

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES  
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

7454/91 (Presse 135)

1511th Council meeting  
- General Affairs -  
Political Co-operation meeting  
Brussels, 29 July 1991

Presidents: Mr Hans VAN DEN BROEK  
Minister for Foreign Affairs  
  
Ms Yvonne VAN ROOY  
Minister for Foreign Trade  
  
of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

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

Belgium:

Mr Mark EYSKENS	Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Robert URBAIN	Minister for Foreign Trade
Mr Paul DE KEERSMAEKER	State Secretary for European Affairs

Denmark:

Mr Uffe ELLEMANN-JENSEN	Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Jørgen ØRSTRØM MØLLER	State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Germany:

Mr Hans-Dietrich GENSCHER	Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Dieter VON WÜRZEN	State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs

Greece:

Mr Antonios SAMARAS	Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Georges PAPASTAMKOS	State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Spain:

Mr Francisco FERNANDEZ ORDOÑEZ	Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Carlos WESTENDORP	State Secretary for Relations with the European Communities
Mr Miguel Angel FEITO	State Secretary for Trade

France:

Mr Roland DUMAS	Ministre d'Etat, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Ms Elisabeth GUIGOU	Minister for European Affairs
Mr Dominique Strauss-Kahn	Minister for Industry and Foreign Trade

Ireland:

Mr Gerard COLLINS	Minister for Foreign Affairs
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Italy:

Mr Gianni DE MICHELIS	Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Vito LATTANZIO	Minister for Foreign Trade

Luxembourg:

Mr Jacques F. POOS	Minister for Foreign Affairs
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Netherlands:

Mr H. VAN DEN BROEK	Minister for Foreign Affairs
Ms Yvonne VAN ROOY	Minister for Foreign Trade
Mr Piet DANKERT	State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Portugal:

Mr João PINHEIRO	Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Vitor MARTINS	State Secretary for European Integration

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United Kingdom:

Mr Douglas HURD

Secretary of State for Foreign and  
Commonwealth Affairs

Mr Peter LILLEY

Secretary of State for Trade and Industry

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Commission:

Mr Jacques DELORS

President

Mr F.H.J.J. ANDRIESEN

Vice-President

Mr Abel MATUTES

Member

INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE ON POLITICAL UNION

The Council noted a communication from Mr VAN DEN BROEK on the Presidency's intentions regarding the working procedures and the timetable for the final stage of the IGC on Political Union.

The Presidency, adhering closely to the conclusions of the Luxembourg European Council, will keep the Luxembourg Presidency's draft Treaty as the basis for further discussions, which it intends to focus on the unresolved substantive issues before moving on to the question of the Treaty's structure. The Presidency also considers the time has come to prepare alternative solutions for submission to the Ministers on the main issues outstanding.

At the 30 September meeting, the Presidency plans to address the Chapters on the common foreign and security policy, internal affairs and judicial co-operation, economic and social cohesion, joint decision-making procedures and social policy.

The IGC will reconvene on the occasion of Council meetings in October and November to discuss the main residual problems. Nevertheless, the Presidency does not believe that these meetings will suffice to complete the negotiations overall. It has scheduled a two to three-day "conclave" during the week of 11 to 16 November, after which the last draft will be finalized so that when the President of the Council makes his tour of Member States' capitals he is able to conclude the political preparations for the European Council.

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#### OUTCOME OF THE WESTERN ECONOMIC SUMMIT

The Council heard a report by the President of the Commission on the proceedings and outcome of the Western Economic Summit held in London on 15 and 16 July 1991.

#### SWEDEN'S MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Following Sweden's applications for membership of the three European Communities, filed by the Swedish Prime Minister, Mr Ingvar CARLSSON, at The Hague on 1 July 1991, the Council decided to set in train the procedures provided for in the Treaties (Article 237 of the EEC Treaty, Article 205 of the Euratom Treaty and Article 98 of the ECSC Treaty).

The Commission is now required to prepare its opinion.

The President of the Council will send a letter to the Swedish Prime Minister acknowledging receipt of the membership applications and informing him of the Council's decision.

#### ESTABLISHING A EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA

After a briefing by Vice-President ANDRIESEN on the outcome of intensive weekend negotiations with the EFTA side, the Council discussed in depth the key questions still outstanding relating to the EEA.

Following a Commission report on its latest talks with EFTA during the day, the Council noted that the two sides' positions continued to differ in a number of important areas and that the Commission would resume talks in September with a view to finding solutions leading to agreement.

