

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  
Mr Willy CLAES

Minister for Finance  
Minister for Economic Affairs

Denmark:

Mr Per HAEKKERUP  
Mr Knud HEINESEN  
Mr Kurt HANSEN

Minister for Economic Affairs  
Minister for Finance  
State Secretary, Ministry for Economic Affairs

Germany:

Mr Otto SCHLECHT  
Mr Manfred LAHNSTEIN

State Secretary, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs  
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 Francois-Xavier ORTOLI

Vice-President

20.II.1978

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.

20.II.1978

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.

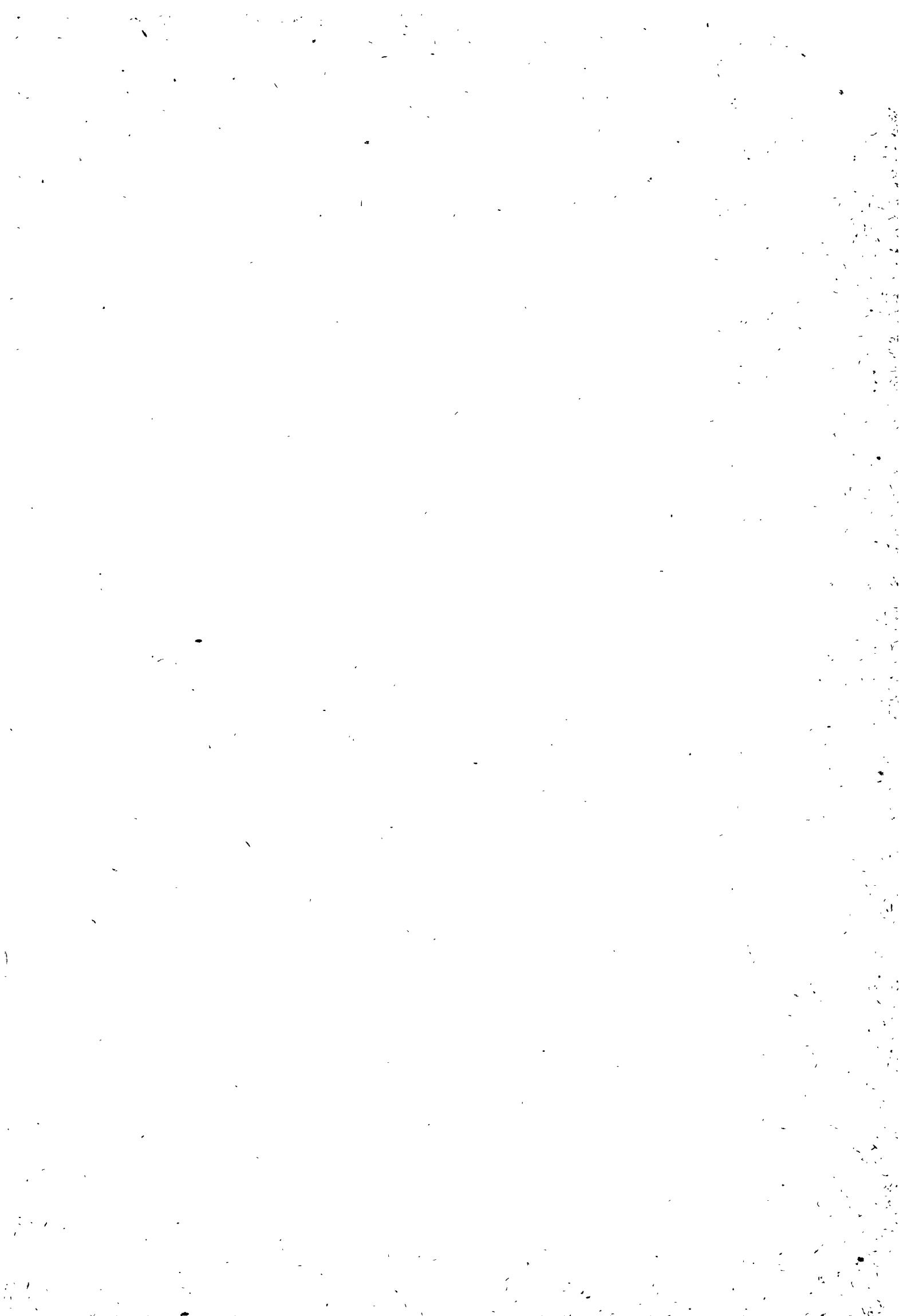
Taking a favourable attitude to the broad outlines of the proposal, the Council requested the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine the technical aspects of the proposal and to report it so that it could discuss these matters when it has received the European Parliament's Opinion.

