



COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES  
GENERAL SECRETARIAT



PRESS RELEASE

5334/93 (Presse 37)

1648th Council meeting

**AGRICULTURE**

Brussels, 16 and 17 March 1993

President: Mr Bjørn WESTH,  
Minister for Agriculture and  
Fisheries of the Kingdom of Denmark

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

Belgium:

Mr André BOURGEOIS Minister for Agriculture

Denmark:

Mr Bjørn WESTH Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries  
Mr Nils BERNSTEIN State Secretary for Agriculture

Germany:

Mr Jochen BORCHERT Federal Minister for Food,  
Agriculture and Forestry  
Mr Franz-Josef FEITER State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture  
and Forestry

Greece:

Mr Christos KOSKINAS Minister for Agriculture

Spain:

Mr Pedro SOLBES MIRA Minister for Agriculture

France:

Mr Jean-Pierre SOISSON Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development

Ireland:

Mr Joe WALSH Minister for Agriculture, Food and Forestry

Italy:

Mr Giovanni FONTANA Minister for Agriculture

Luxembourg:

Mrs Marie-Josée JACOBS Minister for Agriculture,  
Viticulture and Rural Development

Netherlands:

Mr Piet BUKMAN Minister for Agriculture, Nature Conservation and  
Fisheries

Portugal:

Mr Arlindo CUNHA Minister for Agriculture

United Kingdom:

Mr John GUMMER Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Mr David CURRY Minister of State, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries  
and Food

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Commission:

Mr René STEICHEN Member

**PRICES FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND RELATED MEASURES FOR 1993/1994**

The Council continued its discussions on the prices for agricultural products and related measures for the 1993/1994 marketing year.

It held a policy debate during which the Ministers concentrated on the sectors in which these proposals gave rise to problems, namely cereals and rice, olive oil, linseed, cotton, wine and milk, and the beef and veal, sheepmeat and pigmeat sectors which are experiencing a serious crisis at the moment.

The Council also examined the financial implications of these proposals and the agri-monetary aspects, although the Commission has not submitted proposals for the latter since they are no longer required following the Council's decision in December 1992.

At the end of its discussions, the Council instructed the Special Committee on Agriculture to examine certain aspects of this matter in detail so as to enable the Council to adopt this price package at its next meeting in April, once it has received the European Parliament's Opinion.

Meanwhile the Council extended for three months, until 30 June 1993, the marketing years in the milk and beef and veal sectors which were to expire on 31 March 1993.

Furthermore, the Council and the Commission agreed to state their intention of ending the co-responsibility levy in the milk sector from 1 April 1993. The Council will take its final decision as soon as it receives the European Parliament's Opinion.

**MILK PRODUCTS**

The Council was unable to reach any definitive conclusions on the milk products dossier at this juncture in the absence of the European Parliament's Opinion on the reduction in the price of butter.

It decided provisionally to extend the current quotas (maintain the status quo) and undertook to set the whole issue definitively at its meeting in April in the context of the price fixing package.

The Council adopted the following statement in this connection:

"When taking a final decision on the quotas for 1993/1994, the Council will also take a decision, respecting the Council's conclusions of 21 May 1992 on the Commission proposal on the additional quota for Spain.

While complying with the Council's conclusions of 21 May 1992 and 17 December 1992, the Council will also take a decision on an additional quota for Italy and Greece, on the basis of the further information supplied by the Commission which might enable it to amend its last proposal, as well as on other questions already raised by certain delegations."

#### COMMON ORGANIZATION OF THE MARKETS IN THE SUGAR SECTOR

The Council examined the proposal to extend for the 1993/1994 marketing year the sugar quota arrangements, since the present system of Community quotas expires on 30 June 1993.

It also turned to an aspect requiring more in-depth consideration, namely the content of the proposed notification concerning inulin syrup. The Commission is proposing that a provision be

included in the Regulation to inform producers of inulin syrup that, in the event of the application, as from the 1994/1995 marketing year, of a quota system for sugar and isoglucose, that system would also apply to the inulin syrup sector.

At the close of its discussions, the Council instructed the SCA to continue to examine this matter to enable it to take a final decision at its next meeting, once it had received the European Parliament's Opinion.

#### URUGUAY ROUND - AGRICULTURAL ASPECTS

The Council took note of a report from the Special Committee on Agriculture on the outcome of its analysis of the technical aspects of the compatibility of the Blair House agreement with the common agricultural policy and in particular with the reform decided on in May 1992.

