

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

5941/92 (Presse 55)

1568th Council meeting

- AGRICULTURE -

Luxembourg, 28 and 29 April 1992

President: Mr Arlindo CUNHA,

**Minister for Agriculture of
the Portuguese Republic**

28/29.IV.92

fel/PT/mc

DEVELOPMENT AND FUTURE OF THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY

The Council continued its discussions on the reform of the common agricultural policy, on the basis of a compromise document submitted by the Presidency.

During its exchange of views, the Council was able to examine in full all elements of the compromise; it recognized the positive contribution of the compromise towards the search for agreement and assessed the progress already made since the discussions on the proposals for reform had begun.

The Council will continue its discussions on CAP reform at its meeting beginning on 18 May.

FIXING OF PRICES FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND ON RELATED MEASURES (1992/1993)

The Council continued its exchange of views on the fixing of prices for agricultural products and on related measures for 1992/1993, bearing in mind the specific background against which the Commission proposals were set this year, viz. the reform of the CAP.

It canvassed views on the different sectors concerned, in particular cereals, olive oil, cotton, fruit and vegetables, tobacco, beef and veal and milk products.

Finally, the Council discussed the financial impact of the proposals, and the agri-monetary measures to be taken when monetary gaps disappear on 1 January 1993.

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The discussion on the fixing of agricultural prices will be continued at the next Council meeting; meanwhile the Special Committee on Agriculture has been instructed to examine certain questions in greater detail.

URUGUAY ROUND - AGRICULTURAL ASPECTS

The Council took stock of progress in the Uruguay Round negotiations on the basis of a Commission statement, and was told in particular of the top-level talks between the representatives of the Community and the USA. The Council stressed the importance of continuing the dialogue between the main partners in the Uruguay Round in order to arrive at the basis for an all-round balance which takes account of the fundamental principles of the common agricultural policy.

QUALITY OF FOODSTUFFS

The Council resumed its examination of the Commission proposals on the quality of foodstuffs.

Further to the Council's instructions of June 1991, the SCA has been continuing its work in this field and substantial progress has been made.

The Council's discussion focused specifically on two essential issues, viz.

- in the case of the proposal on geographical indications and designations of origin, the extent of the protection established by the Regulation and the relationship between protected designations and trade marks;

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- in the case of the proposal on specific character, the form of protection envisaged for sales descriptions.

Following its discussion, the Council instructed the SCA to continue its proceedings, taking account of the views expressed during the debate, in order to enable it to conclude its discussions on this important matter.

TABLE OLIVES

The Council held an exchange of views on the Commission proposals on table olives providing for:

- on the one hand, measures to develop the consumption of table olives in the Community;
- on the other, the grant of specific aid for the constitution of working capital for the purpose of stabilizing supply, in particular through financing storage so that produce can be released to the market as required.

Following its discussion, during which the Council reached a broadly favourable position on the proposed measures, the Council instructed the SCA to continue examining the proposals in order to enable it to conclude its discussions on this matter.

TRANSITIONAL NATIONAL COMPENSATION FOR FARMERS IN GERMANY

Pending receipt of the European Parliament's Opinion, the Council held an initial exchange of views on the Commission proposal for transitional compensation for

farmers in Germany.

The proposal continues the national aid to farmers during the current year, within the overall limit of the equivalent of a 3% reduction in VAT, to compensate for the effects of the dismantlement of positive MCAs.

The Council noted the different positions expressed on the matter and will continue its discussions shortly.

MARKETING OF YOUNG VEGETABLES PLANTS AND FRUIT PLANTS

The Council adopted two Directives on

- the marketing of young plant and propagation material other than seeds, of vegetables;
- the marketing of fruit plant propagating material and fruit plants intended for fruit production.

These Directives are connected with the implementation of the White Paper. They are intended to harmonize Community-wide the quality and plant health standards which must be met by such propagating materials and young plants marketed in the Member States and ensure free movement for them within the Community.

OTHER DECISIONS IN THE FIELD OF AGRICULTURE

The Council adopted Regulations

- amending Regulation (EEC) No 1035/72 on the common organization of the market in fruit and vegetables. This will make it possible for the Commission to grant authorizations allowing the official inspection authorities of third countries which export fruit and vegetables to attest to the conformity of those products with Community quality standards;
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 1796/81 on measures applicable to imports of preserved cultivated mushrooms. The essential aim of this Regulation is to ensure a better balance of the market which in the past was characterized by repeated application of the safeguard clause;
- authorizing the implementation of management measures relating to imports of live bovine animals. These measures will enable the Commission to spread more efficiently over time the quantities of young bovine animals of 80 kilos liable to be imported under the Association Agreements with Hungary, Poland and the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic;
- opening for 1992 a special import quota for high-quality, fresh, chilled or frozen beef and veal falling within CN codes 0201 and 0202 and for products falling within CN codes 0206 10 95 and 0206 29 91. The quota is 11 430 tonnes at 20% duty;
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 1637/91 fixing compensation with regard to the reduction of the reference quantities referred to in Article 5c of

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Regulation (EEC) No 804/68 and compensation for the definitive abandonment of milk production.

