

PRESS RELEASE

11981/80 (Presse 182)

674th Council meeting

- Transport -

Brussels, 4 December 1980

President: Mr Josy BARTHEL,  
Minister of Transport, Communications  
and Informatics of the Grand Duchy of  
Luxembourg



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 Joergen HALCK State Secretary,  
Ministry of Public Works

Germany:

Mr Volker HAUFF Federal Minister of Transport

France:

Mr Daniel HOEFFEL State Secretary,  
Ministry of Transport

Ireland:

Mr Padraig FLYNN Minister of State,  
Ministry of Transport

Italy:

Mr Salvatore FORMICA Minister of Transport

Mr Giuseppe CAROLI State Secretary,  
Ministry of Shipping

Luxembourg:

Mr Josy BARTHEL Minister of Transport,  
Communications and Informatics

Netherlands

Mr D.S. TUIJNMAN	Minister of Transport and Water Control
Mrs N. SMIT-KROES	State Secretary, Ministry of Transport and Water Control

United Kingdom:

Mr Norman FOWLER	Minister of Transport
Mr Norman TEBBIT	Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Trade

Commission:

Mr Richard BURKE	Member
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Also attended as an observer:

Greece:

Mr Jean FIKIORIS	Minister of Shipping
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HARMONIZATION OF SOCIAL LEGISLATION RELATING TO ROAD TRANSPORT

Following an exchange of views the Council recorded its agreement on the following Resolution:

"The Council of the European Communities, mindful that at its 647th meeting on 24 June 1980 it agreed to continue examining, at its next meeting on transport questions, the application of Council Regulation (EEC) No 543/69 of 25 March 1969 on the harmonization of certain social legislation relating to road transport, in the light of the latest Commission reports available on the matter:

- takes formal note of the seventh Commission report to the Council on this matter;
- notes that this report shows that the application of the social legislation is still encountering difficulties in the various Member States and has not yet been adequately standardized throughout the Member States;
- emphasizes once again the importance of applying this legislation uniformly and correctly;
- accordingly considers that the following steps should be taken:
  - = checks on the application of the provisions of the Regulation in all the Member States should be carried out as effectively and correctly as possible;
  - = both the frequency and the thoroughness of these checks should be increased in certain Member States;

- = to this end, the tachograph should be introduced and used in all the Member States within the prescribed periods;
- = the Member States should hold a watching brief on the observation of the provisions imposing a ban on certain types of payment of a kind likely to jeopardize road safety;
- = the competent authorities of the Member States should endeavour to increase their mutual assistance in this area;
- = measures should be taken to keep both road transport crews and employers better informed; the Council accordingly notes the Commission's intention of preparing a specimen Community information leaflet, agreed with national experts;
- = the information mentioned in the standard report form provided for in Article 17(2) of Regulation (EEC) No 543/69 should be given in accordance with the headings in that form, particularly as regards the number of checks and infringements recorded and the type and extent of the penalties imposed."

INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS FOR TRANSPORT SAFETY

The Council took note of the oral report by the Presidency on current work on the proposal for a Directive concerning the enforcement, in respect of shipping using Community ports, of international standards for shipping safety and pollution prevention and a statement by the French Minister of Transport on the recent Conference on Shipping Safety held in Paris on 1 and 2 December 1980.

All the delegations stressed the importance of co-ordinated and effective action to improve shipping safety and to prevent pollution.

The Council noted, finally, the intention of the next Council Presidency, which will be assumed by the Netherlands as from 1 January next, to invite the Council to act on the Commission proposal before the end of June 1981. In conclusion, the Council directed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue work on this subject, bearing in mind the statements by various delegations during today's debate, with a view to reporting back at the earliest opportunity.

### MUTUAL ASSISTANCE IN THE EVENT OF AIR ACCIDENTS

The Council agreed to the draft Directive on future co-operation and mutual assistance between Member States in the field of air accident investigation.

Under the terms of this Directive, which features on the list of priority items in the field of air transport approved by the Council in 1978, the Member States will make the necessary resources (installations, facilities, equipment and accident investigation experts) available to the Member State conducting an investigation. This Directive will thus contribute towards the improvement of air safety and accident prevention, since the complexity of modern aviation makes such mutual assistance necessary.

The approved measures will be implemented from 1 July 1981.

