

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

PRESS RELEASES

PRESIDENCY: DENMARK

JANUARY-JUNE 1978

Meetings and press releases June 1978

Meeting number	Subject	Date
520 th	Foreign Affairs	6 June 1978
521 st	Transport	12 June 1978
522 nd	Economics/Finance	19 June 1978
523 rd	Agriculture	19-20 June 1978
524 th	Fisheries	20-21 June 1978
525 th	Foreign Affairs	26-27 June 1978
526 th	Social Affairs	29 June 1978

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

520th meeting of the Council

- Foreign Affairs -

Luxembourg, 6 June 1978

President: Mr K.B. ANDERSEN,
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Kingdom of Denmark

6.VI.78

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

Belgium:

Mr Henri SIMONET Minister for Foreign Affairs

Denmark:

Mr K.B. ANDERSEN Minister for Foreign Affairs
Madame Lise ØSTERGAARD Minister without Portfolio
Mr Niels ERSBØLL State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Germany:

Mr Klaus VON DOHNANYI Minister of State,
Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mr Otto SCHLECHT State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Economic
Affairs

France:

Mr Jean-François DENIAU Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Olivier STIERN State Secretary, Ministry of
Foreign Affairs

Ireland:

Mr Michael O'KENNEDY Minister for Foreign Affairs

Italy:

Mr Arnaldo FORLANI Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Angelo-Maria SANZA Deputy State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mr Giuseppe SINESIO Under-Secretary of State for
Industry

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean HAMILIUS

Deputy Minister for Foreign
Affairs

Netherlands:

Mr C.A. van der KLAAUW

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr D.F. van der MEI

State Secretary
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr K.H. BEYEN

State Secretary for Economic
Affairs

United Kingdom:

Dr David OWEN

Secretary of State for Foreign
and Commonwealth Affairs

Mr Edmond DELL

Secretary of State for Trade

Mr Frank JUDD

Minister of State,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Commission:

Mr Roy JENKINS

President

Mr Lorenzo NATALI

Vice-President

Mr François-Xavier ORTOLI

Vice-President

Mr Wilhelm HAFERKAMP

Vice-President

Mr Claude CHEYSSON

Member

Mr Raymond VOUEL

Member

Mr Antonio GIOLITTI

Member

Viscount Etienne DAVIGNON

Member

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6.VI.78

PORTUGAL'S REQUEST FOR ACCESSION

After noting - in accordance with the provisions of the Treaties - the Commission's opinion with regard to Portugal's application for accession, the Council stated that it was in favour of this application.

It agreed that the preparatory talks essential to the establishment of a common basis for negotiation should take place as soon as possible in a positive spirit.

It instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to prepare its discussions to this end, with the assistance of the Commission.

RENEWAL OF THE LOME CONVENTION

The Council held a thorough exchange of views on a number of questions arising from the prospective negotiations on the renewal of the ACP-EEC Convention of Lomé, due to begin in Brussels on 24 July 1978.

In the light of this exchange of views and on the basis of a draft mandate which the Commission has undertaken to submit to it as soon as possible, the Council, at its meeting on 26 and 27 June 1978, intends to adopt the broad lines of the approach to be taken by the Community at the opening of the negotiations. To this end, it instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its work on the matter.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ELECTIONS

The Council took stock of progress made in the procedures for adopting the Council Decision of 20 September 1976 on the election of the members of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage and the national provisions to be laid down regarding the electoral procedure.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SITUATION

The Council took stock of progress made in the establishment of a common strategy to cope with the economic and social situation. It will continue work on the matter at its meeting on 26 and 27 June, so that it can finalize the report to be submitted to the European Council for its meeting in Bremen on 6 and 7 July.

RELATIONS WITH YUGOSLAVIA

After hearing a progress report by Mr HAFERKAMP, Vice-President, the Council noted the unanimous wish of all delegations to see relations with Yugoslavia progress along positive lines.

The Council agreed to return to this item on the basis of proposals for additional negotiating directives announced by the Commission.

STRUCTURAL PROBLEMS OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY

Continuing the discussion it began on 2 May, the Council conducted a detailed examination of certain major industrial policy topics on the basis of a memorandum by the German delegation on the Community structural policy for industry and the Commission's communication on its policy on sectoral aid schemes. These topics covered mainly relations between economic growth, free trade - both within the Community and at international level - and structural changes, public aid and the discipline to be observed at national and Community level, and the search for better information on the development of Community industries.

This discussion, which forms part of the preparations for the European Council meeting in Bremen regarding the formulation of a common strategy on the economic and social situation, and also for the Economic Summit in Bonn, produced a number of general guidelines on the topics discussed. The Presidency accordingly undertook to present the Permanent Representative Committee with a draft that could serve as a basis for the European Council's discussions in Bremen.

REGIONAL POLICY

The Council discussed a number of outstanding points in connection with the review of the European Regional Development Fund, in particular the allocation for the non-quota section, the proportion of infrastructure investments to be financed by the Fund to the total aid granted, the rates for financing infrastructure projects and a number of administrative improvements.

The Council reached broad agreement on most of the points discussed. It instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to finalize the overall compromise which had emerged during the Council's discussions so that it could settle the final outstanding point at its next meeting on 26 and 27 June.

IRON AND STEEL PROBLEMS

The Council took note of a statement by Viscount DAVIGNON, Commissioner, on the situation in the iron and steel sector and on the steps the Commission proposes to take regarding the functioning of the internal steel market, notably in connection with prices and the tightening of controls and sanctions to ensure compliance with the provisions of the plan.

Following an exchange of views on the Commission's suggestions the Council reaffirmed its resolve to ensure that all facets of the crisis plan were implemented and pledged its support to the Commission for tightening the provisions along the lines proposed. In view of the urgency of certain decisions, the Council agreed to take an early decision on the text which the Commission would be submitting to it for this purpose within the next few days.

RELATIONS WITH AUSTRALIA

On the basis of a Commission communication, the Council discussed the question of relations with Australia in preparation for the consultations due to take place between the Commission and the Australian Government on 8 and 9 June 1978. The Council emphasized the importance which it attaches to the development of good relations with Australia and its wish to see a permanent, comprehensive and fruitful dialogue established with that country.

EEC-CMEA RELATIONS

The Council heard a report by Mr HAFERKAMP, Vice-President of the Commission, on the first round of talks between the Community and the CMEA held in Moscow on 29 and 30 May ⁽¹⁾.

⁽¹⁾ See joint EEC-CMEA communiqué in Commission document IP(78)118.

GATT - MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

The Council heard a detailed Commission progress report on the negotiations. It confirmed the importance it attaches to a substantive and balanced final outcome of the negotiations, comprising satisfactory solutions in the various sectors covered. During the discussion, delegations took position on the various aspects of the negotiations and the Council took note of work in progress on a complementary conditional list of withdrawals which was to be finalized swiftly and the use of which would depend on general progress in the negotiations.

At its forthcoming meeting on 26 and 27 June, the Council will lay down the guidelines for the final phase of the negotiations on the basis of a comprehensive Commission report.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Agricultural questions

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

- the Regulations

- fixing, for the marketing year 1978/1979,

= the target prices and basic intervention prices for oilseeds;

= the monthly increases in the target price and the intervention price of oilseeds;

= the guide price for flax seeds;

= the guide price for soya beans;

= the amount of aid for cotton seed;

= the guide price for castor seed;

= the minimum price for castor seed;

= the amounts of aid for fibre flax and hemp;

- amending Regulation (EEC) No 1111/77 laying down common provisions for isoglucose;

- fixing the guide prices for wine for the period from 16 December 1978 to 15 December 1979;

- the Decision on the forwarding to the Council of Europe of an Additional Protocol on the conclusion of the European Convention for the Protection of Animals during International Transport.

Relations with the ACP States and the OCT

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Regulations on the opening, allocation and administration of a Community tariff quota for rum, arrack and tafia (CCT subheading 22.09 C I) originating in the ACP States.

For the period 1 July 1978 - 30 June 1979, this quota amounts to 161,807 hectolitres of pure alcohol and is allocated as follows:

	(in hectolitres of pure alcohol)
Benelux	6,000
Denmark	3,698
Germany	24,706
France	9,022
Ireland	1,000
Italy	424
United Kingdom	116,957

The Council also adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Regulation on the opening, allocation and administration of the Community tariff quota for rum, arrack and tafia (CCT subheading 22.09 C I) originating in the overseas countries and territories associated with the European Economic Community.