The purpose of this amendment is to authorize Member States to continue the scheme for the discontinuation of milk production for a further six months, and to give Member States the possibility of inviting producers who had not resumed milk production as at 1 April 1992 to apply for compensation for the discontinuation of production.

The Council also adopted the Directive laying down control rules and measures to combat African horse sickness.

This directive defines Community measures to be taken immediately to combat African horse sickness whenever the disease appears or is suspected, in particular by destroying infected animals, establishing protection and surveillance zones and setting up a detailed epizootiological inquiry where the disease is confirmed. It also defines measures to be taken to prevent its spread (in particular by setting up vaccination zones).

In this connection, the Council also adopted the Directive amending Directive 90/426/EEC on animal health conditions governing the movement and import from third countries of equidae in respect of African horse sickness, in order to take account of the rules and measures adopted that same day.

OTHER MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

ECSC

The Council delivered its assent pursuant to Article 56(2)(a) of the ECSC Treaty in respect of:

- Euro Metales Processing SA (Spain)
- Motorola Ltd (United Kingdom)
- Générale de Banque SA (Belgium)
- Industrie Kreditbank AG (IKB) (Federal Republic of Germany).

Relations with Macao

The Council authorized the Commission to open negotiations with Macao with a view to the conclusion of a trade and co-operation agreement, and laid down the negotiating directives for that purpose.

Textiles

- Relations with what was formerly Yugoslavia

The Council adopted the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 3301/91 (the provisions of which had already been extended until 31 December 1992 by Regulation (EEC) No 52/92) on the arrangements for imports of certain textile products originating in what was formerly Yugoslavia. In the current political situation, and pending the adoption of other contractual or autonomous legal instruments, the Regulation adopted by the Council is intended to make it possible

- to continue to apply the autonomous arrangement for what was formerly Yugoslavia to imports of textiles and clothing, in line with the aims of the

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commercial policy in textiles and to prevent differences among the Member States in treatment applied to such imports, and

- to monitor the origin of textile imports from the Republics concerned.

Commercial policy

The Council adopted two Decisions authorizing:

- the tacit renewal or maintenance in force of provisions governing matters covered by the common commercial policy contained in the friendship, trade and navigation treaties and similar agreements concluded between Member States and third countries;
- the extension or tacit renewal of certain trade agreements concluded between Member States and third countries.

Relations with Algeria, Morocco and Turkey

Olive oil

The Council authorized the Commission to negotiate agreements with Algeria, Morocco and Turkey to maintain until 31 December 1993 the additional amount to be deducted from the levy on imports into the Community of untreated olive oil originating in the countries concerned (this amount is currently ECU 12,09/100 kg for Algeria and Morocco and ECU 10,88/100 kg for Turkey).

Environment

The Council gave the Commission a mandate to negotiate the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area (Helsinki Convention, as revised in 1992).

Education

The Council adopted the Decision amending Decision 90/233/EEC establishing a trans-European mobility scheme for university studies (TEMPUS). By this Decision, the initial pilot phase of the programme is established for a period of four years beginning on 1 July 1990.

Internal market

- Electromagnetic compatibility

Further to the common position of 19 December 1991 and the completion of the co-operation procedure with the European Parliament, the Council definitively adopted the Directive amending Directive 89/336/EEC on the harmonization of the laws of the Member States relating to electromagnetic compatibility.

The purpose of this Directive is to insert in Directive 89/336/EEC, which applies to electric and electronic apparatus both as regards protecting them from outside interference and as regards the emission by them of electromagnetic disturbances, a transitional period to make allowance for the running down of stocks of certain apparatus manufactured in accordance with national legislation obtaining at the time of entry into force of the Directive.

Appointments

The Council replaced two members of the Scientific and Technical Committee.

Luxembourg, 28 April 1992 .

NOTE BIO (92) 99 (suite 1) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
CC.: AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE PAROLE

Council of Agricultural Ministers, Luxembourg
28 April 1992 (G. Kiely)

The Agricultural Council started by agreeing to adopt as A-points (i.e. no discussion) the following agenda points:-

- (a) prolongation of facility for farmers to take up the voluntary milk cessation scheme, financed by the Community
- (b) a directive laying down rules and measures to combat African Horse Sickness and an amendment to the Directive governing the movement and import from third countries of horses in respect of African Horse Sickness
- (c) directives on the marketing of young plants and propagating material, other than seeds of vegetables and a Directive on the marketing of fruit plant propagating material and fruit plants intended for fruit production.

