



COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES  
GENERAL SECRETARIAT



PRESS RELEASE

8725/87 (Presse 166)

1195th Council meeting

- General Affairs -

Luxembourg, 19 and 20 October 1987

President: Mr Uffe ELLEMANN-JENSEN

Minister for 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 Leo TINDEMANS Minister for Foreign Affairs

Denmark:

Mr Uffe ELLEMANN-JENSEN Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Knud-Erik TYGESEN State Secretary,  
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Germany:

Mrs Irmgard ADAM-SCHWAETZER Minister of State,  
Federal Ministry for Foreign  
Affairs

Greece:

Mr Theodoros PANGALOS Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs

Spain:

Mr Francisco FERNANDEZ ORDONEZ Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Pedro SOLBES State Secretary for Relations with  
the European Communities

Mr Angel FERNANDEZ ORDONEZ State Secretary for Trade

France:

Mr Bernard BOSSON Minister with responsibility for  
European Affairs

Mr Michel NOIR Minister attached to the Minister  
for Economic Affairs, Finance and  
Privatization, with responsibility  
for Foreign Trade

Ireland:

Mr Brian LENIHAN Minister for Foreign Affairs

Italy:

Mr Giulio ANDREOTTI Minister for Foreign Affairs

Luxembourg:

Mr Jacques F. POOS Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Robert GOEBBELS State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Netherlands:

Mr H. VAN DEN BROEK Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr P.R.H.M. VAN DER LINDEN State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Portugal:

Mr Victor MARTINS State Secretary for European Affairs

United Kingdom:

Sir Geoffrey HOWE Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs

Mrs Lynda CHALKER Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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Commission:

Mr Jacques DELORS President

Mr Frans H.J.J. ANDRIESEN Vice-President

Mr Henning CHRISTOPHERSEN Vice-President

Mr Claude CHEYSSON Member

Mr Willy DE CLERCQ Member

Mr Grigoris VARFIS Member

MAKING A SUCCESS OF THE SINGLE ACT - THE COPENHAGEN DECISIONS

In preparation for the proceedings of the Copenhagen European Council, and on the basis of proposals which the Commission submitted for the various chapters, the Council carried out a full examination of the problems posed with regard to strengthening budgetary discipline, adjusting the own resources system and reforming structural funds.

For this purpose it had before it texts drawn up by the Presidency, on the basis of work by the Permanent Representatives Committee, the objective of which was to clearly identify issues in the three fields and to indicate options and practical alternatives for possible solutions.

The aim pursued by the Presidency in the Council's discussions was to bring the positions of delegations closer together, wherever possible, in order to reduce the number of different arguments being considered and to determine guidelines which might constitute the basis for decisions in Copenhagen.

At the end of its discussions, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to press ahead with its work, in the same spirit as the Council and in the light of its discussions, so that at its next meeting the Council could concentrate on the major political issues to be discussed by the Copenhagen European Council.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN IN CASES OF ABNORMAL LEVELS OF RADIOACTIVITY OR  
OF A NUCLEAR ACCIDENT

Community system of rapid exchange of information

Pending the Opinion requested of the European Parliament, the Council established a joint position on the content of a Community system of rapid exchange of information in cases of abnormal levels of radioactivity or of a nuclear accident.

In essence, this system provides for the notification and provision of information whenever a Member State decides to take measures of a wide-spread nature in order to protect the general public in case of radiological emergency following:

- an accident in its territory involving facilities or activities listed in the joint position on the system from which a significant release of radioactive material occurs or is likely to occur;
- the detection, within or outside its own territory, of abnormal levels of radioactivity which are likely to be detrimental to public health in that Member State;
- accidents other than those specified above involving facilities or activities also listed in the joint position from which a significant release of radioactive material occurs or is likely to occur;
- lastly, other accidents from which a significant release of radioactive materials occurs or is likely to occur.

The Member State will immediately notify the measures it decides to take to the Commission and those Member States which are or are likely to be affected by them. Such notification shall be accompanied by an indication of the reasons for taking such measures.

