

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES  
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

10534/79 (Presse 140)

606th Council meeting

- Agriculture -

Brussels, 12 and 13 November 1979

President: Mr Jim GIBBONS  
Minister for Agriculture  
of Ireland



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

Belgium:

Mr Albert LAVENS                      Minister for Agriculture  
and Small Firms and Traders

Denmark:

Mr Poul DALSGER                      Minister for Agriculture

Germany:

Mr Joseph ERTL                      Federal Minister for Food,  
Agriculture and Forestry

Mr Hans-Jürgen ROHR                State Secretary,  
Federal Ministry for Food,  
Agriculture and Forestry

France:

Mr Pierre MEHAIGNERIE              Minister for Agriculture

Mr Jacques FOUCHIER                State Secretary,  
Ministry of Agriculture

Ireland:

Mr Jim GIBBONS                      Minister for Agriculture

Mr Tom HUSSEY                      Minister of State,  
Department of Agriculture

Italy:

Mr Giovanni MARCORA                Minister for Agriculture

Luxembourg:

Mr Camille NEY

Minister for Agriculture,  
Viticulture, Inland Waterways  
and Forestry

Netherlands:

Mr A.P.J.M.M. van der STEE

Minister for Agriculture and  
Fisheries

United Kingdom:

Mr Peter WALKER

Minister for Agriculture,  
Fisheries and Food

Mr Alick BUCHANAN-SMITH

Minister of State,  
Ministry of Agriculture,  
Fisheries and Food

Commission:

Mr Finn Olav GUNDELACH

Vice-President

SHEEPMEAT

Following a detailed discussion, the Council noted that the positions of the delegations on certain aspects of the future common arrangements for the market in sheepmeat were substantially closer.

On the external aspect of the future arrangements, the Council recorded its agreement in principle on the continuation of contacts with third countries which supply sheepmeat to the Community. As for the internal aspect of the proposed arrangements, the Council took note of the progress which has been made on fundamental issues such as reference prices, production premiums, aids for storage and financial implications.

It was agreed that the Commission would submit a further report on all these issues in due course. On the basis of that information and the Special Committee on Agriculture's preparatory work, the Council felt that at its next meeting it could hold a useful debate leading up, as far as possible, to a decision in principle on the future arrangements.

AGRICULTURAL STRUCTURE POLICY

The Council discussed the Commission's communication referring to certain amendments to the Directives currently in force with regard to structures and several new measures for specific regions of the Community.

The communication from the Commission provides both for the adaptation of current measures in the light of experience acquired, bearing in mind changes in the general socio-economic situation, and for the introduction of new measures allowing a significant proportion of holdings, which hitherto could not benefit from these measures, to do so.

The Commission also envisages supplementing the whole range of structural measures by specific measures for Greenland, the West of Ireland and the least developed areas of Italy, and integrated development programmes for the province of Luxembourg in Belgium, the department of Lozère in France and the Western Islands of Scotland. A specific measure is proposed for the slaughter of pigs and pigmeat processing in France and the United Kingdom.

The discussion enabled the Council to take note of the significant progress which has been made and to pinpoint essential issues on which work should be continued. In the light of this debate, the Council instructed the Special Committee on Agriculture to examine all the proposed measures in greater detail and agreed to return to the question of agricultural structures at its next meeting.

POTATOES

The Council discussed in detail the proposals on the organization of the market in potatoes.

The discussions centred on the main questions still outstanding as regards market support for ware potatoes, the establishment of stabilization funds and the arrangements for new potatoes.

Finally, the Council agreed to instruct the Special Committee on Agriculture to continue its work in the light of the day's discussions so as to enable the Council to return to the matter at a forthcoming meeting.

ETHYL ALCOHOL OF AGRICULTURAL ORIGIN

The Council discussed the bases proposed for the common organization of the market in ethyl alcohol of agricultural origin and additional provisions for certain products containing ethyl alcohol.

