

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

PRESS RELEASES

PRESIDENCY: PORTUGAL

JANUARY-JUNE 1992

Meetings and press releases March 1992

Meeting number	Subject	Date
1558 th	General Affairs	2 March 1992
1559 th	Agriculture	2-3 March 1992
1560 th	Economics/Finance	16 March 1992
1561 st	Environment	23 March 1992
1562 nd	Transport	26-27 March 1992
1563 rd	Agriculture	30-31 March 1992
1564 th	Internal Market	31 March 1992

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COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

4934/92 (Presse 28)

1558th Council meeting

- GENERAL AFFAIRS -

Brussels, 2 March 1992

President: Mr João de Deus PINHEIRO

Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Portuguese Republic

2.III.92

sta/LG/tb

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

Belgium:

Mr Marc EYSKENS Minister for Foreign Affairs

Denmark:

Mr Uffe ELLEMANN-JENSEN Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Jørgen Østrøm MØLLER State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Germany:

Mr Hans-Dietrich GENSCHER Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mrs Ursula SEILER-ALBRING Minister of State, Foreign Affairs

Greece:

Mr Antonio SAMARAS Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Georges PAPANIKOLAOU State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Spain:

Mr Francisco FERNANDEZ-ORDÓÑEZ Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Carlos WESTENDORP State Secretary for Relations with the European Communities

France:

Mrs Elizabeth GUIGOU Minister for European Affairs

Ireland:

Mr David ANDREWS Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Tom KITT Minister of State for European Affairs

Italy:

Mr Claudio VITALONE State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Luxembourg:

Mr Jacques POOS Minister for Foreign Affairs

Netherlands:

Mr Hans VAN DEN BROEK Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Piet DANKERT State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Portugal:

Mr João de Deus PINHEIRO Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Vitor MARTINS State Secretary for European Integration

Mr José Manuel DURÃO BARROSO State Secretary for Foreign Affairs and
Co-operation

United Kingdom:

Mr Douglas HURD Secretary of State for Foreign and
Commonwealth Affairs

Mr Tristan GAREL-JONES Minister of State, Foreign and
Commonwealth Office

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Commission:

Mr Jacques DELORS President
Mr F.H.J.J. ANDRIESEN Vice-President
Mr Abel MATUTES Member

EEA AGREEMENT

The Council:

- welcomed the Commission report stating that the negotiators regarded the negotiations on the Agreement creating the European Economic Area as completed;
- took note of the Commission's decision to request a fresh opinion from the Court of Justice on the renegotiated part of the draft Agreement, in particular following the European Parliament's Resolution of 14 February 1992;
- confirmed the political importance attached to the EEA Agreement, which could be signed shortly;
- agreed that the Council would not intervene in the procedure before the Court and noted that it was not the intention either of the Member States to intervene.

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RELATIONS WITH THE FORMER USSR

On the basis inter alia of a communication from the Commission and of an additional oral report from Vice-President ANDRIESEN on the outcome of his recent journey to various Republics, the Council held a wide-ranging exchange of views on the various aspects of relations with the newly independent States of the former Soviet Union.

The Council broadly shared the analysis of the situation and the approaches suggested by the Commission, which it congratulated on its excellent work.

The Council confirmed the Community's resolve to contribute to the political, economic and social stability of the Republics and to encourage by every means at its disposal democratic reforms, the introduction of market economies and regional co-operation between the different Republics.

In this spirit, the Ministers reiterated their determination to support unreservedly the rapid admission of those Republics which had applied to join the Bretton Woods institutions and to do everything possible to ensure that a positive decision was taken on the matter when the interim committee of the IMF met on 26 April 1992.

The Council also emphasized the desirability of expanding and developing political dialogue with the Republics.

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On the subject of food aid and humanitarian aid, the Council was pleased to note that, despite initial difficulties, a positive trend could now be discerned in the implementation of the ECU 200 million of food aid which the European Council of Maastricht had decided to grant to the cities of Moscow and St Petersburg in particular. The Council noted that the Commission was currently examining with the Russian authorities the possibility of extending this operation to other urban centres. The Council also wished to congratulate the joint Commission/Member States Task Force on the efficient work carried out on the spot and agreed to widen its brief in the interests of improved co-ordination of consignments from the departure points.

The Council also emphasized the desirability of ensuring the rapid implementation of the medium-term loan of ECU 1 250 million. To this end, it agreed to ask the ECO/FIN Council to look into more flexible ways of applying the conditions attached to the loan.

The Council confirmed the importance of the forthcoming Lisbon Conference, the principal objective of which remained to improve co-ordination of short-term aid operations with a view to meeting urgent needs and to taking account of the macro-economic problems which needed to be dealt with in the framework of the international institutions concerned (in particular the IMF and the World Bank).

The Council also reiterated the importance of Community co-ordination and took note of the work programme established by the Presidency for this purpose. The Council also noted that France had agreed to co-chair the Working Group on Medicine.

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The Council furthermore emphasized the desirability of establishing preparatory contacts with the Republics with a view to their participation in the proceedings of the Conference.

The Council confirmed that the Community would be participating in the international centre for science and technology on the basis of a suitable financial contribution. It called on the Commission to submit suitable proposals shortly for this purpose for the meeting due to be held on 10 and 11 March.

With regard to contractual relations with the independent States of the former Soviet Union, the Council noted that the Commission:

- in the light of the Council's discussions, would be pursuing its exploratory talks with Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan during February and March;
- would be submitting proposals for directives for the negotiation of agreements with these 4 Republics in April and May with a view to their approval by the June Council.
- would be holding exploratory talks with and submitting draft directives for the other Republics in the course of 1992.

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DELORS II PACKAGE

The Council heard a very exhaustive presentation of the Commission's proposals from President DELORS and agreed on the work method and programme envisaged by the Presidency.

The General Affairs Council would be responsible for the conduct of the proceedings preparing for the Lisbon European Council, on the understanding that other Councils would be regularly informed and consulted as necessary on aspects coming more specifically within their competence. The Permanent Representatives Committee would see to preparing the Council's discussions and would be assisted by an ad hoc working party, as required.

The Council would return to this issue for initial substantive discussion at its next meeting.

EEC-TUNISIA RELATIONS

The Council adopted the Community position for the 5th meeting of the EEC-Tunisia Co-operation Council which took place today (see Press Release No CEE-TU 2605/92 Presse 30).

MEDITERRANEAN FINANCIAL PROTOCOLS

REDIRECTED MEDITERRANEAN POLICY:

- Regulations on across-the-board financial co-operation and on implementation of the Financial Protocols

The Council examined questions still outstanding in relation to these various issues and concluded by asking the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue examining them on the basis of the approaches outlined by the Council with a view to ensuring their finalization as soon as possible.

Following up the discussions held at the EPC ministerial meeting in Lisbon on 17 February, the Council also examined relations between the Community and the Maghreb States on the basis of a document prepared by Spain, a communication from Commissioner MATUTES and reports on visits paid to Morocco by Mr DUMAS, Mr MARTINS and Mr MARIN. The Council instructed the Political Committee and the Permanent Representatives Committee to analyse the situation in greater detail and welcomed, particularly with regard to Morocco, the Commission's stated intention of undertaking exploratory talks without delay with a view to examining the content of future relations with that country in the framework of a new economic and political partnership.

2.III.92

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URUGUAY ROUND

On the basis of extensive information given by the Presidency and the Commission on the state of play of the negotiations, the Council had an in-depth discussion.

The Council expressed its concern about the slow progress achieved up to now, in particular as regards the negotiations on the parts of the Dunkel paper it had considered inadequate for an early, substantial and balanced outcome at its previous meetings.

The Council underlined the Community's firm conviction that an early positive conclusion of the Round would be beneficial for the international community as a whole and should constitute an important element in the efforts to reverse the present economic slow-down.

The Council invited all participants in the negotiation to speed up the present negotiations on market access and instructed the Commission to present the schedules for the agriculture products as soon as possible to GATT. However, the presentation of these schedules by the Commission will not prejudice the outcome of the decisions to be taken by the Council at a later stage on these issues.

The Council invited the Commission to prepare a complete evaluation of the possibilities of concluding the Round in the near future so that the Council would be able to proceed to a full, political assessment at its next session.

COMMON FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY

Following the exchange of views on this issue on the basis of a Presidency document, the Twelve established that there was broad agreement on the structure of the report to be submitted to the European Council to which they would return, as regards substance, at the next Council meeting.

