

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES  
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

7882/86 (Presse 103)

1093rd meeting of the Council

- Fisheries -

Luxembourg, 25 and 26 June 1986

President: Mr Gerrit BRAKS  
Minister for Agriculture  
and Fisheries  
of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

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

Belgium:

Mr Léon VAN DEN MOORTELE

Secretary-General,  
Ministry of Agriculture

Denmark:

Mr Lars P. GAMMELGAARD

Minister for Fisheries

Germany:

Mr Wolfgang von GELDERN

Parliamentary State Secretary,  
Federal Ministry of Food,  
Agriculture and Forestry

Greece:

Mr Yannis POTTAKIS

Minister for Agriculture

Spain:

Mr Carlos ROMERO HERRERA

Minister for Agriculture,  
Fisheries and Food

France:

Mr Ambroise GUELLEC

State Secretary for the Sea

Ireland:

Mr Liam KAVANAGH

Minister for the Environment

Italy:

Mr Paolo GALLI

Deputy Permanent Representative

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean FEYDER

Deputy Permanent Representative

Netherlands:

Mr Gerrit BRAKS

Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries

Mr A. PLOEG

State Secretary,  
Ministry for Agriculture and Fisheries

Portugal:

Mr Alvaro BARRETO

Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries

Mr Manuel OLIVEIRA GODINHO

State Secretary,  
Ministry for Agriculture and Fisheries

United Kingdom:

Mr Michael JOPLING

Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Mr John GUMMER

Minister of State,  
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

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Commission:

Mr Antonio José Baptista CARDOSO E CUNHA  
Member

COMMON FISHERIES POLICY

The Council held a discussion on the Commission report on the enforcement of the common fisheries policy and noted the Commission's intention to submit relevant proposals on the subject.

The Council also discussed the Commission communication on the guidelines and initiatives for the development of the common fisheries policy. During the discussion there was broad agreement on the need to avoid undermining the principles on which the common policy adopted in 1983 was based. It was established that the enlarged Community was faced with the problem of the imbalance between the potential of the fleet and the resources available.

At the end of the discussion the Council asked the Commission to submit proposals relating to structures at the earliest opportunity, particularly in view of the fact that the structural measures currently in force expired at the end of the year.

FISHERIES RELATIONS WITH CERTAIN THIRD COUNTRIES

The Council heard a statement by the Commission representative on fisheries relations with certain third countries. The Council concentrated in particular on the matter of relations between the Community and certain State-trading countries bordering the Baltic Sea and between the Community and Canada. In this context the Council agreed to two decisions:

- the first authorizing the Commission to send the NAFO Executive Secretary notice of the Community's intention not to be linked with the international mutual inspection programme in the NAFO Regulatory Area from one year after the date of the said notice;
- the second authorizing the Commission to notify the Government of Canada of the Community's intention to terminate the current arrangement on the introduction of a scientific observation programme as of 31 December 1986.

CONSERVATION

The Council held a discussion on this proposal for a Regulation and instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue looking into this matter.

VESSEL CHARACTERISTICS

The Council discussed the proposal for a Regulation laying down definitions of vessel characteristics and the way in which they are to be determined for fishing vessels. The proposal aims to introduce common definitions for the principle characteristics of fishing vessels in order to facilitate uniform application of the common policy in future, particularly the measures on structures and the conservation of resources which are often directed at vessels with certain characteristics.

On completion of its discussion the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue looking into this proposal.

RESEARCH POLICY

The Council discussed a Commission communication accompanied by a proposal for a Regulation on the promotion of research and a proposal for a Decision adopting research and co-ordination programmes for the period 1985-1989.

It instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its proceedings in the light of the discussion.

TACS AND QUOTAS

Additional quotas in Swedish waters

NAFO area

Spitzbergen/Bear Island

The Council adopted the Regulation allocating additional catch quotas among Member States for vessels fishing in Swedish waters in the period between 1 March and 31 December 1986. The quantities in question are as follows:

(in tonnes)

Species	ICES division	Quotas	Allocations	
Cod	III d	2 500	Denmark	1 830
			Germany	670
Herring	III d	1 500	Denmark	855
			Germany	645

In addition, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue studying the questions still outstanding.

AMENDMENTS TO 1986 TACS AND QUOTAS

Skagerrak/Kattegat herring

For the month of July 1986 the Council set the Community share in the TAC for herring in division III a at 12 000 tonnes.

ORGANIZATION OF THE MARKET IN FISHERY PRODUCTS

The Council agreed to a Regulation laying down provisions applicable from 1 July 1986 under the protocol on the import of certain freshwater fish coming from Sweden and Switzerland.