This analysis mainly concerned the possible consequences of the Blair House agreement on the main sectors of production which have been reformed (cereals, oilseeds, animal products). The possible impact of this agreement on Community productions which have not yet been reformed was also examined.

Having considered this report, the Council heard each Minister in turn give his reactions in the light of the outcome of the Special Committee on Agriculture's discussions.

The Council will continue to consider the matter.

### ALLOCATION OF QUOTAS FOR CERTAIN TOBACCO VARIETIES IN GREECE

The Council examined the Commission report on the allocation of quotas for certain varieties of tobacco in Greece, which had been drawn up in response to a request by the Council as part of the December 1992 compromise.

In conclusion, the Council noted with satisfaction that the Commission would continue its contacts with the Greek delegation with a view to resolving the problem of the quota for the Virginia tobacco variety having been exceeded in Greece.

### PROCESSED TOMATOES

The Council adopted by a qualified majority (the Greek and Spanish delegations voted against) the Regulation on the introduction of a limit to the granting of production aid for processed tomato products.

The purpose of the Regulation is to reintroduce the previous quota system for such products in place of the threshold arrangements, in accordance with the conclusions adopted by the Council in June 1992 as part of the price package.

It should be noted that the quota is allocated, on the one hand, between the six producer Member States and, on the other hand, between the three categories of processed products (tomato concentrate, tinned whole peeled tomatoes, other tomato products).

### TRANSITIONAL NATIONAL COMPENSATION FOR FARMERS IN GERMANY

Pending the European Parliament's Opinion, the Council noted that delegations were favourably disposed towards the proposal to extend transitional national compensation for farmers in Germany.

This proposal is further to the Council's overall compromise of May 1992 (CAP reform) and the final compromise of December 1992. It provides for a further three-year extension of the national aid granted to German farmers which had been introduced to compensate for losses as in income as a result of the dismantling of monetary compensatory amounts. This compensation involves degressive aid per hectare of up to a total of:

DM 2 200 million in 1993

DM 1 500 million in 1994

DM 750 million in 1995

in place of the VAT aid arrangements previously applied.

#### TRANSITIONAL MEASURES FOR PORTUGAL

The Council once again examined the measures proposed to enable Portuguese agriculture to be integrated into the single market.

The Council had reached political agreement at its meeting in February 1993 following new suggestions for compensation made by the Commission in addition to the initial compromise.

The legal texts have been finalized in the meantime, and the Council adopted the Regulations on the measures advocated with the United Kingdom abstaining for budgetary reasons on one of these Regulations.

The Council was able to reach political agreement on the Commission proposal on the adaptation of certain sectors of the Portuguese food industry, on which the European Parliament's Opinion is still awaited. It will adopt the relevant Regulation as soon as this Opinion has been received.

Thus, Portuguese agriculture will be integrated into the single market on the entry into force of these Regulations.

### PROTECTION OF ANIMALS DURING TRANSPORT

This item was entered on the Council's agenda at the express request of one delegation to enable it to express its concern about the matter.

Although Directive 91/628/EEC laying down the principles governing protection of the welfare of animals during transport entered into force on 1 January 1993, the Council has received no proposal from the Commission laying down the additional details provided for in Article 13 of the Directive, in particular on the need to fix maximum journey times.

Several delegations and the Council therefore asked the Commission to submit to the Council the proposals necessary for the implementation of the Directive.

The Commission informed the Council that the work on preparing the report provided for in Article 13, to be drawn up on the basis of the opinion of the Scientific Veterinary Committee, was being expedited and that, in the light of the conclusions of that report, appropriate proposals would be submitted to the Council.

### NATIONAL AID TO SHEEP-FARMING IN FRANCE

This item was entered on the agenda at the express request of the French delegation.

The Council was favourably disposed towards the Decision to authorize the French Government to grant national aid for the current marketing year to French sheepmeat producers who were experiencing an exceptionally serious situation.

The aid involved is granted per hectare, up to a limit of FF 65 million, in the form of an allowance which may not exceed FF 100 per hectare.

The Council will formally adopt this Decision at a forthcoming meeting.



