

PRESS RELEASE

6705/93 (Presse 83)

1663rd Council Meeting
DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION
Brussels, 25 May 1993

President : Mrs Helle DEGN,
Minister for Development Co-operation of
the Kingdom of Denmark

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

Belgium:

Mr Erik DERYCKE

State Secretary for Co-operation and Development

Denmark:

Mrs Helle DEGN

Minister for Development Co-operation

Germany:

Mr Hans-Peter REPNIK

Parliamentary State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Economic Co-operation

Greece:

Mr Georges PAPASTAMKOS

State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Spain:

Mr Inocencio ARIAS

State Secretary for International Co-operation and Latin America

France:

Mr Michel ROUSSIN

Minister for Development Co-operation

Ireland:

Mr Tom KITT

Minister of State for European Affairs and Overseas Development Aid

Italy:

Mr Carmelo AZZARA

State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Luxemburg:

Mr Georges WOHLFART

State Secretary for Foreign Affairs and Co-operation

Netherlands:

Mr Jan PRONK

Minister for Development Co-operation

Portugal:

Mr José Manuel BRIOSA E GALA

State Secretary for Co-operation

United Kingdom:

Baroness CHALKER

Minister for Overseas Development

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Commission:

Mr Manuel MARIN

"DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION POLICY IN THE RUN-UP TO 2000"

The Council held an open debate on the follow-up to its declaration of November 1992 on Development Co-operation Policy in the run-up to 2000. This debate covered in particular the strategy of the Community and its Member States regarding the fight against poverty as well as the priorities in the field of co-ordination of development policies of the Community and its Member States, in order to enhance their efficiency.

Fight against poverty

At the end of this debate, the Presidency drew the following conclusions :

The Council had a constructive discussion on development policy up to the year 2000. The discussion confirmed the Council's firm commitment to combatting poverty in the developing countries.

It stressed that measures to combat poverty cannot be taken in the context of development co-operation alone, that greater cohesion in policy vis-à-vis the developing countries and policy co-ordination with the recipient countries and other donors is important and that the dialogue with the governments of the recipient countries concerning distribution policies in those countries must be reinforced.

The Council considered that future discussions could, inter alia, focus on :

- channelling development aid to the poorest countries and the poorest groups in the developing countries;
- access by the poorest groups to productive work, the redistribution of income and prosperity as well as the integration of the poor in the development process;
- support for measures to combat poverty taken by the recipient countries themselves, and the possibility of making development aid conditional on such measures.

The Council expressed its intention to adopt at its next meeting operational conclusions concerning a strategy to combat poverty.

Co-ordination of development policies

As far as co-ordination of development policies is concerned, the Council adopted the following conclusions:

1. In its 18th November 1992 Declaration on aspects of development co-operation policy in the run-up to 2000 the Council requested the Commission to review its past Resolutions and Conclusions with the aim of identifying priority areas for policy co-ordination in the future in relation to all developing countries.
2. The principal objectives of Community and Member States' development policies were reaffirmed in the November Declaration which also stated that the complementarity of Community aid to the policies pursued by the Member States should be ensured by co-ordination mechanisms. The aim at present is to determine in what areas policy co-ordination would contribute to these objectives. The Council regards the process of identifying priority areas as a continuing and dynamic process aimed at adjusting and increasing the effectiveness of its policies and thus meeting the challenges of the nineties.
3. The Council notes the Commission's communication on this subject and, for a large part, shares its analysis. It agrees that the following main criteria should be used to determine priorities for those areas where policy co-ordination is still required:
 - = contribution to the main objectives of Community development policy;
 - = existence of comparative advantage. In this respect the Council recalls that in its November Declaration it expressed its willingness to consider priority areas where policy co-ordination may have a positive impact on the effectiveness of Community and Member States' development assistance;
 - = need to complete or adapt existing policy.
4. The importance of policy co-ordination in relation to measures to combat poverty was stressed at the November 1992 Council. The consideration of this issue will be central in the efforts to establish a strategy to combat poverty and should also be analyzed in relation to the subjects identified in this conclusion. The Council has recently started its discussion on poverty and will consider the matter further at its next meeting.
5. In addition, the Council considers that at this stage and without excluding further reflection on this subject:
 - initially policy co-ordination should be enhanced in the sectors of:
 - = health
 - = food security
 - = education and training
 - in certain fields, such as respect for human rights, family planning and support for structural adjustment, the Council has already provided for effective policy co-ordination and efforts should now primarily be concentrated on implementation;

