



COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT



PRESS RELEASE

8109/93 (Presse 132)

1681st Council meeting

- BUDGET -

Brussels, 22 July 1993

President: Ms Mieke OFFECIERS-VAN DE WIELE

Minister for the Budget of the Kingdom
of Belgium

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

Belgium

Ms Mieke OFFECIERS-VAN DE WIELE

Minister for the Budget

Denmark

Mr Jørgen ØSTRØM MØLLER

State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Germany

Mr Gert HALLER

State Secretary to the Federal Minister for Finance

Greece

Mr Konstantinos GIATRAKOS

State Secretary for Finance

Spain

Mr Antonio ZABALZA MARTI

State Secretary for Finance

France

Mr Nicolas SARKOZY

Minister for the Budget

Ireland

Mr Tom KITT

Minister of State for European Affairs

Italy

Mr Rocco Antonio CANGELOSI

Deputy Permanent Representative

Luxembourg

Mr Jean-Claude JUNCKER

Minister for the Budget

Netherlands

Mr Ate OOSTRA

Deputy Permanent Representative

Portugal

Ms Maria Manuela FERREIRA-LEITE

State Secretary for the Budget

United Kingdom

Sir John COPE

Paymaster General

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Commission

Mr Peter SCHMIDHUBER

Member

TRANSPORT

The Council adopted the Decision concerning the amendment of the Agreement between the Community, the Kingdom of Norway and the Kingdom of Sweden on civil aviation.

The purpose of the amendment is to integrate the new Community legislation into the Agreement and to apply the legislation in question in Norway and Sweden, after the entry into force of the EEA Agreement until such time as the necessary procedures have been completed to integrate the legislation into the EEA Agreement.

EURATOM

The Council approved the amendment made by the Commission to Commission Regulation (Euratom) No 3227/76 of 19.10.76 concerning the application of the provisions on Euratom safeguards to enable the Commission to transmit to the IAEA information obtained from the Member States on new nuclear installations. Providing this information to the IAEA helps to strengthen international safeguards and non-proliferation.

ECONOMIC QUESTIONS

The Council adopted, with the German delegation voting against, the Regulation on Community co-ordination in drawing up business registers for statistical purposes.

The Council also adopted the Decision on the framework programme for priority actions in the field of statistical information 1993-1997, covering the following fields: the operation of the Single Market; social policy, economic and social cohesion and consumer protection; Economic and Monetary Union; relations between the Community and the rest of the world; the development of statistical technologies and human resources.

4. 30% of the EEC funding will be reserved for markets not being fully serviced in the early stages of the implementation of the Action Plan. These funds could cover up to 80% of the extra costs, while the remaining 20% is to be provided from other sources.
5. The Action Plan should be as simple as possible and based on transparent, fair and unbureaucratic mechanisms.
6. The funds shall be allocated to broadcasters or producers based in the EEC on the basis of hours produced and transmitted in the 16:9 format, with a maximum support of x ecus per hour. The support will depend on the actual costs of the type of programme and its technical quality, with special emphasis on programmes produced in Europe. New productions will thus receive the highest level of support. Only broadcasters transmitting more than 50 hours of 16:9 services per year will receive funding.
7. Community funding is fixed at 160 MECU. The funding will be given only provided applicants have demonstrated that other sources have already committed themselves to providing the remaining 50%. In addition to the 160 MECU, 68 MECU are held in reserve until 1 January 1995 for markets not being serviced in the early stages of the implementation of the Action Plan. The 68 MECU will have to be matched by 17 MECU from other sources.
8. The Action Plan shall cover a period of four years expiring on 30 June 1997.
9. Emphasis will be given to creating a considerable spread in the markets serviced by the Action Plan, with due recognition of the need to achieve the critical mass, and facilitating the uptake of all technologies including fully digital technology.

- Satellite earth station equipment

Following the agreement reached at the Telecommunications Council on 16.VI.93, the Council adopted its common position on the Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States concerning satellite earth station equipment, amending the scope of Directive 91/263/EEC (telecommunications terminal equipment, including the mutual recognition of their conformity).

This Directive - the first in a series aimed at regulating the satellite communications services and equipment sector - is designed to:

- establish the single market in earth station equipment;
- implement harmonized procedures for certification, testing, marketing, quality assurance and product surveillance to guarantee conformity with the essential requirements enunciated in Directive 91/263/EEC;
- guarantee the right to use satellite earth communications station equipment which has been placed on the market legally;
- guarantee the right to connect satellite earth communications station equipment to the public telecommunications network.

