the budgetary implications of the July 24 Council decisions, i.e. of the reform in the fruit and vegetables sector, of agricultural prices and related measures for the 1996/97 marketing year and of setting for the 1995/96 marketing year both the estimated figure for the production of olive oil and also the amount of production aid in that sector.

Moreover, in connection with the BSE crisis, the Commission proposed a series of urgent measures aimed at reducing the production of beef as rapidly as possible, the cost of which would be ECU 1 381 million. To finance this measure, the Commission proposed releasing a budget margin of around ECU 1 338 million by postponing by some months payment of the advance on hectare aids for oilseeds.

In that letter of amendment the Commission had also taken account of the outcome of the conciliation procedure of 25 July 1996, transferring ECU 62 million to Chapter BO-40 from amounts coming from budget headings B1-1501 (ECU 1.9 million), B1-2000 (ECU 7.2 million) and B1-2220 (ECU 52.9 million).

Lastly, the Commission had adapted the budgetary structure to align it on two Council regulations that had just been adopted, one compensating producers for loss of income (Council Regulation (EC) No 1357/96 of 8 July 1996) and the other on food aid (Council Regulation (EEC) No 1292/96 of 27 June 1996). Letter of amendment No 1 represents a saving of ECU 216 million on the PDB.

2. On 15 October, the Council, recording its agreement to the relevant Commission proposal, established a letter of amendment (No 1) to the draft general budget of the European Communities for the financial year 1997.

3. The letter of amendment was submitted to the European Parliament in October.

As the European Parliament's vote on the draft budget was scheduled for 24 October, that institution informed the Council by letter that it could not pronounce on the letter of amendment and, therefore, could not take account of it at its first reading of the draft 1997 budget.

iii) Council – establishment of the draft  
1997 budget in first reading

The Council considered this preliminary draft budget in July. Prior to that it had held the customary meeting with a delegation from the European Parliament at which conciliation took place on compulsory expenditure, in accordance with the procedure laid down in the Interinstitutional Agreement. Conciliation was preceded by a preliminary dialogue meeting, at which the three institutions involved agreed on the transfer of a total amount of ECU 62 million from various EAGGF Guarantee Section headings to the BO-40 reserve (heading B1-1501 (ECU 1.9 million); B1-2000 (ECU 7.2 million); B1-2200 (ECU 52.9 million)) and the creation of a second budget heading in Article B7-800, entitled: 'Contributions to international organisations' (B7-8001) in addition to the existing heading 'International fisheries agreements', and the inclusion in the BO-40 reserve of ECU 30 million (+ ECU 3 million in comparison with the PDB) for fisheries agreements.

Following its discussions the Council established the European Communities' draft general budget for 1997 providing overall for ECU 88 461.1 million in commitment appropriations and ECU 81 646.3 million in payment appropriations, broken down as follows:

(million ECU)

Non-compulsory expenditure	Compulsory expenditure	Total
c/a 45 688.0	c/a 42 773.1	88 461.1
p/a 38 727.7	p/a 42 918.6	81 646.3

Revenue estimates were drawn up taking into account the entry into force of the new own-resources decision.

The main features of this draft were as follows:

	(in million ECU – rounded off)	
	c/a	p/a
Common agricultural policy	38 958.2	38 958.2
Other measures	1 846.8	1 846.8
Structural Funds	28 620.0	26 300.0
Cohesion Funds	2 749.0	2 326.0
EEA financial mechanism	108.0	108.0
Research	3 450.0	3 070.9
Trans-European networks	471.0	331.6
Other internal policies	1 333.8	1 417.6
External actions	5 309.7	4 106.5
<i>Inter alia</i> Phare and Tacis	1 813.0	1 540.0
Administrative expenditure:		
– Commission	2 760.5	2 760.5
– Other institutions	1 484.2	1 484.2
Monetary reserve	500.0	500.0
Emergency reserve	329.0	329.0
Loan guarantee reserve	329.0	329.0
Compensation	212.0	212.0

NCE increased by 2.21% in commitment appropriations and – 0.46% in payment appropriations.

The amendments made by the Council to the PDB in the special context of 1997 took account of both the same principles of rigour and budget discipline as those applied by the Member States at national level and the wish for a zero-growth budget for 1997.

To achieve this objective, the Council took, *inter alia*, the following measures:

- ECU 1 000 million reduction in the appropriations for agriculture (heading 1 (agricultural policy) of the financial perspective) compared with the PDB;
- ECU 1 000 million reduction in heading 2 (structural measures) in payment appropriations compared with the PDB;

- reduction (in the region of at least ECU 550 million) in payment appropriations for headings 3 (internal policies) and 4 (external measures), coupled with adjustments to commitment appropriations.

iv) European Parliament – first reading of the draft 1997 budget

The European Parliament voted at its October plenary a draft budget providing for an additional ECU 725.5 million (c/a) and ECU 868.8 million (p/a) compared with the draft Council budget.

The main aspects of the European Parliament's votes were as follows:

- compliance with the outcome of the conciliation on 25 July as regards the ECU 1 000 million reduction, in relation to the Commission's preliminary draft budget, in the appropriations under heading 1 of the financial perspective (common agricultural policy); compliance also with the reductions made by the Council in payment appropriations for the Structural Funds (ECU 1 000 million);
- addition of an introductory remark in part B (operating appropriations) of section III – Commission concerning the question of 'legal bases';
- creation of a 'reserve for Union priorities' with ECU 300 million allocated to it, intended to cover trans-European networks, research and the peace process in Northern Ireland but not specifically entered under

headings 2 (structural action) and 3 (internal policies) of the financial perspective; that reserve was accompanied by a negative reserve of ECU 73.2 million (amendment 1006);

- addition of remarks concerning the continuation of a policy of 'greening' of the budget and equal opportunities for men and women ('mainstreaming') in all the major Community policies;
- entry of appropriations in reserve, accompanied by conditions for the unblocking of appropriations, particularly the drawing up of Commission reports;
- inclusion in the remarks concerning numerous budget headings of a limit on the maximum amount which may be used to cover expenditure on studies, meetings of experts and conferences, together with a rider stating that the amount concerned can be increased only by recourse to Articles 15 (supplementary and amending budget) or 26 (transfer) of the financial regulation.

Parliament also amended the nomenclature of heading B5-3 (Internal market) to make for easier reading.

In order to make the European Union's contribution stand out more clearly, it further introduced a revised budgetary structure to finance action for reconstructing the republics formerly part of Yugoslavia.

Parliament's first-reading votes yielded (in ECU million):

Commitment appropriations (c/a)		89 186.6	
Payment appropriations (p/a)		82 515.1	
	c/a	p/a	
of which	CE	42 777.5	42 920.3
	NCE	46 409.1	39 594.8
	Total	89 186.6	82 515.1

Parliament sent the Council by letter dated 5 November 1996 the draft budget as amended and modified at its October plenary.

v) Council – Council's second reading of the draft 1997 budget (19 November)

At its second reading of the draft general budget of the European Communities for 1997, the Council expressed its views on all the proposed modifications and amendments voted by the European Parliament during the first reading.

In general:

- as regards the 'legal bases', the Permanent Representatives Committee suggested rejecting 'amendment' 1001, on the grounds that it concerned a matter unrelated to the budget procedure and therefore could not be the subject of an amendment to the draft budget. Furthermore, a remark in the budget, by definition indicative, could not in its view validly lay down rules specifying that legal bases were required. The text in question was, moreover, the subject of negotiations between the Council, the European Parliament and the Commission and would be drawn up in the appropriate form in the event of agreement;
- the Council also changed amendment 1006 concerning the creation of a reserve for Union priorities, pointing out that such an amendment might at this stage cause the ceilings for headings 2 and 3 of the financial perspective to be exceeded. It adopted the appropriations envisaged by the Parliament for Rechar and RETEX (ECU 50 million in c/a and ECU 35 million in p/a for each of these initiatives) and restored the draft budget (+ ECU 100 million in c/a and + ECU 70 million in p/a) for the special programme to assist Ireland (item B2-1412). It also provided for a negative reserve of ECU 100 million in c/a and ECU 70 million in p/a for Community initiatives;
- in view of the priority which should be given to these two areas, the Council increased the appropriations for trans-European

transport networks by ECU 100 million in c/a and ECU 50 million in p/a (Chapter B0-40) and the appropriations for research and technological development under the fourth framework programme by ECU 74 million in c/a and ECU 37 million in p/a (Chapter B0-40).

Moreover, as regards other non-compulsory expenditure:

- in the case of heading 2 of the financial perspective, the Council accepted all amendments, mainly concerning the remarks on equal opportunities for men and women in all Community policies and the pursuit of a greening policy;
- in the case of heading 3 of the financial perspective, the Council agreed to amendment 967, which altered the nomenclature for internal market expenditure (subsection B5). On the other hand, it rejected amendment 1019, creating a new Article B5-950 (Expenditure in support of internal policies) and amendment 1034 creating a new Article B7-950 (Expenditure in support of external policies);
- in the case of heading 4 of the financial perspective, the Council rejected amendment 1026 (B7-54 – Financial cooperation with the republics formerly part of Yugoslavia) on the grounds that it was inconsistent with the conclusions of the Cannes European Council as regards the amount to be allocated for financial cooperation with the CCEE.
- in the case of administrative expenditure, the Council did not alter those relating to the European Parliament.

Regarding compulsory expenditure the Council rejected all proposed modifications, except for proposed modifications 867, 583, 878, 886 and 901 concerning heading 4 of the financial perspective.



Appropriations now reflected the following breakdown (in million ECU – rounded off):

	c/a	p/a
Common agricultural policy	38 958.2	38 958.2
Other measures	1 846.8	1 846.8
Structural Funds	28 620.0	28 866.0
EEA financial mechanism	108.0	108.0
Cohesion Funds	2 749.0	2 326.0
Research	3 471.0	3 137.3
Trans-European networks	578.0	384.9
Other internal policies	1 413.3	1 461.3
External actions	5 400.1	4 174.0
Administrative expenditure:		
– Commission	2 759.9	2 759.9
– Other institutions	1 485.1	1 485.1
Monetary reserve	500.0	500.0
Emergency reserve	329.0	329.0
Loan guarantee reserve	329.0	329.0
Compensation	212.0	212.0

NCE thus increased by 6.56 % in commitment appropriations and 1.16 % in payment appropriations.

vi) Letter of amendment No 2 to the preliminary draft 1997 budget

– On 11 November 1996, the Commission forwarded to the Council letter of amendment No 2 to the preliminary draft budget for the financial year 1997, for the purpose of implementing the Council's conclusions of 30 October.

In its letter of amendment No 2, the Commission proposed to take account in the 1997 budget of the consequences of the very exceptional measures required to combat bovine spongiform encephalopathy and of the consequences of the legislative decisions taken since the adoption of the preliminary draft budget. The Commission's intention was to implement in budgetary terms the action plan drawn up by the

Council at its meeting on 30 October 1996 in the light of developments concerning BSE. Letter No 2 made the necessary adjustments to letter of amendment No 1.

In order to curb beef production in the Union, the Council had decided, as part of the emergency plan, to introduce a new early slaughter premium for calves. The Commission therefore proposed creating a new Article B1-213 'Interventions other than in the form of storage of beef and veal (continued)' and entering a new heading B1-2130 'Early slaughter premiums for calves'.

The action plan also made provision for an additional amount of ECU 500 million as part of the exceptional measures for direct support for producers' incomes or for the beef and veal sector.

At the same time, in view of the early payment of ECU 230 million in advances for

1996, the inclusion of market measures with an overall cost of ECU 4 million and the available margin of ECU 216 million resulting from letter of amendment No 1, ECU 442 million were available to finance the plan adopted by the Council.

The Commission suggested that the remaining ECU 58 million be made good as soon as the means became available in the financial year.

At the Council meeting the Commission orally presented an amendment to the letter of amendment to the following effect: an appropriation of ECU 20 million is entered in the reserve (B0-40) to strengthen measures to 'promote beef consumption'; to counterbalance this the appropriations entered in the reserve for 'sheepmeat and goatmeat' are reduced by ECU 10 million; in addition the appropriations entered for 'pigmeat', 'eggs' and 'poultrymeat' are reduced by ECU 5, 1 and 4 million respectively.

- On 19 November 1996, the Council established letter of amendment No 2 to the draft for the financial year 1997, including the Commission's suggestions as amended at that day's meeting and the measures contained in letter of amendment No 1 established by the Council on 15 October concerning food aid. This letter of amendment did not alter the total estimated expenditure entered in the draft budget for the financial year 1997, i.e. ECU 88 461.1 million in c/a and ECU 81 646.3 million in p/a.

At the meeting with the European Parliament delegation during the Council meeting on 19 November, the two branches of the budget authority agreed that the letter of amendment thus amended could be adopted on a single reading and could therefore be included in Parliament's second reading of the general budget for 1997.

vii) European Parliament – Second reading of the draft 1997 budget (12 December)

At its second reading of the budget, Parliament confirmed almost entirely its first-reading position.

In the case of amendment 1006 (Reserve for Union priorities), Parliament entered in reserve ECU 100 million in c/a and ECU 70 million in p/a for the continuation of the peace process in Northern Ireland. It also included a negative reserve of ECU 100 million in c/a and ECU 70 million in p/a for the Structural Funds (new heading: B2-350 N).

It also set aside an appropriation comprising ECU 100 million in c/a and ECU 50 million in p/a by way of additional financing for the fourth R & D programme, entering these amounts in the general reserve (B0-40) under the new heading B6-750 N. A negative reserve comprising ECU 26 million in both c/a and p/a was created (heading B0-450 N) in order to comply with the ceiling for heading 3 of the financial perspective.

Lastly, and still in the context of amendment 1006, Parliament agreed to add an extra ECU 100 million in c/a and ECU 50 million in p/a to the appropriations for the trans-European transport networks, entering these amounts under heading B7-502 (Transfrontier cooperation) in heading 4 (External actions) in order to avoid exceeding the ceiling for heading 3 of the financial perspective.

Parliament further decided not to reinstate amendment 1001 (Legal bases), which had been rejected by the Council.

In connection with R & D policy, Parliament unblocked half of both the administrative appropriations kept in reserve (pending reorganisation of Commission DG X) and of the funds kept in reserve for heading B3-2012 (European multilingual television and radio services).

Parliament also incorporated letter of amendment No 2/97 in the 1997 budget, as agreed at the 19 November meeting.

In its resolution on the 1997 budget, Parliament

referred to the joint statement of the three institutions concerning the information procedure for fisheries agreements (see also (c) (v) below). Following the vote, the 1997 budget was as follows:

	(ECU)	
	c/a	p/a
Total appropriations	89 137 029 111	82 365 588 111
of which CE	42 777 770 400	42 920 570 400
NCE	46 359 258 711	39 445 017 711
Common agricultural policy	38 958 204 000	38 958 204 000
Other measures	1 846 796 000	1 846 796 000
Structural Funds	28 720 000 000	23 866 000 000
(including negative reserve)	- 100 000 000	- 70 000 000
EEA Mechanism	108 000 000	108 000 000
Cohesion Funds	2 749 000 000	2 326 000 000
Research	3 500 000 000	3 160 359 000
Trans-European networks	481 194 000	335 794 000
Other internal policies	1 645 680 000	1 639 337 000
Negative reserve for heading 3	- 26 000 000	- 26 000 000
External actions	5 600 542 000	4 497 485 000
Administrative expenditure:	4 283 613 111	4 283 613 111
- Commission	2 798 080 245	2 798 080 245
- Other institutions	1 485 532 866	1 485 532 866
Reserves	1 158 000 000	1 158 000 000
Compensation	212 000 000	212 000 000

NCE rose by 7.43 % in c/a and 2.43 % in p/a, in accordance with the Council's classification.

## b) Continuation of the 1996 budgetary procedure

### i) Supplementary and amending budget No 1 – SAB 1/96

On 20 June, the Commission forwarded to the Council preliminary draft supplementary and amending budget No 1 for the financial year 1996. PDSAB 1/96 included, in addition to expenditure aspects, the following elements:

- reallocation of EAGGF (Guarantee Section) appropriations between chapters to take account of measures in connection with the BSE outbreak, involving ECU 1 278 million to be financed through redeployment of appropriations within subsection B-1 of the budget;
- budgetary implementation of the United Kingdom opt-out from the Social Policy Protocol;
- increase in the European Parliament's appropriations by ECU 30.971 million (to meet expenditure on buildings) and those of

the Council by ECU 24 million (to meet expenditure on, *inter alia*, buildings and interpreting);

- changes to certain remarks.

On the revenue side, PDSAB 1/96 provided for:

- implementation of the new decision on the system of own resources (94/728/EC, Euratom, Council of 31 October 1994);
- incorporation in the budget of the surplus from 1995, i.e. ECU 9 215 million.

The Council established draft supplementary and amending budget No 1 for the financial year 1996 on the basis of the Commission's preliminary draft.

Further to DSAB 1/96, expenditure under the 1996 budget totalled ECU 86 580.4 million in c/a and ECU 81 943.4 million in p/a, i.e. an ECU 54.97 million increase.

Parliament accepted draft supplementary and amending budget No 1/96 at its July plenary, adding remarks on Articles B5-322 (Employment and growth for Europe) and on the Phare, Tacis and MEDA programmes.

Meeting on 25 July, the Council decided not to alter those amendments. SAB 1/96 was definitively adopted on 29 July and published in the OJ on 25 November 1996.

- ii) Supplementary and amending budget No 2 – SAB 2/96

The Commission forwarded to the Council preliminary draft supplementary and amending budget No 2 for the financial year 1996, designed to enter ECU 7.4 million (the margin remaining under heading No 5 of the financial perspective) in favour of the Court of Justice to permit prefinancing of the purchase of certain buildings annexed to the main Court building which the Court of Justice occupies in Luxembourg (ECU 3.2 million) and to pay the

rent for 1995 and 1996 in respect of the main Court building (ECU 4.2 million).

After holding the exchange of views with Parliament provided for in the fifth paragraph of Article 15 of the financial regulation, the Council thought that no DSAB should be established on the basis of the preliminary draft.

### c) Other budgetary matters

- i) Discharge in respect of the implementation of the 1994 budget (including action to be taken on the Court of Auditors' special reports and statement of assurance ('DAS'))

At its meeting on 11 March, the Council adopted the recommendation to be sent to the European Parliament with a view to the discharge to be given to the Commission in respect of the implementation of the budget of the European Communities for the financial year 1994.

After examining the five relevant special reports concerning the discharge, the Council requested the Commission to include any action taken on those reports in its own follow-up report.

The Council further made a statement relating to the DAS.

- ii) Combating fraud against the Community budget and protection of the Community's financial interests

After examining the Commission's 1996 work programme for the fight against fraud, the Council adopted a set of conclusions supporting the general guidelines of the specific measures envisaged by the Commission under the four headings identified when the anti-fraud strategy was presented in 1994.

The Council supplemented its earlier conclusions in order to take account of the comments and findings set out by the Commission in its 1995 annual report on the fight against fraud forwarded on 13 May 1996.

The Council adopted a regulation concerning on-the-spot checks and inspections carried out by the Commission in order to protect the Communities' financial interests against fraud and other irregularities. This regulation lays down the additional general provisions provided for in Article 10 of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2988/95 of 18 December 1995 on the protection of the European Communities' financial interests. It provides in particular that the Commission could carry out on-the-spot checks and inspections in close cooperation with the competent authorities of the Member States in principle in all areas of the Communities' activity.

- iii) SEM 2000 STAGE III – Council conclusions on the report of the personal representatives group on sound financial management

The Council approved the conclusions on the report on sound financial management prepared under the SEM 2000 initiative by the personal representatives group under the chairmanship of Ms Gradin and Mr Liikanen, members of the Commission. The Council agreed to place both the conclusions and the report before the Dublin European Council.

- iv) Technical adjustments and annual adjustments to the financial perspective

In accordance with paragraphs 9 and 10 of the Interinstitutional Agreement, the Council, following a proposal from the Commission, took a decision on technical adjustments and on the adjustments connected with the conditions for implementing the table of the financial perspective.

- v) Joint statement on improving the provision of information to the budget authority on fisheries agreements

The Council approved the text of a joint statement on improving the provision of information to the budget authority on fisheries agreements which was the subject of an agreement between the Parliament, the Council and the Commission.

The statement provides, *inter alia*, that during the ad hoc conciliation procedure the European Parliament and the Council will seek to agree on the amount to be entered in the headings relating to fisheries agreements on the basis of the proposals made by the Commission and that if appropriations relating to fisheries agreements prove insufficient, the Commission will provide the budgetary authority with the necessary information for an exchange of views, in the form of a dialogue, possibly simplified, on the causes of the situation, and on the measures which might be adopted under the established procedures.

- vi) Carry-over of appropriations

The Council recorded its agreement to a Commission request to carry over non-differentiated appropriations on the basis of Article 7(3) of the financial regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities.

- vii) Transfers of appropriations

After consulting the European Parliament, the Council took a decision on proposals for transfers of appropriations between chapters relating to compulsory expenditure, which the Commission had submitted (Article 26(4) and (5)(a) of the financial regulation); after being consulted by the European Parliament, it gave its opinion on proposals for transfers relating to non-compulsory expenditure (Article 26(4) and (5)(b) of the financial regulation).

- viii) Amendment of the financial regulation

The Council continued its work on the adjustments to be made to the financial regulation to take into account the entry into force of the provisions on the clearing of the EAGGF-Guarantee Section accounts.

- ix) 1995 budget

In a judgment dated 7 December 1995, the Court of Justice had declared founded the

Council's application aimed at having the general budget of the European Communities for the financial year 1995 declared void on the grounds that the European Parliament had not complied with existing provisions on the classification of expenditure. While upholding the effects of that budget, the Court annulled the act by which the President of the European Parliament had established its definitive adoption.

At the triilogue meeting on 19 December 1995, agreement had been reached between the two arms of the budget authority that the necessary

modifications to be made to the 1995 budget in order to bring it into line with Community provisions would be effected through a letter of amendment. That letter of amendment was submitted by the Commission on 11 January and established by the Council on 29 January 1996. The European Parliament agreed to the letter of amendment and sent the Council, under cover of a letter of 31 January, the act establishing the definitive adoption of the 1995 budget dated 31 January 1996. The Council's application against SAB 1/95 (case C-230/95) thereby became redundant.

# III. Internal policies

## A. General economic situation and convergence

A year marked by very moderate growth, 1996 was the third consecutive year to show an upturn in economic activity after the recession in 1992 and 1993. The increase in the Community's GDP in 1996 was estimated at some 1.6%, slightly below the level in the previous year. The employment situation remained practically unchanged by comparison with the previous year, with unemployment standing at 10.9%.

The increasing convergence towards stability of prices recorded in 1994 and 1995 continued in 1996. The inflation rate in the Community is in the region of 2.6%. Likewise, interest rates have shown a downward trend.

Budgetary measures taken in Member States have enabled the reduction of public deficits initiated in 1994 and 1995 to be continued. Nonetheless, the adjustment is still not adequately reflected in the public debt. The ratio between public debt and GDP continued to increase and reached almost 73.5% in 1996.

Exchange rates within the EMS exchange mechanism stabilised in 1996. The Finnish markka joined the mechanism in October 1996 and the Italian lira in November. The currencies of 12 Member States henceforth belong to the exchange mechanism.

### a) Economic policy

The Council continued to monitor economic developments in the Community in 1996 and to formulate policies with the twin aims of job-creating growth and the achievement of economic and monetary union (EMU).

In accordance with Article 103(2) of the EC Treaty, the Council adopted the recommendation

on the broad guidelines of the economic policies of the Member States and of the Community. It stressed the need to continue the current agreed macroeconomic policy strategy on price and exchange rate stability and sound public finances. It explained the partial absence of satisfactory results in terms of growth by the fact that that strategy had not been implemented with sufficient rigour and credibility in most Member States, particularly in relation to consolidating public finances.

The Council also stressed the importance of appropriate initiatives in both the goods and services markets and in the area of labour market reform in order to improve market operation, increase competition and make the price formation mechanism more flexible in particular. As for the labour market, the Council stressed the need for vocational and geographical mobility, the adjustment of education systems and a reduction in indirect labour costs.

The year 1996 was the third year in which the procedure for excessive government deficits provided for in Article 104c of the EC Treaty was applied; the Council established that an excessive government deficit existed in Germany and at the same time repealed the decision taken the previous year establishing the existence of an excessive deficit in Denmark, which had since reduced its public deficit to a level well below the critical threshold of 3% of GDP and had succeeded in significantly reducing the ratio of gross debt over two consecutive years.

Subsequently, the Council, acting on a Commission recommendation, adopted recommendations with a view to terminating the excessive public deficit situation in 12 Member States: Belgium, Germany, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, Finland, Sweden and the United Kingdom. These recommendations point to measures for attaining budgetary rationalisation.

In 1996 the Council examined a convergence programme presented by Austria within the

framework of multilateral surveillance of Member States' economies.

## b) Preparation for the third stage of economic and monetary union

In accordance with Article 109j of the Treaty, the Council had to assess in 1996 whether a majority of Member States fulfilled the conditions for the adoption of a single currency. On the basis of the proceedings of all the institutions taking part in the procedure (Commission, European Monetary Institute, European Parliament, Council), the Council, meeting at Heads of State or Government level in December 1996, noted that a majority of Member States did not fulfil the conditions and decided that the Community would not enter the third stage of EMU in 1997.

The European Council in Florence in June 1996 confirmed that the third stage of EMU would begin on 1 January 1999.

The principles and main elements of the Stability and Growth Pact were approved by the European Council in Dublin on the basis of a report from the Council aimed at ensuring sound public finances in the third stage of EMU. It set out rules on the strengthening of surveillance of budgetary discipline and on speeding up and clarifying the excessive-deficit procedure provided for in Article 104c of the EC Treaty. Member States taking part in the euro zone will be liable to financial sanctions if they do not react effectively in the event of an excessive deficit in their public finances.

The European Council meeting in Dublin underlined the need to ensure durable budget discipline in the third stage of EMU and welcomed the agreement reached on the Stability and Growth Pact. It requested the Council to examine intensively the Commission proposals for two regulations, one on the strengthening of the surveillance and coordination of public finances and the other on speeding up and clarifying the implementation of the excessive deficit procedure. Furthermore, the European

Council invited the Council to prepare a draft resolution on the Stability and Growth Pact to be adopted by the European Council in June 1997, recording the commitments of the Member States, the Commission and the Council to a strict application of the Treaty and the legal provisions on budgetary stability. After the European Council has adopted the resolution, the Council will adopt the respective regulations.

With regard to relations between Member States participating in the euro area and non-participating Member States, the European Council meeting in Dublin, on the basis of reports from the European Monetary Institute and the Council, stated that all the Member States of the Union will take part in the dialogue on all issues raised by the transition to the third stage of EMU, that a stable economic environment to ensure proper functioning of the single market is in the interests of all Member States and that participation in a new exchange rate mechanism should be optional although Member States with a derogation could be expected to join that mechanism.

As to the architecture of this exchange rate mechanism, the European Council meeting in Dublin confirmed that the system would be based on central rates, defined vis-à-vis the euro, that the standard fluctuation band would be relatively wide, like the present one, and that intervention at the margins would in principle be automatic and unlimited. The European Central Bank and the central banks of the other participants could, however, suspend intervention if this were to conflict with the primary objective of maintaining price stability.

The new exchange rate mechanism will be set up by a resolution of the European Council and agreement between the central banks.

The Council reached agreement on the legal framework for the euro, comprising a regulation on the replacement of the ecu by the euro at a rate of one to one at the start of the third stage, the continuity of contracts when the euro is introduced and technical rules for conversion rates between national monetary units and the



euro, including rounding-off, a regulation providing that the currency of the participating Member States will be the euro and making provision for the use of the euro during the transitional period following the principle of 'no prohibition, no compulsion', and for the introduction of euro notes and coins. The first regulation should be formally adopted in the near future in order to reassure users whereas the second regulation cannot be formally adopted by the Council, acting with the unanimity of the Member States without a derogation, until 1998 after a decision by the Member States participating in the euro (see Article 109(4) of the EC Treaty).

## B. Employment

Employment remained a priority of major political importance for the Community and its Member States throughout 1996.

The European Council meeting in Florence reviewed progress achieved on the basis of a joint interim report from the Council and the Commission.

The European Council meeting in Dublin examined progress in implementing the growth and employment strategy on the basis of a joint report from the Council and the Commission on employment, a first report from the Commission on the initiative for 'Action on employment: a confidence pact', a joint contribution by the social partners on the confidence pact and the proposals contained in President Chirac's memorandum on a European social model.

In order to emphasise its commitment to that strategy, the European Council adopted the Dublin Declaration on Employment, which recommends measures stressing the need to enhance labour market efficiency and investment in human resources, give particular support to vulnerable groups (women, unemployed youth, the long-term unemployed); make taxation and

social protection systems more employment-friendly; intensify efforts to modernise markets for goods and services and exploit new sources of employment; advance European competitiveness and promote local development. The Council decided to set up an Employment and Labour Market Committee with a mandate to help it accomplish its task in the employment sphere.

## C. Internal market

As in previous years, the activities in this field were particularly directed towards strengthening the internal market and improving its functioning.

In the case of free movement of persons, the Council carried out an examination – on the basis of amended proposals drawn up in the light of the European Parliament's opinion – of a package of three proposals from the Commission designed to abolish frontier controls on travellers within the Union.

In the field of intellectual property, two important measures were adopted during 1996, concerning harmonised provisions for the legal protection of databases and the creation of a supplementary protection certificate for plant protection products.

The Council also made substantive progress on the directive providing for the legal protection of industrial designs and models, by harmonising national registration procedures.

Furthermore, a coordination of the positions of Member States and of the Commission was ensured in preparation for and throughout the Diplomatic Conference on certain copyright and neighbouring rights questions (Geneva, 2 to 20 December 1996), which adopted and opened for signature the WIPO Copyright Treaty and the WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty.

In the field of company law, another major area in which legislation is still outstanding, the Commission established a high-level group,

under the chairmanship of Viscount Davignon, with a mandate to assist it in finding a solution to the problem of employee involvement in corporate decision-taking, which has been primarily responsible for blocking progress on the adoption of the statute for a European company and other corporate bodies at European level.

Other noteworthy legislative measures adopted during 1996 related to frontal and lateral impact of motor vehicles in collision, pollution levels of motor vehicles, and the Customs Union (the 'Customs 2000' programme and the Customs Code).

The Council adopted common positions on Commission proposals relating to pressure equipment, masses and dimensions of motor vehicles and dangerous substances.

The Council continued to monitor closely the process of transposition of internal market legislation into national law, noting that there remained some significant gaps and that the quality of the legislation still required particular attention.

On the basis of a detailed report from the Commission containing an initial analysis of the impact and effectiveness of the internal market, the Council noted that the economic and social benefits of the programme were beginning to make themselves felt and made a renewed commitment to the achievement of the internal market and to continued vigilance against trade barriers.

In the field of administrative cooperation, the Council adopted a resolution on cooperation between administrations for the enforcement of internal market law, covering, *inter alia*, the creation of a network of contact points for businesses and individuals, with links to competent bodies appointed by the Member States.

Concerning legislative simplification, the Council welcomed the results of a pilot project undertaken by the Commission to explore ways

of lessening the constraints imposed by the rules of the single market on undertakings in certain sectors and invited the Commission to bring forward proposals to adjust the legislation concerned and to extend the project to other fields of internal market legislation.

The Council lent its full support to the Commission's initiative 'Citizens first', which is designed to enable citizens to understand and exercise their rights in the single market.

Concerning the international aspects, 1996 saw the results of three years of negotiations in the customs field brought to fruition. Following the mandate given by the Council in April 1993, customs cooperation agreements were concluded between the Community and Korea and between the Community and the United States of America.

On 13 December 1996 an agreement was signed between the Community and the United Mexican States on the control of precursor chemicals frequently diverted for the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

The European Community concluded negotiations with Australia and New Zealand for mutual recognition agreements in relation to conformity assessment.

In the case of Australia, the two parties initialled the text of a draft agreement, the procedures for the designation and monitoring of conformity assessment bodies and four joint declarations. In addition, the representatives initialled eight sectoral annexes which will provide the implementing arrangements for the agreement.

In the case of New Zealand, the text of the draft agreement was initialled but it was agreed that the seven sectoral annexes would be initialled later pending the completion of certain internal procedures in New Zealand.

The Council held a meeting with the ministers from the 10 associated countries of central and eastern Europe, within the framework of the

structured dialogue with these countries during their pre-accession period.

### a) Tax harmonisation

Here the Council initiated a general discussion on the problems arising in connection with taxation with a view to arriving at an overall approach. It was felt that in the past discussions had too often been confined to proposals considered in isolation, thus making it impossible to carry out a proper examination of more general tax problems or of the question of slotting tax policy into the broader context of Community policies.

In June, the European Council meeting in Florence recognised the advantages of an overall approach to tax-related matters and instructed the Council to submit to it, before the European Council meeting in Dublin, a report on the development of tax systems within the Union, taking account of the need to create a tax environment that stimulates enterprise and the creation of jobs and to promote a more efficient environmental policy.

A report was submitted to the European Council in Dublin, underlining among other things the need for further work on this issue, including the question of tax competition, particularly with regard to the proper functioning of the single market.

In connection with the proper functioning of the single market and more specifically the issue of VAT, the Council took due note of the Commission communication entitled: 'A common system of VAT – a programme for the single market', which sets out the broad lines of the future definitive VAT system. The Council also adopted directives on the taxation of agricultural products and on the standard rate of VAT.

The Council adopted two decisions on the basis of the procedure in Articles 27 and 30 of the sixth VAT directive, authorising two Member States to take two measures to simplify collection of the tax.

The Council also adopted the directive extending the period of validity of the specific travellers' allowance arrangements granted to Denmark, Finland and Sweden whereby those three Member States are authorised to maintain quantitative restrictions on certain alcoholic drinks and tobacco products purchased in other Member States and brought into their territory by private individuals for their own use.

In relation to excise, the Council adopted two decisions on harmonising excise duty structures for mineral oils.

### b) Financial area

In 1996, the Council continued its proceedings on completing and updating the legislation which forms the basis for the internal market in the banking and stock exchange sector.

In response to requests from some Member States, and on a proposal from the Commission, the Council adopted a directive updating the list of establishments excluded from the scope of the banking directives.

The Parliament and the Council adopted a directive amending recognition of contractual netting by the competent authorities to take account of the risk-reducing effects of contractual netting. They also adopted a directive on cross-border credit transfers containing provisions on information for customers wishing to make a transfer, the obligations of the credit institutions concerned and redress procedures.

The Council adopted a common position with a view to adopting a directive amending the arrangements for the capital adequacy of investment firms and credit institutions and for investment services in the securities field.

Within the framework of the co-decision procedure with the European Parliament, the Council continued its proceedings on a common position with a view to adopting a directive on investor compensation schemes.

The Council also examined proposals on the reorganisation and winding-up of credit institutions, on amending the solvency ratio system for credit institutions, on updating certain provisions in three banking directives, and on settlement finality and collateral security.

### c) Food sector

In a desire to contribute to public health and the proper functioning of the internal market, the Council continued the harmonisation of legislation on substances used in the production of foodstuffs, on specific foodstuffs and on horizontal provisions.

In the case of legislation on substances, the Council adopted directives on food additives other than colours and sweeteners and on sweeteners for use in foodstuffs, a regulation laying down a Community procedure for flavouring substances used or intended for use in or on foodstuffs and a decision on the maintenance of national laws prohibiting the use of certain additives in the production of certain specific foodstuffs.

The Council also reached agreement on the proposal for a directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States on extraction solvents used in the production of foodstuffs and food ingredients. It began examination of a new proposal to adjust the directive on food additives other than colours and sweeteners to technical progress.

With regard to specific foodstuffs, the Council adopted directives relating to the exploitation and marketing of natural mineral waters and to foodstuffs intended for particular nutritional uses. In conjunction with the European Parliament in a conciliation committee, it also approved a draft regulation concerning novel foods and novel food ingredients, necessitated by the appearance of new raw materials in the food sector, new procedures and new technologies, including biotechnology.

The European Parliament and the Council adopted a directive relating to foodstuffs intended for particular nutritional uses in order to prevent a multiplicity of specific directives for such foodstuffs in line with the simplification decided on by the Commission. The Council also began examining a series of proposals to homogenise and simplify the legislation in force for seven foodstuffs (cocoa and chocolate, certain sugars, honey, fruit juice, preserved milk, etc.).

In the case of horizontal provisions, a draft amendment to the arrangements relating to the labelling, presentation and advertising of foodstuffs was approved in a conciliation committee as provided for under the co-decision procedure.

The Council also continued its proceedings on the proposal for a directive concerning foods and food ingredients treated with ionising radiation and particularly on the question of the relationship between national authorisations granted and the placing of such products on the Community market.

From an institutional standpoint, it should be noted that, while all the dossiers in this sector were adopted or were the subject of a common position, they are subject to the co-decision procedure; only two – the directives on novel ingredients and on the labelling and presentation of foodstuffs – necessitated the intervention of a conciliation committee.

### d) Telecommunications

In view of the decision to fully liberalise telecommunications markets within the European Union by 1 January 1998, the Commission has presented a series of proposals for directives in order to create an appropriate regulatory framework for a competitive telecommunications market and two communications, on the universal service for telecommunications in the context of a fully liberalised environment, and on the costing and financing of such a universal service.

To ensure a universal service to all users by securing the interconnection and interoperability of telecommunications networks and services throughout the European Union, a common position concerning the proposal on interconnection in telecommunications was adopted by the Council, but it was unable to accept all of the amendments proposed by the European Parliament in its second reading and requested the opening of the co-decision procedure.

The Council adopted a common position on the proposal adapting the existing directives on open network provision (ONP) and on leased lines to the new competitive environment in telecommunications. In December 1996, the European Parliament delivered its second-reading opinion, which has yet to be examined by the Council.

The Council also adopted a common position on the proposal relating to a common framework for general authorisations and individual licences in the field of telecommunications services, which seeks to establish a balance between harmonisation and liberalisation in this area and the European Parliament will give its second-reading opinion later in 1997, in accordance with the co-decision procedure.

In November, the Council held a policy debate on the Commission proposal on the application of open network provision to voice telephony in order to take account of the liberalisation of the telecommunications sector and to guarantee the provision of a defined universal service for telecommunications in the European Union.

The Council adopted a common position on the proposal for a European Parliament and Council decision on a series of guidelines for trans-European telecommunications networks covering objectives, priorities and the broad lines of measures envisaged in this field. However, the Council was unable to accept all of the amendments proposed by the European Parliament in its second reading and has therefore

requested the opening of the conciliation procedure with the European Parliament.

It should be recalled that this proposal was put forward by the Commission in April 1996. Following annulment by the Court of Justice of Decision 94/445/EC on the grounds of an incorrect legal basis and in line with the Court decision, the Commission proposed a new decision on the basis of Article 129d, third paragraph of the Treaty, maintaining the substance of the original decision. The Council adopted a decision relating to telematic networks between administrations for statistics relating to the trading of goods between Member States (Edicom).

Following the adoption of the framework directive on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, the Council adopted a common position on data protection specifically related to digital telecommunications networks, in particular ISDN.

The Council adopted a common position on a draft European Parliament and Council decision for a coordinated authorisation approach in the field of satellite personal communications. It should be noted that the common position adopted by the Council, whilst retaining the overall objective of the Commission to facilitate the rapid introduction of satellite personal communications services in the Community, differs from the approach of the Commission in that it places the emphasis on the adoption of harmonised conditions for authorisations, reflecting the broad lines of the common position on the licensing directive.

## e) Postal services

Throughout 1996 work continued on the proposal for a directive on common rules for the development of Community postal services and the improvement of quality of services, which aims to guarantee the provision of a universal

service throughout the European Union whilst gradually introducing more competition into the postal sector and seeks to ensure high quality of service standards as well as harmonisation of technical standards and the designation of independent national regulatory authorities.

Following the mandate of the Dublin European Council, a special Council session on 18 December 1996 re-examined the proposal and a political agreement was reached on the common position, providing *inter alia* for a gradual and controlled liberalisation of the mail and specifying the procedure to be followed for further liberalisation, especially as regards direct mail and cross-border mail.

#### f) Statistics

In the course of the year, the Council made considerable progress on statistics, particularly through the broad agreement reached in December 1996 on the regulation on Community action in the field of statistics, which is a horizontal text defining the principles for the production and dissemination of statistics and determining the respective tasks of the Commission (Statistical Office) and national statistics institutes.

The Council's activity also forms part of the process of achieving economic and monetary union which requires increased comparability in statistics. With that in mind, the Council adopted a regulation introducing a European system of national and regional accounts to replace the system applied at the moment, as from April 1999, producing a considerable improvement in the quality of the statistical information provided by the Member States.

The comparability of data on labour costs and salaries in the European Union is the subject of a regulation also adopted by the Council.

The Council took a decision confirming European Monetary Institute participation in the proceedings of the committee on monetary, financial and balance of payments statistics.

## D. Agriculture and fisheries

### a) Agriculture

Activities in this area in 1996 centred on four main sectors: the ongoing process of reform in the common agricultural policy (CAP), 'day-to-day' management of the CAP, the crisis in the beef and veal sector mainly in connection with BSE, and expanding and developing legislation on veterinary matters, plant health, seeds and propagating materials and animal feed.

The year 1996 was the second year of full implementation of the first CAP reform measures decided on in 1992. The overall effect of the reform on the economic situation in the agriculture sector has been positive despite variations in different sectors. It has encouraged continuation of the CAP reform process which resulted in the adoption of the reform in the fresh and processed fruit and vegetable sector. The main objective of the reform is to make the sector more competitive by strengthening the role of producer groups and encouraging the improvement of product quality boosting commercial value.

There is no progress to report in the reform in the wine sector which is currently enjoying stable market conditions. In the tobacco and olive oil sectors, the Council reached political agreement with the Commission on the approach to be followed: submission by the Commission of two 'option documents', policy debate and subsequent submission of proposals by the Commission.

Throughout the year the Council discussed the issues relating to CAP management, acting on proposals submitted by the Commission. The adoption of the 'price package' in July 1996 at the same time as the reform of the COM in fruit and vegetables, was particularly complex insofar as the Commission proposals were in line with the policy of stability and budgetary discipline followed since the 1992 reforms and in compliance with the Community's international commitments.

Day-to-day management activity related mainly to the following sectors: rice, sugar, milk, eggs, sheepmeat and goatmeat, certain fruit and vegetables, floricultural products, wine and aromatised drinks, tobacco, hops and the consequences of the GATT Agreement.

Particular attention was paid to the situation in the beef and veal sector which experienced a serious crisis, both because of developments in it in recent years (1992 reform and GATT Agreement) which led to a structural imbalance between supply and demand and because of recent scientific discoveries relating to Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD) and the possible link with BSE which provoked a major crisis of confidence among consumers.

To deal with this crisis situation, the Council followed an overall strategy at five different levels: eradication of BSE, support measures for producers affected by the crisis, short-term measures to improve the supply/demand ratio wherever possible, measures designed to restore consumer confidence and long-term reform of the COM in beef and veal. The Council had two major preoccupations in this connection: the need to make every effort to safeguard human health and to give comprehensive guarantees to the public on the matter, and the need to do everything possible to ensure survival of the Community beef and veal sector in view of its particular economic and social importance.

The Council considered eradication of BSE to be an absolute priority. It backed the provisional measures banning British exports adopted by the Commission on 27 March 1996, supplementing the embargo with a series of additional health measures. The Florence European Council reached agreement on an overall solution involving measures to be implemented by the United Kingdom, together with a framework plan and a procedure for phased relaxation of the export ban.

Regarding support for producers affected by the crisis, the Council adopted two decisions placing a total of ECU 1 350 million at their disposal.

In order to improve the demand/supply ratio as far as possible in the short term, the Council took a whole series of measures aimed chiefly at cutting beef production.

Particular attention was given to measures to reassure consumers as to the quality and safety of beef, and thus to win back their confidence. A whole series of veterinary and plant-health measures were adopted to that end. The Commission proposals to the Council on identification and registration of bovine animals and on the labelling of beef and beef products constitute a key feature of that approach.

Lastly, with regard to long-term reform of the COM for beef, the Council felt that, in addition to short-term measures, a change had to be made to the beef regime. The change should have a twofold aim, namely to match beef supplies in the Union with the likely long-term level of both internal and external demand while ensuring that it does not affect the Union's ability to honour its international commitments, and to encourage the production of high-quality beef using environment-friendly production techniques meeting consumers' legitimate expectations.

Moreover, in the interests of transparency and in order to restore European citizens' trust in the functioning of the institutions, the Council cooperated fully with the European Parliament's Temporary Committee of Inquiry, providing it with all relevant documentation.

Harmonisation of the veterinary sector has been actively continued. The chief results obtained include a ban on the use of hormones in stockfarming and related control measures, a directive concerning the rules to be followed in issuing certificates for animals and animal products, the political agreement reached, on the one hand, on minimum standards for the protection of calves as regards the minimum area available and, on the other hand, on the amendment of the directive on health problems affecting intra-Community trade in bovine animals and swine.

The Council also kept a close watch on developments in the negotiations with the Community's principal trading partners, aimed at concluding veterinary and plant-health equivalence agreements. Those negotiations have enabled a first agreement to be signed with New Zealand and significant progress to be made in various other cases.

Regarding harmonisation of agricultural legislation, the Council adopted a number of acts designed to supplement rules already being applied or to adapt them to requirements deriving from the functioning of the internal market.

The Council also took all the necessary decisions in connection with the headquarters (Angers) of the Community Plant Variety Office and the appointment of the persons in charge of it.

Lastly, the Council continued its efforts to reach concerted Community positions in international forums concerned with agriculture, particularly at the World Food Summit in Rome in November 1996, the CODEX Alimentarius proceedings, the OECD, the International Conference concerning genetic resources and the proceedings of the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGASS) with a view to reaching a consensus on the establishment of a negotiating committee for the conclusion of a global convention for all types of forests.

The Council adopted a number of EAGGF-Guarantee Section provisions making it possible both to reduce the financial costs borne by Member States with interest rates significantly higher than the uniform interest rate, and to continue Community co-financing connected with the integrated administration and control system for certain Community aid schemes pending a final decision on the Commission proposal seeking to maintain that facility.

In the agri-monetary field the Council, following the same practice as in the past to deal with appreciable revaluations, took measures in respect of the Swedish krona and the Finnish

markka to reduce the cost of applying the provisions of the basic regulation.

On the subject of agricultural statistics the Council took two major measures designed to enable the system of Community agricultural statistics better to meet the information requirements resulting from the reform of the CAP.

As in the previous year, the Council conducted a structured dialogue with the CCEE on rural development.

## b) Fisheries

The year was a busy one for the common fisheries policy, not only in terms of legislation adopted, but also the discussion of key objectives in the areas of conservation, control and enforcement, as well as the related and sensitive issue of achieving a balance between the fleet capacity of the European Union and the resources available – in the shape of the Commission's proposed set of multiannual guidance programmes for 1997 to 2002.

Conservation policy was marked in particular by a 50 % cut in the total allowable catch (TAC) of North Sea herring, after consultation with Norway (which shares the joint management of this stock), when it became clear in June that the stock was under intense threat. Having adopted a regulation establishing additional conditions for the year-to-year management of TACs and quotas (the underlying principle is that any overfishing of quotas must be paid back), the Council applied this rule for the first time to a number of sensitive stocks on the occasion of the annual setting of TACs and quotas at the end of the year.

A considerable future reinforcement of the control of Community fishing activities was achieved when the first measures to introduce a general satellite-tracking system for fishing vessels were decided in principle. Intensive discussions continued on the revision of the



legislation on technical conservation measures, which must be rendered less complicated, more easily understandable, and more effectively enforceable.

In the interests of producers and consumers alike, the Council adopted a regulation reforming common marketing standards, with the aim of improving product quality and facilitating marketing.

In the field of international fishery relations, concentration on the priorities of conservation was illustrated by the decision on the Community's accession to the FAO Agreement to promote compliance with international conservation and management measures by fishing vessels on the high seas, as well as progress towards the Community's accession to the United Nations Agreement on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Species. The Community also concluded new arrangements for the joint management with Norway of herring stocks in the North Sea, and began consultations with Norway for a similar arrangement concerning mackerel.

The Community organised the Second Diplomatic Conference on the Conservation and Management of Fisheries Resources in the Mediterranean and began negotiations for accession to the General Fisheries Council of the Mediterranean, a body of which several Member States of the Union are already members.

The Community concluded new agreements with Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania (replacing, after their accession to the Community, the bilateral agreements between Finland and Sweden with the three Baltic States), whilst in the south very important agreements were renewed with Mauritania and Morocco. All these agreements go well beyond the simple acquisition or exchange of fishing rights and point to a future of integrated cooperation with the Community's overseas partners.

Finally, the Council launched the process of reflection on the shape of the future common fisheries policy after the year 2002 (when the existing policy will be reviewed) on the basis of the present *acquis*.

## E. Transport

Community guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network were adopted by the European Parliament and the Council at the end of the conciliation procedure. These guidelines may be seen as providing a general framework setting out objectives and indicating the development planned for the transport networks up to 2010 and the measures to be taken to achieve it. They cover all transport infrastructure with a view to intermodal integration. The guidelines identify projects of common interest in the context of those networks. Those projects alone will be eligible for Community financial support under the budget heading for trans-European networks or from the Cohesion Fund.

As part of the structured dialogue, the Council held a meeting with the transport ministers of the CCEE on the development of rail and combined transport and on transport pricing.

### a) Inland transport

In the field of road transport the Council adopted a directive concerning driving licences, defining a Community-model driving licence in plasticised credit card format to serve as an alternative to the paper model provided for in a previous directive, and also a common position with a view to adopting a directive designed to establish a list of harmonised codes for transcribing the information to be entered in national driving licences issued in accordance with the Community model.

The Council adopted a directive designed both to amend once again the directive on weights, dimensions and certain other technical characteristics of certain road vehicles and recast it in a single text together with the directive relating to proof of compliance of vehicles. It further adopted a directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to roadworthiness tests for motor

vehicles and their trailers, seeking to ensure that road traffic within the Community operates under the most favourable circumstances as regards both safety and competitive conditions applying as between carriers in the various Member States.

Finally, the Council adopted a directive on access to the occupation of road haulage operator and passenger transport operator, representing the legislative consolidation of earlier directives on access to that occupation and reflecting the Council's desire to make Community law simpler and clearer.

Regarding inland navigation the Council adopted a regulation seeking to ensure free access for the Member States' inland waterway carriers to all traffic between Member States without any discrimination based on nationality and/or place of establishment, and also a directive fitting within the context of the Council directive on the reciprocal recognition of national boatmasters' certificates for the carriage of goods and passengers by inland waterway; the new directive provides for a single national boatmaster's certificate issued on the basis of harmonised conditions using a Community-designated model, and mutually recognised by the Member States.

The Council also adopted a package of measures provided for in the Commission communication on a common policy for the organisation of the inland waterway market and accompanying measures, including a directive aimed at liberalising gradually and in harmonised fashion the rotation systems still existing in some Member States, a regulation authorising a Community financial contribution to the scrapping funds of the Member States concerned for 1996, and a further regulation designed to promote inland waterway transport through temporary support arrangements for investments in inland waterway terminals.

On rail transport, the Council adopted a directive aimed at transposing into Community law the international regulations concerning the

international carriage of dangerous goods by rail (RID). It further adopted a directive on the interoperability of the trans-European high-speed rail system, whose objective is to allow the uninterrupted movement of high-speed trains throughout the Community.

In the field of combined transport the Council adopted a common position directed chiefly towards extending for two years (1996/97) the present system of granting aids for combined transport on a temporary basis.

On the subject of transport safety, the Council adopted a directive providing that undertakings involved in the transport by road, rail and inland waterway of dangerous goods or loading or unloading operations associated with such transport must appoint, no later than 31 December 1999, one or more duly qualified safety advisers for the transport of dangerous goods, with responsibility for helping to prevent the risks to persons, property and the environment inherent in the transport of dangerous goods.

## b) Air transport

Work is continuing on the consolidation of liberalisation of air transport, and discussions on closer cooperation and on harmonisation of the Community civil aviation market with that of the United States and – more recently – with that of the CCEE, have begun.

With an eye to completion of the liberalisation process, the Council adopted a directive on access to the groundhandling market at Community airports, laying down arrangements and a timetable for liberalising self-handling and for services provided by third-party companies, and also the possibility of limiting the number of suppliers for certain categories of services.

Regarding external relations the Council adopted decisions authorising the Commission to negotiate an agreement between the Community, the European Space Agency and

the European Organisation for the Safety of Air Navigation (Eurocontrol) on the European contribution to the setting up of a global navigation satellite system, to open negotiations with the United States on air transport and with a view to establishing an EU-US common aviation area, and to negotiate agreements on access to the air transport market between the European Community and the CCEE, aimed at integration of their respective air transport markets.

### c) Shipping

The Council continued to concern itself with the economic situation in the field of shipping, mapping out the general framework for action on its part. It agreed on a resolution on a strategy to increase the competitiveness of Community shipping, setting forth its view that the development of Community shipping was conditional on the training of seafarers, research and development, development of short-sea shipping, fair competition, open markets and safety at sea.

In its resolution on short-sea shipping, the Council stated its intention of encouraging the growth of this mode of transport with due regard for the free choice of users, through increased operator efficiency, active integration of short-sea shipping into the intermodal transport chain and free and fair competition between the various modes of transport.

The Council continued to strive for greater safety at sea, adopting a directive on marine equipment, imposing, from 1 January 1999 onwards, certain testing standards for equipment placed on board vessels flying a Member State's flag, and also setting strict requirements regarding professional ability for bodies checking compliance with those standards.

On the international level, the Council reviewed problems arising in trade relations with non-EU countries and ensured coordination of Member States' positions in international fora, such as the International Maritime Organisation (IMO),

the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the 84th session (devoted to shipping) of the International Labour Conference.

## F. Social policy

In the field of labour relations, the Council, acting under the co-decision procedure with the European Parliament, adopted a directive on the posting of workers in the framework of the provision of services, setting the requirement that the conditions of employment and pay in force in a Member State must apply to both national workers and to workers posted elsewhere as part of a transnational provision of services.

The Council also adopted a directive concerning the framework agreement on parental leave concluded by certain general cross-industry organisations (UNICE, CEEP and the ETUC). This is the first directive implementing an agreement concluded by the social partners at Community level on the basis of the Agreement on Social Policy concluded between 14 Member States and annexed to the Treaty (the United Kingdom is not party to that agreement).

The Council also held a policy debate on the Commission communication on worker information and consultation.

The Commission informed the Council of the establishment of the high-level group on 'workers' involvement in European systems with particular reference to European Company Statute and other pending texts', chaired by Viscount Davignon. The group is due to report in spring 1997.

Regarding health and safety at work, the Council adopted a common position concerning the amended proposal for a directive on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to carcinogens at work. It continued its work on the proposal for a directive on the

protection of the health and safety of workers from the risks related to chemical agents at work.

On the subject of equal treatment for men and women, the Council discussed the proposal for a directive on the burden of proof in cases of discrimination based on sex, which is also based on the Agreement on Social Policy. Following the Court's judgment in the Kalanke Case, the Council held a political exchange of views on the proposal for a directive amending the directive on the implementation of the principle of equal treatment for men and women as regards access to employment, vocational training and working conditions.

In the framework of the implementation of the action programme adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women, the Council took stock of the follow-up to the Peking Conference at both Community and national level, in particular as regards the legislation adopted in the field of equal opportunity for men and women at Community level since the end of the conference and the follow-up measures adopted or planned in the Member States and by the Commission.

Further to the action programme of the Beijing Conference, the Council adopted a recommendation on balanced participation of men and women in the decision-making process, with a view to promoting the balanced participation of men and women in all levels of the decision-making process in the political, economic, social and cultural spheres. It also adopted a resolution on mainstreaming equal opportunities for men and women into the European Structural Funds.

The Council held a public debate on the document submitted by the Commission at the end of 1995 entitled 'Future of social protection: a framework for a European debate'.

The Council and the representatives of the governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, adopted a resolution on the role of social protection systems in the fight against unemployment, calling upon Member States to incorporate into their social protection policies the objectives of combating unemployment and of

integrating and reintegrating unemployed men and women into economic and social life. The Commission was invited to encourage exchanges of information and experiences and also collective reflection within the existing structures, and to analyse developments, innovation and progress achieved and submit appropriate reports to the Council.

The Council and the representatives of the governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, also adopted a resolution on equality of opportunity for people with disabilities, calling upon Member States to consider their relevant policies and to promote the involvement of representatives of people with disabilities in the implementation of and follow-up to relevant policies and actions in their favour. The Commission was also invited to take account, where necessary and within the provisions of the Treaty, of the principles set out in that resolution in any relevant proposal. The other Community institutions and bodies were invited to contribute to the realisation of the aforementioned principles in the framework of their own policies and activities.

Regarding the free movement of workers and social security for migrant workers, the Council adopted a resolution on the transparency of vocational training certificates, calling on Member States to promote increased transparency of vocational training certificates and to promote the measures necessary for issuing vocational training certificates in other Community languages. In the field of social security for migrant workers, the Council adopted a regulation amending and updating Community legislation.

The Council adopted a directive amending the directive concerning equal treatment for men and women in occupational social security schemes in order to bring it into line with Article 119 of the Treaty as interpreted by the Court of Justice, particularly in its Barber judgment of 17 May 1990.

The dialogue with the social partners was further pursued at the Rome Tripartite Conference and also within the Standing Committee on Employment.

## G. Education and youth

The Council decided to extend the second phase of the trans-European cooperation scheme for higher education (Tempus II) for a period of two years beginning on 1 July 1998. The Tempus II programme aims to promote the development of higher education systems in the partner countries (countries of central and eastern Europe, countries of the former Soviet Union, and Mongolia) within the general guidelines and objectives of the Phare and Tacis programmes. The extension coincides with the timescale of the Tacis regulation, and also provides for the changing situation of those countries of central and eastern Europe which have concluded or will conclude association agreements and which will become eligible for participation in internal EC programmes such as Socrates, Leonardo da Vinci and Youth for Europe III.

The Council adopted conclusions on the Commission's White Paper 'Teaching and learning: towards the learning society', indicating that the Community institutions, each within its role, must contribute to defining areas for common action which strictly adhere to the provisions of the Treaty.

The Council also adopted a resolution on educational multimedia software in the fields of education and training calling on all parties to encourage dissemination of best practice in this field and inviting the Commission to submit a report to the Council by the end of 1997 on progress, obstacles and additional action required to the year 2000 and to take account of the fields of education and training in the context of its overall initiatives on the information society.