For the period 1 July 1978 - 30 June 1979, this quota amounts to 71,571 hectolitres of pure alcohol and is allocated as follows:

(in hectolitres of pure alcohol)

Benelux	4,160
Denmark	150
Germany	67,137
France	8
Ireland	8
Italy	8
United Kingdom	100.

Emergency aid for refugees

In response to an appeal launched by the UNHCR (United Nations High Commission for Refugees), the Council decided to grant the UNHCR 50,000 EUA as emergency aid for Burmese refugees in Bangladesh, for the purchase of blankets and other essentials.

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The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation extending the provisional anti-dumping duty on kraft liner paper and board, originating in the United States of America, and amending its method of calculation.

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The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision accepting on behalf of the Community three Annexes to the International Convention on the Simplification and Harmonization of Customs Procedures.

PRESS RELEASE

521st Council meeting

- Transport -

Luxembourg, 12 June 1978

President: Mr Kjeld OLESEN
Minister for Public Works
of the Kingdom of Denmark

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

Belgium:

Mr Jos CHABERT Minister for Transport

Denmark:

Mr Kjeld OLESEN Minister of Public Works and Communications

Mr Ivar NØRGAARD Minister of Commerce

Mr Jørgen HALCK State Secretary,
Ministry of Public Works and Communications

Federal Republic of Germany:

Mr Heinz RUHNAU State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Transport

France:

Mr Joël LE THEULE Minister for Transport

Ireland:

Mr Padraig FAULKNER Minister for Tourism and Transport

Italy:

Mr Vittorino COLOMBO Minister for Transport and Shipping

Luxembourg:

Mr Josy BARTHEL Minister for Transport

Netherlands:

Mrs N. SMIT-KROES

State Secretary,
Ministry of Transport and
Waterstaat

United Kingdom:

Mr William RODGERS

Secretary of State for
Transport

Mr Stanley CLINTON DAVIS

Parlimanetary Under-Secretary
of State,
Department of Trade

Commission:

Mr Richard BURKE

Member

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STATISTICAL RETURNS IN RESPECT OF CARRIAGE OF GOODS

The Council adopted the Directive on statistical returns in respect of carriage of goods by road, as part of regional statistics, in the official languages of the Communities.

The purpose of this Directive is to provide a better knowledge of the scale and development of the carriage of goods by road, both in national and international transport, by means of vehicles registered in the Community. It sets up a generalized system of statistics on regions and countries of origin and destination to be supplied annually to the Commission; this system is based on 24 groups of goods. It also repeals Directive 69/467/EEC applicable to international carriage of goods which required additional formalities at frontiers.

REGULAR SERVICES BY COACH AND BUS

The Council adopted an amendment to the Regulation on the introduction of common rules for regular and special regular services by coach and bus between Member States in the official languages of the Communities. This amendment simplifies the procedure laid down in the original Regulation by removing the obligation to send certain applications and notifications to the Commission and by replacing the annual report on the implementation of the Regulation by a triennial report.

SUMMER TIME

After taking stock of progress to date on the proposal for a directive on summer time arrangements, the Council noted that the conditions necessary for a decision in time for application of a uniform summer time period for the whole Community during 1979 were not forthcoming.

Confirming its continued hope that the problems (not necessarily in the field of transport) standing in the way of a solution to this question in a manner satisfactory for all the delegations would be overcome, it instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to keep a close watch on developments in this matter so that any new development might be taken into account with a view to preparing for the adoption of a positive decision for 1980.

SOCIAL LEGISLATION

In preparation for certain adjustments to the regulation on the harmonization of certain social legislation relating to road transport, the Council examined in particular the questions of the definition of the week (fixed or rolling) and rest periods for drivers. At the close of the discussions, it instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its examination of this proposal in an overall context, in the light of today's discussions, so that a decision on these amendments might be taken in the second stage of the social legislation.

CONVENTION FOR THE NAVIGATION OF THE RHINE

The Council held an exchange of views on the proposal for a Decision on the adoption by certain Member States of an Additional Protocol to the revised Convention for the Navigation of the Rhine of 17 October 1868 as it stands at 20 November 1963 and the accession of the European Economic Community to that Convention. The discussion confirmed that some delegations considered that these two matters had a bearing on one another.

The Council took note of a statement by the German delegation which provided new information, particularly as regards the charging of the costs of infrastructure for inland waterway transport.

In conclusion, the Council agreed to instruct the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its examination of these matters in the light of to-day's discussions, with a view to enabling the Council to take a decision at its next meeting on transport, which is scheduled for 23 and 24 November next.

SAFETY AT SEA

After a detailed discussion on questions of safety at sea and the prevention and reduction of pollution, particularly in the context of the statement by the recent European Council in Copenhagen, the Council recorded its agreement on a recommendation on the ratification of the following international conventions on safety in shipping, with a view to their entry into force at as early a date as possible:

- the 1974 SOLAS Convention (International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea) and the 1978 Protocol thereto;
- the 1973 MARPOL Convention (International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution by Ships) amended by the 1978 Protocol;
- Convention No 147 on Minimum Standards for Merchant Shipping adopted by the 1976 International Labour Conference.

The Council also agreed that it was essential to strengthen the effectiveness of ship inspections, particularly in the context of the international conventions. It took formal note of the Commission's intention to submit any proposal which might prove useful for embodying these inspection measures in Community legislation. Against this background the Council agreed to hold preliminary on-the-spot consultations with an eye to the IMCO Conference on Training and Watchkeeping which will be held in London from 14 June to 4 July 1978.

The Council noted that, as a result of action by its Member States, the group of North Sea countries to which Norway and Sweden also belong had invited Italy and Ireland to accede to the Memorandum of Understanding between the North Sea countries on the maintenance of standards on merchant ships.

In conclusion, the Council noted that both the environmental and transport aspects of maritime protection as a whole would be examined at the meeting of the Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs on 26 and 27 June so that a report could be made to the European Council meeting in Bremen on 6 and 7 July 1978.

LINER CONFERENCES

The Council took note of a report on the progress of the proceedings relating to the accession of the Community to the United Nations Convention on a Code of Conduct for Liner Conferences. It held an exchange of views on the matter and agreed to discuss it again at the next Transport Ministers' meeting in November with a view to taking a decision.

COSTING OF RAILWAY UNDERTAKINGS

The Council recorded agreement on the regulation laying down uniform costing principles for railway undertakings.

This Regulation comes within the general area covered by the Decision of 20 May 1975, one of the aims of which was to ensure better co-operation between railway undertakings; it is intended to secure the provision of information, in the form of costings based on common principles, which is sufficiently clear and accurate to be an important factor in the taking of commercial decisions on the conditions for accepting or refusing international freight traffic or the termination of existing traffic.

Inter alia, the regulation establishes

- a standard list of factors to be taken into consideration in calculating costs;
- guidelines for implementing the principles of the calculation of the **total** costs and changes resulting from the introduction of new traffic, from a higher or lower volume of existing traffic, or from the termination of such traffic;
- indicative list of the traffic characteristics and the specific data of each railway undertaking concerned.

Pursuant to the Regulation the Commission is also obliged to include the conclusions reached by the Advisory Committee set up to assist it in studying the application of the principles set out in the Regulation, in its biennial report on the improvement of the situation of railway undertakings and the harmonization of the rules governing financial relations between such undertakings and the Member States.

DUTY-FREE ADMISSION OF FUEL

After an exchange of views on the proposal to increase the amount of fuel admitted duty-free in the fuel tanks of commercial motor vehicles from 50 to 100 litres, the Council noted that it was not in a position to take a decision at this meeting since, for some delegations, this problem was related to progress in approximating the rate of tax on fuel obtaining in the Member States. In conclusion, the Council agreed that the item would remain on the agenda for discussion at its next meeting.