URUGUAY ROUND

The Council took note of a report by the Commission on recent developments in the Uruguay Round and observations of delegations on procedures and substance of the next phase of the negotiations.

The Council welcomed the objective of concluding the negotiations before the end of 1991 and thus will undertake all efforts contributing to further  
- substantive - progress in all key-sectors.

Since only very limited time is left to achieve such progress, the Council agreed that the Community - as well as its negotiating partners - should spare no effort to contribute to the speeding-up of the negotiating process in line with its own legitimate interests and the political consensus reached at the highest level.

The Council noted that such efforts would be required to allow the Community to play its role in the negotiations in a manner that is consistent with its global responsibilities as the world's major trading partner.

The Council fully endorsed the Commission's position as to timing as well as substance and agreed to revert to the matter at its meeting in September on the basis of a full report by the Commission.

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NEGOTIATION OF ASSOCIATION AGREEMENTS WITH HUNGARY, POLAND AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA

The Council discussed the state of play in the negotiation of Association Agreements with Hungary, Poland and Czechoslovakia, on the basis of a Commission report.

The Council welcomed the progress made in the negotiations while noting that substantial problems were still unresolved in certain areas.

Referring to the conclusions of the Luxembourg European Council, the Council confirmed the political importance of concluding the negotiations by the end of October.

It accordingly asked the Commission with that end in view to submit to it concrete, balanced proposals, on which it would take a decision at the September meeting.



ALBANIA

The Council, which welcomed the fact that Albania had now engaged in a process of political and economic reform, heard a report by Mr ANDRIESSEN on his recent visit to Tirana.

The Council noted the proposal recently submitted by the Commission for the conclusion of a trade and co-operation agreement with Albania; it will take a decision on the negotiating directives at its September meeting.

The Commission report also underlined Albania's alarming economic situation and that swift action was necessary to meet the urgent needs of the population. The Council noted that the Commission had already decided to provide ECU 500 000 in emergency aid and had just submitted a draft Regulation for the supply of 50 000 tonnes of cereals.

This measure is part of a more extensive assistance programme for Albania planned by the G24. The Council will take a decision on it as quickly as possible once the European Parliament, which the Council has asked to apply the urgent procedure, has delivered its Opinion.

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SUPPORT FOR PERU

The Council heard a statement by Commissioner MATUTES on the setting-up of a Peru Support Group and took note of his appeal for Member States to contribute to the Group's financial outlay. A number of Member States have already made known that they will contribute to the Group's outlay or that they intend to do so.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Annual economic report 1990/1991 on the economic situation in the Community

Following the political agreement reached at the ECOFIN Council meeting on 8 July 1991, the Council adopted the Decision adopting the annual economic report 1990-1991 on the economic situation in the Community and the economic policy orientations for the Community in 1991.

Trade questions and Customs Union

The Council adopted

- a Regulation opening and providing for the administration of a 20 000 tonnes tariff quota for herring, fresh or chilled, originating in Sweden for the period 1 September 1991 to 14 February 1992;
- a Regulation adapting Regulation (EEC) No 3420/83 with regard to import quotas to be opened by Member States in respect of State-trading countries in 1991;
- a Regulation increasing from 600 000 to 630 000 tonnes the volume of the Community tariff quota opened for 1991 for newsprint originating in Canada.

Relations with the ACP States

- Internal instruments implementing the new ACP-EEC Convention in the area of finance co-operation.

The Council adopted the Financial Regulation applicable to Development Finance Co-operation under the fourth ACP-EEC Convention (seventh EDF).

The new Financial Regulation lays down the provisions for implementing the Internal Agreement on the Financing and Administration of Community Aid under Lomé IV as adopted by the representatives of the Member States meeting within the Council on 16 July 1990.

The Council also adopted the new Rules of Procedure of the Committee set up under the auspices of the European Investment Bank (the "Article 28 Committee").

The Council has thus now finalized two major internal instruments for the implementation of the development finance co-operation provisions of the new ACP-EEC Convention, which is due to enter into force on 1 September 1991.

#### Agricultural policy

The Council adopted Regulations

- amending for the second time Regulation (EEC) No 2392/89 laying down general rules for the description and presentation of wines and grape musts;
- amending for the fifth time Regulation (EEC) No 3309/85 laying down general rules for the description and presentation of sparkling wines and aerated sparkling wines.

The purpose of these amendments is to ban the use of capsules (and of foils in the case of sparkling wines) containing lead to cover the closing devices of containers in which wines or grape musts and sparkling wines are marketed.