## OTHER AGRICULTURAL DECISIONS

The Council adopted the Regulations

- opening and providing for the administration of a Community quota for chemically pure fructose originating in third countries not bound to the Community by a preferential trade agreement for 1993. This involves a quota of 4 504 tonnes at a customs duty of 20%, and exemption from the variable component;
- amending Regulation (EEC) No 1035/72 on the common organization of the market in fruit and vegetables and No 827/68 on the common organization of the market in certain products listed in Annex II to the Treaty.

Here the purpose is to replace national quantitative restrictions by import licenses with a view to the single market on 1 January 1993.

Agreement in principle had already been reached on this Regulation as part of the overall compromise of December 1992.

## MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

### Customs Union

The Council adopted the Regulation introducing new scientific names for trout in the relevant sections of Regulation No 2658/87 and Regulation No 3759/92 concerning, respectively, the tariff and statistical nomenclature and the common organization of the market in fishery and aquaculture products.

The purpose of this amendment is to prevent any confusion between trout and, in particular, Pacific salmon, which are classified separately in the Common Customs Tariff and are subject to different rates of duty.



Bruxelles, le 15 mars 1993

NOTE BIO (93) 61 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX  
CC. AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE-PAROLE

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COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS - MARCH 16/17 (G. KIELY)

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1. Agricultural Price fixing and related measures.

The Parliament has not yet given an opinion on the Commission proposals on the price package which amount essentially to a roll-over of existing legislation, therefore the Council cannot take a final decision on the proposals. Nevertheless there will be a full discussion on this point on Tuesday.

2. Milk Quotas

The milk quota years expires on March 31st, irrespective of an extension to the marketing year, therefore Council should decide on the global reference quantities for the future, including a provisional increase for Spain. Otherwise there may be a legal vacuum. Some Member States continue to question the status of the milk quota suspended in 1987. As far as the Commission is concerned farmers have been fully compensated for this quota reduction. Furthermore they are still being compensated through higher market prices, due to better market balance.

4. Sugar

The sugar regime is due to expire on July 1993 and the Commission has proposed that it be extended for one more year, pending its reform. It has also been proposed to include "inulin" (which is produced from vegetables and is in competition with sugar) in the sugar regime in the 1994/95 marketing year, but at the 1992/93 level of production. If there is general agreement with the roll-over of the sugar regime and the inclusion of inulin in the regime, some Member States query whether the inulin quota should be additional to existing quotas or not.

5. GATT

This item, which is always on the Council agenda allows the Commission to update Ministers on development in GATT. The special Agricultural Committee has discussed the question of GATT (Blair House Agreement) CAP Reform compatibility with the Commission giving detailed explanations on its hypotheses and analyses. The Presidency will present a report on the discussions and undoubtedly Ministers will discuss the matter.

6. Tobacco

Tobacco production in Greece is much higher than the quota available and much investment has been made to allow for the drying and treatment of a level of production which is higher than that allowed. The Commission makes the point that this increased production has arisen not from reconversion from the more harmful varieties, but from new producers entering the production system.

7. Tomatoes

The Commission has proposed that the system of quotas should be reintroduced for processed tomatoes, at the same level as in 1991/92. Most delegations accept this proposal, although there are demand for either higher quotas or grater flexibility.

8. Transitional measures for Portugal

Portugal has not yet completed the internal market as it has not been possible to find a solution to the abolition of the transitional measures (unanimity needed). The main issue blocking an agreement now is the method of calculating the aid to cereal producers.

9. Transitional compensatory aids for German farmers

The Commission put forward a proposal to continue these compensatory payment on a temporary and degressive basis i.e. expire at the end of 1995. The principle is already the subject of a positive political orientation in Council.

Regards,

X. PRATS

**NOTE BIO (93) 61 (suite 1) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX  
CC.: AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE PAROLE**

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**COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS (Tuesday 16 March)  
(G. Kiely)**

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**Price Package:**

Commissioner Steichen introduced the Commission proposals, pointing out that he had chosen a largely "roll-over" package of proposals to allow Ministers and national authorities to concentrate on CAP reform. He indicated that he was prepared to be flexible in the interests of concluding an agreement as soon as possible, but insisted that the budgetary parameters of the proposals would have to be respected. Given that Parliament will have given an opinion before the April Council he urged Council to be prepared for a decision at the next Council. The reactions of Ministers were largely positive on the thrust of the Commission's proposals. However, Ministers used the discussion to highlight their grievances, in particular:

