

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

6475/83 (Presse 67)

841st meeting of the Council
- Iron and Steel -
Luxembourg, 25 April 1983
President: Otto Count LAMBSDORFF,
Federal Minister for Economic Affairs
of the Federal Republic of Germany

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

Belgium:

Mr Mark EYSKENS
Minister for Economic Affairs

Germany:

Otto Count LAMSDORFF
Federal Minister for Economic
Affairs

Mr Dieter von WÜRZEN
State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Economic
Affairs

France:

Mr Jean AUROUX
State Secretary for Industry

Italy:

Mr Filippo PANDOLFI
Minister for Industry
Mr Gianni De MICHELIS
Minister for State Holdings

Netherlands:

Mr G. Van AARDENNE
Deputy Prime Minister,
Minister for Economic Affairs

Denmark:

Mr Ib STETTER
Minister for Industry

Greece:

Mr Nikos DIMADIS
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

Ireland:

Mr John BRUTON
Minister for Industry and Energy

Luxembourg:

Miss Colette FLESCH
Minister for Economic Affairs,
Small Firms and Traders

United Kingdom:

Mr Patrick JENKIN
Secretary of State for Industry

For the Commission:

Mr François-Xavier ORTOLI
Vice-President

Viscount Etienne DAVIGNON
Vice-President

Mr Frans J.J.J. ANDRIESSEN
Member

EXTENSION OF THE SYSTEM OF PRODUCTION QUOTAS

The Council has invited the Commission to put forward before 25 May proposals for the continuation of the Article 58 system which take account of the restructuring already accomplished, that to be accomplished in the programmes approved by the Commission, and the aids given. The Council agrees at this moment that such a system is necessary for a well-balanced development of the steel market.

The Council discussed several aspects of the problem of improving the fairness of the system and promoting restructuring.

The Commission indicates that it will be in contact with the Member Governments and the steel producers when preparing those proposals.

STEEL MARKET

The Council took note of a Commission communication on the situation on the steel market in the Community with particular reference to the present price situation and the Commission's pricing policy.

RESTRUCTURING OF THE STEEL INDUSTRY

The Council took note of the Commission's fourth report on the application of the aid code and on the situation regarding the restructuring of the steel industry. The ensuing discussion enabled the Council to express its views on the various problems considered in the Commission's report and in particular the questions of capacity reductions and the restructuring effort in the Member States. The Council concluded its discussion by inviting the Commission to continue applying the aid code and the Member States to communicate rapidly to the Commission all the relevant information to enable it to observe the deadline of 30 June for its decisions on the restructuring programmes. The Commission agreed to continue its discussion of this question at its next meeting.

EXTENSION OF ANNEX I TO THE ECSC TREATY

The Council heard a statement from Vice-President DAVIGNON on the proposals for the extension of Annex I to the ECSC Treaty submitted by the Commission and on the problem of alloy tool steel and high-speed steel. After discussing the question the Council invited the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine the Commission proposals in preparation for its next meeting.

FOLLOW-UP TO THE MINISTERIAL MEETING IN ELSINORE

The Council took note of the price checks already carried out by the Commission on steel undertakings and dealers in accordance with Articles 58 and 60 of the ECSC Treaty and of the measures to be considered to safeguard against any drop in prices.

It also instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its proceedings on dealer statistics to enable the Council to give its assent at the earliest opportunity.

EXTERNAL ASPECT 1983

The Council took note of an oral report by the Commission on progress in the proceedings on the external aspect 1983.

In particular it briefly discussed the problem posed by the talks in progress with Brazil.

Bruxelles, le 22 avril 1983
NOTE BIO (83) 187 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
C.C. AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPE DU PORTE PAROLE

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OBJET : PREPARATION DU CONSEIL "SIDERURGIE" DU 25.4.1983 A
LUXEMBOURG

Le Conseil "siderurgie" se reunit lundi 25 avril a Luxembourg, a partir de 10h. Les principaux points de l'ordre du jour sont :


1. Situation du marche siderurgique dans la Communaute :
Des elements utiles concernant ce point se trouvent dans nos notes P-26 (programme previsionnel acier pour le 2eme trimestre de 1983), P-29 (objectifs generaux acier 1985) ainsi que dans la note BIO COM 166/1.
2. Prorogation du regime de quotas de production (art.58 CECA).
(voir point "acier" de la BIO COM 180).
3. Rapport sur l'application du code des aides et sur la situation en matiere de restructuration de l'industrie siderurgique
(voir note BIO 184 sur la conference de presse de M. Andriessen de ce jour).

Une note MEMO 43 traitant plus a fond ces trois points vous parviendra par la voie habituelle.

4. Les autres points a l'ordre du jour :
 - protection contre d'eventuelles chutes de prix,
 - elargissement de l'annexe I du traite CECA,
 - constitueront plutot des problemes de fond pour les discussions du conseil au mois de mai.

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M. SANTARELLI COMEUR////



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Brussels, 27 April 1983
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C O R R I G E N D U M

to Press Release
6475/83 (Presse 67) of 27 April 1983

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In the final sentence of the first paragraph, after "The Council", add the following footnote 1:

(¹) With the exception of the French delegation which entered a reservation on this subject.