PREVENTIVE DIPLOMACY

The Twelve examined the document prepared by Belgium which was much appreciated and favourably received. They would come back to the document with a view to adopting it at the next Council meeting if possible.

YUGOSLAVIA

The Presidency made the declaration reproduced in the Annex regarding the referendum in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The Council asked the Commission to submit a discussion paper on the various options for co-operation agreements with the new Republics recognized by the Community for the next meeting in April.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Relations with the Baltic States and Albania

- Textiles

Pending the negotiation of bilateral agreements on trade in textile products, the Council adopted the Regulation on the introduction of a system of prior surveillance of imports of certain textile products originating in Albania, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Latvia and the Republic of Lithuania.

CSCE: Helsinki Conference

The Council agreed on the common position of the Community and its Member States which is to serve as a basis at the Helsinki CSCE Follow-up Conference (March-July 1992).

It should be remembered that this Conference will be the first opportunity since the Paris Summit of November 1990 to undertake a comprehensive evaluation of the fundamental changes which have taken place over the past few years in Central and Eastern Europe and in the former Soviet Union, to assess their repercussions on the CSCE and to agree on the future development of the Helsinki process.

At the Conference, the Community and its Member States intend to put the emphasis on implementing commitments already entered into in the CSCE and to give fresh impetus to co-operation, particularly in the fields of science and technology, telecommunications, the environment, transport, tourism and human resources.

Environment

The Council adopted the decision on the status of the Community at the United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro (June 1992) and on the arrangements for its participation.

In adopting this decision, the Community is asking to be granted the status of full participant in UNCED and its follow-up.

Budget

The Council established supplementary and amending draft budget No 1 for 1992, the essential aim of which is to include in the budget all components which gave grounds for the revision of the 1992 financial perspective as approved by the European Parliament and the Council on 12 February 1992.

In particular, the draft provides for an increase in allocations for technical co-operation with the former Soviet Union to the amount of ECU 450 million in appropriations for commitments and ECU 200 million in appropriations for payments. In addition, it provides for an increase in allocations for the Structural Funds to keep up with inflation, for a special allocation for tropical rain forests and for an increase in administrative appropriations and Commission staff in order to meet its new external obligations. The draft also provides for an increase in the administrative appropriations of the Court of Justice.

The draft is being forwarded to the European Parliament in accordance with Article 203 of the EEC Treaty. The European Parliament will deal with the matter at its March part-session.

Research

The Council adopted:

- the common position on the Decision adopting specific research programmes to be carried out by the Joint Research Centre for the European Economic Community (1992-1994);
- the Decision adopting scientific research programmes to be carried out by the Joint Research Centre for the European Atomic Energy Community (1992-1994);
- the Decision adopting a complementary research programme to be carried out by the Joint Research Centre for the European Atomic Energy Community (1992-1994);

In addition, following the common positions adopted on 18 December 1991, the Council finally adopted:

- the Decision concerning the conclusion of a Community-COST multilateral co-operation agreement between the EEC and non-EEC COST Member States relating to eleven concerted operations in the field of food science and technology (FLAIR programme):

- the Decision concerning the conclusion of a Community-COST multilateral co-operation agreement between the EEC and non-EEC COST Member States relating to five concerted research operations in the field of biotechnology (BRIDGE programme).

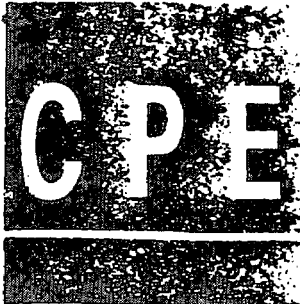
Air transport

Following the agreement reached at the meeting of 16 and 17 December 1991 (see Press Release No 10387/91), the Council adopted the Directive on the limitation of the operation of subsonic jet aeroplanes covered by Chapter 2 of the Annex to the Chicago Convention, with a view to reducing noise caused by air traffic.

ECSC

The Council gave its assent pursuant to Article 55(2)(c) of the ECSC Treaty to a draft Commission Decision on the granting of financial aid of ECU 2 million for studies on requirements and strategies with regard to workers' housing in ECSC industry areas (specific "environment" operations).

The Council also took note of the Commission report on the application of the Community system of Member State intervention in the coal industry in 1990.



COOPERATION POLITIQUE EUROPEENNE

COMMUNICATION A LA PRESSE

P. 29/92

Bruxelles, le 2 mars 1992

DECLARATION DE LA PRESIDENCE SUR LES EVENEMENTS A SARAJEVO

La Présidence, au nom de la Communauté et de ses Etats membres, condamne les événements violents qui se sont produits à Sarajevo à la suite du référendum sur le statut futur de la république, qui a eu lieu le 29 février et le 1 mars. Elle demande à toutes les parties concernées de s'abstenir de toute action qui pourrait empêcher la poursuite de leur participation constructive aux discussions sur les questions constitutionnelles.

La Présidence rappelle les engagements acceptés par toutes les parties pour garantir la sécurité de tous les observateurs présents dans la république et demande à ces parties de prendre des mesures immédiates afin d'assurer en toute sûreté la liberté de circulation de tous les observateurs.

The logo for the European Political Cooperation (EPC) consists of the letters 'E', 'P', and 'C' in a bold, white, sans-serif font. These letters are set against a dark, textured rectangular background that has a grainy, almost stippled appearance.

EUROPEAN POLITICAL COOPERATION

PRESS RELEASE

P. 29/92

Brussels, 2 March 1992

DECLARATION BY THE PRESIDENCY ON EVENTS IN SARAJEVO

The Presidency on behalf of the Community and its Member States condemns the recent violence in Sarajevo following the referendum on the future status of the Republic, held on 29 February and 1 March 1992. It calls upon all parties concerned to refrain from any action which may impede their continuing and constructive participation in the talks on constitutional arrangements.

The Presidency recalls the commitments accepted by all parties regarding the security of all observers present in the Republic and calls upon those parties to take immediate measures to ensure the freedom of movement in safety of all observers.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

4935/92 (Presse 29)

1559th Council meeting

- AGRICULTURE -

Brussels, 2 and 3 March 1992

President: Mr Arlindo CUNHA,

Minister for Agriculture of
the Portuguese Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr Paul de KEERSMAEKER State Secretary for European Affairs
and Agriculture

Denmark:

Mr Laurits TOERNAES Minister for Agriculture

Mr Nils BERNSTEIN State Secretary for Agriculture

Germany:

Mr Ignaz KIECHLE Federal Minister for Food, Agriculture
and Forestry

Mr Walter KITTEL State Secretary, Federal Ministry of
Food, Agriculture and Forestry

Greece:

Mr Sotirios HATZIGAKIS Minister for Agriculture

Spain:

Mr Pedro SOLBES MIRA Minister for Agriculture

France:

Mr Louis MERMAZ Minister for Agriculture

Ireland:

Mr Joe WALSH Minister for Agriculture

Italy:

Mr Giovanni GORIA

Minister for Agriculture

Luxembourg:

Mr René STEICHEN

Minister for Agriculture and
Viticulture

Netherlands:

Mr Piet BUKMAN

Minister for Agriculture,
Nature Conservation and
Fisheries

Portugal:

Mr Arlindo CUNHA

Minister for Agriculture

Mr Alvaro AMARO

State Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture

United Kingdom:

Mr John GUMMER

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Mr David CURRY

Parliamentary Secretary, Agriculture

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Commission:

Mr Ray MAC SHARRY

Member

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DEVELOPMENT AND FUTURE OF THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY

The Council continued its discussions on the reform of the common agricultural policy, based on a new document from the Presidency which enabled delegations to express their views on the various general and specific issues arising in the context of the reform.

In conclusion, the Council instructed the High-level Working Party to examine in further detail certain concrete aspects which emerged during these discussions to enable it to continue its proceedings at its next meeting.

URUGUAY ROUND - AGRICULTURAL ASPECTS

The assessment of the state of play in the Uruguay Round, and particularly the examination of the lists to be deposited in Geneva, took place in a framework bringing together the Ministers for Agriculture and for External Trade. The conclusions are contained in the Press Release - General Affairs Council - of 2.III.92 (4934/92 Presse 28).

