



COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT



PRESS RELEASE

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1669th Council Meeting
- GENERAL AFFAIRS -
- POLITICAL CO-OPERATION -

Luxembourg, 7, 8 and 9 June 1993

President: Mr Niels HELVEG PETERSEN

Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Kingdom of Denmark

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

Belgium:

Mr Willy CLAES Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Robert URBAIN Minister for Foreign Trade and European Affairs

Denmark:

Mr Niels HELVEG PETERSEN Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Jorgen ØSTRØM MØLLER State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Germany:

Mr Klaus KINKEL Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mrs Ursula SEILER-ALBRING Minister of State, Foreign Affairs
Mr Johann EEKHOFF State Secretary for Economic Affairs

Greece:

Mr Michalis PAPACONSTANTINOU Minister for Foreign Affairs

Spain:

Mr Carlos WESTENDORP State Secretary for Relations with the European Communities

France:

Mr Alain JUPPE Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Alain LAMASSOURE Minister with special responsibility for European Affairs

Ireland:

Mr Dick SPRING Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Tom KITT Minister of State at the Department of the Taoiseach with special responsibility for European Affairs

Italy:

Mr Beniamino ANDREATTA Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Paolo BARATTA Minister for Foreign Trade

Luxembourg:

Mr Jacques POOS Minister for Foreign Affairs

Netherlands:

Mr P. KOOIJMANS Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Piet DANKERT State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Portugal:

Mr José Manuel Durao BARROSO Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Vitor MARTINS State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

United Kingdom:

Mr Douglas HURD Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs
Mr David HEATHCOAT-AMORY Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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Commission:

Mr Jacques DELORS President
Sir Leon BRITTAN Member
Mr Hans VAN DEN BROEK Member
Mr Bruce MILLAN Member

Also participated:

Lord OWEN (for the item on the former Yugoslavia)

RELATIONS WITH THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

The Council prepared for the interinstitutional meeting with the European Parliament and the Commission, which was held on the evening of Monday 7 June and concerned the conditions governing the mediator's role, an open political discussion on institutional issues and an institutional agreement on the principle of subsidiarity.

ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS

The Council defined the position to be adopted by the Community on the various issues on the agenda for the second ministerial meetings with the 4 applicant countries, which were held on Tuesday 8 June with Finland (morning) and Sweden (late afternoon) and on Wednesday 9 June with Austria and Norway (afternoon).

DECLARATION ON THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA

The Community and its Member States pledge themselves to intensify efforts to achieve a lasting and equitable peace in the former Yugoslavia in close co-operation with the rest of the international community. In this context, the Community and its Member States are looking forward to meeting US Secretary of State, Warren Christopher, in Luxembourg on 9 June 1993.

The Vance-Owen Peace Plan remains the centrepiece of EC strategy for peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina. There is no feasible alternative to the Vance-Owen Peace Plan as the basis for reaching a durable political solution based on the principles agreed by all at the London Conference, including the sovereignty of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, the inviolability of its territorial integrity, respect for its pluralist character, and the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force. Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg, who have the authority to pursue implementation of the Vance-Owen Peace Plan through contacts with the parties, have our full confidence and support in this matter.

The Community and its Member States welcome the measures developed and supported by the Community and its Member States in the Joint Action Programme agreed on 22 May 1993 in Washington by the Foreign Ministers of five members of the Security Council, with the aim of preparing the ground for the implementation of the Vance-Owen Peace Plan. They attach importance to the new commitments of the United States and Russia in this task.

The Community and its Member States lend their full support to SCR 836 on safe areas, which has as its immediate objective the protection of lives now threatened by aggressive military action, and which constitutes a first step in the comprehensive implementation of the Vance-Owen Peace Plan. Implementation of this resolution requires additional troops and funding, and the Community and its Member States support the efforts of the UNSG to this end with other members of the international community.

