

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

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1182nd Council meeting

- Agriculture -

Brussels, 30 June 1987

President: Mr Paul DE KEERSMAEKER,
State Secretary
for European Affairs
and Agriculture
of the Kingdom of Belgium

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

Belgium:

Mr Paul DE KEERSMAEKER State Secretary for
European Affairs
and Agriculture

Denmark:

Ms Britta SCHALL HOLBERG Minister for Agriculture

Germany:

Mr Ignaz KIECHLE Federal Minister for Food,
Agriculture and Forestry

Mr Walter KITTEL State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of
Food, Agriculture
and Forestry

Greece:

Mr Yiannis POTTAKIS Minister for Agriculture

Spain:

Mr Carlos ROMERO HERRERA Minister for Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food

France:

Mr François GUILLAUME Minister for Agriculture

Ireland:

Mr Michael O'KENNEDY Minister for Agriculture

Italy:

Mr Filippo Maria PANDOLFI Minister for Agriculture

Luxembourg:

Mr Marc FISCHBACH Minister for Agriculture
and Viticulture

Netherlands:

Mr Gerrit BRAKS Minister for Agriculture

Portugal:

Mr Alvaro BARRETO Minister for Agriculture,
Fisheries and Food

United Kingdom:

Mr John McGREGOR Minister for Agriculture

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Commission:

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

FIXING OF PRICES FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND CERTAIN RELATED MEASURES (1987/1988)

After hearing the conclusions of the European Council, in particular with regard to agri-monetary matters, and after long negotiations, the Council agreed by a qualified majority on the final overall compromise proposal submitted by the Commission and annexed hereto.

More specifically in connection with the mechanism for stabilizing prices for vegetable oils and fats, the Council agreed that the Commission's proposal would be studied further and be the subject of consultations with the Community's main trading partners. The conclusions would be forwarded to the next European Council in Copenhagen.

With regard to the oilseed sector the Council agreed on a solution compatible with the aforementioned decision regarding a stabilizing mechanism and favoured an arrangement covering only the 1987/1988 marketing year. (See Annex, p. 3.)

As part of an overall compromise the Council also agreed to the proposal for a Regulation on the protection of designations used in the marketing of milk and milk products.

The formal adoption of the texts in accordance with the overall solution thus approved will take place shortly.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Other agricultural decisions

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation on the transfer of 50 000 tonnes of barley held by the Spanish intervention agency to Sardinia, which has been suffering from a prolonged drought since September 1986.

The Council also adopted in the official languages of the Communities the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 1569/72 laying down special measures for colza, rape and sunflower seed. The aim of the Regulation is to harmonize certain details concerning additional amounts in the oilseed sector with existing provisions for calculating monetary compensatory amounts.

COMMISSION COMPROMISE
(Amendments to its original proposals)

CEREALS

1. Prices

- Maintenance of the present intervention price for breadmaking common wheat, breadmaking rye and maize and maintenance of the present 5% differential between the intervention price for breadmaking common wheat on the one hand and that of feed common wheat, feed rye, barley and sorghum on the other (thus: status quo);
- Whilst maintaining the objective of a ratio of the price of durum wheat to the price of common wheat of 120/100, fixing for 1987/88 of a reduction in the intervention price of durum wheat of 2.7% (instead of 4.71% as originally planned).

2. Monthly increases

Monthly increases for the intervention price for November onwards until May inclusive (thus, seven monthly increases) at the level proposed by the Commission (2.70 ECU/t/month for durum wheat and 2 ECU/t/month for the other cereals).

3. Intervention

- Alteration in the intervention system;
- Activation of buying-in only if the average Community price is below the intervention price (activation threshold) and only from October to May. As regards common wheat, the intervention measures are activated separately for breadmaking wheat and feed wheat (for the latter, at the intervention price minus 5%). However, for Italy, Spain, Greece and Portugal, these buying-in arrangements will apply from August onwards.

Market price: quotations recorded in a small number of Community representative export ports minus a standard amount representing freight costs between production and exporting areas. The ports are to be chosen in relation with the relevant cereals.

- Without prejudice to the measures referred to above, the Commission undertakes to adopt particular intervention measures in accordance with Article 8 of Regulation (EEC) No 2727/75 where prices on an isolated market drop sharply.
- Buying-in at a price equal to 94% of the intervention price, this reduced price being increased by the monthly increases laid down for the relevant months.

