

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

PRESS RELEASES

PRESIDENCY: THE NETHERLANDS

JULY-DECEMBER 1976

Meetings and press releases December 1976

<b>Meeting number</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Date</b>
424 <sup>th</sup>	Social Affairs	9 December 1976
425 <sup>th</sup>	Environment	9 December 1976
426 <sup>th</sup>	Foreign Affairs	13-14 December 1976
427 <sup>th</sup>	Fisheries	cancelled
428 <sup>th</sup>	Fiscal Affairs	16 December 1976
429 <sup>th</sup>	Transport	16 December 1976
430 <sup>th</sup>	Agriculture	20-21 December 1976
431 <sup>st</sup>	Research	cancelled
432 <sup>nd</sup>	Foreign Affairs	20 December 1976

PRESS RELEASE

U R D A D V

424th meeting of the Council

- Social Affairs -

Brussels, 9 December 1976

President: Mr P.J.J. MERTENS,  
State Secretary  
for Social Affairs  
of the Netherlands

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

Belgium :

Mr Alfred CALIFICE Minister of Labour and Employment

Denmark :

Mr Erling JENSEN Minister of Labour  
Mrs Eva GREDAL Minister of Social Security

Germany :

Mr Hermann BUSCHFORT Parliamentary State Secretary,  
Ministry of Labour and Social  
Affairs

France :

Mr Christian BEULLAC Minister of Labour

Ireland :

Mr Michael O'LEARY Minister of Labour  
Mr Frank CLUSKEY Parliamentary Secretary to the  
Minister for Social Welfare

Italy :

Mrs Tina ANSEIMI Minister of Labour and Social  
Security

Luxembourg :

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

Netherlands :

Mr P.J.J. MERTENS

State Secretary for Social  
Affairs

United Kingdom :

Mr John GRANT

Parliamentary Under-Secretary,  
Department of Employment

Mr Eric DEAKINS

Parliamentary Under-Secretary,  
Department of Health and Social  
Security

Miss Margaret JACKSON

Parliamentary Under-Secretary,  
Department of Education and  
Science

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Commission :

Mr Raymond VOUEL

Member

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The Council was informed of the death of Mr Albert BORSCHETTE, a former Member of the Commission, on 8 December. The Council paid tribute to this outstanding citizen of Luxembourg and Europe and observed a minute's silence in his honour.

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SAFEGUARDING OF EMPLOYEES' RIGHTS IN THE CASE OF TRANSFERS

The Council recorded its agreement on a Directive on the harmonization of the legislation of Member States on the safeguarding of employees' rights in the case of transfers of undertakings, businesses or parts of businesses.

The Directive implements an important point in the section devoted to the improvement of living and working conditions in the Council Resolution of 21 January 1974 concerning a social action programme: in recording its agreement on the Directive, the Council has thus acted on all the formal Commission proposals specified in the said Resolution.

The scope of the Directive is as follows: from the point of view of the substance covered, it is to apply to any transfers of undertakings, businesses or parts of businesses to another employer as a result of a legal transfer or merger. From the geographical point of view it is to apply where, and insofar as the undertaking, business or part of the business to be transferred is situated within the territorial scope of the Treaty establishing the EEC.

The aim of the Directive is to protect employees who would be affected by the transfer, mainly by the following three means:

- the automatic transfer of employees' rights
- ban on dismissal by reason of a transfer
- procedure for informing and consulting the representatives of the employees affected by the transfer.

The Directive lays down that the transferor's rights and obligations arising from an employment relationship existing on the date of the transfer shall be automatically transferred to the transferee. The resulting responsibility of the transferee shall not prejudice the Member States' rights to provide for the transferor likewise to continue to be responsible i.e. for the joint responsibility of the transferor and the transferee.

The transferee is obliged to retain, after the transfer, all the working conditions agreed in a collective agreement until the date of termination or expiry of the collective agreement or the entry into force or application of another collective agreement.

Special provisions are laid down in connection with the right to supplementary benefits deriving from company or inter-company pension schemes.

Moreover, the Directive stipulates as one of its three basic principles that the transfer of undertakings, businesses or parts of businesses shall not in itself constitute grounds for the dismissal for the transferor or the transferee. Dismissals may only take place for economic, technical or organizational reasons entailing changes in the employment situation.

If the employment relationship is terminated because the transfer of the undertaking, business or part of business involves a substantial change in working conditions, to the detriment of the employee, the employer shall be regarded as having been responsible for termination of the employment relationship.

If the business being transferred preserves its autonomy, the status and the function of the representatives or the representation of the employees affected by the transfer shall continue to obtain. If, as a result of the transfer, the term of office of the representatives of the employees affected expires, the representatives shall continue to enjoy the protection provided by the laws or practice in the Member States.

Finally, the Directive introduces an information and consultation procedure.

Under this procedure, the transferor and the transferee are required to inform the representatives of their respective employees affected by the transfer of the reasons for the transfer, the legal, economic and social implications of the transfer for the employees and the measures envisaged in relation to them. The Member States may limit the obligation to inform to cases where the transfer causes a change in the business likely to entail serious disadvantages for a considerable number of employees, on condition that the Member States provide that employees' representatives may have recourse to an arbitration board to obtain a decision on the measures to be taken with regard to employees.



If the transferor or transferee envisages measures in relation to the respective employees, he must consult the employees' representatives on such measures.

Finally, the Directive does not affect the right of a Member State to apply or introduce laws, regulations or administrative provisions which are more favourable to employees.

COMMISSION COMMUNICATION ON THE HUMANIZATION OF WORKING  
CONDITIONS

The Council took note of a Commission communication on the humanization of working conditions, emphasizing the importance which it attached to the development of activities in this field at Community level.

Without prejudice to various comments submitted concerning this communication, of which it also took note, the Council made special reference in this connection, to the problem of continuous and semi-continuous shift work among the priorities to be considered.

It was also suggested that the humanization of working conditions could be discussed by the Standing Committee on Employment.

VOCATIONAL PREPARATION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE UNEMPLOYED  
OR THREATENED WITH UNEMPLOYMENT

The Council held a discussion on the basis of the Commission communication during which Council members also enquired about the measures taken or planned in the various Member States.

The discussion demonstrated the importance which Member States attached to this grave problem, and the Council adopted a number of conclusions in which it stressed the importance of measures to facilitate young people's transition to working life, and of the following in particular:

- (a) introducing, in accordance with the methods most appropriate to the age and maturity of those concerned, vocational preparation courses enabling young people to acquire the basic knowledge, information, skills and abilities, and practical experience of work, that will increase their chances of fitting smoothly into working life and enjoying greater stability of employment;
- (b) monitoring the quality of these courses and their suitability for the aims in view;
- (c) making available to those concerned the facilities necessary to enable them to undergo such preparation.

In this connection, the Council considered that both sides of industry, in view of their practical experience and resources in this area, should be associated with the implementation of vocational preparation programmes.

The Council was also aware that these measures should not prejudice those which had already been or would be developed on a more general level in order to promote the employment of young people.

EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING

The Council approved in the official languages of the Communities the Rules of Procedure of the Management Board of the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training.

PAYMENT OF FAMILY BENEFITS

The Council conducted a further exchange of views on the proposal for a Regulation relating to the standardization of the system of paying family benefits to workers the members of whose families reside in a Member State other than the country of employment.

It took note of the Commission's intention of seeking in the near future the most suitable ways and means, in conjunction with the Member States concerned, of securing the standardization of the system of paying family benefits.

PROGRESS IN THE SOCIAL POLICY

During the exchange of views on the communication submitted to the Council by Mr Hillery before he resigned from the Commission and reporting on the progress made in the social action programme, the Council thanked the author for his constructive contribution to the future of the social policy and expressed its great appreciation for Mr Hillery's achievements in the social field during his term of office as Vice-President of the Commission.

The debate was a particularly useful opportunity for Council members to state their views on the basic guidelines and options for the future of the social policy.

The Commission stated that it would take account of the information given and proposals made at the meeting when it drew up the social policy guidelines in the next few months for submission to the Council.

SCHOOLING FOR THE CHILDREN OF MIGRANTS

Following an exchange of views on the problems raised by the proposal for a Directive on schooling for the children of migrants, the Council agreed to take a decision on the matter at its next meeting on social questions in order to provide an opportunity in the meantime for the internal consultations started in certain Member States on the subject-matter of the Directive to be concluded.