The sanctions imposed by the United Nations Security Council against Serbia/Montenegro and the Bosnian Serbs will be rigorously enforced until the conditions in the relevant UNSC Resolutions for their lifting have been met. The Community and its Member States will continue to monitor closely the situation in the Krajina, as well as any Croatian acts in contravention of the Vance-Owen Peace Plan in Bosnia-Herzegovina. They will initiate restrictive measures against Croatia if the situation so requires. They insist that all parties protect the lives and safety of relief personnel and let relief convoys pass unimpeded. The Community and its Member States are concerned about a possible spill-over of the conflict. They support a substantial increase in the preventive international presence in Kosovo and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

The Community and its Member States reaffirm that options for new and tougher measures must be kept open.

SOUTH AFRICA

The Council heard a report from its President on his recent journey to South Africa and the evolution of the situation in that country.

In his presentation to the press, the President stressed the following points: The Community and its Member States deem it important to be ready to adjust their policy towards South Africa concurrently with developments in that country towards majority rule and democracy.

The Community and its Member States see the establishment of the Transitional Executive Council as one of the most important steps towards majority rule. For the first time in the history of South Africa a kind of governmental forum with representatives of the majority of the population will come into being.

The Community and its Member States will take the following steps once the TEC is in place:

- a new development initiative will be launched. There will be a dialogue with the TEC on development co-operation. The Council (Development) has already adopted the major outline of the new programme, with more emphasis on democratization and support for institution building;
- Member States will, where appropriate, likewise be ready to enter into a dialogue with the TEC on development matters, including support for the election process;
- the Community and its Member States will be ready to enter into a dialogue with the TEC on future economic relations between the Community and South Africa.
- the Community and its Member States will strive to promote a decision within the World Bank, IMF and other relevant international organizations for a normalization of relations with South Africa;
- reporting under the Code of Conduct for European enterprises in South Africa will be discontinued. Heads of Mission will report annually on developments in the area of labour conditions, in particular concerning equality of opportunities;
- the Commission's office in South Africa will be upgraded to a normal Delegation;
- the ban on military attachés accredited to South Africa and on granting of accreditation to military attachés from South Africa will be lifted, solely with a view to promoting the democratization and integration process in the security field;
- likewise, the freezing of official contacts and international agreements in the security field will be discontinued.

DECLARATION ON SOMALIA

The Community and its Member States express their deep concern over the events in Mogadishu in recent days and condemn without reservation the premeditated killing and wounding of Pakistani soldiers who were conducting a weapons verification inspection with UNOSOM II. They express their regret and sympathy to the people and Government of Pakistan, and especially to the families of those who lost their lives.

The Community and its Member States reiterate their full support for the United Nations in its efforts to bring peace and stability to Somalia. They look forward to the publication of the Secretary General's enquiry into the recent incident and the role of the factional leaders involved.

The Community and its Member States call on all Somali parties, movements, and factions to respect the ceasefire, to comply with the agreements on political reconciliation they entered into in Addis Ababa in March and to co-operate fully with UNOSOM II so that it can fulfil its essential humanitarian mandate.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CFSP

The Ministers took note of current preparatory work on security with a view to implementation of the CFSP and instructed the Political Committee to continue that work.

IRAQ

Ministers noted that the critical situation of the UN Inter-agency Humanitarian Programme for Iraq gives rise to deep concern. The Community and its Member States will be prepared to contribute further to this programme.

URUGUAY ROUND

The Council heard a report by Sir Leon BRITTAN on the state of play in the negotiations concerning the Uruguay Round.

The Council also welcomed the presentation by the French Foreign Minister of his Government's memorandum on the Uruguay Round.

The Council had a thorough exchange of views on these statements, which should contribute to giving a new impetus to the negotiations with a view to bringing them to a successful conclusion.

The Council reaffirmed the Community's will to achieve a substantial, global and balanced result through truly multilateral negotiations. The Council considered that it is a main objective of the negotiations that international trade take place under commonly agreed rules so that unilateral action is avoided.

To this end the Council will follow closely developments over the coming months in order to permit the Commission to play an active and constructive role in the negotiations. The Commission will report regularly on progress in the negotiations with a view to creating the conditions for a satisfactory agreement.