AUSTRIAN TRANSPORT TAX

The Council held an exchange of views on the road tax applicable to goods transport in Austria, including international transport, which is to be introduced from 1 July 1978. As a result of this exchange of views, it called upon the Commission to follow developments in the situation thus created for Community transport and report on any steps which the Community might need to take, and adopted the following statement:

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

- takes note, with regret, of the introduction as from 1 July 1978 of a road tax applicable to goods transport in Austria, including international transport, and of the intention to reduce the duty-free admission of fuel for commercial vehicles to a maximum of 30 litres,
- stresses, without prejudice to the rights of the Member States with regard to solving problems relating to their bilateral relations with Austria, the need for the Member States and the Community to adopt a concerted policy with a view to finding appropriate solutions to the problems arising,

- appreciates the fact that the Commission's representations to the Austrian authorities have contributed towards substantial improvements to the original proposal and hopes that further discussions will result in additional amendments which will take into account in particular the statements by the Austrian Government on the provisional nature of the new tax system as well as on the possibility of adopting solutions on a European scale,

- notes that the Commission will follow up, from the point of view of transit and in accordance with Community legislation and policy trends, in the field of infrastructure and market organization, the basic problems which arise in relation to other third countries too, will contribute to developing satisfactory solutions at the European level and will report back to the Council on possible action to be taken by the Community.

CO-OPERATION AMONG RAILWAY UNDERTAKINGS

The Council noted with interest the Commission report of 31 December 1977 on the progress made in the preparation of a programme of co-operation among railway undertakings and of the short-term programme drafted by the Group of Nine Railways of the Community.

It noted that the latter programme expressed an endeavour to achieve tangible results before the end of 1979 in limited areas, particularly as regards operation, approved the pattern of short-term measures envisaged in these areas, and hoped that the implementation deadlines would be specified and, if possible, brought forward.

It nevertheless considered that the Nine Railways of the Community should devote more attention to commercial co-operation among themselves and that the efforts of the railways of the Nine should not necessarily be linked to action to be carried out in the general framework of the IUR.

In the light of the suggestions put forward by the Commission in its report, the Council considered that the Commission should, in collaboration with the Member States and the railway undertakings, take supplementary measures aimed in particular at:

- simplifying frontier crossing,
- strengthening measures in the commercial field,
- facilitating the furtherance of common rail interests,
- promoting co-operation in combined transport (rail/road, containers, etc.),
- eliminating infrastructure bottlenecks,

and asked the Commission to report to it and submit practical proposals to it at the earliest opportunity.

Finally, the Council took note of the Commission's intention to:

- monitor the implementation of the short-term programme of the Group of Nine,
- make a case-by-case study, with the railways, of the possibilities of specifying the deadlines provided for in the aforementioned short-term programme,
- prepare, in conjunction with the Member States and the railway undertakings, more extensive supplementary measures, especially in the above-mentioned fields,
- submit a new report to the Council on the results achieved in the field of co-operation as soon as any noteworthy progress has been recorded or if unforeseen difficulties should arise.

In this connection, the Council asked the Member States to help in implementing the above measures.

AIR TRANSPORT

Continuing the discussion begun at its meeting on 28 and 29 June 1977 on air transport, the Council agreed to the establishment of a working programme covering the following priority items and instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to work out the details of relevant measures which the Community might adopt:

- common standards restricting the emission of nuisances due to aircraft;
- simplification of formalities (facilitation), particularly those relating to air freight;
- implementation of technical standards (JAR);
- provisions regarding aid;
- provisions regarding competition;
- mutual recognition of licences (air crew and ground staff);
- working conditions (air crew and ground staff);
- right of establishment;
- possible improvements to inter-regional services;
- search, rescue and recovery operations and accident enquiries.

The Council also confirmed the usefulness of establishing links between the Community and certain major international air transport organizations, such as the European Civil Aviation Conference (ECAC) and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

COMBINED RAIL/ROAD CARRIAGE

After a brief exchange of views on the establishment of common rules for certain types of combined rail/road carriage of goods between Member States, the Council took note of the Commission report on this issue and in particular of its intention of submitting proposals to:

- retain on a permanent basis the arrangements introduced by Directive (EEC) No 75/130 of 17 February 1970, but with certain adjustments;
- promote other measures likely to encourage the development of combined rail/road traffic.

The Council also noted in this connection that the technique of combined rail/road carriage over long distances provided a form of operation which was advantageous to all parties:

- to the railways in that it enabled them to secure a greater share of any long-distance traffic;
- to road hauliers in that it brought advantages of safety, regularity and speed of carriage over long distances;
- to users in that it combined the advantages of door-to-door road haulage with rail carriage;
- and lastly to the community at large, in that it brought a reduction in road traffic and, thereby, an increase in safety while at the same time making a contribution towards protection of the environment.

The Council accordingly called upon the Commission to seek ways of stimulating carriers' interest in combined rail/road transport and of overcoming the difficulties currently standing in the way of greater use of the rail/road technique.

MONITORING MARKETS FOR THE CARRIAGE OF GOODS

After a brief discussion, the Council took note of the Commission's intention of carrying out, for a period of three years from 1 January 1979, an experimental monitoring of the markets for the carriage of goods by rail, road and inland waterway between Member States so as to obtain adequate data and information on the trends and situation on these markets.

It noted that experimental monitoring of markets must be introduced gradually and based on the characteristics described in the Commission report of 8 September 1977, using whenever possible the elements and data already available at national level.

It also noted the intention of all the Member States to take the necessary steps to ensure close co-operation between the relevant national departments and those of the Commission and called upon the Commission to submit a report containing its conclusions on the experiment and the results obtained.

EUROPEAN DRIVING LICENCE

Following an exchange of views on the European driving licence, the Council took note of progress on this matter, with particular reference to mutual recognition of national driving licences and agreed to await the opinion of the Court of Justice; this was expected shortly and could have important implications for future proceedings since it concerned matters relating to the proposal for a Directive on the harmonization of the laws relating to motor vehicle driving licences.

TAXES ON COMMERCIAL ROAD VEHICLES

The Council recorded agreement in principle on the first Directive on the adjustment of national taxation systems for commercial road vehicles.

This directive, which represents a first step towards charging infrastructure costs to transport, lays down the principles and detailed rules for the calculation of taxes on commercial road vehicles whose laden weight is greater than

- 12 tonnes for a rigid lorry or tractor vehicle, whether used separately or as part of an articulated vehicle;
- 4 tonnes for a trailer or semi-trailer of an articulated vehicle or a vehicle train, where the weight of the tractor vehicle is at least 12 tonnes;
- 16 tonnes for a vehicle train or an articulated vehicle, where the weight of the tractor unit is less than 12 tonnes.

Apart from certain exceptions, such as vehicles of the armed forces, the police, national and local authorities, commercial road vehicles are to be classified by categories according to the number and configuration of their axles, and the basis of taxation will be the total laden weight.

The marginal cost of use and the excise on diesel fuel are to be calculated for each category by increments of total laden weight and by vehicle-kilometer for the purpose of determining tax rates. These rates will, in principle, be the product of the multiplication of the differences between the marginal cost of use for each category and the excise on diesel fuel. Member States will be free to add a fiscal supplement to the rates thus obtained.

The Member States retain the right and the obligation to levy tax and may apply this Directive progressively up to 31 December 1985 in order to avoid sudden substantial tax changes.

This general agreement is conditional upon a reservation on Article 10 which relates to the entry into force of the Directive. The Netherlands delegation requested that this important step in terms of principles and financial consequences in the field of harmonization of conditions of competition be accompanied by parallel adoption of measures for the gradual removal of quantitative restrictions applied unilaterally by Member States in their bilateral road transport relations and for the introduction of a system of controlling capacity based on Community standards.

The Italian delegation also made its agreement conditional upon a satisfactory solution to the question of weights and dimensions.

In conclusion, the Council agreed to instruct the Permanent Representatives Committee to give further consideration to the matter outstanding, so that the Council would be able to take a formal decision on the Directive at its next meeting.

ACTIVITIES OF CERTAIN NON-MEMBER COUNTRIES IN THE FIELD OF
MARITIME TRADE

In the light of difficulties observed as a result of the activity of certain third countries in the field of maritime trade the Council examined measures to be taken by the Community to counteract this trend. It recorded its agreement on a framework decision binding each Member State to take steps to set up a system by which to gather information on the activities of the fleets of countries whose practices are detrimental to the maritime interests of Member States, in particular insofar as these activities undermine the competitiveness of Member States' fleets engaged in international maritime trade.

To attain these goals each Member State must be able to obtain information on the level of services offered, the nature, volume, value, origin and destination of goods loaded and unloaded and on the rates charged for these services.

The Council will decide on the countries to whose fleets the all-round Community system of information will apply.

On this point the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to work out in conjunction with the Commission measures for implementing these provisions, for adoption by the Council at its next transport meeting in November, bearing in mind the wishes expressed by delegations as regards the activities of State-trading countries and flag of convenience countries.