The ban aims to prevent the risk of contamination, in particular through accidental contact with these products, and the risk of environmental pollution from waste containing lead from the capsules. It will apply from 1 January 1993.

The Council also adopted Directives

- amending and consolidating Directive 64/433/EEC on health problems affecting intra-Community trade in fresh meat to extend it to the production and marketing of fresh meat;
- on the conditions for granting temporary and limited derogations from specific Community health rules on the production and marketing of fresh meat.

Political agreement had been reached on these two Directives in the Agriculture Council on 26 and 27 June 1991 (see Press Release 7144/91 Presse 121).

#### Fisheries

The Council adopted

- a Regulation amending for the second time Regulation (EEC) No 3926/90 fixing, for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks, the total allowable catches for 1991 and certain conditions under which they may be fished.

The purpose of this Regulation is to implement the agreement reached between the Community and Norway on a 48 000 tonnes increase in the TAC for herring in the North Sea and to increase the TACs for the herring stock in the Celtic Sea

and for sole in the Skagerrak and Kattegat, since, according to the latest scientific advice, the fishing possibilities exceed the TAC set in December 1990;

- a Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 3928/90 allocating, for 1991, certain catch quotas between Member States for vessels fishing in the Norwegian exclusive economic zone and the fishing zone around Jan Mayen.

This Regulation implements the agreement reached between Norway and the Community on a 20 000 tonnes increase in the 1991 Community quota for sandeel;

- a Decision on the participation of the EEC in the negotiations with a view to drawing up an agreement on the conservation of small cetaceans in the Baltic and North Seas.

#### Environment

The Council adopted Decisions

- concerning the signing of an additional Protocol to the Convention on the International Commission for the Protection of the Elbe;
- concerning the participation of the EEC in the negotiation of a Convention on the protection of the waters of the Oder and the signing of this Convention;
- on Community participation in the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) negotiations for a Convention on Biological Diversity;
- authorizing Community participation in negotiations with a view to adoption of a Convention on the Transboundary Impacts of Industrial Accidents in the framework of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

### Internal Market

The Council adopted

- a common position on the text of a Council Directive amending for the seventh time Directive 67/548/EEC on the approximation of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions relating to the classification, packaging and labelling of dangerous substances, following the substantive agreement reached in the Environment Council on 18 and 19 March 1991 (see Press Release 5199/91 Presse 34).
  
- a Decision on the introduction of a standard Europe-wide emergency call number, following the agreement reached at the Council meeting on 23 December 1990 (see Press Release 10157/90 Presse 196).

### Transport

The Council adopted Directives

- on driving licences, following the agreement reached at the Council meeting on 20 and 21 June 1991.

The Directive provides for the introduction by the Member States of national driving licences based on a Community model and for their mutual recognition, from 1 July 1996. It also lays down the minimum conditions for issuing driving licences;

- on the development of the Community's railways, following the agreement reached at the Council meeting on 20 and 21 June 1991.

The aim of this Directive is to facilitate the adaptation of the Community railways to the needs of the single market and to increase their efficiency. It will enter into force on 1 January 1993.

(See Press Release 7141/91 Presse 118).

#### Youth for Europe Programme (second phase)

The Council adopted a Decision adopting the second phase of the "Youth for Europe" Programme, to which it had given its agreement at its meeting on 26 June 1991 (see Press Release 7142/91 Presse 119).

The programme, which covers the period 1992-1994 and has been allocated a budget of ECU 10 million, is designed to promote youth exchanges and mobility in the Community.

#### ECSC

The Council gave its assent

- under Article 56(2)(a) of the ECSC Treaty, to draft Commission Decisions on the grant of global loans to:
  - Kredietbank S.A. (Belgium)
  - Westdeutsche Landesbank (Federal Republic of Germany)
  - Générale de Banque (Belgium)
  - Barclays Bank plc (United Kingdom)
  - Caisse Centrale du Crédit Mutuel (France)



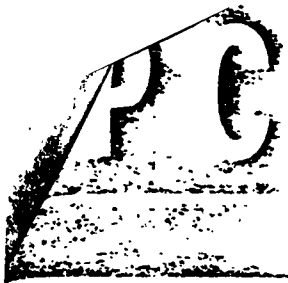
- under Article 55(2)(c) of the ECSC Treaty, to a draft Commission Decision on the grant of financial aid for steel research projects and steel pilot/demonstration projects.

#### Appointments

The Council appointed, on a proposal by the Italian Government, Mr Carlo GATTERO as member of the Economic and Social Committee in place of Mr Walter LUCCHETTI, who had resigned, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which runs until 20 September 1994.

