

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

8413/79 (Presse 90)

592nd Council meeting
- Agriculture -
Brussels, 24 July 1979
President: Mr Jim GIBBONS,
Minister for Agriculture
of Ireland

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean RIES

Director,
Ministry of Agriculture

Netherlands:

Mr A. DE ZEEUW

Director-General,
Ministry of Agriculture

United Kingdom:

Mr Peter WALKER

Minister of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food

Mr Alick BUCHANAN-SMITH

Minister of State,
Ministry of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food

Commission:

Mr Finn Olav GUNDELACH

Vice-President

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COMMUNITY CITRUS FRUIT

The Council discussed the proposed extension of the deadline for the granting of aid for projects for the conversion of orange and mandarine groves, the improvement of marketing and processing structures for citrus fruits and the deadline for the granting of additional aid to growers who have sustained losses of income as a result of the above-mentioned conversion operations.

The Council agreed to discuss this question further at its next meeting, scheduled for 17 and 18 September 1979.

REGISTER OF OLIVE CULTIVATION

After discussing the procedure for financing the compilation of the register of olive cultivation, the Council decided that it would be financed by deductions from the production aid for olive oil. The rate of deduction was fixed at 1.47% for the 1979/1980 marketing year.

SHEEPMEAT

The Council held a general discussion of the proposal for a Regulation on a common organization of the market in sheepmeat, in the course of which delegations made known the main problems with which it presented them.

The discussion focussed on the complexity of the proposed common organization, its effectiveness as regards both intra-Community and international trade, how it could be financed and what it was likely to cost.

In conclusion, the Council instructed the Special Committee on Agriculture to examine the matter in greater detail in the light of the day's discussion, and agreed to return to the issue at its next meeting with a view to reaching a consensus enabling it to take a decision before the end of October 1979.

WINE

The Council adopted the Regulation on the prices to be paid in respect of compulsory distillation of the by-products of wine-making, namely:

buying-in price for wine deliveries	0.64 UA/°/hl
price of alcohol from wine deliveries	1.02 UA/°/hl
price of marc alcohol	1.09 UA/°/hl
price of alcohol from lees and wines	0.96 UA/°/hl

The EAGGF's contribution was provisionally set at 0; it might possibly be reviewed and back-dated by the Council at its next meeting in the light of a re-examination of the bases upon which it was calculated to be carried out by the Commission as soon as possible.

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The Council also held a detailed exchange of views on market, management and structural measures under the 1979/1985 action programme. The discussion bore mainly on chaptalization, wine-growing potential and related issues, the purpose being to clarify the options open to the Council.

The Council restated its intention of taking a decision on the whole wine-growing package at its meeting in October, and instructed the Special Committee on Agriculture to continue its work to this end.

MISCELLANEOUS STATEMENTS

The Council took note of the following statements, accompanied as appropriate by the Commission's replies and the comments of the other delegations:

- Problems regarding export refunds for cereals and for beef and veal (Italian delegation)
- Problems regarding imports of New Zealand butter (Danish delegation)
- Problems regarding aid for butter consumption (French delegation)
- Problems regarding the distribution of milk in schools (French delegation)
- Questions concerning the Community's imports of manioc (several delegations)
- Problems regarding apportionment of the import balances for beef and veal (German delegation)
- Questions concerning the egg market (French delegation).

OTHER DECISIONS

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

- fixing cereal prices for the 1979/1980 marketing year
- laying down the minimum requirements for common wheat for bread-making
- fixing, for the 1979/1980 marketing year, the monthly price increases for cereals, wheat and rye flour and wheat groats and meal
- fixing, for the 1979/1980 marketing year, the list of Community regions which qualify for aid in respect of durum wheat and fixing the amount of such aid
- fixing rice prices for the 1979/1980 marketing year
- fixing, for the 1979/1980 marketing year, the monthly price increases for paddy rice and husked rice
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 1418/76 on the common organization of the market in rice
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 2742/75 on production refunds in the cereals and rice sectors
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 2727/75 on the common organization of the market in cereals
- on the reduction of the levy on certain importations of feed grain into Italy completed prior to 1 January 1980
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 727/70 on the common organization of the market in raw tobacco as regards the mechanism of market management
- amending the percentages and quantities of tobacco taken over by the intervention agencies as fixed in Regulation (EEC) No 1469/70