- in a number of areas (environment, evaluation, role of women, emergency aid) where Community policy has been defined, a consolidation and updating may be required in the light of current or future circumstances and past experience;
- in other areas which either have not been adequately addressed in the past or become new priority areas for the 1990s, further consideration of the need for enhanced policy co-ordination will be required.

6. The Council invites the Commission to make appropriate proposals, taking into account the above conclusions, to enable it to fulfil the following indicative work programme which is intended to complement the programme agreed in the Declaration on Horizon 2000 of November 18, 1992:

October 1993:

- Poverty
- Health

Spring 1994:

- Food security

Autumn 1994:

- Education and training

The Council will keep the programme of future work under review and evaluate progress achieved at its session in the Autumn of 1994."

Operational co-ordination

The Council took note of a presentation by Mr MARIN of a Commission communication on operational co-ordination and requested the Committee of Permanent Representatives to examine it with a view to a discussion at the next Council meeting.

A SPECIAL INITIATIVE FOR AFRICA - CONCLUSIONS OF THE COUNCIL AND THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MEMBER STATES MEETING IN COUNCIL

- "1. The Council, having had a first exchange of views on the Commission's communication "A Special rehabilitation support programme in developing countries" adopts at this stage the following conclusions.
2. The Council is concerned about the extent and urgency of the rehabilitation needs facing many developing countries, in particular in Sub-Saharan Africa.

It recognizes Africa's close links with the European Community and recalls the substantial development efforts undertaken by the Community and its Member States in this continent and in particular the large rehabilitation programmes, financed by the Community and some Member States, recently decided for some African countries.

3. Against this background, the Council finds it of utmost importance for the Community to move with determination as early as possible in 1993 from emergency assistance to rehabilitation assistance in specific Sub-Saharan African countries, where the situation permits, by developing and implementing special country programmes targeted on the pressing rehabilitation needs of these countries.

Such rehabilitation assistance should be fully co-ordinated with the UN organizations and other donors, implemented where appropriate in close co-operation with NGOs and should bridge the gap between emergency aid and longer term development assistance enabling a return to an adequate level of subsistence. In this context, the Council recognizes the importance of establishing and maintaining stability and security in the countries concerned and the need for assistance in this area.

4. A number of countries affected by man-made or natural disasters, among which are some of the least developed, need fast track assistance such as immediate supply of agricultural and other inputs (e.g. seeds and tools) to restore rural productivity and support rehabilitation of basic infrastructures and social services. Swift action is also necessary to reconstitute the cattle population and food stocks, to ensure replantation and to reintegrate refugees and displaced persons and assist demobilised soldiers.
5. The Council underlines the urgency of this assistance in order to maximize the effectiveness of the initiative and move the situation away from instability and conflict and agrees to respond rapidly to these rehabilitation needs.
6. The Council considers that the main financing source should be a flexible use of EDF funds in accordance with existing procedures. In addition, in view of the urgency of the situation consideration should be given to providing resources supplementary to EDF from relevant and available Community budgetary sources. Furthermore, Member States will consider how best to give support to this initiative through co-ordinated bilateral action.
7. The Council requests the Commission to evaluate urgently the resources needed for rapid implementation. It considers that a sum of at least 100 MECU should be allocated immediately.

8. In certain Sub-Saharan African countries the initiative should begin without further delay. The Council accordingly requests the Commission to start immediately to design fast track rehabilitation programmes along the guidelines set out in these conclusions with a view to rapid implementation initially in countries where the Community is already engaged in rehabilitation programmes and in other Sub-Saharan countries as conditions permit.
9. The Council requests Coreper to pursue its examination of the Commission's communication on the special rehabilitation support programme in developing countries with a view to reaching conclusions at its next Council meeting."

