



COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT



PRESS RELEASE

485th Council meeting
- Development Co-operation -
Brussels, 28 November 1977
President: Mr Lucien OUTERS,
Minister for Development
Co-operation
of the Kingdom of Belgium

28.XI.77

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

Belgium:

Mr Lucien OUTERS

Minister for Development
Co-operation

Denmark:

Mrs Lise OESTERGAARD

Minister without Portfolio

Germany:

Mrs Marie SCHLEI

Federal Minister for Economic
Co-operation

France:

Mr Robert GALLEY

Minister for Co-operation

Mr Jean-François DENIAU

State Secretary, Ministry of
Foreign Affairs

Ireland:

Mr Michael O'KENNEDY

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Italy:

Mr Eugenio PLAJA

Ambassador, Permanent Representation

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean DONDELINGER

Ambassador, Permanent Representation

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Netherlands:

Mr J.P. PRONK

Minister for Development
Co-operation

United Kingdom:

Mrs Judith Hart

Minister for Overseas Development

Commission:

Mr Claude CHEYSSON

Member

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SPECIAL ACTION IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CIEC

At the final ministerial session of the CIEC the developed countries agreed on a special action programme of 1,000 million dollars to help meet the immediate needs of the low-income countries.

The Community contribution to this programme amounts to 385 million dollars which the Community has chosen to pay to a special account of the International Development Association (IDA).

The Council agreed on the brief to be given to the Community representatives for the negotiation of the agreement to be concluded with the IDA on the use of the Community contribution.

This Council decision will enable the Community contribution to be put to rapid use in accordance with the purpose of the special action, which is to give prompt assistance to a number of particularly needy countries.

The bulk of the Community contribution will go to developing countries with a GNP per capita of not more than 280 dollars.

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COMMUNITY GENERALIZED PREFERENCES FOR 1978

After consulting the Associated States concerned and the ACP States, the Council adopted the generalized preference scheme for 1978.

The new offers made by the Community, for 1978, concern mainly the optimum use of the preferences already granted by the Community, bearing in mind the substantial and systematic improvements granted over previous years and the disquieting developments in the economies of the Community Member States. Overall, the amount of trade covered (possible preferential imports) should total 5.1 thousand million UA for industrial products and 1.3 thousand million UA for agricultural products.

Whilst the overall offer for industrial products (chapter 25.99 of the CCT) is only slightly up on that for 1977, the Council has decided on a significant improvement to facilitate imports by raising to nine the number of tariff quotas for which a Community reserve is set aside. As regards textiles, the 1977 system has been extended for six months with no adjustment, owing to the state of crisis experienced by the textile industry in several Community regions and also to take account of the current textile negotiations. As regards jute and coir, complete suspension of tariff duty is scheduled as from 1 January 1978, following the Agreements concluded with the exporter developing countries concerned.

The Council decided to extend preferences to Romania for a number of additional products by comparison with 1977.

For the LDC's the Council agreed to suspend, in 1978, the application of ceilings for all semi-sensitive and non-sensitive industrial products - with the exclusion, however, of textile products. This measure follows on from that decided in 1977 (suspension of cut-offs) and falls under the new approach in force since 1977 instituting special arrangements for the least competitive countries.

As regards processed agricultural products (chapters 1 to 24 of the CCT), the Council agreed to the inclusion of a number of new products (in particular horses for slaughter and other horses, certain varieties of shellfish and mollusca, limes, mixtures of tropical fruit and certain fruit and vegetables, during winter).

Furthermore, the Council decided to renew all agricultural quotas (canned pineapple other than in slices, pineapples in slices, soluble coffee and cocoa butter, Virginia tobacco and other tobacco) and included a Community reserve to include in these quotas a proportion representing the Community reserve.

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RELATIONS WITH THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOs)
SPECIALIZING IN DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION

The Council agreed to the procedure to be followed when using the Community appropriations set aside for co-operation with NGOs and to the general guidelines for the use of such appropriations.

