

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE COUNCIL

CONTAINING A DRAFT RECOMMENDATION OF THE EEC-ISRAEL JOINT COMMITTEE
CONCERNING COOPERATION IN AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

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CONTAINING A DRAFT RECOMMENDATION OF THE EEC-ISRAEL JOINT COMMITTEE
CONCERNING COOPERATION IN AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

In accordance with the desire expressed by the Israeli delegation on several occasions and in particular at the meeting of the Working Party on Cooperation on 28 July 1977 and at the second meeting of the Joint Committee on 7 December 1977, the Community has agreed that proposals concerning cooperation in agriculture and fisheries should be transmitted to the Israeli delegation as soon as possible.

As a result of the contacts which it has had with the Israeli representatives, the Commission proposes that the Council approve the content of the attached draft recommendation so that it may be presented to the institutions of the EEC-Israel Agreement.

This draft recommendation selects from possibilities explored, the areas which are to be given priority and the ways and means of producing concrete achievements within a short time.

DOCUMENTS ATTACHED :

- Annex I : Draft recommendation from the EEC-Israel Joint Committee concerning cooperation in agriculture and fisheries.
- Annex II : Memo on the technical contacts between the Israeli authorities and the Commission departments.

Draft recommendation of the EEC-Israel Joint Committee
concerning cooperation in agriculture and fisheries

The Joint Committee,

Having regard to Article 18 of the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the State of Israel, signed in Brussels on 11 May 1975,

Whereas cooperation should be established between the Community and Israel in agriculture and fisheries;

Whereas it is the task of the Joint Committee to seek the ways and means of promoting such cooperation and to make the appropriate recommendations,

HEREBY RECOMMENDS :

1. That, in an initial stage, the following be taken into account with a view to implementing cooperation between the Community and Israel in agriculture and fisheries for the mutual benefit of both parties :

- a) in order to develop production by improving capacities and techniques:
- stock-farming methods and techniques suited to the various climates, and in particular the use of low-potential arid or semi-arid pasture land;
 - methods of recycling agricultural waste, in particular into feedingstuffs for animals, including fish;
 - harnessing of water resources and modern irrigation methods;

- techniques for the planting and cultivation of fodder crops;
- reforestation methods and techniques;

b) for the purpose of rural development and in order to improve agricultural structures and the methods of marketing and selling the produce of the sectors in question :

- methods of organizing extension services in conjunction with the agricultural research and training departments;
- methods of integrating agricultural development into regional development;
- methods of standardization;
- producers' organizational techniques.

2. That the ways and means indicated below be considered as appropriate for promoting such cooperation :

- the encouragement of appropriate exchanges of information in areas recognized as being of mutual interest and measures to promote the dissemination of this information, in particular through exchanges of experts and fact-finding missions;
- the encouragement of the organization of round-table conferences, symposia, one-day seminars, etc., on subjects relating to the areas of mutual interest;
- the encouragement of contacts between users of techniques which are of priority;
- at the administrative cooperation level, measures to step up exchanges of information between experts in the areas of mutual interest referred to above.

3. That the Joint Committee be kept regularly informed as to the implementation of this recommendation.

COOPERATION BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY AND ISRAEL IN AGRICULTURE AND
FISHERIES

Note on visit of a technical delegation from ISRAEL

April 14th 1978

An informal meeting took place on April 14th between a technical team from the Israel Ministry of Agriculture and representative of the Directorates General for Agriculture, Development and Internal Market and Industrial Affairs concerning possible priority areas for cooperation between the Community and Israel in agriculture and fisheries.

The discussion was based on the Commission's working paper on guide-lines for cooperation of 8.11.1977 (distributed the 11.11.1977), which was considered by both sides as a working hypothesis or "umbrella", but did not in any way constitute a commitment by either delegation to the specific areas of action contained in it.

1. The Israeli representatives pinpointed areas of cooperation which he considered would be of interest, from Israel's point of view, for both parties and for which the bases of cooperation already exist. These are :
 - recycling of agricultural waste (which has close links with animal feeding techniques and animal husbandry),
 - pesticide and pesticides residue research,
 - techniques of re-afforestation.