- that monthly increments for cereals should not be reduced, to which Mr Steichen pointed out the reduction proposed was solely to take account of the reduced cost of storage due to lower interest rates and lower cereal prices from 1 July
- that the Commission should introduce monthly increments to compensate people storing grain from the drop in price due to CAP reform as we move from the 1992/93 marketing year to that of 1993/94. This was totally rejected by Mr Steichen, who pointed out that the cost of such measures would be 900 MECU
- that the automatic reduction by one-quarter of the switchover coefficient (which will result in a price reduction of 1.25%) should not take place. Responding, Mr Steichen pointed out that Council had only agreed this system a few months ago (December) in the context of the agri-monetary regime and that the 25% reduction must take place otherwise the switchover mechanism which was retained against the Commission's wishes would cause even greater budgetary difficulties than those already foreseen (1.35 BECU in 1993 and 1.6 BECU in 1994)
- that the 25% reduction in the basic price is too much, to which Mr Steichen pointed out was only in line with the cereals price reduction under CAP reform

Other points raised were that there should not be an increase in penalties for cotton production above the maximum guaranteed quantity, that the price for indica rice should be increased rather than reducing the price of japonica, that headage limits on sheep and beef premiums should be abolished, introduce 2 year rotational set-aside, restore or compensate farmers for the 4.5% of milk quota suspended in 1987 and abolish or postpone a limit on the carcass weights of animals eligible for intervention.

**Sugar:**

Council also discussed the continuation of the sugar quota regime for 1 year, pending its reform and the inclusion of "Inulin" in the regime in the 1994/95 marketing year. The Council agrees to maintaining the present arrangements but opinions diverge on the inclusion of Inulin to the extent that some Ministers believe that it should form part of the existing Iso-glucose quota i.e. no overall increase, while other say that it must be supplementary and some suggest that whatever level is set should be shared out among the Member States. Mr Steichen informed the Council that the Inulin quota would be a supplementary quota.

Council continues on Wednesday, starting with the report on the milk situation in the Community.

**NOTE BIO (93) 61 (suite 2) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX  
CC. AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE PAROLE**

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**COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS  
Brussels, 17 March 1993  
(G. Kiely)**

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**Market situation for dairy products and establishing quota levels:**

Commissioner Steichen outlined the report on the above pointing out that the market situation for milk products has improved, largely due to a fall off in production in the new German Laander of 25-30% (which is unlikely to continue) and a reduction in production in Italy and Spain.

For this reason he is preparing to postpone the 1% quota cut and instead bring forward the 2.5% price cut for butter foreseen for 1994/95 i.e. a total reduction of 5% in 1993/94. This price reduction is necessary he said in view of the competition for butter from substitute products. He further pointed out that only one-third of milk delivered will be affected by the butter price cut, so when taken in conjunction with the abolition of the co-responsibility levy the impact on farmers is largely neutral.

The Commission urged Council to decide on quotas now so as to avoid a legal vacuum arising on April 1, which would be the case if quotas were not established.

Regarding quota increase for Spain, Italy and Greece, he said that Spain had made all reasonable efforts to apply the legislation and therefore the Commission is prepared to increase the quota provisionally. In the case of Italy and Greece some further efforts are necessary, in particular, notification to individual producers of their quota and the establishment of a central control agency. However, the Commission is prepared to review the situation and depending on the progress made will make a proposal in May for a Council decision by the end of July (which would be retroactive to April, 1993).

There is general agreement on postponing the 1% quota reduction. There are however, mixed views on the 5% intervention price cut for butter with a number of Ministers arguing that Council should stay with the reduction foreseen i.e. 2.5%. On the other hand many argued that in view of the more positive health image of butter now, there is an opportunity for butter to claim back its former market share. Others suggested technical adjustments which would achieve the same result, without reducing intervention prices. Some Ministers suggested that the 4.5% suspended quota should be returned to a special category of farmers (mountain areas) or else compensate producers for the continuation of its suspension. Others however oppose this on the basis that neither the budget nor the market can support it and it would open up a new series of demands. On the subject of quota increases for Spain, Italy and Greece, these countries gave further information on the progress since mid February pointing out that they now fulfill more of the Commission's and Council's requirements than was the case in February and argued for a quota increase now. Other delegations however, supported the Commission line pointing out that given the political implications Council must once and for all be convinced of the quotas application in these countries.

Responding to the discussion Mr Steichen insisted on the 5% price cut for competition reasons, pointing out that over 40% of butter has a subsidised outlet.

