

PRESS RELEASE

8700/93 (Presse 151)

1686th Council meeting

- INTERNAL MARKET -

Brussels, 27 September 1993

President: **Mr Robert URBAIN,**

**Minister for Foreign Trade
and European Affairs
of the Kingdom of Belgium**

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

<u>Belgium</u> :	
Mr Robert URBAIN	Minister for Foreign Trade and European Affairs
<u>Denmark</u> :	
Mr Jan TROEJBORG	Minister for Industry
<u>Germany</u> :	
Mr Jochen GRÜNHAGE	Deputy Permanent Representative
<u>Greece</u> :	
Mr Georges THEOFANOUS	Secretary-General, Ministry of Trade
<u>Spain</u> :	
Mr Javier ELORZA	State Secretary for Relations with the European Communities
<u>France</u> :	
Mr Pierre SELLAL	Deputy Permanent Representative
<u>Ireland</u> :	
Mr Charles McCREEVY	Minister for Tourism and Trade
Mr Willie O'DEA	Minister of State at the Departments of Justice and Health
<u>Italy</u> :	
Mr Livio PALADIN	Minister for Community Policies
<u>Luxembourg</u> :	
Mr Jean-Marc HOSCHEIT	Deputy Permanent Representative
<u>Netherlands</u> :	
Mr Piet DANKERT	State Secretary for Foreign Affairs
<u>Portugal</u> :	
Mr Vitor MARTINS	State Secretary for European Integration
<u>United Kingdom</u> :	
Mr Nicholas SOAMES	Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
	- + -
<u>Commission</u> :	
Mr Martin BANGEMANN	Vice-President
Mr Karel VAN MIERT	Vice-President
Mr Raniero VANNI d'ARCHIRAFI	Member

FOODSTUFFS - ADDITIVES

The Council recorded its political agreement on the common position on the amendment of Directive 89/107/EEC concerning food additives authorized for use in foodstuffs intended for human consumption.

The common position will be formally adopted at a forthcoming meeting once the texts have been finalized.

It should be noted that a proposal on the subject was submitted by the Commission following the European Parliament's rejection in May 1992 of the common position which the Council had adopted on the proposal concerning sweeteners (see following item). A footnote to the enacting terms of that common position gave Member States the option of protecting their national production of traditional foodstuffs. The case in question involved low-alcohol or alcohol-free beers. The European Parliament thought that a subject of such importance and of general relevance (i.e. the definition of traditional foodstuffs) could not be regulated in the context of a specific Directive by means of a mere footnote.

The agreement which has just emerged follows a legal method which makes it possible to accept derogations from the general rules on additives in order to protect national production of traditional foodstuffs without prejudice to the principles of the Single Market, particularly with regard to the free movement of goods and freedom of establishment.

Member States may continue to apply national provisions prohibiting the use of certain additives in foodstuffs which they regard as traditional subject to certain conditions:

- the prohibition must already have existed on 1 January 1992;
- the foodstuffs concerned must be produced on the territory of the Member State applying the prohibition;

- there must be no obstacle to the free circulation of products conforming to the provisions of Community Directives on additives;
- the freedom for anyone to establish themselves on the territory of any Member State and to produce and sell products conforming to Community Directives on additives must not be called into question.

Provision is made for Member States to communicate to the Commission before 1 July 1994 the list of foodstuffs which they consider as traditional and for the Council, acting on a proposal from the Commission, to adopt before 1 April 1996 legislation on the criteria to be applied for deciding whether or not a product is traditional and on the national prohibitions which may be maintained in conforming with those criteria.

Provision is also made for Member States to be obliged to comply with the provisions of this Directive by 1 January 1994 at the latest.

FOODSTUFFS - SWEETENERS

The Council recorded its political agreement on the common position on the Directive concerning sweeteners intended for use in foodstuffs. The Directive will be formally adopted at a forthcoming meeting once the texts have been finalized.

The Directive is a specific Directive forming a part of the comprehensive Directive 89/107/EEC on additives which stipulates that only those substances which appear on the lists to be adopted by the Council may be used as foodstuffs additives and only subject to the conditions of use specified in those lists.

