



COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES  
GENERAL SECRETARIAT



PRESS RELEASE

5405/80 (Presse 26)

626th Council meeting  
- Agriculture -  
Brussels, 3 and 4 March 1980  
President: Mr Giovanni MARCORA,  
Minister for Agriculture and Forestry  
of the Italian Republic





Luxembourg:

Mr Camille NEY

Minister for Agriculture,  
Viticulture, Inland Waterways  
and Forestry

Netherlands:

Mr A. DE ZEEUW

Director-General for Agriculture

United Kingdom:

Mr Peter WALKER

Minister for Agriculture,  
Fisheries and Food

Mr Alick BUCHANAN-SMITH

Minister of State,  
Ministry of Agriculture,  
Fisheries and Food

Commission:

Mr Finn Olav GUNDELACH

Vice-President

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FIXING OF AGRICULTURAL PRICES AND CHANGES IN THE COMMON  
AGRICULTURAL POLICY

At the start of the meeting the President informed the Council of the talks he had had with the Committee on Agriculture of the European Parliament and with the professional agricultural organizations - COPA and COGECA - on the fixing of agricultural prices for 1980/1981 and related measures and on changes in and the rebalancing of the agricultural policy.

The Council then continued its discussions on the Commission proposals relating to these dossiers, concentrating in particular on sugar, milk products and beef and veal.

The Council first examined the problems arising with regard to the adjustment of the common organization of the market in sugar and isoglucose due to take place on 1 July this year. On the assumption that the future system would still have to be based on a quota system, the Council paid particular attention to the problems of the allocation of quotas and financing, in the light more especially of the prospects for production in the Community and on the world sugar market.

The Council instructed the Special Committee on Agriculture to expedite its discussions on this matter for its next meeting, on the understanding that the Commission would at the same time contact the delegations with a view to quickly finding a basis for a decision.

As to the milk sector, the Council, having before it an interim report from the Chairman of the ad hoc high-level Working Party, held a wide-ranging discussion on the various aspects of the Commission proposal on the matter and on the alternative suggestions submitted by various delegations aimed at curbing milk production with the object of restoring the balance in the market in this sector.

In conclusion, the Council asked the ad hoc Working Party to actively pursue its work on the matter in the light of today's discussions, with a view to submitting a full report to the Council in time for its meeting on 26 and 27 March 1980.

With regard to beef and veal the Council focused its attention on the main aspects of the Commission proposal, i.e. the general level of prices, in view of the desirability of introducing for producers of quality meat a premium for nurse cows directed towards maintaining an equitable income for such producers and the special structural measures to be laid down for this sector (suspension of buying-in in summer and introduction of a scale for grading carcasses for the purpose of buying in).

The discussion on this issue will be resumed at the next meeting as part of the discussions on the Commission proposals as a whole.

MARKET IN APPLES

As requested by several delegations, the Council discussed with the Commission the disturbing situation on the market in apples in view of the quantities still available from the Community harvest and imports from the southern hemisphere.

FEED-GRAIN

The Council held an exchange of views on the results of the Commission study on comparative costs of feed-grain in Italy and in other regions of the Community.

The Council agreed to return to the issue at its next meeting, if need be, on the basis of a Commission proposal.

AGRICULTURAL STRUCTURES POLICY

The Council received an interim report from the Special Committee on Agriculture on progress in the work on all the structural proposals contained in the Commission communication of March 1979.

The Council agreed to return to the issue at its next meeting at the same time as it resumed its discussions on the proposals on price fixing and changes in the common agricultural policy.

SHEEPMEAT

The Council made a fresh examination of the situation on the sheepmeat market and in this connection looked into the possibility of an interim agreement.

The Council failed to reach agreement on this matter.

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OTHER DECISIONS

Agricultural and Fisheries Policy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation laying down general rules on distillation operations for table wines for which the delivery contract must be approved before 15 April 1980. The Council had agreed to the principles underlying this measure at its meeting on 18 February 1980 (see Press Release 5053/80 (Presse 18) of that date).

The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation on the advance payment of export refunds in respect of agricultural products.

Finally, the Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulations:

- laying down certain interim measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources from 1 March to 30 June 1980 applicable to vessels flying the flag of Spain;
- implementing Articles XVIII and XXIII of the Convention on Future Multilateral Co-operation in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries as regards the scheme of joint international enforcement.

Research

The Council approved the substance of the following research programmes:

- Biology - Health protection (radiation protection);
- Management and storage of radioactive waste.

These programmes will be formally adopted later.

Trade policy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision concluding the agreement on trade in textile products between the European Economic Community and Haiti.

The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation extending for two months the provisional anti-dumping duty on certain acrylic fibres originating in the United States of America.

Finally, the Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision authorizing the Commission to negotiate on behalf of the Community Agreements in the form of Exchanges of Letters modifying certain duty-free quotas opened by the United Kingdom in accordance with Protocol No 1 to the Agreements between the European Economic Community and Finland, Norway and Sweden respectively.

Emergency aid

The Council agreed to a second emergency aid programme for the disaster victims of the Azores. The Community action will involve 300,000 EUA allotted to the Secours Catholique Français for its programme covering the most urgent needs.

Relations with Greece

The Council approved the Annual Report from the EEC-Greece Association Council to the Joint Parliamentary Committee for the period May 1978 to April 1979.

Commodities

The Council adopted the directives for a Community position at the March 1980 session of the International Cocoa Council.

Relations with the ACP States and OCT

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities two Regulations derogating from the definition of the concept of "originating products" to take into account the special situation of:

- Malawi and Kenya, with regard to certain forms of fishing tackle (artificial flies for fishing);
- Mauritius, with regard to its production of canned tuna.

Moreover as regards the stabilization of revenues, the Council agreed to the draft Decision of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers on the implementation of Article 18(5) of the ACP-EEC Convention of Lomé concerning the allocation of any balance remaining and replenished resources (a similar Decision will be adopted with regard to the OCT when the decision of the Council of ACP-EEC Ministers has been taken).

ECSC

The Council gave its assent pursuant to Article 56(2)(a) of the ECSC Treaty for A. TEVES Ltd., United Kingdom and its assent pursuant to Article 54(2) of the ECSC Treaty for the financing of housing for ECSC workers.

Appointments

The Council appointed, on a proposal from the Italian Government,

- Mr Bruno BARUCHELLO, currently an alternate member, as member and Mr Paolo Michele EREDE, Professor, as alternate member of the Advisory Committee on Medical Training, in place of Mr Antonio SPINELLI and Mr Bruno BARUCHELLO for the remainder of their term of office, i.e. until 5 April 1982;
- Mr Guiseppe MAZZOTTI, Doctor, Primo dirigente medico, as full member of the Advisory Committee on Training in Nursing in the category of experts of the competent authorities of the Member State, in place of Professor Francesco POLIZZI for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which runs until 14 January 1982.

The Council also appointed, on a proposal from the Netherlands Government, Mr H.A.J.M. VRIJHOEF, Raadadviseur voor internationale Onderwijsaangelegenheden van het Ministerie van Onderwijs en Wetenschappen, a member of the Management Board of the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training in place of Mr A.H. KOELINK, who has resigned, for the remainder of his term of office, which expires on 14 January 1982.

Finally, the Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision appointing Mr Hans Jørgen KOCH a member of the Advisory Committee of the Euratom Supply Agency in place of Mr Eyvind MOE, who has resigned, for the remainder of his term of office, i.e., until 28 March 1981.