



COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES  
GENERAL SECRETARIAT



PRESS RELEASE

8171/80 (Presse 94)

647th Council meeting

- Transport -

Luxembourg, 24 June 1980

President: Mr Salvatore FORMICA,  
Minister of Transport  
of the Italian Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr G. SPITAEELS Minister of Communications

Denmark:

Mr Jens Risgaard KNUDSEN Minister of Transport

Germany:

Mr Heinz RUHNAU State Secretary,  
Federal Ministry of Transport

France:

Mr Joël LE THEULE Minister of Transport

Ireland:

Mr Albert REYNOLDS Minister of Posts, Telegraphs  
and Transport

Italy:

Mr Salvatore FORMICA Minister of Transport

Mr Giuseppe MIROGLIO State Secretary,  
Ministry of Transport

Luxembourg:

Mr Josy BARTHEL Minister of Transport,  
Communications and Informatics

Netherlands:

Mr D.S. TUIJNMAN                   Minister of Transport and Water  
Control

Mrs N. SMIT-KROES                 State Secretary,  
Ministry of Transport and  
Water Control

United Kingdom:

Mr Norman FOWLER                 Minister of Transport

Mr Norman TEBBIT                 Under-Secretary of State,  
Ministry of Trade

Commission:

Mr Richard BURKE                 Member

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HARMONISATION OF THE LAWS RELATING TO DRIVING LICENCES

The Council signified its agreement in principle <sup>(1)</sup> to the first Directive on the introduction of a Community driving licence.

This agreement - which is the follow-up to the consensus reached at the Council meeting on 20 and 21 December 1977 - introduces a system of mutual recognition and exchange of driving licences where a national of a Member State takes up residence in another Member State.

In conclusion, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to have the text of the Directive finalised so that it could formally adopt it at a forthcoming meeting.

SUMMERTIME

The Council signified its agreement in principle <sup>(1)</sup> to the Directive on summer-time arrangements, thereby harmonising the dates on which summertime commences as follows:

in 1981 : 29 March at 1 a.m.

in 1982 : 28 March at 1 a.m.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to have the text finalised so that it could formally adopt it at a forthcoming meeting.

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<sup>(1)</sup> with a reservation by the United Kingdom delegation

STATISTICAL RETURNS IN RESPECT OF CARRIAGE OF GOODS BY RAIL  
AND BY INLAND WATERWAY

Following an exchange of views on a number of technical questions, the Council reached a general consensus on two Directives on statistical returns in respect of the carriage of goods by rail and by inland waterway, as part of regional statistics.

These returns, which will complement the similar returns already compiled in the field of road transport, will be made as from 1981 in the case of inland waterways and 1982 in the case of railways, with financial assistance from the Community.

As regards the statistical returns concerning railways, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to make a close examination of cost questions.

The Council also agreed to act formally on the matter once it had received the Opinion awaited from the Economic and Social Committee.

TECHNICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF ROAD VEHICLES

Having noted the oral report by the Presidency on the proceedings on the proposal for a Directive on the weights and certain other technical characteristics (not including dimensions) of road vehicles used for the carriage of goods, the Council agreed to instruct the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its work - in the light of the Opinion awaited from the European Parliament - to enable the Council to take a decision on the subject as rapidly as possible.

AID TO INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

On the basis of a statement by the Presidency and an oral report by the Commission on progress to date, the Council held a brief exchange of views on a number of questions relating to aid to projects of Community interest in the field of transport infrastructure.

The Council agreed to instruct the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue work on the whole matter in the light of the Opinions awaited from the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee, in order to supply it as soon as possible with all the facts necessary for a decision at a forthcoming meeting.

PASSENGER AIR FARES

Having taken note of the views on passenger air fares expressed in the Commission's Memorandum on the contribution of the European Communities to the development of air transport services, the Council recognized that the subject of scheduled passenger air fares in the Community is worthy of comprehensive study, and invited the Commission, in collaboration with national experts, to examine the various scheduled passenger air fares charged in the Community, in the light of the work being carried on, amongst others, by the European Civil Aviation Conference, taking particular account of:

- = the economic constraints on airlines,
- = the present conditions of their access to the market, and
- = the effect of non-scheduled passenger air fares.

The Council asked to be informed of the results of this examination as soon as possible.



FIXING OF RATES FOR THE INTERNATIONAL CARRIAGE OF GOODS BY RAIL

The Council held a thorough discussion of the proposal on the fixing of rates for the international carriage of goods by rail. Following this discussion it noted that broad agreement had been reached on the draft text submitted to it.

