

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

7021/91 (Presse 105)

1498th Council meeting

- General Affairs -

Sixth ministerial meeting of the IGC on Political Union

Brussels: 17 and 18 June 1991

President: Mr Jacques F. POOS
Minister for Foreign Affairs
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:

Mr Mark EYSKENS	Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Paul DE KEERSMAEKER	State Secretary for European Affairs
Mrs A.M. LIZIN	State Secretary for Europe 1992, attached to the Minister for Foreign Trade

Denmark:

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

Germany:

Mrs Ursula SEILER-ALBRING	Minister of State, Foreign Affairs
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Greece:

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

Spain:

Mr Francisco FERNANDEZ ORDÓÑEZ	Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Carlos WESTENDORP	State Secretary for Relations with the European Communities

France:

Mr Roland DUMAS	Ministre d'Etat, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mrs Elisabeth GUIGOU	Minister for European Affairs

Ireland:

Mr Gerard Collins

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Italy:

Mr Gianni DE MICHELIS

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Claudio VITALONE

State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Luxembourg:

Mr Jacques F. POOS

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Netherlands:

Mr H. VAN DEN BROEK

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Piet DANKERT

State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

Portugal:

Mr João de DEUS PINHEIRO

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mr Vitor MARTINS

State Secretary for European Integration

United Kingdom:

Mr Douglas HURD

Secretary of State for Foreign and
Commonwealth Affairs

Mr Tristan GAREL-JONES

Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth
Office

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Commission:

Mr Jacques DELORS

President

Mr F.H.J.J. ANDRIESSEN

Vice-President

Mr Antonio CARDOSO E CUNHA

Member

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INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE ON POLITICAL UNION

At the sixth ministerial meeting of the IGC on Political Union the Ministers first examined the new wording of the common provisions and final provisions of the Treaty on Union tabled by the Presidency following the Ministers' discussion on the structure of the Treaty at the informal meeting in Dresden.

On the basis of the new versions of the texts tabled by the Presidency, the Ministers also held a second reading of the institutional provisions and provisions concerning Community powers.

The Presidency stated that during the week (Thursday) it would submit a full text of the draft Treaty covering both the part on Political Union and that on Economic and Monetary Union. That text would be discussed in a "conclave" on Sunday 23 June in Luxembourg to which the Presidency had invited the Ministers with a view to preparing for the European Council's discussions on the subject.

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PREPARATION FOR THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL

On the basis of information supplied by the Presidency concerning the European Council's programme of work in Luxembourg on 28 and 29 June, the Ministers reviewed the various topics which could be discussed by the Heads of State and Government.

In addition to the main subjects which have come up during the proceedings of the Intergovernmental Conferences on Political Union and Economic and Monetary Union, those discussions will deal with progress on establishing the internal market, and a series of issues connected with international problems, in particular the Iraq peace process, the negotiations in the Middle East, the situation in the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia, developments in South Africa, the issue of arms exports, etc.

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EUROPEAN ENERGY CHARTER - CONCLUSIONS

The Council reached the following conclusions with regard to participation in the Charter:

- . all European Countries, including the USSR, and the non-European countries of the Group of 24 will be invited to negotiate the Charter.
- . The OECD, the World Bank, the EIB, the EBRD, the IEA and the IAEA will participate in the discussions as observers, together with any Maghreb and Gulf countries which so wish.
- . Subsequent accession to the Charter and the Protocols may be envisaged for other third countries, in particular those which have concluded agreements with the Community.

The Council confirmed the procedural suggestions for organizing the Conference which will be submitted to the other participating countries, and the arrangements for participation in the Conference by the Community and its Member States.

The Conference will open with a preparatory meeting in Brussels on 15 July, with the aim of the Charter's adoption in December 1991 at a final meeting at ministerial level.

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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE USSR

The Council discussed the draft Regulation concerning technical assistance for the USSR. The discussions enabled consensus to be noted on the draft, involving implementation of the political decision taken by the European Council in Rome, providing for such assistance to be granted in the field of public and private-sector management training, financial services, energy, transport and food distribution, which must be the subject of a concrete programme focusing on specific projects and which may receive overall support of ECU 400 million in 1991 and an amount to be established for 1992, to be mobilized in instalments, as the projects are executed.

The Council instructed the Permanent Representatives Committee to finalize the examination of the draft in the light of the Parliament's Opinion, with a view to its approval as soon as possible.

RELATIONS WITH JAPAN

On the basis of a report by Mr ANDRIESSEN, Vice-President of the Commission, the Council reviewed the progress of negotiations with regard to the draft joint declaration on relations between the Community and its Member States and Japan.

The Council asked the Presidency and the Commission to continue the negotiations with the Japanese side in the light of the Ministers' discussions, with the objective of arriving as soon as possible at a text satisfactory to both sides, with regard to both the political and the economic part.

