

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

PRESS RELEASES

PRESIDENCY: GERMANY

JULY-DECEMBER 1978

Meetings and press releases December 1978

Meeting number	Subject	Date
552 nd	Foreign Affairs	6 December 1978
553 rd	Budget	12 December 1978
554 th	Foreign Affairs	12 December 1978
555 th	Economics/Finance	18 December 1978
556 th	Environment	18-19 December 1978
557 th	Agriculture	18-19 December 1978
558 th	Foreign Affairs	18-19 December 1978
559 th	Energy	21 December 1978

PRESS RELEASE

552nd Council meeting

- Foreign Affairs -

Brussels, 6 December 1978

President: Mr Hans-Dietrich GENSCHER,

Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Federal Republic of Germany

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

Belgium:

Mr Joseph VAN DER MEULEN

Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

Denmark:

Mr Henning CHRISTOPHERSEN

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Germany:

Mr Hans-Dietrich GENSCHER

Federal Minister for
Foreign Affairs

Mr Klaus von DOHNANYI

Minister of State,
Federal Ministry of
Foreign Affairs

France:

Mr Jean BERNARD-REYMOND

State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ireland:

Mr Brendan DILLON

Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

Italy:

Mr Arnaldo FORLANI

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean DONDELINGER

Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

Netherlands:

Mr J.H. LUBBERS

Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

United Kingdom:

Sir Donald MAITLAND

Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

Commission:

Mr Lorenzo NATALI

Vice-President

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ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS WITH GREECE

In preparation for the 9th ministerial session of the negotiating conference on the accession of Greece, taking place on the same day, the Council defined the Community's negotiating position on the following chapters: duration of the transitional measures and temporary derogations, agriculture and social policy.

The Council welcomed the fact that it was thus able, as planned, to initiate negotiations of substance on the above three chapters at the day's ministerial session with the Greek delegation led by Mr RALLIS, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Mr KONTOGEORGIS, Minister responsible for relations with the European Communities, with the aim of being able to break the back of the negotiations at the 10th ministerial negotiating session scheduled for 20 December.

The Council will prepare the next negotiating session on 19 December 1978.

PRESS RELEASE

553rd Council meeting

- Budget -

Luxembourg, 12 December 1978

President: Mr Manfred LAHNSTEIN

State Secretary
Federal Ministry of Finance
of the Federal Republic of Germany

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

Belgium:

Mr Hervé ROBINET Deputy Permanent Representative

Denmark:

Mr Jakob Esper LARSEN Deputy Permanent Representative

Germany:

Mr Manfred LAHNSTEIN State Secretary, Federal Ministry for Finance

France:

Mr Pierre BERNARD-REYMOND State Secretary, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Ireland:

Mr Raymond McSHARRY Minister of State at the Department of Public Service

Italy:

Mr Antonio Mario MAZZARINO Deputy State Secretary, Ministry for the Treasury

Luxembourg:

Mr Joseph WEYLAND Deputy Permanent Representative

Netherlands:

Mr D.F. van der MEI

State Secretary, Ministry for
Foreign Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr William NICOLL

Deputy Permanent Representative

Commission:

Mr Christopher TUGENDHAT

Member

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CONTINUATION OF THE BUDGETARY DISCUSSIONS

The Council conducted a searching discussion of certain budgetary questions which were still outstanding at this juncture, particularly in the light of the European Parliament's recent discussions, at the close of which it adopted its position concerning the general budget of the Communities for 1979.

It agreed that its President would shortly submit the Council's conclusions to the European Parliament so that once the budgetary procedure was concluded, the latter could discuss the matter in full knowledge of the facts at its plenary sitting on 14 December 1978.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Trade policy

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

- on the opening, allocation and administration of Community tariff quotas (1979)
 - = for unwrought magnesium falling within subheading 77.01 A of the Common Customs Tariff
 - = for processing work in respect of certain textile products under Community outward processing arrangements
 - = for ferro-silicon falling within subheading 73.02 C of the Common Customs Tariff
 - = for ferro-silico-manganese falling within subheading 73.02 D of the Common Customs Tariff
 - = for ferro-chromium containing not more than 0.10% by weight of carbon and more than 30% but not more than 90% by weight of chromium (super-refined ferro-chromium) falling within subheading ex 73.02 E I of the Common Customs Tariff
 - = for raw silk (not thrown) falling within heading 50.02 of the Common Customs Tariff
 - = for yarn entirely of silk, other than yarn of noil or other waste silk, not put up for retail sale, falling within heading ex 50.04 of the Common Customs Tariff
 - = for yarn spun entirely from silk waste other than noil, not put up for retail sale, falling within subheading subheading 50.05 A of the Common Customs Tariff
 - = for certain handwoven fabrics, pile fabrics and chenille fabrics falling within headings ex 50.09, ex 55.07, ex 55.09 and ex 58.04 of the Common Customs Tariff
 - = concerning certain hand-made products
 - = for wines from fresh grapes and grape must with fermentation arrested by the addition of alcohol falling within heading 22.05 of the Common Customs Tariff, originating entirely in Greece (430,000 hectolitres);

- suspending for 1979 application of the condition to which importation into the Community of certain types of citrus fruit originating in Spain is subject by virtue of the Agreement between the European Economic Community and that country;
- maintaining until 31 December 1978 the arrangements making the importation into the United Kingdom of trousers originating in India subject to authorization.

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Other decisions

The Council gave its assent pursuant to Article 56(2)(a) of the ECSC Treaty concerning Girling Midland Ross Air Actuation Ltd., United Kingdom and Compagnie électro-mécanique, France.

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Appointment

On a proposal from the United Kingdom Government, the Council appointed Mr F.J. CHAPPLE, General Secretary of the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union, a member of the Economic and Social Committee in place of Mr Lionel MURRAY, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, i.e. up until 18 September 1982.

PRESS RELEASE

Brussels, 12 December 1978
1454/78 (Presse 166)

554th Council meeting

- Foreign Affairs -

Brussels, 12 December 1978

President: Mr Klaus von DOHNANYI,
Minister of State,
Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Federal Republic of Germany

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

Belgium:

Mr Joseph VAN DER MEULEN

Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

Denmark:

Mr Niels ERSBØLL

State Secretary,
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Germany:

Count Otto LAMBSDORFF

Federal Ministry for
Economic Affairs

Mr Klaus von DOHNANYI

Minister of State,
Federal Ministry for Foreign
Affairs

France:

Mr Luc de la BARRE de NANTEUIL

Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

Ireland:

Mr David ANDREWS

Minister of State,
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Mr Ray BURKE

Minister of State,
Ministry for Industry, Trade
and Craft Trades

Italy:

Mr Angelo-Maria SANTA

Deputy State Secretary,
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean DONDELINGER

Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

Netherlands:

Mr K.H. BEYEN

State Secretary for Economic
Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr John SMITH

Secretary of State for Trade
and Industry

Commission:

Mr Wilhelm HAERKAMP

Vice-President

Mr Finn Olav GUNDELACH

Vice-President

Viscount Etienne DAVIGNON

Member

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GATT MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

The discussion closed with the President drawing the following conclusions:

The Council examined the progress of GATT multilateral trade negotiations on the basis of a written report from the Commission.

The Council thanked the Commission for its constructive work. While welcoming the fact that a degree of progress had been made, it noted that the results of the negotiations achieved to date were not yet balanced on all points.

The opinions formed during the Council discussions on a number of important points will enable the Commission to press further ahead towards a satisfactory conclusion of the negotiations. A report will be submitted to the Council on 18/19 December 1978.

