

PRESS RELEASE

12416/80 (Presse 197)

679th meeting of the Council

- Foreign Affairs -

Brussels, 15 and 16 December 1980

President: Miss Colette FLESCH,
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

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

Belgium:

Mr Charles-Ferdinand NOTHOMB Minister for Foreign Affairs

Denmark:

Mr Kjeld OLESEN Minister for Foreign Affairs

Germany:

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

France:

Mr Jean FRANCOIS-PONCET Minister for Foreign Affairs

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

Ireland:

Mr Brian LENIHAN Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Denis GALLAGHER Minister for the Gaeltacht

Italy:

Mr Emilio COLOMBO Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Edoardo SPERANZA State-Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Luxembourg:

Miss Colette FLESCH Minister for Foreign Affairs

Netherlands:

Mr C.A. ven der KLAUW	Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr D.F. ven der MEI	State-Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mr K.H. BEYEN	State-Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs

United Kingdom:

Sir Ian GILMOUR	Lord Privy Seal
Mr Cecil PARKINSON	Minister of State, Department of Trade
Mr Adam BUTLER	Minister of State, Department of Industry

Greece:

(as an observer):

Mr Constantine MITSOTAKIS	Minister for Foreign Affairs
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Commission:

Mr Roy JENKINS	President
Mr François-Xavier ORTOLI	Vice-President
Mr Wilhelm HAFERKAMP	Vice-President
Mr Henk VREDELING	Vice-President
Mr Claude CHEYSSON	Member
Mr Antonio GIOLITTI	Member
Viscount Etienne DAVIGNON	Member

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SUPPLY OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS TO POLAND

It will be recalled that the Luxembourg European Council of 1 and 2 December 1980 signified the willingness of the Nine to respond, within their means, to the requests for economic support made to them by Poland.

In response to the urgent needs for agricultural and food products which Poland has made known to the Community authorities the Council has decided that, in the present circumstances and as an exceptional measure, the Community will give Poland the possibility of buying the following products and quantities at favourable prices:

Sugar	50,000 tonnes
Butter	30,000 tonnes
Whole milk powder	3,000 tonnes
Beef	15,000 tonnes
Pigmeat	35,000 tonnes
Rape seed	40,000 tonnes
Olive oil	600 tonnes
Barley	100,000 tonnes
Rye	100,000 tonnes
Rice	25,000 tonnes

COMMUNITY GENERALIZED PREFERENCES FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
- NEW SCHEME FOR 1981

- I. In the light of the Opinions delivered by the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee, the Council approved the new generalized preferences scheme for 1981. The texts containing the relevant regulations will be published in the Official Journal of the European Communities in the near future. The initial 10-year period of application of the generalized preferences system, which the Community was the first to implement in 1971, comes to an end on 31 December 1980.
- II. The Council also agreed in this context that the generalized preferences - which are granted autonomously by the Community to the developing countries - will be maintained for a further 10-year period of application, which also coincides with the Development Strategy established by the United Nations for the decade 1981 - 1990. The Council also stated that it was willing to examine with an open mind the situation which will arise at the end of the further 10-year period, with a view to subsequent extension of the Community's generalized preferences scheme.
- Furthermore, it should be noted that, as in the past, the scheme will be revised each year by the Council's subordinate bodies in order to take account of any changes which may occur in the economic situation.
- III. The GSP for the eighties will centre on new approaches in the industrial products sector. The Community has noted that the use of preferential benefits during the seventies was concentrated on a small number of beneficiary countries and on a limited number of products which already formed part of traditional patterns of exports to the EEC.

In order to ensure a better balance in the distribution of preferential benefits, to provide tangible assistance for the industrial development of a greater number of developing countries, in particular the **least-developed**, and to take account of the competitive position of EEC producers in the years to come, the Community considered that the new GSP should be based on the following guidelines. First, it seemed necessary to phase in steadily a distinction between the benefits granted to the beneficiary countries, in the light, among other things, of the changes which had occurred in the economic situation (basically, this involves extending preferential access as much as possible for the developing countries which need it most, particularly the least-developed, and restricting, the preferences on particular products enjoyed by countries regarded as already very competitive). Secondly, arrangements have been adopted which should make it possible to simplify the operation of the GSP.

IV. From the general viewpoint outlined above, the main features of the GSP for 1981 may be summarized as follows:

1. Products covered by the GSP

The 1981 GSP provides for total exemption from customs duties for all industrial products (with certain limits on amount or volume, however). As regards processed agricultural products, the Community offer involves partial or total exemption for some 313 products (but without any limit on preferential imports).

