



COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT



PRESS RELEASE

8309/87 (Presse 144)

1189th Council meeting

- General Affairs -

Brussels, 14 September 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 Relations
Mr Paul de KEERSMAEKER	State Secretary for European 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
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Greece:

Mr Theodoros PANGALOS	Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs
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Spain:

Mr Pedro SOLBES	State Secretary for Relations with the European Communities
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France:

Mr Bernard BOSSON	Minister with responsibility for European Affairs
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Ireland:

Mr Brian LENIHAN Minister for Foreign Affairs

Italy:

Mr Luigi FRANZA State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Luxembourg:

Mr Jacques F. POOS Minister 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 Joao de DEUS PINHEIRO Minister for Foreign Affairs

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 Henning CHRISTOPHERSEN Vice-President

Mr Willy DE CLERCQ Member

Mr Stanley CLINTON DAVIS Member

MAKING A SUCCESS OF THE SINGLE ACT - A NEW FRONTIER FOR EUROPE

The Council heard an introductory statement by the President of the Commission, Mr DELORS, concerning the documents which the Community had forwarded to the Council at the end of July on the subjects of budgetary discipline, the system of own resources, amendment of the Financial Regulation, control of agricultural markets and the prospects for the common agricultural policy, and reform of the structural funds.

The policy debate which followed enabled delegations to outline the main aspects of their approach to the different questions. It was evident from the discussions that there was no conflict of views over the suggestions put forward by the Commission and the Presidency as to how the work should be organized, with due regard to the importance and urgency of the matter.

The debate closed with an urgent appeal by the President of the Council to his colleagues for each delegation to be given sufficient margin for manoeuvre and flexibility during the preparatory discussions to enable the Permanent Representatives Committee to prepare the ground effectively for the first full substantive debate on the issue which the Council was to hold at its meeting on 19 October, in preparation for the discussions of the European Council in Copenhagen on this matter of vital importance to the future of the Community.

SETTING OF MAXIMUM PERMITTED RADIOACTIVITY LEVELS

Pending receipt of the European Parliament's Opinion, the Council held a policy debate on the key problems (scope and method of operation) arising from the Commission's proposal for a Regulation to lay down maximum permitted radioactivity levels for foodstuffs, feedingstuffs and drinking water in cases of abnormal levels of radioactivity or of a nuclear accident.

The Council stressed the importance it attached to this matter and emphasized that a decision was required urgently as the arrangements established after Chernobyl were due to expire on 31 October 1987. It agreed that, in the light of its present discussion, intensive efforts should be made to reach a solution within the desired period and to that end it instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to proceed promptly with preparations for the Council debate on 19 October 1987.

GATT: URUGUAY ROUND NEGOTIATIONS - TROPICAL PRODUCTS

In connection with the Uruguay Round negotiations, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to finalize the draft negotiating directives for the Community in respect of tropical products and to submit the draft for approval by the Council as soon as possible.

RELATIONS WITH SOUTH KOREA

In preparation for the talks to be held in October between the Commission and the South Korean authorities, the Council discussed the problems arising from the discriminatory treatment of European companies in South Korea as regards intellectual property.

The Council expressed its concern over this question and gave its full support to the Commission's plan to obtain the same favourable treatment for European undertakings as was granted to US companies.

RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES - TRADE LEGISLATION

After being informed of the latest developments in US trade legislation, the Council reaffirmed the Community's concern as expressed in its conclusions earlier in the year, particularly in March and July.

Textiles

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Decisions on the conclusion of the Agreements in the form of exchanges of letters between the European Economic Community and the Republic of Colombia, the Republic of Guatemala, the Republic of Haiti and the United States of Mexico on trade in textiles products.

ECSC

The Council gave its assent:

- pursuant to the second paragraph of Article 54 of the ECSC Treaty:

= to the co-financing of the construction by STEAG Aktiengesellschaft, Essen, of a generating unit fired with low-grade coal at Herne power station;

= to partial financing of an investment project of the Stadtwerke München, involving construction of the No 2 coal-fired generating unit at the München-Nord/Unterföhring combined heat and power plant; and

- pursuant to Article 55(2)(c) of the ECSC Treaty:

= to a draft Commission decision on the granting of financial aid for steel research projects.