IAEA Convention on early notification of a nuclear accident

The Council also reached agreement in substance on the conclusion by the Community of the IAEA Convention of 26 September 1986 on early notification of a nuclear accident. It will formally adopt its decision on the matter when it has taken a final decision on the Community system of rapid exchange of information.

Laying down maximum permitted radioactivity levels for foodstuffs

On the basis of a suggestion for an overall compromise submitted by the Presidency, the Council discussed this important issue which is also a matter of urgency since the Regulation drawn up after the Chernobyl accident expires on 31 October 1987.

At the end of the discussion, the President of the Council had to note that at this stage agreement could not be reached, despite the efforts made by the various delegations.

In the circumstances, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue to make every effort to try to reach a solution by the end of the month.

GATT - URUGUAY ROUND - NEGOTIATIONS ON AGRICULTURE

After having had an exchange of views on the basis of the Commission's communication, the Council noted that, in the light of the views expressed by delegations and the clarifications and assurances provided by the Commission, the guidelines - set out in the Annex to the Commission communication - constitute an adequate basis for the Commission Representative to present at the forthcoming meeting of the GATT negotiating group on Agriculture the broad outlines of an EEC submission for negotiations in the agriculture sector in the framework of the multilateral trade negotiations.

The Council noted that the Commission will ensure that throughout the negotiations their global nature as agreed on at Punta del Este will be respected and that the basic principles and mechanisms of the CAP will be preserved.

The Council noted that Community negotiating proposals on Services and Intellectual Property are to be finalized by the end of the year.

RELATIONS WITH THE GULF CO-OPERATION COUNCIL

The Council conducted a wide-ranging exchange of views on the recent Commission proposal. It confirmed the political and economic importance it attaches to the rapid conclusion of an Agreement with the Gulf Co-operation Council and agreed to resume its discussions in this spirit at its November meeting.

RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES

The Agriculture Council heard a statement by the Commission on the possibilities of avoiding a new trade conflict with the United States from 1 January 1988 while ensuring the application of the hormones Directive at the scheduled date.

The Agriculture Council approved the approach set out and asked the Commission to bring its efforts to a successful conclusion.

The General Affairs Council endorsed these conclusions.

NEGOTIATIONS UNDER ARTICLE XXIV.6 OF THE GATT

After taking note of the reports from the Commission concerning the negotiations it had conducted under Article XXIV.6 of the GATT with Argentina, Canada and Japan, the Council:

- approved the outcome of these negotiations with Argentina;
- approved the Commission proposal concerning the continuation of negotiations with Canada;
- after discussing the questions raised by the case of Japan, asked the Commission to continue its negotiations with that country and to report back to it with a view to a final decision in November.

EXPORT CREDITS FOR SHIPS

After examining the questions raised as regards the position to be adopted by the Community in negotiations at the OECD on revising the Understanding on Export Credits for Ships, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its work on this matter in order to enable a decision to be reached quickly.



SCHEME OF GENERALIZED PREFERENCES FOR 1988

The Council reached agreement in substance on three sectors in the scheme of generalized preferences for 1988, viz. industrial products, iron and steel products and agricultural products. As regards the fourth sector, textile products, after examining the Commission proposals on the matter the Council invited the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue its examination of some aspects in the light of information which emerged in the course of discussions.

In taking its decision in October on the three sectors mentioned, the Council wished in particular to give business circles and customs authorities the necessary time to make preparations in the SGP area for implementing the new harmonized system for classifying goods and the new customs tariffs with effect from 1 January 1988.

The submission of the texts of regulations for formal approval should take place as soon as possible in November.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Customs union

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation increasing the volume of the Community tariff quota, opened for 1987, for ferro-chromium containing not less than 6% by weight of carbon, falling within subheading ex 73.02 E I of the Common Customs Tariff.