4th REPORT ON THE SOCIAL FUND

Following a brief exchange of views, the Council took note of the Commission report on the activities of the new Social Fund for the 1975 financial year and of a number of comments made by the various delegations.

The Commission stated in this connection that it would shortly take a decision on the proposals which it intended to submit on the reform of the Fund provided for in the basic regulations.



MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Emergency aid

The Council agreed to the allocation of 500,000 UA as emergency aid to help those affected by the recent earthquake in Turkey.

The aid is intended for the purchase of relief equipment (tents, sleeping bags, heating appliances, etc.).

Because of the tragic situation in Lebanon following recent events, the Council also approved similar aid of 400,000 UA for the people of Lebanon.

The Community aid will be given through the Red Cross and other relief organizations and is intended for the purchase of medicines, blankets and other relief supplies.

The Council adopted the budgetary provisions necessary for these two measures to be implemented immediately.

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

- on the opening, allocation and administration of a Community tariff quota for raw silk (not thrown) falling within heading 50.02 of the Common Customs Tariff (1977);
- on the opening, allocation and administration of a Community tariff quota for yarn entirely of silk, not put up for retail sale, falling within heading ex 50.04 of the Common Customs Tariff (1977);
- on the opening, allocation and administration of a Community tariff quota for yarn spun entirely from silk waste other than noil, not put up for retail sale, falling within heading ex 50.05 of the Common Customs Tariff (1977);
- increasing the Community tariff quota opened for 1976 by Regulation (EEC) No 2876/75 for certain plywoods of coniferous species, falling within heading ex 44.15 of the Common Customs Tariff;
- opening, allocating and providing for the administration of tariff quotas for certain types of paper and paperboard of subheadings ex 48.01 C II and 48.01 E of the Common Customs Tariff, originating in Portugal (1977);
- establishing Community ceilings and supervision, opening Community tariff quotas, introducing import arrangements or suspension of customs duties for certain industrial and agricultural products originating in various Mediterranean countries for 1977;
- fixing the activating price for table wines for the period from 16 December 1976 to 15 December 1977;
- amending for the third time Regulation (EEC) No 1876/74 concerning the addition of alcohol to products in the wine sector.

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On a proposal by the United Kingdom Government, the Council appointed Mr Harold WILLIAMS, Chairman, John Williams of Cardiff Ltd., a member of the ECSC Consultative Committee in place of Mr J. ANNETTS, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which expires on 9 July 1978.

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PRESS RELEASE

LIBRARY

425th meeting of the Council

- Environment -

Brussels, 9 December 1976

President: Mr L.J. BRINKHORST  
State Secretary for  
Foreign Affairs  
of the Netherlands

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

Belgium:

Mr Karel POMA State Secretary for the Environment

Denmark:

Mr Helge NIELSEN Minister for the Environment  
Mr Holger LAVESSEN State Secretary,  
Ministry for the Environment

Germany:

Mr Gerhart Rudolf BAUM Parliamentary State Secretary,  
Ministry for the Interior  
Mr Hans-Georg WOLTERS State Secretary,  
Ministry for Youth, Family  
Affairs and Health

France:

Mr Vincent ANSQUER Ministry for the Quality of  
Life

Ireland:

Mr James TULLY Minister for Local Government

Italy:

Mr Mario PEDINI Minister for Scientific  
Research  
Mr Giorgio POSTAL Deputy State Secretary,  
Ministry for Scientific  
Research

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean DONDELINGER

Ambassador,  
Permanent Representative

Netherlands:

Mrs I. VORRINK

Minister for Health and the  
Environment

Mr L.J. BRINKHORST

State Secretary for Foreign  
Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr Denis HOWELL

Minister for Sport, Recreation  
and Drought

Commission:

Mr Carlo SCARASCIA MUGNOZZA

Vice-President

The Council was informed of the death of Mr Albert BORSCHETTE, a former member of the Commission, on 8 December. The Council paid tribute to this outstanding citizen of Luxembourg and Europe and observed a minute's silence in his honour.

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LEAD IN THE BLOOD

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Directive on biological screening for lead.

The Directive forms part of the programme of action on the Environment of 22 November 1973. Lead is one of the priority pollutants requiring objective assessment of the dangers involved to public health. The Directive provides for the organization on a common basis of the assessment of current exposure to lead of the populations of the nine Member States, measured from the lead content of the blood. Owing to the many uses to which lead is put (in petrol, paints, ceramics, drinking-water pipes) and the fact that it is omnipresent in the environment (air, water and foodstuffs), such overall assessment of exposure is indispensable if the effects on health are to be objectively analyzed.

The Directive provides for two campaigns to measure the lead content in the blood of the populations of the Community, to be carried out over a period of four years with samples of at least 50 analyses per million inhabitants in each campaign. The results will be evaluated from three blood lead reference levels (20, 30 and 35  $\mu\text{g}$  of lead per 100 ml of blood) fixed on the basis of an objective assessment of the dangers involved.



Member States are to inform the Commission regularly of the results of analyses and any measures they may take or plan should these reference levels be exceeded. The Commission will submit suitable proposals on the basis of the results of the programme.

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS

THE RHINE

The Council adopted the Decision concluding the Bonn Convention, signed on 3 December 1976, on the Protection of the Rhine against Chemical Pollution. The Council also adopted the Decision concluding an Agreement enabling the Community, represented by the Commission, to take part in the International Commission for the protection of the Rhine against Pollution.

The adoption by the Council of the Directive on dangerous substances on 8 December 1975 has enabled real progress to be made in negotiations between the States through which the Rhine passes, including the Swiss Confederation, under the auspices of the International Commission. This was the basis which enabled those States to negotiate the Agreement which led to the conclusion of the Convention for the Protection of the Rhine against Chemical Pollution.

The Council said it hoped to see the provisions of the Convention implemented in the very near future.

THE MEDITERRANEAN

At this meeting, the Council did not act on the proposal concluding (ratifying) the Barcelona Convention on the protection of the Mediterranean against pollution, since

the internal procedures of one Member State have not yet been completed. With this reservation, the Council does however foresee that the Convention will be concluded in the very near future, as the other Member States have agreed to the proposal.

The participation of the Community in the Barcelona Convention, the signatories of which include Cyprus, Egypt, Spain, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Monaco, Morocco, Tunisia, Turkey and Yugoslavia, is in earnest of the Community's endeavour to find an international solution to the problem of the pollution of the Mediterranean.

WATER FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

The Council held an exchange of views on the Directive relating to the quality of water for human consumption.

This proposal forms part of the objectives of the programme of action on the environment of 22 November 1975 and lays down standards for the quality of water intended for human consumption. It applies to water supplies for human consumption directly and to water used for various purposes in a food production undertaking, such as the manufacture, processing and preservation of products or substances intended for human consumption and which affect the wholesomeness of the foodstuff in its finished form.

The purpose of the proposal is to check the organoleptic, physico-chemical, undesirable, toxic and microbiological factors by imposing compliance with more than sixty parameters used for defining the quality of water for human consumption. In addition to the values, either mandatory (maximum admissible concentration) or indicative (guide level), there are minimum required concentrations to be complied with for certain components of water intended for human consumption (calcium, magnesium, hardness).

The Council's discussions revealed that certain technical aspects had not yet been clarified sufficiently to enable the Council to take a decision at that meeting. It agreed to instruct the Permanent Representatives Committee to carry out a thorough examination of the remaining problems outstanding at that stage with a view to preparing the ground for a Decision on the matter at a meeting early in the first half of 1977.

1977-1981 ACTION PROGRAMME ON THE ENVIRONMENT

The Council signified its agreement to the 2nd action programme of the European Communities on the environment for the years 1977 to 1981.

This programme is a continuation of the first programme of 22 November 1973 and is designed to ensure the continuity of the projects already undertaken by the Communities in order to promote the qualitative development of their economies and to preserve the natural environment.

The work relating to the conservation of the environment will mainly involve the drawing up of a proposal for a Directive on the protection of ground water and the implementation of the Directive of 4 May 1976 on pollution caused by certain dangerous substances discharged into the aquatic environment, such as cadmium and mercury.

The new topics for which this programme provides include:

- the assessment of the effects on the environment (environment impact statement);
- the development of a mapping system indicating the various regions of the Community according to their characteristics;
- measures against atmospheric pollution;
- measures against noise;
- measures to combat discharge and waste;
- environment problems of interest to the developing countries.