PRESS RELEASE

555th Council meeting

- Economics/Finance -

Brussels, 18 December 1978

President: Mr Hans MATTHÖFER,
Federal Minister of Finance
of the Federal Republic of Germany

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

Belgium:

Mr Gaston GEENS Minister of Finance

Denmark:

Mr Anders ANDERSEN Minister for Economic Affairs and Taxation

Mr Kurt HANSEN State Secretary,
Ministry for Economic Affairs

Germany:

Mr Hans MATTHÖFER Federal Minister of Finance

Otto Graf LAMBSDORFF Federal Minister for
Economic Affairs

Mr Otto SCHLECHT State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of
Economic Affairs

Mr Manfred LAHNSTEIN State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Finance

France:

Mr René MONORY Minister for Economic Affairs

Ireland:

Mr George COLLEY Tanaiste
Minister for Finance

Italy:

Mr Filippo PANDOLFI Minister of the Treasury

Luxembourg:

Mr Jacques POOS

Minister of Finance

Netherlands:

Mr F.H.J.J. ANDRIESSEN

Minister of Finance

United Kingdom:

Mr Denis HEALEY

Chancellor of the Exchequer

Commission:

Mr François-Xavier ORTOLI

Vice-President

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The Council meeting was also attended by:

Mr J. van YPERSELE de STRIHOU

Chairman of the Monetary
Committee

Mr C. de STRYCKER

Chairman of the Committee of
Governors of the Central Banks

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EUROPEAN MONETARY SYSTEM

Further to the European Council on 4 and 5 December 1978, the Council examined a series of questions concerning the introduction of the European Monetary System.

In this context the Council acted on two Regulations ⁽¹⁾:

- the first introducing the ECU for the transactions of the European Monetary Co-operation Fund as from 1 January 1979 and laying down rules for future amendments to the composition of the ECU;
- the second empowering the EMCF to receive monetary reserves from the Member States and to issue ECU against such assets and stipulating that the Fund and the monetary authorities may use ECU as a means of settlement and for transactions between them.

The Council further approved a Decision increasing the ceilings for medium-term financial assistance.

(¹) The French delegation entered a provisional reservation pending the outcome of the Agriculture Council's discussions on the proposal for a Regulation on the consequences of the European Monetary System on the common agricultural policy.

The Council also took note of a report by the Chairman of the Committee of Central Banks on the Committee's discussions concerning the features of the European Monetary System which the Central Banks are responsible for introducing. The Council noted with satisfaction that this work was on the point of successful completion.

Finally, the Council heard a report by the Chairman of the Policy Co-ordination Group on Short-term Economic and Financial Policies on the procedure to be applied to attain a higher degree of convergence of economic policies, as desired by the European Council on 4 and 5 December 1978.

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE ECONOMIC SITUATION IN THE COMMUNITY

The Council adopted the annual report on the economic situation in the Community and the economic policy guidelines for each Member State for 1979.

The report will be published in the Official Journal of the European Communities in the next few days.

PRESS RELEASE

556th meeting of the Council

- Environment -

Brussels, 18/19 December 1978

President: Mr Gerhardt BAUM,
Federal Minister for the Interior
of the Federal Republic of Germany

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

Belgium:

Mr Luc DHOORE	Minister for Health and the Environment
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Denmark:

Mr Ivar NØRGAARD	Minister for the Environment
Mr Holger LAVESEN	State Secretary, Minister of the Environment

Germany:

Mr Gerhard BAUM	Federal Minister for the Interior
Mr Günter HARTKOPF	State Secretary, Federal Ministry of the Interior

France:

Mr Michel D'ORNANO	Minister for the Environment and the Quality of Life
Mr François DELMAS	State Secretary to the Minister for the Environment and the Quality of Life

Ireland:

Mr Sylvester BARRETT	Minister for the Environment
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Italy:

Mr Dario ANTONIOZZI	Minister for Cultural Affairs and the Environment
Mr Giorgio POSTAL	Deputy State Secretary, Ministry of Scientific Research

Luxembourg:

Mr Josy BARTHEL

Minister for the Environment

Netherlands:

Mr L. GIRJAAR

Minister for Health and the
Environment

United Kingdom:

Mr Denis HOWELL

Minister of State,
Department of the Environment

Commission:

Mr Lorenzo NATALI

Vice-President

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ENVIRONMENT POLICY

Breaking with tradition, the Council opened its meeting with a general political policy debate on the common environment policy, basing itself in particular on the statement made on 30 May 1978 by the French Minister for the Environment and the Quality of Life ⁽¹⁾. The Council also had before it the Commission communication of December 1978 concerning, inter alia, the place and role of a preventive policy for the environment in a balanced development of economic activities within the whole of the Community.

This exchange of views, which dealt in particular with the general aspects of elaborating a common environment policy, gave all the Ministers a chance to say how they viewed a common environment policy, to underline their priorities and to state their more specific wishes.

Concluding the debate, the President summarized the discussions, drawing particular attention to the interdependence of a healthy environment policy and industrial and employment policies. Due allowance must in fact be made at the earliest opportunity for the impact of industrial development on the environment and for the employment prospects afforded by a policy to improve the environment.

⁽¹⁾ See Press Release 677/78 (Presse 72) of 30 May 1978.

The President also stressed that it was important to:

- continue to develop common principles in this central field, on the basis of procedures already existing at national level;
- carry out a more detailed examination of the possibilities afforded by a sectoral approach to environmental questions;
- encourage the use of clean technologies which consume the least possible amount of non-recoverable resources and the development of recycling processes;
- pay particular attention to the contribution of a common environment policy to a more comprehensive land and sea utilization policy;
- promote the study of a rational policy on waste, geared to the market;
- monitor the economic effects of the various aids in this sector.

In conclusion, the President called upon the Commission to draw up a report on these various aspects, in order to facilitate further work by the Council; he also stressed that the Ministers would like to meet more regularly for such discussions, as the day's proceedings had proved to be so fruitful.

METHODS OF EVALUATING THE COST OF POLLUTION CONTROL TO INDUSTRY

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Recommendation regarding methods of evaluating the cost of pollution control to industry.

The aim of this Recommendation is to enable the local and national authorities of the Member States, and the Community, to obtain comparative data on the costs of pollution control in industrial sectors, through technical studies to identify the various factors or characteristics of production techniques which are in practice likely to give rise to considerable cost differences compared with other, similar, processes of pollution control.

Making reference to the definitions in the European System of National Accounts (ESA) as published by the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities in 1970, the Recommendation provides for the collation of cost data relating to the following areas:

Investment costs (new or periodic)

- (i) Expenditure on the construction or acquisition of plant and equipment;
- (ii) Expenditure on the construction or acquisition of buildings;
- (iii) Expenditure on the acquisition of land and/or the market value of land already owned;
- (iv) Expenditure on improvements;
- (v) Expenditure on loss of output during transition.

Running costs

- (vi) Expenditure on labour;
- (vii) Expenditure on energy;
- (viii) Expenditure on materials other than energy;
- (ix) Expenditure on services;
- (x) Expenditure on rents;
- (xi) Expenditure on repairs.

Details accompanying these cost data should include the following information:

- (a) The market value of materials recovered because of the pollution control plant in question, irrespective of whether such materials are sold or used internally, and, where appropriate, a financial assessment of other factors entailing a reduction in costs;
- (b) The exact levels of the values of emissions by the relevant production plant in a specified time-period both before and after introduction of the pollution control measure to which the costs refer;
- (c) The annual production capacity and the annual production volume of the process to which the pollution control costs refer.

