

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES  
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

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1197th meeting of the Council  
- Development Co-operation -  
Brussels, 9 November 1987

President: Mr Bent HAAKONSEN  
State Secretary  
Ministry of 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 A. KEMPINAIRE

State Secretary,  
Development Co-operation

Denmark:

Mr Bent HAAKONSEN

State Secretary,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Germany:

Mr Volkmar KOEHLER

Parliamentary State Secretary,  
Federal Ministry of Development  
Co-operation

Greece:

Mr Yannis KAPSIS

Deputy Minister,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Spain:

Mr Luis YANEZ

State Secretary,  
International Co-operation

France:

Mr Michel AURILLAC

Minister for Co-operation

Ireland:

Mr Sean CALLEARY

Deputy Minister,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs,  
responsible for Development Aid

Italy:

Mr Luigi FRANZA

State Secretary,  
Foreign Affairs

Luxembourg:

Mr Joseph WEYLAND

Ambassador,  
Permanent Representative

Netherlands:

Mr P. BUKMAN

Minister for Development  
Co-operation

Portugal:

Mr José Manuel DURAO BARROSO

State Secretary,  
Foreign Affairs and Co-operation

United Kingdom:

Mr Christopher PATTEN

Minister for  
Overseas Development

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Commission:

Mr Lorenzo NATALI  
Mr Claude CHEYSSON

Vice-President  
Member

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

ECONOMIC SITUATION AND ADJUSTMENT PROCESS

On the basis of a Commission working document the Council held an exchange of views on the economic situation of the Sub-Saharan African States, on the process of structural adjustment currently under way and on possible support from the Community and its Member States.

In view of the importance of this subject, the Council agreed to continue its discussions with a view to drawing practical conclusions at its next meeting.

The Council agreed at this stage that co-ordination between the Commission and the Member States should be improved as regards support for structural adjustment and that these questions should be tackled in the dialogue between the Community and its African partners and within the bodies responsible for co-ordinating with the persons providing the capital, with a view to making the reforms both effective and acceptable from the political, economic and social points of view.

It was also agreed that the Community should endeavour to be as flexible as possible in using the support mechanisms available to it with a view to strengthening the structural aspect.

SPECIAL COMMUNITY PROGRAMME TO AID CERTAIN HIGHLY INDEBTED LOW-INCOME COUNTRIES IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Pending the Opinion of the European Parliament, the Council approved the common position set out below relating to the Commission communication concerning a special programme to aid certain highly indebted low-income countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The Community intends this special programme to be its contribution to solving the serious problems confronting these countries and to give concrete form to the initiative it took at the Summit in Venice, when it invited the international community to take appropriate measures to assist these countries.

"The Council approves the Commission's intention to implement a special Community programme to aid certain highly indebted low-income countries in sub-Saharan Africa, as set out in its communication to the Council.

1. As regards eligibility of countries for Community assistance under this programme, the Council and the Commission consider that the following criteria should be applied (<sup>1</sup>):

- low-income countries, i.e. eligible for financing from the International Development Association;
- a debt burden that seriously affects their capacity to import;
- a commitment and action to undertake significant efforts to carry out economic adjustment.

Countries undertaking an IMF or World Bank adjustment programme would clearly have demonstrated that they are making such efforts. However, given the special Community character of this programme, it may be possible to assist countries which currently have no formal IMF or World Bank approved programme, provided that their macro-economic policies or sectoral adjustments are deemed sustainable and that the assistance provided is directly related to the action they are taking in pursuance of such adjustment. Community assistance in the form of general and sectoral import programmes must not run counter to such sustainability and should be planned and implemented in close co-ordination with the World Bank or the IMF.

2. On the basis of this approval by the Council, the Commission is invited to make contact with other donors with a view to preparing a report on overall allocations under this programme to be submitted to the Programming Committee prior to the presentation of specific proposals to the EDF Committee.

