

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

11170/83 (Presse 211)

890th Council meeting

- Labour and Social Affairs -

Brussels, 8 December 1983

President: Mr Evangelos YANNOPOULOS,
Minister for Labour
of the Hellenic Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr Michel HANSENNE
Minister for Labour and
Employment

Denmark:

Mrs Grethe FENGER MØLLER
Minister for Labour

Germany:

Mr Walter KITTEL
Deputy Permanent Representative

Greece:

Mr Evangelos YANNOPOULOS
Minister for Labour

France:

Mr Pierre BEREGOVOY
Minister for Social Security
and National Solidarity

Ireland:

Mr George BIRMINGHAM
Minister of State for Labour

Italy:

Mr Gianni DE MICHELIS
Minister for Labour

Luxembourg:

Mr Jacques SANTER
Minister for Labour and
Social Security

Netherlands:

Mr J. de KONING
Minister for Employment and
Social Security

United Kingdom:

Mr Tom KING
Minister for Labour

Commission:

Mr Ivor RICHARD - Member

RESOLUTION ON THE PROMOTION OF EMPLOYMENT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

The Council signified its agreement to a Resolution on the promotion of employment for young people. It will be recalled that this Resolution is further to the conclusions of the European Council (meeting in June and December 1982 and March 1983), the Joint Council (Economic Affairs/Finance - Labour and Social Affairs) and the Standing Committee on Employment in November 1982.

The Resolution - following the Resolution of 11 July 1983 concerning vocational training policies in the European Community in the 1980's ⁽¹⁾ and in addition to the efforts made in this area - embodies the Community's commitment to deploy increased efforts over the next five years to create additional job opportunities in order to reduce gradually and significantly the rate of employment. With this in mind it lays down certain general guidelines and the scope of the measures to be taken into account in this context in the Member States, and the contribution which may be made by the European Social Fund, in particular by supporting the implementation of demonstration projects.

At the close of its discussion the Council agree to instruct the Permanent Representatives Committee to prepare the final text of the Resolution as approved, for formal adoption at a forthcoming Council meeting.

⁽¹⁾ See Press Release 7352/83 (Presse 94) of 3.6.1983.

SPECIAL MEASURES IN FAVOUR OF GREECE IN THE SOCIAL FIELD

Following a detailed discussion, the Council signified its agreement to the content of the measures provided for in the proposal for a Regulation - submitted by the Commission further to the Greek Memorandum - on special measures by the Community (1984-1988) for programmes to be drawn up by Greece for the construction, adaptation and equipment of:

- vocational training centres in the areas not covered by the ERDF (Athens and Thessaloniki);
- centres for the rehabilitation (particularly social rehabilitation) of the mentally ill and the mentally handicapped.

The Council agreed to adopt the proposal formally as soon as funding is ensured for the measures it contains.

RECOMMENDATION ON THE REDUCTION AND REORGANIZATION OF WORKING TIME

The Council held a thorough discussion of the proposal for a Recommendation submitted by the Commission, during which all the delegations were able to elaborate in detail their views on the matter.

It noted that there was a considerable degree of convergence on a number of aspects of the Commission proposal.

At the end of this discussion the Council directed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue discussions bearing in mind the various viewpoints put forward, in order to be in a position to express an opinion on the subject at its next meeting.

INFORMING AND CONSULTING EMPLOYEES

The Council heard a detailed report from Mr RICHARD, Member of the Commission, presenting the proposal for a Directive on procedures for informing and consulting the employees of undertakings with complex structures, in particular transnational undertakings, as amended by the Commission following the Opinions of the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee.

While all delegations generally acknowledged the importance of the objectives of the Commission proposal - viz. greater involvement of employees in decisions concerning them - differences of opinion became apparent at this stage on the approach advocated by the Commission for achieving these objectives.

At the end of its discussion, the Council agreed that the Commission proposal should undergo constructive scrutiny. It instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its proceedings on the matter in that spirit and to report back to it for its next meeting.

ELEVENTH REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE COUNCIL ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND (FINANCIAL YEAR 1982)

The Council took note of the report submitted by the Commission on the activities of the European Social Fund (financial year 1982).

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

EEC - Andean Pact Co-operation

The Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the ECSC meeting within the Council decided to sign the EEC-Andean Pact Framework Agreement and the ECSC Protocol relating thereto and to authorize the President of the Council to nominate the persons empowered to sign the Framework Agreement.

Signing is planned for Saturday, 17 December 1983, at Ministerial level, at Cartagena, Colombia.

Appointments

Acting on a proposal from the Danish Government, the Council appointed Fuldmægtig Torben JEPSEN, Dansk Arbejdsgiverforening, a member of the Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work, in place of Mr D. von GRUMBKOW, member who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which runs until 1 April 1985.

Acting on a further proposal from the Danish Government, the Council appointed Fuldmægtig Grethe ERSKOV, Undervisningsministeriet, Direktoratet for erhvervsuddannelserne, a member of the Management Board of the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training, in place of Mr A. HØJSTEEN, member who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which runs until 19 April 1985.