FUTURE DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION WITH SOUTH AFRICA - COUNCIL DECLARATION

"The Council and the representatives of governments of Member States meeting in the Council agree on the following:

Policy guidelines

The Community and its Member States reaffirm the importance they attach to the process towards a democratic and non-racial South Africa. They are the biggest single donor in this country in particular through the special programme of positive measures established in the framework of EPC in 1985 and modified since then by the Council.

They recall their commitment to the complete abolition of the unacceptable system of apartheid by peaceful means and its replacement by a democratic, united and non-racial society in which all South Africans can participate in peace and harmony, regardless of colour and race. They reaffirm their readiness to continue and strengthen their support for the ongoing peace process in South Africa.

Concerned by the level of violence which still remains one of the most serious threats to democratisation and economic development in South Africa, they renew their call to all parties to sign the National Peace Accord and to participate in the peace structures. The Community and its Member States welcome the resumption of multiparty negotiations and urge all parties who have not yet done so to commit themselves to a speedy and peaceful transition to a democratic, non racial and united South Africa.

They reaffirm that the respect, promotion and safeguarding of human rights and the furtherance of democratic principles are among the cornerstones of European cooperation policy as well as of relations with other countries.

The deepening and normalisation of economic, trade and development relations between the Community and the Member States on one hand and South Africa on the other will have a profound impact on the future prospects of a democratic administration. The Community and its Member States will therefore signal to the negotiating partners in South Africa their desire to intensify their relations as soon as a Transitional Executive Council (TEC) is in place.

Member States welcome the way in which the Commission has implemented the special programme of positive measures since its inception in 1986.

Framework for action

The Community's programme of assistance should be based on the established development priorities and policies of the Community and in particular in relation to the elements of democratisation, rule of law, human rights, good governance and popular participation.

The programme should remain flexible. Its content and implementation would vary over a period of time taking into account the changing circumstances in South Africa, in particular the pace of democratisation of South African society and, in this context, the future government policies in favour of the poorest sectors of the society and the level and development of the South African economy.

It is considered that the political developments in South Africa require as a first step an assessment of how the special programme could be further refined to contribute more effectively to meeting the basic and immediate needs of the people of South Africa and improving the living standards of the population, in particular the poorest sections of it, with a view to making assistance supportive of the emerging democracy in this country.

Objectives

In line with the elements set out above under "framework for action", the main objectives of the EC programme would be

- to support peace structures and initiatives;
- to support the transition to a democratic government, including support for voter education and other preparations for elections;
- to support institution and capacity building, notably in the focal sectors mentioned below, and policy formulation, thus promoting consensus on development issues between the parties involved and to strengthen capacity in order to allow the implementation of social programmes as soon as possible;
- while continuing actions of the kind undertaken in the framework of the positive measures, to implement activities of longer-term nature within a number of focal sectors of special importance for the economic and social development of the vulnerable groups of the population.

Modalities

The implementation of the programme would have to take into account the developments towards the establishment of a democratic administration in South Africa and should

- focus on a limited number of sectors and be programme oriented whilst maintaining flexibility, notably through decentralised management;
- encompass cooperation with and through NGOs (which play a particularly valuable role in civic society) including community-based organisations (CBOs) and, where appropriate, through organs of the interim/transitional arrangements.

Consideration should be given to the future procedures for allocation and implementation of the programme along the lines which apply to other EC development programmes."

HUMAN RIGHTS, DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT

The Council agreed to monitor the progress achieved in strengthening practical and operational support for democracy and human rights in developing countries on the basis of the policy already agreed by the Council and the Member States.

It also adopted the following declaration as a basis for the position on human rights, democracy and development to be presented on behalf of the Community and its Member States at the UN World Conference in Vienna in June 1993.

