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COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

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PRESS RELEASE

8248/82 (Presse 102)

785th meeting of the Council

- Research -

Luxembourg, 30 June 1982

President:

Mr Philippe MAYSTADT
Minister for Policy on Science
of the Kingdom of Belgium

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

Belgium:

Mr Philippe MAYSTADT
Minister for Policy on Science

Denmark:

Mr Bjørn BRYNSKOV
State Secretary,
Ministry of Education

Germany:

Mr Hans-Hilger HAUNSCHILD
State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Research
and Technology

Greece:

Mr Evangelos KOULOUMBIS
Minister for Research and
Technology

France:

Mr Jacques LEFRETTE
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

Ireland:

Mr Andrew O'ROURKE
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

Italy:

Mr Giancarlo TESINI
Minister for Scientific
Research

Luxembourg:

Mr Josy BARTHEL
Minister for Energy

Netherlands:

Mr J.C. TERLOUW
Deputy Prime Minister,
Minister for Economic Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr John MacGREGOR
Parliamentary Under-Secretary
of State,
Department of Industry

Commission:

Viscount Etienne DAVIGNON, Vice-President

R & D STRATEGY FOR THE 1980s

On the basis of communications from the Commission, the Council held a broad policy debate covering three topics: the first outline of a framework programme for 1984-1987, stimulating research potential, and decision-making structures and procedures.

At the end of the debate, the President of the Council drew the following conclusions:

- Framework programme

The Council noted that the framework programme for the Community's scientific and technical activities must make it possible to make Community approaches and choices for the various objectives more systematic, while taking national activities and forecasts into consideration, thereby making it easier to inter-link them and ensuring that national and Community actions were complementary.

The framework programme ought therefore to be viewed as an instrument for forecasting and planning in the medium-term which, in order to be drawn up, needed both qualitative and quantitative data at national level. The Commission departments would contact the relevant national authorities directly in order to facilitate this collection of information.

The Commission is requested to submit the first framework programme for 1984-1987 to the Council in November 1982, so that it may be adopted by the latter during the first quarter of 1983.

- Stimulating scientific and technical potential

The Council's discussions led to recognition of the usefulness of a greater effort to stimulate the Community's scientific and technical potential and consequently to recognition of the importance of Community action in this respect, although this should, however, complement existing national and international measures.

The Commission may accordingly consider that it is invited to state:

= within the framework programme for 1984-1987, the guidelines for such stimulatory action by the Community (option No 7 of the framework programme),

= in a communication to the Council, before the end of the budgetary procedure for the financial year 1983, the areas and detailed arrangements to be adopted for a pilot experiment for testing particular ways and means of implementing such action.

- Structures and procedures

The Council took note of the report from the Commission departments on the proceedings of the Working Party set up on 8 March 1982 to look into the question of the structures and procedures of Community policy in the R & D sector. The Council recognised the need to improve upon the current situation, particularly by bringing the political, scientific and budgetary examination procedures closer together. Accordingly, in order to ensure that the framework programme operates smoothly, the Commission may consider itself invited to make any proposals to the Council which it feels would be useful for simplifying and adapting existing structures and procedures.

MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH RESEARCH

Pending receipt of the Opinion of the European Parliament, the Council held a discussion on the Commission proposal for a 3rd programme for medical and public health research.

The Council anticipates that it will be able to give its decision rapidly on this programme once it has received Parliament's Opinion, which should be delivered at the July part-session.

INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION ON FUSION

The Council took note of an oral communication from Viscount DAVIGNON, Vice-President, on progress made in the discussions which the Commission has held with both the American and the Japanese authorities, in order to look into possible ways of developing co-operation on thermonuclear fusion.