3. The Council welcomes the intention of Member States and the Commission to seek effective consultation and co-ordination among themselves and with OECD partners, with a view to the donor conference to be held on 3-4 December and similar future meetings on measures to be taken to help highly indebted low-income countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

4. As far as the financial aspects are concerned, the Council:

- welcomes the Commission's intention, while implementing the third ACP-EEC Convention and in agreement with each country concerned, to increase the proportion of quick-disbursing aid to eligible countries under the special programme to about 20% of programmable aid;

- considers it necessary to devote a further amount of 100 MECU to implement the special Community programme, this amount being financed:
  - = to the extent of 40 MECU, by balances outstanding from earlier ACP-EEC Conventions; and
  - = to the extent of 60 MECU, by partially recycling repayments accruing to Member States of interest and capital made or to be made by the ACP States relating to special loans and risk capital accorded by the Community.

5. The Council intends to take the necessary legal measures to that effect as soon as it has had the opportunity to consider the Opinion of the European Parliament.<sup>4</sup>

#### FOOD SITUATION IN ETHIOPIA

The Council examined the food situation in Ethiopia, which is once again giving cause for concern.

It noted that action had been taken by the Community and its Member States. It emphasized the need to maintain close co-ordination between the Community, the Member States and other donors and the need to place particular emphasis on solving the problems which the logistics of delivering the aid might pose.

ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Having held an exchange of views on the need to integrate the environmental dimension into the development policies of the Community and its Member States, the Council adopted the following Resolution:

1. The Council has on a number of occasions reiterated the need to integrate the environmental dimension into the Community's development policy.

The Council notes that the Single European Act lays down that environmental protection requirements shall be a component of all Community policies; that Community environment policy has increasingly developed a preventive character and that the fourth Community Environmental Action Programme (1987-1992) underlines the importance of participation by the Community and its member States in co-operation with developing countries on environmental matters. The Council further notes the recommendations adopted by the OECD Council in 1985 and 1986 concerning the environmental assessment of development projects and programmes. The Report by the World Commission on Environment and Development highlights the relevance of environmental issues in the implementation of sustainable development policies.

The Council broadly welcomes the progress report submitted by the Commission on the integration of environmental aspects in the Community's development policy, which demonstrates that the Community has taken firm action in pursuit of the objectives formulated by previous Council resolutions on this topic in 1984 and 1986. The Council has



noted with interest the recommendations of the experts' meeting held recently by the Commission and requests that such meetings should be organised on a regular basis.

2. A major objective of development assistance is that all programmes and projects form part of and contribute to economically and environmentally sustainable development. Environmental aspects should therefore be taken into account in all sectors of activity under all Community and Member State development policies.

Projects to restore, protect and improve the ecological basis for development must run for a sufficient period of time to take account of the complexities of the situations and leave a sustainable mark. Therefore donors should make a long-term commitment in specific regions and allow sufficient flexibility to local personnel responsible for implementation to adapt to changing circumstances.

3. In order to meet this challenge of integrating environmental aspects in development policy, action should be taken which would encompass, inter alia
  - support for developing countries' efforts to elaborate and implement a general strategy for the integration of the environment in their overall policy planning;
  - ensuring compatibility of programmes and projects with these national strategies and with sustainable use of natural resources;
  - elaboration of sector-specific and operational guidelines on how to take account of these objectives in the main aid sectors;

- setting up an environmental focal point in donor administrations whose main responsibilities would be to raise awareness and enhance the technical capabilities of operational administrative units on environmental issues.

4. The Council emphasizes the importance of co-ordinating aid operations so that they complement each other and have a more significant impact in any given area. Co-financed operations between Member States and between Member States and the Commission should be encouraged.

However, the Council recognises that development aid projects financed by the Community and its Member States, whatever their size, will not, on their own, be able to solve the considerable environmental problems of the developing countries. It therefore stresses that the awareness and support of the local authorities, population and enterprises is of fundamental importance.

The Council acknowledges the importance of institution building and the need to assist developing partners in enhancing their administrative capacity and technical expertise in this field. Decentralized decision-making should be encouraged in order to ensure that local habits and practices contribute to sustainable development.

5. Operations co-financed with NGOs active in this area should therefore be encouraged. The Council notes with interest the Commission's initiative of inviting European or developing country NGOs to take responsibility for implementing certain Community-funded projects and programmes.

6. The Council considers that further reflexion on the environmental aspects of development policy is particularly timely given that 1987 has been declared the European Year of the Environment.

