

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES  
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

10064/83 (Presse 177)

879th Council meeting

- Internal Market -

Luxembourg, 26 October 1983

President: Mr Georgios MORAITIS,  
Minister for Trade  
of the Hellenic Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr Paul de KEERSMAEKER  
State Secretary,  
European Affairs and Agriculture

Germany:

Mr Rudolf SPRUNG  
Parliamentary State Secretary,  
Ministry of Economic Affairs

France:

Mrs Catherine LALUMIERE  
State Secretary,  
Consumer Affairs

Italy:

Mr Mario FIORET  
State Secretary,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
  
Mr Francesco FORTE  
Minister for the Co-ordination of  
Community Policies

Netherlands:

Mr W.F. VAN EEKELEN  
State Secretary,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Denmark:

Mr Ib STETTER  
Minister for Industry

Greece:

Mr Georgios MORAITIS  
Minister for Trade  
  
Mr Theodoros PANGALOS  
State Secretary,  
Ministry of Trade

Ireland:

Mr Jim O'KEEFFE,  
Minister of State,  
Department of Foreign Affairs  
  
Mr Michael MOYNIHAN  
Minister of State,  
Department of Trade, Commerce  
and Tourism

Luxembourg:

Miss Colette FLESCH  
Minister for Foreign Affairs  
  
Mr Ernest MÜHLEN  
Minister for Agriculture,  
Viticulture, Water Control and  
Forestry

United Kingdom:

Mr Paul CHANNON  
Minister for Trade

Commission:

Mr Etienne DAVIGNON  
Vice-President  
  
Mr Karl-Heinz NARJES  
Member

PLAN FOR THE TRANSNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE SUPPORTING  
INFRASTRUCTURE FOR INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

The Council signified its agreement to a Decision concerning a three-year plan for the transnational development of the supporting infrastructure for innovation and technology transfer. This Decision, which is geared to improving the competitiveness of European products through better use of the possibilities offered by the common market, provides for a package of measures, designed to develop the trade in new technologies and their exploitation in the Community, in favour in particular of small and medium-sized undertakings.

These measures will help to:

- render existing organizations and services in this field more effective by facilitating their operations on, and their access to, the Community market;
- disseminate knowledge concerning the commercial exploitation of technologies;
- contribute to the advance of methods used in this field by promoting concertation and the exchange of experience on the introduction of new methods in the Member States.

This action will concern the following sectors in particular: risk capital, local authorities as users of new products and associations of advisers on industrial information.

### STANDARDIZATION

The Council held a policy debate on the approach envisaged by the Commission with regard to standardization.

Generally speaking, the points put forward were favourably received, action in this area being deemed essential to the strengthening of the common market and to improving the competitiveness of Community products, notably with regard to new technologies.

Examination of these points will continue with a view to elaborating specific measures, particularly with regard to improving the consultation and decision-making procedures relating to standardization.

The Commission will submit draft conclusions in this connection as part of the preparatory work for the European Council in Athens on 5 and 6 December.

### ELIMINATION OF TECHNICAL BARRIERS TO TRADE

#### - COMMUNITY CERTIFICATION PROCEDURE FOR PRODUCTS ORIGINATING IN THIRD COUNTRIES

The Council agreed, at the end of an exchange of views, that the technical proceedings on the directives on harmonization currently pending be resumed without delay so that they could be adopted as soon as possible.

NEW COMMERCIAL POLICY INSTRUMENT

The Council held an exchange of views on the key question of the decision-making machinery, on which the Commission had just made some compromise proposals. It instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue, on the basis of the Commission proposals, examining the matter with a view to elaborating a decision to be taken as early as possible.

INSURANCE AGAINST CIVIL LIABILITY IN RESPECT OF THE USE OF MOTOR VEHICLES

The Council began examining a proposal for a 2nd Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to insurance against civil liability in respect of the use of motor vehicles.

The Council's discussion centred on three basic issues, viz.: the guarantee amounts; subsidiary or non-subsidiary nature of compensation paid by the guarantee fund and damage to property being subject to limitations or exclusions as regards payment of compensation from the guarantee fund.

Emphasizing the importance it attached to early adoption of this Directive, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to seek compromise solutions to the problems outstanding and to submit a report to it at the next meeting of the Internal Market Council.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR MOVEMENT WITHIN THE COMMUNITY OF GOODS SENT FROM ONE MEMBER STATE FOR TEMPORARY USE IN ONE OR MORE OTHER MEMBER STATES

The Council reached broad agreement on the basic principles governing the intra-Community movement arrangements. At the end of its discussion it instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to expedite its work on finalizing the arrangements, so that the relevant Regulation could be adopted at the earliest opportunity.

