

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES  
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

7144/91 (Presse 121)

1505th Council meeting  
- Agriculture -  
Luxembourg, 26 and 27 June 1991

President:

Mr René STEICHEN

Minister for Agriculture  
of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

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

Belgium:

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| Mr Lode WILLEMS     | Deputy Permanent Representative            |
| Mr Joseph CARMELIET | Director-General, Ministry for Agriculture |

Denmark:

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|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| Mr Laurits TOERNAES | Minister for Agriculture        |
| Mr Nils BERNSTEIN   | State Secretary for Agriculture |

Germany:

|                  |   |
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| Mr Ignaz KIECHLE | Federal Minister for Food, Agriculture and Forestry                 |
| Mr Walter KITTEL | State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Forestry |

Greece:

|                               |                          |
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| Mr Michaelis PAPACONSTANTINOU | Minister for Agriculture |
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Spain:

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| Mr José BARREIRO | Secretary-General for Agricultural Production and Markets, Ministry for Agriculture |
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France:

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| Mr Claude CHEREAU | Director-General, Ministry for Agriculture |
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Ireland:

Mr Michael O'KENNEDY Minister for Agriculture and Food

Italy:

Mr Maurizio NOCI State Secretary for Agriculture

Luxembourg:

Mr René STEICHEN Minister for Agriculture and  
Viticulture

Netherlands:

Mr Piet BUKMAN Minister for Agriculture,  
Nature Conservation and Fisheries

Mr Gingis GABOR State Secretary for Agriculture

Portugal:

Mr Arlindo CUNHA Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries  
and Food

United Kingdom:

Mr David CURRY Parliamentary Secretary, Agriculture

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Commission:

Mr Ray MAC SHARRY Member

Much of this meeting was devoted to an examination of proposals in the veterinary field, several of which come within the framework of the implementation of the White Paper on the completion of the internal market.

The agreements reached at the meeting bring to 13 the number of Directives in this area adopted during the first six months of 1991, which is a noteworthy contribution towards the completion of the internal market by 1993.

BIVALVE MOLLUSCS (health rules)

The Council agreed on the Directive adopting the health rules governing the production and marketing of live bivalve molluscs (mussels, oysters, clams, etc...) intended for direct human consumption or processing before consumption.

These products require special attention owing to their particular method of production and consumption.

The Directive lays down the obligations to be met by both professionals and the competent authorities and prescribes the measures to be taken to ensure that the end product is fit for human consumption. This means, in particular, surveillance of the waters in which molluscs are found and the obligation to purify, recultivate or process them.

The Directive covers marketing throughout the Community and fixes a procedure designed to ensure that third country products are produced and marketed under conditions equivalent to those applied in the Community.

The rules and principles applying to veterinary checks on trade between Member States or on imports from third countries are applicable to this sector.

The Member States must comply with this Directive by no later than 1 January 1993. In certain special circumstances, however, limited temporary derogations are laid down for establishments unable to comply with all the rules as at the prescribed date.

The Directive will be formally adopted at a later Council meeting, following finalization of the texts.

#### PRODUCTION AND MARKETING OF FISHERY PRODUCTS

The Council agreed on the Directive laying down uniform health rules governing the production and marketing of fishery products with a view to public health protection.

These rules are to be complied with by both industrial operators and traders during the various production and marketing stages and will permit the free movement of all fishery products.

The competent authority will approve and draw up a list of establishments fulfilling the provisions of this Directive.

Community control measures will be taken to ensure uniform application in all Member States of the standards laid down in this Directive.

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In order to ensure harmonious functioning of the single market, the measures will need to be applied in the same way to both domestic market and intra-Community trade.

A procedure is laid down for ensuring that third country products are produced under the same conditions as those applied in the Community.

The control rules and principles adopted by the Council as part of the decision to abolish veterinary checks at borders between the Member States, together with the rules on veterinary checks to be complied with for imports from third countries, are applicable to these products.

The Council will formally adopt the Directive once the texts have been finalized.

#### FRESH POULTRYMEAT (HEALTH CONDITIONS)

The Council adopted the Directive harmonizing the health rules governing intra-Community trade in and third country exports of fresh poultrymeat. This Directive also lays down certain requirements for preventing the spread of major contagious diseases, in particular Newcastle disease.