(a) Industrial products (including ECSC products)

First, the Community has decided to abolish global quotas and ceilings, which is a prerequisite for the introduction of distinctions between beneficiary countries. The preferential amounts will in future be determined on an individual basis: the abolition of the global ceiling system thus guarantees that each beneficiary is able to use the ceiling established for it. Likewise, if duties are re-introduced because the preferential amount has been exceeded, this will only apply to the beneficiary country whose preferential exports have attained this ceiling.

Secondly, in order to simplify the administration of the GSP, the Community has selected two categories of products (strictly monitored sensitive products and non-sensitive products) instead of the four groups of products which were a feature of the GSP in the seventies. Thus, preferential imports of 64 sensitive industrial products (including 6 ECSC products) from very competitive countries will be administered by means of individual quotas, while the same imports from the other beneficiary countries will be administered by means of individual ceilings.

In this context it should be pointed out that, as a general rule, imports from those considered to be the poorest beneficiary countries will not be subject to quotas.

- (b) The Council thought that the arrangements introduced on 1 January 1980 for textile products should be extended for one year (subject, however, to a 2% increase in the quantities covered by the GSP, as a result of the enlargement of the Community in 1981). The Community does not yet have all the facts which would enable it to assess the operation of the present system, as these statistics will only be available for use in the course of next year. It is understood that this extension will not prejudice arrangements for the Community offer in future years.

The duties on jute products are completely suspended vis-à-vis the main supplier third countries which have concluded voluntary restraint agreements with the Community for their exports of certain jute products (India, Bangladesh) or which have undertaken to conclude such agreements (Thailand), where appropriate. The duty-free entry which the beneficiary countries concerned currently enjoy will be maintained in 1981 and will be extended to Nepal and the other least developed countries.

The duties on coir products are completely suspended in the case of India and Sri Lanka. The Council has decided that duty-free entry will be maintained for these two countries in 1981 and will also be extended to the least developed countries.

(c) With regard to processed agricultural products, the Council has agreed to:

- an increase in the preferential margin for 36 products already included;
- duty-free entry or exemption from duty for 6 products (nutmeg, preparations containing malt extract, cereal products and certain yeasts);
- the introduction of some new products (spices: thyme and bay leaves);
- the inclusion of a new product (fish meal) exclusively for the least developed countries.

The Council also agreed to maintain the preferences for agricultural products subject to quotas (or ceilings) on condition that there is a flat-rate increase of 2% as a result of the accession of Greece.

It will be noted that China is also included among the beneficiaries in respect of tropical fruit juices and cocoa butter.

2. Beneficiaries

With the addition of Zimbabwe, there will be 123 countries on the list of beneficiaries for 1981.

It should also be noted that China and Romania will continue to benefit from preferences under special arrangements.

3. Least developed countries

In accordance with UNCTAD Resolution 96 (IV), the Community has taken a whole series of measures in favour of the least developed countries. Under the 1981 scheme, these countries enjoy complete and unlimited exemption from duties for all industrial products (including textiles). They will also benefit from exemption for all the agricultural products included in the GSP (however, exemption for tobacco and pineapples is granted within the limits of the quotas adopted). A new product (fish meal) will also be included in the scheme for their exclusive benefit.

REGIONAL FUND - GREEK QUOTA

After noting the Opinion delivered today by the European Parliament, the Council adopted the Regulation on the distribution in 1981 between the ten Member States, following the accession of Greece, of the quotas of the European Regional Development Fund:

Belgium	1.11
Denmark	1.06
Germany	4.65
Greece	13.00
France	13.64
Ireland	5.94
Italy	35.49
Luxembourg	0.07
Netherlands	1.24
United Kingdom	23.80
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Total	100.00

The Council stressed that this distribution represented a provisional solution on an ad hoc basis for one year which in no way prejudiced the review of the ERDF Regulation scheduled for 1981 nor the solutions to be adopted in connection with subsequent accessions to the Community.

RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES

The Council approved a declaration on matters connected with certain imports from the United States.