Any other data may be given separately and could, if appropriate, accompany the reports on the results of the studies carried out in this field, which the Member States will endeavour, wherever possible, to forward to the Commission.

PERSISTENT ORGANO-CHLORINE COMPOUNDS

The Council noted the Commission communication concerning the objective evaluation of the risks to human health from pollution by certain persistent organo-chlorine compounds and the various delegations' comments on the matter. This communication is in fact an interim report on the work carried out by the Commission, under the Programme of action on the environment of 22 November 1973, in the field of organo-chlorine compounds.

NOISE

The Council also noted the Commission communication on the determination of criteria for noise.

FLUOROCARBONS

The Council also took note of the report by the German delegation on the results of the International Conference on Fluorocarbons, held at Munich from 6 to 8 December 1978.

WOOD PULP INDUSTRY

The Council held a detailed exchange of views on the proposal for a Directive on the reduction of water pollution caused by wood pulp mills in the Member States.

The discussion enabled the delegations to state their concern regarding many aspects of this proposal and in particular to look into the implications of the so-called "parallel" approach, namely the application of either quality objectives or emission standards.

As all the delegations recognized the value of a Directive in this field, the President was able to note the existence of the positive attitude necessary for the re-opening of discussions and in conclusion the Council agreed to instruct the Permanent Representatives Committee to give further attention to the dossier, with a view to drafting a text which might meet with the approval of all delegations at the next Council meeting on the environment.

PREVENTION AND REDUCTION OF SEA POLLUTION

In the context of an exchange of views on safety at sea, in particular following the wreck of the Amoco Cadiz, and on the prevention and reduction of sea pollution, the Council agreed in principle to decisions on

- the authorization to be given to the Commission to negotiate the Community's accession to the Bonn Agreement of 9 June 1969 for co-operation in dealing with pollution of the North Sea by oil
- 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 by oil and other harmful substances in cases of emergency.

It instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to finalize the necessary texts so that a formal decision could be taken as soon as possible.

DUMPING OF WASTE AT SEA

The Council agreed in principle to the recommendation on Community accession to the Oslo Convention of 15 February 1972 for the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft and to the authorization for the Commission to negotiate this accession.

It instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to finalize the necessary text so that a formal decision could be taken as soon as possible.

PROTECTION OF GROUNDWATER

The Council held a detailed discussion of the Directive on the protection of groundwater against pollution caused by certain dangerous substances.

The aim of this Directive is to improve the protection of groundwater by introducing a system of prior national authorization for all discharges of dangerous substances - appearing on "grey" and "black" lists - which are likely to cause pollution. Particular provisions apply to discharges affecting a transfrontier aquifer, whereby there is a consultation procedure; before authorization is granted by the national authorities concerned.

The Directive also makes provision for a system of exchange of information at Community level, both on the authorizations granted by the national authorities and on hydrogeological conditions and the results of the monitoring and inspection operations carried out.

Following its discussions, the Council noted that the breadth of the problems still outstanding made further examination essential and instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue studying this matter in preparation for discussion at the next Council meeting.

WATER FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

The Council, continuing the discussions of December 1976 and 14 June 1977, agreed in principle to the Directive relating to the quality of water for human consumption.

This Directive lays down "binding" and "guide" parameters for numerous factors contributing to the pollution of water and listed in the Annexes to the Directive concerning factors which are organoleptic, physico-chemical, undesirable in excessive quantities, toxic and microbiological and concerning the minimum required concentration for softened drinking water.

The Directive also provides for models of standard analyses and an information system between the Member States and the Commission on the outcome of regular monitoring to be carried out by the Member States, which have 5 years within which to comply with its provisions.

BIRD CONSERVATION

Following a full exchange of views the Council approved the Directive on bird conservation (¹).

The purpose of the Directive is the conservation of numerous species of birds by means of special protection for certain habitats and limitation of the species which may be hunted and marketed, together with prohibition of certain means of hunting and capture.

It lays down a list of 24 species which may be hunted in all the Member States of the Community. Each Member State will also draw up a supplementary national list relating to its own territory; the total number of species which may be hunted must not exceed the 72 species listed in the Annex to the Directive.

The marketing of 26 species in all is authorized, 7 of which may be marketed in all the Member States and 10 others only in those Member States whose own national legislation so permits. The Commission will make a study of certain aspects of the marketing of the 9 other species which may in principle be marketed, in order to determine, no later than 4 months before the entry into force of the Directive, whether these species should be added to the list of 10 species which may be marketed in the Member States which so wish.

(¹) See press release 1473 (Presse 164) of 12.XII.77.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Transport policy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities:

- the Decisions:

- concerning the collection of information on the activities of carriers participating in cargo liner traffic in certain areas of operation
- concerning the adoption by certain Member States of the European Economic Community 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
- the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 3164/76 on the Community quota for the carriage of goods by road between Member States
- the Directive amending Directive 75/130/EEC on the establishment of common rules for certain types of combined road/rail carriage of goods between Member States.

Approximation of laws

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the determination of the noise emission of construction plant and equipment.

PRESS RELEASE

557th meeting of the Council

- Agriculture -

Brussels, 18 and 19 December 1978

President: Mr Joseph ERTL,
Federal Minister for Agriculture
of the Federal Republic of Germany

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

Belgium:

Mr Antoine HUMBLET	Minister for Agriculture and Small Firms and Traders
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Denmark:

Mr Neils Anker KØFOED	Minister of Agriculture
Mr Hans-Joergen KRISTENSEN	State Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture

Germany:

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

France:

Mr Pierre MEHAIGNERIE	Minister of Agriculture
Mr Jacques FOUCHIER	State Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture

Ireland:

Mr Jim GIBBONS	Minister of Agriculture
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Italy:

Mr Giovanni MARCORA	Minister of Agriculture
Mr Giuseppe ZURLO	Deputy State Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean HAMILIUS

Minister of Agriculture and Wine

Mr Albert BERCHEN

State Secretary,
Ministry of Agriculture

Netherlands:

Mr A.P.J.M.M. van der STEE

Minister of Agriculture and
Fisheries

United Kingdom:

Mr John SILKIN

Minister of 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 Finn Olav GUNDELACH

Vice-President

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BEEF AND VEAL

The Council recorded its agreement on a series of decisions on beef and veal, concerning:

- the renewal for 1979 of the GATT quota of 38,500 tonnes of frozen beef and veal in Regulation (EEC) No 2861/77;
- the approval of the import estimate of 60,000 tonnes of beef and veal for the processing industry for 1979;
- the approval of the 1979 estimate for the import of 230,000 young male bovine animals weighing 300 kilogrammes or less and intended for fattening, without prejudice, to a review of the situation, if necessary, at the end of the first half of 1979 on the basis of a report by the Commission.

FURTHER ORGANIZATION OF THE MARKET

The Council took formal note of a series of reports on progress on three proposals for organization of the market in the following sectors:

- sheepmeat
- potatoes
- ethyl alcohol of agricultural origin.

After a brief exchange of views on sheepmeat, during which it took note of a French memorandum on the subject, the Council instructed the Special Committee on Agriculture to continue its examination of the matter with a view to approximating the views of the delegations most concerned at a forthcoming meeting.

With regard to potatoes and ethyl alcohol, the Council again referred the dossiers to the Special Committee on Agriculture for further study. It will resume examination of them at a forthcoming meeting.