1. The Council of the European Community and the representatives of Member States see the United Nations World Conference on Human Rights to be convened in Vienna in June 1993 as an important opportunity to pursue the international dialogue and co-operation on issues relating to human rights, democracy and development.
2. They re-affirm the major policy resolution adopted by the Council and the Member States in November 1991, supplemented by the conclusions of November 1992 on human rights, democracy and development, which remain valid as the basis for their common position on these subjects. They also note the position paper of April 1993 adopted by the European Community and its Member States within the framework of the Preparatory Committee.
3. The Community and its Member States draw particular attention to the universality and indivisibility of human rights and the obligation of all States to respect them. They stress the important role of development assistance in promoting both economic, social and cultural rights as well as civil and political liberties by means of representative democratic government based on respect for human rights.
4. They underline the link between human rights, democracy and development. Human rights and democracy form part of a larger set of requirements, including good governance and restraint in military spending, necessary to achieve equitable, sustainable economic and social development.
5. The Community and its Member States consider that freedom from hunger and absolute poverty as well as the right to adequate shelter, education and health care are areas which need to be addressed with added urgency.
6. The Community and its Member States have noted the progress achieved so far during the preparatory work before the World Conference. They express determination to continue to play a constructive and consensus-building role in the process towards reaching agreement on a substantive and forward-looking Final Document to be agreed at the World Conference.
7. The Community and its Member States are determined to pursue an open and constructive dialogue with other countries as a means of promoting human rights, democracy and development in all parts of the world.

8. On this basis the Community and its Member States will seek to reflect in the outcome of the Conference the positive experiences gained through practical development co-operation in the field of human rights and democracy; i.a. in relation to the implementation of the Council Resolution of November 1991 in a number of developing countries, and in particular in the framework of the Lomé Convention and the San José development co-operation programme.
9. The Community and its Member States also reaffirm in this context their willingness to consider the possibility of increased assistance to developing countries in which substantive positive changes in human rights and democracy have taken place.
10. One of the central objectives pursued by the Community and its Member States is to provide for a strengthening of the positive support for human rights and democracy by providing technical assistance in key areas, such as institution-building within the public sector, strengthening of a pluralistic civil society and the protection of vulnerable groups.
11. However, in the event of grave and persistent human rights violations or serious interruption of democratic processes, the Community and its Member States, in accordance with their Resolution of 1991, will continue to take appropriate action in the light of the circumstances guided by objective and equitable criteria. Measures will be graduated according to the gravity of each case and might, when necessary, include the suspension of co-operation with the State concerned.
12. The importance of the principle of full participation by the people in the democratic and pluralistic processes, as well as of full observance of human rights, political and civil liberties, the rule of law, the subordination of military and security forces to civil authority, separation of powers and the independence and impartiality of the judiciary is confirmed by the experience of development co-operation.
13. This recognition by the European Community and its development partners should be reflected in the Final Document of the World Conference which should provide for a strengthening of development co-operation in areas such as:
 - constitutional processes;
 - the preparation and holding of free elections, the setting up of democratic institutions, and support for those already created;
 - the strengthening of the judiciary, the administration of justice, training of police, crime prevention, and the treatment of offenders;
 - demobilization and peaceful settlement of ethnic and other conflict;
 - promotion of the role of NGO's and other institutions which are necessary for a pluralistic society;
 - promotion of a free press and other media;
 - promotion of a participative co-operation by enhancing decentralization through the involvement i.a. of organizations and movements at grass root level;

- the setting up of national and regional independent human rights organizations and of "ombudsman" institutions;
 - special measures to protect and support the rights of women;
 - strategies for the protection of the rights of indigenous people, taking into account their needs and wishes in development processes;
 - special measures to protect vulnerable groups, including persons belonging to minorities, refugees and displaced persons, children and handicapped.
14. The Community and its Member States will endeavour to increase their financial and technical assistance in these areas.
15. To sustain the co-operation within such areas the administrative and implementing capacity of the UN Centre for Human Rights as well as the funding for advisory services and technical co-operation provided by the United Nations should be substantially expanded.
16. The Community and its Member States strongly support the system-wide application of human rights in the United Nations. They therefore suggest that appropriate high level follow-up measures be decided by the United Nations World Conference on Human Rights."