The main purpose of the Directive is to allow the free movement of foodstuffs containing sweeteners and in that context to draw up a list of permitted sweeteners and the conditions governing their use in foodstuffs. In particular, the following sweeteners may be placed on the market with a view to sale to the ultimate consumer or use in the manufacture of foodstuffs:

- Sorbitol (E 420)
- Mannitol (E 421)
- Isomalt (E 953)
- Maltitol (E 965)
- Lactitol (E 966)
- Xylitol (E 967)
- Acesulfame K (E 950)
- Aspartame (E 951)
- Cyclamic acid and its Na and Ca salts (E 952)
Saccharin and its Na, K and Ca salts (E 954)
- Thaumatin (E 957)
- Neohesperidine DC (E 959)

The Directive also lays down the maximum levels for the use of sweeteners in foodstuffs with a view to protecting the health of consumers. Except where specially provided for, sweeteners may not be used in foods for infants and young children, as specified in Directive 89/398/EEC.

It is stipulated that Member States must comply with the provisions of the Directive within 18 months of its formal adoption.

FOODSTUFFS - COLOURS

The Council signified its agreement by a qualified majority (with the Danish delegation voting against) to the substance of the common position on the Directive on colours for use in foodstuffs. This is a specific Directive based on the general principles of framework Directive 89/107/EEC on additives.

The Directive sets out to establish:

- a positive list of colours permitted in the Community (43 substances);
- the list of foodstuffs in which those substances may be used (over 100 categories of foodstuffs or specific products);
- conditions of use, particularly maximum doses.

With regard to meat products, the Directive provides that only natural colours shall be permitted for certain generic categories of products, artificial colours being restricted to a number of specific products (for example "chorizo" and "saucisses de Strasbourg"). Colouring of white cheeses would be prohibited. The use of E 160b Annato would be restricted to particularly low doses in 14 foodstuffs.

Member States will have to comply with the provisions of this Directive within 18 months of its formal adoption.

PROCEDURE FOR THE PROVISION OF INFORMATION IN THE FIELD OF TECHNICAL STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS

The Council held a detailed discussion of the proposal amending for the second time Directive 83/189/EEC laying down a procedure for the provision of information in the field of technical standards and regulations.

It should be that Directive 83/189/EEC imposes a dual obligation on Member States proposing to adopt national technical regulations relating to industrial, agricultural, pharmaceutical and cosmetic products:

- to communicate to the Commission and the other Member States the texts of such regulations at the draft stage (notification procedure);
- to abstain from adopting them for a given period the duration of which depends on the specific cases indicated in the Directive (standstill or status quo rule).

The proposal currently before the Council basically aims to increase transparency with regard to national measures in the field of technical regulations with a view to achieving the internal market.

More particularly, it aims to extend the scope of Directive 83/189/EEC by redefining the concept of the "technical rule" so as to include de facto technical regulations as well.

At the close of the discussion the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue the discussions on the basis of certain possible compromise elements which emerged during the course of the discussion and to re-submit this item to the Council to enable it to adopt a common position as soon as possible.

STRATEGIC PROGRAMME ON THE INTERNAL MARKET

The Council held a further discussion on the basis of the Commission communication entitled "Reinforcing the effectiveness of the internal market" and of the working document entitled "Towards a strategic programme for the internal market".

The aim of the discussion was to provide the Commission with indications and guidelines for use in establishing its strategic plan for the internal market. The Council agreed to return to the subject once the Commission had submitted the strategic programme, which it was due to do at the meeting of the Internal Market Council on 16 December 1993.

At the close of the discussion the Presidency drew the conclusions set out below:

"The Council:

- noted with great interest the Commission communication entitled "Reinforcing the effectiveness of the internal market" and the working document attached to that communication entitled "Towards a strategic programme for the internal market";
- took note of the proceedings at expert level within a working party set up by the Permanent Representatives Committee which are summarized in 8062/93 and which made it possible, for various topics in the said working document, to identify a number of main lines and directions for discussion regarding the management of the internal market and future action;
- generally endorsed, taking account of the fact that most of the legislative programme contained in the White Paper has been achieved, the political desirability of a programme as envisaged by the Commission after consultation of all the parties concerned; the aim of the programme would be to identify all the measures necessary both for the consolidation of the internal market and the effective implementation of the four freedoms of movement in accordance with the provisions of the Treaty and also, wherever and insofar as appropriate, for the dynamic development of a single market at

the service of the citizen; in this context, it laid particular emphasis on the need to maintain a global and balanced approach in the management of the single market as the only way of integrating the specific measures taken in different fields into an overall vision;