The Council adopted conclusions on the synergies between academic recognition and professional recognition of qualifications in the Community which invite the Member States and the Commission to encourage improved coordination between national information dissemination structures in these two areas of recognition.

The Council furthermore agreed conclusions on school effectiveness: principles and strategies to promote success at school setting out a framework of possibilities for development which are intended to enable succeeding presidencies, at their discretion, to give more detailed consideration to the issues raised.

Following an initiative taking into account the Commission's White Paper on education and training, the Council adopted conclusions on a strategy for lifelong learning providing a cohesive structure within which the initiatives undertaken at the various levels of education and training can be harnessed towards a unifying purpose.

Finally, the Council adopted conclusions on local community development through education and training, the concept of which is essentially about empowering people, at local level, to become involved in the identification of their needs and in developing, within legal and budgetary frameworks, learning and other programmes appropriate to those needs in a progressive and participative way.

The Council and the Ministers for Education meeting within the Council acknowledged in a declaration on the protection of children and countering paedophilia that the education sector had an important role to play, in a coordinated approach involving a number of areas, in tackling paedophilia and protecting children. The declaration states that exchanges of information on the practices and approaches in the Member States, facilitated by a Commission survey, will be beneficial in this.

## H. Culture

The Council modified the directive on the return of cultural goods unlawfully removed from the territory of a Member State and the regulation on export of cultural goods with a view to extending coverage to include watercolours, gouaches and pastels.

In accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 189b of the Treaty, the European Parliament and the Council adopted a decision establishing a programme to support artistic and cultural activities having a European dimension (Kaleidoscope). The programme is to encourage cooperation at European level between Member States in the field of culture and includes the following fields of action: support for events and cultural projects carried out in partnership or through networks; large-scale European cooperation actions; involvement of third countries; European city of culture and European cultural month; and specific measures. The financial framework for this programme for the period 1 January 1996 to 31 December 1998 is ECU 26.5 million.

Furthermore, the Council adopted its common position concerning the implementation at Community level of a support programme in the field of books and reading, in particular through translation in Europe (Ariane). As the Council was unable to adopt all of the Parliaments amendments, forwarded under the co-decision procedure, the conciliation procedure will commence in mid-1997.

The Council also adopted a common position on a Community action programme in the field of cultural heritage – the Raphael programme, which aims to support and supplement, through cooperation, the action taken by Member States in the field of cultural heritage of European importance. As the Council was unable to adopt all of the Parliaments' amendments, forwarded under the co-decision procedure the conciliation procedure will commence in mid-1997.

In 1996, the Council adopted two resolutions on access to culture for all and on electronic publishing and libraries respectively. The first resolution helps to target more accurately measures concerning access to culture for citizens within Community programmes; the second resolution calls upon the Commission to look into the various legal, technical and cultural aspects of electronic documents, from their creation to their utilisation, as well as the fresh cultural and social challenges to be met by

libraries, especially public libraries, in the new economic and technological environment.

It also agreed on a resolution on the integration of cultural aspects into Community actions which will be formally adopted at a Council meeting in 1997.

At its December meeting the Council designated Plovdiv (Bulgaria) as the city to organise the cultural month of 1999.

## **I. Information society and audiovisual matters**

Further to the conclusions of the Corfu European Council and to a set of Commission communications grouped together under the title 'The information society: from Corfu to Dublin', work has continued on the economic, legal, social and societal aspects of the information society. Following a wide-ranging exchange of views, the Council adopted a resolution on the new political priorities concerning the information society.

Moreover, as part of the structured dialogue initiated by the European Council meeting in Essen, the Council held a joint meeting with CCEE ministers on the subject of the information society.

The Commission adopted a revised action plan entitled, 'Europe at the forefront of the global information society: rolling action plan', which was presented to the Dublin European Council in December 1996.

The Commission submitted a Green Paper entitled 'Living and working in the information society: people first', by means of which it intends to stimulate a wide-ranging debate on the social aspects of the information society.

In the area of telecommunications, the Council adopted a multiannual programme to stimulate the development of a European multimedia content industry and to encourage the use of

multimedia content in the emerging information society (INFO 2000), with a global budget of ECU 65 million for the four-year programme.

Also in this context, the Council adopted a decision on the adoption of a multiannual programme to promote the linguistic diversity of the Community in the information society (MLIS).

In view of the rapid development of the Internet, the problem of its illicit use has been addressed by the Council on a number of occasions in 1996 and an ad hoc Commission working party was set up to examine practical measures to combat illegal and harmful content on the Internet. With respect to the particular problems of paedophilia on the Internet, the Council and the representatives of the Member States meeting within the Council adopted a resolution which called on the Commission to continue its work in this area and invited Member States, *inter alia*, to encourage and facilitate self-regulatory systems, the provision to users of filtering mechanisms and the establishment of rating systems.

The Council agreed on conclusions requesting the Commission to follow up work on the Green Paper on the protection of minors and human dignity in the audiovisual and information services.

Furthermore, the Council adopted a common position amending the directive 'Television without frontiers' with a view to bringing up to date and improving the operation of the directive, so as to provide a stable legal environment conducive to the development of the audiovisual industry in the European Union. Since the Council was unable to adopt all of the European Parliament's amendments forwarded under the co-decision procedure, the Community's conciliation procedure will start in early 1997.

## J. Public health

Progress on Community public-health action programmes in five priority areas has been satisfactory.

Thus, it was possible to adopt the action programme on health promotion, information, education and training (budget: ECU 35 million), the action plan to combat cancer (budget: ECU 64 million) and the action programme on the prevention of AIDS and certain other communicable diseases (budget: ECU 49.6 million), and also the action programme on the prevention of drug dependence (budget: ECU 27 million). The latter programme is in response to the priorities for action on health and, as regards drug demand reduction, represents an essential component of the European Union action plan to combat drugs and of the activities decided by the Cannes European Council.

Regarding the action programme on health monitoring, the Council requested the opening of the conciliation procedure, to take place early in 1997. The programme is designed to contribute to the measuring of the health situation in the Community, and to facilitate the planning and evaluation of Community programmes and actions and Member States' health policies.

The above programmes and plans seek to encourage cooperation between the Member States, support their action as regards both basic knowledge and information of the public, and promote coordination of their policies and programmes. They are to be implemented over a five-year period (1996-2000) by the Commission in cooperation with the Member States, and are open to the associated countries of central and eastern Europe and also to Cyprus and Malta.

Communicable diseases are being given increasing attention due to the resurgence or emergence of certain diseases and in connection with the advancing abolition of internal frontiers. For this reason the Council began considering a proposal to create a network for epidemiological surveillance and control of communicable diseases, which seeks to set up communication, cooperation and coordination structures at European level. Alongside that initiative, a task force was set up with a view to creating a global early warning and response system for communicable diseases in the context of transatlantic relations with the United States.

In the context of communicable diseases, the implications for public health of the 'mad cow' crisis, i.e. the possible link between bovine spongiform encephalopathy and the new strains of Creutzfeldt-Jacob Disease, prompted the Council on two occasions to adopt a set of conclusions on transmissible spongiform encephalopathies. The conclusions emphasise the need to give top priority to public health protection and urge the monitoring of the scientific evidence relating to Creutzfeldt-Jacob Disease, epidemiological surveillance of that disease and increased cooperation between Member States.

Blood safety is a matter of constant concern to the Council. Therefore, following its resolution on the matter of 2 June 1995, it adopted a resolution on a strategy towards blood safety and self-sufficiency in the Community which draws largely on the conclusions of the colloquium held in Adare (Ireland, September 1996).

The Council looked again into the matter of reducing smoking; it adopted a resolution designed to give fresh impetus to the efforts to achieve that goal. On the other hand, differences of views continue to exist regarding the ban which the proposed directive places on the advertising of tobacco products.

Alongside its legislative activities, the Council underscored the importance it attached – in accordance with the Treaty – to the integration of health protection requirements into Community policies by adopting, in response to the Commission's second annual report on the matter, a further resolution designed to foster achievement of that objective.

## **K. Consumer protection**

Work in this area continues to be marked by the twofold concern of protecting consumers and ensuring the smooth functioning of the internal market: this is borne out by the fact that Article

100a is the legal basis most found in the proposals under examination. All proposals here are subject to the co-decision procedure.

The European Parliament and the Council, acting under the co-decision procedure, approved a draft directive on the protection of consumers in respect of distance contracts. The main result of conciliation was to increase the possibilities for refunding consumers where the supplier failed to fulfil his side of the contract, and enable consumer organisations to seek legal redress.

The Council also adopted two common positions, one concerning a directive on comparative advertising, stating the conditions under which comparative advertising is permitted and the arrangements for controlling it, and the other on the indication of the prices of products offered to consumers, seeking to clarify the concepts of 'selling price' and 'unit price', which constitute essential information for consumers.

With a view to defining which course to take in its work, and in response to the Commission communication entitled: 'Priorities for consumer policy 1996-98', the Council adopted a set of conclusions detailing those priorities. One of the themes emphasised in the conclusions and already highlighted by the Corfu European Council – namely the preparation of consumers of the information society – was the subject of a wide-ranging public debate and several discussions in the Council.

Simplifying consumers' access to courts is a constantly recurring consumer policy theme. In that vein, the Council began consideration of a proposal for a directive on injunctions for the protection of consumers' interests; this proposal seeks to coordinate national provisions on actions to seek an injunction against illicit commercial practices and to ensure mutual recognition of the bodies authorised to bring such actions.

The Council wound up its consideration of the matter by adopting, in the light of a Commission communication on the subject, a set of conclusions on simplifying the settlement of



disputes involving consumers by way of out-of-court and other comparable procedures.

The Council was able to make satisfactory progress on a proposal for a directive on consumer credit, whose main purpose is to ensure application of a single formula for calculating the annual percentage rate of charge for credits of that kind.

Lastly, the Council began considering a proposal on the sale of consumer goods and associated guarantees which follows on from the Green Paper on that matter and is designed to simplify existing national rules and bring them closer together as regards legal and commercial guarantees.

## L. Industry

### a) Industrial policy

The Council adopted a decision laying down guidelines for the implementation of a Community action programme to strengthen the competitiveness of European industry, seeking to modernise the industrial role of public authorities in order to eliminate unnecessary legal and administrative constraints on enterprises (particularly small and medium-sized enterprises), to ensure undisturbed competition both internal and external to the Community, to strengthen industrial cooperation and to promote intangible competitiveness factors.

The Council adopted conclusions concerning benchmarking of European competitiveness – calling upon the Commission to bring forward proposals for developing the use of benchmarking as a means of improving the competitiveness of European industry – and on the textile and clothing industry, the pharmaceutical industry, the chemical industry and the automobile industry.

It also adopted conclusions in which it recognised that the application of the State aid rules require

continuous endeavours to increase legal certainty, predictability and consistency, and took note of the Commission's guideline as regards possible future proposals on procedural rules and block exemptions in specified fields.

The Council decided to amend the regulation on aid to shipbuilding in order to extend, until 31 December 1997 at the latest, the validity of the seventh directive which authorises State aid – within certain limits and under certain conditions – bearing in mind that the Union may not abolish such aid completely so long as other countries continue to grant it, and pending ratification of the international agreement concluded within the framework of the OECD on normal conditions of competition in the merchant shipbuilding and repairing industry.

The Council also held an exchange of views on the issue of transparency when examining cases of State aid for shipbuilding.

The Council authorised the Commission to begin negotiations with the United States with a view to concluding an agreement strengthening bilateral cooperation on application of competition rules.

The Council adopted a resolution on the coordination of Community activities in favour of small and medium-sized enterprises and the craft sector, inviting the Commission to strengthen coordination of all Community instruments and programmes in favour of SMEs and the craft sector and to improve the access of SMEs and the craft sector to Community programmes, particularly research and technological development and vocational training programmes. The Council also adopted a resolution on realising the full potential of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), including very small enterprises and the craft sector, through an integrated approach to improving the business environment and stimulating business support measures. The resolution calls on the Commission to fully implement Community measures under enterprise policy, as well as under other relevant Community policies and to undertake exchanges

of best practice at national level aimed at improving support mechanisms.

The Council adopted a decision on a third multiannual programme for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the European Union (1997-2000). The aim of this programme, which has a budget of ECU 127 million, is to simplify and improve the administrative and regulatory operation and the financial management of enterprises. It also seeks to help SMEs adapt their strategies at European and international level, in particular through information and cooperation. It further aims to strengthen the competitiveness of SMEs by improving their access to research, innovation and training, to promote the spirit of enterprise by supporting target groups and to improve the policy instruments for SMEs.

The Commission will be responsible for implementing the programme, with the assistance of a committee of representatives of the Member States. The programme will be open to the participation of the CCEE as well as Cyprus and Malta.

Further to the commitments entered into at the Essen, Cannes and Madrid European Councils, the Council adopted a resolution on industrial cooperation with other regions and third countries, *inter alia* in the Mediterranean, calling upon the Commission to step up its proceedings on industrial cooperation with the third countries with which the Community has traditionally had closer ties for historical and cultural reasons.

The Euro-Mediterranean Conference of Ministers for Industry adopted a work programme focusing on the following topics: an appropriate legal and administrative framework, business culture, the formation of associations, training, industrial zones and specialised services centres, the promotion and modernisation of business, with special reference to SMEs, thereby encouraging the flow of investment, and the development of Euro-Mediterranean partnership information and communication networks.

The Council agreed to an extension of the activities of the European Investment Fund (EIF) to include equity shares, so as to facilitate access by small and medium-sized enterprises to external financing.

## b) Steel industry

In the framework of the restructuring of the steel industry, the Council discussed the fifth and sixth half-yearly Commission reports on the stringent monitoring of State aid authorised for 1993 and 1995. The Council unanimously agreed to give its assent to a draft Commission decision establishing a new Steel Aid Code, to enter into force in January 1997 and provide for the possibility of recourse to State aid for R & D, environmental matters and partial closure of steel undertakings until expiry of the ECSC Treaty by transitionally aligning the treatment of State aid for steel on that accorded by the EC Treaty to other industrial sectors.

In the course of 1996 the Council gave a number of assents under Articles 54 and 56 of the ECSC Treaty (see Table V in Annex 1).

## M. Regional policy and economic and social cohesion

As part of the Community's support towards promotion of the economic and social development of its outermost regions, the Council approved four regulations concerning specific measures for the archipelagos of Madeira and the Azores, and the Canary Islands.

In the case of Madeira and the Azores the Council adopted a regulation providing, until 31 December 2005, for favourable tariff treatment of imports of non-agricultural raw materials for processing.

The first regulation concerning the Canary Islands allows operators in the Canary Islands an additional year's full exemption to prepare for adjustment to the new tariff regime, and introduces different arrangements for the gradual collection of anti-dumping duties during the transitional period. The other regulation temporarily suspends the autonomous Common Customs Tariff duties on certain industrial products.

Finally, the fourth regulation extends up to the 1996/97 marketing year the application of the specific measures for the Azores and Madeira, and the Canary Islands respectively, with regard to certain agricultural products.

## N. Research and technological development

In 1996 the fourth framework programme (RDFP) underwent its mid-term review in order to decide whether it should be allocated an additional amount as provided for at the time of its adoption by the Council and the European Parliament in 1994. Following the review, the Council agreed to adopt a common position on a sum of ECU 100 million and on how that sum should be distributed among the various topics of the specific programmes selected for additional financing.

In addition, given the importance of the issue of diseases related to transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSE), the Council gave particular attention to identifying research needs linked to those diseases and to possibilities available under the life sciences programmes. Accordingly, taking account of the Weissmann report and of the action plan proposed by the Commission, the Council agreed to allocate, in the context of the financial supplement to the fourth framework programme, an extra ECU 35 million for research on TSE and also on vaccines and viral diseases.

In parallel, a start was made on consideration of the future of the Community's RTD policy,

notably on the basis of the Commission's ideas on the structure and content of the fifth RDFP in the final stage of preparation of its proposal, to be submitted in early 1997.

Regarding encouragement of innovation in the Community the Commission, further to its Green Paper on innovation, submitted an action plan on the matter in December 1996.

On the subject of international cooperation, the Council adopted a resolution setting out overall Community policy objectives in this area, listing a number of principles to underlie that cooperation. With regard to bilateral agreements, the Council authorised the signing of a scientific and technical cooperation agreement with Israel, and another such agreement with South Africa, and also decided to conclude with several non-EU industrialised countries an arrangement on intelligent manufacturing systems (IMS).

Still in connection with relations with non-EU countries, the Union's research ministers met their CCEE counterparts under the structured dialogue arrangements. An exchange of views was held on ways of boosting scientific and technical cooperation with non-EU Mediterranean countries.

The Council further adopted conclusions on the need to increase involvement of SMEs in Community research activities, on the progress made by the Joint Research Centre (JRC) in adopting a more competitive approach in its activities – in accordance with conclusions adopted by the Council in 1994 – and, finally, on the importance of research in combating drug dependence.

Moreover, the Council adopted a decision on a supplementary programme concerning the operation of the high-flux reactor (HFR) at Petten (Netherlands) for a period of four years from 1 January 1996.

Finally, COST (in which 25 European States participate) continued to provide a pan-European framework for RTD cooperation; 130 COST actions are currently under way.

## O. Environment

In view of the transnational nature of many environmental problems, the European Union favours a multilateral approach for resolving them. For this reason, as in 1995, the external aspect represented a major part of activities in this area.

The Union is continuing to act as a driving force for the Rio process conventions, both at the third conference of the parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the negotiations for a protocol on biosafety, and at the second conference of the parties to the Convention on Climate Change and the negotiations which that conference wanted to be speeded up for a protocol on limitation and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions not falling under the Montreal Protocol on the protection of the ozone layer. As regards more horizontal issues, the Union participated in the fourth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, which helped prepare the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly which is to review in 1997 the progress made in the implementation of the Rio commitments (Agenda 21). It also participated in the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests in which an important agreement is expected with a view to implementing the principles on forests adopted at Rio and promoting the sustainable management of forests.

A striking example of a conflict between trade and environmental interests is undoubtedly to be found in the negotiations for a framework agreement with Canada, the United States and the Russian Federation on humane trapping standards, made necessary by the fact that the regulation banning the use of leghold traps in the Community is difficult to implement for trade policy reasons. The Council was kept regularly informed by the Commission of the progress of these negotiations. It considered that the outcome was not satisfactory and that further negotiations were therefore necessary in order to improve on this outcome, taking the

regulation as a basis. Lastly, the Council decided that the Community would conclude the Convention on the Protection of the Alps (Alpine Convention) and also the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (ESPOO Convention), which supplements Community legislation concerning impact studies.

The Union is also continuing its efforts at cooperation with non-EU countries without having recourse to legally binding instruments; it does so with the CCEE under the structured dialogue and with the Mediterranean countries both under the pre-accession structured dialogue (Cyprus and Malta) and in the far wider framework of the follow-up to the Barcelona Euro-Mediterranean Conference (e.g. ministerial meeting on local water management held in Marseilles).

Regarding the environmental policy's internal dimension, in addition to horizontal activities, action was taken on the monitoring of activities involving risks for human health and the environment and on protecting specific environments (air and water) and flora and fauna.

Horizontal activities included final adoption of the regulation amending the regulation establishing a Financial Instrument for the Environment (LIFE), which introduced the second stage (1996-99) of this instrument with funding of ECU 450 million. In addition, the Council made sufficient progress in its mid-term review of the fifth programme of policy and action in relation to the environment and sustainable development – 'Towards sustainability' to be able to reach agreement on its common position on the proposal for a decision to review the programme, a decision which should coincide with stocktaking of Rio commitments.

The first category of action includes the directive on integrated pollution prevention and control introducing a single authorisation procedure, covering the various environments, for industrial installations, the directive concerning control of

major-accident hazards involving dangerous substances (Seveso II), and the directive on assessment of the environmental impact of certain public and private projects, on which the Council has just adopted a common position.

These three directives will form a set of instruments covering a large part of the development of industrial plant, ranging from its authorisation to the management of certain related risks. The Council further adopted a common position on the directive concerning the placing of biocidal products on the market, which lays down the procedures and arrangements for authorising the approximately 14 000 products concerned and their 800 active substances.

Technological development is revealing new risks which must also be managed. Here the Council took an interest in biotechnology by means of the proposal for a directive on the contained use of genetically modified micro-organisms and the proposal for a decision on the placing on the market of genetically modified maize, the case of soya having been resolved without the matter having to be referred to the Council. While in the case of the first proposal there was adequate progress towards a directive which will afford greater protection than the one in force, in the second case the Council was unable to reach agreement on the effects and potential risks of these products and how they should be marketed.

It was therefore left to the Commission to decide to place the product on the market under the existing procedures.

As regards waste management, the Council felt, in response to a Commission communication, that the principles for action at Community and national level should be updated and agreed on a resolution on a Community Strategy for Waste Management. It also reached agreement on the regulation on the supervision and control of shipments of waste within, into and out of the European Community which will ensure that the Community is consistent with its international commitments regarding the ban on exporting

dangerous waste. These provisions will be supplemented by the regulation laying down rules and procedures applicable to transfer of waste to non-OECD countries, the proposal for which is currently under consideration. Lastly, the Council adopted the directive on the disposal of PCB and PCT.

Finally, it should be noted that Parliament rejected the common position adopted in 1995 on the proposal for a directive on the landfill of waste.

With regard to air pollution, the Council adopted the directive on ambient air quality assessment and management and reached agreement with a view to adopting the decision establishing an exchange of information on ambient air pollution which will ultimately provide the Community with detailed information on each pollutant and with observation mechanisms. The directive on measures against the emission of gaseous (CO, NO<sub>x</sub>, hydrocarbons) and particulate pollutants from internal combustion engines to be installed in non-road mobile machinery, in respect of which the Council has just adopted its common position, will also contribute towards a reduction in air pollution.

Recognising the responsibility which transport bears for air pollution, the Council began, as part of an open debate, to study the proposals for directives submitted relating to the future strategy for the control of atmospheric emissions from road transport, taking into account the results of the 'Auto-oil' programme (relating respectively to the quality of petrol and diesel fuels and measures to be taken against air pollution by emissions from motor vehicles). The two-stage approach proposed will provide a medium- and long-term framework for the industry. In the same area and also contributing to the strategy on climate change, conclusions were adopted on the Community strategy to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from passenger cars by reducing average fuel consumption. The conclusions will serve as a basis for the negotiations to be held by the Commission with industry with the aim of achieving voluntary agreements.

As regards water, the Council began studying the proposal for a directive on the quality of water intended for human consumption, the aim of which is to limit the parameters to be taken into account to those which are essential for the protection of health and to amend certain limit values (e.g. lead). In response to a Commission communication on Community water policy, the Council asked the Commission to submit a framework directive on water resources. In view of the role of wetlands in the protection both of hydrological resources and of flora and fauna, the Council held an open debate on the subject and also adopted conclusions on wiser use and management of wetlands.

With regard to fauna and flora, after five years of discussions the Council adopted a regulation on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora which will allow the Community to go further than the Washington Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). The Council also made progress on the proposal for a recommendation relating to the keeping of wild animals in zoos. Work continued on a proposal for a regulation to adjust the rules for implementing import restrictions, as laid down in the above regulation, following the negotiation of the framework agreement on trapping standards.

## P. Energy

This year, an important step was taken towards establishing an internal market in energy with the adoption, following several years' discussions, of a directive concerning common rules for the internal market in electricity and the adoption of conclusions concerning common rules for the internal market in natural gas.

The Council adopted, via the co-decision procedure with the European Parliament, the decisions needed to implement trans-European electricity and natural gas networks.

The Council continued its activity in the area of energy efficiency by adopting a decision concerning a multi-annual programme for the promotion of energy efficiency in the Community (SAVE II) and a directive on energy-efficiency requirements for household refrigeration appliances.

The Council also considered all aspects of European Union energy policy on the basis of the Commission White Paper and adopted a resolution. It also adopted conclusions on the energy dimension of climate change. Additionally, it studied more specifically the supply of gas and the situation regarding oil supplies, refining and markets, which also were the subject of conclusions.

In the field of nuclear energy, an important step was taken when the Council adopted the directive laying down basic standards for protection against ionising radiation, which is a central plank in Community legislation.

Finally, the Council made progress in simplifying Community law in the field of energy.

In the field of external relations with regard to energy, action centred on the Euro-Mediterranean partnership in the energy sector with the adoption of conclusions; on the Energy Charter, with political agreement in December 1996 on the conclusion of the Energy Charter Treaty and the Energy Charter Protocol on energy efficiency and related environmental aspects; and on the labelling of energy-efficient office equipment with the adoption of a negotiating mandate to coordinate the relevant programmes of Japan, the United States and the Community.

The European Atomic Energy Community's international relations were strengthened by the adoption of a decision approving the signing by the Commission of a nuclear cooperation agreement with Argentina and of a negotiating mandate with a view to the accession of Euratom to the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organisation (KEDO).

## Q. Civil protection

Work in this area focused on the examination of a proposal for a decision establishing a Community civil protection action programme designed to strengthen Community cooperation through training, information and prevention actions, and two resolutions covering, respectively, the strengthening of Community cooperation in the field of research and Community civil protection cooperation with the CCEE. Owing to objections of principle, linked *inter alia* to a preference for an intergovernmental rather than a Community approach, the Council was not able to achieve the unanimity needed to adopt these texts.

## R. Justice and home affairs

The year 1996 was marked by the resolution of a number of institutional questions of principle such as the determination of the powers of the Court of Justice of the European Communities to apply and interpret three conventions and the setting up of four multiannual financing programmes, accompanied by a specific decision-making procedure.

The Council was also concerned to ensure the transparency of its proceedings on the basis of its 1995 decision to publish in the Official Journal acts and other texts adopted on asylum and immigration matters.

As the Madrid European Council on 15 and 16 December 1995 had asked it to focus its future activities in the field of justice and home affairs on programmed priority areas, the Council adopted a resolution laying down the priorities for cooperation for the period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1998. The work carried out in 1996, as the following detailed accounts demonstrate, was organised around these priorities.

Leaving aside the number and variety of the legal instruments to which it had recourse, the Council

adopted general texts of vital importance (see, for example, the Convention on Extradition) and also specific texts on certain serious categories of crime (five joint actions and five resolutions on combating drugs, four joint actions on combating trafficking in human beings and the sexual exploitation of children, etc.) (see Annex 2).

In accordance with established tradition, the Italian and Irish Presidents of the Council both held meetings with the European Parliament committees responsible for third-pillar issues; in particular, seven meetings were held with the Committee on Civil Liberties and Internal Affairs and the Legal Affairs Committee. The Irish Presidency took part in the debate which the European Parliament organised on progress made in Title VI areas, as specified in the third paragraph of Article K.6 of the TEU.

With regard to the financing of Title VI activities, the Council adopted a decision allocating the appropriations carried over from 1995 (ECU 1 369 000) to cooperative measures with States engaged in a structured dialogue with the European Union and with Latin America, including the Caribbean, to combat drugs, thus enabling 31 projects to be selected in this context. On the basis of the 1996 budget, the Council adopted the Sherlock programme (training, exchange and cooperation programmes in the field of identity documents) and the Grotius programme (promotion of exchanges aimed at legal practitioners), which had been submitted by the Commission, an incentive and exchange programme for persons responsible for combating trade in human beings and the sexual exploitation of children ('STOP'), which had been submitted by Belgium, and a programme for the exchange and training of, and cooperation between, law enforcement authorities ('OISIN'), which had been submitted by the Irish Presidency.

The growing volume of activities in Title VI-related areas, the worldwide interconnection of criminal activity and the cooperation agreements concluded by the Community or the Community and its Member States with an

increasing number of countries were mirrored in the activities in regard to non-member countries.

Priority was given to relations with the CCEE, Cyprus and Malta. Two ministerial meetings were held in the framework of the structured dialogue, with a programme being agreed for the next few years and a number of questions addressed. For the second half of 1996, the drugs question was designated a priority. Meetings were held with CCEE experts on the topics of organised crime and measures to combat drugs (money laundering). The Commission prepared a factual information document on the drugs issue. Ministers adopted a series of practical measures covering especially the field of precursors, controlled deliveries and synthetic drugs, and also addressed questions related to judicial cooperation, especially witness protection and the implementation of the action programme of Member States of the European Union and the CCEE on judicial cooperation in the fight against organised crime. Ministers also discussed how to enhance cooperation with a view to fighting against trafficking in human beings. In the meantime, cooperation in the fields of immigration/asylum continued.

The implementation of the transatlantic action plan started in 1996 with two high-level meetings and an increasing number of meetings of a specialised nature between US and EU experts, e.g. meetings of experts on asylum and immigration-related matters, drugs and organised crime. The US was involved in the elaboration and implementation of recommendations on the Caribbean.

The meeting of drugs and organised-crime experts from the European Union with their Mediterranean counterparts in June in Taormina was the first step in the implementation of the Barcelona Declaration. At the meeting, guidelines for future work were discussed.

In cooperation with the Russian Government, the Irish Presidency and the Finnish Ministry of the Interior organised a conference in Helsinki on 'measures aimed at combating organised

crime within the European Union and the Russian Federation and their mutual impact'. Pursuant to the conclusions of the Florence European Council in June 1996, as well as the 1996 action plan for future relations with Russia, the conference sought to identify and define future areas of potential cooperation between Member States' and Russian authorities in the fight against organised crime.

The Italian Presidency organised a high-level meeting in Rome of experts from the Andean States and the European Union, which was the first follow-up to the joint declaration agreed in September 1995 between the Member States of the European Union, the Commission and the Ministers of the Andean Pact States. It was considered that cooperation needed to be intensified, especially in regard to police cooperation and money laundering.

An increasing number of representatives of non-member countries took part in seminars on matters of interest to them which came within the framework of Title VI activities.

### a) Asylum and immigration

In the interests of ensuring appropriate conditions for the reception of asylum applicants and in order to avoid distortions within the Union, the Council continued its discussions with a view to reaching agreement on a recommendation on conditions for the reception of asylum seekers, but it was not possible to reach agreement in 1996.

As regards the interpretation of Article 1A of the Geneva Convention on refugee status, a joint position on the harmonised application of the definition of the term 'refugee' was drawn up.

The importance of the problems of illegal immigration and illegal employment prompted Member States to take countermeasures. In order to ensure a comparable level throughout the Union and thus avoid distortions between Member States, the Council adopted a



recommendation on harmonising means of combating illegal immigration and illegal employment and improving the relevant means of control, and also a recommendation on combating illegal employment of nationals of third states.

As the integration of persons residing legally in a Member State of the Union remains one of the main objectives of immigration policy, the Council adopted a resolution on the status of third-country nationals residing on a long-term basis in the territory of the Member States. This resolution aims, among other things, at greater stability and security both in daily life and in work for the persons concerned.

The Council, anxious that the texts which it had adopted regarding admission of third-country nationals should be effectively applied in all Member States, adopted, towards the end of 1995, a decision on monitoring those texts. The implementation of this decision began in 1996.

After adopting in 1995 a resolution on burden-sharing, the Council took a decision on an alert and emergency procedure for burden-sharing with regard to the admission and residence of displaced persons on a temporary basis. This decision aims at ensuring that the above resolution is implemented without delay.

With the aim of maintaining at a relatively low level the number of persons residing illegally in a Member State of the Union and who should be expelled, the Council adopted a recommendation on concerted action and cooperation in carrying out expulsion measures.

The readmission of persons who, for one reason or another, cannot be admitted into the Union, remains a major problem of immigration policy, since a substantial number of third countries of origin are not readmitting their own nationals. The Council felt that it was necessary to provide on a case-by-case basis for readmission clauses in future mixed agreements and approved conclusions concerning readmission clauses to be inserted in such agreements, laying down standard clauses for that purpose.

Each Member State has a large number of residence permits which often differ greatly from one another. This also makes it difficult to guarantee the security of these documents and makes it much easier to forge them or to produce false documents. To remedy this the Council adopted a joint action on a uniform format for residence permits, based on the uniform format for visas decided on in Council Regulation (EC) No 1683/95.

Work on the draft convention on the crossing of external frontiers progressed significantly during the first half of the year through the conclusion of an agreement on most of the technical questions outstanding. This decisive step forward towards an overall agreement served to crystallise three political issues: the procedure for adopting implementing measures (very encouraging efforts were recorded), the question of the powers of the Court of Justice and the traditional problem of territorial application remain to be settled before this instrument can be concluded.

Noting that many people arrive in the Union without having the permits and documents required, the Council adopted a joint position on pre-frontier assistance and training assignments. The basic objective of the joint position is to assist local officials responsible for checks on behalf of either local authorities or airlines.

Exchanges of information on asylum and immigration respectively continued within CIREA and Cirefi. Cirefi and CIREA undertook an assessment of their activities and working methods with the aim of giving further thought to their working methods, the better to achieve the objectives assigned to them. The two bodies kept up their contacts with third countries, in particular with the CCEE in the context of the structured dialogue and with experts from the United States in the context of the transatlantic dialogue.

The Council adopted a joint action on airport transit arrangements which makes a transit visa compulsory for nationals of countries on the list annexed thereto. It also adopted a

recommendation on consular cooperation regarding visas, which constitutes a practical continuation of the common visa policy as embodied in the regulation on the common list of third countries whose nationals must be in possession of visas, and in the regulation on the uniform format for visas, both adopted in 1995. Since the latter regulation requires certain practical uniform arrangements, the K.4 Committee noted that agreement had been reached on the practical arrangements for completing the uniform format for visas.

The exchange of technical information and the development of mechanisms and tools for cooperation in combating illegal immigration were continued and, in particular, a coded reference system to alleviate the language problems encountered by European specialists in document falsification and a guide to the detection of false and falsified documents for officials carrying out checks at frontiers were drawn up. A handbook of genuine documents of the Member States of the European Union, intended for the same officials, is also being finalised. The Council also adopted, on a proposal from the Commission, a joint action introducing a programme of training, exchanges and cooperation in the field of identity documents, known as the Sherlock programme.

Acting on instructions from the Council, a draft convention establishing the Eurodac system for the collection, storage, exchange and comparison of fingerprints of asylum applicants was drawn up by the Italian Presidency in March 1996. This draft has been the subject of detailed scrutiny which will continue over the coming months.

## **b) Police and customs cooperation**

### **i) Spheres of action**

In 1996, a considerable proportion of the activities covered by Title VI was devoted to the fight against drugs, as part of an integrated approach covering the three pillars. The increased importance of this area reflects the increased

problem throughout the Community and the acknowledged seriousness of the drugs problem, as demonstrated only too clearly by the continued emphasis of successive European Councils. During 1996, the relevant bodies actively started to implement the 66 measures mentioned in the report of the group of experts on drugs approved by the Madrid European Council. As stated in the report to the Dublin European Council, substantial progress has been made, especially in activities covered by Title VI.

In this context an ambitious global programme was launched, with the main focus on several actions in the field of law enforcement. Emphasis was also put on actions relating to intervention at external frontiers and a joint action on cooperation between customs authorities and business organisations and a resolution on drawing up police/customs agreements on combating drug trafficking were decided on. Further to the conclusions of the Madrid and Florence European Councils, work began on improving cooperation with Latin America and the Caribbean on the fight against drugs.

In terms of intra-EU actions, progress was achieved with the resolution and report on the prevention and detection of illicit cultivation and production as well as a resolution and report on drugs tourism. The fight against drugs also led to measures in the field of judicial cooperation, including in particular the resolution on sentencing for serious drug trafficking, and in the area of money laundering. The Council also adopted a joint action on the approximation of legislation and practices between Member States of the European Union with a view to tackling drug addiction and preventing and combating drug trafficking.

In addition to the decisions taken with regard to combating drug trafficking, a number of measures designed to increase the effectiveness of the fight against crime were adopted in 1996, with regard both to police and judicial cooperation. Thus, the Council adopted a statement on organised crime which reaffirms its determination to combat it and sets out a series of proposals for that purpose.

On the basis of the conclusions of the 1995 report on organised crime in the European Union and the work of the K.4 Committee, the Council held a detailed debate on ways of stepping up the campaign against organised crime. As a result of the debate, the Presidency sent the European Council a report containing proposals to that effect.

The Council bodies assessed the internal and external threats posed by terrorism to the European Union. The Council adopted a joint action relating to the creation and maintenance of a directory of skills and expertise related to combating terrorism intended to facilitate anti-terrorist cooperation between European Union Member States.

On the basis of the arrangements concluded in December 1995 for the exchange of operational information in this area, seminars were held on recent trends in Islamic extremism and on the use of telematic networks and of improvised weaponry by terrorist groups.

The Council discussed the question of work carried out at Union level on crime prevention with a view to undertaking further action, if necessary. A seminar on crime prevention, funded by the European Community, was organised.

Various seminars were held to provide appropriate responses to the serious and complex problem of urban violence in cities. The conclusions of these seminars should make it possible to finalise a series of measures to combat the phenomenon of urban violence.

Following the seminar on violence in sport in the run-up to the European football championship, the Council adopted a recommendation on guidelines for preventing and restraining disorder connected with football matches. Another seminar was held on violence in sport in order to have a detailed review of the measures taken during the European football championship held in the United Kingdom and to draw up a list of measures to be taken in preparation for the 1998 World Cup, which is to take place in France.

## ii) Police cooperation

Following the agreement reached at the European Council in Florence, the signing of the protocol on the role of the Court of Justice represented an important contribution to the rapid entry into force of the Europol Convention. Preparatory work for the effective start of Europol was actively pursued in 1996. The Council noted that there was agreement in principle on the financial regulation and on the regulation on the rights and obligations of liaison officers. Guiding principles on the regulation on secrecy and a considerable number of provisions relating to the staff regulations of officials, rules relating to the analysis of files and guidelines for the computer system were adopted during the year.

At the same time, the EDU, predecessor of Europol, progressively increased its activities. Its mandate was extended to include trafficking in human beings. Exchange of information between Member States through the ELO is the main activity of the EDU. The third-pillar bodies have regularly followed these proceedings and the issue papers produced by the EDU.

In the context of police training, the main questions examined were the following: the training of police officers for peace-keeping missions, criteria for the training of law-enforcement officers, assistance to the police of the countries of central and eastern Europe and the possibilities for European Union participation in existing police academies.

It was agreed that particular attention should be given to the organisation of joint training programmes for officials from law enforcement agencies. There will be an exchange of information about the organisation of these programmes in the framework of the implementation of the joint action concerning the creation and maintenance of a directory of specialised competences, skills and expertise in the fight against international organised crime, in order to facilitate law enforcement cooperation between the Member States of the European Union.

A seminar on police/customs cooperation was held, which was attended, *inter alia*, by representatives from the CCEE and the USA.

The Council decided to publish its resolution of 17 January 1995 on lawful interception of telecommunications in the Official Journal. Work continued on the legal and technical issues in relation to the interception of new personal satellite telecommunication systems and on the question of the signing by interested non-EU States of the memorandum of understanding on lawful interception of telecommunications.

Progress has been maintained in the examination of the standardisation of police radio communication systems and of cooperation in the field of forensic and technical policing covering areas such as drugs and counterfeit banknote recognition systems.

The Council adopted a joint action concerning the exchange of information on the chemical profiling of drugs to facilitate improved cooperation between Member States in combating drug trafficking. Furthermore, a drug purity indicator system was approved.

### iii) Customs cooperation

Following the conclusions of the European Council in Florence, a protocol on the interpretation, by way of preliminary rulings, by the Court of Justice of the Convention on the Use of Information Technology for Customs Purposes was drawn up and signed by the Member States. The system provided for in the protocol is similar to that adopted by the Council in the protocol on the interpretation, by way of preliminary rulings, by the Court of Justice of the Europol Convention.

Examination of the draft 'Customs 2000' joint action also continued.

Work on the draft convention on mutual assistance between customs administrations (Naples II) concentrated on the review of the current 1967 convention, known as the Naples

Convention. Some questions are still outstanding but compromises have been reached on a number of issues.

The Council also approved the organisation of joint customs surveillance operations at the external frontiers of the Union for the year 1996. It also approved revised arrangements for future joint customs surveillance operations at external frontiers, replacing the existing practice of approvals on an annual basis and providing for future operations to be carried out more efficiently. Genuine progress has also been made on checks on containers. A joint action concerning participation by the Member States in the strategic operation planned by the Customs Cooperation Council to combat drug smuggling on the Balkan route is ready for adoption.

In order to consolidate the already cooperative relationship between the customs authorities of the Member States and business organisations operating in the European Union, the Council adopted a joint action to promote cooperation between customs and business organisations in combating drug trafficking.

The Council adopted measures to increase cooperation between the customs administrations of the Member States in order to fight against counterfeits. These measures can be regarded as complementary to Regulation (EC) No 3295/94 of 22 December 1994 laying down measures to prohibit the release for free circulation, export, re-export or entry for a suspensive procedure of counterfeit and pirated goods.

## c) Judicial cooperation

In order to foster mutual knowledge of legal and judicial systems and facilitate judicial cooperation between Member States, the Council adopted two important instruments: a joint action concerning a framework for the exchange of liaison magistrates and a joint action establishing a multiannual programme (five years) of financing through the Community budget (ECU 9 million, of which ECU 800 000 was for 1996)

for exchanges, training meetings and studies for legal practitioners (judges, contact/liaison magistrates, lawyers, civil servants, etc.) (Grotius programme).

i) Judicial cooperation in criminal matters

Following the conclusion in 1995 of the convention concerning the simplified extradition procedure between the Member States of the European Union, the Council established a convention on 27 September 1996 relating to extradition between the Member States of the European Union. On the same day, all Member States signed the convention in Dublin. The conclusion of this second convention is an important step in the strengthening of judicial cooperation in criminal matters between the Member States. It is a response to the call of the European Council in Brussels in October 1993 which voiced a concern that the creation of an area without frontiers should not take place to the detriment of the security of the European citizen. As a result of systematic and organised cooperation between Member States, the convention considerably enlarges the number of cases liable to lead to extradition.

The Council adopted the explanatory report on the convention relating to the simplified extradition procedure between the Member States of the European Union, adopted last year.

Following the Vienna and Stockholm conferences on trafficking in women and the sexual exploitation of children respectively, and the tragic events in Belgium and other Member States involving the abuse of children, four initiatives were taken to combat trafficking in human beings and sexual exploitation of children.

The Council approved joint actions on extension of the mandate of the Europol Drugs Unit to cover trafficking in human beings, establishment of a programme of encouragement for exchange and training of persons responsible for dealing with trafficking in human beings (sexual trafficking of persons, 'STOP'), creation of directories of centres of excellence to combat

all forms of crime within the mandate of the EDU focusing, *inter alia*, on trafficking in human beings, a common approach to the definition of the concepts of trafficking in human beings and the sexual exploitation of children and adults and measures to enhance the position of the victims of such offences and improved judicial cooperation at international level. The Ministers for Justice and Home Affairs agreed that these measures represented a major improvement in combating this form of crime. Ministers discussed a range of other measures which might be adopted to strengthen the instruments politically agreed to with a view to responding further in a concrete and practical way to the concerns of the people of Europe.

The European Council in Florence reaffirmed the Union's determination to combat racism and xenophobia with the utmost resolve and approved the principle underlying the establishment of a European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia. Taking into account the conclusions of the European Council (Cannes, June 1995) and the report of the Consultative Commission on Racism and Xenophobia, a joint action was drawn up with a view to facilitating judicial cooperation in the fight against racism and xenophobia and agreement was reached on a common understanding of how to define offences with a racist content. In addition, the Council and the representatives of the governments of the Member States meeting within the Council adopted a resolution on the European Year against Racism (1997), the objectives of which are, on the one hand, to highlight the threat posed by racism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism and respect fundamental rights and economic and social cohesion and, on the other, to promote the exchange of experience and disseminate information on good practice and effective strategies. In its conclusions on racism and xenophobia, the European Council in Dublin asked the Council to complete its work with the aim of creating in the near future a European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia which would cooperate closely with the Council of Europe.

The first protocol to the Convention on the Protection of the European Communities' Financial Interests was drawn up by the Council and signed by the representatives of the Member States on 27 September. It is aimed more particularly at corruption which harms the Communities' financial interests, and was amplified by a protocol on the interpretation of the convention by way of preliminary rulings by the Court of Justice of the European Communities, drawn up and signed by the Member States on 29 November 1996. In addition, a draft second protocol to the convention is under consideration, dealing in particular with the liability of legal persons, confiscation and laundering, and with mutual assistance.

A draft convention on the fight against corruption involving officials of the European Communities or officials of Member States of the European Union was sent to the Council by the Italian Presidency, on the basis of the first protocol to the Convention on the Protection of the European Communities' Financial Interests, mentioned above. The draft convention is, however, wider in scope than the protocol as it covers active and passive corruption also in cases where the European Communities' financial interests are not involved. A draft convention on mutual assistance in criminal matters between the Member States of the European Union is currently being prepared in Council bodies.

Work continued during 1996 on the draft convention on driving disqualifications.

Lastly, the Council adopted resolutions on sentencing for serious drug trafficking and on individuals who cooperate with the judicial process in the fight against international organised crime. It also adopted a joint action putting into legal form the undertakings given by the governments of the Member States as

regards the approximation of their laws and practices on the fight against drug addiction and illegal drug trafficking, penalties, combating synthetic drugs, greater operational cooperation on the illicit cultivation of drugs, drug tourism, etc.

### iii) Judicial cooperation on civil matters

The Council gave instructions that work should continue with the aim of reaching subsequent agreement on the draft convention on the simplification of the service of judicial and extra-judicial documents.

Work continued on the draft convention on jurisdiction, recognition and enforcement of judgments in matrimonial matters and the exercise of parental authority over the children of the couple on dissolution of marriage ('Brussels II' convention). Further work will be facilitated in the future as the Convention on the Protection of Children was signed in The Hague on 19 October 1996, under the auspices of the Hague Conference. During the negotiations which were held in The Hague, the Member States obtained the insertion of a disconnection clause in the Hague Convention, which guarantees the possibility of laying down rules which go further in the draft 'Brussels II' convention.

The Member States signed the convention on the accession of Austria, Finland and Sweden to the 1968 Brussels Convention on jurisdiction, recognition and enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters, and to the protocol on its interpretation by the Court of Justice, with the adjustments made thereto by subsequent accession conventions, and the convention relating to the accession of Austria, Finland and Sweden to the 1980 Rome Convention on the Law applicable to Contractual Obligations, and to the protocols on its interpretation by the Court of Justice, with the adjustments made thereto by subsequent accession conventions.

## IV. External policies

### A. Common foreign and security policy (CFSP)

The year 1996 saw a continuation of organisational improvements to the common foreign and security policy (CFSP) with, on the one hand, the adoption of measures to intensify cooperation between the institutions of the European Union and those of the Western European Union (WEU), particularly with a view to increasing its overall efficiency and, secondly, establishment of guidelines on the procedure for appointing European Union special envoys under the CFSP. The procedure has been used to appoint three special envoys: for Mostar, the Great Lakes region and the Middle East peace process.

In terms of activities, 19 joint actions were decided on (two of them to supplement and four to amend actions undertaken the year before or even, in the case of dual-use goods, since 1994). Ten common positions were adopted, two of them supplementing or extending positions determined in 1995. The Council also adopted, for the first time, decisions under Article J.4(2) of the Treaty on European Union (TEU), one relating to evacuation operations for nationals of the Member States with the help of the WEU and the other on use of the WEU to implement the Union's joint action in the Great Lakes region (see Annex 3).

Modernisation of the communications system (Cortesy) linking the Ministries of Foreign Affairs in the Member States with the Permanent Representations, the Commission and the Council Secretariat in Brussels continued.

The Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the Member States and the Commission signed a memorandum of understanding on the co-location of diplomatic and consular missions: already several Member States are taking part in co-location projects, such as those in Minsk

(Belarus) or Almaty (Kazakhstan), and are examining other projects, in particular the joint building of an embassy complex in the new capital of Nigeria (Abuja). On that basis, the Council adopted a decision on the common position on the possible co-location of diplomatic missions.

#### a) Human rights

In 1996, the European Union continued to give an important place to respect for democratic principles and human rights and adopted many initiatives, both on behalf of citizens and in the external relations sphere.

In its relations with third countries, in the light of persistent serious breaches of human rights in many countries, the Union continued to act by making some 80 representations and around 35 declarations condemning such practices and violations. In some cases, those responses were combined with measures such as amendment of the content of cooperation programmes, postponement of signings required for the implementation of agreements or cooperation programmes and even suspension of cooperation, while seeing to it that the population of the country concerned, in particular the poorest sections, did not suffer as a result. In accordance with the Council conclusions of 1995 on human rights in Community agreements with third countries, the Commission used the financial instruments entered in the Community budget entitled: 'European initiative for democracy and the protection of human rights' to help strengthen the rule of law, the process of democratic transition and civil society, both in developing countries and the countries of central Europe and the independent States of the former Soviet Union. It adopted a report on the implementation of these actions for 1995, which offers an overall view of the aims and priorities in view.

The importance which the Union attaches to respect for democratic principles and human

rights was also shown in its contribution to the work of international organisations and forums, in particular the United Nations General Assembly and Commission on Human Rights, the Conference on the Human Dimension of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Council of Europe, as well as the World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children held in Stockholm.

### **b) Diplomatic and consular protection**

Under the provisions of the Treaty relating to European citizenship, the representatives of the governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, adopted a decision on the establishment of an emergency travel document whereby a national of a Member State which is not represented in the third country in which he finds himself – and whose passport or travel document has been lost, stolen or destroyed or is temporarily unavailable – may be issued with an emergency document valid for a single journey by the representation of another Member State, with the authorisation of his Member State of origin. In addition, on the basis of a 1995 decision regarding protection for citizens of the Union by diplomatic and consular representations, an information brochure is being prepared to inform citizens of the Union of consular protection measures from which they may now benefit in third countries.

The Council adopted a decision relating to operations to evacuate nationals of Member States when their safety is endangered in a third country, which allows the Council, when it decides on such an operation, to have recourse to the WEU.

Exchanges of information continued in the Council on abductions of children, the situation in prisons in certain third countries and on joint updating of national advice on travel in certain 'risk countries'. Representations were made on behalf of the Union to third countries regarding abductions of children and the situation of

European prisoners held in harsh conditions in some of these countries.

### **c) Political dialogue**

Political dialogue was intensified and extended with the aim of explaining the Union's objectives to third countries and sharing these objectives with them.

At the end of 1996, the Union was holding institutionalised political dialogues with the following countries or regional organisations:

- Europe ('structured' dialogue with the associated countries Albania, Russia, Turkey, Ukraine, EFTA/EEA);
- North America (United States and Canada);
- Latin America (Rio and San José Groups, Mercosur and Chile);
- Asia-Pacific region (ASEAN, China, South Korea, India, Japan, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Australia, New Zealand);
- Gulf/Middle East (GCC, Israel);
- Africa (OAU, SADC);
- Non-aligned movement.

Political dialogue also figures on the agenda of Cooperation Councils with other countries, e.g. Egypt, Morocco, and Tunisia.

### **d) International organisations and conferences**

#### **i) United Nations**

At the 51st United Nations General Assembly the President-in-Office of the Council stressed the active support given by the Union for the maintenance of peace and international security and its commitment to the organisation – in particular to its structural and financial reform process.



The Union repeatedly pointed out that under the United Nations Charter all Member States were obliged to discharge their arrears and pay their assessed contributions to the regular and peace-keeping budgets in full, promptly and without conditions. The Union also emphasised that the Member States of the Union – whose contributions accounted for more than 35 % of the regular budget and more than 37 % of the peace-keeping budget – had always honoured that commitment and that it was therefore up to all the Member States of the organisation to follow that example in order to resolve its current financial crisis.

In the context of financial reforms intended to guarantee the long-term stability of the United Nations in this area, the Union also submitted a series of proposals designed to achieve a comprehensive reform of finances, including adjustment of the scales for assessed contributions to achieve a more realistic reflection of each UN Member State's ability to pay. As regards on-going modernisation of the structures and working methods of United Nations institutions, the Union launched an appeal for a revitalised organisation which would respond more effectively to new needs, formulating proposals and specific commitments to strengthen and revitalise the effectiveness of United Nations activities in the economic and social spheres.

At the World Food Summit which took place in Rome from 13 to 17 November 1996, which the European Union prepared very assiduously, the President-in-Office of the Council emphasised that a political, social, and economic environment of peace and stability was an essential precondition for States to give priority to food security and to combating poverty. Respect for human rights and basic freedoms is inseparable from such a political environment. In addition to a democratic political system, a transparent and effective legal system, and transparent and accountable government and administration, appropriate participation of all members of the population in decisions concerning their food security must also be guaranteed.

## ii) OSCE

The activities of the OSCE culminated in the holding of the Lisbon Summit attended by Heads of State or Government and Ministers for Foreign Affairs of 54 States (including the Presidency on behalf of the Union) participating in the OSCE (participation of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia being currently suspended), representatives of OSCE partner countries in cooperation (Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Morocco and Tunisia) and representatives of United Nations organisations and international organisations active in areas covered by the OSCE. *Inter alia*, the summit adopted the Lisbon Declaration and a declaration on a security model for the 21st century. The Union took an active part in the review meeting and the Summit in order to help reinforce the role of the OSCE in the security architecture and improve the effectiveness of the organisation.

As regards implementation of the decisions of the 1995 Budapest ministerial meeting, the Union took an active part in the weekly proceedings of the OSCE Permanent Council in Vienna, whose agenda was largely dominated by the problems of former Yugoslavia and – in special meetings – by discussions on the security model, and the work of the Senior Council of the OSCE, meeting in Prague in March. In order to contribute to the strengthening of collective security in Europe on the basis of OSCE principles, the Union made a major contribution to the drawing up of a common and comprehensive security model for Europe in the 21st century. As part of preventive diplomacy and peace-keeping, the Union supported OSCE missions in the countries concerned. It gave its support to the OSCE Assistance Group in Chechnya and the mission by Mr Felipe González, representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, relating to local elections in Serbia.

The Union also assisted the OSCE in the tasks entrusted to it pursuant to the Paris agreements on peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina by adopting a joint action providing for the sending of 505 Union supervisors in the context of

operations to oversee the elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina supervised by the OSCE.

Finally, the Union submitted contributions to the various meetings and seminars organised by the OSCE throughout the year on human and economic questions, in particular on the occasion of the fourth economic forum devoted to the economic aspects of security and the role of the OSCE.

### iii) Council of Europe

The year 1996 was marked by two initiatives designed to intensify cooperation with the Council of Europe: the conclusion of an exchange of letters between the Commission and the Council of Europe, which supplements the 1987 arrangement on cooperation between the European Community and the Council of Europe, and the adoption by the Council and the Commission of common conclusions on detailed arrangements for cooperation between the European Union and the Council of Europe.

Cooperation with the Council of Europe in sectors concerning its activities will embrace all the areas covered by the Treaties, including Titles V and VI of the Treaty on European Union, particular attention being given to the fields of education and culture and to any other field that may from time to time be identified by common agreement.

At political level, the eighth quadripartite meeting took place between the Council and Commission, on the one hand, and the Chairman of the Committee of Ministers and the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe, on the other, with a view to strengthening cooperation with the Council of Europe.

### iv) Regional cooperation in the Baltic Sea region

The European Union stepped up cooperation with the Baltic Sea region and is playing an increasingly important role in the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS), which is an important

forum for contacts between the Union, the Baltic States, Poland and Russia. The Presidents of the Commission and of the Council took part in the Visby Summit, in May 1996, at which the Commission submitted a document entitled 'Baltic Sea region initiative', stressing the need for intensified coordinated action in the region. The Visby Declaration and the action programme which were adopted by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the 11 Member States of the CBSS at the meeting in Kalmar in July 1996, set out the broad outlines of regional cooperation. The Commission chaired the CBSS working party on economic cooperation. A good example of the intensification of cooperation is the work being carried out in the task force on organised crime – comprising the personal representatives of the Prime Ministers – in which the Commission also takes an active part. The transfrontier programme for the Baltic region is administered and coordinated by the Baltic Coordination Committee, the members of which are the Commission, and the countries of the Baltic region including Russia.

### v) Regional initiatives in south-eastern Europe

Throughout 1996 the Union was engaged in implementing the intentions stated in the declaration on stability and good-neighbourly relations in south-eastern Europe adopted at Royaumont in 1995 by ministers from 30 countries on the Union's initiative in the margins of the Paris Conference on peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, based on the procedure followed for the introduction of the Stability Pact in 1995. Hence, follow-up meetings of countries present at Royaumont were organised.

The Union also supported the south-eastern Europe cooperative initiative, launched by the United States, with the purpose of enhancing regional stability through the development of economic and environmental cooperation.

On the basis of a Commission report on the prospects for the development of regional cooperation and what the Community could do to foster such cooperation, the Council defined

a regional approach principally directed towards those countries in the region for which the Council has not adopted negotiating directives with a view to an association agreement and which makes the establishment of closer ties between the Union and these developing countries dependent on the development of cooperation between the latter. Visits at ministerial level were made by the Presidency and the Commission to four of the five countries concerned with the aim of explaining this regional approach. The Council backed the Commission report on common principles for future contractual relations with certain countries in south-eastern Europe and felt it should serve as a basis for defining the Union's future relations with the region, placing particular emphasis on conditionality and, where applicable, on full compliance with the provisions of the Dayton/Paris Peace Agreements, the Basic Agreement (Erdut) and the obligation of these States under international law to re-admit their citizens.

Hence, the development of the contractual relations which the Union wishes to set up with each of these countries is linked to the progress they make in establishing cooperation among themselves. The Commission was asked to identify, along with the countries concerned, the type of contractual relations which could be established with the Union.

## e) Security

Discussion continued on the European security architecture with the aim of strengthening peace, stability and security throughout the continent and ensuring that, with that end in view, the institutions with responsibility for security are mutually reinforcing. In this connection the involvement of the CCEE and other associated countries with CFSP activities, including security matters, is also a factor making for their integration into that new architecture. The Union's active contribution to the OSCE exercise on a common and comprehensive security model for Europe in the 21st century pursues the same objective.

Throughout the year Member States engaged in regular consultation in order to ensure consistency and unity in the presentation of their positions and in the conduct of Union activities on the international stage. Thus, in the various international bodies and conferences on disarmament and non-proliferation, the Union was usually able to submit a position, which made it easier to achieve its objectives.

The conference to review the 1980 Convention on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons, commonly referred to as 'inhuman' weapons, which was suspended at the end of September 1995, concluded in May 1996, with results which partially met the Union's objectives, to the extent that an additional protocol was adopted banning blinding lasers, the scope of Protocol II (on mines) was extended and measures to restrict and prohibit the use and transfer of mines were strengthened.