4. Other measures

- Maintenance of the principle of 50% compensation of the income loss suffered by producers of durum wheat by a corresponding increase in the aid, which brings the amount of aid to 121.80 ECU/ha;
- Maintenance of the special increases for breadmaking common wheat and breadmaking r.e (respectively 3.59 and 8.97 ECU/tonne);
- Maximum moisture content rate for buying-in: 14.5%. The Council notes the Commission's undertaking to ensure that, for the 1987/88 marketing year, intervention at 15% will be allowed in any region in which the 14.5% limit would raise practical problems. In exceptional cases the 15% rate could be increased to 15,5%.
- Relaxation of the qualitative criteria for durum wheat by setting the maximum percentage of ingredients which are not these cereals of impeccable quality at 12% in order to allow for the reincorporation of common wheat under this heading and for an increase in the percentage of broken grains to 6%. (*)

5. As regards Spain, the Commission undertakes to take, during July, special action as regards intervention in the form of buying-in if average prices on the Spanish market during the relevant month are liable to lead to massive buying-in subsequently.

6. The Commission undertakes to standardize buying-in payment deadlines (90-120 days).

7. Reselling from intervention

The Commission undertakes to adapt the resale conditions laid down by Regulation (EEC) No 1836/82 to allow for the new intervention arrangements so that, inter alia, the minimum selling price will correspond to the support price actually applied.

8. Coresponsibility levy

- This provision has engendered agri-monetary problems. With a view to solving these, the Commission will continue its examination of the situation with a view to adoption of such appropriate measures as may be necessary.
- For the marketing year 1987/88, by derogation from the provisions of paragraph 5 of article 4 of R/2727/75, at the request of the Member state, the Commission may authorise (following management committee procedure) this Member State to levy a tax at the point of the first sale (collection).
Such a derogation may only be given if it does not affect the terms of competition.
- The Member States having used, in 1986/87, the facility laid down in Article 4a(4) of Council Regulation (EEC) No 2727/75 allowing direct exemption of small farmers from the levy are authorized to renew this arrangement for 1987/88.

9. Accession compensatory amounts

Following the alteration to the intervention system, the accession compensatory amounts will be calculated on the basis of the support price actually applied.

RICE

1. Intervention

Adaptation of the system as for cereals.

- (*) The Commission undertakes to re-examine the Greek request that Greece be authorized to accept for intervention during the 1987/88 marketing year durum wheat with a maximum of 14% of ingredients which are not basic cereals of impeccable quality, including no more than 5% "other cereals" and 6% "broken grain

2. Prices

Maintenance of the target price at present level.

3. Determination of varieties qualifying for aid (Indica), and classification.

Fixing by the Council of the varieties and other supplementary features before 31 December 1987. Council Decision on classification at same time.

4. The Commission states that in relation to Article 18 of R/1418/76, it does not intend to make proposals to place so-called "identical goods" traffic outside the IPT arrangements.

SUGAR

- Prices: maintenance of present price;
- Storage costs: fixing of the monthly amount of reimbursement of storage costs at 0.49 ECU/100 kg (calculated with a rate of interest of 9%).
- The Council recognises the need to take measures rapidly in order to solve the problem of the refining margin for cane sugar in the United Kingdom. The Commission undertakes to submit appropriate proposals in good time.
- The Council notes the Commission's intention to put forward, under its proposals to be presented in the near future on the sugar production quota system, Community aid measures allowing of the adaptation of the sugar beet processing industry in the Azores during the transitional period laid down in the Accession Treaty, and that these measures will be applicable with effect from the 1987/88 marketing year onwards.
- The Spanish sugar cane industry is exempted, on a degressive basis, during the transitional period, from participation in the sugar storage arrangements.

OILSEEDS

1. Price reduction

- 3% rape (maintenance of the premium proposal for double-low rape)
- 0% sunflower
- 3% soya.

2. Guaranteed maximum quantities

- quantities: Commission proposals
- cut-off : 1987/88 10%

With regard to the first marketing year, the Council agreed unanimously. For the subsequent marketing years, the Commission maintained its proposal:

- cut-off : 1988/89 15%
- 1989/90 20%
- 1990/91 elimination.