20.III.1978

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;

20.II.1978

- 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.

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.

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.



073935

\*\*\*

NOTE BIO(78) 65 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX  
CC AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPE, A M LE DIRECTEUR DE LA DG I      453  
ET A M OPITZ, DG VIII

\*\*\*

PREPARATION CONSEIL ECONOMIE/FINANCES

-----

LE CONSEIL SE REUNIT LUNDI, 20.2., ~~14.30 H A BRUXELLES~~  
A 14.30 H A BRUXELLES :

1) L EXAMEN DE LA SITUATION ECONOMIQUE DANS LA COMMUNAUTE VA SE PRESENTER SOUS L ANGLE D UN PREMIER ECHANGE DE VUES SUR LA NECESSITE EVENTUELLE D ADOPTER LES ORIENTATIONS DE POLITIQUES ECONOMIQUES DECIDEES EN COMMUN EN NOVEMBRE DERNIER POUR L ANNEE 1978. UNE DECISION EN CETTE MATIERE N EST PREVUE QUE POUR LE CONSEIL DU 20 MARS 1978.

2) PROPOSITION DE DECISION HABILITANT LA COMMISSION A CONTRACTER DES EMPRUNTS EN VUE DE PROMOUVOIR LES INVESTISSEMENTS DANS LA COMMUNAUTE (DOC COM(78) 26 FINAL).

IL S AGIT DE LA CONCRETISATION JURIDIQUE (PREMIERE TRANCHE DE 1 MILLIARD UCE) DE L ACCORD DU CONSEIL EN DECEMBRE 1977 CONCERNANT LE NOUVEL INSTRUMENT COMMUNAUTAIRE ~~NIC~~ (NIC) POUR STIMULER LES INVESTISSEMENTS DANS LES SECTEURS DE L ENERGIE, DE L INDUSTRIE ET DES TRAVAUX D INFRASTRUCTURE EN ~~NIC~~ TENANT COMPTE DE LEUR IMPACT REGIONAL.

ETANT DONNE ~~que les avis du parlement et du comite economique et social ne sont pas encore disponibles~~, LE CONSEIL DE LUNDI A L OCCASION DE FAIRE UNE PREMIERE DISCUSSION A CE SUJET SANS PRENDRE UNE DECISION.

3) COMMUNICATION DE LA COMMISSION SUR LE PROGRAMME D ACTION ECONOMIQUE ET MONETAIRE POUR L ANNEE 1978.

M ORTOLO VA PRESENTER CETTE COMMUNICATION (DOC COM(78) 52 FINAL) AU CONSEIL EN METTANT L ACCENT SUR LES PRINCIPAUX POINTS DU PROGRAMME QUI ENTRENT DANS LA COMPETENCE DU CONSEIL "ECONOMIE ET FINANCES", C EST-A-DIRE NOTAMMENT LA PARTIE SUR LA CONVERGENCE ET LES ASPECTS CONNEXES. LES AUTRES PARTIES DU PROGRAMME SONT RESERVEES AUX CONSEILS RESPECTIFS (SOCIAL, ENERGIE, ETC.). ~~ON ATTEND PAS UNE DECISION DU CONSEIL CE LUNDI SUR CETTE COMMUNICATION.~~

AMITIES, R. RUGGIERO  
NNNN

CORRECTIONS : LIRE POINT 1, 3EME LIGNE : ADAPTER LES ORIENTATIONS, POINT 2, 12EME LIGNE : LE CONSEIL DE LUNDI SE BORNERA A FAIRE UNE PREMIERE DISCUSSION.

