

[REDACTED]

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

[REDACTED]

PRESS RELEASE

9571/86 (Presse 147)

LIBRARY

1109th meeting of the Council

- Industry -

Luxembourg,

20 October 1986

President:

Mr Giles SHAW,

Minister of State for Industry
of the United Kingdom

Netherlands:

Mr R.W. DE KORTE Minister for Economic Affairs

Portugal:

Mr Fernando SANTOS MARTINS Minister for Industry and Commerce

Mr Luis Manuel PEGO TODO BOM State Secretary for Industry and Energy

United Kingdom:

Mr Giles SHAW Minister of State for Industry

Mr John BUTCHER Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Industry, Department of Trade and Industry

o

o

o

Commission:

Mr Karl-Heinz NARJES Vice-President
Mr Peter SUTHERLAND Member
Mr Abel MATUTES Member

ACTION PROGRAMME FOR SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES

The Council approved the following draft Resolution:

"THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the EEC,

Having regard to the draft Resolution submitted by the Commission,

Whereas all enterprises benefit from the action programme,

Considering the objectives of integration, the completion of the internal market and the implementation of the Community's policy on economic convergence and of the co-operative growth and employment strategy,

Considering, on the one hand, the important role which the creation and development of SMEs can play in the creation of employment, and, on the other, the specific problems they face in the various Member States, a Community strategy towards SMEs is required to complement national actions in this area,

Noting that the development of SMEs is an essential part of a number of Community policies and initiatives under examination by the Council, for example in the framework of employment-creating measures,

APPROVES in principle the main lines of policy and the strategy in the programme, subject to approval of individual proposals and their financial implications, and invites the Commission to report periodically on the realization of the objectives."

At the same time, the Council approved the following statement on reducing the administrative burden on business:

The Council:

- recalled the conclusions of the European Council in Luxembourg on 2 and 3 December 1985 on the action which the Commission was undertaking to improve the business environment by reducing the administrative and legal constraints which hold back the creation and development of small and medium-sized undertakings;
- welcomed the Commission's actions to simplify administrative procedures as described in the Commission communication.

In particular, the Council:

- noted with satisfaction that the assessment procedure introduced by the Commission, under which all new proposals are accompanied by a note containing realistic estimates of costs on business, became operative on 1 June 1986. The Council invited the Commission to report on the initial operation of the system;
- noted the Commission's intentions concerning plans to reduce the burdens on business, particularly those resulting from existing Community instruments as mentioned in the communication. The Council invited the Commission to report on the results of the outside consultants' study, with appropriate recommendations for action;
- agreed to a regular exchange of information on action undertaken by Member States and the Commission to improve the business environment, and invited the Commission to make the necessary procedural arrangements;
- welcomed the Commission's intention to report on the links the SMEs Task Force had established with business organizations and the role and effectiveness of their contribution to its work on reducing administrative burdens;
- expressed its intention of reviewing the position, in the light of these reports, in the first half of 1987.

APPLICATION OF THE CODE ON AID TO THE STEEL INDUSTRY

The Council took note of an oral report by Commissioner Sutherland on the application of the code on aid to the steel industry.

Recalling the unanimous assent it gave on 29 October 1985 to a strict new code of rules on state aid to the steel industry in the period 1986 - 1988, and conscious of the seriously disruptive effect which state aids for steel other than those permitted under the code - including some aids for steel production activities which are not covered by the ECSC Treaty - would have on fair competition in the Community and on the prospects for phasing out the quota system and returning to normal market conditions, the Council:

- welcomed the Commission's determination to ensure that Article 4(c) of the ECSC Treaty and the new code continue to be rigorously and strictly applied;
- called upon the Commission to use its powers under Articles 92 and 93 of the Treaty of Rome to ensure that any aid for steel production activities not covered by the ECSC Treaty do not have the effect of undermining these provisions;
- called upon the Commission to exercise the greatest possible vigilance in these matters and, in consultation with Member States, to keep under regular review the situation with respect to aid from public authorities to the steel industry in Member States in the light of the rules laid down in the code.

ORGANIZATION OF THE STEEL MARKET IN 1987

The Council had a thorough discussion of the Commission proposals for a further liberalization of the Article 58 steel quota regime (liberalization of categories IC, III (part), IV and VI and the repeal of Article 15B).

There was general agreement on the need to continue the process of liberalization depending on market conditions and other factors.

The Council noted that the necessary majority existed in favour of the liberalization of Category IC and the repeal of Article 15B in the light of the Commission's formal statement in the Council minutes on continuing surveillance. The Belgian, German and Luxembourg delegations said their agreement was conditional on no decision to liberalize categories III, IV and VI being taken.