The Council adopted a further joint action which includes not only political and diplomatic aspects, along the lines of the first joint action of May 1995, but also arrangements for assistance in mine clearance. This new action reflects the Union's commitment to the final objective of total elimination of anti-personnel mines. A further contribution by the Union of ECU 7 million to the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund may be followed by other specific actions which it might call on the WEU to help implement.

The Council also adopted a decision supplementing its 1995 decision on anti-personnel mines by providing, as part of the Union's contribution to the implementation of the agreements signed in Paris in December 1995, for emergency aid of ECU 3.6 million to the United Nations Fund for Assistance in Mine Clearance in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in Croatia. The Council adopted a common position concerning preparation for the Fourth Review Conference of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention, which aims to promote universal application of the convention and to reinforce it by encouraging, *inter alia*, the adoption of legally binding and effective verification arrangements.

As a further contribution to non-proliferation, the Council adopted a joint action on participation of the European Union in the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organisation (KEDO), whereby KEDO was granted a financial contribution of ECU 5 million for 1996. The Council also approved negotiating directives, on the basis of which the Commission is conducting negotiations with the founder members of KEDO with the aim of achieving the conditions for participation by Euratom in this undertaking, the purpose of which is to find an overall solution to the issue of nuclear proliferation in the Korean peninsula by the installation of appropriate nuclear reactors.

Particular importance was attached to the development of working relations between the Union and the WEU under the current Treaty provisions. The Council adopted the two abovementioned decisions in which the Union, in accordance with Article J.4(2), calls on the WEU to elaborate and implement actions which have defence implications in the sense that they involve the use of military means. In addition, a number of practical arrangements were adopted to reinforce the working links between the two organisations which relate to official transmission of documents between them, updating and extension of cooperation between secretariats and the development of methods for information and consultation between the European Commission and the WEU.

In addition, the Union identified areas possibly requiring WEU intervention, in particular peace-keeping in Africa and assistance with mine clearance.

Discussion on a European armaments policy continued, particularly on the basis of a Commission communication on measures which could be taken in the Community framework and in the framework of Title V of the Treaty on European Union, the characteristics of defence-related industry and matters relating to the intra-Community transfer of arms and arms procurement.

The Council updated the arrangements on export controls for dual-use goods to bring them

into line with the undertakings given by Member States under international treaties and non-proliferation arrangements. After successive amendments and a further substantial adjustment necessitated by the conclusion of the Wassenaar Agreement, the Council adopted a consolidated version of the decision establishing these control arrangements.

## f) Drugs

The approach advocated by the Union resulted in greater coordination of activities under the three pillars of the Treaty on European Union, thus allowing the efforts made by the Union in combating this scourge – in all its aspects – to be stepped up through the combined action of the instruments afforded by the Treaty.

In connection with the cooperation which was established through the initiative on Latin America and the Caribbean, work continued on the identification and development of areas for specific action. An appraisal mission accordingly went to Latin America on several occasions and submitted suggestions to the Council.

The Union also expanded its cooperation with third countries, on the one hand, by means of meetings of experts with the CCEE and Russia and, on the other hand, in connection with the adoption of the regulation on North-South cooperation in the campaign against drugs and drug addiction. It also approached a number of third countries in order either to encourage them to take action against production and trafficking or to dissuade them from adopting economic and financial laws which might promote money laundering (the Seychelles in particular were approached when adopting the EDA – Economic Development Act).

## g) Terrorism

The European Union continued to provide tangible evidence of the importance it attaches to combating terrorism in all its forms and in all

geographical areas. It took the view that every effort must be made to ensure that the most effective possible use was made of all the instruments that the Treaty makes available to it in order to help eradicate terrorism. To that end, it took concrete steps towards more active cooperation in sharing expertise on countering terrorism.

In its external relations, the Union actively supports the widest participation of third countries in international instruments in the campaign against terrorism and it accordingly promotes multilateral cooperation in appropriate international bodies. It is notably in this connection that the 'Palermo Declaration' was published following the meeting of Union Ministers for Foreign Affairs and that the Union played a decisive role at the anti-terrorist summit at Sharm El Sheikh. In the context of its bilateral relations the Union emphasises the importance of establishing a specific dialogue on these topics, in particular by setting up programmes of assistance for third countries designed to complement the bilateral initiatives taken by Member States in this area.

## **B. European Economic Area – Relations with the EFTA States**

At its fifth and sixth meetings the EEA Council assessed the overall functioning and development of the agreement and considered a number of commercial policy matters (veterinary issues, processed agricultural products, maritime cabotage, rules on cumulation and mutual recognition agreements) and institutional matters. In particular, on the basis of the activity report submitted by the Chairman of the Joint Committee, the Council was able to note that the agreement was working well and stressed the importance of the EFTA States also belonging to the EEA taking part

in the development and completion of the internal market.

As provided for by the joint declaration adopted by the EEA Council, each EEA Council was accompanied by a meeting between the Prime Ministers of the EFTA States which are members of the EEA, on the one hand, and the President of the EU Council and the President of the Commission, on the other hand. Informal exchanges of views at ministerial level thus took place at the EEA Councils on foreign policy matters and security issues of common interest. Cooperation in this sphere resulted, moreover, in EEA members being associated with several Union declarations and initiatives.

During 1996, the EEA Joint Committee held 36 meetings. It adopted 84 decisions and, under the 'continuous information and consultation process' provided for in Article 99 of the EEA agreement, held consultations on a number of important issues.

In view of the fact that negotiations with Iceland, Norway and Switzerland designed to make adjustments to the preferential arrangements existing between the Community and those States in the processed agricultural products sector, necessitated by the implementation, from 1 July 1995, of the agricultural agreements concluded during the Uruguay Round could not be completed by 1 January 1996, the Council adopted a regulation extending the autonomous measures adopted in 1995 for the period from 1 January 1996 to 30 June 1996.

Following the accession of Austria, Finland and Sweden to the European Union, it was found necessary to adapt the arrangements for importing fishery products and agricultural products originating in Iceland into the Community. An additional protocol to the EC-Iceland Free Trade Agreement and an agreement in the form of an exchange of letters concerning certain agricultural products were therefore concluded between the Community and Iceland.

An agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the European Community, of the one part, and the Kingdom of Norway, of the other part, concerning certain processed agricultural products was concluded. The agreement adapts Protocol 2 to the agreement between the European Economic Community and the Kingdom of Norway, to take account of the accession of the Republic of Austria, the Republic of Finland and the Kingdom of Sweden to the European Union and the implementation of the Uruguay Round agreements.

During 1996, the negotiations with Switzerland for the conclusion of new agreements on the free movement of persons, research and technological development, agriculture, mutual recognition in relation to conformity assessment, public contracts and inland and air transport were pursued. It should be noted that these six sets of negotiations come under the policy defined by the Council for the future development of relations with Switzerland, following the latter's decision not to take part in the European Economic Area (December 1992).

The Council examined the progress of the negotiations on several occasions. It took note of the considerable progress achieved in the various sectors and in particular with regard to the free movement of persons. It thought that it should be possible to proceed to the final stage of the negotiations once a number of technical problems had been resolved. It also expressed the hope that a rapid conclusion of the inland transport agreement on the basis of a set of common basic principles could be achieved. Finally, the Council again underlined the importance of the global nature of the negotiations and the need for a balanced solution between the different sectors and a parallel shouldering of commitments in accordance with the directives approved in 1994.

Pending the outcome of the negotiations with Norway and Switzerland for the conclusion of additional protocols amending the preferential agreements that those States had concluded with the Community in order to take account of

the accession of Austria, Finland and Sweden to the European Union, autonomous measures were extended for 1996 with regard to Switzerland, in view of the serious difficulties then persisting in relations with Norway in the sphere of trade in processed agricultural products.

The Council authorised the Commission to negotiate with Switzerland an amendment to the Free Trade Agreement of 27 July 1972 in order to add a new protocol on mutual assistance in customs matters, in view of the fact that the Free Trade Agreement did not contain any specific provision on methods of administrative cooperation in respect of the application of the various provisions it contained, with the exception of those relating to the definition of the concept of 'originating products'.

In order to avoid the disruption of traditional trade and to maintain existing reciprocal preferences, it was thought necessary to make technical adjustments to the Free Trade Agreement with Switzerland by introducing reduced specific amounts. Technical adjustments are currently the subject of negotiations with Switzerland on the protocol relating to processed agricultural products. Pending the outcome of the negotiations, the Council adopted autonomous measures to maintain the level of reciprocal preferences existing before 1 July 1995.

### **C. Relations with the associated countries of central and eastern Europe (CCEE)**

Major progress was made in 1996 in the pre-accession strategy which was defined by the Essen European Council and confirmed by the Madrid European Council. In this respect the enhanced political dialogue and the structured dialogue with the CCEE continued to develop. These countries were increasingly involved in

CFSP activities – in particular in a joint action and in a number of common positions and declarations and in several initiatives – with regular talks being held at expert level, including in the security field. There was also an extension of cooperation in international organisations and forums, in particular in the United Nations.

Suggestions were made to consolidate and improve the enhanced political dialogue. They also concern an increase in informal talks, flexibility and pragmatism in the implementation of the revised guidelines and better preparation of agendas. Other suggestions were made regarding an increase in informal cooperation between the associated countries themselves, in particular when preparing their meetings with the Union.

Pragmatic improvements were also made to the structured dialogue on matters coming under the first pillar, by establishing an indicative programme of meetings to be held under two successive Presidencies, by improving the targeting of the issues for discussion and by having the Commission draw up a background paper for the discussions also incorporating the associated countries' positions.

On the basis of the conclusions reached at the Madrid European Council, the Florence European Council reiterated the need for the Commission's opinions and reports on enlargement to be available as soon as possible after the completion of the IGC so that the initial phase of negotiations could coincide with the beginning of negotiations with Cyprus and Malta<sup>(1)</sup> six months after the end of the IGC, taking its results into account. In its conclusions on enlargement, the Dublin European Council confirmed the timetable for the enlargement process agreed in Madrid and welcomed the fact that the Commission had given an assurance that the reports and documents it had been asked for in Madrid – including its opinions and

the communication on the Union's future financial framework – would be available immediately after conclusion of the IGC.

With the signing of a Europe Association Agreement, Slovenia – which simultaneously submitted its formal application for accession – became party to the pre-accession strategy and hence to the enhanced political dialogue. As the Czech Republic had submitted its formal request for accession, the Council, further to these two applications and to those submitted in December 1995 by Lithuania and Bulgaria, adopted decisions on the initiation of the accession procedure in accordance with Article O of the TEU (see Annex 4).

By means of various methods of participation, the Union is already encouraging structured cooperation between the associated countries as a significant component of the pre-accession strategy and the development of the Union's relations with regional cooperation bodies such as the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBBS) and the Central European Initiative (CEI).

In accordance with the European Council's conclusions at its meetings in Madrid and Florence in 1996, the Commission tackled with renewed vigour the substantive reform of the Phare programme<sup>(2)</sup> which is the European Union's principal financial instrument to help the CCEE assimilate the *acquis communautaire*. The enhanced role of the Phare programme is extremely important for the preparation of the associated countries for accession.

As regards approximation of the legislation of the associated countries to that in force in the Union, with more particular reference to the internal market, the associated countries made progress with their implementation of the White Paper. In this their work was facilitated by the Commission's establishment of a Technical Assistance Information Exchange Office (TAIEX)

(<sup>1</sup>) That country has in the meantime notified the Community that it is, for the time being, no longer an applicant for accession (see F below).

(<sup>2</sup>) In 1996, the Council decided to extend economic aid under the Phare programme to Bosnia and Herzegovina and to the FYROM.

within the framework of the Phare programme in close cooperation with and taking advantage of the expertise of the Member States. The initial results were summarised in the replies to the questionnaires circulated to all the associated countries with a view to subsequent preparation by the Commission of its opinions on the accession of those countries to the Union.

Regarding the unification of rules of origin for preferential trade in Europe, the Council adopted a series of acts aimed at implementing a 'European diagonal cumulation'. Most of the associated countries agreed to bring the new rules into force on 1 January 1997, although the date adopted for Hungary and Poland was 1 July 1997. Since the Europe agreements with the Baltic States have not yet entered into force, talks are in progress to allow the new rules to be applied from 1 April 1997. Negotiations with Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and the Czech Republic for the adaptation of the Europe agreements in the agriculture sector as a result of enlargement and the conclusion of the Uruguay Round, and also for further development of trade, continued throughout 1996.

As for Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, the Council adopted directives enabling the Commission to negotiate with a view to adapting the free-trade agreements as well (and also the Europe agreements currently being ratified) in accordance with the same principles as those adopted for the other associated countries. Pending the conclusion of the new protocols, the Community continued to take autonomous measures to avoid any, even transitory, disruption of traditional trade flows.

The European Council voiced its appreciation and support for the various regional cooperation initiatives which extend from the Barents Sea to the Black Sea via the Baltic Sea region and the central European region.

Relations with these countries under the respective associations continued to develop in a dynamic fashion in 1996.

Reference should first be made to the fact that several meetings of the Association Councils were held with the countries with which association agreements have already entered into force: on 30 January with the Czech Republic and Bulgaria; on 27 February with Romania and Slovakia; on 16 July with Hungary and Poland.

At each of these meetings the Association Council took stock of the development of and prospects for bilateral relations under the Europe agreements. It discussed the headway made towards integration by each of the countries which had applied for accession to the European Union and the progress made under the pre-accession strategy. The Association Councils also tackled other subjects, such as regional cooperation, and exchanged views within the context of the political dialogue on topical international issues.

The intensification of bilateral relations also brought with it an increased number of decisions that the Association Councils took by virtue of the powers conferred on them by the Europe agreements. In this connection the Association Councils with Hungary, Poland, the Czech Republic and Slovakia adopted implementing rules regarding competition. The Association Council with Hungary set up a joint consultative committee, the aim of which is to foster dialogue and cooperation between economic and social interest groups in the Community and Hungary. With Poland, decisions were taken regarding the definition of the origin of products and as regards certain aspects of the trade arrangements for processed agricultural products; it was also possible to resolve the dispute concerning Polish export restrictions on hides and skins by means of a decision of the Association Council. Finally, the Association Council with Romania adopted a decision on Romanian restrictions on exports of scrap and decisions were taken with Bulgaria, Romania, Slovakia and the Czech Republic regarding double checking in trade in steel. Still in 1996, it was possible for the Association Councils with the Czech Republic



and Hungary to adopt decisions on the introduction of European cumulation of rules of origin (see Annex 6).

The discussions of the Association Councils were prepared by the association committees which met regularly and thus ensured the continuity of activities. They examined a wide range of issues arising in the everyday application of each association agreement. It should also be noted that the Parliamentary association committees, which constitute another important feature of the institutional framework provided for by the Europe agreements, met with all the associated countries on a six-monthly basis. Their discussions permitted a frank and open dialogue between the Members of the European Parliament and those of the national parliaments of the associated countries and a better understanding of the respective points of view. The declarations and recommendations emerging from such meetings continued to provide a very useful input into the discussions held within the associations.

As regards relations with Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, the procedures for ratifying the Europe agreements, which were initiated following the signing of the agreements on 12 June 1995, are progressing well and the agreements are expected to be concluded and to enter into force at an early date. In the meantime, contractual relations between the Community and these three States are governed by the agreements on free trade, which also include trade-related measures ('free-trade agreements') and entered into force on 1 January 1995. In this context it should be noted in particular that the first meetings of the joint committees were held with Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

It should lastly be noted that relations with Slovenia took a qualitative leap forward when the Europe agreement was signed on 10 June 1996. Pending completion of the ratification procedures, an interim agreement was signed on 11 November with a view to allowing the commercial aspect and the corresponding related measures to be implemented.

It is expected that this interim agreement will be provisionally applied from 1 January 1997. It should be noted in particular that it already includes the new text of the protocol on the cumulation of rules of origin for preferential trade in Europe, which is being introduced in the other associated countries by means of decisions of the various Association Councils.

## **D. Relations with eastern Europe and Central Asia**

Following the 1995 conclusions on the strategy to be followed for future relations with Russia, the Council adopted an action plan for that country. This action plan confirms the partnership established with that country and sets in particular as objectives support for the democratic process and the promotion of economic reforms and respect for human rights, and the consolidation of peace, stability and security. It covers all areas of cooperation, notably foreign and security policy, where there is provision for a stepping up of coordinated action with Russia on matters concerning the peaceful settlement of conflicts in the context of the OSCE, and support for reforms to the legislative and legal machinery. Throughout the year the implementation of this plan was one of the priorities of the Union's policy towards Russia. Thus, the political dialogue has been considerably enhanced by being developed at all levels.

The European Council in Florence welcomed the action plan as well as Russia's membership of the Council of Europe and the holding of Presidential elections in that country, while calling for prompt ratification of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA). The Dublin European Council reiterated the Union's readiness to assist Russia in meeting the difficult challenges ahead, notably through the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement and the action plan and by bringing Russia as soon as possible into the WTO and other international forums.

Following the invitation to the Union to send observers to the Russian Presidential elections in June-July, the Commission took action to involve the Member States and the Office of the OSCE in that task. The Council welcomed the proper conduct of those elections, which were regarded as a decisive step forward in consolidating the democratisation process in Russia.

The situation in Chechnya remained of concern to the Union, particularly as regards respect for human rights and the plight of refugees and displaced persons in the region. Throughout the conflict, notably through numerous declarations, the Union called upon both sides to begin political negotiations to try to reach a lasting political settlement and reiterated its conviction that the OSCE Assistance Group could make a worthwhile contribution to that peace process. The Union also welcomed the progress made, notably the ceasefire reached in August 1996, and the agreement to hold elections in January 1997.

The Union on several occasions reaffirmed in declarations the importance that it attaches to the independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine and welcomed the Ukrainian Parliament's adoption of a new constitution for Ukraine.

The Council also adopted an action plan for Ukraine which pinpoints the priority areas for action through which the Union can contribute to the process of democratic and economic reform and promote sustainable development in that country. This plan demonstrates the importance the Union attaches to relations with Ukraine and its desire to introduce closer cooperation in the framework of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement. It makes provision for a range of measures and specific actions in numerous fields, such as reinforcing the political dialogue, questions relating to European security, economic and regional cooperation measures and closer bilateral contractual relations. The European Council recalled its firm attachment to the implementation of the memorandum of understanding reached with Ukraine on the definitive closure of the Chernobyl nuclear

power station by the year 2000. It welcomed the closure by the Ukrainian authorities of reactor number one as an important step in this direction.

The European Union also monitored closely the situation in Belarus, in particular with regard to human rights and the progress of democracy. On various occasions, in particular at the meeting of Heads of State or Government attended by Mr Lukashenko, the Union expressed its deep concern at the political situation in that country and urged all parties concerned to seek a solution which fully respects the prerogatives of the Parliament and of the Constitutional Court as well as democratic principles such as the freedom of the press. The Union also initiated a series of missions to Belarus, in cooperation with the OSCE and the Council of Europe, to examine the situation in that country and to assist in the implementation of the necessary reforms.

The dynamic relations established by the Union with the States of Central Asia and the southern Caucasus, within the framework of the guidelines laid down by the Council in 1995, gained fresh impetus with the signing of four new partnership and cooperation agreements (PCAs) with Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Uzbekistan. Those agreements, an essential element of which is respect for human rights and democratic principles, have the objective of developing political relations and economic cooperation with those States and thus encouraging them to undertake the political and economic reforms necessary to strengthen stability in the region.

With the above in mind, the Union continued to support efforts to maintain peace in the region and in particular carried out demarches to encourage the resumption of inter-Tajik negotiations with a view to reaching a peaceful settlement to the conflict in Tajikistan.

As regards Turkmenistan, exploratory talks enabled the Commission to submit to the Council a report on the situation and on

progress with political and economic reform; on the basis of its analysis, the Commission has recommended that negotiations begin for a partnership and cooperation agreement with Turkmenistan if the current trend towards reforms continues. Furthermore, pending procedures for the ratification of the partnership agreements by national parliaments and in order to allow the earliest possible entry into force of the commercial aspects of those agreements, the Community concluded interim agreements. Such agreements have come into force with Russia, Ukraine and Moldova and have been signed with Belarus, Georgia, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Armenia. The agreement with Azerbaijan was initialled recently.

The TACIS programme plays an important role as an instrument of the Union's strategy vis-à-vis Russia. As regards assistance to the republics of the former Soviet Union, the Council, after twice consulting the European Parliament and holding a conciliation meeting with it, adopted the new TACIS regulation intended to cover operations in the course of 1996-99 with a budget of ECU 2 224 million. The tendering procedure has been improved compared with the 1993 regulation and made more transparent, and the new regulation contains elements intended to strengthen its operational character and increase the efficiency of its interventions. To that end it allows the establishment of multiannual programming, part financing of small infrastructure projects, support for small and medium-sized enterprises and established the environment as a priority area. It strengthens cooperation between wide areas of the European Union, the CCEE and the CIS, including Baltic-Barents cooperation.

Provision has also been made for increased support for cross-border cooperation projects, both between the EU and Russia (at the Finno-Russian border) and between Russia and the countries of central and eastern Europe, including the Baltic countries.

The Council decided to include Turkmenistan in the food-aid operation decided on in 1995 in

favour of the peoples of the Caucasus, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. That decision made it possible to supply Tajikistan with 10 000 tonnes of wheat flour while remaining within the original budget approved by the Council.

As regards macro-financial assistance, the Council granted further aid of ECU 15 million to Moldova to guarantee the success of the Moldovan Government's economic programme.

## **E. Relations with former Yugoslavia**

Implementation of the peace process in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which was initiated by the Paris Agreements of 1995, dominated the year 1996. As it had done in 1995 to promote a political settlement of the conflict, the Union made a decisive multifaceted contribution to that process, in particular through its financial participation in financing the infrastructure and current expenditure of the High Representative, Mr Carl Bildt; through its contribution of ECU 3.6 million to the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Clearance in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia; through its contribution to the smooth operation of the general elections on 14 September in Bosnia and Herzegovina by sending a contingent of 505 Union supervisors charged to the Community budget (ECU 3 million); through the major role it continued to play in providing humanitarian aid and assistance in reconstruction at the second Donors' Conference held in Brussels at ministerial level and organised jointly by the Commission and the World Bank, at which the Union (USD 260 million) and the Member States (USD 157 million) entered into commitments of USD 417 million, representing one third of the total amount (USD 1 283 million) proposed by the international community for the reconstruction of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as by extending the Phare programme to Bosnia and Herzegovina and through aid for reconstruction in Bosnia and

Herzegovina, in Croatia, in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; through the provision by the Member States of a large proportion of the personnel of the Force for the Implementation of the Peace Plan (IFOR) established on the basis of a UN Security Council resolution, and through the extension of the embargo on arms exports to former Yugoslavia, with applications for export licences to Slovenia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia being examined on a case-by-case basis.

In the context of a two-year peace consolidation period ending in December 1998, when new elections are to be held in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Council adopted a policy paper on former Yugoslavia laying down, on the one hand, guiding principles for a Union contribution to the major international meetings, which finalised a framework for the future of the peace process in former Yugoslavia (notably the Paris and London Conferences), and the results of which were approved by the Dublin European Council and, on the other hand, the major priorities for that consolidation period.

The Union believes that, in order to achieve full implementation of the peace process, the international community should utilise all mechanisms at its disposal, including the provision of reconstruction assistance and economic aid, on the basis of already defined conditionality, with the possibility, where appropriate, of withholding such aid in cases of non-compliance with the undertakings entered into and of imposing measures against any party failing significantly to meet its obligations. Support is also provided for regional cooperation initiatives, as defined in the Council conclusions and presented to the parties concerned by the Presidency and the Commission when they visited the region.

As already mentioned, the Union decided to pursue a regional approach for the development of relations with the countries of former Yugoslavia in order to encourage reconciliation, political stability and economic prosperity in the region.

The Union continued its contribution to bringing peace to and reconstructing Mostar (Bosnia and Herzegovina) on the basis of its joint action begun in 1994, expanded in 1995 and due to expire on 22 July 1996. After the European Administrator, Mr Hans Koschnick, was replaced by Mr Ricardo Pérez Casado, the EUAM (EU Administration of Mostar) helped in preparing for the municipal elections, which finally made it possible to establish a unified municipal council.

The Council adopted a joint action on the nomination of a 'special envoy of the European Union' to Mostar (Sir Martin Garrod) to ensure the gradual transfer of responsibilities of the EUAM — whose mandate ended on 22 July 1996 — to the newly elected local authorities on the one hand and to ensure the gradual phasing out of the EUAM over a period ending on 31 December 1996 on the other. In addition to continuing the gradual withdrawal of the Union from Mostar, the Union's special envoy to that city also had the task of ensuring the completion of the reconstruction projects under way. It was in that context that the restoration of the Sarajevo-Mostar-Ploce railway line, which was the subject of a joint action, was completed. Although the special envoy's mission ended on 31 December 1996, it was decided to maintain a technical rearguard of a small number of persons in Mostar for a brief period, lasting until 30 April 1997 at the latest, in order to ensure the smooth completion of projects in hand.

As regards Croatia, the Union's particular objective was to restore the multi-ethnic character of Eastern Slavonia: to that end, it continued its support for the United Nations Transitional Administration (Untaes). Emphasising on several occasions the importance of support for the implementation of projects to promote reconciliation between the Croatian and Serbian peoples of the region, the Union welcomed the normalisation of relations between Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) and the admission of Croatia to the Council of Europe.

Further to the agreement between the FRY and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

(FYROM), the Union published a declaration opening the way to recognition by the Member States of the FRY as one of the successor States to the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia by stipulating that the development of good relations with the FRY and of its position within the international community would depend on a constructive approach by the FRY, in particular to full respect for human rights and minority rights and the right to return of refugees and displaced persons, and the granting of a large degree of autonomy for Kosovo within the FRY. In accordance with the United Nations Security Council resolution, the Council lifted the remaining sanctions against the FRY.

In the light of the FRY's failure to acknowledge certain results of the municipal elections and of the action taken against independent media, the Council decided to adjourn a decision to grant the FRY autonomous commercial concessions, as already offered to the other republics of former Yugoslavia. The Union also appealed to the FRY authorities on several occasions to comply with international democratic principles.

Further to the OSCE's mission to Belgrade, the Union appealed to the Belgrade authorities to implement the recommendations of the personal representative of the President-in-Office of the OSCE, Mr Felipe González, and in particular to comply with the results of the municipal elections.

## F. Relations with south-east Europe

The year 1996 was chiefly given over to the practical implementation of the decisions taken by the Council in 1995 to establish, for the associated countries of Cyprus and Malta, a pre-accession strategy which combines a series of new instruments, such as strengthened political dialogue within the framework of the structured dialogue established in June 1995, participation

in a number of Community programmes and further harmonisation of Cypriot and Maltese legislation on the *acquis communautaire*.

The dialogue with those two countries on foreign policy and security topics developed within the framework of the new guidelines governing the strengthened political dialogue, notably at the joint ministerial meeting between the Union, Cyprus and Malta. The Association Councils with Cyprus and Malta met in Brussels, with the discussions focusing on the prospects for accession and on the development of bilateral relations since the previous Association Council meeting.

As regards Cyprus, emphasis was placed on the necessity of using the period prior to the start of accession negotiations to find an overall solution to the Cypriot question. To that end, a representative of the Presidency was appointed who has, in close liaison with other special representatives, including the UNSG special representative, monitored developments in the situation through his contacts with the parties concerned, reporting to the Presidency on efforts made to help find a political settlement. On several occasions the Union deplored the violence and denounced the murder of civilians by soldiers and members of the security forces in Northern Cyprus during the year and appealed for restraint and calm, urging both sides to avoid further confrontation. Those developments have underlined the need for both parties to cooperate fully with the forces of UNFICYP and with the special representative of the UNSG in their efforts to reduce tension and promote a global settlement.

The second structured dialogue ministerial meeting with Cyprus provided the occasion for a joint examination of the implementation of the pre-accession strategy and of the follow-up to the Barcelona Euro-Mediterranean Conference. In the same context the timetable for the beginning of the negotiations with Cyprus was confirmed.

At the meeting with Malta at Foreign Ministers level, the Council took note that Malta did not

consider full membership of the Union feasible for it. Consequently, on the one hand, the structured dialogue with Malta, which was part of a pre-accession strategy, was suspended in all its components and, on the other hand, the Council invited the Commission to make proposals for future relations with Malta in the light of the statement by that country.

As regards overall relations with Turkey, the Florence and Dublin European Council meetings emphasised the priority they attached to strengthening and expanding them and expressed the hope that appropriate conditions would be established for an Association Council meeting to be held in the near future. In parallel, and equally in an effort to accommodate the request by the European Parliament in its 1995 assent concerning customs union, the Council continued to monitor closely the general situation in Turkey. The Council held an exchange of views on relations with Turkey, at the end of which it invited the Presidency to make contact with Turkey in order to prepare for an Association Council meeting early in 1997.

Despite the entry into force of the customs union between the European Union and Turkey, relations with that country were affected by certain difficulties such as the tension between one Member State and Turkey on the subject of the island of Imia in the Aegean, which first led the Council to propose the postponement of the Association Council meeting for a period which was brief but sufficiently long to guarantee fruitful results, and subsequently to call for the avoidance of any action that might increase the tension and to stress the need to submit territorial disputes to the International Court of Justice, in accordance with the Council's declaration of 15 July 1996. The Union also reaffirmed the importance it attaches both to respect for human rights and democratic rules and for the principles of good neighbourly relations and of the commitments entered into by Turkey in the OSCE and the Council of Europe.

A ministerial meeting in the framework of the political dialogue between the Union and Albania

was devoted to examining the possibility of closer bilateral relations in the light of the economic and political reforms in hand in Albania, with particular emphasis being placed on full respect for human rights (ethnic minorities, fundamental freedoms, established standards of democratic government). The parliamentary elections in Albania in May, which were characterised by a number of irregularities, formed the subject of two declarations by the Council and of a joint European Union/United States declaration in which the Union called upon the Albanian Government *inter alia* to cooperate with the OSCE and the Council of Europe to reform its electoral procedures and democratic practice. Regarding the local elections in October, the Union made several representations to the Albanian Government to invite the OSCE to participate in monitoring those elections.

## G. Transatlantic relations

In spite of the impetus given by the New Transatlantic Agenda signed in December 1995, relations with the United States were affected by the adoption of laws with extra-territorial effect by the United States Congress (the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (Libertad) Act, known as the Helms-Burton Act, which entered into force on 12 March, and the Iran and Libya Sanctions Act, known as the D'Amato Act, which was adopted on 5 August), to which the Union decided to give an appropriate response.

The Council adopted an approach whereby the Community and the Member States intervene, each in accordance with its own powers, to ensure protection against the effects of the extra-territorial application of legislation adopted by a third country and of actions based thereon or resulting therefrom. The approach comprises a regulation directed towards the Helms-Burton and D'Amato Acts and a joint action on protective measures, not provided for in the regulation, to be taken by the Member States.

The Council had previously, after expressing its concern and disappointment at the entry into force of the Helms-Burton Act, identified a number of measures that could be taken by the Union (in particular, referral to the World Trade Organisation – WTO) in response to the damage caused to its enterprises by the implementation of that law.

Within the framework of the New Transatlantic Agenda, two European Union/United States summits were held in Washington in 1996 at which the first year's implementation of the New Agenda was reviewed. At both summits, the EU-US senior level group presented a report which outlined the ongoing achievements made in the implementation of NTA priorities. During 1996, progress was made on a large number of issues within the ambitious multilateral and bilateral trade agenda. An ambitious work programme was agreed to at the WTO Singapore Ministerial Conference. Recommendations made by the transatlantic business dialogue influenced transatlantic business relations.

Also, negotiations reached the final stages for the EU to join the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organisation (KEDO) and for the signing of an information technology agreement. Significant progress was also made in the ongoing negotiations for agreements on mutual recognition, customs cooperation, chemical precursors and science and technology. Cooperation was intensified on important shared diplomatic objectives and solid progress was made in jointly addressing the challenges of organised crime, narcotics, migration and asylum and health.

A ministerial Troika meeting was also held in Washington, making it possible in particular to discuss the respective policies towards Cuba, Iran, Libya, Liberia and Turkey, and the IGC. In the margins of the United Nations General Assembly, the 15 Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Union held their traditional meeting with the United States Secretary of State, at which discussions focused in particular on the Middle East peace process and former Yugoslavia.

Relations with Canada, which had been affected by a fisheries dispute, improved considerably through the signing of a joint declaration accompanied by a joint action plan. In the context of a general improvement in bilateral relations with Canada, the Council, taking note of the Commission communication, adopted conclusions in which it invited the Presidency and the Commission to enter into discussions on a joint statement on Union-Canada relations and a joint action plan building on the 1976 framework agreement for commercial and economic cooperation and the 1990 declaration on EC-Canada relations.

Following the successful outcome of negotiations in late 1996, the joint statement was signed at an EU-Canada Summit held in Ottawa in December in the framework of the Transatlantic Declaration. Summit talks centred on the prospects for implementing the EU-Canada action plan accompanying the joint statement, on the Helms-Burton Act and on the IGC and EMU.

At the ministerial meeting held alongside the UNGA, discussions focused in particular on further elaboration of the action plan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Russia and the Helms-Burton Act. Re-examination of the transatlantic relationship, preparation for the quadrilateral meeting and for the WTO meeting, the prospects for agreement within the GATS on public procurement and relations between trade and the environment were discussed at the annual ministerial meeting held in Ottawa in the context of the 1976 framework agreement.

## **H. Euro-Mediterranean partnership – Relations with the Maghreb and Mashreq countries**

The European Union and its 12 Mediterranean partners implemented throughout the year the 1995 Barcelona Declaration, which contains a

political declaration and a work programme, by developing an active partnership in the political, economic and human fields. To that end, ministerial conferences and meetings were organised in various areas: cultural heritage, tourism, industry, energy, information society, fisheries management, the fight against drugs and organised crime. The senior officials responsible for the political and security dialogue also met on several occasions.

In the above context, the start-up stage for implementing the political declaration and the work programme was designed to meet the objectives of ensuring that the process initiated in Barcelona was global and balanced and ensuring genuine synergy between the three constituent parts (political, economic and human) of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership and imparting to that process, through ambitious action programmes, sufficient initial impetus to endow it with a constant dynamic which is satisfactory to all parties.

The effectiveness of the above approach has been confirmed by the uninterrupted holding of all scheduled meetings, in spite of the critical moments which the Middle East peace process is going through, thus testifying to the importance attached by all participants to the Euro-Mediterranean partnership.

The Council adopted the MEDA regulation, which constitutes the legal and administrative basis for action to assist the Mediterranean partners, as well as guidelines for indicative programmes implementing that regulation, with the result that the bases for financial aid towards that region have now been established.

In parallel with establishing the Euro-Mediterranean partnership the Union devoted itself to giving substance bilaterally to the importance it attaches to its links with the Mashreq and Maghreb countries through Euro-Mediterranean agreements within the framework of that partnership as well as through initiatives and political statements.

As regards the Maghreb countries, several Euro-Mediterranean association agreements are under negotiation or in the process of being concluded: with Morocco, the agreement was signed in Brussels on 26 February 1996 and has received the assent of the European Parliament; with Algeria, negotiating directives for a similar agreement were adopted by the Council on 10 June 1996. The agreement signed with Tunisia in 1995 is currently being ratified.

The Union has made several representations to Tunisia concerning human rights, landmines and the follow-up to the Sharm el Sheikh summit of peacemakers.

As to the Mashreq countries, the association agreement with Israel, which was signed in November 1995, received the assent of the European Parliament on 29 February 1997, and other Euro-Mediterranean association agreements are under negotiation with Jordan, Egypt and Lebanon (alongside preparation for the donors' conference on the reconstruction of the country). Further to the wish expressed by Syria at the second Association Council meeting, exploratory talks have begun in Damascus.

As regards Syria, the ministerial Troika of the Union visited Damascus for talks on the future of bilateral relations and support for the Middle East peace process. At the second EC-Syria Cooperation Council meeting, both parties welcomed the development of their relations and at the same time reaffirmed their common interest in security, stability and prosperity around the Mediterranean and – with that in mind – their commitment to the Euro-Mediterranean partnership to promote global, coherent solutions to the problems of the region.

The Union participated actively in the meeting of the Friends of Lebanon Conference in Washington concerning the resources required for the reconstruction of Lebanon.

The 10th EC-Egypt Cooperation Council meeting made it possible *inter alia* to evaluate developments in and the outlook for the Middle



East peace process and to reaffirm both sides' commitment to the Euro-Mediterranean partnership. After calling for the resumption of negotiations between Israel on the one hand and Syria and Lebanon on the other, both parties agreed on the need for a first stage towards peace by the full implementation of the existing agreements between Israel and the Palestinians.

## **I. Middle East peace process — Relations with the Gulf States and the Middle East**

The European Union abided firmly by the key principles — the exchange of territories for peace, the absolute right of the Palestinians to self-determination — of its undertaking to contribute to the success of the peace process through the political and practical support it has provided from the outset, despite the setbacks and difficulties the process has encountered. In that context, and in particular in order to reaffirm those principles, the representatives of the Union visited the region on seven occasions.

Meanwhile, the Union continued to monitor each stage and each difficulty in the peace process. In addition, the Union reiterated its strong condemnation of terrorist actions likely to jeopardise the peace process, and published a declaration on the peace process and terrorism which had been used as a model at the summit of peacemakers in Sharm el Sheikh on 13 March, at which the Union had played a central role.

In this context, the Union also approached each regional party. Thus, when Israel launched operation 'Grapes of wrath' in Southern Lebanon, resulting in the bombing of Lebanese civilians, the Union initiated a global action aimed at securing a ceasefire and subsequently at promoting the economic recovery of Lebanon. The Union thus played a particularly active role in the Friends of Lebanon Conference in Washington.

Aware that the deterioration of the peace process was increasing the need for an ever more active contribution on its part in that process and for a political role in future which would be in line with its economic involvement, the Union reacted in consequence by adopting a series of positions and decisions, in particular the Council joint action appointing as its special envoy Mr Miguel Angel Moratinos, who took up his post at the beginning of December 1996.

Throughout the year the Union, while recognising Israel's right to protect its citizens against terrorist attacks, expressed its concern at the effects of closing the Palestinian Territories and therefore called on several occasions for that measure to be lifted. The Union also reiterated its concern at the continuous expansion of Israeli settlements, regarding it as a policy that weakened Palestinians' trust in the process and lessened the ability of the Palestinian Authority to prevent extremist reactions against such settlements. Lastly, the Union reaffirmed its long-standing policy of opposing the annexation of East Jerusalem by Israel. In the declaration made by the European Council in Florence in June 1996, the Union confirmed its policy of encouraging all parties to study the issues covered by the negotiations on the final status, including the question of Jerusalem, which is of particular importance. The Union has urged and will continue to urge all parties to refrain from any action or initiative which might influence or prejudice future negotiations.

The European Council appealed to the countries which had not yet decided to support the Middle East peace process. In that context, the Union is counting in particular on Iran with which the critical dialogue continued.

In economic terms, the European Union remains the principal donor for the Palestinian territories, ahead of the United States (ECU 56 million), Norway (ECU 53 million), Japan (ECU 47 million) and Saudi Arabia (ECU 12 million). In 1996, the Union as a whole (ECU 107 million from the Community budget, ECU 81 million from the European Investment Bank, ECU 210 million from the individual Member States)

allocated some ECU 398 million to Palestinian development, also covering a significant proportion of the current expenditure of the Palestinian Authority – owing in particular to the closing of the territories, which affected fiscal resources. To offset the effects of closing the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, the Presidency and the Commission redoubled efforts to implement assistance projects in those territories.

The Council adopted directives for the negotiation of a Euro-Mediterranean interim agreement on trade and cooperation between the European Community, of the one part, and the PLO for the benefit of the Palestinian authority, of the other part. Negotiations began immediately on the basis of those directives, which allowed the Commission to initial the agreement in December 1996.

The multilateral aspect of the peace process was directly affected by the problems encountered in the bilateral aspect in the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations to implement the Oslo agreements: multilateral activities and negotiations were less numerous and less fruitful than in previous years. In the context of that multilateral aspect, the Union continued to chair with dynamism the regional economic development working group (REDWG) and also played an active part in the proceedings of the other four working groups – water, environment, arms control and regional security (ACRS) – and in the proceedings of the Steering Committee, which supervises proceedings under that aspect.

In addition to its ministerial visits to the region, the Union also maintained close bilateral contacts at senior official and expert level with its co-sponsors and parties concerned, notably the United States and Russia.

At the sixth meeting of the Joint Council and at the ministerial meeting with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), discussions focused on the means of strengthening bilateral relations, in accordance with the political commitment entered into at the Troika's ministerial meeting in Granada in July 1995, on political cooperation

(regional security of the Gulf States, Middle East peace process) and on economic matters (from the free-trade standpoint). Beforehand the Council adopted, on the basis of a Commission communication, conclusions reaffirming the strategic importance for the Union of a powerful regional group capable of playing a role at economic, political and regional security levels.

The Union pursued its global policy in favour of regional stability through differentiated bilateral relations.

It accordingly continued in 1996 the 'critical dialogue' with Iran, initiated following the Edinburgh European Council. Aimed at encouraging Iran to play a constructive role in the region, including with regard to the Middle East peace process, that dialogue yet again made it possible to address the main topics of concern to the Union, in particular Iranian human rights practices, with particular reference to the author Salman Rushdie, international terrorism, Iranian policies on arms procurement and nuclear cooperation and individual cases in the field of human rights, notably through representations on behalf of those under death sentence and the Israeli pilot, Ron Arad, who disappeared in 1986.

The Union demonstrated solidarity and cohesion in a joint declaration on the reactions in Teheran in November 1996 in the context of the Mykonos trial.

The Union remained particularly vigilant with regard to Iraq and reaffirmed its commitments regarding the full implementation of all relevant United Nations resolutions. The Union prepared itself as from mid-year for the entry into force of the United Nations Security Council 'oil-for-food' resolution, as it will authorise quarterly exports of USD 1 000 million of Iraqi oil to enable that country to meet the humanitarian needs of its population. Further to the implementation of the agreement between the United Nations and Iraq, the Council adopted a common position on derogations from the embargo on Iraq and, on the basis of a Commission proposal, a regulation and a decision consolidating existing

Community legislation on trade relations with Iraq and introducing an authorisation to import Iraqi oil into the Community and to export to that country, under the supervision of the United Nations Sanctions Committee, foodstuffs, medicine and other essential humanitarian supplies.

For similar reasons, the Union has maintained the same stance vis-à-vis Libya as regards full implementation of the United Nations Security Council resolutions as a prerequisite for lifting any sanctions. An EU ministerial Troika visited Libya to pass on and clarify the Union's position on terrorism.

## J. Relations with Africa

In addition to the Florence European Council's recognition of the importance of the initiative concerning the possibility of organising a Euro-African Summit with a view to strengthening peace and democracy in Africa, relations with sub-Saharan Africa were characterised in 1996 by the Union's efforts to contribute to preventing conflicts and resolving crises in Africa, in particular in the Great Lakes region, and by the implementation of the agreement on the mid-term review of the fourth Lomé Convention (signed in Mauritius in November 1995), containing new provisions on human rights, support for the democratic process and the strengthening of the political dialogue.

In line with the political guidelines laid down by the European Council, with particular emphasis placed on the role of the OAU for the future of the African Continent, the Union continued its efforts to reinforce the mechanisms for preventing conflicts in Africa. Discussions with the OAU continued with a view to providing Union assistance in that area, including through and with the resources of the WEU. In a communication on 'The European Union and the issue of conflicts in Africa: peace-building, conflict prevention and beyond', the Commission suggested *inter alia* that the concept of consolidating peace and preventing

conflicts be included in development assistance programmes under the Lomé Convention.

In the context of its support for regional integration initiatives, the European Union continued to strengthen its cooperation with the Community countries on the development of southern Africa (SADC) begun in Berlin in September 1994. The second EU-SADC Ministerial Conference held at Windhoek in mid-October 1996 made an extremely positive assessment of this cooperation and established guidelines for 1997-98; it also provided an opportunity for an in-depth political dialogue.

With respect to the negotiations between the Union and South Africa on a trade and cooperation agreement and on a qualified accession of South Africa to the Lomé Convention, the basic negotiating directives of June 1995 were supplemented in March 1996 by additional negotiating directives regarding the trade aspect of the agreement. The Union's offer was subsequently scrutinised by South Africa.

Also in the framework of political dialogue with the OAU and in the context of its support for regional initiatives, the Union renewed the appeal it had made at the Florence European Council for a Conference to be convened on peace, stability and development in the Great Lakes region under the aegis of the United Nations and of the OAU. The Council appointed Mr Ajello as special envoy of the Union for the region, with responsibility in particular for supporting efforts to create the conditions necessary for resolving the crisis, including preparation for such a Conference.

In order to evaluate the overall situation, Ministers for Development held an extraordinary meeting. A ministerial Troika subsequently visited the region. In parallel, the Council adopted a joint action in support of the democratic transition process in Zaire, consisting, at the outset, of a Union electoral unit to monitor and support – within the United Nations framework – preparation for the elections scheduled for mid-1997. The democratic process in Zaire is in fact regarded

as a key element for the stability of the Great Lakes region.

Faced with the mass of Rwandan refugees and displaced Zairians resulting from the fighting in Eastern Zaire (Kivu) and the humanitarian catastrophe that could result, the Council adopted a joint action providing for Union participation in the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and a decision calling on the WEU to look into how it can contribute to optimum use of the operational means available to implement the joint action in the Great Lakes region. Welcoming the return of Rwandan refugees to their country, the Council also approved the immediate commitment of ECU 25 million as emergency humanitarian aid (food, shelter, protection) in their favour, while taking note of the Commission's intention soon to release an additional ECU 144 million for the humanitarian needs of the region.

Concerned at the violence in the region, in particular in Eastern Zaire and Burundi, the Dublin European Council confirmed the Union's support for the efforts of the African Heads of State to seek a peaceful solution to the conflict, having regard to Zaire's territorial integrity, and reiterated that the Union was willing to contribute fully, including by a request to the WEU to consider how it might contribute, and as a matter of urgency, in accordance with the United Nations Security Council resolutions, to setting up a temporary multinational force for humanitarian purposes.

Even before the fighting in Zaire developed, the Union continued to stress the importance of and need for national reconciliation in Rwanda and for the creation of conditions favourable to a swift return of refugees and displaced persons. To those ends, the Union is participating in the United Nations Human Rights Operation in Rwanda by sending human rights observers and supporting approximately 80 % of the total cost of the operation. The Union is also providing aid of ECU 1.5 million to set up the International Court on Rwanda, so that those responsible for genocide can be tried under conditions in line with the rules of law.

The Union continued throughout the year, in particular through its special envoy in the region, to support democratic transition in Burundi and to promote dialogue between the leaders of the different political parties. The Florence European Council called on all parties to cooperate with the former President of Tanzania, Mr Nyerere, in his attempts to find a peaceful path towards a peace acceptable to all. As for the Council, after welcoming the resolution on Burundi adopted by the OAU summit in Yaoundé, it reaffirmed the Union's desire to lend its support in attaining the objectives of the Arusha regional summit of restoring peace and security to Burundi. The Union expressed its concern at the *coup d'état* in Burundi and asserted its support for the regional initiative to promote the establishment of a transition programme for Burundi.

The Union endorsed the efforts for peace and the democratic process by renewed support for the dialogue initiated in Mozambique with a view to ensuring that the democratisation process would continue in a peaceful climate, by welcoming Sierra Leone's return to democracy; following the Presidential elections in February and the parliamentary elections in March; by repeatedly calling for respect for human rights and for a return to democratic rules in Nigeria, whose situation was monitored in close cooperation with the United States and the Commonwealth; by constant monitoring of the situation in Liberia, with renewed support for the Abuja Agreement concluded in August 1995, and by condemning the *coup d'état* in Niger, accompanied by a six-month suspension of the aid granted to that country, resumption of which would depend on progress made towards restoring democracy.

## K. Relations with Asia

Significant progress was made in 1996 in implementing the European Union's new Asia strategy defined at the Essen European Council and amplified at the Madrid European Council.

In parallel with the first Asia-Europe summit, numerous bilateral agreements with the countries of Asia were negotiated or concluded, while a new strategy towards ASEAN and India was proposed by the Commission. It was in this general context that the Union decided on its participation in the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organisation (KEDO), continued to expand its relations with Japan – on the basis of the strategy defined in 1995 – and began negotiating a framework agreement with Australia.

The first Asia-Europe summit (ASEM) brought together the Heads of State or Government and the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of 10 Asian countries (the seven members of ASEAN, China, Japan and the Republic of Korea) and 15 Member States of the Union, together with the President of the Commission. Confirming the will of both parties to develop further the partnership between two major world regions, that meeting laid the bases for an enhanced political and economic dialogue and opened up new prospects for cooperation in a wide range of fields, with the elaboration of a work programme covering every aspect of the dialogue initiated in the ASEM framework, and fixing there and then the venue and timetable for forthcoming ASEM summits.

Welcoming that first Asia-Europe summit, the Florence European Council instructed the Council to give substance to the political, economic and commercial cooperation thus begun. To that end, several follow-up meetings were held and numerous implementation measures were started in the economic, cultural, environmental and technological fields. At political level and for organisational purposes, several meetings of 'ASEM coordinators' (Presidency and Commission for the Union, Japan and Singapore for the Asian party) were held in the meantime.

In parallel, the biannual EU-ASEAN meeting of senior officials (EU-ASEAN-SOM) charged with preparing for the meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Union and of ASEAN scheduled for 1997 was held in Dublin.

Beforehand, the Union had been represented by the Presidency-in-Office of the Council at the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and ASEAN post-ministerial conferences (PMC), in order to make its contribution to the dialogue on political and security cooperation problems in the Asia-Pacific zone. In the Council's bodies, the discussion continued on the conclusions of the report from the eminent persons group (EPG) and on the Commission communication entitled 'on a new dynamic in relations between the European Union and ASEAN', which recommends strengthening the links between the two regional integration processes, in particular by developing the political dialogue and encouraging the integration of the ASEAN countries into the multilateral system.

As regards bilateral relations with the countries of Asia, notably on the institutionalised political dialogue, the Union and the Republic of Korea adopted, on the occasion of the signing of a framework trade and cooperation agreement, a joint declaration on the political dialogue.

On the basis of a Commission communication calling for an enhanced partnership with India in the framework of the Union's new Asia strategy, the Council adopted conclusions directed *inter alia* towards taking into account the growing importance of India as a political and economic player and advocating in particular an enhanced and more regular political dialogue.

The fifth annual EU-Japan Summit was held in Tokyo in September 1996. The meeting, which represented an important step forward in the implementation of the 1991 joint declaration, provided a valuable opportunity for a wide-ranging exchange of views on bilateral trade and economic issues as well as on important regional, international and global topics (Asia, Middle East, Russia, and the former Yugoslavia). The summit participants expressed satisfaction with the development of the bilateral relationship and reiterated their intention to continue to work towards ever more harmonious relations in the future, based on dialogue and cooperation.

As regards China, a ministerial meeting between the Troika and the Chinese Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Qian Qichen, was held alongside the United Nations General Assembly. The Union has made known on several occasions to the Chinese authorities its concern regarding human rights, notably through declarations and on the occasion of a visit to Beijing. Regarding the transition process in Hong Kong and Macao, the Dublin European Council repeated its support for Hong Kong's special status as a special administrative region (SAR) and expressed the hope that the basic principles of the 1987 Sino-Portuguese joint declaration would continue to be respected after the date of change of administration in 1999.

Both at international level and in a bilateral framework, the Union continued its support for the efforts under way towards opening up and democratisation. With regard to Burma, the Council thus established a common position in which, in addition to confirming the embargo on arms to that country, it suspended all government visits and prohibited access to the territory of the Member States of officials of the SLORC, or of the armed and security forces. This followed the failure of the Burmese authorities to make any significant response to the strong representations made by the European Union on the situation in Burma during the two meetings the Presidency-in-Office of the Council held with the Foreign Minister of Burma. The European Commission also began an investigation of forced labour practices in Burma in the context of the possible withdrawal of the GSP trade benefits for Burma.

The Council also established a common position on East Timor in which it endorsed the initiatives taken in the United Nations framework with a view to an equitable solution to the question and calls upon the Indonesian Government to adopt measures leading to a significant improvement in the human rights situation. The Dublin European Council reaffirmed its support for all efforts which can contribute to a fair, comprehensive and internationally acceptable solution to the issue.

As regards developments in the armed conflict in Afghanistan, the Council adopted a decision

defining a common position on the establishment of an embargo on arms, munitions and military equipment to that country.

The cooperation agreement between the Community and Vietnam, which is based in particular on respect for human rights and democracy, entered into force. Agreements with similar objectives were negotiated with Laos and Cambodia.

## **L. Relations with Latin America**

On the basis of the conclusions of the Madrid European Council on the 'general guidelines for cooperation between the Community and Latin America (1996-2000)', directed towards strengthening the partnership between these two regions of the world, the Union endeavoured to attain that objective by focusing its political action on three elements, namely institutional support and consolidation of the democratic process, the fight against poverty and social exclusion and support for economic reforms.

To the above ends, and within the framework of its institutionalised dialogue with all regional groupings, the Union continued its cooperation with the member countries of the San José Group (XIIth Ministerial Conference in Florence), the Rio Group (VIth Ministerial Conference in Cochabamba, Bolivia) and with the countries of Mercosur (first annual ministerial meeting in Luxembourg) and of the Andean Community (Rome). The conclusions of those meetings testified to the common will to strengthen the existing cooperation and political dialogue between the parties.

On the bilateral level, the Union continued, on the one hand, to strengthen its links with certain countries (Mexico, Chile) and, on the other, to express in substantive terms the importance it attaches to respect for human rights and democracy in each country in the region.

A new framework cooperation agreement was signed with Chile – in preparation for a political and economic association – accompanied by a declaration on the political dialogue. The Council adopted negotiating directives authorising the Commission to negotiate a new framework agreement with Mexico to replace the 1991 agreement and to govern all relations – including the political dialogue – between the Union and that country.

On several occasions the Union welcomed the progress made towards democratisation in several countries in the region. At the same time it condemned any attack on the democratic process, in particular the attempt to change by force the constitutional order of Paraguay, which is a member country of Mercosur.

As regards Cuba, the Union established the exploratory contacts called for by the Madrid European Council with a view to strengthening the process of reforms through resumption of the dialogue. However, the actions of the Cuban authorities – in particular the destruction of civilian aircraft and the arrest of members of the Concilio Cubano in February – led the Florence European Council to regret that political circumstances in Cuba had not allowed bilateral relations to progress and to express the hope that political developments in that country would create the conditions necessary for such progress to be made. The Council defined a common position adopting the Union's objectives in its relations with Cuba and the manner in which it would seek to encourage the transition to democratic pluralism and respect for human rights and democratic freedoms in order to 'facilitate peaceful change'.

## **M. Development cooperation**

In 1996, a large proportion of activities in the field of development cooperation related to the creation of legal bases to allow the implementation of appropriations earmarked

for development in the Community budget. The Council accordingly adopted certain regulations during the year, and also adopted a number of common positions with a view to the subsequent adoption of regulations.

As regards regulations, the Council adopted in particular a regulation on food-aid policy and management and specific measures to support food security, directed at creating a legal basis for the implementation of the Community budget in the field of food aid and food security; a regulation on humanitarian aid to allow the implementation of the budget to be devoted to such aid; a regulation on rehabilitation and reconstruction operations in developing countries, laying down detailed procedures and rules for the management of aid financed from the Community budget, and a regulation on development cooperation in South Africa, directed towards creating a legal basis in budget heading B 7-3200 relating to the European programme for reconstruction and development in South Africa. The financial reference amount for implementing that regulation is ECU 500 million for the period 1 January 1996 to 31 December 1999.

As regards common positions, the Council adopted a common position with a view to adopting a regulation on operations to aid uprooted people in Asian and Latin American developing countries; a common position with a view to adopting a regulation on environmental measures in developing countries in the context of sustainable development; a common position with a view to adopting a regulation on HIV/AIDS-related operations in developing countries; a common position with a view to adopting a regulation on North-South cooperation in the campaign against drugs and drug addiction, and a common position with a view to adopting a regulation on aid for population policies and programmes in the developing countries.

As to non-legislative acts, the Council adopted, in the context of implementing the Council declaration of 15 November 1992 on development cooperation in the run-up to 2000,

resolutions and conclusions on operational coordination and human and social development and the development policy of the European Union.

In addition to the above texts relating to action regarding the run-up to 2000, the Council adopted a resolution on the environmental impact assessment of development projects and programmes; conclusions on linking relief, rehabilitation and development; on decentralised cooperation, on migration and development; on the implementation of the counterpart funds of Community support for structural adjustment in the ACP countries; on equality of the sexes and crisis prevention, emergency operations and rehabilitation, and on the evaluation of humanitarian aid.

In the context of United Nations activities, the IXth Unctad Conference was one of the highlights of 1996. The theme of the conference was the promotion of growth and sustainable development in an international economy in process of globalisation and liberalisation. The objective of the conference was to continue Unctad's process of reforms, as already initiated at the previous conference, held in Cartagena four years ago. The aim was to redefine its priorities and re-direct its operation in order to increase its effectiveness and thus enable it to fulfil its role of assisting the developing countries to be more closely integrated into a world economy undergoing profound changes.

The European Union played a major role both in the preparatory work and at the conference itself. As the leading world donor, the European Union has always placed development problems amongst its priority objectives, carrying out operations concerning all regions and targeted in particular on the least-developed countries. While remaining attached to Unctad, but advocating far-reaching reforms to establish the authority of that organisation as a forum for development partnership, the European Union was able, through balanced positions, to take into account the concerns of both the developed and developing countries.

The European Union's position in many instances acted as a catalyst for reaching, in the context of intensive negotiations both in Geneva and on the spot in Midrand, compromise solutions acceptable to all participants. The European Union regarded the results of the conference as corresponding broadly to the main objectives it had set itself, since the conference adopted Unctad's approach to development by setting the following chief priorities: importance of trade for developing countries; proper economic and social development (market economy, competition, etc.); boosting private enterprise. The conference also confirmed that the problems of the least developed countries remained central to Unctad's remit. The conference also recognised that, in carrying out its tasks, Unctad could not work in isolation, but should act in close cooperation with other organisations, notably the WTO, the International Trade Centre and international development institutions. Another positive result is the possibility provided for of improving the participation of the private sector, the academic world, NGOs and other non-governmental partners in Unctad's activities.