CUSTOMS UNION

The Council adopted the Regulation

- opening and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas for certain agricultural and industrial products (3rd series 1993) from 1 July 1993 until, depending on the case, 31 December 1993 or 30 June 1994;
- amending Regulations Nos 3913/92 and 3914/92 opening and providing for the administration of Community tariff quotas for certain agricultural, chemical and industrial products.

The Council also adopted the Regulation opening and providing for the administration of a zero-duty Community tariff quota for 20 000 tonnes of herring, fresh or chilled, originating in Sweden, for the period 15 August 1993 to 14 February 1994.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

- Advanced television services

Following the agreement reached at the Telecommunications Council on 16.VI.93 (see press release 7280/93 Presse 104), the Council formally adopted the Decision on an action plan for the introduction of advanced television services in Europe.

The main points of the plan are as follows:

1. The plan is solely directed at promoting the 16:9 format (625 or 1250 lines), irrespective of the European television standard used, and irrespective of the broadcasting mode (terrestrial, satellite or cable).
2. The EEC funds shall cover only part of the difference in costs between production/broadcasting in the customary 4:3 format and in the 16:9 format; the EEC funds shall generally cover up to only 50% of the extra costs. The remaining 50% are to be provided from other sources. The Council attaches great importance to the involvement of the economic operators in the financing and agrees that the funding provided by the economic operators shall be at least 50% of the non-Community funding. Such economic operators shall be given due recognition under EC R&D and standardization activities always in accordance with the general rules for participation in these actions.
3. The support is allocated on a yearly "first-come-first-served" basis with preference for projects where the matching funds stem from the economic operators.

The Regulation establishes a new centralized procedure leading to a Community authorization directly valid in all the Member States for the most innovative medicinal products. The Community is, moreover, responsible for monitoring medicinal products authorized under this procedure and for the technical updating of the authorizations. The centralized procedure is compulsory for biotechnological and veterinary medicinal products intended to increase productivity and is optional for other innovative medicinal products.

The Regulation also establishes a European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products supplying appropriate logistical support for the proper functioning of the procedures leading to Community or national authorization. The new Agency will encompass in particular the present Committee for Proprietary Medicinal Products and the Committee for Veterinary Medicinal Products, which will be at the head of its scientific structures.

- CE conformity mark

Following the agreements reached on 14 June 1993 and completion of the co-operation procedure with the European Parliament, the Council definitively adopted the Directive and the Decision on harmonization of rules on CE conformity markings for industrial products covered by the New Approach directives.

The instruments concerned are:

- a proposal for a Directive amending eleven Directives already adopted on the basis of the "New Approach" and introducing the CE mark into Directive 73/23/EEC concerning low voltage, as follows:
 - 87/404/EEC (simple pressure vessels);
 - 88/378/EEC (safety of toys);
 - 89/106/EEC (construction products);
 - 89/336/EEC (electromagnetic compatibility);
 - 89/392/EEC (machinery);
 - 89/686/EEC (individual protective equipment);
 - 90/384/EEC (non-automatic weighing instruments);
 - 90/385/EEC (active implantable medical devices);
 - 90/396/EEC (appliances burning gaseous fuels);
 - 91/263/EEC (telecommunications terminal equipment);
 - 92/42/EEC (new hot-water boilers fired with liquid or gaseous fuels);
 - 73/23/EEC (electrical equipment designed for use within certain voltage limits);
- a Decision supplementing Decision 90/683/EEC of 13 December 1990 concerning the certification modules for use in the technical Directives with provisions regarding the harmonized rules on CE conformity marking.

It should be noted that the CE marking rules adopted implement the principles laid down in the Council Resolution of 7 May 1985 on the New Approach and in the Resolution of 21 December 1989 on a global approach to conformity assessment of industrial products. Under these rules, the CE mark on an industrial product denotes the latter's conformity with all of the provisions of the Directive concerning it.

Financial compensation to be paid by the Community for the period covered by the Protocol amounts to ECU 31,2 million. The Community will also contribute an amount of ECU 600 000 to the financing of Senegal's scientific fisheries programmes.

- Data on landings

The Council adopted the Regulation amending Regulation No 1382/91 on the submission of data on the landings of fishery products in Member States.

The main purpose of the amendment is, in view of the need for harmonized statistics, to supplement the data submitted by the Member States under the Regulation in question with data on landings by EFTA vessels and, on an optional basis, by vessels of third countries.

INTERNAL MARKET

- Term of protection of copyright and certain related rights

Following the political agreement reached at the meeting of 14.VI.93, the Council formally adopted, by a qualified majority, the common position on the Directive harmonizing the term of protection of copyright and certain related rights. (The Irish, Luxembourg, Netherlands and Portuguese delegations voted against).