The Council also

- renewed the Committee of Experts of the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions;
- replaced certain members and alternate members of the European Social Fund Committee.



# EUROPEAN POLITICAL COOPERATION

## PRESS RELEASE

P. 68/91

Brussels, 29 July 1991

### DECLARATION ON THE MIDDLE EAST

The Community and its Member States reviewed the present developments in the peace process. They noted with satisfaction the emerging consensus on the current initiative, launched by the United States, to convene a peace conference leading to the beginning of negotiations between the parties.

The Community and its Member States welcome the fact that a number of Arab countries have responded positively to the call in the London G-7 Summit Declaration by offering a suspension of the Arab boycott in return for a freeze by Israel of its settlement policy. They stress how important it is that this positive gesture be reciprocated.

They stress again the importance of overcoming final difficulties, including the question of Palestinian representation, so that a conference, to which they will make their full contribution as a participant, may now be convened shortly. They are convinced that with the necessary political will and courage of the parties concerned a solution to those difficulties can be found.



## PRESS RELEASE

P. 69/91

Brussels, 29 July 1991

DECLARATION ON BURMA

Recalling their statements of 4 January and 27 May on Burma, the Community and its Member States are appalled that the Burmese authorities still show no sign of respecting the wishes the Burmese people expressed in elections on 27 May 1990 for a democratically elected Government. Nor have the Burmese authorities put an end to violations of internationally accepted rules of conduct and of human rights. The Community and its Member States are likewise appalled that the Burmese authorities continue to spend large amounts of their country's meagre resources on arms. They wish, therefore, to draw the attention of the international community to their decision to refuse the sale of any military equipment from Community countries to Burma. They call on the rest of the international community to show similar restraint and desist from all such sales.



Bruxelles, le 29 juillet 1991.

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**NOTE BIO (91) 260 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX**  
**cc. aux Membres du Service du Porte-Parole**

**CONSEIL AFFAIRES GENERALES - Yougoslavie (29/07/91)**

Le Conseil Affaires Générales a traité de la Yougoslavie en réunion restreinte avant de poursuivre sa discussion au déjeuner avec le premier ministre fédéral, M. Markovic, le ministre des affaires étrangères, M. Loncar, et les représentants de Bosnie-Herzégovine et de Macédoine de la présidence.

Présentant les résultats de ces discussions à la presse, M. van den Broek a précisé :

- La priorité numéro un, c'est de consolider et d'assurer effectivement le cessez-le-feu. C'est un préalable à toute discussion sur l'avenir du pays.
- Les Douze ont décidé d'étendre le mandat de la mission de monitoring à la Croatie sous conditions
  - . que toutes les parties intéressées acceptent le cessez-le-feu et acceptent de donner des garanties pour la sécurité de cette mission ;
  - . que des patrouilles mixtes (représentants des forces fédérales et garde nationale croate) soient mises sur pied en Croatie et que les autres unités rentrent dans les casernes. Ces patrouilles mixtes feront rapport à la mission de monitoring.
- Sur demande des autorités yougoslaves, la Troika se rendra de nouveau en Yougoslavie à la fin de cette semaine. Elle rencontrera tous ceux - présidence fédérale, gouvernement fédéral y compris le ministre de la défense, gouvernement croate, gouvernement serbe - qui doivent donner leur accord pour permettre à la Communauté de jouer son rôle.
- Le nombre des observateurs va être accru (M. van den Broek a parlé de 150 à 200 voire plus contre 50 actuellement). En consultation avec la partie yougoslave, il a aussi été décidé d'étendre la mission à des envoyés des pays de la CSCE non membres de la CEE, même si le rôle clef de la Communauté est réaffirmé.
- Economiquement, les Douze - qui avaient gelé l'aide à la Yougoslavie (50 millions d'Ecus restant du second protocole financier et les 807 millions du troisième protocole) - se sont dit prêts à revoir cette position dès que toutes les parties auront commencé à négocier sur l'avenir de la Yougoslavie. La Commission a d'ailleurs été chargée de mettre en place un groupe de travail pour préparer la suite de la coopération économique et financière avec la Yougoslavie.
- Enfin, le président du Conseil a dit son espoir que la direction fédérale et les Républiques puissent profiter du moratoire de trois mois pour trouver un accord sur le cessez-le-feu, les problèmes institutionnels et les problèmes économiques et financiers.