PULP MILLS

The Council held a detailed discussion on the basis of Commission suggestions and amendments by the delegations relating to the Directive on the reduction of water pollution caused by pulp mills.

Concluding that discussion, the Council stressed its political will to adopt this Directive at its next meeting on the environment, and instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine this matter in detail, in particular in the light of today's discussions, so that this decision might be prepared in good time.

TITANIUM DIOXIDE INDUSTRY

The Council held a detailed examination of the file on waste from the titanium dioxide industry on the basis of a Commission proposal and the delegations' various suggestions for amendments; on concluding this study it noted that the proposal for a Directive did not yet meet with the required consensus.

Acknowledging the ecological and economic importance of this proposal, the Council emphasized its political will to adopt this Directive at its next meeting on the environment, and accordingly instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to resume its examination of this dossier in good time.

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PRESS RELEASE

LIBRARY

426th Council meeting

- Foreign Affairs -

Brussels, 13 and 14 December 1976

President : Mr Max VAN DER STOEL,

Minister for Foreign Affairs,  
Netherlands

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

Belgium :

Mr Renaat VAN ELSLANDE                      Minister for Foreign Affairs

Denmark :

Mr Ivar NØRGAARD                              Minister for External Economic  
Affairs

Mr Jens CHRISTENSEN                         State Secretary,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Germany :

Mr Peter HERMES                              State Secretary,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

France :

Mr Louis de GUIRINGAUD                      Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Marcel CAVAILLE                          State Secretary for Transport

Ireland :

Mr Garret FITZGERALD                         Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Michael P. MURPHY                         State Secretary for Fisheries

Italy :

Mr Arnaldo FORLANI                            Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Vito ROSA                                  Under-Secretary of State for the  
Merchant Navy

Luxembourg :

Mr Gaston THORN                                Minister for Foreign Affairs

Netherlands :

Mr Max VAN DER **STOEL**  
Mr L.J. BRINKHORST

Minister for Foreign Affairs  
State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

United Kingdom :

Mr Anthony CROSLAND  
Mr David OWEN  
Mr John TOMLINSON

Secretary of State for Foreign  
and Commonwealth Affairs  
Minister of State,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
Parliamentary Under-Secretary,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Commission :

Mr François-Xavier ORTOLI      President  
Mr Claude CHEYSSON            Member  
Mr Finn Olav GUNDELACH        Member  
Mr Guido BRUNNER              Member  
Mr Cesidio GUAZZARONI        Member

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GENERALIZED PREFERENCES FOR 1977

1. The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulations and Decisions concerning the application of generalized preferences to developing countries in 1977. This decision was taken after consulting the Associated States concerned and the ACP States.

Despite the difficult economic circumstances, the Community made a fresh effort to come to the assistance of the developing countries, particularly the least-favoured of them, pursuant to the guidelines laid down in Nairobi at UNCTAD IV. The Community thus confirms that - in accordance with the Council Resolution of 3 March 1975 on the future development of Community generalized preferences - generalized preferences remain a fundamental aspect of the overall Community policy on behalf of the third world. The amount of possible preferential imports in 1977 will increase from 4.6 to 6.5 thousand million UA, i.e. a rise of more than 40% in value, highlighting the importance of generalized preferences.

2. As regards industrial products (Chapters 25 to 99 of the CCT), other than textiles, the Council signified its agreement on a change in the year serving as a base for the calculation of the level of the ceiling (1974 instead of 1971).

This measure - which applies to all industrial products other than textiles, with the exception of footwear and certain iron and steel products in respect of which the Community has decided to maintain the ceilings at the 1976 level as a result of the difficult circumstances which these sectors are experiencing - involves an overall increase of the order of 50% in preferential import possibilities for most of these products.

As for textile products, the overall amount of the ceiling represents an increase of 5% and will go up from approximately 75,000 tonnes to 79,000 tonnes. However, in addition to this quantitative aspect, the 1977 scheme includes several important innovations. Firstly, the distinction between cotton textiles and others will be abolished, resulting in a considerable simplification both as regards the administration and the use of preferences. Secondly, as regards sensitive textile products, a two-fold system will be introduced, designed to limit the extent to which over-competitive countries benefit from preferences and to make the arrangements more flexible in their application to the other beneficiary countries, which include the least-favoured developing countries. Finally, the 1977 system for textile products also involves an increase in the list of countries benefiting, notably the dependent territories, in respect of most of these products.

In addition, the existing scheme for jute and cocoa is being maintained with, however, additional reductions in duties in the light of agreements concluded with the exporting developing countries.

In view of the improvements mentioned above, the import capacity for the whole industrial sector will reach a trade volume of more than 5.2 thousand million UA.

3. With regard to the management of the generalized preferences scheme in the industrial sector it should also be stressed that pursuant to guidelines evolved at international level on the measures to be taken on behalf of the least advanced developing countries the Council agreed to suspend the application of the cut-offs for 1977 for all semi-sensitive and non-sensitive industrial products in respect of the least advanced developing countries appearing on the list adopted by the United Nations [Resolution 3487 (XXX)].
  
4. As regards the processed agricultural products sector, (Chapters 1 to 24 of the CCT), the preferential arrangement for 1977 incorporates the amendments adopted by the Council on 6 April 1976 for the offer relating to tropical products, in the context of the GATT multilateral trade negotiations. During the negotiations, several developing countries gave the European Economic Community lists of requests, which made it possible to lay emphasis on a whole series of products which for them had present or potential export importance.

Consequently there will be 46 new entries in the agricultural section of the 1977 system and 70 improvements in the margins of preference for products already included in the Community system.

A total of 296 products will be covered by the system with an estimated impact of 1,235 MUA for 1977 (as opposed to 250 products covering a trade volume of 1,000 MUA in 1976). Most of the improvements constitute a special effort in respect of the least favoured developing countries (Virginia tobacco, spices, vegetable oils, certain cut flowers).

In connection with preserved pineapples, the Council agreed to a substantial increase in the tariff quota for preserved pineapples other than pineapple slices (this quota will be increased from 30,000 tonnes to 45,000 tonnes) and on the opening of a tariff quota of 28,000 tonnes for preserved pineapple slices.

The Council also decided to renew the soluble coffee and cocoa butter quotas for 1977.

Finally, the Council decided in favour of opening a 60,000 tonne quota for Virginia type tobacco (the quota opened for 1976 was 38,000 tonnes). Preferences not exceeding a ceiling of 2,500 tonnes would also be granted to certain tobaccos other than Virginia type tobaccos.

RELATIONS WITH JAPAN

Referring to the declaration by the European Council, and after noting the progress made in the current discussions with the Japanese authorities, the Council agreed to include relations with Japan on the agenda for its next meeting in January.

CIEC

After noting the agreement reached between the participants at the Conference on the postponement of the December ministerial session, the Council agreed to include the item concerning the CIEC on the agenda for its next meeting on 18 January 1977 in order to take stock of the situation on that occasion.

The Council also expressed the hope that the Community would be able to devise a common position with a view to the second preparatory meeting on a common fund to be held within the framework of UNCTAD and starting on 24 January 1977.



OVERALL MEDITERRANEAN APPROACH - MASHREQ - ISRAEL

After hearing a communication from Mr Cheyssson, the Council examined this matter in depth.

Following this examination, it noted that for a number of reasons, it was unable to improve any further, as it had already done at its last meeting on 15 and 16 November 1976, its negotiating directives relating to the periods of validity of the Financial Protocols.

It nevertheless felt that it should be possible for some clarification to be given in order to enable the Commission, in liaison with the Permanent Representatives Committee, to conclude negotiations with these countries.

RELATIONS WITH YUGOSLAVIA

The Council took note of the reports given by its President and by Commissioner Gundelach on the talks which they had held with the Yugoslav authorities in Belgrade during their visit on 1 and 2 December 1976.

After welcoming the declaration subscribed to during this visit, the Council expressed the hope that the EEC-Yugoslavia Joint Committee would meet in the near future to make a start to implementing this declaration.

ACCESSIONS TO THE LOME CONVENTION

The Council made a thorough examination of the terms on which Papua-New Guinea, Cape Verde, Sao Tomé and Príncipe may accede to the Lomé Convention.

It was noted that most of the problems had been resolved. The Permanent Representatives Committee was instructed to find a solution on which all delegations could agree with regard to the amount of financial aid to be added to that provided for under the Lomé Convention, a matter on which there was a perceptible movement towards consensus.