RELATIONS WITH THE COUNTRIES OF CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

With a view to the Copenhagen European Council meeting, the Council examined the various aspects of the Commission communication concerning closer association with the CCEE. The chapters in question concern the objective of accession, the establishment of more structured relations with the CCEE, including the possibility of meetings at Head of State and Government level, the improvement of market access, increased efficiency of aid and encouragement of economic integration.

The Council established guidelines or options relating to those various aspects, for submission to the European Council.

RELATIONS WITH RUSSIA

The Council noted a statement by Sir Leon BRITTAN on progress in the negotiations with Russia for a Partnership and Co-operation Agreement.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

The Council heard a presentation by Commissioner PINHEIRO of the Commission communication, further to a preliminary Commission communication on the matter submitted in May, on measures to increase public access to information.

The Council held a preliminary discussion on the communication and instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to prepare for its subsequent work on the issue.

REFORM OF THE STRUCTURAL FUNDS

The Council had before it a Presidency note taking stock of the work done since the Commission submission, in March and April, of 6 proposals for Regulations concerning the reform of the Structural Funds.

The note referred to the agreement already reached on a number of issues and also indicated the problems outstanding, especially as regards a number of political questions. The main issues examined to date are as follows:

- the list of Objective 1 regions
- the allocation of financial resources
- new Objectives 3 and 4 of the Community's structural action
- the programming procedure for Objectives 1 to 4 and 5b
- the programming procedure for Objective 5a
- the choice of regions and/or areas covered by Objectives 2 and 5b
- Committee procedure
- Community initiatives
- the financing of structural action for fisheries and the establishment of a financial instrument for that purpose (FIG).

Broad agreement had been reached on the problem of programming for Objectives 1 to 4 and 5b and substantial progress had been achieved on the allocation of financial resources and Objectives 3 and 4.

At this meeting the Council was required in particular to discuss the following three issues:

- the list of Objective 1 regions
- the choice of Objective 2 and 5b regions
- the programming procedure for Objective 5a.

At the end of its discussions the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue examining the various proposals for Regulations with a view to the adoption of a Council common position at an extraordinary meeting scheduled for 2 July 1993.

COPENHAGEN EUROPEAN COUNCIL

The Council briefly discussed preparations for the European Council meeting in Copenhagen on 21 and 22 June 1993.

Those preparations are also the subject of the current tour of Member States' capitals by the President of the European Council.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS**Relations with the Republic of Korea - Council conclusions**

The Council adopted the following conclusions on the basis of a Commission communication:

1. The Council takes note of the state of economic relations between the Community and the Republic of Korea.

It recognizes that, whereas trade between the Community and the Republic of Korea has considerably increased in the last decade, the level of exchanges with the Republic of Korea should be further developed in order to reflect the importance of both the Community and the Republic of Korea in world trade.

2. The Council welcomes the promising steps taken by the Republic of Korea in recent years towards eliminating barriers to trade and improving conditions for foreign investment; it nevertheless expresses serious concern about the recent tendency towards tariff increases in certain sectors.
3. The Council calls upon the Republic of Korea to make early and substantial further progress towards the liberalization of trade and investment, to remove the significant tariff and non-tariff barriers still facing European enterprises seeking to do business in the Republic of Korea, and to harmonize tariff levels. The Republic of Korea should take measures which are unambiguous and respect GATT principles, these measures should follow a precise timetable and not discriminate between the Republic of Korea's trading partners.