M. Ante Markovic a pour sa part insisté - après s'être réjoui des décisions communautaires - sur la forte dégradation de la situation économique (inflation, doublement du chômage, effondrement du tourisme et donc des recettes en devises, ...) et sur la nécessité d'éviter le chaos et l'anarchie pendant le moratoire, donc sur la nécessité pour le gouvernement fédéral de rétablir pendant le moratoire un minimum de structures d'Etat, politiques, économiques et sociales, sans préjudice des nouvelles relations que mettront en place les Républiques.

M. Delors enfin, après avoir souligné le caractère indispensable de cette réunion, a rappelé le préalable du cessez-le-feu et d'un retour à l'équilibre.

Il a ensuite mis en valeur deux points :

- il faut éviter que la situation, déjà dramatique, ne se termine en une sorte de Liban ;
- il faut voir dans ces mesures le sens des responsabilités de la Communauté dans toute l'Europe, même si cela est risqué.

La Yougoslavie de demain ne sera pas celle d'hier. Encore pour y travailler faut-il éviter la logique de la haine. D'où un appui au fonctionnement de l'Etat pendant le moratoire ; d'où aussi la mise à disposition de la Yougoslavie d'experts (juridiques, financiers, institutionnels) pour l'aider à trouver les voies de la Yougoslavie de demain.

La Commission, a conclu le président, étudiera de près la situation économique pour permettre à la Yougoslavie, si les conditions politiques sont réunies, de prendre sa place dans l'ensemble européen.

A suivre.

  
Amitiés,  
Bruno Dethomas

Bruxelles, le 30 juillet 1991.

**NOTE BIO (91) 260 (suite 1 et fin) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX  
cc. aux Membres du Service du Porte-Parole**

**CONSEIL AFFAIRES GENERALES (29/07/1991)**  
(Nico Wegter)

Mis à part le dossier "Yougoslavie", le Conseil s'est concentré pendant la session d'hier sur quatre sujets spécifiques, à savoir :

- négociations CEE/AELE ;
- Uruguay Round ;
- relations avec les Pecos ;
- relations avec l'Albanie.

**1. Négociations CEE/AELE**

Malgré des pourparlers intenses en session plénière ainsi qu'en marge du Conseil, les efforts du vice-président Andriessen, bien soutenu par la présidence, pour définir les grandes lignes d'un accord définitif pour les négociations en cours n'ont pas abouti. En effet, cette nuit vers 01h00', on a dû constater qu'apparemment les conditions ne sont pas encore réunies pour faire dégager une formule de compromis pour les principaux points en litige, à savoir la pêche et le mécanisme financier. Par ailleurs, il faut constater que les négociations bilatérales concernant le troisième sujet principal de ce dossier, le transport transit, doivent encore être poursuivies.

C'est pourquoi, pendant la session d'hier, le débat s'est concentré sur la pêche et le mécanisme financier, étant entendu que le transit fait encore l'objet de négociations bilatérales.

Le débat a été introduit hier matin par le vice-président Andriessen qui, après avoir constaté que "du progrès énorme a déjà été réalisé entre les négociateurs", a indiqué qu'il y avait lieu de chercher maintenant un compromis dans les domaines de la pêche et du mécanisme financier.

Tenant compte de certaines indications déjà reçues de la part des négociateurs de l'AELE, le vice-président a suggéré les formules de compromis suivantes pour les deux sujets concernés :

- pêche : en complément des TAC de 2,14% prévus dans le cadre de l'accord CEE/Norvège existant (dont profitent notamment le Royaume-Uni, la France et l'Allemagne), M. Andriessen propose un pourcentage fixe de 3% des TAC avec un élément garanti de 1,63%. Ceci signifie donc que la Communauté pourrait compter, à partir de 1993, sur 9.300 tonnes de cabillaud norvégien, ce chiffre augmentant annuellement pour atteindre 21.000 tonnes en 1997. Dans l'hypothèse que l'étape future se développerait moins positivement que prévu, 1,63% serait quand même garanti, ce qui signifierait 5.050 tonnes en 1993, ce chiffre augmentant jusqu'à 11.400 tonnes en 1997.  
D'autre part, à titre de l'accès au marché communautaire pour les produits de pêche en provenance de Norvège, on envisage une diminution graduelle des tarifs jusqu'à 50% pour un certain nombre de produits.



- En ce qui concerne le mécanisme financier, M. Andriessen a suggéré à titre de compromis un chiffre de 2 milliards d'Ecus pour les prêts ainsi que 1 milliard d'Ecus complémentaire à titre de subvention pour les taux d'intérêt.