In the case of imports from third countries, poultrymeat must, in particular, come from third countries, or parts of third countries, featuring on a list drawn up by the Commission on the basis of certain health criteria and must be both

certified free of fowl influenza and Newcastle disease and accompanied by a certificate drawn up by an official veterinarian in the exporting third country.

All the provisions applicable to trade in live poultry and poultrymeat will enter into force on 1 May 1992.

#### VETERINARY CHECKS FOR ANIMALS FROM THIRD COUNTRIES

The Council agreed on the Directive laying down the principles relating to the organization of veterinary checks for animals introduced into the Community from third countries.

Adoption of this Directive follows the Council's undertaking, entered into at the time of adoption of Directive 90/425/EEC on the abolition at borders of veterinary and zootechnical checks applicable in intra-Community trade in certain live animals with a view to the completion of the internal market, to lay down the general principles for imports of such animals from third countries.

The Directive adopts the following general principles:

- documentary check on introduction into Community territory;
- identity check and physical check at an inspection post close to the point of entry;
- after these checks, trade in these animals will be subject to the same arrangements as trade in Community animals.

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General rules are also laid down for, in particular, the approval and control of inspection posts, quarantining, the organization of follow-up checks and the settlement of disputes.

Community financial participation may be granted in accordance with the procedure laid down in Council Directive 90/424/EEC on expenditure in the veterinary field.

Both the introduction of uniform veterinary checking arrangements for all imports from third countries (animals and products of animal origin) and the abolition of checks at intra-Community borders will apply from 1 July 1992.

The Directive will be formally adopted once the texts have been finalized.

- HEALTH RULES FOR THE PRODUCTION AND MARKETING OF FRESH MEAT

- DEROGATIONS FROM THESE SPECIFIC COMMUNITY HEALTH RULES

The Council reached overall agreement on the above two Directives.

The aim of the first is to establish harmonized health rules for the production and marketing of all fresh meat produced in the Community by extending generally to production reserved for national markets the principles governing



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intra-Community trade (Directive 64/433/EEC). Meat health conditions would thus be made uniform at all slaughterhouses and cutting establishments.

This Directive also lays down a procedure for approving slaughterhouses and cutting establishments, together with a Community inspection procedure for ensuring that the prescribed approval conditions are met.

In the case of low-capacity establishments, however, approval may be on the basis of simplified structural and infrastructural criteria, with due regard for the hygiene rules laid down in the Directive.

The above measures will apply from 1 July 1992.

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The second Directive lays down the general and particular conditions applicable to the implementation of limited temporary derogations from specific Community health rules.

Certain establishments operating prior to 1 January 1992 may experience difficulty in complying with the deadline for these health rule requirements. Arrangements are therefore prescribed enabling the Commission, on a justified request from a Member State, to grant limited temporary derogations to take account of certain local situations or to prevent the sudden closure of certain establishments.

The deadline for these derogations is set for 1 January 1996.

Both Directives will be formally adopted at a later Council meeting, following finalization of the texts.

#### PLANT-PROTECTION PRODUCTS

The Council agreed on the Directive on the marketing of EEC-accepted plant-protection products.

This Directive, which is included in the Commission's White Paper on the completion of the internal market, sets out to establish a harmonized procedure for the authorization of plant-protection products to be used for the protection of plants and plant products against harmful organisms and weeds.

It is therefore planned to:

- establish a Community positive list of active substances the use of which entails no risk to human and animal health or the environment;
- make the Member States competent in the first instance for the local acceptability, harmlessness, effectiveness and environmental effect of preparations containing the active substances on the Community list;
- establish the principle of the mutual recognition of national plant-protection product authorizations in order to ensure the free movement of such products and of the plants or plant products treated.

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The Directive will be implemented within 2 years of the date of notification.

Formal adoption will take place once the text has been finalized.

#### QUALITY OF FOODSTUFFS

Pending the Opinion of the European Parliament, the Council conducted an initial discussion of the Commission proposals on the quality of foodstuffs.

These proposals follow on from the favourable reaction expressed at two informal meetings of Ministers for Agriculture in 1989 to initiatives to be taken in the field of quality policy. Their aim is to:

- promote the quality of foodstuffs and
- establish a framework for a system of protection for agricultural products and foodstuffs having a geographical designation.