The Council agreed to continue the discussion of all points in the Commission proposal with a view to establishing avis conformes where this proves possible at its next meeting on 18 November.

The Commission undertook to provide at the November Council an initial analysis of the recent initiative from Eurofer and its implications for the future of the quota regime.

AID STRATEGY FOR SHIPBUILDING AFTER 1986

The Council has held a first discussion of the Commission proposal for a Sixth Directive on aids to shipbuilding.

It also heard an oral presentation from the Commission on the industrial, regional and social aspects, and noted that it had received a document on this.

There was broad agreement on the need to replace the Fifth Directive, on its expiry at the end of 1986, with an instrument that would, on the one hand, recognize the problems posed by Far East competition and, on the other, encourage further restructuring in the Community, especially of the less efficient yards, and opening up intra-Community competition.

To this end there was broad agreement with the principle of setting a common aid ceiling to be fixed with reference to the difference between the cost structures of the most competitive Community yards and the prices charged by its main international competitors, although certain delegations believed that there should be more than one ceiling for different types of ship.

The Council agreed that the Directive should control all national aids which have the effect of benefiting the production of ships.

A majority of delegations agreed that there should be separate provisions for aids for restructuring purposes, outside the ceiling, providing these are tightly controlled.

The Council was not opposed in principle to the concept of a transitional period for Spain and Portugal though several delegations needed more information before reaching a final decision.

In the light of this discussion and the progress made, the Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to continue discussions on the Commission proposal for a Directive, in order to prepare for decisive negotiations at its session on 18 November.

SOCIAL ASPECTS - IRON AND STEEL

The Council took note of a communication from Vice-President NARJES on the importance and urgency that the Commission attached to a decision being taken on the proposals pending before the Council concerning the transfer from the general budget to the ECSC budget of the amounts intended to finance social back-up measures in the iron and steel sector. The Permanent Representatives Committee was instructed to continue the proceedings on this dossier.

DEVELOPMENT OF PORTUGUESE INDUSTRY

The Council noted a statement by Vice-President NARJES on the Commission's intentions concerning support for the specific programme for the development of Portuguese industry and a statement by the Portuguese delegation.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

E.C.S.C.

The Council gave its assent to the following:

- under Article 54, second paragraph, of the ECSC Treaty,
 - = the co-financing of investments by LKAB, Lulea (Sweden) in the iron-ore mine at Malmberget (Sweden)
 - = the granting of a global loan to Kredietbank SA, Brussels,

- under Article 54, second paragraph, of the ECSC Treaty
 - = the co-financing of the construction of the coal-fired CHP generating unit at Wolfsburg-West
 - = the partial financing of an investment project of VEBA-Kraftwerke Ruhr AG, Gelsenkirchen, involving the construction of a 224-MW coal-fired district heating plant in Gelsenkirchen-Buer

- under Article 56(2)(a) of the ECSC Treaty
 - = Clydesdale Bank (United Kingdom)

Appointments

On the proposal of the United Kingdom government, the Council appointed Mr R.D. HULL a member of the Advisory Committee on Vocational Training, to replace Mr J. HEDGER, member, who has resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office which runs until 14 July 1987.

The Council also adopted:

- the Decision appointing Portuguese members of the Committee of the European Social Fund for the period to 11 December 1987, viz.:

I. GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES

(a) Members

Mr Joaquim José VIEIRA PINTO COELHO

Mr José Luis CARVALHO DUMAS DINIZ

(b) Alternate

Mr Manuel AREIAS TAVEIRA

II. WORKERS' REPRESENTATIVES

(a) Members

Mr Victor Hugo de JESUS SEQUEIRA

Mr João Antoro de ALMEIDA FOLGADO

(b) Alternate

Ms Maria de Lourdes SANTOS

III. EMPLOYERS' REPRESENTATIVES

(a) Members

Mr Jorge Manuel BARATA MONTIERO

Mr Armando MORAIS GOMES

(b) Alternate

Ms Júlia RÔLA ROQUE

- the Decision appointing Portuguese members of the Advisory Committee on Freedom of Movement for Workers for the period to 6 October 1987, viz.:

I. GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES

(a) Members

Mrs Maria Odete OLIVEIRA CALADO CORDEIRO VITAL
Mr Adelino Alberto SA BENTO COELHO

