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COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES  
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

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PRESS RELEASE

398th Council Meeting

- Agriculture -

Luxembourg, 21 and 22 June 1976

President: Mr Jean HAMILLIUS,  
Minister for Agriculture  
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 Albert LAVENS                                  Minister for Agriculture

Denmark:

Mr Poul DALSGER                                  Minister for Agriculture

Federal Republic of Germany:

Mr Josef ERTL                                      Federal Minister for Agriculture

Mr Hans-Jürgen ROHR                              State Secretary,  
Ministry of Agriculture

France:

Mr Christian BONNET                              Minister for Agriculture

Mr Pierre MEHAIGNERIE                              State Secretary,  
Ministry of Agriculture

Ireland:

Mr Mark CLINTON                                  Minister for Agriculture and  
Fisheries

Italy:

Mr Giovanni MARCORA                              Minister for Agriculture

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean HAMILIUS                                  Minister for Agriculture

Mr Albert BERCHEM                                  State Secretary,  
Ministry of Agriculture

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Netherlands:

Mr A.P.L.M.M. VAN DER STEE

Minister for Agriculture and  
Fisheries

United Kingdom:

Mr Frederick PEART

Minister for Agriculture,  
Fisheries and Food

Commission:

Mr P.J. LARDINOIS

Member

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FRIULI

As an act of Community solidarity, the Council adopted a set of measures designed to contribute to the reconstruction of the Friuli region after the earthquake of May 1976.

These measures include two Regulations on the contribution to be made by the Community towards the cost of repairing damage both to the region's infrastructure and to its agriculture, together with a Decision assimilating the disaster-stricken communes to the areas covered by the Community Directive on mountain and hill-farming.

To finance these measures, the Council approved a supplementary budget of 60 million UA for 1976.

NEW ZEALAND BUTTER

After debating the political aspects of the question, the Council agreed to extend the period of validity of the exceptional arrangements for imports of New Zealand butter into the United Kingdom.

These exceptional arrangements provide for imports to the United Kingdom totalling:

- 125,000 tonnes in 1978,
- 120,000 tonnes in 1979, and
- 115,000 tonnes in 1980.

In the event of these imports exceeding 25% of direct butter consumption in the United Kingdom, a decision may be taken to sell the quantity in excess of this threshold, on terms to be laid down, for purposes other than direct consumption.

CEREALS

Supplementing the decisions on cereals taken at its meeting on 2-6 March 1976, which dealt with the fixing of farm prices, the Council adopted a Regulation fixing the threshold prices for cereals for the 1976/1977 marketing year:

	Units of account. per tonne
Common wheat and meslin	149.30
Rye	146.45
Barley	135.10
Maize	135.10
Durum wheat	216.10
Oats	130.00
Buckwheat	133.00
Sorghum	133.00
Millet	133.00
Canary seed	133.00

The Council also adopted a Regulation laying down the minimum requirements as regards intervention for common wheat of bread-making quality (baking test).

The Council did not adopt the proposal for a Regulation fixing a carry-over payment for maize remaining in stock at the end of the 1975/1976 marketing year.

As for the proposal for a Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 2742/75 on production refunds in the cereals and rice sector, the Council instructed the Special Committee on Agriculture urgently to carry out a more detailed examination of the various aspects of this problem in the light of today's discussions.

BEEF AND VEAL

The Council reviewed the situation in this sector, having particular regard to the drought prevailing in certain regions of the Community.

It welcomed the measures which the Commission intended to adopt within the Management Committee for the purpose of easing market conditions, by extending intervention by the French authorities to cover up to 10,000 tonnes of cow carcasses during the period running from 28 June to 31 July 1976.

The Council agreed to follow developments attentively over the coming weeks and to review these questions in greater detail at the meeting scheduled to take place on 19 and 20 July 1976.



ADVANCE FIXING OF EXPORT REFUNDS

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 557/76 on the exchange rates to be applied in agriculture.

Although this amendment is general in scope it will have the particular effect of doing away with certain anomalies in the sugar sector. This will be achieved by abolishing the operator's right to cancel export certificates subject to refunds fixed in advance, when a new representative rate is fixed. Appropriate compensation will, however, be provided in respect of any disadvantages actually incurred (arrangements to be settled by the Commission, applying the Management Committee procedure).

## PRIVATE STOCKS OF PROTEIN PRODUCTS

After examining the Opinion of the European Parliament, the Council, having regard to the considerations underlying the Commission's proposal, agreed to adopt in the official languages of the Communities a Regulation introducing a temporary system of aid for private stocks of certain protein products.