Ce sont ces deux éléments qui ont fait l'objet des discussions difficiles, tant au niveau du Conseil qu'à titre bilatéral, entre le vice-président Andriessen et la présidence d'une part et le ministre finlandais, M. Salolainen, président de l'AELE d'autre part. Ce dernier était parfois assisté par l'ambassadeur norvégien auprès de la Communauté, M. Berg.

En fin de compte, on a du constater qu'il n'était pas encore possible de trouver une ligne commune avec l'AELE sur la base des suggestions de compromis indiquées par M. Andriessen et comme décrites ci-dessus. D'ailleurs, au niveau des Douze également, des réticences assez fortes ont été enregistrées de la part de certaines délégations tant en ce qui concerne la formule de compromis pour la pêche que pour celle du Fonds.

Afin de trouver une solution alternative pour la pêche, M. Andriessen a finalement suggéré de préconiser deux options simultanées :

- à titre de l'accès aux ressources de pêche norvégiennes, de maintenir la formule de compromis déjà connue ;
- à titre de l'accès au marché communautaire, de prévoir la possibilité de quotas sans tarif en complément d'une libéralisation totale d'un certain nombre de produits de pêche ; les produits faisant l'objet des quotas seraient couverts par une clause évolutive prévoyant une libéralisation graduelle et non automatique des importations pour ces produits.

Le vice-président a demandé au Conseil si ces derniers pourraient souscrire au principe d'une telle approche, étant entendu que pour l'instant la délégation norvégienne n'a pas encore rendu sa position définitive en la matière.

Quatre délégations (RU, Espagne, Portugal et Irlande) ont émis des réserves de fond vis-à-vis d'une telle approche, ce qui a conduit la présidence au constat qu'apparemment les conditions n'étaient pas encore réunies pour finaliser les discussions la nuit dernière.

Toutefois, la présidence a invité la Commission à poursuivre ses sondages avec les parties concernées sur la base de la formule indiquée par le vice-président et de faire rapport au Conseil au mois de septembre afin de sortir ainsi de l'impasse dans laquelle les discussions sont maintenant parvenues.

Voilà la situation telle qu'elle se présente maintenant et qui est assez préoccupante. Des efforts très significatifs sont apparemment encore nécessaires pour débloquer ce dossier qui est très sensible sur le plan politique et en même temps très complexe sur le plan technique. Toutefois, il a été constaté que le Conseil reste déterminé à aboutir à des solutions définitives dans un avenir très proche, y compris pour le transport, de sorte que l'accord sur l'espace économique européen puisse finalement entrer en vigueur le 1er janvier 1993.

## 2. Uruguay Round

Le Conseil, sous la présidence du ministre du commerce néerlandais, Mme Van Rooy, a eu un débat peu approfondi en ce qui concerne l'état des négociations dans le cadre de l'Uruguay Round.

Il a notamment pris acte d'une introduction du vice-président Andriessen qui a d'abord constaté que le directeur général du GATT, M. Dunkel, n'envisage pas à l'occasion de la réunion du TNC du 30 juillet à Genève de soumettre son "outline paper" qui devrait donner des indications en ce qui concerne la suite des négociations à prévoir jusqu'à la fin de cette année. Apparemment, M. Dunkel estime que les travaux accomplis jusqu'ici ne sont pas suffisamment avancés pour justifier un tel document aujourd'hui.

Par contre, le vice-président prévoit un calendrier très serré des travaux à exécuter à partir du mois de septembre prochain pour assurer ainsi l'aboutissement définitif et positif des négociations avant la fin de cette année et ceci en conformité avec les conclusions du dernier G-7 de Londres.

En ce qui concerne les principaux dossiers litigieux, M. Andriessen a distingué quatre secteurs : agriculture, services, accès aux marchés et règle et discipline. Il a mis en évidence que la Communauté insistait sur la globalité des négociations et qu'il ne pouvait donc être question de singulariser un de ces dossiers, par exemple celui de l'agriculture. Toutefois, pour ce dernier dossier, M. Andriessen a souligné son importance particulière et a fait un appel au Conseil afin qu'il définisse une ligne claire et non ambiguë, cette dernière étant attendue "par le monde entier".

Dans le même contexte, M. Andriessen a fait référence au débat interne sur la réforme de la PAC et a précisé, bien qu'il n'y ait pas de lien formel avec les négociations à Genève, que ce débat interne ne manquera pas son impact sur les négociations de l'Uruguay Round. Il a estimé que la définition des grandes lignes d'un accord sur la réforme de la PAC pourrait faciliter la recherche d'une solution dans le cadre du débat au niveau du GATT.

