



COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT



PRESS RELEASE

502nd Council meeting
- Economic Affairs/Finance -

Brussels, 20 February 1978

President:

Mr Per Haekkerup
Minister for Economic Affairs of the
Kingdom of Denmark



20.II.1978

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

Belgium:

Mr Gaston GEENS

Minister for Finance

Mr Willy CLAES

Minister for Economic Affairs

Denmark:

Mr Per HAEKKERUP

Minister for Economic Affairs

Mr Knud HEINESSEN

Minister for Finance

Mr Kurt HANSEN

State Secretary, Ministry for Economic Affairs

Germany:

Mr Otto SCHLECHT

State Secretary, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs

Mr Manfred LAHNSTEIN

State Secretary, Federal Ministry for Finance

France:

Mr Robert BOULIN

Minister for Economic Affairs and Finance

Ireland:

Mr Brendan DILLON

Ambassador, Permanent Representative

Italy:

Mr Gaetano STAMMATI

Minister of the Treasury

Luxembourg:

Mr Jacques POOS

Minister for Finance

20.II.1978

The Netherlands

Mr Frans ANDRIESSEN

Minister for Finance

The United Kingdom

Mr Denis HEALEY

Chancellor of the Exchequer

The Commission:

Mr François-Xavier ORTOLI

Vice-President

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THE ECONOMIC SITUATION IN THE COMMUNITY

The Council held a detailed exchange of views on the economic situation in the Community. The debate fell within the context of the discussion to be held in March at the meeting of the "ECONOMIC AFFAIRS/FINANCE" Council which will be devoted to adapting the economic policy guidelines for 1978 (first quarterly examination of the economic situation in accordance with the "convergence" decision of 1974), and of the discussion on the economic and social situation in the Community to be held by the European Council at its meeting on 7 and 8 April.

LOANS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROMOTING INVESTMENT WITHIN THE
COMMUNITY

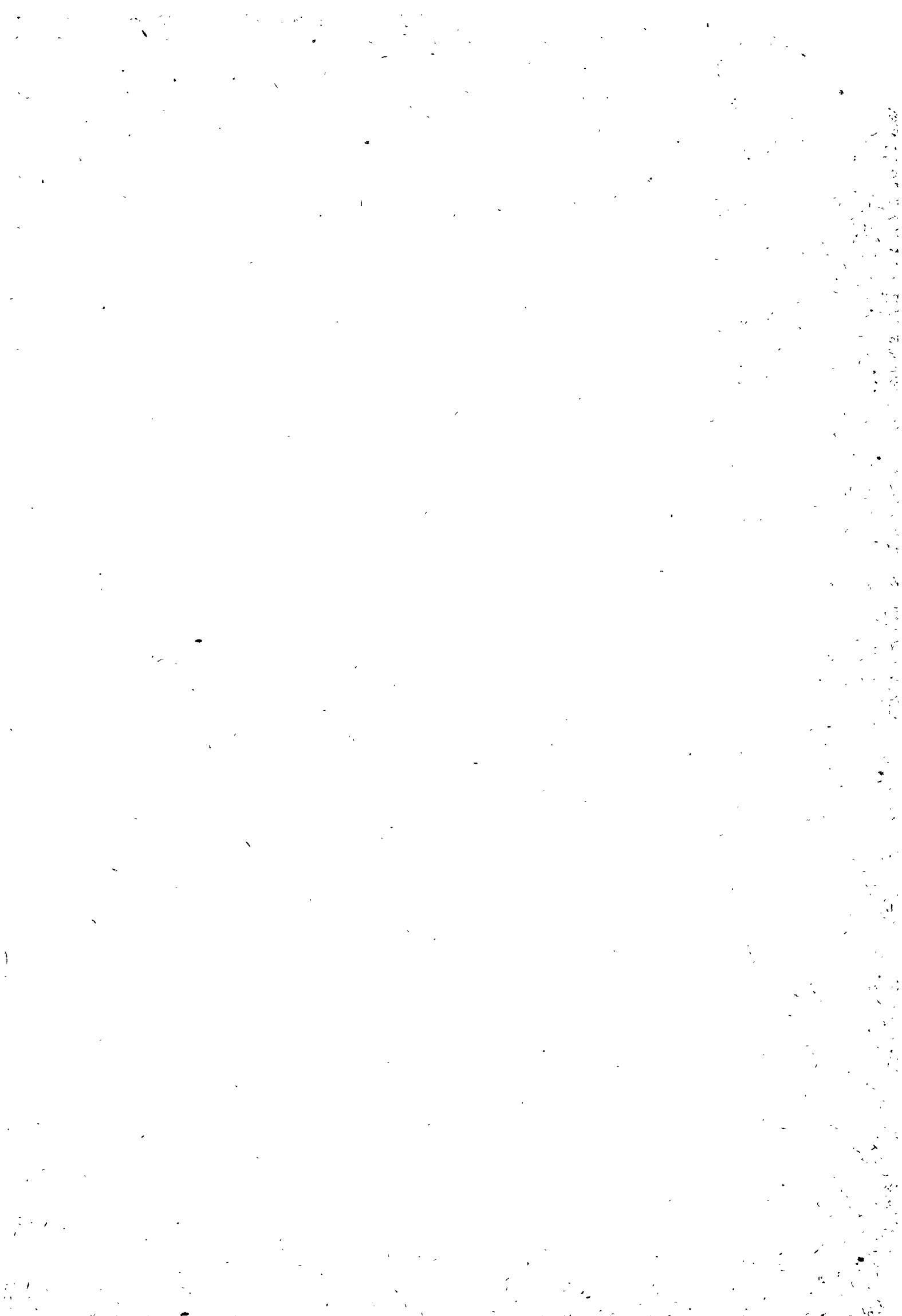
The Council heard a statement by Vice-President ORTOLI, who submitted a proposal by the Commission empowering the Commission to issue loans for the purpose of promoting investment within the Community. This proposal follows on the European Council's agreement in principle on 5 and 6 December to the creation of such an instrument.