The redefinition of Unctad's action priorities was also accompanied by a far-reaching reform of its operational structure by reorganising the role of the governing body by a considerable reduction in the number of subsidiary bodies and by giving those subsidiary bodies the right to convene meetings of experts involving specialists from the private sector.

On 20 June the Council adopted a regulation laying down the scheme of generalised preferences for agricultural products to apply from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1999, containing transitional arrangements which will apply from 1 July 1996 until 31 December 1996, which are simply an extension of the existing arrangements. The new scheme proper will apply from 1 January 1997 until 30 June 1999, giving economic operators time to adjust.

Like the scheme for industrial products, the agricultural scheme adopted is designed to simplify the arrangements, by means of a



mechanism for modulating preferential duties which comprises four degrees of tariff reduction; to refocus the scheme on those countries in the greatest need, by means of a graduation mechanism by major production sector proceeding on a gradual basis; to be neutral in impact, compared with the existing scheme; and to provide incentives for the beneficiary countries to introduce more forward-looking social and environmental policies by means of additional benefits going beyond neutrality.

The scheme provides for specially favourable arrangements for the least-developed countries and for Andean and Central American countries within the framework of the fight against drugs.

Although the range of products covered by the regulation has been extended considerably, imports of sensitive products may be subject to safeguard measures in the event of difficulties for Community producers.

The Council authorised the Commission to negotiate an agreement between the EC and each of the EFTA countries which have granted preferences (Norway and Switzerland/Liechtenstein), providing for goods originating in GSP beneficiary countries which incorporate components originating in Norway or in Switzerland/Liechtenstein to be treated, on importation into the customs territory of the Community, as goods incorporating an element originating in the Community.

The European Community signed an agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the European Community and Malta concerning authorisation to issue certificates for certain petroleum products transiting through the territory of Malta to replace the form A certificates delivered by some Middle Eastern countries benefiting from the generalised system of preferences granted by the Community.

In 1996, as in the past, the European Union continued to cooperate actively with its partners in the context of international commodity agreements and maintained its position as one

of the principal players and as a major partner of the developing countries.

The Council and the representatives of the governments of the Member States meeting within the Council decided to sign and provisionally apply the 1994 International Tropical Timber Agreement (ITTA). The agreement was signed simultaneously by the Community and a large majority of the Member States. The notification of provisional application by the Community was accompanied by a declaration emphasising, *inter alia*, that any financial contribution other than the contribution to the administrative budget was entirely voluntary.

The Council and the representatives of the governments of the Member States meeting within the Council decided on the provisional application of the 1995 International Natural Rubber Agreement.

A second extension of the 1989 International Agreement on Jute and Jute Products, for a two-year period up to April 2000, was decided upon by the Council of the International Jute Organisation.

### a) Relations with the ACP States

It is recalled that, following the mid-term review of the Lomé Convention and the Mauritius Agreement amending the convention signed in 1995, a number of provisions of the revised convention entered into force on 1 January 1996, together with the protocol of accession of Austria, Finland and Sweden to the convention. The revised convention and the abovementioned protocol will enter into force as soon as the process of ratification by all Member States of the Union and by a sufficient number of ACP States is completed.

The joint bodies of the convention, in particular the ACP-EC Council of Ministers and the ACP-EC Joint Assembly, met to review the latest developments affecting ACP-EC relations, to discuss the situation in a number of ACP States

and to take stock of the negotiations between the EU and the Republic of South Africa on a bilateral agreement and on the protocol of accession of South Africa to the convention.

On the basis of a Green Paper presented by the Commission in November, the Council engaged in a general reflection on the future relations of the Community with the ACP countries at the expiry of the present convention in February 2000.

The situation prevailing in a number of ACP countries led the Council to adopt a position and take certain initiatives intended to encourage the restoration of civil peace and national reconciliation, encourage the prevention of conflict and political stability, promote democratic values, human rights and the rule of law in the countries in question. The situations in Niger, Nigeria and in the Great Lakes area received the Council's particular attention.

In the context of preparation for the 21st ordinary meeting of the ACP-EC Council of Ministers the Council finalised a draft decision of the ACP-EC Council of Ministers enabling Stabex transfers to be made for the 1995 year of application.

The Council adopted a decision enabling Stabex transfers to be made to the ACP States for the 1995 year of application in the form of advances on eighth EDF funds that would be available only when the Mauritius Agreement amending the fourth Lomé Convention, and therefore the second financial protocol to the convention, had been ratified.

In the context of preparation for the entry into force of the agreement signed in Mauritius on 4 November 1995 revising the fourth ACP-EC Convention of Lomé, the Council adopted decisions on the conclusion of the agreement amending the fourth ACP-EC Convention of Lomé, the conclusion of the protocol to the fourth ACP-EC Convention of Lomé, also signed in Mauritius on 4 November, consequent on the accession of the Republic of Austria, the Republic of Finland and the Kingdom of Sweden to the European Union, and the Rules of Procedure of the Committee of the European Development Fund, and it agreed to start proceedings in

January 1997 on the finalisation of the financial regulation applicable to cooperation for the financing of development under the eighth European Development Fund. The financial regulation applicable to the EDF must in fact be adopted if account is to be taken of the changes made at the time of the mid-term review of the convention and of the changes agreed upon when the Internal Financial Agreement applicable to the eighth EDF was finalised.

The Council also adopted measures in the field of ACP-EC trade cooperation and on ACP-EC financial and technical cooperation.

## b) Relations with the OCTs

On 29 January 1996, the Council adopted a decision on transitional measures to be applied from 1 March 1995 in the context of the association of the overseas countries and territories with the European Community, established by the decision of 25 July 1991 for an overall period of 10 years, to ensure the continuity, beyond 1 March 1995, of contributions from the seventh EDF, in the context of Sysmin and Stabex, for the OCTs, pending the implementation of financing for the second five-year period covered by the above OCTs decision.

The Council continued its examination of the Commission proposal for a Council decision on the mid-term review of the decision on the association of the Community with the overseas countries and territories, in particular as regards the new trade regime to be introduced by means of the revised decision.

## N. Trade policy

The consolidation and strengthening of the multilateral trading system represented by the World Trade Organisation (WTO) is one of the European Union's priorities in the field of external economic relations.

During 1996 the European Union not only took an active part in the administration of the WTO's ordinary activities but also concentrated its efforts in two main directions determined by deadlines set by the WTO. On the one hand it defined its objectives with a view to the first WTO Ministerial Conference, held in Singapore, and worked to ensure its success. On the other hand, it carried on intensive negotiations within the WTO to try to advance the negotiations not concluded in Marrakesh on basic telecommunications services and shipping. Major discussions were also held within the Council of the European Union on other commitments linked with the WTO such as the negotiation of an agreement on information technologies, negotiations under Article XXIV(6) of the 1994 GATT and the second phase of integration of textiles under the 1994 GATT.

The Ministerial Conference in Singapore was the major political event of 1996 for the WTO. For the first time since the WTO came into being on 1 January 1995, the Trade Ministers had the opportunity to review as a body progress in implementing the commitments made at Marrakesh, identify any problems encountered and decide whether new impetus should be given to the WTO's future work.

The European Union was determined to play a leading role in this entire process, with the aim of achieving a satisfactory and balanced outcome in accordance with the general guidelines arrived at by the European Council in Florence. To that end the European Council invited the Council as quickly as possible to define negotiating directives for the Commission with a view to the conference both in connection with the uncompleted negotiations and on new topics. The Council had already begun that preparation and, on the basis, *inter alia*, of Commission communications on market access, trade and the environment, investment and the social dimension of international trade, held detailed discussions.

All those discussions resulted in detailed guidelines which the Council gave to the negotiators and which it confirmed by adopting specific negotiating directives for the Commission

to negotiate an international information technology agreement (ITA). Those guidelines, which centred round the major conference topics (points concerning implementation of the Marrakesh agreements, points relating to the built-in agenda, points concerning whether or not to include new subjects in the WTO's future activities), identified the European Union's objectives for each major subject category. At the Singapore Conference intensive negotiations were held to overcome difficulties regarding all the points still unresolved in the preparatory process. The Council held several meetings on the spot, with the assistance of the full members of the Article 113 Committee, to coincide with the final phase of the negotiations. In that connection it gave further guidance to the negotiations with a view to adjusting the guidelines defined by the Council on 29 October 1996 in a spirit of dialogue, flexibility and compromise for a successful outcome to the conference.

On the last day of the conference, 13 December 1996, the Council examined the final text of the draft WTO ministerial declaration resulting from the negotiating process. It considered the results satisfactory and accordingly decided to approve the text and authorise the Commission to indicate to the WTO acceptance of the declaration on behalf of the European Community and of its Member States.

In the context of its overall discussions on the WTO ministerial declaration the Council also authorised the Commission to accept, on the Community's behalf, a ministerial declaration on trade in information technology products, while noting the arrangements that would be required for the implementation of the results achieved in Singapore.

The Council considered that both the Singapore ministerial declaration and the Declaration on Information Technology made significant contributions to the consolidation and strengthening of the multilateral trading system.

The Dublin European Council welcomed all those results. They have in fact given new impetus to

the liberalisation of world trade, defined with clarity the WTO's programme of work in its traditional fields of activity while complying fully with the timetable laid down in Marrakesh, extended that programme of work to cover matters to which the European Union gave priority amongst new topics, such as investment and competition, and have broached in a balanced manner the sensitive question of fundamental social standards.

The European Union is determined to make an active contribution to the implementation of the WTO programme of work, particularly in the short term on the actions to be undertaken to help the least advanced countries integrate more easily into the multilateral trading system. It will display the same determination in due course when the next WTO ministerial conference has to be prepared.

The second priority on the WTO agenda concerned the negotiations in the fields of basic telecommunications services and shipping. It will be recalled that it had not been possible to conclude those negotiations in Marrakesh and that it had been decided to adjourn them until 30 April and 30 June 1996 respectively. The European Union attached particular importance, from both the political and economic points of view, to the successful conclusion of the negotiations in two sectors which had a multiplier effect on international trade.

As regards basic telecommunications, the European Union took the initiative of making its partners a substantial offer covering all basic telecommunications services. The European Union's objectives, as defined by the Council on the basis of Commission proposals, included a multilateral agreement resulting in a substantial liberalisation of trade combined with full compliance with the WTO clauses on most-favoured-nation status and national treatment. Such an agreement should cover both access to internal markets and international and satellite services. At the last moment, in the final phase of the negotiations, the United States introduced new elements that both the Union

and other participants considered unacceptable and that failed to give decisive momentum to a balanced package that looked likely to be accepted.

To preserve the possibility of the negotiations being successful, the Council agreed that within the WTO the Union's negotiators should accept a decision continuing the negotiations until 15 February 1997 at the latest. Maximum advantage would have to be taken of that extension if the common objective of a general multilateral agreement covering all basic telecommunications services and fully compatible with the MFN clause were to be achieved.

The negotiations that went on in Geneva during the remainder of 1996 produced some progress but further major efforts were required if a balanced result was to be achieved. The Singapore Conference forcefully confirmed the need to conclude the negotiations by the deadline of 15 February 1997.

As regards shipping, throughout the first half of 1996 the European Union worked to promote its negotiating objectives, namely to obtain substantial liberalisation commitments on a totally MFN basis from a critical mass of participants in the three main areas of this sector (international shipping, auxiliary services and access to port services). It turned out, however, that those objectives could not be achieved within the time allowed because of the United States' negative position and the absence of adequate offers from other countries. Various alternative options were considered but finally it was concluded that the best option was to define the arrangements and conditions for suspending the negotiations and resuming them at a later stage.

The Council authorised the Commission to approve, on behalf of the Community and of its Member States, the draft decision of the WTO Council for Trade in Services determining the arrangements for that suspension and subsequent resumption in the year 2000 (to coincide with the beginning of the future global negotiations on services) of the negotiations on shipping services.

The European Union also actively contributed, throughout 1996, to the many meetings of the various WTO bodies responsible, in particular, for monitoring the implementation of the commitments entered into in Marrakesh on the basis of the various members' notifications in accordance with the WTO's requirements. The preparation of the European Union's notifications and the Union's comparative scrutiny of non-member countries' notifications have required particularly close collaboration between the Commission and the Member States, in the field of intellectual property for example.

The European Union has also continued to give special attention to the WTO dispute-settlement system because of its importance to the smooth operation of the organisation. It had recourse to the system itself when in the autumn of 1996 it brought before the WTO its dispute with the United States over the adverse effects on the Union's interests of the Helms-Burton Law on Cuba. In that connection the European Union secured a decision by the WTO dispute settlement body, on 20 November 1996, to set up a special working party to examine the European Union's complaint.

The Council gave the Commission a formal mandate to negotiate an information technology agreement (ITA) between the Community and third countries, with a view to eliminating customs duties on information technology products on a multilateral basis. The concept of such an agreement originally arose in the context of the EU-US new transatlantic agenda. Negotiations between the Community and the USA were launched in the run-up to the WTO ministerial conference in Singapore and, in the margins of the conference, were broadened to bring in as many other WTO members as possible, with a view to obtaining the widest possible geographical coverage. The result of these negotiations was a ministerial declaration on trade in information technology products signed by a large number of WTO member countries representing a major proportion of world trade in these products.

As regards the negotiations conducted with non-member countries under Article XXIV(6) of the 1994 GATT consequent upon the accession of Austria, Finland and Sweden to the European Union, those with Argentina could not be concluded within a period which would have enabled the Council to approve the outcome of the negotiations in the context of the global agreements approved in December 1995. The Council adopted a decision on the conclusion of the results of the negotiations with Argentina on 16 September 1996.

The WTO Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC) imposes on its members the obligation progressively to liberalise trade in textiles and clothing in four phases over 10 years. The second phase of this process of integrating textile products into the 1994 GATT provides for the liberalisation from 1 January 1998 of not less than 17% of every WTO member's total imports in 1990. Accordingly the Council adopted the Community's position for this second phase of the process of integrating textiles and clothing into the 1994 GATT by adopting measures which enabled the Community to submit an appropriate offer on 1 January 1997 in accordance with the ATC. That offer covered 17.99% of the Community's total imports in 1990 and included certain categories of sensitive textile products imports of which were restricted by means of quotas.

Apart from activities in the context of the WTO, there were discussions leading to the adoption of measures to improve trade policy instruments and trade measures in the fields of textiles and iron and steel products covered by the Treaties.

With regard to anti-dumping measures, in 1996 the Commission published 35 notices announcing the initiation of proceedings, 10 of which related to new proceedings, 9 to interim reviews, 11 to reviews of measures nearing expiry, 3 to circumventions and 2 to reviews relating to new exporters. It also imposed provisional anti-dumping duties in 9 cases, terminated 10 investigations without taking any measures, refunded duties in 1 case and

accepted undertakings in 2 others. The Council imposed definitive anti-dumping duties in 15 cases and extended the suspension of measures in 2 cases.

With regard to anti-subsidy measures, the Commission initiated a new proceeding in respect of salmon imports from Norway, and proceedings for the review of measures concerning ball bearings from Thailand and imports of polyester fibres and polyester yarn from Turkey.

## **O. Relations with the OECD**

The relevant Council bodies continued their task of coordination aimed at actively participating and achieving progress in the OECD negotiations in order to bring about the conclusion of a multilateral agreement on investment by the OECD ministerial meeting in 1998 at the latest. In that context they pursued the objectives laid down in the guidelines which the Council adopted in November 1995.

The Council and the representatives of the governments of the Member States meeting within the Council also adopted arrangements for their participation in those negotiations. In those arrangements they undertook to cooperate closely during the negotiations and, in principle, to determine common positions to be defended jointly and in a concerted way by the Commission and the Member States.

## **P. Financial aid for non-member countries**

In 1996, the Council held wide-ranging discussions on the conditions and the volume of the European Investment Bank's activities in non-member countries. The Council reached agreement on the guidelines to be followed in the granting of the Community budget guarantee for EIB loans to non-member countries. The new system is based, *inter alia*, on risk-sharing between the Community budget and the EIB. The EIB is accordingly invited to obtain adequate cover for the commercial risks involved in respect of a major proportion of its loans, with the Community budget covering only political risks.

In addition, the Council decided to grant a Community guarantee for EIB loans to Latin America and Asia in 1996 worth ECU 275 million.

As regards macrofinancial aid operations, the Council decided to grant Moldova an additional loan of up to ECU 15 million for a maximum of 10 years, with the aim of supporting the balance of payments, consolidating the reserves situation and encouraging the necessary structural reforms that had already been partially initiated. It also decided to repeal a 1994 decision granting a loan of up to ECU 130 million to the Slovak Republic in view of the absence of an economic policy agreed on between the Community and the Slovak Republic and the clear improvement in the Slovak Republic's balance of payments and foreign exchange reserves.

## Q. Chronology of activities

### January

#### 4 January

Union Troika makes démarches to Asmara (Eritrea) and Sana'a (Yemen) about their bilateral dispute over the Hanish archipelago

#### 9 January

Paris Ministerial Conference on Economic Assistance for Palestine is held with participation of some 50 donor countries and international organisations as well as Union representatives

#### 17 January

Presidency makes démarche to Turkish authorities, seeking clarification of accusations of atrocities against the Kurdish population in south-east Turkey as reported in various European newspapers

#### 19 January

European correspondents meet their counterparts from the CCEE, Cyprus and Malta in Rome

#### 21-22 January

Union Ministerial Troika visits Palestinian territories (Jerusalem, Ramallah and Gaza)

#### 22-27 January

Troika of human rights experts visits China (Beijing)

#### 23 January

Political directors (Presidency and Commission) hold political dialogue meeting in Rome

#### 24 January

Démarches are made to the authorities of Croatia/Bosnia/FRY about the deployment of an international force under UNSC Resolution 1037 and about compliance with the Dayton Agreements

#### 26 January and 1 February

Démarches are made to Dushanbe and Achkabad about the resumption of inter-Tajik talks

#### 30 January

Ministers hold political dialogue meeting alongside Council meeting

#### 31 January

Démarche is made to Brazil about the universal nature of the NPT

## February

### 1 February

---

Démarche is made to Cuba about the universal nature of the NPT

### 6 February

---

Troika and CCEE meet in Brussels at expert level

### 6 February

---

Troika and Russia meet in Brussels at expert level

### 8 February

---

Démarche is made to the Croatian authorities about the implementation of the Dayton Agreements – administration of Mostar

### 13-14 February

---

Ministerial Union Troika visits Damascus, Jerusalem and Gaza

### 16 February

---

Political directors hold political dialogue meeting with CCEE in Rome alongside Political Committee meeting

### 26 February

---

Commission is authorised to open negotiations with Uzbekistan for a partnership and cooperation agreement

### 26 February

---

Mr Ajello is appointed special envoy of the Union for the Great Lakes region

### 27 February

---

Foreign Ministers meet in Brussels for structured dialogue meeting with the CCEE

### 27 february

---

Démarche is made to the Bosnian authorities about the release of prisoners

### 27 February

---

Démarche is made to Moscow about support for the activities of humanitarian organisations in Chechnya

### 27 February

---

Démarche is made to the Angolan authorities about maintenance of the ceasefire in accordance with UN Resolution 1045

### 29 February

---

First meeting for political dialogue between the Union and the GCC is held in Brussels at regional-director level



## March

### 1 March

---

Presidency declaration for the Bangkok ASEM of Heads of State is approved.

### 1-3 March

---

First Asia-Europe (ASEM) meeting is held in Bangkok

### 3 March

---

Ministerial Union Troika meets Japan alongside ASEM

### 4 March

---

Ministerial Union Troika visits India (New Delhi)

### 6 March

---

Démarche is made to the FRY about support for the independent media

### 8 March

---

Troika meets CCEE at expert level

### 8 March

---

Troika meets Russia at expert level

### 10 March

---

Union Foreign Ministers, meeting unofficially in Palermo, issue declaration

### 12-14 March

---

Union Heads of Mission make démarche to the Government of Zaire about the democratic transition process

### 13 March

---

The Sharm El Sheikh (Egypt) summit of peacemakers is held with the participation of 29 countries and Union representatives

### 15 March

---

Union Troika holds political dialogue meeting with Turkey at political-director level alongside Political Committee meeting

### 18 March

---

Union and Canada hold their annual ministerial meeting in Ottawa

### 18-22 March

---

ACP-EU Parliamentary Assembly holds its 22nd meeting in Windhoek, Namibia

**19 March**

Mrs Suzanna Agnelli, President-in-office of the Council, delivers speech at the 51st meeting of United Nations Commission for Human Rights in Geneva

**20 March**

Union makes démarche to Tunisia about landmines

**20 March**

Union makes démarche to India about landmines

**21 March**

San José XII (12th ministerial conference) is held in Florence

**21 March**

Démarche is made to China about landmines

**21 March**

Démarche is made to Moscow about the introduction of AIDS tests for foreign nationals

**25 March**

Union Troika of Heads of Mission makes démarche to Israel on the closure of the borders of the Palestinian territories

**26-27 March**

Senior officials hold their first meeting on the Euro-Mediterranean partnership

**27 March**

Union Troika meets Russia in Rome at political-director level

**27-29 March**

Fourth OSCE economic forum meeting is held in Prague

**29 March**

Union makes démarche to Tunisia about the follow-up to the Sharm El Sheikh summit of peacemakers

**April****2 April**

Démarche is made to China about its attitude towards Taiwan

**2-3 April**

Ministerial Troika visits Teheran further to the declaration published after the 10 March informal ministerial meeting in Palermo

**3 April**

Démarche is made to Saudi Arabia about the follow-up to the Sharm El Sheikh summit of peacemakers

**3 April**

Troika makes démarche to Teheran about the death sentences pronounced against Mr Khalajabadi and Mr Mithagi

**4 April**

Union Heads of Mission make démarches to the Angolan Government and UNITA, calling upon them to honour their national reconciliation commitments in the peace process, in particular the demobilisation of their forces and cooperation with mine clearance

**10 and 16 April**

Démarches are made to the Salvadoran authorities about electoral reform in El Salvador

**11 April**

Ministerial Union Troika meets United States in Washington

**12 April**

Union and Japan meet in Florence at political-director level

**12 April**

Union organises informal meeting of donor countries' Ad hoc Liaison Committee (AHLC) in Brussels

**12-13 April**

Countries and institutions meet at Donors' Conference for the reconstruction of Bosnia and Herzegovina

**14-18 April**

Union Troika of Deputy Ministers visits Riyadh, Kuwait, Dagnascus, Cairo and Amman in the context of the Palermo Declaration of 10 March on the peace process and in support of the ceasefire in South Lebanon

**15-16 April**

ASEAN Security Forum (ARF Intersessional Group) meets in Jakarta

**15-16 April**

Union and Rio Group hold their sixth institutionalised ministerial meeting at Cochabamba (Bolivia) and jointly publish the 'Cochabamba Declaration'

**16 April**

A joint communiqué on 'the deepening of relations between the Andean Community and the European Union' is published in Cochabamba

**16 April**

A joint press release on relations between the Union and Mercosur is issued in Cochabamba

**16-17 April**

Euro-Mediterranean Committee for the Barcelona process holds its first meeting

**22 April**

Sixth meeting of the Joint EC-GCC Council and ministerial meeting between the EU and the GCC are held in Luxembourg

**24 April**

First follow-up meeting for the process of stability and good-neighbourly relations in south-eastern Europe is held in Vienna

**25 April**

Démarches are made to the Government of Seychelles about adoption of the EDA (Economic Development Act)

**26 April – 11 May**

Unctad IX is held in Midrand, South Africa

**29 April**

Union Troika meets Russia in Rome at political-director level

**29 April**

Démarche is made to Moscow about the peace plan for Chechnya

**29-30 April**

General Affairs Council holds special meeting in Geneva to discuss negotiations on basic telecommunications services

**May****3-4 May**

Presidents of European Council and of Commission attend CBSS Conference of Heads of State or Government in Visby

**4-6 May**

Ministerial Union Troika visits Cairo, Amman and Beirut, notably in the context of French and US proposals concerning the monitoring group responsible for overseeing implementation of the ceasefire concluded on 26 April 1996 between Israel and the Lebanese Hezbollah

**7 May**

Troika holds political dialogue meeting at political-director level with Cyprus and Malta in Brussels alongside political committee meeting

**8 May**

Troika and United States meet at expert level in Brussels

**14 May**

EC-Cyprus and EC-Malta Association Councils hold meetings, which are followed by a joint structured-dialogue meeting at Foreign-Minister level

**19 May**

Troika makes démarche to Teheran (Iran), seeking information on the Israeli pilot Ron Arad, who disappeared in Lebanon in October 1986

**20-21 May**

Senior officials hold their second meeting on the Euro-Mediterranean partnership

**21 May**

Troika and Ukraine meet in Rome at Foreign-Minister level

**29 May**

Troika and Russia meet in Rome at Foreign-Minister level

**30-31 May**

Political directors hold political dialogue meeting in Rome with CCEE, Cyprus and Malta alongside political committee meeting

**31 May**

EU-ACP Committee of Ambassadors holds its 43rd meeting in Brussels

**June****3-4 June**

Euro-Mediterranean Committee for the Barcelona process holds its second meeting

**5 June**

Démarche is made to Baku about political prisoners under death sentence in Azerbaijan

**5 June**

Démarche is made to the Chilean authorities about the safety of Chile-based staff of international organisations, particularly the case of Mr Carmelo Soria

**6 June**

Démarche is made to Indonesia about the charges brought by the Indonesian authorities against three members of the Association of Independent Journalists

**7-8 June**

Presidency, accompanied by Commission, makes explanatory visit at ministerial level to Sarajevo, Zagreb, Belgrade and Skopje

**10 June**

Union and Mercosur hold their first annual political-dialogue meeting in Luxembourg at ministerial level

**10 June**

Slovenia lodges application for accession to the European Union at the ceremony for the signing of the Europe agreement

**11 June**

EC-Syria Cooperation Council meets

**11 June**

EEA Council holds fifth meeting

**12 June**

EU and United States hold summit in Washington

**13 June**

Démarche is made to Minsk about respect for civil rights in Belarus

**13-14 June**

Ministerial Conference is held in Florence on the implementation of the peace agreements in Bosnia and Herzegovina, with 45 countries and 15 international organisations attending

**14 June**

Heads of Mission of the Presidency and the United States make joint démarche to Tirana on behalf of the Union and the United States about the holding of general elections in Albania

**15 June**

ASEM coordinators meet in Rome

**22 June**

Heads of State or Government meet Foreign Ministers of the CCEE, Cyprus and Malta in Florence alongside European Council

**22 June**

Working dinner is held with Turkey's Head of Government and Foreign Minister alongside the Florence European Council

**24-25 June**

Ministerial Union Troika visits Tripoli (Libya) further to Palermo Declaration

**25 June**

Second follow-up meeting for the process of stability and good-neighbourly relations in south-eastern Europe is held in Bucharest

---

**26 June**

EU and Canada hold summit in Rome

---

**27-28 June**

ACP-EU Council of Ministers holds its 21st ordinary meeting in Apia (Western Samoa)

---

**30 June**

Union and Andean Community hold a ministerial meeting in Rome and sign a joint declaration on political dialogue

---

**July**

---

**1 July**

Troika and CCEE meet in Brussels at expert level

---

**10-11 July**

Presidency, accompanied by Commission, makes ministerial-level visit to Sarajevo, Zagreb and Belgrade to evaluate peace process

---

**17 July**

Mr Spring, President-in-Office of Council, meets Ms Ciller, Turkish Foreign Minister, in Dublin in connection with the Council declaration on Turkey of 15 July

---

**18 July**

Démarche is made to Moscow about the Chechnya situation

---

**19 July**

Démarche is made to the Bosnian authorities about independent media

---

**21 July**

ASEM coordinators meet in Jakarta

---

**22 July**

Union Troika and Myanmar hold ad hoc ministerial meeting alongside ASEAN regional forum meeting

---

**23 July**

Union, represented by ministerial Troika, attends ASEAN regional forum meeting in Jakarta

---

**23 July**

Union Troika of Heads of Mission make démarche to Israeli Government about obstacles to free movement placed in the way of Union citizens and Union experts in charge of development programmes in the Palestinian territories

**23-24 July**

Senior officials hold their third meeting on the Euro-Mediterranean partnership

**24-25 July**

Union, represented by the President-in-Office of Council and the Commission, participates in ASEAN post-ministerial conference in Jakarta

**26 July**

Troika and CCEE meet at expert level

**28 July**

Démarche is made to the Croatian authorities about the Mostar situation

**31 July**

Troika and Turkey hold political-dialogue meeting in Istanbul at political-director level

**August****5 August**

Démarche is made to Indonesia about the general political situation, human rights and the case of Muchtar Pakpahan

**8 August**

Démarche is made to the United States about the adoption of the D'Amato legislation

**16 August**

Union makes démarche to Tunisia about its human rights policy

**27-31 August**

Union participates at ministerial level in the Stockholm World Congress against Sexual Exploitation of Children

**September****2 September**

Troika makes démarche to the Hungarian authorities in Budapest and the Romanian authorities in Bucharest about the draft treaty between Hungary and Romania

**5 September**

Presidency (Mr Spring) and Turkish Foreign Minister (Ms CILLER) hold bilateral meeting in New York alongside United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) session.



---

**10 September**

Troika makes démarche at Union-ambassador level to Tirana about the elections in Albania

---

**10 September**

Démarche is made to the Iranian authorities about the situation of Union citizens in the border with Iraq

---

**12 September**

Troika and Russia meet in Moscow at Foreign-Minister level

---

**13 September**

Démarche is made to Bosnian authorities about human rights

---

**14 September**

Elections are held in Bosnia and Herzegovina under OSCE supervision

---

**17 September**

Troika of Union Ambassadors makes démarche to Ankara about NGO access to the regions in northern Iraq

---

**19 September**

EC-Yemen Joint Cooperation Committee meets

---

**19 September**

Trade Ministers meet informally in Dublin to prepare for Singapore Ministerial Conference

---

**20 September**

Union makes démarche to Tunisia about the case of Mr Khmais Chamhari

---

**23-26 September**

ACP-EU Joint Assembly holds its 23rd meeting in Luxembourg

---

**23-27 September**

Ministerial Troika holds meeting with India (SAARC), China, Myanmar and Japan

---

**24 September**

EU Foreign Ministers meet their Russian counterpart in New York

---

**24 September**

Ministerial Troika meets Iranian Foreign Minister alongside 50th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)

---

**25 September**

Presidency and Commission meet Mr Clerides, President of the Republic of Cyprus, in New York alongside UNGA

**25 September**

UE ministerial Troika meets Israeli Foreign Minister in New York alongside UNGA

**25 September**

Union and United States meet at ministerial level in New York alongside UNGA

**25 September**

Union and Canada meet at ministerial level in New York alongside UNGA

**26 September**

EU Foreign Ministers meet their Ukrainian colleague in New York

**26 September**

Union and GCC meet at ministerial level in New York alongside UNGA

**30 September**

Union ministerial Troika meets Mr Arafat, President of the Palestinian Authority, in Luxembourg

**30 September**

EU and Japan hold summit in Tokyo

**October****1 October**

Union Troika of ambassadors makes démarche to Tirana about the local elections in Albania

**4 October**

Further démarches are made to the Chilean authorities about the case of Mr Carmelio Soria, an international civil servant assassinated in Chile

**6 October**

Council President-in-Office visits Israel and Gaza to convey a message from the Union Heads of State or Government following the special Dublin European Council on 5 October

**8 October**

Senior officials hold fourth meeting on the Euro-Mediterranean partnership

**9 October**

Euro-Mediterranean Committee for the Barcelona process holds second meeting

**10 October**

Troika of Foreign Ministers meets Ukraine

---

**14 October**

Démarche is made to Minsk about the political situation in Belarus

---

**14-15 October**

Second UE-SADC Ministerial Conference is held in Windhoek

---

**17-18 October**

Political-dialogue meeting is held at political-director level with the CCEE, Cyprus and Malta in Brussels alongside political committee meeting

---

**21 October**

Third follow-up meeting for the process of stability and good-neighbourly relations in south-eastern Europe is held in Athens

---

**22 October**

EU-UNWRA Convention is signed

---

**24 October**

ASEM coordinators meet in Tokyo

---

**28 October**

EC-Egypt Cooperation Council meets

---

**28 October**

Démarche is made to Bosnia and Herzegovina about the presence of an Iranian consulate in Mostar

---

**29 October**

Structured-dialogue meeting with CCEE is held in Luxembourg at Foreign-Minister level

---

**31 October**

Démarche is made to Kiev about capital punishment in Ukraine

---

**November**

---

**4 November**

Union and GCC hold their second political-dialogue meeting at regional-director level in Brussels

---

**4 November**

Union Troika and Pakistan meet in Dublin at ministerial level

---

**4 November**

Démarche is made to Moscow about capital punishment in Russia

**4-22 November**

OSCE review meeting is held in Vienna

**5 November**

Troika and United States meet at expert level

**7 November**

Union Ministers responsible for development matters hold special meeting to examine the humanitarian situation in the Great Lakes region

**8 November**

Troika and Russia meet in Moscow at Foreign-Minister level

**9 November**

Prime Ministers of two Member States and Commission representatives attend CEI Heads of Government Conference in Graz (Austria)

**9 November**

Presidency (Mr Spring) and Turkey (Ms Ciller) hold bilateral meeting in Istanbul

**9-11 November**

Ministerial Union Troika visits Middle Eastern capitals

**9-12 November**

Ministerial Union Troika visits Great Lakes region

**12 November**

Ministerial Troika attends third Middle East and North Africa Economic Conference in Cairo

**13 November**

Démarche is made to Myanmar, informing it of the common position adopted by the Council on 28 October 1996

**13-15 November**

Troika makes démarches about United Nations reform in the economic and social areas to Estonian authorities in Tallinn and Latvian authorities in Riga, and Presidency does so to Lithuanian authorities in Vilnius

**15 November**

*Note verbale* on the human rights situation in Myanmar is transmitted to the Burmese authorities

**19 November**

Euro-Mediterranean Committee for the Barcelona process holds its fourth meeting

**19 November**

---

Union makes démarche to the Slovak Republic about United Nations reform in the economic and social areas

**19 November**

---

Démarche is made to the Iranian authorities about worsening relations between Iran and a Member State (Federal Republic of Germany)

**20 November**

---

Senior officials hold their fifth meeting on the Euro-Mediterranean partnership

**22 November**

---

Démarche is made to Indonesia about the case of Muchtar Pakpahan

**25 November**

---

Structured-dialogue meeting is held with Malta in Brussels at Foreign-Minister level

**25 November**

---

Structured-dialogue meeting is held with Cyprus in Brussels at Foreign-Minister level

**26 November**

---

Structured-dialogue third meeting is held with Cyprus in Brussels at Foreign-Minister level

**29 November**

---

Démarche is made to Latvia to support maintenance of the OSCE Mission in Riga

**December****2-3 December**

---

OSCE Heads of State or Government Summit is held in Lisbon

**3 December**

---

Heads of Government Troika meets the President of Belarus, Mr Lukashenko, in Lisbon

**6 December**

---

EEA Council holds its sixth meeting

**6 December**

---

Démarche is made to Croatia and to the Serbs in Eastern Slavonia about the situation in Eastern Slavonia

**9-13 December**

---

General Affairs Council holds special meeting in Singapore to finalise Union positions and state its view on the Ministerial Declaration of Singapore and the Ministerial Declaration on Trade in Information Technology Products

**10 December**

---

Union organises informal meeting of the Ad hoc Liaison Committee (AHLC) in Brussels

**14 December**

---

Heads of State or Government meet Foreign Ministers of CCEE and Cyprus alongside European Council meeting in Dublin

**16 December**

---

EU and United States hold summit in Washington

**16 December**

---

Friends of Lebanon Conference is held in Washington with Union participation

**17 December**

---

EU and Canada hold summit in Ottawa and sign a joint declaration accompanied by a joint action plan

**19 December**

---

ASEAN-EU senior officials meeting (EU-ASEAN SOM) is held in Dublin

**20 December**

---

ASEAN senior officials meeting (ASEAN SOM) is held in Dublin

**31 December**

---

Démarche is made to FRY, appealing to its authorities to implement the recommendations of the Personal Representative of the President-in-Office of the OSCE, and in particular those on compliance with the outcome of the 17 November municipal elections.







# Annex 1

## Acts adopted by the Council within the framework of the Treaties establishing the European Communities (ECSC, EC, EAEC Treaties)

The tables in this annex reflect the activities of the Council of the European Union in 1996 within the framework of the Treaties establishing the European Communities (ECSC, EC, EAEC Treaties). They have been drawn up on the basis of a dual criterion: the adoption procedures (Tables I, II, III and IV) and the nature of the acts (Tables V, VI and VII).

The breakdown of Tables I, II, III and IV by subject matter and decision-making procedure corresponds to that of the *General Report on the Activities of the European Union* <sup>(1)</sup> produced by the European Commission. In addition to the publication references of the acts adopted by the Council, these four tables contain the outcome of votes published in press releases. The existence of any explanations of vote released to the public in the same way is also mentioned.

These four tables also indicate the existence of any statements for the minutes which the Council has decided may be released to the public in accordance with the code of conduct of 2 October 1995 on public access to the minutes and statements in the minutes of the Council acting as legislator.

It should be noted that both disclosure of the outcome of votes taken and any explanations of vote and public access to statements in the minutes are provided for where the Council acts as legislator within the meaning given to that term in the annex to its Rules of Procedure. This is the case when the Council adopts rules which are legally binding in or for the Member States, whether by means of regulations, directives or decisions, on the basis of the relevant provisions of the Treaties, in particular on the basis of Article 43 of the EC Treaty or in the framework of the procedures in Article 189b (co-decision procedure) and Article 189c (cooperation procedure) of that Treaty.

The Council does not, however, act as legislator during deliberations leading to the adoption of internal measures, administrative or budgetary acts, acts concerning interinstitutional or international relations or non-compulsory acts such as conclusions, recommendations or resolutions.

Legislative acts within the meaning of the Council's Rules of Procedure are indicated in Tables III and IV by the abbreviation '(LA)' in the 'Act' column only for acts adopted by the Council since the adoption of the code of conduct of 2 October 1995. All the acts mentioned in Table I (co-decision procedure) are legislative acts.

With regard to Table I concerning acts adopted by the procedure provided for in Article 189b of the EC Treaty, known as the co-decision procedure, reference to confirmation by the Council of its common position indicates cases in which the Conciliation Committee did not approve a joint text.

Tables II and III concerning acts adopted by the procedure provided for in Article 189c of the EC Treaty, known as the cooperation procedure, and by the consultation procedure cover only the part played by the Council during 1996 in the various procedures. The reference to the common position is given only for the cooperation procedure.

Table IV concerning acts adopted by the procedure known as the simplified procedure lists acts adopted by the Council in 1996 on the basis of a Commission proposal without intervention by the European Parliament.

---

<sup>(1)</sup> See *General Report on the Activities of the European Union – 1996*, European Commission – Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, 1997-XVI, 588 pp. – ISBN 92-827-9357-5.

**Table I****Co-decision procedure (189b)**

Legal basis (EC Treaty Article)	Act	Common position	Second reading by European Parliament/Adoption by Council	Joint text produced by Conciliation Committee	Adoption of joint text by European Parliament and Council	Confirmation by Council of its common position
<b>Internal market</b>						
<b>Customs Union and free movement of goods</b>						
28 100a 113	Regulation (EC) No 82/97 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 December 1996 amending Regulation (EEC) No 2913/92 establishing a Community Customs Code OJ L 17, 21.1.1997, p. 1	28.5.1996 Abstention: A, NL PR 7526/96 Presse 149  OJ C 248, 26.8.1996, p. 1	EP: 23.10.1996 Council: 26.11.1996 PR 11620/96 Presse 326 Statement(s) released to the public: 297–299 Abstention: A, NL			
<b>Free movement of persons and services</b>						
57 66 100a	Directive 96/9/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 1996 on the legal protection of databases OJ L 7, 27.3.1996, p. 20	10.7.1995 Abstention: P PR 8686/95 Presse 211  OJ C 288, 30.10.1995, p. 14	EP: 14.12.1995 Council: 26.2.1996 Abstention: P PR 5300/96 Presse 36 Statement(s) released to the public: 5–9			
57 66 100a	Directive 96/92/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 December 1996 concerning common rules for the internal market in electricity OJ L 27, 30.1.1997, p. 20	25.7.1996 PR 9151/96 Presse 217  OJ C 315, 24.10.1996, p. 18	EP: 11.12.1996 Council: 19.12.1996 PR 12873/96 Presse 386 Statement(s) released to the public: 352–369			
57	Directive 96/10/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 March 1996 amending Directive 89/647/EEC as regards recognition of contractual netting by the competent authorities OJ L 85, 3.4.1996, p. 17	5.9.1995 PR 9385/95 Presse 239  OJ C 288, 30.10.1995, p. 30	EP: 14.12.1995 Council: 26.2.1996 PR 4720/96 Presse 33 Statement(s) released to the public: 2–4			

Legal basis (EC Treaty Article)	Act	Common position	Second reading by European Parliament/Adoption by Council	Joint text produced by Conciliation Committee	Adoption of joint text by European Parliament and Council	Confirmation by Council of its common position
57	Common Position (EC) No 26/95 adopted by the Council on 23 October 1995 with a view to adopting a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on investor-compensation schemes	23.10.1995 Against: D PR 10468/95 Presse 289 ADD1  OJ C 320, 30.11.1995, p. 9	EP: 12.3.1996	18.12.1996 PR 12875/96 Presse 388		
57 66	Directive 96/71/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 1996 concerning the posting of workers in the framework of the provision of services OJ L 18, 21.1.1997, p. 1	3.6.1996 Against: UK Abstention: P Explanations of vote: UK, P PR 7529/96 Presse 152  OJ C 220, 29.7.1996, p. 1	P: 18.9.1996 Council: 24.9.1996 Against: UK Abstention: P Explanations of vote: UK, P PR 9701/96 Presse 242 Statement(s) released to the public: 223–236			
49 57 66	Common Position (EC) No 39/96 adopted by the Council on 18 June 1996 with a view to adopting a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 93/16/EEC to facilitate the free movement of doctors and the mutual recognition of their diplomas, certificates and other evidence of formal qualifications	18.6.1996 Against: UK PR 8079/96 Presse 172  OJ C 248, 26.8.1996, p. 1	EP: 22.10.1996			
57 66	Common Position (EC) No 49/96 adopted by the Council on 8 July 1996 with a view to adopting a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Directive 89/552/EEC on the coordination of certain provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action in Member States concerning the pursuit of television broadcasting activities	8.7.1996 PR 8905/96 Presse 200  OJ C 264, 11.9.1996, p. 52	EP: 12.11.1996			

Legal basis (EC Treaty Article)	Act	Common position	Second reading by European Parliament/Adoption by Council	Joint text produced by Conciliation Committee	Adoption of joint text by European Parliament and Council	Confirmation by Council of its common position
57 66 100a	Common Position (EC) No 6/97 adopted by the Council on 9 December 1996 with a view to the adoption of a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on a coordinated authorisation approach in the field of satellite personal communication services in the Community	9.12.1996 PR 12434/96 Presse 360  OJ C 41, 10.2.1997, p. 37				
57(2) 66 100a	Common Position (EC) No 7/97 adopted by the Council on 9 December 1996 with a view to adopting a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on a common framework for general authorisations and individual licences in the field of telecommunications services	9.12.1996 PR 12434/96 Presse 360 Against: GR  OJ C 41, 10.2.1997, p. 48				
57(2) and (3)	Common Position (EC) No 8/97 adopted by the Council on 16 December 1996 with a view to adopting a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 93/6/EEC on the capital adequacy of investment firms and credit institutions and Directive 93/22/EEC on investment services in the securities field	16.12.1996 PR 12868/96 Presse 381  OJ C 69, 5.3.1997, p. 1				
57(2) 66 100a	Common Position (EC) No 12/97 adopted by the Council on 20 December 1996 with a view to adopting a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 93/38/EEC coordinating the procurement procedures of entities operating in the water, energy, transport and telecommunications sectors	20.12.1996 PR 12873/96 Presse 386  OJ C 111, 9.4.1997, p. 65				

Legal basis (EC Treaty Article)	Act	Common position	Second reading by European Parliament/Adoption by Council	Joint text produced by Conciliation Committee	Adoption of joint text by European Parliament and Council	Confirmation by Council of its common position
57(2) 66 100a	Common Position (EC) No 11/97 adopted by the Council on 20 December 1996 with a view to adopting a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directives 92/50/EEC, 93/36/EEC and 93/37/EEC concerning the coordination of procedures for the award of public service contracts, public supply contracts and public works contracts respectively	20.12.1996 PR 12873/96 Presse 386  OJ C 111, 9.4.1997, p. 1				

**Harmonisation**

100a	Regulation (EC) No 1610/96 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 July 1996 concerning the creation of a supplementary protection certificate for plant protection products OJ L 198, 8.8.1996, p. 30	27.11.1995 Against: I PR 12025/95 Presse 340  OJ C 353, 30.12.1995, p. 36	EP: 12.3.1996 Council: 10.6.1996 Against: I Explanation of vote: I PR 7819/96 Presse 163			
100a	Regulation (EC) No 2232/96 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 October 1996 laying down a Community procedure for flavouring substances used or intended for use in or on foodstuffs OJ L 299, 23.11.1996, p. 1	22.12.1995 Abstention: F PR 13047/95 Presse 378  OJ C 59, 28.2.1996, p. 37	EP: 22.5.1996 Council: 25.6.1996 Abstention: F PR 8518/96 Presse 188 Statement(s) released to the public: 84-86			
100a	Directive 96/1/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 January 1996 amending Directive 88/77/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the measures to be taken against the emission of gaseous and particulate pollutants from diesel engines for use in vehicles OJ L 40, 17.2.1996, p. 1	7.11.1995 Against: S PR 11175/95 Presse 307  OJ C 320, 30.11.1995, p. 21	EP: 13.12.1995 Council: 22.12.1995 Against: S Statement(s) released to the public: 104-106 PR 13047/95 Presse 378			

Legal basis (EC Treaty Article)	Act	Common position	Second reading by European Parliament/Adoption by Council	Joint text produced by Conciliation Committee	Adoption of joint text by European Parliament and Council	Confirmation by Council of its common position
100a	Directive 96/27/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 1996 on the protection of occupants of motor vehicles in the event of a side impact and amending Directive 70/156/EEC OJ L 169, 8.7.1996, p. 1	23.11.1995 PR 11722/95 Presse 334  OJ C 353, 30.12.1995, p. 1	EP: 29.2.1996 Council: 6.5.1996 PR 6802/96 Presse 122			
100a	Directive 96/56/EC of the European Parliament and the Council of 3 September 1996 amending Directive 67/548/EEC on the approximation of laws, regulations and administrative provisions relating to the classification, packaging and labelling of dangerous substances (abbreviation 'EC') OJ L 236, 18.9.1996, p. 35	4.3.1996 PR 5309/96 Presse 45  OJ C 134, 6.5.1996, p. 9	EP: 22.5.1996 Council: 25.6.1996 PR 8518/96 Presse 188			
100a	Directive 96/57/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 3 September 1996 on energy efficiency requirements for household electric refrigerators, freezers and combinations thereof OJ L 236, 18.9.1996, p. 36	11.3.1996 Against: 1 PR 5515/96 Presse 55  OJ C 120, 24.4.1996, p. 10	EP: 18.6.1996 Council: 25.7.1996 Against: 1 PR 9151/96 Presse 217 Statement(s) released to the public: 173			
100a	Directive 96/58/EC of the European Parliament and the Council of 3 September 1996 amending Directive 89/686/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to personal protective equipment OJ L 236, 18.9.1996, p. 44	10.6.1996 PR 7819/96 Presse 163  OJ C 220, 29.7.1996, p. 1	EP: 17.7.1996 Council: 25.7.1996 PR 9151/96 Presse 217			

Legal basis (EC Treaty Article)	Act	Common position	Second reading by European Parliament/Adoption by Council	Joint text produced by Conciliation Committee	Adoption of joint text by European Parliament and Council	Confirmation by Council of its common position
100a	Directive 96/70/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 October 1996 amending Council Directive 80/777/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the exploitation and marketing of natural mineral waters OJ L 299, 23.11.1996, p. 26	22.12.1995 Against: DK, S, UK Abstention: NL PR 13047/95 Presse 378  OJ C 59, 28.2.1996, p. 44	EP: 22.5.1996 Council: 26.7.1996 Against: DK, S, UK Abstention: NL PR 9145/96 Presse 211 Statement(s) released to the public: 144–149			
100a	Directive 97/4/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 January 1997 amending Directive 79/112/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the labelling, presentation and advertising of foodstuffs OJ L 43, 14.2.1997, p. 21	15.6.1995 Against: D PR 8064/95 Presse 181  OJ C 182, 15.7.1995, p. 1	EP: 25.10.1995	16.10.1996 PR 10626/96 Presse 271	EP: 10.12.1996 Council: 10.1.1997 PR 5126/97 Presse 3	
100a	Regulation (EC) No 258/97 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 January 1997 concerning novel foods and novel food ingredients OJ L 43, 14.2.1997, p. 1	26.10.1995 Against: DK, D, A, S Explanation of vote: DK PR 10467/95 Presse 288  OJ C 320, 30.11.1995, p. 1	EP: 14.3.1996	9.12.1996	EP: 16.1.1997 Council: 19.12.1996 PR 12873/96 Presse 386 Statement(s) released to the public: 374 Explanations of vote: DK, S	
100a	Directive 97/5/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 January 1997 on cross-border credit transfers OJ L 43, 14.2.1997, p. 25	4.12.1995 Abstention: S, UK PR 12294/95 Presse 354  OJ C 353, 30.12.1995, p. 52	EP: 13.3.1996	10.10.1996	EP: 16.1.1997 Council: 19.12.1996 PR 12873/96 Presse 386 Statement(s) released to the public: 372 Explanations of vote: S, UK	

Legal basis (EC Treaty Article)	Act	Common position	Second reading by European Parliament/Adoption by Council	Joint text produced by Conciliation Committee	Adoption of joint text by European Parliament and Council	Confirmation by Council of its common position
100a	Decision No 210/97/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 December 1996 adopting an action programme for customs in the Community (Customs 2000) OJ L 33, 4.2.1997, p. 24	22.12.1995 Abstention: D PR 13047/95 Presse 378  OJ C 37, 9.2.1996, p. 11	EP: 16.4.1996	10.10.1996 PR 10622/96 Presse 267	EP: 10.12.1996 Council: 19.12.1996 PR 12873/96 Presse 386 Statement(s) released to the public: 373 Abstention: D	
100a	Common Position (EC) No 22/96 adopted by the Council on 29 March 1996 with a view to adopting a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the approximation of the laws of the Member States concerning pressure equipment	29.3.1996 Abstention: I PR 6058/96 Presse 74  OJ C 147, 21.5.1996, p. 1	EP: 17.7.1996			
100a	Directive 96/74/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 1996 on textile names OJ L 32, 3.2.1997, p. 38	26.2.1996 PR 4720/96 Presse 33  OJ C 196, 6.7.1996, p. 1	EP: 18.6.1996 Council: 7.10.1996 Statement(s) released to the public: 247			
100a	Directive 96/73/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 1996 on certain methods for the quantitative analysis of binary textile fibre mixtures OJ L 32, 3.2.1997, p. 1	26.2.1996 PR 4720/96 Presse 33  OJ C 196, 6.7.1996, p. 20	EP: 18.6.1996 Council: 7.10.1996 Statement(s) released to the public: 247			
100a	Directive 96/79/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 1996 on the protection of occupants of motor vehicles in the event of a frontal impact and amending Directive 70/156/EEC OJ L 18, 21.1.1997, p. 7	28.5.1996 PR 7526/96 Presse 149  OJ C 219, 27.7.1996, p. 2	EP: 19.9.1995 Council: 25.10.1996 PR 10873/96 Presse 278 Statement(s) released to the public: 256-257			



Legal basis (EC Treaty Article)	Act	Common position	Second reading by European Parliament/Adoption by Council	Joint text produced by Conciliation Committee	Adoption of joint text by European Parliament and Council	Confirmation by Council of its common position
100a	Common Position (EC) No 34/96 adopted by the Council on 18 June 1996 with a view to adopting a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on interconnection in telecommunications with regard to ensuring universal service and interoperability through application of the principles of open network provision (ONP)	18.6.1996 Against: B, IRL, L PR 8079/96 Presse 172  OJ C 220, 29.7.1996, p. 13	EP: 19.9.1996			
100a	Directive 96/100/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 February 1997 amending the annex to Directive 93/7/EEC on the return of cultural objects unlawfully removed from the territory of a Member State OJ L 60, 1.3.1997, p. 59	8.7.1996 Against: D PR 8905/96 Presse 200  OJ C 264, 11.9.1996, p. 66	EP: 13.11.1996 Council: 20.12.1996 PR 12868/96 Presse 381			
100a	Directive 96/84/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 December 1996 amending Directive 89/398/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to foodstuffs intended for particular nutritional uses OJ L 48, 19.2.1997, p. 20	18.6.1996 PR 8079/96 Presse 172  OJ C 315, 24.10.1996, p. 1	EP: 23.10.1996 Council: 9.12.1996 PR 12434/96 Presse 360 Statement(s) released to the public: 304-305			
100a	Decision No 292/97/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 December 1996 on the maintenance of national laws prohibiting the use of certain additives in the production of certain specific foodstuffs OJ L 48, 19.2.1997, p. 13	18.6.1996 Against: B Explanation of vote: B PR 8079/96 Presse 172  OJ C 315, 24.10.1996, p. 4	EP: 23.10.1996 Council: 9.12.1996 PR 12434/96 Presse 360 Statement(s) released to the public: 306 Against: B			

Legal basis (EC Treaty Article)	Act	Common position	Second reading by European Parliament/Adoption by Council	Joint text produced by Conciliation Committee	Adoption of joint text by European Parliament and Council	Confirmation by Council of its common position
100a	Directive 96/85/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 December 1996 amending Directive 95/2/EC on food additives other than colours and sweeteners OJ L 86, 28.3.1997, p. 4	25.6.1996 Abstention: F Explanation of vote: DK PR 8518/96 Presse 188  OJ C 315, 24.10.1996, p. 9	EP: 23.10.1996 Council: 9.12.1996 PR 12434/96 Presse 360 Abstention: F			
100a	Directive 96/83/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 December 1996 amending Directive 94/35/EC on sweeteners for use in foodstuffs OJ L 48, 19.2.1997, p. 16	25.6.1996 Against: D, S PR 8518/96 Presse 188  OJ C 315, 24.10.1996, p. 12	EP: 23.10.1996 Council: 9.12.1996 PR 12434/96 Presse 360 Statement(s) released to the public: 302-303 Against: D, S			
100a	Common Position (EC) No 57/96 adopted by the Council on 12 September 1996 with a view to adopting a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the processing of personal data and the protection of privacy in the telecommunications sector, in particular in the integrated services digital network (ISDN) and in the public digital mobile networks	12.9.1996 PR 9698/96 Presse 239  OJ C 315, 24.10.1996, p. 30				
100a	Common Position (EC) No 58/96 adopted by the Council on 12 September 1996 with a view to the adoption of a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Directives 90/387/EEC and 92/44/EEC for the purpose of adaptation to a competitive environment in telecommunications	12.9.1996 Against: D, P PR 9698/96 Presse 239  OJ C 315, 24.10.1996, p. 41				

Legal basis (EC Treaty Article)	Act	Common position	Second reading by European Parliament/Adoption by Council	Joint text produced by Conciliation Committee	Adoption of joint text by European Parliament and Council	Confirmation by Council of its common position
100a	Common Position (EC) No 4/97 adopted by the Council on 26 November 1996 with a view to adopting a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending for the 15th time Council Directive 76/769/EEC on restrictions on the marketing and use of certain dangerous substances and preparations	26.11.1996 PR 11620/96 Presse 326 Abstention: DK  OJ C 41, 10.2.1997, p. 1				
100a	Common Position (EC) No 5/97 adopted by the Council on 28 November 1996 with a view to adopting a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council relating to the masses and dimensions of certain categories of motor vehicles and their trailers and amending Directive 70/156/EEC	28.11.1996 PR 12102/96 Presse 344  OJ C 41, 10.2.1997, p. 5				
100a	Common Position (EC) No 10/97 adopted by the Council on 20 December 1996 with a view to adopting a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the placing of biocidal products on the market	20/12/96 PR 12873/96 Presse 386  OJ C 69, 5.3.1997, p. 13				

#### Agriculture

43 100a	Regulation (EC) No 2061/96 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 8 October 1996 amending Regulation (EEC) No 1601/91 laying down general rules on the definition, description and presentation of aromatised wines, aromatised wine-based drinks and aromatised wine-product cocktails OJ L 277, 30.10.1996, p. 1	29.4.1996 Against: E Abstention: D PR 6796/96 Presse 116  OJ C 196, 6.7.1996, p. 130	EP: 16.7.1996 Council: 16.9.1996 Against: E PR 9698/96 Presse 239			
------------	---	--	---	--	--	--

Legal basis (EC Treaty Article)	Act	Common position	Second reading by European Parliament/Adoption by Council	Joint text produced by Conciliation Committee	Adoption of joint text by European Parliament and Council	Confirmation by Council of its common position
<b>Transport</b>						
84 100a	Common Position (EC) No 23/96 adopted by the Council on 23 November 1995 with a view to adopting a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on certain components and characteristics of two- or three-wheel motor vehicles	23.11.1995 Against: A PR 10467/95 Presse 288  OJ C 190, 29.6.1996, p. 1	EP: 18.6.1996			
<b>Culture</b>						
128	Decision No 719/96/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 March 1996 establishing a programme to support artistic and cultural activities having a European dimension (Kaleidoscope) OJ L 99, 20.4.1996, p. 20	10.7.1995 PR 8686/95 Presse 211  OJ C 281, 25.10.1995, p. 10	EP: 15.11.1995	31.1.1966	EP: 14.3.1996 Council: 14.3.1996 PR 5726/96 Presse 62 Statement(s) released to the public: 19	
128	Common Position (EC) No 47/96 adopted by the Council on 27 June 1996 with a view to adopting a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a support programme in the field of books and reading (Ariane)	27.6.1996 PR 8519/96 Presse 189  OJ C 264, 11.9.1996, p. 34	EP: 22.10.1996			
128	Common Position (EC) No 51/96 adopted by the Council on 8 July 1996 with a view to adopting a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a Community action programme in the field of cultural heritage – the Raphael programme	8.7.1996 PR 8905/96 Presse 200  OJ C 264, 11.9.1996, p. 69	EP: 22.10.1996			