This Regulation supplements the Regulation on the incorporation of skimmed milk powder in feedingstuffs which was adopted when farm prices were fixed at the meeting on 2 to 6 March 1976.

The total quantity able to benefit from this aid may not exceed the equivalent of 250,000 tonnes of oilcakes and the duration of the storage contracts may not exceed 12 months. The Regulation will apply from 1 July to 31 October 1976.

## SKIMMED MILK POWDER

The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 986/68 laying down general rules for granting aid for skimmed milk and skimmed milk powder for use as feedingstuffs.

This amendment provides for the payment of certain aid by the exporting countries in order to assist trade in skimmed milk powder between the Member States.

SUGAR

Taking account of the decisions reached during the meeting on 2 to 6 March, particularly those on prices, and of the outcome of the negotiations with the African, Caribbean and Pacific States and India concerning the guaranteed price for cane sugar imports under preferential arrangements, the Council adopted a number of measures concerning sugar in the official languages of the Communities.

With a view to contributing towards the stabilization of markets and to ensuring that deliveries to consumers are effected at reasonable prices and that normal supplies can be guaranteed for the whole of the Community and for its individual regions, the Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Regulation adopting provisions for the introduction of a system of minimum stocks in the sugar sector. This system provides for stocks which in principle are to be 10% of the basic quota for each undertaking or 10% of the production achieved by an undertaking where its production falls below the basic quota. As regards preferential sugar, the minimum stock is to be 10% of the quantity of preferential sugar which an undertaking refines during a period which has still to be determined.

The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Regulation amending the Regulation concerning the granting of export refunds on sugars imported into the Community under preferential arrangements. This amendment makes it possible for sugar covered by preferential import arrangements (under the Lomé Convention the Council Decision on imports of cane sugar originating in the OCT and the Agreement between the Community and the Republic of India on cane sugar) to be included in the scope of the Regulation in question.

The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Regulation laying down, for the 1976/1977 sugar marketing year, the differential charge levied on preferential raw sugar (1.20 UA/100 kg) and the differential amount to be granted for raw cane sugar from the French Overseas Departments (1.20 UA/100 kg).

As part of the measures to facilitate the disposal of sugar produced in the French Overseas Departments, the Council decided to grant a subsidy of 1.29 UA/100 kg for sugar produced in those Departments within the maximum quota and refined in the Community.

Finally, the Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Regulation amending the basic Regulation No 3330/74 on the common organization of the market in sugar. This relates in particular to Articles 8, 18 and 38 (Italian aid), which were affected by the previous decisions, including those on prices and related measures adopted at the meeting on 2 to 6 March 1976.

The various measures enter into force on 1 July 1976 for the 1976/1977 sugar marketing year.

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The Council approved the agreement negotiated by the Commission on behalf of the Community on the price to be applied to sugar to be imported under the preferential arrangements from the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries, as provided for by the Lomé Convention.

It agreed to adopt formally the legal act embodying this decision at its next meeting. This text will enter into force on 1 July 1976.

PROCESSED FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

The Commission submitted a proposal for a Regulation on tomato concentrates during the meeting and the Council decided to forward this to the European Parliament for an Opinion, using the emergency procedure, and to examine the proposal in detail on receipt of that Opinion.

The Council also adopted by a qualified majority a Regulation fixing, for the 1976/1977 marketing year, the production aid for tinned pineapples (30.0 UA.100 kg) and the minimum price to be paid to pineapple producers.

HOPS

The Council held a general discussion on the situation as regards hops. It agreed to continue this at its next meeting, to be held on 19 to 20 July, on the basis of proposals to be submitted by the Commission.

EGGS

Following an exchange of views on the egg market situation, the Council adopted a Decision justifying the granting in Denmark of an exceptional national aid for the slaughter of hens, the cost of which - up to a ceiling of 600,000 kroner - is to be borne by producers. This will extend until 1 October 1976.

MISCELLANEOUS STATEMENTS

The Council took note of the following:

- a statement on the improvement of support mechanisms in the fisheries sector (several delegations);
- a statement on the situation on the alcohol market (German and Netherlands delegations).





MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

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

- consolidating the acts adopted in the rice sector;
- on the opening, allocation and administration of the Community tariff quota of 30,000 head of heifers and cows, not intended for slaughter, of certain mountain breeds falling within sub-heading ex 01.01 A II (b) 2 of the Common Customs Tariff;
- on the opening, allocation and administration of the Community tariff quota of 5,000 head of bulls, cows and heifers, not intended for slaughter, of certain Alpine breeds falling within subheading ex 01.02 A II (b) 2 of the Common Customs Tariff;
- supplementing Regulation No 885/68 as regards the general rules for advance fixing of export refunds for beef and veal;
- fixing the main intervention centres for oilseeds for the 1976/1977 marketing year and the derived intervention prices applicable at these centres;

- on compensatory amounts for colza and rape seed;
- temporarily suspending the autonomous Common Customs Tariff duties on a number of agricultural products.