On the basis of the information gathered, the Council will be able to decide suitable counter-measures against offending countries. These will form part of national legislation, be applied in concert, and might include restrictions, depending on the circumstances.

One delegation gave its agreement subject to confirmation, and will make known its firm position at the earliest opportunity.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Agricultural Questions

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

- amending Regulation (EEC) No 2727/75 on the common organization of the market in cereals;
- fixing cereal prices for the 1978/1979 marketing year;
- laying down the minimum requirements for common wheat for bread-making;
- fixing, for the 1978/1979 marketing year, the monthly price increases for cereals, wheat and rye flour and wheat groats and meal;
- fixing a carry-over payment for common wheat, rye and maize remaining in stock at the end of the 1977/1978 marketing year;
- fixing, for the 1978/1979 marketing year, the list of Community regions which qualify for aid in respect of durum wheat and fixing the amount of such aid;
- fixing rice prices for the 1978/1979 marketing year;
- fixing, for the 1978/1979 marketing year, the monthly price increases for paddy rice and husked rice;
- fixing the protective amount to be included in the threshold price for wholly milled rice;
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 1418/76 as regards the procedure for fixing the threshold price for round grain husked rice and for broken rice.

Approximation of laws

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

- amending Directive 70/156/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the type approval of motor vehicles and their trailers;
- on the approximation of the laws of the Member States
 - = relating to heating systems for the passenger compartment of motor vehicles;
 - = relating to the wheel guards of motor vehicles.

Energy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Member States the Regulations

- on the granting of financial support for projects to exploit alternative energy sources;
- on the granting of financial support for demonstration projects in the field of energy-saving.

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The Council adopted the Decision on import arrangements for certain textile products originating in State-trading countries in the official languages of the Communities.

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The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 2825/77 opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for certain prepared or preserved bovine meat falling within heading No ex 16.02 of the Common Customs Tariff, originating in Malta (1978).

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On a proposal from the United Kingdom Government the Council appointed Mr R.F. WHELAN, Vice-Chancellor of Liverpool University, as a Member of the Advisory Committee on Medical Training as a replacement for the Member, Mr ROBSON, for the remainder of his term of office, viz. until 5 April 1979.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

522nd Council Meeting
- Economic/Financial Affairs -
Luxembourg, 19 June 1978
President: Mr Knud HEINESEN,
Minister of Finance
of the Kingdom of Denmark

774/78 (Presse 84)

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

Belgium:

Mr Gaston GEENS	Minister of Finance
Mr Willy CLAES	Minister for Economic Affairs

Denmark:

Mr Knud HEINESSEN	Minister of Finance
Mr Kurt HANSEN	State Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs

Germany:

Mr Hans MATTHOEFER	Federal Minister of Finance
Mr Otto Graf LAMBSDORF	Federal Minister for Economic Affairs
Mr Manfred LAHNSTEIN	State Secretary, Federal Ministry for Finance

France:

Mr René MONORY	Minister for Economic Affairs
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Ireland:

Mr George COLLEY	Deputy Prime Minister Minister for Finance
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Italy:

Mr Filippo PANDOLFI	Minister of the Treasury
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Luxembourg:

Mr Gaston THORN	Prime Minister, Minister for Economic Affairs
Mr Jacques POOS	Minister of Finance

Netherlands:

Mr G.M.V. van AARDENNE	Minister for Economic Affairs
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United Kingdom:

Mr Denis HEALEY	Chancellor of the Exchequer
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Commission:

Mr François-Xavier ORTOLI	Vice-President
Mr Christopher TUGENDHAT	Member

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Also taking part in the Council's discussions were:

Mr J. van YPERSELE de STRIHOU	Chairman of the Monetary Committee
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Mr C. de STRYCKER	Chairman of the Committee of Governors of the Central Banks
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COMMON STRATEGY ON THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SITUATION

In the light of the preparatory discussions of the Policy Co-ordination Group for Short-term Economic and Financial Policies and the Monetary Committee and Committee of Governors of the Central Banks, the Council drew up its contribution as regards economic and monetary aspects to the report on the preparation of a common strategy to deal with the economic and social situation in the Community, which the Council (Ministers for Foreign Affairs) will be submitting at the next meeting of the European Council on 6 and 7 July in Bremen.

COMMUNITY LOAN TO PROMOTE INVESTMENT WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

As the Conciliation Committee, which met on the same day to discuss the proposal to empower the Commission to contract loans for the purpose of promoting investment within the Community, had agreed to continue its discussion on 24 July, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to prepare its position for that conciliation meeting.

APPLICATION OF THE EUA

After hearing statements by the Commission and the French delegation on the progress of proceedings on the proposal for a Regulation applying the EUA to acts adopted by the European Communities, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its work on the subject.

MEETING OF THE CONCILIATION COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Conciliation Committee, composed of a delegation from the European Parliament (¹) and a delegation from the Council, took place with the participation of the Commission in the Robert Schuman building in Luxembourg to discuss the proposal for Decision empowering the Commission to contract loans for the purpose of promoting investment within the Community.

The meeting gave the two sides an opportunity to set out their views and discuss them frankly.

It was decided in conclusion that the conciliation procedure would be continued on 24 July 1978 in Brussels.

(¹) The delegation from the European Parliament consisted of: Mr COLOMBO, President of the European Parliament, Mr LANGE and Messrs BANGEMANN AND COINTAT, Chairman and Deputy Chairmen respectively of the Committee on Budgets, Mr SPINELLI, Rapporteur, and Messrs SHAW and RIPAMONTI, members of the Committee on Budgets.



PRESS RELEASE

523rd Council meeting
- Agriculture -
Luxembourg, 19 and 20 June 1978
President: Mr Poul DALSGER,
Minister for Agriculture
of the Kingdom of Denmark

775/78 (Presse 85)

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

Belgium:

Mr Antoine HUMBLET Minister for Agriculture and
Small Firms and Traders

Denmark

Mr Poul DALSGER Minister for Agriculture
Mr Hans Jørgen KRISTENSEN State Secretary
Ministry of Agriculture

Germany:

Mr Joseph ERTL Federal Minister of Agriculture
Mr Hans-Jürgen ROHR State Secretary
Federal Ministry of Agriculture

France:

Mr Pierre MEHAIGNERIE Minister for Agriculture

Ireland:

Mr Jim GIBBONS Minister for Agriculture

Italy:

Mr Giovanni MARCORA Minister for Agriculture
Mr Luigi CACCHIOLI State Secretary for Agriculture

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean HAMILIUS	Minister for Agriculture and Viticulture
Mr Albert BERCHEM	State Secretary Ministry of Agriculture

Netherlands:

Mr A. de ZEEUW	Director General Ministry of Agriculture
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United Kingdom:

Mr John SILKIN	Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Mr Gavin STRANG	Parliamentary Secretary Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Mr Robert McLENNAN	Parliamentary Under-Secretary Department of Prices and Consumer Protection

The Commission:

Mr Finn Olav GUNDELACH	Vice-President
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POTATOES

The Council discussed in detail the proposal for a Regulation on the common organization of the market in potatoes.

The discussion dwelt in particular on the arrangements to be laid down for new potatoes and the market support to be provided for ware potatoes, enabling the delegations concerned to state their views on these issues.

The Council decided in conclusion to instruct the Special Committee on Agriculture to continue its examination of the proposal in the light of the day's discussions so that the Council could take a decision thereon at a forthcoming meeting.

SHEEPMEAT

The Council conducted a policy debate on the principles which should govern the forthcoming common organization of the market in sheepmeat, dealing in particular with:

- the market support mechanism (private storage and variable aid among other things),
- the arrangements to be applied to imports from third countries,
- the application of monetary compensatory amounts to intra-Community trade (whether to have green rates or a stabilized commercial rate in this sector).

The Council decided in conclusion to instruct the Special Committee on Agriculture to make a more detailed technical examination both of the Commission proposal on the common organization of the market in sheepmeat and of the suggestions made by various delegations during the present debate, so that the Council could discuss the matter again at one of its forthcoming meetings.

MULTILATERAL AGRICULTURAL NEGOTIATIONS

The Council heard a Commission communication on the progress of the current GATT multilateral negotiations, with particular reference to their agricultural aspect.

Various delegations stressed in their speeches the importance they attached to these negotiations, which they said should be conducted with due regard for the principles of the common agricultural policy, and hoped that they would result in balanced solutions.