The proposal is designed to introduce or reinforce freedom of action of railways in their commercial policy as regards international carriage of goods between Member States. Railways would thus, like their competitors, be able to quote general or special rates without having to go through procedures which are sometimes cumbersome and complicated.

In conclusion, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee, in the light of a deeper study of certain aspects raised in the discussions, to seek sufficient clarification to enable a formal decision to be taken rapidly.

INTERNATIONAL COMBINED RAIL/ROAD CARRIAGE OF GOODS

The Council discussed the directives to be given to the Commission for the negotiation of an Agreement between the Community and neighbouring third countries on common rules applicable to combined rail/road carriage of goods. Following this discussion, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine certain aspects of the subject in greater detail and to report back to it as soon as possible.

SOCIAL LEGISLATION RELATING TO ROAD TRANSPORT

The Council took note of the sixth Commission report on the application of Council Regulation (EEC) No 543/69 of 25 March 1969 on the harmonization of certain social legislation relating to road transport and stressed the importance of correct and effective application of that Regulation by all Member States.

It noted that Member States were now able to supply the Commission with all the data provided for by the standard report to enable it to draw up its report in accordance with Article 17 of the Regulation. The Council asked the Commission to pursue the necessary contacts with the Member States to ensure uniform application of the legislation.

It agreed to examine this problem in detail at its next meeting on transport questions in the light of the further reports which the Commission had said it was prepared to forward shortly.

RELATIONS WITH AUSTRIA REGARDING TRANSPORT

The Council took note of a Commission statement on relations with Austria on transport matters, in particular as regards a Community financial contribution to the building of a motorway.

COMMUNITY RAILWAY POLICY

The Council also took note of a statement by the Commission concerning the Commission memorandum on Community railway policy. The statement spoke of examining the measures required to enable the railways to meet new passenger and goods carriage requirements and of proposals to make the autonomous operation of the railways more efficient.

SAFETY OF SHIPPING

The Council took note of a statement by the French delegation on the French Government's memorandum on the safety of shipping and measures to combat pollution from hydrocarbons transported by sea. The statement anticipated, inter alia, the convening of an international conference on a regional basis to draw up a convention on the matter; it also asked the Commission to make proposals as soon as possible with a view to the Council's forthcoming meetings on transport and the environment.

The Council agreed to instruct the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine in detail the questions raised by the statement, as well as the memorandum from the French delegation of April last on the same subject.



MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Relations with the ACP States and the OCT

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

- on the Stabex system (communication of statistical data);
- concerning the application of Decision No 3/80 of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers derogating from the concept of "originating products" to take account of the special situation of Malawi and Kenya with regard to certain items of fishing tackle (fishing flies).

Trade policy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities,

- a Regulation opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for apricot pulp, falling within subheading ex 20.06 B II c) 1 aa) of the Common Customs Tariff and originating in Turkey (1.7.1980 to 30.6.1981);
- Regulations opening, allocating and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas for Port, Madeira and Setubal Muscatel wines falling within subheading ex 22.05 of the Common Customs Tariff and originating in Portugal (1980/1981);
- a Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 2728/79 opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for certain hand-made goods;
- a Decision opening, under Decision 75/210/EEC, quotas for the import into Italy of motors, transmissions and front axles for tractors falling within heading ex 84.06 and 87.06 of the Common Customs Tariff and originating in Romania;
- a Decision concluding three renegotiation agreements with the United States of America under Article XXVIII(1) of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

Agricultural policy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Regulation to stimulate agricultural development in the less-favoured areas of the West of Ireland and a Regulation on the development of sheep farming in Greenland.

It also adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Directive amending Directive 75/268/EEC on mountain and hill farming and farming in certain less-favoured areas.