As regards copyright, the Directive makes provision for the harmonization of the term of protection at the lifetime of the author and seventy years after his death as proposed by the Commission and approved by the European Parliament.

It contains a special rule regarding the term of protection of audiovisual or cinematographic works; protection will expire seventy years after the death of the last of the following to survive: the principal director, the author of the screenplay, the author of the dialogue and the composer of music specifically created for use in the work. The calculation of this period with reference to the death of the above four persons is without prejudice to the question of the ownership of the copyright to the works concerned.

As regards the main related rights (those of performers, producers of phonograms and film producers), their term of protection is harmonized at fifty years. The content of these rights has already been harmonized in Directive 92/100/EEC on rental right and lending right.

- Future system for the free movement of medicinal products in the Community

The Council formally adopted the Regulation laying down Community procedures for the authorization and supervision of medicinal products for human and veterinary use and establishing a European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products.

The Council gave its political agreement to the Regulation on 17 December 1992 and at its meeting on 14.VI.93 it formally adopted the three Directives which, with the Regulation, make up the legislative package concerning the future system for the free movement of medicinal products.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

AGRICULTURE

The Council adopted the Regulation providing for an offer of compensation to certain producers of milk or milk products temporarily prevented from carrying on their trade.

This Regulation had already received the agreement of the Agriculture Council on 19 July (see press release 7715/93 Presse 129).

FISHERIES

- EEC-Senegal Protocol

The Council adopted the Regulation on the conclusion of the Protocol defining for the period from 2 October 1992 to 1 October 1994 the fishing rights and financial compensation provided for in the fisheries agreement between the Community and the Republic of Senegal.

The Protocol fixes the limits on fishing by the Community fleet off the coast of Senegal as follows:

- Wet-fish trawlers (inshore demersal fishing for fish and cephalopods) landing and selling their entire catch in Senegal: 1 000 GRT/year;
- Trawlers (inshore demersal fishing for fish and cephalopods) not landing their catch in Senegal: 2 500 GRT/year, including 1 250 GRT/year with freezing facilities;
- Ocean-going trawlers (deep-water demersal species) not landing their catch in Senegal and fishing for a period of 4 months: 12 000 GRT/year in an average year, including 6 000 GRT/year with freezing facilities;
- Freezer trawlers (inshore demersal fishing for fish and cephalopods) landing and selling part of their catch in Senegal: 6 500 GRT/year;
- Freezer trawlers (inshore demersal fishing for fish and cephalopods) landing part of their catch in Senegal and fishing over a four-month period specified for each vessel in an overall fishing plan to be notified to the Senegalese Government by the Community every six months: 1 000 GRT/year in an average year.
- Ocean-going shrimp freezer trawlers (demersal) not landing their catch in Senegal: 6 100 GRT/year.
- Bottom longliners (experimental): 1 500 GRT/year.
- Tuna canners: 11 vessels
- Freezer tuna seiners: 57 vessels
- Surface longliners: 11 vessels.

The Council also decided to enter a negative reserve of -ECU 100 million in p/a in Chapter BO-42 with respect to NCE in Part B of Section III of the general budget (see table above).

PRELIMINARY DRAFT SUPPLEMENTARY AND AMENDING BUDGET No 1/93

The Council made a detailed examination of preliminary draft supplementary and amending budget No 1/93 submitted by the Commission.

The Council did not act on the matter at this meeting, but in view of the urgency the Presidency said that it proposed to place the matter before the Council again in September.

TREATMENT OF REVENUE SHORTFALLS IN RELATION TO THE OWN RESOURCES CEILING

The Council noted the communication from the Commission on the treatment of revenue shortfalls in relation to the own resources ceiling, and instructed the relevant Council Working Party to examine it.

The main points in the draft are as follows:

AGGREGATE EXPENDITURE AS A RESULT OF THE COUNCIL'S DISCUSSIONS (ECU million - rounded figures)

Appropriations for commitments (C/A)		72.407
Appropriations for payments (P/A)		69.011
including non-compulsory expenditure of:	c/a	33.105
	p/a	29.768

