

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

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1018th Council meeting
- Transport -

Luxembourg, 24 June 1985

Presidents: Mr Claudio SIGNORILE
Minister for Transport

and

Mr Gianuario CARTA
Minister for Merchant Shipping
of the Italian Republic

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

Belgium:

Mr Herman de CROO
Minister for Transport, Post and
Telecommunications

Denmark:

Mr Arne MELCHIOR
Minister for Public Works

Mr J.L. HALCK
State Secretary,
Ministry of Public Works

Germany:

Mr Werner DOLLINGER
Federal Minister for Transport

Greece:

Mr Alexandre ROUSSOPOULOS
Secretary-General,
Ministry of Transport

France:

Mr Jean AUROUX
State Secretary attached to the
Ministry for Town Planning,
Housing and Transport, with
responsibility for Transport

Ireland

Mr D.B. FITZPATRICK
Assistant Secretary
Department of Communications

Italy:

Mr Claudio SIGNORILE
Minister for Transport

Luxembourg:

Mr Marcel SCHLECHTER
Minister for Transport, Public
Works and Energy

Mr Gianuario CARTA
Minister for Merchant Shipping

Netherlands:

Mrs N. SMIT-KROES
Minister for Transport and
Public Works

United Kingdom:

Mr Nicholas RIDLEY
Secretary of State for Transport

Commission:

Mr Stanley CLINTON DAVIS
Member

SHIPPING

The Council held an initial discussion on the Commission communication "Progress towards a common transport policy - maritime transport".

It expressed satisfaction at work done in this field and agreed in principle with the main ideas set out in the communication. It broadly approved the analysis of the present situation in the Community's shipping industry and shared the Commission's serious concern at the substantial drop in the Community fleet's share of the world shipping market and the adverse effects on employment and foreign trade.

The Council pointed to the desirability of giving closer consideration as soon as possible to all the aspects, both internal and external, covered by the Commission communication.

The Council proposed to examine the six proposals in the communication, giving a degree of priority to those on co-ordinated action to safeguard free access to cargoes in ocean trades, freedom to provide services in sea transport, unfair pricing practices in maritime transport and detailed rules for the application of Articles 85 and 86 of the Treaty to maritime transport.

It asked the Permanent Representatives Committee to press ahead with discussions on the matter and refer the outcome to its next meeting so that the first conclusions could be arrived at before the end of the year.

REVISION OF THE SOCIAL REGULATIONS APPLYING TO ROAD TRANSPORT

The Council arrived at a common approach concerning adjustments to the social regulations in road transport, particularly as regards greater flexibility over daily driving time, an increase in the average weekly rest period and rearrangement of the daily rest period.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE COMMON TRANSPORT POLICY

The Council discussed how action should be taken to implement the judgment of the Court of 22 May 1985.

RELATIONS WITH AUSTRIA

The Council took note of the results of talks held by the Commission with the Austrian Government for a resumption of transport negotiations.

It took note of the Commission's intention of proposing a framework for co-operation with Austria and asked the Permanent Representatives Committee to prepare the necessary measures by the end of July 1985.

SECURITY IN AIR TRANSPORT

The Ministers for Transport approved the following Declaration:

"The Ministers for Transport, meeting in Luxembourg on 24 June 1985,

- noting the resumption of terrorist activity against civil aircraft and airports,
- firmly condemn any criminal interference whatsoever in civil aviation and
- hope, in view of the seriousness of the problem, that the next European Council in Milan will consider the problem of terrorism at the highest political level,
- resolve, through action by Member States in the competent bodies, to renew the determination of Community Governments to implement the necessary measures to ensure the highest possible level of security in civil aviation."

The Commission representative, also present at the meeting, welcomed the Declaration.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Export credits

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision on the application of the Understanding on Guidelines for Officially Supported Export Credits for Large Civil Aircraft (Large Aircraft Sector Understanding).

Commercial policy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation laying down the arrangements applicable to imports of products originating in Yugoslavia.

It likewise adopted the Regulation imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of certain ball bearings and tapered roller bearings originating in Japan.