The Council dealt more particularly at this point with three basic issues, viz:

- the definition of the concept of specific features,
- the reservation of proprietary sales names and
- the types of geographical names to be protected.

It went on to instruct the SCA to continue discussing the guidelines emerging from today's talks.

#### URUGUAY ROUND - AGRICULTURE

The Council heard a statement from the Commission summarizing the situation with the Uruguay Round.

Mr Mac Sharry informed the Council that the technical discussions having commenced at Geneva in February were now completed and that the Director-General of GATT, Mr Dunkel, had submitted a new working paper on 24 June designed to speed up the negotiations which would be taking place over the coming weeks.

He re-affirmed the Commission's intention to continue to play an active role in the discussions on the basis of the Community offer.

The Council confirmed its determination to help seek a solution based on an overall approach consistent with the basic principles of the Common Agricultural Policy.

This item will again be on the agenda for the next Council meeting, the Council having expressed its wish to be associated in full with the development of the negotiations.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Other Decisions regarding agricultural policy

The Council adopted

- the Directive amending Directive 64/432/EEC as regards the diagnosis of bovine brucellosis and enzootic bovine leukosis.

In the light of new scientific knowledge and evolving techniques, this Directive is designed to permit the use of new tests (ELISA) for diagnosing and combating bovine brucellosis and the adjustment of detection tests for enzootic bovine leukosis.

- Regulations opening and providing for the administration of a Community tariff quota for the period 1 July 1991 to 30 June 1992, at a 4% duty rate, for:

= 42 600 head of heifers and cows other than those intended for slaughter, of certain mountain breeds falling under sub-headings ex 01.02 90 10, 01.02 90 31 and 01.02 90 33 of the Combined Nomenclature;

= 5 000 head of bulls, cows and heifers, other than those intended for slaughter, of certain alpine breeds falling under sub-headings ex 01.02 90 10, 01.02 90 31, 01.02 90 33 and 01.02 90 35 of the Combined Nomenclature.

- the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 985/68 laying down general rules for intervention on the market in butter and cream. This amendment covers a change regarding the classification of top quality butter in Denmark;

- the Decision on the conclusion of the Wheat Trade Convention, 1986, and the Food Aid Convention, 1986, constituting the International Wheat Agreement, 1986, as extended until 30 June 1993.

Measures concerning the Canary Islands, Madeira and the Azores

The Council adopted

- the Regulation on the application of the provisions of Community law to the Canary Islands;
- the Decision setting up a programme of options specific to the remote and insular nature of the Canary Islands (POSEICAN);
- the Decision setting up a programme of options specific to the remote and insular nature of Madeira and the Azores (POSEIMA).

All of these acts are intended to resolve the specific problems arising in the case of these outlying Community regions.

1. The basic aim of the Canaries Regulation is to apply the Community provisions to the Islands, in respect of which derogations had been provided for in the Act of Accession, while introducing certain adjustments to take account of their special features.

As regards agriculture, the CAP will apply to the Canaries under conditions broadly similar to those provided for in the case of mainland Spain, with due regard for the special features of Canary Island products and provision for special supply arrangements. The provisions of the Act of Accession relating to bananas remain applicable.

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The common fisheries policy will also apply, with certain special provisions and accompanying structural measures.

In the tax field, the Canaries will remain outside the scope of the common VAT arrangements and Spain is authorized not to apply to the Canaries the current Community Directives on excise.

The Spanish authorities are also authorized to submit products introduced into or made in the Canary Islands to a special tax, known as APIM, as laid down in the Regulation. The level of these taxes will be gradually reduced from 1996 until the tax is abolished at the end of the year 2000. During this period, total or partial exemptions may be granted in the case of local production, in accordance with a set procedure and timetable.

In the field of trade policy, the Common Customs Tariff will apply in full to the Canary Islands from 31 December 2000. Beyond that date, exceptions will still be possible in the case of certain sensitive products.

The CCT rates will be introduced gradually over a transitional period ending on 31 December 2000; 30% up until 31 December 1992 and with an annual increase thereafter until rates are totally aligned on the CCT.