In particular, the Council calls upon the Republic of Korea:

- (i) not to discourage imports through frugality campaigns or in other ways, but to apply consistent and transparent procedures to the import and distribution of goods and services from abroad;
- (ii) to eliminate non-tariff barriers affecting industrial and consumer goods, including motor vehicles, and agro-food products;
- (iii) to provide an adequate level of protection and enforcement of all intellectual property rights, including designations of origin;
- (iv) to abstain from applying emergency and adjustment duties and to bind tariff schedules at current levels;

- (v) to ensure that public procurement rules are implemented in a non-discriminatory way, notably for telecommunications equipment;
 - (vi) to provide legal certainty and transparency in legislation governing foreign investment.
4. The Council considers that the Republic of Korea should actively contribute to the conclusion of the Uruguay Round negotiations, in particular regarding market access and services, and that it should accept responsibilities commensurate with its level of economic development.
 5. The Council considers that the Community should pursue and further develop the existing bilateral dialogue with the Republic of Korea.
 6. The Council underlines the importance of developing co-operation with the Republic of Korea on a mutually advantageous basis; it welcomes the fact that the latter has expressed its desire to develop co-operation with the Community.
 7. The Council considers that co-operation between the Community and the Republic of Korea should go hand in hand with the overall development of bilateral trade and economic relations.
 8. The Council considers that co-operation should be developed in such areas as science and technology, customs and product conformity assessment; it also considers that the possibility of co-operation should be explored, inter alia, in the fields of energy, industrial co-operation and environment, including global environmental issues.
 9. The Council emphasizes the importance of promoting mutual understanding between the Republic of Korea and the Community, and contacts in the economic and cultural fields.
 10. The Council recognizes that a coherent approach is necessary towards the Republic of Korea; it decides to review the development of trade and economic relations with the Republic of Korea in 1994, on the basis of a progress report by the Commission.

The quality of drafting of Community legislation

The Council adopted a Resolution with the following substantive content:

The general objective of making Community legislation more accessible should be pursued, not only by making systematic use of consolidation but also by implementing the following guidelines as criteria against which Council texts should be checked as they are drafted:

1. The wording of the act should be clear, simple, concise and unambiguous; unnecessary abbreviations, "Community jargon" and excessively long sentences should be avoided.
2. Imprecise references to other texts should be avoided as should too many cross-references which make the text difficult to understand.
3. The various provisions of the acts should be consistent with each other; the same term should be used throughout to express a given concept.
4. The rights and obligations of those to whom the act is to apply should be clearly defined.
5. The act should be laid out according to the standard structure (chapters, sections, articles, paragraphs).
6. The preamble should justify the enacting provisions in simple terms.
7. Provisions without legislative character should be avoided (wishes, political statements).
8. Inconsistency with existing legislation should be avoided as should pointless repetition of existing provisions. Any amendment, extension or repeal of an act should be clearly set out.
9. An act amending an earlier act should not contain autonomous substantive provisions but only provisions to be directly incorporated into the act to be amended.
10. The date of entry into force of the act and any transitional provisions which might be necessary should be clearly stated.

Extension of the jurisdiction of the Court of First Instance

On 24 October 1988 the Council decided to establish a Court of First Instance of the European Communities. That Decision ensued from a request from the Court of Justice that such a court be attached to it to hear and determine at first instance certain classes of action or proceeding brought by natural or legal persons, in particular in respect of actions requiring close examination of complex facts. The purpose of establishing the Court of First Instance was, on the one hand, to improve the judicial protection of individual interests and, on the other hand, by freeing the Court of Justice from examination of the facts, to enable the latter to concentrate its activities on its fundamental task of ensuring uniform interpretation of Community law.

The Council Decision conferred jurisdiction on the Court of First Instance for the following:

- disputes between the Communities and their staff;
- actions brought against an institution of the Communities by natural or legal persons concerning the implementation of the rules of competition applicable to undertakings;
- actions brought against the Commission by undertakings or associations of undertakings in the field of the ECSC Treaty.

The Council also made provision for examining, in the light of experience acquired, the question, after two years' operation of the Court, of conferring additional jurisdiction on it.

By letter dated 17 October 1991 the Court called upon the Council to extend the Court of First Instance's jurisdiction to all actions (proceedings for annulment, proceedings for failure to act and claims for compensation for damage) brought by individuals, thus virtually exhausting the field of extensions possible under the present wording of Articles 32d of the ECSC Treaty, 168a of the EEC Treaty and 140a of the ECSC Treaty.