3. Intervention arrangements for rape and sunflower - adaptation similar to cereals

- Period: 1 October - 31 May
- Monthly increases: maintenance of 7 increases, from 1 November onwards for rape and from 1 December onwards for sunflower, at the 1986/1987 marketing year level, reduced by 20%.
- Intervention: activation if the Community market prices are below the intervention price (corrected by the cut-off): buying-in at 94%.

4. Portuguese problem

Introduction of a production aid for sunflower seed produced and processed in Portugal restricted to 31 December 1990 the amount of which is equal to the difference between the Portuguese price and the world market price plus import customs duties into Portugal.

OLIVE OIL

Maintenance of the Commission's proposals except with regard to the production aid for small growers, the ceiling of which is set at 200 kg.

Also, abolition of the provisions restricting oil-growing areas production of which is eligible for the production aid.

The Council declares its intention to introduce in 1991 the olive oil consumption aid in Portugal and in Spain at the level existing in the Community of Ten, corrected by the difference between the respective intervention prices and the incidence of the customs duties on competing oils.

STABILIZATION MECHANISM

The Commission proposal on the stabilization mechanism for oils and fats will be the subject of an additional study and of consultations with the Community's main trading partners. The conclusions will be brought to the attention of the next European Council in Copenhagen.

COTTON

Maintenance for this year of the present system of calculation of the aid on the basis of unjinned cotton.

Financing of mechanization within producers' groups.

Maximum guaranteed quantities - quantity : Commission proposal.
- cut-off : 1987/88 15 %
1988/89 20 %
1989/90 25 %
1990/91 elimination

LAND UTILIZATION

The Commission will prepare an overall study of the various forms of non-utilization of farmland with a view to the discussions by the Council in the autumn.

The Commission will intensify its programme for studying alternative speculative projects, in particular the production of high-protein crops for human consumption.

MILK

1. To promote the reorganization of milk production, the Member States are authorized to resell to certain categories of dairy farmer in the relevant areas, quotas bought up in the context of a cessation-of-farming programme (*), applied at national, regional or collection area level.
2. Acceptance for intervention of butter manufactured from sweet cream (NIZO process or equivalent) ⁽¹⁾.
3. The transitional period for intervention purchases of salted butter ends at the beginning of the 1989/90 marketing year.
4. The Commission to entertain for consideration under Regulation (EEC) 355/77 restructuring programmes in the dairy sector according to the new criteria established by the Commission.
5. Increase by 100 000 tonnes of the "delivery" quotas in Spain, 50 000 tonnes to derive from a "direct sales" quota transfer (Management Committee procedure) and 50 000 tonnes to derive from an increase in the Community reserve.
6. Adoption of the proposal concerning the naming of milk and milk products.

The Commission has undertaken to ensure that there will be no contradiction between the provisions of Article 3(2) of this proposal and Directive 79/112/EEC.

7. Insofar as there is an agreement on points 1 to 6, the Commission's preparedness to propose, and the Council's to adopt, an adaptation of the quota system enabling the Member States to organize a system of temporary transfer of individual reference quantities between producers delivering to the same purchaser. The Member States will be authorized to restrict the system to certain categories of producer according to objective criteria.
8. The Council takes note of the Commission's intention to reconsider, after consultation of the Management Committee for Milk and Dairy Products, the coefficient of increase of 0.26 % referred to in article 9 paragraphe 2 of R/1371/84.

(*) The Commission would inform the Council that the programme for the cessation of farming included in conjunction with the authorization given to Member States to sell quotas refers exclusively to the programme for the cessation of farming in the dairy sector.

⁽¹⁾ The Commission would inform the Council that the rules will not specify the NIZO manufacturing process, but the result to be obtained (i.e. a butter, with a PH which should not exceed a maximum level to be fixed by the Management Committee procedure.

SHEEPMEAT

The Commission withdraws its proposal concerning the amendment of the definitions of "eligible ewes" and "eligible goats". It will make a further analysis of these problems in its report on the subject planned for July.

The proposal concerning a headage limit on the ewe premium stands, but the Council will decide on this question when deciding on the Commission's proposals for the adaptation of the sheep and goatmeat regime.

The Commission intends to review the question of a possible extension of the claw-back arrangements for exports when reviewing the sheepmeat regime.

