

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES  
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

5305/83 (Presse 41)

830th Council meeting

- Internal Market -

Brussels, 1 March 1983

President:           Mr Otto SCHLECHT,  
                         State Secretary,  
                         Federal Ministry 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 Paul de KEERSMAEKER  
State Secretary for European  
Affairs and Agriculture

Denmark:

Mr Isi FOEGHEL  
Minister for Fiscal Affairs

Germany:

Mr Otto SCHLECHT  
State Secretary,  
Federal Ministry for  
Economic Affairs

Greece:

Mr Antonis YEORGIADIS  
State Secretary,  
Ministry for the National Economy

France:

Mr André CHANDERNAGOR  
Minister delegate to the Ministry  
for Foreign Affairs with  
responsibility for European  
Affairs

Ireland:

Mr James O'KEEFE  
Minister of State at the Department  
of Foreign Affairs

Mr M. MOYNIHAN  
Minister of State at the Department  
of Commerce and Tourism

Italy:

Mr Mario FIORET  
State Secretary,  
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean MISCHO  
Deputy Permanent Representative

Netherlands

Mr W.F. van EKELEN  
State Secretary,  
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr Peter REES  
Minister for Trade

For the Commission:

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

PROCEDURE FOR THE PROVISION OF INFORMATION IN THE FIELD OF  
TECHNICAL STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS

The Council signified its agreement on the substance of the Directive laying down a procedure for the provision of information in the field of technical standards and regulations.

The aim of this Directive is to avoid the creation of barriers to free trade in goods as a result of the introduction of new technical standards (private) and regulations (by public authorities). The Directive accordingly makes provision for a system of prior exchange of information both on the standards programmes drawn up by national bodies, the individual draft standards they envisage and the technical regulations contemplated by the public authorities.

As far as standards are concerned, the exchange of information is to enable the Commission and standards institutes to be aware in good time of what standards are under preparation. Thus, at the beginning of each year, the annual work programmes drawn up by the standards institutes will be submitted in a form which makes comparative examination possible, and the draft standards prepared by institutes will be sent to the Commission every quarter. Periodically, a Standing Committee consisting of members appointed by the Member States will examine the situation in this area and attempt to provide solutions to any barriers which might be created by certain national standards.

As far as technical regulations are concerned, since these are even more likely to create barriers, given their legally binding nature, it has become apparent that the action being taken in the framework of the General Programme for the removal of technical barriers to trade, adopted by the Council in 1969 and 1973, is extremely useful but, judging from experience over the last few years, inadequate and in need of expansion.

Under the Directive provision is therefore firstly made for the introduction of a prior exchange of information on drafts concerned with all industrial products and not only those covered by the General Programme of 1969 and 1973; information will have to be supplied at a stage of preparation allowing substantial amendments still to be made and the deadlines for postponing adoption to be extended, since experience has shown that those imposed in the Standstill Agreement are too short.

The Directive also provides for the possibility of postponing the adoption of a draft technical regulation for a limited period, in particular where the Commission intends to propose or adopt a Directive in the sphere in question.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to finalize the texts with a view to their formal adoption at a forthcoming meeting.

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

The Council continued its discussions on the formulation of a "third country" clause for Community certification, agreement on which would permit the adoption of a large number of Directives of great significance to the development of the internal market; this problem was virtually the only one outstanding in connection with those Directives.

At the close of very thorough discussions, the Council worked out certain guidelines for the future discussions of the Permanent Representatives Committee.

SIMPLIFICATION OF TRADE FORMALITIES WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

The Council continued its examination of three proposals on the simplification of trade formalities within the Community.

Single document

The Council resumed its examination of a Commission proposal to replace the administrative documents used for customs and tax purposes by a single document.

The council concluded its discussions by requesting the Permanent Representatives Committee, together with the Commission, to review the situation and to establish, in the light of the Council's discussions, how progress could be made on the single document.

Deferred payment of VAT payable on importation

The Council continued its examination of the Commission proposal concerning the deferred payment of VAT payable on importation (14th VAT Directive). At the close of the discussions, it was agreed that the Commission would contact certain delegations in an attempt to overcome their objections to this proposal for a Directive. In the light of the outcome of those talks, the Permanent Representatives Committee and the Council would resume their examination of the whole subject.

Formalities and inspections in respect of the carriage of goods between Member States

After taking note of progress with regard to the proposal for a Directive on the facilitation of formalities and inspections in respect of the carriage of goods between Member States, the Council stressed that it attached great importance to the Permanent Representatives Committee's expediting its work with a view to submitting a draft as soon as possible on which it could act.

1.III.83

PROPOSALS FOR COUNCIL DIRECTIVES ON TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR

- CERTAIN MEANS OF TRANSPORT TEMPORARILY IMPORTED
- PERMANENT IMPORTS OF THE PERSONAL PROPERTY OF INDIVIDUALS

The Council reached agreement, subject to finalization of the texts, on two Directives designed to abolish certain tax barriers to free movement of goods and persons within the Community.