NEW GUIDELINES FOR THE 1984-1987 MULTIANNUAL PROGRAMME OF THE JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE

At the end of a policy debate on the proposals for new guidelines for the 1984-1987 multiannual programme of the Joint Research Centre, submitted by the Commission, the President of the Council drew the following conclusions:

The Council took note of the Commission's fourfold intention of

1. incorporating the JRC programme in the framework programme.
2. proposing in this connection that a greater effort be made on the Super-SARA project in line with the conclusions of the experts consulted by the Commission.
3. drawing up proposals on the future of the HFR reactor preparatory to a decision to be taken at the same time as the decision on the JRC programme.
4. looking into the problem of mobility in this connection.

It accordingly seemed essential for work to be conducted in such a way that the Council can, during November, and in any case prior to the second reading of the 1983 budget and 1982 amending budget, decide on its position on the reorientation of the JRC's 1984-1987 programme and decide accordingly on the 1983 review of the 1980-1983 programme.

Lastly, as far as the Super-SARA project was concerned, the President noted that a number of delegations were insisting that the Commission should in any case ensure that the project was more closely integrated with all measures taken by the Member States on the safety of nuclear reactors.

RESEARCH IN THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY FIELD

On the basis of a communication from the Commission on a strategic research programme in information technology, the Council held a policy debate on this area, which is crucial for the future of European industry.

At the close of the debate, the President drew the following conclusions:

1. The Council noted the need for a Community programme for R & D in information technology, co-ordinated with national programmes, in order to increase the competitiveness of the industries concerned.
2. The Council similarly took note of the need to get such a programme off the ground as a matter of urgency, given the state of competition on world markets and the fact that Europe is falling behind in this field.
3. The Council recorded its interest in receiving the detailed proposals, to be submitted by the Commission in July 1982, for pilot schemes which are due to be initiated in January 1983.

The Council should therefore act before the end of the 1983 budgetary procedure on the proposals for pilot schemes.

4. The Council noted with satisfaction that the Commission intends to consult the circles concerned when it draws up the programme and to make sure that relevant undertakings, including small and medium-sized undertakings, as well as research institutes and universities take part.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Another matter affecting research

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Recommendation concerning the registration of work on recombinant DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid).

Emergency aid for the people of Poland

The Council took the necessary decisions to enable emergency humanitarian aid to be continued to the most needy sections of the Polish population. To this end, it adopted a favourable attitude on fresh emergency aid of 7.5 million ECU and recorded its agreement ⁽¹⁾ to the proposal for a transfer of the appropriations relating to this. The new tranche of emergency aid will, like the first tranche of 8 million ECU decided on 23 February 1982, be implemented by the Commission; it will be for food and other essential products (such as medicines) and will be made available to non-governmental organizations within the Ten which can give the necessary guarantees regarding effective distribution to the most needy.

Textiles

The Council decided to proceed with the signing of the Additional Protocols to the Agreements between the European Economic Community and certain third countries (Singapore, Malaysia, Colombia, Thailand and Pakistan) on trade in textile products consequent on the accession of the Hellenic Republic to the Community.

⁽¹⁾ The Parliament has also to act.

The Council adopted the Decision containing the supplementary directives to the Commission for the negotiation with Yugoslavia of a Protocol on trade in textile products, annexed to the EEC-Yugoslavia Co-operation Agreement.

Relations with the ACP States

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

- on the conclusion of an Agreement in the form of an Exchange of Letters between the European Economic Community and Barbados, Belize, the People's Republic of the Congo, Fiji, the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, Jamaica, the Republic of Kenya, the Democratic Republic of Madagascar, the Republic of Malawi, Mauritius, the Republic of Suriname, the Kingdom of Swaziland, the United Republic of Tanzania, Trinidad and Tobago, the Republic of Uganda and the Republic of Zimbabwe on the guaranteed prices for cane sugar for the 1982/1983 delivery period
- fixing the guaranteed prices applicable for the delivery period 1982/1983 to cane sugar originating in the overseas countries and territories.