GUARANTEED PRICE FOR SUGAR

The Council took note of a Commission communication on the progress of the current negotiations, begun on 24 May 1978 with the ACP States, on the guaranteed price for preferential sugar to be imported into the Community under the Lomé Convention.

COMMON MEASURE FOR FORESTRY

The Council took note of the interim progress report on the proposal for a Regulation on a common measure for forestry in certain dry Mediterranean zones of the Community and agreed to examine the matter further at its next meeting, planned for 24 and 25 July, so that a decision may be taken before the end of September 1978.

OILSEEDS

Following a brief discussion the Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation fixing, for the 1978/1979 marketing year, the main intervention centres for oilseeds and the derived intervention prices applicable at those centres.

The Council also noted the Commission's intention of submitting a proposal, before 1 July 1978, on measures to facilitate the degerming of maize.

Other agricultural questions

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities

- the Regulations

- = concerning producer groups and associations thereof;
- = amending Regulation (EEC) No 355/77 on common measures to improve the conditions under which agricultural products are processed and marketed;
- = on the programme for the acceleration and qualitative guidance of collective irrigation works in the Mezzogiorno
- = amending Regulation (EEC) No 2358/71 on the common organization of the market in seeds
- = fixing the amounts of aid granted for seeds for the 1978/1979 and 1979/1980 marketing years;
- = fixing, for the 1978 harvest, the norm and intervention prices and the premiums granted to purchasers of leaf tobacco, and the derived intervention prices for baled tobacco;
- = on direct co-operation between the bodies designated by Member States to verify compliance with Community and national provisions in the wine sector;
- = on the aid arrangements for dried fodder
- = laying down the general rules concerning special measures for peas and field beans used in animal feedingstuffs;
- = extending until 30 June 1979 the special measures applicable to imports from Greece of goods covered by Regulation (EEC) No 1059/69 (processed agricultural products);

- = amending Regulation No 136/66/EEC on the establishment of a common organization of the market in oils and fats;
- = amending Regulation (EEC) No 804/68 on the common organization of the market in milk and milk products;
- = on the granting of certain special rights to milk producers' organizations in the United Kingdom;
- = amending Regulation (EEC) No 2759/75 on the common organization of the market in pigmeat;
- = amending Regulation (EEC) No 3330/74 on the common organization of the market in sugar;
- = fixing for the 1978/1979 sugar year the sugar prices, the standard quality of beet and the coefficient for calculating the maximum quota;
- = fixing for the 1978/1979 sugar year the derived intervention prices, the intervention price for raw beet sugar, the minimum prices for beet, the threshold prices, the maximum amount of the production levy and the amount of the repayment to offset storage costs, and fixing the coefficient for calculating the special maximum quota;
- = amending Regulation (EEC) No 1358/77 laying down general rules for offsetting storage costs for sugar;
- = laying down general rules for the production refund on sugar used in the chemical industry this Regulation makes it possible to grant refunds for a number of chemical products in the same way as refunds may currently be granted for starch products;

- = fixing, for the 1978/1979 sugar marketing year, the differential charge to be levied on raw preferential sugar and the differential amount to be granted in respect of raw cane sugar from the French overseas departments;
- = laying down, for the 1978/1979 sugar marketing year, measures to facilitate the disposal of sugar produced in the French overseas departments;
- = for the fourth time Regulation (EEC) No 2453/76 on the transfer to the Italian intervention agency of frozen beef and veal held by the intervention agencies of other Member States;
- = on the opening, allocation and administration of the Community tariff quota of 38,000 head of heifers and cows, other than those intended for slaughter, of certain mountain breeds falling within subheading ex 01.02 A II b) of the Common Customs Tariff;
- = on the opening, allocation and administration of the Community tariff quota of 5,000 head of bulls, cows and heifers, other than those intended for slaughter, of certain Alpine breeds falling within subheading ex 01.02 A II b) of the Common Customs Tariff;

- the Directives

- = on the programme to accelerate drainage operations in the less-favoured areas of the West of Ireland;
- = on the programme to accelerate the restructuring and conversion of vineyards in certain Mediterranean regions in France;
- = amending for the first time Council Directive 76/118/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to certain partly or wholly dehydrated preserved milk for human consumption;

- the Decision concerning the conclusion of the European Convention for the Protection of Animals kept for Farming Purposes.

The Council also took note of the report by the Special Committee of Enquiry on the wine sector of the EAGGF Guarantee Section.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Relations with the ACP States and OCT

In connection with relations with the ACP States and the OCT the Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities

- the Decision amending Annex II, concerning the definition of the concept of originating products and methods of administrative co-operation, to Decision 76/568/EEC on the association of the overseas countries and territories with the European Economic Community
- the Regulation on the implementation of Decision No 1/78 of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers amending Protocol No 1 to the ACP-EEC Convention of Lomé concerning the definition of the concept of originating products and methods of administrative co-operation.

EFTA

With regard to the application of Decisions Nos 1/78 and 2/78 of the EEC-Austria and EEC-Switzerland Joint Committees (Community transit), the Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation on the amendment of the Appendices to the Agreements.

ECSC

The Council gave its assent pursuant to the first paragraph of Article 95 of the ECSC Treaty to a draft Commission Decision amending Decision No 3002/77/ECSC requiring dealers in iron and steel products to comply with pricing rules.

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The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Directive adapting to technical progress Directive 73/362/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to material measures of length.

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The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a statement on the 4th statistical programme of the European Communities for the years 1979-1981.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

524th Council meeting

- Fisheries -

Luxembourg, 20-21 June 1978

President: Mr Poul DALSGER,
Minister for Agriculture
of the Kingdom of Denmark

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

Belgium:

Mr Léon van der MOORTEEL Secretary-General of the
Ministry of Agriculture

Denmark:

Mr Poul DALSGER Minister for Agriculture
Mr Svend JAKOBSEN Minister for Fisheries
Mr Jørgen HERTOFT State Secretary
Ministry of Fisheries

Germany:

Mr Joseph ERTL Federal Minister of Agriculture
Mr Hans-Jürgen ROHR State Secretary
Federal Ministry of Agriculture

France:

Mr Joël LE THEULE Minister for Transport

Ireland:

Mr Brian LENIHAN Minister for Fisheries

Italy:

Mr Vito ROSA State Secretary for Shipping

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean HAMILIUS	Minister for Agriculture and Viticulture
Mr Albert BERCHEM	State Secretary Ministry of Agriculture

Netherlands:

Mr A. de ZEEUW	Director General Ministry of Agriculture
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United Kingdom:

Mr John SILKIN	Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Mr Bruce MILLAN	Secretary of State Scottish Office
Mr Hugh BROWN	Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State Scottish Office

Commission:

Mr Finn Olav GUNDELACH	Vice-President
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FISHERIES POLICY

The Council discussed in detail a series of issues raised by both the internal and external aspects of framing the common fisheries policy.

Internal aspects

Following its discussion, the Council agreed to return at a later date to the fundamental problems in laying down the new arrangements for the conservation and management of fishery resources and to the TACs and quotas for 1978.

Regarding the proposal for a Regulation defining for the current year measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources by the establishment of catch quotas for herring stocks, the Council will discuss the matter again at its next meeting, planned for 24 and 25 July, in the light of the Opinion to be delivered in the meantime by the European Parliament, the Commission and several delegations having stressed that it would be desirable to have more detailed scientific opinions.

At the same meeting, the Council will also act on three other measures: the application of fishing plans in the waters off Western Ireland, an interim measure for restructuring the inshore fishing industry, and the Community contribution to the cost of fishery inspection and surveillance operations in certain zones.

External aspects

The Council agreed to the extension until 31 July 1978 of the existing arrangements applicable to vessels registered in the Faroe Isles, Norway and Sweden.

Turning to the allocation of certain catch quotas between Member States for vessels fishing in the waters of the Faroe Isles and in the Norwegian exclusive economic zone, the Council took note that the Commission intended to consider, in time for the Council to be able to take a decision at its next meeting, amending its initial proposals so as to take account of recent trends in catches.

The Council agreed to introduce, as an exceptional measure and only for July 1978, catch quotas for cod and haddock in Norwegian waters north of the 62nd parallel.

The Council also took note of the Commission's intention of initialling the framework agreement between the Community and Norway on fisheries and agreed that the signing of the agreement would be debated at its next meeting.

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Pending the conclusion of negotiations with Spain, the Council agreed to the extension until 31 July 1978 of certain interim measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources applicable to vessels flying the Spanish flag.