Following its discussion, the Council instructed the Special Committee on Agriculture to continue its examination of the main questions raised in the light of the day's discussions, in order to assist the proceedings of the next Council meeting on 10 and 11 December 1979.

13.XI.79

WINE

Following an exchange of views on the main problems still unresolved concerning the series of measures proposed in the wine sector, the Council agreed to resume its discussions on this subject at its next meeting (10 and 11 December 1979), while the Special Committee on Agriculture was instructed in the meanwhile to finalize the last questions under discussion.

Pending a decision, it extended until 31 December 1979 the deadlines in the Community regulations on the coupage and sugaring/watering of wine in the Federal Republic of Germany and concerning the present prohibition on the replanting of vineyards.

STATISTICAL SURVEYS ON VINEYARDS

The Council took note of the Italian delegation's request that the start of the survey provided for in Regulation 357/79 be postponed for one year.

MILK POWDER STOCKS

The Council held an exchange of views on the French delegation's statement drawing attention to certain problems relating to the availability of stocks of intervention milk powder for use as animal feedingstuffs.



MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Another agricultural decision

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Directive amending Directives 66/403/EEC, 70/457/EEC and 70/458/EEC on the marketing of seed potatoes, the common catalogue of varieties of agricultural plant species and the marketing of vegetable seed.

Commodities

The Council agreed to the signing and approval by the Community of the 1979 International Olive Oil Agreement.

Research and development

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a multiannual research and development programme in the field of the recycling of urban and industrial waste (secondary raw materials). This programme, the substance of which was approved at the last meeting of the Council (Research) on 22.X.1979, comprises an appropriation of 9 MEUA for 4 years from November 1979 and covers the following fields: sorting of household waste, thermal treatment of waste, fermentation and hydrolysis, and recovery of rubber waste.

Customs union

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

- amending Regulation (EEC) No 2840/78 on the tariff treatment of certain products intended for use in the construction, maintenance and repair of aircraft;
- on the opening, allocation and administration of a Community tariff quota for dried grapes in immediate containers of a net capacity of 15 kilograms or less falling within sub-heading 08.04 B I of the Common Customs Tariff (1980);
- on the opening, allocation and administration of a Community tariff quota for rosin, including "brais résineux", falling within subheading 38.08 A of the Common Customs Tariff (1980);
- opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for raw silk (not thrown) falling within heading No 50.02 of the Common Customs Tariff (1980);
- opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for yarn, entirely of silk, other than yarn of noil or other waste silk, not put up for retail sale, falling within heading No ex 50.04 of the Common Customs Tariff (1980);
- opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for yarn, spun entirely from silk waste other than noil, not put up for retail sale, falling within subheading 50.05 A of the Common Customs Tariff (1980);
- increasing the volume of the Community tariff quota opened for 1979 for unwrought magnesium falling within subheading 77.01 A of the Common Customs Tariff.

Appointments

On the proposal of the United Kingdom Government, the Council appointed Mr Michael T. WALSH, Assistant Secretary, International Department, Trade Union Council, and Mr Michael HICKS-BEACH, Formerly Director, PE International Limited, as Members of the Economic and Social Committee to replace respectively Mr Tom JENKINS and Mr Basil de FERRANTI, Members, who have resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which runs until 18 September 1982.

On the proposal of the Italian Government, the Council also appointed Mr Gian Battista CAVAZZUTI, CISL, Mr Ettore MASUCCI, Segretario Generale della Federazione Nazionale Tessili della CGIL, and Mr Giacinto MILITELLO, Segretario della Confederazione della CGIL, as Members of the Economic and Social Committee to replace respectively Mrs BADUEL GLORIOSO, Mr BONACCINI and Mr DIDO, Members, who have resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which runs until 18 September 1982.

On the proposal of the Danish Government, the Council also appointed Mrs Birte JOHANSEN, fuldmaegtig, Dansk Arbejdsgiverforening, as a Full Member, and Mr Niels Jørgen HANSEN, sekretaer, Dansk Arbejdsgiverforening, as an Alternate Member of the Committee of the European Social Fund to replace respectively Mr SCHADE-POULSEN, Full Member, and Mrs JOHANSEN, Alternate Member, who have resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which runs until 16 April 1980.