The Council then opened its discussions by focusing on food quality issues i.e. geographical denominations and indications and certificates of specific character for foodstuffs. These two proposals would set up EC wide protection scheme which will reserve

- (a) specific geographical names to products whose production method and/or reputation are essentially related to the place of production
- (b) specific non-geographical names to products traditionally produced according to a particular production method.

Introducing the proposal Mr Mac Sharry recommended that Council takes a position on those proposals soon, that they would make a positive contribution toward the achievement of the internal market and also towards the interests of producers, consumers and the rural areas.

In general countries where this type of protection for specific products already exists support the thrust of the proposals while some other countries are less enthusiastic.

A number of less enthusiastic countries who can support the principles and objectives had particular objections to the introduction of "geographic indications" but could accept geographic denominations. A number of countries also emphasised that the measures must not prevent the production of products at present being produced in any particular area. The danger of the proposals limiting competition was also mentioned.

The relationship of protection under these regulations and trade marks was also discussed. The discussion tends to favour a system of co-existence of trade mark protection in parallel to protection under this proposed legislation. Many can accept that rights relating to geographical denomination should have preference over trade marks, except in the case of well known trade marks. There is less support however for geographical indications having preference over trade marks. In general Ministers emphasised that clear precise criteria are laid down for all designations and that procedures for registration, identification and objections must be clearly set out.

Responding to the discussion Mr Mac Sharry welcomed the substantial movement by many Ministers since the previous discussion. He fully agreed that the schemes must be strict and operate under clearly defined criteria. He also pointed out that after the Uruguay Round the Community will have to recognise and protect third country denominations, therefore it would be strange if we could not protect our own. He rejected trade mark preference over geographical denominations and indications on the basis of which was registered first, as he pointed out it would probably lead to speculative registration of trade marks.

Table Olive Sector:-

In response to demands from producing countries the Commission has put forward proposals aimed at improving the quality and consumption of these products, with a Commission co-financing rate for the measures of 60%. It is also proposed that the Commission would participate financially at a rate of 45% (subject to a ceiling of 10% of the value of production marketed by the producer group) in the establishment of working capital of produce organizations who could help to rebalance the market. The total cost of the measures to the Community would amount to 10 MECU. Over 400,000 ha of olives are produced in the Community including 178,000 ha in Spain, 110,000 in Italy, 98,000 in Greece, 15,000 ha in France and 9,000 ha in Portugal.

While welcoming the Commission's initiative some of the producing countries wanted a higher level of co-financing from the Community and possibly the introduction of a Community financed promotional scheme similar to that in operating for olive oil.

Others questioned the need for any Community measures in this area and that action should be the responsibility of the producers.

Responding, Mr Mac Sharry, pointed out that the proposed measures were along the lines of those for similar products e.g. citrus fruit and apples and in the light of the discussion he felt the proposals were sufficient. He also pointed out that 8 MECU of the total cost of the measures is a once off payment - not an annual allocation and in view of the importance of the sector in some countries he urged those Ministers opposing to accept the proposal.

A decision on this was postponed until Wednesday.

Transitional national aid for farmers in Germany:-

When in 1984 the Council decided to dismantle existing positive MCA's it also decided that the consequential loss of income for farmers concerned would be offset by special aid measures, one of which was based on a 3% VAT refund to farmers on product sales. Introducing the proposal Mr Mac Sharry pointed out that as this measure expired on 31 December 1991 and given the serious income loss arising from its abolition the Commission proposed that Germany should be allowed to introduce assistance in the form of national aid, based on socio-structural measures and paid on a per hectare basis so as to avoid increasing production. He also pointed out that the measure is for a transitional period only and subject to a ceiling of 2.2 MDM.

As Parliament has not yet given its opinion Council was not being asked for a decision but more for political guidance.

While many delegations recognised the particular political nature of the issue and referred to the need for solidarity, a number of Ministers pointed out that farm incomes had fallen in their countries too and this measure created certain political difficulties for them. Some Ministers also wondered whether it would be politically possible to abolish this measure at the end of 1992 as proposed. Nevertheless Ministers were sympathetic to the request.

Amitiés,

B. DETHOMAS

Luxembourg, 29 avril 1992

NOTE BIO (92) 99 (suite 2) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
CC.: AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE-PAROLE

Council of Agricultural Ministers, Luxembourg
29 April 1992, (G. Kiely)

GATT:-

This subject was discussed at length over dinner on Tuesday night in a restricted session and most Ministers did not feel it necessary to have another debate in Council. The Presidency summarised the situation by saying that the Community is fully committed to continuing the dialogue with a view to concluding the negotiations as soon as possible.