OTHER DECISIONS IN THE SPHERE OF AGRICULTURE

The Council adopted:

- the Regulation amending Regulation No 2262/84 laying down special measures in respect of olive oil. The purpose of this Regulation is, firstly, to improve the operation of the monitoring agencies in this sector and, secondly, to adopt the method for financing those agencies for a further five-year period, as from the 1992/1993 marketing year;
- the Regulation amending Regulation No 206/91 concerning the exclusion of milk products from inward processing arrangements and of recourse to certain usual forms of handling. This Regulation is intended, firstly, to confirm in legal terms the situation existing on 31 December 1991 as regards inward processing arrangements in the milk sector and, secondly, to extend to certain modified wheys the list of products which are exceptionally eligible for the inward processing arrangements, since milk products in general are excluded from those arrangements;
- the Decision extending the period of application of Decision 82/530/EEC authorizing the United Kingdom to permit the Isle of Man authorities to apply a system of special import licences to sheepmeat and beef and veal so as not to disrupt domestic production.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Fisheries

The Council adopted:

- the Decision authorizing the Portuguese Republic to extend until 7 March 1993 the agreement on mutual fishery relations with the Republic of South Africa;
- the Decision authorizing Spain to extend until 7 March 1993 the agreement on mutual fishery relations with the Republic of South Africa.

Internal market

Further to the common position adopted on 18 December 1991, the Council definitively adopted the Directive amending Directive 89/396/EEC on indications or marks identifying the lot to which a foodstuff belongs.

PRESS RELEASE
5027/92 (Presse 34)

1560th meeting of the Council

- ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL QUESTIONS -

Brussels, 16 March 1992

President: Mr Jorge BRAGA DE MACEDO

Minister for Finance
of the Republic of Portugal

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

Belgium:

Mr Philippe MAYSTADT Minister for Finance

Denmark:

Mr Anders FOGH RASMUSSEN Minister for Economic Affairs

Germany:

Mr Theodor WAIGEL Federal Minister for Finance

Mr Horst KÖHLER State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Finance

Greece:

Mr Stephanos MANOS Minister for Economic Affairs

Spain:

Mr Carlos SOLCHAGA CATALAN Minister for Economic Affairs and Finance

Mr Pedro PEREZ State Secretary for Economic Affairs

France:

Mr Pierre BEREGOVOY Ministre d'Etat, Minister for Economic and Financial Affairs and the Budget

Ireland:

Mr Noel TREACY Minister of State at the Department of Finance

Italy:

Mr Guido CARLI Minister for the Treasury

Mr Emilio RUBBI State Secretary for the Treasury

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean-Claude JUNCKER Minister for Finance

Netherlands:

Mr Marius van AMELSVOORT State Secretary for Finance

Portugal:

Mr Jorge BRAGA DE MACEDO Minister for Finance

Mr José BRAZ State Secretary, Treasury

United Kingdom:

Mrs Gillian SHEPHARD Minister of State, Treasury

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Commission:

Mr Jacques DELORS	President
Sir Leon BRITTAN	Vice-President
Mr Henning CHRISTOPHERSEN	Vice-President
Mr Peter SCHMIDHUBER	Member
Ms Christiane SCRIVENER	Member

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Also attended:

Mr Aldo ANGIOI	President of the Court of Auditors
Mr Cees MAAS	Chairman of the Monetary Committee
Mr RUIZ	Chairman of the Economic Policy Committee
Mr de OLIVEIRA COSTA	Vice-President of the EIB

RELATIONS WITH THE INDEPENDENT STATES OF THE FORMER SOVIET UNION

- Conclusions of the Council

General

The Council welcomed the Commission's communication on the economic situation in the former Soviet Union and asked the Commission to provide a regular update of this communication in close co-operation with the Monetary Committee.

IMF membership

The Council asked Member States to reiterate their support for rapid membership of the Bretton Woods institutions by the independent States and underlined the need to take specific decisions at the IMF Interim Committee meeting on 27 April 1992, including the creation of a new seat on the Governing Board.

The Council asked Member States and other countries to give rapid effect to the recent decisions on quota increases and to the third amendment of the IMF Articles.

The Member States welcomed the progress made in the negotiations on debt management. Orderly management of the debt burden of the independent States was essential.

New assistance

The Council urged all donors to speed up the disbursement of assistance already committed. It welcomed the recent progress in dealing with old debt as well as in signing the memorandum of understanding. Disbursement of the ECU 1,25 billion credit will

go forward to independent States which sign the memorandum of understanding and provide appropriate legal security.

The Council has taken note of the recent understanding between the Russian Government and the IMF on additional stabilization measures to be implemented in April. The Council finds that the Russian reform efforts deserve strong international support.

The Commission will draw up an issue paper for the next meeting of the ECO/FIN Council.

Technical assistance

The Council requested the Commission to give an overview of technical assistance and to make suggestions for possible practical ways of mobilizing such assistance.

Organizing support

The Council felt that international financial efforts should be intensified in all the appropriate fora. It stressed the primacy of the Bretton Woods institutions in this respect.

It welcomed the fact that other issues may be addressed at the Lisbon conference.

OPERATIONS OF THE EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK OUTSIDE THE COMMUNITY

The Council noted that the Commission was prepared to present proposals concerning eligibility, scope and guarantees in the light of the Council's discussions. This could usefully complement international co-operation.

The Monetary Committee will also give its opinion on these matters.

DELORS II PACKAGE

President DELORS set out the Commission's proposals in very great detail.

The Council held a preliminary exchange of views on the subject, and agreed to discuss it further at its next meeting on the basis of an initial report from the Permanent Representatives Committee.

REPORT OF THE COURT OF AUDITORS FOR 1990 AND DISCHARGE GIVEN TO THE COMMISSION FOR THAT YEAR

The Council heard a statement by Mr Aldo ANGIOI, President of the Court of Auditors, setting out the salient points of the Court of Auditors' annual report on the implementation of the general budget of the European Communities for 1990.

After Mr ANGIOI's statement, the President of the Council thanked the Court of Auditors and its President, on behalf of the Council, for its very important work in supervising the administration of Community public funds.

The Council then held a detailed exchange of views on the main issues raised in connection with the discharge and the principal problems posed by the implementation of the budget.

In conclusion, the Council adopted the recommendation to the European Parliament on the discharge to be given to the Commission in respect of the implementation of the general budget of the European Communities for 1990.

COMPLETION OF THE SINGLE MARKET - CREDIT INSTITUTIONS

- (a) The Council examined for the first time the proposal for a Directive on monitoring and controlling large exposures of credit institutions.

This proposal is intended to strengthen prudential rules at Community level by obliging credit institutions to spread degrees of exposure more widely so that, for example, if one client defaults this will no longer jeopardize an institution's very existence. Furthermore, on the eve of the opening of the European financial area, it will help to improve the supervision of banking business and avoid distortions of competition.

Pending receipt of the European Parliament's Opinion, the Council noted a very marked convergence of views on the main questions submitted to it and based on Presidency compromise proposals (these questions concerned certain exemptions from the limits proposed in the Directive, in particular for interbank credits, and the transitional provisions, both general and those for small and medium-sized credit institutions).

- (b) The Council held a policy debate on the proposal for a Directive on capital adequacy of own funds of investment undertakings and credit institutions, on the basis of guidelines proposed by the Presidency for a number of problems which it had identified as likely to accelerate the finalization of the Directive, once resolved.

The proposal for a Directive lays down the minimum levels of own funds to be held by investment firms and establishes the requirements regarding the own funds which credit institutions must have to cover market risks, in particular for the purposes

of securities business. Their credit risks are already covered by the second banking Directive (89/646/EEC of 15 December 1989), the own funds Directive (89/299/EEC of 17 April 1989) and the solvency ratio Directive (89/647/EEC of 18 December 1989) and will in future also be covered by the Directives on large exposures and consolidated supervision.

The main aim of the proposed measures is to optimize the protection requirements of depositors and investors and to ensure that the financial system is stable, while enabling investment firms (bond dealers, etc.) and credit institutions (banks, etc.) to operate on an equal footing on the securities markets from 1993 onwards, without however placing them at a disadvantage vis-à-vis third-country institutions.

Following the policy debate, the Presidency noted that the delegations and the Commission could endorse the main thrust of its suggestions as a framework for future work and that the Council's discussion had provided the political impetus necessary to accelerate progress in this field.

The Council agreed to instruct the Permanent Representatives Committee to develop the guidelines, as well as other unresolved questions, and to continue its work along the established lines in order to arrive at a common position on the Directive as a whole before the end of the first half of 1992.