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With regard to relations with Yugoslavia in fishing matters, the Council agreed to the Decision authorizing the Italian Republic to agree with Yugoslavia to the temporary continuation until 31 December 1978 of the fishing possibilities provided for under the existing arrangements.

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At the same time the Council took note of an oral report by the Commission on the progress of fisheries negotiations with certain West African ACP countries.

PRESS RELEASE

525th meeting of the Council

- Foreign Affairs -

Luxembourg, 26 and 27 June 1978

President: Mr K.B. ANDERSEN
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Kingdom of Denmark

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

Belgium:

Mr Henri SIMONET Minister for Foreign Affairs

Denmark:

Mr K.B. ANDERSEN Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mrs Lise ØSTERGAARD Minister without Portfolio

Mr Niels ERSBØLL State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Germany:

Mr Hans-Dietrich GENSCHER Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Klaus VON DOHNANYI Minister of State,
Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr Otto SCHLECHT State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs

France:

Mr Louis de GUIRINGAUD Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Jean-François DENIAU Minister for Foreign Trade

Mr Olivier STIRN State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ireland:

Mr Michael O'KENNEDY Minister for Foreign Affairs

Italy:

Mr Arnaldo FORLANI	Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Carlo DONAT CATTIN	Minister for Industry, Trade and Craft Trades
Mr Vittorino COLOMBO	Minister for Transport and Shipping
Mr Angelo-Maria SANZA	Deputy Trade Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mr Francesco REBECCHINI	Deputy State Secretary, Ministry of State Holdings

Luxembourg:

Mr Gaston THORN	President of the Government, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Jean HAMILIUS	Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs

Netherlands:

Mr C.A. van der KLAAUW	Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr D.F. van der MEI	State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mr K.H. BEYEN	State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

United Kingdom:

Dr David OWEN	Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs
Mr Edmond DELL	Secretary of State for Trade
Mr Frank JUDD	Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Commission:

Mr Roy JENKINS	President
Mr Lorenzo NATALI	Vice-President
Mr François-Xavier ORTOLI	Vice-President
Mr Wilhelm HAFERKAMP	Vice-President
Mr Claude CHEYSSON	Member
Mr Guido BRUNNER	Member
Mr Raymond VOUEL	Member
Mr Antonio GIOLITTI	Member
Mr Richard BURKE	Member
Viscount Etienne DAVIGNON	Member

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GREEK ACCESSION

The 7th session at Ministerial level of the Conference for the negotiation of Greek accession was held in the afternoon of Monday 26 June.

The Greek delegation was led by Mr Georges RALLIS, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Mr Georges KONTOGEORGIS, Minister responsible for relations with the European Communities.

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ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

The Council noted that all the Member States had now notified the General Secretariat of the Council that the national procedures necessary for the adoption of the act of 20 September 1976 on the election of the Members of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage had been completed. The act will therefore enter into force on 1 July 1978.

In accordance with Article 10 of the act, the Council will formally consult the European Parliament on the date for the first election, which is likely to take place from 7 to 10 June 1979.

ACP-EEC CONVENTION

On the basis of the report which the Permanent Representatives Committee prepared from the Commission proposal, and after a thorough-going discussion, the Council adopted the directives empowering the Commission to begin the negotiations for the drawing up of a new ACP-EEC Convention.

By this decision, the Council has enabled the Community to take part in the formal opening of the negotiations which, in accordance with the commitments entered into at the last ACP-EEC Council of Ministers, will take place in Brussels on 24 July 1978. The negotiations proper will begin in September.

In addition, the Council and its dependent bodies will continue their examination of the points not included in the present brief.

REGIONAL POLICY

The Council agreed on a common position, to be notified to the European Parliament under the conciliation procedure, concerning the amendment of Council Regulation (EEC) No 724/75 establishing a European Regional Development Fund.

The main points of this amendment are as follows:

- agreement that henceforth the actual amount of the Regional Fund will be fixed in the budget of the European Communities;
- redistribution of the national shares of the Fund's resources for Community action in support of regional policy measures taken by the Member States, resulting in a 2% increase in France's share;
- introduction of an "ex-quota section" which will consist of 5% of the Fund's total resources, to be used for financing specific Community regional development measures
 - = either linked with Community policies and with measures adopted by the Community in order to take better account of their regional dimension or to reduce their regional consequences;

= or, exceptionally, intended to meet the structural consequences of particularly serious occurrences in certain regions or areas with a view to replacing jobs lost and creating the necessary infrastructures for this purpose.

These measures may not be directed towards internal reorganization operations in sectors in decline, but may, through the establishment of new economic activities, promote the creation of alternative employment in regions or areas in a difficult situation.

They will be financed jointly by the Community and the Member State or States concerned.

- a more flexible definition of the infrastructures to be financed by the Fund. Whereas up to now these have been infrastructures directly connected with productive activities, henceforth they may be infrastructure projects "which contribute to the development of the region or area in which they are situated". However, the percentage of financing assistance from the Fund may not exceed 70% of the total amounts available over a three-year period, unless the Council expressly decides otherwise on a proposal from the Commission;
- a special rate of aid of 40% for infrastructure investments for projects which are of particular importance to the development of the region in which they are situated;

- some administrative improvements (simplified procedure for examining projects costing less than 10 MEUA, increased importance of Member States' regional development programmes, staggered and accelerated payments, and greater transparency of amounts received from the Fund in national budgetary systems).

The common position also covers a Resolution concerning the Community regional policy guidelines submitted by the Commission, and a related Decision:

The Council accepts, firstly, the idea of setting up a comprehensive system of analysis and policy formulation for Community regional policy. To this end it will hold a debate, every two and a half years (on the basis of a periodic report on the situation and socio-economic developments in the regions drawn up by the Commission in close collaboration with the Regional Policy Committee) on the priorities and guidelines proposed.

It also notes the Commission's intention of making a more systematic assessment of the regional impact of Community policies when implementing them.

Finally, it stresses that the co-ordination of general regional aid schemes is an essential feature of a well organized policy.

SHIPBUILDING

The Council held a policy debate on the Commission communication concerning the rationalization of the shipbuilding industry and the framing of a common policy in this sector.

This exchange of views, which should be seen in the context of the general debate initiated by the Council at its meetings on 2 May and 6 June on industrial structural policy, focused mainly on the general approach to be adopted towards the rationalization of shipbuilding, the effect of maritime policy measures on shipbuilding, and the setting up of an Advisory Committee on Shipbuilding.

In conclusion, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue work on this matter in the light of today's debate and of the Opinion, still awaited, of the European Parliament, so as to enable the Council to hold a fruitful discussion on this question at a forthcoming meeting.

COMPANY LAW

After intensive preparatory discussions, the Council approved the Directive on the harmonization of the annual accounts of limited companies. The effect of this Directive is to make annual accounts (particularly balance sheets and profit and loss accounts) comparable throughout the Community. Henceforth their physical presentation will have to conform to prescribed layouts, assets and liabilities will have to be set out in accordance with fixed rules and annual accounts will be subject to auditing.

The main purpose of this Directive is to protect members, employed persons, creditors and other third parties. Its scope is however much more extensive. In particular, the fact that all the undertakings concerned, of which there are more than one million, will in future be presenting comparable annual accounts which will make co-operation between undertakings in different countries considerably easier. Trans-frontier investment operations will also be stimulated. At the same time, the public will have more information concerning the activities of undertakings, and thus economic activity as a whole. This is a demand which has been made on many occasions, particularly as regards multinationals. This Directive is accordingly of considerable importance for the subsequent development of the Common Market.

It is impossible to determine the extent to which an undertaking must comply with the requirement to publish particulars without reference to its size. For this reason the Directive distinguishes between small, medium-sized and large undertakings. Only the latter have to comply with all the provisions of the Directive; for small and medium-sized undertakings there are a number of derogations concerning the drawing up, publication and checking of annual accounts.

The adoption of this Directive means that further progress can be envisaged in the co-ordination of company law, particularly as regards the annual accounts of groups of undertakings, the number of which is constantly increasing.

RELATIONS WITH THE EFTA COUNTRIES

The Council, after holding an exchange of views on the Commission communication on the Community's relations with the EFTA countries, took note of this communication and agreed on the utility of improving and perfecting the operation of the agreements in all areas where this was deemed useful.

