

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

7893/80 (Presse 86)

644th Council meeting - Agriculture -Luxembourg, 17 June 1980 President: Mr Giovanni MARCORA, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry of the Italian Republic

Presse 86 - G

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

- 2 -

Belgium:

Mr Albert LAVENS

Minister for Agriculture and for Small Firms and Traders

Dennark:

I'r Poul DALSAGER

Minister of Agriculture

Germany:

Mr Hans-Jürgen ROHR

State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Forestry

France:

Mr Pierre MEHAIGNERIE Minister of Agriculture Mr Jacques FOUCHIER State Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture

Ireland:

Mr Ray MacSHARRY

Italy:

Mr Giovanni MARCORA

Mr Ferruccie PISONI

Mr Fabio FABBRI

Minister for Agriculture

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Minister of Agriculture and Forestry

State Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

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Deputy State Secretary, Agriculture

7893/2/80 (Presse 85)

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Luxenbourg:

Ir Camille NEY

Netherlands:

Hr Gerrits BRAHS

United Mingdom:

I'r Peter "ALKER

I'r Alic': BUCHAMAN-SMITH

linister of Agriculture, Viticulture, Water and Forestry

Minister of Agriculture

- 3 -

Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Minister of State, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Commission:

Ir Finn Olav GUNDBLACH

Vice-President

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7892 e/80 (Presse 86)

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SHEEPMEAT

The Council confirmed its agreement in principle on the draft Regulation on sheepmeat, subject to completion of the procedures still in progress - in particular consultation with Greece. This Regulation includes provisions on the price and premium levels for the current marketing year, on the understanding that for subsequent marketing years this matter will be dealt with in ad hoc Regulations, under procedures similar to those applied for all the systems of market organization.

- 4 -

SWINE FEVER

The Council agreed to prolong for four months (until 31 October 1980) the derogations granted to Denmark, Ireland, and the United Kingdom in respect of swine fever. It stressed the importance which it attached to speeding up the discussions on measures to combat swine fever with a view to its total eradication from the Member States of the Community.

7893 e/80 (Presse 86)

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SUGAR AND ISOGLUCOSE

The Council confirmed the extension, which occurred at the end of May, of the current sugar and isoglucose arrangements until the end of June 1981, and it held an exchange of views on the last difficulties over sugar and isoglucose for the next marketing year.

In conclusion it agreed to the five Regulations on the arrangements for quotas, levies and aid, and the prices to apply from 1 July 1980 to 30 June 1981.

NEW ZEALAND BUTTER

The Council heard a statement from the Commission announcing forthcoming proposals on the import of New Zealand butter into the EEC as from 1981.

It was agreed that this highly political question would shortly be raised in the Council after study by an ad hoc Working Party.

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STRUCTURAL MEASURES

The Council discussed various structural measures involving integrated development programmes for the Western Isles of Scotland, the Department of Lozère and the Belgian Province of Luxembourg, together with a common measure for the development of beef cattle and sheep production in Italy.

- 6 -

Horeover, the Council took note of new Commission proposals for the stimulation of agricultural development in the lessfavoured areas of Northern Ireland, and for a common measure to improve the conditions under which agricultural products in the eggs, poultrymeat, compais and cattlefeed sectors in Northern Ireland are processed and marketed.

Following its discussion, the Council instructed the Special Committee on Agriculture to examine in greater detail the proposals relating to the integrated programmes and the common measure, together with other structural measures - in particular the adjustment of Picentive 72/159 - in order to make it easier for the Council to take a decision on this matter at its next meeting planned for 22 July in Luxembourg.

VARIOUS STATELENTS

The Council took note of the following statements, accompanied where appropriate by replies from the Commission:

- measures taken by the French authorities with regard to sheepmeat imports (German delegation);
- policy of refunds in the milk products sector (Belgian delegation);
- budget savings (Danish delegation);
- problems of cultivation under glass in relation to the cost of energy (Danish delegation).

7893 e/80 (Presse 86) erd/JF/wec

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