On the proposal of the Danish Government, the Council also appointed Mrs Birte JOHANSEN, fuldmaegtig, Dansk Arbejdsgiverforening, as a Full Member and Mr Jørgen Tejlgaard PETERSEN, sekretaer, Dansk Arbejdsgiverforening, as an Alternate Member of the Advisory Committee on Social Security for Migrant Workers, to replace respectively Mr CHRISTENSEN, Full Member, and Mrs JOHANSEN, Alternate Member who have resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which runs until 14 October 1981.

Finally, on the proposal of the Luxembourg Government, the Council appointed Mr Paul LENERT, Instituteur-attaché au Ministère de l'Education Nationale, as a Full Member of the Advisory Committee on Vocational Training to replace Mr ESTGEN, Full Member, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which runs until 15 October 1980.

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NOTE BIO (79) 367 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX  
C.C.AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPE, A M. BURGHARDT, DG I,  
ET A M. LECOMTE, DG VIII

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PREPARATION CONSEIL AGRICOLE (KLAUS VAN DER PAS)

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LES MINISTRES DE L'AGRICULTURE, QUI SE REUNIRONT LUNDI A PARTIR DE 15.30 HEURES A BRUXELLES, AURONT CINQ DOSSIERS A LEUR ORDRE DU JOUR : L'ORGANISATION COMMUNE DES MARCHES DE LA VIANDE OVINE, DES POMMES DE TERRE ET DE L'ALCOOL AINSI QUE LE PLAN VITI-VINICOLE 1980/85 ET L'AMELIORATION DE LA POLITIQUE STRUCTURELLE. LES DOSSIERS CONCERNANT LES POMMES DE TERRE, L'ALCOOL ET LES STRUCTURES NE DONNERONT LIEU QU'A DES DISCUSSIONS GENERALES D'ORIENTATION ET AUCUNE DECISION NE SERA PRISE A LEUR EGARD.

LE PLAN VITI-VINICOLE POURRAIT ETRE ADOPTE FINALEMENT POURVU QUE LES MINISTRES PUISSENT SE METTRE D'ACCORD SUR CE QUI REPRESENTAIT LE DERNIER OBSTACLE, CELUI DE LA PARTICIPATION FINANCIERE DE LA COMMUNAUTE. COMME NOUS L'AVIONS DEJA INDIQUE DANS NOTRE NOTE BIO (79) 320 SUITE 1 DU 16.10.79, TOUTES LES MESURES VISANT A AMELIORER LA QUALITE ET A MAITRISER LES QUANTITES ONT ETE ACCEPTEES : INTERDICTION DE NOUVELLES PLANTATIONS DE VINS DE TABLE, PRIMES DE RESTRUCTURATION, PRIMES D'ABANDON, PRIMES DE CESSATION. UN COMPROMIS DE LA COMMISSION PREVOIT QUE LE COUT DES MESURES DE RESTRUCTURATION SERA FINANCE PAR LA COMMUNAUTE A RAISON DE 35 O/O. LE COUT TOTAL DE CES MESURES, QUI CONCERNENT LA RESTRUCTURATION DE LA VITICULTURE SUR ENVIRON 224.000 HECTARES, NOTAMMENT DANS LE MIDI DE LA FRANCE ET EN ITALIE, EST ESTIME A 500 MUCE. QUANT AUX AUTRES MESURES (INDEMNITES DE CESSATION ET D'ABANDON), ELLES COUTERAIENT ENVIRON 325 MUCE DONT 50 O/O SERAIENT, SELON LE COMPROMIS, A LA CHARGE DE LA COMMUNAUTE. PLUSIEURS DELEGATIONS, ET NOTAMMENT LES PAYS NON PRODUCTEURS DE VIN, ESTIMENT QUE 25 O/O POUR TOUTES LES MESURES DEVRAIENT SUFFIRE.