- fixing the norm and intervention prices and the premiums granted to purchasers of leaf tobacco, and the derived intervention prices for baled tobacco, for the 1979 harvest
- laying down special measures in the raw tobacco sector in respect of the Perustitza and Erzegovina varieties
- fixing the amounts of aid granted for seeds for the 1980/1981 and 1981/1982 marketing years
- fixing the guide price for linseed for the 1979/1980 marketing year
- fixing the amount of aid for cotton seeds for 1979/1980 marketing year
- fixing the guide price for castor seeds for the 1979/1980 marketing year
- fixing the minimum price for castor seeds for the 1979/1980 marketing year
- introducing supplementary aid for castor seed for the 1979/1980, 1980/1981 and 1981/1982 marketing years
- fixing the guide price for soya beans for the 1979/1980 marketing year
- laying down special measures in respect of soya beans
- fixing the production target price, the production aid and the intervention price for olive oil for the 1979/1980 marketing year
- fixing the monthly increases in the representative market price, the intervention price and the threshold price for olive oil for the 1979/1980 marketing year
- fixing the amounts of aid for fibre flax and hemp for the 1979/1980 marketing year

- fixing the guide prices for wine for the period from 16 December 1979 to 15 December 1980
- fixing the basic prices and the standard quality for slaughtered pigs for the period from 1 November 1979 to 31 October 1980
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 516/77 on the common organization of the market in products processed from fruit and vegetables
- limiting the granting of aid for the production of Williams Pears in syrup
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 1763/78 on the transfer to the Italian intervention agency of skimmed-milk powder
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 1080/77 on the supply of milk and certain milk products at reduced prices to schoolchildren

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Directive amending Directives 66/401/EEC, 66/402/EEC, 70/458/EEC and 70/457/EEC on the marketing of fodder plant seed, cereal seed and vegetable seed and on the common catalogue of varieties of agricultural plant species.

The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to fruit jams, jellies and marmalades and to chestnut purée. This Directive is a further addition to the body of Community foodstuff regulations. As in the case of the previous Directives, (sugar, cocoa/chocolate, honey, dietetic and dietary foodstuffs, coffee extracts), the present Directive contains the various Community provisions governing trade in these products and lays down rules concerning definition, composition and reserved designations, additives, authorized manufacturing processed and compulsory and optional labelling requirements.

However, it includes a number of exceptions and derogations rendered necessary by the individual national situations and by the need for full gradual standardization. It is accordingly intended, in particular, to leave Member States initially free to decide whether or not to extend the terms "jam", "jelly", "marmalade" or "chestnut purée" to the new types of product with a low sugar content. Community rules applicable to these products will have to be worked out later.

L'ABSENCE D'UN REGIME COMMUNAUTAIRE, DE TELLES LIMITATIONS A LA LIBRE CIRCULATION DE MARCHANDISES CONSTITUENT UNE INFRACTION AU TRAITE. AINSI A-T-ELLE PORTE LES MESURES FRANCAISES DEVANT LA COUR DE JUSTICE QUI N'A PAS ENCORE RENDU SON ARRET.

LE CONSEIL REPENDRA EGALEMENT SA DISCUSSION SUR LE PROGRAMME D'ACTION VITI-VINICOLE POUR LES ANNEES 1979/85 QUE LA COMMISSION AVAIT PROPOSE EN JUILLET 1978. IL S'AGIT D'UN ENSEMBLE DE MESURES DE GESTION DU MARCHE ET DE MESURES STRUCTURELLES QUI A DEJA BEAUCOUP PROGRESSE. QUELQUES PROBLEMES POLITIQUES EMPECHENT CEPENDANT SON ADOPTION. L'OBSTACLE MAJEUR EST CONSTITUE PAR UNE LEGISLATION FRANCAISE QUI PERMET LE SUCRAGE DE CERTAINS VINS, ENTRE AUTRES CEUX DU MIDI. L'ITALIE A INDIQUE QU'ELLE NE PEUT ACCEPTER UNE DECISION SUR LE PROGRAMME D'ACTION QUE SI LA FRANCE RETIRE CETTE LEGISLATION. ELLE ESTIME QUE LE SUCRAGE DES VINS DE HAUT RENDEMENT ET SOUVENT DE QUALITE MOYENNE EST CONTRAIRE AUX OBJECTIFS DU PROGRAMME D'ACTION, A SAVOIR : L'AMELIORATION DE LA QUALITE ET UN STRICT CONTROLE DE QUANTITE.