The Council:

- expressed its concern about the US energy pricing policies and export restrictions and the element of artificial advantage these gave to United States exporters for a range of products such as synthetic textiles and also certain chemical products;
- took note of the increases in certain imports from the United States into the Community, particularly into certain regions, and their current high levels;
- noted that these factors continued to place added strains on the open trading system during a period of depressed trading conditions by increasing the relative effect of imports on production;
- noted that dumping has also occurred in the exports of certain US products to the Community market and that anti-dumping duties have been imposed on some US products in these sectors and that other cases are currently under consideration;

- no satisfactory outcome had been reached in the bilateral negotiations which had taken place between the European Community and the United States under Article XXIII(1) of the GATT;
- recalled also that an ad hoc EEC-USA joint study group with government and industry representatives had recently been set up to consider a number of problems in the petrochemical sector;
- agreed that developments necessitated a new and stronger initiative and invited the Commission to expedite its discussions with the US Administration on the whole range of problems and possible solutions and to report back to the Council as early as possible, with a first report in February.

PASSPORT UNION

The Council outlined the problems outstanding as regards the introduction of a uniform passport in the Community; it concluded by instructing the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue discussing these points in order to enable the Council to take a final decision at its meeting in March.

REPORT BY THE THREE WISE MEN

The Council briefly discussed the conclusions of the European Council regarding the Report by the Three Wise Men. These conclusions will be published shortly.

EUROPEAN FOUNDATION

The Council took note of a statement by the President on the setting up of the European Foundation.

STEEL - SOCIAL ASPECTS

The Council puts on record its support for the Commission's continuation of ECSC social measures in order to help alleviate the effects on employment of restructuring the steel industry, in accordance with Article 56(2)(b) of the ECSC Treaty.

At the Council meeting in January 1981, on the basis of information to be supplied to the Commission by the Member States, the Commission will endeavour to inform the Council of its procedures for continuing these measures.

Consideration will then be given to the possibility of making available to the ECSC an appropriation whose volume and method of financing are still to be decided.

FUNCTIONING OF THE COURT OF JUSTICE

The Council continued its examination of certain measures intended to improve the functioning of the Court of Justice, possibly including an increase in the Court's staff; the Council will continue this examination at its next meeting in January 1981.

FRAMEWORK REGULATION ON FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL AID TO NON-ASSOCIATED DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

The Council carried out a further examination of the issues still arising in connection with the framework Regulation on financial and technical aid to non-associated developing countries and the conciliation procedure with the European Parliament on this matter. The Council concluded by agreeing to return to this question at a subsequent meeting.

MANIOC

The Council authorized the Commission to finalize the negotiations with Thailand for a Co-operation Agreement on manioc production, marketing and trade.

At the same time it invited the Commission to enter into negotiations with the other main manioc-exporting countries for the purpose of limiting their exports to the Community by means of voluntary restraint agreements or through negotiations under Article XVIII of the GATT with a view to amending the Community tariff concession for manioc. The Commission will report to the Council on these two alternatives at the earliest opportunity.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Relations with the ACP countries and the OCT

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision on the association of the Overseas Countries and Territories with the European Economic Community and related statements.

The OCT association Decision will come into force on 1 January 1981, at the same time as the second ACP-EEC Convention of Lomé. It gives the Overseas Countries and Territories (dependent on the French Republic, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands) rights and benefits similar to those given to the ACP States by the new Convention of Lomé. The Decision will be valid until 28 February 1985.

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

- the conclusion of the Interim Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Zimbabwe;
- the advance application of certain trade provisions of the second ACP-EEC Convention relating to trade in respect of Zimbabwe.

The effect of the acts relating to Zimbabwe is to grant that State from 1 January 1981 the same trading arrangements with the Community as those in force between the Community of 10 and all the ACP States. The other provisions of the second Convention of Lomé (financial aid, STABEX, industrial and agricultural co-operation, etc.) will apply to Zimbabwe when the accession agreement, signed in Luxembourg on 4 November 1980, has been ratified by all the signatory States and concluded by the Community.

Enlargement of the Community

In the context of the accession of Greece to the European Communities, the Council adopted a series of Decisions on:

- the signature of the additional protocol to the EEC-Spain Agreement following the accession of Greece;
- the autonomous arrangements applicable on 1 January 1981 to Greek trade with Egypt, Jordan, the Lebanon and Spain, countries with which the Community has completed the negotiation of protocols of adaptation to the agreements with them. Similar regulations for the ECSC were also approved;
- the autonomous arrangements applicable to Greek imports from Algeria, Israel, Malta, Morocco, Portugal, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey, countries with which the Community has not yet completed the negotiation of protocols of adaptation. Similar regulations for the ECSC were also approved.