Through today's Decision the Council has acted on the Court's request. The Council Decision will enter into force on the first day of the second month following its publication in the Official Journal. However, as regards actions brought relating to measures to protect trade provided for in the case of dumping and subsidies, its entry into force is deferred until a date to be fixed by the Council acting unanimously.

Shipments of radioactive substances

Following the abolition of intra-Community controls in the context of completion of the internal market, the Council adopted the Regulation on shipments of radioactive substances between Member States.

This Regulation will enable the competent authorities of the Member States to have the same level of information on such shipments as hitherto.

It is a provisional measure pending the entry into force of Directive 92/3/Euratom on shipments of radioactive waste on 1 January 1994 and of the amendment to the Directive laying down basic safety standards for the protection of the health of workers and the general public against the dangers arising from ionizing radiation.

GATT: oilseeds

The Council adopted the Decision concerning the conclusion of a Memorandum of Understanding between the European Economic Community and the United States of America on oilseeds within the framework of the GATT.

Relations with the United States - public contracts

The Council adopted the Regulation concerning access to public contracts in the Community for tenderers from the United States of America.

The Regulation establishes Community counter-measures in respect of such tenderers similar to those taken by the United States.



Luxembourg, le 8 juin 1993

NOTE BIO(93 153 (suite 1) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
CC. AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE-PAROLE

FOREIGN AFFAIRS COUNCIL (Peter Gulliford)

Eastern Europe

The Ministers reached a consensus on the main elements of the Commission's document on strengthening political and economic relations with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. The nature of the discussion was such that several member states agreed to drop their individual reserves on specific points, notably pertaining to accelerated market access for Eastern European products, if others agreed to do so too, in other words, if the Commission's package was left broadly intact.

The Commission agreed to move on two points of concern: a) abolition of the idea of turning quotas into ceilings, (the latter being more flexible); and b) the Commission agreed to carry out a study into the effect of cumulation of origin rules on products produced in Eastern Europe and Efta and imported into the Community. The Commission would only propose cumulation in the light of this study.

The points remaining for the Copenhagen Summit are broadly as follows: on the economic side, they must decide exactly what percentage of Phare funds may be used to unblock international capital raised by Eastern European countries for infrastructure spending (Britain, Holland and Ireland want 10% maximum, while the Commission and the others want 15%); on the political side, the heads of state must decide exactly how to express their reinforced commitment to the eventual EC membership of the Eastern applicants (although the conditions for considering such membership are already broadly welcomed by the Council: they are: adherence to democracy, human rights and respect for minorities, the operation of a working market economy, their ability to stand up to the competitive pressures of market forces, and the EC's ability to absorb new members.

Sir Leon Brittan spoke in his press conference of how "all the essential elements of the Commission's proposals have been agreed by the Council by consensus. At Copenhagen, the countries of Central and Eastern Europe will be given a clear signal that their future is with, and ultimately in, the EC. This marks the deep commitment of the EC to reform and modernisation in those countries".

Russia

Sir Leon Brittan briefed the ministers over lunch on his weekend talks with Yeltsin and several key ministers in Moscow. At his press conference he said that "progress had been made on a number of points, but it is clear that the partnership and cooperation agreement will not be complete for Copenhagen. There are important outstanding points, such as Russia's belief that the EC should not apply safeguards, anti-dumping provisions or quantitative restrictions". He did not answer questions about whether Mr Yeltsin would come to Copenhagen finally.

Multilateral trade

The ministers heard Sir Leon's appraisal of the GATT quadrilateral meeting in Paris last week, and then heard a presentation by Alain Juppé of the French memorandum on the Uruguay Round. Juppé explained the four headings (growth, employment, strengthening the European Union and asserting the supremacy of international over national rules). Juppé repeated that the Blair House agreement was not acceptable as it stands, as it is incompatible with the CAP reforms. He described the Corn Gluten Feed agreement with the US at Blair House as "totally unacceptable", as it legalises concessions to the US. Sir Leon later said he did not share French anxieties, as this was nothing more than a clarification of concessions made in 1967.