S'agissant des autres dossiers clef, le vice-président a constaté que la position de la Communauté se présente en général très bien, c'est-à-dire que cette même position est, dans plusieurs éléments, largement partagée par une majorité des parties contractantes. Notamment pour les services, il a été constaté que la Communauté a toutes les raisons de défendre sa position.

En général, les délégations ont bien apprécié les remarques du vice-président Andriessen, toutes ayant confirmé leur volonté d'aboutir dans les négociations d'après le calendrier prévu, c'est-à-dire au plus tard à la fin de cette année.

A cette fin, il a été convenu que le thème Uruguay Round figure dorénavant à l'ordre du jour de chaque réunion du Conseil affaires générales et que les ministres devaient être disponibles au moment voulu si les circonstances des négociations le requièrent.

### 3. Relations avec les PECO

Le Conseil a eu un débat relativement bref en ce qui concerne les relations de la Communauté avec les PECO et notamment en ce qui concerne l'état des négociations en cours visant l'établissement des accords d'association avec respectivement la Pologne, la Tchécoslovaquie et la Hongrie.

A cet égard, M. Andriessen a fait un exposé introductif dont le texte intégral est annexé à cette note.

Sur la base de cet exposé, la présidence a constaté que la Commission sollicite une certaine flexibilité accrue du côté du Conseil afin de débloquent les négociations en cours. Toutefois, elle a constaté également que les propositions concrètes de la Commission ne seraient soumises au Conseil qu'au début du mois de septembre, raison pour laquelle elle a suggéré que le point soit repris lors de la prochaine réunion du Conseil afin de pouvoir ainsi définir des directives révisées pour les négociations en cours.

Une telle procédure a été souscrite par le Conseil bien que plusieurs délégations ont déjà fait savoir qu'elles avaient des difficultés importantes pour faire des ouvertures complémentaires dans certains secteurs clef, notamment l'agriculture et les textiles.

### 4. Relations avec l'Albanie

M. Andriessen a fait rapport de son voyage la semaine dernière en Albanie. Le texte intégral de son exposé se trouve en annexe 2.

Sur la base de cet exposé qui a apparemment bien impressionné le Conseil, il a été constaté que les ministres se pencheront à nouveau sur ce dossier lors de la prochaine session pour prendre position à cette occasion vis-à-vis de deux éléments précis proposés par la Commission, à savoir :

- la livraison de 50.000 tonnes de blé panifiable ;
- les directives des négociations pour établir un accord commercial et de coopération économique entre la Communauté et l'Albanie.

En outre, le Conseil a constaté avec satisfaction que la Commission avait déjà décidé d'accorder une aide d'urgence de 500.000 Ecus pour livrer des médicaments, baby food, etc. En même temps, le Conseil a suggéré à la Commission d'amplifier cette aide d'urgence en y ajoutant encore 500.000 Ecus pour faire face ainsi à la situation dramatique qui se présente actuellement en Albanie. A ce dernier égard, M. Andriessen s'est exprimé dans des termes positifs en soulignant toutefois la compétence exclusive du Collège en la matière.

Amiliés,  
Bruno Dethomas



Annexe 1

SPEAKING NOTE - Europe Agreements

Six rounds of negotiations have now been held with Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia. Considerable progress has been made with virtual agreement on the main elements concerning political dialogue, economic cooperation, the approximation of legislation, cultural cooperation and the preambles. Other sectors in the field of trade policy, the right of establishment and services are also well advanced.

On the other hand, the final phases of the negotiations will have to overcome a number of real difficulties which remain in areas of considerable importance to both sides, in particular trade in textiles and agriculture, financial cooperation and the movement of workers. On 15 April the Council adopted conclusions which enabled some progress to be made even in these areas. But I must tell you frankly that it will be impossible to achieve the objective set by the European Council in Luxembourg of concluding the negotiations by the end of October unless both sides prove more flexible in these areas.

I am, of course, conscious of the constraints which affect our freedom of manoeuvre on agriculture and textiles. Nonetheless, I am convinced that the offers now on the table in these areas represent a minimum and that further movement is necessary to achieve a balanced and reasonable conclusion which is in the interest of all concerned.

