



COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT



PRESS RELEASE

392nd Council Meeting

- Social Affairs -

Luxembourg, 30 April 1976

President : Mr Benny BERG,
Minister for Labour and Social
Security, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

506/76 (Presse 47)

30.IV.76

Netherlands:

Mr J. BOERSMA

Minister for Social Security

United Kingdom:

Mr J. GRANT

Parliamentary Under-Secretary,
Department of Employment

Commission:

Mr Patrick John HILLERY

Vice-President

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30.IV.76

EUROPEAN SOCIAL BUDGET

The Council agreed to the formulation of the second European social budget on the guidelines adopted by the Commission.

The European social Budget contains information of great relevance to the Community's social policy. It incorporates statistics on social security expenditure and revenue and on a general level takes into consideration all areas coming under social policy.

It contains medium-term estimates based on the laws in existence when the social budget was being drawn up. The information given in the social budget will enable both the Member States and the Community to evaluate the financial implications of the social policy and, in this context, the effects of the changes in social legislation on which the estimates are based.

Before drawing up the third European social budget, the experience drawn from the second social budget will be assessed and any methodological adjustments considered.

SOCIAL SECURITY FOR MIGRANT WORKERS

The Council adopted the Regulation amending Regulations (EEC) Nos 1048/71 and 574/72 on the application of social security schemes to employed persons and their families moving within the Community.

The purpose of this Regulation is to adjust the Community rules on social security in order to bring them into line with changes in some of the laws of the Member States and to take account of administrative changes regarding the division of responsibility between national social security institutions and bodies.

The Regulation which the Council had adopted contains, in particular, (new provisions for implementing the rules relating to aggregation of insurance and other periods so that periods completed by workers in the other Member States may be taken into account when determining the right to benefit under United Kingdom legislation and contributions paid in the United Kingdom may be taken into account when determining rights under the legislation of other Member States.

SURVEY OF AGRICULTURAL WORKERS' EARNINGS

The Council adopted the Regulation relating to the organization of a survey of the earnings of permanent workers employed in agriculture.

This Regulation is intended to supplement the system of comparable statistics in salaries which has been set up in the Community. It provides that the Commission will carry out a survey similar to those carried out in 1974 and 1975; this survey will cover the actual earnings of permanent workers employed in agriculture on the basis of the statistical data relating to September, October or November 1976.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON SAFETY, HYGIENE AND HEALTH
PROTECTION AT WORK

The Council adopted the rules of procedure of the Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work in the official languages of the Communities.

TRIPARTITE WORLD CONFERENCE ORGANIZED BY THE ILO

The Council discussed the attitude to be adopted at the Tripartite World Conference on employment, distribution of income, social progress and the international division of labour being organized by the International Labour Office.

The Council stressed the importance of this conference at which the problems of the developing countries and those of the industrialized countries, particularly as regards employment, would be juxtaposed.

The Council reached a considerable measure of agreement on the analysis in the Commission communication which advocated a positive co-operative attitude to the other participants in the Conference.

The Council considered that efforts should be made to reach a common, co-ordinated position, particularly on the main issues which are set out in the report of the International Labour Office and are outlined in the Commission document.

In conclusion, the Council authorized the preparation of this common, co-ordinated position so as to enable the President to express the views of the Community at the Conference as far as possible. It also considered that more thorough consideration should be given to certain aspects, such as the problem of the international division of labour and the question of the effect of multinational undertakings on employment.

EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT SITUATION IN THE COMMUNITY

The Council held a wide-ranging exchange of views on the employment and unemployment situation and prospects in the Community as a whole and in the individual Member States.

It considered that, despite the signs of recovery which were now apparent in some Member States, the problem of unemployment, particularly among the young was **still** very serious.

The Council's exchange of views was particularly significant as a contribution to the preparation for the next Conference of Ministers for Labour, Commission representatives and representatives of both sides of industry.

In conclusion, the Council asked the Commission to take the points made in this exchange of views into account when preparing the final communication which it was to submit to the Tripartite Conference.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Agriculture

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

- amending Regulation (EEC) No 873/76 on the transfer to the Italian intervention agency of certain quantities of common wheat for intervention;
- extending the total suspension of the autonomous Common Customs Tariff duties for new potatoes falling within subheading 07.01 A II a).