HUMANITARIAN AND EMERGENCY AID - COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

- "1. The Council, taking into account its Resolution of 28 November 1991, welcomes the administrative measures taken by the Commission, with the establishment of the European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO), in order to enhance the efficiency of the Community's own humanitarian aid and ensure a better co-ordination with other donors and humanitarian organizations. At the same time the Council considers, in view in particular of the fact that the need for humanitarian and emergency aid has greatly increased in recent years, it is necessary to make further progress in this area.
2. In the discussions which have taken place since the November 1992 Council, notably at the Director-Generals' meeting called by ECHO in March, attention has been drawn to the need for openness, dialogue and visibility in the field of emergency aid.
3. The Council recalls its Resolution of November 28, 1991 on the holding of meetings of correspondents to deal with emergency relief operations with a view to strengthening the co-operation and co-ordination between the Community and its Member States. It welcomes the role which such meetings have played in strengthening co-ordination, and believes that these would be further enhanced by advance circulation of documentation, earlier announcement of meetings and clearer agenda. The Council further agrees that meetings between the heads of national emergency units and the Commission should be organized and convened by the Commission at its own initiative or upon request from Member States at least quarterly. These meetings will address both general and specific issues concerning humanitarian and emergency aid. Policy issues which emerge from these meetings may where appropriate be taken up in the Council framework, by the Member States and/or the Commission.
4. Special attention should be given to disaster preparedness and early warning and appropriate interventions so as to limit the effects of catastrophes.
5. The Council has agreed on the definition of emergency aid which appears in Annex. In this context the Council stresses the importance of the link between emergency aid and rehabilitation assistance. It calls on the Commission to reorient its existing programmes in certain cases to allow a smooth transition between emergency aid and longer term development assistance without affecting the overall balance of Community aid.
6. The Council recognizes the central and independent role of NGOs in the implementation of Community emergency aid and the need to allow as broad a participation as possible of NGOs from the different Member States, taking into account the need to ensure efficiency in the implementation of this assistance. It is important for the Community to take advantage of the special expertise and experience of European NGOs, large and small, and to strengthen co-operation and dialogue with them on relevant aspects of policy as well as on individual projects. The Council notes the Commission's intention to pursue, on a step by step basis, the introduction of partnership contracts as a means of strengthening co-operation between it and European NGOs. The objective of such contracts should be to strengthen the co-operation between the Commission and the NGOs and they should not hinder the necessary flexibility in working with them. The Council considers it necessary that procedures in this area should be further developed in consultation with the Member States and in co-operation with NGOs.

7. At the same time, greater advantage should be taken of the possibilities which exist for co-operation with local NGOs and other relevant agencies.
8. The Council underlines the importance of improved transparency in this context as well as improved financial procedures in order to enhance the NGOs' role in Community emergency aid. Particular emphasis should be given to timely and speedy settlement of financial accounts. While the Council expressed its appreciation of steps already taken by the Commission in this regard, it calls for further improvement, including a review of existing reporting and accounting procedures.
9. Recalling its Resolution of 1991, the Council reaffirms the need for close co-ordination with the UN system to increase the effectiveness of emergency aid and to strengthen the international response to emergency situations.
10. The Council requests the Commission to submit to it an annual report on the Community's humanitarian and emergency aid activities.

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ANNEX

DEFINITION OF HUMANITARIAN AND EMERGENCY AID

Emergency aid is defined as the provision of humanitarian assistance to those affected by natural and man made disasters, both of a sudden and a longer term nature, such as floods, earthquakes, droughts and armed conflicts, or situations having a similar effect. It includes the provision of urgent assistance such as shelter, emergency feeding and medical treatment, and may in certain cases include short-term rehabilitation (in accordance with existing decision-making procedures), both to ensure the delivery of that urgent assistance and to begin to help restore such communities to an adequate level of self-sufficiency. "

FOLLOW-UP TO THE UNCED

In view of the first substantial meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) to be held in New York from 14-25 June 1993, the Council discussed several aspects of the follow-up to UNCED.