In addition to the above, the Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, Regulations

- amending Regulation No 136/66/EEC on the establishment of a common organization of the market in oils and fats;
- fixing the target prices and basic intervention prices for colza, rape and sunflower seeds for the 1980/1981 marketing year;
- fixing for the 1980/1981 marketing year the main intervention centre for colza, rape and sunflower seeds and the derived intervention prices applicable in these centres;
- fixing for the 1980/1981 marketing year, the monthly increases in the target and intervention prices for colza and rape seed and sunflower seed;
- fixing the production target price, the production aid and the intervention price for olive oil for the 1980/1981 marketing year;
- fixing the monthly increases in the representative market price, the intervention price and the threshold price for olive oil for the 1980/1981 marketing year;

- fixing the guide prices for wine for the period 16 December 1980 to 15 December 1981;
- implementing production quota arrangements in the sugar and isoglucose sectors for the period 1 July 1980 to 30 June 1981;
- fixing, for the 1980/1981 sugar year, the sugar prices, the standard quality of beet and the coefficient for calculating the maximum quota;
- fixing, for the 1980/1981 sugar year, the derived intervention prices, the intervention price for raw beet sugar, at the minimum prices for beet, the threshold prices, the maximum amount of the production levy and the amount of the repayment to offset storage costs, and the coefficient for calculating the special maximum quota;
- fixing, for the 1980/1981 sugar marketing year, the differential charge to be levied on raw preferential sugar and the differential amount to be granted in respect of raw cane sugar from the French Overseas Departments;
- laying down, for the 1980/1981 sugar year measures to facilitate the disposal of sugar produced in the French Overseas Departments.

The Council also adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Directive on the control of potato ring rot and the Directive prolonging certain derogations granted to Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom regarding swine fever.

ECSC

The Council gave the assents requested under Article 56(2)(a) of the ECSC Treaty concerning various undertakings in Italy, Germany and the United Kingdom, and the assent requested under Article 55(2)(c) of the ECSC Treaty with a view to obtaining financial aid for the implementation of an iron and steel research programme.

Other decision

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Directive relating to the operating space, access to the driving position and to the doors and windows of wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors.

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Bruxelles, le 23 juin 1980

NOTE BIC (80) 263 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX,  
COPIE AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPE

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CONSEIL TRANSPORT (24-6-1980) (M.Lillis) et  
RENDEZ-VOUS DE MIDI DU 23 JUIN 1980

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#### PREPARATION CONSEIL TRANSPORT

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#### HEURE D'ETE

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Le Conseil se mettra vraisemblablement d'accord sur une date unique pour le debut de l'heure d'ete dans tous les Etats Membres en 1981 et 1982. Les dates choisies seront le dimanche 29 mars en 1981 et le dimanche 28 mars en 1982; on changera les horloges a 1 heure du matin G.M.T.

En 1980 tous les Etats membres ont introduit l'heure d'ete, mais pour deux periodes differentes : du 16 mars au 26 octobre au Royaume-Uni et en Irlande, du 6 avril au 28 septembre dans les sept Etats membres continentaux. Ceci complique la vie des entreprises de transport et de tous ceux qui doivent se deplacer ou telephoner d'un groupe de pays a l'autre.

Toutefois, il n'est pas probable que le Conseil puisse se mettre d'accord cette fois sur une date unique pour la fin de l'heure d'ete. La Commission a bien propose une date unique : le 11 octobre pour 1981 et le 10 octobre en 1982, ce qui represente un compromis entre les dates du 27 et 26 septembre que preferent les Etats membres continentaux respectivement pour les annees 1981 et 1982, et du 25 et 24 octobre preferes par le Royaume-Uni et l'Irlande.

#### PERMIS DE CONDUIRE COMMUNAUTAIRE

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Apres sa session de decembre 1977 qui avait marque l'accord de principe sur l'instauration d'un permis de conduire communautaire, le Conseil est appele maintenant a adopter la premiere directive relative a la creation d'un permis de conduire communautaire. Cette premiere decision vise essentiellement a realiser deux objectifs, a savoir :

- la reconnaissance reciproque des permis entre Etats membres
- l'adoption d'un modele communautaire du permis.

A l'interieur de la Communaute, la majorite des Etats membres, dont, par exemple, la France, reconnait la validite des permis de conduire des autres Etats membres; c'est ainsi que, lors d'un changement de residence, il est procede a l'echange des permis, sans repetition des examens.

Certains autres pays membres, (p.ex. le Royaume-Uni), ne reconnaissent pas la validite du permis sur leur territoire et obligent son detenteur a refaire entierement les examens conditionnant la delivrance du permis.

Le modèle communautaire du permis : Les nouveaux permis de conduire délivrés par les Etats membres seront de couleur rose et porteront sur la page de garde la mention PERMIS DE CONDUIRE dans toutes les langues de la Communauté. Pour le contenu du document, les nouveaux permis seront conformes aux dispositions définies par l'acte final de la Convention sur la Circulation routière élaborée à Vienne en novembre 1966 par la Conférence des Nations Unies sur la circulation routière.