COMPLETION OF THE SINGLE MARKET: ABOLITION OF FISCAL FRONTIERS

(a) Excise duty rates and structures for manufactured tobacco and mineral oils

The Council examined the final outstanding problems concerning the Presidency's compromise suggestions on the excise duty rates and structures for manufactured tobacco and mineral oils.

This examination resulted in an agreement on the suggestions concerning the structures of excise duty on manufactured tobacco.

With regard to the suggestions on the rates of excise duty on manufactured tobacco and the excise duty rates and structures for mineral oils, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to seek a solution to the last remaining problems in the light of its discussion.

(b) Abolition of withholding tax on interest and dividend income

The Presidency informed the Council of the progress made on this proposal for a Directive.

After a short discussion the Council instructed the ad hoc Working Party to expedite the examination of this proposal for a Directive and to report back to it at a forthcoming meeting.

COMMISSION PROPOSAL CONCERNING EXCISE DUTY ON BIOFUELS

Ms SCRIVENER presented to the Council the new proposal for a Directive recently submitted by the Commission; the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine it.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Credit institutions

As the European Parliament had approved the common position adopted by the Council on 16 December 1991, without proposing any amendments, at its sitting on 12 February 1992 under the co-operation procedure, the Council definitively adopted the Directive amending Directive 89/299/EEC on the own funds of credit institutions.

The Directive is intended to allow mortgage credit institutions, organized as co-operative societies or funds, a transitional period during which such societies which have been converted into public limited liability companies may continue to count joint and several commitments of their members as capital. The Commission took the opportunity to end the transitional arrangements which had applied at the time of the adoption of Directive 89/299/EEC to confer on itself the implementing powers to make the technical adjustments provided for in that Directive.

It should also be noted that Directive 89/299/EEC is to enter into force on 1 January 1993, in accordance with Article 9(1) thereof.

Relations with the Latin American countries

- Uruguay

As the European Parliament had delivered its Opinion at its sitting on 14 February 1992, the Council adopted the Decision concerning the conclusion of the Framework Agreement for co-operation between the European Economic Community and Uruguay which had been signed on 4 November 1991 (see Press Release 8942/91 Presse 186).

- Brazil:

The Council authorized the Commission to negotiate with Brazil a third-generation co-operation agreement and adopted the relevant negotiating directives.

Relations with the ACP States and the OCT

The Council adopted the recommendation to the European Parliament giving the Commission a discharge in respect of the financial management, for 1990, of the 4th, 5th and 6th European Development Funds.

Anti-dumping

The Council adopted the Regulation imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of certain thermal paper originating in Japan and definitively collecting the provisional anti-dumping duty. It should be noted that no duty is applied to the Jujo Paper Co Ltd., Tokyo, as no dumping practices by that company have been established, nor to Tomoegawa Paper Co Ltd., as that company has offered a price undertaking that was deemed acceptable.

Customs Union

The Council adopted the Regulation opening tariff quotas for the importation in 1992, into that part of Spain included in the customs territory of the Community, of certain fisheries products originating in Ceuta and Melilla. The quantities involved are 12 tonnes in the case of certain products under CN code ex 0302 and 20 tonnes in the case of certain products under CN codes ex 0306 and ex 0307.

Redirected Mediterranean policy: Mediterranean financial protocols

As the European Parliament had delivered its assent on 15 January 1992, the Council adopted the Decisions on the conclusion of the 4th Protocols on financial and technical co-operation between the Community and Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Israel.

Transport

Following the agreement reached at its meeting on 16 and 17 December 1991 (see Press Release 10387/91 Presse 243), the Council adopted the Regulation on common rules for the international carriage of passengers by coach and bus.

Environment

The Council decided that, in the framework of the Economic Commission for Europe and subject to agreement on the final version of the texts, the Community would sign:

- the Convention on the Protection and Utilization of Transboundary Waterways and International Lakes;
- the Convention on the Transboundary Impact of Industrial Accidents.

Given the way in which the negotiations are proceeding, these Conventions should be adopted and then opened for signature at the Diplomatic Conference to be held in Helsinki on 18 March 1992.

EUROTECNET AND FORCE

The Council adopted the Decision establishing a single Advisory Committee for EUROTECNET and FORCE to implement the EUROTECNET and FORCE programmes.

Research

Further to the common position adopted by the Council at its meeting on 28 November 1991, the Council definitively adopted the Decision adopting a specific research and technological development programme in the field of human capital and mobility (1990-1994).

PRESS RELEASE

5032/92 (Presse 39)

1561st Council meeting

- ENVIRONMENT -

Brussels, 23 March 1992

President: Mr Carlos BORREGO,
Minister for the
Environment and Natural
Resources of the Portuguese
Republic

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

Belgium:

Mrs Laurette ONKELINX Minister for the Environment

Denmark:

Mr Per Stig MØLLER Minister for the Environment

Germany:

Mr Klaus TÖPFER Federal Minister for the
Environment, Nature Conservation
and Reactor Safety

Greece:

Mr Achilleas KARAMINLIS Minister for the Environment,
Regional Planning and Public Works

Spain:

Mr Vincente ALBERO State Secretary for the Environment

France:

Mr Brice LALONDE State Secretary for the Environment

Ireland:

Mr Michael SMITH Minister for the Environment

Italy:

Mr Antonio CANGELOSI Deputy Permanent Representative

Luxembourg:

Mr Alex BODRY Minister for the Environment

Netherlands:

Mr J.G.M. ALDERS Minister for Housing, Planning and
the Environment

Portugal:

Mr Carlos BORREGO Minister for the Environment and
Natural Resources

Mrs Teresa GOUVEIA State Secretary for the Environment

United Kingdom:

Mr David DURIE Deputy Permanent Representative

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Commission:

Mr Carlo RIPA DI MEANA Member

SHIPMENTS OF WASTE

The Council held a detailed discussion on the proposal for a Regulation on the supervision and control of shipments of waste within, into and out of the European Community.

The Regulation aims in particular at improving the control system currently operating within the Community and transposing into Community law the provisions of the Basel Convention on hazardous wastes, the provisions of the Lomé IV Convention and those concerning the draft OECD decision on waste for recovery.

The discussion enabled progress to be noted on certain major issues on which broad agreement emerged, in particular with regard to the principles of self-sufficiency and proximity, export and import of waste for disposal, increasing the possibilities of control by Member States of transit and the issue of movements of waste within a Member State.

Following the discussion, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue examining the proposal with a view to reaching full agreement at the Council meeting on 26 May 1992.

SULPHUR CONTENT OF GASOIL

The Council adopted a common position on the proposal for a Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the sulphur content of gasoil.

The main aim of the proposal is the generalized introduction of a single level of 0.2% for the sulphur content of the various gasoils in the Community by 1 October 1994.

It also provides for a second stage further bringing down the sulphur content of gasoil in the continuing interests of reducing the level of pollution caused by sulphur dioxide (SO₂) emissions and in order to meet the requirements of Directive 91/542/EEC of 1 October 1991 relating to the measures to be taken against the emission of particulate pollutants from diesel engines used in heavy goods vehicles (clean lorry Directive)

The agreement reached provides for the following limit values:

- (a) for automotive gasoils
 - 0.2% by weight as from 1 October 1994,
 - 0.05% by weight as from 1 October 1996;

- (b) for gasoils other than automotive gasoils, except aviation kerosenes
 - 0.2% by weight as from 1 October 1994.
 - in addition, the Commission is due to submit to the Council a proposal on which the Council will have to take a decision by 31 July 1994 aimed, in the more general framework of the policy to improve air quality,

at transition to a second phase providing for a lower value by 1 October 1999 and at the setting of new limit values for aviation kerosenes.

Member States must moreover ensure that automotive gasoils with a sulphur content not exceeding 0.05% by weight are gradually available on the market from 1 October 1995, so that Directive 91/542/EEC can be implemented.

WASTE FROM THE TITANIUM DIOXIDE INDUSTRY

The Council adopted by a qualified majority a common position on a proposal for a Directive on procedures for harmonizing the programmes for the reduction and eventual elimination of pollution caused by waste from the titanium dioxide industry.

This Directive aims at filling the legal void created by the judgment of the Court of Justice delivered on 11 June 1991 which annulled Directive 89/428/EEC, in particular on the grounds that it lacked a proper legal basis.

The common position retains the technical provisions (prohibition of dumping and discharge, limit values) of the annulled Directive with the object of ensuring continuity in the achievement of environmental protection objectives.