Commercial policy

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Regulation on common rules for imports from State-trading countries and the Regulation on common rules for imports from the People's Republic of China.

Agriculture

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Directive concerning certain products used in animal nutrition.

Uniform passport

The Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, adopted a supplementary Resolution on the implementation of the Resolution of 23 June 1981 on the introduction of a uniform passport.

This Resolution specifies the format of the uniform passport and also endorses the results of the proceedings of the Working Party on the colours of the cover and pages of the passport, the safety protection, cover materials and the layout for the (optional) laminated page.

Bruxelles, le 1er juillet 1982.

NOTE BIO (82) 293 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
CC. AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPE DU PORTE-PAROLE

CONSEIL ECOFIN = CREDITS A L'EXPORTATION. (Klaus van der Pas)

Le Conseil ECOFIN a decide, hier soir, a Luxembourg, de repondre "oui, mais..." a la derniere proposition de compromis de M. Wallen concernant l'adaptation du Consensus sur les credits a l'exportation dans le cadre de l'OCDE (voir note BIO (82) 282 du 24.6.82). Par le "oui", la Communaute accepte, presque une semaine apres la date d'echeance du Consensus, vendredi dernier, le relevement des taux d'interet minima pour les categories I (+1,15%) et II (+0,35%), la reclassification des pays importateurs beneficiaires de credits a l'exportation ainsi que les autres dispositions contenues dans la proposition Wallen. Par le "mais..." la Communaute pose deux conditions a son acceptation:

- les pays participants au Consensus, et notamment les Americains, doivent s'engager a ne plus deroger, des le 15 octobre 82 (au lieu du 1er janvier propose par Wallen), a la duree maximale des credits et aux taux d'interet minimum;
- le relevement des taux minima pour la categorie I ne s'appliquera pas a la Grece et l'Irlande. Tout en restant dans la categorie I, ces pays continueront a beneficier des taux actuels et, donc, de credits plus eleves sur leurs importations.

A la fin du Conseil, le President belge, M. De Clercq, a lu le texte suivant devant la presse:

"Le Conseil marque son accord sur la proposition en date du 19 juin 1982 de M. Wallen, President des reunions des Participants a l'Arrangement sur les lignes directrices pour les credits a l'exportation avec soutien public, etant entendu que:

a) l'engagement de non-derogation figurant au point 4 de la proposition de M. Wallen prend effet au 15 octobre 1982 et couvre toutes les operations avec soutien public quelle que soit la forme de ce soutien;

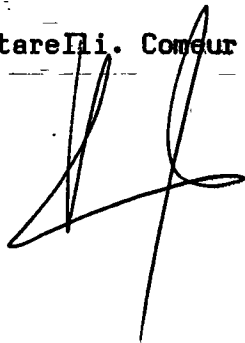
b) les modifications des conditions de credits pour la categorie I definies dans la proposition de M. Wallen ne sont pas applicables a la Grece et a l'Irlande jusqu'au 1er mai 1983.

Le Conseil invite la Commission a communiquer ce qui precede a M. Wallen."

En reponse aux questions, M. De Clercq s'est declare optimiste quant a l'acceptation par les autres partenaires au Consensus des conditions de la Communauté. Etant donne que la Communauté accepte les propositions de M. Wallen, il y a donc, a dit M. De Clercq, un nouveau Consensus, meme s'il devait y avoir "une petite periode de flottement pour regler les petits points". Il a cependant admis qu'un refus de la part des autres partenaires remettrait tout en question, mais, a-t-il dit, "je pense que l'ensemble sera acceptable pour les participants". M. De Clercq a estime qu'un accord sur les credits a l'exportation est "absolument necessaire pour renforcer la stabilite des relations commerciales et pour eviter une guerre competitive entre les nations". Il constituera egalement un element positif dans les relations entre la Communauté et les Etats Unis.

Amities,

Manuel Santarelli. Courrier 9h30////

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MS', written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and somewhat abstract.