Following the global financial commitment of 3 billion ECUS made in Rio, the Council confirmed that the Community and its Member States would provide an initial tranche of 600 MECU in 1993 for specific projects and programmes in Key Agenda 21 sectors. In addition, the Community and its Member States will on a best efforts basis provide an extra 20% (of 600 MECU) in new and additional resources.

The Council also took note that expert meetings on certain key sectors had been organized by several Member States and the Commission in order to identify initiatives and possible programmes, projects and joint actions and to consider areas for cooperation between Member States and the Commission. The Council welcomed work achieved so far and agreed that this should be continued. Furthermore, the Council took note of information transmitted by the Commission which will form the basis for a factual report to the CSD.

WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT - COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

1. The Council reaffirms the importance that it attaches to ensuring that women in developing countries participate in and benefit from all aspects of development activities and are thereby enabled to play their full role in the development process on more equal terms.
2. At its meeting on 29 May 1990 the Council invited the Commission and the Member States to take practical steps to ensure that activities aimed at promoting the role of women in development are continued and strengthened by setting up the necessary management systems and allocating adequate personnel and other resources.
3. The Council notes the information provided by the Commission on its activities in this field since 1990. It welcomes in particular the effort made to incorporate this aspect in the implementation of the Lomé IV Convention and, in this regard underlines the usefulness of the manual prepared by the Commission and dealing with the methods by which the Community's policy can be incorporated into Lomé IV projects and programmes.

The Council encourages the Commission to pursue and reinforce its present activities along the same lines in its development co-operation with Asian, Latin American and Mediterranean countries.

The Council also notes with satisfaction the staff sensitisation and training programme set up by the Commission and efforts made to raise the awareness of decision-makers in ACP countries.

4. Acknowledging the progress that has been made, the Council urges that an assessment of the impact of these activities be carried out and invites the Commission, taking account of the thematic evaluation carried out in 1988/89, to prepare such an impact assessment with a view to establishing a sound basis for discussion on the direction of future policies on women in development of the Community and its Member States. The impact assessment, which should be completed by the end of 1993, should also take account of the question of staff resource requirements for handling these issues in the Commission.
5. The Council has over recent years adopted a number of conclusions on women in development and it considers that there is now a need to review them with a view to preparing consolidated Community and Member States' policy guidelines on this subject. It intends to adopt a Resolution on such a policy at its meeting in the first half of 1994.

The Council emphasises that policies being discussed as follow-up to its Declaration on "Development Co-operation in the Run-up to 2000", must take full account of their implications for both women and men. The Council especially refers to such issues as poverty, health and AIDS, education, population including family planning, human rights and democratization, urban development and structural adjustment.

6. The Community and its Member States will participate actively and in a concerted way in the preparatory process leading to the Fourth World Conference on Women to be held in Beijing in September 1995 and in the Conference itself. They also support as wide as possible participation by European NGOs in the context of this Conference.

7. The Council welcomes the Commission's offer to convene a meeting of experts on women in development from the Commission and the Member States during the second half of 1993. At its October session the Council may wish to review progress in the follow-up to these conclusions."

POPULATION POLICY

The Council took note of work undertaken at expert level in the field of population policy since its adoption of a resolution on this subject in November 1992 and requested that this work should be pursued and that the Commission should submit a progress report for its next meeting.

SITUATION IN CERTAIN AFRICAN COUNTRIES

The Council held an exchange of views on the situation in certain African countries, in the light of which the Presidency drew the following conclusions:

Sudan

The Council noted with deep concern the serious humanitarian situation throughout the Sudan, where malnutrition, disease and large numbers of displaced persons had followed in the wake of war and drought. The Council found that the situation called for the urgent attention of the international Community and welcomed the appointment by the United Nations Secretary General of a special envoy for Humanitarian Affairs for the Sudan. It decided to send a Troika mission of Development Ministers to Sudan to underline the seriousness with which the Community and its Member States view the humanitarian crisis and the urgent need for all parties to ensure a resolution of the problems. The Council expressed the commitment of the Community and its Member States to support the convening of a United Nations donors conference on the Sudan as soon as possible after cessation of hostilities. At the same time the Council confirmed its readiness to continue the humanitarian efforts of the Community and its Member States in 1993.

