

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

10677/90 (Presse 218)

1456th meeting of the Council
FOREIGN TRADE
Brussels, 3 to 7 December 1990

President:

Mr Renato RUGGIERO

Minister for Foreign Trade
of the Italian Republic

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Ireland:

Mr Desmond J. O'MALLEY	Minister for Industry and Commerce
Mr Michael O'KENNEDY	Minister for Agriculture and Food
Mr Terry LEYDEN	Minister of State at the Department of Industry and Commerce with special responsibility for Trade and Marketing

ITALY:

Mr Renato RUGGIERO	Minister for Foreign Trade
Mr Vito SACCOMANDI	Minister for Agriculture

LUXEMBOURG:

Mr René STEICHEN	Minister for Agriculture
Mr Georges WOHLFART	State Secretary for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade

NETHERLANDS:

Mr Piet BUKMAN	Minister for Agriculture, Nature Conservation and Fisheries
Ms Yvonne van ROOY	State Secretary for Economic Affairs

PORTUGAL:

Mr Fernando FARIA DE OLIVEIRA	Minister for Trade and Tourism
Mr Arlindo CUNHA	Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Mr Vitor MARTINS	State Secretary for European Integration
Mr NETO DA SILVA	State Secretary for Foreign Trade

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UNITED KINGDOM:

Mr Peter LILLEY

Secretary of State for Trade and
Industry

Mr John Selwyn GUMMER

Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries
and Food

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Commission:

Mr Frans H.J.J. ANDRIESSEN
Mr Ray MAC SHARRY

Vice-President
Member

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The Council held a number of meetings on the occasion of the Ministerial Conference negotiations of the Uruguay Round held in Brussels from 3 to 7 December 1990.

At the close of its last meeting, it adopted the following conclusions:

1. The Council was briefed on progress in the Conference negotiations in Brussels, which showed that it was impossible to achieve a satisfactory agreement at this stage.
2. The Council, which for its part was in favour of continuing the negotiations, notes that this situation is essentially due to objective difficulties arising from the disparity between the ambitious goals which all the participants set themselves and the political possibilities of achieving them within the available timespan, on the basis of the technical preparation for the Conference.
3. The Council reaffirms the political determination which the Community has displayed throughout the Uruguay Round, including during its final phase, to negotiate concretely for results which are in overall balance, taking into account political realities on all sides and giving satisfaction to all participants in the negotiations.

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The Council re-emphasizes in this context its deep commitment to a strong multilateral trade system contributing to the development of international economic relations, in compliance not only with specific economic interests but also having regard to the human and social dimension.

The Council would appeal to the responsibility of all partners in the negotiations, in accordance with the commitments entered into at Punta del Este, to refrain from any unilateral or bilateral action to improve their negotiating position.

4. The Council is convinced that on this basis the early resumption of the negotiations will enable a balanced overall package to be put together which could then form the subject of a final and collective political effort in the near future.
5. The Council considers it necessary to set a date now for the resumption of the technical discussions. The Council wants this date to be as soon as possible.