The Council expressed satisfaction at the adoption of these texts, which provided a formal basis for continuing the extremely fruitful co-operation between the Community and the NGOs.

CO-ORDINATION AND HARMONIZATION OF DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION
POLICIES

The Council made further progress at this meeting, in its discussions on the implementation of its Resolution of November 1976 on the co-ordination and harmonization of the development co-operation policies of the Member States and the Community.

Following up its Resolution of 22 March 1977 on the co-ordination of emergency and humanitarian aid projects, the Council agreed to rules for organizing such co-ordination. This will involve close co-operation between a Commission co-ordinator and the Member States. The Council also took note of the list of contingency measures which may currently be invoked in the Member States and the Community in the event of disasters. The Resolution of 22 March thus becomes fully operational.

The Council was informed of a proposal from the Belgian delegation on the co-ordination of bilateral aid and agreed to a Resolution the purpose of which - over and above existing co-ordination arrangements for Community and Member States' aid - is, by means of meetings

(¹) see Annex

in an ad hoc framework, to better co-ordinate the bilateral activities of two or more Member States in a country or group of particular developing countries or when the implementation of joint projects is involved.

This new form of co-ordination is to be carried out both in Europe and on the spot.

The Council also noted an oral statement by Mr CHEYSSON, member of the Commission, on progress in the field of co-ordination and harmonization. It requested the Commission to widen the scope of its activities both on a sectoral level and in accordance with a country-by-country approach.

The Council also agreed - because of the importance of the subject and in order to be able to hold a thorough debate - to postpone until its next meeting its general discussion of the reciprocal implications of development co-operation policy and the other Community policies.

AID FOR NON-ASSOCIATED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

A general consensus emerged in the Council in favour of the programme submitted by the Commission for the use of the 45 MUA appropriation entered in the 1977 budget for financial and technical aid for non-associated developing countries. These appropriations can now be committed by the Commission before the end of the year.

The Council worked out for the Commission a number of guidelines for the 1978 programme. The appropriations in the budget for this programme amount to 60 MEUA.

The Council also noted that there was now a consensus on the principle of establishing a basic regulation defining the framework for Community action in the matter of financial and technical aid for non-associated countries.

The debate enabled positions to be brought substantially closer on a number of outstanding questions. The Council, subject to application, if necessary, of the conciliation procedure with the European Parliament, proposed to conclude its debate at its next meeting so that the Regulation could apply in time for the 1978 budget.

FOOD AID

Milk products

The Council - by an overwhelming majority - worked out a guideline to the effect that food aid in the form of skimmed-milk powder in 1978 should total approximately 150,000 tonnes. It was agreed that the Budget Council would soon take the budgetary decision concerning the relevant appropriations to be entered in the 1978 budget.

Cereals

The Council agreed to instruct the Commission, within the framework of a new International Cereals Agreement, to negotiate an increase in the Community's contribution under the Food Aid Convention as part of an effort by all donor countries, both traditional and potential, towards the world target of 10 million tonnes.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine the other matters outstanding in connection with the forthcoming negotiation of the Food Aid Convention.

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ANNEX

CO-ORDINATION OF THE DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION POLICIES
OF THE MEMBER STATES AND OF THE COMMUNITY

The Council:

Whereas further progress could be achieved with a view to obtaining better co-ordination of the bilateral policies of the Member States and of the Community policy,

Whereas the detailed rules and procedures laid down for this purpose by the Resolution of 8 November 1976, in particular in paragraph 3, are pertinent and whereas they should be put fully into effect,

agrees:

- to seek more specific results and more significant progress in this sector by organizing meetings in an ad hoc framework, where two or more Member States consider it worthwhile to better co-ordinate their bilateral activities in a country or group of particular countries or when the implementation of joint projects is involved.
- to keep these meetings open to the other Member States and the Commission and to hold them on two levels:
 - in Europe, where contacts will make it easier to create the necessary climate for co-operation, the political will being more easily expressed at that level;

- on-the-spot, where contacts will be directed more towards co-ordination of the projects of the Member States and of the Community.