Taking a favourable attitude to the broad outlines of the proposal, the Council requested the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine the technical aspects of the proposal and to report it so that it could discuss these matters when it has received the European Parliament's Opinion.

ECONOMIC AND MONETARY ACTION PROGRAMME FOR 1978

The Council heard a statement by Mr ORTOLI, who presented a communication from the Commission on the economic and monetary action programme for 1978. It gave a favourable reception to this programme, which forms part of the five-year economic and monetary action programme submitted by the Commission in December.

With a view to preparing for its discussions on the substance of this programme, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee and the Committees specializing in economic, financial or monetary affairs to examine the Commission communication in accordance with their fields of competence and to submit a report to it covering all the questions raised by the document.



MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Transport

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities:

- the Decision amending the Directives annexed to the Council Decisions of 28 December 1972, 17 February 1975 and 17 May 1976 on the opening of negotiations for an Agreement on the implementation of regulations for the temporary laying-up of vessels for the transport of goods and applicable to certain inland waterways;
- the Decision instituting a consultation procedure and setting up a Committee on Transport Infrastructures;
- the Directive amending the first Directive on the establishment of common rules for certain types of carriage of goods by road between Member States;
- the Decision amending the two Decisions of 15 October 1975 on the negotiation of an Agreement between the European Economic Community and third countries on the rules applicable to international carriage of passengers by coach and bus.

For the decisions in principle, see press release 1523/77 (Presse 176) of 20 and 21 December 1977.

Agriculture/Fisheries

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities:

- the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 2967/76 laying down common standards for the water content of frozen and deep-frozen chickens, hens and cocks;
- the Regulation on the crediting of securities, deposits and guarantees furnished under the common agricultural policy and subsequently forfeited;

- the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 787/69 on the financing of intervention expenditure in respect of the domestic market in cereals and rice;
- the Regulation laying down certain interim measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources applicable for the period 21 February to 31 May 1978, to vessels flying the flag of Spain;
- the Regulation suspending at 4% from 1 March to 30 June 1978 the autonomous Common Customs Tariff duty on sardinops sagax or ocellata ("pilchards"), fresh, chilled or frozen, whole, headless or in pieces, intended for the processing industry, falling within subheading ex 03.01 B I q).