SITUATION OF A DANISH UNDERTAKING IN GHANA

The Council heard a statement by Mr Cheysson, on the talks he had had on this subject with the highest authorities in Ghana.

Mr Christensen, the Danish State Secretary, reported the information collected by his Government on this issue.

The Council thanked Mr Cheysson for his assistance towards obtaining a settlement of this matter in accordance with international custom and practice.

It was agreed that the Council should be briefed on further developments at its meeting in January.

FISHERIES - INTERIM MEASURES FOR THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF FISHERY RESOURCES

The Council made a thorough examination of the internal and external aspects of the interim measures for 1977 for the conservation and management of fishery resources. After noting that much progress had been made on a large number of points, the Council instructed the bodies responsible for preparatory work to continue the examination of the issues outstanding on the basis of the Council's discussions and of the adjustments which the Commission intended submitting to the Council on certain aspects of this scheme. Finally, the Council agreed to resume work on this package at its next meeting, with a view to taking the decisions required before 1 January 1977.

The Council also took certain steps for the purpose of maintaining, on a provisional basis, bilateral relations in the fisheries sector between Italy and Yugoslavia and Senegal; and between France and Guinea Bissau.

INSURANCE AGENTS AND BROKERS

The Council has recorded its agreement on the Directive on measures to facilitate the effective exercise of freedom of establishment and freedom to provide services in respect of the activities of insurance agents and brokers.

The aim of the Directive is to facilitate freedom of establishment and freedom to provide services in respect of insurance agents and brokers in particular by introducing transitional measures which, in the absence of mutual recognition of diplomas or harmonized rules governing the taking up of such activities in the Nine Member States, will enable recognition throughout the Community of professional qualifications based on the length of professional experience and recognized as equivalent to a period of professional training.

The Directive is a step towards achieving a harmonized insurance market on a European scale and also towards achieving Community policy's more general aim of freedom of establishment and freedom to provide services.

UNILATERAL IMPORT ARRANGEMENTS FOR 1977 IN RESPECT OF STATE-  
TRADING COUNTRIES

The Council adopted a Decision amending for 1977 the import quotas fixed in respect of state-trading countries. This Decision, which is based on Decision 75/210/EEC of 27 March 1975, lays down the unilateral import arrangements applicable in the Community for 1977 in respect of these third countries, while providing for adjustments to the lists of quotas in relation to those which were valid in 1976. This Council Decision will be published in the Official Journal of the European Communities before the end of the year.

FORMATION OF PUBLIC LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANIES AND  
MAINTENANCE OF THEIR CAPITAL

The Council adopted a Directive on co-ordination of safeguards which, for the protection of the interests of members and others, are required by Member States of companies within the meaning of the second paragraph of Article 58 of the Treaty, in respect of the formation of public limited liability companies and the maintenance and alteration of their capital, with a view to making such safeguards equivalent.

This Directive takes the Community company law programme a step further; a first Directive on disclosure and the validity of obligations entered into was adopted in 1968 and a number of others are still being considered by the Council.

One of the objectives of the Directive is to ensure a minimum degree of equivalence in the protection afforded to the shareholders and creditors of such companies and it therefore provides for the co-ordination of national provisions governing their formation and the maintenance, expansion and reduction of their capital. The Directive lays down inter alia Community rules aimed at preserving the capital, especially by controlling distributions to shareholders and limiting opportunities for companies to acquire their own shares.

The other principal objective of the Directive is to bring about transparency in company statutes and instruments of incorporation with reference to their main features, and particularly the exact consistency of the capital.



MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

The Council adopted the following in the official languages of the Communities:

-- Regulations

- amending Regulation (EEC) No 2632/76 of 19 October 1976 on the opening, allocation and administration of a Community tariff quota for certain hand-made products;
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 2633/76 of 19 October 1976 on the opening, allocation and administration of Community tariff quotas for certain hand-woven fabrics, pile and chenille falling within headings Nos ex 50.09, ex 50.10, ex 55.07, ex 55.09 and ex 58.04 of the Common Customs Tariff;
- on the opening, allocation and administration of Community tariff quotas for Port, Madeira and Setubal muscatel wines falling within subheading ex 22.05 of the Common Customs Tariff originating in Portugal (1977);
- on Community transit;
- Decision concluding the Agreement between the European Economic Community and Macao on trade in textile products.

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Food aid

The Council agreed to the supply to

- Uruguay of 50 tonnes of skimmed milk powder via the ICRC
- Bolivia of 986 tonnes of flour (equivalent to approximately 1,500 tonnes of cereals) under the 1975/1976 implementation plan.

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Acting on a proposal from the Government of the Netherlands, the Council appointed Mr G.H.E. HILKENS, Nederlandse Consumentenbond, as a member of the Economic and Social Committee to replace Mr CHARBO, outgoing member, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, i.e. until 15 December 1978.

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The Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, adopted the Resolution of the Ministers of Education comprising measures to improve the preparation of young people for working life and to facilitate their transition from education to working life.

PRESS RELEASE

RECEIVED  
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Brussels, 10 December 1976  
1444/76 (Presse 160)

MEETING CANCELLED

The Council of the European Communities will hold its 427th meeting on Tuesday 14 December 1976 (10.00) in the Charlemagne Building, 170 Rue de la Loi, Brussels, under the chairmanship of Mr A.P.L.M.M. VAN DER STEE, Dutch Minister for Agriculture.

This meeting will be devoted to a discussion on the interim measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources.

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A press conference will be given by the President of the Council at the end of the talks.

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PRESS RELEASE

428th Council meeting  
- Fiscal Affairs -

Brussels, 16 December 1976  
President: Mr W.F. DUISENBERG,  
Minister for Finance  
of the Netherlands

1476/76 (Presse 170)

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

Belgium:

Mr Willy DE CLERCQ                      Minister for Finance

Denmark:

Mr Svend JAKOBSEN                      Minister for Fiscal Affairs

Germany:

Mr Joachim HIENLE                      State Secretary for Finance

France:

Mr Christian PONCELET                      State Secretary to the Minister  
for Economy and Finance

Ireland:

Mr Michael BEGLEY                      Parliamentary Secretary,  
Ministry of Finance

Italy:

Mr Filippo Maria PANDOLFI                      Minister for Finance  
Mr Giuseppe AZZARO                      Under-Secretary of State,  
Ministry of Finance

Luxembourg:

Mr Jacques POOS                      Minister for Finance

Netherlands:

Mr W.F. DUISENBERG

Minister for Finance

Mr M. VAN ROOIJEN

State Secretary for Finance

United Kingdom:

Mr Robert GOLDSMITH

Deputy Permanent Representative

Commission:

Mr Cesidio GUAZZARONI

Member

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17.XII.76

SIXTH DIRECTIVE ON VAT

The Council continued its discussions on the problems outstanding after its meeting of 21 October 1976 in Luxembourg, at which considerable progress had already been made.

At the end of its proceedings, the Council obtained solutions to all the political problems raised by the proposal for a sixth Directive on VAT. Only a few provisional reservations were maintained, on matters which delegations undertook to settle by 15 January 1977.

Not only will the sixth Directive on VAT be an instrument of fiscal harmonization, it will also make it possible to apply the system of the Community's own resources which was established under the Decision of 21 April 1970, in its entirety. The adoption of this Directive will therefore make an important contribution to the strengthening of the Community's internal structures.