Legal basis (EC Treaty Article)	Act	Common position	Second reading by European Parliament/Adoption by Council	Joint text produced by Conciliation Committee	Adoption of joint text by European Parliament and Council	Confirmation by Council of its common position
<b>Public health</b>						
129	Decision No 645/96/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 March 1996 adopting a programme of Community action on health promotion, information, education and training within the framework for action in the field of public health (1996 to 2000) OJ L 95, 16.4.1996, p. 1	2.6.1995 PR 7567/95 Presse 161  OJ C 216, 21.8.1995, p. 21	EP: 25.10.1995	31.1.1996	EP: 15.2.1996 Council: 16.2.1996 PR 4717/96 Presse 30 Statement(s) released to the public: 1	
129	Decision No 646/96/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 March 1996 adopting an action plan to combat cancer within the framework for action in the field of public health (1996 to 2000) OJ L 95, 16.4.1996, p. 9	2.6.1995 PR 7567/95 Presse 161  OJ C 216 21.8.1995, p. 1	EP: 25.10.1995	31.1.1996	EP: 15.2.1996 Council: 16.2.1996 PR 4717/96 Presse 30	
129	Decision No 647/96/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 March 1996 adopting a programme of Community action on the prevention of AIDS and certain other communicable diseases within the framework for action in the field of public health (1996 to 2000) OJ L 95, 16.4.1996, p. 16	2.6.1995 PR 7567/95 Presse 161  OJ C 216, 21.8.1995, p. 11	EP: 25.10.1995	31.1.1996	EP: 15.2.1996 Council: 16.2.1996 PR 4717/96 Presse 30	
129	Decision No 102/97/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 1996 adopting a programme of Community action on the prevention of drug dependence within the framework for action in the field of public health (1996–2000) OJ L 19, 22.1.1997, p. 25	20.12.1995 PR 12845/95 Presse 372  OJ C 37, 9.2.1996, p. 1	EP: 16.4.1996	1.10.1996 PR 10268/96 Presse 256	EP: 10.12.1996 Council: 12.11.1996 PR 11437/96 Presse 314 Statement(s) released to the public: 284	

Legal basis (EC Treaty Article)	Act	Common position	Second reading by European Parliament/Adoption by Council	Joint text produced by Conciliation Committee	Adoption of joint text by European Parliament and Council	Confirmation by Council of its common position
129	Common Position (EC) No 35/96 adopted by the Council on 18 June 1996 with a view to adopting a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council adopting a programme of Community action on health monitoring within the framework for action in the field of public health	18.6.1995 PR 8079/96 Presse 172  OJ C 220, 29.7.1996, p. 36	EP: 23.10.1996			

## Consumer protection

100a	Common Position (EC) No 19/95 adopted by the Council on 29 June 1995 with a view to adopting a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of consumers in respect of distance contracts	29.6.1995 PR 8243/95 Presse 199  OJ C 288, 30.10.1995, p. 1	EP: 13.12.1995	27.11.1996 PR 12106/96 Presse 348		
100a	Common Position (EC) No 29/96 adopted by the Council on 19 March 1996 with a view to adopting a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 84/450/EEC concerning misleading advertising so as to include comparative advertising	19.3.1996 Against: D, FIN, S PR 5726/96 Presse 62  OJ C 219, 27.7.1996, p. 14	EP: 23.10.1996			
129a	Common Position (EC) No 60/96 adopted by the Council on 27 September 1996 with a view to adopting a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on consumer protection in the indication of the prices of products offered to consumers	27.9.1996 PR 10259/96 Presse 247  OJ C 333, 7.11.1996, p. 7				

Legal basis (EC Treaty Article)	Act	Common position	Second reading by European Parliament/Adoption by Council	Joint text produced by Conciliation Committee	Adoption of joint text by European Parliament and Council	Confirmation by Council of its common position
---------------------------------	-----	-----------------	---	---	---	--

**Trans-European networks**

129d	Decision No 1254/96/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 June 1996 laying down a series of guidelines for trans-European energy networks OJ L 161, 29.6.1996, p. 147	29.6.1995 PR 8243/95 Presse 199  OJ C 216, 21.8.1995, p. 31	EP: 26.10.1995	27.3.1996 PR 6251/96 Presse 77	EP: 21.5.1996 Council: 7.5.1996 PR 6803/96 Presse 123 Statement(s) released to the public: 33–34	
129d	Decision No 1692/96/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 July 1996 on Community guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network OJ L 228, 9.9.1996, p. 1	28.9.1995 PR 9984/95 Presse 269  OJ C 331, 8.12.1995, p. 1	EP: 13.12.1995 Council: 15.7.1996 PR 8913/96 Presse 208 Statement(s) released to the public: 133–138	17.6.1996 PR 8080/96 Presse 173	EP: 17.7.1996 Council: 15.7.1996 PR 8913/95 Presse 208 Statement(s) released to the public: 133–138	
129d	Common Position (EC) No 20/96 adopted by the Council on 21 March 1996 with a view to adopting a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on a series of guidelines for trans-European telecommunications networks	21.3.1996 PR 5370/96 Presse 66  OJ C 134, 6.05.1996, p. 18	EP: 17.7.1996	3.12.1996		

**Research and technological development**

130l	Decision No 616/96/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 March 1996 adapting Decision No 1110/94/EC concerning the fourth framework programme of the European Community activities in the field of research and technological development and demonstration (1994 to 1998) following the accession of the Republic of Austria, the Republic of Finland and the Kingdom of Sweden to the European Union OJ L 86, 4.4.1996, p. 69	30.11.1995 PR 12029/95 Presse 344  OJ C 353, 30.12.1995, p. 46	EP: 1.2.1996 Council: 4.3.1996 PR 5309/96 Presse 45 Statement(s) released to the public: 10–13			
------	---	---	---	--	--	--

Legal basis (EC Treaty Article)	Act	Common position	Second reading by European Parliament/Adoption by Council	Joint text produced by Conciliation Committee	Adoption of joint text by European Parliament and Council	Confirmation by Council of its common position
<b>Environment</b>						
100a	Directive 96/69/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 8 October 1996 amending Directive 70/220/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to measures to be taken against air pollution by emissions from motor vehicles OJ L 282, 1.11.1996, p. 64	22.12.1995 Abstention: L PR 13047/95 Presse 378  OJ C 37, 9.2.1996, p. 23	EP: 9.5.1996 Council: 8.7.1996 Against: 1 Abstention: L PR 8905/96 Presse 200 Statement(s) released to the public: 117-122			



**Table II**  
Cooperation procedure (189c)

Legal Basis (EC Treaty Article)	Act	Common position	Adoption
<b>Transport</b>			
75	Council Regulation (EC) No 1356/96 of 8 July 1996 on common rules applicable to the transport of goods or passengers by inland waterway between Member States with a view to establishing freedom to provide such transport services OJ L 175, 13.7.1996, p. 7	29.1.1996 PR 4496/96 Presse 16 Against: D  OJ C 87, 25.3.1996, p. 53	8.7.1996 PR 8905/96 Presse 200 Against: D Statement(s) released to the public: 123–124
75	Council Regulation (EC) No 2254/96 of 19 November 1996 amending Regulation (EEC) No 1101/89 on structural improvements in inland waterway transport OJ L 304, 27.11.1996, p. 1	27.6.1996 PR 8519/96 Presse 189 Against: UK  OJ C 264, 11.9.1996, p. 1	19.11.1996 PR 11617/96 Presse 323 Statement(s) released to the public: 288
75	Council Regulation (EC) No 2255/96 of 19 November 1996 amending Regulation (EEC) No 1107/70 on the granting of aids for transport by rail, road and inland waterway OJ L 304, 27.11.1996, p. 3	27.6.1996 PR 8519/96 Presse 189  OJ C 264, 11.9.1996, p. 5	19.11.1996 PR 11617/96 Presse 323
75	Council Directive 96/26/EC of 29 April 1996 on admission to the occupation of road haulage operator and road passenger transport operator and mutual recognition of diplomas, certificates and other evidence of formal qualifications intended to facilitate for these operators the right to freedom of establishment in national and international transport operations OJ L 124, 23.5.1996, p. 1	8.12.1995 PR 12302/95 Presse 357  OJ C 356, 30.12.1995, p. 1	29.4.1996 PR 6796/96 Presse 116 Statement(s) released to the public: 30
75	Council Directive 96/35/EC of 3 June 1996 on the appointment and vocational qualification of safety advisers for the transport of dangerous goods by road, rail and inland waterway OJ L 145, 19.6.1996, p. 10	6.10.1995 PR 10208/95 Presse 275 Against: UK, S Abstention: L  OJ C 297, 10.11.1995, p. 13	3.6.1996 PR 7529/96 Presse 152 Against: UK Abstention: L Statement(s) released to the public: 60–62

Legal Basis (EC Treaty Article)	Act	Common position	Adoption
75	Council Directive 96/47/EC of 23 July 1996 amending Directive 91/439/EEC on driving licences OJ L 235, 17.9.1996, p. 1	26.2.1996 PR 4720/96 Presse 33  OJ C 120, 24.4.1996, p. 1	23.7.1996 PR 9145/96 Presse 211 Statement(s) released to the public: 150-153
75	Council Directive 96/49/EC of 23 July 1996 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States with regard to the transport of dangerous goods by rail OJ L 235, 17.9.1996, p. 25	8.12.1995 PR 12302/95 Presse 357  OJ C 356, 30.12.1995, p. 34	23.7.1996 PR 9145/96 Presse 211 Statement(s) released to the public: 159-161
75	Council Directive 96/50/EC of 23 July 1996 on the harmonisation of the conditions for obtaining national boatmasters' certificates for the carriage of goods and passengers by inland waterway in the Community OJ L 235, 17.9.1996, p. 31	8.12.1995 PR 12302/95 Presse 357  OJ C 356, 30.12.1995, p. 66	23.7.1996 PR 9145/96 Presse 211 Statement(s) released to the public: 162-165
75	Council Directive 96/53/EC of 25 July 1996 laying down for certain road vehicles circulating within the Community the maximum authorised dimensions in national and international traffic and the maximum authorised weights in international traffic OJ L 235, 7.9.1996, p. 59	8.12.1995 PR 12302/95 Presse 357 Against: A  OJ C 356, 30.12.1995, p. 13	25.7.1996 PR 9151/96 Presse 217 Against: A Statement(s) released to the public: 166-172
84.2	Council Directive 96/67/EC of 15 October 1996 on access to the groundhandling market at Community airports OJ L 272, 25.10.1996, p. 36	28.3.1996 PR 6059/96 Presse 75 Against: D, A  OJ C 134, 6.5.1996, p. 30	15.10.1996 PR 10458/96 Presse 266 Statement(s) released to the public: 252-254
75	Council Directive 96/75/EC of 19 November 1996 on the systems of chartering and pricing in national and international inland waterway transport in the Community OJ L 304, 27.11.1996, p. 12	27.6.1996 PR 8519/96 Presse 189  OJ C 264, 11.9.1996, p. 9	19.11.1996 PR 11617/96 Presse 323
75	Council Directive 96/96/EC of 20 December 1996 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to roadworthiness tests for motor vehicles and their trailers OJ L 46, 17.2.1997, p. 1	18.6.1996 PR 8079/96 Presse 172  OJ C 248, 26.8.1996, p. 49	20.12.1996 PR 12873/96 Presse 386 Statement(s) released to the public: 344

Legal Basis (EC Treaty Article)	Act	Common position	Adoption
84.2	Council Directive 96/98/EC of 20 December 1996 on marine equipment OJ L 46, 17.2.1997, p. 25	18.6.1996 PR 8079/96 Presse 172  OJ C 248, 26.8.1996, p. 10	20.12.1996 PR 12873/96 Presse 386 Statement(s) released to the public: 375–380
75 94	Common Position (EC) No 61/96 adopted by the Council on 25 October 1996 with a view to adopting a Council regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 1107/70 on the granting of aids for transport by rail, road and inland waterway	25.10.1996 PR 10873/96 Presse 278  OJ C 372, 9.12.1996, p. 1	
75	Common Position (EC) No 9/97 adopted by the Council on 20 December 1996 with a view to adopting a Council directive amending Directive 91/439/EEC on driving licences	20.12.1996 PR 12873/96 Presse 386  OJ C 69, 5.3.1997, p. 7	
<b>Social policy</b>			
118a	Common Position (EC) No 3/97 adopted by the Council on 2 December 1996 with a view to adopting a Council directive amending for the first time Directive 90/394/EEC on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to carcinogens at work (sixth individual directive within the meaning of Article 16(1) of Directive 89/391/EEC)	2.12.1996 PR 12100/96 Presse 342  OJ C 6, 9.1.1997, p. 15	
<b>Trans-European networks</b>			
129d	Council Directive 96/48/EC of 23 July 1996 on the interoperability of the trans-European high-speed rail system OJ L 235, 17.9.1996, p. 6	8.12.1995 PR 12302/95 Presse 357  OJ C 356, 30.12.1995, p. 43	23.7.1996 PR 9145/96 Presse 211 Statement(s) released to the public: 154–158
129d	Council Decision 96/391/EC of 28 March 1996 laying down a series of measures aimed at creating a more favourable context for the development of trans-European networks in the energy sector OJ L 161, 29.6.1996, p. 154	29.6.1995 PR 8243/95 Presse 119  OJ C 216, 21.8.1995, p. 38	28.3.1996 PR 6059/96 Presse 75
129d	Council Decision 96/715/EC of 9 December 1996 on inter-administration telematic networks for statistics relating to the trading of goods between Member States (Edicom) OJ L 327, 18.12.1996, p. 34	11.11.1996 PR 11434/96 Presse 311 Against: D, UK  OJ C 372, 9.12.1996, p. 6	9.12.1996 PR 12434/96 Presse 360 Against: D, UK

Legal Basis (EC Treaty Article)	Act	Common position	Adoption
<b>Environment</b>			
130s	Council Regulation (EC) No 338/97 of 9 December 1996 on the protection of species of wild fauna and flora by regulating trade therein OJ L 61, 3.3.1997, p. 1	26.2.1996 PR 5300/96 Presse 36  OJ C 196, 6.7.1996, p. 58	9.12.1996 PR 12434/96 Presse 360 Statement(s) released to the public: 307-314
130s	Council Regulation (EC) No 1404/96 of 15 July 1996 amending Regulation (EEC) No 1973/92 establishing a financial instrument for the environment (LIFE) OJ L 181, 20.7.1996, p. 1	18.12.1995 PR 12841/95 Presse 368  OJ C 134, 6.5.1996, p. 1	15.7.1996 PR 8913/96 Presse 208 Statement(s) released to the public: 127-132
130s	Council Directive 96/59/EC of 16 September 1996 on the disposal of polychlorinated biphenyls and polychlorinated terphenyls (PCB/PCT) OJ L 243, 24.9.1996, p. 31	27.11.1995 PR 12025/95 Presse 340  OJ C 87, 25.3.1996, p. 1	16.9.1996 PR 9698/96 Presse 239 Statement(s) released to the public: 196-200
130s	Council Directive 96/61/EC of 24 September 1996 concerning integrated pollution prevention and control OJ L 257, 10.10.1996, p. 26	27.11.1995 PR 12025/95 Presse 340  OJ C 87, 25.3.1996, p. 8	24.9.1996 PR 9701/96 Presse 242 Statement(s) released to the public: 201-222
130s	Council Directive 96/62/EC of 27 September 1996 on ambient air quality assessment and management OJ L 296, 21.11.1996, p. 55	30.11.1995 PR 12029/95 Presse 344  OJ C 59, 28.2.1996, p. 24	27.9.1996 PR 10259/96 Presse 247 Statement(s) released to the public: 237-240
130s	Council Directive 96/82/EC of 9 December 1996 on the control of major-accident hazards involving dangerous substances OJ L 10, 14.1.1997, p. 13	19.3.1996 PR 5726/96 Presse 62  OJ C 120, 24.4.1996, p. 20	9.12.1996 PR 12434/96 Presse 360 Statement(s) released to the public: 323-331
130s	Council Decision 96/737/EC of 16 December 1996 concerning a multiannual programme for the promotion of energy efficiency in the Community – SAVE II OJ L 335, 24.12.1996, p. 50	8.7.1996 PR 8905/96 Presse 200 Abstention: D  OJ C 264, 11.9.1996, p. 46	16.12.1996 PR 12868/96 Presse 381 Statement(s) released to the public: 338-342

Legal Basis (EC Treaty Article)	Act	Common position	Adoption
130s	Common Position (EC) No 28/96 adopted by the Council on 26 February 1996 with a view to adopting a Council decision establishing a reciprocal exchange of information and data from networks and individual stations measuring ambient air pollution within the Member States	26.2.1996 PR 5300/96 Presse 36 OJ C 219, 27.7.1996, p. 1	
130s	Common Position (EC) No 30/96 adopted by the Council on 28 May 1996 with a view to adopting a Council regulation amending Regulation EEC No 259/93 on the supervision and control of shipments of waste within, into and out of the European Community	28.5.1996 PR 7526/96 Presse 149 OJ C 219, 27.7.1996, p. 19	
130s	Common Position (EC) No 40/96 adopted by the Council on 25 June 1996 with a view to adopting a directive amending Directive 85/337/EEC on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment	25.6.1996 PR 8518/96 Presse 188 Against: D OJ C 248, 26.8.1996, p. 75	
130s, 130w	Common Position (EC) No 46/96 adopted by the Council on 27 June 1996 with a view to adopting a Council regulation on environmental measures in developing countries in the context of sustainable development	27.6.1996 PR 8519/96 Presse 189 OJ C 264, 11.9.1996, p. 28	

#### Development cooperation

130w	Council Regulation (EC) No 213/96 of 29 January 1996 on the implementation of the European Communities investment partners financial instrument for the countries of Latin America, Asia, the Mediterranean region and South Africa OJ L 28, 6.2.1996, p. 2	22.5.1995 PR 7095/95 Presse 142 OJ C 160, 26.6.1995, p. 8	29.1.1996 PR 4496/96 Presse 16
130w	Council Regulation (EC) No 1257/96 of 20 June 1996 concerning humanitarian aid OJ L 163, 2.7.1996, p. 1	29.1.1996 PR 4496/96 Presse 16 Against: DK, FIN, NL OJ C 87, 25.3.1996, p. 46	20.6.1996 PR 8081/96 Presse 174 Statement(s) released to the public: 36–67
130w	Council Regulation (EC) No 1292/96 of 27 June 1996 on food-aid policy and food-aid management and special operations in support of food security OJ L 166, 5.7.1996, p. 1	29.1.1996 PR 4496/96 Presse 16 OJ C 87, 25.3.1996, p. 34	27.6.1996 PR 8519/96 Presse 189 Statement(s) released to the public: 113–116

Legal Basis (EC Treaty Article)	Act	Common position	Adoption
130w	Council Regulation (EC) No 2258/96 of 22 November 1996 on rehabilitation and reconstruction operations in developing countries OJ L 306, 28.11.1996, p. 1	29.1.1996 PR 4496/96 Presse 16  OJ C 87, 25.3.1996, p. 29	22.11.1996 PR 11913/96 Presse 329 Statement(s) released to the public: 290–296
130w	Council Regulation (EC) No 2259/96 of 22 November 1996 on development cooperation with South Africa OJ L 306, 28.11.1996, p. 5	19.3.1996 PR 5726/96 Presse 62  OJ C 134, 6.5.1996, p. 12	22.11.1996 PR 11913/96 Presse 329
130w	Council Regulation (EC) No 2320/96 of 28 November 1996 continuing a special system of assistance to traditional ACP suppliers of bananas established by Regulation (EC) No 2686/94 OJ L 316, 5.12.1996, p. 1	23.7.1996 PR 9145/96 Presse 211  OJ C 333, 7.11.1996, p. 1	28.11.1996 PR 12102/96 Presse 344
130w	Common Position (EC) No 44/96 adopted by the Council on 27 June 1996 with a view to adopting a Council regulation on operations to aid uprooted people in Asian and Latin American developing countries	27.6.1996 PR 8519/96 Presse 189  OJ C 264, 11.9.1996, p. 15	
130w	Common Position (EC) No 45/96 adopted by the Council on 27 June 1996 with a view to adopting a Council regulation on HIV/AIDS-related operations in developing countries	27.6.1996 PR 8519/96 Presse 189  OJ C 264, 11.9.1996, p. 21	
130w	Common Position (EC) No 1/97 adopted by the Council on 22 November 1996 with a view to adopting a Council regulation on north–south cooperation in the campaign against drugs and drug addiction	22.11.1996 PR 11913/96 Presse 329  OJ C 6, 9.1.1997, p. 1	
130w	Common Position (EC) No 2/97 adopted by the Council on 22 November 1996 with a view to adopting a Council regulation on aid for population policies and programmes in the developing countries	22.11.1996 PR 11913/96 Presse 329  OJ C 6, 9.1.1997, p. 8	

**Table III****Procedure for consultation of the European Parliament (assent and consultation)**

Legal basis (EC/EAEC Treaty Article)	Act	Adoption
<b>Economic and monetary union</b>		
109f	Council Decision 96/174/EC of 26 February 1996 amending Decision 91/115/EEC establishing a Committee on monetary, financial and balance of payment statistics OJ L 51, 1.3.1996, p. 48	26.2.1996 PR 4720/66 Presse 33
109(3)	Council Decision 96/736/EC of 13 December 1996 in accordance with Article 109(3) of the Treaty establishing the European Community, on entry into the third stage of economic and monetary union OJ L 335, 24.12.1996, p. 48	13.12.1996
<b>Citizenship</b>		
8b	Council Directive 96/30/EC of 13 May 1996 amending Directive 94/80/EC laying down detailed arrangements for the exercise of the right to vote and to stand as a candidate in municipal elections by citizens of the Union residing in a Member State of which they are not nationals (LA) OJ L 122, 22.5.1996, p. 14	13.5.1996 PR 7073/96 Presse 130
<b>Internal market</b>		
<b>Customs union and free movement of goods</b>		
Art. 25(4), last subparagraph, of the Act of accession of Spain and Portugal and Art. 3(3) of Protocol No 2 concerning the Canary Islands and Ceuta and Melilla	Council Regulation (EC) No 1822/96 of 16 September 1996 opening and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas for certain fishery products originating in Ceuta (1996-97) (LA) OJ L 241, 21.9.1996, p. 10	16.9.1996 PR 9698/96 Presse 239
113	Council Regulation (EC) No 2469/96 of 16 December 1996 amending the annex to Regulation (EEC) No 3911/92 on the export of cultural goods (LA) OJ L 335, 24.12.1996, p. 9	16.12.1996 PR 12868/96 Presse 381 Against: D
<b>Free movement of persons and services</b>		
51 235	Council Regulation (EC) No 118/97 of 2 December 1996 amending and updating Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71 on the application of social security schemes to employed persons, to self-employed persons and to members of their families moving within the Community and Regulation (EEC) No 574/72 laying down the procedure for implementing Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71(LA) OJ L 28, 30.1.1997, p. 1	2.12.1996 PR 12100/96 Presse 342
<b>Free movement of capital</b>		
73c 113 235	Council Regulation (EC) No 2271/96 of 22 November 1996 protecting against the effects of the extra-territorial application of legislation adopted by a third country, and actions based thereon or resulting therefrom OJ L 309, 29.11.1996, p. 1	22.11.1996 PR 11916/96 Presse 332

Legal basis (EC/EAEC Treaty Article)	Act	Adoption
<b>Taxation</b>		
99	Council Directive 96/42/EC of 25 June 1996 amending Directive 77/388/EEC on the common system of value added tax (LA) OJ L 170, 9.7.1996, p. 34	25.6.1996 PR 8083/96 Presse 176
99	Council Directive 96/95/EC of 20 December 1996 amending, with regard to the level of the standard rate of value added tax, Directive 77/388/EEC on the common system of value added tax (LA) OJ L 338, 28.12.1996, p. 89	20.12.1996 PR 12873/96 Presse 386 Statement(s) released to the public: 386
99	Council Directive 96/99/EC of 30 December 1996 amending Directive 92/12/EEC on the general arrangements for products subject to excise duty and on the holding, movement and monitoring of such products (LA) OJ L 8, 11.1.1997, p. 12	30.12.1996 PR 5126/97 Presse 003 Statement(s) released to the public: 394–398
<b>Harmonisation</b>		
100	Council Directive 96/97/EC of 20 December 1996 amending Directive 86/378/EEC on the implementation of the principle of equal treatment for men and women in occupational social security schemes (LA) OJ L 46, 17.2.1997, p. 20	20.12.1996 PR 12873/96 Presse 386 Statement(s) released to the public: 370–371
<b>Statistics</b>		
213	Council Regulation (EC) No 2223/96 of 25 June 1996 on the European system of national and regional accounts in the Community (LA) OJ L 310, 30.11.1996, p. 1	25.6.1996 PR 8083/96 Presse 176 Statement(s) released to the public: 93–100
213	Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 58/97 of 20 December 1996 concerning structural business statistics (LA) OJ L 14, 17.1.1997, p. 1	20.12.1996 PR 12873/96 Presse 386 Against: D Statement(s) released to the public: 345–351
<b>Agriculture</b>		
42 43 Reg. No 2075/92	Council Regulation (EC) No 415/96 of 4 March 1996 amending Regulation (EEC) No 2075/92 on the common organisation of the market in raw tobacco, and fixing the guarantee thresholds for leaf tobacco by group of tobacco varieties for the 1996 and 1997 harvests (LA) OJ L 59, 8.3.1996, p. 3	4.3.1996 Statement(s) released to the public: 18 PR 5309/96 Presse 45
43	Council Regulation (EC) No 894/96 of 29 April 1996 amending Regulation (EEC) No 805/68 on the common organisation of the market in beef and veal, with regard to penalties (LA) OJ L 125, 23.5.1996, p. 1	29.4.1996 PR 6796/96 Presse 116 Against: UK Statement(s) released to the public: 28
Reg. No 804/68	Council Regulation (EC) No 1188/96 of 26 June 1996 fixing the target price for milk and the intervention prices for butter and skimmed-milk powder for the period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997 (LA) OJ L 156, 29.6.1996, p. 2	26.6.1996 PR 8083/96 Presse 176
Reg. No 805/68	Council Regulation (EC) No 1189/96 of 26 June 1996 fixing, for the 1996/1997 marketing year, the intervention price for adult bovine animals OJ L 156, 29.6.1996, p. 3	26.6.1996 PR 8083/96 Presse 176



Legal basis (EC/EAEC Treaty Article)	Act	Adoption
Reg. No 1035/72	Council Regulation (EC) No 1190/96 of 26 June 1996 fixing the basic prices and buying-in prices applicable in the fruit and vegetables sector for the 1996/97 marketing year OJ L 156, 29.6.1996, p. 4	26.6.1996 PR 8083/96 Presse 176
43	Council Regulation (EC) No 1426/96 of 26 June 1996 amending Regulation (EEC) No 823/87 laying down special provisions relating to quality wines produced in specified regions (LA) OJ L 184, 24.7.1996, p. 1	26.6.1996 PR 8083/96 Presse 176 Statement(s) released to the public: 88–90
43	Council Regulation (EC) No 1428/96 of 26 June 1996 amending Regulation (EEC) No 2332/92 on sparkling wines produced in the Community (LA) OJ L 184, 24.7.1996, p. 7	26.6.1996 PR 8083/96 Presse 176 Statement(s) released to the public: 88–90
42 43	Council Regulation (EC) No 1357/96 of 8 July 1996 providing for additional payments to be made in 1996 with the premiums referred to in Regulation (EEC) No 805/68 on the common organisation of the market in beef and veal and amending that regulation (LA) OJ L 175, 13.7.1996, p. 9	8.7.1996 PR 8905/96 Presse 200 Statement(s) released to the public: 125–126
43	Council Regulation (EC) No 1452/96 of 23 July 1996 fixing a supplementary premium payable to sheepmeat producers in non-less favoured areas of Ireland and the United Kingdom in respect of Northern Ireland (LA) OJ L 187, 26.7.1996, p. 2	23.7.1996 PR 9145/96 Presse 211
42 43	Council Regulation (EC) No 1575/96 of 30 July 1996 amending Regulation (EEC) No 1765/92 establishing a support system for producers of certain arable crops and repealing Regulation (EEC) No 1541/93 (LA) OJ L 206, 16.8.1996, p. 1	30.7.1996 PR 9145/96 Presse 211 Statement(s) released to the public: 176–178 +189–192
Reg. No 1766/92	Council Regulation (EC) No 1576/96 of 30 July 1996 fixing the monthly price increases for cereals for the 1996/97 marketing year (LA) OJ L 206, 16.8.1996, p. 3	30.7.1996 PR 9145/96 Presse 211 Statement(s) released to the public: 189–192
42 43	Council Regulation (EC) No 1577/96 of 30 July 1996 introducing a specific measure in respect of certain grain legumes (LA) OJ L 206, 16.8.1996, p. 4	30.7.1996 PR 9145/96 Presse 211 Statement(s) released to the public: 189–192
Reg. No 3072/95	Council Regulation (EC) No 1578/96 of 30 July 1996 fixing the monthly price increases for paddy rice for the 1996/97 marketing year (LA) OJ L 206, 16.8.1996, p. 6	30.7.1996 PR 9145/96 Presse 211 Statement(s) released to the public: 189–192
Reg. No 1785/81	Council Regulation (EC) No 1579/96 of 30 July 1996 fixing, for the 1996/97 marketing year, certain sugar prices and the standard quality of beet (LA) OJ L 206, 16.8.1996, p. 7	30.7.1996 PR 9145/96 Presse 211 Statement(s) released to the public: 189–192
43	Council Regulation (EC) No 1581/96 of 30 July 1996 amending Regulation No 136/66/EEC on the establishment of a common organisation of the market in oils and fats (LA) OJ L 206, 16.8.1996, p. 11	30.7.1996 PR 9145/96 Presse 211 Statement(s) released to the public: 189–192
Reg. No 136/66	Council Regulation (EC) No 1583/96 of 30 July 1996 fixing, for the 1996/97 marketing year, the prices, aids and percentages of aid to be retained in the olive oil sector (LA) OJ L 206, 16.8.1996, p. 14	30.7.1996 PR 9145/96 Presse 211 Statement(s) released to the public: 189–192

Legal basis (EC/EAEC Treaty Article)	Act	Adoption
Reg. No 1308/70	Council Regulation (EC) No 1585/96 of 30 July 1996 fixing the amounts of aid for flax fibre and hemp and the amount withheld to finance measures to promote the use of flax fibre for the 1996/97 marketing year (LA) OJ L 206, 16.8.1996, p. 18	30.7.1996 PR 9145/96 Presse 211 Statement(s) released to the public: 182+189-192
Reg. No 845/72	Council Regulation (EC) No 1586/96 of 30 July 1996 fixing the amount of aid in respect of silkworms for the 1996/97 rearing year (LA) OJ L 206, 16.8.1996, p. 20	30.7.1996 PR 9145/96 Presse 211 Statement(s) released to the public: 189-192
43	Council Regulation (EC) No 1587/96 of 30 July 1996 amending Regulation (EEC) No 804/68 on the common organisation of the market in milk and milk products (LA) OJ L 206, 16.8.1996, p. 21	30.7.1996 PR 9145/96 Presse 211 Statement(s) released to the public: 183+189-192
43	Council Regulation (EC) No 1588/96 of 30 July 1996 amending Regulation (EEC) No 805/68 on the common organisation of the market in beef and veal, with regard to the marketing year and the deseasonalisation premium (LA) OJ L 206, 16.8.1996, p. 23	30.7.1996 PR 9145/96 Presse 211 Statement(s) released to the public: 189-192
43	Council Regulation (EC) No 1589/96 of 30 July 1996 amending Regulation (EEC) No 3013/89 on the common organisation of the market in sheepmeat and goatmeat (LA) OJ L 206, 16.8.1996, p. 25	30.7.1996 PR 9145/96 Presse 211 Statement(s) released to the public: 189-192
Reg. No 3013/89	Council Regulation (EC) No 1590/96 of 30 July 1996 fixing the basic price, and the seasonal adjustments to the basic price, for sheepmeat for the 1997 marketing year (LA) OJ L 206, 16.8.1996, p. 27	30.7.1996 PR 9145/96 Presse 211 Statement(s) released to the public: 189-192
Reg. No 2759/75	Council Regulation (EC) No 1591/96 of 30 July 1996 fixing the basic price and the standard quality for pig carcasses for the period 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997 (LA) OJ L 206, 16.8.1996, p. 30	30.7.1996 PR 9145/96 Presse 211 Statement(s) released to the public: 189-192
43	Council Regulation (EC) No 1592/96 of 30 July 1996 amending Regulation (EEC) No 822/87 on the common organisation of the market in wine (LA) OJ L 206, 16.8.1996, p. 31	30.7.1996 PR 9145/96 Presse 211 Statement(s) released to the public: 184-186+189-192
Reg. No 822/87	Council Regulation (EC) No 1593/96 of 30 July 1996 fixing the guide price for wine for the 1996/97 wine year (LA) OJ L 206, 16.8.1996, p. 34	30.7.1996 PR 9145/96 Presse 211 Statement(s) released to the public: 189-192
43	Council Regulation (EC) No 1594/96 of 30 July 1996 amending Regulation (EEC) No 2332/92 as regards sparkling wines produced in the Community and Regulation (EEC) No 4252/88 on the preparation and marketing of liqueur wines produced in the Community (LA) OJ L 206, 16.8.1996, p. 35	30.7.1996 PR 9145/96 Presse 211 Statement(s) released to the public: 189-192
43	Council Regulation (EC) No 1595/96 of 30 July 1996 amending Regulation (EEC) No 1442/88 on the granting, for the 1988/89 to 1995/96 wine years, of permanent abandonment premiums in respect of wine-growing areas (LA) OJ L 206, 16.8.1996, p. 36	30.7.1996 PR 9145/96 Presse 211 Statement(s) released to the public: 189-192

Legal basis (EC/EAEC Treaty Article)	Act	Adoption
Reg. No 2075/92	Council Regulation (EC) No 1597/96 of 30 July 1996 fixing, for the 1996 harvest, the premiums for leaf tobacco by group of tobacco varieties (LA) OJ L 206, 16.8.1996, p. 39	30.7.1996 PR 9145/96 Presse 211 Statement(s) released to the public: 188–192
42 43	Council Regulation (EC) No 1598/96 of 30 July 1996 derogating from Regulation (EEC) No 1765/92 establishing a support system for producers of certain arable crops as regards the set-aside requirement for the 1997/98 marketing year (LA) OJ L 206, 16.8.1996, p. 41	30.7.1996 PR 9145/96 Presse 211 Statement(s) released to the public: 193
42 43	Council Regulation (EC) No 1599/96 of 30 July 1996 amending Regulation (EEC) No 1785/81 on the common organisation of the markets in the sugar sector (LA) OJ L 206, 16.8.1996, p. 43	30.7.1996 PR 9145/96 Presse 211
43	Council Regulation (EC) No 1600/96 of 30 July 1996 amending Regulation (EEC) No 3438/92 laying down special measures for the transport of certain fresh fruit and vegetables originating in Greece as regards their period of application (LA) OJ L 206, 16.8.1996, p. 45	30.7.1996 PR 9145/96 Presse 211 Statement(s) released to the public: 194
Reg. No 1696/71	Council Regulation (EC) No 1601/96 of 30 July 1996 laying down, in respect of hops, the amount of aid to producers for the 1995 harvest (LA) OJ L 206, 16.8.1996, p. 46	30.7.1996 PR 9145/96 Presse 211 Statement(s) released to the public: 195
43	Council Regulation (EC) No 1997/96 of 14 October 1996 amending Regulation (EEC) No 805/68 on the common organisation of the market in beef and veal (LA) OJ L 267, 19.10.1996, p. 1	14.10.1996 PR 10455/96 Presse 263 Against: E, I Statement(s) released to the public: 248–251
43	Council Regulation (EC) No 2086/96 of 28 October 1996 derogating, for the 1996/97 marketing year, from Regulation (EEC) No 1035/77 laying down special measures to encourage the marketing of products processed from lemons (LA) OJ L 282, 1.11.1996, p. 1	28.10.1996 PR 10630/96 Presse 275
43	Council Regulation (EC) No 2087/96 of 28 October 1996 amending, as regards the period of application, Council Regulation (EC) No 1543/95 derogating, for the 1995/96 marketing year, from Council Regulation (EC) No 3119/93 laying down special measures to encourage the processing of certain citrus fruits (LA) OJ L 282, 1.11.1996, p. 3	28.10.1996 PR 10630/96 Presse 275
42 43	Council Regulation (EC) No 2200/96 of 28 October 1996 on the common organisation of the market in fruit and vegetables (LA) OJ L 297, 21.11.1996, p. 1	28.10.1996 PR 10630/96 Presse 275 Statement(s) released to the public: 258–267
42 43	Council Regulation (EC) No 2201/96 of 28 October 1996 on the common organisation of the markets in processed fruit and vegetable products (LA) OJ L 297, 21.11.1996, p. 29	28.10.1996 PR 10630/96 Presse 275 Statement(s) released to the public: 266–267
43	Council Regulation (EC) No 2202/96 of 28 October 1996 introducing a Community aid scheme for producers of certain citrus fruits (LA) OJ L 297, 21.11.1996, p. 49	28.10.1996 PR 10630/96 Presse 275 Statement(s) released to the public: 268–270

Legal basis (EC/EAEC Treaty Article)	Act	Adoption
43	Council Regulation (EC) No 2222/96 of 18 November 1996 amending Regulation (EEC) No 805/68 on the common organisation of the market in beef and veal (LA) OJ L 296, 21.11.1996, p. 50	18.11.1996 PR 11616/96 Presse 322 Statement(s) released to the public: 285–287 Against: D
43	Council Regulation (EC) No 2275/96 of 22 November 1996 introducing specific measures for live plants and floricultural products (LA) OJ L 308, 29.11.1996, p. 7	22.11.1996 PR 11916/96 Presse 332
43	Council Regulation (EC) No 2348/96 of 6 December 1996 amending Regulations (EEC) No 1600/92 and (EEC) No 1601/92 concerning specific measures for the Azores and Madeira, and the Canary Islands respectively with regard to certain agricultural products (LA) OJ L 320, 11.12.1996, p. 1	6.12.1996 PR 12440/96 Presse 366 Statement(s) released to the public: 300–301
42 43	Council Regulation (EC) No 2443/96 of 17 December 1996 providing for additional measures for direct support of producers' incomes or for the beef and veal sector (LA) OJ L 333, 21.12.1996, p. 2	17.12.1996 PR 12599/96 Presse 377
42 43	Council Regulation (EC) No 2444/96 of 17 December 1996 amending Regulation (EEC) No 2075/92 on the common organisation of the market in raw tobacco (LA) OJ L 333, 21.12.1996, p. 4	17.12.1996 PR 12599/96 Presse 377
43	Council Regulation (EC) No 2466/96 of 17 December 1996 amending Regulation (EEC) No 3508/92 establishing an integrated administrative and control system for certain Community aid schemes (LA) OJ L 335, 24.12.1996, p. 1	17.12.1996 PR 12599/96 Presse 377
43	Council Regulation (EC) No 2467/96 of 17 December 1996 amending Regulation (EEC) No 571/88 on the organisation of Community surveys on the structure of agricultural holdings (LA) OJ L 335, 24.12.1996, p. 3	17.12.1996 PR 12599/96 Presse 377 Statement(s) released to the public: 332–334 Abstention: D
43	Council Directive 96/16/EC of 19 March 1996 on statistical surveys of milk and milk products OJ L 78, 28.3.1996, p. 27	19.3.1996 PR 5726/96 Presse 62
43	Council Directive 96/22/EC of 29 April 1996 concerning the prohibition on the use in stockfarming of certain substances having a hormonal or thyrostatic action and of $\beta$ -agonists, and repealing Directives 81/602/EEC, 88/146/EEC and 88/299/EEC (LA) OJ L 125, 23.5.1996, p. 3	29.4.1996 PR 6796/96 Presse 116 Against: UK Statement(s) released to the public: 28
43	Council Directive 96/23/EC of 29 April 1996 on measures to monitor certain substances and residues thereof in live animals and animal products and repealing Directives 85/358/EEC and 86/469/EEC and Decisions 89/187/EEC and 91/664/EEC (LA) OJ L 125, 23.5.1996, p. 10	29.4.1996 PR 6796/96 Presse 116 Against: UK Statement(s) released to the public: 28
43	Council Directive 96/24/EC of 29 April 1996 amending Directive 79/373/EEC on the marketing of compound feedingstuffs (LA) OJ L 125, 23.5.1996, p. 33	29.4.1996 PR 6796/96 Presse 116

Legal basis (EC/EAEC Treaty Article)	Act	Adoption
43	Council Directive 96/25/EC of 29 April 1996 on the circulation of feed materials, amending Directives 70/524/EEC, 74/63/EEC, 82/471/EEC and 93/74/EEC and repealing Directive 77/101/EEC (LA) OJ L 125, 23.5.1996, p. 35	29.4.1996 PR 6796/96 Presse 116 Abstention: 1 Statement(s) released to the public: 29
43	Council Directive 96/43/EC of 26 June 1996 amending and consolidating Directive 85/73/EEC in order to ensure financing of veterinary inspections and controls on live animals and certain animal products and amending Directives 90/675/EEC and 91/496/EEC (LA) OJ L 162, 1.7.1996, p. 1	26.6.1996 PR 8083/96 Against: D, E, S Statement(s) released to the public: 104–110
43	Council Directive 96/51/EC of 23 July 1996 amending Directive 70/524/EEC concerning additives in feedingstuffs (LA) OJ L 235, 17.9.1996, p. 39	23.7.1996 PR 9145/96 Presse 211 Against: D Statement(s) released to the public: 139–141
Dir. 75/268	Council Directive 96/52/EC of 23 July 1996 amending Directive 85/350/EEC with regard to the Community list of less-favoured farming areas within the meaning of Directive 75/268/EEC (Ireland) (LA) OJ L 194, 6.8.1996, p. 5	23.7.1996 PR 9145/96 Presse 211
43	Council Directive 96/72/EC of 18 November 1996 amending Directives 66/400/EEC, 66/401/EEC, 66/402/EEC, 66/403/EEC, 69/208/EEC and 70/458/EEC on the marketing of beet seed, fodder plant seed, cereal seed, seed potatoes, seed of oil and fibre plants and vegetable seed (LA) OJ L 304, 27.11.1996, p. 10	18.11.1996 PR 11616/96 Presse 322
43	Council Directive 96/90/EC of 17 December 1996 amending Directive 92/118/EEC laying down animal health and public health requirements governing trade in and imports into the Community of products not subject to the said requirements laid down in specific Community rules referred to in Annex A (I) to Directive 89/662/EEC and, as regards pathogens, to Directive 90/425/EEC (LA) OJ L 13, 16.1.1997, p. 24	17.12.1996 PR 12599/96 Presse 377
43	Council Directive 96/91/EC of 17 December 1996 amending Directive 72/462/EEC on health and veterinary inspection problems on importation of animals of the bovine, ovine, caprine and porcine species, fresh meat and meat-based products from third countries (LA) OJ L 13, 16.1.1997, p. 26	17.12.1996 PR 12599/96 Presse 377 Statement(s) released to the public: 335–337
43	Council Directive 96/93/EC of 17 December 1996 on the certification of animals and animal products (LA) OJ L 13, 16.1.1997, p. 18	17.12.1996 PR 12599/96 Presse 377 Against: D
43	Council Decision 96/411/EC of 25 June 1996 on improving Community agricultural statistics (LA) OJ L 162, 1.7.1996, p. 14	25.6.1996 PR 8083/96 Presse 176 Abstentions: B, D Statement(s) released to the public: 91–92

Legal basis (EC/EAEC Treaty Article)	Act	Adoption
<b>Fisheries</b>		
43/228	Council Decision 96/91/EC of 22 January 1996 concerning the approval of the amendment to Article VII of the Convention on Fishing and Conservation of the Living Resources in the Baltic Sea and the Belts OJ L 21, 27.1.1996, p. 69	22.1.1996 PR 4155/96 Presse 9
43	Council Regulation (EC) No 414/96 of 4 March 1996 laying down certain monitoring measures applicable to fishing activities carried out in the waters of the Baltic Sea, the Belts and the Sound OJ L 59, 8.3.1996, p. 1	4.3.1996 PR 5309/96 Presse 45
43	Council Regulation (EC) No 788/96 of 22 April 1996 on the submission by Member States of statistics on aquaculture production (LA) OJ L 108, 1.5.1996, p. 1	22.4.1996 PR 6562/96 Presse 99 Against: D
43	Council Regulation (EC) No 847/96 of 6 May 1996 introducing additional conditions for year-to-year management of TACs and quotas (LA) OJ L 115, 9.5.1996, p. 3	6.5.1996 PR 6802/96 Presse 122 Statement(s) released to the public: 31
Reg. No 2080/93	Council Regulation (EC) No 965/96 of 28 May 1996 amending Regulation (EC) No 3699/93 laying down the criteria and arrangements regarding Community structural assistance in the fisheries and aquaculture sector and the processing and marketing of its products (LA) OJ L 131, 1.6.1996, p. 1	28.5.1996 PR 7525/96 Presse 148
43	Council Regulation (EC) No 1075/96 of 10 June 1996 amending Regulation (EC) No 1626/94 laying down certain technical measures for the conservation of fishery resources in the Mediterranean OJ L 142, 15.6.1996, p. 1	10.6.1996 PR 7819/96 Presse 163
43	Council Regulation (EC) No 1821/96 of 16 September 1996 amending for the sixth time Regulation (EEC) No 1866/86 laying down certain technical measures for the conservation of fishery resources in the waters of the Baltic Sea, the Belts and the Sound (LA) OJ L 241, 21.9.1996, p. 8	16.9.1996 PR 9698/96 Presse 239
43	Council Regulation (EC) No 2113/96 of 25 October 1996 laying down certain conservation and control measures applicable to fishing activities in the Antarctic (LA) OJ L 283, 5.11.1996, p. 1	25.10.1996 PR 10873/96 Presse 278
28	Council Regulation (EC) No 2488/96 of 20 December 1996 temporarily suspending entirely or in part the autonomous Common Customs Tariff duties on certain fishery products (1997) (LA) OJ L 338, 28.12.1996, p. 9	20.12.1996 PR 12873/96 Presse 386
43	Council Regulation (EC) No 2489/96 of 20 December 1996 amending Regulation (EEC) No 2847/93 as regards the deadline for a Council decision on a continuous position monitoring system using satellite communications for Community fishing vessels OJ L 338, 28.12.1996, p. 12	20.12.1996 PR 12873/96 Presse 386
43	Council Regulation (EC) No 25/97 of 20 December 1996 amending for the fourth time Regulation (EC) No 3699/93 laying down criteria and arrangements regarding Community structural assistance in the fisheries and aquaculture sector and for processing and marketing of its products (LA) OJ L 6, 10.1.1997, p. 7	20.12.1996 PR 12873/96 Presse 386

Legal basis (EC/EAEC Treaty Article)	Act	Adoption
<b>Competition</b>		
92(3) 94 113	Council Regulation (EC) No 1904/96 of 27 September 1996 amending Regulation (EC) No 3094/95 on aid to shipbuilding (LA) OJ L 251, 3.10.1996, p. 5	27.9.1996 PR 10259/96 Presse 247 Against: D, FIN, NL Statement(s) released to the public: 241–246
<b>Social policy</b>		
EAEC 31, 32	Council Directive 96/29/Euratom of 13 May 1996 laying down basic safety standards for the protection of the health of workers and the general public against the dangers arising from ionising radiation (LA) OJ L 159, 29.6.1996, p. 1	13.5.1996 PR 7073/96 Presse 130 Statement(s) released to the public: 36–51
235	Council Recommendation 96/694/EC of 2 December 1996 on the balanced participation of women and men in the decision-making process OJ L 319, 10.12.1996, p. 11	2.12.1996 PR 12100/96 Presse 342
145	Council Decision 97/16/EC of 20 December 1996 setting up an Employment and Labour Market Committee OJ L 6, 10.1.1997, p. 32	20.12.1996 PR 12873/96 Presse 386
<b>Education and youth</b>		
235	Council Decision 96/663/EC of 21 November 1996 amending Decision 93/246/EEC adopting the second phase of the trans-European cooperation scheme for higher education (Tempus II) (1994 to 1998) (LA) OJ L 306, 28.11.1996, p. 36	21.11.1996 PR 11439/96 Presse 316
<b>Information society and audiovisual industry</b>		
130(3)	Council Decision 96/339/EC of 20 May 1996 adopting a multiannual Community programme to stimulate the development of a European multimedia content industry and to encourage the use of multimedia content in the emerging information society (INFO 2000) (LA) OJ L 129, 30.5.1996, p. 24	20.5.1996 PR 7318/96 Presse 139
130(3)	Council Decision 96/664/EC of 21 November 1996 on the adoption of a multiannual programme to promote the linguistic diversity of the Community in the information society OJ L 306, 28.11.1996, p. 40	21.11.1996 PR 11439/96 Presse 316 Statement(s) released to the public: 289
<b>Industry</b>		
EAEC 50	Council Decision 96/305/Euratom of 7 May 1996 approving amendments to the Statutes of the Joint European Torus (JET), Joint Undertaking (LA) OJ L 117, 14.5.1996, p. 9	7.5.1996 PR 6803/96 Presse 123 Statement(s) released to the public: 35
130(3)	Council Decision 96/413/EC of 25 June 1996 on the implementation of a Community action programme to strengthen the competitiveness of European industry (LA) OJ L 167, 6.7.1996, p. 55	20.6.1996 PR 8083/96 Presse 176 Statement(s) released to the public: 103
130(3)	Council Decision 97/15/EC of 9 December 1996 on a third multiannual programme for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the European Union (1997 to 2000) OJ L 6, 10.1.1997, p. 25	9.12.1996 PR 12434/96 Presse 360 Statement(s) released to the public: 315–322

Legal basis (EC/EAEC Treaty Article)	Act	Adoption
<b>Research and technological development</b>		
EAEC 7	Council Decision 96/253/Euratom of 4 March 1996 adapting Decision 94/268/Euratom concerning a framework programme of Community activities in the field of research and training for the European Atomic Energy Community (1994 to 1998), following the accession of the Republic of Austria, the Republic of Finland and the Kingdom of Sweden to the European Union (LA) OJ L 86, 4.4.1996, p. 72	4.3.1996 PR 5309/96 Presse 45 Statement(s) released to the public: 14–17
130(4)	Council Decision 96/392/EC of 20 June 1996 amending Decision 94/807/EC adopting a specific programme of research and technological development including demonstration in the field of cooperation with third countries and international organisations (1994–98) (LA) OJ L 163, 2.7.1996, p. 43	20.6.1996 PR 8081/96 Presse 174
EAEC 7	Council Decision 96/419/Euratom of 27 June 1996 adopting a supplementary research programme to be implemented by the Joint Research Centre for the European Atomic Energy Community (1996–99) (LA) OJ L 172, 11.7.1996, p. 23	27.6.1996 PR 8519/96 Presse 189 Statement(s) released to the public: 111–112
<b>Energy</b>		
213	Council Regulation (EC) No 545/96 of 28 March 1996 repealing Regulation (EEC) No 388/75 on notifying the Commission of exports of crude oil and natural gas to third countries (LA) OJ L 80, 30.3.1996, p. 1	28.3.1996 PR 6059/96 Presse 75 Statement(s) released to the public: 22
213	Council Regulation (EC) No 546/96 of 28 March 1996 repealing Regulation (EEC) No 1055/72 on notifying the Commission of imports of crude oil and natural gas (LA) OJ L 80, 30.3.1996, p. 2	28.3.1996 PR 6059/96 Presse 75 Statement(s) released to the public: 22
235	Council Regulation (EC) No 547/96 of 28 March 1996 repealing Regulation (EEC) No 1038/79 on Community support for a hydrocarbon exploration project in Greenland (LA) OJ L 80, 30.3.1996, p. 3	28.3.1996 PR 6059/96 Presse 75 Statement(s) released to the public: 22
213 EAEC 187	Council Regulation (EC) No 736/96 of 22 April 1996 on notifying the Commission of investment projects of interest to the Community in the petroleum, natural gas and electricity sectors (LA) OJ L 102, 25.4.1996, p. 1	22.4.1996 PR 6562/96 Presse 99 Statement(s) released to the public: 25–27
103a	Council Decision 97/7/EC of 20 December 1996 repealing Directive 75/339/EEC obliging the Member States to maintain minimum stocks of fossil fuel at thermal power stations (LA) OJ L 3, 7.1.1997, p. 6	20.12.1996 PR 12873/96 Presse 386
103a	Council Decision 97/8/EC of 20 December 1996 repealing Directive 75/405/EEC concerning the restriction of the use of petroleum products in power stations (LA) OJ L 3, 7.1.1997, p. 7	20.12.1996 PR 12873/96 Presse 386
<b>Budgetary and financial questions</b>		
209 EAEC 183	Council Regulation (Euratom, EC) No 1355/96 of 8 July 1996 amending Regulation (EEC, Euratom) No 1552/89 implementing Decision 88/376/EEC, Euratom on the system of the Communities' own resources OJ L 175, 13.7.1996, p. 3	8.7.1996 PR 8905/96 Presse 200



Legal basis (EC/EAEC Treaty Article)	Act	Adoption
235 EAEC 203	Council Regulation (Euratom, EC) No 2185/96 of 11 November 1996 concerning on-the-spot checks and inspections carried out by the Commission in order to protect the European Communities' financial interests against fraud and other irregularities (LA) OJ L 292, 15.11.1996, p. 2	11.11.1996 PR 11434/96 Presse 311 Statement(s) released to the public: 271–283

**External policies****Eastern Europe (former USSR) and central Asia**

235 EAEC 203	Council Regulation (Euratom, EC) No 1279/96 of 25 June 1996 concerning the provision of assistance to economic reform and recovery in the new independent States and Mongolia OJ L 165, 4.7.1996, p. 1	25.6.1996 PR 8083/96 Presse 176
-----------------	---	------------------------------------

**Euro-Mediterranean partnership – Mashreq and Maghreb**

235	Council Regulation (EC) No 1488/96 of 23 July 1996 on financial and technical measures to accompany (MEDA) the reform of economic and social structures in the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership OJ L 189, 30.7.1996, p. 1	23.7.1996 PR 9145/96 Presse 211
-----	---	------------------------------------

**Common commercial policy**

113	Council Regulation (EC) No 363/96 of 26 February 1996 amending Regulation (EEC) No 1602/92 temporarily derogating from implementation of Community anti-dumping measures on imports into the Canary Islands of certain sensitive products OJ L 51, 1.3.1996, p. 1	26.2.1996 PR 4720/96 Presse 33
113	Council Regulation (EC) No 385/96 of 29 January 1996 on protection against injurious pricing of vessels OJ L 56, 6.3.1996, p. 21	29.1.1996 PR 4496/96 Presse 16
113	Council Regulation (EC) No 1256/96 of 20 June 1996 applying multiannual schemes of generalised tariff preferences from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1999 in respect of certain agricultural products originating in developing countries (LA) OJ L 160, 29.6.1996, p. 1	20.6.1996 PR 8081/96 Presse 174 Against: D, E Statement(s) released to the public: 68–83
113	Council Regulation (EC) No 2331/96 of 2 December 1996 amending Regulation (EC) No 384/96 on protection against dumped imports from countries not members of the European Community OJ L 317, 6.12.1996, p. 1	2.12.1996 PR 12212/96 Presse 354

**Financial assistance to third countries**

235	Council Regulation (EC) No 463/96 of 11 March 1996 amending Regulation (EEC) No 3906/89 with a view to extending economic assistance to the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia OJ L 65, 15.3.1996, p. 3	11.3.1996 PR 5516/96 Presse 56
235	Council Decision 96/242/EC of 25 March 1996 providing further macro-financial assistance for Moldova OJ L 80, 30.3.1996, p. 60	25.3.1996 PR 6054/96 Presse 70
235	Council Regulation (EC) No 753/96 of 22 April 1996 amending Regulation (EEC) No 3906/89 with a view to extending economic aid to Bosnia and Herzegovina OJ L 103, 26.4.1996, p. 5	22.4.1996 PR 6561/96 Presse 98

Legal basis (EC/EAEC Treaty Article)	Act	Adoption
235	Council Regulation (EC) No 1628/96 of 25 July 1996 relating to aid for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia OJ L 204, 14.8.1996, p. 1	25.7.1996 PR 9151/96 Presse 217
235	Council Decision 96/464/EC of 25 July 1996 repealing Decision 94/939/EC providing further macro-financial assistance for the Slovak Republic OJ L 192, 2.8.1996, p. 21	25.7.1996 PR 9151/96 Presse 217
235	Council Decision 96/723/EC of 12 December 1996 granting a Community guarantee to the European Investment Bank against losses under loans for projects of mutual interest in Latin American and Asian countries with which the Community has concluded cooperation agreements (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, El Salvador, Uruguay and Venezuela; Bangladesh, Brunei, China, India, Indonesia, Macao, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam) OJ L 329, 19.12.1996, p. 45	12.12.1996 PR 12593/96 Presse 371