LA SITUATION EN MATIERE DE VIANDE OVINE N'A PAS CHANGE DEPUIS LE DERNIER CONSEIL. LA FRANCE A MAINTENU SES RESTRICTIONS A L'IMPORTATION ET LA COMMISSION S'EST VUE OBLIGEE D'ENGAGER UNE NOUVELLE PROCEDURE D'INFRACTION CONTRE LA FRANCE (VOIR NOTE BIO (79) 361 DU 6.11.79). DANS CETTE SITUATION DIFFICILE, LES MINISTRES AURONT DE GRANDES DIFFICULTES A S'ENTENDRE SUR LES CONDITIONS D'UNE NOUVELLE ORGANISATION DE MARCHE DANS CE SECTEUR. LA FRANCE ET L'IRLANDE CONTINUENT A DEMANDER UN SYSTEME D'INTERVENTION ET DES MESURES SUPPLEMENTAIRES POUR PROTEGER LES PRODUCTEURS COMMUNAUTAIRES CONTRE LES IMPORTATIONS EN PROVENANCE  
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VAN DER PAS DG X/A B. 1/4 2205 9.11.79

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M. SANTARELLI

DE PAYS TIERS. LA PLUPART DES AUTRES DELEGATIONS ESTIMENT QUE LA RELATION AVEC LES PAYS TIERS POURRA ETRE REGLEE DE MANIERE SATISFAISANTE EN CONCLUANT DES ACCORDS D'AUTO-LIMITATION TOUT EN RESPECTANT LES OBLIGATIONS QUE LA COMMUNAUTE A ENDOSSEES DANS LE CADRE DU GATT (DROITS DE DOUANE DE 20 O/O AU MAXIMUM). EN CE QUI CONCERNE LES GARANTIES DES PRODUCTEURS, LA MAJORITE DES DELEGATIONS PRECONISE DES PRIMES TEMPORAIRES ET DEGRESSIVES POUR COMBLER LES PERTES DE REVENUS QUI DECOULERAIENT EVENTUELLEMENT DE L'OUVERTURE DES FRONTIERES INTRACOMMUNAUTAIRES DANS CE SECTEUR. AU COURS DU DERNIER CONSEIL AGRICOLE A LUXEMBOURG, LA GRANDE-BRETAGNE AVAIT ABANDONNE SON EXIGENCE DE VOIR LES PRIMES FINANCEES PAR LES TRESORS NATIONAUX. LA COMMUNAUTE POURRAIT LES PRENDRE A SA CHARGE A LA CONDITION CEPENDANT QUE LES PRODUCTEURS BRITANNIQUES RECOIVENT LES MEMES PRIMES QUE LES PRODUCTEURS IRLANDAIS. DANS CES CONDITIONS, LE SYSTEME DE PRIMES COUTERAIT, SELON DES ESTIMATIONS BRITANNIQUES ENVIRON 270 MUCE DONT 170 AU BENEFICE DES PRODUCTEURS BRITANNIQUES. LA PROPOSITION INITIALE DE LA COMMISSION, PREVOYANT DES PRIMES VARIABLES SEULEMENT POUR LES PRODUCTEURS QUI SUBISSENT REELLEMENT LA BAISSSE DES PRIX DU MARCHE (NOTANMENT EN FRANCE ET EN IRLANDE), COUTERAIT ENVIRON 106 MUCE. UNE SOLUTION DE COMPROMIS, AVANCEE PAR LA FRANCE, PREVOIT UN SYSTEME D'INTERVENTION APPLICABLE DANS LES PAYS QUI LE SOUHAITENT AINSI QUE DES PRIMES DANS LES AUTRES PAYS. CE REGIME MIXTE COUTERAIT A PEU PRES 95 MUCE (60 MUCE POUR LES PRIMES ET 35 MUCE POUR L'INTERVENTION. BIEN QUE LA PROPOSITION FRANCAISE SEMBLE LA MOINS ONEREUSE, LA PLUPART DES AUTRES DELEGATIONS ONT MAINTENU LEUR OPPOSITION CRAIGNANT SANS DOUTE QUE LES INTERVENTIONS LIMITEES PROPOSEES NE DEVIENNENT UN SYSTEME D'INTERVENTION EN BONNE ET DUE FORME AU COURS DES PROCHAINES ANNEES. LA PERSPECTIVE DE L'ELARGISSEMENT DE LA COMMUNAUTE A TROIS NOUVEAUX ETATS MEMBRES AYANT UNE PRODUCTION IMPORTANTE DE MOUTONS NE SEMBLE PAS ETRANGERE A CETTE CRAINTE.