### COMMUNITY DRIVING LICENCE

Confirming its decision of 24 June 1980, the Council adopted the first Directive on the introduction of a Community driving licence in the official languages of the Communities.

This Decision introduces a system of mutual recognition and exchange of driving licences without a test from 1983 in cases where a national of a Member State takes up residence in another Member State.

Initially the driving licence will still be a national one but produced in all the Member States on the basis of a standard Community model.

The Council has thus taken a first step towards the harmonization of Member States' legislation in a new field.



SUPPORT FOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

Following a short discussion on the proposal for a Regulation on support for worthwhile projects in transport infrastructure, the Council drew the following conclusions:

"The Council:

- recalling the conclusions adopted at the meeting on 23 November 1978 concerning the proposal for a Council Regulation on support for projects of Community interest in transport infrastructure and notably the importance it had consequently attached to rapid progress being made in this connection;
- noting the report which the Commission submitted to it on 19 June 1980 on bottlenecks in transport infrastructures and possible modes of finance;
- noting the Commission's intention to submit to it as soon as possible a report on the criteria for assessing projects of Community interest, to be prepared in collaboration with the Committee on Transport Infrastructures;

- also noting the amendment to the said proposal which the Commission submitted to it on 4 March 1980 with the aim of extending the scope of the system of financial support to infrastructure projects situated in the territory of non-member countries and of considerable interest to the Community, in particular as regards traffic between Member States;
- taking the view that all necessary preparatory work on support for projects of Community interest in transport infrastructure should continue so as to establish all the factors required for the Council to take a decision on the matter as soon as possible;
- instructs the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue active examination of the proposal for a Regulation and the amendment to the proposal submitted by the Commission and to report back at the appropriate time."

COMMUNITY QUOTA

The Council discussed in depth the Commission proposal on increasing the Community quota for the carriage of goods by road between Member States.

The Council did not take a decision at this meeting on the increase in the Community quota as requested by the Commission. It did, however, agree to make this a priority item for discussion at its next meeting, scheduled for March 1981, in view of the concern voiced by certain delegations regarding the need to both increase the Community quota and to achieve some progress towards finalizing a rail policy and harmonizing the conditions of competition.

Having regard to the various factors to have emerged from today's discussion, including the memoranda from the German delegation and the Commission on rail policy, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to prepare for the next round of discussions in this area.

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With a view to Greece's accession to the Communities on 1 January 1981, the Council agreed to the allocation to Greece of 76 authorizations in addition to the Community quotas laid down in Regulation (EEC) No 3164/76.

PRIORITY TASKS

The Council took note of a statement by the Commission on priorities and the timetable for the decisions to be taken by the Council on transport matters in the period up to the end of 1983. The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue examining this question, particularly in the light of the Opinions awaited from the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee in this area, and to report to it at its next meeting on transport questions.

FIXING OF RATES FOR INTERNATIONAL GOODS TRANSPORT BY RAIL

The Council took note of the state of play with regard to the draft Decision on the fixing of rates for international goods transport by rail. Having noted that no progress had been made on this question since its last discussion, the Council directed the Permanent Representatives Committee to conduct a more detailed examination to allow it to adopt a position at a forthcoming meeting.

FUEL CONTAINED IN THE TANKS OF COMMERCIAL ROAD VEHICLES

The Council took note of a statement by the Commission on the increase of the amount of fuel contained in the tanks of commercial road vehicles allowed duty-free entry under Directive 68/297/EEC. The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to resume its examination of the Commission proposal and to report to it at a forthcoming meeting.

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RAILWAY POLICY

Having noted a memorandum from the Commission on Community railway policy, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine the memorandum and the proposals annexed thereto and to report as soon as possible (see also reference to the memorandum under the "Community quota" item).

COMBINED ROAD/RAIL TRANSPORT

Having noted a statement by the Italian delegation outlining a possible solution to the question still outstanding at the close of the discussions at the last meeting, the Council directed the Permanent Representatives Committee to finalize the requisite negotiating directives concerning road/rail transport with third countries, with a view to their formal adoption at a forthcoming meeting.

FLAGS OF CONVENIENCE

Having noted a statement by the German delegation on flags of convenience, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine the statement and in particular to consider whether to adopt a common position for the work currently being carried out within the UNCTAD Committee on Shipping.