FISHERIES POLICY

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision, based on the Treaties, concerning fishery activities in waters under the sovereignty or jurisdiction of Member States on a temporary basis pending the adoption of permanent Community measures. The text of the Decision is as follows:

"The Council intends to reach agreement as early as possible in 1979 on Community measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources and related matters. Pending its decision in the matter and having regard both to Article 102 of the Act of Accession and to the need to protect biological resources and maintain suitable relations with third countries in fisheries matters, the Council thereby adopts the following interim measures, which shall be applicable until the Council has reached definitive agreement and until the end of March 1979 at the latest".

1. Member States shall conduct their fisheries in such a way that the catches of their vessels during the interim period shall take into account TACs submitted to the Council in the Commission's communication of 23 November 1978 and the part of the TACs likely to be made available to third countries under agreements or arrangements made by the Community with them. The catches taken in the interim period will be offset against the allocations eventually decided by the Council for 1979.
2. As regards technical measures for the conservation and surveillance of fishery resources Member States shall apply the same measures as they applied on 3 November 1976, and such other measures as are taken in accordance with the procedures and the criteria of Annex VI to the Council Resolution of 3 November 1976."

Council Déclaration

The Council agrees to consider the question of restructuring the inshore fishing industry and aquaculture at its session in January 1979.

OLIVE OIL

Continuing the work begun at its meeting on 20 and 21 November, the Council fixed the following prices for the olive oil marketing year beginning on 1 January 1979:

- representative market price

1.1.79 to 28.2.79 :	148.43 UA/100 kg
1.3.79 to 31.10.79:	120.78 UA/100 kg

The threshold price will therefore be fixed at 145.43 UA/100 kg and 119.44 UA/kg respectively for the periods concerned.

It also approved the general rules relating to the application of the system of aid consumption, with the following percentages and amounts:

- consumption aid:

from 1.3.1979: 27.65 UA/100 kg
allocated as follows
• olive oil packers: 94%
• special projects : 6%.

WINE/MEDITERRANEAN REGIONS/OTHER STRUCTURAL MEASURES

In the context of a package of measures or projects to be undertaken on wine, the Mediterranean regions and agricultural structures, the Council, following a wide-ranging discussion begun at previous meetings, agreed in principle to a series of measures to establish balance on the wine market.

These measures include in particular the granting of aid for must intended for the enrichment of wine under certain conditions. The Council agreed to take a decision on the granting of aid for rectified concentrated must as soon as the Special Committee on Agriculture had completed the necessary technical work.

Other aid measures will apply to must for making grape juice and British and Irish wines, and special measures are planned for the reorganization of wine-growing in the Charentes.

The Council also decided on a system of market support in the event of a crisis, involving a minimum price and supplementary compulsory distillation measures at the same price level.

It also agreed to a system of excess wine deliveries to apply in the event of glut harvests; the system would be common to all wine-producing countries up to 10% of the harvest and varied above this figure so as to reduce the burden on Italian producers.

All these decisions in principle as well as the structural measures for Mediterranean agriculture on which the Council had reached a consensus at its meeting on 20 and 21 November 1978 ⁽¹⁾, together with the additional measures proposed for the Benelux countries and for Ireland and Northern Ireland, will be submitted for formal approval by the Council as soon as possible when the texts have been finalized by the Special Committee on Agriculture.

(1) See Press Release 1330/78 (Presse 150) of 21.XI.78.

AGRI-MONETARY QUESTIONS

The Council held a detailed exchange of views on the proposal for a Regulation concerning the impact of the European monetary system on the common agricultural policy.

The Council was unable to reach a conclusion on this subject at the meeting and it agreed to discuss the matter again at its next meeting scheduled for 15 January 1979 with a view to taking a decision.

The Council also noted that the Commission would in the meantime, and within the limits of its powers, take all measures necessary to ensure compliance with the Resolution of the European Council of 4 and 5 December concerning the effects of the European monetary system on the common agricultural policy.

OTHER AGRICULTURAL DECISIONS

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities

- the Regulations
 - amending Regulation (EEC) No 525/77 establishing a system of production aid for tinned pineapples
 - amending Regulation (EEC) No 316/68 fixing quality standards for fresh cut flowers and fresh ornamental foliage
 - amending for the fifth time Regulation (EEC) No 1876/74 concerning the addition of alcohol to products in the wine sector
 - fixing for the 1978/1979 milk year, the indicative rate for the fat content of normalized whole milk imported into Ireland and the United Kingdom
 - amending Regulation (EEC) No 1358/77 laying down general rules for offsetting storage costs for sugar
 - extending the term of Regulation (EEC) No 3310/75 on agriculture in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg
- the Directive amending for the 14th time Council Directive 64/54/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States concerning the preservatives authorized for use in foodstuffs intended for human consumption.

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The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Directive on the labelling, presentation and advertising of foodstuffs for sale to the ultimate consumer.

This Directive is connected with the Council's action on harmonization and on consumer protection and information, and marks a major and long-awaited step forward by Community legislation on foodstuffs.

The harmonization envisaged covers labelling, presentation and advertising of foodstuffs, and any fraudulent practices which may arise in this connection. The Directive is thus an answer to the pressing demands of representatives of consumer associations for uniform rules among Member States to ensure consumer protection and information.

Thanks to this Directive, consumers in all Member States of the Community will henceforth be given identical information in their own language concerning

- the name of the product
- the list of ingredients, including additives
- the net quantity
- the date of minimum durability
- the identity of the manufacturer, packager or seller
- if necessary, the origin or provenance and instructions for use.

These requirements will thus constitute a framework for existing or future rules governing individual products. A number of receptions to and exclusions from the Directive are provided for. These were ~~nécessary~~ necessary in order to take account of certain specific national circumstances in the food sector and to enable complete harmonization to take place in stages.

Member States are allowed a certain time period, which varies according to the provisions in question, within which they must introduce and apply the national legislation required under this Directive.

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The Council took note of the Commission communication concerning the examination for trichinae in pigmeat imported from non-member countries.

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The Council took note of the Commission report on foreseeable developments in the planting and replanting of vineyards in the Community and on the ratio between production and utilization in the wine sector.

PRESS RELEASE

1978
12 18 19

558th Council meeting

- Foreign Affairs -

Brussels, 18 and 19 December 1978

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

and

Mr Klaus von DOHANYI
Minister of State,
Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Federal Republic of Germany

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

Belgium:

Mr Henri SIMONET Minister for Foreign Affairs

Denmark:

Mr Neils ERSBØLL State Secretary
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Germany:

Mr Hans-Dietrich GENSCHER Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs
Otto Graf LAMBSDORFF Federal Minister of Economics
Mr Klaus von DOHNANYI Minister of State,
Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs

France:

Mr Jean FRANCOIS-PONCET Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Jean-François DENIAU Minister for Foreign Trade
Mr André GIRAUD Minister for Industry
Mr Jean BERNARD-REYMOND State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ireland:

Mr Michael O'KENNEDY Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Ray BURKE Minister of State,
Ministry of Industry, Commerce
and Craft Trades

Italy:

Mr Arnaldo FORLANI

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Angelo-Maria SANZA

Deputy State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr Guiseppe SINESIO

Deputy State Secretary,
Ministry of Industry

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 G.M.V. van AARDENNE

Minister for Economic Affairs

Mr D.F. van der MEI

State Secretary for Foreign
Affairs

Mr K.H. BEYEN

State Secretary for Economic
Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr John SMITH

Secretary of State for Trade

Mr Frank JUDD

Minister of State
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Mr Gerald KAUFMAN

Minister of State
Department of Industry

Commission:

Mr Roy JENKINS	President
Mr Wilhelm HAERKAMP	Vice-President
Mr Finn Olav GUNDELACH	Vice-President
Mr Lorenzo NATALI	Vice-President
Mr Guido BRUNNER	Member
Mr Raymond VOUEL	Member
Viscount Etienne DAVIGNON	Member
Mr Christopher TUGENDHAT	Member
Mr Claude CHEYSSON	Member

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GATT MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

At the end of the debate the President drew the following conclusions:

The Council discussed the Commission report of 18 December 1978 and took note of the latest progress made in the negotiations. The Council thanked the Commission and hoped that the Commission would manage in the further negotiations to achieve a qualitatively and quantitatively balanced result in all sectors. The Council expects these negotiations to be conducted rapidly.