FACILITATION OF FORMALITIES AND INSPECTIONS IN RESPECT OF THE CARRIAGE OF GOODS BETWEEN MEMBER STATES

The Council signified its agreement to the Directive on the facilitation of formalities and inspections in respect of the carriage of goods between Member States, although one delegation's agreement was subject to confirmation.

The adoption of this Directive will constitute a significant step towards eliminating barriers to trade between Member States by improving the organization of the various inspections, thus leading in particular to a considerable reduction in the waiting time involved for transport operations.

Formal adoption of the Directive will take place after the texts have been finalized.

SINGLE DOCUMENT

The Council took note of a Commission report on progress with regard to harmonizing and reducing the volume of the data to be required in respect of intra-Community trade, with a view to simplifying the formalities at frontiers.

At the end of its discussion the Council agreed to set up an ad hoc Working Party of senior officials to examine the problems outstanding and report back as soon as possible.

DEFECTIVE PRODUCTS

The Council took note of the situation regarding the proposal for a Directive on the approximation of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States concerning liability for defective products.

At the end of its discussion the Council called upon the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue seeking solutions to the problems outstanding and to report back to it in the very near future, preferably at the next Council meeting on "consumers".

TEXTILE NAMES

The Council signified its agreement to a Directive which makes the necessary amendments, notably as regards terminology, to Directive 71/307/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to textile names.

Formal adoption will take place after finalization of the texts in the official languages of the Communities.

INVENTORY OF PENDING PROPOSALS

The Council took note of an inventory drawn up by the Commission concerning pending proposals in the internal market area.



## MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

### Export credits

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Decision amending the Decision of 4 April 1978 on the application of certain guidelines in the field of officially supported export credits.

The aim of this Decision is to make applicable in the Community the new arrangement on guidelines for officially supported export credits which was recently negotiated within the framework of the OECD.

### Cosmetic products

The Council adopted a Directive amending for the third time Directive 76/768/EEC relating to cosmetic products.

Under this Directive, Community legislation on cosmetic products is extended to cover ultra-violet filters which may be contained in cosmetic sunscreen products.

The Directive lays down the maximum authorized concentrations and other conditions and requirements for the use of these substances.

### Customs question

The Council decided to sign, subject to ratification on behalf of the European Economic Community - at the same time as the Member States - the international Convention on the harmonization of frontier control of goods.

Directive on proprietary medicinal products

The Council adopted a new Directive and a Recommendation strengthening and supplementing several important aspects of Community rules on proprietary medicinal products. A summary of the characteristics of each proprietary product will henceforth be drawn up by the competent national authorities at the time of authorization to market it. Labelling will be improved in the interest of the patient. Co-ordination of national marketing authorizations is to be strengthened by improving the present procedure involving the Committee for Proprietary Medicinal Products set up in 1975, notably by making that procedure more accessible to pharmaceutical firms and by encouraging the national authorities to take due account, when examining requests for authorization, of the authorization already issued in another Member State. To this end they will in particular have at their disposal a summary of the characteristics of the product and, if the product contains a new active substance, the critical evaluation report drawn up in the first Member State.

The Recommendation, which is the result of five years of work by government experts, provides an interpretation as regards the performance of the tests prescribed by Community regulations prior to the placing on the market of proprietary products, regarding toxicity tests, carcinogenesis, reproduction, pharmacokinetics and the criteria to be applied to medicinal products which combine several active substances. The Council felt, however, that the progress made was no more than a step towards eliminating obstacles to the free movement of proprietary medicinal products, and called upon the Commission to submit to it, no later than 4 years after the entry into force of the Directive, proposals to that effect, on which the Council would act within one year of receipt at latest.

### Transport

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Directive 65/269/EEC concerning the standardization of certain rules relating to authorizations for the carriage of goods by road between Member States and the first Council Directive of 23 July 1962 on the establishment of common rules for certain types of carriage of goods by road between Member States.

The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Decision concerning counter-measures in the field of international merchant shipping. This Decision relates to the establishment of consultations on the matter between the Member States and the Commission and the joint application, if necessary, of counter-measures.

### Measuring instruments and methods of metrological control

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Directive amending Directive 71/316/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to common provisions for both measuring instruments and methods of metrological control.

This Directive takes into account experience acquired during the years since the entry into force of the 1971 Directive in the measuring instruments sector.

### Agricultural Decisions

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

- abolishing the "accession" compensatory amount applicable to liqueur wines;
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 2194/81 laying down the general rules for the system of production aid for dried figs and dried grapes.









