

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES  
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

4585/83 (Presse 17)

823rd Council meeting

- Internal Market -

Brussels, 1 February 1983

President: Otto Graf 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 Paul de KEERSMAEKER

State Secretary for European  
Affairs and Agriculture

Denmark:

Mr Isi FOIGHEL

Minister for Fiscal Affairs

Germany:

Otto Graf LAMBSDORFF

Federal Minister for Economic Affairs

Mr Otto SCHLECHT

State Secretary, Federal Ministry  
for Economic Affairs

Greece:

Mr Theodoros PANGALOS

State Secretary,  
Ministry of Commerce

France:

Mr André CHANDERNAGOR

Minister delegate to the Ministry  
for Foreign Affairs, with  
responsibility for European Affairs

Ireland:

Mr Frank CLUSKEY

Minister for Commerce and Tourism

Mr Jim O'KEEFE

Minister of State at the Department  
of Foreign Affairs

Italy:

Mr Marco FIORET

State Secretary,  
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Luxembourg:

Miss Colette FLESCH

Vice-President of the Government,  
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Paul HELMINGER

State Secretary, Ministry for  
Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade  
and Co-operation

Netherlands:

Mr. W.F. van EEKELEN

State Secretary, Ministry for  
Foreign Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr. Peter REES

Minister for Trade

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Commission:

Mr. Karl-Heinz NARJES

Member

In accordance with instructions from the European Council, meeting in December 1982, the Council examined the problems of the Community's internal market and the measures to be taken to strengthen that market and to intensify measures aimed at eliminating restrictive trade practices. To that end the Council had before it a Commission communication and certain specific proposals.

The Council concentrated on the priority measures proposed by the Commission for strengthening the internal market, namely:

COMMUNITY CERTIFICATION FOR PRODUCTS ORIGINATING IN THIRD COUNTRIES

The Council held a detailed discussion of the problem of access for third-country products to Community certification.

The discussion enabled the Council to work out certain positive guidelines on the basis of which a solution might be sought. It therefore instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its discussions on the basis of these guidelines and to draw up a full draft solution for the next Council meeting, scheduled for 1 March.

SIMPLIFICATION OF TRADE FORMALITIES WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

The Council examined three proposals on the simplification of trade formalities within the Community.

Single document

It began by examining a Commission proposal the purpose of which was to replace the administrative documents used for customs and tax purposes in intra-Community trade by a single document. This would constitute a first step towards the objective of making intra-Community movement in goods as simple as movement within a Member State.

The Council concluded its discussions by instructing the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine the texts in the light of the discussions held and agreed to return to this question on 1 March on the basis of the Permanent Representatives Committee report with a view to reaching a positive conclusion.

Deferred payment of VAT payable on importation

The Council then heard an interim report on the question of deferred payment of the VAT payable on importation (14th VAT Directive). The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee actively to continue its examination of the Commission proposal in the light of the comments made at this meeting and asked it to report back to the next Council meeting.

Facilitation of formalities and inspections in respect of the carriage of goods between Member States

Finally, the Council heard an interim report on the progress of proceedings on facilitating formalities and inspections in respect of the carriage of goods between Member States. It agreed to instruct the Permanent Representatives Committee actively to continue its examination of the Commission proposal and to report back to the Council at the earliest opportunity, if possible at its meeting on 1 March.

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

The Council examined a proposal for a Directive laying down a procedure for the provision of information in the field of technical standards and regulations. This proposal makes provision for prior exchange of information in respect of national standards and technical regulations which are in the course of preparation and the establishment of procedures for the management of this information.

Having worked out positive guidelines, the Council concluded by instructing the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its examination of the draft Directive in the light of the Council's discussions and asked it to submit a full draft to the Council meeting on 1 March.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Draft supplementary and amending budget No 1/83

The Council established draft supplementary and amending budget No 1 to the general budget of the European Communities for the financial year 1983 in accordance with the preliminary draft submitted by the Commission.

Food aid for Bolivia

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision providing for the supply of 10,000 tonnes of cereals to Bolivia and the Regulation on the supply of 423 tonnes of skimmed-milk powder to that same country.

The above aid is granted from the reserves under the 1982 food programme.

Trade policy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Regulation imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of light sodium carbonate originating in Bulgaria, the German Democratic Republic, Poland, Romania and the Soviet Union.

Export credits

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision extending the period of validity of the Decision of 28 April 1981 on the application of the OECD understanding on export credits for ships.

Historical archives of the European Communities

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities a Regulation concerning the opening to the public of the historical archives of the European Economic Community and the European Atomic Energy Community. It gave its assent to a draft general Commission Decision on the historical archives of the European Coal and Steel Community.

These acts will enable the institutions to establish historical archives of the European Communities and open them to the public after expiry of a period of thirty years starting from the date of creation of the document or record. The historical archives will consist of that part of the Community archives which has been selected for permanent preservation, with the exception of limited categories of documents such as those which continue to be classified as secret or confidential.

The Council agreed in principle to the lodging of the originals of its archives with the European University Institute in Florence, following the example of the European Parliament and the Commission; the practical arrangements for the lodging of the archives have still to be settled. A set of microform copies of the historical archives of the institutions is to be made available to each Member State.

The processing and analysis of the historical archives of the European Communities ought not only to be of value to historical research in general but could also assist those involved in actions at Community level and thereby contribute to the attainment of all the Community's objectives.