This quota is raised from 220 000 to 400 000 tonnes, 162 000 t of which are divided as follows: Benelux: 10 500 t; Germany: 56 600 t; Spain: 14 000 t; France: 38 700 t; Italy: 24 500 t; United Kingdom: 17 700 t. 18 000 t is added to the reserve, raising it from 21 770 to 39 770 t.

The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation temporarily suspending the autonomous CCT duties on a number of industrial products, viz.:

1. Extract of dewaxed pyrethrem (CCT heading no ex 13.03 A V)
2. Polyvinyl alcohol film (CCT heading no ex 39.02 C XI)
3. Liquid poly(oxypropylene) (CCT heading no ex 39.01 C VII).

Relations with the EFTA countries

The Council adopted a common position on draft Decision No 2/87 of the EEC/EFTA Joint Committees supplementing and amending Protocol No 3 concerning the definition of the concept of originating products and methods of administrative co-operation, to provide for further simplification of documentation required as evidence of origin.

In addition, the Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulations concluding an Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters on the amendment of the Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Austria/ the Swiss Confederation on the application of the rules on Community transit and concerning the application in the Community of Decision No 1/87 of the EEC-Austria/Switzerland Joint Committee on Community transit.

Relations with the Mediterranean countries

The Council approved the outcome of the negotiations conducted by the Commission concerning:

- the 2nd EEC-Yugoslavia Financial Protocol, and decided to proceed with the signing of the Protocol in question subject to its approval;
- the 3rd Financial Protocols between the Community and Tunisia, Egypt, Israel, Algeria and Jordan, together with recommendations for Council Decisions for the conclusion of these Protocols, and decided to proceed with the signing of the Protocols in question subject to their approval.

### Relations with Cyprus

The Council decided to proceed with the signing of:

- the Protocol laying down the conditions and procedures for implementation of the second stage of the Agreement establishing an Association between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Cyprus and adapting certain provisions of the Agreement;
- the Protocol to the Association Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Cyprus consequent on the accession of the Kingdom of Spain and the Portuguese Republic to the Community.

(See joint press release CEE-CY 702/87 (Presse 172) issued on the occasion of the signing of these Protocols on 19.10.1987).

### Transport policy

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Decision concerning co-ordinated action to safeguard free access to ocean trades with West African and Central African States.

### Environment

The Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Resolution on the continuation and implementation of a European Community policy and action programme on the environment (1987-1992). (See text published in Press Release 5453/87 (Presse 42) - Environment Council - 19/20 March 1987).

Appointments

The Council appointed members of the Court of Auditors for the period 18 October 1987 to 17 October 1993 inclusive:

New appointment: Mr Fernand HEBETTE (B)

Extension of term of office: Mr Aldo ANGIOI (I)

Mr Carlos Manuel BOTELHEIRO MORENO (P)

Mr Keld BRIXTOFTE (DK)

Mr Richie RYAN (IRL)

Mr Josep SUBIRATS PINANA (E)

On a proposal from the French Government, the Council appointed Mr Jean-Louis DURAN-DROUHIN a member of the Committee of the European Social Fund, replacing Mr Didier BUREAU, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, i.e. until 11 December 1987.

Also on a proposal from the French Government, the Council appointed Mr Philippe DELABY an alternate member of the Advisory Committee on Veterinary Training to replace Mr Pierre RANCIEN for the remainder of the latter's term of office, i.e. until 15 December 1989.

Finally, on a proposal from the Spanish Government, the Council appointed Mr Luis Julian DEL VAL HERNANDEZ, Mr Eduardo GONZALEZ GOMEZ and Mr Manuel MONTES PONCE DE LEON members of the Scientific and Technical Committee until 31 March 1988.

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Bruxelles, le 16 octobre 1987.

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NOTE BIO(87)272 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX  
CC. AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE-PAROLE

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Préparation du Conseil Affaires Générales :

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(F. LE BAIL)

Le Conseil Affaires Générales se déroulera les 19 et 20 octobre à Luxembourg.