On the 4.5% suspended quota he said, the quotas have already been definitively abolished in 1992. The market he said cannot absorb a quota increase and the budget cannot bear the burden of further compensation, farmers were already compensated for this quota over a 5 year period (45 ECU/100 kgs). Mr Steichen welcomed the progress made on the application of quotas in Italy, Spain and Greece but insisted that the Commission has to be very prudent on this sensitive political matter.

He also emphasised on the package nature of the proposal i.e. quotas and 5% intervention price cut.

Amitiés,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of connected, somewhat irregular loops and lines, starting with a large downward stroke on the left and ending with a horizontal line on the right.

X. PRATS.





Brussels, 18 March 1993

NOTE BIO (93) 61 (suite 3 et fin) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX  
CC. AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE PAROLE

COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS, 17 March 1993  
(G. Kiely)

The discussion on GATT was essentially a repetition of former discussions. The Commission has explained in detail at the Special Agriculture Committee the basis of its hypotheses and analyses and the Presidency's conclusions of these discussions were presented to Council. Essentially the report concluded that if one accepts the Commission hypotheses, then the Blair House agreement is compatible with that part of CAP which has been reformed. The Commission cannot prejudge its impact on areas not reformed as it cannot prejudge the Council decisions on the reform of those sectors.

All Ministers welcomed this clarification exercise in the SCA and felt it had answered many concerns. However, some delegations still question the reliability of the Commission's hypotheses, for example regarding yield increases for cereals, potential level of imports of cheese etc.

Mediterranean countries expressed concern about the implications of a GATT agreement for imports and exports of Mediterranean products.

Despite these reservations there was general agreement that a GATT deal is desirable, but that it must be global and well balanced and certainly not at any cost to the agriculture sector. The Presidency will consider how to proceed in future on GATT.

#### Animal Welfare (Transport)

A number of Ministers want the Commission to come forward with detailed rules on the protection of animals during transport. A Directive already exists laying down strict rules for animals protection during transport. However, this Directive needed to be completed by fixing maximum journey times, watering and feeding intervals and length of rest and loading density. In the meantime however, the Edinburgh Summit agreed that this could be a question for subsidiarity.

Mr Steichen informed Council that the Commission was examining in detail Community animal welfare legislation and that adopted by the Council of Europe to establish how to consolidate legislation and at the same time avoid duplication. As soon as this has been done the Commission will proceed with the necessary proposals.

It should be noted that Member States can set their own standards at present for duration of journeys, feeding and watering intervals etc.

#### Tobacco

Greece is requesting an overall increase in its tobacco quota to take account of an increase in production of Virginia, and also to cater for the increase investment in processing facilities.

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Drought (Portugal/Spain)

Measures approved in October 1992 were of significant value, but problem still exists - will need more help. Mr Steichen said he is prepared to discuss the problem to see how the Commission may be of help.

Integrated System of Control:

A number of Ministers mentioned the difficulties and concerns farmers had in respecting their obligations regarding providing the necessary information and the bureaucracy.

Mr Steichen said that the Commission was carefully following developments and the Commission is always prepared to simplify procedures. Where and when necessary Member States will have an opportunity he said in detailing progress, problems etc at the FEOGA meetings on March 24

Wine: (France)

Mr Steichen said he would table proposals in the next month to reform the wine regime by June 30 at the latest.

Leader: (Ireland)

Want programme to continue with wider scope and greater funding. This he said will be examined in context of Structural Funds for 1994/95 and assured Ministers that an initiative designed for Rural Development with sufficient funds will be encouraged by him

Application of minimum import prices for soft fruit from Eastern Europe (UK)

A request was made to strengthen this regulation. Mr Steichen said that the Commission should act in the spirit of these agreements. Commission will follow imports closely and take action if necessary.

Amitiés,

B DETHOMAS

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speculative production so as to establish a quota on half of the additional area he said is being produced by new entrants. The Commission is prepared to give 20 MECU to compensate producers for investment in flue cured facilities. The Commission would also be prepared to allow a redistribution of quotas within existing Greek quota limits. The matter will be discussed further bilaterally between the Commission and the Greek delegation.

Introduction of a limit to the granting of production aid for processed tomatoes

The purpose of this proposal is to reinstate the previous production quota system for processed tomato products and to discontinue the threshold system. Two delegations wanted adjustments in quota which Commissioner Steichen rejected as in effect it would involve an increase of 375,000 tonnes and could cause serious market imbalance.