Since the implementation calendar established by the annulled Directive 89/428/EEC has largely been overtaken, new target dates in the near future have been set.

It will be remembered that the representatives of the Member States meeting within the Council undertook on 1 October 1991 to make appropriate arrangements to give practical effect to the provisions of annulled Directive 89/428/EEC pending implementation of a new Directive on the matter.

PROTECTION OF THE OZONE LAYER

The Council approved the Commission's brief with a view to the negotiations concerning the adjustments and amendments to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, to be decided on at the fourth meeting of the Parties to that Protocol to be held in Copenhagen in November 1992.

The negotiating directives, drawn up in the light of the latest scientific, environmental, technological and economic findings which report a disturbing decrease in the ozone layer in the Northern hemisphere as well and at lower latitudes than before, call for tighter schedules for reducing the production and consumption of the substances covered by the Montreal Protocol (see table overleaf).

The Commission has moreover stated that it will formally submit to the Council a proposal for a Regulation for amending Community law by bringing forward the timetable for reducing the production and consumption of products that deplete the ozone layer. It also undertook to submit proposals concerning degasification and recycling in the context of protection of the ozone layer.

It will be remembered that the Ministers and the Commissioner for the Environment, meeting in Estoril last February, agreed on the need to speed up the schedules for reducing the production and consumption of the substances covered by the Montreal Protocol.

Substance (grouped on basis of Regulation 594/91/EEC)	Commission's brief	Existing EC Regulation (594/91/EEC)	Existing Protocol (revised London, 1990)
Group I CFCs	85% cut by 1/1/1994 100% cut by 1/1/1996* Base year 1986	50% cut by 1/1/1993 67.5% cut by 1/1/1995 85% cut by 1/1/1996 92.5% cut by 1/1/1997 100% cut by 1/7/1997 Base year 1986	Freeze by 1/7/1991 50% cut by 1/1/1995 85% cut by 1/1/1997 100% cut by 1/1/2000 Base year 1986
Group II Other fully halogenated CFCs	85% cut by 1/1/1994 100% cut by 1/1/1996* Base year 1989	50% cut by 1/1/1992 67.5% cut by 1/1/1995 85% cut by 1/1/1996 92.5% cut by 1/1/1997 100% cut by 1/7/1997 Base year 1989	20% cut by 1/1/1993 85% cut by 1/1/1997 100% cut by 1/1/2000 Base year 1989
Group III Halons	85% cut by 1/1/1994 100% cut by 1/1/1996* Base year 1986	Freeze by 1/1/1992 50% cut by 1/1/1995 100% cut by 1/1/2000 Base year 1986	Freeze by 1/1/1992 50% cut by 1/1/1995 100% cut by 1/1/2000 Base year 1986
Group IV Carbon tetrachloride	85% cut by 1/1/1994 100% cut by 1/1/1996* Base year 1989	50% cut by 1/1/1992 85% cut by 1/1/1995 100% cut by 1/1/1998 Base year 1989	85% cut by 1/1/1995 100% cut by 1/1/2000 Base year 1989
Group V 1,1,1-trichloroethane	50% cut by 1/1/1994 100% cut by 1/1/1996* Base year 1989	Freeze by 1/1/1992 30% cut by 1/1/1995 70% cut by 1/1/2000 100% cut by 1/1/2005 Base year 1989	Freeze by 1/1/1993 85% cut by 1/1/1995 70% cut by 1/1/2000 100% cut by 1/1/2005 Base year 1989

* Indicates possible temporary exemption for essential use.

AIR POLLUTION BY OZONE

The Council took note of the progress on the proposal for a Directive on air pollution by ozone.

The aim of the proposal is to establish in an initial stage a harmonized procedure for monitoring, for the exchange of information, and for informing and warning the population, with regard to air pollution by ozone.

It also provides that, after an initial 5-year period, the Council will review the situation on the basis of a Commission proposal with a view to the possible introduction of measures to control air pollution by ozone.

Pending the European Parliament's Opinion, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue examining the proposal.

CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

The Council discussed the international negotiations being held on climate change.

At internal level, it referred inter alia to the undertaking given by the Member States at the joint Environment/Energy Council meeting on 13 December 1991 to submit national programmes for limiting CO₂ and other greenhouse gas emissions with a view to drawing up a Community strategy in this context.

In this connection, it gave a reminder of the importance of action in the transport field, in addition to and apart from action in the energy field.

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT
(UNCED)

The Council held a discussion on the progress of preparations for the United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development (UNCED) to be held in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992.

The Council confirmed its commitment to work towards the success of the Conference and considered that the Community and its Member States must continue to play a leading role in the negotiations.

It accordingly instructed the High-Level Working Party to continue proceedings with a view to the joint Environment/Development Council meeting scheduled for 4 May 1992 and the Environment Council meeting to be held on 26 May 1992, given that the Presidency and the Commission would take any necessary steps in the light of the conclusions of the fourth meeting of the UNCED Preparatory Committee which was being held in New York.

5th ACTION PROGRAMME

The Council heard Commissioner RIPA DI MEANA's presentation of the 5th European Community programme of policy and action in relation to the environment and sustainable development.

Following that presentation, while congratulating the Commission on its initiative, the President stated that examination of the programme within the Council would start as soon as possible with a view to the possible adoption of a position at the next Council meeting in May.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Eco-label

Following the agreement reached at the meeting on 12 December 1991 (see press release 9914/91), the Council adopted the Regulation setting up a Community scheme to award an eco-label.

Fisheries

The Council adopted by a qualified majority the Regulation allocating additional catch quotas for 1992 among Member States for vessels fishing in Swedish waters.

The quotas consist of 1 494 tonnes of cod and 1 500 tonnes of herring in ICES division III d, of which 1 094 tonnes of cod and 400 tonnes of herring have been allocated to Denmark and 855 tonnes of cod and 645 tonnes of herring have been allocated to Germany.

Anti-dumping

By Regulation (EEC) No 281/91 (see OJ No L 271, 27.9.1991, p. 17), the Commission imposed a provisional anti-dumping duty on imports of cotton yarn originating in Brazil, Egypt and Turkey.

After the investigation had been carried out, the Council adopted, following a proposal from the Commission, the Regulation imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of cotton yarn originating in Brazil and Turkey and definitively collecting the amounts secured by way of provisional anti-dumping duty at the duty rate definitively imposed. Amounts secured in excess of the definitive rate of duty will be released.

The definitive anti-dumping duty is set at:

- 16.6% for cotton yarn originating in Brazil with the exception of imports manufactured by a number of companies which will be subject to rates of duty ranging from 7% to 12.9%;
- 12.1% for cotton yarn originating in Turkey with the exception of imports manufactured by a number of companies which will be subject to rates ranging from 4.9% to 12.1%.

The anti-dumping proceeding in respect of imports of cotton yarn originating in Egypt has been terminated, no significant margin of dumping having been established.

Appointments

The Council replaced:

- an alternate member of the Advisory Committee on Social Security for Migrant Workers;
 - a member and an alternate member of the Advisory Committee on Vocational Training.
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COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT



PRESS RELEASE

5033/92 (Presse 40)

1562nd Council meeting

- TRANSPORT -

Brussels, 26 and 27 March 1992

Presidents:

Mr Joaquim FERREIRA DO AMARAL

Minister for Public Works, Transport
and Communications of the Portuguese
Republic

Mr Eduardo de AZEVEDO SOARES

Minister for Maritime Affairs

26/27.III.92

vos/JF/cg

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

Belgium:

Mr Guy COEME Deputy Prime Minister,
Minster for Communications,
Public Utilities and the
Public Buildings Authority

Denmark:

Mr Kaj IKAST Minister for Transport
Mrs Anne Birgitte LUNDHOLT Minister for Industry and Energy

Germany:

Mr Günter KRAUSE Federal Minister for Transport
Mr Wolfgang GRÖBL Parliamentary State Secretary
to the Federal Minister for Transport

Greece:

Mr Nicólaos GUELESTATHIS Minister for Transport and Communications
Mr Aristotelis PAVLIDIS Minister for Merchant Shipping

Spain:

Mr Manuel PANADERO Secretary-General for Transport

France:

Mr Paul QUILES Minister for Infrastructure, Housing,
Transport and Space
Mr Jean-Yves LE DRIAN State Secretary for Maritime Affairs

Ireland:

Mrs Maire GEOGHEGAN-QUINN	Minister for Tourism, Transport and Communications
Mr Michael WOODS	Minister for the Marine

Italy:

Mr Rocco Antonio CANGELOSI	Deputy Permanent Representative
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Luxembourg:

Mr Robert GOEBBELS	Minister for Transport
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Netherlands:

Mrs Hanja MAIJ-WEGGEN	Minister for Transport and Public Works
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Portugal:

Mr Joaquim FERREIRA DO AMARAL	Minister for Public Works, Transport and Communications
Mr Eduardo AZEVEDO SOARES	Minister for Maritime Affairs
Mr João DE BEBIANO	State Secretary for Shipping
Mr Jorge ANTAS	State Secretary for Transport

United Kingdom:

Lord BRABAZON OF TARA	Minister of State, Department of Transport
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For the Commission:

Mr Karel VAN MIERT	Member
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AIR TRANSPORT

THIRD AIR TRANSPORT LIBERALIZATION PACKAGE

The Council took note of the work carried out further to the guidelines produced at its meeting on 16 and 17 December 1991. The Council was pleased with the progress made since then and held an exchange of views on the basis of a Note from the Presidency.