France was supported in substance by Belgium, Portugal and Spain, and almost all member states welcomed the presentation of the memorandum as a positive contribution to the debate on the GATT. Germany and Holland expressed strong reserves on France's statements on Blair House, Corn Gluten and on the need for stronger trade defence instruments. On the latter point, Sir Leon remarked that there was a lack of political will to use the existing instruments, rather than a lack of adequate instruments themselves.

Greece mentioned concern that the US should not be allowed to resort to 301-type action in merchant shipping once that sector was in a GATT market access package, while Greece and Spain spoke out in favour of compensation for Mediterranean farmers disadvantaged by an eventual GATT deal.

Regards,

Peter Guilford

uxelles, le 9 juin 1993.

**NOTE BIO (93) 153 (suite 2 et fin) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
cc. aux Membres du Service du Porte-Parole**

Conseil Affaires générales (Luxembourg, 08/06)

- Declaration on former Yugoslavia

The Community and its member States pledge themselves to intensify efforts to achieve a lasting and equitable peace in former Yugoslavia in close co-operation with the rest of the international community. In this context, the Community and its member States are looking forward to meeting US Secretary of State, Warren Christopher, in Luxembourg on 9 June 1993.

The Vance-Owen Peace Plan remains the centrepiece of EC strategy for peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina. There is no feasible alternative to the Vance-Owen Peace Plan as the basis for reaching a durable political solution based on the principles agreed by all at the London Conference, including the sovereignty of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, the inviolability of its territorial integrity, respect for its pluralist character, and the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force. Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg who have the authority to pursue implementation of the Vance-Owen Peace Plan through contacts with the parties, have our full confidence and support in this matter.

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The Community and its member States reaffirm that options for new and tougher measures must be kept open.

- Declaration on Somalia

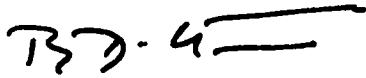
The Community and its member States express their deep concern over the events in Mogadishu in recent days and condemn without reservation the premeditated killing and wounding of Pakistani soldiers who were conducting a weapons verification inspection with UNOSOM II. They express their regret and sympathy to the people and Government of Pakistan, and especially to the families of those who lost their lives.

The Community and its member States reiterate their full support for the United Nations in its efforts to bring peace and stability to Somalia. They look forward to the publication of the Secretary General's enquiry into the recent incident and the role of the factional leaders involved.

The Community and its member States call on all Somali parties, movements, and factions to respect the ceasefire, to comply with the agreements on political reconciliation they entered into in Addis Ababa in March and to cooperate fully with UNOSOM II so that it can fulfil its essential humanitarian mandate.

Amitiés,

Bruno Dethomas

Handwritten signature of Bruno Dethomas, consisting of stylized initials 'BD' followed by a horizontal line and the number '4'.

Bruxelles, le 9 juin 1993

NOTE BIO (93)153 (suite 3) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
cc. aux Membres du Service du Porte-Parole

Suite à la note du Conseil des Affaires Étrangères de Peter Guilford

DEBAT SUR LES FONDS STRUCTURELS
(Betti Olivi)

Le Conseil a eu en soirée un premier débat sur les propositions de modification des règlements sur les Fonds présentées par la Commission (COM(93)67 et COM(93)124). Compte tenu de l'importance du sujet - les fonds structurels en effet représentent le deuxième poste budgétaire de la Communauté - et de l'urgence d'arriver à une décision en la matière, la Présidence estime opportun de donner une impulsion politique au travail et d'entamer le débat ministériel sur 3 questions essentielles: la définition de la liste des régions de l'objectif 1 (ajustement structurel des régions en retard de développement), la procédure de décision des listes de zones éligibles aux objectifs 2 (reconversion des régions touchées par le déclin industriel) et 5b (faciliter l'ajustement structurel des zones rurales) ainsi que la programmation de l'objectif 5a (adaptation des structures agricoles).

