



COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT



PRESS RELEASE

7347/86 (Presse 80)

1082nd meeting of the Council

- Energy -

Luxembourg, 3 June 1986

President: Mr G.M.V. VAN AARDENNE
Deputy Prime Minister
Minister for Economic Affairs
of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Netherlands:

Mr G.M.V. VAN AARDENNE

Deputy Prime Minister,
Minister for Economic Affairs

Portugal:

Mr Luis TODO-BOM

State Secretary for Industry and
Energy

United Kingdom:

Mr Peter WALKER

Secretary of State for Energy

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Commission:

Mr Nicolas MOSAR

Member

CHERNOBYL

The Council held an exchange of views on the nuclear accident at Chernobyl. It noted the information supplied by the Commission on the measures taken following the accident to safeguard public health.

The Council emphasized the importance of learning as many lessons as possible from the Chernobyl accident, both internationally and within the Community.

At international level, the appropriate forum for action was the International Atomic Energy Agency specifically as regards measures provided for in the Resolution of the last meeting of the Board of Governors of the IAEA.

Pursuant to Article 115 of the Euratom Treaty, co-ordination between the Community and its Member States would be assured within the framework of discussions conducted at the IAEA.

Furthermore, the Council noted with interest the Commission's intention to place before it shortly a framework communication on the consequences of the Chernobyl accident.

COMMUNITY OIL REFINING INDUSTRY AND EXTERNAL TRADE IN PETROLEUM PRODUCTS - COUNCIL CONCLUSIONS

The Council examined the Commission report entitled "The Community oil market, its oil refining industry and the external trade in petroleum products".

As a result of its examination the Council:

- agrees that Community refining policy should be maintained along the lines which it approved at its meetings on 15 March, 20 June and 11 November 1985, in particular;
- requests the Commission to take account of the comments made in its discussion and to continue monitoring developments in the refining sector;
- reaffirms the need to maintain close contacts with the chief industrialized partners such as the United States and Japan, which represent the other major markets for the consumption of refined products, so that access to those markets for products coming from outside them is guaranteed at all times;
- requests the Permanent Representatives Committee to report back on its examination of the other matters raised during the debate.

NEW COMMUNITY ENERGY OBJECTIVES

The Council discussed in detail questions arising in connection with a draft Resolution on the new Community energy policy objectives for 1995 and the convergence of Member States' policies.

The Council noted at the close of discussions that, while solutions had been reached on most points in abeyance, certain difficulties still existed. It therefore entrusted the dossier to the Permanent Representatives Committee in order that a solution to these difficulties might be reached.

NEW COMMUNITY RULES FOR STATE AIDS TO THE COAL INDUSTRY

The Council reached broad agreement on the assent to be given pursuant to the first paragraph of Article 95 of the ECSC Treaty on the draft Commission Decision relating to the new Community rules for State aids to the coal industry, which is to enter into force on 1 July.

In view of the continuing existence of certain problems, however, it instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to return to this question with a view to reaching a solution and, thus, enabling the Council to give its assent in time to ensure the entry into force of the new arrangements from 1 July.

COAL: SOCIAL ASPECTS

The Council resumed examination of the Commission proposal to transfer an amount of 60 MECU from the general budget of the Communities for the financial year 1985 to the ECSC budget, to finance social measures accompanying the restructuring of the coal industries.

It noted that it was unable at this point to arrive at a conclusion and instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue discussions on the subject.

LIGNITE AND PEAT INDUSTRIES IN THE COMMUNITY

1. The Council (*), after having discussed the Commission's "Second Report on the Lignite and Peat Industries", has confirmed that lignite and peat make a useful contribution to the attainment of the Community's energy objectives.
2. The Council has taken note that the Commission maintains its proposal for Community financial support of investment in the solid fuel producing industries.
3. The Council calls on the Commission to consider how effective the various Community Financial Instruments are in developing peat and lignite resources in the Community, having regard to the existing Community commitment to solid fuel policy. Where appropriate, new proposals directly affecting peat and lignite should be prepared and submitted to the Council.

(*) with a waiting reservation from the Irish delegation.

SITUATION OF THE OIL MARKET

The Council took stock of the situation of the oil market on the basis of an analysis by the Commission departments of recent developments on the oil market and its future prospects.

The Council concluded the discussion of the subject by calling on the Commission to continue its examination, placing particular emphasis on the various effects of the fall in oil prices.

RATIONAL USE OF ENERGY

The Council noted that the Commission had just forwarded to it a communication on the rational use of energy and instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to prepare discussions on the subject.

DEVELOPMENT OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES

Pending receipt of the European Parliament's Opinion, the Council adopted a favourable position on a draft Resolution on a Community orientation to develop new and renewable energy sources.

This Community orientation seeks, in particular, to:

- optimize the exploitation of those sources in the Community, taking into account what is available in each Member State;
- make its efforts as profitable as possible, avoiding, inter alia, duplication and enabling all potential exploiters at Community level to benefit from the experience acquired;
- ensure co-operation at Community level with a view to the coherence, if necessary, of national legislative, financial and information measures;
- prepare, if appropriate, measures at Community level, without prejudice to those already undertaken, designed to encourage the use of new and renewable energy sources;
- facilitate industrial co-operation and the extension of markets.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Trade in meat

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision concerning the conclusion of the exchange of letters relating to Clause 2 of the arrangement between the European Economic Community and the Eastern Republic of Uruguay on trade in mutton and lamb.

ECSC

The Council gave its assent, pursuant to the second paragraph of Article 54 of the ECSC Treaty, to the granting of a global loan to the Mediocredito Centrale for the financing of investment programmes which contribute to facilitating the marketing of Community steel.