The debate produced the following guidelines for further work on the fundamental issues:

- on the subject of rates and fares, the Council was in favour of free pricing accompanied by adequate safeguards to protect the interests of industry and consumers;
- on market access, the Council was in favour of the principle of general access to all routes; there is agreement in principle on cabotage, for which it will be necessary to find practical and balanced solutions regarding the details and duration of the transitional period; as for the general safeguard clause, the Council confirmed the need for certain safeguards in order to take into account effects on the environment, infrastructural limits, regional development (including links with islands) and co-ordination between the various modes of transport; however, these safeguards should be subject to Community control;
- as regards licensing, the Council confirmed the guidelines on the effective control and monitoring of the financial health of air carriers; with regard to the registration of aircraft, a solution would have to be found making the national registration of the fleet of each undertaking for the purposes of

technical control compatible with the objective of free movement of aircraft in the internal market;

- concerning competition, the Commission undertook to submit in the near future a document setting out the conditions under which the Commission should grant block exemptions.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue work with a view to reaching an agreement in June 1992.

The third package is another step towards the final phase of organization of the Community air transport market with a view to the single market.

EEC-NORWAY/SWEDEN AGREEMENT

The Council agreed unanimously, on the basis of Article 84(2) of the Treaty, on the proposal for a Council Decision concerning the conclusion of an agreement between the Community, Norway and Sweden on civil aviation.

Final adoption will take place soon, after finalization of the texts.

The purpose of this agreement is to make the "acquis communautaire" in the air transport sector applicable in Norway and Sweden.

STATE AIDS TO AIR CARRIERS

The Council took note of the Commission report on this subject of 11 March 1992, the main points of which were summarized by Commissioner VAN MIERT.

INLAND TRANSPORT

NEGOCIATIONS WITH THIRD COUNTRIES CONCERNING CARRIAGE BY INLAND WATERWAY

The Council agreed in principle to the opening of negotiations between the Community and third countries on the rules applicable to carriage of freight and passengers by inland waterway between the parties concerned.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue work on preparing negotiating directives for the Commission, with the aim of enabling the Council to take a decision at its meeting in June 1992.

ROAD CABOTAGE - GOODS

Pending receipt of the Opinion of the European Parliament, the Council held a very detailed debate on the proposal for a Regulation aimed at laying down the definitive system under which non-resident carriers may operate domestic road haulage services within a Member State.

The Council agreed to instruct the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its work on this dossier in the light of the abovementioned debate.

ROAD CABOTAGE - PASSENGERS

The Council held a policy debate on this proposal for a Regulation which, further to the Court of Justice's ruling of 22 May 1985 in Case 13/83, is intended to apply the principle of freedom to provide services in field of national road

passenger transport.

The Council achieved a very wide measure of agreement on the basis of a compromise involving the following points:

- regular services:

= immediate liberalization of certain special regular services in frontier zones;

= exclusion of other regular services at this stage;

- services other than regular services:

= period of progressive implementation;

= until 31 December 1995, liberalization of closed-door tours;

= from 1 January 1996, liberalization of all other non-regular services.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its discussions with a view to reaching an agreement in June 1992.

TRANSIT AGREEMENTS WITH AUSTRIA AND SWITZERLAND

The Council heard a statement from Commissioner VAN MIERT on the Commission's progress in preparing proposals for the conclusion of the transit agreements with Austria and Switzerland initialled on 3 December 1991.

It also discussed the problems raised in the meantime between the Community and the two countries in question.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine the proposals and submit its findings to the Council meeting in June 1992.

Green paper on transport and the environment

The Council noted the presentation by Commissioner VAN MIERT of the green paper on the impact of transport on the environment and the Commission's intention of continuing its proceedings in this sphere.

MARITIME TRANSPORT

LIBERALIZATION OF MARITIME CABOTAGE

The Council held a detailed discussion of the proposal for a Regulation applying the principle of freedom to provide services to maritime transport within Member States (maritime cabotage).

The discussion revealed a considerable measure of agreement on most of the points in a Presidency compromise text.

The Council will return to the questions outstanding, particularly the composition of crews, with a view to reaching agreement at its meeting in June 1992.

OTHER TRANSPORT DECISIONS

Carriage of goods by rail, road and inland waterway

The Council adopted a Resolution on the system for observing the markets for the carriage of goods by rail, road and inland waterway.

This Resolution extends, until the introduction of a definitive system, the observation system provided for in the Council Resolution of 8 December 1988.

Road transport

Following receipt of the Opinion of the European Parliament, the Council adopted the Regulation on access to the market for the carriage of goods by road in the European Community to or from the territory of a Member State or passing across the territory of one or more Member States (see press release 10387/91 Presse 243).

Summertime

Following completion of the co-operation procedure with the European Parliament, the Council adopted the sixth Directive on summertime arrangements, covering 1993 and 1994.

This Directive, which corresponds to the common position adopted by the Council on 22 January 1992, sets the summertime period, during which time is advanced by sixty minutes in relation to the time for the rest of the year, as the period between the last Sunday in March (1993: 28 March; 1994: 27 March) and the last Sunday in September (1993: 26 September; 1994: 25 September), as provided for in the common position.

Ireland and the United Kingdom may, however, set the fourth Sunday in October (1993: 24 October; 1994: 23 October) as the end of the summertime period for 1993 and 1994.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Environment

The Council decided that the Community should take part in the Council of Europe negotiations for an International Convention on damage resulting from activities dangerous to the environment. It approved negotiating directives for the Commission.

Research programme in the field of biotechnology (1990-1994)

Following completion of the co-operation procedure with the European Parliament, the Council carried out final adoption of the Decision adopting a special research and technological development (R&TD) programme in the field of biotechnology (1990-1994).

The Council adopted its common position on this Decision at its meeting on 28.XI.91 (see press release 9555/91 Presse 217).

EEC-Mongolia relations

The Council decided to sign the trade and economic co-operation agreement between

the European Economic Community and Mongolia, subject to conclusion.

1986 International Cocoa Agreement

The Council adopted the Decision concerning the Community's approval of the 1986 International Cocoa Agreement.

Approval of the Agreement will be notified as soon as possible to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Appointments

The Council decided on replacements for:

- an alternate member of the Advisory Committee on the Training of Midwives;
- a member of the Advisory Committee on Medical Training;
- a member of the advisory Committee on the Training of Dental Practitioners.

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COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

5466/92 (Presse 44)

1563rd Council meeting

- AGRICULTURE -

Brussels, 30 and 31 March 1992

President: Mr Arlindo CUNHA,

Minister for Agriculture of
the Portuguese Republic

Italy:

Mr Giovanni GORIA Minister for Agriculture

Luxembourg:

Mr René STEICHEN Minister for Agriculture and Viticulture

Netherlands:

Mr Piet BUKMAN Minister for Agriculture, Nature Conservation and Fisheries

Portugal:

Mr Arlindo CUNHA Minister for Agriculture

Mr Alvaro AMARO State Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture

United Kingdom:

Mr John GUMMER Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Mr David CURRY Parliamentary Secretary, Agriculture

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Commission:

Mr Ray MAC SHARRY Member

DEVELOPMENTS IN AND FUTURE OF THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY

In the context of the Council's discussions on the reform of the CAP the Presidency and the Commission held a series of bilateral talks with Member States' delegations in order to help find an overall solution.