Appointments

The Council appointed as members of the Economic and Social Committee:

- on a proposal by the Netherlands Government, Mr H. van EEKERT to replace Mr J.M.W. van GREUNSVEN for the remainder of his term of office, which runs until 20 September 1990;
- on a proposal by the United Kingdom Government, Mrs Shreela FLATHER to replace Mrs Emily BLATCH for the remainder of her term of office, which runs until 20 September 1990.

On a proposal by the United Kingdom Government, the Council appointed Mr J.B. SHAW as a full member of the European Social Fund Committee, to replace Mr L.W. LEWIS, full member who has resigned, for the remainder of his term of office, which runs until 11 December 1987.

In addition, on a proposal by the Belgian Government, the Council also appointed:

- Mr A. LEHOUCQ as an alternate member of the Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work, to replace Mr J.M. DE GREVE, alternate member who has resigned, for the remainder of his term of office, which runs until 16 December 1988; and
- Mr J.M. DE GREVE as a full member of the Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health protection at Work, to replace Mr L. DENONNE, full member who has resigned, for the remainder of his term of office, which runs until 16 December 1988.

Finally, the Council adopted the Decision on the appointment of the following as members of the Advisory Committee of the Euratom Supply Agency for the period 29 March 1987 to 28 March 1989:

BELGIUM (3 seats)

Mr Pierre GOLDSCHMIDT
Mr Jean MORELLE
Mr Martin RENIERS

DENMARK (2 seats)

Mr Anton BECK
Mr Terkel NIELSEN

GERMANY (6 seats)

Mr Klaus JOHANNSEN
Dr Horst KEESE
Mr Peter MUERMANN
Reg.-Dir. Dr Rolf-Peter RANDL
Dipl.-Ing. Wolfgang SCHOBBER
Reg.-Dir. Klaus F. UNGER

SPAIN (5 seats)

Mr Luis DEL VAL HERNANDEZ
Mr José Antonio RUIZ LÓPEZ-RUA
Mr Fernando PASTOR RIDRUEJO
Mr Alvaro RENGIFO ABAD
Mr Javier PINEDO CABEZUDO

FRANCE (6 seats)

Mr Jean-Claude BERAULT
Mr Jean-Marc CHAROUD
Mr Michel CHEVET
Mr Louis-Francois DURRET
Ms Colette LEWINER
Mr André PETIT

ITALY (6 seats)

Mr Paolo VENDITTI
Mr Mariano CUZZANITI
Mr Giovanni CUTTICA
Mr Marcello PALANDRI
Mr Nunzio SECOLO
Mr Piergiovanni di LORENZO

NETHERLANDS (3 seats)

Mr J.J. DE JONG
Mr C.J. JOSEPH
Mr G.J.L. ZIJL

GREECE (3 seats)

Mr Ioannis BARTZIS
Mr Constantinos MITSIONAS
Mr Georges HADZIYANNIS

PORTUGAL (3 seats)

Mr José FOGAÇA MONIZ BETTENCOURT
Mr Joaquim ROCHA CABRAL
Mr Henrique JOÃO CARREIRA PICH

UNITED KINGDOM (6 seats) (x)

Mr P.H. AGRELL
Mr D. ASTON
Mr P.C.F. CROWSON
Mr M. TOWNSEND
Mr R.D. MARSH

IRELAND (1 seat)

Mr Patrick J. MURPHY

(x) A sixth United Kingdom Government representative will be appointed as soon as possible.

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NOTE BIO (87) 234 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
CC AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE-PAROLE

GENERAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL 14-15 September 1987 (F. Le Ball)

Radioactive contamination of foodstuffs (M. Berendt)

The General Affairs Council had its first detailed discussion of the Commission proposals for establishing maximum permissible limits for radiation levels in foodstuffs and a mechanism for establishing incident-related levels which would be specific to particular accidents.