PERMANENT LINK BETWEEN EUROPE AND AFRICA

The Council took note of a statement by the Belgian delegation on the project being envisaged by Spain and Morocco for the construction of a permanent link between Europe and Africa across the Straits of Gibraltar.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Transport policy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Directives amending by reason of the accession of Greece:

- Directive 74/561/EEC on admission to the occupation of road haulage operator in national and international transport operations;
- Directive 74/562/EEC on admission to the occupation of road passenger transport operator in national and international transport operations;
- Directive 77/796/EEC aiming at the mutual recognition of diplomas, certificates and other evidence of formal qualifications for goods haulage operators and road passenger transport operators, including measures intended to encourage these operators effectively to exercise their right of freedom of establishment.

Furthermore, it adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Decision amending and supplementing Decision 79/4/EEC of 19 December 1978 on the collection of information concerning the activities of carriers participating in cargo liner traffic in certain areas of operation (primarily extension for two years).

At this meeting the Council also adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Directive on statistical returns in respect of carriage of goods by rail, as part of regional statistics.

Relations with the ACP States, OCT and India

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation on the conclusion of the agreements in the form of exchanges of letters on guaranteed prices for cane sugar from the ACP States and the Republic of India and on the fixing of guaranteed prices for cane sugar from the OCT for the 1980/1981 marketing year.

Commercial policy and customs union

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities:

- the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 2051/74 on the customs procedure applicable to certain products originating in and coming from the Faroe Islands following the accession of the Hellenic Republic to the European Communities;
- the Regulation prolonging the anti-dumping duty on certain chemical fertilizers originating in the United States of America
- the Regulation on import arrangements in respect of State-trading countries
- the Regulations opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for 1981 for
  - = certain handwoven fabrics, pile and chenille falling within headings ex 50.09, ex 55.07, ex 55.09 and ex 58.04 of the Common Customs Tariff,
  - = certain handmade products,
  - = raw silk (not thrown) falling within heading 50.02 of the CCT,
  - = yarn, entirely of silk, other than yarn of noil or other waste silk, not put up for retail sale, falling within heading ex 50.04 of the CCT,



- = yarn, spun entirely from silk waste other than noil, not put up for retail sale, falling within subheading 50.05 A of the CCT,
- = rosin, including "brais résineux", falling within subheading 38.08 A of the CCT,
- = ferro-silicon falling within subheading 73.02 C of the CCT,
- = ferro-silicon-manganese falling within subheading 73.02 D of the CCT,
- = ferro-chromium containing not more than 0.10% by weight of carbon and not less than 30% and not more than 90% of chromium (super-refined ferro-chromium) falling within subheading ex 73.02 E I of the CCT.

#### Appointment

On a proposal from the United Kingdom Government, the Council appointed Mr David STANLEY, Head of the Education and Training Department, Confederation of British Industry, a Full Member of the European Social Fund Committee in place of Mr M.F. DOWNING, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which runs until 9 November 1982.

#### Other decisions

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Directive providing for the technical adaptation, consequent upon the accession of the Hellenic Republic to the European Communities, of Directive 67/548/EEC on dangerous substances.

The Council gave the assents requested pursuant to Article 56(2)(a) of the ECSC Treaty in respect of Société Valenciennoise d'équipements pétroliers (France) and Nationale Investeringsbank (Netherlands).

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the decisions on the conclusion of agreements relating to concerted action in the field of teleinformatics (COST Project 11 bis) and concerted action in the field of the effects of processing and distribution on the quality and nutritive value of food (COST Project 91).

Under the terms of the first decision, the Community will participate with Finland and Sweden in the concerted action in the field of COST 11 until 11 September 1983, while under the terms of the second decision, it will participate with Sweden and Switzerland in the concerted action in the field of COST 91 until 26 October 1982.

#### ECSC

The Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the ECSC, meeting within the Council, agreed on the additional protocols to the ECSC/Switzerland Agreement of 28 July 1956 and ECSC/Austria Agreement of 26 July 1957 on the introduction of direct international rail tariffs for the transport of coal and steel.

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NOTE B(80) 499 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX  
CC AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPE

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CONSEIL TRANSPORTS, BRUXELLES, LE 4 DECEMBRE 1980  
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LE CONSEIL TRANSPORTS SE TIENDRA LE 4 DECEMBRE A BRUXELLES A  
11 HEURES.