After these talks, which were very positive and productive, the Council noted that there was a general desire to continue the discussions on reform and agreed to resume its deliberations on the subject at its next meeting.

MILK SECTOR - EXTENSION OF THE QUOTA SYSTEM

Pending definitive conclusions for the milk sector under the reform of the CAP, and given that the current milk quota system ended on 31 March 1992, the Council adopted by qualified majority, and without prejudice to any future measures that might be taken regarding the milk sector under the reform of the CAP, three Regulations extending the current quota system for a further year.

TOBACCO

As the discussions on the revision of the common organization of the tobacco market in connection with the reform of the CAP are still going on, it will not be possible for a decision on such revision to be taken in time for it to be applied as from the beginning of 1992/1993. The Council therefore adopted a number of measures essential for the coming marketing year.

This involved maintaining the maximum guaranteed quantities for each variety and group of varieties at the level of the quantities set for the previous harvest and setting the cut-off (the limit on price and premium reductions where the maximum guaranteed quantity is exceeded), which was raised to 23%.

GATT

1. The Council noted the Commission's assessment of the latest conclusions of the GATT Soya Panel.

After its discussion the Council established the following guidelines:

- (a) the GATT Panel's latest conclusions could not be accepted;
 - (b) the Community support system adopted unanimously by the Council in December 1991 could not be altered and would therefore apply during the 1992/1993 marketing year;
 - (c) solutions to the problems at issue could be sought with the trade partners during the Uruguay Round negotiations.
2. The Council was briefed by Mr Mac Sharry on the progress of the Uruguay Round negotiations. While confirming its reservations on the agricultural aspects of the draft conclusions put forward by the GATT Director-General, Mr Dunkel, the Council also confirmed the Community's willingness to play a constructive part in further negotiations and to help find an overall solution covering all sectors which were the subject of negotiations.

FIXING OF PRICES FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND RELATED MEASURES (1992/1993)

The Council heard an introductory statement by the Commission setting out the broad lines of its price proposals for 1992/1993, which essentially involved renewing the current prices pending a decision on the reform of the CAP.

After an initial exchange of views during which the delegations gave their reactions, the Council instructed the Special Committee on Agriculture to start examining the proposals so that it could continue its discussion at its next meeting.

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The Council extended the 1991/1992 marketing year in the milk and beef-and-veal sectors by two months, until 31 May 1992.

DROUGHT

The Council established a favourable position on the proposal for a Regulation on the transfer to Portugal of 382 000 tonnes of cereals held by intervention agencies in certain Member States.

The transfer was needed to meet the shortage of feed-grain and common and durum wheat due to the drought in Portugal which had lasted since autumn 1991.

OTHER DECISIONS CONCERNING AGRICULTURE

The Council adopted:

- a Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 3659/90 on products subject to the supplementary trade mechanism during the second stage of Portuguese accession. The amendment deleted milk and cream in small packings from the list of products subject to the supplementary trade mechanism in Portugal, thus facilitating the integration of the Portuguese market into the Community market;
- a Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 790/89 fixing the level of additional flat-rate aid for the formation of producers' organizations and the maximum amount applied to aid for quality and marketing improvement in the nut- and locust bean-growing sector. The aim of this Regulation is to enable the basis for calculating such aid to be altered in the event of unfavourable weather conditons;
- a Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 1442/88 on the granting for the 1988/1989 to 1995/1996 wine years of permanent abandonment premiums in respect of wine-growing areas and repealing Regulation (EEC) No 2239/86 on a specific common measure to improve wine-growing structures in Portugal. Under this amendment the Community system for the permanent abandonment of wine-growing areas is extended to Portugal as from the 1991/1992 wine year, although the country will retain the abandonment premiums currently applicable to the undertakings it has already entered into;

- a Decision amending Seventh Decision 85/355/EEC on the equivalence of field inspections carried out in third countries on seed-producing crops and Seventh Decision 85/356/EEC on the equivalence of seed produced in third countries. The amendment continues until 30 June 1995 the equivalence measures applicable to Austria as regards maize and to Australia as regards lucerne and sunflower seed and extends equivalence to Morocco.

OTHER MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Relations with Morocco

The Council:

- adopted a Decision on the conclusion of the Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters concerning the temporary extension from 1 March 1992 to 30 April 1992 of the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Kingdom of Morocco on relations in the sea fisheries sector and the Protocol annexed thereto;
- at the same time adopted a Regulation opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for prepared or preserved sardines originating in Morocco for the period 1 March 1992 to 30 April 1992.

The quota amounts to 3 500 tonnes, of which 20% is divided between certain Member States and 80% forms the Community reserve.

Fisheries policy

The Council adopted:

- a Decision on the conclusion of an Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters concerning the provisional application of the Protocol establishing, for the period 1 January 1992 to 30 September 1993, the fishing opportunities and the financial compensation provided for in the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Government of the People's Republic of Mozambique on fisheries relations;
- a Decision on the conclusion of an Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters concerning the provisional application of the Protocol establishing, for the period from 1 January 1992 to 31 December 1993, the fishing rights and the financial compensation provided for in the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Government of the Republic of Guinea on fishing off the Guinean coast.

Anti-dumping

The Council adopted:

- a Regulation imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of certain polyester yarns (man-made staple fibres) originating in Taiwan, Indonesia, the People's Republic of China and Turkey and collecting definitively the provisional duty;
- a Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 112/90 imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of certain compact disc players originating in Japan and the Republic of Korea.

30/31.III.92

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Appointments

The Council replaced:

- a member and two alternate members of the Advisory Committee on Education and Training in the field of Architecture;
 - a member of the Advisory Committee on Veterinary Training.
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PRESS RELEASE

5467/92 (Presse 45)

1564th Council meeting

- INTERNAL MARKET -

Brussels, 31 March 1992

President: Mr Vitor MARTINS

State Secretary
for European Integration
of the Portuguese Republic

31.III.1992

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Luxembourg:

Mr George WOHLFART

State Secretary for Foreign Affairs and
Foreign Trade

Netherlands:

Mr Piet DANKERT

State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Portugal:

Mr Vitor MARTINS

State Secretary for European
Integration

United Kingdom:

Mr David DURIE

Deputy Permanent Representative

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Commission:

Mr Martin BANGEMANN

Vice-President

Mr Antonio CARDOSO E CUNHA

Member

31.III.1992

111/MM/JJ

EXCHANGE OF NATIONAL OFFICIALS ENGAGED IN THE ENFORCEMENT OF COMMUNITY
LEGISLATION ON THE SINGLE MARKET

The Council discussed the proposal for a Decision on the adoption of an action plan for the exchange, between Member State administrations, of national officials engaged in the enforcement of Community legislation required to build the single market.

It will be recalled that the action plan uses as a model the Mattheus programme, extending it to cover the field of the single market as a whole. The aim of these exchanges is to allow a more homogeneous approach to the implementation of Community legislation, notably by making officials of national administrations aware of the European dimension of their work and by building mutual confidence between the administrations of the various Member States. The length of the stay of exchange officials with the administration of another Member State is normally envisaged for a minimum of two months.

The action plan is spread over five years and its financing is shared between the Community and the Member States.

At the end of the discussion the Council reached a favourable position on the proposed plan and instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to find definitive solutions with regard to the number of officials involved in the programme and the financial implications deriving from it. A common position will be formally adopted at a forthcoming Council meeting.

STATUTES FOR A EUROPEAN CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY, A EUROPEAN MUTUAL SOCIETY AND A
EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION WITH REGARD TO THE INVOLVEMENT OF EMPLOYEES

After hearing the Commission's presentation of three proposals for Regulations on

31.III.1992

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the Statute for a European co-operative society, a European mutual society and a European association and of three proposals for Directives supplementing those Statutes with regard to the involvement of employees, the Council heard the various delegations' views, which enabled the latter to emphasize the importance of the Community initiative in the field of "Social Economy".

The package submitted by the Commission involves the creation of three new legal instruments designed to enable associations to take advantage of the single market in the same way as companies can, without having to forego their specific character.

It should be stressed that these proposals are not in any way aimed at changing the forms of associations as regulated in the various Member States, but rather at creating new transnational entities which will constitute an option open to those who wish to give their activity a European character.

At the end of the discussion the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to organize its proceedings in such a way that joint guidelines could be defined in the near future.

The Presidency took the opportunity to remind the meeting that the 3rd European Conference on "Social Economy" was to be held in Lisbon from 1 to 3 April 1992.

