

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

10522/90 (Presse 217)

1458th meeting of the Council
- Agriculture -
Brussels, 10 and 11 December 1990

President:

Mr Vito SACCOMANDI

Minister for Agriculture
of the Italian Republic

10/11.XII.90

ary/LG/ic

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:

Mr Laurits TOERNAES Minister for Agriculture

Mr Nils BERNSTEIN State Secretary
for Agriculture

Germany:

Mr Ignaz KIECHLE Federal Minister for Food, Agriculture
and Forestry

Mr Walter KITTEL State Secretary for Food,
Agriculture and Forestry

Greece:

Mr Haris CARABARBOUNIS Deputy Permanent Representative

Spain:

Mr Carlos ROMERO-HERRERA Minister for Agriculture

France:

Mr Louis MERMAZ Minister for Agriculture

Ireland:

Mr Michael O'KENNEDY Minister for Agriculture and Food

Italy:

Mr Vito SACCOMANDI	Minister for Agriculture
Mr Francesco CIMINO	State Secretary for Agriculture and Forestry
Mr Paolo BRUNO	State Secretary for Health

Luxembourg:

Mr René STEICHEN	Minister for Agriculture and Viticulture
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Netherlands:

Mr Piet BUKMAN	Minister for Agriculture, Nature Protection and Fisheries
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Portugal:

Mr Arlindo CUNHA	Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
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United Kingdom:

Mr John Selwyn GUMMER	Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Mr David CURRY	Parliamentary Secretary, Agriculture

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Commission:

Mr R. MAC SHARRY	Member
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VETERINARY CHECKS ON PRODUCTS FROM THIRD COUNTRIES

The Council unanimously adopted the Directive laying down the principles governing the organization of veterinary checks on products entering the Community from third countries.

That decision arose from an underaking given by the Council at the time of adoption of Directives 89/662/EEC and 90/425/EEC concerning the abolition of veterinary border checks in intra-Community trade. The abolition of those internal checks made it all the more necessary to lay down common principles at Community level governing the organization of checks and the arrangements for the movement of products from third countries.

The Directive which has been adopted lays down certain general principles, in particular:

- To be allowed to enter the Community for consumption, any product from a third country must have undergone the veterinary checks provided for by the Directive.
- As soon as the product is submitted at the Community's external border, it must undergo a documentary check and, if necessary, a check to ensure consistency between the documents and the products.
- The product must undergo a physical check at a border inspection post even if it entered the Community at a crossing point other than the border inspection post. The Commission will determine the nature and frequency of physical checks by the Standing Veterinary Committee procedure by 31 December 1991.

- The border inspection posts will be subject to Community approval after being shortlisted by the Member States acting in conjunction with the Commission departments. Member States may receive Community aid to ensure that border inspection posts meet the requirements laid down in the Directive.
- Special rules have been laid down for products entering free ports, free zones and customs warehouses, on the understanding that products may leave them to enter Community territory only if they have undergone the checks provided for by the Directive.
- Certain specific provisions for fishery products will be decided on by the Standing Veterinary Committee procedure.
- The procedures for the provision of information between border posts (SHIFT) and the Commission veterinary departments must be established by 1 January 1992.

The Directive also includes:

- general rules for the inspection of border inspection posts, the organization of follow-ups to the checks, the settlement of disputes, programmes for the exchange of officials and special cases;
- general safeguard arrangements.

10/11.XII.90

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ANIMAL HEALTH CONDITIONS GOVERNING INTRA-COMMUNITY TRADE IN OVINE AND CAPRINE ANIMALS

The Council examined the Commission proposal which aims at extending to intra-Community trade in sheep and goats the animal health requirements already established since 1964 for cattle and pigs, while adapting them to take account of the particular nature of this sector.

Following its discussion, the Council noted a favourable attitude towards a compromise solution put forward by the Presidency. It instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to examine the last remaining reservations and to finalize the text of the Directive with a view to its formal adoption at a later stage.

ANIMAL HEALTH CONDITIONS UPON IMPORTATION OF OVINE AND CAPRINE ANIMALS FROM THIRD COUNTRIES

This Directive will be adopted in conjunction with the adoption of the Directive on intra-Community trade in ovine and caprine animals (previous item).