The Israeli delegation also outlined areas of experience in Israel which, based on their knowledge, of agricultural problems within the Community, might be of interest to the Community :

- aquaculture (fish farming, in particular using re-cycled agricultural waste),
- vegetable oil production - improvement of production techniques particularly in the olive oil sector (new harvesting techniques by physiological methods for olives suitable for processing), ./.

- irrigation management and modern irrigation methods in general, but also applied to specific crops.

The Israeli representative also indicated that problems of range management on arid and semi-arid pastures would be a suitable area of cooperation with the Community, the results of which could also be of benefit to third countries, especially in view of existing activities in this field.

The Commission representative indicated that, aside from the interest presented by irrigation, management, re-afforestation and recycling of agricultural waste, improvement of animal strains and improved methods relating to high protein and fodder crops would also be of interest. The Israeli representative pointed out, however, that Israel's experience with high protein crops was likely to be of limited value to the Community.

It was, however, noted that while the above topics were, prima facie, those likely to be of priority interest to both sides, all the topics in the above mentioned document should be retained for consideration.

2. Similarly, all the areas of action relating to rural development and improvement of agricultural structures and marketing should be retained for further consideration, but both sides considered that the following might be taken as possible areas of priority :

- organization of extension services linked with research services and agriculture education,
- integration of agricultural development in regional development,
- marketing standards,
- organization of producer groups.

3. On the question of methods of implementation, it was recognized on both sides that much was already being undertaken in the areas outlined.

With regard to improved dissemination of information, it was noted that the priorities to be retained would depend largely on the requirements of the different fields of action.

With regard to improved administrative cooperation, the Israeli representative suggested that this might be achieved through the establishment of specialized teams. However, the Commission's representative indicated that this is likely to present practical and institutional difficulties for the Community. Both sides acknowledged the need to consider further how administrative cooperation could best be enhanced, in order to achieve a better mutual understanding.

The Israeli representative indicated that a Steering Committee, or at least liaison officers on each side, should be named to act as a coordination link on questions of agricultural cooperation.

The Commission representative said that this idea would be considered by her authorities but that she felt that the Joint Committee (Commission Mixte) is and should remain the link between the two sides backed by the relevant departments concerned.

4. With regard to the funds available for implementing agricultural cooperation, the Commission representative insisted that costs would be covered by those benefiting directly from any scheme implemented. The Israeli representative indicated that she saw no reason why funds should not be allocated from existing resources to meet the needs of projects resulting from future cooperation.
5. The Commission representative said that the Commission's services would consider how best to present the possible priorities outlined at this meeting to the Council. She outlined the procedure to be followed by the Community. A report to the Council (Mediterranean Group) on the outcome of this meeting and a formal Commission proposal would be made regarding the draft recommendation. Following further discussion in the Council, a working group would be set up under the authority of the Joint Committee (Commission Mixte) on the text to be submitted to this Committee.

ATTENDANCE LIST

- Meeting of 14 January 1978 -

NAME	Post and Department
<u>ISRAEL</u>	
Mrs. Yahalomah SHEHORY	Deputy Director General, Ministry of Agriculture, Israel
Mr. Yoash VAADIA	Chief Scientist, Ministry of Agriculture, Israel
Mr. Apy KENETT	Acting Chargé d'Affaires, Israeli Mission
Mr. Benjamin SAFRAN	Counsellor for Agricultural Affairs, Israeli Mission
<u>EEC COMMISSION</u>	
Mrs. Françoise GAUDENZI	D.G. VI/A/2
Mr. John J. SCULLY	D.G. VI/E/3
Mr. Anthony KINCH	D.G. III/A/3
Mr. Jean-Paul BOURJAC	D.G. VI/H/2
Mr. Jean THIBEAUX	D.G. VI/H/3
Mr. Olaf DIETRICH	D.G. VIII/1
Mr. Richard LEWIS	D.G. VI/A/2