Price Package:

Introducing the package Mr Mac Sharry pointed out that the proposals were largely a roll-over of existing arrangements and while recognising that this implied substantial penalties in cereals he pointed out that this is the automatic result of decisions by Heads of State in 1988 i.e. stabilisers. He also emphasised that Council has a clear choice i.e. continuation and intensification of stabilisers or reform - given probably intervention stocks of 25m tonnes by the end of the year. Inevitably, the main subject for discussion was the impact on the cereals sector i.e. 3% price cut, 5% basic co-responsibility levy and 3% stabiliser co-responsibility levy.

Most Ministers have difficulty with this proposal, especially given that Council is close to agreement on reform. Various suggestions were made by Ministers, which would limit the total co-responsibility levy to between 4.5 and 6.5%. It was also suggested that farmers setting aside 15% of arable land be refunded all of the CRL paid.

On beef a number of Ministers recommended that the facility to temporarily increase (10 from EC and 10 from Member States) the suckler cow premium introduced for 1991 be maintained. On olive oil the vast majority of Ministers accept the proposals, while the main producing countries want a greater increase in production aid Ministers from cotton producing countries (Greece, Spain and Italy) request an increase in the MGQ and lower penalties for exceeding it, while some others felt the regime is too attractive and needs reform.

The Southern Member States want an alignment of the ewe-premium for milk producing sheep to that for meat producing sheep.

The proposal to switch from quotas on processed tomatoes to an MGQ for 1 year only can be accepted by the majority of Member States. The main producing countries question however whether it is really legally necessary to change the system for 1 year.

Responding Mr Mac Sharry emphasised that the stock and market situation demanded a more penal price package and asked Ministers to recognise that the Commission has made a serious effort to promote a rapid decision. He also pointed out that the level of the basic CRL is important from the point of view of acting as an incentive to set-aside land.

On the suckler cow premium he pointed out that it was clearly a once off increase and indeed was opposed by some Ministers. He also said that Council could not be selective in the areas where they could have a roll-over.

On processed tomatoes Mr Mac Sharry said that we have a legal obligation to switch to an MGQ for next year, while on cotton he questioned some Ministers reservations given that the Commission proposals increased the second highest level of aid per ha of any sector i.e. 2000 ecu/ha, second only to tobacco (6,100 ecu/ha). Furthermore the adjustments in cotton, and tobacco are aimed at processors and traders and will have no impact on producers.

Agri-monetary:

There was a short discussion on this subject with Commissioner Mac Sharry pointing out that MCAs must be dismantled by end of 1992.

A number of Member States referred to the negative impact on prices the Commission proposals would have (Sp and Port) and suggested that the dismantling should be postponed until the end of ~~1992~~ ¹⁹⁹⁷ *stet*

B. DETHOMAS

Luxembourg, 29 April 1992

**NOTE BIO (92) 99 (suite 3) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
CC.: AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE PAROLE**

**Council of Agricultural Ministers, Luxembourg
29 April 1992 (G. Kiely)**

**MAIN POINTS OF COMMISSIONER MAC SHARRY'S INTERVENTION IN COUNCIL ON THE
PRESIDENCY PAPER ON CAP REFORM**

1. Mr Mac Sharry requested that the Commission's position of opposition be recorded regarding the proposal to have a smaller price cut for cereals as it is a capital issue in the reform

- "cannot go along with any agreement which fails to face up to the current deficiencies in the CAP and would call for further adjustment sooner rather than later"
- "105 ECU is the limit of competitiveness"
- "at 112 ECU the surplus in cereals is some 8 m tonnes greater than at 105 ECU, in which case the set-aside requirement would increase to 22%"
- "cannot see the sense in making a fundamental reform of the arable crops sector which stops short of what is needed for real competitiveness"
- "it is not a question of bargaining around an arbitrary cut in price it is a question of establishing a competitive price for cereals"

"have already made clear my deep reservations about abandoning the idea of an individual base area in favour of a regional base area - it goes against the need to encourage individual farmer responsibility and is a recipe for conflict between farmers" ... a regional base area will prove less satisfactory for individual farmers"
- "the regional system for beef promotes a situation where stocks are maintained at the highest possible level and added to this are elements which tend to favour greater intensity e.g. derogations for small producers, dilution of the stocking rate requirements and the availability of lower cereal prices"
- "on the regional problems for milk quota (Sp, It, Greece) I don't see any solution here in the absence of the quota arrangements being properly applied. Had the quota system been applied properly in the first place such statistical errors could have been identified and corrected quickly, but it was not applied in some parts of the Community and that is a situation that we must resolve quickly

"I must also make the customary reserve on the financial implications of a Presidency Paper".

Amitiés,

B. DETHOMAS

Luxembourg, 30 April 1992

**NOTE BIO (92) 99 (suite 4 et fin) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
CC.: AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE PAROLE**

**Council of Agricultural Ministers, Luxembourg
29 April 1992 (G. Kiely)**

CAP Reform:-

During the discussions on the Presidency Paper it was clear that all Ministers are now prepared, indeed urge decisions on CAP reform preferably in May.