The "arbitrio insular-tarifa especial" tax provided for in the Act of Accession and applying to products supplied from other parts of the Community will, in principle, disappear on 31 December 1992. However, the Council may, by a qualified majority, authorize the application of this tax to certain sensitive products until 31 December 2000.

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As a general provision, the Regulation contains a safeguard clause and the instruction to the Commission to adopt necessary measures to prevent deflection of trade.

2. The provisions of the Canaries Regulation are supplemented by those of the POSEICAN Decision, both acts being closely linked. POSEICAN establishes a framework programme similar to that already adopted for the OCT (POSEIDOM) and that, adopted on the same day, in respect of Madeira and the Azores (POSEIMA).

The aims of POSEICAN are to:

- ensure the realistic integration of the Canary Islands into the Community, in view of their special circumstances, adjusting the application of common policies where necessary;
- ensure the full involvement of the Canary Islands in the dynamic of the internal market, by making optimum use of existing Community regulations and instruments;
- assist the Canary Islands to catch up economically and socially, principally through the financing of the specific measures contained in this Decision.

The legal acts - to be adopted by the Council or by the Commission, as the case may be - required for the implementation of POSEICAN must be adopted by the end of 1992.

Three types of measures are involved, different in nature but applied in a co-ordinated manner:

- the application of common policies in the Canary Islands will have to take account of the special characteristics of the Islands and promote their economic and social development, particularly in the fields of social



matters, transport, research and technological development and protection of the environment;

- measures intended to alleviate the impact of the additional costs involved in maintaining supplies of agricultural products resulting from the remote and insular nature of the Canary Islands may, in principle, be applied to all essential agricultural products for consumption or processing in the archipelago, taking into account local production and traditional trade flows and supplies of products from other parts of the Community; POSEICAN also lays down specific measures for such products as potatoes, olive oil, tobacco and meat.
  
- specific measures in support of various forms of Canary Island production, such as: marketing aids, structural aids, financing of studies or other with particular reference to tropical fruit and vegetables, live plants and flowers; special measures are also planned for potatoes, the milk sector and meat-based products.

The financial means for implementing the programme measures relating to agricultural structures are defined in the context of the annual budgetary procedures.

Finally, POSEICAN provides for a reinforced system of aid over five years to encourage the setting up of fishery producers' organizations.

3. The POSEIMA Decision, like POSEICAN and POSEIDOM, is in response to the same Community concern for these outlying regions.

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The programme is based on the same general principles as those outlined above for the POSEICAN programme, i.e. the application of common policies in the Azores and Madeira will also have to take account of the special characteristics of these islands and promote their economic and social development, particularly in the fields of social matters, transport, fisheries, taxation, research and technological development and protection of the environment.

Similarly, Community regulations in the field of indirect taxation - VAT and excise duty - will have to take account of the special characteristics of the Azores and Madeira.

More especially in the field of transport, the Community and Portugal undertake to put in hand the measures needed to develop air communications.

With regard to the specific measures to mitigate the effects of the geographical situation, POSEIMA lays down measures intended to alleviate the impact of the additional costs involved in maintaining supplies of agricultural products, in principle in the case of all products but more especially in the case of sugar, breeding animals, compound feedingstuffs and concentrated musts for the production of Madeira wines.

Specific measures are also laid down to compensate for the extra cost of supplying oil and to encourage supplies of steel products at reasonable prices.

Measures to encourage production in Madeira and the Azores are aimed particularly at tropical products, fruit and vegetables, flowers and live plants and, more particularly, potatoes, sugar cane, certain types of grape, traditional livestock products, sugar beet and tobacco; POSEIMA also

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prescribes measures in support of fishery products.

Finally, measures to assist small craft businesses are planned.

The financial means for implementing the measures relating to agricultural structures, energy and the small craft business sector will be defined in the context of the annual budgetary procedures.

#### Environment

The Council adopted the Council Directive amending Directive 70/220/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to measures to be taken against air pollution by emissions from motor vehicles (see Environment Council, 6779/91 (Presse 90) of 13 and 14 June 1991, page 13).