This was adopted by qualified majority

Completion of internal market (Portugal)

The regulations completing the internal market i.e. resolving the outstanding issues in relation to compensation for abolition of transitional measures in Portugal were adopted

Milk Quotas

The existing milk quota arrangements were rolled over for 1 year with a declaration that the quota levels will be reviewed in the context of the price fixing negotiations for Spain and that a decision will be taken also on the Italian and Greek quota question.

Commissioner Steichen, welcomed the fact that the Council had avoided a legal vacuum being created, but pointed out that if the 1% quota reduction is to be avoided, then the Council must accept the 5% price cut for butter during the price fixing discussions.

Linseed

In view of the fact that linseed is already being planted it was agreed though a declaration that the set-aside obligation will not apply this year to linseed, has proposed in the Commission's proposals for practical reasons. Alternative means of achieving the same savings will be examined

National aid for French sheepmeat producers

France wants to pay 60 m FF national aid to sheepmeat producers. The Commission could not accept the request as it was only received on Friday so Council unanimity is needed. While there is general agreement on the measure, it will have to pass an A point at a future Council.

Bruxelles, le 12 mars 1993

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NOTE BIO (93) 58 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX  
CC. AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE-PAROLE

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Préparation du Conseil Transports du lundi 15 mars 1993  
(Paula FIGUEIREDO-LAISSY)

Il s'agira d'un Conseil dominé en grande partie par des débats d'orientation et qui préparera le Conseil de lun.

Nous ne nous attendons donc pas, malgré l'ordre du jour assez chargé, à des décisions formelles.

Les principaux dossiers à l'ordre du jour seront les suivants:

1. Livre blanc sur le développement de la politique des transports dans la Communauté. Le Conseil aura un débat d'orientation sur ce texte adopté par la Commission en décembre 92.

2. Transports aériens:

- Communication de la Commission concernant les relations avec les pays tiers. La Commission n'aura pas de prise de position formelle et attendra une réaction de la part du Conseil, surtout en ce qui concerne la base juridique pour de futurs accords de transport aérien entre les Etats membres et les pays tiers (l'article 113 étant pour la Commission la base juridique adéquate).

- ATM (air traffic management) - Proposition de directive du Conseil relative à la définition et à l'utilisation de normes et de spécifications techniques compatibles pour l'acquisition d'équipements et de systèmes pour la gestion du trafic aérien. On pourrait, lors du Conseil, arriver à un accord et donc à l'adoption de cette directive malgré le fait qu'un problème se pose au niveau de la situation transitoire des deux Etats membres non encore membres de Eurocontrol (Espagne/Portugal) dans la phase de mise en vigueur de la directive.

3. Infrastructures

- Proposition de règlement du Conseil modifiant le règlement relatif à la mise en oeuvre d'un programme d'action en vue de la réalisation du marché intégré des transports.

On attend l'avis du Parlement Européen suite à la demande de reconsultation; d'autre part le montant proposé pour mener à bien ce programme (325 Mecu pour deux ans) est considéré comme insuffisant par la Commission car inférieur au budget en cours qui prévoit déjà un montant de 185 Mecus pour 1993. La Commission, par conséquent, n'est pas d'accord avec la mention d'une somme dans le règlement.

- Schémas directeurs pour l'établissement

. d'un réseau de transport combiné,

. d'un réseau routier transeuropéen,

et pour le développement

. d'un réseau européen de voies navigables.

Les cartes des schémas directeurs ont été soumises au Conseil et on attend des réactions des Ministres. Le débat continuera probablement pendant 1993.

On procédera également à une mise à jour du schéma du train à grande vitesse.

4. Transports terrestres

- Fiscalité des transports routiers - Il s'agit d'un dossier complexe et difficile qui constituera un des points principaux de ce Conseil. Les propositions de la Commission sont sur la table du Conseil depuis 87 et ont déjà été modifiées à deux reprises (1990 et 1992). Tous les Etats membres semblent prêts à examiner la possibilité de la création d'une Eurovignette régionale excepté l'Allemagne (qui semble préférer une vignette nationale) et le Royaume-Uni (qui la rejette).

Cependant tous les Etats membres se demandent si une Eurovignette applicable seulement aux véhicules étrangers serait compatible avec le droit Communautaire. Il apparaît donc que la proposition de création d'une Eurovignette a très peu de chances d'être acceptée.