(b) Alternate

Mrs Maria Madalena de LIMA e SANTOS PACHECO PINHEIRO

II. WORKERS' REPRESENTATIVES

(a) Members

Mr Henrique Jorge de ALMEIDA MARTINS COELHO
Mrs Ana FEIO VALE

(b) Alternate

Mr Fernando José ALVES de FIGUEIREDO

III. EMPLOYERS' REPRESENTATIVES

(a) Members

Mr José António TEIXEIRA LOPES
Mr Manuel AGRÍA

(b) Alternate

Mrs Júlia RÔLA ROQUE

- the Decision appointing Portuguese members of the Advisory Committee on Vocational Training for the period to 14 July 1987, viz.:

I. GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES

(a) Members

Mr José Luis CARVALHO DUMAS DINIZ

Mr Julio da CUNHA ANTUNES

(b) Alternate member

Mr Carlos Eduardo BORGES FLORENCIO

II. WORKERS' REPRESENTATIVES

(a) Members

Mr Luis Gil da SILVA MELO

Mr João Augusto SIMÕES MENDES da FONSECA

(b) Alternate member

Mr João Carlos OLIVEIRA MATOSO

III. EMPLOYERS' REPRESENTATIVES

(a) Members

Mr Rui TEIXEIRA da MOTTA

Mr José Luis SALGADO BARROSO

(b) Alternate member

Mr António Pedro CORREIA dos SANTOS

- the Decision appointing Portuguese members of the Advisory Committee on Social Security for Migrant Workers for the period to 27 November 1987, viz.:

I. GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES

(a) Members

Mr Luís Paulo MOURÃO GARCEZ PALHA

Mr Sebastião Maria de NÓBREGA PINTO PIZARRO

(b) Alternate

Mr Carlos Manuel LEAL de OLIVEIRA ESTEVES

II. WORKERS' REPRESENTATIVES

(a) Members

Mr José BAPTISTA FERNANDES

Mrs Maria GOMES BENTO

(b) Alternate

Mr Armando Henrique SIMÕES SANTOS

III. EMPLOYERS' REPRESENTATIVES

(a) Members

Mr Manuel de LIMA AMORIM

Mr Antonio PINTO CARDOSO

(b) Alternate

Mrs Júlia RÔLA ROQUE

- the Decision appointing Portuguese members of the Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection for the period to 16 December 1988, viz.:

I. GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES

(a) Members

Mrs Josefina da Encarnação PINTO MARVÃO
Mr António Augusto VAREJÃO CASTELO BRANCO de SOUSA

(b) Alternates

Mr Cipriano CARDOSO PINTO
Mr Evaristo PESTANA MARQUES

II. WORKERS' REPRESENTATIVES

(a) Members

Mr Joaquim Manuel LEITÃO RIBEIRO ARENGA
Mr Mário António CABRAL SARAMAGO FERREIRA

(b) Alternates

Mr Júlio do Rosário DIAS GONÇALVES
Mr Armando TAVARES

III. EMPLOYERS' REPRESENTATIVES

(a) Members

Mr Manuel de LIMA AMORIM
Mr José Henriques Luís da COSTA TAVARES

(b) Alternates

Mrs Júlia RÔLA ROQUE
Mr Manuel Gonçalves TAVES COSTA

NOTE BIO (86) 283 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
CC. AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE-PAROLE

Preparation du Conseil Industrie du 20.10.1986 a Luxembourg
(W. HELIN)

Nous avons, pour l'essentiel, renvoye a la Conference de Presse du Vice-President Narjes (voir note BIO (86) 280 du 16 octobre). Nous avons ajoute au dossier deja distribue (MEMO 108 sur la liberalisation du marche siderurgique), une note MEMO 118, qui donne les indications chiffrees relatives d'une part a la reduction des capacites dans la siderurgie europeenne et d'autre part a la situation de l'offre et de la demande d'acier a l'horizon de 1990. On retiendra ainsi 3 chiffres :

- a la fin de 1986 quelque 31,1 millions de tonnes de capacite de production auront ete supprimees dans la siderurgie europeenne par rapport a 1980;
- au total cette operation a beneficie de 37,7 milliards d'ECU en aides publiques diverses;
- en 1990, selon le dernier rapport de la Commission europeenne, l'excédent de capacites - pour la Commu-
nauté a Dix - s'eleverait a 21,7 millions de tonnes.

Amities,

H. Paemen

Materiel distribue :

MEMO 118

IP 491 - lancement d'une association de securite et de fiabilite : ESRA

IP 495 - annonce d'une Conference a Athenes sur la sensibilisation des pays mediterraneens et de l'Irlande a la politique des consommateurs (12/14 decembre 1986)

Discours de M. De Clercq devant l'Association belgo-americaïne a Bruxelles

Bruxelles, le 20 octobre 1986.