FRESH POULTRYMEAT

Pending the Opinion of the European Parliament, the Council examined the Commission proposal aiming at harmonizing the animal health rules governing intra-Community trade in fresh poultrymeat and imports from third countries. It also aims at laying down certain requirements to prevent the spread of the principal contagious diseases.

Following its discussion, the Council noted a favourable attitude towards the text. It agreed to instruct the Permanent Representatives' Committee to continue examining the proposed Regulation with a view to its subsequent adoption following receipt of the European Parliament's Opinion.

PLACING ON THE MARKET OF AQUACULTURE ANIMALS AND PRODUCTS

Pending the European Parliament's Opinion, the Council studied the Commission proposal aimed at removing barriers to the free movement of aquaculture animals and products. The proposal also aims at avoiding the spread of contagious diseases, particularly in regions currently free of such diseases.

A favourable attitude emerged at the end of the Council's discussions. The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives' Committee to examine the unresolved issues to enable the Directive to be formally adopted at a future meeting, following receipt of the European Parliament's Opinion.

10/11.XII.90

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AROMATIZED WINES

The Council continued examining the proposal for a Regulation laying down general rules on the definition, description and presentation of vermouths and other wines of fresh grapes flavoured with plants and other aromatic substances.

Aromatized wines are a major outlet for Community agriculture and, given the economic importance of these products, it is necessary to adopt common provisions in this field in order to contribute to the proper functioning of the market.

These products have in fact acquired a well-founded reputation in the Community and on the world market which can be attributed to the quality of traditional products, which should be safeguarded.

At the close of its discussion, the Council agreed by a qualified majority to a compromise solution tabled by the Presidency, which will enable it to arrive at a common position on this proposal.

The Council instructed the Special Committee on Agriculture to draw up the text rapidly with a view to the formal adoption of the Council's common position to be forwarded to the European Parliament under the co-operation procedure.

SUGAR SECTOR

Pending the Opinion of the European Parliament, the Council studied the dossier concerning future sugar arrangements in the Community, to be applied as from 1 July 1991.

As a number of problems were raised by delegations, the Council instructed the Special Committee on Agriculture to examine the proposal in greater detail.

INWARD PROCESSING ARRANGEMENTS FOR MILK PRODUCTS

The Council examined the Commission proposal temporarily suspending inward processing arrangements in the milk products sector, in the light of the market situation in that sector which is characterized by mounting stocks.

As certain differences of opinion appeared concerning such a suspension, the Council instructed the Special Committee on Agriculture to discuss the matter in greater depth and report back to it shortly.

URUGUAY ROUND - AGRICULTURE

On the basis of a Commission statement, the Council held an exchange of views on the state of the multilateral trade negotiations (Uruguay Round) following their suspension. The Council emphasized the importance it attached to their continuation and repeated its support for the Commission's work within the framework of the GATT.

10/11.XII.90

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BOVINE SOMATOTROPIN (BST)

The Council noted the Commission's proposal to extend the existing ban on the administration of bovine somatotropin to dairy cows by a further twelve-month period, as the scientific research initiated by the Commission in this sector has not yet been completed.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Other common agricultural policy decisions

Following the agreement in principle at the Agriculture Council on 27 November to the arrangements to be applied as from the second stage of the accession of Portugal (1 January 1991) to the sectors subject to a transition by stages, the Council adopted 23 Regulations transposing that agreement into legal form.

The Council further adopted two Regulations amending Regulation No 1678/85 fixing the conversion rates to be applied in agriculture.

They fix an agricultural conversion rate for Portuguese products for which the first stage of transitional arrangements is ending and set an agricultural conversion rate having the same value in all Member States for all sectors, thereby guaranteeing uniformity of treatment in national currencies, in particular with regard to intervention stocks.

Customs Union

The Council adopted Regulations opening and providing for the administration of:

- Community tariff quotas for certain agricultural, chemical and industrial products (second series);
- an autonomous Community tariff quota for newsprint (1990) and extending this quota to include certain other types of paper.

10/11.XII.90

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Appointment at the Council General Secretariat

The Council appointed Mr Gerard VAN DONGEN, an established official of the European Communities, as Director-General (grade A1 ad personam), with effect from 1 January 1991.