**Table IV**  
Simplified procedure

Legal basis (EC Treaty Article)	Act	Adoption
<b>Economic and monetary union</b>		
104c	Council Decision 96/420/EC of 27 June 1996 abrogating the decision on the existence of an excessive deficit in Denmark OJ L 172, 11.7.1996, p. 25	27.6.1996 PR 8519/96 Presse 189
104c	Council Decision 96/421/EC of 27 June 1996 on the existence of an excessive deficit in Germany OJ L 172, 11.7.1996, p. 26	27.6.1996 PR 8519/96 Presse 189
<b>Internal market</b>		
<b>Customs Union and free movement of goods</b>		
28	Council Regulation (EC) No 122/96 of 22 January 1996 establishing favourable tariff treatment for imports of certain goods into the free zones of Madeira and the Azores by reason of their end use (LA) OJ L 20, 26.1.1996, p. 4	22.1.1996 PR 4154/96 Presse 8
28 113	Council Regulation (EC) No 344/96 of 26 February 1996 amending Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87 on the tariff and statistical nomenclature and on the Common Customs Tariff OJ L 49, 28.2.1996, p. 1	26.2.1996 PR 4720/96 Presse 33
28	Council Regulation (EC) No 527/96 of 25 March 1996 temporarily suspending the autonomous Common Customs Tariff duties and progressively introducing the Common Customs Tariff duties on imports of certain industrial products into the Canary Islands OJ L 78, 28.3.1996, p. 1	25.3.1996 PR 6054/96 Presse 70
28	Council Regulation (EC) No 789/96 of 22 April 1996 opening and providing for the administration of autonomous Community tariff quotas for certain fishery products (LA) OJ L 108, 1.5.1996, p. 8	22.4.1996 PR 6562/96 Presse 99 Against: B, F, IRL
28 113	Council Regulation (EC) No 1191/96 of 26 June 1996 amending, in respect of sour cherries, Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87 on the tariff and statistical nomenclature and on the Common Customs Tariff (LA) OJ L 156, 29.6.1996, p. 11	26.6.1996 PR 8083 Presse 176 Against: D, EL
28 113	Council Regulation (EC) No 1192/96 of 25 June 1996 amending, in respect of cucumbers for processing, Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87 on the tariff and statistical nomenclature and on the Common Customs Tariff (LA) OJ L 156, 29.6.1996, p. 15	25.6.1996 PR 8083/96 Presse 176 Against: B, EL
28	Council Regulation (EC) No 1255/96 of 27 June 1996 temporarily suspending the autonomous Common Customs Tariff duties on certain industrial and agricultural products (LA) OJ L 158, 29.6.1996, p. 1	27.6.1996 PR 8519/96 Presse 189
28	Council Regulation (EC) No 1253/96 of 27 June 1996 amending Regulation (EC) No 3059/95 opening and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas for certain agricultural and industrial products (LA) OJ L 161, 29.6.1996, p. 144	27.6.1996 PR 8519/96 Presse 189

Legal basis (EC Treaty Article)	Act	Adoption
28	Council Regulation (EC) No 1535/96 of 25 July 1996 amending Regulation (EC) No 3059/95 opening and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas for certain agricultural and industrial products (LA) OJ L 191, 1.8.1996, p. 16	25.7.1996 PR 9151/96 Presse 217
28	Council Regulation (EC) No 1823/96 of 16 September 1996 opening and providing for the administration of autonomous Community tariff quotas for certain fishery products (second series 1996) (LA) OJ L 241, 21.9.1996, p. 13	16.9.1996 PR 9698/96 Presse 239
28	Council Regulation (EC) No 1829/96 of 16 September 1996 opening and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas for certain industrial products (LA) OJ L 243, 24.9.1996, p. 1	16.9.1996 PR 9698/96 Presse 239
Reg. No 2913/92	Council Regulation (EC) No 2153/96 of 25 October 1996 amending Commission Regulation (EEC) No 2454/93 laying down provisions for the implementation of Council Regulation (EEC) No 2913/92 establishing the Community Customs Code (LA) OJ L 289, 12.11.1996, p. 1	25.10.1996 PR 10873/96 Presse 278 Statement(s) released to the public: 255
28	Council Regulation (EC) No 2445/96 of 17 December 1996 amending Annex I to Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87 on the tariff and statistical nomenclature and on the Common Customs Tariff for certain processed agricultural products covered by Regulation (EC) No 3448/93 (LA) OJ L 333, 21.12.1996, p. 5	17.12.1996 PR 12599/96 Presse 377 Against: F
28	Council Regulation (EC) No 2471/96 of 20 December 1996 amending Regulation (EC) No 789/96 opening and providing for the administration of autonomous Community tariff quotas for certain fishery products (1996) (LA) OJ L 335, 24.12.1996, p. 11	20.12.1996 PR 12873/96 Presse 386
28	Council Regulation (EC) No 2472/96 of 20 December 1996 amending Regulation (EC) No 1823/96 opening and providing for the administration of autonomous Community tariff quotas for certain fishery products (second series 1996) (LA) OJ L 335, 24.12.1996, p. 12	20.12.1996 PR 12873/96 Presse 386
28	Council Regulation (EC) No 2484/96 of 20 December 1996 amending the annex to Regulation (EC) No 1255/96 temporarily suspending the autonomous Common Customs Tariff duties on certain industrial and agricultural products (LA) OJ L 341, 30.12.1996, p. 1	20.12.1996 PR 12873/96 Presse 386
28	Council Regulation (EC) No 2488/96 of 20 December 1996 temporarily suspending entirely or in part the autonomous Common Customs Tariff duties on certain fishery products (1997) (LA) OJ L 338, 28.12.1996, p. 9	20.12.1996 PR 12873/96 Presse 386 Against: I Statement(s) released to the public: 343
28	Council Regulation (EC) No 2505/96 of 20 December 1996 opening and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas for certain agricultural and industrial products and amending Regulation (EC) No 3059/95 opening and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas for certain agricultural and industrial products (first series 1996) (LA) OJ L 345, 31.12.1996, p. 1	20.12.1996 PR 12873/96 Presse 386 Statement(s) released to the public: 381–384

Legal basis (EC Treaty Article)	Act	Adoption
<b>Free movement of persons and services</b>		
Dir. 77/780	Council Directive 96/13/EC of 11 March 1996 amending Article 2(2) of Directive 77/780/EEC in respect of the list of permanent exclusions of certain credit institutions (LA) OJ L 66, 16.3.1996, p. 15	11.3.1996 PR 5516/96 Presse 56
<b>Free movement of capital</b>		
73g 228a	Council Regulation (EC) No 462/96 of 11 March 1996 suspending Regulations (EEC) No 990/93 and (EC) No 2471/94, and repealing Regulations (EC) No 2472/94 and (EC) No 2815/95, concerning the interruption of economic and financial relations with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), the United Nations Protected Areas in the Republic of Croatia and those areas of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina under the control of Bosnian Serb forces OJ L 65, 15.3.1996, p. 1	11.3.1996 PR 5516/96 Presse 56 Abstention: UK Explanation of vote: UK
73g 228a	Council Regulation (EC) No 2382/96 of 9 December 1996 repealing Regulations (EEC) No 990/93 and (EC) No 2471/94 and concerning the termination of restrictions on economic and financial relations with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), the United Nations Protected Areas in the Republic of Croatia and those areas of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina under the control of Bosnian Serb forces OJ L 328, 18.12.1996, p. 1	9.12.1996 PR 12434/96 Presse 360
73g 228a	Council Regulation (EC) No 2465/96 of 17 December 1996 concerning the interruption of economic and financial relations between the European Community and Iraq OJ L 337, 27.12.1996, p. 1	17.12.1996 PR 12599/96 Presse 37
<b>Taxation</b>		
Dir. 92/81	Council Decision 96/273/EC of 22 April 1996 authorising certain Member States to apply or to continue to apply to certain mineral oils, when used for specific purposes, reduced rates of excise duty or exemptions from excise duty, in accordance with the procedure provided for in Article 8(4) of Directive 92/81/EEC OJ L 102, 25.4.1996, p. 40	22.4.1996 PR 6561/96 Presse 98
Dir. 77/388	Council Decision 96/402/EC of 25 June 1996 authorising the Federal Republic of Germany to conclude an agreement with the Republic of Poland containing measures derogating from Articles 2 and 3 of Council Directive 77/388/EEC on the harmonisation of the laws of the Member States relating to turnover taxes OJ L 165, 4.7.1996, p. 35	25.6.1996 PR 8083/96 Presse 176
Dir. 92/81	Council Decision 96/418/EC of 27 June 1996 authorising a Member State, in accordance with Article 8(4) of Directive 92/81/EEC, to introduce or continue to apply exemptions from, or reductions in, excise duties on certain mineral oils used for specific purposes OJ L 172, 11.7.1996, p. 22	27.6.1996 PR 8519/96 Presse 189
Dir. 77/388	Council Decision 96/432/EC of 8 July 1996 authorising the Netherlands to apply a measure derogating from Article 11 of Directive 77/388/EEC on the harmonisation of the laws of the Member States relating to turnover taxes (sixth VAT directive) OJ L 179, 18.7.1996, p. 51	8.7.1996 PR 8905/96 Presse 200

Legal basis (EC Treaty Article)	Act	Adoption
<b>Harmonisation</b>		
Dir. 79/112 Dir. 94/35	Council Directive 96/21/EC of 29 March 1996 amending Commission Directive 94/54/EC concerning the compulsory indication on the labelling of certain foodstuffs of particulars other than those provided for in Directive 79/112/EEC (LA) OJ L 88, 5.4.1996, p. 5	29/3/96 PR 6058/96 Presse 74 Against: D, UK Statement(s) released to the public: 23-24
Dir. 87/54	Council Decision 96/644/EC of 11 November 1996 on the extension of the legal protection of topographies of semiconductor products to persons from the Isle of Man OJ L 293, 16.11.1996, p. 18	11/11/96 PR 11434/96 Presse 311
<b>Agriculture</b>		
Reg. No 822/87	Council Regulation (EC) No 119/96 of 22 January 1996 amending Regulation (EEC) No 1873/84 authorising the offer for disposal for direct human consumption of certain imported wines which may have undergone oenological processes not provided for in Regulation (EEC) No 822/87 (LA) OJ L 20, 26.1.1996, p. 1	22.1.1996 PR 4155/96 Presse 9 Statement(s) released to the public: 4463/96 ADD1 PV/CONS 2
Reg. No 822/87	Council Regulation (EC) No 120/96 of 22 January 1996 amending Regulation (EEC) No 2390/89 laying down general rules for the import of wines, grape juice and grape must (LA) OJ L 20, 26.1.1996, p. 2	22.1.1996 PR 4155/96 Presse 9 Statement(s) released to the public: 4463/96 ADD1 PV/CONS 2
Reg. No 426/86	Council Regulation (EC) No 121/96 of 22 January 1996 setting, for the 1995/96 marketing year, the percentages referred to in Article 3(1)(a) of Regulation (EEC) No 426/86 in connection with the premium granted for products processed from tomatoes (LA) OJ L 20, 26.1.1996, p. 3	22.1.1996 PR 4155/96 Presse 9 Against: P
Act of Accession	Council Decision 96/90/EC of 22 January 1996 extending the period of application of Decision 82/530/EEC authorising the United Kingdom to permit the Isle of Man authorities to apply a system of special import licences to sheep meat and beef and veal (LA) OJ L 21, 27.1.1996, p. 67	22.1.1996 PR 4155/96 Presse 9
Dir. 85/73	Council Directive 96/17/EC of 19 March 1996 amending the annex to Directive 85/73/EEC on the financing of veterinary inspections and controls of animal products covered by Annex A to Directive 89/662/EEC and by Directive 90/675/EEC OJ L 78, 28.3.1996, p. 30	19.3.1996 PR 5726/96 Presse 62
Reg. No 1975/95	Council Regulation (EC) No 686/96 of 10 April 1996 amending Regulation (EC) No 1975/95 on actions for the free supply of agricultural products to the people of Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan OJ L 97, 18.4.1996, p. 1	10.4.1996 PR 6405/96 Presse 88
Reg. No 2771/75	Council Regulation (EC) No 818/96 of 29 April 1996 amending Regulation (EEC) No 1907/90 on certain marketing standards for eggs (LA) OJ L 111, 4.5.1996, p. 1	29.4.1996 PR 6796/96 Presse 116
Dir. 76/895 Dir. 90/642	Council Directive 96/32/EC of 21 May 1996 amending Annex II to Directive 76/895/EEC relating to the fixing of maximum levels for pesticide residues in and on fruit and vegetables and Annex II to Directive 90/642/EEC relating to the fixing of maximum levels for pesticide residues in and on certain products of plant origin, including fruit and vegetables, and providing for the establishment of a list of maximum levels (LA) OJ L 144, 18.6.1996, p. 12	21.5.1996 PR 7317/96 Presse 138 Statement(s) released to the public: 52-53

Legal basis (EC Treaty Article)	Act	Adoption
Dir. 86/362 Dir. 86/363	Council Directive 96/33/EC of 21 May 1996 amending the annexes to Directives 86/362/EEC and 86/363/EEC on the fixing of maximum levels for pesticide residues in and on cereals and foodstuffs of animal origin respectively (LA) OJ L 144, 18.6.1996, p. 35	21.5.1996 PR 7317/96 Presse 138 Statement(s) released to the public: 52–53
Reg. No 1035/72	Council Regulation (EC) No 944/96 of 28 May 1996 fixing the basic and buying-in prices for cauliflowers, peaches, nectarines, lemons, apricots and tomatoes for June 1996 OJ L 129, 30.5.1996, p. 1	28.5.1996 PR 7526/96 Presse 149
Reg. No 804/68	Council Regulation (EC) No 1187/96 of 26 June 1996 extending the 1995/96 milk year OJ L 156, 29.6.1996, p. 1	26.6.1996 PR 8083 Presse 176
Reg. No 3290/94	Council Regulation (EC) No 1193/96 of 26 June 1996 amending Regulation (EC) No 3290/94 on the adjustments and transitional arrangements required in the agricultural sector in order to implement the agreements concluded during the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations (LA) OJ L 161, 29.6.1996, p. 1	26.6.1996 PR 8083/96 Presse 176 Against: F
Reg. No 729/70	Council Regulation (EC) No 1259/96 of 25 June 1996 amending Regulation (EEC) No 1883/78 laying down general rules for the financing of interventions by the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund, Guarantee Section (LA) OJ L 163, 2.7.1996, p. 10	25.6.1996 PR 8083/96 Presse 176 Against: B, D, NL, A Statement(s) released to the public: 87
Reg. No 1696/71	Council Regulation (EC) No 1323/96 of 26 June 1996 amending Regulation (EEC) No 1784/77 concerning the certification of hops (LA) OJ L 171, 10.7.1996, p. 1	26.6.1996 PR 8083/96
Reg. No 822/87	Council Regulation (EC) No 1427/96 of 26 June 1996 amending Regulation (EEC) No 2392/89 laying down general rules for the description and presentation of wines and grape musts (LA) OJ L 184, 24.7.1996, p. 3	26.6.1996 PR 8083/96 Presse 176 Statement(s) released to the public: 88–90
Reg. No 822/87	Council Regulation (EC) No 1429/96 of 26 June 1996 amending Regulation (EEC) No 2333/92 laying down general rules for the description and presentation of sparkling wines and aerated sparkling wines (LA) OJ L 184, 24.7.1996, p. 9	26.6.1996 PR 8083/96 Presse 176 Statement(s) released to the public: 88–90
Reg. No 3813/92	Council Regulation (EC) No 1451/96 of 23 July 1996 amending Regulation (EC) No 2990/95 regulating compensation for appreciable reductions in the agricultural conversion rates before 1 July 1996 (LA) OJ L 187, 26.7.1996, p. 1	23.7.1996 PR 9145/96 Presse 211 Against: I Statement(s) released to the public: 142–143
Reg. No 3093/95 Dec. 96/317	Council Regulation (EC) No 1522/96 of 24 July 1996 opening and providing for the administration of certain tariff quotas for imports of rice and broken rice OJ L 190, 31.7.1996, p. 1	24.7.1996 PR 9145/96 Presse 211 Against: I Abstention: E
Reg. No 1785/81	Council Regulation (EC) No 1580/96 of 30 July 1996 fixing, for the 1996/97 marketing year, the derived intervention prices for white sugar, the intervention price for raw sugar, the minimum prices for A and B beet, and the amount of compensation for storage costs (LA) OJ L 206, 16.8.1996, p. 9	30/07/96 PR 9145/96 Presse 211 Statement(s) released to the public: 189–192
Reg. No 136/66	Council Regulation (EC) No 1582/96 of 30 July 1996 amending Regulation (EEC) No 3089/78 laying down general rules in respect of aid for the consumption of olive oil (LA) OJ L 206, 16.8.1996, p. 13	30.7.1996 PR 9145/96 Presse 211 Statement(s) released to the public: 179–180 + 189–192

Legal basis (EC Treaty Article)	Act	Adoption
Access. of Greece, Prot.4, para. 9	Council Regulation (EC) No 1584/96 of 30 July 1996 amending Regulation (EC) No 1554/95 laying down the general rules for the system of aid for cotton (LA) OJ L 206, 16.8.1996, p. 16	30.7.1996 PR 9145/96 Presse 211 Statement(s) released to the public: 181 + 189-192
Reg. No 822/87	Council Regulation (EC) No 1596/96 of 30 July 1996 amending Regulation (EEC) No 2392/86 establishing a Community vineyard register (LA) OJ L 206, 16.8.1996, p. 38	30.7.1996 PR 9145/96 Presse 211 Statement(s) released to the public: 187+189-192
Reg. No 822/87	Council Regulation (EC) No 1920/96 of 1 October 1996 amending Regulation (EEC) No 2046/89 laying down general rules for distillation operations involving wine and the by-products of winemaking (LA) OJ L 253, 5.10.1996, p. 1	1.10.1996 PR 10265/96 Presse 253
Reg. No 804/68	Council Regulation (EC) No 2442/96 of 17 December 1996 amending Regulation (EEC) No 2990/82 on the sale of butter at reduced prices to persons receiving social assistance (LA) OJ L 333, 21.12.1996, p. 1	17.12.1996 PR 12599/96 Presse 377
Reg. No 822/87	Council Regulation (EC) No 2468/96 of 1 October 1996 amending Regulation (EEC) No 2046/89 laying down general rules for distillation operations involving wine and the by-products of winemaking (LA) OJ L 335, 24.12.1996, p. 7	17.12.1996 PR 12599/96 Presse 377
Reg. No 2100/94	Council Regulation (EC) No 2470/96 of 17 December 1996 providing for an extension of the terms of a Community plant variety right in respect of potatoes (LA) OJ L 335, 24.12.1996, p. 10	17.12.1996 PR 12599/96 Presse 377
Dir. 87/328	Council Decision 96/463/EC of 23 July 1996 designating the reference body responsible for collaborating in rendering uniform the testing methods and the assessment of the results for pure-bred breeding animals of the bovine species (LA) OJ L 192, 2.8.1996, p. 19	23.7.1996 PR 9145/96 Presse 211
Dir. 66/400+ 66/401+ 66/402+ 69/208	Council Decision 97/33/EC of 17 December 1996 amending Decision 95/514/EC on the equivalence of field inspections carried out in third countries on seed-producing crops and on the equivalence of seed produced in third countries OJ L 13, 16.1.1997, p. 31	17.12.1996 PR 12599/96 Presse 377
Dec. 95/408	Council Decision 97/34/EC of 17 December 1996 amending Decision 95/408/EC on the conditions for drawing up, for an interim period, provisional lists of third country establishments from which Member States are authorised to import certain products of animal origin, fishery products or live bivalve molluscs (LA) OJ L 13, 16.1.1997, p. 33	17.12.1996 PR 12599/96 Presse 377
<b>Fisheries</b>		
Reg. No 3760/92	Council Regulation (EC) No 846/96 of 6 May 1996 amending Regulation (EC) No 3074/95 fixing, for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks, the total allowable catches for 1996 and certain conditions under which they may be fished (LA) OJ L 115, 9.5.1996, p. 1	6.5.1996 PR 6802/96 Presse 122 Statement(s) released to the public: 32
Reg. No 3760/92	Council Regulation (EC) No 1063/96 of 10 June 1996 amending Regulation (EC) No 3078/95 allocating, for 1996, certain catch quotas between Member States for vessels fishing in Faeroese waters OJ L 141, 14.6.1996, p. 1	10.6.1996 PR 7819/96 Presse 163



Legal basis (EC Treaty Article)	Act	Adoption
Reg. No 3760/92	Council Regulation (EC) No 1064/96 of 10 June 96 amending Regulation (EC) No 3077/95 laying down, for 1996, certain measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources applicable to vessels flying the flag of the Faeroes OJ L 141, 14.6.1996, p. 3	10.6.1996 PR 7819/96 Presse 163
Reg. No 3760/92	Council Regulation (EC) No 1076/96 of 10 June 1996 amending Regulation (EC) No 3090/95 laying down for 1996 certain conservation and management measures for fishery resources in the regulatory area as defined in the Convention on Future Multilateral Cooperation in the North West Atlantic Fisheries OJ L 142, 15.6.1996, p. 3	10.6.1996 PR 7819/96 Presse 163
Reg. No 3760/92	Council Regulation (EC) No 1088/96 of 10 June 1996 amending Regulation (EC) No 3074/95 fixing, for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks, the total allowable catches for 1996 and certain conditions under which they may be fished (LA) OJ L 144, 18.6.1996, p. 1	10.6.1996 PR 7819/96 Presse 163
Reg. No 3760/92	Council Regulation (EC) No 1167/96 of 25 June 1996 amending, for the second time, Regulation (EC) No 3090/95 laying down for 1996 certain conservation and management measures for fishery resources in the regulatory area as defined in the Convention on Future Multilateral Cooperation in the North-West Atlantic Fisheries (LA) OJ L 155, 28.6.1996, p. 1	25.6.1996 PR 8083/96 Presse 176
Reg. No 3760/92	Council Regulation (EC) No 1168/96 of 25 June 1996 laying down for 1996 certain conservation and management measures for fishery resources in the convention area as defined in the Convention on Future Multilateral Cooperation in North-East Atlantic Fisheries (LA) OJ L 155, 28.6.1996, p. 3	25.6.1996 PR 8083/96 Presse 176 Against: IRL, UK Statement(s) released to the public: 101–102
Reg. No 3760/92	Council Regulation (EC) No 1602/96 of 25 July 1996 fixing special management measures for North Sea herring and amending Regulation (EC) No 3074/95 (LA) OJ L 198, 8.8.1996, p. 1	25.7.1996 PR 9151/96 Presse 217 Against: DK Statement(s) released to the public: 174–175
Reg. No 3760/92	Council Regulation (EC) No 1852/96 of 24 September 1996 amending Regulation (EC) No 3089/95 allocating, for 1996, certain catch quotas between Member States for vessels fishing in Polish waters OJ L 246, 27.9.1996, p. 1	24.9.1996 PR 9701/96 Presse 242
Reg. No 3760/92	Council Regulation (EC) No 1853/96 of 24 September 1996 amending Regulation (EC) No 3088/95 laying down, for 1996, certain measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources applicable to vessels flying the flag of Poland OJ L 246, 27.9.1996, p. 3	24.9.1996 PR 9701/96 Presse 242
Reg. No 3760/92	Council Regulation (EC) No 1953/96 of 7 October 1996 amending Regulation (EC) No 3079/95 allocating, Community catch quotas in Greenland waters (LA) OJ L 258, 11.10.1996, p. 3	7.10.1996 PR 10449/96 Presse 257
Reg. No 3760/92	Council Regulation (EC) No 1952/96 of 7 October 1996 amending Regulation (EC) No 3074/95 fixing, for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks, the total allowable catches for 1996 and certain conditions under which they may be fished (LA) OJ L 258, 11.10.1996, p. 1	7.10.1996 PR 10449/96 Presse 257

Legal basis (EC Treaty Article)	Act	Adoption
Reg. No 3760/92	Council Regulation (EC) No 2074/96 of 25 October 1996 amending Regulation (EC) No 3075/95 laying down, for 1996, certain measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources applicable to vessels flying the flag of Norway OJ L 279, 31.10.1996, p. 1	25.10.1996 PR 10873/96 Presse 278
Reg. No 3760/92	Council Regulation (EC) No 2210/96 of 14 November 1996 amending Regulation (EC) No 3076/95 allocating, for 1996, certain catch quotas between Member States for vessels fishing in the Norwegian exclusive economic zone and the fishing zone around Jan Mayen (LA) OJ L 296, 21.11.1996, p. 1	14.11.1996 PR 11221/96 Presse 303
Reg. No 426/86	Council Regulation (EC) No 2224/96 of 18 November 1996 setting, for the 1996/97 marketing year the percentages referred to in Article 3(1)(a) of Regulation (EEC) No 426/86 in connection with the premium granted for products processed from tomatoes (LA) OJ L 298, 22.11.1996, p. 1	18.11.1996 PR 11616/96 Presse 322 Against: P
Reg. No 3759/92	Council Regulation (EC) No 2272/96 of 22 November 1996 fixing the guide prices for the fishery products listed in Annex I (A), (D) and (E) of Regulation (EEC) No 3759/92 for the 1997 fishing year (LA) OJ L 308, 29.11.1996, p. 1	22.11.1996 PR 11916/96 Presse 332
Reg. No 3759/92	Council Regulation (EC) No 2273/96 of 22 November 1996 fixing the guide prices for the fishery products listed in Annex II to Regulation (EEC) No 3759/92 for the 1997 fishing year OJ L 308, 29.11.1996, p. 4	22.11.1996 PR 11916/96 Presse 332
Reg. No 3759/92	Council Regulation (EC) No 2274/96 of 22 November 1996 fixing the Community producer price for tuna intended for the industrial manufacture of products falling within CN code 1604 for the 1997 fishing year (LA) OJ L 308, 29.11.1996, p. 6	22.11.1996 PR 11916/96 Presse 332
Reg. No 3759/92	Council Regulation (EC) No 2406/96 of 26 November 1996 laying down common marketing standards for certain fishery products (LA) OJ L 334, 23.12.1996, p. 1	26.11.1996 PR 11620/96 Presse 326
Reg. No 3760/92	Council Regulation (EC) No 2366/96 of 6 December 1996 amending for the fifth time Regulation (EC) No 3074/95 fixing, for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks, the total allowable catches for 1996 and certain conditions under which they may be fished (LA) OJ L 323, 13.12.1996, p. 1	6.12.1996 PR 12440/96 Presse 366
Reg. No 3760/92 Act of Accession	Council Regulation (EC) No 390/97 of 20 December 1996 fixing, for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks, the total allowable catches for 1997 and certain conditions under which they may be fished (LA) OJ L 66, 6.3.1997, p. 1	20.12.1996 PR 12873/96 Presse 386 Statement(s) released to the public: 387–392
Reg. No 3760/92	Council Regulation (EC) No 391/97 of 20 December 1996 laying down, for 1997, certain measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources applicable to vessels flying the flag of Norway OJ L 66, 6.3.1997, p. 49	20.12.1996 PR 12873/96 Presse 386

Legal basis (EC Treaty Article)	Act	Adoption
Reg. No 3760/92	Council Regulation (EC) No 392/97 of 20 December 1996 allocating, for 1997, certain catch quotas between Member States for vessels fishing in the Norwegian exclusive economic zone and the fishing zone around Jan Mayen (LA) OJ L 66, 6.3.1997, p. 57	20.12.1996 PR 12873/96 Presse 386
Reg. No 3760/92	Council Regulation (EC) No 393/97 of 20 December 1996 laying down, for 1997, certain measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources applicable to vessels flying the flag of the Faeroe Islands OJ L 66, 6.3.1997, p. 61	20.12.1996 PR 12873/96 Presse 386
Reg. No 3760/92	Council Regulation (EC) No 394/97 of 20 December 1996 allocating, for 1997, certain catch quotas between Member States for vessels fishing in Faeroese waters (LA) OJ L 66, 6.3.1997, p. 69	20.12.1996 PR 12873/96 Presse 386
Reg. No 3760/92	Council Regulation (EC) No 395/97 of 20 December 1996 allocating, for 1997, Community catch quotas in Greenland waters (LA) OJ L 66, 6.3.1997, p. 71	20.12.1996 PR 12873/96 Presse 386
Reg. No 3760/92	Council Regulation (EC) No 396/97 of 20 December 1996 allocating, for 1997, catch quotas between Member States for vessels fishing in Icelandic waters (LA) OJ L 66, 6.3.1997, p. 74	20.12.1996 PR 12873/96 Presse 386
Reg. No 3760/92	Council Regulation (EC) No 397/97 of 20 December 1996 laying down for 1997 certain measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources applicable to vessels flying the flag of Estonia OJ L 66, 6.3.1997, p. 76	20.12.1996 PR 12873/96 Presse 386
Reg. No 3760/92	Council Regulation (EC) No 398/97 of 20 December 1996 allocating for 1997 catch quotas between Member States for vessels fishing in Estonian waters (LA) OJ L 66, 6.3.1997, p. 83	20.12.1996 PR 12873/96 Presse 386
Reg. No 3760/92	Council Regulation (EC) No 399/97 of 20 December 1996 laying down for 1997 certain measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources applicable to vessels flying the flag of Latvia OJ L 66, 6.3.1997, p. 85	20.12.1996 PR 12873/96 Presse 386
Reg. No 3760/92	Council Regulation (EC) No 400/97 of 20 December 1996 allocating, for 1997, catch quotas between Member States for vessels fishing in Latvian waters (LA) OJ L 66, 6.3.1997, p. 92	20.12.1996 PR 12873/96 Presse 386
Reg. No 3760/92	Council Regulation (EC) No 401/97 of 20 December 1996 laying down, for 1997, certain measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources applicable to vessels flying the flag of Lithuania OJ L 66, 6.3.1997, p. 94	20.12.1996 PR 12873/96 Presse 386
Reg. No 3760/92	Council Regulation (EC) No 402/97 of 20 December 1996 allocating, for 1997, catch quotas between Member States for vessels fishing in Lithuanian waters (LA) OJ L 66 du 6.3.1997, p. 101	20.12.1996 PR 12873/96 Presse 386
Reg. No 3760/92	Council Regulation (EC) No 403/97 of 20 December 1996 laying down for 1997 certain measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources applicable to vessels flying the flag of Poland OJ L 66 du 6.3.1997, p. 103	20.12.1996 PR 12873/96 Presse 386

Legal basis (EC Treaty Article)	Act	Adoption
Reg. No 3760/92	Council Regulation (EC) No 404/97 of 20 December 1996 allocating, for 1997, catch quotas between Member States for vessels fishing in Polish waters (LA) OJ L 66, 6.3.1997, p. 110	20.12.1996 PR 12873/96 Presse 386
Reg. No 3760/92	Council Regulation (EC) No 405/97 of 20 December 1996 laying down for 1997 certain measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources applicable in vessels flying the flag of certain non-member countries in the 200-nautical-mile zone off the coast of the French department of Guiana OJ L 66, 6.3.1997, p. 112	20.12.1996 PR 12873/96 Presse 386
Reg. No 3760/92 Reg. No 1627/94	Council Regulation (EC) No 406/97 of 20 December 1996 laying down for 1997 certain conservation and management measures for fishery resources in the regulatory area as defined in the Convention on Future Multilateral Cooperation in the North-West Atlantic Fisheries (LA) OJ L 66, 6.3.1997, p. 119	20.12.1996 PR 12873/96 Presse 386
Reg. No 3760/92	Council Regulation (EC) No 407/97 of 20 December 1996 laying down for 1997 certain conservation and management measures for fishery resources in the convention area as defined in the Convention on Future Multilateral Cooperation in North-East Atlantic Fisheries (LA) OJ L 66, 6.3.1997, p. 133	20.12.1996 PR 12873/96 Presse 386 Statement(s) released to the public: 393
Act of Accession Art. 125	Council Decision 96/693/EC of 2 December 1996 fixing the amount of the Community financial contribution for 1996 to expenditure incurred by the Swedish authorities for the release of smolt (LA) OJ L 319, 10.12.1996, p. 10	2.12.1996 PR 12100/96 Presse 342
<b>Social policy</b>		
Agreement on social policy, Prot. 14, Art. 4(2)	Council Directive 96/34/EC of 3 June 1996 on the framework agreement on parental leave concluded by UNICE, CEEP and the ETUC (LA) OJ L 145, 19.6.1996, p. 4	3.6.1996 PR 7529/96 Presse 152 Statement(s) released to the public: 54-59
<b>Research and technological development</b>		
EAEC 50	Council Decision 96/243/ECSC of 25 March 1996 approving amendments to the statutes of the Kernkraftwerk RWE-Bayernwerk GmbH (KRB) joint undertaking OJ L 80, 30.3.1996, p. 62	25.3.1996 PR 6053/96 Presse 69
<b>Energy</b>		
EC Treaty	Council Decision 97/9/EC of 20 December 1996 repealing recommendation 76/494/EEC on the rational use, through better driving habits, of energy consumed by road vehicles (LA) OJ L 3, 7.1.1997, p. 8	20.12.1996 PR 12873/96 Presse 386
<b>General questions</b>		
213	Council Regulation (EC) No 23/97 of 20 December 1996 on statistics on the level and structure of labour costs (LA) OJ L 6, 10.1.1997, p. 1	20.12.1996 PR 12873/96 Presse 386 Statement(s) released to the public: 385

Legal basis (EC Treaty Article)	Act	Adoption
213	Council Regulation (EC) No 24/97 of 20 December 1996 repealing Regulation (EEC) No 1729/76 concerning the communication of information on the state of the Community's energy supplies (LA) OJ L 6, 10.1.1997, p. 6	20.12.1996 PR 12873/96 Presse 386
<b>Institutional questions</b>		
152	Council decision of 28 May 1996 on the post-clearance recovery of customs debt OJ C 170, 14.6.1996, p. 1	28.5.1996 PR 7526/96 Presse 149
EC 151(3) ECSC 30(2) EAEC 121(2)	96/705/EC, ECSC, Euratom: Council decision of 6 December 1996 amending Decision 93/731/EC on public access to Council documents OJ L 325, 14.12.1996, p. 19	6.12.96 PR 12440/96 Presse 366
EC Treaty protocol on priv. and imm., Staff Regs.	Council Regulation (Euratom, ECSC, EC) No 2485/96 of 20 December 1996 adjusting, with effect from 1 July 1996, the remuneration and pensions of officials and other servants of the European Communities and the weightings applied thereto (LA) OJ L 338, 28.12.1996, p. 1	20.12.1996 PR 12873/96 Presse 386
<b>External policies</b>		
<b>Euro-Mediterranean partnership – Mashreq and Maghreb</b>		
Reg. No 1488/96	Council Decision 96/706/EC of 6 December 1996 concerning the adoption of the guidelines for the indicative programmes concerning financial and technical measures to accompany the reform of economic and social structures in the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership (MEDA) OJ L 325, 14.12.1996, p. 20	6.12.1996 PR 12440/96 Presse 366
<b>Development cooperation</b>		
Dec. 91/482, Art. 240	Council Decision 96/109/EC of 29 January 1996 on transitional measures to be applied from 1 March 1995 in the context of the association of the overseas countries and territories with the European Community OJ L 26, 2.2.1996, p. 27	29.1.1996 PR 4496/96 Presse 16
<b>Common commercial policy</b>		
Reg. No 3283/94 Reg. No 2423/88	Council Regulation (EC) No 81/96 of 19 January 1996 amending Regulation (EEC) No 2455/93 imposing definitive anti-dumping duties on imports of monosodium glutamate originating in Indonesia, the Republic of Korea and Taiwan and collecting definitively the provisional duties imposed and terminating the proceeding with regard to Thailand OJ L 15, 20.1.1996, p. 20	19.1.1996 PR 4154/96 Presse 8
Reg. No 3283/94	Council Regulation (EC) No 92/96 of 22 January 1996 amending Regulation (EC) No 2413/95 imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of ferro-silico-manganese originating in Russia, Ukraine, Brazil and South Africa OJ L 18, 24.1.1996, p. 1	22.1.1996 PR 4154/96 Presse 8
113 Act of Accession	Council Regulation (EC) No 102/96 of 22 January 1996 renewing the measures laid down in Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 1416/95 establishing certain concessions in the form of Community tariff quotas in 1995 for certain processed agricultural products OJ L 19, 25.1.1996, p. 1	22.1.1996 PR 4154/96 Presse 8

Legal basis (EC Treaty Article)	Act	Adoption
Reg. No 3283/94 Reg. No 2423/88	Council Regulation (EC) No 137/96 of 22 January 1996 imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of refractory chamottes originating in the People's Republic of China OJ L 21, 27.1.1996, p. 1	22.1.1996 PR 4154/96 Presse 8
113	Council Regulation (EC) No 138/96 of 22 January 1996 amending Regulation (EC) No 520/94 establishing a Community procedure for administering quantitative quotas OJ L 21, 27.1.1996, p. 6	22.1.1996 PR 4155/96 Presse 9
113	Council Regulation (EC) No 139/96 of 22 January 1996 amending Regulations (EC) No 3285/94 and (EC) No 519/94 with respect to the uniform Community surveillance document (LA) OJ L 21, 27.1.1996, p. 7	22.1.1996 PR 4155/96 Presse 9
113	Council Regulation (EC) No 167/96 of 29 January 1996 renewing measures laid down in Annex I and II to Regulation (EC) No 1917/95 establishing certain measures concerning imports of processed agricultural products from Iceland, Norway and Switzerland in order to take account of the results of the Uruguay Round negotiations in the agricultural sector OJ L 25, 1.2.1996, p. 1	29.1.1996 PR 4496/96 Presse 16
113	Council Regulation (EC) No 168/96 of 29 January 1996 amending Regulation (EC) No 519/94 on common rules for imports from certain third countries OJ L 25, 1.2.1996, p. 2	29.1.1996 PR 4496/96 Presse 16
Reg. No 3285/94	Council Decision 96/208/EC of 11 March 1996 confirming Commission Regulation (EC) No 2914/95 introducing prior Community surveillance of imports of certain iron and steel products covered by the ECSC and EC Treaties originating in certain third countries OJ L 68, 19.3.1996, p. 29	11.3.1996 PR 5516/96 Presse 56
Reg. No 3283/94 Reg. No 2423/88	Council Regulation (EC) No 212/96 of 29 January 1996 extending the provisional anti-dumping duty on imports of coumarin originating in the People's Republic of China OJ L 28, 6.2.1996, p. 1	29.1.1996 PR 4496/96 Presse 16
Reg. No 3283/94 Reg. No 2423/88	Council Regulation (EC) No 245/96 of 29 January 1996 extending the provisional anti-dumping duty on imports of bicycles originating in Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand OJ L 32, 10.2.1996, p. 1	29.1.1996 PR 4496/96 Presse 16
Reg. No 3283/94	Council Regulation (EC) No 399/96 of 4 March 1996 extending the suspension of the definitive anti-dumping duties imposed on imports of certain types of electronic microcircuits known as DRAMs (dynamic random access memories) originating in Japan and in the Republic of Korea OJ L 55, 6.3.1996, p. 1	4.3.1996 PR 5309/96 Presse 45
113	Council Regulation (EC) No 447/96 of 11 March 1996 laying down special measures for the import of olive oil from Tunisia OJ L 62, 13.3.1996, p. 1	11.3.1996 PR 5516/96 Presse 56
113	Council Regulation (EC) No 499/96 of 19 March 1996 opening and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas for certain fishery products and live horses originating in Iceland OJ L 75, 23.3.1996, p. 8	19.3.1996 PR 5726/96 Presse 62

Legal basis (EC Treaty Article)	Act	Adoption
Reg. No 3283/94 Reg. No 2423/88	Council Regulation (EC) No 515/96 of 25 March 1996 repealing Regulation (EC) No 2674/94 imposing definitive anti-dumping measures on imports of furazolidone originating in the People's Republic of China OJ L 77, 27.3.1996, p. 1	25.3.1996 PR 6054/96 Presse 70
113	Council Regulation (EC) No 538/96 of 25 March 1996 amending Regulation (EC) No 517/94 concerning imports of certain textile products originating in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) OJ L 79, 29.3.1996, p. 1	25.3.1996 PR 6054/96 Presse 70
113	Council Regulation (EC) No 539/96 of 25 March 1996 amending Regulations (EEC) No 1134/91, (EEC) No 4088/87 and (EC) No 1981/94 with regard to the tariff arrangements applicable to imports into the Community of products originating in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip OJ L 79, 29.3.1996, p. 6	25.3.1996 PR 6054/96 Presse 70
113	Council Regulation (EC) No 540/96 of 25 March 1996 amending Regulation (EC) No 3010/95 totally or partially suspending the customs duties applicable to certain products falling within Chapters 1 to 24 and Chapter 27 of the Combined Nomenclature originating in Malta and Turkey (1995) OJ L 79, 29.3.1996, p. 8	25.3.1996 PR 6054/96 Presse 70
Reg. No 3283/94 Reg. No 2423/88	Council Regulation (EC) No 584/96 of 11 March 1996 imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of certain tube or pipe fittings, of iron or steel, originating in the People's Republic of China, Croatia and Thailand, and collecting definitively the provisional duty imposed OJ L 84, 3.4.1996, p. 1	11.3.1996 PR 5516/96 Presse 56
113	Council Regulation (EC) No 585/96 of 28 March 1996 amending, for certain products originating in Israel, Regulation (EC) No 1981/94 opening and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas for certain products originating in Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Malta, Morocco, the Occupied Territories, Tunisia and Turkey, and providing detailed rules for extending and adapting these tariff quotas, and Regulation (EC) No 934/95 establishing tariff ceilings and a Community statistical surveillance in the framework of reference quantities for a certain number of products originating in Cyprus, Egypt, Jordan, Israel, Tunisia, Syria, Malta, Morocco, and the Occupied Territories OJ L 84, 3.4.1996, p. 8	28.3.1996 PR 6059/96 Presse 75
Reg. No 3283/94 Reg. No 2423/88	Council Regulation (EC) No 600/96 of 25 March 1996 imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of coumarin originating in the People's Republic of China OJ L 86, 4.4.1996, p. 1	25.3.1996 PR 6054/96 Presse 70
113	Council Regulation (EC) No 619/96 of 25 March 1996 amending Regulation (EEC) No 715/90 on the arrangements applicable to agricultural products and certain goods resulting from the processing of agricultural products originating in the ACP States or in the overseas countries and territories (OCTs) OJ L 89, 10.4.1996, p. 1	25.3.1996 PR 6054/96 Presse 70
Reg. No 3283/94 Reg. No 2423/88	Council Regulation (EC) No 648/96 of 28 March 1996 imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of bicycles originating in Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand and collecting definitively the provisional duties imposed OJ L 91, 12.4.1996, p. 1	28.3.1996 PR 6059/96 Presse 75

Legal basis (EC Treaty Article)	Act	Adoption
Reg. No 3283/94	Council Regulation (EC) No 663/96 of 28 March 1996 imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of certain magnetic disks (3,5' microdisks) originating in Malaysia, Mexico and the United States of America, and collecting definitively the provisional duty imposed OJ L 92, 13.4.1996, p. 1	28.3.1996 PR 6059/96 Presse 75
Reg. No 384/96	Council Regulation (EC) No 664/96 of 29 March 1996 extending the suspension of the definitive anti-dumping duty imposed on imports of certain types of electronic microcircuits known as Eproms (erasable programmable read-only memories) originating in Japan OJ L 92, 13.4.1996, p. 4	29.3.1996 PR 6058/96 Presse 74
Reg. No 384/96 Reg. No 2423/88	Council Regulation (EC) No 720/96 of 15 April 1996 extending the provisional anti-dumping duty on imports of unwrought magnesium originating in Russia and Ukraine OJ L 100, 23.4.1996, p. 1	15.4.1996 PR 6405/96 Presse 88
113	Council Regulation (EC) No 752/96 of 22 April 1996 amending Annexes II and III to Regulation (EC) No 519/94 on common rules for imports from certain third countries OJ L 103, 26.4.1996, p. 1	22.4.1996 PR 6561/96 Presse 98
113	Council Regulation (EC) No 764/96 of 22 April 1996 amending Regulation (EC) No 1808/95 opening and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas bound in GATT for certain agricultural, industrial and fisheries products and establishing the detailed provisions for adapting these quotas (LA) OJ L 104, 27.4.1996, p. 1	22.4.1996 PR 6562/96 Presse 99
113	Council Regulation (EC) No 790/96 of 29 April 1996 concerning the export of certain ECSC and EC steel products from the Czech Republic to the Community OJ L 108, 1.5.1996, p. 12	29.4.1996 PR 6796/96 Presse 116
113 Act of Accession	Council Regulation (EC) No 819/96 of 29 April 1996 establishing certain concessions in the form of a Community tariff quota for Turkey in 1996 in respect of hazelnuts OJ L 111, 4.5.1996, p. 3	29.4.1996 PR 6796/96 Presse 116
113	Council Regulation (EC) No 921/96 of 13 May 1996 amending Regulation (EC) No 2178/95 opening and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas and ceilings for certain industrial and fishery products originating in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, and establishing the detailed provisions for adapting these quotas and ceilings, and Regulation (EC) No 1798/94 opening and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas for certain agricultural products originating in Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia, and establishing the detailed provisions for adapting these quotas (1994 to 1997) OJ L 126, 24.5.1996, p. 1	13.5.1996 PR 7073/96 Presse 130
Reg. No 384/96 Reg. No 2423/88	Council Regulation (EC) No 1006/96 of 3 June 1996 imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of powdered activated carbon originating in the People's Republic of China OJ L 134, 5.6.1996, p. 20	3.6.1996 PR 7812/96 Presse 156
Reg. No 384/96 Reg. No 2423/88	Council Regulation (EC) No 1050/96 of 10 June 1996 extending the provisional anti-dumping duty on imports of polyester staple fibres originating in Belarus OJ L 139, 12.6.1996, p. 16	10.6.1996 PR 7820/96 Presse 164



Legal basis (EC Treaty Article)	Act	Adoption
Reg. No 384/96 Reg. No 2423/88	Council Regulation (EC) No 1074/96 of 10 June 1996 further amending Regulation (EEC) No 3905/88 as regards definitive anti-dumping duties on imports of polyester yarn originating in Taiwan and Turkey OJ L 141, 14.6.1996, p. 45	10.6.1996 PR 7820/96 Presse 164
113	Council Regulation (EC) No 1095/96 of 18 June 1996 on the implementation of the concessions set out in Schedule CXL drawn up in the wake of the conclusion of the GATT XXIV.6 negotiations OJ L 146, 20.6.1996, p. 1	18.6.1996 PR 8079/96 Presse 172
113	Council Regulation (EC) No 1194/96 of 27 June 1996 extending Regulation (EC) No 3066/95 establishing certain concessions in the form of Community tariff quotas for certain agricultural products and providing for the adjustment, as an autonomous and transitional measure, of certain agricultural concessions provided for in the Europe agreements to take account of the agreement on agriculture concluded during the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations OJ L 161, 29.6.1996, p. 2	27.6.1996 PR 8519/96 Presse 189
Reg. No 384/96 Reg. No 2423/88	Council Regulation (EC) No 1347/96 of 2 July 1996 imposing definitive anti-dumping duties on imports of unwrought pure magnesium originating in Russia and Ukraine and collecting definitively the provisional duty imposed OJ L 174, 12.7.1996, p. 1	2.7.1996 PR 8905/96 Presse 200
Reg. No 384/96 Reg. No 2423/88	Council Regulation (EC) No 1370/96 of 15 July 1996 extending the provisional anti-dumping duty on imports of polyester textured filament yarn originating in Indonesia and Thailand OJ L 178, 17.7.1996, p. 1	15.7.1996 PR 8913/96 Presse 208
Reg. No 384/96	Council Regulation (EC) No 1489/96 of 23 July 1996 amending Regulation (EEC) No 54/93 imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of synthetic fibres of polyesters originating in India and the Republic of Korea OJ L 189, 30.7.1996, p. 10	23.7.1996 PR 9145/96 Presse 211
Reg. No 384/96 Reg. No 2423/88	Council Regulation (EC) No 1490/96 of 23 July 1996 imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of polyester staple fibre originating in Belarus and collecting definitively the provisional duty imposed OJ L 189, 30.7.1996, p. 13	23.7.1996 PR 9145/96 Presse 211
113	Council Regulation (EC) No 1534/96 of 25 July 1996 providing for the adjustment, as an autonomous and transitional measure, of concessions for certain processed agricultural products provided for in the Europe agreements to take account of the agreement on agriculture concluded during the Uruguay Round Multilateral Trade Negotiations OJ L 191, 1.8.1996, p. 1	25.7.1996 PR 9151/96 Presse 217
113 Act of Accession	Council Regulation (EC) No 1820/96 of 16 September 1996 adopting autonomous and transitional measures for the free trade agreements with Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia in certain processed agricultural products OJ L 241, 21.9.1996, p. 1	16.9.1996 PR 9698/96 Presse 239
113	Council Regulation (EC) No 1877/96 of 27 September 1996 amending Regulation (EC) No 1981/94 opening and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas for certain products originating in Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Malta, Morocco, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, Tunisia and Turkey, and providing detailed rules for extending and adapting these tariff quotas OJ L 249, 1.10.1996, p. 1	27.9.1996 PR 10259/96 Presse 247

Legal basis (EC Treaty Article)	Act	Adoption
113	Council Regulation (EC) No 1897/96 of 1 October 1996 amending Annexes II and III to Regulation (EC) No 519/94 on common rules for imports from certain third countries OJ L 250, 2.10.1996, p. 1	1.10.1996 PR 10265/96 Presse 253
113	Council Regulation (EC) No 1903/96 of 27 September 1996 establishing certain measures concerning imports of processed agricultural products from Switzerland in order to take account of the results of the Uruguay Round negotiations in the agricultural sector OJ L 251, 3.10.1996, p. 1	27.9.1996 PR 10259/96 Presse 247
113	Council Regulation (EC) No 1926/96 of 7 October 1996 establishing certain concessions in the form of Community tariff quotas for certain agricultural products and providing for the adjustment, as an autonomous and transitional measure, of certain agricultural concessions provided for in the agreements on free trade and trade-related matters with Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, to take account of the agreement on agriculture concluded during the Uruguay Round Multilateral Trade Negotiations OJ L 254, 8.10.1996, p. 1	7.10.1996 PR 10449/96 Presse 257
113	Council Regulation (EC) No 2062/96 of 1 October 1996 amending Regulation (EEC) No 1521/76 on imports of olive oil originating in Morocco OJ L 277, 30.10.1996, p. 3	1.10.1996 PR 10265/96 Presse 253
113 Reg. No 3813/92	Council Regulation (EC) No 2063/96 of 14 October 1996 amending Regulation (EEC) No 1180/77 on imports into the Community of certain agricultural products originating in Turkey OJ L 277, 30.10.1996, p. 4	14.10.1996 PR 10457/96 Presse 265
113	Council Regulation (EC) No 2184/96 of 28 October 1996 concerning imports into the Community of rice originating in and coming from Egypt OJ L 292, 15.11.1996, p. 1	28.10.1996 PR 11052/96 Presse 294
Reg. No 384/96 Reg. No 2423/88	Council Regulation (EC) No 2160/96 of 11 November 1996 imposing definitive anti-dumping duties on imports of polyester textured filament yarn originating in Indonesia and Thailand, terminating the proceeding concerning imports of polyester textured filament yarn originating in India and collecting definitively the provisional duties imposed OJ L 289, 12.11.1996, p. 14	11.11.1996 PR 11434/96 Presse 311
113 Reg. No 3030/93	Council Regulation (EC) No 2315/96 of 25 November 1996 establishing, pursuant to Article 1(7) of Regulation (EEC) 3030/93, the list of textiles and clothing products to be integrated into GATT 1994 on 1 January 1998 and amending Annex X to Regulation (EEC) No 3030/93 and Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 3285/94 OJ L 314, 4.12.1996, p. 1	25.11.1996 PR 11920/96 Presse 336
113	Council Regulation (EC) No 2398/96 of 12 December 1996 opening a tariff quota for turkey meat originating in and coming from Israel as provided for in the association agreement and the interim agreement between the European Community and the State of Israel OJ L 327, 18.12.1996, p. 7	12.12.1996 PR 12593/96 Presse 371
113	Council Regulation (EC) No 2486/96 of 20 December 1996 concerning the export of certain ECSC steel products from Bulgaria to the Community for the period 1 January to 31 December 1997 (extension of the double-checking system) OJ L 338, 28.12.1996, p. 5	20.12.1996 PR 12873/96 Presse 386

Legal basis (EC Treaty Article)	Act	Adoption
113	Council Regulation (EC) No 2487/96 of 20 December 1996 concerning the export of certain ECSC steel products from Romania to the Community for the period 1 January to 31 December 1997 (extension of the double-checking system) OJ L 338, 28.12.1996, p. 7	20.12.1996 PR 12873/96 Presse 386
113	Council Regulation (EC) No 2490/96 of 20 December 1996 extending Regulation (EC) No 3066/95 establishing certain concessions in the form of Community tariff quotas for certain agricultural products and providing for the adjustment, as an autonomous and transitional measure, of certain agricultural concessions provided for in the Europe agreements to take account of the agreement on agriculture concluded during the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations OJ L 338, 28.12.1996, p. 13	20.12.1996 PR 12873/96 Presse 386
113	Council Regulation (EC) No 7/97 of 20 December 1996 concerning the export of certain ECSC and EC steel products from the Czech Republic to the Community for the period 1 January to 31 December 1997 (extension of the double-checking system) OJ L 4, 8.1.1997, p. 1	20.12.1996 PR 12873/96 Presse 386
113	Council Regulation (EC) No 40/97 of 20 December 1996 concerning the export of certain ECSC and EC steel products from Slovakia to the Community for the period 1 January to 31 December 1997 (extension of the double-checking system) OJ L 10, 14.1.1997, p. 1	20.12.1996 PR 12873/96 Presse 386
113	Council Regulation (EC) No 70/97 of 20 December 1996 concerning the arrangements applicable to imports into the Community of products originating in the Republics of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and to imports of wine originating in the Republic of Slovenia OJ L 16, 18.1.1997, p. 1	20.12.1996 PR 12873/96 Presse 386

## Table V

### Council assents within the framework of the ECSC Treaty

Act	Adoption	Publication
Assent No 1/96 given by the Council, acting unanimously pursuant to the second paragraph of Article 54 of the ECSC Treaty, to the granting of a global loan to the Banca Nazionale del Lavoro SpA to finance investments which contribute to facilitating the marketing of Community steel	22.1.1996 PR 4154/96 Presse 8	OJ C 35, 8.2.1996, p. 16
Assent No 2/96 given by the Council pursuant to Article 56(2)(a) of the Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community to enable the Commission to grant the following global loan: ECU 20 million to Banco de Fomento e Exterior	26.2.1996 PR 4720/96 Presse 33	OJ C 74, 14.3.1996, p. 10
Assent No 3/96 given by the Council pursuant to Article 56(2)(a) of the Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community to enable the Commission to grant the following global loan: GBP 15 million (± ECU 18.115 million) to Bank of Scotland	26.2.1996 PR 4720/96 Presse 33	OJ C 74, 14.3.1996, p. 10
Assent No 4/96 given by the Council pursuant to Article 56(2)(a) of the Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community to enable the Commission to grant the following global loan: DEM 40 million (± ECU 21.207 million) to Commerzbank AG	26.2.1996 PR 4720/96 Presse 33	OJ C 74, 14.3.1996, p. 10
Assent No 5/96 given by the Council pursuant to Article 56(2)(a) of the Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community to enable the Commission to grant the following global loan: ECU 20 million to Saarländische Investitionsbank	26.2.1996 PR 4720/96 Presse 33	OJ C 74, 14.3.1996, p. 10
Assent No 6/96 given by the Council pursuant to Article 56(2)(a) of the Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community to enable the Commission to grant the following global loan: GBP 20 million (± ECU 24.153 million) to National Westminster Bank	26.2.1996 PR 4720/96 Presse 33	OJ C 74, 14.3.1996, p. 10
Assent No 7/96 given by the Council pursuant to Article 56(2)(a) of the Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community to enable the Commission to grant the following global loan: ATS 300 million (± ECU 22.618 million) to Österreichische Investitionskredit AG	26.2.1996 PR 4720/96 Presse 33	OJ C 74, 14.3.1996, p. 10
Assent No 8/96 given by the Council pursuant to Article 56(2)(a) of the Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community to enable the Commission to grant the following global loan: ATS 400 million (± ECU 30.157 million) to Bank Austria AG	26.2.1996 PR 4720/96 Presse 33	OJ C 74, 14.3.1996, p. 10
Assent No 9/96 given by the Council pursuant to Article 56(2)(a) of the Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community to enable the Commission to grant the following global loan: DEM 25 million (± ECU 13.254 million) to Dresdner Bank AG	26.2.1996 PR 4720/96 Presse 33	OJ C 74, 14.3.1996, p. 10

Act	Adoption	Publication
Assent No 10/96 given by the Council pursuant to Article 56(2)(a) of the Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community to enable the Commission to grant the following global loan: GBP 80 million ( $\pm$ ECU 96.613 million) to Barclays Bank	26.2.1996 PR 4720/96 Presse 33	OJ C 74, 14.3.1996, p. 10
Assent No 11/96 given by the Council pursuant to Article 56(2)(a) of the Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community to enable the Commission to grant the following global loan: DEM 150 million ( $\pm$ ECU 79.525 million) to Westdeutsche Landesbank	26.2.1996 PR 4720/96 Presse 33	OJ C 74, 14.3.1996, p. 10
Assent No 12/96 given by the Council pursuant to Article 56(2)(a) of the Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community to enable the Commission to grant the following global loan: DEM 30 million ( $\pm$ ECU 15.905 million) to BfG Bank AG	26.2.1996 PR 4720/96 Presse 33	OJ C 74, 14.3.1996, p. 10
Assent No 13/96 given by the Council pursuant to Article 56(2)(a) of the Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community to enable the Commission to grant the following global loan: BEF 700 million ( $\pm$ ECU 18.047 million) to Kredietbank SA	26.2.1996 PR 4720/96 Presse 33	OJ C 74, 14.3.1996, p. 10
Assent No 14/96 given by the Council pursuant to the second paragraph of Article 54 of the Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community to enable the Commission to grant a loan to Transgas – Sociedade Portuguesa de Gás Natural SA, Lisboa	25.6.1996 PR 8518/96 Presse 188	OJ C 203, 13.7.1996, p. 10
Assent No 15/96 given by the Council pursuant to Article 95 of the Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community on the conclusion of an agreement, in the form of an exchange of letters between the ECSC and the Russian Federation, on trade in certain steel products	25.6.1996 PR 8083/96 Presse 176	OJ C 213, 23.7.1996, p. 13
Assent No 16/96 given by the Council pursuant to the second paragraph of Article 54 of the Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community to the granting of a loan for the co-financing of the 'Malpensa 2000' project	8.7.1996 PR 8905/96 Presse 200	OJ C 213, 23.7.1996, p. 13
Assent No 17/96 given by the Council pursuant to Article 95 of the Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community on the conclusion of an agreement, in the form of an exchange of letters between the ECSC and the Republic of Kazakhstan, on trade in certain steel products	8.7.1996 PR 8905/96 Presse 200	OJ C 213, 23.7.1996, p. 13
Assent No 18/96 given by the Council pursuant to Article 55(2)(c) of the Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community to the granting of financial aid for technical steel research projects and pilot/demonstration projects	16.7.1996 PR 8913/96 Presse 208	OJ C 225, 2.8.1996, p. 15
Assent No 19/96 given by the Council pursuant to the second paragraph of Article 54 of the Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community to enable the Commission to grant a loan to Lusoponte, Lisbon	16.7.1996 PR 8913/96 Presse 208	OJ C 225, 2.8.1996, p. 15