The Council invites the Commission and Member States to continue their efforts to implement the European Action Plan to counter desertification adopted by the Council in April 1986 and to broaden its scope and application so that environmental aspects are taken into account in all sectors and activities under all Community and Member State development policies."

FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL AID FOR LATIN AMERICAN AND ASIAN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Pending the Opinion of the European Parliament and on the basis of an introductory statement by the Commissioner, Mr CHEYSSON, the Council held a preliminary exchange of views on the general guidelines proposed by the Commission for 1988 as regards financial and technical aid for the developing countries of Latin America and Asia.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue with its examination of the Commission proposal, in the light of today's debate, so that the Council, after noting the European Parliament's Opinion, could take a decision by the end of the year.

WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT

Following an exchange of views on the subject, the Council adopted the following conclusions:

1. The Council has on previous occasions underlined the importance which it attaches to the issue of Women in Development (WID). In April 1986 the Council concluded that priority should be given to the implementation of the Forward Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women to the Year 2000 (FLS), with special attention in the first instance to women's participation in sectors such as agriculture and food production. It has noted with interest the progress report drawn up by the Commission on the implementation of Community policy in relation to women in development and welcomes the conclusions and recommendations of the meeting between Member States' officials responsible for "Women in Development" and the Commission in Brussels on 17-18 September 1987. It encourages the Commission to organise similar meetings on a regular basis to exchange views on experience and the implementation of the following conclusions.
  
2. Evidence clearly shows that the WID issue is relevant for all development processes. Programmes and projects which integrate WID are likely to be more effective. The Council therefore underlines the need for the WID issue to be fully integrated into all co-operation agreements between the Community and its development partners (ACP, Latin American, Asian and Mediterranean countries).

The Council notes the Commission's intention to carry out a thematic evaluation of a number of mainstream development programmes and projects implemented in different countries and sectors as to the involvement of women. The results of this evaluation could be used when preparing new conventions, co-operation agreements, indicative programmes and financing proposals. They could also serve as useful material for staff training.

3. The Council is aware that despite the greater attention paid to this issue in recent years, much still needs to be done in order to establish operational mechanisms to ensure the integration of women in all phases of the programme and project cycle.

The Council therefore notes with satisfaction that a number of steps shall be taken by the Commission and Member States to integrate the WID issue into all development policies. In particular, an action programme will be drawn up, based on the Forward Looking Strategies, encompassing inter alia: practical measures to ensure that development policies with regard to WID are properly implemented by all relevant administrative units, and sector specific guidelines, where appropriate, and training on how to incorporate this issue into the main aid sectors and country or regional profiles setting out principle guidelines for assistance to women in developing countries. The OECD/DAC report "From Nairobi to the year 2000" and the experience of Member States which have already elaborated such action programmes should be taken into account.

4. During all phases of the programme and project cycle, particular attention should be paid to the socio-economic position and role of women. Documents such as financing proposals, implementation and evaluation reports should

include specific information on the expected impact of the project on women and on the integration of women into programme or project activities.

Since WID activities should be an integral part of all programmes and projects, financing proposals should provide for the necessary funding. It is essential to establish the needs and wishes of local women and all appropriate proposals should involve consultation at the identification stage.

Special efforts should also be made to assist development partners in involving local women in programme and project planning, implementation and evaluation. WID expertise should be included in all stages of the programme and project cycle. Efforts should be made to strengthen local female expertise of developing countries.

The Commission should work closely with NGOs and give special attention to cofinancing projects which increase awareness of WID and by associating NGOs in the implementation of Community programmes and projects, thereby involving the local population.

5. Qualified staff and material resources in development administrations of the Commission and Member States should be sufficient to ensure the full integration of women in all appropriate programmes and projects.
  6. The Development Council invites the Commission to submit to it for its first meeting in 1989 a report on progress achieved in implementing these conclusions, including an outline of an action programme. This report should take into consideration, inter alia, the results of the meetings and exchanges of views referred to in paragraph 1.
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## EVALUATION OF DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION

Following a discussion on this, the Council approved draft guidelines for improving the work of evaluation in the Community and co-operation in this area between the Commission and the Member States:

- "1. The Development Council has repeatedly stressed the importance which it attaches to the function of evaluation of development co-operation, most recently on 21 May 1987. It considers that it is essential to learn from past mistakes and successes and to use experience gained over the last 20 or 30 years of execution of development policies to improve the quality of future aid.