UNE SERIE DE FICHES RESUMANT LES DIFFERENTS POINTS A L'ORDRE  
DU JOUR ONT ETE PREPARES POUR LE BRIEFING DU PORTE-PAROLE A  
MIDI AUJOURD'HUI. ELLES VOUS SERONT TRANSMISES PAR EXPRES.

VOICI QUELQUES INDICATIONS SUR LES POINTS PRINCIPAUX:  
TRANSPORTS AERIENS: LE CONSEIL ADOPTERA PROBABLEMENT UNE  
DIRECTIVE CONCERNANT LES ENQUETES EN CAS D'ACCIDENT AERIEN  
(SOUMISE PAR LA DELEGATION ALLEMANDE AU TITRE DE L'ARTICLE  
84 S2 DU TRAITE). CETTE DIRECTIVE PREVOIT QU'EN CAS D'ACCIDENT  
SURVENU A UN AVION CIVIL, L'ETAT MEMBRE QUI MENE L'ENQUETE  
PEUT DEMANDER AUX AUTRES PAYS MEMBRES LEUR CONCOURS EN EQUI-  
PEMENTS ET EN PERSONNEL QUALIFIE. CETTE ASSISTANCE MUTUELLE  
DEVRAIT ETRE RENDUE GRATUITEMENT POUR AUTANT QUE CELA  
SOIT POSSIBLE.

TRANSPORTS MARITIMES:

1. LE CONSEIL DOIT ADOPTER COMME POINT "A" UNE DECISION RELATIVE  
A LA COLLECTE D'INFORMATIONS SUR LES ACTIVITES DES TRANSPORTEURS  
PARTICIPANT AUX TRANSPORTS MARITIMES DE LIGNE DANS CERTAINES  
ZONES D'EXPLOITATION. IL S'AGIT D'UNE DECISION QUI MODIFIE  
ET COMPLETE LA DECISION DU CONSEIL (VOIR J.O. L 258 DU 21.9.78)  
DE 1978 QUI A ETABLI, JUSQU'A FIN 1980, UN SYSTEME D'INFORMA-  
TION SUR LES ACTIVITES DES FLOTTES DES PAYS TIERS DONT LES  
PRATIQUES SONT PREJUDICIAIBLES AUX INTERETS MARITIMES DES ETATS  
MEMBRES. LA NOUVELLE DECISION PREVOIT LA PROROGATION DU SYSTEME  
JUSQU'A FIN 1982 ET SON EXTENSION AUX ECHANGES MARITIMES ENTRE  
LES ETATS MEMBRES ET L'EXTRÊME ORIENT (JAPON, TAIWAN, HONG KONG,  
MALAISIE, SINGAPOUR, LA CORÉE DU SUD, LES PHILIPPINES ET LA  
THAÏLANDE). LE SYSTEME ACTUEL S'APPLIQUE AUX ECHANGES AVEC  
L'AFRIQUE ORIENTALE ET L'AMÉRIQUE CENTRALE. UNE NOTE IP(80)306  
VOUS SERA ENVOYEE.

2. LE PRESIDENT FERA RAPPORT SUR L'ETAT DES TRAVAUX CONCERNANT  
LA PROPOSITION POUR L'APPLICATION, VIS A VIS DES NAVIRES  
UTILISANT LES PORTS DE LA COMMUNAUTE, DES NORMES INTERNATIONALES  
RELATIVES A LA SECURITE DES TRANSPORTS MARITIMES ET LA PREVEN-  
TION DE LA POLLUTION (VOIR COM(80)360 DU 26 JUIN ET NOTE P-54)  
PERMIS DE CONDUIRE: LORS DU CONSEIL TRANSPORTS DE JUIN 1980,  
LES MINISTRES (SAUF LA DELEGATION BRITANNIQUE) SE SONT ACCORDES  
SUR UNE ORIENTATION COMME POUR LA DIRECTIVE CONCERNANT ////

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M. SANTARELLI

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L'INSTAURATION D'UN PERMIS DE CONDUIRE COMMUNAUTAIRE. LA DIRECTIVE PREVOIT EN PREMIERE ETAPE LA RECONNAISSANCE MUTUELLE DES PERMIS DE CONDUIRE DELIVRES PAR LES ETATS MEMBRES A PARTIR DE 1983 ET L'INTRODUCTION D'UN MODELE COMMUNAUTAIRE A PARTIR DE 1986 AU PLUS TARD. ON S'ATTEND A CE QUE LA DELEGATION BRITANNIQUE LEVE SA RESERVE.