NNNN

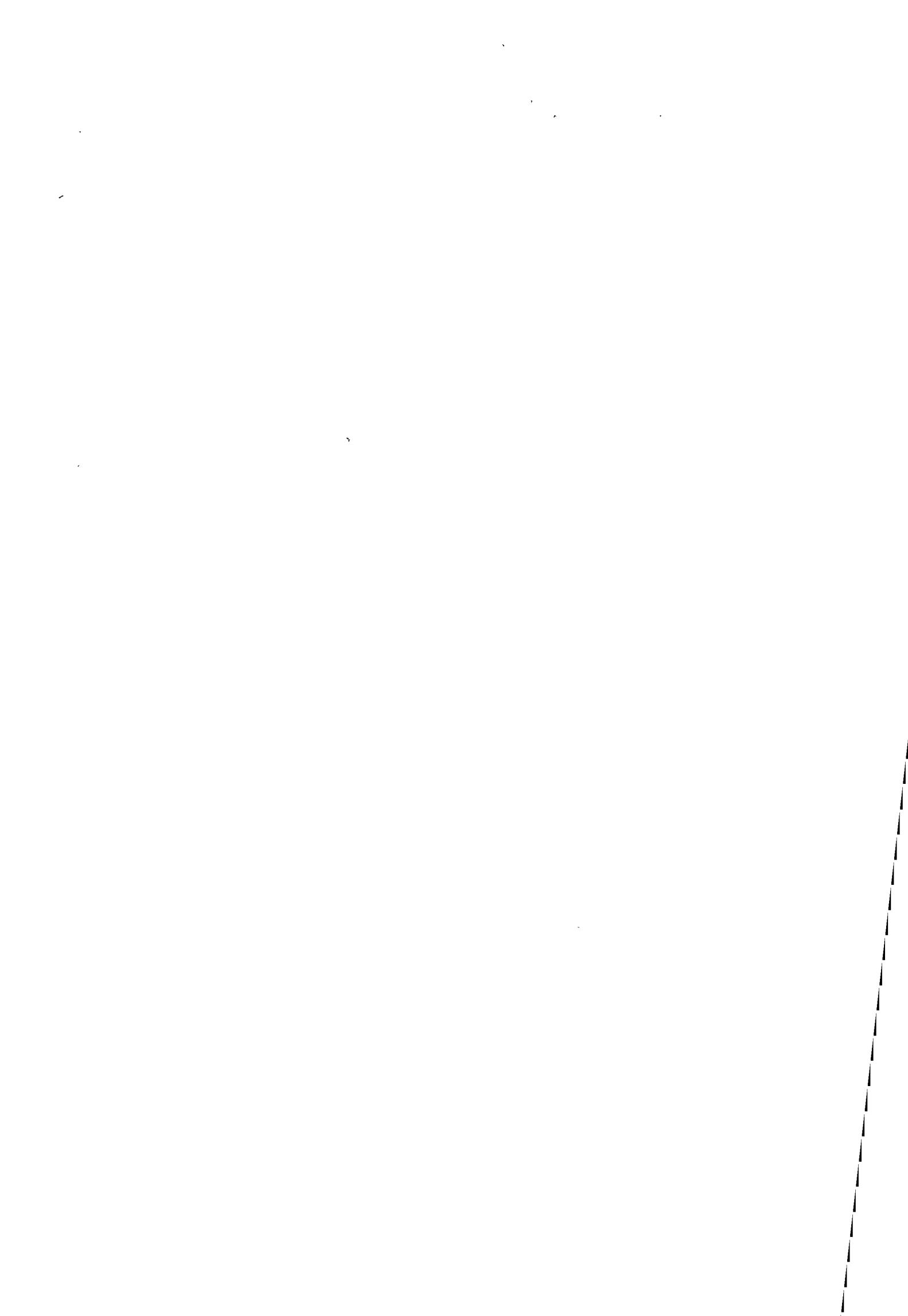
GPP M. CWIK B 1/16 4126 17.2.78

x x

R. RUGGIERO

*M. Ruggiero*

P1



**073839**

四 星 星

NOTE BIO (78) 65 - SUITE 1 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX  
C.C. AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPE, AU DIRECTEUR GENERAL DG I ET M. OPITZ  
DG VIII