RELATIONS WITH COMECON

The Council took note of a report from the Commission on the progress made in the negotiations between the Community and COMECON.

The Council expressed its appreciation at the way in which the Commission was conducting these negotiations.

RELATIONS WITH JAPAN

The Council took stock of the development of the Community's trade and economic relations with Japan on the basis of a report from the Commission which was drawn up following the recent high-level consultations which took place in the context of the EEC/Japan joint declaration of 24 March 1978.

The Council concurred with the conclusions of the Commission's report and expressed grave concern at the limited progress made towards the main aim, namely, a fundamental review of the situation of Japanese trade and payments balances, since the achievement of this aim called for both macro-economic measures and the genuine increased access to the Japanese market.

The Council accordingly approved a series of conclusions and requested the Commission to contact the new Japanese Government in order to transmit these conclusions to it.

RELATIONS WITH YUGOSLAVIA

The Council recorded that an advanced stage had been reached in work on new negotiating Directives to be issued to the Commission for the conclusion of the proposed new Agreement with Yugoslavia.

It instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to finalize the text of these new Directives so that they could be submitted for adoption as early as possible in 1979.

EURATOM-AUSTRALIA RELATIONS

The Council took stock of work relating to the drawing up of the terms of reference to be given to the Commission for the conclusion of an Agreement between Euratom and Australia on nuclear transfers.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its work in an attempt to find a solution to the problems outstanding.

RELATIONS WITH THE EFTA COUNTRIES

The Council noted a report by the Permanent Representatives Committee on co-operation with the EFTA countries.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its work in the light of the guidelines outlined by the Council and to submit a fresh report to it by the end of June.

The Council also approved a series of Regulations and Decisions laying down for 1979, target ceilings and providing for Community monitoring of imports of certain sensitive products originating in the EFTA countries.

FISHERIES -- EXTERNAL ASPECT

The Council recorded that all the questions outstanding as regards the elaboration of the common fisheries policy are to be discussed in depth at the next Council meeting on fisheries problems.

The Council agreed to defer discussion of the external aspects until a future meeting.

ACCESSION OF SPAIN

The Council took note of the Commission opinion, in accordance with the provisions of the Treaties, on Spain's application for accession and decided in favour of this application.

It agreed that the preparatory work essential for establishing a common negotiating basis would be carried out as soon as possible and in a positive spirit.

It instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee, assisted by the Commission, to prepare its discussions on the matter.

It confirmed that negotiations would open in mid-February and would get properly under way as soon as the preparatory work within the Community had resulted in a common negotiating basis.

EUROPEAN FOUNDATION

The Council evolved a number of guidelines for solving the question of how the Community should participate in the functioning of the Foundation and instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to resolve the problems still outstanding on this matter.

COLLECTION OF IMPORT AND EXPORT DUTIES

Reviewing the conditions of post-clearance collection of import or export duties, the Council noted that all its members were prepared to resolve the last difficulty with all despatch. It therefore instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to prepare its definitive decision.

TAX AND TARIFF EXEMPTIONS

The Council adopted a series of Directives and Regulations on the tax and tariff exemptions applicable to goods contained in travellers' personal luggage and goods forwarded in small consignments.

These Directives and Regulations which determine, amongst other things, the arrangements for applying the European unit of account to tax exemptions, will, as from 1 January 1979, make a number of improvements to the current system of exemptions applicable in the tax and customs fields.

They also lay down for the first time Community rules to allow small postal packages forwarded by an individual in a third country to another individual in a Member State to be imported into the Community countries free of tax and customs duties.

ACP-EEC MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

On the basis of a report from the Permanent Representatives Committee and in the light of information supplied by the Commission on the progress of the negotiations with the ACP countries, the Council prepared for the ACP-EEC Ministerial Conference to be held on 21 December on the renewal of the present ACP-EEC Convention.

The Council defined the position which the Community is to adopt at the Conference.

It also adopted supplementary negotiating directives on sea fishing.

Other questions concerning the ACP

As regards relations with the ACP States the Council also extended the import arrangements for beef and veal originating in the ACP States until 1 March 1980; apart from exemption from customs duties these arrangements involve a 90% reduction in import charges (subject to the application of a corresponding tax by the exporting State).

The quantities (expressed as boned meat) are as follows:

<u>1.1.1979 to 31.12.1979</u>		<u>1.1.1980 to 1.3.1980</u>	
Botswana	17,360 t		2,895 t
Kenya	130 t		25 t
Madagascar	6,956 t		1,160 t
Swaziland	3,086 t		515 t
Total:	27,532 t	Total:	4,595 t

RIGHT OF ESTABLISHMENT AND FREEDOM TO PROVIDE SERVICES

Life assurance

The Council agreed to a Directive on the co-ordination of the laws relating to the taking up and pursuit of the business of direct life assurance.

This Directive extends to life assurance the measures adopted by the Council on 24 July 1973 for non-life insurance.

It is essentially intended to co-ordinate, on the one hand, the rules governing the approval of undertakings, agencies or branches and, on the other hand, the financial guarantees and other conditions to be offered by companies in order to pursue the business of life assurance. Its aim is to guarantee equal treatment for undertakings and at the same time to provide adequate protection for policy-holders. It is aimed at the removal of one of the major barriers to freedom of establishment represented by the diversity of supervisory rules and requirements.

A compromise was reached enabling existing undertakings which combine the business of non-life insurance with that of life assurance to pursue their business by adopting separate management. These undertakings will be able to pursue the business of life assurance in another Member State only by creating a subsidiary where they already pursue or wish to pursue the business of non-life insurance in the same Member State.

Furthermore, financial guarantees of the same order as those already introduced for the business of non-life insurance by the Directive adopted by the Council in July 1973 will also apply to life assurance by means of a series of adjustments necessitated by the special nature of this type of insurance: besides technical reserves, including mathematical reserves, which are adequate to cover the commitments entered into, these undertakings will have to have an additional range of financial means (solvency margin). The components of this margin and their calculation have been determined on the basis of the technical characteristics peculiar to life assurance and particularly by the inclusion of implicit elements in representing this margin.

As regards third countries, it is stipulated that the Community may, in agreements with one or more of the latter, agree to apply provisions different from those laid down in order to ensure, on a reciprocal basis, that policy-holders in the Member States are adequately protected.

Admission of securities to stock exchange listing

The Council reached an agreement in principle on the Directive co-ordinating the conditions for the admission of securities to official stock exchange listing. However, two delegations still upheld provisional reservations at this juncture. Once these reservations have been raised and the texts have been finalized, the Directive will be adopted formally at the earliest opportunity.

This Directive, which is a step towards the establishing of a European capital market, will facilitate the admission to official stock exchange listing of securities from other Member States and the quotation of a security on a number of stock exchanges in the Community. It will therefore permit greater interpenetration of national securities markets and thus directly affect the functioning of the common market.