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The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Regulation extending the arrangements laid down in Regulation No 3328/75 for imports of beef and veal originating in certain ACP States (27,532 tonnes per annum until 31 December 1976).

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The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Regulation amending Regulation No 2757/75 as regards the accession compensatory amounts and coefficients to be applied thereto for cereals.

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Food aid

The Council adopted three Regulations concerning aid to Vietnam, involving 15,000 tonnes of cereals, 2,500 tonnes of skimmed milk powder and 1,200 tonnes of butteroil. This aid is to be supplied to the ICRC, UNHCR and UNICEF.

Under the agreement concluded between the Community and the ICRC on 3 February 1975, the Council gave the Community's approval to an ICRC aid operation to supply the Bolivian Red Cross with 240 tonnes of skimmed milk powder.

The Council also approved the granting to Zaire of 10,000 tonnes of cereals (cif), thereby rounding off the 1975/1976 implementation plan adopted on 25 March 1976.

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The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Regulation concluding a Commercial Co-operation Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

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The Council gave its agreement to the principle of the provisional application by the Community of the Fifth International Tin Agreement and adopted a Decision concerning the Community's deposit of a statement on the subject.

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The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Decision on the conclusion of an outline agreement in the form of an exchange of letters between Euratom and the International Energy Agency (IEA), for co-operation in the field of energy research and development, together with a Regulation concerning information on the state of the Community's energy supplies.

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On a proposal from the Irish Government, the Council appointed Mr B. O'RIORDAN a member of the Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work to replace Mr LUISDEN, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, viz., until 4 May 1978.

On a proposal from the Belgian Government, the Council appointed Mr BENS a member to replace Mr LAURENT, and Mr PAQUE an alternate to replace Mr BENS, on the Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work for the remainder of the terms of office of Messrs LAURENT and BENS, viz., until 4 May 1978.

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The Council adopted the Decision appointing the full members and alternates of the Advisory Committee on Vocational Training provided for under the fourth principle of the Council Decision of 2 April 1963.

The term of office for the following appointments will run from 21 June 1976 to 20 June 1978.

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENTS

	(a) <u>full members</u>	(b) <u>alternates</u>	
Belgium	Mr P. MULLER	Mr A. COEN	Mr A. HOFFMAN
Denmark	Mr M. JOHANSEN	Mr J.A. MORTENSEN	Mrs B. FLINDT SØRENSEN
Germany	Mr H. LEMKE	Mrs K. SCHULTE- STEINBERG	Mr F. PUTTMANN
France	Mr BLONDEL	Mrs BARBERYE	Mr BRUYERE
Ireland	Mr J. AGNEW	Mr I. FINLAY	Mr P. CONNOLLY
Italy	Mr A. GALLO	Mr R. CIANNARELLI	Mr G. ABETE
Luxembourg	Mr N. ESTGEN	Mr G. GLAESNER	Mr J. FRIEDRICH
Netherlands	Mr H.K. VOS	Mr A.H. KOELINK	Mr W.H. WEEKENBORG
United Kingdom	Mr F.C. HAYES	Mr D.G. LIBBY	Mr B.D. WINKETT

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE WORKERS' ORGANIZATIONS

(a) Full members

(b) Alternates

Belgium	Mr G. SAUVAGE	Mr G. DERIEUW	Mr W. PEIRENS
Denmark	Mr M. BAEHRING	Mr E. NIELSEN	Mr E. BORDING
Germany	Mrs M. WEBER	Mr F. KEMPF	Mr H. NIERHAUS
France	Mr R. LEBESCOMD	Mr VERGER	Mr C. MICHEL
Ireland	Mr F. KENNEDY	Mr M.J. GRIFFIN	Mr H. O'SULLIVAN
Italy	Mr M. ROTA	Mr R. DRAGO	Mr L. ZANIER
Luxembourg	Mr J. BACKES	Mr J. REGENWETTER	Mr R. SCHADECK
Netherlands	Mr H.J. MOES	Mr W. BAARS	Mr C.N.M. COMMANDEUR
United Kingdom	Mr L.F. EDMONDSON	Mr F.F. JARVIS	Mr L.W. BUCK