TRANS-EUROPEAN NETWORKS

The Council:

1. Hereby reaffirms that the establishment and development throughout the territory of the Community of trans-European networks in the areas of transport, telecommunications and energy infrastructures is intended to permit the balanced operation of the internal market in the context of a system of

open and competitive markets and to strengthen economic and social cohesion in accordance with Articles 129b to 129d of the Treaty on European Union.

2. Stresses that the establishment and development of such networks on a Community scale is necessary in order to deepen progressively the process of European union, including in the event of a possible enlargement of the Community, and notes that the Community may decide to co-operate with third countries to promote projects of mutual interest and to ensure the interoperability of networks;
3. Considers that the Community's action to ensure the full attainment of the objectives set out in the Treaty on Union must be initiated in 1993;
4. Considers that the initiatives to be implemented in order to achieve this objective should comply, as of now, with the provisions of the Treaty on Union;
5. Takes note of the submission of proposals for Regulations relating to a Declaration of European Interest and of the fact that other measures are being prepared by the Commission for submission to the Council in the course of this year;
6. Calls on the Member States and the Commission to co-ordinate such actions as may have a significant impact on the establishment and development of trans-European networks;
7. Notes the Commission's intention of submitting to it guidelines concerning trans-European networks which can serve as a reference point for preparing, as soon as possible, the implementation of Title XII of the Treaty on Union;

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8. Calls on the Commission to submit regularly to the Internal Market Council a progress report, which the Council undertakes to examine.

INNOVATIVE FOOD PRODUCTS

At the request of the Netherlands delegation, the Commission confirmed that it would be submitting to the Council in the near future a proposal for a Directive on the regulation of new foodstuffs, which were becoming increasingly commonplace on the market.

OTHER DECISIONS IN THE FIELD OF THE INTERNAL MARKET

Motor vehicles

- Speed limitation devices

Following the co-operation procedure with the European Parliament, the Council definitively adopted the Directive relating to speed limitation devices or similar speed limitation on-board systems of certain categories of motor vehicles.

The Directive in question harmonizes the technical requirements which have to be met, as regards design and installation, by speed limitation devices intended as equipment on certain goods and passenger vehicles. It is directly linked with the Directive on the installation and use of such devices adopted by the Council on 10 February 1992.

- Masses and dimensions of motor vehicles of category M1

- Safety glazing and glazing materials on motor vehicles and their trailers

- Pneumatic tyres for motor vehicles and their trailers

Following completion of the co-operation procedure with the European Parliament, the Council definitively adopted these three Directives, which supplement the implementation of Community type-approval, thus allowing the free movement of motor vehicles within the framework of the internal market.

- Community type-approval of motor vehicles and their trailers

The Council adopted the substance of the common position on the approximation

of the laws of the Member States relating to the type-approval of motor vehicles and their trailers.

It will be recalled that type-approval is defined as the procedure whereby a Member State records that a type of vehicle satisfies the technical requirements of the individual directives and the verifications provided for in the EEC type-approval certificate.

The purpose of this Directive is to adjust the administrative rules defined in the framework Directive adopted in 1970 in order to ensure the introduction of a modern, feasible and transparent procedure based on the principle of total harmonization and bringing to an end the system of optional harmonization. The twelve national procedures currently in force will therefore be abolished and replaced by a single type-approval procedure which is valid throughout the Community.

In particular, the Directive in question envisages that any type of vehicle which has been granted type-approval in a Community country may be freely marketed and registered throughout the Community territory without having to undergo other tests.

It should be noted that:

- the EEC type-approval procedure is restricted to harmonizing national type-approval systems, i.e. those applicable to vehicles manufactured and marketed in large numbers;
- the proposal is not directed towards harmonization of national registration procedures;
- until 31 December 1995 the new Directive will apply only at the request of the party seeking EEC type-approval; during the 3-year transitional period, the

manufacturer may continue to opt for national type-approval;

- national type-approval awarded before 1 January 1996 will remain valid until 31 December 1997, from which date the EEC type-approval procedure will be compulsory.

Medicinal products

- Rational use of medicinal products for human use

Following the co-operation procedure with the European Parliament, the Council definitively adopted Directives on:

- = wholesale distribution;
- = classification for supply;
- = labelling and package leaflets.

It will be recalled that the objective of these Directives is to facilitate the free movement of proprietary medicinal products while guaranteeing a high level of consumer protection (see Press Release 7450/91 Presse 131 of 22 July 1991).

- Advertising of medicinal products for human use

Following the co-operation procedure with the European Parliament, the Council also definitively adopted the Directive on the advertising of medicinal products for human use.

It will be recalled that this Directive is designed to harmonize the conditions under which pharmaceutical advertising is permitted and to lay down the

requirements to be met by such advertising (see Press Release 7450/91 Presse 131 of 22 July 1991).

- Homeopathic veterinary medicinal products

Following the substantive agreement reached at its meeting on 25 February 1992, the Council formally adopted the common position on the Directive widening the scope of Directive 81/851/EEC on the approximation of provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action relating to veterinary medicinal products and laying down additional provisions on homeopathic veterinary medicinal products.

Psychotropic substances

The Council adopted the Regulation amending Regulation No 3677/90 laying down measures to be taken to discourage the diversion of certain substances to the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

The main thrust of this Regulation is to extend Regulation No 3677/90 to take into account the recommendations of the Chemical Action Task Force set up by G7 at the Houston Summit in 1990. Those recommendations, in the preparation of which the Community and several Member States participated, were approved by G7 at the London Economic Summit in July 1991.

Through the new Regulation the Community intends to contribute to the efficiency of international efforts to combat the diversion of precursors to the illicit manufacture of drugs, taking into account the needs of the non-industrialised countries of Latin America and Asia concerned by the illicit manufacture of drugs such as cocaine and heroin. The Regulation reflects the awareness of the need

for shared responsibility between countries which produce chemical products and countries through which they transit and countries in which drugs are produced, as well as the need for greater export and import controls on chemical products.

The Regulation draws a distinction between three categories of substances.

Obligations regarding export formalities and the registration of operators with the competent authorities vary depending on the category of substance concerned.

The Council also agreed that the Commission should, at the 35th meeting of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (Vienna, 6 to 15 April 1992), adopt a position, on behalf of the Community, in favour of amending the tables annexed to the Convention to include the new products identified by the Chemical Action Task Force.

Security of information systems

In the light of the Opinion of the European Parliament, the Council definitively adopted the Decision concerning the development of Community action to develop strategies to ensure security in the use of information systems throughout the Community, while enabling information to circulate freely within the single market. The Community action comprises:

- the development of overall strategies for the security of information systems for an initial period of 24 months, and
- the setting-up of a Senior Officials Group with a long-term remit to advise the

Commission on actions in the field.

The action plan includes preparatory work under the following themes:

- (1) development of a strategic framework for the security of information systems;
- (2) identification of user requirements for the security of information systems;
- (3) solutions for certain immediate and interim needs of users, suppliers and service providers;
- (4) development of specifications, standardization, evaluation and certification in respect of the security of information systems;
- (5) technological operational developments;
- (6) provision of security of information systems.

The budget provided for the initial 24-month period is ECU 12 million, including ECU 2 million for 1992.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Child care

Following the political agreement reached at the meeting on 3 November 1991, the Council formally adopted the Recommendation on child care.

This Recommendation, which is provided for in the Commission's action programme for implementation of the Community Charter of the fundamental social rights of workers, provides for a series of initiatives in the field of child care to enable parents better to reconcile their vocational, family and education responsibilities.

Medical treatment on board vessels

Following completion of the co-operation procedure with the European Parliament, the Council definitively adopted the Directive on the minimum safety and health requirements for improved medical treatment on board vessels (see Press Release 7142/91 Presse 119 of 25 June 1991).

Relations with the former USSR and Montenegro

The Council adopted a Regulation and a Decision aimed at adapting current Community legislation to the situation resulting from the dissolution of the USSR and from certain recent developments in Yugoslavia. These acts are directed towards:

- on the one hand, replacing the word "USSR" by the names of the new Independent States in regulations on imports originating in State-trading countries;
- on the other hand, granting Montenegro the suspension of the residual quantitative restrictions applicable to Yugoslavia, as has already been done for other Yugoslav Republics which have contributed to progress towards peace.

Additional Opinion sought from the Court of Auditors

The Council specified the exact terms of the request for an additional Opinion which it was sending to the Court of Auditors in the context of its examination of the Delors II Package.