ECSC

The Council gave its assent pursuant to Article 55 of the ECSC Treaty to a Commission memorandum on the preparation of the first Community research programme on occupational safety in the steel industry.

The Council also gave its assent pursuant to Article 55(2)(c) of the ECSC Treaty to a supplementary coal research programme (financial year 1982).

Appointment

Acting on a proposal from the Greek Government, the Council appointed Mrs Aikaterini GRAIKIOTOU, Director at the OAED (body for the employment of labour), a full member of the Management Board of the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP) for the remainder of its term of office, which runs until 19 April 1985.

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Bruxelles, le 31 janvier 1983  
Note BIO(83)51 aux Bureaux Nationaux  
cc. aux membres du Groupe du Porte-Parole

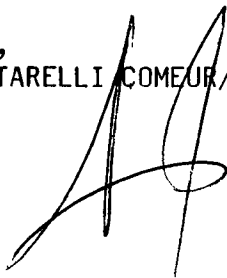
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Conseil Marche Interieur (O. Von Schwerin)  
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Le premier d'une serie de Conseils sur le Marche Interieur aura lieu demain a partir de 10h, a Bruxelles. Il s'agit de la suite donnee a l'initiative de M. Narjes en novembre dernier en vue de debloquer un certain nombre de propositions de directive et de reduire les obstacles aux echanges (voir P-70 de 1982), initiative qui a ete reprise par le Conseil Europeen le 3 decembre dernier. Contrairement a ce qui etait prevu a l'origine, ce sera un Conseil normal a participation des ministres (Chandernagor, Lambsdorff etc.). A l'ordre du jour notamment:

1. Certification des produits en provenance de pays tiers:  
le dossier est assez avance; si le Conseil tombait d'accord sur une clause d'exception temporaire des produits en provenance des pays tiers, ceci pourrait amener au deblocage des 25 directives d'harmonisation des normes industrielles (voitures, bouteilles a gaz etc.) qui sont bloqueees depuis 5-8 ans.
  
2. Directive concernant une procedure d'importation communautaire sur les normes et reglementations techniques, proposition qui vise a reduire les effets d'entraves aux echanges causes par l'instauration de nouvelles normes industrielles et a contribuer a une organisation et meilleure transparence au niveau communautaire. Ici aussi il y a un rapprochement considerable des positions; quelques problemes subsistent, entre autre le systeme tres developpe de la RFA qui releve en grand partie du secteur prive, et la demande de certains Etats membres d'exclure le secteur des telecommunications.
  
3. Les differentes propositions de simplification des formalites aux frontieres paraissent moins mures pour decisions: la proposition d'un document unique se heurte encore a plusieurs reserves, la proposition du report TVA (14. directive) et sur la facilitation des controles lors du transport de marchandises entre Etats membres feront objet de rapports interimairees.

Amities,  
M. SANTARELLI COMEUR////





Bruxelles, le 1 fevrier 1983

NOTE BIO (83) 51 suite 1 et fin, AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX  
CC AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPE

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CONSEIL MARCHÉ INTERIEUR (O. von SCHWERIN)

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Le Conseil Marché Interieur s'est termine vers 17 heures. Comme il etait naturellement previsible de ce premier exercice dans le domaine du marche interieur, il n'y a pas eu de decisions definitives pour des points definis de l'ordre du jour.

Toutefois, M. Narjes s'est plu a souligner au cours de la conference de presse finale, de meme que le President en exercice que ce premier echange de vues peut etre considere comme constructif.

Ceci vaut aussi pour la discussion sur l'approche generale. Plusieurs delegations, notamment France, Italie et Grece, on fait valoir que le programme d'urgence propose par la Commission et endosse par le Conseil Europeen refletait une approche trop etroite. Selon ces delegations, les problemes du marche interieur sont lies, dans la situation actuelle, a plusieurs autres domaines comme la politique commerciale exterieure, les innovations et politique industrielle en general.

D'autres delegations, comme notamment le Royaume-Uni, la Republique federale d'Allemagne, la Belgique et les Pays-Bas, ont par contre soutenu l'approche de la presidence et de la Commission de s'attaquer aux problemes concrets poses par la Commission et le Conseil Europeen tout en restant ouverts a un elargissement dans d'autres secteurs apres cette premiere etape.

Quant aux points specifiques a l'ordre du jour:

- certification des produits en provenance de pays tiers;
- directive concernant une procedure d'information communautaire sur les normes et reglementations techniques;

les discussions ont permis un certain rapprochement des positions sans que les reserves existantes aient pu etre levees.

La presidence a demande au COREPER de preparer le dossier en vue d'une adoption definitive de ces deux volets pour le 1 mars.

La discussion sur les differentes propositions de simplification des formalites aux frontieres a ete egalement constructive mais s'est heurtee a plusieurs difficultes. Il parait peu probable que ces propositions puissent etre adoptees le 1 mars. En effet, plusieurs delegations ont conteste la validite d'un document unique comme moyen en vue d'une vraie simplification. Certaines delegations ont emis de serieuses reserves a l'encontre de la XIV directive TVA pour des raisons budgetaires, de controle fiscal et autres.

Il ne faut pas s'attendre a ce que le paquet sur la simplification des formalites aux frontieres puisse etre adopte avant la fin du premier semestre 1983.

Amities,

P. Cerf 19h00 comeur////