The Council invited the President's office to draw up the final draft text - in close collaboration with the Commission - with a view to the adoption of the Directive by the Council before 1 March 1977.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

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

- fixing the intervention price for fresh or chilled sardines and anchovies for the 1977 fishing year;
  - fixing the Community producer price for tunny intended for the canning industry for the 1977 fishing year;
  - fixing the guide prices for the fishery products listed in Annex II to Regulation (EEC) No 100/76 for the 1977 fishing year;
  - fixing the guide prices for the fishery products listed in Annex I (A) and (C) to Regulation (EEC) No 100/76 for the 1977 fishing year.
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PRESS RELEASE

LIBRARY

429th meeting of the Council  
- Transport -  
Brussels, 16 December 1976  
President: Mr T.E. WESTERTERP,  
Minister for Transport  
of the Netherlands

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

Belgium:

Mr Josef CHABERT Minister for Transport and Harbour Policy

Denmark:

Mr Niels MATTHIASSEN Minister for Transport  
Mr Jørgen HALCK State Secretary,  
Ministry of Public Works

Germany:

Mr Heinz RUHNAU State Secretary,  
Ministry of Transport

France:

Mr Marcel CAVAILLE State Secretary for Transport

Ireland:

Mr Thomas FITZPATRICK Minister for Transport and Power

Italy:

Mr Constante DEGAN Deputy State Secretary,  
Ministry of Transport

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean DONDELINGER Ambassador,  
Permanent Representative

Netherlands:

Mr T.E. WESTERTERP

Minister for Transport

Mr M.H.M. VAN HULTEN

State Secretary,  
Ministry of Transport

United Kingdom:

Mr William RODGERS

Secretary of State,  
Department of Transport

Commission:

Mr Carlo SCARASCIA MUGNOZZA Vice-President

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VEHICLE ROADWORTHINESS TESTS

The Council adopted the Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to roadworthiness tests for motor vehicles and their trailers.

In view of the wide divergences in the practice of Member States, the Directive is confined, as a first stage, to the specification of the minimum frequency and content of tests, and to the most important categories of vehicles to be tested. Member States remain free to apply higher standards and to test further categories of vehicles if they so desire.

The Directive provides for a transitional period totalling 6 years from its adoption. During the first year Member States are required to adapt their national laws and regulations to the provisions of the Directive; during the remaining period these provisions may be brought gradually into operation.

The existing situation, as regards both the frequency and the extent of testing, varies greatly between Member States, and the associated costs borne by road hauliers varies accordingly. The harmonization of the laws of Member States relating to roadworthiness tests is an important part of the common transport policy directed towards the equalization of competitive conditions between transport undertakings.

It is the general view that an improved standard of roadworthiness testing would contribute to road safety by encouraging the removal of unsafe vehicles from the road when it becomes uneconomic to maintain them to the standard demanded for passing the roadworthiness test.

WEIGHTS AND DIMENSIONS

The Council held a policy debate on the Commission's suggestions regarding the problem of weights and dimensions.

Instead of fixing maximum weights per axle for all vehicles, the Commission suggested with regard to types of vehicles with 5 axles used in traffic between Member States, fixing a maximum laden weight of 40 tonnes.

Such a solution would permit greater standardization of production and would contribute to effective harmonization of conditions of competition since only this particular kind of vehicle would be eligible for registration in and be admitted to all the Member States.

The Council, aware of the environmental aspects of this matter, gave generally sympathetic consideration to the solution suggested by the Commission and requested the latter to make formal proposals corresponding to its suggestions. The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to carry out a detailed study of the technical aspects of these proposals in preparation for a Decision by the Council at one of its forthcoming meetings.

INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT OF PERISHABLE FOODSTUFFS

The Council discussed certain difficulties pointed out by the Commission in its report on the implementation of the Agreement on the international transport of perishable foodstuffs and the special equipment to be used for such transport (ATP).

This Agreement entered into force on 21 November 1976 for the contracting Parties, which include France and the Federal Republic of Germany. Denmark became a Contracting Party on 22 November 1976. Problems may therefore arise regarding the mutual recognition of certificates of conformity with ATP provisions which the authorities of these countries are obliged to require when vehicles from the Member States which have not yet ratified the ATP present themselves for frontier checks.

The Council decided that temporary transitional solutions could be sought, and it noted that the Commission would be keeping a careful watch on developments, in close liaison with the competent authorities of the Member States.

FOLLOW-UP TO THE TRANSPORT COUNCIL OF 4 NOVEMBER 1976

The Council confirmed the decisions of principle it took on 4 November 1976 and adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Directive on the minimum level of training for road transport drivers and the Regulation on the Community quota for the carriage of goods by road between Member States <sup>(1)</sup>.

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<sup>(1)</sup> See Press Release No 1224/76 (Presse 128) of 4 November 1976.



COMMON RULES

The Council discussed the proposal for a Directive on the establishment of common rules for certain types of carriage of goods by road between the Member States.

The proposal is designed to give a broader definition of frontier zones, taking account more especially of their economic structures, the way in which they are administered and their geographical peculiarities. It is also aimed at freeing certain specific categories of transport from the quantitative restrictions to which they were subject, particularly the transport of perishable foodstuffs in controlled-temperature vehicles and the transport of live animals in special vehicles.

The Directive also makes a contribution to achieving free movement for goods transport services by definitively providing for free movement in the case of carriage on own account and by abolishing all quantitative restrictions on other types of carriage such as certain forms of transit traffic, carriage of supplies for aircraft and carriage of vehicles which have broken down.

After discussion, the Council stressed its political will to find a satisfactory solution to the whole question of common rules so that substantial progress could be made in liberalizing transport and recorded its agreement in principle to the

abolition of all quantitative restrictions on the carriage of live animals in special vehicles. The Council also instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its discussions on all the other aspects of this body of problems, with particular reference to today's discussions, and to report back on the matter to the next Transport Council.

## RAILWAY POLICY

The Council decided to send a letter to the Group of railway companies of the nine countries of the European Communities requesting them to continue and to step up their co-operation within the framework of their administrative autonomy. The Council decided not to ask these companies for the time being to submit the joint report on the progress of their co-operation provided for in item IV of the Resolution of 7 December 1970 on co-operation between railway undertakings.

The Commission informed the Council that, pursuant to the Decision of 20 May 1975 on the improvement of the situation of railway undertakings and the harmonization of rules governing financial relations between such undertakings and States, it intended to take the necessary steps to co-operate with the Member States and the railway undertakings on a study of supplementary measures to further co-operation between the latter. The Council noted that the Commission intended to prepare a work programme to this end as soon as possible. Before 1 January 1978, the Commission will submit a progress report to the Council on the preparations of this programme.

The Council also noted a statement by the German delegation on the problems of railways in the Community. It agreed to include this problem on the agenda of its next meeting so that it could hold a general discussion on the subject of the carriage of goods.

## SOCIAL MEASURES

During its examination of the interim report on the proposal for a Regulation on the harmonization of certain social legislation relating to road transport, the Council laid down certain guidelines for future work.

These guidelines which relate both to the principles embodied in various Commission proposals in this field and to the derogations and exemptions provided for, concern the following questions:

- authorization of the Member States to lay down, within certain limits and following a Community procedure, less restrictive provisions for national transport than for intra-Community transport, without losing sight of the goal of full harmonization of all these provisions after a certain number of years
- a transitional period during which Ireland and the United Kingdom will have the option, in the case of national transport, of maintaining in force more flexible Community rules than for intra-Community transport
- a provision abolishing the "two-man crew" rule for journeys of more than 450 km, provided a tachograph is installed and used, but leaving each Member State the option of applying this rule to crews of vehicles registered in its own territory

- a provision banning the practice of paying employed crew-members according to distances covered and/or the quantity of goods transported, even in the form of bonuses or wage increases, unless these payments are not such as to jeopardize road safety
  
- a provision authorizing Member States, in accordance with a Community procedure, to make exemptions from the rule on installing and using a tachograph (provided other effective methods of control are prescribed) in the case of:
  - = vehicles engaged in national transport within a radius of 50 km from the place where the undertaking is based - either all such vehicles or vehicles not exceeding a certain tonnage
  - = all vehicles engaged in the national transport of goods the maximum weight of which, including trailers or semi-trailers, does not exceed 6 tonnes
  
- the question of whether
  - = the minimum total rest period per week provided for by Regulation (EEC) No 543/69 is adequate or not
  - = provisions on spreadovers should be introduced.

The Council concluded its exchange of views by instructing the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its deliberations on welfare measures in the transport field in the light of today's discussions so as to prepare the decisions which it, the Council, would have to take.

None of the delegations opposed the abolition of the "two-man" crew rule for journeys of more than 450 km. The Council will accordingly take the appropriate definitive measures as part of the revision of Regulation (EEC) No 543/69.

ROAD HAULAGE

The Council took note of a statement by the Netherlands delegation on the subject of road haulage involving third countries, especially the countries of Eastern Europe.

The statement urged the use of a procedure for exchanging information on the matter, particularly in the context of preparations for the Belgrade Conference.

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In winding up the meeting, the President, Mr WESTERTERP paid tribute to Mr SCARASCIA-MUGNOZZA, Vice-President of the Commission, whose term of office expires at the end of 1976, for his very considerable services to the European Communities, particularly in the transport field.