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Bruxelles, le 24 Juin 1991

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**NOTE BIO (91) 216 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX  
CC. AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE PAROLE**

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**CONSEIL AGRICULTURE (Luxembourg, mercredi 26 et éventuellement  
jeudi 27 (matinée) Juin 1991  
(G. Kiely)**

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Le Conseil des Communautés Européennes tiendra sa 1505ème session - Agriculture - le mercredi 26 juin 1991 à partir de 16h et éventuellement le jeudi matin 27 juin 1991 au Centre Européen, KIRCHBERG, à Luxembourg, sous la Présidence de M. René STEICHEN, Ministre de l'Agriculture du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg.

L'ordre du jour du Conseil comportera les points suivants :

\* Approbation de la liste des points "A"

\* Adoption de la directive du Conseil fixant les règles sanitaires régissant la production et la mise sur le marché de mollusques bivalves vivants. (doc. COM(89)648)

Avis du Parlement Européen : 11 Juin 1991

Cette proposition de directive s'inscrit dans le cadre de la mise en oeuvre du Livre Blanc. Elle vise à fixer les normes sanitaires à respecter lors de la production et de la mise sur le marché des mollusques bivalves vivants (moules, huîtres, poulardes, etc...) qui, en raison de leur mode de production et de consommation, peuvent présenter des dangers pour la santé humaine.

\* Adoption de la directive du Conseil fixant les règles sanitaires régissant la production et la mise sur le marché des produits de la pêche. (doc. COM(89)645)

Avis du Parlement Européen : 11 Juin 1991.

Comme la précédente, cette directive s'inscrit dans le cadre de la mise en oeuvre du Livre Blanc. Elle vise à fixer les règles sanitaires uniformes applicables à la production et à la mise sur le marché des produits de la pêche en vue de la protection de la santé publique. Elle comprend les règles à respecter tant par les secteurs industriels et commerciaux que par les autorités compétentes pendant les différentes étapes de la production et de la commercialisation.

\* Proposition de règlement du Conseil fixant les principes relatifs à l'organisation des contrôles vétérinaires pour les animaux en provenance de pays tiers introduits dans la Communauté. (dec. COM(91)75)

Avis du Parlement Européen : 14 Juin 1991

Cette proposition, qui fait elle aussi partie des objectifs du "Livre Blanc", retient les principes généraux suivants :

Dans tous les cas, un contrôle documentaire doit être effectué dès l'introduction sur le territoire de la Communauté. Ensuite les animaux ou produits sont soumis à un contrôle d'identité et un contrôle physique dans un poste d'inspection situé à proximité immédiate du point d'entrée. Après ces contrôles, ces animaux sont soumis au même régime que les animaux communautaires. Cette proposition prévoit en outre des règles générales, pour l'agrément et le contrôle des postes d'inspection, la mise en quarantaine d'animaux vivants, l'organisation des suites des contrôles, le règlement des litiges, les programmes d'échanges de fonctionnaires et les cas particuliers.

**\* Proposition de règlement du Conseil relatif aux conditions de police sanitaire régissant les échanges intracommunautaires et les importations des pays tiers de viandes fraîches de volailles et de gibier à plumes d'élevage. (doc. COM(89)507)**

Avis du Parlement Européen : Juin 1991

Cette proposition définit les conditions de police sanitaire régissant les échanges intracommunautaires et les importations en provenance des pays tiers de viandes fraîches provenant d'oiseaux domestiques des espèces suivantes : poules, dindes, pintades, canards et oies ainsi que de gibier à plumes d'élevage.

**\* Proposition de règlement du Conseil arrêtant les règles sanitaires pour la production et la mise sur le marché de viandes fraîches. (doc. COM(89)673)**

Avis du Parlement Européen : 11 Juin 1991

La Communauté doit adopter, d'ici au 31 décembre 1992, les mesures visant à établir le marché intérieur. La nécessité d'assurer la libre circulation des produits d'origine animale doit être conciliée avec les impératifs inhérents à la protection de la santé publique. La présente proposition a pour objet d'harmoniser les règles sanitaires applicables aux viandes fraîches.

Le Conseil, a adopté la Directive 64/433/CEE relative à des problèmes sanitaires en matière d'échanges intracommunautaires de viandes fraîches. La présente proposition étend à toute la production communautaire les principes établis dans ladite Directive.