La Journée du lundi sera consacrée à la poursuite des discussions pour la préparation du Sommet de Copenhague et aux propositions qui sont sur la table relatives au "post-Tchernobyl" (système communautaire d'échange rapide d'informations en cas d'accident nucléaire, niveaux maxima de radioactivité admissibles).

Les questions de relations extérieures seront toutes traitées le mardi.

Le Conseil se penchera d'abord sur les récentes propositions agricoles de la Commission dans le cadre de l'Uruguay Round. Les premières discussions qui ont eu lieu au sein du Conseil font apparaître un accord général sur les grandes lignes de ces propositions qui sont jugées par les Etats membres équilibrées et en conformité avec la déclaration de Punta del Este. Si certaines délégations ont des difficultés sur quelques problèmes spécifiques, ceux-ci ne paraissent pas insurmontables. La Commission fera pression pour qu'une décision soit prise à ce Conseil afin qu'elle soit en mesure de présenter sa position lors de la réunion du Groupe de négociation sur l'agriculture qui se tiendra à Genève les 26 et 27 octobre prochains.

Mr De Clercq fera rapport sur les différentes négociations engagées dans le cadre de l'Article XXIV:6 du GATT avec un certain nombre de pays tiers à la suite de l'élargissement de la Communauté à l'Espagne et au Portugal. Les négociations avec l'Argentine ont progressé d'une manière satisfaisante et on peut s'attendre à ce que le Conseil accepte les résultats de ces négociations. Par contre, les négociations avec le Canada et le Japon sont dans l'impasse et le Conseil devra se prononcer sur la marche à suivre.

Le schéma 88 SPG reste à l'ordre du jour du Conseil, tous les problèmes n'ayant pas été résolus. Si les volets Industriels et agricoles ont été acceptés par les Etats membres, par contre le volet textile continue à poser des problèmes. La Commission avait proposé que l'on étende à ce volet le principe d'une différenciation plus grande entre bénéficiaires qu'elle avait appliqué en 1986 et 1987 pour le volet industriel. Ce principe entraîne l'exclusion du bénéfice du SPG pour certains produits en provenance de certains pays dès lors qu'ils ont atteint 10% du

montant des importations communautaires calculé sur la moyenne des trois dernières années. Ceci entraînerait l'exclusion d'un nombre relativement important de catégories textile pour la Chine, ce à quoi s'opposent plusieurs états membres. La présidence a proposé à titre de compromis de maintenir le statu quo pour 88. La Commission s'opposera mardi à une telle solution.

Les Ministres auront à se prononcer sur les propositions de mandat de négociation en vue de la conclusion d'un accord de coopération avec les pays du Golfe. Les discussions qui ont eu lieu dans les groupes du Conseil font apparaître qu'une majorité devrait se dégager en faveur des propositions de la Commission, c'est-à-dire d'un processus à deux étages qui voudrait qu'un accord soit d'abord négocié dont le volet commercial comporterait uniquement la clause de la nation la plus favorisée mais qui envisagerait la possibilité d'un autre type d'accord par exemple de libre-échange dans une deuxième étape.

Il s'agit toutefois d'un sujet hautement politique qui sera d'abord traité en super-restreinte par les Ministres avant qu'ils se prononcent en séance ouverte à la fin de la journée de mardi.

Amitiés,



G. ANOUIL.

Luxembourg, le 20 octobre 1987.

NOTE BIO (87) 272 (suite 1) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX  
CC. AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE-PAROLE

CONSEIL AFFAIRES GENERALES (F. Le Bail)