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ECSC

The Council gave the assents requested by the Commission pursuant to Article 54, second paragraph of the ECSC Treaty concerning the financing of

- the middle section of the Ruhr long-distance heating trunk line (Ruhrschiede) by the STEAG Aktiengesellschaft;
- a power station unit of 660 mW based on hard coal in Hohenhameln-Mehrum (Federal Republic of Germany) by Kraftwerk Mehrum-GmbH,

and the assent requested by the Commission pursuant to Article 56(2)(a) of the ECSC Treaty (Sierra Chemical Europe B.V., Netherlands and Courtaulds Ltd., United Kingdom).

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The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision concerning the adjustment of the economic policy guidelines for 1976.

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In connection with the renewal of the Triennial Convention of 18 December 1972 between the Community and UNRWA, the Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation on the supply of white sugar (6,153 tonnes per annum for the 1975/76, 1976/77 and 1977/78 sugar years) to UNRWA as food aid.

NOTE BIO(76) 146 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
CC AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPE ET AUX DIRECTEURS GENERAUX DG I ET X

CONSEIL AFFAIRES SOCIALES
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LE CONSEIL CONSACRE AUX AFFAIRES SOCIALES AURA LIEU VENDREDI ,
LE 30 AVRIL A LUXEMBOURG , DEBUTANT A 9.30 SOUS LA PRESIDENCE
DE M BENNY BERG , MINISTRE DU TRAVAIL ET DE LA SECURITE SOCIALE
DU LUXEMBOURG . LE VICE-PRESIDENT HILLERY REPRESENTERA LA
COMMISSION .

LES POINTS SUIVANTS SONT A L'ORDRE DU JOUR :

1) BUDGET SOCIAL EUROPEEN . LE CONSEIL MARQUERA SON ACCORD SUR LES
OBJECTIFS D'UN BUDGET SOCIAL EUROPEEN ET SUR LES ORIENTATIONS
POUR LE DEUXIEME BUDGET SOCIAL EUROPEEN TELS QUE REPRODUITS
DANS LA COMMUNICATION PROPOSEE PAR LA COMMISSION EN DECEMBRE
DERNIER (VOIR COM(75)647) .

JE VOUS RAPPELLE QUE LE BUDGET SOCIAL EUROPEEN N'EST PAS UN
BUDGET PROPREMENT DIT MAIS A POUR OBJET D'ETRE UNE SOURCE
D'INFORMATION QUANTITATIVE SUR L'EVOLUTION PASSEE ET FUTURE -
A MOYEN TERME - DES DEPENSES SOCIALES ENGAGEES DANS LES
DIVERS DOMAINES PAR LES ETATS MEMBRES .

2) LE CONSEIL ADOPTERA AUSSI UN REGLEMENT MODIFIANT DEUX REGLEMENTS
DE BASE CONCERNANT L'APPLICATION DES REGIMES DE SECURITE SOCIALE
AUX TRAVAILLEURS QUI SE DEPLACENT A L'INTERIEUR DE LA COMMUNAUTE .
IL S'AGIT D'AMENDEMENTS ASSEZ TECHNIQUES POUR TENIR COMPTE DES
CHANGEMENTS ADMINISTRATIFS DANS LES REGIMES NATIONAUX .

3) L'APPROBATION DU REGLEMENT INTERIEUR DU COMITE CONSULTATIF
POUR LA SECURITE, L'HYGIENE ET LA PROTECTION DE LA SANTE SUR LE
LIEU DU TRAVAIL .

4. ECHANGE DE VUES SUR L'ATTITUDE A PRENDRE LORS DE LA
CONFERENCE MONDIALE TRIPARTITE SUR L'EMPLOI, LA DISTRIBUTION DU
REVENU , LE PROGRES SOCIAL ET LA DIVISION INTERNATIONALE DU
TRAVAIL ORGANISEE DANS LE CADRE DE L'OIT ET QUI SE TIENDRA A
GENEVE, EN JUIN PROCHAIN. ON NOUS RAPPELLE QUE LE DIRECTEUR
GENERAL DU BIT, M. BLANCHARD, A RENDU VISITE HIER A LA COMMISSION
ET QUE LA PARTICIPATION COMMUNAUTAIRE A ETE DISCUTEE (VOIR IP(76)95) .

