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COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

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PRESS RELEASE

547th meeting of the Council

- Budget -

Brussels, 20 November 1978

Presidents: Mr Klaus von DOHNANYI
Minister of State,
Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs

and

Mr Manfred LAHNSTEIN
State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Finance
of the Federal Republic of Germany



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

Belgium :

Mr Mark EYSKENS State Secretary, Budget

Denmark :

Mr Niels ERSBØLL State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Germany :

Mr Klaus von DOHNANYI Minister of State,
Federal Ministry of Foreign
Affairs

Mr Manfred LAHNSTEIN State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Finance

France :

Mr Jean BERNARD-REYMOND State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ireland :

Mr Raymond McSHARRY Minister of State at the
Department of Public Service

Italy :

Mr Antonio Mario MAZZARINO State Under-Secretary,
Treasury

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean DONDELINGER Deputy Permanent Representative

20.XI.78

Netherlands :

Mr D.F. van der MEI

State Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr Joel BARNETT

Chief Secretary to the Treasury

Commission :

Mr Christopher TUGENDHAT

Member

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DRAFT GENERAL BUDGET FOR 1979

Before beginning the dialogue with a delegation from the European Parliament under the budget procedure, the Council conducted a preliminary exchange of views on certain budgetary questions concerning the 1979 draft general budget with a view to preparing its position.

The Council then entered into the meeting with the European Parliament delegation consisting of Mr SPENALE (Vice-President of the European Parliament), Mr LANGE (Chairman of the Budget Committee), Mr BANGEMANN (Rapporteur on Section III of the 1979 budget), Mr AIGNER and Mr COINTAT (Vice-Chairmen of the Budget Committee), Mr RIPAMONTI (Rapporteur on Sections I-II-IV-V of the 1979 budget), Mr SHAW (Rapporteur on the 1978 budget) and Mr SPINELLI (Member of the Budget Committee).

The dialogue with the European Parliament delegation enabled the participants to explain Parliament's amendments and proposals for modifications and their underlying political motivation. The European Parliament delegation also raised other more general questions concerning the establishment of the 1979 budget such as the proposal for a review of the Financial Regulation.

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In the light of this discussion, the Council conducted a second reading of the draft general budget of the European Communities and an examination and vote on the amendments and proposed amendments, the most important of which concerned the Social Fund and the Regional Fund.

At the end of its discussions, the Council agreed that the amended draft budget should be forwarded to the European Parliament so that the latter could use this as a basis for a debate during its plenary session in December, subject to the political decision regarding the Regional Fund being reserved for the European Council on 4 and 5 December 1978.

PRESS RELEASE

Brussels, 15 November 1978
1280/78 (Presse 139)

The Council of the European Communities will hold its 548th meeting on Thursday 23 and Friday 24 November 1978 in the Charlemagne building, 170 rue de la Loi, Brussels, under the Presidency of Mr Kurt GSCHEIDLE, Federal Minister for Transport, Posts and Telecommunications of the Federal Republic of Germany. The meeting will start at 10.00 on Thursday 23 November.

The proceedings at this meeting will concern:

- safety at sea
 - = ratification of the 1978 International Convention on the Training, Certification and Watch-keeping of Seafarers
 - = pilotage in the North Sea and the English Channel
 - = minimum requirements laid down for certain tankers entering and leaving Community ports
 - = The Hague memorandum of understanding of 2 March 1978 between certain maritime authorities on the maintenance of standards on certain ships
- accession to the United Nations Convention on a Code of Conduct for Liner Conferences
- the collection of information on the activities of carriers participating in cargo liner traffic in certain areas of operation
- the limitation of noise emission from subsonic aircraft (progress report)
- the adoption by certain Member States of an Additional Protocol to the Mannheim Convention and the accession of the European Economic Community to that Convention

.../...

- the harmonization of the laws relating to motor vehicle driving licences
- the weights and dimensions of commercial road vehicles and certain additional technical conditions
- support for projects of Community interest in transport infrastructure
- the adjustment of national taxes and systems for commercial road vehicles
- the amendment of the common rules for certain types of combined road/rail carriage of goods between Member States
- the amendment of the Community quota for the carriage of goods by road between Member States
- the amendment of the common rules for the normalization of the accounts of railway undertakings.

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The President of the Council will hold a Press Conference at the close of the proceedings.