Some Ministers however, expressed concern that the Commission should consider it necessary that express opposition to the Presidency's suggestions on cereal price cuts - they felt that this was of particular political significance and unprecedented - in particular given that the whole reform process is centred on reforms in the cereal sector.

Regarding the suggestions put forward, Ministers felt in general that the document helped progress the reform discussions although many listed changes they would require for a conclusion.

Cereals:-

- general view that the proposals were moving towards an acceptable level of price cut - few Ministers indicated that the proposed reduction was too severe
- many welcome compensation for all set-aside land - although a few Ministers object to this
- many Ministers urge an increase in Community preference to 40 ECU/tonne
- some also argue that the exemption threshold from the set aside obligation be reduced
- the size of the "base area" i.e. Nut III (administrative unit size) is also considered to be too small for administrative purposes.

Milk:-

While some Ministers question the need to cut milk quotas most seem prepared to take a decision on whether or not to cut the quota each year.

Some argue against a price cut, others accept it, while others suggest a reduction in butter prices only.

While some Ministers insist on the introduction of a dairy corn premium if prices are reduced, others say it is unnecessary. Many Ministers forcibly opposed any concessions on milk quotas for Spain, Italy and Greece.

Beef:-

There are still many different views on how the beef regime should be reformed.

Most support ceilings on intervention purchases and can accept a new "safety-net" level (automatic unlimited intervention) of 55%.

The size of the administrative region i.e. NUTS III is also a problem - a larger region is requested.

Views vary on the premia with some suggesting a lower beef premium and a higher suckler cow premium or payment of only one premium or/and abolition of the 90 head ceiling. Many are opposed to using 1992 as a reference year. While some Ministers consider the relaxation of the stocking rate criteria a positive development others are opposed.

Sheep:-

There are mixed views on whether or not quotas should be tradeable.

The ceiling on the numbers of ewes eligible is 1000 in LFA's and 350 in other areas is still being opposed, but only by a minority.

Accompanying measures:-

These measures are considered to be largely acceptable.

Amitiés,

B. DETHOMAS

Bruxelles, le 24 avril 1992

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**NOTE BIO (92)99 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
CC.: AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE PAROLE**

Conseil Agriculture (Luxembourg, les 28 et 29 avril 1992 et jours suivants)
(G. Klely)

Le Conseil des Communautés Européennes tiendra sa 1568e session - Agriculture - le mardi 28 avril à partir de 15h et le mercredi 29 avril 1992 (et jours suivants) au Centre Européen du KIRCHBERG à Luxembourg, sous la Présidence de M. Arlindo CUNHA, Ministre de l'Agriculture du Portugal.

L'ordre du jour comportera les points suivants:

* Approbation des points "A"

Evolution et avenir de la politique Agricole Commune (doc. COM(91)258)

Lors du dernier Conseil Agricole qui s'est tenu à Bruxelles les 30 et 31 mars 1992 la Présidence et Mr Mac Sharry ont procédé à une série d'entretiens bilatéraux avec les délégations des Etats membres dans le souci de faciliter la recherche d'une solution d'ensemble.

Sur la base de ces discussions la Présidence devrait pouvoir rédiger un document de travail qui constituera la base du débat pouvant conduire le Conseil à un résultat final. Ce résultat ne sera pas nécessairement acquis lors de cette réunion mais devrait intervenir lors des conseils de mai ou juin 1992.

Propositions de la Commission au Conseil concernant la fixation des prix des produits agricoles et certaines mesures connexes (1992/93) (doc. COM(92)94)

Afin de faciliter l'adoption de la réforme de la PAC, la Commission a fait cette année une proposition de prix relativement stable, portant donc reconduction des prix agricoles de l'année dernière (sauf ajustements dans certains secteurs). Les incidences financières de la fixation des prix sont en conséquence de moindre envergure. En attendant l'avis du Parlement Européen qui sera rendu le 15 mai 1992, le Conseil tachera de faire avancer le débat pour le faire aboutir lors du prochain agricole à Bruxelles les 18 et 19 mai 1992.

Qualité des Aliments

- Protection des appellations d'origine et indications géographiques (docs. SEC(90)2415 et COM(92)32)

- Avis du PE le 19 novembre 1991

Dans le cadre de sa politique de qualité, la Commission a proposé d'instituer un système de protection des produits agricoles et de denrées

alimentaires bénéficiant soit d'une appellation d'origine protégée (AOP), justifiée par une relation essentielle entre le lieu et le mode de production, soit une simple indication géographique protégée (IGP), soumise à des conditions moins strictes. Une question se pose: AOP et IGP, faut-il différencier la protection à accorder aux deux catégories de désignations à l'égard des marques?

- Attestation de spécificité (docs. SEC(90)2414 et COM(92)28)

Toujours dans le cadre de sa politique de qualité, la Commission a présenté une proposition qui vise à l'octroi d'un label communautaire (attestation de spécificité), destiné à favoriser le maintien de certaines formes spécifiques de production notamment dans les régions rurales, tout en fournissant des garanties de qualité au consommateur.