TARIFF QUOTAS

After lengthy discussions the Council agreed to open the following tariff quotas:

- cod, wet, salted:

Quota of 40 000 tonnes, at a rate of 3%;

- saithe and fillets of saithe, salted:

Quota of 1 000 tonnes of saithe at 6% and  
2 500 tonnes of fillets of saithe at 8%;

- deep-frozen fillets and minced blocks of Alaska pollack:

Quota of 6 300 tonnes at 5%.

Distribution: Benelux 200 tonnes, Germany 3 000 tonnes  
France 1 500 tonnes, United Kingdom 1 000 tonnes  
Reserve 600 tonnes;

- deep-frozen fillets and minced blocks of hake (*Merluccius hubbsi*):

Quota of 7 250 tonnes at 5%.

Distribution: Benelux 200 tonnes, Denmark 300 tonnes,  
Germany 4 200 tonnes, France 800 tonnes,  
Italy 750 tonnes  
Reserve 1 000 tonnes.



MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

New Community rules for State aid to the coal industry

The Council gave its assent, pursuant to Article 95(1) of the ECSC Treaty, on the draft Commission Decision on new Community rules for State aid to the coal industry which are to enter into force on 1 July 1986 for a period of seven and a half years until the end of 1993.

However, the Commission would be submitting to the Council before the end of 1990 a report on the experiences and problems encountered in applying the new rules and might propose any amendments appropriate in accordance with the procedure provided for in the abovementioned Article of the ECSC Treaty.

The new rules stipulate that any official aid to the coal industry may be considered Community aid and therefore compatible with the proper functioning of the common market only if it helps to achieve at least one of the following objectives:

- improving the competitiveness of the coal industry, which contributes to assuring a better security of supply;
- creating new capacities, provided that they are economically viable;
- solving the social and regional problems related to developments in the coal industry.

Such aid must satisfy the criteria laid down in the Decision and may be implemented only in accordance with the procedures which the Decision itself introduces; it stipulates that the following types of aid may be considered Community aid and therefore granted by the Member States in the circumstances laid down in the Decision.

Deficit subsidies

Aid covering operating losses may be considered compatible with the common market provided that it does not exceed, for each tonne produced and for each individual coal region or undertaking, the difference between foreseeable average costs and the foreseeable average returns in the following financial year.

Sales aid

Aid for supplying coal and coke to the Community's iron and steel industry may be considered compatible where there is no actual competition from coal or coke from non-member countries, and provided it does not exceed the rebates granted on the list prices or production costs of undertakings and does not result in lower prices than those which would be charged for coal from non-member countries or coke made from such coal.

Investment aid

Investment aid for the rationalization of an existing capacity for the opening up of further existing capacities which are economically viable may be considered compatible provided it covers no more than 50 per cent of the costs of the investment, that the investment has been notified to the Commission and that the Commission has delivered a favourable opinion.

Aid for underground staff

Aid granted under existing schemes to maintain the underground labour force in deep mines may be considered compatible when it is in a specific form enabling it to be calculated separately from other aid.

Financing of social grants

Aid to finance social grant schemes specific to the coal industry may be considered compatible provided that, for coal undertakings, it brings the ratio between the burden per mineworker in employment and the benefits per person in receipt of benefit into line with the corresponding ratio in other industries.

Inherited liabilities

Finally, aid to coal undertakings to cover the costs arising from the restructuring of the coal industry which are not related to current production may be considered compatible provided the amount of aid does not exceed such costs.

Notification, appraisal and authorization procedures

The new rules provide that all Member States which intend to grant aid to coal undertakings in 1986 must, by October 1986, submit to the Commission a statement of intentions and objectives for the industry for the period 1987-1993 as well as information on all measures they propose to take in the following year to give direct or indirect support to the coal industry. The rules for the submission of subsequent requests by the Member States will be laid down in the light of such information.

The Decision governs the procedures whereby the Commission will appraise and authorize the measures planned by the Member States. It lays down pricing provisions, stipulating that aid must not lead to discrimination, within the meaning of the ECSC Treaty, between Community buyers or users of coal or coke; to that end the Commission may, if necessary, require undertakings to comply with minimum prices.

The Decision also leaves open to the Commission the possibility of revoking approval of aid or amending its terms if it no longer fulfils the conditions imposed.

Finally, the Commission is to report annually to the Council, the European Parliament and the ECSC Consultative Committee on the application of the new rules.

International Wheat Agreement, 1986

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision on the signing of the Wheat Trade Convention, 1986, and the Food Aid Convention, 1986, constituting the International Wheat Agreement, 1986, and the deposit of a declaration of provisional application of the said conventions.