**\* Proposition de décision du Conseil relative aux conditions d'octroi de dérogations temporaires et limitées aux règles communautaires sanitaires spécifiques pour la production et la mise sur le marché de produits d'origine animale. (doc. COM(89)670)**

Avis du Parlement Européen : 11 Juin 1991.

Il convient de régler le cas des établissements que ne seront pas en mesure de respecter l'ensemble des règles prévues au 1.1.1993 dans un cadre général. La proposition prévoit également l'octroi éventuel de dérogations pour les établissements ayant une production limitée.

**\* Adoption de la directive du Conseil concernant la mise sur le marché de produits phytopharmaceutiques (doc. COM(91)87)**

Avis du Parlement Européen : 19 février 1991

Le Conseil Agriculture du 22 mai 1991 a dégagé une majorité qualifiée en faveur d'une solution globale de compromis de la Présidence prévoyant, pour l'essentiel :

a) l'art. 43 comme base juridique

b) adoption par le Conseil, à la majorité qualifiée, des principes uniformes pour l'évaluation des pesticides.

**\* Proposition de règlement du Conseil relatif aux attestations de spécificité des denrées alimentaires. (doc. SEC(90)2414)**

L'objectif est de promouvoir la qualité des denrées alimentaires, en prévoyant un label communautaire (attestation de spécificité) qui devrait à la fois promouvoir le développement rural en favorisant le maintien de certaines formes spécifiques de production, et de protéger le consommateur en lui fournissant des produits dont la qualité est garantie.

**\* Proposition de règlement du Conseil relatif à la protection des indications géographiques et des appellations d'origine de produits agricoles et des denrées alimentaires. (doc. Sec(90) 2415)**

L'objectif est de créer un cadre instituant un système de protection des produits agricoles et des denrées alimentaires bénéficiant soit d'une appellation d'origine protégée (AOP), justifiée par une relation essentielle entre le lieu et le mode de production, soit d'une simple indication géographique protégée (IGP), soumise à des conditions moins strictes.

Amitiés,

B. DETHOMAS

Bruxelles, le 27 Juin 1991

NOTE BIO(91) 216 (suite 1) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX  
CC. AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE PAROLE

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1505th COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS MEETING (LUX) 26 JUNE 1991

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The Agricultural Ministers discussions were dominated with veterinary matters relating to the completion of the internal market. Four of the agenda items discussed were adopted.

1. Council Directive setting the sanitary rules on the production and marketing of molluscs.

This sets common standards for establishing the location and boundaries of production areas and various health controls and obligations on national authorities regarding ensuring that molluscs are hygienically produced and marketed. The measures include a system of registration and labelling which will allow a batch of molluscs to be traced throughout the market chain.

Directive is adopted.

2. Council Directive laying down health conditions for the production and placing on the market of fishery products. This relates to establishing a uniform set of standards for correct and hygienic handling of fresh and processed fish products.

The Directive also establishes a common import control system which will apply to third country imports.

3. Council Regulation establishing principles regarding the organisation of veterinary controls for live animal imports from third countries; this establishes general principles to apply regarding veterinary checks at points of import, especially documentary, identity and physical checks. It will also be necessary to have quarantine facilities available.

The regulation includes a safeguard clause allowing the Community to restrict imports in the event of a threat of importing disease. A computerized system for exchange of information will be established. Import controls will be stringent in the case of animals from a country with a high disease free status or where controls and certification are adequately applied in the exporting country.

4. Council Regulation establishing hygiene conditions to apply on intra-Community trade and third country imports on fresh poultry meat and wild game.

This regulation establishes various criteria which must be respected in particular to avoid the spread of avian influenza and Newcastle's disease.

It also establishes criteria which will be used to determine whether a third country or region will be allowed to export these products to the Community, from a health risk point of view.

5. The Council also adopted a Directive on the placing on the market of phytopharmaceutical products.

In summary this Directive will allow the Community to draw up a list of active ingredients which may be used in plant protection products. Once a product containing these active ingredients has been registered in one Member State and allowed onto the market, it should then be allowed onto the market in other Member States. (unless there are particular local ecological, environmental or other reasons which demand further testing of the product regarding suitability to the local requirements).