Mais quelle devrait-être la forme de la protection à prévoir?

Propositions de règlements

- relatif à des mesures destinées à développer la consommation d'olives de table (doc. COM(90) 345)

- Instaurant des mesures spécifiques dans le secteur des olives de table (doc. COM(91)189)

Le Parlement Européen a rendu son avis en la matière le 14 février 1992.

La Commission a proposé deux mesures au Conseil en vue de favoriser la consommation d'olives de table:

1. d'instaurer des normes de qualité
2. de promouvoir des actions de promotion et d'amélioration de la qualité
3. Mr Mac Sharry a fait savoir qu'il serait disposé à envisager en outre une aide aux organisations de producteur (cf. secteur noix)

Proposition de décision du Conseil relative à une compensation nationale transitoire en faveur des agriculteurs d'Allemagne (doc. COM(91)551)

La proposition de décision du Conseil vise à autoriser l'Allemagne à accorder, à partir du 1er janvier 1992 et jusqu'au 31 décembre 1992, une aide nationale spéciale aux agriculteurs, suite à la cessation au 31 décembre 1991 de l'aide accordée par le biais de la TVA.

Proposition de règlement du Conseil établissant les règles de contrôle et les mesures de lutte contre la peste équine

Proposition de directive du Conseil modifiant la directive 90/426/CEE relative aux conditions de police sanitaire régissant les mouvements d'équidés et les importations d'équidés en provenance des pays tiers en ce qui concerne la peste équine (doc. COM(91)435)

Ces propositions visent, d'une part, à établir des règles de contrôle et des mesures de lutte contre la peste équine et, d'autre part, à modifier la directive 90/426/CEE afin de tenir compte de ces nouvelles règles de contrôle et mesures de lutte.

Proposition de règlement du Conseil concernant la commercialisation de germes plantes et de plants de légumes autres que des semences (doc. COM(89)649 et COM(91)406)

Avis PE 11 juillet 1991

Cette proposition de règlement s'inscrit dans le cadre de la mise en oeuvre du Livre Blanc et vise à harmoniser, au niveau communautaire, les normes qualitatives et phytosanitaires auxquelles doivent satisfaire les matériels de multiplication et les plants de légumes commercialisés dans les Etats membres et à garantir que les matériels satisfaisant à ces normes puissent circuler librement dans la Communauté.

Proposition de règlement du Conseil concernant la commercialisation de matériels de multiplication de plantes fruitières et de plantes fruitières destinées à la production de fruits. (docs. COM(89)651 et COM(91)414)

Avis PE 10 juillet 1991

Comme pour les jeunes plantes et plants de légumes, cette proposition de règlement s'inscrit dans le cadre de la mise en oeuvre du Livre Blanc.

URUGUAY ROUND - Volet Agricole

Le Conseil procédera à son tour de table habituel sur les négociations du GATT. Mr Mac Sharry fera état des discussions bilatérales et multilatérales.

Amitiés,



B. DETHOMAS

Bruxelles, le 2 avril 1992.

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BIO(92)85 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
CC. AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE-PAROLE

Préparation du Conseil Pêche du 3 avril 1992 :

(Xavier PRATS)

Le Conseil commencera ses travaux le vendredi 3 avril à 11h00 à Luxembourg.

1. - L'essentiel des débats portera sur le rapport de la Commission sur la politique commune de la pêche, établi par la Commission en décembre dernier (cfr la note IP(91)1090)

C'est en effet la première fois que les Ministres auront l'occasion de débattre sur ce texte qui, pour la Commission, revêt une importance fondamentale pour l'avenir de la politique commune de la pêche.

Conformément au règlement de base de la politique de gestion et conservation des ressources de pêche dans les eaux communautaires, (règlement (CEE) n° 170/83), la Commission est tenue de présenter au Conseil, avant la fin de 1991, un rapport sur le secteur de la pêche.

La Commission a saisi cette occasion pour, d'une part, établir un bilan élargi et complet de l'ensemble de secteur durant la période 1983-1990 et d'autre part, définir les orientations générales appropriées pour garantir l'avenir du secteur de la pêche et des activités connexes dans les dix ans à venir.

Ce rapport ne présente pas, en soi, une proposition formelle de la Commission. Il est destiné à générer et orienter un débat au sein des différentes instances communautaires et autres entités concernées afin de permettre à la Commission de présenter au cours de l'année 1992 des propositions réglementaires appropriées pour l'ensemble du secteur de la pêche pour la période 1993-2002.