Relations with Cyprus

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation laying down the arrangements applicable to trade with the Republic of Cyprus after 31 December 1980. The Annex to this Regulation provides for the unilateral application to Cyprus of the EEC-Cyprus Protocol of Adaptation following the accession of Greece to the European Communities.

Customs union and trade policy

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

- temporarily suspending unilateral Common Customs Tariff duties for certain micro-electronics products;
- opening, allocating and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for poly yarn (p-phenylene-terephthalamide) intended to be used in the manufacture of tyres, falling under subheading ex 51.01 A of the Common Customs Tariff.

The Council defined the participation procedure and joint position for the Community and its Member States at the forthcoming Conference on the negotiation of an international agreement on jute.

The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation on the conclusion of the Agreement on the establishment of the Joint Commission and the Agreement on trade in industrial products between the European Economic Community and the Socialist Republic of Romania.

Technical barriers

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

- on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the fuel consumption of motor vehicles;
- on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the engine power of motor vehicles;
- amending Directive 70/156/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the type-approval of motor vehicles and their trailers.

Financial matters

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities:

- a Financial Regulation amending the Financial Regulation of 21 December 1977 as regards the use of the ECU in the general budget of the European Communities;
- the Regulation on the replacement of the European unit of account by the ECU in Community legal instruments.

The Council also gave its assent to a draft Commission Decision amending Decision No 3289/75/ECSC on the definition and conversion of the unit of account to be used in decisions, recommendations, opinions and communications for the purposes of the Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community.

Transport policy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Directive on future co-operation and mutual assistance between Member States in the field of aircraft accident investigation (See Press Release 11981/80 (Presse 182) published after the Transport Council on 4 December 1980).

Research policy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Decision setting up a Consultative Committee for the Fusion Programme.

Emergency aid

Following the request by the authorities of the island of Montserrat for aid to finance part of the programme of urgent work undertaken immediately after cyclone ALLEN - the estimated overall cost of this programme is 660,000 EUA - the Council agreed that the Commission should make 150,000 EUA available to the authorities of Montserrat as emergency Community aid.

It will be remembered that after hurricane ALLEN struck the Caribbean islands on 4 and 5 August 1980, the Community granted emergency aid to Martinique and Guadeloupe (700,000 EUA), Saint Lucia and Jamaica (300,000 EUA each) and to the people of Haiti via international bodies (400,000 EUA).

Relations with Switzerland

Under the heading EEC/Switzerland agricultural topics, the Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities Decisions

- on the amendèment of tariff concessions concerning certain cheeses;
 - concluding the Agreement in the form of exchanges of letters between Switzerland and the European Economic Communities concerning certain agricultural products.
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NOTE BIO(80)522 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
CC AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPE, A M BURGHARDT DG I ET A M LECOMTE
DG VIII

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OBJET : CONSEIL AFFAIRES GENERALES DES 15 ET 16 DECEMBRE 1980

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LE PROGRAMME DES TRAVAUX SE PRESENTE COMME SUIT :

LUNDI, 15 DECEMBRE (APRES-MIDI)

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- PREPARATION DU CONSEIL D'ASSOCIATION DE COOPERATION CEE-
TUNISIE, PREVU POUR 17 H.

CETTE DEUXIEME REUNION DU CONSEIL DE COOPERATION (LA 1ERE AYANT
EUT LIEU EN DECEMBRE 1978) DEVRAIT PERMETTRE

1) DE FAIRE LE POINT DE L'APPLICATION DE L'ACCORD DE COOPERATION
D'AVRIL 1976 ET DE SES DIFFERENTS VOLETS (EVOLUTION DES
ECHANGES COMMERCIAUX - MISE EN OEUVRE DE LA COOPERATION
ECONOMIQUE ET FINANCIERE) ;

2) D'EXAMINER LES POSSIBILITES DE NEGOCIATION EN TEMPS UTILE
D'UN PROTOCOLE D'ADAPTATION SUITE A L'ADHESION DE LA GRECE ;

3) DE PROCEDER A UN ECHANGE DE VUES SUR LES CONSEQUENCES DE
L'ELARGISSEMENT FUTUR DE LA COMMUNAUTE A L'ESPAGNE ET AU
PORTUGAL.