- URUGUAY-ROUND

Le Conseil a entamé sa deuxième journée de travaux en se mettant d'accord sur les orientations agricoles que proposera la Communauté lors de la réunion du Groupe de négociations agricoles qui se tiendra dans le cadre de l'Uruguay Round à Genève les 26 et 27 octobre. MM. Andriessen et De Clercq pour la Commission, se sont félicités de la rapidité avec laquelle le Conseil est parvenu à un accord. En effet cet accord intervient moins de deux semaines après que la Commission ait arrêté ses propositions. Ceci, estiment-ils, permettra à la Communauté de bénéficier d'un avantage tactique à Genève. Lors du débat, ils étaient parvenus à apaiser les craintes de plusieurs délégations quant à ces orientations. Ces craintes tenaient au respect de la globalité, à la protection des produits méditerranéens ou encore à la non remise en cause des principes fondamentaux de la PAC. L'ensemble des délégations a pu ainsi se prononcer en faveur de la proposition de la Commission. Les conclusions du Conseil précisent que la Commission veillera à ce que pendant toute la durée des négociations leur caractère global tel que défini à Punta del Este soit respecté, que la Communauté fera des propositions sur les services et la protection de la propriété intellectuelle avant la fin de cette année et que les mécanismes fondamentaux de la PAC ne seront pas remis en cause.

- NEGOCIATIONS XXIV-6

Le Conseil s'est ensuite penché sur le rapport de M. De Clercq sur trois négociations en cours dans le cadre de l'article XXIV-6 du GATT. Il a adopté les résultats de négociation pour l'Argentine. L'Argentine bénéficiera ainsi d'un contingent accru pour le Hilton beef (34.300 tonnes au lieu de 29.800), d'un contingent accru pour la viande de transformation (50.000 tonnes au lieu de 53.000), d'un droit réduit à concurrence de 5000 tonnes pour les filets de merlues congelés, et d'un prélèvement réduit pour 550.000 tonnes de son. A l'initiative de la Commission, le Conseil a décidé de demander l'arbitrage du GATT pour les négociations XXIV-6 Canada. Enfin, pour le Japon, il a été décidé de se donner un mois supplémentaire pour tenter d'obtenir une amélioration de l'offre japonaise qui est estimée entièrement insuffisante par l'ensemble des délégations.



**- CRÉDIT A L'EXPORTATION POUR LES NAVIRES**

En raison des préoccupations de la délégation hellénique, le point a été renvoyé au Coreper.

**- DIRECTIVES DE NEGOCIATION POUR LES PAYS DU GOLFE**

Le débat sur les directives de négociation en vue d'un accord avec les pays du Golfe a été escamoté en raison de l'absence totale de Ministres à l'exception de la Présidence et du Commissaire responsable. La Présidence a bien tenté d'obtenir que le Conseil autorise la Commission à ouvrir des discussions exploratoires avec les pays du Golfe, pour constater très rapidement qu'elle n'aboutirait à rien. Le Conseil a donc décidé de reprendre les discussions sur ce point à sa session du mois de novembre.

**- SCHEMA S.P.G. POUR 1988**

Le Conseil a constaté qu'il y avait un accord total des Etats membres sur le volet acier ainsi que sur le volet industriel du schéma 88. Le schéma agricole a recueilli une majorité qualifiée, la France s'abstenant en raison de l'inclusion du jus d'ananas pour les PMA qu'elle estime dommageable pour ses départements d'Outre Mer et l'Espagne votant contre à cause de la non inclusion du café dans le schéma, café qui aurait bénéficié aux pays latino-américains. Des divergences existaient dès avant le Conseil sur le volet textile. La Commission a proposé pour 88 l'extension du concept de différenciation à ce volet, concept qui avait déjà été appliqué en 86 et en 87 au volet industriel. Certains Etats membres avaient des difficultés pour les exclusions que cela pourraient entraîner pour trois pays à savoir l'Inde, la Chine et Macao. La Présidence a alors proposé le maintien du statu quo pour 1988. La Commission et le Portugal s'y sont opposés. La Commission estime en effet qu'il serait absurde de ne pas appliquer du tout le concept de différenciation parce qu'il y a des problèmes sur quelques pays. M. Cheysson a indiqué que la Commission ferait de nouvelles propositions pour tenir compte du cas particulier de ces pays. Le Conseil a donc décidé de renvoyer le dossier au Coreper.

Amitiés,  
F. Le Ball.