It is designed in particular to offer uniform guarantees to investors and to increase their protection. The Directive lays down the conditions to which the issuers and their securities are subject if the latter are to be admitted to official stock exchange listing. It also lays down the obligations to be fulfilled by the issuers throughout the period of listing. However the issuers will have the right to apply to the courts in the event of certain decisions by the competent authorities.

All categories of securities are covered by this Directive. However, the Member States need not apply the Directive to securities issued by collective investment undertakings other than of the closed-end type or to securities issued by a Member State or its regional or local authorities.

It should be noted that the Directive merely lays down minimum rules. The Member States are at liberty to lay down additional and more rigorous conditions or obligations.

Veterinary surgeons

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a set of provisions designed to bring about the effective exercise of the right of establishment and freedom to provide services for veterinary surgeons throughout the Community.

The Directives approved cover the mutual recognition of diplomas, certificates and other evidence of formal qualifications in veterinary medicine, and the co-ordination of provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action in respect of the activities of veterinary surgeons whether employed persons or self-employed.

The enacting terms cover in particular the co-ordination of the conditions of training in the Member States, the conditions of acceptance of those benefiting from the recognition of diplomas, the requirements as concerns good character and good repute, professional control and discipline and the conditions for the use of the professional title.

The Council also decided to set up an Advisory Committee on Veterinary Training.

The Member States have two years within which to incorporate the provisions thus adopted into their national legislations.

Architects

The Council examined the last remaining questions concerning the Directive on the mutual recognition of diplomas, certificates and other evidence of formal qualifications in architecture, including measures to facilitate the effective exercise of the right of establishment and freedom to provide services.

The Council noted that there was a general consensus on the compromise proposals submitted by the Commission with a view to solving these problems. However, several delegations stated that they would state their final position within two months; if their attitude is positive the Council will then be able to adopt the Directive in the official languages of the Communities.

CONCILIATION PROCEDURES

The Council heard a report from Mr von DOHNANYI on the conciliation procedures under way between the Council and the European Parliament. He reported in particular on the contacts he had had as President-in-Office with the European Parliament on regional policy. These contacts were continuing with a view to enabling the relevant texts to be adopted very shortly.

ACCESSION OF GREECE

The Council finalized the Community's position for the 10th meeting at ministerial level of the Conference between the European Communities and Greece on 20 December 1978.

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IRON AND STEEL PROBLEMS

On the basis of drafts submitted by the Commission, the Council held a very wide-ranging discussion on all the measures to be adopted in the iron and steel sector for 1979.

At the close of its discussion the Council agreed to extend in 1979 the Community measures designed to improve the situation on the steel market. In this context the Council:

- was consulted on the draft Commission Decisions laying down minimum prices for hot-rolled wide strips, laminated merchant bars and concrete reinforcement bars and on certificates of conformity concerning steel undertakings,
- noted the Commission communication on guide prices for certain iron and steel products,
- gave its assent to the draft Commission Decisions on certificates of conformity concerning dealers and on alignment on offers of iron and steel products coming from certain third countries.

As regards rules for granting aid, the Council approved the following Resolution:

- "1. The Council has examined in detail the Commission proposals concerning aid for the steel industry.
2. In view of the serious difficulties being encountered in the steel industry and of the need for restructuring in that sector, the Council has noted that it may be necessary to grant specific aid to achieve this objective. Accordingly, the Council is determined to take as soon as possible and by 1 April 1979 at the latest its decision on an assent to Commission proposals concerning the granting of specific aid to the steel industry. The arrangements will be laid down in accordance with the principles of the Treaties and the following rules:
 1. Aid, in whatever form, must promote restructuring and conversion and take account of the resultant social consequences and effects on employment.
 2. Competition must not be distorted by the aid.
 3. In assessing aid, there must be no discrimination between undertakings, especially as regards their system of ownership, be it public or private.
 4. The aid must be of limited duration and size.
 5. There will be no discrimination in assessing aid, depending on whether it is of national, regional or local origin.
 6. It is necessary that all forms of aid be made transparent.

3. The Council notes that, in applying Articles 92 and 93 of the Treaty to general or regional aid schemes, the Commission takes account of the sectoral effects of such aid on the steel industry in order to avoid distortion.
4. The Council takes note of the Commission statement to the effect that, in order to ensure equal treatment irrespective of the forms of aid granted to the steel industry, it will apply Articles 92 and 93 in accordance with the same principles and with the same degree of effectiveness as are envisaged in this Resolution for specific aid. In so doing, the Commission will take account of the particular regional and social problems involved."

With reference to the general objectives on steel, the Council recorded its agreement, with regard to the restructuring of the steel industry, on the following conclusions of the Presidency:

- "1. The Council takes note of the Commission's analysis of prospects for the Community steel market as set out in the General Objectives 1985 - 1990.
2. It notes in particular that these prospects show a production over-capacity for crude steel and for most rolled products, which could cause the present imbalance on the steel market to persist in the long term.
3. It agrees that it is necessary, in accordance with Article 3 of the ECSC Treaty, to ensure the international competitiveness and financial equilibrium of undertakings, while contributing towards the rationalization of the

19.XII.78

world steel market in the framework of the efforts being made to achieve co-operation within the OECD. In this context, plant modernization and better matching of supply and demand are indispensable.

4. Responsibility for the restructuring programmes of undertakings and groups lies chiefly with those actually managing them. While the social and employment situation are taken into account, the matching of supply and demand in the different iron and steel product categories must be undertaken in such a way as to ensure that production is concentrated in the most efficient installations already in existence or such as may be upgraded to this end by the closure of outdated plant, by the transfer of products, by rationalization and by co-operation between Community undertakings.
5. The Council accepts that mastery of the social, regional, economic and financial consequences of restructuring may considerably exceed the powers of the firms, requires a special effort of solidarity and consequently necessitates, within the Community framework, appropriate concerted action.
6. The necessary supporting measures taken in parallel with restructuring both by Community and Member States will include:
 - (a) creation of alternative employment in the steel-producing areas affected;
 - (b) aid for retraining steelworkers made redundant;
 - (c) use of the financial resources allocated by the ECSC to the modernization of steel-making facilities.

7. The Council will continue to examine the process of iron and steel restructuring and its social and regional consequences in the light of periodic communications to be submitted by the Commission.

The Commission will report to the Council on the progress of the restructuring measures, their social, regional and financial consequences and the additional measures taken by the Community and the Member States, especially as regards aid."

As regards the external aspects, the Council renewed for 1979 the negotiating brief given to the Commission with a view to concluding arrangements with third countries and, in this context, clarified certain points concerning these negotiations.

As for the allocation of additional financial resources to the ECSC budget for 1979 in order to finance restructuring measures, the Council noted that eight delegations agreed, subject to the completion of national parliamentary procedures, to a contribution from the Member States amounting to 32 MEUA, the individual contributions being determined according to gross national product.

The Council finally agreed that all the measures of the anti-crisis plan thus approved would be reviewed if the provisions concerning aid were not adopted by 1 April 1979.

TEXTILES

On the basis of a Commission report on the progress of the negotiations the Council examined the problems in the conclusion of textiles arrangements with the preferential countries in the Mediterranean.

It instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue work on the subject so that it could take a decision within the next few days.