Somalia

The Council welcomed the progress during the last 6 months towards peace and security. The Council confirmed the common policy agreed upon in connection with the Addis Ababa donor conference in March this year and confirmed their participation in the planned donor conference in Nairobi in June. The Council underlined that the Community and its Member States will continue to support the leading role of the UN in the political as well as the assistance efforts. It stressed the importance of including the whole of Somalia in the peace process and recalled that the Community and its Member States see a clear connection between the will of Somali politicians to reconcile and ensure security and the possibilities of supporting rehabilitation programmes. The Council was satisfied that an EC-assessment mission was expected to visit Somalia early June in order to assess in which way the Community and its Member States can support rehabilitation of Somalia.

Eritrea

The Community and its Member States agree that there is a great need for rapid rehabilitation assistance to Eritrea after 30 years of civil war. The Council expressed the wish that the question of Eritrea's adherence to the Lomé Convention should be settled as soon as possible.

Rwanda

The Council noted the serious humanitarian situation of the tens of thousands of refugees in Rwanda following the collapse of the cease-fire in February this year. The Council urged the parties concerned to continue the peace negotiations on the basis of the Arusha agreements.

Angola

The Council underlined the importance of bringing the parties back to the negotiation table under the auspices of the UN. The Community and its Member States expressed at the same time their willingness to continue their humanitarian assistance to the distressed population.

Mozambique

The Council underlined the importance of maintaining the pressure on the two parties concerned in order to avoid further delay in the peace process and in particular the need for a close and continuous contact with the Mozambique Government, with RENAMO and with the UN.

UNTYING OF MEMBER STATES' AID AT COMMUNITY LEVEL

The Council briefly discussed untying of Member States' aid at Community level and noted the latest positions of delegations on this subject. The Commission stated that, in the light of the discussion, it would prepare appropriate proposals.

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COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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Bruxelles, le 24 mai 1993

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Préparation du Conseil Développement du 25 5. 93

Le Conseil Développement commencera ses travaux le mardi 25 mai à Bruxelles. Voici les principaux points à l'ordre du jour

1) La politique de coopération au développement à l'horizon 2000. Suivi de la déclaration du Conseil.

Il s'agit d'un débat ouvert sur différents points, à savoir

* lutte contre la pauvreté - le débat sera orienté par un document de réflexion de la Commission qui s'articule autour des questions suivantes :

1. des efforts coordonnés d'amélioration de l'information et de la connaissance de la pauvreté dans les PVD;

2. l'influence sur les politiques macro-économiques;

3. l'appui au niveau sectoriel, dans trois grands domaines : la santé et l'éducation; la sécurité alimentaire et le développement rural; les infrastructures matérielles;

4. l'appui direct aux acteurs économiques et sociaux;

5. la mise en oeuvre d'une assistance technique spécifique à la lutte contre la pauvreté

* coordination des politiques :

Dans la suite à la Déclaration du Conseil du 18 Novembre, le Conseil devrait pouvoir adopter des conclusions au sujet de la coordination entre l'aide communautaire et celles apportées par les Etats membres

2) Initiative spéciale pour l'Afrique

Le Conseil examinera la communication que la Commission vient de lui soumettre concernant une initiative spéciale d'appui à la réhabilitation pour les pays en développement. Ce programme spécial doit faire le lien entre les aides à caractère humanitaire et la reprise des programmes d'appui au développement à long terme pour ces pays qui émergent d'une situation de crise ou de guerre ou sont affectés par d'autres facteurs.

Les ministres auront un débat d'orientation sur cette question.

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3) Afrique du Sud

Le Conseil adoptera des orientations concernant le Programme Spécial d'assistance, pour tenir compte de l'évolution politique de l'Afrique du Sud

4) Mise en oeuvre de la Résolution sur les Droits de l'Homme, la Démocratie et le Développement

Le Conseil approuvera une déclaration dans laquelle il réaffirmera la résolution politique adoptée en novembre 1991 et confirmée en novembre 1992 sur les droits de l'homme, la démocratie et le développement après examen de la mise en oeuvre de cette même résolution.

