

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

7558/82 (Presse 73)

775th meeting of the Council

- Industry -

Luxembourg, 8 June 1982

President:

Mr Mark EYSKENS

Minister for Economic Affairs
of the Kingdom of Belgium



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

Belgium:

Mr Mark EYSKENS
Minister for Economic
Affairs

Denmark:

Mr Erling JENSEN
Minister for Industry

Germany:

Otto Graf LAMBSDORFF
Federal Minister for
Economic Affairs

Greece:

Mr Dimitrios PITSIORIS
State Secretary,
Ministry of Industry and Energy

France:

Mr Pierre DREYFUS
Minister for Industry

Ireland:

Mr Andrew O'ROURKE
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

Italy:

Mr Renato RUGGIERO
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

Luxembourg:

Mrs Colette FLESCH
Minister for Economic Affairs,
Small Firms and Traders

Netherlands:

Mr W. DIK
State Secretary
Ministry of Economic Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr Patrick JENKIN
Secretary of State for Industry

Commission:

Vicomte Etienne DAVIGNON,
Vice-President

Mr Frans H.J.J. ANDRIESSEN,
Member

Mr Karl-Heinz NARJES,
Member

Mr Ivor RICHARD,
Member

o

o

o

IRON AND STEEL PROBLEMS

The Council gave its assent under Article 58 of the ECSC Treaty to the draft Commission Decision concerning the extension of production quota arrangements in the steel sector after 30 June, with the Greek delegation abstaining. The Italian delegation, which was unable to signify its agreement immediately, stated that it would give its position within eight days, once certain problems outstanding as regards the calculation of certain quotas had been clarified.

These arrangements extend for 12 months, with the possibility of a further extension, subject to certain changes and adjustments, the compulsory quota arrangements introduced in 1980 as part of the anti-crisis measures in the iron and steel sector. In addition to products covered hitherto, the new arrangements also include wire rod. Furthermore, the changes involve provisions for updating again reference output, in particular for reinforcing bars and merchant bars, higher thresholds in the event of exceptional difficulties, adjusting a company's references in order to take account of changes in production capacity as part of a restructuring programme and provisions covering the cases of merger, separation or formation of a new company.

As far as price policy is concerned, the Council had already given its assent at its meeting on 4 May 1982 concerning trade obligations.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Customs union and commercial policy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities:

- Regulations:

- = temporarily suspending the autonomous Common Customs Tariff duties on certain industrial products;
- = on the conclusion of Additional Protocols to the Agreements between the European Economic Community and certain third countries (Bangladesh, Peru, Guatemala, Uruguay and Haiti) on trade in textile products consequent on the accession of the Hellenic Republic to the Community;
- = concerning Malta (suspending the application of ceilings) and Algeria (Community tariff quota for certain wines with a designation of origin - period from 1 July 1982 to 31 December 1982);
- = opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for certain wines having a registered designation of origin, falling within subheading ex 22.05 C of the Common Customs Tariff, originating in Morocco (1982-1983);
- = opening, allocating and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas
 - . for certain fish of the species *sardinops sagax* or *occellata*, whole or headless, intended for processing, falling within subheading ex 03.01 B I(q) of the Common Customs Tariff,
 - . for flaps of fish of the species *sardinops sagax* or *occellata*, whole or headless, intended for processing, falling within subheading ex 03.01 B I(q) of the Common Customs Tariff,
 - . for certain eels falling within subheading ex 03.01 A II of the Common Customs Tariff (1 July 1982 to 30 June 1983);

- = temporarily suspending the autonomous Common Customs Tariff duty on certain sweet red, or green peppers falling within heading ex 07.04 B;
- the Decision authorizing the Commission to take part in the negotiations on the accession of Thailand to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

Relations with the EFTA countries

The Council adopted, as the Community position on the EEC-EFTA countries Joint Committees, the draft Decisions of the Committees, adding to and modifying Lists A and B annexed to Protocol No 3 concerning the definition of the concept of "originating products" and methods of administrative co-operation.

The Council also adopted, as the Community position on the EEC-Austria/Switzerland Joint Committees, draft Decisions No 1/82 of these Committees - Community transit - amending the Agreements between the European Economic Community and Switzerland/Austria on the application of the rules on Community transit.

Relations with the ACP States

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Directive for negotiations with the ACP States referred to in Protocol No 7 annexed to the second ACP-EEC Convention of Lomé concerning guaranteed prices for cane sugar during the 1982/1983 delivery period.

Greenland

As the Kingdom of Denmark has initiated the review procedure laid down in the Treaties in order to obtain a change in the status of Greenland within the Communities by means of amendments to the three Treaties, the Council, in accordance with the provisions of the Treaties, decided to ask the European Parliament and the Commission to deliver their Opinions on the memorandum submitted by the Government of Denmark for this purpose on 25 May last.