The discussion in the Council showed some signs of consensus, but major issues remain to be finalized in COREPER with a view to a possible decision on October 19. The current post-Chernobyl regulation expires at the end of October and the Commission has emphasised the need to agree a system which could be adopted before November 1. The four points at issue are:

1. Maximum permissible levels: there is still a wide difference of view between those governments which underline the importance of strict levels acceptable to public opinion (Germany, Portugal, Luxembourg) and those which wish to take the scientific opinion of the Article 31 Committee of Experts (France, Spain, United Kingdom). All delegations broadly accept the fixing of maximum limits, which would only be triggered in the event of an accident.
2. Triggering the mechanism: there are still differences as to the circumstances which would trigger the introduction of the maximum levels; this problem should be resolved in COREPER without too much difficulty.
3. Comitology: the Commission believes that a committee procedure is necessary to allow speedy decisions for fixing the specific contamination levels for specific circumstances. The UK and Italy still expressed reservations about this approach believing that the Council should have the final word in determining these levels.
4. Exports: all Member States agree the logic of applying the Community's maximum levels to exports but differ on the legal means. The solution will probably be through a resolution to be agreed simultaneously with the Council regulation.

A diagram of the Commission proposals is available for anyone interested.

Regards,



G. Anoull

Bruxelles, le 14 septembre 1987.

NOTE BIO(87)234 (suite 1) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
CC. AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE-PAROLE

Conseil Affaires Générales - 14 septembre 1987 :
(F. Le Ball)

Deux sujets de relations extérieures ont été traités pendant la séance proprement dite du Conseil :

* Corée :

Ce point qui était à l'ordre du jour à la demande des délégations britannique et française, a permis de faire le point sur le problème de la protection intellectuelle dans ce pays. La Corée a en effet négocié avec les Etats-Unis un arrangement concernant la protection intellectuelle qui donne un avantage aux firmes américaines par rapport notamment aux firmes européennes. Mr De Clercq a rappelé que lors des dernières consultations à haut niveau en avril 87, la Commission avait fermement indiqué à la Corée qu'elle ne pouvait accepter un traitement discriminatoire. La délégation coréenne s'était déclarée prête à accorder aux entreprises européennes un traitement similaire si ce n'est identique à celui des entreprises américaines.

"La réunion d'experts qui a suivi en juillet 1987 n'incite pas à l'optimisme, a déclaré Mr De Clercq. Cependant, a-t-il dit, la Commission poursuit les négociations. Une réunion à ce sujet aura lieu fin octobre 87 et nous ferons savoir aux Coréens que la Commission proposerait au Conseil les mesures appropriées si elle n'obtenait pas satisfaction, mesures qui pourraient consister en particulier à retirer à la Corée le bénéfice du SPG". Le Conseil a apporté son soutien unanime à la ligne de conduite proposée par la Commission.

* Trade Bill / Etats-Unis :

Les Ministres ont eu une brève discussion sur l'état d'avancement de la législation commerciale aux Etats-Unis. Les travaux du Congrès viennent de recommencer et le Conseil a réitéré sa préoccupation vis-à-vis d'une éventuelle législation protectionniste et sa détermination à prendre des mesures si une telle législation devait être adoptée. Ce point n'a toutefois pas fait l'objet d'une déclaration écrite spécifique.

Plusieurs sujets de relations extérieures ont été traités lors du déjeuner et le Président du Conseil, Mr Ellemann-Jensen, en a fait rapport devant la presse :

- Territoires occupés :

Les Douze ont, dans une déclaration, exprimé leur préoccupation face à la continuation de la politique israélienne d'établissement de nouvelles colonies de peuplement dans les territoires occupés. Ils estiment en particulier que ces nouvelles colonies risquent sérieusement de compromettre les perspectives de paix. Ils lancent un appel à Israël pour que celui-ci mette fin à cette politique illégale.

- Situation dans le Golfe :

Les Douze ont eu une discussion approfondie sur la situation dans le Golfe et ont discuté en particulier d'une participation possible aux opérations de déminage ainsi que de la mission entreprise par le Secrétaire Général des Nations-Unies.

- Maroc :

Le Président du Conseil a indiqué que les Ministres s'étaient mis d'accord pour adresser une réponse à la lettre marocaine de demande d'adhésion à la Communauté et qu'ils avaient discuté du contenu que pourrait avoir cette réponse. Interrogé sur ce contenu, il a simplement précisé que la Communauté y indiquerait sa volonté de maintenir et de renforcer ses liens avec le Maroc à la fois dans le domaine politique et économique.

Amitiés,

G. Anoull