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COMPUTER MESSAGE :

FROM : C.E.C. - G.P.P.
TO : C.E. WASHINGTON - WASHINGTON
REF : 0344096425 - 10-12-1990 18:06

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GPP

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C.F.	

BRUXELLES, LE 10 DECEMBRE 1990.

NOTE BIO(90) 391 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
CC. AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE-PAROLE

CONSEIL AGRICOLE (10-11 DECEMBRE 90) - JOHN COONEY

L'ORDRE DU JOUR DU CONSEIL QUI SE TIENT AUJOURD'HUI ET DEMAIN (10 ET 11 DECEMBRE 90) A BRUXELLES EST ECLECTIQUE. IL COMPORTERA UNE SERIE DE POINTS LIES AUX REGLEMENTS DU CONSEIL RELATIFS A LA DEUXIEME ETAPE D'ADHESION DU PORTUGAL (LAIT, BEURRE, PRODUITS LAITIERS, VIANDE BOVINE, PORCS, FRUITS ET LEGUMES, CEREALES, RIZ), AUX CONTROLES VETERINAIRES, PROBLEMES DE POLICE SANITAIRE, ETC...

- PROPOSITION DE REGLEMENT DU CONSEIL FIXANT LES PRINCIPES RELATIFS A L'ORGANISATION DE CONTROLES VETERINAIRES POUR LES PRODUITS EN PROVENANCE DES PAYS

TIERS INTRODUITS DANS LA COMMUNAUTE
(COM(90) 385).

LA PROPOSITION DE REGLEMENT DU CONSEIL
VISE A FIXER AU NIVEAU COMMUNAUTAIRE DES
PRINCIPES COMMUNS QUANT A L'ORGANISATION
DES CONTROLES ET AU REGIME DE
CIRCULATION INTERNE DES PRODUITS DES
PAYS TIERS, DANS LA PERSPECTIVE DE LA
REALISATION DU MARCHÉ INTERIEUR ET DE LA
SUPPRESSION DES CONTROLES FRONTALIERS
INTERNES.

CETTE PROPOSITION:

- EXIGE UN CONTROLE DOCUMENTAIRE POUR
TOUS LES PRODUITS INTRODUITS DANS LA

COMMUNAUTE:
- EXIGE UN CONTROLE D'IDENTITE ET UN
CONTROLE PHYSIQUE AU LIEU D'ENTREE
POUR LES PRODUITS AYANT FAIT L'OBJET
DE REGLES HARMONISEES:
- AUTORISE POUR LES PRODUITS N'AYANT PAS
FAIT L'OBJET DE REGLES HARMONISEES, UN
CONTROLE PHYSIQUE SOIT AU LIEU
D'ENTREE, SOIT DANS L'ETAT MEMBRE DE
DESTINATION:
- PREVOIT DES REGLES GENERALES POUR
L'AGREMENT ET LE CONTROLE DES POSTES
D'INSPECTION, L'ORGANISATION DES
SUITES DE CONTROLES, LE REGLEMENT DES

LITIGES ET UN REGIME DE SAUVEGARDE.
- DEFINITION ET PRESENTATION DES VINS
AROMATISES (COM(86) 159).

LA COMMISSION A MODIFIE SA PROPOSITION
INITIALE DE 1982 POUR EN FAIRE DEUX
TEXTES, L'UN CONSACRE AUX BOISSONS
SPRITUEUSES (REGL(89) 1576), L'AUTRE AUX
VINS AROMATISES. LE GROUPE DE TRAVAIL A
ENVISAGE UN REGLEMENT PORTANT SUR TROIS
CATEGORIES DE PRODUITS:

1. VINS AROMATISES (TITRE
ALCOOMETRIQUE 14,50/0-220/0 VOL.)
2. BOISSONS AROMATISES A BASE DE VIN
(TITRE ALCOOMETRIQUE 70/0-14,50/0)
3. COCKTAILS A BASE DE VIN (TITRE

ALCOOMETRIQUE 1,20/0-70/0)

- 3 -

- EXTENSION DU REGIME DES QUOTAS SUCRE (COM(90) 323/2)

LE CONSEIL NE POURRA PAS RESPECTER L'ECHÉANCE DU 31 DECEMBRE, COMPTE TENU DE L'ABSENCE D'AVIS DU PARLEMENT. LE CONSEIL EST APPELÉ A DONNER UNE ORIENTATION POLITIQUE AUX TRAVAUX FUTURS.

