

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES  
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

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1208th Council meeting

- Industry -

Brussels, 8 December 1987

President: Mr Nils WILHJELM  
Minister for Industry  
Kingdom of Denmark

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

Belgium:

Mr Philippe MAYSTADT Minister for Economic Affairs

Denmark:

Mr Nils WILHJELM Minister for Industry

Germany:

Mr Martin BANGEMANN Federal Minister for Economic Affairs

Greece:

Mr Costas PAPANAYOTOU Deputy Minister for Industry, Energy and Technology

Spain:

Mr Luis Carlos CROISSIER BATTISTA Minister for Industry and Energy

France:

Mr Alain MADELIN Minister for Industry

Ireland:

Mr Séamus BRENNAN Minister of State, Department of Industry and Commerce

Italy:

Mr Adolfo BATTAGLIA Minister for Industry, Trade and Commerce

Mr Luigi GRANELLI Minister for State Holdings

Luxembourg:

Mr Jacques F. POOS  
Mr Johny LAHURE

Minister for Economic Affairs  
State Secretary for Economic  
Affairs

Netherlands:

Mr R.W. DE KORTE

Minister for Economic Affairs

Portugal:

Mr Luis Fernando de MIRO AMARAL

Minister for Industry

United Kingdom:

Mr Kenneth CLARKE

Secretary of State for Trade  
and Industry

Commission:

Mr Karl-Heinz NARJES

Vice-President

Mr Peter SUTHERLAND

Member

Mr Peter M. SCHMIDHUBER

Member

STEEL POLICY

- Extension of the quota system for certain categories of products

After an extensive discussion of the Commission's communication of 26 November amending, in the light of the Three Wise Men's findings, its original communication concerning the steel policy after 1987, the Council reached the following conclusions :

- "(a) The Council will take a decision on the basis of a Commission proposal on 22 December 1987 on whether the quota system should be continued beyond 31 December 1987. It will take its decision in the light of the efforts that each Member State concerned has undertaken to make in the meantime concerning reduction of excess capacity in each of the categories Ia and Ib, II and III. To that end the Commission will arrange for appropriate consultations of Member States before 22 December 1987, with a view to producing clear and credible indications by 22 December 1987 of the willingness of Governments, after consultation with their industries, to undertake a sufficient reduction of capacity in both state and private sector undertakings by means of closures.
- (b) On 22 December the Council and the Commission will consider whether the result of the efforts referred to in a) is satisfactory. Before 22 December 1987, the Commission will consider the situation of category I in the light of the comments of Ministers. If the results have been satisfactory the Council will consider the Commission's proposals for the extension of the quota system for categories I, II and III until 30 June 1988.

- (c) Before 10 June 1988, all Member States concerned should produce specific and binding undertakings by Government and industries as to the share of their state owned and private sector industries in the reduction of the surplus.
- (d) The references of the quota system should be updated and simplified in the context of the decision to be taken before the end of June on the extension of the quota system.

The extension covering categories II and III should run until 31 December 1990, provided the necessary undertakings on reduction of production capacity mentioned under (c) is achieved. As regards category I the Commission will make proposals in the light of the situation in this category and of the undertakings of the industry concerning closures and in the perspective of parallel treatment of this category with categories II and III.

- (e) Should the abovementioned procedure fail to produce the undertakings mentioned under (c), the quota system expires automatically by the end of June 1988."**

- Regional and social measures

The Council approves the fact that the accompanying social and regional measures constitute an essential element of the future process of restructuring.

The Council approves in principle the objectives of the RESIDER programme.

The Council instructs the Committee of Permanent Representatives to complete the work on questions which remain open, in particular the definition of criteria concerning beneficiary regions, so that the Council can finally approve the RESIDER programme at its meeting on 22 December.

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MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Steel: external aspects for 1988

The Council adopted negotiating directives to the Commission for the renewal for 1988 of the arrangements on imports of ECSC iron and steel products into the Community with Brazil (cast iron, pig iron and steel), South Korea, Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Czechoslovakia and Venezuela and the exchanges of letters with Austria, Finland, Norway and Sweden.

United States: steel

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Regulation amending Regulation No 60/85 on the restrictions on exports of steel pipes and tubes to the United States (adjustments to the breakdown of the Community quota between Member States to take account of the special situation of firms with subsidiaries in the United States).

Renewal of the ECSC Consultative Committee - Stage 1

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Decision designating the representative organizations of producers and workers required to draw up lists of candidates for the representation of producers and workers on the Consultative Committee of the European Coal and Steel Community.

Commercial policy and customs union

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Regulation temporarily suspending the autonomous Common Customs Tariff duties on a number of industrial products (for which production is at present inadequate or non-existent within the Community and producers are thus unable to meet the needs of user industries in the Community).

The Council also adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Regulation increasing the Community tariff quota opened for the second half of 1987 for certain ferrophosphorous falling within subheading ex 28.55 A of the Common Customs Tariff (the quota is raised from 13 000 to 37 000 tonnes: - first tranche: 19 200 tonnes divided between:  
Benelux: 19 035 tonnes  
Spain : 165 tonnes;  
- second tranche: 4 800 tonnes, raising the reserve from 2 570 to 7 370 tonnes).

The Council then adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Regulation imposing a definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of mercury originating in the USSR and definitively collecting the provisional anti-dumping duty imposed on such products. (The amount of duty is 70 ECU per flask of a net capacity of 34,5 kg (standard weight) or 2,03 ECU per kg net of mercury. The amounts secured by way of provisional anti-dumping duty are collected definitively).



The Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the European Coal and Steel Community, meeting within the Council, adopted the Decisions on the opening of zero-duty tariff quotas for flat-rolled products of silicon electrical steel in favour of:

- Spain (800 tonnes);
  - Benelux (400 tonnes);
  - The Federal Republic of Germany (1 000 tonnes),
- for the period from 1 January to 30 June 1988.