RENEWAL OF THE TERMS OF OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT AND
VICE-PRESIDENTS OF THE COMMISSION

The Representatives of the Governments of the Member
States appointed

Mr Roy JENKINS President

and

Mr Finn Olav GUNDELACH

Mr Wilhelm HAFERKAMP

Mr Lorenzo NATALI

Mr François-Xavier ORTOLI

Mr Henk VREDELING

Vice-Presidents of the Commission of the European Communities
for the period from 6 January 1979 to 5 January 1981 inclusive.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Generalized preferences: 1979 scheme

1. The Council took the substantive decision concerning all the aspects of the 1979 scheme of generalized preferences for the developing countries. The Regulations and Decisions will be adopted formally, after finalization of the legal texts in the Community languages, by means of the written procedure by the end of 1978 and will then be published in the Official Journal. This decision was taken after consulting the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee.

Despite the difficult economic circumstances, the Community has made a further effort to facilitate access to the Community markets for the developing countries.

On the basis of an examination of the possibilities afforded for each economic sector, improvements have been able to be made for both industrial products and processed agricultural products. In the case of the textile sector, the Council approved the extension of the current system for six months with a 5% quantitative improvement. The Council opted for such an extension to give the Community Institutions time to try and work out a new and improved "textiles" scheme on the basis of the proposals submitted recently by the Commission.

2. Among the improvements made to the generalized preferences scheme in the 1979 version, particularly worthy of note is the emphasis on measures to assist exports to the Community market of products originating in the least developed countries. This trend - already discernible in previous years' schemes - has this year been given a broader and more structured form.

In the agricultural sector this approach takes the form of the inclusion in the generalized preferences scheme of several new products for that category of country alone and the exemption from all duties of those products originating in such countries falling within Chapters 1 to 24 already covered by the generalized preferences scheme. This latter measure also applies to products on which there are quantitative restrictions under individual regulations (tobacco, pineapples, cocoa butter, soluble coffee), it being nonetheless understood that these restrictions continue to apply.

As regards industrial products, excluding textiles, the advantage granted to the least developed countries consists of applying preferential customs duties to their products without any of the limitations which the generalized preferences scheme normally involves, i.e. quotas, ceilings and cut-offs. The result is that products originating in the least developed countries have access to the Community market throughout the year on preferential terms, without suffering the consequences of quotas being exhausted and ceilings being reached as a result of more dynamic exports from the more competitive developing countries.

Commercial policy

The Council agreed to the conclusion by the Community of the 5th International Tin Agreement.

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Council Decision authorizing the tacit renewal or continued operation of certain Treaties of Friendship, Trade and Navigation Treaties and similar agreements concluded between Member States and third countries.

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities

- the Regulations

- concerning the application of the Decisions of the EEC/EFTA Joint Committee replacing the unit of account by the European unit of account in Article 8 of Protocol No 3 concerning the definition of the concept of "originating products" and methods of administrative co-operation
- fixing for 1979 Community quantitative export quotas for certain types of copper ash and residues and for certain types of copper, aluminium and lead waste and scrap
- concluding exchanges of letters;
 - = with Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia concerning fruit salads
 - = with Algeria concerning tomato concentrates
- the Decision accepting the Customs Co-operation Council Recommendation of 13 June 1978 concerning the amendment of Articles 14(a) and 16(d) of the Convention on the Nomenclature for the Classification of Goods in Customs Tariffs.

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The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities Regulations opening, allocating and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas for:

- Port wines, Madeira wines and Setubal muscatel wines falling within heading ex 22.05 of the Common Customs Tariff originating in Portugal (1979/1980)
- certain wines originating in Spain (1979/1980).

Relations with the ACP States

The Council gave its approval in principle to the draft Decisions of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers derogating from the definition of the concept of "originating products" in order to take into account the special situation of Kenya and Malawi with regard to certain items of fishing tackle (artificial fishing flies).

EEC-Israel co-operation

The Council gave its approval to the common position to be adopted by the Community at the first meeting of the EEC-Israel Co-operation Council to be held in Brussels on Friday 22 December 1978.

Emergency aid

The Council agreed to aid amounting to 25,000 EUA for Laos under Community aid to disaster victims.

Following considerable damage to the rice crop in Laos caused by exceptional weather conditions (torrential rain and floods), the Community will thus contribute 25,000 EUA towards financing an aid programme (financing of the purchase of insecticides for Laos).

Fisheries

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities

- the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 2327/78 laying down certain measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources applicable to vessels flying the flag of Spain, for the period 1 October to 31 December 1978
- the Decision authorizing the Italian Republic to agree with the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia on the provisional maintenance of the fishing arrangements currently in force.

Social policy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Directive on the progressive implementation of the principle of equal treatment for men and women in matters of social security.

The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities the instruments of Community support for aid to promote the employment of young people

- Regulation on the creation of two new types of aid for young people from the European Social Fund
- Decision amending Decision 75/459/EEC on action by the European Social Fund for persons affected by employment difficulties.

ECSC Decisions

The Representatives of the Governments of the Member States adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decisions

- on the common customs nomenclature of the Member States (subheading 73.12 B I)
- determining the conditions under which certain ECSC products are eligible upon importation for a favourable tariff arrangement by reason of their end use
- on certain tariff measures for the first half of 1979.

The Council gave its assent pursuant to Article 56(2)(a) of the ECSC Treaty (Banque populaire de Lorraine et Société mécanique lorraine, France).

OTHER DECISIONS

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities

- the Decision of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the European Economic Community, meeting within the Council, on the abolition of certain postal charges for customs presentation
 - the second Directive on taxes other than turnover taxes which affect the consumption of manufactured tobacco.
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PRESS RELEASE

559th Council meeting

- Energy -

Brussels, 21 December 1978

President: Otto Graf LAMSDORFF
Federal Minister for Economic Affairs
of the Federal Republic of Germany

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

Brussels, 22 december 1978
1492 e/78 (Presse 176) Corr. 1

433

C O R R I G E N D U M

to the Press Release
1492/78 (Presse 176) of 21.XII.78

To page V, final point (modification of decision
71/143/EEC) should be added :

"subject to a waiting reserve by the French and
British delegations".

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

Belgium:

Mr Willy CLAES Minister for Economic Affairs

Denmark:

Mr Arne CHRISTIANSEN Minister of Commerce

Germany:

Mr Otto Graf LAMBSDORFF Federal Minister for Economic Affairs

France:

Mr François de WISSOCQ Director-General for Energy and Raw Materials,
Minister for Industry

Ireland:

Mr Desmond O'MALLEY Minister for Industry,
Commerce and Energy

Italy:

Mr Giuseppe SINESIO Deputy State Secretary,
Minister for Industry, Trade
and Craft Trades

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean DONDELINGER Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

Netherlands:

Mr G.M.V. van AARDENNE

Minister for Economic Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr Tony BENN

Secretary of State for Energy

Mr Alexander EADIE

Parliamentary Under-Secretary
of State,
Department of Energy

Commission:

Mr Guido BRUNNER

Member

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ENERGY OBJECTIVES FOR 1990

The Council heard a statement by Mr BRUNNER, Member of the Commission, on the communication from the Commission concerning energy targets for 1990 and the programmes of the Member States, and

- requested the Commission to follow the development of the energy situation both on a Community scale and world wide, in close consultation with the Member States;
- took note of the Commission's intention to submit more detailed information on objectives for 1990 to the Council at the beginning of next year in the light of these consultations.

It was agreed to resume examination of this item at a subsequent meeting on energy.

ENERGY SAVINGS FROM THE MODERNIZATION OF BUILDINGS

The Council recorded its agreement on the substance of the Recommendation to the Member States on the reduction of energy requirements for buildings in the Community, the terms of which are as follows.

The Council recommends the Member States:

1. to pursue, in the context of the programmes referred to in the following paragraph, policies designed to save energy by reducing energy requirements through the improvement of the thermal efficiency of buildings.