The Commission undertakes to reconsider the margin between the green rate and the actual (market) rate which occurs in its proposals for adapting the COM in sheepmeat and goatmeat.

WINE

Compulsory distillation

The Council accepts the fact that the percentage of 85% utilization relative to the average of the reference production quantities, which was adopted in the Dublin text, currently creates insurmountable problems for the management of the compulsory distillation scheme. As a temporary measure the Council is asking the Commission to employ a figure which more closely reflects the actual situation, without making any changes to the Dublin text. In the case of Greece the Council agrees that special arrangements should be made in 1987/88 and 1988/89, when implementing the compulsory distillation scheme to take account of the difficulties encountered in Greece in determining yields per hectare.

Control

Agreement on the guidelines adopted by the SCA (cf. Annex II 5524/1/87 Rev. 1 Add. 2 and text of enacting terms page 6, and Commission declaration page 7 footnote 1).

The Commission has noted the views expressed by some delegations with regard to its proposal concerning restrictions on replanting rights submitted as part of the 1986/87 prices package. In the light of the increasing production and falling consumption of wine in the Community, the Commission continues to take the view that additional structural measures are necessary to stabilize the market in this sector and accordingly asks the Council to resume its examination of the proposal as soon as possible.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

Fresh tomatoes

Commission proposals maintained but reexamination of the arrangements valid for 1987/88 in the framework of the 1988/89 proposals.

Basic and buying-in prices

Commission proposals maintained in view of the adjustments to the green rates.

Conversion factors

The Commission will take the necessary steps to ensure that for tomatoes, pears, apples, peaches and oranges the conversion factors relating to size and quality class are fixed for 1987/88 at a level which corresponds to 50% of the difference between the conversion factors fixed previously and those laid down in Regulation (EEC) No 3587/86, with no conversion factor exceeding 1.

In addition, for 1987/88 the variety conversion factor will be fixed at 1 for San Marzano tomatoes and 0.85 for other plum tomatoes and Passe Crassane pears.

The remainder of the difference referred to above will be eliminated for 1988/89.

Satsumas and clementines

The Commission will present the Council with a proposal amending Regulation (EEC) No 1035/72 so as to introduce a system of basic and buying-in prices for satsumas and clementines together with a mechanism for reducing prices the following year if the quantities withdrawn from the market exceed a maximum quantity.

For the forthcoming marketing year it will make a proposal to fix these price levels on the basis of the prices recorded on the markets in the surplus areas with the lowest prices.

At the same time it will examine the need to introduce similar arrangements for mandarins and nectarines and will make appropriate proposals to the Council.

Processing aids for oranges

Pending the report on the market situation for citrus fruit, including the operation of Regulation (EEC) No 2601/69, which the Commission intends to present in accordance with the undertaking given during the discussions on the conclusion of the agreement with the United States on citrus fruit and pasta products, the Commission will make the necessary proposals to enable processing aid to be granted in respect of 1987/88 for oranges of the Shamouti variety (3 000 tonnes of raw material) and the Cadenera, Castellana and Macetera varieties (total of 10 000 tonnes of raw material).

Intervention timetable

In the case of all fruit and vegetables covered by the intervention system the Commission will study, by reference to the particulars concerning the phasing of national production and prices which will be forwarded to it by all Member States, whether the periods for which the basic and buying-in prices apply should be changed. It will report to the Council and, if necessary, make suitable proposals on the occasion of the 1988/89 price fixing.

Aids linked to contracts between tomato growers and processors

As regards the grant of the 2% premium, the percentage to be fixed as a significant percentage of contracts concluded with producer groups may be different in the case of Spain and Portugal. During the "verification of convergence" phase in the case of Spain and during the first stage in the case of Portugal the degree to which producer groups have developed should be taken into account.

Dried grapes

In line with the Community declaration during the accession negotiations (internal document 298 (E) of 19 April 1985, footnote 2, p. 48), the Commission undertakes to present the Council with appropriate measures for extending the production aid arrangements for dried grapes to Spain and Portugal in time for them to be applied from the 1988/89 marketing year.

These proposals will take the special features of production and processing in the two countries into account.

Compensatory amounts for tomatoes

For the purposes of Articles 118(3)(a) and 304(3)(a) of the Act of Accession concerning the fixing of a compensatory amount for the processed tomato products, the Commission undertakes not to fix such a compensatory amount until it finds that the absence of one would create abnormal conditions of competition between Spanish or Portuguese processors on the one hand and processors in the rest of the Community on the other.