In the field of financial cooperation, our partners may come to understand that a protocol or its equivalent, with precise figures for the assistance which the Community is willing to offer, is not feasible, given the work which lies ahead in the Community on defining financial perspectives for the years after 1992. It is, however, reasonable that they should seek firm assurances in the agreements about the continuation of forms of assistance presently available, notably assistance for economic reconstruction on a multiannual basis, along the lines of the PHARE programme, exceptional complementary financial assistance where necessary, and access to credits from the European Investment Bank.

Our partners are fully aware of the sensitivity of the question of the movement of workers. They have, therefore, considerably scaled down their requests in this area. These now concern essentially the working conditions of their citizens legally employed in the Community and the possibility of concluding certain specific employment contracts. In view of the modesty of these requests and their consistency with legislation in force in Member States, I would urge the Council to consider them in a positive light.

The credibility of the Community is at stake in the final phases of these negotiations. We cannot continue giving broad assurances of support for reform at the political level without drawing the logical consequences at the economic level in fields which are particularly important to our partners and to ourselves. I would, therefore, urge the Council to recognise in its conclusions that some additional flexibility will be needed, particularly in the areas to which I have referred, in order to keep the negotiations on course.

Annexe 2

SPEAKING NOTE - Albania

Objectives of the visit

I visited Tirana on the invitation of the government last week in order

- to assess the state of political and economic reforms
- to ascertain Albania's most urgent needs (on behalf of the Community and the G-24)
- to explore the content of a "first generation" trade and cooperation agreement (on behalf of the Community)

Situation in Albania

The economic situation is even worse than indicated in the written report which I gave to the G-24 following the Commission's earlier technical mission at the beginning of July. Albania faces an almost total economic breakdown. GNP has fallen by 50 %, industrial production has come to halt; agricultural stocks only cover 30 % of consumption until the end of this year. Unemployment has risen to 30 %, there are acute food shortages. Foreign debt is important, new credits unavailable, foreign currency reserves down to US 10 million.

The political situation is more encouraging. At the international level, Albania has joined the CSCE and accepts all the obligations that this implies. The former opposition Democratic Party (which played an essential role in bringing down the communist régime) holds the key economic posts as well as the defence ministry. During my visit, I met representatives of all political parties who confirmed that the government is committed to the rule of law and the respect for human rights and that political prisoners have been released. But the situation is not yet stable; prolonged shortages of basic foodstuffs, medicines and other essential supplies could well give rise to disenchantment and further waves of emigration. There is no doubt as to the seriousness of the present government's reform intentions but an economic reform strategy remains to be defined.

Under these circumstances, the Albanian authorities have appealed to the Community for emergency aid, food supplies and sustained support for economic reconstruction. They look to Europe for friendship and solidarity in their present plight and have requested the opening of negotiations for a "first generation" trade and cooperation agreement to seal the normalisation of our bilateral relations.

The Community's response

The Commission has responded by providing emergency aid to the value of 500,000 ECU; several Member States and other members of the Group of Twenty Four have also responded by offering some essential supplies. But a large gap remains to be filled.

I would, therefore, urge the Council to express its support for the following initiatives:

- The Commission has proposed that the Community should provide 50,000 tons of wheat, the product most urgently needed in view of the nutritional situation of the Albanian population; it would be helpful if the Council today indicated that it took a favourable view of this proposal; I welcome the fact that the Council has joined the Commission in requesting the the European Parliament to give urgency to its opinion on this proposal so that it may be adopted by the Council in the first half of September, allowing supplies to Albania to begin shortly thereafter.
- The Council also has before it a recommendation authorising the Commission to begin negotiations with Albania for a trade and cooperation agreement. Such an agreement would follow closely, mutatis mutandis, similar accords which have been concluded with all the other countries of central and eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. Such an agreement should be seen as part of the process of normalisation of our bilateral agreements. As in other cases, the preamble would recall the attachment of the parties to the principles of the Helsinki process. I would invite the Council to give a clear signal of its support for this approach and to adopt the directives which are on the table at its earliest convenience.
- The Council may wish to note that the Commission, further to the fact finding mandate from the Group of Twenty Four of 13 June, will be recommending that economic assistance from the G-24 be extended to Albania.

Several meetings of the Brussels representatives of the Twenty Four have been held to coordinate humanitarian aid. G-24 coordination is particularly important in view of transport and logistics difficulties within Albania. We shall be examining how best to respond to the Albanian request to provide a small team of lawyers to help draft basic legislation. Ministers may wish to note that a G-24 donors conference, organised by the Commission and the United Nations Development Programme at the request of the Albanian government, will meet in September to coordinate emergency assistance.