- felt that such a programme could validly set a number of priority aims to guide the Community and its Member States over the coming years; in that connection the following topics would merit particular attention:
 - (i) administration of the Community area:
 - prevention of the emergence of new barriers to trade;
 - organization of the partnership through close co-operation between Member States and Commission; such co-operation is one of the priorities in the application and effective management of the rules for the single market; establishment of appropriate instruments;
 - verification by the Commission of the transposition of Community law into national law not only from the quantitative, but also the qualitative, point of view;
 - in-depth consideration of access to justice, inter alia on the basis of a Green Paper promised by the Commission for the end of the year which will consider the problems of means of redress and, where appropriate, improved transparency regarding penalties;
 - evaluation of the effectiveness of existing Community rules and general monitoring of the functioning of the single market;
 - transparency of Community action, particularly through consolidation of existing rules, and improved co-ordination of information measures concerning Community law;
 - regular assessments, by the appropriate Community bodies, of the economic and social effects of the internal market for all regions of the Community;

(ii) development of the single market

- taking into account the result of the Copenhagen European Council regarding in particular measures to promote growth, competitiveness and employment;
- creation of an environment free from barriers; in this context, taking into account the inter-relationship between the single market and Community policies in other sectors, (inter alia, competition policy, industrial policy, environment policy, consumer policy, structural and cohesion measures, taxation);
- measures to assist SMEs, in accordance with the conclusions of the Edinburgh European Council, directed at effectively integrating SME policy into the Community growth initiative, with a view particularly to increasing their competitiveness and their ability to create jobs;
- active policy of standardization as an instrument in the functioning of the internal market with a view particularly to developing the use of quality instruments at Community level;
- implementation of a dynamic commercial policy and action to be carried out at external frontiers to combat international fraud and trafficking;

(iii) trans-European networks

- strengthening of the links between the achievement of trans-European networks, the functioning of the internal market and the economic and industrial growth strategy;
- implementation of means of ensuring greater interconnection and inter-operability between networks and within each network, taking into account in particular the needs of the island, landlocked and peripheral regions;
- with a view to transparency, consistency and better use of existing funds, introduction of mechanisms giving an overall view of the various actions carried out in the field of transport infrastructure, energy infrastructure and telecommunications networks."

AGREEMENT ON COMMUNITY PATENTS - PROGRESS OF RATIFICATION

At the initiative of the Presidency, the Council took stock of the progress of ratification of the Agreement on Community Patents, which can only enter into force once it has been ratified by all the Member States of the European Economic Community as signatory States.

On the basis of European patents issued by the European Patents Office in Munich, the Agreement, which was concluded in December 1989, will establish for the various countries which are parties to the Munich Convention on the European Patent a single Community patent with identical effects in all Member States.

As the Presidency had emphasized that it was important that the Agreement should enter into force in the near future, Member States' delegations gave details on the progress of ratification in their respective countries. It emerged that four Member States had hitherto deposited their instruments of ratification, while in several other Member States ratification procedures were very well advanced. The other Member States were aware of the urgent need to implement the Agreement and expressed their willingness to attain that aim as soon as possible.

CONTROL OF CONCENTRATIONS BETWEEN UNDERTAKINGS

The Council took note of the report which the Commission had submitted to it on the re-examination of the application of Regulation No 4064/89 on the control of concentrations between undertakings.

It should be noted that the Regulation on concentrations, which entered into force on 21 September 1990, created for the first time an appropriate legal instrument for Community control of concentrations likely to affect trade between Member States.

At the end of its report and in the light of experience, the Commission concluded in particular that it would be appropriate to:

- re-examine the possibility of making a proposal to the Council for a revision of the thresholds by the end of 1996 at the latest, since de facto the combined effects of inflation and devaluations have already reduced those thresholds, and that it would prefer to gain more experience before reviewing the matter;
- maintain the referral rules of certain Member States as they are (Article 9(3)) until the new revision of the thresholds.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS RELATING TO THE INTERNAL MARKET**Extension of the legal protection of topographies of semiconductor products to persons from the United States of America and certain territories**

The Council adopted this Decision, which aims to extend provisionally to the territories of Aruba and the Netherlands Antilles the legal protection of semiconductor products (Directive 87/54/EEC) already extended to persons from the United States of America and certain territories (Decision 93/16/EEC).

Motor vehicles - mechanical coupling devices

The Council adopted the common position on the Directive relating to the mechanical coupling devices of motor vehicles and their trailers and their attachment to those vehicles.