5) SITUATION DE L'EMPLOI ET DU CHOMAGE DANS LA COMMUNAUTE .
ON PREVOIT QUE LES DISCUSSIONS PORTERONT SUR LA PREPARATION DE
LA CONFERENCE TRIPARTITE QUI AURAIT LIEU LE MOIS DE JUIN ET
EVENTUELLEMENT SUR LE DOCUMENT DE TRAVAIL QUE LA COMMISSION
A DEJA ENVOYE AU CONSEIL ET AUX PARTENAIRES SOCIAUX SUR UNE
STRATEGIE COMMUNAUTAIRE DE PLEIN EMPLOI ET DE STABILITE
(VOIR SEC(76) 1400) .

APRES LA PARTIE FORMELLE DU CONSEIL, ON N'EXCLUT PAS QUE LES
MINISTRES ABORDENT DANS UN CADRE INFORMEL ET RESTREINT QUELQUES
AUTRES SUJETS TELS QUE LE REEXAMEN DU FONDS SOCIAL ET LE
FONCTIONNEMENT DU COMITE PERMANENT DE L'EMPLOI .

ON VOUS RAPPELLE QU'UN REEXAMEN DU FONCTIONNEMENT DU FONDS SOCIAL
EST PREVU L'ANNEE PROCHAINE ET QUE LES DISCUSSIONS VENDREDI
PERMETTRONT A LA COMMISSION D'AVOIR LES VUES DES PAYS MEMBRES
AVANT DE PROCEDER A L'ELABORATION DE CE REEXAMEN

AMITIES

B. OLIVI.

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AVEC PRIERE DE TRANSMETTRE A NEW YORK ET OTTAWA - Sent at 10:50 A.M. MP

COPIE AU CHEF DE LA DELEGATION

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NOTE B I O (76) 146 CONTINUATION 1 AND 2ND TO THE NATIONAL OFFICES
C.C. TO THE MEMBERS OF THE GROUP AND TO THE IRECT.GEN. DG I AND X

SUBJECT : SOCIAL COUNCIL

THE SOCIAL COUNCIL BEGAN THIS MORNING AT 9 H 45 UNDER THE PRESIDENCY OF MR. BERG. AS EXPECTED THE COUNCIL ADOPTED WITHOUT DISCUSSION THE FIRST THREE ITEMS ON THE AGENDA CONCERNING THE SOCIAL BUDGET THE SOCIAL SECURITY REGULATIONS FOR MIGRANT WORKERS AND THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON SAFETY, HYGIENE AND HEALTH PROTECTION AT WORK.

WORLD CONFERENCE ON EMPLOYMENT, 35:ETC.

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COUNCIL THEN HAD AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE ATTITUDE TO TAKE AT THE WORLD CONFERENCE OF EMPLOYMENT, DISTRIBUTION OF INCOME, SOCIAL PROGRESS AND THE INTERNATIONAL DIVISION OF LABOUR ORGANISED BY THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE AND BEGINNING IN GENEVA ON 8 JUNE. IT WAS AGREED THAT A COHERANT COMMUNITY VIEWPOINT WOULD BE EXPRESSED AT THE CONFERENCE BY THE LUXEMBOURG PRESIDENCY. A MANDAT WAS GIVEN TO THE COMMISSION AND OTHER COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS TO PREPARE THIS COORDINATED POSITION. DURING THE DISCUSSION A GENERAL AGREEMENT EMERGED CONCERNING THE COMMISSION'S ANALYSIS OF THE REPORT OF THE ILO WHICH WILL BE BASIS OF THE CONFERENCE DISCUSSIONS. THE COMMISSION IN ITS ANALYSIS HAD CONCLUDED THAT THERE WAS SUBSTANTIAL AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE BETWEEN THE ILO'S PROPOSALS AND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIE'S AVOWED OBJECTIVES IN ITS RELATIONS WITH THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. THE COUNCIL, HOWEVER, ASKED THAT CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE COMMUNITY'S POSITION AT THE CONFERENCE SHOULD BE GIVEN SPECIAL ATTENTION, NOTABLY THE PROBLEM OF THE INTERNATIONAL DIVISION OF LABOUR AND THE QUESTION OF THE EFFECTS ON EMPLOYMENT OF THE MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES. DIS. THE THREATENED UNITED STATES

WITHDRAWAL FROM THE ILO ALREADY ANNOUNCED LAST YEAR AND THE COMMUNITY CHOICE OF CANDIDATE FOR THE PRESIDENCY OF THE NEXT ILO SESSION WERE TO BE DISCUSSED IN THE INFORMAL AND RESTRICTED SESSION LATER IN THE MORNING. END DIS.