- MESURES DE SOUTIEN A LA POLOGNE : SUITES DU CONSEIL EUROPEEN
DES 1/2 DECEMBRE (VOIR BIO(80)519)

- FONDS REGIONAL : QUOTA GREC

LA COMMISSION AVAIT PRESENTE AU MOIS D'OCTOBRE DES PROPOSITIONS
PERMETTANT A LA GRECE DE PARTICIPER AU FEDER EN 1981 (VOIR P-88).

EN CE QUI CONCERNE LE MONTANT DE QUOTA A ATTRIBUER A LA GRECE,
LA COMMISSION, EN SE BASANT SUR UN EXAMEN DE LA SITUATION SOCIO-
ECONOMIQUE DE L'ENSEMBLE DE PAYS AVAIT PROPOSE UN QUOTA DE 15
POURCENT. IL SEMBLERAIT QUE LE DEBAT AU COREPER DE LA SEMAINE
DERNIERE AIT FAIT RESSORTIR QU'UN ACCORD POURRAIT SE FAIRE SUR
UN QUOTA DE L'ORDRE DE 13 POURCENT.

EN CE QUI CONCERNE L'ADAPTATION DU QUOTA DES AUTRES ETATS
MEMBRES UN ACCORD POURRAIT ETRE TROUVE SUR LA PROPOSITION DE LA
COMMISSION D'UNE APPLICATION DE LA METHODE NON-LINEAIRE, BASEE
SUR LA VARIATION PAR RAPPORT A LA MOYENNE COMMUNAUTAIRE DU PIB
PAR HABITANT DES DIFFERENTS ETATS MEMBRES.

- REUNION DES PASSEPORTS : ETAT DES TRAVAUX

MARDI, 16 DECEMBRE

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- CONFERENCE DES REPRESENTANTS DES GOUVERNEMENTS DES ETATS
MEMBRES : NOMINATION DES MEMBRES DE LA NOUVELLE COMMISSION

- AMELIORATION DE FONCTIONNEMENT DE LA COUR DE JUSTICE

- MANIOC : ADOPTION DES DIRECTIVES DE NEGOCIATION EN VUE DE LA
CONCLUSION D'UN ACCORD AVEC LA THAILANDE ET QUESTION DE LA
DECONSOLIDATION (VOIR BID(80)479 SUITE 6).

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M VASEY GPP/■DG X B 1/6 2201 15.12.80

M SANTARELLI

PAF

Bruxelles, le 16 décembre 1980

Note BIC(80)522 suite 1 aux Bureaux nationaux
cc aux Membres du Groupe

Objet : Conseil affaires generales (M Vasey)

Au cours de sa seance de mardi matin, le Conseil :

- a fixé le montant du quota grec dans le Fonds regional a 13 %. Il s'agit d'une solution provisoire ad hoc pour un an devant permettre a la Grece de participer au FEDER a partir du 1.1.1981, mais qui ne prejuge en rien ni la revision du reglement FEDER en 1981, ni les adhesions ulterieures a la Communaute. La nouvelle clef de repartition des quotas pour les autres Etats membres est la suivante :

Belgique	1,11
Danemark	1,06
Allemagne	4,65
France	13,64
Irlande	5,94
Italie	35,49
Luxembourg	0,07
Pays Bas	1,24
Royaume-Uni	23,80

M Giolitti a rappele que la Commission reexaminera le reglement FEDER en tenant compte aussi du 'Rapport sur la situation socio-economique des regions de la Communaute'.

- s'est donne un dernier delai jusqu'au Conseil de mars pour finaliser le passeport uniforme dont le principe avait ete recenu par le Conseil europeen en decembre 1974.

- a entendu une declaration de la delegation britannique par laquelle celle-ci faisait connaitre la decision du Royaume-Uni de ne pas solliciter la prorogation des mesures de limitation des importations de fils de polyester et de nylon pour tapis en provenance des Etats-Unis, compte tenu des implications commerciales et politiques d'une nouvelle mesure de sauvegarde en ce moment-ci. Le Conseil publiera une declaration au sujet du double prix de l'energie aux Etats-Unis a l'issue de ses travaux.

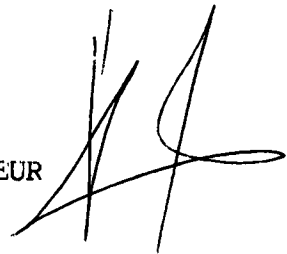
- a examine les possibilites de fourniture de denrees alimentaires a la Pologne a des conditions favorables : la presidence fera une declaration a la presse a l'issue des travaux.