It will be remembered that the formal adoption of the declaration by the two sides is scheduled for 18 July, on the occasion of the visit to the Hague by Mr KAIFU, Prime Minister of Japan.

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NEGOTIATIONS WITH EFTA FOR A EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA

The Council devoted its discussions on Tuesday to preparing the Community position on negotiations with EFTA for creating a European Economic Area.

The negotiations, which started in the afternoon and continued throughout the evening, concluded with a political agreement. On the basis of the results recorded at ministerial level, the high-level EEC/EFTA working party was instructed to finalize the details of the points of agreement.

The Presidency and the Commission of the European Communities will hold another meeting with the Austrian Presidency and the EFTA Member States in Salzburg on Tuesday 25 June to note substantive agreement on aspects of the EEA Agreement and to present the overall outcome of the negotiations on that occasion.

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DETAILED RULES FOR ADJUSTING THE REMUNERATION OF EUROPEAN COMMUNITY OFFICIALS

The Council mandated its President to enter into negotiations with the representatives of the staff of the European Communities with regard to future rules to be applied for adjusting the remuneration of European Community officials.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Relations with the Soviet Union

- Agreements for co-operation between EURATOM and the USSR

The Council adopted a Decision authorizing the Commission to negotiate a set of three Agreements for co-operation between the European Atomic Energy Community and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in the fields of:

- = controlled nuclear fusion,
- = nuclear safety,
- = matters connected with the exchange of nuclear materials between the Parties.

The general purpose of the Decision is to give effect to the forms of co-operation provided for by the EEC-EURATOM/USSR Agreement on trade and commercial and economic co-operation, which entered into force on 1 April 1990.

With regard to controlled nuclear fusion, the objective of the Agreement to be negotiated in this context must be to maintain and intensify co-operation between EURATOM and the USSR in the fields covered by their respective fusion programmes. Such co-operation could in particular fall within the framework of activities connected with ITER.

With regard to the Agreement to be negotiated in the field of nuclear safety, the objective of the co-operation established in that field will be to contribute, on the basis of mutual benefit, to the definition and application of scientifically warranted and internationally accepted safety guidelines, as set out in the EEC-EURATOM/USSR Co-operation Agreement.

The Agreement to be negotiated on matters connected with the exchange of nuclear materials will relate to transfers of nuclear materials for peaceful use, in compliance with the principle of free movement of such materials within the Community, at market-related prices.

- Credit guarantee for exports of agricultural products and foodstuffs

The Council adopted a Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 599/91 introducing a credit guarantee for exports of agricultural products and foodstuffs from the Community to the Soviet Union.

At the recipient country's request, the new Regulation alters the conditions for the reimbursement of the loans originally provided for in order to take account of commitments entered into previously.

EEC-Israel relations

The Council approved three draft Decisions to be adopted by the EEC-Israel Co-operation Council in the origin sector, namely:

- Decision No 1/91 of the EEC-Israel Co-operation Council amending, as a consequence of the introduction of the Harmonized System, the Protocol concerning the definition of the concept of "originating products" and methods of administrative co-operation;
- Decision No 2/91 of the EEC-Israel Co-operation Council amending, on account of the accession of Spain and Portugal to the European Communities, the Protocol concerning the definition of the concept of "originating products" and methods of administrative co-operation;

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- Decision No 3/91 of the EEC-Israel Co-operation Council again amending Articles 6 and 17 of the Protocol concerning the definition of the concept of "originating products" and methods of administrative co-operation.

4th Financial Protocols with Jordan, Lebanon and Syria

The Council approved the outcome of the negotiations on the 4th Financial Protocols with Jordan, Lebanon and Syria and decided to sign those Protocols, subject to their approval.

International Coffee Agreement

The Council adopted the Decision concerning notification of the acceptance by the Community of the 1983 International Coffee Agreement as extended to 30 September 1992.

Relations with the ACP States

- extension of transitional measures

The Council recorded the Community's agreement to the draft Decision of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers extending - until the entry into force of the Fourth ACP-EEC Convention or until 30 September 1991 at the latest - Decision No 2/90 of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers on the transitional measures to be applied from 1 March 1990.

At the same time, it extended the validity of the Community Regulation on the application of that Decision.

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Austria

- renewal of the tariff quotas for quality wines

The Council adopted a Regulation opening, for the period from 1 July 1991 to 30 June 1992, two zero-rated quotas, the first for quality wines (quota volume: 85 000 hl) and the second for sparkling wines (quota volume: 2 000 hl).

The Regulation implements the undertaking entered into by the Community in the Agreement which it concluded with Austria in December 1988.

Measures concerning the Canary Islands, Madeira and the Azores

The Council adopted joint guidelines concerning the following acts:

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

and agreed to forward them to the European Parliament.

Those acts are due to be formally adopted at the Council meeting on 25 and 26 June (Labour and Social Affairs).