- to invite the Presidency to encourage such meetings, as soon as two or more Member States or the Commission so request.

- to request the Commission to widen the scope of its co-ordination activities which should be organized in a more systematic way, whether on a sectoral level or in accordance with the country-by-country approach, since this role of providing information and stimulus is essential for a better harmonized development of the Member States' bilateral co-operation policies.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Trade policy

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

- Regulations:

- suspending the autonomous Common Customs Tariff duties

- = for mechanically propelled aircraft of an unladen weight exceeding 15,000 kg, falling within subheading ex 88.02 B II c);

- = for certain agricultural products;

- concerning Community tariff quotas or arrangements for the import of products originating in various countries of the Mediterranean Basin for 1978;

- opening, allocating and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas for Port wines, Madeira wines and Setubal Moscatel falling within the heading ex 22.05 of the Common Customs Tariff, originating in Portugal (1978);

- Decisions:

- on the conclusion of the Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters renewing the Trade Agreement between the EEC and the Argentine Republic;

- authorizing the Commission to open negotiations for the conclusion of agreements extending the Interim Agreements between the European Economic Community and the Maghreb countries.

The Council also adopted a Regulation concluding the Additional Protocol to the Agreement establishing an association between the European Economic Community and Malta, which was signed on 27 October 1977.

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EEC-Turkey Association

After recording the completion of the procedures required in the Member States of the Community for the entry into force of the Acts signed on 30 June 1973 in Ankara, in connection with the extension of the EEC-Turkey Association to the three new Member States, the Council adopted the Regulation concluding the EEC-Turkey Supplementary Protocol. This Regulation together with the various texts signed at Ankara on 30 June 1973 will be shortly published in the Official Journal.

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The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, a Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 986/68 laying down general rules for granting aid for skimmed milk and skimmed-milk powder for use as feed.

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NOTE BIO (77) 408 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
C.C. AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPE, A M. LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL DG I ET
A M. OPITZ DG VIII

CONSEIL DEVELOPPEMENT

UNE REUNION DU CONSEIL DEVELOPPEMENT SE TIENDRA LUNDI 28. LA
DERNIERE REUNION S'EST TENUE LE 16 JUIN DERNIER.

ACTION SPECIALE CCEI

LES MINISTRES DES AFFAIRES ETRANGERES N'AYANT PU LORS DE LEUR
DERNIERE REUNION ABORDER LE PROBLEME, IL REVIENDRA AUX
MINISTRES DU DEVELOPPEMENT DE SE PRONONCER SUR LES MODALITES A
METTRE AU POINT AVEC L'A.I.D. POUR L'UTILISATION DES 385 MILLIONS
DE DOLLARS REPRESENTANT LA CONTRIBUTION DE LA COMMUNAUTE A L'AC-
TION SPECIALE D'1 MILLIARD DE DOLLARS DECIDEE PAR LES PAYS
INDUSTRIALISES DANS LE CADRE DE LA CCEI.

AIDE FINANCIERE ET TECHNIQUE AUX PVD NON ASSOCIES

LE CONSEIL DEVRAIT TOUT D'ABORD PRENDRE CONNAISSANCE DU PROGRAMME
D'UTILISATION DES 45 MUC INSCRITS AU BUDGET 1977, PROGRAMME PRE-
PARE PAR LA COMMISSION. CE POINT NE DEVRAIT PAS DONNER LIEU A DE
LONGS DEBATS ET LA COMMISSION POURRAIT DONC INCESSAMMENT CON-
CLURE LES CONVENTIONS DE FINANCEMENT AVEC LES PAYS ET ORGANISMES
INTERESSES.

CE PROGRAMME PREVOIT LE FINANCEMENT DE 19 ACTIONS CONCERNANT
TOUTES LE SECTEUR AGRICOLE OU RURAL, REPARTIES ENTRE 12 PAYS ET 6
ORGANISMES REGIONAUX.