- s'est transforme en conference des representants des gouvernements des Etats membres pour nommer le president et les membres de la nouvelle Commission (la nomination des Vice-Presidents a ete laisse en suspens).

A suivre.

Amities

M Sontarilli COMEUR



Bruxelles, le 17 novembre 1980.

Note BIO (80) 522 (suite 2) aux Bureaux Nationaux
cc. aux Membres du Groupe

OBJET : CONSEIL AFFAIRES GENERALES

ACIER - VOLET SOCIAL (P. van Enk)

A propos du volet social siderurgique, le Conseil a marque son appui a la Commission pour poursuivre l'action de la CECA dans le domaine social en vue de contribuer a pallier les effets de la restruration de l'industrie siderurgique sur le plan de l'Emploi, mais il n'a pu arriver a des decisions notamment sur la facon de financer des mesures a prevoir a cet effet.

En effet, plusieurs delegations (Pays-Bas, R.F. d'Allemagne, Irlande) se sont montrees soucieuses du fait que l'action proposee par la Commission pourrait constituer un precedent. Surtout la delegation neerlandaise a preconise une attitude prudente. Elle n'a pas voulu demarrer sur la voie indiquee par la Commission avant d'en fixer les limites. Aussi, le porte-parole neerlandais voulait-il prendre les decisions finales dans le cadre du debat sur la restructuration siderugique qui est prevu pour le debut de l'annee prochaine.

Les delegations francaise et britannique se sont a nouveau opposees a la proposition de la Commission de financer le volet social au moyen d'un transfert du budget CE vers le budget CECA. Elles persistaient a ce que le financement se fasse par le biais des contributions ad-hoc des Etats membres.

La delegation italienne a soutenu les propositions de la Commission a condition que non seulement la retraite flexible en fasse partie, mais aussi le chomage partiel. Le porte-parole italien a fait mention que son gouvernement prepare une demande d'aide aux mesures de chomage partiel dans la siderurgie et il a reclame un accueil favorable pour cette demande a l'interieur du montant de 112 MUCE sollicite pour 1981. Le Vice-president Vredeling a dit, a propos de cette derniere intervention, qu'il est impossible de decider d'ores et deja sur des demandes qui sont encore en preparation aupres des Gouvernements et qui ne se trouvent pas encore entre les mains de la Commission. Le montant de 112 MUCE resulte des demandes faites par les Gouvernements britannique, francais et belge.

Au demeurant, M. Vredeling, defendant le volet social, a mis en relief que l'aide a la retraite anticipee ne constitue pas une innovation dans le cadre de la CECA : de telles aides sont octroyees depuis des annees. Le probleme pour lequel la Commission demande une solution de la part du Conseil est simplement que les ressources du budget CECA sont epuisees et que les demandes britannique, francaise et belge necessitent de trouver des moyens supplementaires.

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Repondant aux affirmations notamment du porte-parole neerlandais, M. Vredeling a egalement mis en evidence qu'il serait illusoire de vouloir fixer ulterieurement une fois pour toutes les consequences de la restructuration siderurgique dans la Communauté. Ces consequences sur le plan de l'emploi sont floues; elles interviennent continuellement.

Le Vicomte Davignon a prevenu le Conseil que celui-ci, en discutant les problemes de l'avenir, risque de negliger les problemes qui se posent aujourd'hui. Il s'agit aujourd'hui d'un probleme politique : a savoir si, oui ou non, les obligations sociales en vertu du Traite CECA continuent a etre comblees. M. Davignon a assure le Conseil que celui-ci en approuvant la proposition de la Commission ne s'engage pas a payer un compte non-chiffre. La Commission ne demande pas quelque chose de petit pour obtenir plus tard quelque chose de gros.

Apres le debat, le Conseil a conclu de decider ulterieurement sur la mise a la disposition de la Commission d'un credit "dont le volume et la methode de financement restent a definir".

A l'issue de la session, M. Vredeling a fait a la presse des commentaires amers sur le deroulement du debat. Il a condamne le Conseil qui d'une part se pretend partisan d'une politique sociale en faveur des travailleurs touches par la restructuration siderurgique, mais qui d'autre part n'arrive pas a prendre des actions concretes. M. Vredeling, qualifiant le niveau de discussion du Conseil comme "bas" et sa prise de position comme "lache", a fait appel au Parlement europeen pour qu'il soit plus sage. Le Vice-president s'attend a ce que le Parlement inscrive, au cours de cette semaine, au chapitre 54 du budget CE le montant de 112 MUCE sollicite et destine au transfert du budget CECA.