5) Le Conseil examinera aussi le fonctionnement de l'aide humanitaire d'urgence, les suites à donner à la Conférence de Rio et fera le point sur le dossier "femmes et développement"

Lors du déjeuner seront abordés, entre autres, les sujets "Politique démographique" et situation dans certains pays d'Afrique

Amitiés,

B. DETHOMAS

Bruxelles, le 26 mai 1993

BIO(93) 141 (suite 1) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
CC. AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE-PAROLE

Conseil Développement du 25.5.93

Le Conseil Développement s'est réuni le 25 mai 1993 à Bruxelles. Il a adopté une série de conclusions et notamment :

- Politique de coopération au développement à l'horizon 2000.

Le débat a porté essentiellement sur la stratégie contre la pauvreté et la coordination des politiques. Les conclusions établissent un calendrier dans lequel les secteurs prioritaires retenus ont été la santé, la sécurité alimentaire, l'éducation et la formation. La Commission devra présenter des propositions entre Octobre 93 et l'automne 94.

- L'initiative spéciale pour l'Afrique.

M. MARIN a présenté la communication de la Commission proposant une initiative spéciale d'appui à la réhabilitation pour les pays en développement. Cette proposition prévoyait la possibilité de bénéficier de cet instrument pour tous les PVD, une dotation pour 93 et 94 de 1 milliard d'ECU et des procédures de mise en oeuvre permettant une exécution rapide et efficace. Le Conseil, tout en renvoyant à un stade ultérieur l'examen approfondi de cette proposition, a adopté sur base d'une proposition de la présidence une initiative spéciale pour l'Afrique dotée de fonds pour un montant de 100 millions d'ECU en provenance principalement des ressources du FED et à mettre en oeuvre avec les procédures existantes.

- Futur développement de la coopération avec l'Afrique du Sud.

Le Conseil a ensuite adopté une déclaration concernant l'avenir de la coopération avec l'Afrique du Sud. Cette déclaration, tout en soulignant la préoccupation de la Communauté pour la poursuite des violences dans ce pays, indique le cadre d'une future coopération au développement, ainsi que les objectifs et les modalités. Cette déclaration réaffirme que la politique de coopération sera fondée sur la démocratisation et le respect de la légalité des droits de l'homme.

- Droits de l'homme, démocratie et développement

Le Conseil a adopté ensuite une déclaration sur Droits de l'homme, démocratie et développement en vue aussi du rendez-vous de la Conférence mondiale des Nations Unies sur les Droits de l'homme convoquée à Vienne en juin 1993.

- Suites de la Conférence de Rio

Le Conseil a confirmé l'engagement de la Communauté suite à la CNUED en indiquant que le montant global pour 1993 s'élève à 600 MECU pour des projets spécifiques auxquels la Communauté et ses Etats membres vont ajouter un montant supplémentaire de 20%.

Le Conseil a adopté également des conclusions concernant deux sujet : l'aide humanitaire et l'aide d'urgence, et femmes et développement.

Lors du déjeuner le Conseil a eu un échange de vues sur certains pays d'Afrique, notamment Soudan, Somalie, Erythrée, Rwanda, Angola et Mozambique.

Lors d'une conférence de presse de la présidence et de M. MARIN, en réponse à des questions, M. MARIN a pu souligner que :

- l'initiative spéciale pour l'Afrique prévoit une dotation de 100 millions d'ECU qui ne sont pas des fonds additionnels,
- des programmes pour quatre pays visés par cette décision, décidés en 92 et en cours d'exécution portent sur 273 millions d'ECU (Mozambique, Ethiopie, Angola et Erythrée),
- l'utilisation de procédures lentes du FED pour la mise en oeuvre de ce type d'action sont de nature à rendre très difficile la réalisation rapide d'actions de réhabilitation.

Amitiés,

B. DETHOMAS