Ce rapport permet d'établir les principales orientations pour les dix années à venir. Afin de garantir la continuité des activités de pêche par une exploitation rationnelle des ressources, compte tenu de la situation très préoccupante des ressources de pêche dans les eaux communautaires, la Commission estime qu'il est urgent et nécessaire à court terme de :

- réduire l'effort, y compris la capacité de pêche, de la flotte communautaire
- minimiser les perturbations socio-économique de cette réduction par des mesures d'accompagnement.

La Commission est très satisfaite de la réaction des Etats membres jusqu'à présent, car ils ont suivi la démarche proposée par la Commission et, pour certains d'entre eux, ont déjà introduit des programmes de réduction de la capacité de leur flotte.

Par ailleurs, lors de la présentation du "Paquet Delors II", la Commission a introduit un nouveau objectif des fonds structurels (Objectif n°6), afin de pouvoir apporter des mesures d'accompagnement et notamment une aide directe aux pêcheurs.

2. - Les Ministres discuteront également sur le rapport de la Commission sur le contrôle de l'application de la politique commune de la pêche (cfr note IP(92)186).

Ce rapport décrit l'organisation pratique du contrôle du respect des mesures communautaires de conservation dans les Etats membres; il dresse un bilan opérationnel du respect de ces mesures et en déduit les carences majeures constatées dans l'application de la législation relative au contrôle. Enfin, il émet des recommandations, pour remédier aux carences constat

Le système de TAC et quotas actuellement en vigueur ne présente pas de faille importante dsur le papier. Or, force est de constater que la situation de ressources s'est fortement détériorée. Par conséquent, il est nécessaire d'introduire des moyens de contrôle pour assurer l'application de ce qui est décidé dans le cadre de la PCP.

La Commission propose d'établir un système de surveillance par satellite, qui permettrait non seulement de contrôler la flotte, mais aussi d'obtenir des niveaux de sécurité des bateaux beaucoup plus importants. Un nombre significatif des accidents en mer pourrait être évité si les bateaux communautaires étaient dotés d'une "boîte bleue" au même titre que les transports routiers ou les avions. Les expériences d'ores et déjà disponibles prouvent que ce système est parfaitement applicable et peu coûteux.

3 . - La Commission présentera au Conseil son rapport concernant la pratique des rejets de poissons. Ce texte présente une typologie des rejets et une analyse des contraintes techniques, économiques et juridiques qui sont à l'origine de cette pratique. A défaut d'une estimation de ces derniers, il présente ensuite un inventaire des rejets observés dans les pêcheries communautaires, et des estimations de leur importance relative lorsque des données chiffrées le permettent. Ensuite, il compare les réglementations communautaire et norvégienne en matière de rejets et considère leur compatibilité, puis il évalue l'applicabilité et l'efficacité d'une interdiction de la pratique des rejets dans le cadre de la réglementation communautaire des pêches. Enfin, il présente une revue des remèdes possibles aux diverses formes de rejets.

4. - La Commission présentera également une communication sur une politique de qualité des produits de la pêche.

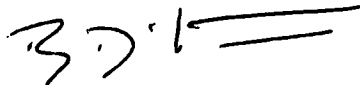
La Commission estime que la Communauté doit se doter de deux types d'instruments : d'une part, un système communautaire de reconnaissance de la qualité des produits de la pêche; d'autre part, de mesures d'incitation dans le cadre du volet structural de la politique de la pêche.

5 . - Suite à la présentation en juillet 1990 es orientations de la Commission pour l'établissement d'un régime de pêche en Méditerranée (cfr note IP(90)539) le Conseil avait demandé à la Commission plusieurs éléments d'information complémentaire. La Commission présentera donc demain au Conseil un document comportant notamment une étude comparative des législations nationales en vue de leur éventuelle harmonisation et une série de recherche sur les stocks en Méditerranée.

6. - La Commission présentera également une proposition de règlement portant sur l'organisation commune des marchés (OCM) dans le secteur des produits de la pêche. Cette proposition conserve les principes actuellement en vigueur de l'OCM tout en proposant : une adaptation des mécanismes de soutien à l'évolution des conditions de production et de mise en marché; une simplification de la réglementation; un renforcement des éléments de subsidiarité.

7. - Sous points divers, le Conseil traitera principalement des thèmes concernant les relations de pêche avec des pays tiers et avec certaines organisations internationales : le Canada (cfr IP(92)238), le Maroc (les négociations pour le renouvellement de l'accord de pêche actuellement en cours), le régime de pêche en haute mer (note IP(92)237).

Amitiés,



Bruno DETHOMAS.

Bruxelles, le 6 avril 1992.

BIO(92) 85 (suite 1 et fin) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
CC. AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE-PAROLE

Conseil Pêche du 3 avril 1992 :

(Xavier PRATS)

Le Conseil qui a poursuivi les débats tard dans la soirée de vendredi a concentré ses travaux principalement sur le rapport de la Commission sur la Politique Commune de la Pêche.