78 POUR-CENT DES RESSOURCES SERONT AFFECTEES A L'ASIE ET 22 POUR-
CENT A L'AMERIQUE LATINE. LE SOUS-CONTINENT INDIEN ABSORBE A LUI
SEUL PLUS DE LA MOITIE DU MONTANT TOTAL DE L'AIDE ET LE PLUS
GRAND BENEFICIAIRE, L'INDE, UN PEU PLUS DU QUART.

LE CONSEIL REPENDRA PAR AILLEURS L'EXAMEN DU PROJET DE REGLEMENT
PRESENTE PAR LA COMMISSION EN FEVRIER DERNIER ET QUI, SUR BASE DE
L'ART. 235 DU TRAITE FOURNIRAIT UN CADRE JURIDIQUE A CETTE NOU-
VELLE POLITIQUE DE LA COMMUNAUTE.

COORDINATION ET HARMONISATION DES POLITIQUES DE COOPERATION

SOUS CE THEME GENERAL, LE CONSEIL EXAMINERA EN FAIT TROIS SUJETS
DIFFERENTS :

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H. FERRATON GPP

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M. SANTARELLI



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1. COORDINATION DES AIDES D'URGENCE : LE CONSEIL PRENDRA SUR CE POINT UNE DECISION OPERATIONNELLE.

2. COORDINATION DES AIDES BILATERALES ET COMMUNAUTAIRES : IL S'AGIT LA DU PROBLEME DE LA COORDINATION SUR LE TERRAIN ENTRE ETATS MEMBRES ET COMMUNAUTE. LA COMMISSION FERA RAPPORT SUR LES PROGRES ENREGISTRES ET LES PERSPECTIVES EN LA MATIERE. LE CONSEIL EST EGALEMENT SAISI SUR CE POINT D'UNE COMMUNICATION DE LA DELEGATION BELGE.

3. LE CONSEIL DEVRAIT ENFIN ABORDER LA DISCUSSION DES IMPLICATIONS RECIPROQUES DE LA POLITIQUE DE COOPERATION ET DES AUTRES POLITIQUES DE LA COMMUNAUTE. LA COMMISSION AVAIT SAISI LE CONSEIL EN JUIN DERNIER D'UN DOCUMENT DE TRAVAIL EXPOSANT LA PROBLEMATIQUE GENERALE QUI LUI PARAISSAIT DEVOIR CONSTITUER LE POINT DE DEPART DU DEBAT.

DEPUIS LORS LE GROUPE 'COOPERATION DU DEVELOPPEMENT' DU CONSEIL A CONSACRE UN CERTAIN NOMBRE DE REUNIONS A CE SUJET ET A TRANSMIS AUX MINISTRES SES CLEFS :

A. EST-IL SOUHAITABLE ET POSSIBLE D'INTRODUIRE DES DIFFERENCIATIONS ENTRE DIFFERENTES CATEGORIES DE PVD DANS L'APPLICATION DES POLITIQUES DE COOPERATION?

B. PEUT-ON ETABLIR UN LIEN ENTRE LA LIBERALISATION PROGRESSIVE DES ECHANGES AVEC LES PVD ET LA MISE EN OEUVRE D'UNE POLITIQUE COMMUNAUTAIRE D'AJUSTEMENT STRUCTUREL?

C. QUELLE FORME D'INDUSTRIALISATION DES PVD ENCOURAGEONS-NOUS PAR NOS POLITIQUES DE COOPERATION?

D. L'AIDE PUBLIQUE AU DEVELOPPEMENT PEUT-ELLE ETRE UN INSTRUMENT DE DEVELOPPEMENT DE L'ACTIVITE ECONOMIQUE MONDIALE ET DE NOS POLITIQUES D'EMPLOI?