- PROPOSITION DE DECISION DU CONSEIL PORTANT MODIFICATION DE LA DECISION 90/218/CEE DU 25 AVRIL 1990 RELATIVE A

L'ADMINISTRATION DE LA SOMATOTROPINE.

LA COMMISSION A ETE INVITEE A PRESENTER AU PARLEMENT EUROPEEN ET AU CONSEIL, AVANT LE 1ER OCTOBRE 1990, UN RAPPORT SUR LA SITUATION, ASSORTI DE PROPOSITIONS CONCERNANT LE REGIME ULTERIEUR A PREVOIR. CETTE MESURE A ETE PRISE PARCE QUE LES EFFETS DE NOUVELLES SUBSTANCES TELLES QUE LA SOMATOTROPINE BOVINE NE SONT PAS ENCORE SUFFISAMMENT ETABLIS ET QU'IL CONVIENT DES LORS DE PREVOIR LE LAPS DE TEMPS NECESSAIRE POUR LA REALISATION D'ETUDES APPROFONDIES. AU SEIN DE LA DG III, LE COMITE DES MEDICAMENTS VETERINAIRES EXAMINE ACTUELLEMENT LES ASPECTS 'SECURITE', 'QUALITE' ET 'EFFICACITE' DE L'UTILISATION DES PRODUITS A BASE DE SOMATOTROPINE BOVINE DONT L'UTILISATION EST DEMANDEE PAR DEUX SOCIETES: MONSATO (SOMATECH) ET LILLY COY (SOMODIBOVE). LES ETUDES ENTREPRISES N'ETANT PAS ENCORE TERMINEES, LA COMMISSION S'IMPOSE DE DEMANDER AU CONSEIL DE PROLONGER DE DOUZE MOIS LA PERIODE DE VALIDITE DE LA DECISION 90/218/CEE DU 25 AVRIL 1990.

- PROPOSITION DE REGLEMENT DU CONSEIL RELATIF AUX CONDITIONS DE POLICE SANITAIRE REGISSANT LA MISE SUR LE MARCHE D'ANIMAUX ET DE PRODUITS D'AQUACULTURE (COM(89) 655)

CETTE PROPOSITION A POUR BUT DE LEVER LES OBSTACLES A LA LIBRE CIRCULATION DES ANIMAUX ET PRODUITS DE L'AQUACULTURE TOUT EN EVITANT LA PROPAGATION DES

MALADIES CONTAGIEUSES, NOTAMMENT DANS LES REGIONS ACTUELLEMENT INDEMMES. CETTE PROPOSITION S'INSERE DANS L'OPTIQUE DE LA REALISATION DU MARCHE INTERIEUR.

- 4 -

- PROPOSITION DE DIRECTIVE DU CONSEIL MODIFIANT LA DIRECTIVE 72/462/CEE CONCERNANT DES PROBLEMES SANITAIRES ET DE POLICE SANITAIRE LORS DE L'IMPORTATION D'ANIMAUX DES ESPECES BOVINE ET PORCINE ET DE VIANDES FRAICHES EN PROVENANCE DES PAYS TIERS, AFIN D'Y INTEGRER LES ANIMAUX DES ESPECES OVINE ET CAPRINE (COM(88) 742)

LA COMMISSION A, LE 9 JANVIER 1989, SOUMIS AU CONSEIL LA PROPOSITION CITEE EN OBJET QUI VISE, EN LIAISON AVEC UNE PROPOSITION DES REGLES DE POLICE SANITAIRE APPLICABLES AUX ECHANGES INTRACOMMUNAUTAIRES, A FIXER LES REGLES APPLICABLES AUX IMPORTATIONS D'OVINS ET DE CAPRINS EN PROVENANCE DES PAYS TIERS.

