



COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT



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956th Council meeting

- Industry -

Luxembourg, 15 October 1984

President: Mr John BRUTON
Minister for Industry, Trade,
Commerce and Tourism
of Ireland

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

Belgium:

Mr Paul NOTERDAEME
Ambassador,
Permanent Representative

Denmark:

Mr Ib STETTER
Minister for Industry

Germany:

Mr Martin BANGEMANN
Federal Minister for Economic
Affairs

Greece:

Mr Constantine VAITSOS
State Secretary,
Ministry of Economic Affairs

France:

Mr Martin MALVY
State Secretary attached to
the Minister for Industrial
Redeployment and Foreign Trade,
responsible for Energy

Ireland:

Mr John BRUTON
Minister for Industry, Trade,
Commerce and Tourism
Mr Edward COLLINS
Minister of State at the Department
of Energy and at the Department of
Industry, Trade, Commerce and
Tourism

Italy:

Mr Renato ALTISSIMO
Minister for Industry

Luxembourg:

Mr Jacques F. POOS
Vice-President of the Government,
Minister for Foreign Affairs,
External Commerce and Co-operation
Mr Johny LAHURE
State Secretary for Economy

Netherlands:

Mr G.M.V. van AARDENNE
Deputy Prime Minister,
Minister for Economic Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr David ELLIOTT
Deputy Permanent Representative

Commission:

Viscount Etienne DAVIGNON
Vice-President
Mr Frans ANDRIESSEN
Member

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The Council reached agreement on two recommendations in the field of telecommunications. These recommendations underline the key role of the telecommunications sector in strengthening the Community's industrial base and making its undertakings more competitive.

By the terms of the first recommendation which concerns the implementation of harmonization in the field of telecommunications, the Council recommends that the Governments of the Member States ensure that:

- the telecommunications administrations
 - = consult each other, preferably in the framework of CEPT, before they introduce any new service, notably between Member States, with a view to establishing common guidelines so that the necessary innovation takes place under conditions compatible with harmonization;
 - = ensure that all new services that are introduced from 1985 onwards are introduced on the basis of a common harmonized approach, notably with regard to services between Member States, so that compatible services are offered throughout Europe, taking into account the progress of work in CEPT, CEN/CENELEC, CCITT and ISO;
 - = from 1986 onwards, when they order digital transmission and switching systems that are designed for progressive integration of services, do so taking full account of recognized standards in the Community;
- the Commission is regularly informed of the progress of work, which it will examine periodically with the Senior Officials Group on Telecommunications set up by the Council on 4 November 1983.

By the terms of the second recommendation which concerns the first phase of opening up access to public telecommunications contracts, the Council recommends:

- that the Governments of the Member States ensure that telecommunications administrations provide opportunities for undertakings established in the other Community countries, following their usual procedures and on a non-discriminatory basis, to tender for:
 - = all new telematic terminals and all conventional terminals for which there are common type-approval specifications;
 - = their switching and transmission equipment and conventional terminal apparatus for which there are no common type-approval specifications for at least 10% in value of their annual orders;

- that the Governments of the Member States report to the Commission at the end of each six-month period, starting at the end of 1984, on the measures taken by the telecommunications administrations to implement this policy, their practical effects, the problems encountered and any further action needed; these data will be examined with the Senior Officials Group on Telecommunications set up by the Council on 4 November 1983.

DATA-PROCESSING

The Council reached agreement on a Council Decision as regards general measures in the field of data-processing. This Decision will extend the resources and the duration of the first part of the 1979 - 1983 multi-annual data-processing programme which consists of measures to create or strengthen conditions favouring the development of the data-processing industry in the Community.

With regard to the duration of the programme, a period of two years has been agreed for the various measures, with the exception of certain standardisation activities. These will be completed by 31 December 1985, it being understood that similar activities will be included in a specific policy on standardisation in information technology.

With regard to the appropriations needed for carrying out the programme, an amount of 11 mio ECU is envisaged.

STEEL

The Council, after hearing brief reports from Vice-President DAVIGNON and Commissioner ANDRIESSEN, decided to include on the agenda of the next Steel Council in November the questions of the restructuring of the steel industry and the application of the Aids Code, and certain technical questions concerning scrap and coated sheets.

SHIPBUILDING

The Council took stock of the current situation as regards the proposed extension of the 5th Directive on Aid to Shipbuilding due to expire at the end of this year. In particular, the Council heard a statement from the United Kingdom delegation together with reactions from other delegations and the Commission.

In conclusion, the Council, given the urgency of reaching a decision in this matter agreed to come back to it in November.

EXPLORATION PROGRAMME FOR NON-ENERGY MINERAL RAW MATERIALS

The Council made considerable progress on the proposed Regulation on loans for projects covered by an exploration programme for non-energy mineral raw materials within the territories of the Member States. The Council concentrated its discussions on the major outstanding questions, and in particular on the decision-making procedure, the question of recipients of Community financial assistance and the question of the repayment of loans granted.

At the conclusion of its discussions, the Council invited the Permanent Representatives Committee to pursue its work with a view to reaching early final agreement on this Regulation.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Commercial policy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision authorizing the extension or tacit renewal of certain Trade Agreements concluded between Member States and third countries (3rd instalment 1984).

Consumer protection

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to ceramic articles intended to come into contact with foodstuffs.

This Directive sets out maximum limits for the possible migration of lead and cadmium from ceramic articles which are intended to come into contact with foodstuffs. It also lays down common methods for testing and analysing the presence of these metals.

It is also foreseen in the Directive that after a period of 3 years the Commission shall, on the basis of toxicological and technological data, re-examine the limits laid down, and, if appropriate, submit proposals for amendments to them.

ECSC

The Council gave assent under Article 54, paragraph 2 of the ECSC Treaty to the granting of a global loan to Barclays Bank, PLC (United Kingdom).