PRESS RELEASE

LIBRARY

430th meeting of the Council

- Agriculture -

Brussels, 20 and 21 December 1976

President: Mr A.P.L.M.M. VAN DER STEE,  
Minister for Agriculture  
of the Netherlands



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

Belgium:

Mr Albert LAVENS Minister for Agriculture

Denmark:

Mr Poul DALSGER Minister for Agriculture

Germany:

Mr Josef ERTL Federal Minister for Agriculture

Mr Hans-Jürgen ROHR State Secretary,  
Ministry of Agriculture

France:

Mr Christian BONNET Minister for Agriculture

Mr Pierre MEHAIGNERIE State Secretary,  
Ministry of Agriculture

Ireland:

Mr Mark CLINTON Minister for Agriculture  
and Fisheries

Italy:

Mr Giovanni MARCORA Minister for Agriculture

Mr Arcangelo LO BIANCO Deputy State Secretary,  
Ministry of Agriculture

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean HAMILIUS Minister for Agriculture

Mr Albert BERCHEM State Secretary,  
Ministry of Agriculture

Netherlands:

Mr A.P.L.M.M. VAN DER STEE            Minister for Agriculture

United Kingdom:

Mr John SILKIN                            Minister for Agriculture,  
Fisheries and Food

Mr Gavin STRANG                          Parliamentary Secretary,  
Ministry of Agriculture,  
Fisheries and Food

Mr Robert MACLENNAN                      Parliamentary Under-Secretary  
of State,  
Department of Prices and  
Consumer Protection

Commission:

Mr P.J. LARDINOIS                        Member

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BEEF AND VEAL

The Council discussed the beef and veal market situation in the light of the Commission's intention of repealing the safeguard clause in this sector with effect from 31 March 1977.

In this context it recorded its agreement in principle on the estimate for beef and veal intended for the processing industry for 1977, noting that the Community deficit in frozen meat was 75,000 tonnes. The Council noted that the Commission would take the necessary measures to permit the importation of such meat in 1977 as from 1 April (50,000 tonnes at a reduced levy and 25,000 tonnes intended for the manufacture of corned beef under total suspension of the levy).

The Council took note of the Commission's intention of permitting the sale in February and March 1977 of at least 20,000 tonnes of certain boned or boneless meat held by intervention agencies under the "twinning" system.

The Council was also informed of the Commission's intention of increasing the quantities of preserved beef and veal put up for sale under this system in January 1977.

The Commission proposals regarding the adjustments to be made to the beef and veal trade arrangements with third countries, to be applied from 1 April 1977, were favourably received.

At the end of its discussions the Council reached general agreement on the following set of points:

(a) Rate of levies applicable

As far as the principal beef and veal products are concerned:

- where the market price exceeds the guide price the levy applicable will, in relation to the basic levy, be:

- 75% if the market price is less than or equal to 102% of the guide price;
- 50% if the market price is more than 102% and less than or equal to 104% of the guide price;
- 25% if the market price is more than 104% and less than or equal to 106% of the guide price;
- 0% if the market price is more than 106% of the guide price;

- where the market price is equal to or less than the guide price the levy applicable will, in relation to the basic levy, be:

- 100% if the market price is more than or equal to 98%;
- 105% if the market price is less than 98% and more than or equal to 96%;
- 110% if the market price is less than 96% and more than or equal to 90%;
- 114% if the market price is less than 90% of the guide price.

The preceding system will also apply to frozen meat. However, if the price of adult bovine animals on the representative markets of the Community is equal to or less than 102% of the guide price and more than or equal to 100% of that price, the Commission may fix the levy applied to frozen meat at a percentage greater than 75% and up to 100%.

The Commission will fix the basic import levies each month. However, it may, if necessary, modify the basic levy in the intervening period.

In adopting this new scale of levies the Council intends to ensure that the administration of the market is in future better adapted to the movement of Community prices in relation to the guide price, so as to avoid a recurrence of such situations as the application of the shortage arrangements in 1972 and the application of the safeguard clause since 1974.

(b) Arrangements applicable to young animals intended for fattening

Male animals weighing 300 kg or less and intended for fattening will benefit, in the context of an annual estimate, from the total or partial suspension of the levy applicable, the quantity to be imported and the rate of the suspension being decided each quarter, for each of the following categories if necessary:

- animals weighing less than 80 kg;
- animals weighing 80 kg or more and less than 220 kg;
- animals weighing 220 kg or more.

For 1977 the Council took note of the Commission's intention of permitting, from 1 January 1977 to 31 March 1977, the issue, under the safeguard clause, of import certificates for 50,000 head of young male bovine animals intended for fattening under the conditions laid down in Regulation (EEC) No 884/76.

The Council, acting on a proposal from the Commission, agreed to fix at 150,000 head the estimate of young male bovine animals weighing 300 kg or less intended for fattening, to be adopted with a view to the importation of these animals at a reduced levy from 1 April to 31 December 1977. The Council noted the Commission's intention of suspending by 50% the levy applicable to the categories mentioned as a whole.

As far as the future was concerned, the Council agreed to take the necessary decisions to permit the annual import of 200,000 head of young male bovine animals intended for fattening under special conditions, mainly in order to ensure supplies for the Italian market.

Pure-bred breeding animals

These animals will also be included in the scope of the Regulation on beef and veal. In this context the Council agreed to adopt before 1 April 1977 the proposal for a Regulation on the definition of pure-bred breeding bovine animals, submitted on 4 March 1974.

MISCELLANEOUS STATEMENTS

The Council noted the following statements:

- on oil seed supplies to the processing industry in Italy (Italian delegation)
- on isoglucose (Belgian delegation).

With reference to the latter subject the Council adopted the following Resolution:

"The Council invites the Commission to submit proposals as soon as possible regarding glucose syrup with a high fructose content, designed inter alia to prohibit the granting of national aid which encouraged the production of this syrup.

The Council notes that Member States undertake to refrain until 1 February 1977 from taking any decision at national level which might encourage the production of glucose syrup with a high fructose content."



HARMONIZATION OF VETERINARY LEGISLATION

After noting the Opinions of the European Parliament, the Council held an exchange of views on a series of measures in the health and veterinary fields, subsequently taking a decision on three important measures in this sector.

1. The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision on the financing by the Community of certain emergency measures in the field of animal health. The provisions of this Decision ensure financial solidarity on the part of the Community in combatting cattle plague, exotic foot and mouth disease, contagious pleuro-pneumonia, African swine fever, blue tongue disease or contagious vesiculate stomatitis wherever an outbreak occurs in the Community. If the outbreak of one of these contagious diseases in a third country is likely to constitute a danger to the Community, the latter may help to combat the disease by providing vaccine or by financing the purchase of it.
  
2. The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Directive amending Directives 64/432/EEC, 72/461/EEC and 72/462/EEC on health and veterinary problems. This Directive represents a significant step forward in extending Community rules in this field to the three new Member States.

The Directive, which is based on the desire not to compromise the health standard already attained and also to ensure as far as possible the free movement of animals and meat, provides for full application in the United Kingdom and Denmark from 1 January 1978 of the Community rules relating to trade in live animals.

It should however be noted that, in view of its favourable geographic situation from the point of view of animal health, Ireland, and the United Kingdom in respect of Northern Ireland, may retain until the end of 1982 the derogation regarding the rules relating to the control of foot and mouth disease.

3. The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Directive on health problems affecting intra-Community trade in meat products, which lays down minimum common requirements for these products and the principles of the necessary controls.

It therefore completes the range of Community regulation initiated in 1964 with the provisions governing intra-Community trade in live animals and fresh meat and extended in 1971 to trade in fresh poultrymeat.

## MILK PRODUCTS

A whole series of measures relating to the milk products sector had been placed before the Council, which held a thorough exchange of views aimed at finding solutions to alleviate the worrying situation in the sector.

After establishing that a consensus could not be reached on all the measures in question, the Council finally agreed to return to this complex issue at its next meeting, scheduled for 24 and 25 January 1977.

## STRUCTURAL POLICY

The Council signified its agreement in principle to the proposal on processing and marketing conditions and instructed the Special Committee on Agriculture to settle the outstanding questions with a view to a formal decision on the matter at the Council's next meeting.

IRISH GREEN POUND

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Regulation fixing a new representative rate in the agricultural sector for the Irish pound.