These policies shall be decided in the context of a programme extending over at least four years, which takes account of variations in social, economic and climatic conditions. The implementation of this programme will depend upon the necessities of short-term economic management and the availability of public funds.

Member States, without prejudice to the division of responsibilities between central, federal, regional or local government, shall decide upon the categories of building to include in the programme of action, giving priority to a substantial rate of improvement of buildings under the direct control and management of public authorities and buildings in resident use.

2. to adopt the programmes described above by 31 December 1979 and to inform the Commission of them.

The Council shall periodically examine the application of this Recommendation; the first examination shall take place not later than 31 August 1980.

Examination will be based upon a report together with any necessary proposals which the Commission will send to the Council and to the European Parliament. The report will contain an analysis of the scope for cost-effective investment to reduce energy requirements for buildings in the Community and of the relative contributions of Member States' programmes to the Community's objectives, with due regard to standards of comfort.

The Commission shall organize appropriate consultations with the Member States within the context of the Energy Committee in order to:

- prepare the reports referred to in the preceding subparagraph;
- facilitate exchanges of information on matters relevant to the implementation of this Recommendation which could prove helpful to Member States in the application of their programmes.

REFINING SECTOR

The Council took note of the Commission communication on developments in the refining sector of the Community oil industry. During discussion of the problem, the Council noted that there were still numerous problems in this sector, particularly that of surplus production capacity.

It therefore requested the Commission to continue regular checks on developments in this sector.

HYDROCARBON EXPLORATION

The Council examined a report from a group of geological experts from the Member States, noted the particular importance of the Greenland project and instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to resume examination of the Regulations necessary to carry out projects of this kind.

COAL

The Council held a wide-ranging discussion on all the Commission proposals concerning Community measures for coal, namely:

- concerning coal and coke for the Community iron and steel industry
- on Community financial measures for intra-Community trade in power station coal
- on Community financial measures to promote the use of coal for electricity generation.

The Council took as a basis for its discussion a summary document submitted by the Presidency.

The debate enabled the delegations to outline their views on this and to examine in detail the problems raised by the Commission proposals. The Council reaffirmed the important role which coal is called upon to play in the Community energy policy. The debate did not however lead to an agreement on the need and procedure for granting the Community aid proposed in its various forms.

COMMUNITY FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The Community agreed in principle on two Regulations fixing the amounts of aid to be granted as Community financial aid under Regulations Nos 1303/78 and 1302/78 of 12 June 1978, as follows:

- 55 MEUA for demonstration projects in the field of energy saving;
- 95 MEUA for projects to utilize alternative energy sources, made up as follows:
 - = 50 MEUA for projects for the processing of solid fuels (gasification);
 - = 22.5 MEUA for solar energy projects;
 - = 22.5 MEUA for geothermal energy projects.

In this context the Council also agreed in principle on two implementing Regulations to Regulation No 1302/78 on geothermal energy and the liquefaction and gasification of solid fuels. A consensus of opinion was noted on a third Regulation on solar energy, which means that it will be possible to take a positive decision once the European Parliament has delivered its Opinion.

However, at this juncture the United Kingdom delegation reserved its position on all of these texts; it will announce its position as soon as possible.

The Council was scheduled to take a decision on an initial series of demonstration projects in the energy sector in accordance with Regulations Nos 1302/78 and 1303/78 and agreed in principle on ⁽¹⁾:

17 energy-saving projects involving an estimated amount of 5,779,137 EUA;

13 geothermal projects involving an estimated amount of 9,026,700 EUA;

16 solar energy projects involving an estimated amount of 3,251,174 EUA;

4 projects on the liquefaction and gasification of solid fuels involving an estimated amount of 15,825,000 EUA.

⁽¹⁾ The United Kingdom delegation's reservation referred to above also applies in this case.

INFORMATION ON THE ENERGY CONSUMPTION OF DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

Subject to the completion of current Parliamentary proceedings in the United Kingdom, the Council agreed in principle on the provisions aimed at providing consumers with information, by means of labelling, on the energy consumption of domestic appliances. It should be possible to give formal approval to these texts in the near future, once a number of technical and legal points have been cleared up.

ENERGY CONSERVATION THROUGH STORAGE

The Council took note of the Commission communication stating the latter's intention of signing the Implementing Agreement negotiated within the International Energy Agency (IEA) for a programme on research and development on energy conservation through energy storage, with a view to Community participation in the Agreement.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Agricultural and fisheries policy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Directive prohibiting the placing on the market and use of plant protection products containing certain active substances.

This Directive forms part of a set of Regulations, some of them already adopted, intended both to improve farm productivity by combating harmful organisms and to protect human and animal health and the environment when such forms of action involve the use of plant protection products, particularly pesticides.

The aim of the Directive is to ban all plant protection products (pesticides, herbicides, growth regulators) containing active substances which are recognized to be harmful to health and the environment, particularly in the mercury and persistent organochlorine compound groups.

The Directive provides for a limited number of exceptions for special uses and includes a safeguard clause. It will enter into force on 1 January 1981.

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The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities,

- the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 816/78 laying down additional provisions for the common organization of the market in wine;
- the Regulations laying down certain interim measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources
 - = applicable to vessels flying the flag of Spain, for the period from 1 to 31 January 1979
 - = applicable to vessels flying the flag of the Faroe Islands, Norway or Sweden for the period from 1 January to 28 February 1979
 - = applicable to vessels flying the flag of certain third countries in the 200-mile zone off the coast of the French Department of Guyane

Trade policy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities,

- the Decision amending the unilateral import arrangements for State-trading countries
- the Regulation on common rules for imports of certain textile products originating in third countries
- the Decision concluding the Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters extending the Trade Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Argentine Republic
- the Regulation on the total or partial suspension of common customs tariff duties on certain products falling within chapters 1 to 24 of the common customs tariff originating in Malta (1979)
- the two draft Regulations concerning the arrangements for the import into the Community in 1979:
 - = of Turkish textile products
 - = of certain Turkish agricultural products

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The Council gave the Commission the necessary guidelines for working out arrangements on textiles with Greece, Spain and Morocco.

With regard to the other preferential Mediterranean countries prepared to seek agreement with the Community in this area, the Council called upon the Commission to continue negotiations with the aim of concluding them by the end of the year.

Transport policy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities:

- the Recommendation on the notification of the 1978 International Convention on the Training, Certification and Watchkeeping of Seafarers;
- the Directive on pilotage in the North Sea and the English Channel;
- the Directive on the minimum requirements laid down for certain tankers entering and leaving Community ports.

Food aid and emergency aid

The Council approved the extension of the Convention with UNRWA until 30 June 1978 and the reallocation of 1,000 tonnes to Guinea Conakry under the 1977 cereals programme.

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The Council agreed on an emergency aid operation for Sri Lanka involving an amount of 26,000 EUA as a Community contribution towards the shelter construction programme for the numerous families affected by the recent cyclone.

This sum, which will be forwarded through the Catholic Relief Service, is in addition to the 25,000 EUA of relief granted by the Council on 5 September 1978.

Appointment

The Council appointed Mr Roger LOUET, Director-General with the General Secretariat of the Economic and Social Committee, as Secretary-General of the Committee.

Miscellaneous decisions

The Council approved the conclusion of the Agreement on the CIEC special action between the European Economic Community and its Member States and the AID.

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The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision amending Decision 71/143/EEC introducing medium-term financial assistance machinery, on which a decision in principle was taken on 13 December 1978 (see press release 1473 (Presse 171) on that date).