Appointment

On the proposal of the United Kingdom Government, the Council appointed Mr M.J. UPTON, Manager, Central Training Unit, British Steel Corporation, a member of the Advisory Committee on Vocational Training, in place of Mr R.A. SHEPPARD, member, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office which runs until 14 July 1987.

Bruxelles, le 4 juin 1986.

Note Bio(86)153 aux bureaux nationaux
cc. aux membres du Service du Porte-Parole

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Conseil Energie : le nucleaire, les aides au charbon et le
marche petrolier au centre du debat (W. HELIN)

Les Ministres de l'Energie des Douze n'ont pu se mettre
d'accord mardi soir a Luxembourg sur deux dossiers importants :
le futur regime d'aides publiques au secteur charbonnier - qui
doit prendre la releve en principe a partir du 1er juillet 86 de
l'ancien systeme en vigueur - et la mise au point des objectifs
energetiques pour la Communaute a l'horizon de 1995.

Dans l'un et l'autre cas, toutefois, il n'est pas exclu que
les Ministres des Affaires Etrangeres des Douze qui se
reunissent le 16 juin prochain puissent adopter formellement ces
deux propositions.

Nucleaire a l'horizon 1995 : opposition danoise :

Les Douze ont pu marquer leur accord sur les objectifs
energetiques proposes a l'horizon 1995 par la Commission, pour
ce qui est notamment du role futur du petrole (il devrait
couvrir environ 40% des besoins energetiques globaux par rapport
a quelque 48% en 1985) mais l'attitude ferme du Ministre danois
a empeche un accord formel de se realiser apres une longue
discussion sur le role du nucleaire.

Rappelons qu'a l'origine (mai 85), la Commission europeenne
avait propose que le nucleaire intervienne pour 40% de
l'electricite produite dans la Communaute en 1995 - aujourd'hui
cette part est de 30.7% -.

Apres l'accident de Tchernobyl, les Ministres ont prefere ne
plus indiquer de chiffres pour le nucleaire tout en soulignant
la part substantielle que detient cette source d'energie dans
l'approvisionnement de la Communaute.

De compromis en compromis, une proposition paraissait
pouvoir faire l'objet d'un accord. Ce texte disait : "Taking
account of the substantial part played by nuclear power in the
Community's energy supply, it is agreed that on the basis of
highest standards of safety, appropriate measures must ensure
that all aspects of planning, construction and operation of
nuclear installations fullfil optimal safety conditions".

Le Ministre danois souhaitait toutefois que l'on ajoute au
texte une mention specifique quant a la LOCALISATION des sites
nucleaires. Mr Bangemann, dans une intervention qui fit rire
tout le Conseil - il compara le gouvernement danois a une jeune
fille qui a force de trouver le moindre defaut a tous les
fiances qu'on lui presente, finit par rester vierge - se dit pret
a inserer dans le texte de la declaration un passage pour
repondre au souhait danois. Cette offre buta toutefois sur un
refus du chef de la delegation francaise (le representant
permanent) et des lors le debat tourna court.

Aides au charbon : la France empeche l'accord

Au bout de longues heures de discussions, le representant
francais a demande un delai de reflexion supplementaire avant de
donner l'accord de son gouvernement au sujet du nouveau regime
d'aides au charbon.

La seule question qui reste en suspens est celle de la durée du futur régime. Toutes les délégations - sauf la France - ont pu marquer leur accord pour un régime d'aide de 7,5 années (avec le cas échéant une clause de révision après 5 ans). La France estimait que les aides au fonctionnement dans le secteur charbonnier devraient pouvoir expirer après 5 ans. L'espoir est réel de voir ce point adopté sans discussions à l'occasion du Conseil des Ministres des Affaires étrangères le 16 juin prochain.

Marché Pétrolier : M. MOSAR craint que l'Europe ne soit surprise par un nouveau choc pétrolier

 Le Commissaire à l'Energie a présenté aux Ministres une première analyse des services de la Commission basée sur un scénario de maintien du prix du pétrole brut à 15 \$ d'ici à 1990 (Pour les détails voir : MEMO 64/86). Il a indiqué que ceci aurait pour effet d'augmenter la demande et l'importation de pétrole dans la Communauté à Douze de quelque 1,5 million de barils par jour. "D'analyses comparables effectuées aux Etats-Unis il ressort que l'accroissement de la demande et de l'importation américaine atteindrait 5 millions de barils par jour, a souligné M. Mosar. Si l'on y ajoute les besoins accrus de pays comme le Japon, l'on peut obtenir un chiffre qui couvre environ les excédents actuels d'exportation de pétrole de pays de l'OPEP soit 8 à 10 millions de barils par jour."

"Si l'on n'y prend garde l'Europe dans cette hypothèse pourrait être surprise par un nouveau défi pétrolier", a conclu M. Mosar.

PRODUCTION D'ELECTRICITE DANS LA COMMUNAUTE - EN %

	1984		1985	
	Nucleaire	Traditionnel	Nucleaire	Traditionnel
EUR-12	----	----	30,7	56,8
EUR-10	27,5	61,3	31,8	57,8
FRANCE	58,7	19,5	64,8	15,8
RFA	23,6	71,5	31,2	64,3
BELGIQUE	50,9	46,6	59,8	37,8
R.U.	17,9	79,9	19,3	78,2
ITALIE	3,8	68,7	3,8	69,8
PAYS-BAS	5,9	94,1	6,1	93,9
ESPAGNE	---	----	22,0	48,0

Rappelons que les autres pays de la Communauté ne produisent pas d'électricité au départ de l'énergie nucléaire.

Amitiés,

H. PAEMEN, Comeur////