The breakdown of appropriations is as follows (ECU million - rounded figures)

	c/a	p/a
1. Common agricultural policy including	36.465,0	36.465,0
- market expenditure	35.922,0	35.922,0
- accompanying measures	543,0	543,0
2. Structural measures including	23.176,0	21.304,1
- Structural Funds	21.323,0	19.416,0
- Other structural measures	---	209,1
- Cohesion Fund	1.853,0	1.679,0
3. Internal policies including	3.638,1	3.350,4
- research and technical development	2.282,9	2.147,6
4. External measures including	4.020,0	2.884,1
- PHARE and TACIS	1.555,0	870,0
5. Administrative expenditure of the institutions including	3.577,9	3.577,9
- Commission	2.394,2	2.394,2
- Other institutions	1.183,7	1.183,7
6. Reserves including	1.530,0	1.530,0
- monetary reserve	1.000,0	1.000,0
- emergency aid reserve	212,0	212,0
- repayments, guarantees, reserves	318,0	318,0
- negative reserve		-100,0

1994 BUDGET PROCEDURE

Before embarking on an examination of the preliminary draft general budget for 1994, the Council met a European Parliament delegation headed by the President of the European Parliament, Mr KLEPSCH, and comprising Mr WYNN, Rapporteur on Section III of the Budget, Ms NAPOLITANO, Rapporteur on the other Sections of the Budget, Mr CORNELISSEN, Vice-Chairman of the Committee on Budgets and Ms ISLER-BEGUIN, Mr COLOM I NAVAL, Mr LANGES, Mr SAMLAND, Mr TOMLINSON and Mr ARIAS CAÑETE.

That meeting provided the opportunity for a fruitful debate between the two arms of the budget authority, during which the Members of the European Parliament raised the matters of concern to them in the context of the budget procedure for the financial year 1994 and pointed to the European Parliament's own priorities; the Members of the Council highlighted the aspects which they regarded as vital, particularly the constraints to which the Member States' budgets were subject.

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The Council went on to hold the first reading of the 1994 budget. Following its discussions, the Council unanimously established the draft budget for 1994, to be submitted to the European Parliament under the budget procedure.

In general terms the Council followed the Commission's lead in placing the 1994 budget within the new medium-term financial framework, the negotiation of which culminated in December 1992 in the conclusions of the Edinburgh European Council.

The Council also took the view that the severe budgetary constraints imposed by the very difficult economical and financial climate demanded that at Community level too particularly strict discipline be observed in the establishment of the Community's budget for 1994. This rigorous approach is reflected in the 1994 draft budget adopted by the Council on first reading.

The Council urged the European Parliament to gear its budgetary proceedings to ensuring that arms of the budget authority remained jointly consistent with the conclusions of the Edinburgh European Council.

Bruxelles, le 22 juillet 1993

NOTE BIO(93)194 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
cc : AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE-PAROLE

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CONSEIL BUDGET DU 22 JUILLET 1993 (O. NETTE)

1. Le Conseil des Ministres a adopté aujourd'hui le projet de budget 1994 en première lecture. Ce projet prévoit une dépense totale de 72,407 milliards d'Ecus en crédits d'engagement (+ 4,8 % par rapport au budget 1993) et de 69,011 milliards en crédits de paiement (+ 5,3 %). La hausse est inégalement répartie entre dépenses obligatoires (essentiellement les dépenses agricoles) qui croissent de 7,6 % en crédits d'engagement et de paiement, et les dépenses non-obligatoires où la hausse n'est que de 1,7 % en crédits d'engagement et de 1,4 en crédits de paiement.

Or, c'est justement les dépenses non-obligatoires qui intéressent tout particulièrement le Parlement puisqu'il a le dernier mot sur leur niveau (dans la limite des dispositions sur le taux maximal d'augmentation - qui est de 6,9 % cette année - le Parlement pourra donc augmenter les dépenses non-obligatoires d'au moins ce pourcentage). Le Parlement, dont une délégation conduite par M. Klepsch a présenté ses vues au Conseil, a vivement rejeté toute insinuation de "tendance dépensière", en invitant le Conseil à réaliser d'abord des économies là où il est seul compétent : parmi les dépenses obligatoires.

Le Commissaire responsable du budget, M. Peter SCHMIDHUBER s'est également dit peu convaincu du prétendu signal en faveur de la rigueur que le Conseil souhaitait donner au Parlement et à l'opinion publique. Le Commissaire a en effet estimé que de nombreuses coupes dans les politiques internes et externes (par exemple recherche -10 % par rapport à 1993, protection des consommateurs -53 %, éducation et formation -10 %) n'étaient pas compatibles avec des orientations politiques (et des décisions) que le Conseil lui-même a adoptées. Il a donc jugé que les décisions du Conseil ne constituaient pas une "appréciation réaliste des besoins" et que ce "signal" en faveur de la rigueur n'était donc pas crédible.

2. Le Conseil a brièvement discuté du budget supplémentaire 1993 sans arriver à une décision. Le Conseil sera de nouveau saisi de ce dossier en septembre.

Amitiés

X. Prats