At its last meeting, the Council emphasized that the support of public opinion for development aid was essential. The dissemination of the results obtained by evaluating development activities, which should be done without breaching the necessary confidentiality, is an important means of increasing public awareness.

The need for evaluation is recognized in the third Lomé Convention, where Articles 193 and 224 provide for evaluation procedures. The Council considers that activities in all areas of Community development assistance should be evaluated. The practical lessons learnt in any one geographical area or operational sector of Community development co-operation should also be drawn on when evaluating other areas or sectors. The Commission and Member States may moreover, where appropriate, draw on results and reports by other institutions.

2. Member States and the Commission agree in general to make available to each other on request all evaluation studies completed as well as future work programmes. The

Council has noted with satisfaction that the Commission departments and their colleagues in the administrations of the Member States dealing with evaluation have initiated a dialogue. It feels that closer collaboration between the Member States and the Commission in this field would be of benefit to all. Where appropriate, joint evaluations by the Commission and one or more Member States could be useful.

3. In order to be able to carry out their function effectively and to ensure that experience gained is systematically fed into future programmes and projects, evaluation services in the Member States and the Commission should have sufficient material and personnel resources at their disposal, taking into account the relative size of aid programmes of the Community and Member States.
4. The major problem involved in evaluation is ensuring that there is adequate feedback into operational practice. Evaluation and monitoring should therefore be incorporated explicitly and systematically into all programmes and projects from the earliest phases of preparation and planning up to the final ex-post phase. Throughout the programme and project cycle, the relevant documents should note knowledge gained from past experience on similar programmes and projects or from earlier phases of the same activity and how this knowledge has been used. Efforts should be made to modify or re-orientate activities during implementation where monitoring shows that such modification is necessary.
5. It is important that the question of sustainability of benefits after programme or project completion be systematically considered during the stages of identification, feasibility study, appraisal/financing, monitoring and evaluation. Criteria such as fulfilling a genuine need, contributing in a positive way to the overall



development of the beneficiary, success in reaching target groups and environmental impact are all considerations which are important in ensuring such sustainability. Member States and the Commission should come to a broad common understanding on the major factors conditioning sustainability, giving due consideration to work currently being done within the OECD.

6. The Council recommends that the application of existing evaluation procedures be reviewed in order to ascertain to what extent improvements could be made under future conventions, co-operation agreements and other development instruments.
7. The Council stresses that representatives of recipient countries and where possible of the target groups should be involved at all stages of the evaluation exercise in order to ensure maximum effectiveness.
8. Meetings between the evaluation services of the Commission and Member States are essential for the implementation of these guidelines and making progress in evaluation work. To this effect, the Commission is invited to present a concise annual report containing the current state of work and a work programme for the coming year. This report should also review progress achieved in intra-Community co-operation in accordance with the present guidelines.
9. In view of its interest in the subject, the Council expresses its wish to review progress in evaluation of development activities on a regular basis. "

COMMUNITY PROGRAMME TO COMBAT AIDS IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

The Council took note of a report from Vice-President NATALI on the implementation of the Community programme to combat AIDS in the developing countries; this programme was approved by the Council at its last meeting on 21 May 1987.

### Anti-dumping

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities:

- the Regulation imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of ferro-silico-calcium/calcium silicide originating in Brazil.

This Regulation makes definitive the provisional anti-dumping duty imposed on such imports by Regulation No 1361/87 <sup>(1)</sup>;

- the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 96/85 imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of pentaerythritol originating in Canada.

The new anti-dumping duty corresponds to the amount by which the free-at-Community-frontier price, before duty, to the first independent importer in the importing Member State is less than 871 ECU per tonne.

### Trade policy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation on the application of the combined nomenclature to the statistics of trade between Member States and amending Regulation (EEC) No 1736/75 on the external trade statistics of the Community and statistics of trade between its Member States.

### Textiles

The Council took note of the Commission report on the outcome of negotiations for the renewal of administrative co-operation arrangements between the Community and preferential Mediterranean countries on trade in textile products.

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<sup>(1)</sup> See Press Release 8362/87 (Presse 151), p. I, of the Council of 17/18.IX.87.

