

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

11500/79 (Presse 164)

615th Council meeting

- Budget -

Strasbourg, 12 December 1979

President: Mr Brian LENIHAN
Minister designate
for Foreign Affairs
of Ireland

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

Belgium:

Mr Marc LEPOIVRE Deputy Permanent Representative

Denmark:

Mr Niels ERSBØLL State Secretary,
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Germany:

Mr Manfred LAHNSTEIN State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Finance

France:

Mr Jean BERNARD-REYMOND State Secretary,
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Ireland:

Mr Brian LENIHAN Minister designate for Foreign
Affairs

Italy:

Mr Giorgio FERRARI State Secretary,
Ministry of the Treasury

Luxembourg:

Mr Ernest MÜHLEN

State Secretary,
Ministry of Finance

Netherlands:

Mr D.F. van der MEI

State Secretary,
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr Nigel LAWSON

Financial Secretary to
the Treasury

Commission:

Mr Roy JENKINS

President

Mr Finn Olav GUNDELACH

Vice President

Mr Christopher TUGENDHAT

Member

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BUDGET QUESTIONS

The Council held a final debate on the draft budget as amended by the European Parliament at second reading, covering in particular on the trend of agricultural expenditure and the fixing of a new maximum rate -- factors which should enable the Parliament to act on the draft budget at its sitting on 13 December 1979.

At various stages throughout the debate the Council held meetings with a Parliament delegation composed of Mrs VEIL (President of the European Parliament), Mr LANGE (Chairman of the Committee on Budgets), Mr AIGNER (Chairman of the Committee on Budgetary Control), Messrs NOTENBOOM, SPINELLI and ROSSI (Vice-Chairmen of the Committee on Budgets), Messrs DANKERT and JACKSON (Rapporteurs for the 1980 budget), and Messrs ANSQUER and BONDE (Members of the Committee on Budgets).

The talks at these meetings enabled the two sides to draw closer on certain points, and following a thorough discussion lasting almost twelve hours the Parliament delegation announced its intention of reporting to the Committee on Budgets and the plenary sitting of the Parliament later on the same day, 13 December 1979.

The Council also acted on the Parliament's proposed modifications to draft supplementary budget No 3 for 1979.