The first of these Directives concerns tax exemptions for the temporary importation of certain means of transport for both private and professional use. It is also intended to cover certain specific cases, for example that of students abroad, who will be able to use a vehicle registered in their normal country of residence for the actual period of their studies, and of frontier workers.

The second of these Directives is intended to enable individuals to move their personal property within the Community without paying tax when transferring their residence from one Member State to another and in certain special cases, such as inheritance, marriage or furnishing of a second residence.

1.III.83

DUTY-FREE ADMISSION OF FUEL CONTAINED IN THE TANKS OF COMMERCIAL  
MOTOR VEHICLES

The Council noted that the Commission had called for the last remaining reserves regarding the increase in the duty-free quantity to 200 l to be withdrawn as soon as possible.

COMMUNITY PATENT

The Council took note of a statement by the Commission on progress with regard to ratification of the Luxembourg Convention on the Community Patent. Following a brief discussion, it was decided to take stock of that progress again at the next Council meeting on the internal market.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

ECSC

The Council gave a consultation pursuant to Article 6(1) of Commission Decision No 528/76/ECSC on the financial aid awarded by the Member States to the coal industry in 1982.

The Council also gave its assent on the following:

- under Article 56(2)(a) of the ECSC Treaty
    - = Industriekreditbank AG - Deutsche Industriebank, Düsseldorf, Federal Republic of Germany;
    - = Bergrohr GmbH, Herne, Federal Republic of Germany,
  - under the second paragraph of Article 54 of the ECSC Treaty
    - = the financing of the construction by Charbonnages de France of a coal-fired generating station in Carling (Moselle) (second loan);
    - = co-financing of the coal-fired Reuter West base load power station in Berlin.
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NOTE BIO(83) 107 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX  
CC AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPE DU PORTE PAROLE

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OBJET : PREPARATION DU CONSEIL MARCHE INTERIEUR (O VON SCHWERIN)

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LE DEUXIEME CONSEIL SUR LA RELANCE DU MARCHE INTERIEUR AURA  
LIEU DEMAIN MARDI, 1ER MARS, 10 HEURES.

L'ORDRE DU JOUR COMPREND ESSENTIELLEMENT LE PAQUET PROPOSE  
PAR LA COMMISSION EN NOVEMBRE 1982 (VOIR A CE SUJET NOTE P - 70),  
C'EST A DIRE :

■- CERTIFICATION COMMUNAUTAIRE DES PRODUITS DES PAYS TIERS

■- PROCEDURE D'INFORMATION SUR LES NORMES

■- SIMPLIFICATION DES FORMALITES DES ECHANGES INTRACOMMUNAU-  
TAIRES.

CONTRAIREMENT AU PREMIER CONSEIL DU 1ER FEVRIER DE CETTE ANNEE,  
■ ON ATTEND DE CELUI CI QU'IL ENTRE DANS LE VIF DU SUJET SANS  
NOUVELLES DISCUSSIONS SUR LES PRINCIPES ET PRIORITES.

LES PERSPECTIVES D'AVANCER SUR LES DEUX PREMIERS VOLETS  
PARAISSENT RELATIVEMENT POSITIVES, ET NOTAMMENT SUR LE SYSTEME  
D'INFORMATION DES NORMES OU SEULEMENT CERTAINS POINTS D'IMPOR-  
TANCE MINEURE RESTENT A RESOUDRE.

PAR CONTRE, TOUT LE COMPLEXE DES FORMALITES AUX FRONTIERES,  
ET NOTAMMENT LE DOCUMENT UNIQUE ET LE REPORT DU PAYEMENT DE LA  
TVA, NE SEMBLE PAS ETRE MUR POUR UNE DECISION.

DU RESTE, M. NARJES SOUMETTRA AU CONSEIL LE PROGRAMME PLUS  
PARTICULIER DES TRAVAUX POUR LE DEUXIEME TRIMESTRE.

AMITIES,  
MANUEL SANTARELLI  
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M. SANTARELLI



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NOTE BIO(83) 107, SUITE 1 ET FIN, AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX  
CC AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPE DU PORTE PAROLE

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OBJET : CONSEIL MARCHE INTERIEUR DU 1 MARS 1983  
(O VON SCHWERIN)

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LE CONSEIL S EST TERMINE MARDI SOIR AVEC UN RESULTAT MODESTE  
MAIS QUAND MEME L'ADOPTION DE QUELQUES POINTS DE SUBSTANCE.

1. C'EST AINSI QU'IL S'EST MIS D'ACCORD SUR LA DIRECTIVE CONCERNANT LE SYSTEME D'INFORMATION DES NORMES ET REGLEMENTATIONS TECHNIQUES QUI DEVRAIT PASSER COMME POINT ''A'' PROCHAINEMENT.

EN EFFET, LES RESERVES SUBSISTANT CONCERNANT L'INCLUSION DU SECTEUR DES TELECOMMUNICATIONS (RFA, GRECE), LES COûTS ET LES DELAIS ONT PU ÊTRE LEVÉES.

JE VOUS RAPPELLE QUE CETTE DIRECTIVE ÉTAIT PRÉSENTÉE COMME UN DES TROIS ELEMENTS IMPORTANTS DU PAQUET DE LA ''RELANCE DU MARCHE INTERIEUR'' PAR LA COMMISSION AU MOIS DE NOVEMBRE DERNIER ET REPRISE PAR LE CONSEIL EUROPÉEN AU MOIS DE DÉCEMBRE DERNIER.