#### FORMATION DES PRIX DE TRANSPORT FERROVIAIRES EN TRAFIC INTERNATIONAL ENTRE ETATS MEMBRES

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La proposition de décision qui est soumise à l'approbation du Conseil vise à octroyer ou à renforcer l'autonomie de gestion des chemins de fer dans le domaine de la formation des prix des transports internationaux de marchandises par chemin de fer entre Etats membres.

La décision accordera à ces entreprises la liberté d'établir des tarifs d'entreprise et de conclure des accords particuliers selon leurs intérêts commerciaux en tenant compte du prix de revient et de la situation du marché.

Il subsiste quelques réserves de la part de certaines délégations gouvernementales dont une de caractère général.

#### RELATIONS AVEC L'AUTRICHE DANS LE DOMAINE DES TRANSPORTS

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Au mois d'avril dernier la Commission a transmis au Conseil un rapport détaillant les perspectives pour les relations futures avec l'Autriche. En tenant compte, notamment :

- des difficultés croissantes rencontrées par le trafic communautaire de transit dans la région des Alpes;
- les repercussions dans le domaine des transports de l'adhésion de la Grèce à la Communauté;
- la demande autrichienne pour une participation financière de la Communauté à la construction de l'Autoroute IKPA.

On espère que le Conseil prendra une première orientation politique dans ces domaines afin de permettre l'ébauche de solutions à nos problèmes avec l'Autriche.

#### RAPPORT ORAL DE LA PRESIDENCE SUR LES POIDS DES VEHICULES

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On ne s'attend pas à une décision du Conseil sur ce point.

#### INFRASTRUCTURES DES TRANSPORTS

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La Commission fera un rapport sur le progrès dans le domaine

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des infrastructures de transport qui sera suivi par un debat  
general.

Autres informations donnees au rendez-vous de midi:

RESTITUTIONS A L'EXPORTATION DE VIANDE BOVINE VERS L'URSS  
(voir BIO 264)

DOCUMENTATION DONNEE

Fiche Conseil Transports 24.6.80  
P52 Nouveau programme environnement  
IP160 4eme FED: decisions de financement  
Statistiques chomage mai 1980.

AMITIES,

M.SANTARELLI CCMEUR

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Santarelli', written over the typed name 'M.SANTARELLI'.



Bruxelles, le 24 juin 1980

Note BIO(80)263 suite 1 et fin aux Bureaux nationaux  
cc aux Membres du Groupe

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Subject: Transport Council, Luxembourg, 24 June 1980  
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#### Community drivers' licences

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The Council adopted this draft directive as predicted in our pre-Council BIO(80)263.

Mutual recognition of existing national drivers' licences between Member States will be achieved by 1 January 1983.

The Community model for the licences will be used by all Member States by 1 January 1986.

#### Summer time

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As predicted in our BIO(80)263 the Council agreed that summer time will begin in all Member States on Sunday, 29 March 1981 and Sunday 28 March 1982. The Council did not agree to an ending date for summer time. In Ireland and the UK summer time will end on 11 October 1981 and 10 October 1982 and summer time will end in the Continental Member States on 27 September 1981 and 26 September 1982 unless the Council can in the meantime agree to a common date.

#### Air fares

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The Council adopted a conclusion which requires the Commission to examine scheduled air fares in collaboration with national experts. Charter fares will be included in the examination only to the extent necessary for comparing them with scheduled airline fares.

#### Statistics

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The Council adopted a directive on common statistics for freight transport by inland waterways and adopted in principle a similar directive for rail freight.

#### Combined transport with third countries

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The Council authorised the Commission to open negotiations on road/rail combined transport with Finland, Sweden, Norway, Austria, Yugoslavia and Spain. In response to Italian reservations the question of negotiations with Switzerland will be reexamined in Coreper.

#### International rail traffic

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The Council failed to adopt the Commission's proposal to reinforce management autonomy of the railways on price formation for international freight traffic between Member States. This was the cause of legislative difficulties in Denmark.

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Transport problems with Austria

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The Council authorised the Coreper and the Commission to proceed with its examination of outstanding difficulties with a view to solving them through negotiation.

Accidents at sea

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A French proposal for a European-wide, i.e. Community plus Spain, Portugal, Scandinavia and Greece, conference in the near future to intensify implementation of IMCO standards was generally welcomed as were the main points of the draft directive on port enforcement standards to be discussed in the Commission tomorrow.

Regards

M Santarelli / COMEUR