TOBACCO

The Commission maintains its proposals on prices and premiums for groups I, II and III. In the case of group IV it proposes keeping the levels applying for 1986/87 and in the case of group V it proposes limiting the reduction in the norm price to 6% and the reduction in the premium to 4%.

The Commission will closely monitor production and marketing trends for the Burley and Virginia varieties in the Community. Should the need arise, it will not fail to take appropriate market management measures to deal with any difficulties.

HOPS

The Council recognizes the need to take appropriate steps to deal with the difficulties facing hop powers in some regions of the Community where mainly bitter varieties are grown and where production is declining. The Council notes the Commission's intention to continue to follow trends in this sector, including the need to switch to different varieties, with close attention. In the framework of its proposal on aid for 1986 the Commission will propose structural measures to assist groups or federations of producers which meet certain criteria.

PROCESSING AND MARKETING OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS IN PORTUGAL

The Council notes the serious structural deficiencies as regards the processing and marketing of agricultural products in Portugal.

It therefore requests the Commission to make a substantial increase in the appropriations available for financing investment projects submitted by Portugal under Regulation 355/77.

This should be done by transfer of appropriations entered for measures reserved for the new Member States.

AGRIMONETARY QUESTIONS

A. Changes in green rates

I. FORMER POSITIVE MCAs

- (a) IMMEDIATE REDUCTION by
- 1 switch-over point
- 0,5 neutral margin point

However, in the case of the Netherlands, instead of an increase in the neutral margin, the agricultural conversion rate is changed so as to dismantle 0,5 of an MCA point.

- (b) 1 POINT REDUCTION AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 1988/1989 MARKETING YEAR by reduction in DM prices compensated for by GERMAN NATIONAL AID equal to the 2 VAT points which will disappear at the end of 1988 without this aid being related to production.

- (c) Elimination of remainder at the beginning of the 1989/1990 marketing year (the amount should be minimal and should cover only a small number of products).

II. Member States - Negative MCAs: the green rates for sheepmeat are unchanged unless specified below

1. B.L.E.U. and Denmark : for livestock products, dismantlement of the monetary gap by 1,520 points for B.L.E.U. and 2,060 points for Denmark; for crop products, dismantlement of 2,560 points for all these countries.

2. France : Commission proposal unchanged (except for beef/veal: additional dismantlement of 1,5 points), i.e. milk, 1,8 points; cattle, 1,5 points; other livestock products except pigmeat, 3,2 points; wine, 2,8 points, and other crop products, 5,0 points of dismantlement.

3. Ireland : Commission proposal unchanged (except for beef/veal : additional dismantlement of 1,5 points), i.e. pigmeat, 1,2 points; cattle, 2,8 points, other livestock products, 1,3 points, and crop products, 6,0 points of dismantlement.

4. Italy: dismantlement: for wine, of 3,3 points; for fresh fruit and vegetables and tobacco, of 5 points, and for the other sectors, of 4,0 points.

5. United Kingdom: dismantlement of 5 points, except for beef/veal: dismantlement of 6,5 points.

6. Greece: dismantlement so that prices increase by 15% for cereals, tobacco, sugar, wine, olive oil and sheepmeat; by 10% for eggs and poultry, pigmeat and other vegetable products; by 7% for other products. No MCAs for Retsina wine.

7. Portugal: dismantlement of 14 points (12,3 points for sheep and structures).

8. Spain: dismantlement of 5,5 points.

In addition, in all Member States additional dismantling of negative MCAs resulting from 0,5 switch-over point operation referred to in I.a except for the BLEU, Denmark, Italy, Greece and Portugal.

(*) This switch-over operation affects all agricultural products

B. FUTURE MCA SYSTEM

Retention of the switch-over system

(a) As regards "ARTIFICIAL" MCAs

- 25% elimination through reduction in ECU prices, at the beginning of the following marketing year, with the possibility of a compensatory national social aid not linked to production.
- Elimination of 50% of the balance at the beginning of the 2nd marketing year following realignment, with the 1979 Gentlemen's Agreement being maintained.
- Elimination of the remainder at the beginning of the 3rd marketing year following realignment, with the 1979 Gentlemen's Agreement being maintained.