SON ADOPTION A UNE SIGNIFICATION CERTAINE D'UNE PART DANS LE BUT D'UNE REDUCTION DES NORMES INDUSTRIELLES COMME OBSTACLES AUX ÉCHANGES OU MESURES SUSCEPTIBLES DE SERVIR À DES FINS PROTECTIONNISTES, D'AUTRE PART COMME PREMIER PAS VERS UNE COORDINATION AU NIVEAU COMMUNAUTAIRE DES NORMES NATIONALES.

2. PAR CONTRE, LE DEUXIÈME VOLET PRIORITAIRE, A SAVOIR LA CERTIFICATION COMMUNAUTAIRE POUR LES PRODUITS EN PROVENANCE DES PAYS TIERS, N'A PAS ÉVOLUÉ BEAUCOUP ET SE HEURTE TOUJOURS À L'OPPOSITION NOTAMMENT DE LA FRANCE ET DE L'ITALIE QUI INSISTENT SUR DES PROCÉDURES AUTONOMES ET PROVISOIRES À PRENDRE DANS DES CAS SPÉCIFIQUES.

NEANMOINS, LE PRINCIPE D'UNE CLAUSE GÉNÉRALE À INSÉRER DANS CHACUNE DES 20 DIRECTIVES D'HARMONISATION TECHNIQUE BLOQUEES AU CONSEIL AINSI QUE D'UNE PROCÉDURE COMMUNAUTAIRE TRAITANT LES PRODUITS EN PROVENANCE DES PAYS TIERS PARAIT ACQUIS.

3. COMME ON S'Y EST ATTENDU, DANS LE DOMAINE DE LA SIMPLIFICATION DES FORMALITÉS DES ÉCHANGES IL N'Y A PAS EU BEAUCOUP DE PROGRÈS :

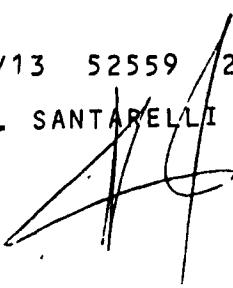
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B- LA PROPOSITION D UN DOCUMENT UNIQUE S EST HEURTEE A L OPPOSITION DE LA GRANDE MAJORITE DES DELEGATIONS QUI CONTESTENS MEME QU ELLE COMPORTERAIT DES SIMPLIFICATIONS VERITABLES.

B- LA PROPOSITION D UN REPORT DU PAIEMENT DE LA TVA A L IMPORTATION (14EME DIRECTIVE) A EGALEMENT ETE CRITIQUEE EN FAISANT VALOIR QU ELLE POURRAIT MENER A DES DISTORSIONS DE CONCURRENCE VIS A VIS DES TRANSACTIONS INTERIEURES, ET SURTOUT A DES PERTES FISCALES ET DES TENTATIVES D EVASION.

BIEN QUE TOUS CES ARGUMENTS QUI PARAISSENT PLUTOT COMME DES PRETEXTES ONT ETE REFUTES PAR MONSIEUR NARJES, LE DOSSIER N A GUERRE AVANCE.

4. D AUTRE PART, LES DEUX PROPOSITIONS DE DIRECTIVE CONCERNANT L IMPORTATION TEMPORAIRE DES VOITURES ET L IMPORTATION DEFINITIVE DES BIENS PERSONNELS, ONT ETE ADOPTEES (AD REFERENDUM 1 SEMAINE).

MEME SI CES DIRECTIVES, PROPOSEES PAR LA COMMISSION EN 1975, SONT D UNE IMPORTANCE LIMITEE, LEUR EFFET DE LIBERALISATION EN FAVEUR DE LA POPULATION FRONTALIERE (TRAVAILLEURS, ETUDIANTS, ARTISANS, ETC.) NE DEVRAIT PAS ETRE SOUSESTIME.

5. MONSIEUR NARJES A LANCE UN NOUVEL APPEL AU CONSEIL D ACHEVER LE PROCESSUS DE RATIFICATION DE LA CONVENTION DE LUXEMBOURG SUR LE BREVET COMMUNAUTAIRE.

EN EFFET, CETTE CONVENTION QUI REVET UNE IMPORTANCE CERTAINE EN FAVEUR DES PME ET DE L ECONOMIE GENERALE DANS LA PHASE ACTUELLE, N A ETE RATIFIEE QUE PAR 6 ETATS MEMBRES, LE DANEMARK, L IRLANDE? LES PAYS BAS ET LA GRECE FAISANT DEFAUT.

6. ENFIN, MONSIEUR NARJES A INFORME LE CONSEIL QU IL PRESENTERA TRES PROCHAINEMENT AU COREPER LE DEUXIEME PAQUET D ACTIONS PRIORITAIRES EN VUE D UNE RELANCE DU MARCHE INTERIEUR POUR LE DEUXIEME TRIMESTRE.

AMITIES,  
M. SANTARELLI  
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