TRANSPORTS ROUTIERS: LA COMMISSION A PROPOSE EN JUILLET 1980 UNE AUGMENTATION LINEAIRE DE 25 POUR CENT DU CONTINGENT COMMUNAUTAIRE POUR LES TRANSPORTS DE MARCHANDISES PAR ROUTE EFFECTUES ENTRE ETATS MEMBRES. SELON CETTE PROPOSITION LE CONTINGENT POUR 1981 PASSERAIT DE 3,751 A 4,788 AUTORISATIONS. CE DERNIER CHIFFRE COMPREND LES 95 AUTORISATIONS A ACCORDER A LA GRECE. LES DELEGATION ALLEMANDE ET ITALIENNE S'OPPOSENT A UNE AUGMENTATION (MAIS PAS A UN CONTINGENT POUR LA GRECE).

INFRASTRUCTURE: LE CONSEIL SERA SAISI D'UN PROJET DE CONCLUSIONS PRENANT NOTE DE L'ETAT DES TRAVAUX EN CE QUI CONCERNE LA PROPOSITION DE REGLEMENT POUR LE SOUTIEN DES PROJETS D'INTERET COMMUNAUTAIRE EN MATIERE D'INFRASTRUCTURE.

AMITIES,

M. SANTARELLI COMEUR  
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Bruxelles, le 4 décembre 1980

NOTE BIC(80)499 (suite 1 et fin) aux Bureaux Nationaux  
C.C. aux membres du Groupe du Porte-Parole

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CONSEIL TRANSPORTS LE 4 DECEMBRE 1980  
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Le Conseil s'est ouvert à 11 h 15. Parmi les points "A" qui ont été adoptés figure une décision du Conseil modifiant et complétant la décision de 1978 relative à la collecte d'informations sur les activités des transporteurs participant au transport maritime de ligne dans certaines zones d'exploitations (voir J.O. L 258 du 21.9.78 et J.O. L 5 du 9.1.79). La présente décision prolonge le système jusqu'à fin 1982 et ajoute l'Extrême Orient (Japon, Taiwan, Hong-Kong, Corée du Sud, Thaïlande, Singapour, Philippines) aux zones déjà incluses (Amérique Centrale, Afrique Orientale), pour les détails voir IP(80)306.

Transports aériens  
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Le Conseil a approuvé la directive sur la coopération entre Etats membres concernant les enquêtes en cas d'accident aérien.

Securite des transports maritimes  
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Le Président luxembourgeois a fait rapport au Conseil sur l'état des travaux concernant la proposition de directive sur l'application des normes internationales de sécurité vis à vis des navires utilisant les ports de la Communauté. La Présidence Néerlandaise, dit-il, a l'intention de faire adopter la directive au cours de sa présidence. Les délégations danoise et britannique ont émis des réserves sur la question de transfert de pouvoirs à la Commission envisagée dans la directive. M. Burke, pour la Commission, a très fermement rappelé que la directive consiste en une application plus stricte et contraignante des Conventions internationales existantes et que le but de la proposition est d'assurer l'harmonisation nécessaire à éviter des distorsions de concurrence et des détournements de trafic.

Permis de conduire  
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Comme prévu la délégation britannique a levé sa réserve sur le texte de la directive convenu en juin dernier. Le texte sera bientôt publié au Journal Officiel. Une fiche d'information vous sera transmise par l'express.

Transports routiers  
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À la grande déception de sept délégations ainsi que de la Commission, les délégations allemande et italienne ont maintenu leur opposition à une augmentation du contingent communautaire pour les transports de marchandises par route. Le Conseil a convenu, néanmoins, d'accorder un contingent de 76 autorisations communautaires à la Grèce à partir de janvier 1981. Sous la pression des délégations britannique et irlandaise, le Conseil a aussi décidé de tenir un Conseil exceptionnel en mars prochain afin d'essayer de débloquer la question des contingents moyennant des efforts parallèles de faire des progrès dans les domaines de la politique ferroviaire et des poids et dimensions des véhicules. C'est le manque de progrès dans ces deux secteurs qui est responsable de l'opposition de deux pays à l'augmentation des contingents.

Le Conseil s'est terminé à 17.00.

AMITIES,

J. CARROLL COMEUR

*J. Carroll*