The Council agreed that where additional co-operation beyond the free trade agreements was regarded as desirable by both sides, the Community was prepared to undertake such co-operation in the mutual interest of the parties concerned.

It also took note of the Commission's intention of keeping it informed, via the Permanent Representatives Committee, of the development of co-operation with the EFTA countries and invited the Permanent Representatives Committee to report to the Council on this matter before the end of the year.

COMMON STRATEGY ON THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SITUATION

The Council finalized the report concerning the common strategy on the economic and social situation, which will be submitted, together with the conclusions from the debate drawn up by the Presidency, to the next meeting of the European Council in Bremen on 6 and 7 July.

This report takes account of the discussions of the Council in its various formations in accordance with the President's conclusions at the European Council in Copenhagen. However, some additions still have to be made before the meeting in Bremen, in the light of the conclusions of the meeting of the Council on Social Affairs on 29 June 1978 and certain discussions still underway on economic and monetary matters.

RELATIONS WITH JAPAN

The Council noted a report by the Commission on its consultations with the Japanese Government. It concluded that it would be premature at this stage to attempt to assess whether the Japanese Government's objectives regarding in particular economic growth and the reduction of external surpluses would be realized in the near future. It confirmed the importance it attached to strengthening and restoring the balance to its relations with Japan and to continuing consultations with a view to a more harmonious development of economic and trade relations.

A report by the Commission on relations with Japan will be submitted to the European Council in Bremen.

OIL POLLUTION OF THE SEA

The Council took note of a progress report on the work carried out and the results obtained (¹), in particular by the Environment Council on 30 May and the Transport Council on 12 June 1978, on security at sea and the prevention and reduction of pollution of the sea by oil tankers.

The Council agreed that the conclusions of this meeting should be submitted to the European Council on 6 and 7 July next.

In this context, the Council also considered the questions outstanding concerning:

- the conclusion of the Protocol to the Barcelona Convention for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution, of 16 February 1976, concerning co-operation in combating pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by oil and other harmful substances in cases of emergency;
- the authorization of the Commission to negotiate the accession of the European Economic Community to the Bonn Agreement of 9 June 1969 on co-operation in dealing with pollution of the North Sea by oil.

It noted that some delegations were not yet able to state their final positions on this subject.

(¹) See: Miscellaneous decisions, page II, Environment Section.

FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT FOR DENTISTS

The Council recorded its agreement on a number of measures to facilitate the effective exercise of the right of establishment and freedom to provide services for dental surgeons throughout the Community.

The Directives adopted cover the mutual recognition of diplomas, certificates and other evidence of formal qualifications in dentistry and the co-ordination of provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action in respect of the activities of dental surgeons, both employed and self-employed.

The provisions cover in particular co-ordination of training in the Member States, arrangements for accepting persons benefitting from the recognition of diplomas, requirements as to proof of good character and good repute, supervision and professional discipline as well as conditions governing the use of titles.

It was also decided to set up an Advisory Committee on the Training of Dental Surgeons and the Decision setting up a Committee of Senior Officials on Public Health was amended to take account of the decisions on dentists.

The introduction of the right of establishment and freedom to provide services for dental surgeons is an important step towards achieving freedom of movement in the medical professions, following the decisions already taken for doctors and nurses.

TEXTILES

The Council took stock of the situation regarding the problems facing the Community as a result of imports of textile products originating in certain preferential countries. In the course of the discussion several delegations expressed deep concern about this matter.

The Council reiterated the need to ensure that the import ceilings agreed on by the Council at its meeting on 20 September 1977 were observed. It noted that the Commission was ready to take or swiftly to propose appropriate measures for this purpose. It also instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue examining this question as a matter of urgency so that an overall solution could be applied in accordance with the Council Decisions of 20 December 1977.

STRUCTURAL POLICY IN THE IRON AND STEEL SECTOR

The Council held a policy debate on the problems arising regarding the framing of a Community structural policy in the iron and steel sector.

The debate was introduced by a statement by Commissioner Davignon on the Commission's thinking on this matter and the Council had before it, as a basis for its discussions, a Commission note on progress made on the general objectives on steel and the reorganization of the Community iron and steel industry, and a draft Commission Decision establishing Community rules for aids and intervention by Member States in favour of the iron and steel industry.

The exchange of views in the Council highlighted the concern felt by all the Member States about the situation in this sector, and produced a broad degree of convergence in the analysis of the current difficulties. It also gave the members of the Council an opportunity to outline their Governments' basic approach to reorganization.

In conclusion, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue the discussions on all the problems raised so that the Council could discuss these further at a forthcoming meeting.

With regard to the functioning of the internal market in steel, the Council was also able to clarify with the Commission certain questions concerning the introduction of a system of deposits in cases of provisional establishment of an infringement of Commission decisions fixing minimum prices for certain steel products. The Council accordingly agreed to give its assent, as requested by the Commission, on the draft Decision establishing this system; one delegation, however, still maintained a reservation.

MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

The Council, on the basis of a communication from the Commission and after a detailed discussion, defined the guidelines for the decisive phase of the negotiations.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

EEC-CYPRUS Association

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

- a Regulation on the conclusion of the Supplementary Protocol to the EEC-Cyprus Association Agreement and the Protocol laying down certain provisions relating to trade in agricultural products between the EEC and the Republic of Cyprus, signed on 11 May 1978,
- and six Regulations implementing the Protocols in this sector.

These Protocols and Regulations are scheduled to enter into force on 1 July 1978.

Relations with the Maghreb and Mashreq countries

Pending the completion of the procedures required for the entry into force of the Co-operation Agreements and ECSC Agreements with the Maghreb and Mashreq countries, the Council and the Member States of the ECSC respectively adopted:

- a Regulation concerning the extension of the Interim Agreements between the ECSC and these countries until the entry into force of the Co-operation Agreements and until 31 December 1978 at the latest,
- a Decision extending until the entry into force of the ECSC Agreements, and until 30 June 1978 at the latest, the tariff preferences for ECSC products originating in the above-mentioned countries.

Food aid

As part of the implementation of the "Flood II" operation for India, the Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, two Regulations laying down general rules for the supply of milk fats and skimmed-milk powder as food aid to India under the 1978 programme.

Environment

Following the discussions of the Environment Council on 30 May 1978 (¹), the Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities,

- a Decision authorizing the Commission to open negotiations with the United States of America with a view to investigating means of arriving at an agreement on the procedures for applying the Toxic Substances Control Act to Community products, and the relevant Community legislation to products from the United States,
- a Resolution setting up an action programme of the European Communities on the control and reduction of pollution caused by hydrocarbons discharged at sea,
- a Council Recommendation on the ratification of conventions on safety in shipping.

(¹) See Press Release No 677/78 (Presse 72) of 30.5.78.

Abolition of technical barriers

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Directive on the classification, packaging and labelling of dangerous preparations (pesticides).

When adopting this Directive, which is the 100th in the field of the abolition of technical barriers, the President of the Council emphasized the importance of the work accomplished in this area for the achievement of a genuine single internal market.

9th VAT Directive

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the 9th Directive on the harmonization of the laws of the Member States relating to turnover taxes.

This Directive provides for a derogation from the date of implementation of the 6th VAT Directive until 1 January 1979 at the latest for countries which have not yet implemented it.

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Appointments

The Council appointed as Members of the Advisory Committee of the Euratom Supply Agency:

- Mr P. GOLDSCHMIDT, in place of Mr F. DIERKENS, who has resigned,

- Mr A. GERLACH, in place of Mr H. STRUCK, who has resigned,

for the remainder of the latter's terms of office, which run until 28 March 1979.





PRESS RELEASE

526th meeting of the Council

- Social Affairs -

Luxembourg, 29 June 1978

President: Mr Svend AUKEN,
Minister for Labour
of the Kingdom of Denmark

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

Belgium:

Mr Guy SPITAEELS Minister for Labour and
Employment

Denmark:

Mr Svend AUKEN Minister for Labour

Germany:

Mr Herbert EHRENBURG Federal Minister for Labour
and Social Affairs

Mr Reinhard STREHLKE Secretary of State,
Federal Ministry of Labour
and Social Affairs

France:

Mr Robert BOULIN Minister for Labour and
Participation

Ireland:

Mr Gene FITZGERALD Minister for Labour

Italy:

Mr Vincenzo SCOTTI Minister for Labour and
Social Security

Luxembourg:

Mr Benny BERG Deputy Prime Minister,
Minister for Labour and
Social Security

Mr Maurice THOSS Secretary of State,
Ministry of Labour and
Social Security

Netherlands:

Mr W. ALBEDA

Minister for Social Security

United Kingdom:

Mr John GRANT

Parliamentary Under-Secretary
of State,
Department of Employment

Commission:

Mr Henk VREDELING

Vice President

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SAFETY AND HEALTH AT WORK

The Council adopted a Resolution comprising an action programme of the European Communities on safety and health at work.