(b) As regards "NATURAL" MCAs

- Maximum 30% elimination at the time of realignment.
- Programme for dismantling the balance in two equal stages at the beginning of the two marketing years following realignment.

The system will be re-examined before 1 July 1988 in the light of a joint report by the Ministers for Finance and for Agriculture.

C. Introduction of MCAs for olive oil and certain processed products

The Commission will introduce MCAs for olive oil, certain fruit preserves, cooked meats and certain products coming under Regulation (EEC) No 3033/80.

D. Calculation of MCAs

1. Prices

Option for the Commission (Management Committee procedure) to base MCA calculation directly on market prices in the cereals and milk sectors, provided the latter are not more than 7,5% and 5% respectively lower than the intervention prices; 20% reduction in price used for beef/veal (instead of 15% at present); prices to be 7,5% lower than the target price in the oilseeds sector.

2. Pigmeat

For pigmeat the Commission will adjust the green rates, using the Management Committee procedure, so as to prevent the creation of MCAs. However, this adjustment must not result, in the Member State concerned, in the difference between the monetary gap applicable in the pigmeat sector and that applicable in the cereals sector being more than 8 points.

3. Neutral margin

Extension of the present maximum neutral margin (5 points) for wine to the poultrymeat (5 points) and olive oil (10 points) sectors.

4. Monetary coefficient

For products attracting MCAs, the monetary coefficient will be derived from the applied monetary gap. For eggs and poultrymeat, the enlarged neutral margin will be taken into account.

5. Products not listed in Annex II

The Commission is willing to raise the minimum threshold for application of the MCAs ⁽¹⁾.

E. Differential amounts for peas and field beans and sweet lupins

Application of a system of differential amounts similar to that applying to oilseeds, but with a 5-point neutral margin.

⁽¹⁾ Currently 1 ECU/100 kg, guidance for a threshold of between 2 and 3 ECU/100 kg.

SPECIAL CASE OF GREECE

(A) The Commission proposes a devaluation by 15% of the green rate of the drachma for measures of a socio-structural nature;

(B) In addition, in the light of information to be sent by the Greek authorities, the Commission will, at the earliest opportunity, send appropriate proposals to the Council for:

- structural measures for certain sectors significantly affected, such as citrus fruit and olives;
- markets:
 - * measures to cover the feed grain deficit by transferring cereals from intervention stocks in other Member States;
 - * an adjustment by 15% of the green rate of the drachma for sheepmeat.

Bruxelles, le 1er juillet 1987.

NOTE BIO (87) 182 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
cc. aux Membres du Service du Porte-Parole

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CONSEIL AGRICOLE DU 30 JUIN 1987 (N. Wegter)

L'ENFANT EST NE !

C'est ce matin, vers 5h30, que les "docteurs" ont pu montrer le nouveau-né, c'est-à-dire l'accord du Conseil "Agriculture" relatif à l'ensemble du paquet Prix 87/88. Cet accord a pu être acquis par le biais d'un vote sur une version révisée du compromis de la Commission du 16 juin dernier et qui porte donc sur tous les secteurs agricoles, y compris le secteur des oléagineux, et qui couvre également des arrangements dans le domaine agri-monétaire.

L'accord politique enregistré a été souscrit par la grande majorité des délégations, tandis que la délégation hellénique a maintenu une réserve générale du fait qu'elle n'a pas obtenu satisfaction pour quelques problèmes spécifiques, notamment dans les secteurs fruits et légumes, tabac, etc. D'autre part, la délégation allemande s'est réservée sur les décisions prises pour les secteurs des céréales et du colza et la délégation irlandaise a maintenu une réserve en ce qui concerne le volet portant sur le démantèlement des MCM négatifs existants.

En ce qui concerne l'impact financier de ce compromis, il ne diffère pas significativement des conséquences financières prévues sur la base de la formule de compromis de la Commission déjà soumise aux Ministres le 16 juin dernier : par rapport aux propositions initiales de la Commission qui prévoyaient des économies de 1.100 millions d'Ecus pour 1987, et de l'ordre de 4 milliards d'Ecus pour 1988, il ne reste que 230 millions d'économies pour 87 et de l'ordre de 400 millions d'Ecus pour l'exercice 88.