Other decisions

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Community the Directive on waste from the titanium dioxide industry.

For the decision in principle, see press release 1473/77 (Presse 164) of 12 December 1977.

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The Council adopted in the official languages of the Community the Decision adopting a concerted project by the European Economic Community in the field of the physical properties of foodstuffs.

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The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation concerning the authorization arrangements for imports into Italy of malleable cast-iron tube and pipe fittings originating in Taiwan.

Appointments

The Council appointed

- on a proposal from the Danish Government, Mrs Karen GREDAL member of the Economic and Social Committee in place of Mrs BENNEDSEN, who has resigned;

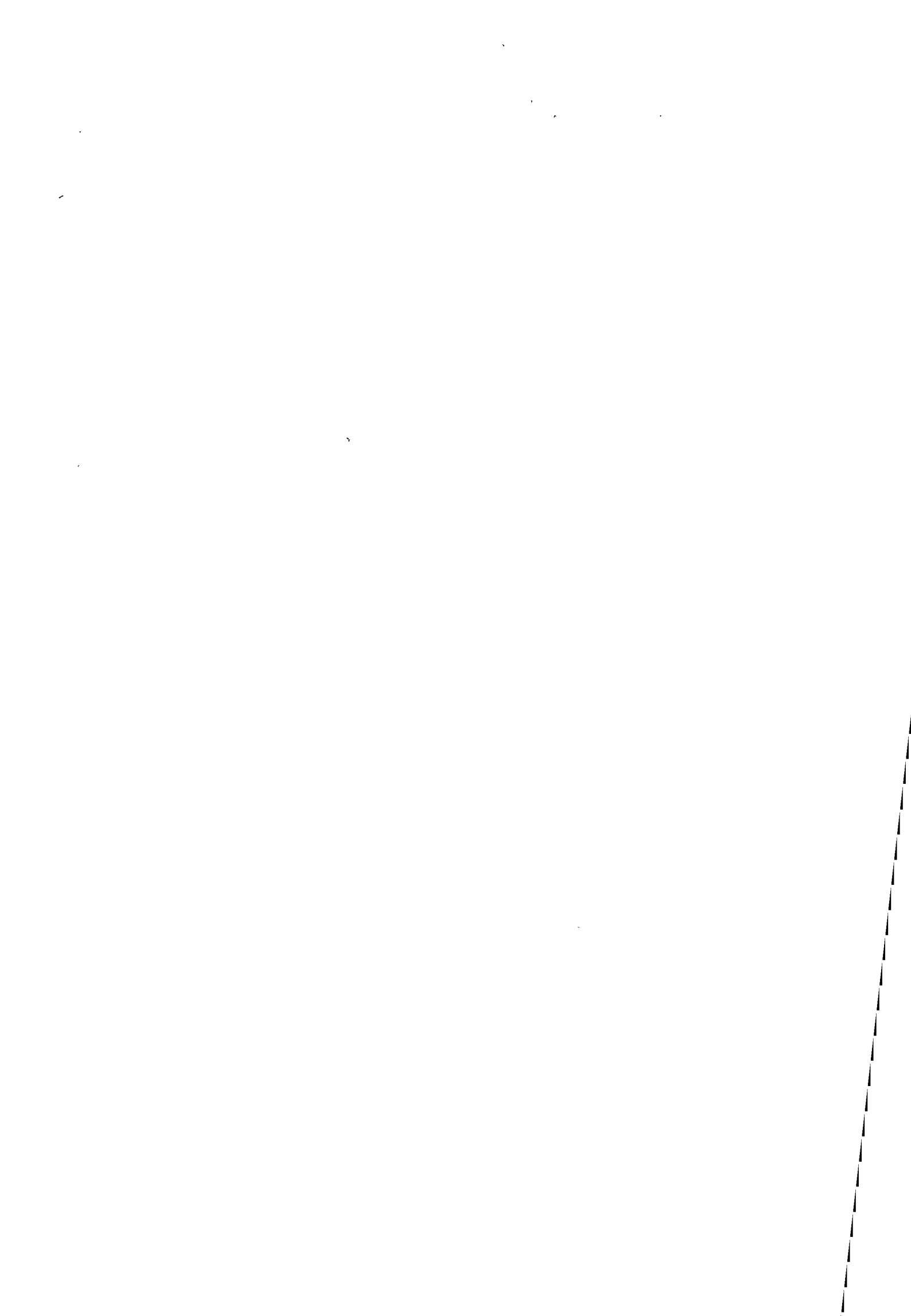
- on a proposal from the Netherlands Government, Drs. T. ETTY member of the Economic and Social Committee in place of Drs. de VRIES REILINGH, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, i.e. until 16 September 1978.