Act	Adoption	Publication
Assent No 20/96 given by the Council pursuant Article 55(2)(c) of the Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community, to enable the Commission to grant financial aid of ECU 31 000 000 from the levies provided for in Article 50 of the said Treaty to 37 projects of technical coal research 1996	16.7.1996 PR 8913/96	OJ C 225, 2.8.1996, p. 15
Assent No 21/96 given by the Council pursuant to Article 95 of the Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community on the conclusion of an agreement, in the form of an exchange of letters between the ECSC and Ukraine, on trade in certain steel products	24.9.1996 PR 9701/96 Presse 242	OJ C 300, 10.10.1996, p. 10
Assent No 22/96 given by the Council pursuant to Article 95 of the Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community pursuant to Article 95 of the ECSC Treaty on a draft Commission decision establishing Community rules for State aid to the steel industry	9.12.1996 PR 12434/96 Presse 360	OJ C 393, 31.12.1996, p. 10
Assent No 23/96 given by the Council pursuant to Article 95 of the Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community to a draft Commission Decision on the conclusion of an agreement, in the form of an exchange of letters between the ECSC and Ukraine on trade in certain steel products for the period 1 January to 30 June 1997	12.12.1996 PR 12593/96 Presse 371	OJ C 3, 7.1.1997, p. 15
Assent No 24/96 given by the Council pursuant to Article 95 of the Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community to the decision which the Commission is proposing to adopt on the conclusion of an agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the European Coal and Steel Community and the Russian Federation extending the agreement between the European Coal and Steel Community and the Russian Federation on trade in certain steel products for the period 1 January to 30 June 1997	12.12.1996 PR 12593/96 Presse 371	OJ C 3, 7.1.1997, p. 15

## Table VI

### Other acts published

Act	Adoption	Publication
<b>Economic and monetary union</b>		
Council recommendation 96/431/EC of 8 July 1996 on the broad guidelines of the economic policies of the Member States and of the Community	8.7.1996 PR 8905/96 Presse 200	OJ L 179, 18.7.1996, p. 46
<b>Internal market</b>		
Council resolution of 8 July 1996 on cooperation between administrations for the enforcement of legislation on the internal market	8.7.1996 PR 8905/96 Presse 200	OJ C 224, 1.8.1996, p. 3
Council resolution of 8 July 1996 on legislative and administrative simplification in the field of the internal market	8.7.1996 PR 8905/96 Presse 200	OJ C 224, 1.8.1996, p. 5
Council resolution of 25 October 1996 on the simplification and rationalisation of the Community's customs regulations and procedures	25.10.1996 PR 10873/96 Presse 278	OJ C 332, 7.11.1996, p. 1
<b>Agriculture</b>		
Council resolution of 25 June 1996 on measures to be implemented under veterinary policy	25.6.1996 PR 8083/96 Presse 176	OJ C 203, 13.7.1996, p. 1
Council conclusions of 12 November 1996 on transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs)	12.11.1996 PR 8079/96 Presse 172	OJ C 374, 11.12.1996, p. 2
<b>Transport</b>		
Council resolution of 11 March 1996 on short sea shipping	11.3.1996 PR 5515/96 Presse 55	OJ C 99, 2.4.1996, p. 1
<b>Social policy</b>		
Council conclusions of 15 July 1996 on activities with regard to demography	15.7.1996 PR 8913/96 Presse 208	OJ C 224, 1.8.1996, p. 9
<b>Education</b>		
Council conclusions of 6 May 1996 on the White Paper 'Teaching and learning: towards the learning society'	6.5.1996 PR 6802/96 Presse 122	OJ C 195, 6.7.1996, p. 1
Council conclusions of 6 May 1996 on the synergies between academic recognition and professional recognition of qualifications in the Community	6.5.1996 PR 6802/96 Presse 122	OJ C 195, 6.7.1996, p. 6
Council resolution of 6 May 1996 relating to educational multimedia software in the fields of education and training	6.5.1996 PR 6802/96 Presse 122	OJ C 195, 6.7.1996, p. 8

Act	Adoption	Publication
Council resolution of 15 July 1996 on the transparency of vocational training certificates	15.7.1996 PR 8913/96 Presse 208	OJ C 224, 1.8.1996, p. 7
Council conclusions of 20 December 1996 on school effectiveness: Principles and strategies to promote success at school	20.12.1996 PR 12873/96 Presse 386	OJ C 7, 10.1.1997, p. 1
Council conclusions of 20 December 1996 on a strategy for lifelong learning	20.12.1996 PR 12873/96 Presse 386	OJ C 7, 10.1.1997, p. 6
<b>Culture</b>		
Council resolution of 25 July 1996 on access to culture for all	25.7.1996 PR 9151/96 Presse 217	OJ C 242, 21.8.1996, p. 1
Council resolution of 25 July 1996 on electronic publishing and libraries	25.7.1996 PR 9151/96 Presse 217	OJ C 242, 21.8.1996, p. 2
<b>Information society and audiovisual industry</b>		
Council resolution of 21 November 1996 on new policy priorities regarding the information society	21.11.1996 PR 11439/96 Presse 316	OJ C 376, 12.12.1996, p. 1
<b>Public health</b>		
Council resolution of 12 November 1996 on a strategy towards blood safety and self-sufficiency in the European Community	12.11.1996 PR 11437/96 Presse 314	OJ C 374, 11.12.1996, p. 1
Council conclusions of 12 November 1996 on transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs)	12.11.1996 PR 11437/96 Presse 314	OJ C 374, 11.12.1996, p. 2
Council resolution of 12 November 1996 on the integration of health protection requirements into Community policies	12.11.1996 PR 11437/96 Presse 314	OJ C 374, 11.12.1996, p. 3
<b>Industry</b>		
Council resolution of 22 April 1996 on the coordination of Community activities in favour of small and medium-sized enterprises and the craft sector	22.4.1996 PR 6562/96 Presse 99	OJ C 130, 3.5.1996, p. 1
Council resolution of 23 April 1996 designed to implement the outlines of an industrial policy in the pharmaceutical sector in the European Union	23.4.1996 PR 6563/96 Presse 100	OJ C 136 8.5.1996, p. 4
Council resolution of 25 June 1996 on industrial cooperation with other regions and third countries, <i>inter alia</i> in the Mediterranean	25.6.1996 PR 8083/96 Presse 176	OJ C 203 13.7.1996, p. 4
Council resolution of 9 December 1996 on realising the full potential of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), including micro-enterprises and the craft sector, through an integrated approach to improving the business environment and stimulating business support measures	9.12.1996 PR 12434/96 Presse 360	OJ C 18, 17.1.1997, p. 1



Act	Adoption	Publication
<b>Research and technological development</b>		
Council resolution of 25 March 1996 on perspectives for international cooperation in the field of research and technological development	25.3.1996 PR 6053/96 Presse 69	OJ C 110, 16.4.1996, p. 1
<b>Energy</b>		
Council resolution of 8 July 1996 on the White Paper 'An energy policy for the European Union'	8.7.1996 PR 8905/96 Presse 200	OJ C 224, 1.8.1996, p. 1
<b>Tourism</b>		
Council resolution of 13 May 1996 on Euro-Mediterranean cooperation regarding tourism	13.5.1996 PR 7072/96 Presse 129	OJ C 155, 30.5.1996, p. 1
<b>Budgetary questions</b>		
Council Recommendation 96/209/EC of 11 March 1996 concerning the discharge to be given to the Commission in respect of the implementation of the operations of the European Development Fund (1984) (sixth EDF) for the financial year 1994	11.3.1996 PR 5516/96 Presse 56	OJ L 68, 19.3.1996, p. 30
Council Recommendation 96/210/EC of 11 March 1996 concerning the discharge to be given to the Commission in respect of the implementation of the operations of the European Development Fund (1989) (seventh EDF) for the financial year 1994	11.3.1996 PR 5516/96 Presse 56	OJ L 68, 19.3.1996, p. 31

**Table VII**  
International agreements

Act	Decision to negotiate	Approval	Signing	Adoption by Council
<b>Internal market</b>				
<b>Customs Union and the free movement of goods</b>				
Draft Council of Europe recommendation on the protection of medical data	18.3.1996 PR 5726/96 Presse 62			
European Convention relating to questions on Copyright Law and Neighbouring Rights in the Framework of Transfrontier Broadcasting by Satellite		23.4.1996 PR 6563/96 Presse 100	26.6.1996	
Draft Council of Europe recommendation on the protection of personal data collected and processed for statistical purposes	25.10.1996 PR 10873/96 Presse 278			
Draft agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the European Community and the Kingdom of Norway concerning customs cooperation	25.10.1996 PR 10873/96 Presse 278			
<b>Free movement of persons and services</b>				
Council Decision 96/412/EC of 25 June 1996 concerning the conclusion on behalf of the European Community, as regards matters within its competence, of the results of the World Trade Organisation negotiations on financial services and on the movement of natural persons OJ L 167, 6.7.1996, p. 23				25.6.1996 PR 8518/96 Presse 188
<b>Taxation</b>				
Council Decision 96/612/EC of 14 October 1996 on the conclusion of the protocol to the agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the European Economic Community and the Principality of Andorra consequent on the accession of the Republic of Austria, the Republic of Finland and the Kingdom of Sweden to the European Union OJ L 271, 24.10.1996, p. 38			20.6.1996	14.10.1996 PR 10457/96 Presse 265

Act	Decision to negotiate	Approval	Signing	Adoption by Council
<b>Agriculture</b>				
Draft amendments to the OECD guidelines arrangement in the field of export credits for agricultural products	25.6.1996 PR 8518/96 Presse 188			
<b>Fisheries</b>				
Council Regulation (EC) No 150/97 of 12 December 1996 on the conclusion of an agreement on cooperation in the sea fisheries sector between the European Community and the Kingdom of Morocco and laying down provisions for its implementation OJ L 30, 31.1.1997, p. 1			26.2.1996 PR 2701/96 Presse 46	12.12.1996 PR 12593/96 Presse 371
Council Regulation (EC) No 498/96 of 19 March 1996 on the conclusion of the protocol defining, for the period 21 May 1995 to 20 May 1998, the fishing opportunities and the financial contribution provided for by the agreement between the European Economic Community and the Government of the Republic of Madagascar on fishing off Madagascar OJ L 75, 23.3.1996, p. 1				19.3.1996 PR 5726/96 Presse 62
Council Regulation (EC) No 576/96 of 21 March 1996 on the conclusion of the protocol establishing the fishing possibilities and the financial compensation provided for in the agreement between the European Economic Community and the Government of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau on fishing off the coast of Guinea-Bissau for the period 16 June 1995 to 15 June 1997 OJ L 85, 3.4.1996, p. 1				21.3.1996 PR 5730/96 Presse 66
Council Regulation (EC) No 1258/96 of 25 June 1996 on the conclusion of the supplement to the protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and financial contribution provided for in the agreement between the European Economic Community and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, on fishing off the coast of Mauritania, for the period 15 November 1995 to 31 July 1996 OJ L 163, 2.7.1996, p. 7				25.6.1996 PR 8083/96 Presse 176
Council Regulation (EC) No 2394/96 of 2 December 1996 on the conclusion of an agreement on fisheries relations between the European Community and the Republic of Latvia OJ L 332, 20.12.1996, p. 1			19.12.1996	2.12.1996 PR 12100/96 Presse 342

Act	Decision to negotiate	Approval	Signing	Adoption by Council
<p>Council Regulation (EC) No 2395/96 of 2 December 1996 on the conclusion of an agreement on fisheries relations between the European Community and the Republic of Lithuania and of the protocol laying down the conditions relating to temporary joint ventures and joint enterprises provided for therein OJ L 332, 20.12.1996, p. 6</p>			20.12.1996	2.12.1996 PR 12100/96 Presse 342
<p>Council Regulation (EC) No 2396/96 of 2 December 1996 on the conclusion of an agreement on fisheries relations between the European Community and the Republic of Estonia OJ L 332, 20.12.1996, p. 16</p>			19.12.1996	2.12.1996 PR 12100/96 Presse 342
<p>Council Regulation (EC) No 2407/96 of 12 December 1996 on the conclusion of the protocol defining, for the period from 18 January 1996 to 17 January 1999, the fishing opportunities and financial contribution provided for by the agreement between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Seychelles on fishing off Seychelles OJ L 329, 19.12.1996, p. 1</p>			4.4.1997	12.12.1996 PR 12593/96 Presse 371
<p>Council Decision 96/227/EC of 19 March 1996 on the conclusion of the agreement in the form of an exchange of letters concerning the provisional application of the supplement to the protocol setting out the fishing opportunities and financial contribution provided for in the agreement between the European Economic Community and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania on fishing off the coast of Mauritania, for the period 15 November 1995 to 31 July 1996 OJ L 76, 26.3.1996, p. 23</p>				19.3.1996 PR 5726/96 Presse 62
<p>Council Decision 96/382/EC of 10 June 1996 on the conclusion of the agreement in the form of an exchange of letters concerning the provisional application of the protocol establishing, for the period from 1 January 1996 to 31 December 1997, the fishing rights and financial compensation provided for in the agreement between the European Economic Community and the Government of the Republic of Guinea on fishing off the Guinean coast OJ L 157, 29.6.1996, p. 1</p>				10.6.1996 PR 7819/96 Presse 163

Act	Decision to negotiate	Approval	Signing	Adoption by Council
<p>Council Decision 96/383/EC of 10 June 1996 on the conclusion of the agreement in the form of an exchange of letters concerning the provisional application of the protocol defining, for the period from 18 January 1996 to 17 January 1999, the fishing opportunities and financial contribution provided for by the agreement between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Seychelles on fishing off Seychelles</p> <p>OJ L 157, 10.6.1996, p. 17</p>			4.4.1997	10.6.1996 PR 7819/96 Presse 163
<p>Council Decision 96/428/EC of 25 June 1996 on acceptance by the Community of the agreement to promote compliance with international conservation and management measures by fishing vessels on the high seas</p> <p>OJ L 177, 16.7.1996, p. 24</p>				25.6.1996 PR 8083/96 Presse 176
<p>Council Decision 96/480/EC of 23 July 1996 authorising the Kingdom of Spain to extend until 7 March 1997 the agreement on mutual fishery relations with the Republic of South Africa</p> <p>OJ L 196, 7.8.1996, p. 11</p>				23.7.1996 PR 9145/96 Presse 211
<p>Council Decision 96/481/EC of 23 July 1996 authorising the Portuguese Republic to extend until 7 March 1997 the agreement on mutual fishery relations with the Republic of South Africa</p> <p>OJ L 196, 7.8.1996, p. 12</p>				23.7.1996 PR 9145/96 Presse 211
<p>Council Decision 96/623/EC of 25 October 1996 on the conclusion of the agreement in the form of an exchange of letters concerning the provisional application of the protocol establishing the fishing opportunities and the financial contribution provided for in the agreement between the European Economic Community and the Government of the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe on fishing off the coast of São Tomé and Príncipe for the period 1 June 1996 to 31 May 1999</p> <p>OJ L 279, 31.10.1996, p. 30</p>				25.10.1996 PR 10873/96 Presse 278
<p>Council Decision 96/731/EC of 26 November 1996 on the conclusion of an agreement in the form of an exchange of letters concerning the provisional application of the agreement on cooperation in the sea fisheries sector between the European Community and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania</p> <p>OJ L 334, 23.12.1996, p. 16</p>	10.6.1996 PR 7819/96 Presse 163			26.11.1996 PR 11620/96 Presse 326

Act	Decision to negotiate	Approval	Signing	Adoption by Council
Planned Community accession to the General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean	29.4.1996 PR 6796/96 Presse 116			
Draft fisheries agreement between the Community and Mozambique	29.4.1996 PR 6796/96 Presse 116			
Agreement for the implementation of the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the conservation and management of straddling stocks and highly migratory fish stocks		10.6.1996 PR 7819/96 Presse 163		
Joint declaration on improving the provision of information to the budget authority on fisheries agreements			12.12.1996	
<b>Transport</b>				
Draft agreement between the European Community, the European Space Agency and the European Organisation for the Safety of Air Navigation on a European contribution to the development of a global navigation satellite system	17.6.1996 PR 8079/96 Presse 172			
Draft agreement between the European Community and the United States in the field of air transport	25.7.1996 PR 9151/96 Presse 217			
Draft air transport agreements between the Community and central European countries (Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia)	11.11.1996 PR 11434/96 Presse 311			
<b>Competition</b>				
Draft agreement between the European Communities and the Government of the United States aimed at reinforcing bilateral cooperation in the application of the competition rules	25.10.1996 PR 10873/96 Presse 278			
<b>Culture</b>				
Draft bilateral agreement with the Republic of Cyprus in the fields of encouragement of development, distribution and training within the audiovisual sector under the MEDIA II programme in particular	3.10.1996 PR 10267/96 Presse 255			
Draft bilateral agreement with Malta in the fields of encouragement of development, distribution and training within the audiovisual sector under the MEDIA II programme in particular	3.10.1996 PR 10267/96 Presse 255			

Act	Decision to negotiate	Approval	Signing	Adoption by Council
<b>Research and technological development</b>				
Council Decision 96/219/EC of 26 February 1996 concerning the conclusion of the agreement for scientific and technological cooperation between the European Community and Canada OJ L 74, 22.3.1996, p. 25			17.6.1995	26.2.1996 PR 4720/96 Presse 33
Cooperation agreement between Euratom and Argentina on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy	4.12.1995 PR 12294/95 Presse 354		11.6.1996	10.6.1996 PR 7820/96 Presse 164
Council Decision 96/505/EC of 25 July 1996 concerning the conclusion of the agreement on scientific and technical cooperation between the European Community and the State of Israel OJ L 209, 19.8.1996, p. 22		18.3.1996 PR 5726/96 Presse 62	25.3.1996 PR 6053/96 Presse 69	25.7.1996 PR 9151/96 Presse 217
Agreement on scientific and technological cooperation between the European Community and the Republic of South Africa	22.1.1996 PR 4154/96 Presse 8	5.12.1996 12437/96 Presse 363	5.12.1996 PR 12438/96 Presse 364	
<b>Environment</b>				
Council Decision 96/191/EC of 26 February 1996 concerning the conclusion of the Convention on the Protection of the Alps (Alpine Convention) OJ L 61, 12.3.1996, p. 31				26.2.1996 PR 5300/96 Presse 36
Council decision of 15 October 1996 concerning the conclusion, on behalf of the Community, of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention)				15.10.1996 PR 10458/96 Presse 266
Draft protocol on the prevention of pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and their disposal in the framework of the Barcelona Convention	4.3.1996 PR 5309/96 Presse 45			
Draft amendments to 1992 and 1993 Parcom decisions on the restriction of the marketing and use of hexachloroethane under the Convention for the Prevention of Marine Pollution from Land-based Sources (1974 Paris Convention)	4.3.1996 PR 5309/96 Presse 45			
Draft Convention on the International Prior Informed Consent (PIC) Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals in International Trade	11.3.1996 PR 5515/96 Presse 55			

Act	Decision to negotiate	Approval	Signing	Adoption by Council
Draft framework agreement with Canada, the United States, the Russian Federation and any other non-member countries concerned on humane trapping standards	25.6.1996 PR 8518/96 Presse 188			
Draft agreement on the conservation of small cetaceans of the Mediterranean and Black Seas	25.6.1996 PR 8518/96 Presse 188			
Draft protocol on biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity	25.6.1996 PR 8518/96 Presse 188 (supplement to negotiating directives of 30.10.1995)			
<b>Energy</b>				
Draft agreement on coordination of labelling programmes for energy-efficient office equipment	27.9.1996 PR 10259/96 Presse 247			
<b>EEA – Relations with the EFTA countries</b>				
Council Decision 96/147/EC of 22 January 1996 on the conclusion of the additional protocol to the agreement between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Iceland consequent on the accession of the Republic of Austria, the Republic of Finland and the Kingdom of Sweden to the European Union OJ L 34, 13.2.1996, p. 33				22.1.1996 PR 4154/96 Presse 8
Draft amendment to the free trade agreement with Switzerland concerning mutual assistance in customs matters	26.2.1996 PR 4720/96 Presse 33			
<b>Associated countries of central and eastern Europe(CEECs), including the Baltic countries and Slovenia</b>				
Council Decision 96/275/EC of 22 April 1996 on the conclusion of the third additional protocol to the Europe agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Bulgaria, of the other part OJ L 103, 26.4.1996, p. 52			22.4.1996	22.4.1996 PR 6561/96 Presse 98



Act	Decision to negotiate	Approval	Signing	Adoption by Council
Council and Commission Decision 96/300/Euratom, EC of 22 April 1996 concluding the additional protocol to the Europe agreement establishing an association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Slovak Republic, of the other part OJ L 115, 9.5.1996, p. 42			11.12.1996	22.4.1996 PR 6561/96 Presse 98
Council and Commission Decision 96/752/EC, ECSC, Euratom of 25 November 1996 on the conclusion of the interim agreement on trade and trade-related matters between the European Community, the European Coal and Steel Community and the European Atomic Energy Community, of the one part, and the Republic of Slovenia, of the other part OJ L 344, 31.12.1996, p. 1	25.7.1996 PR 9151/96 Presse 217			25.11.1996 PR 11920/96 Presse 336
Interim agreement on trade and trade-related matters between the European Communities and the Republic of Slovenia OJ L 344, 31.12.1996, p. 3	25.7.1996 PR 9151/96 Presse 217	11.11.1996 PR 11434/96 Presse 311	11.11.1996 PR 11435/96 Presse 312	25.11.1996 PR 11920/96 Presse 336
Amending protocol to the Europe agreement establishing an association between the European Communities and their Member States, acting within the framework of the European Union, of the one part, and the Republic of Slovenia, of the other part		11.11.1996 PR 11434/96 Presse 311	11.11.1996 PR 11435/96 Presse 312	
<b>Eastern Europe and central Asia</b>				
Council Decision 96/161/EC of 29 January 1996 on the conclusion by the European Community of the interim agreement on trade and trade-related matters between the European Community, the European Coal and Steel Community and the European Atomic Energy Community, of the one part, and the Republic of Moldova, of the other part OJ L 40, 17.2.1996, p. 10				29.1.1996 PR 4496/96 Presse 16
Council Decision 96/365/EC of 13 May 1996 on the conclusion by the European Community of the interim agreement on trade and trade-related matters between the European Community, the European Coal and Steel Community and the European Atomic Energy Community, of the one part, and the Republic of Kazakhstan, of the other part OJ L 147, 20.6.1996, p. 1				13.5.1996 PR 7073/96 Presse 130

Act	Decision to negotiate	Approval	Signing	Adoption by Council
Interim agreement on trade and trade-related matters between the European Community, the European Coal and Steel Community and the European Atomic Energy Community, of the one part, and the Republic of Belarus, of the other part		25.3.1996 PR 6054/96 Presse 70	25.3.1996 PR 6056/96 Presse 72	
Protocol to the partnership and cooperation agreement establishing a partnership between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and Ukraine, of the other part		15.7.1996 PR 8913/96 Presse 208	10.4.1997	
Partnership and cooperation agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Azerbaijan, of the other part		22.4.1996 PR 6561/96 Presse 98	22.4.1996 PR 6560/96 Presse 97	
Partnership and cooperation agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and Georgia, of the other part		22.4.1996 PR 6561/96 Presse 98	22.4.1996 PR 6560/96 Presse 97	
Partnership and cooperation agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Armenia of the other part		22.4.1996 PR 6561/96 Presse 98	22.4.1996 PR 6560/96 Presse 97	
Partnership and cooperation agreement establishing a partnership between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Uzbekistan, of the other part	26.2.1996 PR 4720/96 Presse 33	18.6.1996 PR 8079/96 Presse 172	21.6.1996 PR 8079/96 Presse 172	
Interim agreement on trade and trade-related matters between the European Community, the European Coal and Steel Community and the European Atomic Energy Community, of the one part, and the Republic of Uzbekistan, of the other part		11.11.1996 PR 11434/96 Presse 311	14.11.1996 PR 11436/96 Presse 313	
Protocol to the partnership and cooperation agreement establishing a partnership between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and Moldova, of the other part		15.7.1996 PR 8913/96 Presse 208		
Protocol to the agreement on partnership and cooperation establishing a partnership between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Russian Federation, of the other part		16.7.1996 PR 8913/96 Presse 208		
Draft agreement between the Community, of the one part, and Russia, Ukraine and Kazakhstan, of the other part, on trade in ECSC products	7.10.1996 PR 10449/96 Presse 257			
Interim agreement on trade and trade-related measures between the European Communities, of the one part, and Kyrgyzstan, of the other part			28.11.1996 PR 12207/96 Presse 349	

Act	Decision to negotiate	Approval	Signing	Adoption by Council
<b>Transatlantic relations</b>				
Council Decision 97/184/EC of 13 March 1997 concerning the conclusion, on behalf of the Community, of an agreement between the European Community and the United Mexican States on cooperation regarding the control of precursors and chemical substances frequently used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances OJ L 77, 19.3.1997, p. 22	25.9.1995	12.12.1996 PR 12593/96 Presse 371	13.12.1996	13.3.1997
Agreement on customs cooperation and mutual assistance in customs matters between the Community and the United States of America		13.12.1996		13.12.1996
Joint declaration on relations between the European Union and Canada			17.12.1996	
Draft framework agreement for trade and cooperation between the European Community and Australia	22.4.1996 PR 6561/96 Presse 98			
<b>Euro-Mediterranean partnership – Mashreq and Maghreb</b>				
Council Decision 96/291/EC of 29 April 1996 on the conclusion of an agreement in the form of an exchange of letters on the shortening by one year of the duration of the agreement on relations in the sea fisheries sector between the European Economic Community and the Kingdom of Morocco OJ L 111, 4.5.1996, p. 18			10.3.1997	29.4.1996 PR 6796/96 Presse 116
Euro-Mediterranean association agreement between the European Communities and Morocco		26.2.1996 PR 4720/96 Presse 33	26.2.1996 PR 2701/96 Presse 46	
Draft Euro-Mediterranean association agreement with Algeria	10.6.1996 PR 7820/96 Presse 164			
Draft Euro-Mediterranean interim agreement on trade and cooperation between the European Communities, of the one part, and the PLO for the benefit of the Palestinian authority, of the other part	1.10.1996 PR 10265/96 Presse 253			

Act	Decision to negotiate	Approval	Signing	Adoption by Council
<b>The Gulf and the Middle East</b>				
<p>Council Decision 96/626/EC of 7 October 1996 on the conclusion of the Convention between the European Community and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) concerning Aid to Refugees in the Countries of the Near East OJ L 282, 1.11.1996, p. 68</p>			22.10.1996	7.10.1996 PR 10449/96 Presse 257
<b>Development cooperation</b>				
<p>Council Decision 96/470/EC of 26 February 1996 on the conclusion of the agreements in the form of an exchange of letters between the European Community and, on the one hand, Barbados, Belize, the Republic of the Congo, Fiji, the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, Jamaica, the Republic of Kenya, the Republic of Madagascar, the Republic of Malawi, the Republic of Mauritius, the Republic of Suriname, Saint Christopher and Nevis, the Kingdom of Swaziland, the United Republic of Tanzania, the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, the Republic of Uganda, the Republic of Zambia and the Republic of Zimbabwe and, on the other hand, the Republic of India on the guaranteed prices for cane sugar for the 1995/96 delivery period OJ L 193, 3.8.1996, p. 30</p>			31.5.1996 (6.5.1996: India)	26.2.1996 PR 5300/96 Presse 36
Agreement amending the Fourth ACP-EC Convention				22.4.1996 PR 6561/96 Presse 98
<p>Council decision of 6 December 1996 on the conclusion of the protocol to the Fourth ACP-EC Convention of Lomé following the accession of the Republic of Austria, the Republic of Finland and the Kingdom of Sweden to the European Union</p>				6.12.1996 PR 12440/96 Presse 366
<b>Africa</b>				
<p>Council Decision 96/569/EC of 24 September 1996 on the conclusion of the agreement in the form of an exchange of letters concerning the provisional application of the protocol defining for the period from 3 May 1996 to 2 May 1999 the fishing opportunities and the financial compensation provided for by the agreement between the European Economic Community and the Government of the People's Republic of Angola on fishing off the coast of Angola OJ L 250, 2.10.1996, p. 14</p>				24.9.1996 PR 9701/96 Presse 242

Act	Decision to negotiate	Approval	Signing	Adoption by Council
<b>Latin America</b>				
Exchange of letters between the European Community and Chile concerning the provisional application of certain provisions of the framework cooperation agreement leading ultimately to the establishment of a political and economic association between the European Community and its Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Chile, of the other part OJ L 209, 19.8.1996, p. 2			21.6.1996 PR 8079/96 Presse 172	18.6.1996 PR 8079/96 Presse 172
Statement extending the multiannual programme for the promotion of human rights in Central America, signed in Lisbon on 25 February 1992			21.3.1996 PR 6057/96 Presse 73	
Solemn declaration on the renewal of the San José process			21.3.1996 PR 6057/96 Presse 73	
Framework cooperation agreement leading ultimately to the establishment of a political and economic association between the European Community and its Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Chile, of the other part OJ L 209, 19.8.1996, p. 5	29.1.1996 PR 4496/96 Presse 16	18.6.1996 PR 8079/96 Presse 172	21.6.1996 PR 8079/96 Presse 172	
Joint statement on political dialogue between the European Union and the Andean Community		24.6.1996 PR 8083/96 Presse 176	30.6.1996	
Draft agreement between the European Community and Mexico on the mutual recognition and protection of geographical designations and traditional descriptions in respect of distilled spirits/spirit drinks	22.4.1996 PR 6561/96 Presse 98			
Draft cooperation agreement between the European Community and Mexico	27.6.1996 PR 8083/96 Presse 176			
<b>Asia</b>				
Council Decision 96/386/EC of 26 February 1996 concerning the conclusion of memoranda of understanding between the European Community and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and between the European Community and the Republic of India on arrangements in the area of market access for textile products OJ L 153, 27.6.1996, p. 47			8.3.1996	26.2.1996 PR 4720/96 Presse 33

Act	Decision to negotiate	Approval	Signing	Adoption by Council
Council Decision 96/351/EC of 14 May 1996 concerning the conclusion of the cooperation agreement between the European Community and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam OJ L 136, 7.6.1996, p. 28		17.7.1995 PR 9009/95 Presse 223	17.7.1995 PR 9007/95 Presse 221	14.5.1996 PR 7075/96 Presse 132
Council Decision 96/354/EC of 20 May 1996 concerning the conclusion of the cooperation agreement between the European Community and the Kingdom of Nepal OJ L 137, 8.6.1996, p. 14				20.5.1996 PR 7318/96 Presse 139
Agreement on customs cooperation and mutual assistance between the European Community and the Republic of Korea			10.4.1997	26.11.1996 PR 11620/96 Presse 326
Framework agreement for trade and cooperation between the European Community and its Member States, on the one hand, and the Republic of Korea, on the other hand		27.6.1996 PR 8519/96 Presse 189	28.10.1996	
Planned extension of the cooperation agreement between the European Community and the ASEAN member countries to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam	8.7.1996			
Draft cooperation agreement between the European Community and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan	15.7.1996 PR 8913/96 Presse 208			
Draft cooperation agreement between the European Community and the People's Republic of Bangladesh	15.7.1996 PR 8913/96 Presse 208			
Cooperation agreement between the European Community and the Lao People's Democratic Republic	22.7.1996 PR 9145/96 Presse 211			
Cooperation agreement between the European Community and the Kingdom of Cambodia	22.7.1996 PR 9145/96 Presse 211			
Draft agreement on the accession of the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) to the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organisation (KEDO)	1.10.1996			

Act	Decision to negotiate	Approval	Signing	Adoption by Council
<b>Common commercial policy</b>				
Council Regulation (EC) No 2397/96 of 6 December 1996 on the conclusion of an agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the European Community and the State of Israel on the adjustment of the regime for imports into the European Community of oranges originating in Israel and amending Regulation (EC) No 1981/94 OJ L 327, 18.12.1996, p. 1			10.12.1996	6.12.1996 PR 12440/96 Presse 366
Council Decision 96/351/EC of 14 May 1996 concerning the conclusion of the cooperation agreement between the European Community and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam OJ L 136, 7.6.96, p. 28				14.5.1996 PR 7075/96 Presse 132
Council Decision 96/317/EC of 13 May 1996 concerning the conclusion of the results of consultations with Thailand under GATT Article XXIII OJ L 122, 22.5.1996, p. 15			14.10.1996	13.5.1996 PR 7073/96 Presse 130
Council Decision 96/366/CE of 11 June 1996 on the implementation of Article 8 of the agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the European Economic Community and the Principality of Andorra OJ L 145, 19.6.1996, p. 16				11.6.1996 PR 7818/96 Presse 162
Council Decision 96/386/EC of 26 February 1996 concerning the conclusion of memoranda of understanding between the European Community and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and between the European Community and the Republic of India on arrangements in the area of market access for textile products OJ L 153, 27.6.96, p. 47			27.3.1996	26.2.1996 PR 4720/96 Presse 33
Council decision of 4 March 1996 on the conclusion of an agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the European Community and Malta concerning authorisation to issue certificates for certain petroleum products transiting through the territory of Malta to replace the Form A certificates delivered by some Middle Eastern countries benefiting from the generalised system of preferences granted by the Community			29.3.1996	4.3.1996 PR 5309/96 Presse 45
Council Decision 97/550/EC of 21 March 1996 on the conclusion of the agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Moldova on trade in textile products OJ L 227, 18.8.1997, p. 1				21.3.1996 PR 5730/96 Presse 66

Act	Decision to negotiate	Approval	Signing	Adoption by Council
<p>Council Decision 96/410/EC of 28 May 1996 on the provisional application of an agreement between the European Community and the United Arab Emirates on trade in textile products OJ L 169, 8.7.1996, p. 39</p>				<p>28.5.1996 PR 7525/96 Presse 148</p>
<p>Council Decision 96/415/EC of 28 May 1996 on the conclusion of administrative arrangements on trade in textile products between the European Community and certain members of the World Trade Organisation OJ L 173, 11.7.1996, p. 1</p>				<p>28.5.1996 PR 7525/96 Presse 148</p>
<p>Council Decision 96/477/EC of 21 March 1996 on the conclusion of the agreement between the European Community and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on trade in textile and clothing products OJ L 199, 8.8.1996, p. 1</p>				<p>21.3.1996 PR 5730/96 Presse 66</p>
<p>Council Decision 96/493/EC of 29 March 1996 concerning the signing and provisional application of the International Tropical Timber Agreement 1994 on behalf of the European Community OJ L 208, 17.8.1996, p. 1</p>			<p>13.5.1996</p>	<p>29.3.1996 PR 6058/96 Presse 74</p>
<p>Council Decision 96/593/EC of 16 September 1996 on the provisional application of certain agreements between the European Community and certain third countries on trade in textile products (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan) OJ L 263, 16.10.1996, p. 1</p>				<p>16.9.1996 PR 9698/96 Presse 239</p>
<p>Council Decision 96/594/EC of 16 September 1996 on the provisional application of certain agreements between the European Community and certain third countries on trade in textile products (Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan) OJ L 263, 16.10.1996, p. 35</p>				<p>16.9.1996 PR 9698/96 Presse 239</p>
<p>Council Decision 96/611/EC of 16 September 1996 concerning the conclusion of the results of negotiations with certain third countries under GATT Article XXIV:6 and other related matters (Argentina) OJ L 271, 24.10.1996, p. 31</p>			<p>18.10.1996</p>	<p>16.9.1996 PR 9698/96 Presse 239</p>



Act	Decision to negotiate	Approval	Signing	Adoption by Council
Council Decision 96/620/EC of 1 October 1996 on the conclusion of an agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the European Community and the Kingdom of Morocco fixing, from 1 January 1994, the additional amount to be deducted from the levy or the customs duties on imports into the Community of untreated olive oil originating in Morocco OJ L 277, 30.10.1996, p. 35			21.10.1996	1.10.1996 PR 10265/96 Presse 253
Council Decision 96/621/EC of 14 October 1996 on the conclusion of an agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the European Community and the Republic of Turkey fixing, from 1 January 1994, the additional amount to be deducted from the levy or the customs duties on imports into the Community of untreated olive oil originating in Turkey OJ L 277, 30.10.1996, p. 38			16.10.1996	14.10.1996 PR 10457/96 Presse 265
Council Decision 96/640/EC of 28 October 1996 on the conclusion of an agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the European Community and the Arab Republic of Egypt modifying the arrangements for imports into the Community of rice originating in and coming from Egypt OJ L 292, 15.11.1996, p. 27			4.11.1996	28.10.1996 PR 11052/96 Presse 294
Council Decision 96/641/EC of 28 October 1996 on the conclusion of an agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the European Community and the Arab Republic of Egypt on the adjustment of the regime for imports into the Community of oranges originating in and coming from Egypt OJ L 292, 15.11.1996, p. 31			4.11.1996	28.10.1996 PR 11052/96 Presse 294
Council Decision 96/704/EC of 22 November 1996 concerning the provisional application of the International Natural Rubber Agreement 1995 by the Community OJ L 324, 13.12.1996, p. 1				22.11.1996 PR 11916/96 Presse 332
Council Decision 96/753/EC of 6 December 1996 concerning the conclusion of an agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between the European Community, of the one part, and the Kingdom of Norway, of the other part, on Protocol 2 to the agreement between the European Economic Community and the Kingdom of Norway OJ L 345 du 31.12.1996, p. 78			20.12.1996	6.12.1996 PR 12440/96 Presse 366

Act	Decision to negotiate	Approval	Signing	Adoption by Council
Council Decision 97/126/EC of 6 December 1996 concerning the conclusion of an agreement between the European Community, of the one part, and the Government of Denmark and the Home Government of the Faeroe Islands, of the other part OJ L 53, 22.2.1997, p. 1			6.12.1996 PR 12442/96 Presse 368	6.12.1996 PR 12440/96 Presse 366
Council Decision 97/131/EC of 17 December 1996 on the conclusion of an agreement in the form of an exchange of letters concerning the provisional application of the agreement between the European Community and New Zealand on sanitary measures applicable to trade in live animals and animal products OJ L 57, 26.2.1997, p. 1			17.12.1996 PR 12599/96 Presse 377	17.12.1996 PR 12599/96 Presse 377
Council Decision 97/132/EC of 17 December 1996 on the conclusion of the agreement between the European Community and New Zealand on sanitary measures applicable to trade in live animals and animal products OJ L 57, 26.2.1997, p. 4			17.12.1996 PR 12600/96 Presse 378	17.12.1996 PR 12599/96 Presse 377
Interim agreement on trade and trade-related matters between the European Community, the European Coal and Steel Community and the European Atomic Energy Community, of the one part, and Georgia, of the other part		24.9.1996 PR 9701/96 Presse 242	5.10.1996	
Interim agreement on trade and trade-related matters between the European Community, the European Coal and Steel Community and the European Atomic Energy Community, of the one part, and the Republic of Armenia, of the other part		24.9.1996 PR 9701/96 Presse 242	10.12.1996	
Information Technology Agreement (ITA)	25.11.1996 PR 11920/96 Presse 336			

## **Annex 2**

### **Acts adopted by the Council within the framework of cooperation in the fields of justice and home affairs**

The table in this annex shows the Council's activities in 1996 within the framework of Title VI of the Treaty on European Union. On the basis of the fields covered by Chapter R of Part III of this review, the table lists acts expressly provided for in Article K.3 of Title VI as well as other published acts adopted by the Council in this field.

Act	Adoption	Publication
<b>Asylum and immigration</b>		
Joint position of 4 March 1996 defined by the Council on the basis of Article K.3 of the Treaty on European Union on the harmonised application of the definition of the term 'refugee' in Article 1 of the Geneva Convention of 28 July 1951 relating to the Status of Refugees	4.3.1996 PR 5309/96 Presse 45	OJ L 63, 13.3.1996, p. 2
Joint action of 4 March 1996 adopted by the Council on the basis of Article K.3 of the Treaty on European Union on airport transit arrangements	4.3.1996 PR 5309/96 Presse 45	OJ L 63, 13.3.1996, p. 8
Council resolution of 4 March 1996 on the status of third-country nationals residing on a long-term basis in the territory of the Member States	4.3.1996 PR 5309/96 Presse 45	OJ C 80, 18.3.1996, p. 2
Council decision of 4 March 1996 on an alert and emergency procedure for burden-sharing with regard to the admission and residence of displaced persons on a temporary basis	4.3.1996 PR 5309/96 Presse 45	OJ L 63, 13.3.1996, p. 10
Council recommendation of 4 March 1996 relating to local consular cooperation regarding visas	4.3.1996 PR 5309/96 Presse 45	OJ C 80, 18.3.1996, p. 1
Council conclusions of 4 March 1996 on readmission clauses to be inserted in future mixed agreements	4.3.1996 PR 5309/96 Presse 45	
Council recommendation of 27 September 1996 on combating the illegal employment of third-country nationals	27.9.1996 PR 10259/96 Presse 247	OJ C 304, 14.10.1996, p. 1
Joint position of 25 October 1996 defined by the Council on the basis of Article K.3(2)(a) of the Treaty on European Union, on pre-frontier assistance and training assignments	25.10.1996 PR 10873/96 Presse 278	OJ L 281, 31.10.1996, p. 1
<b>Police and customs cooperation</b>		
Council recommendation of 22 April 1996 on guidelines for preventing and restraining disorder connected with football matches	22.4.1996 PR 6561/96 Presse 98	OJ C 131, 3.5.1996, p. 1
Council Act of 23 July 1996 drawing up, on the basis of Article K.3 of the Treaty on European Union, the protocol on the interpretation, by way of preliminary rulings, by the Court of Justice of the European Communities of the Convention on the Establishment of a European Police Office	23.7.1996 PR 9145/96 Presse 211	OJ C 299, 9.10.1996, p. 1
Council conclusions of 14 October 1996 on illegal trafficking of works of art	14.10.1996 PR 10457/96 Presse 265	
Joint action of 15 October 1996 adopted by the Council on the basis of Article K.3 of the Treaty on European Union concerning the creation and maintenance of a directory of specialised counter-terrorist competences, skills and expertise to facilitate counter-terrorist cooperation between the Member States of the European Union	15.10.1996 PR 10458/96 Presse 266	OJ L 273, 25.10.1996, p. 1

Act	Adoption	Publication
Joint action of 29 November 1996 adopted by the Council on the basis of Article K.3 of the Treaty on European Union, on cooperation between customs authorities and business organisations in combating drug trafficking	29.11.1996 PR 12104/96 Presse 346	OJ L 322, 12.12.1996, p. 3
Joint action of 29 November 1996 adopted by the Council on the basis of Article K.3 of the Treaty on European Union, concerning the exchange of information on the chemical profiling of drugs to facilitate improved cooperation between Member States in combating illicit drug trafficking	29.11.1996 PR 12104/96 Presse 346	OJ L 322, 12.12.1996, p. 5
Joint action of 29 November 1996 adopted by the Council on the basis of Article K.3 of the Treaty on European Union, concerning the creation and maintenance of a directory of specialised competences, skills and expertise in the fight against international organised crime, in order to facilitate law enforcement cooperation between the Member States of the European Union	29.11.1996 PR 12104/96 Presse 346	OJ L 342, 31.12.1996, p. 2
Council resolution of 29 November 1996 on the drawing up of police/customs agreements in the fight against drugs	29.11.1996 PR 12104/96 Presse 346	OJ C 375, 12.12.1996, p. 1
Council resolution of 29 November 1996 on measures to address the drug tourism problem within the European Union	29.11.1996 PR 12104/96 Presse 346	OJ C 375, 12.12.1996, p. 3
Council Act of 29 November 1996 drawing up, on the basis of Article K.3 of the Treaty on European Union, the protocol on the interpretation, by way of preliminary rulings, by the Court of Justice of the European Communities of the Convention on the Use of Information Technology for Customs Purposes	29.11.1996 12104/96 Presse 346	OJ C 151, 20.5.1997, p. 15
Joint action of 16 December 1996 adopted by the Council on the basis of Article K.3 of the Treaty on European Union extending the mandate given to the Europol Drugs Unit	16.12.1996 PR 12868/96 Presse 381	OJ L 342, 31.12.1996, p. 4
Council decision of 16 December 1996 on monitoring the implementation of instruments adopted by the Council concerning illegal immigration, readmission, the unlawful employment of third country nationals and cooperation in the implementation of expulsion orders	16.12.1996 PR 12868/96 Presse 381	OJ L 342, 31.12.1996, p. 5
Joint action of 16 December 1996 adopted by the Council on the basis of Article K.3 of the Treaty on European Union concerning a uniform format for residence permits	16.12.1996 PR 12868/96 Presse 381	OJ L 7, 10.1.1997, p. 1
Council resolution of 16 December 1996 on measures to combat and dismantle the illicit cultivation and production of drugs within the European Union	16.12.1996 PR 12868/96 Presse 381	OJ C 389, 23.12.1996, p. 1
Joint action of 17 December 1996 adopted by the Council on the basis of Article K.3 of the Treaty on European Union concerning the approximation of the laws and practices of the Member States of the European Union to combat drug addiction and to prevent and combat illegal drug trafficking	17.12.1996 PR 12599/96 Presse 377	OJ L 342, 31.12.1996, p. 6

Act	Adoption	Publication
Council resolution of 20 December 1996 on sentencing for serious illicit drug-trafficking	20.12.1996 PR 12873/96 Presse 386	OJ C 10, 11.1.1997, p. 3
Council resolution of 20 December 1996 on individuals who cooperate with the judicial process in the fight against international organised crime	20.12.1996 PR 12873/96 Presse 386	OJ C 10, 11.1.1997, p. 1
Joint action adopted by the Council on 20 December 1996 on the participation of the EU Member States in a strategic operation planned by the Customs Cooperation Council (CCC) to combat drug smuggling on the Balkan route	20.12.1996 PR 12873/96 Presse 386	
<b>Judicial cooperation in criminal and civil matters</b>		
Joint action of 22 April 1996 adopted by the Council on the basis of Article K.3 of the Treaty on European Union, concerning a framework for the exchange of liaison magistrates to improve judicial cooperation between the Member States of the European Union	22.4.1996 PR 6561/96 Presse 98	OJ L 105, 27.4.1996, p. 1
Joint action of 15 July 1996 adopted by the Council on the basis of Article K.3 of the Treaty on European Union, concerning action to combat racism and xenophobia	15.7.1996 PR 8913/96 Presse 208	OJ L 185, 24.7.1996, p. 5
Council Act of 27 September 1996 drawing up a protocol to the Convention on the Protection of the European Communities' Financial Interests	27.9.1996 PR 10259/96 Presse 247 PR 10261/96 Presse 249	OJ C 313, 23.10.1996, p. 1
Council Act of 27 September 1996 drawing up the Convention relating to Extradition between the Member States of the European Union	27.9.1996 PR 10259/96 Presse 247 PR 10262/1/96 Presse 250 REV 1	OJ C 313, 23.10.1996, p. 11
Joint action of 29 November 1996 adopted by the Council on the basis of Article K.3 of the Treaty on European Union, establishing an incentive and exchange programme for persons responsible for combating trade in human beings and the sexual exploitation of children	29.11.1996 PR 12104/96 Presse 346	OJ L 322, 12.12.1996, p. 7
Council Act of 29 November 1996 drawing up, on the basis of Article K.3 of the Treaty on European Union, the protocol on the interpretation, by way of preliminary rulings, by the Court of Justice of the European Communities of the Convention on the Protection of the European Communities' Financial Interests	29.11.1996 PR 12104/96 Presse 346	OJ C 151, 20.5.1997 p. 1
Council conclusions of 6 December 1997 on the establishment of a European Monitoring Centre for Racism and Xenophobia	6.12.1996 PR 12440/96 Presse 366	
Council statement of 12 December 1996 on organised crime	12.12.1996 PR 12593/96 Presse 371	

Act	Adoption	Publication
<b>Horizontal questions</b>		
Council decision of 14 October 1996 on measures implementing Article K.1 of the Treaty on European Union	14.10.1996 PR 10457/96 Presse 265	OJ L 268, 19.10.1996, p. 1
Joint action of 14 October 1996 adopted by the Council on the basis of Article K.3 of the Treaty on European Union providing for a common framework for the initiatives of the Member States concerning liaison officers	14.10.1996 PR 10457/96 Presse 265	OJ L 268, 19.10.1996, p. 2
Council resolution of 14 October 1996 laying down the priorities for cooperation in the field of justice and home affairs for the period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1998	14.10.1996 PR 10457/96 Presse 265	OJ C 319, 26.10.1996, p. 1
Joint action of 28 October 1996 adopted by the Council on the basis of Article K.3 of the Treaty on European Union, on a programme of incentives and exchanges for legal practitioners (Grotius)	28.10.1996 PR 11052/96 Presse 294	OJ L 287, 8.11.1996, p. 3
Joint action of 28 October 1996 adopted by the Council on the basis of Article K.3 of the Treaty on European Union introducing a programme of training, exchanges and cooperation in the field of identity documents (Sherlock)	28.10.1996 PR 11052/96 Presse 294	OJ L 287, 8.11.1996, p. 7
Decision of the representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council of 25 June 1996 on the establishment of an emergency travel document	25.6.1996 PR 8083/96 Presse 179	OJ L 168, 6.7.1996, p. 4
Joint action of 20 December 1996 adopted by the Council on the basis of Article K.3 of the Treaty on European Union providing a common programme for the exchange and training of, and cooperation between, law enforcement authorities (Oisin)	20.12.1996 PR 12873/96 Presse 386	OJ L 7, 10.1.1997, p. 5





## Annex 3

### Acts adopted by the Council within the framework of common foreign and security policy

The tables in this annex show the Council's activities in 1996 within the framework of Title V of the Treaty on European Union. On the basis of the fields covered by Part IV of this review, they list CFSP political and legal instruments as provided for in Title V of the Treaty. Thus, Tables I and II list joint actions and common positions respectively adopted by the Council under Articles J.3 and J.2 of the Treaty, and Table III lists various types of declaration.

## Table I

### Joint actions

Act	Adoption	Publication
<b>Security</b>		
Council decision of 16 February 1996 amending Decision 94/942/CFSP on the joint action adopted by the Council on the basis of Article J.3 of the Treaty on European Union concerning the control of exports of dual-use goods	16.2.1996 PR 4717/96 Presse 30	OJ L 52, 1.3.1996, p. 1
Council decision of 25 March 1996 complementing Decision 95/170/CFSP concerning the joint action adopted by the Council on the basis of Article J.3 of the Treaty on European Union on anti-personnel mines	25.3.1996 PR 6054/96 Presse 70	OJ L 87, 4.4.1996, p. 3
Council decision of 27 June 1996 amending Decision 94/942/CFSP on the joint action adopted by the Council on the basis of Article J.3 of the Treaty on European Union concerning the control of exports of dual-use goods	27.6.1996 PR 8519/96 Presse 189	OJ L 176, 13.7.1996, p. 1
Joint action of 1 October 1996 adopted by the Council on the basis of Article J.3 of the Treaty on European Union on anti-personnel landmines	1.10.1996 PR 10265/96 Presse 253	OJ L 260, 12.10.1996, p. 1
Council decision of 22 October 1996 amending Decision 94/942/CFSP on the joint action adopted by the Council on the basis of Article J.3 of the Treaty on European Union concerning the control of exports of dual-use goods	22.10.1996	OJ L 278, 30.10.1996, p. 1
<b>Former Yugoslavia</b>		
Joint action of 10 June 1996 adopted by the Council on the basis of Article J.3 of the Treaty on European Union, concerning action by the Union to support the electoral process in Bosnia and Herzegovina	10.6.1996 PR 7820/96 Presse 164	OJ L 168, 6.7.1996, p. 1
Joint action of 15 July 1996 adopted by the Council on the basis of Article J.3 of the Treaty on European Union, on the nomination of a special envoy of the European Union in the city of Mostar	15.7.1996 PR 8913/96 Presse 208	OJ L 185, 24.7.1996, p. 2
Joint action adopted by the Council on 26 July 1996 on interim arrangements concerning the phasing out of the European Union Administration of Mostar	26.7.1996 PR 8913/96 Presse 208	OJ L 195, 6.8.1996, p. 1
Council decision of 9 August 1996 setting the date on which Joint Action 96/442/CFSP adopted by the Council on 15 July 1996 shall take effect	9.8.1996 PR 8913/96 Presse 208 PR 9454/96 Presse 222	OJ L 212, 21.8.1996, p. 1
Council decision of 20 December 1996 on the phasing out of European Union operations in Mostar	20.12.1996 PR 12873/96 Presse 386	OJ L 340, 30.12.1996, p. 1
Council decision of 20 December 1996 concerning the extension of Joint Action 95/545/CFSP, with regard to the participation of the European Union in the implementing structures of the peace plan for Bosnia and Herzegovina	20.12.1996 PR 12873/96 Presse 386	OJ L 340, 30.12.1996, p. 3

Act	Adoption	Publication
<b>Africa</b>		
Joint action of 25 March 1996 adopted by the Council on the basis of Article J.3 of the Treaty on European Union, in relation to the nomination of a special envoy for the African Great Lakes Region	25.3.1996 PR 6054/96 Presse 70	OJ L 87, 4.4.1996, p. 1
Council decision of 15 July 1996 extending the application of Joint Action 96/250/CFSP adopted by the Council on the basis of Article J.3 of the Treaty on the European Union, in relation to the nomination of a special envoy for the African Great Lakes Region	15.7.1996 PR 8913/96 Presse 208	OJ L 185, 24.7.1996, p. 1
Council decision of 9 August 1996 setting the date on which Joint Action 96/442/CFSP adopted by the Council on 15 July 1996 shall take effect	9.8.1996	OJ L 212, 21.8.1996, p. 1
Council decision of 1 October 1996 concerning the financial implications arising from the extension of the mandate of the special envoy for the African Great Lakes Region nominated by Joint Action 96/250/CFSP	1.10.1996 PR 10265/96 Presse 253	OJ L 260, 12.10.1996, p. 5
Joint action of 11 November 1996 adopted by the Council on the basis of Article J.3 of the Treaty on European Union in support of the democratic transition process in Zaire	11.11.1996 PR 11434/96 Presse 311	OJ L 300, 25.11.1996, p. 1
Joint action of 22 November 1996 adopted by the Council on the basis of Article J.3 of the Treaty on European Union on the Great Lakes Region	22.11.1996 PR 11913/96 Presse 329	OJ L 312, 2.12.1996, p. 1
Council decision of 22 November 1996 adopted on the basis of Article J.4 (2) of the Treaty on European Union on the elaboration and implementation of a joint action by the Union in the Great Lakes Region	22.11.1996 PR 11913/96 Presse 329	OJ L 312, 2.12.1996, p. 3
Council decision of 25 November 1996 concerning the extension of Common Position 95/544/CFSP on Nigeria	25.11.1996 PR 11920/96 Presse 336	OJ L 315, 4.12.1996, p. 3
<b>Middle East – Gulf</b>		
Joint action of 25 November 1996 adopted by the Council on the basis of Article J.3 of the Treaty on European Union in relation to the nomination of an EU special envoy for the Middle East peace process	25.11.1996 PR 11920/96 Presse 336	OJ L 315, 4.12.1996, p. 1
<b>Asia</b>		
Joint action of 5 March 1996 adopted by the Council on the basis of Article J.3 of the Treaty on European Union on participation of the European Union in the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organisation (KEDO)	5.3.1996	OJ L 63, 13.3.1996, p. 1
<b>United States</b>		
Joint action of 22 November 1996 adopted by the Council on the basis of Articles J.3 and K.3 of the Treaty on European Union concerning measures protecting against the effects of the extra-territorial application of legislation adopted by a third country, and actions based thereon or resulting therefrom	22.11.1996 PR 11916/96 Presse 332	OJ L 309, 29.11.1996, p. 7

**Table II**  
Common positions

Act	Adoption	Publication
<b>Security</b>		
Common position of 25 June 1996 defined by the Council on the basis of Article J.2 of the Treaty on European Union, relating to preparation for the fourth review conference of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction (BTWC)	25.6.1996 PR 8083/96 Presse 176	OJ L 168, 6.7.1996, p. 3
<b>Former Yugoslavia</b>		
Common position of 26 February 1996 defined by the Council on the basis of Article J.2 of the Treaty on European Union concerning arms exports to the former Yugoslavia	26.2.1996 PR 4720/96 Presse 33	OJ L 58, 7.3.1996, p. 1
Common position of 9 December 1996 defined by the Council on the basis of Article J.2 of the Treaty on European Union concerning the termination of restrictions on economic and financial relations with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), the United Nations Protected Areas in the Republic of Croatia and those areas of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina under the control of the Bosnian Serb forces	9.12.1996 PR 12434/96 Presse 360	OJ L 328, 18.12.1996, p. 5
<b>Africa</b>		
Common position of 3 June 1996 defined by the Council on the basis of Article J.2 of the Treaty on European Union, extending Common Position 95/544/CFSP on Nigeria	3.6.1996 PR 7812/96 Presse 156	OJ L 143, 15.6.1996, p. 1
<b>Asia</b>		
Common position of 25 June 1996 defined by the Council on the basis of Article J.2 of the Treaty on European Union, concerning East Timor	25.6.1996 PR 8083/96 Presse 176	OJ L 168, 6.7.1996, p. 2
Common position of 28 October 1996 defined by the Council on the basis of Article J.2 of the Treaty on European Union, on Burma/Myanmar	28.10.1996 PR 11052/96 Presse 294	OJ L 287, 8 .11.1996, p. 1
<b>Latin America – Central America – Caribbean</b>		
Common position of 2 December 1996 defined by the Council on the basis of Article J.2 of the Treaty on European Union, on Cuba	2.12.1996 PR 12212/96 Presse 354	OJ L 322, 12.12.1996, p. 1
<b>Embargoes</b>		
Common position of 17 December 1996 defined by the Council on the basis of Article J.2 of the Treaty on European Union concerning the derogations from the embargo with regard to Iraq	17.12.1996 PR 12599/96 Presse 377	OJ L 337, 27.12.1996, p. 5
Common position of 17 December 1996 defined by the Council on the basis of Article J.2 of the Treaty on European Union concerning the imposition of an embargo on arms, munitions and military equipment on Afghanistan	17.12.1996 PR 12599/96 Presse 377	OJ L 342, 31.12.1996, p. 1

**Table III**  
CFSP declarations

This table lists various types of CFSP declaration: declarations by the Council Presidency (marked P), declarations by the Council Presidency on behalf of the European Union (marked P/EU) and European Union declarations (marked EU). In the 'Origin' column joint declarations are identified by an asterisk (\*), whilst the 'Association' column shows countries or groups of countries that endorsed the statement.