- Cabotage de marchandises - la Commission propose des mesures pour compléter la libéralisation du transport de marchandises et va pousser très fort sur ce dossier. Cependant certains Etats membres (surtout Allemagne/France/Italie) font des liens avec le dossier de la fiscalité.

- Transport de matières dangereuses - la Commission annoncera ce qu'elle pense faire et le calendrier proposé.

5. Transports maritimes

Le Commissaire Abel Matutes fera une présentation orale de la Communication sur la sécurité maritime adoptée par la Commission en février (voir note P 5). Le texte sera envoyé ensuite au groupe de travail du Conseil pour adoption probable en Juin.

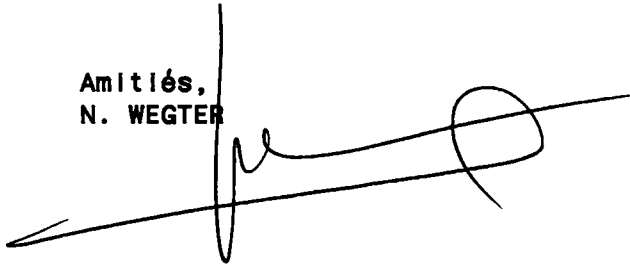
6. Divers

Relations entre la CEE et la Suisse dans le domaine du transport aérien.

Lors de la signature de l'accord de transit avec la Suisse (en vigueur depuis février 93) il a été accordé que les deux parties entameront des contacts en vue d'accords dans le domaine des transports aériens et terrestres.

La Commission entendra les orientations du Conseil sur ce futur éventuel accord.

Amitiés,  
N. WEGTER

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.





Bruxelles, le 16 mars 1993

NOTE BIO 58 - SUITE 1 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX  
CC. AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE-PAROLE

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Conseil Transports du lundi 15 mars 1993  
(Oliver NETTE)

Le Conseil Transports d'hier n'a pas pris de décisions sur les dossiers importants qui étaient à l'ordre du jour, mais a procédé à des débats d'orientations en chargeant le COREPER de poursuivre des discussions afin d'arriver à des décisions lors du Conseil de juin.

Les principaux dossiers étaient les suivants:

1. Livre Blanc sur le développement de la politique des transports dans la Communauté. Le Conseil a favorablement accueilli ce livre blanc présenté par M. Matutes et souhaite décider des priorités d'action en juin. Il y a eu accord pour estimer que toute politique de transport devait prendre en compte les spécificités régionales (densité de la population, caractéristiques des infrastructures).
2. Communication de la Commission concernant les relations avec les pays tiers. Le Conseil a adopté un projet de conclusion où il affirme notamment que "les négociations avec les pays tiers devraient être menées au niveau de la Communauté lorsque le Conseil a établi l'existence d'un intérêt commun clairement défini au sein des Etats-membres".

Le Conseil a cependant également affirmé que les Etats-membres conservent "intégralement leur compétence en ce qui concerne leurs relations avec les pays tiers dans le domaine de l'aviation", et estime que toute disposition législative communautaire devrait être fondée sur l'article 84.2 du Traité.

Pour la Commission, M. Matutes a contesté cette analyse. En effet, la Commission estime que les décisions en la matière doivent être basées sur l'article 113, ce qui revient à confirmer la compétence communautaire dans ce domaine (que le Conseil conteste).

Devant la presse, M. Matutes a affirmé qu'il n'exclut pas que la Commission porte prochainement cette question devant la Cour.

3. Proposition de règlement du Conseil modifiant le règlement relatif à la mise en oeuvre d'un programme d'action en vue de la réalisation du marché intégré des transports.

Le Conseil estime suffisant un MEN de 325 Mécus par deux ans, mais ne prendra de décision qu'à l'issue de la procédure de consultation demandée par le Parlement sur ce dossier.

4. Schémas directeurs (transport combiné, réseaux routiers, voies navigables).

Le Conseil a fait un accueil favorable à ces schémas. La discussion se poursuivra au COREPER. Si l'avis du Parlement intervient avant juin (ce qui n'est pas évident, le Parlement préférant peut-être attendre l'entrée en vigueur de Maastricht), une décision pourrait être prise en juin.

5. Fiscalité des transports routiers et cabotage.

Discussion pendant le déjeuner. Décision prévue pour juin.

6. Transports maritimes - sécurité.

Accueil très favorable de la proposition de la Commission. Adoption prévue pour juin.



Amitiés,  
Xavier PRATS