- 5 -

- PROPOSITION DE REGLEMENT DU CONSEIL RELATIF AUX CONDITIONS DE POLICE SANITAIRE REGISSANT LES ECHANGES INTRACOMMUNAUTAIRES DES OVINS ET CAPRINS (COM(88) 742)

CETTE PROPOSITION VISE, DANS LA PERSPECTIVE DU MARCHE INTERIEUR, A ETENDRE AU COMMERCE INTRACOMMUNAUTAIRE DES OVINS ET CAPRINS LES EXIGENCES SANITAIRES DEJA EN PLACE DEPUIS 1964 POUR LES ANIMAUX DES ESPECES BOVINE ET CAPRINE, TOUT EN LES ADAPTANT POUR TENIR COMPTE DE LA SPECIFICITE DE CE SECTEUR.

PROPOSITION DE REGLEMENT (CEE) DU CONSEIL RELATIF AUX CONDITIONS DE POLICE SANITAIRE REGISSANT LES ECHANGES INTRACOMMUNAUTAIRES ET LES IMPORTATIONS EN PROVENANCE DES PAYS TIERS DE VIANDES FRAICHES DE VOLAILLE ET DE BUIER A PLUMES D'ELEVAGE (COM(89) 507).

LA COMMISSION A INDIQUE QUE LES RESULTATS DES ETUDES SCIENTIFIQUES MENEES DANS DIFFERENTS ETATS MEMBRES S'ETAIENT AVEREES SATISFAISANTS ET QUE

DES LORS, ELLE POUVAIT CONFIRMER SON
SOUTIEN A LA SUGGESTION DE COMPROMIS.

PROPOSITION DE REGLEMENT (CEE) DU
CONSEIL RELATIF A L'EXCLUSION DU RECOURS
AU REGIME DU TRAFIC DE PERFECTIONNEMENT
ACTIF ET A CERTAINES MANIPULATIONS
USUELLES POUR LES PRODUITS LAITIERS
(COM(90) 395).

LA COMMISSION A PRESENTE AU CONSEIL EN
DATE DU 19 SEPTEMBRE 1990 LA PROPOSITION
DE REGLEMENT CITEE EN OBJET QUI VISE A
SUSPENDRE TEMPORAIREMENT LE REGIME DU
TRAFIC DE PERFECTIONNEMENT ACTIF (TPA)
JUSQU'A LA FIN DE LA CAMPAGNE LAITIERE
1991/1992 COMPTE TENU DU FAIT QUE LA

SITUATION DU MARCHÉ LAITIER
COMMUNAUTAIRE EST CARACTERISEE PAR DES
EXCEDENTS CROISSANTS ET QUE
L'UTILISATION DE PRODUITS LAITIERS A BAS
PRIX EN PROVENANCE DE PAYS TIERS SOUS LE
REGIME DU TPA RISQUE, SELON LA
COMMISSION, DE COMPROMETTRE L'ECOLEMENT
NORMAL DES PRODUITS LAITIERS PLUS CHERS
D'ORIGINE COMMUNAUTAIRE ET, PAR
CONSEQUENT, DE PERTURBER LE BON
FONCTIONNEMENT DE L'ORGANISATION DU
MARCHÉ DE CE SECTEUR. UNE TELLE
SUSPENSION A DEJA EU LIEU PENDANT LA

- 6 -

PERIODE 1984/1988.

URUGUAY ROUND

VOLET AGRICOLE

AMITIES,

B. DETHOMAS

SENT BY SPP AT : MON DEC 10 17:30:56 CET 1990

+++ END OF TEXT +++

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DURATION 1707 SECS LISTED 12:40 EST 12/10/90

Bruxelles, 11 december 1990.

NOTE BIO(90) 391 (Suite 1) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
cc. aux membres du Service du Porte-Parole

Agriculture Council (10-11 dec.1990) - John Cooney

The opening session of the Council was devoted to making further progress on veterinary measures relating to the completion of the internal market in 1992. This was building on measures adopted last June under the Irish Presidency along with measures approved under the Italian Presidency at Council meetings in October and November.

The Council, under the chairmanship of Mr Vito Saccomandi, reached unanimous agreement on the directive dealing with veterinary inspections on animal products imported from third countries. This agreement was subject to several clarifications and understandings which were entered into the minutes.