On 17 January 1977 the Irish green pound will be devalued by 8% to 1.44212 UA (present rate 1.56778 UA).

This decision will entail a total increase of 8.7% in common agricultural prices in Ireland.

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities,

- the Regulations

- extending Regulation (EEC) No 3310/75 on agriculture in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg;
- on the opening, allocation and administration of a Community tariff quota for frozen beef and veal falling within subheading 02.01 A II a) 2 of the Common Customs Tariff (1977);
- laying down conditions for coupage and wine-making in the free zones within the Community for wine products originating in non-member countries;
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 1162/76 on measures designed to adjust wine-growing potential to market requirements;
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 1163/76 on the granting of a conversion premium in the wine sector;
- amending Regulations (EEC) Nos 2682/72, 2727/75, 765/68 and 3330/74 concerning the description of certain chemicals falling within subheading 29.16 A VIII of the common customs tariff;
- on the organization of a survey on the structure of agricultural holdings for 1977;
- regarding the deadline for submitting applications for aid from the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund; Guidance Section, for 1977;
- amending Regulations (EEC) Nos 786/69, 787/69, 788/69 and 2334/69 on the financing of intervention expenditure on the internal market;
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 2306/70 on the financing of intervention expenditure in respect of the internal market in milk and milk products;

- the Decision drawing up a list of third countries from which the Member States authorize imports of bovine animals, swine and fresh meat.
- the Directive on the examination for trichinae (*trichinella spiralis*) upon importation from third countries of **fresh** meat derived from domestic swine;

The Council also adopted, in the official languages of the Communities the Directive on protective measures against the introduction into the Member States of organisms harmful to plants or plant products.

This Directive, which concerns all diseases likely to harm agricultural products and all plants and plant products which carry these diseases, has a dual aim:

- firstly it is designed to guarantee an adequate degree of protection not only in order to avoid reduced yields but also to increase agricultural productivity; to this end provision is made, in intra-Community trade and in the case of imports from third countries, for either a ban on introduction or for restrictions by means of inspection, special requirements and the issue of a phytosanitary certificate.

- secondly, the measures laid down have been harmonized in order to achieve common protection arrangements as far as possible, and in any event standardization and simplification of the measures taken by each Member State, so that trade in agricultural products may be facilitated.

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 foodstuffs for particular nutritional uses.

This harmonization Directive, which is very general in scope, establishes the basis for future Community rules applicable to "dietetic foodstuffs".

The purpose of the Directive is to

- lay down a common definition for all foodstuffs in this category
- protect the consumer against fraud and abuses with regard to the nature of these products
- adopt rules for the labelling of these products with particular reference to their names and the claims made as regards their nutritional properties.

Taking these fundamental principles as its starting point, the Directive provides that the Council will adopt at a later stage for the main categories of dietetic foodstuffs, and also for foodstuffs intended for infants or young children, rules which will apply more specifically to such foodstuffs, notably as regards the characteristics of their composition or manufacture, to ensure that they achieve their specific nutritional purposes.

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### MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

#### Food Aid

The Council decided on emergency food aid to the Lebanon. This comprises the immediate supply of the following, delivered to the place of destination

- through the intermediary of the WFP
  - 12,500 tonnes of cereals already allocated to the WFP under the 1975/1976 programme (special reserve)
  - 470 tonnes of skimmed-milk powder already allocated to the WFP under the 1976 programme (special reserve). Delivery: FOB + fixed contribution
- through the intermediary of the ICRC
  - 7,550 tonnes of cereals to be set against the quantities available under the general reserve from the 1975/1976 programme
  - 1,600 tonnes of butteroil to be set against the quantities available in the general reserve from the 1976 programme
  - 800 tonnes of skimmed-milk powder already allocated to the ICRC under the 1976 programme (special reserve).



Owing to the difficult food situation currently being experienced by the Comoro Islands, the Council decided on emergency food aid for that country comprising the supply of 8,000 tonnes of cereals and 40 tonnes of butteroil, to be set against the existing reserves under the 1976 aid programmes.

The Council agreed, in the light of the urgent food requirements of a number of countries, to the following Community aid measures, to be set in advance against the 1977 cereals aid programme without waiting for the completion of the work of drawing up the full implementation plan for the programme:

<u>Recipients</u>	<u>Quantity</u>
Zambia	6,000 tonnes
Cape Verde	8,500 tonnes
Botswana	500 tonnes
Lesotho	130 tonnes
Catholic Relief Service	15,000 tonnes

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Transport

The Council adopted the Decision on the signing, subject to ratification, on behalf of the European Economic Community, of the Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under cover of TIR Carnets.

In this context the Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation on the advance implementation of the provisions of the technical annexes and the use of the specimen TIR Carnet of the Geneva Customs Convention on the International Transport of Goods under the cover of TIR Carnets (TIR Convention) of 14 November 1975.

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 taximeters;
- the Regulation extending Regulation (EEC) No 1174/68 on the introduction of a system of bracket tariffs for the carriage of goods by road between Member States.

Trade policy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities:

- Regulations

- amending Regulation (EEC) No 495/76 on the import arrangements for certain textile products originating in Hong Kong;
- fixing for the year 1977 Community quantitative export quotas for certain types of copper ash and residues and for certain types of copper, aluminium and lead waste and scrap;
- fixing and establishing indicative ceilings and Community supervision of imports of certain products originating in Austria, Finland, Norway, Portugal and Sweden (1977);
- fixing and establishing Community supervision of imports of certain products originating in Iceland and Switzerland (1977);
- maintaining in effect the rules whereby imports into Italy of electric filament lamps originating in certain European state-trading countries are subject to import authorizations;

- Decisions

- authorizing the prolongation or tacit renewal of certain trade agreements concluded between the Member States and third countries;
- of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the ECSC, meeting within the Council, establishing supervision of imports of certain products originating in Austria and Sweden (1977).

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The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Directive amending Directive 72/464/EEC on taxes other than turnover taxes which affect the consumption of manufactured tobacco.

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The Council approved the Commission communication containing a draft OECD arrangement concerning the prevention of imbalances in the regional distribution of new orders in the shipbuilding sector.

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Acting on a proposal from the Italian Government, the Council appointed Mr Mario PORTANUOVA, Assofermet, a member of the ECSC Consultative Committee to replace Mr BARONE, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, i.e. until 9 July 1978.

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Acting on a proposal from the Danish Government, the Council appointed Mr Johannes AMTUNDSSEN, Dansk Arbejdsgiverforening, a member of the Economic and Social Committee to replace Mr BYSKOV, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, i.e. until 16 September 1978.

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The Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decisions concerning temporary imports and exports of ferrous scrap and exports of rolling-mill cylinders and steel alloy scrap.

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431st meeting on Research Cancelled

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES  
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

Brussels, 16 December 1976  
1495/76 (Presse 176)

The Council of the European Communities will hold its 432nd meeting on Monday 20 December 1976 (15.00) in the Charlemagne Building, 170 rue de la Loi, Brussels, with Mr Max VAN DER STOEL, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, in the Chair.

This meeting will be concerned with the examination of interim measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources for 1977.

A press conference will be held by the President of the Council at the end of the meeting.

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PRESS RELEASE

432nd meeting of the Council

- Foreign Affairs -

Brussels, 20 December 1976

President: Mr Max VAN DER STOEL  
Minister for Foreign Affairs  
of the Netherlands

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

Belgium:

Mr Renaat VAN ELSLANDE                      Minister for Foreign Affairs

Denmark:

Mr Ivar NØRGAARD                              Minister for External Economic  
Affairs

Mr Jens CHRISTENSEN                         State Secretary,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Germany:

Mr Peter HERMES                              State Secretary,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

France:

Mr Marcel CAVAILLE                         State Secretary for Transport

Ireland:

Mr Garret FITZGERALD                        Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Michael P. MURPHY                        State Secretary for Fisheries

Italy:

Mr Vito ROSA                                 Under-Secretary of State for  
the Merchant Navy

Luxembourg:

Mr Gaston THORN                             Minister for Foreign Affairs



The Netherlands:

Mr Max VAN DER STOEL

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr L.J. BRINKHORST

State Secretary for Foreign  
Affairs

The United Kingdom:

Mr Bruce MILLAN

Secretary of State for Scotland

Mr David OWEN

Minister of State,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Mr John TOMLINSON

Parliamentary Under-Secretary,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

The Commission:

Mr François-Xavier ORTOLI

President

Mr Finn Olav GUNDELACH

Member

Mr Guido BRUNNER

Member

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INTERIM MEASURES FOR THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF  
FISHING RESOURCES FOR 1977

The Council continued its discussions on the external and internal implications of interim measures for the conservation and management of fishing resources for 1977.