The Council also appointed

- on a proposal from the Fédération Charbonnière de Belgique, Mr Pierre URBAIN member of the European Coal and Steel Community Consultative Committee in place of Mr PEETERS, who has resigned;

- on a proposal from the United Kingdom Government, Mr Gordon KENNEDY member of the European Coal and Steel Community Consultative Committee in place of Mr HAMER, who has died, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, i.e. until 9 July 1978.





DOIVENT ENCORE ETRE TRAITÉES PAR LES EXPERTS.

3. - PROGRAMME D'ACTION ECONOMIQUE ET MONETAIRE POUR L'ANNEE 1978

PREMIER ECHANGE DE VUES ; ACCUEIL FAVORABLE DE L'ESPRIT ET DE LA DIRECTION DU DOCUMENT, BIEN QUE CERTAINS POINTS DOIVENT ENCORE ETRE DISCUTES EN DETAIL.

LA COMMISSION A UNE FOIS DE PLUS SOULIGNE L'ORIENTATION DU DOCUMENT :

■ - RETOUR A LA CONVERGENCE DES POLITIQUES ECONOMIQUES DANS LA COMMUNAUTE , APPUYE SUR UN RENFORCEMENT DE LA COORDINATION DANS LES DIFFERENTES ENCEINTES COMMUNAUTAIRES;

■ - POURSUITE DE L'ACHEVEMENT DU MARCHE UNIQUE CAR CELA CONSTITUE UNE GARANTIE CONTRE LE PROTECTIONNISME ET UN RENFORCEMENT EN MEME TEMPS DE LA BASE DU DYNAMISME ECONOMIQUE.

■ - QUANT AUX PROBLEMES STRUCTURELS, ON A DEJA NOTE, DANS LES DIFFERENTES REUNIONS UNE PLUS GRANDE PRISE DE CONSCIENCE DU FAIT QUE DES SOLUTIONS DANS CE DOMAINE NE POURRONT ETRE TROUVEES QUE PAR DES DECISIONS AU NIVEAU COMMUNAUTAIRE.

LE CONSEIL A CONSIDERE PAR CONSEQUENT D'UNE MANIERE TRES FAVORABLE LES ORIENTATIONS GENERALES DU DOCUMENT ET APPROUVE SES OBJECTIFS ET METHODES.

AMITIES
M. SANTARELLI
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PRESS RELEASE

Brussels, 2 March 1978
300/78 (Presse 21)

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The Council of the European Communities will hold its 503rd meeting on Monday 6 and Tuesday 7 March 1978 in the Charlemagne building, 170 Rue de la Loi, Brussels.

This meeting will begin on 6 March at 15.00 under the Presidency of Mr Poul DALSGER, Minister for Agriculture of the Kingdom of Denmark.

Discussions during this meeting will be devoted to the following questions

- the fixing of prices for the 1978/1979 marketing year and related measures (progress report on milk, beef and veal, cereals and rice, sugar and isoglucose and certain supplementary proposals)
- the extension of the marketing years for beef and veal and milk, and
 - the extension of the system of premiums for the non-marketing of milk and milk products and for the conversion of dairy herds
 - the introduction of a transitional provision relating to the Community financing of the consumer subsidy for butter
 - the extension of the term of validity of the arrangements for aid for dehydrated fodder
- general rules for milk producers' organizations (Milk Marketing Boards)

- the guidelines for the development of the Mediterranean regions of the Community together with proposals relating to agriculture, in particular market organizations for fresh and processed fruit and vegetables and wine as well as structural measures
- economic affects of the agri-monetary system
- producer groups and associations thereof.

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The President of the Council will hold a press conference at the close of the meeting.