The main purpose of this Directive is to facilitate the interchangeability of motor vehicles and their trailers by harmonizing the technical requirements which the mechanical coupling devices must satisfy. It also aims to improve the economic and competitive position of Community road hauliers and to have a beneficial effect on the environment.

Copyright and related rights applicable to satellite broadcasting and cable retransmission

Following the common position adopted on 10 May 1993 and the completion of the co-operation procedure with the European Parliament the Council finally adopted the Directive on the co-ordination of certain rules concerning copyright and related rights applicable to satellite broadcasting and cable retransmission.

The aim of the proposal is to supplement Community provisions on copyright, making a distinction between satellite broadcasting and cable retransmission, and to introduce only the harmonization necessary for cross-border activities.

The proposal provides that satellite broadcasting is subject to the authorization of the rightholder and that such authorization must be obtained in the country of origin. It also provides for a common level of protection for authors, artists, performers, producers of phonograms and broadcasting organizations throughout the Community.

As regards cable retransmission rights, the proposal provides that these must be negotiated solely through collecting societies representing the various categories of rightholders.

With regard to transitional provisions, the Directive in principle provides that the act of satellite broadcasting is to take place solely in the country of broadcasting. In the case of agreements currently concluded on the basis of the territorial division of rights, a transitional period of five years is set from the date of incorporation of the Directive into national law to enable the parties to renegotiate agreements to bring them into line with the Directive. Some delegations want derogations for international co-production agreements, whereby several producers of cinematographic or audiovisual works of different nationalities share the exploitation rights of the work on a territorial basis.

As for transitional provisions relating to cable retransmission, the Member States concerned may retain the bodies with responsibility for settling disputes between interested parties that are in existence on 1 January 1995 for a period of eight years after that date.

Following the second reading in the European Parliament, it was intended that the Commission should submit a report on the implementation of the Directive by 1 January 2000 at the latest in order to take into account, if need be, the implications which the arrival of new technologies would have on the exploitation of works of art and other services.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Antidumping

The Council adopted by a qualified majority (with the French delegation voting against) the Regulation repealing, with retroactive effect to 29 June 1990, the antidumping measures applying to imports into the Community of tapered roller bearings originating in Japan.

Bruxelles, le 24 septembre 1993

Note BIO (93) 218 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
cc: AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE-PAROLE

PREPARATION CONSEIL MARCHÉ INTERIEUR (Helmut Schmitt von Sydow)

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Le Conseil se réunira lundi 27 sous la présidence M. Urbain. La Commission sera représentée par MM. Vanni d'Archirafi, Bangemann et Van Miert.

Trois dossiers de fond

La Commission présentera sa communication "Renforcer l'efficacité du marché intérieur" du 14. 6. 1993 (COM(93)256) en vue de l'élaboration d'un "Programme stratégique" qui pourrait être finalisé lors du Conseil du 16 décembre.

Le Conseil reprendra l'examen de la proposition de modifier la directive 83/189/CEE prévoyant une procédure de notification des règles techniques assortie d'une obligation de statu quo. La Commission souhaite y inclure les incitations fiscales, mais ne trouve pas de majorité qualifiée. Si le Conseil vide la proposition de son contenu essentiel, la Commission pourrait se voir amenée à retirer sa proposition.

Le Conseil est appelé à adopter des positions communes sur trois directives concernant les additifs dans les denrées alimentaires, à savoir la modification de la directive cadre 89/207/CEE et deux directives spécifiques concernant les édulcorants et les colorants. Surtout les colorants susciteront un débat qui se trouvera compliqué par le fait que les Etats membres sont, selon les produits, parfois "restrictifs" et parfois "libéraux" en fonction de leurs habitudes alimentaires et intérêts commerciaux.

Trois points A

Le Conseil statuera sans débat litigieux sur les directives concernant les attelages mécaniques des véhicules à moteur, le droit d'auteur applicable à la radiodiffusion par satellite, et la protection juridique des topographies des semi-conducteurs.

Deux débats politiques

La Commission présentera son rapport sur le contrôle des concentrations entre entreprises (COM(93)385 du 28. 7. 1993). Compte tenu de trois ans d'expérience et du climat politique actuel, elle suggère de reporter la révision du règlement jusque, au plus tard, à la fin 1996.

Le Conseil examinera l'état de ratification de la convention de brevet communautaire afin de faire pression sur les Etats retardataires.