(A SUIVRE)

AMITIES,  
M. SANTARELLI COMEUR, 16.00  
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NOTE BIO (79) 367(SUITE 1 ET FIN)AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX  
C.C. AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPE, A M. BURGHARDT, DG I,  
ET A M. LECOMTE, DG VIII

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CONSEIL AGRICOLE (KLAUS VAN DER PAS)

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LES DISCUSSIONS QUI ONT EU LIEU AU CONSEIL AGRICOLE SUR LES  
DOSSIERS DE L'ALCOOL, DES POMMES DE TERRE ET DES STRUCTURES  
N'ONT, COMME PREVU, PAS ETE DAVANTAGE QU'UN TOUR D'HORIZON  
GENERAL ET LES DOSSIERS ONT ETE RENVOYES AUX EXPERTS DU COMITE  
SPECIAL AGRICULTURE.

EN CE QUI CONCERNE LA VIANDE OVINE, LA REUNION S'EST ENTIERE-  
MENT DEROULEE EN RESTREINTE ET S'EST ACHEVEE PAR UNE INVITA-  
TION FAITE A LA COMMISSION DE PRESENTER, POUR LE PROCHAIN  
CONSEIL AGRICOLE, UN DOCUMENT PORTANT SUR TROIS POINTS :

1. PRIMES COMMUNAUTAIRES A LA PRODUCTION DEGRESSIVES PENDANT  
UNE PERIODE DE 5 ANNEES
2. REGIME DE SOUTIEN DU MARCHÉ PAR LE BIAIS D'AIDES AU STOCKAGE  
PRIVE ET EVENTUELLEMENT UN STOCKAGE PUBLIC LIMITE EN QUANTITES  
ET LIMITE DANS LE TEMPS
3. PROPOSITION POUR UN MANDAT DE NEGOCIATION AVEC LES PAYS  
TIERS COMME LA NOUVELLE-ZELANDE EN VUE DE LA CONCLUSION D'AC-  
CORDS D'AUTOLIMITATION.

POUR CE DERNIER POINT, IL SEMBLE QUE TOUTES LES DELEGATIONS  
PEUVENT MAINTENANT ACCEPTER QUE LES RELATIONS EXTERNES DE LA  
COMMUNAUTE DANS CE SECTEUR SOIENT REGLEES PAR DES ACCORDS  
D'AUTO-LIMITATION ET NON PAR UNE DECONSOLIDATION DES OBLIGA-  
TIONS DE LA COMMUNAUTE AU GATT (DROIT DE DOUANE MAXIMUM DE  
20 O/O). LA FRANCE ET L'IRLANDE QUI AVAIENT TOUJOURS INSISTE  
SUR LA DECONSOLIDATION ONT CEPENDANT INSISTE POUR QUE LE NON  
RESPECT DES ACCORDS D'AUTO-LIMITATION SOIENT PENALISES PAR LA  
COMMUNAUTE PAR L'APPLICATION D'UNE CLAUSE DE SAUVEGARDE OU  
MEME PAR UN REEXAMEN DES POSSIBILITES DE DECONSOLIDATION. POUR  
CE QUI CONCERNE LES AUTRES POINTS, LA QUASI TOTALITE DES DELE-  
GATIONS A ■■■■■■ EMIS UN PREJUGE FAVORABLE MAIS LA DELEGATION  
BRITANNIQUE A RESERVE SA POSITION NOTAMMENT POUR CE QUI CON-  
CERNE LE SYSTEME DES PRIMES.