1

CONSEIL ECONOMIE ET FINANCES DU LUNDI 20 FEVRIER 1978

433

## 1. - SITUATION ECONOMIQUE DANS LA COMMUNAUTE

CE SUJET A DEJA ETE TRAITE D'UNE MANIERE PLUS APPROFONDIE,  
SUR LA BASE D'UN DOCUMENT PRESENTE PAR LA COMMISSION, LE MATIN  
AU COURS D'UNE REUNION RESTREINTE. LES CONCLUSIONS QUI ONT ETE  
OBTENUES LORS DE CETTE REUNION, ONT ETE RAPIDEMENT RESUMEES PAR ~~LE PRESIDENT HAEKKERUP~~  
LE PRESIDENT HAEKKERUP.. VU L'EVOLUTION ECONOMIQUE AU COURS DES  
DEERNIERS MOIS, IL SEMBLE DIFFICILE D'ATTEINDRE ENCORE LES  
ORIENTATIONS QUI AVAIENT ETE DECIDEES PAR LE CONSEIL DU 21  
NOVEMBRE 1977, DANS CERTAINS DOMAINES~~E~~ DONT NOTAMMENT CELUI DE  
LA CROISSANCE ET CELUI DU TAUX DE CHOMAGE. PAR CONTRE, EN CE  
QUI CONCERNE L'EVOLUTION DES PRIX, ON EST UN PEU PLUS OPTIMISTE  
ET L'EVOLUTION DE LA BALANCE DES PAIEMENTS SEMBLE ETRE MOINS  
"SOMBRE" QU'~~LE~~ AUPARAVANT.

3. UN DOCUMENT QUI CONTIENNE LES ADAPTATIONS NECESSAIRES DES ORIENTATIONS DES POLITIQUES ECONOMIQUES, ET QUI SE BASE SUR LES INFORMATIONS RECUES AU COURS DE CES REUNIONS. LE VICE-PRESIDENT ORTOI A DECLARE QU'IL ALLAIT PRENDRE CONTACT AVEC LES DIFFERENTS MINISTRES POUR ACCELERER LA PRÉPARATION DE CE DOCUMENT, DANS L'OPTIQUE ÉGALEMENT DU PROCHAIN CONSEIL EUROPÉEN D'AVRIL 1978.

## 2. - NOUVEL INSTRUMENT COMMUNAUTAIRE

TOUTES LES DELEGATIONS ONT DONNE LEUR ACCORD DE PRINCIPE SUR LA PROPOSITION DE LA COMMISSION. EN ATTENDANT L'AVIS DU PARLEMENT, CERTAINES QUESTIONS DE CARACTERE TECHNIQUE (ASPECTS D'UNE EVENTUELLE COUVERTURE DES RISQUES DE CHANGE OU D'UNE EVENTUELLE BONIFICATION D'INTERET DANS DES CAS MARGINAUX, ENTRE AUTRES)  
////

NNNN

**GPP**

B. 1/23 5423 20-2.

2

Y

M. SWIK

W. SWAN

M. SANTARELLI

326560

DOIVENT ENCORE ETRE TRAITEES 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 DISCUSSES 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 SOUVENT RELEVE DES PROBLEMES 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 MEHTODES.

AMITIES  
M. SANTARELLI  
NNNN

NNNN

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES  
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

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

433

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 DALSAGER, 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.

o

o o

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

---