Amitiés,


Bruno Dethomas

Ref: BIO/93/222

INTERNAL MARKET COUNCIL OF 27 SEPTEMBER 1993

Debat politique sur le document de travail de la Commission relatif a un Programme Strategique sur le marche interieur.

Le president M. Urbain rappelle que la Commission a elabore ce document dans le but de solliciter observations et commentaires de la part des institutions et des operateurs economiques. La Presidence soumet a l'attention du Conseil un projet de Conclusions de la Presidence, qui ne sont pas appeles a devenir conclusions du Conseil.

Le Commissaire Vanni d'Archirafi souligne le role du Marche Interieur (M.I.) dans le processus d'integration communautaire, de moteur du developpement economique des Douze. Le Plan strategique veut fournir un cadre de reference pour la consolidation et le developpement du MI, mais aussi un point de depart pour un renforcement de la solidarite communautaire, notamment en matiere monetaire. Le debat d'aujourd'hui doit fournir des indications a la Commission dans l'etablissement des priorites d'action. La Commission prévoit d'adopter la version finale du Programme straqtegique debut decembre pour le presenter a la reunion du Conseil Marche Interieur le 16 decembre.

Le Commissaire rappelle que le PE s'est exprime la semaine derniere en appuyant l'initiative de la Commission et en soulignant la necessite de:

- progres rapides en matiere de libre circulation des personnes,
- discussions ulterieures quant a l'utilisation de directives ou de reglements,
- mettre en lumiere le lien entre l'initiative de croissance et le marche interieur ainsi que la coordination entre les differentes politiques communautaires et le MI,
- renforcer la cooperation entre administrations publiques. En ce domaine le Commissaire a annonce une prochaine communication de la part de la Commission,
- prevoir un soutien aux PME pour allger le poids de leur adaptation aux nouvelles conditions du MI.

M. Vanni d'Archirafi a attire l'attention des Ministres sur la situation non satisfaisante du niveau de transposition des directives communautaires, qui est passe de 75 a 85%. Deux secteurs montrent un retard important: les marche publics et les controles veterinaires. Suivent le droit des societes et la propriete intellectuelle. (voir MEMO 93/40).

Le debat a permis de constater une large convergence sur les buts et les principaux domaines indiques par le document de la Commission, et notamment sur la constatation que si dans le futur la production de nouveaux textes legislatifs sera reduite, certaines decisions restent a prendre. L'accent devra toutefois etre mis sur le fonctionnement du MI. Toutes les delegations partagent le souci de la Commission de voir s'instaurer un vrai partenariat entre les administrations publiques, d'ou

la necessite de developper les reseaux telematiques entre elles. Elles ont aussi reconnu la necessite d'ameliorer l'efficacite du MI en vue de renforcer sa contribution a la croissance et l'emploi. Certains ont demande une meilleure articulation du volet externe du MI (notamment la France), une amelioration des controles aux frontieres exterieures, une application rigoureuse des regles communautaires pour eviter toute distorsion de concurrence (UK), et le lancement des reseaux trans-europeens (El,E).

Les Ministres ont aussi exprime leur preoccupation (partagee par la Commission) quant aux evolutions monetaires des derniers mois et les risques que peut presenter pour le MI l'eventualite de devaluations competitives.

Ont ete adoptees en point A les directives suivantes:

- Directive du Conseil relative a la coordination de certaines regles du droit d'auteur et des droits voisins du droit d'auteur applicables a la radiodiffusion par satellite et a la retransmission par cable
- Decision du Conseil concernant l'extension de la protection juridique des topographies de produits semi-conducteurs aux personnes des Etats-Unis d'Amerique et de certains territoires

Au cours du dejeuner les Ministres ont fait le point sur la ratification de la Convention sur le brevet communautaire signee par les Douze en decembre 1989 (seulement El, F, D et Dk l'ont ratifie a ce jour). Il a ete possible de constater qu'aucun probleme majeur ne subsiste (les problemes constitutionnels de Dk et Irl etant surmontes), et que les EM vont proceder a la ratification. Certains (notamment E) ont affirme vouloir y parvenir apres les autres.

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Bruxelles, le 28 septembre 1993.

**NOTE BIO(93) 222 (suite 1) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
CC. AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE-PAROLE**

Conseil Marché Intérieur (Bruno JULIEN)

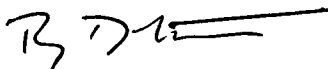
- Règlement fusion des entreprises

Lorsque le Règlement a été adopté, il avait été convenu qu'après une première expérience, la Commission proposerait éventuellement des modifications, notamment pour les seuils définissant les compétences de la Communauté et pour le renvoi de certains cas aux Etats membres.