Le Président du Conseil ainsi que le Président DELORS ont rappelé le timing très strict que les institutions ont convenu de poursuivre pour éviter une suspension de l'intervention communautaire en faveur des régions désavantagées qui risquerait autrement de se produire en 1994: 1ère lecture du Parlement européen au cours de la session de juin, position commune du Conseil le 2 juillet, 2ème lecture du PE pendant la session de juillet et adoption définitive par le Conseil le 19 juillet.

Le tour de table sur l'éligibilité des régions à l'objectif 1 n'a pas permis d'atteindre un accord. Au stade actuel certains EM (les 4 dits "de cohésion" plus l'Italie) préfèrent une application stricte du critère 75% du PIB/tête au niveau régional par rapport à la moyenne communautaire, tandis que d'autres partagent la position de la Commission visant à permettre une certaine flexibilité.

A cet égard, le Président DELORS a refusé la critique selon laquelle la Commission irait à l'encontre du principe de la concentration. En effet, à part le nouveaux Länder, inclus par décision du Conseil Européen, les régions ajoutées à la liste compte pour moins d'1% de la population communautaire. Le Commissaire Bruce MILLAN, pour sa part, a souligné que la proposition de la Commission est en pleine conformité avec les conclusions du Sommet d'Edimbourg qui prévoit une certaine flexibilité. Il a en outre constaté que le PIB/tête des nouvelles régions à inclure se situe en-dessous de celui de deux régions actuellement éligibles mais légèrement au dessus de la barre de 75%, c'est-à-dire, le Molise et la Corse.

La délégation néerlandaise a plaidé pour l'inclusion de la province de Flévoland. Tout en admettant le cas purement statistique de cette région, Monsieur MILLAN a défendu la proposition de la Commission de l'exclure de la liste Objective 1 étant donné sa population très faible

et son économie qui ne présente pas les caractéristiques d'une région en retard au développement.

La délégation française a souligné les difficultés qui pourraient se présenter pour la région du Nord-Pas de Calais dans le cas où la région du Hainaut (Belgique) serait éligible au titre de l'Objective 1. Le Président DELORS a constaté que l'éligibilité à l'Objectif 1 n'a pas d'effet automatique sur le régime d'aides nationales permis au titre de l'article 92.3 du Traité. Il a aussi souligné des possibilités d'aides pour la région Nord-Pas de Calais au titre de l'Objectif 2, ainsi que le programme INTERREG.

En ce qui concerne la définition des zones éligibles aux objectifs 2 e 5b, la discussion a porté sur l'aspect essentiel qui concerne l'utilisation de critères communautaires, comme c'est le cas actuellement, ou nationaux, comme semblerait préconiser la délégation allemande. Dans ce dernier cas, a averti M. MILLAN, la répartition par EM des ressources financières ne pourrait pas avoir lieu sur une base "objective".

De nombreuses délégations (et tout particulièrement la Belgique) ont en outre souligné le risque de renationalisation que comporte la proposition allemande, notamment avec la fixation de "quotas" nécessaires à respecter le plafond de 15% de la population communautaire aidée dans le cadre de l'objectif 2.

La délégation allemande a tenu à préciser que le souci à la base de sa proposition concerne le respect des pouvoirs des Laender dans la délimitation des zones éligibles. Il s'agit donc d'une préoccupation dans le cadre de la subsidiarité.

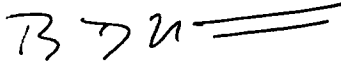
Le Commissaire MILLAN a rappelé que, en toute état de cause, déjà en 1989, les listes pour ces objectifs avaient été établies en partenariat avec les Etats membres à partir de la liste résultant de l'application des données statistiques communautaires. Il a précisé d'être prêt à renoncer à la publication de la liste basée sur les critères statistiques de base avant la discussion avec les EM sur la prise en compte des critères plus "qualitatifs" ou prévisionnels, comme le risque lié aux mutations industrielles. On pourra ainsi éviter toute confusion entre les zones apparaissant sur la première liste et celles retenues dans la liste finale et renforcer l'aspect partenariat avec les autorités nationales et régionales. Il a insisté toutefois que la décision finale doit rester dans les mains de la Commission.