M. Davignon a, pour sa part, affirme que le Conseil a renonce a ses responsabilites et que la Commission en referera devant le Parlement.

Amities,


Pierre van Enk. Comeur.

Bruxelles, le 17 décembre 1966

Note Dir (86) 522 suite 3 en fin aux Bureaux nationaux
et aux Membres du Groupe

Objet : Conseil affaires générales (M. Vasey)

Le Conseil a traité les questions suivantes :

- Pologne : Compte tenu des besoins communiqués par les
----- autorités polonaises à la Communauté, le Conseil a
décidé, dans les circonstances actuelles et à titre exceptionnel,
que la Communauté donnera à la Pologne la possibilité d'acheter
certains produits alimentaires à des prix de faveur (pour les
produits et les quantités, voir BiC(86)519). Il est entendu que
l'octroi des crédits nécessaires pour l'achat des produits en
question relève des Etats membres, qui se consulteront à ce
sujet. Ceci n'enlève rien au caractère communautaire de cet acte
de solidarité avec la Pologne.
 - Acier - volet social (voir suite 2)
 - Importations de textiles synthétiques en provenance des
Etats-Unis
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Le Conseil a adopté une déclaration dans laquelle il exprime sa
préoccupation concernant la politique du prix de l'énergie aux
Etats-Unis et l'avantage artificiel qui en découlerait pour les
producteurs américains de textiles synthétiques et de certains
produits chimiques. Après avoir relevé l'augmentation des
importations en provenance des Etats-Unis et les difficultés
que cela entraîne pour le système commercial libéral, la
déclaration rappelle les différentes mesures prises (droits
anti-dumping, consultation au sein du GATT, création d'un groupe
d'étude ad hoc sur les problèmes de l'industrie pétrochimique
avec participation des représentants de l'industrie). En
conclusion, le Conseil invite la Commission, dans le cadre d'une
nouvelle initiative, à poursuivre les discussions avec
l'Administration américaine sur l'ensemble des problèmes, et à
soumettre un premier rapport au Conseil en février. Cette
déclaration ne préjuge pas bien entendu les solutions
possibles.

- Maroc

Le Conseil a chargé la Commission d'entamer des négociations
avec les pays fournisseurs autres que la Thaïlande simultanément
sur les deux approches préconisées, à savoir la conclusion des
accords d'auto-limitation et la reconsolidation du tarif sur ce
produit, en attachant une importance égale à ces deux approches.
Sur cette base, le Conseil a pu également marquer son accord sur
la conclusion de l'accord déjà négocié à ce sujet avec la
Thaïlande. En conclusion, la délégation allemande a souhaité que
le Conseil ait des débats approfondis l'année prochaine sur les
implications de la politique agricole commune pour les relations
commerciales extérieures de la Communauté, au lieu de traiter
des problèmes ponctuels hors contexte comme dans le cas du
Maroc.

- Aide aux PVL non-associés

Le Conseil n'a pas pu marquer son accord sur le règlement-cadre en raison de l'opposition de la délégation néerlandaise au compromis de la présidence.

- Préférences généralisées 1981

Le Conseil a adopté les différents règlements du schéma dont le contenu avait été approuvé en novembre.

- Cour de Justice

Le Conseil a renvoyé à sa prochaine session l'examen des mesures pour améliorer le fonctionnement de la Cour de Justice (augmentation du nombre de juges et d'avocats généraux).

- Rémunération du personnel

Aucune décision n'a pas été prise sur le réexamen annuel.

Points divers

1) Acier : la délégation allemande a fait une déclaration
----- sur les difficultés d'importation de produits sidérurgiques en Italie constatées à la suite de la limitation du nombre de postes de dédouanement, en demandant que cette limitation soit supprimée immédiatement. Plusieurs autres délégations sont intervenues pour appuyer cette déclaration. M Davignon a indiqué que des experts de la Commission se rendent à Rome cette semaine pour examiner le problème avec les autorités italiennes.

2) ALE : la délégation allemande a fait une déclaration sur la
----- nécessité d'accélérer les travaux en vue de la modification des règles d'origine. M Davignon a indiqué que la Commission procède à des consultations avec certains pays de l'ALE et soumettra des propositions de compromis dans un bref délai.

Amities

M Vasey CŒUR