Les Ministres ont accueilli très favorablement le texte de la Commission, appréciant la qualité et la portée d'ensemble du texte ainsi que les lignes générales de l'analyse de la PCP contenue dans la première partie du rapport.

Le Conseil a souligné le fait que, afin d'assurer la pérennité de la pêche, la PCP devra avoir pour objectif fondamental de rétablir l'équilibre entre les ressources et l'effort de pêche.

Le Conseil s'est également prononcé en faveur de la flexibilisation et simplification des modalités des TAC et quotas préconisés par la Commission, qui a été chargée de poursuivre son initiative visant l'établissement de TAC et quotas pluriannuels et plurispécifiques. Les conclusions du Conseil soutiennent ainsi les grandes lignes fixées par la Commission pour l'avenir : responsabilisation des organisations professionnelles, intensification de la recherche, etc...

Le Conseil a convenu que, dans le contexte de la réduction de l'effort de pêche, la Communauté devra poursuivre la réduction des surcapacités de la flotte là où elles existent.

Le Conseil a également souligné la nécessité de prévoir des mesures d'accompagnement socio-économiques dans le cadre de la réforme des fonds structurels, afin d'atténuer les conséquences négatives des mesures de restructuration du secteur de la pêche.

Le Vice-Président Marin a confirmé que la Commission présentera, dans les meilleurs délais, des propositions appropriées pour le Conseil puisse adopter des décisions formelles lors du deuxième semestre 1992.

* En ce qui concerne la Méditerranée, le Vice-Président Marin a présenté au Conseil, au nom de la Commission, le bilan des travaux demandé par le Conseil en novembre 1990 : une analyse des législations nationales, qui met en évidence la diversité de celles-ci; un effort de recherche sur les stocks, dans le cadre duquel plusieurs études ont déjà été cofinancées par la Commission; et les contacts que la Commission a déjà établis avec certains pays tiers du bassin méditerranéen. M. Marin a également souligné qu'elle a associé à ses travaux les milieux professionnels.

La Commission présentera, avant la fin de l'année, des propositions concrètes visant l'harmonisation des réglementations nationales sur la conservation et la gestion des ressources en Méditerranée. Le Conseil, et notamment les Etats membres les plus concernés, ont félicité la Commission pour sa présentation et l'ont incité à poursuivre ses travaux.

* La Commission a présenté sa communication concernant la valorisation de la qualité des produits de la pêche dans le cadre du développement des objectifs du rapport sur la PCP.

La Commission estime nécessaire de clarifier tous les aspects de la politique de qualité et d'encourager les initiatives aux producteurs. Elle signale deux orientations : un système communautaire de reconnaissance de la qualité des produits de la pêche; des mesures d'accompagnement. Le Coreper poursuivra l'examen de la communication en vue d'une décision du Conseil en juin 1992.

* M. Marin a également introduit le rapport sur le contrôle de la PCP (cfr note IP(92)186). M. Marin a souligné les carences majeures du règlement actuellement en vigueur, le manque d'engagement politique, et les limitations auxquelles se trouvent confrontés les inspecteurs. Le thème sera traité vraisemblablement par le Conseil de juin prochain.

* S'agissant de la proposition de règlement sur l'Organisation Commune des Marchés (OCM), la Commission a indiqué qu'il s'agit d'une réponse supplémentaire à la volonté de réforme de la PCP. Elle préconise une plus grande participation des organisations de producteurs et leur co-responsabilité financière.

S'agissant du différend qui oppose la Communauté au Canada au sujet des pêcheries dans la zone de l'OPANO (cfr note IP(92)238), le Conseil a approuvé une résolution par laquelle il soutient la demande proposée par la Commission, à savoir :

- ne pas accepter les accusations selon lesquelles la flotte communautaire serait responsable de la situation des stocks ;
- demander de nouveau au Canada d'accepter la demande de convoquer le Conseil scientifique de l'OPANO afin d'étudier sur des bases fiables et communes la situation des ressources de pêche;
- proposer, à l'initiative de la Commission, une suspension partielle du quota autonome communautaire pour la zone en litige, en tant que geste politique visant à normaliser les relations de pêche entre la Communauté et le Canada.

A l'issue du Conseil, le Vice-Président Marin a souligné la satisfaction de la Commission pour la teneur des débats, et il a réaffirmé son engagement à présenter des propositions formelles dans les mois à venir pour l'ensemble des points en discussion.

Il a également souligné la fermeté de la résolution du Conseil sur le Canada, la Communauté ne pouvant pas accepter les propos tenus par les autorités canadiennes. Par ailleurs, il a confirmé que, si une étude scientifique conjointe prouvait que la flotte communautaire est responsable de la détérioration des stocks, la Commission demanderait le retrait de sa flotte. Or, non seulement une telle étude n'existe pas, mais le Canada a refusé jusqu'à présent de la réaliser.

Antiles,
C. Stathopoulos.