Sur le troisième point à l'ordre du jour de la discussion, c'est à dire l'application du principe de la programmation aux actions relevant de l'objectif 5a, la Commission a précisé qu'il ne s'agira pas d'une innovation par rapport au passé, mais qu'il importe de l'étendre à toutes les mesures pour pouvoir respecter le plafond financier convenu à Edinbourg.

En conclusion, le Président a souligné l'urgence de la recherche de solutions détaillées dans le cadre des travaux du Coreper.

Amitiés

Bruno DETHOMAS



assels, 7 June 1993

NOTE BIO (93) 153 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
CC: MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU FORTE-PAROLE

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PREPARATION OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS COUNCIL, LUXEMBOURG (P. Guilford)

The Foreign Affairs Council will take place from 17.00 on Monday, June 7, to 16.00 on Wednesday.

Tuesday morning will be devoted to a ministerial session on the state of negotiations for Finland's membership, followed by a discussion in the Council itself of the former Yugoslavia, South Africa and the preparatory work towards a common EC foreign and security policy. EC mediator Lord Owen will be present to brief the Council on ex-Yugoslavia.

Trade policy

GATT: The Commission will brief the Council on the outcome of the Quadrilateral meeting in Paris last week. Here, limited progress was made towards the possible outlining of an agreement on market access (tariff and non-tariff reductions) at the Tokyo G7 Summit. All four partners gave an upbeat assessment of progress during a joint press conference at the OECD centre last Wednesday.

Public procurement: The EC's counter-measures against US trade sanctions will be approved as an A point, and will enter into force immediately. These will: a) prohibit US bids for supply contracts worth less than 125,000 ECU; b) prohibit US bids for works contracts worth less than 5 MECU; prohibit service contracts below 200,000 ECU, and service contracts of all sizes in a specific list of sectors (exactly the same as the US list of sectors, minus airport and airline services). The intended impact will be about \$ 15 million.

Relations with Central and Eastern Europe

This discussion is based upon the Commission's document on tightening relations with the PECOs, which has been supplemented by work in Coreper as well as a Note de Synthese from the Danish Presidency. Politically, there has been a favourable response from the Council to the need for the Copenhagen Summit to confirm its commitment to future membership from Eastern countries, and on the conditions they must meet first, although the question as to whether a date will be fixed for a "rendez-vous" with Eastern governments to assess preparation for their membership must be taken by the Summit itself. Economically, the Commission's "horizontal" approach to market access, that is to say removing trade barriers across the board, is broadly supported, although several member states are still holding out against cuts in specific problem areas of industry. The Commission's reform of the Phare aid programme has been broadly endorsed.

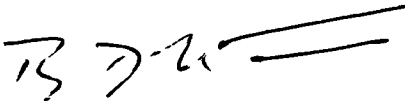
Russia

Progress is less advanced with the EC's partnership and cooperation agreement with Russia, and it is clear from Sir Leon's four-day visit to Moscow that the agreement will not be ready for signing in time for the Copenhagen Summit. The Russians have listed several issues where they are unhappy with the state of negotiations, and the Commission is discussing these with Coreper. It is clear that while there may be room for flexibility on some, others are non-negotiable. The Council will give the Commission a clear steer on how to proceed in the fifth session of negotiations on 9-11 June, while also enabling the Danes to prepare for Copenhagen with a clearer idea of what exactly is achievable in time for the Summit.

EC\Korea

The Commission's document on improving relations with the Republic of Korea will be approved as an A point. This welcomes greater political and economic ties with Korea, while recommending that the Council urge the Koreans to: a) apply public procurement rules for telecoms networks in a non-discriminatory way, b) eliminate non-tariff obstacles to imports from the consumer and foodstuffs industries, c) establish adequate intellectual property protection, and d) improve the legal environment for foreign companies investing in Korea.

Amitiés

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B Dethomas', with a double horizontal line underneath.

Bruno Dethomas