

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(76) 681 final

Brussels, 21 December 1976

Draft

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

concerning a Community Safety Week in Agriculture

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(submitted to the Council by the Commission)

COM(76) 681 final

COUNCIL RESOLUTION
ON THE ORGANIZATION
OF A COMMUNITY SAFETYWEEK IN AGRICULTURE

Explanatory memorandum

Agricultural employers and workers have for five years been conducting a joint study of the problems affecting the health and safety of persons engaged in agriculture within the Joint Committee for the social problems of agricultural workers and the Advisory Committee on Social Problems affecting farmers and the members of their Families set up by the Commission.

This study has revealed, in each country, a large number of accidents or cases of illness caused mainly by the rapid mechanization of farms and the increasingly widespread use of pesticides and insecticides.

Regulations and directives have been adopted or are being under study by the council for the improvement of the safety of agricultural machinery, (1), (2), (3) and (4), and for warning users of the particular risks involved in using dangerous chemical products (5), (6) (7). But it is essential for the users and those around them particularly the 9 million farmers and their families to be made aware of dangers which are not always apparent.

In each of the Member States, there are annual projects aimed at reducing the number of these accidents through publicity, demonstration, etc., but it was felt that they would be more effective if backed up by a Community project, which would have its impact upon all those concerned at the same time, and which would permit the use of greater resources.

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- (1) O.J. n. L 84 of 28.3.1974, p. 10
(2) O.J. n. L 191 of 15.7.1974, p. 1
(3) O.J. n. L 147 of 9.6.1975, p. 24
(4) O.J. n. L 236 of 8.9.1975, p. 3
(5) O.J. n. L 183 of 14.7.1975, p. 22
(6) O.J. n. L 189 of 11.7.1973, p. 7
(7) O.J. n. C 40 of 20.2.1975, p. 30

This draft is based on the final communiqué of the Heads of State and Government, which urged the need to improve the quality of life as well as the standard of living, and on the Council Resolution of 21 January 1974 on the Social Action Programme, in which it is stated:

"..... there are problems in the social field which are common to all Member States and which could best be dealt with on a Community basis rather than in isolation It has been recognized in all Member States that this whole process demands a more active Community social policy if the well-being of all the peoples of the Community is to be maintained."

COUNCIL RESOLUTION
CONCERNING A COMMUNITY SAFETY WEEK
IN AGRICULTURE

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

HAVING REGARD to the Treaties establishing the European Communities;

HAVING REGARD to the Draft from the Commission;

WHEREAS the Heads of State or Government meeting in Paris on 19 and 20 October 1972 considered that economic expansion is not an end in itself but must result in an improvement in the quality of life as well as in standards of living so that progress may be placed at the service of mankind;

WHEREAS in the agricultural sector the number of accidents at work remains too high in all Member States;

WHEREAS the Council Resolution of 21 January 1974, concerning a Social Action Programme includes amongst its priorities the humanisation of living and working conditions and particularly the improvement of safety and health at work;

WHEREAS the provision of safety devices for agricultural machinery will not be fully effective unless it is supplemented by a training programme intended for the users thereof;

WHEREAS various action programmes are now operating in the Member States for the purpose of permanent prevention of accidents;

WHEREAS, on the basis of the outcome of the information campaign undertaken simultaneously in all 9 Member States in 1974, government experts and the social partners in agriculture expressed the wish that such a Community action should be repeated with a view to increase the impact in agricultural circles and stimulating public opinion.

HAS ADOPTED THIS RESOLUTION :

1. The Council notes with approval that the Member States are desirous not only to continue individual action to prevent accidents at work in agriculture but also to intensify coordination of their activities in that respect at Community level.
2. The Council notes with satisfaction that the Member States would, with the participation of the social partners, like to pursue appropriate activities and also draw up specific action programmes to that effect.
3. Consequently, the Council fully supports the suggestion put forward by the Commission to organise a Community safety week in agriculture under Community auspices which would be held from 2 to 8 May 1977, and featuring as its main theme : "The European Community for an accident-free farming" on the basis of close cooperation between the Member States and the social partners.
4. The Council considers that the Commission should offer its cooperation to Member States and the social partners in respect of this action programme by providing effective aid to ensure the success of this operation and thereby achieve the widest possible impact throughout the Community.
5. The Commission is hereby invited to draw up a report on the results of this operation and submit suggestions for future action programmes.

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2ème semaine communautaire de sécurité
en agriculture

INCIDENCES FINANCIERES

Les incidences financières du déroulement de cette deuxième semaine communautaire de sécurité sont prévues au budget de la Direction Générale "Information" sous le point 08.

Elles concernent l'établissement de maquettes pour une affiche communautaire d'un montant de 100.000 FB

Sont également prévus des tirés à part d'encarts publiés dans le magazine mensuel des Communautés ainsi que le tirage de "dossiers d'information" destinés à la presse : les frais de ces publications seront pris en charge par les budgets nationaux des Bureaux de Presse et d'Information des neuf pays.