Finally, acting on a proposal from the Irish Government, the Council appointed Mrs Annette DONNELLAN, Nurse Tutor, St. Laurence's Hospital, a member of the Advisory Committee on Training in Nursing, in place of Mrs I. LEYDON, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which runs until 7 October 1985.

Bruxelles, le 6 decembre 1983

Note Bio(83) 514 aux Bureaux Nationaux
cc: aux Membres du Groupe du Porte-Parole

Preparation du Conseil des Affaires Sociales (J. Robinson)

Le Conseil des Affaires Sociales se tiendra a Bruxelles demain le 8 decembre a partir de 10 h. sous la presidence du Ministre grec des affaires sociales, M. Evangelis Yannopoulos, et avec la participation du Commissaire Ivor Richard. Les quatre points principaux a l'ordre du jour sont :

1. Mesures speciales pour la Grece dans le secteur social (IP(83)268 et COM(83)477 du mois de juillet). Il s'agit d'une proposition faite par la Commission le 29 juillet dans le cadre de sa reponse au memorandum grec, pour une aide de 120 MECU, repartie de maniere egale entre mesures en faveur de : la formation professionnelle; la creation de facilites pour les handicapes mentaux. La Commission espere vivement une decision du Conseil a cet egard demain.

2. Promotion de l'emploi des jeunes (P-38 et COM(83)211 du mois d'avril). Il s'agit d'un projet de resolution du Conseil qui etait annexe a la communication faite par la Commission en avril sur la lutte contre le chomage des jeunes. Je vous rappelle que l'objectif essentiel de cette communication etait la creation de 2.5 millions d'emplois pendant les 5 ans a venir pour les moins de 25 ans dont le taux de chomage est superieur a 25 %. La Commission est decue de la facon dont le Conseil, au niveau de ses experts, a dilue le texte initial. On s'attend a ce que M. Richard rappelle demain devant les Dix la gravite de la situation des jeunes contrastee avec la faiblesse de la reponse du Conseil.

3. Projet de recommandation du Conseil sur la reduction et la reorganisation du temps de travail (RRTT) (P-80 et COM(83)543 du mois de septembre). On s'attend pas a une decision mais plutot a un debat d'orientation amenant peut-etre a un accord de principe. La Commission espere qu'une decision formelle pourrait intervenir l'annee prochaine. Je vous rappelle que l'objectif principal de la recommandation est que le Conseil, en l'adoptant, mettrait son poids politique derriere l'idee que la RRTT pourrait etre utilisee comme instrument de creation d'emplois.

4. La proposition Vredeling (P-58 et COM(83)292 respectivement des mois de juin et de juillet). Depuis la proposition amendea du mois de juin et l'achevement de la premiere lecture de cette proposition par les experts des Dix, on s'attend demain a un debat d'orientation positive, ou chaque delegation mettra en exergue les points qu'elle jugera les plus importants. La Commission pense que le Conseil sera prete a aborder cette discussion dans un "esprit constructif".

Au rendez-vous de midi d'aujourd'hui on a diffuse le materiel suivant :

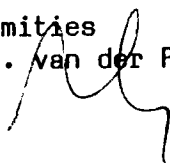
IP 429 - La Commission autorise la reglementation des expositions du secteur automobile au Royaume-Uni

IP 430 - La Commission accorde une attestation negative pour un accord de savoir-faire et une exemption pour un contrat d'achat et d'utilisation exclusif pour des joints d'etancheite destines aux vehicules automobiles

Documents COM(83) - 696 : Proposition de reglement presentee par la Commission au Conseil "instituant des mesures particulieres d'interet communautaire dans le domaine de l'emploi

- 731 : Communication de la Commission au Conseil concernant la prorogation du regime des charbons a coke et cokes destines a la siderurgie de la Communaute.

Amities
K. van der Pas COMEUR ////



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■- LA PROPOSITION VREDELING :

LE COMMISSAIRE RICHARD S EST DIT "ENCOURAGE" PAR LE DEBAT
■ ■■■■■■■■■■■■■ D ORIENTATION A LA FOIS POLITIQUE ET POSITIF
QUE LES DIX ONT CONSACRE A CETTE QUESTION.

POUR LE PRESIDENT GREC, M YANNOPOULOS, IL Y AVAIT "AN OVER-
WHELMING MAJORITY" (UNE MAJORITE ECRASANTE) DES DELEGATIONS
QUI ETAIENT EN FAVEUR DE CETTE PROPOSITION. POUR M RICHARD,
IL Y AVAIT 7 DELEGATIONS QUI SE SONT PRONONCEES FAVORABLEMENT
A L EGARD DE LA PROPOSITION, UNE DELEGATION RELATIVEMENT NEUTRE,
UNE AUTRE RELATIVEMENT NEGATIVE, LA DERNIERE - CELLE DE LA
GRANDE BRETAGNE - AYANT EXPRIME SES RETICENCES DE LA MANIERE
LA PLUS FRANCHE.

AMITIES,
M. SANTARELLI
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