EMPLOYMENT SITUATION

THE COUNCIL THEN PASSED TO HE LAST ITEM ON THE AGENDA, THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION IN THE COMMUNITY. VICE-PRESIDENT HILLERY BRIEFLY REVIEWED THE CURRENT UNEMPLOYMENT SITUATION POINTING OUT THAT THE PEAK OF THE UNEMPLOYMENT CRISIS WAS PASSED AS FAR AS UNDER 5.4

MILLION COMPARED WITH THE PEAK OF 5.7 MILLION IN JANUARY. MUCH OF THE IMPROVEMENT IS DUE TO SEASONAL FACTORS BUT THERE IS ALSO CLEARLY

SOME DOMESTIC RECOVERY IN GERMANY, FRANCE AND THE NETHERLANDS. FOR

THE REST OF THE COMMUNITY THE UPWARD TREND IN UNEMPLOYMENT HAD EITHER STOPPED OR SLOWED OR SLOWED DOWN CONSIDERABLY. HE THEN BRIEFLY INTRODUCED THE COMMISSION'S DOCUMENT FOR THE TRIPARTITE CONFERENCE "A COMMUNITY STRATEGY FOR FULL EMPLOYMENT AND STABILITY" AND A SECOND COMMISSION DOCUMENT WHICH MR. HAFERKAMP HAD SUBMITTED TO THE FINANCE MINISTERS LAST MONDAY ENTITLED "A COMMUNITY APPROACH TO RESTORE FULL EMPLOYMENT". VICE-PRESIDENT HILLERY ASKED FOR THE MINISTERS' REACTIONS TO THE FIRST DOCUMENT, ESPECIALLY THE SPECIFIC PROPOSALS IN IT TO STIMULATE EMPLOYMENT SUCH AS TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT PREMIUMS, SPECIFIC MEASURES FOR THE YOUNG, ETC.

MOST OF THE MINISTERS PRESENT SAID THEY HAD NOT HAD TIME TO STUDY THE DOCUMENTS IN DEPTH AND LIMITED THEMSELVES TO FAIRLY BRIEF COMMENTS ON THE UNEMPLOYMENT SITUATION IN THEIR OWN COUNTRIES AND THE VARIOUS MEASURES BEING TAKEN TO COMBAT IT. IT EMERGED FROM THE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS THAT IN SPITE OF CERTAIN SIGNS OF RECOVERY IN SOME MEMBER STATES, THE UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEM, ESPECIALLY THAT AT THE YOUNG, IS STILL VERY SERIOUS AND THAT A PRIORITY SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE YOUNG UNEMPLOYED. THE COUNCIL INVITED THE COMMISSION TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE VIEWS EXPRESSED WHEN DRAWING UP ITS FINAL PAPER FOR THE TRIPARTITE CONFERENCE WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE TOWARDS THE END OF JUNE IN LUXEMBOURG. THE DUTCH DELEGATION ANNOUNCED IT HAD LIFTED ITS RESERVES ABOUT THE HOLDING OF THE TRIPARTITE CONFERENCE IN JUNE BECAUSE IT FEARED INSUFFICIENT PREPARATION. THE DUTCH ASKED THAT THE MEETING SHOULD BE HELD BETWEEN THE 26 AND THE 30 JUNE IF POSSIBLE; VICE-PRESIDENT HILLERY WILL REPORT THE COUNCIL'S VIEWS TO THE COMMISSION AT ITS MEETING NEXT WEDNESDAY.

THE COUNCIL ENDED AT 11H45 AND AFTER A BRIEF INTERRUPTION THE MINISTERS RESUMED IN INFORMAL AND RESTRICTED SESSION TO HAVE A FULL DISCUSSION ON THE WORKING OF THE SOCIAL FUND IN VIEW OF THE RE-EXAMINATION OF THE FUND DUE NEXT YEAR.

REGARDS

J. CARROLL

30.4.1976

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