Note BIO(86)283 suite 1 aux Bureaux Nationaux
cc. aux membres du Service du Porte-Parole

CONSEIL INDUSTRIE (FABIO COLASANTI)

Programme d'action pour les PME

Le Conseil a réservé un accueil très favorable au Programme d'Action pour les PME que la Commission avait présenté au mois de juillet (voir note P - 66, juillet 1986).

Le Conseil a adopté à l'unanimité une résolution dans laquelle il "approuve en principe, les lignes directrices de la politique suivie et la stratégie prévue par le programme, sous réserve, de l'approbation de propositions individuelles et de leurs incidences financières, et invite la Commission à faire rapport périodiquement sur la réalisation des objectifs".

Le Conseil a aussi adopté une déclaration sur "l'allègement des contraintes administratives". Dans cette déclaration le Conseil:

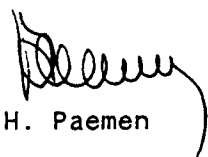
- prend note avec satisfaction de la procédure d'évaluation mise en oeuvre par la Commission, selon laquelle toute nouvelle proposition est accompagnée d'une note contenant une appréciation de l'impact de cette proposition sur les entreprises.
- prend acte des intentions de la Commission en ce qui concerne les orientations envisagées pour réduire les contraintes qui pèsent sur les entreprises.
- est convenu de procéder régulièrement à des échanges d'informations sur les actions engagées par les Etats membres ainsi que par la Commission en vue d'améliorer l'environnement des entreprises et a invité la Commission à arrêter les procédures nécessaires à cet effet.

Le Commissaire Matutes à l'issue de la réunion a fait la déclaration suivante :

"il était important pour la Commission de recueillir l'avis des gouvernements des Etats membres au moment où, après un temps de réflexion qui fait suite à "l'année européenne des PME" (1983), elle se lance dans la mise en oeuvre concrète d'un certain nombre de services aux entreprises qui constituent le premier pas d'une politique d'entreprise menée au niveau européen.

Le Conseil vient d'adopter une résolution sur le Programme d'action de la Commission ainsi qu'une déclaration sur l'allègement des contraintes administratives des entreprises qui prouvent qu'il existe un consensus dans les gouvernements pour appuyer la politique que la Commission m'a confiée".

amitiés



H. Paemen

liere de faire la diffusion habituelle a partir de bruxelles

note bio (86) 283 suite 2 aux bureaux nationaux
cc aux membres du service du porte parole
w. helin

siderurgie : pas encore de decision sur la liberalisation.

une initiative nouvelle - qui doit encore etre formalisee - des siderurgistes europeens groupes au sein d'eurofer a largement influence le debat des ministres de l'industrie des douze le lundi a luxembourg une decision sur une nouvelle phase de liberalisation du marche siderurgique de la communaute n'interviendra qu'a l'occasion du prochain conseil des ministres de l'industrie le 18 novembre a bruxelles

il est apparu, en fin de semaine derniere, qu'eurofer espere s'engager dans les prochains mois sur une nouvelle reduction des capacites de production dans la siderurgie sur une base volontariste. en fonction de cette demarche, certains gouvernements - de rfa et de france en particulier - ont fait clairement comprendre a leurs collegues lundi au conseil, qu'il serait premature de se prononcer tout de suite sur la proposition de la commission europeenne visant une nouvelle liberalisation du marche siderurgique a partir du 1er janvier 1987.

commentant devant la presse cet element nouveau, le vice-president narjes a indique qu'avant le conseil de novembre, eurofer s'est engage a formaliser sa proposition aupres de la commission europeenne "aucune garantie de succes n'est donnee, a-t-il ajoute, mais je constate qu'eurofer a fait cette proposition sous la pression de la liberalisation du marche d'une part et sous la pression de l'analyse generale quant a l'avenir de la siderurgie mondiale, a savoir, une reduction d'activite siderurgique dans les pays les plus industrialises." des rumeurs ont fait etat, en marge du conseil, d'un chiffre de 5 millions de tonnes de reduction de capacite annoncee par eurofer. interroge a ce propos, m. narjes a souligne qu'une telle reduction serait inacceptable et qu'un effort significatif, aux yeux de la commission europeenne, devrait se traduire par une reduction de capacite d'au moins 10 millions de tonnes.

amities
w. helin

20.10.1986

3231 comeur lu0