In this Resolution the Council notes the action programme drawn up by the Commission and approved its general objective, which is to increase the protection of workers against occupational risks of all kinds by improving the means and conditions of work, knowledge and human attitudes.

To this end the Council expresses the political will to take, in keeping with the urgency of the matter and bearing in mind what is feasible at national and Community level, the measures required so that between now and the end of 1982 the following projects in particular can be undertaken:

Accident and disease aetiology connected
with work - Research

1. Establish, in collaboration with the Statistical Office of the European Communities, a common statistical methodology in order to assess with sufficient accuracy the frequency, gravity and causes of accidents at work, and also the mortality, sickness and absenteeism rates in the case of diseases connected with work.

2. Promote the exchange of knowledge, establish the conditions for close co-operation between research institutes and identify the subjects for research to be worked on jointly.

Protection against dangerous substances

3. Standardize the terminology and concepts relating to exposure limits for toxic substances.

Harmonize the exposure limits for a certain number of substances, taking into account the exposure limits already in existence.

4. Develop preventive and protective measures for substances recognized as being carcinogenic, by fixing exposure limits, sampling requirements and measuring methods, and satisfactory conditions of hygiene at places of work, and by specifying prohibitions where necessary.
5. Establish for certain specific toxic substances such as asbestos, arsenic, cadmium, lead and chlorinated solvents, exposure limits, limit values for human biological indicators, sampling requirements and measuring methods, and satisfactory conditions of hygiene at places of work.

6. Establish a common methodology for the assessment of the health risks connected with the physical, chemical and biological agents present at places of work, in particular by research into criteria of harmfulness and by determining the reference values from which to obtain exposure limits.
7. Establish information notices on the risks relating to and handbooks on the handling of a certain number of dangerous substances such as pesticides, herbicides, carcinogenic substances, asbestos, arsenic, lead, mercury, cadmium and chlorinated solvents.

Prevention of the dangers and harmful effects
of machines

8. Establish the limit levels for noise and vibrations at the work place and determine practical ways and means of protecting workers and reducing sound levels at places of work.

Establish the permissible sound levels of building-site equipment and other machines.
9. Undertake a joint study of the application of the principles of accident prevention and of ergonomics in the design, construction and utilization of the plant and machinery, and promote this application in certain pilot sectors, including agriculture.

10. Analyse the provisions and measures governing the monitoring of the effectiveness of safety and protection arrangements and organize an exchange of experience in this field.

Monitoring and inspection -
Improvement of human attitudes

11. Develop a common methodology for monitoring both pollutant concentrations and the measurement of environmental conditions at places of work; carry out intercomparison programmes and establish reference methods for the determination of the most important pollutants.

Promote new monitoring and measuring methods for the assessment of individual exposure, in particular through the application of sensitive biological indicators. Special attention will be given to the monitoring of exposure in the case of women, especially of expectant mothers, and adolescents.

Undertake a joint study of the principles and methods of application of industrial medicine with a view to promoting better protection of workers' health.

12. Establish the principles and criteria applicable to special monitoring for assistance or rescue teams for accidents and disasters, maintenance and repair teams and isolated workers.

13. Exchange experience concerning the principles and methods of inspection by public authorities in the fields of safety, hygiene at work and occupational medicine.
14. Draw up Community induction and information schemes on work safety and hygiene for particular categories of workers such as migrant workers, newly recruited workers and workers who have changed jobs.

The Council noted that the Commission will take the necessary initiatives for the implementation of this Resolution and invited the Commission to submit an annual report to it on progress made in this respect.

PROTECTION OF WORKERS' HEALTH

The Council adopted the Directive on the approximation of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States on the protection of the health of workers exposed to vinyl chloride monomer (plastic substance widely used for industrial purposes).

This Directive represents a first stage in a specific Community project for the protection of workers against emissions of harmful substances.

In view of the threat to workers' health posed by high concentrations of vinyl chloride monomer at places where this substance is processed or used, the Directive aims at the adoption of technical preventive and protective measures, based on the latest scientific knowledge, so that the concentrations of vinyl chloride monomer in the atmosphere in the works can be reduced to the lowest possible levels. Since there are certain differences in the protective measures adopted by the various Member States, the Directive aims to harmonize and improve existing national laws.

The protection of workers laid down by this Directive comprises:

- technical preventive measures;
- the establishment of limit values for the atmospheric concentration of vinyl chloride monomer in the working area;

- the definition of measuring methods and the fixing of provisions for monitoring the atmospheric concentration of vinyl chloride monomer in the working area;
- personal protection measures;
- adequate information for workers on the risks to which they are exposed and the precautions to be taken;
- the keeping of a register of workers with particulars of the type and duration of their work and the exposure to which they have been subjected;
- medical surveillance provisions (according to the latest medical knowledge).

Finally, the provisions of the Directive may be re-examined on the basis of experience gained and in the light of developments in medical techniques and knowledge in this field, the final objective being to achieve optimum protection of workers.

It will also be remembered that the Council adopted on 26 July 1976 a Directive prohibiting the use of vinyl chloride monomer as an aerosol propellant for any purpose whatsoever.

COMMISSION COMMUNICATIONS

The Council noted three oral statements by the Commission concerning

- the social aspects of the Community sectoral policies (notably iron and steel and shipbuilding);
- progress towards a Tripartite Conference (to be convened before the end of this year);
- the European Trade Union Institute (Convention of 7 June 1978 - activities scheduled to commence in the Autumn of this year).

CONDUCT OF AN UNDERTAKING DURING A LEGAL INDUSTRIAL DISPUTE
IN DENMARK

The Danish delegation placed before the Council the question of the conduct of an undertaking during a legal industrial dispute in Denmark. The Council emphasized that the freedom of movement provided for in Articles 48 et seq. of the Treaty constitutes a fundamental right for workers and their families and that mobility of labour within the Community must be one of the means by which the worker is guaranteed the possibility of improving his living and working conditions and promoting his social advancement, while helping to satisfy the requirements of the economies of the Member States. It considered that only in this positive spirit should the provisions concerning the free movement of workers be invoked.

Lastly, the Council drew attention to Article 52 of the tripartite declaration of principles concerning multinational enterprises and social policy, adopted on 16 November 1977 by the Governing Body of the International Labour Organization, which states among other things that the enterprises in question should not transfer workers from affiliates in foreign countries with a view to undermining bona fide negotiations with the workers' representatives or the workers' exercise of their right to organize.

EMPLOYMENT OF YOUNG PEOPLE

The Council held a detailed discussion on the proposals for Community aid to promote the employment of young people, during which it identified the last problems remaining to be resolved on this subject.

The discussions enabled a broad degree of agreement to be reached on many aspects of these proposals. However, opposition by one delegation meant that it was not possible to conclude the matter today, and the Council agreed to report to the European Council in Bremen.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Agricultural questions

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities

- the Regulations

- amending Regulation No 136/66/EEC on the establishment of a common organization of the market in oils and fats;
- fixing the production target price, the production aid and the intervention price for olive oil for the 1978/1979 marketing year;
- fixing the monthly increases in the representative market price, the intervention price and the threshold price for olive oil for the 1978/1979 marketing year;
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 2452/76 on the transfer to the Italian intervention agency of butter held by the intervention agencies of other Member States;

- the Directives

- amending for the fifth time Directive 73/241/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to cocoa and chocolate products intended for human consumption;
- amending for the first time Directive 74/329/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to emulsifiers, stabilizers, thickeners and gelling agents for use in foodstuffs.

Food aid

The Council decided

- to grant cereal (13,500 tonnes) and butter-oil (500 tonnes) aid to Somalia under the 1978 programmes;
- to supply cereals (3,500 tonnes) to Syria as emergency food aid.

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The Council adopted the joint position to be presented to the Maltese delegation on defining the guidelines for co-operation between the Community and Malta.

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The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the lead content of petrol, which was decided on in principle at the Council meeting on the environment (1).

(1) See Press Release No 677 (Presse 72) of 30.5.78