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EMPLOYERS' ORGANIZATIONS

(a) Full members

(b) Alternates

Belgium	Mr D. DE NORRE	Mr R. DUSSENNE	Mr P. VAN DE CRUYCE
Denmark	Mr O. SCHANDORFF	Mr H. ØHRSTRØM	Mr E. TØTTRUP
Germany	Mr R. RADDATZ	Mr H.P. KUHFUHS	Mr K.G. KRACHTEN
France	Mr Y. CORPET	Mr J.P. MEINRAD	Mr A. CCNQUET
Ireland	Mr A.F. RICE	Mr W.J. FENELON	Mr A. MULLIGAN
Italy	Mr G. LANZONI	Mr M. VITA	Mr G. MISSERVILLE
Luxembourg	Mr E. MULLER	Mr C. GALOWICH	Mr G. THEIS
Netherlands	Mr A. BECK	Mr J.R. WESTERHUIS	Mr H. ROTFUSZ
United Kingdom	Mr E. de MARSH	Mr M.O. BURY	Mr P.J. CASEY

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The Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the European Coal and Steel Community, meeting within the Council, adopted the following in the official languages of the Communities:

- a Decision on exports of ferrous scrap to third countries
- a Decision on exports of alloy steel scrap to third countries.



Remis au télex à 13h 15

PRIORITE P-1

Note BIO(76) 223 aux Bureaux nationaux  
c.c. aux Membres du Groupe et à MM. les Directeurs généraux des DG I et X  
et à M. Finn Christensen DG VIII

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PREPARATION CONSEIL AGRICOLE

Lundi, à partir de 14h, et mardi prochains les ministres de l'agriculture se réuniront à Luxembourg. A l'ordre du jour:

1) Beurre néo-zélandais

La Commission a formulé une proposition de compromis (voir note BIO(76) 222 du 17.6.1976), qui semble avoir de bonnes chances d'être adoptée. Les ministres se sont d'ailleurs engagés de prendre une décision finale au cours de cette réunion.

2) Sucre

a) ACP

Les Ministres devront formellement fixer les prix garantis des environ 1,3 millions de tonnes de sucre de canne que la Communauté s'est engagée d'importer en provenance des pays ACP. Comme nous l'avions indiqué dans la note BIO(76) 200 du 8.6.1976, un accord était intervenu entre la Commission et les pays ACP, le 5.6.1976, sur un prix garanti de 34,14 UC / 100 kg de sucre blanc ou 26,70 UC/100 kg de sucre brut. Selon cet accord les nouveaux prix entreront en vigueur de manière rétroactive le 1.4.1976 et resteront en vigueur jusqu'au 30.6.1977.

b) En outre, le Conseil devra régler quelques points de gestion concernant le secteur du sucre ainsi que trouver une solution pour un problème créé par 100.000 tonnes de sucre italien. La question est de savoir si, pour cette quantité, l'Italie peut accorder des aides nationales et si des cotisations à la production devront être payées ou non.

3) Fruits et légumes

Le Conseil devra se prononcer sur une proposition de la Commission visant à fixer à 28,8 UC/100 kg l'aide à la production pour les conserves d'ananas, notamment au bénéfice des producteurs dans les départements d'outre-mer français.

La Commission soumettra également une proposition pour faciliter l'écoulement de conserves de tomates dans les nouveaux Etats membres. En effet, il existe des stocks importants de concentrés de tomates (environ 100.000 tonnes) et de tomates pelées (estimés à 150-200.000 tonnes). La Commission proposera le ralentissement de la démobilitation des aides à l'importation de concentrés de tomates dans les nouveaux Etats membres (accordées sous la forme de montants compensatoires "adhésion") et d'en introduire pour les tomates pelées.

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4. Houblon

Le Conseil est saisi de deux propositions concernant la révision du règlement de base et des mesures de stabilisation (voir IP(76) 133).

5. Viande bovine

Les Ministres auront un échange de vues sur la situation grave du marché. A cause de la sécheresse (manque d'herbe), les abattages se multiplient un peu partout dans la Communauté, créant une augmentation de l'offre et une baisse de prix.

6. Oeufs

Egalement des discussions sur la situation du marché et probablement sur le niveau de la restitution à l'exportation que la Commission a réduite avec effet du 1er juin, de 12 à 9,5 UC/100 kg.

7. Pêche

On s'attend à des déclarations des délégations britannique et néerlandaise: les Anglais demanderont probablement une augmentation du niveau de soutien tandis que les Néerlandais se préoccupent d'une baisse de prix des crevettes.

8. Enfin, le Conseil devra régler quelques points techniques dans le secteur de céréales (prix de seuil, indemnité compensatrice pour le maïs etc.) et dans le secteur laitier (exportation de poudre de lait vers l'Italie).

Amis,



M. SANTARELLI