Le Vice-Président Van Miert a indiqué au Conseil que la Commission avait procédé à une très large consultation avec les Etats membres et les milieux professionnels. Dans l'ensemble, les entreprises ont exprimé un préjugé favorable à l'égard d'une baisse des seuils en raison de la satisfaction qu'elles éprouvent avec le fonctionnement actuel du règlement (délais courts, one stop shop). La Commission a par contre constaté que les Etats membres expriment pour le moment des réserves et des réticences plus marquées.

Dans ces conditions, la Commission a jugé préférable de ne pas proposer pour l'instant de modifications. Elle a proposé au Conseil de reporter la révision du règlement au plus tard fin 1996 dans les mêmes conditions que celles qui étaient prévues dans le règlement pour la modification des seuils (adoption de propositions de la Commission à majorité qualifiée). Cette proposition a été entérinée par le Conseil.

Amitiés,
Bruno DETHOMAS



Bruxelles, le 28 septembre 1993

NOTE BIO (93) 222 (suite 2) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
cc: AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE-PAROLE

CONSEIL MARCHÉ INTERIEUR (Helmut Schmitt von Sydow)

DENREES ALIMENTAIRES

Le Conseil s'est mis d'accord sur une position commune concernant trois directives relatives aux additifs, à savoir une modification de la directive cadre et deux directives sectorielles concernant les édulcorants et les colorants. La décision qui doit encore être formalisée après une mise au point rédactionnelle, fut prise à la majorité qualifiée, le Danemark votant contre le paquet puisqu'il n'a pas réussi à faire admettre le titanium dioxyde dans les fromages mozarella et feta qu'il exporte en grandes quantités vers les pays tiers.

Cette position commune constitue une percée après deux ans de discussions où il fallait trouver un juste équilibre entre les intérêts de l'industrie alimentaire et les intérêts des consommateurs qui, d'une part, sont souvent habitués aux aliments ayant une couleur "fraîche" et attrayante et, d'autre part, souhaitent être protégés contre des additifs nocifs ou superflus. Les directives établissent des listes positives énumérant les additifs qui sont permis en précisant une triple limitation concernant l'emploi, le dosage et les denrées visées.

Les directives assurent le respect des traditions culinaires des Etats membres, tout en ouvrant la voie au progrès scientifique et technique. La directive cadre permet aux Etats membres de continuer à appliquer des dispositions nationales limitant l'emploi de certains additifs pour des produits traditionnels ("Reinheitsgebot"). La directive colorants, tout en interdisant l'usage de certains additifs, offre encore une gamme suffisante grande pour atteindre la couleur habituelle des spécialités traditionnelles ("Red lemonade"). La directive édulcorants permet de remplacer le sucre dans la fabrication de denrées non cariogènes et diététiques.

VEHICULES A MOTEUR

Le Conseil a adopté une position commune relative à la directive concernant les dispositifs d'attelage mécanique. Le bien-fondé de cette mesure importante a permis une adoption comme point A.

Assurant l'interchangeabilité des véhicules et des remorques, la directive contribue d'une manière pratique à la libéralisation du cabotage. Un camion danois rentrant de l'Espagne pourra prendre une remorque irlandaise en France pour l'amener jusqu'aux Pays Bas. En évitant de voyages à vide, la directive permet de réduire les frais et à protéger l'environnement.

PROCEDURE DE NOTIFICATION

Le Conseil a avancé dans son débat sur la modification de la directive 83/189/CEE prévoyant une procédure de notification et de statu quo pour les règles techniques.

Il s'agit notamment d'y inclure les entraves résultant d'incitations financières et fiscales. Pour dissiper la crainte de certains Etats membres que cette réforme ne conduise à une harmonisation fiscale qui tomberait en dehors du champs d'application de l'article 100 A et qui requiert l'unanimité, M. Bangemann a précisé que la directive ne vise pas les mesure fiscales, mais seulement les spécifications techniques auxquelles les mesures fiscales font référence.

Le dossier a été renvoyé au Coreper, étant donné que les délégations dont plusieurs n'étaient pas représentées au niveau ministériel, demandaient un délai de réflexion.


Amities,
Bruno Deschamps