6. GATT:-

The discussion on GATT was largely based on the "Dunkel" paper of Monday 24 June.

Commenting on the document Mr Mac Sharry considered it a useful reference for future work, despite its shortcomings. He regretted in particular that there was no mention of rebalancing in the paper which is a key issue for the Community and was raised a number of times during the technical consultations - the Commission will continue to insist on this. He also noted that no mention was made of "credit" for the agricultural reforms which had taken place in the Community since 1986.

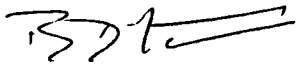
Mr Mac Sharry welcomed the fact that the paper recognised the need for globality in the negotiations. Most of the Ministers who spoke on this subject endorsed Mr Mac Sharry's comments and pointed out that while they supported the objective of an agreement, Community agriculture and its 10 million farmers would not be sacrificed in the interest of obtaining a deal.

Ministers were also emphatic that the Commission must not exceed the authority granted through the negotiating mandate. Mr Mac Sharry emphasised that the Commission was fully aware of its responsibilities in relation to the negotiating mandate.

He also endorsed some comments about the importance of CAP reform measures falling within the "Green Box" (exempt) rather than the "Yellow Box".

The Council resumed at 9 o'clock on 27 June.

Regards,



B. DETHOMAS



Bruxelles, le 28 Juin 1991

NOTE BIO (91) 216 (suite 2) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX  
CC. AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE PAROLE

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COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS 27 JUNE 1991  
(G. KIELY)

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### 1. Food Quality:

The Council session resumed with a discussion on the Commission's proposals on food quality, specifically

- certificates of specific character for foodstuffs
- the protection of geographical indications and designations of origin for agricultural products and foodstuffs.

Introducing the proposal, Mr Mac Sharry pointed out that the objective was to allow farmers and agricultural associations to find worthwhile alternatives to mass production products through the development of clearly identifiable products with a reputation for high quality that can be sustained and enhanced. To achieve this he said the products and descriptions developed by producers must be protected against imitations.

He insisted that the proposed measures had nothing to do with protectionism as any producer willing to follow the specification and production practices of a recognised product is free to do so.

The Minister's comments showed clearly that there was general agreement on the need for a quality policy but some different views prevailed on how this should be achieved.

The southern countries are very supportive of the Commission proposals, including France while the UK, NL and DK have some strong reservations. The other Member States are favourably disposed in general but have some specific reservations.

The most common reservation was whether a need existed for two categories of geographical protection i.e. "protection of geographical indications" which is less strict than the criteria applying to that for the protection of "geographical origin".

The proposals will be further discussed at a technical level.

### 2. The Council reached a political agreement on the:-

amendment of the Council Directive on health problems affecting intra-Community trade in fresh meat to extend it to the production and marketing of fresh meat.

This is an internal market measure which harmonises criteria and controls in relation to hygiene and sanitary conditions for the production and marketing of fresh meat. In effect given that borders will be abolished after 1 January 1993 it brings into application for the domestic market measures which apply at present to intra-Community trade for fresh meat.

Most of the discussion centred on the size of slaughterhouses which would be exempt from the application of some of the requirements of the Directive. It was agreed that derogation would apply on abbatoirs with a throughput of 12 livestock units/week and 600 l.u./year. In certain circumstances derogations could be granted to abbatoirs with a slaughtering level of 1000 l.u./year. The derogation applies until 1 January 1996 and relates only to certain structural requirements - all requirements relating to the protection of human health apply in full.

The proposal will be further discussed by the Chief Veterinary Officers to finalise some small details and will be officially adopted as an A-point at the next Council.

### 3. Any other business

The Council did not have sufficient time to deal with "other business" items so the Commission will reply in writing or else deal with them in the Special Agricultural Committee.

Mr Mac Sharry did however briefly reply to a query from the French delegation regarding the problem of "corn gluten" imports from the US (difficulties relating to the level of impurities being found in imports into the Community) indicating that the Commission services were nearing the completion of their technical work on the exact definition of corn gluten and that he was fully aware of the political and trade implications of the issue. The Commission he said will fully respect the Community's international obligations in this field and expect a similar spirit of cooperation in matters of concern to the Community from the U.S.

Regards,



C. STATHOPOULOS