BOURGALE 24 JUNE 1985

SIG (85) 228 (SUITE 1 ET FIN) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
CC: AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE-PAROLE

TRANSPORT COUNCIL OF 24 JUNE (M. BERENDT)

1. DRIVERS' HOURS

THE COUNCIL'S MAIN ACHIEVEMENT WAS TO SETTLE THE QUESTION OF DRIVERS' HOURS. FINAL AGREEMENT WAS REACHED AFTER NEGOTIATIONS IN WHICH

THE COMMISSION MAINTAINED A TOUGH POSITION. MINISTERS MOVED A GOOD DEAL CLOSER TO THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSALS THAN IN THEIR MAY COUNCIL, BUT TOOK THEIR FINAL DECISIONS BY UNANIMITY ON THE BASIS OF A PRESIDENCY PROPOSAL. THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSALS REMAINED UNCHANGED.

THE COUNCIL'S AGREEMENT WAS ON THE BASIS OF A 180 HOURS WORKING PERIOD OVER FOUR WEEKS; WITH A MAXIMUM OF 90 HOURS OVER TWO WEEKS AND A MAXIMUM OF SIX CONSECUTIVE WORKING DAYS. THE WEEKLY MAXIMUM WORKING TIME THUS DISAPPEARS FROM THE REGULATION. THE DAILY MAXIMUM FOLLOWS THE COMMISSION PROPOSAL OF NINE HOURS; OR TEN HOURS TWICE A WEEK.

ON MINIMUM REST PERIODS; THE COUNCIL ACCEPTED 45 HOURS WEEKLY; AGAINST THE CURRENT MINIMUM OF 40 AND THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSAL OF

48 . FOR DAILY REST PERIODS; A MINIMUM OF 12 HOURS WHICH COULD BE SPLI

INTO SEPARATE PARTS (FRACTIONNEMENT) OR 11 HOURS UNSPLIT WAS AGREE

MANY DETAILS OF THE PROPOSALS ARE YET TO BE DETERMINED; BUT THIS AGREEMENT PROVIDES THE BASIC LINES FOR A DETAILED REGULATION TO MAKE THE LEGISLATION GOVERNING DRIVERS' HOURS MORE FLEXIBLE. IT WILL COME INTO EFFECT AS FROM JANUARY 1986.

MR STANLEY CLINTON DAVIS SAID AFTER THE DECISION: ' I AM GLAD TO SAY THAT BY WAY OF HARD NEGOTIATING WE ACHIEVED SOME SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENTS ON THE REST PERIODS NOTED IN THE PROJECTED COMPROMISE OF FOUR WEEKS AGO. BUT I WOULD HAVE BEEN HAPPIER IF THE COUNCIL HAD ACCEPTED OTHER ASPECTS OF OUR PROPOSAL - NOTABLY THE EQUIVALENT OF A FULL WEEK-END'S REST FOR DRIVERS AND A BETTER SYSTEM FOR THE CONTROL AND ENFORCEMENT OF THESE REGULATIONS. WE SHALL KEEP A CLOSE EYE ON HOW THESE PROPOSALS TRANSLATE INTO PRACTICE'.

2. MARITIME TRANSPORT

MINISTERS ALL WELCOMED THE COMMISSION'S MEMORANDUM AND PROPOSALS IN THE MARITIME TRANSPORT SECTOR; WHICH HAVE NOW BEEN CONSIDERED IN THE COREPER. THEY HAVE ASKED COREPER TO PREPARE DECISIONS IN THIS SECTOR BY THE END OF DECEMBER 1985.

ALMOST ALL DELEGATIONS STRESSED THE NEED FOR URGENT ACTION IN THE MARITIME TRANSPORT SECTOR; WHERE THE COMMUNITY'S FLEET IS DECLINING IN THE FACE OF THIRD COUNTRY COMPETITION. THE DUTCH MINISTER SAID THAT UNTIL THE COMMUNITY HAD ADAPTED ITS OWN RULES TO ALLOW THE COMMON MARKET TO WORK IN THE MARITIME TRANSPORT SECTOR; IT WAS ABSURD