- A proposal concerning health rules for sheep and goats was referred back to Coreper for further study.
- A compromise Presidency proposal for fresh poultry meat was clearly capable of securing qualified majority support. But in the absence of an opinion from the European Parliament, no decision was taken, thus giving more time for Ireland, UK on behalf of Northern Ireland and Denmark to obtain studies on the problem of Newcastle disease.
- A qualified majority could also have been achieved for the proposal on health rules for fish farming. Again the Council awaits the opinion of Parliament. Meanwhile, Coreper will continue its clarification of the text.
- A Presidency compromise was approved by qualified majority on the matter of aromatised drinks. Final agreement largely hinged on the wording of two key passages:

a) Labelling:

"Dans le cas où l'alcool serait de diverses origines, aucune mention particulière ne devra être indiquée sur l'étiquette".

b) Sangria et Clarea:

"La dénomination Sangria doit être obligatoirement accompagnée de la mention "produite en...", suivie du nom de l'Etat membre de production ou d'une région plus restreinte sauf si elle est produite en Espagne ou au Portugal".

- A round table debate on the future sugar regime led to the dossier being sent back to the Special Committee on Agriculture for further work. The Commissioner, responsible for Agriculture and Rural Development, Mr Mac Sharry, said that while he fully understood the attractions of a five years regime as proposed in an Italian Presidency, he recommended adherence to the Commission proposal for a two years roll-over of existing quotas, a degression of national aids and the suppression of the reimbursement of storage costs for cane sugar carried over.
- Also sent back for further debate among experts was the proposal to suspend Inward Processing Relief Arrangements in the milk sector.

The Council, the last one chaired by the Italian Presidency, will conclude today. On the margin Commissioner Mac Sharry will discuss the priorities of the Luxembourg Presidency with the incoming Chairman, Mr Streichen.

Amitiés,


B. Dethomas

Bruxelles, 11 décembre 1990

NOTE BIO(90) 391 (Suite 2 et fin) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
cc. aux membres du Service du Porte-Parole

Agriculture Council - 10/11 dec. 1990 - John Cooney

GATT

Commissioner Mac Sharry informed the ministers that he will meet Mr Arthur Dunkel, the Gatt General Secretary in early January as part of the latter's consultations aimed at relaunching the negotiations which were suspended last Friday.

Mr Mac Sharry said that if progress were to be made the Americans would have to lower their expectations. Meanwhile, too, it was important that the ministers should take every opportunity to explain their proposal to all Gatt contracting States including the developing countries.

It was also important that the Community should become more professional in its public relations with the international media. When he thought of the propaganda resources mounted against the Community, an excellent job was made by the two members of the Porte-Parole (Nico Wegter and John Cooney) who were at Hysel. The Community, however, needed to put more resources into the information work.

Mr Mac Sharry said he was satisfied with the mandate negotiated by the Council late autumn, and he stressed that the Council needed to continue to show unity and solidarity.

As regards "the accompanying measures" which are designed to cushion any adverse effect on small and medium sized farmers, Mr Mac Sharry said that these would be presented to the Commission next week. They would:

- 1) honour international commitments;
- 2) reorientate support away from the 20% of farmers who benefitted from 80% of EC farm resources;
- 3) keep within the budget constraints;
- 4) protect the environment.

The Commissioner said that his proposals - which later at news conference he described as "revolutionary" - would face serious difficulties in the Commission and in the Council and from leaders of farm organisations. But such measures would have to be taken for internal reasons as well as to contribute towards a successful conclusion of the Gatt talks.

In the Council debate the ministers congratulated Mr Mac Sharry for the excellent work he had done in the negotiations. Solidarity was stressed by all ministers but several delegations also stressed that flexibility should be allowed the negotiations at some future stage if an agreement is to be reached.

BST


Mr MacSharry announced that the Commission is proposing a one year extension of the moratorium which was due to expire at the end of the year. The formal proposal, he said, was on its way to the Council.

Presidency charge

Tributes were paid to the Italian President, Mr Saccomandi, who is understood to have chaired a record of 16 Council meetings during the six months presidential term.

The next meeting will convene on January 21-22nd under the Luxembourg Presidency.

Amitiés,

M.O. 

B. Dethomas