Export credits

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision extending until 15 October 1988 the Decision of 4 April 1978 on the application of certain guidelines in the field of officially supported export credits.

Transport

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Directive on access to the occupation of carrier of goods by waterway in national and international transport and on the mutual recognition of diplomas, certificates and other evidence of formal qualifications for this occupation. <sup>(1)</sup>

Steel products

The Council gave its assent to the Commission Decisions establishing the 1987 delivery levels of ECSC steel products

- of Spanish origin onto the rest of the Community market, excluding Portugal (935 000 tonnes);
- of Portuguese origin onto the rest of the Community market, excluding Spain (100 000 tonnes).

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<sup>(1)</sup> See Press Release 7293/87 (Presse 111), p. 10.

Agriculture

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation concerning special measures for the processing of certain varieties of oranges and amending Regulation (EEC) No 2601/69.

This makes it possible for the 1987/1988 marketing year

- to grant financial compensation in respect of oranges of the "Shamouti" variety grown in several Member States and sold for processing, up to a quantity of 3 000 tonnes, to be shared between the various producer Member States;
- to grant financial compensation in respect of the following three other varieties: "Cadenera", "Castellana" and "Macetera", up to a quantity of 10 000 tonnes, in Spain, the only Member State in which these varieties are grown.

The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities

- the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 3643/85 concerning the import arrangements applicable to certain third countries in the sheepmeat and goatmeat sector as from 1986.

This amendment is the follow-up to the voluntary restraint undertaking concerning this sector given to the Community by the German Democratic Republic.

- the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 2195/81 on a special programme concerning drainage operations in the less-favoured areas of the West of Ireland.

This amendment extends until 31 December 1988 the common action provided for in 1981.

Culture

The Council and the Ministers meeting within the Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Resolution on the promotion of translation of important works of European culture (see Annex).

Appointments

On a proposal from the Danish Government, the Council appointed Mr P. SCHADE-POULSEN a member of the Economic and Social Committee to replace Mr H.C. SPRINGBORG, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which expires on 20 September 1990.

On a proposal from the Belgian Government, the Council also appointed Mrs Annie SANTUCCI a member of the Advisory Committee on Training in Nursing to replace Mrs Liliane MOTTE for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which expires on 11 May 1989.

On a proposal from the United Kingdom Government, the Council appointed Mr Edward HANNINGTON a member of the Advisory Committee of the Euratom Supply Agency for the remainder of that Committee's term of office, which expires on 28 March 1989.

RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL  
AND OF THE MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR CULTURAL AFFAIRS,  
MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL,  
of

on the promotion of translation of important works  
of European culture

THE COUNCIL AND THE MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR CULTURAL AFFAIRS,  
MEETING WITHIN THE COUNCIL,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic  
Community,

Having regard to the paragraphs of the Solemn Declaration on  
European Union (Stuttgart, 19 June 1983) concerning an improvement  
of information on European culture and wider dissemination of the  
works of writers of the Member States both inside and outside the  
Community,

Having regard to the Resolutions of the European Parliament of  
18 January 1979 and 18 November 1983 dealing with literary translation,

Taking account of the Commission communication to the Council of 27 November 1985 on the European dimension with regard to books, and noting that the Commission has set up a Consultative Committee on books,

Taking account also of the work being accomplished in this field by certain Member States as well as by UNESCO and the Council of Europe,

Bearing in mind the possibility of participation in this activity by the European Foundation after establishment,

With a view to giving publishers an incentive to publish translations of European literary works and to achieving the highest possible quality of such translations,

Whereas furthermore the promotion of translation contributes to the removal of obstacles to the free movement of books and the improvement of conditions of employment of translators, within the terms of the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community ;

AGREE on the desirability of promoting the translation into other European languages of important works of European culture, including works of contemporary European literature, with priority to translations from minority European languages ;



AGREE to undertake a suitable pilot scheme to provide support for translations, taking into account existing Member State action concerning translation from certain languages, and to encourage the widest possible distribution of works thus translated ;

AGREE on the creation of annual prizes to encourage European translation ;

AGREE to encourage the highest possible quality of translation and recognize the vital role of well-trained translators in this connection ;

INVITE the Commission to consider how it will contribute to the realization of the above measures.

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