Appointments

On a proposal from the United Kingdom Government, the Council appointed Mr K.R. RAY, BDS, FDSRCS, as a full member of the Advisory Committee on the Training of Dental Practitioners, in place of Mr G.L. DALEY, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which runs until 25 March 1983.

The Council adopted Decisions:

- appointing Mr William NICOLL as a grade A1 (Director-General) at the General Secretariat of the Council with effect from 19 August 1982;
 - appointing Mr Emile a CAMPO a Director-General at the General Secretariat with effect from 17 September 1982.
-

The Council took note of two Commission reports on the application of the code on aid to the iron and steel industry covering the period from February 1981 to May 1982. In this connection, it emphasized the importance it attached to this code being strictly applied by the Commission and the Member States.

As it was unable to take a decision until it had received the European Parliament's Opinion, the Council held a discussion, which revealed a broadly favourable attitude, on the Commission proposal concerning the granting of a contribution to the ECSC budget to be paid out of the general budget for the financing of social back-up measures in the iron and steel sector.

PREFERENTIAL TARIFF TREATMENT FOR CHARGE-CHROME

The Council agreed to take a decision shortly on the opening of a tariff quota for ferro-chromium with a high carbon content (charge-chrome) for 1982.

RELATIONS WITH THE EFTA COUNTRIES - RULES OF ORIGIN

The Council held a further discussion on the Commission proposals for the simplification and relaxation of the EFTA rules of origin. It agreed to include this matter again on the agenda for the next Council meeting.

Bruxelles, le 11 juin 1982.

Not BIO (82) 258 aux Bureaux Nationaux
cc. aux Membres du Groupe du Porte-Parole

CONSEIL INDUSTRIE (P. van Enk)

Sur l'evolution de l'ensemble du dossier Acier, on vous a tenu au courant de toutes les informations "publiques". Ainsi, une note BIO vous a ete transmise ce matin sur la conference de presse de M. Davignon.

Quant au Conseil "Industrie" du 8 juin - pour lequel notre note BIO n'a pas ete envoyee pour des raisons techniques - il s'est entierement tenu en session restreinte.

Voici les resultats principaux :

Le Conseil a donne son avis conforme sur la structure du systeme "acier" au titre de l'article 58 du Traite CECA.

La Grece s'est abstenue de donner son avis conforme.

La delegation italienne n'a pas participe au vote et ce pour des raisons qui n'ont pas trait a la reconduction du systeme de l'article 58 du Traite CECA mais plutot a la prorogation d'eurofer 2 pour 12 mois pour lequel M. Davignon a ete appele a arbitrer. Cet arbitrage a porte sur les references et les quotas des produits des categories Ia et Ib attribuees par la Commission au Groupe Finsider depuis le 1er juillet 1981 sous le regime de la decision no. 1831/81/CECA.

Au vu de cette situation, le Conseil a acte a son proces-verbal ce qui suit :

- l'avis conforme du Conseil est donne pour la prorogation du systeme au titre de l'article 58 CECA;
- reconnaît que des "malheurs reciproques" ont fait apparaitre qu'il n'est pas injuste de donner "un coup de pouce" a l'Italie a l'interieur des montants exprimes par M. Davignon lors de l'arbitrage du 2 juin 1982;
- des efforts seront deployes pour recreer un consensus complet sur le bon fonctionnement du systeme art. 58.

En fonction de ce qui est convenu ci-dessus, la Commission, pour permettre de recreer ledit consensus, reportera sa decision sur la prorogation du systeme au 16 juin prochain.

A noter qu'au cours des debats, M. Andriessen a fait le point de l'application du Code des aides a la siderurgie.

./.

Volet social (J. Robinson)

Les Dix sont arrivés à un large degré de consensus sur la question du financement du volet social. Ce volet, d'un montant de 50 mio ECUs en 1982 est destiné à financer le chômage partiel et la retraite anticipée des travailleurs dans le secteur sidérurgique. Cependant, l'accord formel du Conseil doit attendre l'avis du Parlement sur le volet social et aussi une discussion au Coreper qui devrait servir à éclaircir quelques questions de détail soulevées par la délégation allemande. Les neuf autres délégations, et plus particulièrement celles de la France et de la Belgique, ont marqué leur vif intérêt à ce que cette tranche du volet social soit agréée.

Pour le détail des résultats du Conseil, nous vous renvoyons aux conclusions officielles qui vous parviendront par courrier séparé.

Amitiés,
Manuel SANTARELLI . Comeur 14h30////

p.e. 