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Bruxelles, le 23 juin 1986

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NOTE BIO (86) 177 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX  
cc. aux Membres du Service du Porte-Parole

PREPARATION DU CONSEIL PECHE (N. Wegter)

Au cours du rendez-vous de midi, nous nous sommes référés à la prochaine session du Conseil Pêche qui aura lieu le 25 juin prochain, à partir de 15h à Luxembourg, c'ad après la clôture de la session du Conseil agriculture qui se tient demain et mercredi matin également à Luxembourg.

Un grand nombre de points qui figurent à l'ordre du jour ont pour la plupart un caractère assez technique.

Le plat de résistance de cette séance est composé de deux rapports soumis récemment par la Commission au Conseil, à savoir :

1. Orientations et impulsions pour le développement de la politique commune de la pêche (voir note P-45) et
2. Rapport sur l'application de la politique commune de la pêche. (voir note P-46).

En ce qui concerne le premier document qui reflète les principaux éléments de la ligne de pensée de la Commission en ce qui concerne les perspectives en matière de la politique commune de la pêche, les Ministres s'y référeront en se basant également sur les résultats de l'examen du même document fait au niveau du Coreper. Ces derniers travaux n'étant pas encore terminés, on ne peut pas identifier les principaux éléments auxquels les délégations vont faire référence.

Ce dernier constat vaut également en ce qui concerne le débat à prévoir en matière du deuxième document précité, ce document ayant été élaboré par la Commission suite à une demande du Conseil du 4 novembre 1985.

Comme vous avez déjà pu le remarquer, ce rapport a provoqué un grand intérêt de la part de la presse puisqu'il contient des critiques assez sensibles sur les modalités d'application pratiquées dans certains Etats membres en matière du régime de la pêche. Les principales conclusions de ce même rapport vous ont déjà été transmises dans la note P-46.

Matériel diffusé au cours du rendez-vous de midi

IP 313 - Aides d'urgence en faveur du Liban et de la Jamaïque  
Eurostat : Indice des prix à la consommation, 5/86

Améliés,

C. Stathopoulos. Comeur ////

NOTE BIO(R6)177 (suite 1 et fin) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX  
CC. AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE PAROLE

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CONSEIL PECHE :

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Les Ministres de la Pêche se sont séparés peu après minuit du 25 juin sur des résultats partiels.

Le Conseil a approuvé les propositions de la Commission répartissant les quotas supplémentaires de capture entre les États membres pour les navires pêchant dans les eaux de la Suède.

Il a également arrêté un certain nombre de contingents tarifaires correspondants à des demandes que l'Allemagne et le Portugal avaient déposées au début de cette année. Le Portugal avait particulièrement insisté sur l'importance politique de maintenir pour une certaine part à 3 % les droits de douane pour les importations de cabillauds nécessaires à son approvisionnement. La Commission s'est engagée dans le cadre de ce débat à faire un rapport au prochain Conseil sur la structure du TDC en ce qui concerne les produits de la pêche.

Le Conseil a aussi formellement décidé, suivant l'annonce qui en avait déjà été faite par Mr Cardoso E Cunha, d'autoriser la Commission à annoncer à la NAFO et au Gouvernement du Canada la cessation de la participation de la Communauté au programme d'inspection mutuel de la NAFO et à l'arrangement avec le Canada, concernant un programme d'observation scientifique. La Commission est par la même occasion autorisée à négocier les adaptations de ces accords de nature à éviter la réapparition des incidents qui ont eu lieu avec le Canada.

Les Ministres ont eu par ailleurs des débats d'orientation positifs sur les rapports de la Commission concernant le contrôle de la réglementation communautaire en matière de pêche et la politique structurelle.

En ce qui concerne le contentieux franco-espagnol pour l'accès espagnol à une zone du Golfe de Gascogne (VIIc), les deux délégations ont suggéré que la Commission, gardienne des Traités, fasse des propositions de nature à apaiser le conflit qui oppose certains de leurs pêcheurs sur l'interprétation du Traité d'adhésion.

Le Conseil n'a pas été en mesure d'arrêter la proposition concernant la pêche au hareng dans la zone de Skagerrak et Kattegat gérée dans le cadre d'un accord trilatéral par la Communauté, la Suède et la Norvège. Afin d'éviter l'interruption des pêcheries il a adopté un quota communautaire de 12 000 tonnes pour le mois de juillet. Les négociations avec les deux pays scandinaves seront entretemps poursuivies.

Mr Cardoso E Cunha a fortement critiqué cette carence du Conseil. Il a demandé à la présidence britannique de convoquer une session spéciale des Ministres au mois de juillet pour approuver cette proposition ainsi que celle sur laquelle le Conseil n'a pu non plus se mettre d'accord fixant et répartissant entre les États membres les quotas de capture dans la zone NAFO.

Amitiés,

 C. STATHOPOULOS