LES MESURES STRUCTURELLES PREVOIENT LA CLASSIFICATION DES REGIONS VITICOLES SELON LEUR APTITUDE ET L'ORIENTATION DE LA VITICULTURE VERS LES MEILLEURES REGIONS. DANS LES AUTRES REGIONS, LA VITICULTURE DEVRAIT ETRE DECOURAGEE PAR UNE COMBINAISON DE MESURES : INTERDICTION DE PLANTATIONS NOUVELLES, PRIMES A L'ABANDON DE LA VITICULTURE OU DE TOUTE ACTIVITE AGRICOLE, ETC. LES MESURES DE GESTION PREVOIENT NOTAMMENT LE PRIX MINIMUM DE COMMERCIALISATION EN CAS D'EXCEDENTS, LE REGIME DES DISTILLATIONS OBLIGATOIRES, ETC.

PARTI LES POINTS DIVERS, LA DELEGATION ITALIENNE DEMANDERA QUE LA COMMUNAUTE N'OCTROIE PLUS DE RESTITUTIONS A L'EXPORTATION DE VIANDE BOVINE ET DE CEREALES ET QUE CES PRODUITS SOIENT DESTINES EN PREMIER LIEU A L'APPROVISIONNEMENT DU MARCHE ITALIEN DEFICITAIRE. LA DELEGATION DANOISE POURRAIT EVOQUER LE NIVEAU DU PRELEVEMENT SPECIAL APPLIQUE AUX IMPORTATIONS DE BEURRE EN PROVENANCE DE LA NOUVELLE-ZELANDE. LA COMMISSION A REDUIT CE PRELEVEMENT D'ENVIRON 106 UC A ENVIRON 49 UC PAR 100 KG POUR TENIR COMPTE DES DECISIONS DU CONSEIL SUR LES PRIX AGRICOLES AINSI QUE DE LA SITUATION DU MARCHE AU ROYAUME-UNI. LA NOUVELLE-ZELANDE AVAIT EN EFET DE GRANDES DIFFICULTES POUR ECOULER LES 120.000 TONNES DE BEURRE POUR LESQUELLES ELLE A UN ACCES PRIVILEGIE AU MARCHE BRITANNIQUE AU TITRE D'UNE DECISION DU CONSEIL. CERTAINS ETATS MEMBRES ESTIMENT CEPENDANT QUE LA REDUCTION DECIDEE PAR LA COMMISSION A ETE TROP IMPORTANTE. LES IMPORTATIONS DE MANIOC POURRAIENT EGALEMENT ETRE EVOQUEES. AU DERNIER CONSEIL, LES PAYS-BAS ET LA R.F.A. AVAIENT EXPRIME UNE RESERVE A L'EGARD DE LA PROPOSITION DE LA COMMISSION VISANT A RENEGOCIER LA CONSOLIDATION AU GATT DE LA PROTECTION CONTRE LES

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IMPORTATIONS DE MANIOC. LA CONSOLIDATION CONCERNE UN PRELEVEMENT MAXIMUM DE 6 O/O MAIS, A CE TAUX, LES IMPORTATIONS DE LA COMMUNAUTE ONT TRIPLE EN QUELQUES ANNEES ET LA TENDANCE EST TOUJOURS A LA HAUSSE. L'ANNEE DERNIERE, LA COMMUNAUTE A IMPORTE QUELQUE SIX MILLIONS DE TONNES DESTINEES NOTAMMENT A L'ALIMENTATION DES ANIMAUX ET REMPLACANT UNE FORTE QUANTITE DE CEREALES COMMUNAUTAIRES. POUR EVITER UN BOULEVERSEMENT DU MARCHÉ CEREALIER, LA COMMUNAUTE A ENTAME DES NEGOCIATIONS AVEC LA THAILANDE POUR OBTENIR DE CE PAYS UNE AUTO-LIMITATION DE SES EXPORTATIONS VERS LA COMMUNAUTE. LA THAILANDE, QUI N'EST PAS MEMBRE DU GATT, EST LE PRINCIPAL FOURNISSEUR DE LA COMMUNAUTE. IL N'EST CEPENDANT PAS EXCLU QUE D'AUTRES PAYS, COMME L'INDONESIE, QUI SONT ■■■■ EUX MEMBRES DU GATT, PROFITENT DE L'AUTO-LIMITATION DE LA THAILANDE POUR AUGMENTER FORTEMENT LEURS EXPORTATIONS VERS LA COMMUNAUTE. C'EST DONC POUR EVITER QUE L'EFFET POSITIF D'UNE EVENTUELLE AUTO-LIMITATION THAILANDAISE NE SOIT MINE PAR UNE AUGMENTATION DES IMPORTATIONS EN PROVENANCE D'AUTRES PAYS QUE LA COMMISSION A PROPOSE LA RENEGOCIATION DE LA CONSOLIDATION.

(A SUIVRE)

AMITIES

M. SANTARELLI COMEUR, 12.00

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