EN CE QUI CONCERNE LE DOSSIER VITICOLE, ■L'OPTIMISME QUANT A  
LA POSSIBILITE DE L'ADOPTER S'EST REVELE ■■■■■■INJUSTIFIE.

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VAN DER PAS DG X/A B.1/4 2205 13.11.79 X X

M. SANTARELLI

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EN EFFET, LORS D'UNE REUNION RESTREINTE D'ASSEZ COURTE DUREE, PLUSIEURS DELEGATIONS ONT RAPPELE LEURS RESERVES QUANT AUX POURCENTAGES DE FINANCEMENT COMMUNAUTAIRE DES DIFFERENTES MESURES STRUCTURELLES ET IL SEMBLE QUE CERTAINS MINISTRES ONT EXPRIME DES DOUTES QUANT A LA POSSIBILITE DE CONCLURE CE DOSSIER AVANT LE CONSEIL EUROPEEN DE DUBLIN. APRES CETTE CONSTATATION, LE DOSSIER A ETE RENVOYE AU PROCHAIN CONSEIL AGRICOLE. LES MINISTRES ONT CEPENDANT PROLONGE D'UN MOIS L'INTERDICTION DE NOUVELLES PLANTATIONS DE VIGNES QUI, AUTREMENT SERAIT VENUE A EXPIRATION LE 30 NOVEMBRE, AINSI QUE L'AUTORISATION POUR L'ALLEMAGNE DE COUPER CERTAINS VINS ROUGES AVEC DU VIN IMPORTE.

LORS DE LA DISCUSSION SUR LES POINTS DIVERS, LE MINISTRE ITALIEN A DEMANDE, SE REFERANT A CERTAINS ARTICLES DE PRESSE, SI LA COMMUNAUTE CONNAISSAIT UNE PENURIE DE POUDRE DE LAIT ET SI LA COMMISSION, POUR CETTE RAISON, RETARDAIT LE TRANSFERT DE POUDRE DE LAIT D'INTERVENTION VERS L'ITALIE. M. GUNDELACH A FORTEMENT INSISTE SUR LE FAIT QUE LA PRODUCTION DE POUDRE DE LAIT PENDANT L'AUTOMNE ET L'HIVER SUFFIRA AMPLEMENT POUR COUVRIR LES BESOINS DE LA COMMUNAUTE ET QU'IL N'EST NULLEMENT QUESTION D'UNE PENURIE. LES STOCKS D'INTERVENTION QUI SONT DE L'ORDRE DE 230.000 TONNES CONSTITUENT DES RESERVES S'AJOUTANT A LA PRODUCTION. POUR LA PREMIERE FOIS DEPUIS LONGTEMPS, CES STOCKS PEUVENT ETRE CONSIDERES COMME RAISONNABLES ET NON EXAGERES ET CELA GRACE AUX MULTIPLES ACTIONS D'ECOULEMENT COMMUNAUTAIRES. QUANT AU TRANSFERT DE POUDRE DE LAIT VERS L'ITALIE, M. GUNDELACH A RAPPELE QUE 40.000 TONNES AVAIENT DEJA ETE ENVOYEEES EN ITALIE ET QUE, SUR LE SOLDE DE 60.000 TONNES, DES CONTACTS ETAIENT EN COURS ENTRE LA COMMUNAUTE ET LES AUTORITES ITALIENNES. AUCUN PROBLEME NE DEVRAIT SE POSER POUR REGLER CE POINT ET M. GUNDELACH S'EST DIT PRET A ACCELERER L'AFFAIRE SI L'ITALIE LE DESIRE.

PROCHAIN CONSEIL AGRICOLE : LES 10 ET 11 DECEMBRE A BRUXELLES.

AMITIES,  
M. SANTARELLI COMEUR, 19.00  
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