IL EST BIEN EVIDENT QUE CES THEMES SONT TROP COMPLEXES POUR QUE LE CONSEIL PUISSE PARVENIR EN UNE HEURE DE DISCUSSION A DES CONCLUSIONS OPERATIONNELLES. IL S'AGIRA DONC ESSENTIELLEMENT POUR LES MINISTRES DE PRECISER LES ORIENTATIONS AUANT A LA POURSUITE DES TRAVAUX.

AIDE ALIMENTAIRE

L'OBJECTIF IMMEDIAT DU CONSEIL EST DE FIXER LE VOLUME DE L'AIDE ALIMENTAIRE EN CEREALES ET EN POUDRE DE LAIT POUR 1978 ET CECI SUR LA BASE DES PROPOSITIONS DE LA COMMISSION D'OCTOBRE DERNIER (COM(77)52 FINAL DU 24/10/77 - VOIR NOTE P-97),

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NOTE BIO (77) 408 (SUITE 1 ET FIN) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
C.C. AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPE, A M. LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL DG I ET
A M. OPITZ DG VIII

CONSEIL DEVELOPPEMENT

LES MINISTRES ONT PU SE METTRE D'ACCORD SUR TOUS LES POINTS A
L'ORDRE DU JOUR REQUERANT UNE PRISE DE POSITION :

ACTION SPECIALE CCEI

LES MODALITES D'UTILISATION DES 385 MILLIONS US DOLLARS FOURNIS
PAR LA COMMUNAUTE ONT ETE ARRETEES. SUR CETTE BASE LA COMMUNAUTE
NEGOCIERA MAINTENANT UN ACCORD AVEC L'ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE
DU DEVELOPPEMENT (BANQUE MONDIALE).

AIDE FINANCIERE ET TECHNIQUE AUX PVD NON-ASSOCIES

CONSENSUS SUR L'UTILISATION DES 45 MUC INSCRITS AU BUDGET 1977
QUE LA COMMISSION DECIDERA PROCHAINEMENT DANS LE CADRE DE SES
PROPOSITIONS BUDGETAIRES. LES CONVENTIONS AVEC LES PAYS ET
ORGANISMES BENEFICIAIRES SERONT CONCLUES ENCORE CETTE ANNEE.

COORDINATION ET HARMONISATION DES POLITIQUES DE COOPERATION

- COORDINATION DES AIDES D'URGENCE :
LE CONSEIL A ARRETE LES MODALITES PRATIQUES ET OPERATIONNELLES
PROPOSEES.
- COORDINATION DES AIDES BILATERALES :
LE CONSEIL A ADOPTE LA COMMUNICATION DE LA DELEGATION BELGE
PRECISANT LA RESOLUTION DU CONSEIL DU 4 NOVEMBRE 1976. IL A
PRIS ACTE AVEC SATISFACTION DE L'EXPOSE DE M. CHEYSSON SUR
LES EXPERIENCES DEJA ACQUISES DANS CE DOMAINE. LES DOCUMENTS
Y AFFERENTS VOUS SERONT ENVOYES PAR COURRIER (DEVELOPPEMENT
RURAL, VOLUME DE L'AIDE, CO-FINANCEMENTS ETC.).

AIDE ALIMENTAIRE

- POUDRE DE LAIT :
A L'EXCEPTION D'UNE, TOUTES LES DELEGATIONS ONT MARQUE LEUR
ACCORD SUR L'INSCRIPTION AU BUDGET 1978 D'UN MONTANT EQUI-
VALENT A LA FOURNITURE DE 150.000 TONNES DE POUDRE DE LAIT
A TITRE D'AIDE. LA COMMISSION DISPOSERA AINSI DE LA QUANTITE
MINIMALE NECESSAIRE POUR EXECUTER UNE VERITABLE POLITIQUE DE
DEVELOPPEMENT LAITIER DANS LES PVD DEFICITAIRES TELLE QUE
PROPOSEE ET AMORCEE DEPUIS PLUSIEURS ANNEES ET NOTAMMENT
D'HONORER SON ENGAGEMENT DANS L'OPERATION FLOOD II
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K.V.HELLDORFF GPP

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M. SANTARELLI