Bien que le paquet convenu maintenant constitue une solution de compromis, c'est-à-dire que les solutions convenues ne correspondent pas toujours aux prévisions "optimales" de la Commission, il faut constater que le paquet approuvé confirme parfaitement la voie réformatrice choisie par la Communauté depuis quelques années dans le cadre de la réforme de la PAC. La politique restrictive sur le plan des prix y est reflétée de manière très évidente, politique qui est associée à un certain nombre de mesures connexes ayant des effets très limitatifs sur le plan du soutien de marché, notamment concernant l'intervention. Une telle voie ayant déjà été tracée antérieurement pour plusieurs secteurs (lait, viande bovine, vin, etc.) la même orientation se manifeste maintenant dans le secteur des céréales. C'est dans cette optique que la Commission s'est déclarée satisfaite des résultats obtenus maintenant, en insistant toutefois sur la nécessité de

poursuivre les prochaines années l'approche réformatrice maintenant confirmée. En ce qui concerne le contenu de l'accord convenu ce matin, il est évident qu'il a un lien direct avec les résultats du Conseil européen d'hier. En effet, au niveau de cette dernière instance, un accord a été convenu sur le volet ~~agri~~-monétaire, portant tant sur le démantèlement des MCM négatifs et positifs existants qu'en ce qui concerne le régime futur des MCM. L'accord ainsi défini, et dont les détails sont repris dans les conclusions finales du Conseil européen, a ainsi été intégré dans le paquet discuté cette nuit.

S'agissant du secteur des graines oléagineuses, il faut constater que le Conseil européen n'a donné aucune orientation en ce qui concerne la proposition de la Commission portant sur le mécanisme de stabilisation. De ce fait, la Commission a conclu ensuite qu'elle maintient ses mêmes propositions, en constatant toutefois qu'il y a au moins trois délégations qui, dans les circonstances actuelles, maintiennent une réserve à ce sujet. Par conséquent, il a été convenu de ne pas soumettre au vote cette proposition mais, par contre, le Conseil agriculture s'est limité au constat que cette proposition fera l'objet d'une étude complémentaire et d'une consultation avec les principaux partenaires commerciaux de la Communauté. Il a été convenu que les conclusions de cette étude seront portées à la connaissance du prochain Conseil européen de Copenhague.

Etant donné que le Conseil n'a pas encore pu trancher en cette matière, la Commission a été amenée à modifier légèrement le texte du compromis du 16 juin à l'égard du taux de réduction des prix pour les oléagineux ainsi que pour les prix d'intervention pour le colza et le tournesol. En effet, la Commission a modéré légèrement le taux de réduction en question, en maintenant toutefois le niveau des quantités maximales garanties (seuil de garantie) déjà proposées, y compris les butoirs spécifiques.

A ce sujet, le Conseil a décidé définitivement d'accepter la proposition de la Commission pour la campagne 87/88, mais pour les campagnes suivantes, notamment au niveau des butoirs, la décision a été reportée à l'année suivante, bien qu'il ait été constaté que la Commission maintiendra sa proposition à cet égard.

En ce qui concerne le secteur des céréales, la Commission a procédé de la même façon que pour le colza et le tournesol, c'est-à-dire qu'elle a augmenté jusqu'à 94 % le prix d'achat pour l'intervention. Une telle modification toutefois n'a pas suffi à obtenir l'accord de la délégation allemande en la matière. Il est à rappeler toutefois que lors de la session précédente du Conseil, la même délégation a opposé un veto à ce volet pour lequel la Commission avait proposé un chiffre de 93 % pour le niveau du prix d'achat à l'intervention.

Concernant la procédure à suivre dès maintenant, il a été convenu que les différents textes réglementaires reflétant le compromis politique enregistré maintenant seront soumis aujourd'hui encore au CSA en vue de leur approbation formelle par la procédure "point A" à l'occasion du Conseil budget prévu pour demain. Une telle procédure permettra donc de mettre en vigueur l'ensemble des décisions prises à partir de lundi prochain dans l'hypothèse où les textes juridiques seront publiés au Journal Officiel au

plus tard avant le week-end.

Entretemps, les mesures conservatoires de nature purement techniques auxquelles nous nous sommes référés dans notre note BIO 181 restent d'application.

Amitiés,
G. Anoull.

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