As far as external aspects were concerned, the Council examined the arrangements to apply from 1 January 1977 to third countries in the 200 mile fishing zone, and the arrangements in favour of fishermen of the Member States to be negotiated with third countries.

In particular, the Council defined the basic details of autonomous arrangements to apply to certain third countries during the first three months of 1977. It agreed to notify the interested countries of its decision as soon as possible.

The Council noted that formal consultations between the Member States were planned for the very near future on the introduction of a system for checking the vessels of third countries in the Community zone during the interim period; it was agreed that a long-term solution would have to be prepared on the basis of suitable proposals from the Commission.

The Council also took note of a report from the Commission on the progress of the negotiations embarked on pursuant to the Decision of 3 November, with the United States, Canada, Norway, the Faroe Islands and Iceland with a view to concluding framework agreements. The Council expressed its concern at the immediate future of relations with Iceland as far as fishing was concerned. It did however welcome the fact that negotiations had been started on the problem with other European countries (which were moreover in a privileged position) such as Spain, Sweden and Finland, as well as Portugal with which negotiations were soon to be opened.

Since important changes at international level were to affect the fishing industry as a result of the extension of fishing zones to 200 miles by an increasing number of coastal States and this in turn had implications for the Convention setting up the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC), the Council defined the position to be adopted by the Community States which were parties to the Convention with a view to safeguarding Community interests.

As for the internal aspect, the Council recorded its agreement on the following declaration concerning fishing activity for the month of January 1977:

"The Council agrees that catches taken in the month of January 1977, which will not exceed the quantity taken in January 1976, will count against quotas to be fixed for the interim period and all Member States will register these catches in accordance with the procedure laid down under

Article 5 of the draft interim regulations. In this way there will be restraint by the fishing fleets of the Community and, having regard to the decisions taken in respect of third countries, there will already be a significant reduction of the total fishing effort within Community waters.

It is further understood that during this short standstill period, while these restraints are in effect, existing conservation measures will remain unchanged and Member States will not take additional conservation measures.

The Council intends to reach agreement on the interim measures for the conservation and management of fishing resources during this period.

The Conference of Representatives of the Governments  
of Member States appointed

Mr Roy Harris Jenkins as President and

Mr Finn Olav GUNDELACH

Mr Wilhelm HAFERKAMP

Mr Lorenzo NATALI

Mr François-Xavier ORTOLI

Mr Henk VREDELING

as Vice-Presidents of the European Communities for the  
period from 6 January 1977 to 5 January 1979 inclusive.

PRESS RELEASE

433rd meeting of the Council

- Energy -

Brussels, 21 December 1976

President: Mr R.F.M. LUBBERS,  
Minister for Foreign Affairs  
of the Netherlands

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

Belgium:

Mr Fernand HERMAN Minister for Economic Affairs

Denmark:

Mr Jens CHRISTENSEN State Secretary,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Germany:

Mr Detlev Kersten ROHWEDDER State Secretary,  
Ministry of Economic Affairs

France:

Mr Michel D'ORNANO Minister for Industry and Trade

Ireland:

Mr Thomas FITZPATRICK Minister for Transport and Power  
Mr Justin KEATING Minister for Industry and  
Commerce

Italy:

Mr Carlo DONAT CATTIN Minister for Industry and Trade

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Luxembourg:

Mr Jean DONDELINGER

Ambassador,  
Permanent Representative

Netherlands:

Mr R.F.M. LUBBERS

Minister for Economic Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr Tony BENN

Secretary of State,  
Department of Energy

Mr Dickson MABON

Minister of State,  
Department of Energy

Commission:

Mr Henri SIMONET

Member

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MEASURES TO BE TAKEN IN THE EVENT OF SUPPLY DIFFICULTIES

The Council recorded its agreement on the substance of the Decision on the exporting of crude oil and petroleum products from one Member State to another in the event of supply difficulties.

The mechanisms of this Decision, based on the desire to affect intra-Community trade as little as possible, involve the introduction - when supply difficulties arise - of a system of automatic authorizations to be granted by the exporting Member State.

The Decision goes on to stipulate in what circumstances and on what conditions the issue of export authorizations may be suspended:

- whenever a shortfall in supply, either real or imminent, creates an abnormal increase in trade in petroleum products between Member States, the Commission may, after consultation with the group provided for in Directive 73/238/EEC, authorize the Member State concerned, upon its request, to suspend the issue of export authorizations to the extent necessary to prevent such abnormal trade. The authorization will be valid for 10 working days.

At the request of a Member State the Council will meet within 48 hours to confirm, amend or repeal, by a qualified majority, the authorization granted by the Commission.

- if a shortfall is likely seriously to endanger the supply of crude oil and petroleum products in a Member State, or if such a situation may reasonably be expected, the Commission may, after consultation with the group provided for in Directive 73/238/EEC, authorize the Member State concerned upon its request to suspend the issue of export authorizations, provided that traditional trade patterns are maintained as far as possible.

At the request of a Member State the Council will meet within 48 hours to amend or revoke by a qualified majority the authorization granted by the Commission. If the Council does not revoke or amend this authorization it will remain in force.

- in the event of a sudden crisis in a Member State, when any delay would be gravely prejudicial to its economy, the Member State concerned may, after informing the other Member States and consulting the Commission, temporarily suspend the issue of export authorizations. This decision will be valid for ten days.

At the request of a Member State or the Commission, the Council will meet within 48 hours. It may adopt the appropriate measures by a qualified majority, acting on a proposal from the Commission. The measures decided on by the Council will enter into force the day after the validity of the national measures expires. The Council may, however, acting unanimously, decide to apply measures it has adopted before that validity expires.

The Decision also lays down the procedure for repealing the above measures when the situation no longer justifies their continued application.

Lastly, it provides that the Council may, on a proposal from the Commission, unanimously decide on any other measure to ensure optimum supplies of crude oil and petroleum products for the entire Community.

The Council also discussed in detail the proposal for a Decision on the setting of a Community target for a reduction in the consumption of primary forms of energy in the event of difficulties in the supply of crude oil and petroleum products.

At the end of its discussion the Council agreed to discuss this proposal further at its next meeting on energy in the light of any new points the Commission might submit to it on the matter bearing in mind the comments made by the various delegations at the present meeting.

PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 1977

The Council signified its agreement, on the basis of a document drawn up by the Commission in conjunction with the Presidency, to the programme of work for 1977 relating to energy policy. This programme indicates the principal fields in which the Council might be called upon to take decisions on Commission proposals or communications during 1977.

URANIUM PROSPECTING

The Council took note of action being taken or planned by the Commission in the field of uranium prospecting in 1976 and 1977.

EXPORTS OF FERROUS SCRAP

As regards the arrangements for exports of ferrous scrap to third countries for the first quarter of 1977, the Council agreed that a total of 369,000 tonnes could be exported.

This quantity will be allocated as follows:

Federal Republic of Germany - 90,000 tonnes; Denmark - 9,000 tonnes; France - 90,000 tonnes; Benelux - 90,000 tonnes; United Kingdom - 90,000 tonnes.

In this connection it was agreed that the proportion accounted for by quality scrap could be 15% and could even go up to a maximum of 30% to enable the Member States to meet an exceptional and particularly serious situation.

COAL AND COKE FOR THE IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRY IN THE  
COMMUNITY

The Council noted that the Commission had submitted draft amendments to the 1973 Decision concerning coal and coke for the iron and steel industry in the Community.

It agreed to maintain the current arrangements for 1977 subject to the phased reduction in aid and contributions provided for under the current coking coal arrangements being abolished for that year.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue examining the Commission proposals for improvements with a view to submitting to it a proposal for a Decision on the matter, if possible before 1977.

POSITION OF THE COAL INDUSTRY

The Council took note of the Commission communication on the position of the Community's coal industry.

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The Council agreed to defer consideration of the remaining items on the agenda until its next meeting on energy questions.

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

- reviewing the energy research and development programme adopted by Decision 75/510/EEC;
  - adopting a programme for the European Atomic Energy Community and the European Economic Community in the field of scientific and technical education and training.
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