Date	Origin	Area	Subject	Association
11.1.1996	P/EU	Haiti	Follow-up to presidential elections in Haiti	CEECs, Cyprus, Malta
12.1.1996	P/EU	Guatemala	Presidential elections on 7.1.1996	CEECs, Cyprus, Malta
16.1.1996	P/EU	Burundi	National reconciliation	CEECs, Cyprus, Malta
18.1.1996	P/EU	Chechnya	Pervomaiskoe events	
22.1.1996	P/EU	Palestine	First general election	
24.1.1996	P/EU	Sierra Leone	Coup d'état on 16.1.1996	CEECs, Cyprus, Malta
29.1.1996	EU	Niger	Coup d'état on 27.1.1996	
5.2.1996	P/EU	Mexico	Drug trafficking	CEECs, Cyprus, Malta
6.2.1996	P/EU	Sri Lanka	Bombing in Colombo	
13.2.1996	P/EU	Iran	Seventh anniversary of fatwa against Salman Rushdie	
14.2.1996	P/EU	Mostar	European administration in Mostar	
20.2.1996	P/EU	Nigeria/Cameroon	Dispute in Bakkassi Peninsula	
26.2.1996	EU	Cuba	Shooting down of two civilian aircraft	
26.2.1996	EU	Israel	Bomb attacks in Jerusalem and Ashqelon	
26.2.1996	EU	Former Yugoslavia	Rome Compliance Conference on Bosnia and Herzegovina on 17.2.1996	
28.2.1996	EU, EFTA/EEA *	Former Yugoslavia	Arms exports, association with common position	
28.2.1996	EU, Cyprus, Malta *	Former Yugoslavia	Arms exports, association with common position	
28.2.1996	EU, CEECs	Former Yugoslavia	Arms exports, association with common position	
3.3.1996	P/EU	Middle east	Terrorist attack in Jerusalem	

Date	Origin	Area	Subject	Association
5.3.1996	P/EU	Bangladesh	Political crisis	
6.3.1996	P/EU	Federal Republic of Yugoslavia	Independent media	
6.3.1996	P/EU	Equatorial Guinea	Presidential elections on 25.2.1996	
8.3.1996	P/EU	China	Military exercises off the Taiwan coasts	
10.3.1996	P	Middle East	Peace process	
14.3.1996	P/EU	Afghanistan	Fighting around Kabul	
25.3.1996	EU	Chechnya	Escalation of violence	
3.4.1996	P/EU	Slovakia	Ratification of Treaty of Friendship between Hungary and the Slovak Republic	
4.4.1996	P/EU	Angola	Libreville Summit	Cyprus, Estonia, Latvia, Malta
4.4.1996	P/EU	Sierra Leone	Presidential and legislative elections	
9.4.1996	P/EU	Federal Republic of Yugoslavia	Recognition of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia by EU Member States	
11.4.1996	P/EU	Liberia	Fighting in Monrovia	
12.4.1996	P/EU	Africa	African Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Treaty	CEECs, Cyprus, Malta
12.4.1996	P/EU	North Korea	Violations of armistice agreement	
15.4.1996	P/EU	Middle East	Tension in Galilee and Lebanon	
22.4.1996	EU	Disarmament	CTBT negotiations	CEECs, Cyprus, Malta, EFTA/EEA
22.4.1996	EU	Lebanon	Ceasefire	
22.4.1996	P/EU	Egypt	Killing of Greek tourists	
24.4.1996	P/EU	Paraguay	Constitutional order	
26.4.1996	P/EU	Palestine	Amendment of Palestinian Charter	
29.4.1996	P/EU	Lebanon	Ceasefire	
29.4.1996	P/EU	United States/South Korea	Four-party talks on peace	
10.5.1996	P/EU	Dominican Republic	Observation of presidential elections	

Date	Origin	Area	Subject	Association
13.5.1996	EU	Anti-personnel landmines	Review Conference	CEECs, Cyprus, Malta, EFTA/EEA
13.5.1996	EU	Liberia	Humanitarian situation and boat people	
20.5.1996	EU, United States*	Albania	Legislative elections	
21.5.1996	P/EU	Ukraine	Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence	
31.5.1996	P	Chechnya	Peace plan	CEECs, cyprus, Malta
1.6.1996	P	Albania	Parliamentary elections	
10.6.1996	P	Albania	Election process	
12.6.1996	P	Ukraine	Removal of nuclear warheads	
18.6.1996	P	Russia	Presidential elections, 1st round	
19.6.1996	P	Disarmament	Expansion of conference membership	
20.6.1996	P	Great lakes region – Burundi	National reconciliation	
24.6.1996	EU		Convention on Bacteriological and Toxin Weapons (BTWC): association with common position	CEECs, Cyprus, Malta, EFTA/EEA
28.6.1996	P/EU	Saudi-Arabia	Bomb attack in Dhahran	
1.7.1996	EU, Andean community*	Andean community	Joint declaration on political dialogue	
2.7.1996	P/EU	Mostar	Mostar elections	
5.7.1996	P/EU	Burma	Human rights	Cyprus, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, EFTA/EEA
5.7.1996	P/EU	Russia	Presidential elections, second round	
5.7.1996	P/EU	Ukraine	Adoption of new constitution	Bulgaria, Cyprus, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Romania, Slovak Republic, Republic of Slovenia, Czech Republic
5.7.1996	P/EU	Burundi	Arusha Summit, restoration of security	
11.7.1996	EU, CEECs, Cyprus, Malta, EFTA/EEA*	East Timor	Association with common position objectives	

Date	Origin	Area	Subject	Association
15.7.1996	EU	Burundi	OAU summit in Yaounde on 10.7.1996	
15.7.1996	EU	Turkey	Imia islet	
23.7.1996	P/EU	Burundi	Bugendana massacre	
26.7.1996	P/EU	Burundi	Military coup	
26.7.1996	P/EU	Mostar	Reunification of the city	
29.7.1996	P/EU	Tajikistan	Inter-Tajik negotiations	CEECs, Cyprus, Malta, Iceland, Norway
30.7.1996	P/EU	Sri Lanka	Terrorist bomb attack	CEECs, Cyprus, Malta, Iceland, Norway
1.8.1996	P/EU	Niger	Presidential elections, first round	CEECs, Cyprus, Malta, Iceland
6.8.1996	P/EU	Guatemala	Peace process	CEECs, Cyprus, Malta, Liechtenstein, Norway, Slovenia
6.8.1996	P/EU	Swaziland	Constitutional Review Commission	
7.8.1996	P/EU	Nuclear tests	Negotiations for a comprehensive test ban treaty	CEECs, Cyprus, Malta, EFTA/EEA
16.8.1996	P/EU	Chechnya	Ceasefire	
16.8.1996	P/EU	Cyprus	Cooperation with Unficyp	
19.8.1996	P/EU	Burundi	National reconciliation	
21.8.1996	P/EU	United States	Enactment of the D'Amato legislation	
21.8.1996	P/EU	Nuclear tests	Negotiations for a comprehensive test ban treaty	CEECs, Cyprus, Malta, EFTA/EEA
23.8.1996	P/EU	Chechnya	Call to pursue dialogue	
26.8.1996	P/EU	Croatia/Federal Republic of Yugoslavia	Agreement on normalisation of relations	
2.9.1996	P/EU	Philippines	Peace talks	
6.9.1996	P/EU	Sexual exploitation of children	Outcome of Stockholm World Congress	
17.9.1996	P/EU	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Elections	
24.9.1996	P/EU	United Nations	European Union memorandum	
25.9.1996	P/EU	Guatemala	Support for President Arzu Irigoyen	
26.9.1996	P/EU	Liberia	Ecogas mediation	



Date	Origin	Area	Subject	Association
1.10.1996	P/EU	Middle East	Peace process	
1.10.1996	EU	Burma	General situation	
9.10.1996	P/EU	Chile	Granting of impunity to the perpetrators of the murder of a UN official	Bulgaria, Cyprus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Czech Republic, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia
15.10.1996	P/EU	The Gambia	Presidential elections	
16.10.1996	P/EU	Cyprus	Killing of unarmed civilian	
17.10.1996	P/EU	North Korea	Incursion by a submarine into South Korean waters	
18.10.1996	P/EU	Belarus	Respect for democratic principles	CEECs, Cyprus, Malta
21.10.1996	P/EU	Zaire	Situation in South Kivu	CEECs, Cyprus, Malta
25.10.1996	P/EU	Zaire	Situation in South Kivu	
28.10.1996	P/EU	Afghanistan	Intensification of armed hostilities	
31.10.1996	P/EU	Zambia	Presidential and legislative elections	Bulgaria, Cyprus, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Czech Republic, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia
5.11.1996	P/EU	Ghana	Presidential and legislative elections	
5.11.1996	P/EU	China	Sentencing of Wang Dan	
5.11.1996	P/EU	Chemical weapons	Entry into force of convention	CEECs, Cyprus, Malta, EFTA/EEA
7.11.1996	P/EU	Venezuela	Fire at Caracas prison	
7.11.1996	EU, Bulgaria, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Czech Republic, Romania, Cyprus, Malta, Iceland, Norway	Myanmar	Association with common position of 28.10.96	
8.11.1996	P/EU	Guatemala	Suspension of peace negotiations	
11.11.1996	EU, Estonia	Myanmar	Association with common position of 28.10.96	
18.11.1996	P/EU	Myanmar	Aggression against National League for Democracy	

Date	Origin	Area	Subject	Association
20.11.1996	P/EU	Zambia	Elections on 18 November 1996	CEECs, Cyprus, Malta
21.11.1996	P/EU	Abkhazia (Georgia)	Elections in Abkhazia	
22.11.1996	P/EU	Federal Republic of Yugoslavia	Local elections	
22.11.1996	P/EU	Croatia	Radio 101 in Zagreb	
25.11.1996	P/EU	Iran	Relations between the EU and Iran	
25.11.1996	EU	Belarus	Constitutional referendum	
25.11.1996	EU	Chechnya	23 November agreement	
29.11.1996	P/EU	Nicaragua	General elections	
2.12.1996	P/EU	Federal Republic of Yugoslavia	Local elections in Serbia	
4.12.1996	P/EU	Federal Republic of Yugoslavia	Annulment of local election results	
12.12.1996	P/EU	Central African Republic	Bangui confrontations	Bulgaria, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Czech Republic, Romania, Cyprus, Iceland, Norway
13.12.1996	P/EU	Myanmar/Burma	Student demonstrations	CEECs, Cyprus, Malta, EFTA/EEA
14.12.1996	European council	Federal Republic of Yugoslavia	Conditionality governing the regional approach	
14.12.1996	European council	Middle East	Peace process	
16.12.1996	P/EU	Ghana	Presidential and legislative elections	Bulgaria, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Czech Republic, Romania, Cyprus, Iceland, Norway
17.12.1996	EU, CEECs, Cyprus, EFTA/EEA	Afganistan	Arms embargo, association with common position	
17.12.1996	P/EU	Peru-Ecuador	Agreements of Quito and Santiago	CEECs, Cyprus, Iceland, Norway
18.12.1996	P/EU	Peru	Situation at Japanese Embassy in Lima	CEECs, Cyprus, EFTA/EEA
20.12.1996	P/EU	Guatemala	Final phase of peace process	CEECs, Cyprus, Iceland, Norway
31.12.1996	P/EU	Colombia	Kidnappings	

# Annex 4

## Acts adopted by the Council within the framework of the accession procedure

In the light of the applications for accession to the European Union submitted in 1996, the Council has adopted acts in compliance with the procedure provided for in Article O of the Treaty on European Union.

Act	Adoption
Council decision of 29–30 January 1996 to implement the procedures laid down in Article O of the Treaty on European Union following the application for accession submitted by Lithuania	29.1.1996 PR 4496/96 Presse 16
Council decision of 29–30 January 1996 to implement the procedures laid down in Article O of the Treaty on European Union following the application for accession submitted by Bulgaria	29.1.1996 PR 4496/96 Presse 16
Council decision of 29–30 January 1996 to implement the procedures laid down in Article O of the Treaty on European Union following the application for accession submitted by the Czech Republic	29.1.1996 PR 4496/96 Presse 16
Council decision of 15–16 July 1996 to implement the procedures laid down in Article O of the Treaty on European Union following the application for accession submitted by the Republic of Slovenia	15–16.7.96 PR 8913/96 Presse 208



# Annex 5

## Acts adopted by the representatives of the Governments of the Member States

Act	Adoption	Publication
<b>Agriculture</b>		
Decision by common accord of the representatives of the Governments of the Member States of 6 December 1996 determining the seat of the Community Plant Variety Office	6.12.1996 PR 12440/96 Presse 366	OJ C 36, 5.2.1997, p. 1
<b>Education</b>		
Declaration of the Council and of the ministers for education, meeting within the Council, of 20 December 1996 on protection of children and countering paedophilia	20.12.1996 PR 12873/96 Presse 386	OJ C 7, 10.1.1997, p. 12
<b>Social policy</b>		
Resolution of the Council and the representatives of the governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, of 23 July 1996 concerning the European Year against Racism	23.7.1996 PR 9145/96 Presse 211	OJ C 237, 15.8.1996, p. 1
Resolution of the Council and of the representatives of the governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, of 2 December 1996 on the role of social protection systems in the fight against unemployment	2.12.1996 PR 12100/96 Presse 342	OJ C 386, 20.12.1996, p. 3
Resolution of the Council and of the representatives of the governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, of 20 December 1996 on equality of opportunity for people with disabilities	20.12.1996 PR 12873/96 Presse 386	OJ C 12, 13.1.1997, p. 1
<b>External policies</b>		
96/201/ECSC: Decision of the representatives of the governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, of 11 March 1996 suspending Decision 93/235/ECSC and repealing Decision 95/510/ECSC, concerning the interruption of economic relations with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), the United Nations Protected Areas in the Republic of Croatia and those areas of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina under the control of Bosnian Serb forces	11.3.1996 PR 5516/96 Presse 56	OJ L 65, 15.3.1996, p. 38
96/433/ECSC: Decision of the representatives of the governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, of 8 July 1996 on certain measures applicable with regard to Kazakhstan concerning trade in certain steel products covered by the ECSC Treaty	8.7.1996 PR 8905/96 Presse 200	OJ L 180, 19.7.1996, p. 28
96/707/ECSC: Decision of the representatives of the governments of the Member States of the European Coal and Steel Community, meeting within the Council, of 9 December 1996 repealing Decision 93/235/ECSC concerning trade between the European Coal and Steel Community and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)	9.12.1996 PR 12434/96 Presse 360	OJ L 328, 18.12.1996, p. 3
<b>Middle East – Gulf</b>		
96/740/ECSC: Decision of the representatives of the governments of the Member States of the European Coal and Steel Community, meeting within the Council, of 17 December 1996 repealing Decision 90/414/ECSC preventing trade as regards Iraq and Kuwait	17.12.1996 PR 12599/96 Presse 377	OJ L 337, 27.12.1996, p. 4

Act	Adoption	Publication
<b>Justice and home affairs</b>		
Convention on the Accession of the Republic of Austria, the Republic of Finland and the Kingdom of Sweden to the Convention on Jurisdiction and the Enforcement of Judgments in Civil and Commercial Matters and to the protocol on its interpretation by the Court of Justice, with the adjustments made to them by the Convention on the Accession of the Kingdom of Denmark, of Ireland and of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, by the Convention on the Accession of the Hellenic Republic and by the Convention on the Accession of the Kingdom of Spain and the Portuguese Republic	Signing: 29.11.1996 PR 12208/96 Presse 350	OJ C 15, 15.1.1997, p. 1
Convention on the Accession of the Republic of Austria, the Republic of Finland and the Kingdom of Sweden to the Convention on the Law Applicable to Contractual Obligations, opened for signature in Rome on 19 June 1980, and to the first and second protocols on its interpretation by the Court of Justice	Signing: 29.11.1996 PR 12208/96 Presse 350	OJ C 15, 15.1.1997, p. 10

# Annex 6

## Acts adopted by the Association Councils

Act	Adoption	Publication
<b>Bulgaria</b>		
Decision No 1/96 of the Association Council, association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Bulgaria, of the other part of 17 December 1996 concerning the export of certain ECSC steel products from Bulgaria to the Community for the period 1 January to 31 December 1997 (extension of the double-checking system established by Decision No 3/95 of the Association Council)	17.12.1996 PR 12440/96 Presse 366	OJ L 26, 29.1.1997, p. 21
<b>Hungary</b>		
Decision No 1/96 of the Association Council, association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Hungary, of the other part of 16 July 1996 amending, through the setting up of a Joint Consultative Committee, Decision No 1/94 adopting the rules of procedure of the Association Council	16.7.1996 UE-H 1506/96 Presse 220	OJ L 192, 2.8.1996, p. 17
Decision No 2/96 of the Association Council, association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Hungary, of the other part, of 6 November 1996 adopting the rules necessary for the implementation of Article 62(1)(i), (1)(ii) and (2) of the Europe agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Hungary, of the other part, and the rules implementing Article 8(1)(i), (1)(ii) and (2) of Protocol No 2 on ECSC products to that agreement	6.11.1996	OJ L 295, 20.11.1996, p. 29
Decision No 3/96 of the Association Council, association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Hungary, of the other part of 28 December 1996 amending Protocol 4 to the Europe agreement establishing an association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Hungary, of the other part	28.12.1996	OJ L 92, 7.4.1997, p. 1
<b>Poland</b>		
Decision No 1/96 of the Association Council, association between the European Communities and their Member States of the one part, and the Republic of Poland, of the other part of 16 July 1996 adopting the implementing rules necessary for the application of Article 63(1)(i), (1)(ii) and (2) of the Europe agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Poland, of the other part, and the rules implementing Article 8(1)(i), (1)(ii) and (2) of Protocol 2 on ECSC products to that agreement	16.7.1996 8913/96 Presse 208	OJ L 208, 17.8.1996, p. 24
Decision No 2/96 of the Association Council, association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Poland, of the other part, of 16 July 1996 on the determination of the duties applicable to imports into Poland of goods originating in the Community and listed in Annex III to Protocol 3 of the Europe agreement	16.7.1996 8913/96 Presse 208	OJ L 208, 17.8.1996, p. 28
Decision No 3/96 of the Association Council, association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Poland, of the other part of 16 July 1996 settling the dispute between the European Communities and the Republic of Poland concerning skins and hides in accordance with Article 105(1) and (2) of the Europe agreement between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Poland, of the other part	16.7.1996 8913/96 Presse 208	OJ L 208, 17.8.1996, p. 31
Decision No 4/96 of the Association Council, association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Poland, of the other part of 16 July 1996 amending Protocol 4 concerning the definition of the concept of 'originating products' and methods of administrative cooperation	16.7.1996 8913/96 Presse 208	OJ L 208, 17.8.1996, p. 33

Act	Adoption	Publication
<b>Slovak Republic</b>		
Decision No 1/96 of the Association Council, association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Slovak Republic, of the other part of 15 August 1996 adopting the implementing rules for the application of the competition provisions referred to in Article 64(1)(i), (1)(ii) and (2) of the Europe agreement establishing an association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Slovak Republic, of the other part, and in Article 8(1)(i), (1)(ii) and (2) of Protocol No 2 on ECSC products to that agreement	15.8.1996	OJ L 295, 20.11.1996, p. 25
Decision No 2/96 of the Association Council, association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Slovak Republic, of the other part of 9 December 1996 concerning the duties applied by the Slovak Republic to imports of processed agricultural goods originating in the Community	9.12.1996	OJ L 26, 29.1.1997, p. 12
<b>Czech Republic</b>		
Decision No 1/96 of the Association Council, association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Czech Republic, of the other part, of 30 January 1996 adopting the implementing rules for the application of the competition provisions referred to in Article 64(1)(i), (1)(ii) and (2) of the Europe agreement establishing an association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Czech Republic, of the other part, and in Article 8(1)(i), (1)(ii) and (2) of Protocol 2 on ECSC products to that agreement	30.1.1996 UE-CZ 1705/96 Presse 22	OJ L 31, 9.2.1996, p. 21
Decision No 2/96 of the Association Council, association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Czech Republic, of the other part of 4 April 1996 concerning the export of certain ECSC and EC steel products from the Czech Republic to the Community	4.4.1996	OJ L 133, 4.6.1996, p. 16
Decision No 3/96 of the Association Council, association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Czech Republic, of the other part of 29 November 1996 amending Protocol 4 to the Europe agreement establishing an association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Czech Republic, of the other part	29.11.1996	OJ L 343, 31.12.1996, p. 1
Decision No 4/96 of the Association Council, association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Czech Republic, of the other part, of 27 December 1996 concerning the export of certain ECSC and EC steel products from the Czech Republic to the Community for the period 1 January to 31 December 1997 (extension of the double-checking system established by Decision No 2/96 of the Association Council)	27.12.1996 PR 12440/96 Presse 366	OJ L 64, 5.3.1997, p. 13
<b>Romania</b>		
Decision No 1/96 of the Association Council, association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and Romania, of the other part of 22 July 1996 concerning the export of ferrous scrap from Romania to the Community	22.7.1996	OJ L 236, 18.9.1996, p. 45
Decision No 2/96 of the Association Council, association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and Romania, of the other part of 13 December 1996 concerning the export of certain ECSC steel products from Romania to the Community for the period 1 January to 31 December 1997 (extension of the double-checking system established by Decision No 3/95 of the Association Council)	13.12.1996 PR 12440/96 Presse 366	OJ L 19, 22.1.1997, p. 32
<b>Turkey</b>		
Decision No 1/96 of the EC-Turkey Association Council of 2 September 1996 repealing Decision 5/72 relating to methods of administrative cooperation for implementation of Articles 2 and 3 of the additional protocol to the Ankara agreement	2.9.1996	OJ L 231, 12.9.1996, p. 22



# Annex 7

## Number of days spent on Council meetings and meetings of preparatory bodies

Year	Ministers	Ambassadors and ministerial delegates	Committees and working parties
	EC/EAEC/ECSC	EC/EAEC/ECSC	EC/EAEC/ECSC
1958	21	39	302
1959	21	71	325
1960	44	97	505
1961	46	108	655
1962	80	128	783
1963	63 1/2	146 1/2	744 1/2
1964	102 1/2	229 1/2	1002 1/2
1965	35	105 1/2	760 1/2
1966	70 1/2	112 1/2	952 1/2
1967	75 1/2	134	1233
1968	61	132	1253
1969	69	129	1412 1/2
1970	81	154	1403
1971	75 1/2	127 1/2	1439
1972	73	159	2135
1973	79 1/2	148	1820
1974	66	114 1/2	1999 1/2
1975	67 1/2	118	2079 1/2
1976	65 1/2	108 1/2	2130
1977	71	122	2108 1/2
1978	76 1/2	104 1/2	2090
1979	59	107 1/2	2000
1980	83	106 1/2	2078 1/2
1981	83	110	1976
1982	86	107	1885
1983	121 1/2	105 1/2	1912 1/2
1984	133	86	1868 1/2
1985	118	117	1892
1986	107	118 1/2	1842 1/2
1987	123	120 1/2	1828
1988	117 1/2	104	2000 1/2
1989	119 1/2	100	1932
1990	138	107	2021 1/2
1991	115 1/2	145 1/2	2239
1992	126	133 1/2	2147
1993	119	115 1/2	2105 1/2
1994	98	127	2662
1995	98	112	2364 1/2
1996	106	100	2596



# Annex 8

## Council meetings in 1996

Council meetings	Italian presidency	Irish presidency	Total
General affairs	7	6	13
Agriculture	8	5	13
Budget		2	2
Consumer affairs	1	1	2
Culture/audiovisual	1	1	2
Development	1	2	3
Economic and financial questions	3	5	8
Education	1	1	2
Energy	2	1	3
Environment	2	2	4
Industry	2	2	4
Justice and home affairs	2	1	3
Internal market	1	2	3
Fisheries	1	2	3
Civil protection	1		1
Research	1	2	3
Health	1	1	2
Telecommunications	1	3	4
Tourism	1		1
Transport	2	2	4
Labour and social affairs	2	2	4
Total	41	43	84



# Annex 9

## Open Council debates in 1996

Council	Date	Item
Economic and financial questions	22.1.1996	Italian Presidency's programme in the economic and financial sector
General affairs	29.1.1996	Presentation of the Italian Presidency's programme
Agriculture	26.2.1996	Presentation by the Commission of its proposals on prices and related measures 1996-97
Environment	4.3.1996	Wise use and conservation of wetlands
Labour and social affairs	29.3.1996	The future of social protection
Consumer affairs	23.4.1996	Priorities for consumer policy
Education	6.5.1996	White Paper 'Teaching and learning: Towards the learning society'
General affairs	14.5.1996	Structured dialogue with Cyprus and Malta
Transport	18.6.1996	Freeing Europe's airspace
Economic and financial questions	8.7.1996	Irish Presidency's programme in the economic and financial sector
General affairs	15.7.1996	Irish Presidency's programme
Environment	15.10.1996	Motor oils (effect on air quality)
General affairs	29.10.1996	Evaluation of progress made in implementing the CEECs' pre-accession strategy
Education	21.11.1996	School effectiveness
Development	22.11.1996	Human and social development and European union development policy
Consumer affairs	25.11.1996	Protecting consumer interests in the information society
Internal market	26.11.1996	Commission report on the impact and effectiveness of the single market
Energy	3.12.1996	Renewable energy strategy



# Annex 10

## Association/Cooperation Councils in 1996

Place and date	Association/Cooperation Councils
Brussels 30 January	Second EU–Czech Republic Association Council
Brussels 30 January	Second EU–Bulgaria Association Council
Brussels 27 February	Second EU–Romania Association Council
Brussels 27 February	Second EU–Slovakia Association Council
Luxembourg 22 April	Sixth EC–Gulf Cooperation Council
Brussels 14 May	17th EC–Cyprus Association Council
Brussels 14 May	Ninth EC–Malta Association Council
Luxembourg 11 June	Second EC–Syria Association Council
Brussels 16 July	Third EU–Hungary Association Council
Brussels 16 July	Third EU–Poland Association Council
Luxembourg 28 October	10th EC–Egypt Cooperation Council





# Annex 11

## Participation by the Presidency in plenary sessions of the European Parliament

Place and date	President-in-Office of the Council	Topic
Strasbourg 16 January	Mr Felipe Gonzalez Prime Minister	Outcome of the Madrid European Council (15 and 16 December 1995) and report on the Spanish Presidency
	Ms Agnelli Minister for Foreign Affairs	Italian Presidency programme
Strasbourg 17 January	Mr Treu Minister for Labour and Social Security	Presidency programme for social affairs
	Mr Coronas Minister for the Interior M. Marra State Secretary for the Interior	Annual debate on justice and home affairs
Brussels 31 January	Mr Gardini State Secretary for Foreign Affairs	Reply to oral questions on the partnership agreements and interim agreement between the EU and Russia
Strasbourg 14 February	Mr Gardini State Secretary for Foreign Affairs	Statement on the situation in Northern Ireland Reply to oral questions on the fatwa against Salman Rushdie
Brussels 28 February	Mr Fantozzi Minister for Finance	Statement on the single currency, employment and growth
	Mr Ferraris State Secretary for Foreign Affairs	Reply to oral questions on sects in Europe
Strasbourg 12 and 13 March	Ms Agnelli Minister for Foreign Affairs	Statement on the situation in the Middle East Statement on the convening of the IGC
	Mr Ferraris State Secretary for Foreign Affairs	Reply to an oral question on the United Nations Commission on Human Rights
Brussels 27 March	Mr Ferraris State Secretary for Foreign Affairs	Outcome of the Council's deliberations on associating the EP with the work of the IGC Trade and cooperation agreement with South Africa Reply to oral questions on international fisheries agreements
Strasbourg 17 April	Mr Ferraris State Secretary for Foreign Affairs	Statement on the Middle East Participation in the debate commemorating the anniversary of the accident at Chernobyl
	Mr Giarda State Secretary to the Treasury	Discharge for the general budget of the Communities – financial years 1992 to 1994

Place and date	President-in-Office of the Council	Topic
Brussels 8 May	Mr Incisa di Camerana State Secretary for Foreign Affairs	Reply to an oral question on the Council's position on the situation in Burundi
Strasbourg 22 May	Mr Pinto Minister for Agriculture	Agricultural prices 1996-97
Brussels 5 June	Mr Fassino State Secretary for Foreign Affairs	Statement on Croatia's non-admission to the Council of Europe Statement on the elections in Albania
Brussels 6 June	Mr Pinto Minister for Agriculture	Statement on the extraordinary Council meeting on BSE
Strasbourg 18 June	Mr Macciotta State Secretary for the Budget	Reply to oral questions on the Council's position on the broad economic guidelines and EMU
Strasbourg 19 June	Mr Dini Minister for Foreign Affairs	Presentation of the agenda for the European Council meeting in Florence (21 and 22 June 1996) and IGC proceedings
	Mr Fassino State Secretary for Foreign Affairs	Participation in the debate on the former Yugoslavia and the Tacis programme
Brussels 3 July	Mr Prodi – Prime Minister Mr Dini – Minister for Foreign Affairs	Outcome of the European Council and report on the Italian Presidency
Strasbourg 17 July	Mr Spring Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs	Irish Presidency programme
	Mr Quinn Minister for Finance	Council recommendation on the broad guidelines of the economic policies of the Member States
	Mr Mitchell Minister of State at the Department of the Taoiseach	Annual debate on the Union's common foreign and security policy Reply to an oral question on child abduction
Strasbourg 17 September	Ms Fitzgerald, Minister of State at the Office of the Tánaiste and the Department of Enterprise and Employment	Reduction and organisation of working time

Place and date	President-in-Office of the Council	Topic
Strasbourg 18 September	Mr Bruton Taoiseach	State of the Union
	Mr Coveney Minister of State at the Department of Finance	Presentation of the 1997 draft general budget
	Mr Mitchell Minister of State at the Department of the Taoiseach	Statement on children who are victims of violence Statements on events in Iraq and Cyprus and the political situation in Turkey
Strasbourg 22 October	Mr Coveney Minister of State at the Department of Finance	Budget debate
Strasbourg 23 October	Mr de Rossa Minister for Social Affairs	Statement on the celebration of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
	Mr Mitchell Minister of State at the Department of the Taoiseach	Reply to oral questions on relations with Russia
	Mr Rabbitte Minister of State to the Government and at the Department of Enterprise and Employment	Reply to an oral question on appropriations for research
Strasbourg 13 November	Mr Mitchell Minister of State at the Department of the Taoiseach	Statements on the situation in Zaire, the situation in the Middle East and the 50th anniversary of Unicef
Brussels 27 November	Mr Quinn Minister for Finance	Convergence, EMU and single currency
Strasbourg 11 December	Mr Spring Minister for Foreign Affairs	Statement on preparations for the meeting of the European Council in Dublin on 13 and 14 December
Strasbourg 12 December	Ms Owen Minister for Justice	Annual debate on justice and home affairs



# Annex 12

## Attendance by Presidents-in-Office of the Council at meetings of European Parliament Committees in 1996

**Table I**  
Italian Presidency

Place and date	Parliamentary Committee	President-in-Office of the relevant Council
Warsaw 22 January	EU–Poland Joint Parliamentary Committee	Mr Balboni Acqua, Ambassador in Warsaw
Brussels 23 January	Legal Affairs and Citizens' Rights	Mr Ratti, State Secretary for Community Policies
Brussels 24 January	Foreign Affairs, Security and Defence Policy	Ms Agnelli, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Brussels 24 January	Delegation for relations with Slovenia	Ms Agnelli, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Brussels 24 January	Agriculture and Rural Development	Mr Luchetti, Minister for Agriculture
Brussels 24 January	Research, Technological Development and Energy	Mr Clo', Minister for Industry (energy)
Brussels 24 January	Employment and Social Affairs	Mr Treu, Minister for Labour
Brussels 25 January	Transport and Tourism	Mr Caravale, Minister for Transport
Brussels 25 January	Economic and Monetary Affairs and Industrial Policy	Mr Clo', Minister for Industry
Brussels 30 January	Institutional Affairs	Ms Agnelli, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Brussels 5 February	EU–Malta Joint Parliamentary Committee	Mr Gardini, State Secretary for Foreign Affairs
Brussels 6 February	Economic and Monetary Affairs and Industrial Policy (taxation)	Mr Fantozzi, Minister for Finance
Brussels 20 February	Transport and Tourism	Mr D'Addio, State Secretary, Prime Minister's Office (tourism)
Brussels 21 February		Mr Gambino, Minister for Posts and Telecommunications (postal services)
Brussels 20 February	Civil Liberties and Internal Affairs	Mr Coronas, Minister for the Interior
Brussels 21 February		Mr Caianello, State Secretary, Ministry of Justice
Brussels 21 February	Legal Affairs and Citizens' Rights	Mr Caianello, State Secretary, Ministry of Justice
Brussels 21 February	Culture, Youth, Education and the Media	Mr Gambino, Minister for Posts and Telecommunications (audiovisual)
Brussels 21 February	EU–Bulgaria Joint Parliamentary Committee	Mr Gardini, State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Place and date	Parliamentary Committee	President-in-Office of the relevant Council
Brussels 22 February	Economic and Monetary Affairs and Industrial Policy	Mr Gambino, Minister for Posts and Telecommunications (telecommunications)
Brussels 22 February	Fisheries	Mr Luchetti, Minister for Agriculture
Brussels 26 February	Women's Rights	Ms Grassi, State Secretary, Ministry of Labour
Brussels 26 February	Subcommittee on Monetary Affairs	Mr Giarda, State Secretary, Treasury Ministry
Brussels 27 February	Research, Technological Development and Energy	Mr Salvini, Minister for Research
Nicosia 5 March	EC-Cyprus Joint Parliamentary Committee	Mr Ferraris, State Secretary for Foreign Affairs
Brussels 18 March	Economic and Monetary Affairs and Industrial Policy	Mr Arcelli, President of the Council (Internal Market) (internal market)
Windhoek, Namibia, 18-19 March	ACP-EEC Joint Assembly	Mr Incisa di Camerana, State Secretary for Foreign Affairs
Brussels 18 March	Culture, Youth, Education and the Media	Mr Lombardi, Minister for Education
Brussels 19 March		Mr Paolucci, Minister for Culture
Brussels 19 March	Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection	Mr Mengozzi, State Secretary, Ministry of Industry (consumers)
Brussels 20 March	Regional Policy	Mr Ratti, State Secretary, Ministry of the Budget and Community Policies
Brussels 20 March	External Economic Relations	Mr Ferraris, State Secretary for Foreign Affairs
Prague 20 March	EU-Czech Republic Joint Parliamentary Committee	Mr Olivieri, Ambassador in Prague
Brussels 26 March	EP-Estonia interparliamentary meeting	Mr Ferraris, State Secretary for Foreign Affairs
Brussels 26 March	Foreign Affairs, Security and Defence Policy	M. Ferraris, State Secretary for Foreign Affairs
Brussels 23 April	Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection	Mr Guzzanti, Minister for Health
Brussels 24 April	Foreign Affairs, Security and Defence Policy	Mr Ferraris, State Secretary for Foreign Affairs
Brussels 24 April	Civil Liberties and Internal Affairs	Mr Coronas, Minister for the Interior
Brussels 24 April	Development and Cooperation	Mr Incisa di Camerana, State Secretary for Foreign Affairs
Brussels 24 April	Institutional Affairs	Mr Ferraris, State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Place and date	Parliamentary Committee	President-in-Office of the relevant Council
Budapest 24–26 April	EU–Hungary Joint Parliamentary Committee	Mr Ago, Ambassador in Budapest
Bucharest 29 May	EU–Romania Joint Parliamentary Committee	Mr de Michelis de Slonghello, Ambassador in Bucharest
Iceland 3 June	European Economic Area Joint Parliamentary Committee	Mr Quagliariotti, Ambassador in Norway
Brussels 4 June	EU–Slovak Republic Joint Parliamentary Committee	Mr Fassino, State Secretary for Foreign Affairs
Strasbourg 18 June	Civil Liberties and Internal Affairs	Mr Napolitano, Minister for the Interior
Strasbourg 19 June	EU–Cyprus Joint Parliamentary Committee	Ambassador Di Roberto, Permanent Representative to the EU Presidency Representative for Cyprus
Ankara 25 June	EU–Turkey Joint Parliamentary Committee	Mr Pisani, Ambassador in Turkey
Brussels 25 June	Joint meeting of Chairpersons of the Member States' Foreign Affairs Committees and of the Bureaus of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Subcommittee on Security and Disarmament	Mr Fassino, State Secretary for Foreign Affairs, with special responsibility for European affairs
Brussels 25 June	Foreign Affairs, Security and Defence Policy	Mr Fassino, State Secretary for Foreign Affairs, with special responsibility for European affairs
Brussels 25 June	Institutional Affairs	Mr Fassino, State Secretary for Foreign Affairs, with special responsibility for European affairs

**Table II**  
Irish Presidency

Place and date	Parliamentary Committee	President-in-Office of the relevant Council
Brussels 8 July	Research, Technological Development and Energy (energy and atomic questions)	Mr Michael Lowry, Minister for Transport, Energy and Communications
Brussels 8 July	Legal Affairs and Citizens' Rights	Mr Pat Rabbitte, Minister of State at the Department of Enterprise and Employment
Brussels 9 July	Research, Technological Development and Energy (research)	Mr Michael Lowry, Minister for Transport, Energy and Communications
Brussels 9 July	Economic and Monetary Affairs and Industrial Policy	Mr Ruairi Quinn, Minister for Finance
Strasbourg 16 July	Transport and Tourism	Mr Michael Lowry, Minister for Transport, Energy and Communications
Brussels 22 July	Transport and Tourism (tourism)	Mr Enda Kenny, Minister for Tourism and Trade
Brussels 22 July	Fisheries	Mr Sean Barrett, Minister for Defence and the Marine
Brussels 23 July	Transport and Tourism (transport and postal services)	Mr Michael Lowry, Minister for Transport, Energy and Communications
Brussels 23 July	Women's Rights	Mr Mervyn Taylor, Minister for Equality and Law Reform
Brussels 23 July	Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection (health)	Mr Michael Noonan, Minister for Health
Brussels 23 July	Transport and Tourism (shipping)	Mr Sean Barrett, Minister for Defence and the Marine
Brussels 23 July	Employment and Social Affairs	Ms Eithne Fitzgerald, Minister of State at the Office of the Tánaiste and the Department of Enterprise and Employment
Brussels 23 July	Legal Affairs and Citizens' Rights (internal market)	Mr Enda Kenny, Minister for Tourism and Trade
Brussels 23 July	Development and Cooperation	Ms Joan Burton, Minister of State at the Department of Foreign Affairs, with special responsibility for overseas development aid
Brussels 23 July	Employment and Social Affairs	Mr Proinsias de Rossa, Minister of State at the Departments of Health, Education and Justice
Brussels 24 July	Institutional Affairs	Mr Noel Dorr, Representative of Mr Spring for IGC matters
Budapest 24–26 July	EU–Bulgaria Joint Parliamentary Committee	Mr Declan, Ambassador of Ireland in Budapest
Brussels 3 September	Agriculture and Rural Development	Mr Ivan Yates, Minister for Agriculture, Food and Forestry



Place and date	Parliamentary Committee	President-in-Office of the relevant Council
Brussels 3 September	Temporary Committee of Inquiry on BSE	Mr Ivan Yates, Minister for Agriculture, Food and Forestry
Brussels 3 September	Parliamentary Committee of Inquiry on BSE	Mr Denis O'Leary, Permanent Representative of Ireland to the EU
Brussels 10 September	Foreign Affairs and Security	Mr Spring, Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs
Luxembourg 23–26 September	ACP–EU Joint Assembly	Ms Joan Burton, Minister of State at the Department of Foreign Affairs, with special responsibility for overseas development aid
Brussels 24 September	Culture, Youth, Education and the Media (education)	Ms Niamh Bhreathnach, Minister for Education
Brussels 25 September	Legal Affairs and Citizens' Rights	Ms Nora Owen, Minister for Justice
Brussels 25 September	Civil Liberties and Internal Affairs	Ms Nora Owen, Minister for Justice
Brussels 25 September	Institutional Affairs (IGC)	Mr Gay Mitchell, Minister of State at the Department of the Taoiseach (Prime Minister), with special responsibility for European affairs and local development
Brussels 25 September	Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection	Mr Brendan Howlin, Minister for the Environment
Brussels 1 October	EP Conference on the Regions	Ms Avril Doyle, Minister of State at the Department of the Taoiseach, the Department of Finance and the Department of Transport
Brussels 2 October	Foreign Affairs and Security	Mr Gay Mitchell, Minister of State at the Department of the Taoiseach, with special responsibility for European affairs and local development
Brussels 7 October	European Economic Area Joint Parliamentary Committee	Mr Denis O'Leary, Permanent Representative of Ireland to the European Union
Brussels 8 October	Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection	Mr Pat Rabbitte, Minister of State to the Government and at the Department of Enterprise and Employment, with special responsibility for trade and technology
Brussels 8 October	Budgetary Control	Mr Hugh Coveney, Minister of State at the Department of Finance, with special responsibility for public expenditure
Brussels 9 October	Culture, Youth, Education and the Media (culture/audio-visual)	Mr Michael Higgins, Minister for Arts, Culture and the Gaeltacht
Bratislava 28–30 October	EU–Slovak Republic Joint Parliamentary Committee	Mr Thelma Doran, Ambassador of Ireland in Vienna
Brussels 29 October	Economic and Monetary Affairs and Industrial Policy	Mr Richard Bruton, Minister for Enterprise and Employment
Brussels 30 October	Culture, Youth, Education and the Media	Mr Bernard Allen, Minister of State at the Department of Education, with special responsibility for youth and sport
Brussels 20 November	EU–Turkey Joint Parliamentary Committee	Mr Barrie Robinson, Deputy Political Director, Department of Foreign Affairs

Place and date	Parliamentary Committee	President-in-Office of the relevant Council
Brussels 21 November	Economic and Monetary Affairs and Industrial Policy	Mr Enda Kenny, Minister for Tourism and Trade
Brussels 21 November	Development and Cooperation	Ms Joan Burton, Minister of State at the Department of Foreign Affairs, with special responsibility for overseas development aid
Brussels 21 November	EU-Hungary Joint Parliamentary Committee	Mr Denis O'Leary, Permanent Representative of Ireland to the European Union
Brussels 26 November	EU-Cyprus Joint Parliamentary Committee	Ambassador Kester Heaslip, Special Representative for Cyprus
Strasbourg 10 December	Foreign Affairs and Security	Mr Dick Spring, Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs
Brussels 16-17 December	EU-Czech Republic Joint Parliamentary Committee	Mr Denis O'Leary, Permanent Representative of Ireland to the European Union
Brussels 16 December	Regional Policy	M. Dónal Carey, Minister of State at the Department of Foreign Affairs
Brussels 17 December	Economic and Monetary Affairs and Industrial Policy (macroeconomic issues)	Mr Ruairi Quinn, Minister for Finance
Brussels 17 December	Economic and Monetary Affairs and Industrial Policy (Telecom dossier)	Mr Alan Dukes, Minister for Transport, Energy and Communications
Brussels 17 December	Development and Cooperation	Ms Joan Burton, Minister of State at the Department of Foreign Affairs, with special responsibility for overseas development aid, and at the Department of Justice
Brussels 18 December	External Economic Relations	Mr Enda Kenny, Minister for Tourism and Trade
Brussels 18 December	Transport and Tourism	Mr Enda Kenny, Minister for Tourism and Trade
Brussels 18 December	Institutional Affairs (IGC)	Mr Noel Dorr, Chairman of the Personal Representatives at the IGC





European Union — Council

**Review of the Council's work in 1996  
44th Report by the Secretary-General**

Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities

1999 — 224 pp. — 21 x 29.7 cm

ISBN 92-824-1507-4

Price (excluding VAT) in Luxembourg: EUR 28



**BELGIQUE/BELGIË**

**Jean De Lanoy**  
Avenue du Roi 202/Koningslaan 202  
B-1190 Bruxelles/Brussel  
Tél. (32-2) 538 43 08  
Fax (32-2) 538 08 41  
E-mail: jean.de.lanoy@infoboard.be  
URL: http://www.jean-de-lanoy.be

**La librairie européenne/  
De Europese Boekhandel**

Rue de la Loi 244/Wetstraat 244  
B-1040 Bruxelles/Brussel  
Tél. (32-2) 295 26 39  
Fax (32-2) 735 08 60  
E-mail: mail@libeurop.be  
URL: http://www.libeurop.be

**Moniteur belge/Belgisch Staatsblad**

Rue de Louvain 40-42/Leuvenseweg 40-42  
B-1000 Bruxelles/Brussel  
Tél. (32-2) 552 22 11  
Fax (32-2) 511 01 84

**DANMARK**

**J. H. Schultz Information A/S**

Herstedvang 10-12  
DK-2620 Albertslund  
Tlf. (45) 43 63 23 00  
Fax (45) 43 63 19 69  
E-mail: schultz@schultz.dk  
URL: http://www.schultz.dk

**DEUTSCHLAND**

**Bundesanzeiger Verlag GmbH**

Vertriebsabteilung  
Amsterdamer Straße 192  
D-50735 Köln  
Tel. (49-221) 97 66 80  
Fax (49-221) 97 66 82 78  
E-Mail: vertreib@bundesanzeiger.de  
URL: http://www.bundesanzeiger.de

**ΕΛΛΑΔΑ/GREECE**

**G. C. Eleftheroudakis SA**

International Bookstore  
Panepistimiou 17  
GR-10564 Athina  
Tel. (30-1) 331 41 80/112/3/4/5  
Fax (30-1) 323 98 21  
E-mail: elebooks@netor.gr

**ESPAÑA**

**Boletín Oficial del Estado**

Trafalgar, 27  
E-28071 Madrid  
Tel. (34) 915 38 21 11 (Libros),  
913 84 17 15 (Suscrip.)  
Fax (34) 915 38 21 21 (Libros),  
913 84 17 14 (Suscrip.)  
E-mail: clientes@com.boe.es  
URL: http://www.boe.es

**Mundi Prensa Libros, SA**

Castelló, 37  
E-28001 Madrid  
Tel. (34) 914 36 37 00  
Fax (34) 915 75 39 98  
E-mail: libreria@mundiprensa.es  
URL: http://www.mundiprensa.com

**FRANCE**

**Journal officiel**

Service des publications des CE  
26, rue Desaix  
F-75727 Paris Cedex 15  
Tél. (33) 140 58 77 31  
Fax (33) 140 58 77 00  
URL: http://www.journal-officiel.gouv.fr

**IRELAND**

**Government Supplies Agency**

Publications Section  
4-5 Harcourt Road  
Dublin 2  
Tel. (353-1) 661 31 11  
Fax (353-1) 475 27 60

**ITALIA**

**Licosa SpA**

Via Duca di Calabria, 1/1  
Casella postale 552  
I-50125 Firenze  
Tel. (39) 055 64 83 1  
Fax (39) 055 64 12 57  
E-mail: licosa@ftbcc.it  
URL: http://www.ftbcc.it/licosa

**LUXEMBOURG**

**Messageries du livre SARL**

5, rue Raiffeisen  
L-2411 Luxembourg  
Tél. (352) 40 10 20  
Fax (352) 49 06 61  
E-mail: mail@mdl.lu  
URL: http://www.mdl.lu

**NEDERLAND**

**SDU Servicecentrum Uitgevers**

Christoffel Plantijnstraat 2  
Postbus 20014  
2500 EA Den Haag  
Tel. (31-70) 378 98 80  
Fax (31-70) 378 97 83  
E-mail: sdu@sdu.nl  
URL: http://www.sdu.nl

**ÖSTERREICH**

**Manz'sche Verlags- und  
Universitätsbuchhandlung GmbH**

Kohlmarkt 16  
A-1014 Wien  
Tel. (43-1) 53 16 11 00  
Fax (43-1) 53 16 11 67  
E-Mail: bestellen@manz.co.at  
URL: http://www.manz.at/index.htm

**PORTUGAL**

**Distribuidora de Livros Bertrand Ld.ª**

Grupo Bertrand, SA  
Rua das Terras dos Vales, 4-A  
Apartado 60037  
P-2700 Amadora  
Tel. (351-1) 495 90 50  
Fax (351-1) 496 02 55

**Imprensa Nacional-Casa da Moeda, EP**

Rua Marquês Sá da Bandeira, 16-A  
P-1050 Lisboa Codex  
Tel. (351-1) 353 03 99  
Fax (351-1) 353 02 94  
E-mail: del.incm@mail.telepac.pt  
URL: http://www.incm.pt

**SUOMI/FINLAND**

**Akateeminen Kirjakauppa/  
Akademiska Bokhandeln**

Keskuskatu 1/Centralgatan 1  
PL/PB 128  
FIN-00101 Helsinki/Helsingfors  
P./tfn (358-9) 121 44 18  
F./fax (358-9) 121 44 35  
Sähköposti: akatilaus@akateeminen.com  
URL: http://www.akateeminen.com

**SVERIGE**

**BTJ AB**

Traktorvägen 11  
S-221 82 Lund  
Tfn (46-46) 18 00 00  
Fax (46-46) 30 79 47  
E-post: btjeu-pub@btj.se  
URL: http://www.btj.se

**UNITED KINGDOM**

**The Stationery Office Ltd**

International Sales Agency  
51 Nine Elms Lane  
London SW8 5DR  
Tel. (44-171) 873 90 90  
Fax (44-171) 873 84 63  
E-mail: ipa.enquiries@theso.co.uk  
URL: http://www.the-stationery-office.co.uk

**ISLAND**

**Bokabud Larusar Blöndal**

Skolavörðstíg, 2  
IS-101 Reykjavík  
Tel. (354) 551 56 50  
Fax (354) 552 55 60

**NORGE**

**Swets Norge AS**

Ostenjoveien 18  
Boks 6512 Etterstad  
N-0606 Oslo  
Tel. (47-22) 97 45 00  
Fax (47-22) 97 45 45

**SCHWEIZ/SUISSE/SVIZZERA**

**Euro Info Center Schweiz**

c/o OSEC  
Stampfenbachstraße 85  
PF 492  
CH-8035 Zürich  
Tel. (41-1) 365 53 15  
Fax (41-1) 365 54 11  
E-mail: eics@osec.ch  
URL: http://www.osec.ch/eics

**BĂLGARIJA**

**Europress Euromedia Ltd**

59, blvd Vitosha  
BG-1000 Sofia  
Tel. (359-2) 980 37 66  
Fax (359-2) 980 42 30  
E-mail: Milena@mbox.cit.bg

**ČESKÁ REPUBLIKA**

**ÚSIS**

NIS-prodejna  
Havelkova 22  
CZ-130 00 Praha 3  
Tel. (420-2) 24 23 14 86  
Fax (420-2) 24 23 11 14  
E-mail: nkpostp@dec.nis.cz  
URL: http://usiscr.cz

**CYPRUS**

**Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry**

PO Box 1455  
CY-1509 Nicosia  
Tel. (357-2) 66 95 00  
Fax (357-2) 66 10 44  
E-mail: demetrap@ccci.org.cy

**EESTI**

**Eesti Kaubandus-Tööstuskoda (Estonian  
Chamber of Commerce and Industry)**

Toom-Kooli 17  
EE-0001 Tallinn  
Tel. (372) 646 02 44  
Fax (372) 646 02 45  
E-mail: einfo@koda.ee  
URL: http://www.koda.ee

**HRVATSKA**

**Mediatrade Ltd**

Pavla Hatza 1  
HR-10000 Zagreb  
Tel. (385-1) 481 94 11  
Fax (385-1) 481 94 11

**MAGYARORSZÁG**

**Euro Info Service**

Európa Ház  
Margitsziget  
PO Box 475  
H-1396 Budapest 62  
Tel. (36-1) 350 80 25  
Fax (36-1) 350 90 32  
E-mail: euroinfo@mail.mata.vu.hu  
URL: http://www.euroinfo.hu/index.htm

**MALTA**

**Miller Distributors Ltd**

Malta International Airport  
PO Box 25  
Luqa LQA 05  
Tel. (356) 66 44 88  
Fax (356) 67 67 99  
E-mail: gwirth@usa.net

**POLSKA**

**Ars Polona**

Krakowskie Przedmiescie 7  
Skr. pocztowa 1001  
PL-00-950 Warszawa  
Tel. (48-22) 826 12 01  
Fax (48-22) 826 62 40  
E-mail: ars\_pol@bevy.hsn.com.pl

**ROMÂNIA**

**Euromedia**

Str. G-ral Berthelot Nr 41  
RO-70749 Bucuresti  
Tel. (40-1) 315 44 03  
Fax (40-1) 314 22 86

**ROSSIYA**

**CCEC**

60-letiya Oktyabrya Av. 9  
117312 Moscow  
Tel. (7-095) 135 52 27  
Fax (7-095) 135 52 27

**SLOVAKIA**

**Centrum VTI SR**

Nám. Slobody, 19  
SK-81223 Bratislava  
Tel. (421-7) 54 41 83 64  
Fax (421-7) 54 41 83 64  
E-mail: europ@tbb1.sltk.stuba.sk  
URL: http://www.sltk.stuba.sk

**SLOVENIJA**

**Gospodarski Vestnik**

Dunajska cesta 5  
SLO-1000 Ljubljana  
Tel. (386) 613 09 16 40  
Fax (386) 613 09 16 45  
E-mail: europ@gvestnik.si  
URL: http://www.gvestnik.si

**TÜRKIYE**

**Dünya Infotel AS**

100. Yil Mahallesi 34440  
TR-80050 Bagcilar-Istanbul  
Tel. (90-212) 629 46 89  
Fax (90-212) 629 46 27  
E-mail: infotel@dunya-gazete.com.tr

**AUSTRALIA**

**Hunter Publications**

PO Box 404  
3067 Abbotsford, Victoria  
Tel. (61-3) 94 17 53 61  
Fax (61-3) 94 19 71 54  
E-mail: jpdavies@ozemail.com.au

**CANADA**

**Les éditions La Liberté Inc.**

3020, chemin Sainte-Foy  
G1X 3V Sainte-Foy, Québec  
Tel. (1-418) 658 37 63  
Fax (1-800) 567 54 49  
E-mail: liberte@mediom.qc.ca

**Renouf Publishing Co. Ltd**

5369 Chemin Canotek Road Unit 1  
K1J 9J3 Ottawa, Ontario  
Tel. (1-613) 745 26 65  
Fax (1-613) 745 76 60  
E-mail: order.dept@renoufbooks.com  
URL: http://www.renoufbooks.com

**EGYPT**

**The Middle East Observer**

41 Sherif Street  
Cairo  
Tel. (20-2) 392 69 19  
Fax (20-2) 393 97 32  
E-mail: mafouda@meobserver.com.eg  
URL: http://www.meobserver.com.eg

**INDIA**

**EBIC India**

3rd Floor, Y. B. Chavan Centre  
Gen. J. Bhosale Marg.  
400 021 Mumbai  
Tel. (91-22) 282 60 64  
Fax (91-22) 285 45 64  
E-mail: ebic@qiasbm01.vsnl.net.in  
URL: http://www.ebicindia.com

**ISRAËL**

**ROY International**

41, Mishmar Hayarden Street  
PO Box 13056  
61130 Tel Aviv  
Tel. (972-3) 648 94 69  
Fax (972-3) 648 60 39  
E-mail: royil@netvision.net.il  
URL: http://www.royint.co.il

Sub-agent for the Palestinian Authority:

**Index Information Services**

PO Box 19502  
Jerusalem  
Tel. (972-2) 627 16 34  
Fax (972-2) 627 12 19

**JAPAN**

**PSI-Japan**

Asahi Sanbancho Plaza #206  
7-1 Sanbancho, Chiyoda-ku  
Tokyo 102  
Tel. (81-3) 32 34 69 21  
Fax (81-3) 32 34 69 15  
E-mail: books@psi-japan.co.jp  
URL: http://www.psi-japan.com

**MALAYSIA**

**EBIC Malaysia**

Level 7, Wisma Hong Leong  
18 Jalan Perak  
50450 Kuala Lumpur  
Tel. (60-3) 262 62 98  
Fax (60-3) 262 61 98  
E-mail: ebic-kl@mol.net.my

**MÉXICO**

**Mundi Prensa Mexico, SA de CV**

Río Pánuco No 141  
Colonia Cuauhtémoc  
MX-06500 Mexico, DF  
Tel. (52-5) 533 56 58  
Fax (52-5) 514 67 99  
E-mail: 101545.2361@compuserve.com

**PHILIPPINES**

**EBIC Philippines**

19th Floor, PS Bank Tower  
Sen. Gil J. Puyat Ave. cor. Tindalo St.  
Makati City  
Metro Manila  
Tel. (63-2) 759 66 80  
Fax (63-2) 759 66 90  
E-mail: ecpcpm@globe.com.ph  
URL: http://www.ecpc.com

**SRI LANKA**

**EBIC Sri Lanka**

Trans Asia Hotel  
115 Sir Chittampalam  
A. Gardiner Mawatha  
Colombo 2  
Tel. (94-1) 074 71 50 78  
Fax (94-1) 44 87 79  
E-mail: ebicsl@itmin.com

**THAILAND**

**EBIC Thailand**

29 Vanissa Building, 8th Floor  
Soi Chidlom  
Ploenchit  
10330 Bangkok  
Tel. (66-2) 655 06 27  
Fax (66-2) 655 06 28  
E-mail: ebicbkk@kscs15.th.com  
URL: http://www.ebicbkk.org

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

**Bernan Associates**

4611-F Assembly Drive  
Lanham MD20706  
Tel. (1-800) 274 44 47 (toll free telephone)  
Fax (1-800) 865 34 50 (toll free fax)  
E-mail: query@bernan.com  
URL: http://www.bernan.com

**ANDERE LÄNDER/OTHER COUNTRIES/  
AUTRES PAYS**

Bitte wenden Sie sich an ein Büro Ihrer  
Wahl/ Please contact the sales office  
of your choice/ Veuillez vous adresser  
au bureau de vente de votre choix

**Office for Official Publications  
of the European Communities**

2, rue Mercier  
L-2985 Luxembourg  
Tel. (352) 29 29-42455  
Fax (352) 29 29-42758  
E-mail: info.info@opoce.cec.be  
URL: http://eur-op.eu.int

---

Price (excluding VAT) in Luxembourg: EUR 28

ISBN 92-824-1507-4



OFFICE FOR OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS  
OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

L-2985 Luxembourg



9 789282 415078 >

---