

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES  
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

6216/91 (Presse 69)

1489th Council meeting  
- Agriculture -  
Brussels, 21, 22, 23 and 24 May 1991

President:

Mr René STEICHEN

Minister for Agriculture  
of the Grand Duchy of  
Luxembourg



21/22/23/24.V.91

ood/JM/eh

Italy:

Mr Giovanni GORIA

Minister for Agriculture

Luxembourg:

Mr René STEICHEN

Minister for Agriculture and  
Viticulture

Netherlands:

Mr Piet BUKMAN

Minister for Agriculture,  
Nature Conservation and  
Fisheries

Portugal:

Mr Arlindo CUNHA

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Food

United Kingdom:

Mr John Selwyn GUMMER

Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and  
Food

Mr David CURRY

Parliamentary Secretary, Agriculture

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Commission:

Mr Ray MAC SHARRY

Member

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FARM PRICES AND RELATED MEASURES 1991/1992

Following a week of intensive, in-depth negotiation, the Council reached agreement, by a qualified majority, on the prices and related measures for the 1991/1992 farm year with the exception of two proposals regarding the fixing of the prices applicable in the cereal sector and aid in the nut and locust bean sector on which it will take a decision at a later stage once the European Parliament's Opinion, scheduled for June, has been received.

The agreement reached, which also covers a number of other questions on the agenda for this meeting (SLOM 2, ACP sugar, ewe premiums), was achieved on the basis of a compromise submitted by the Presidency and endorsed by the Commission.

The essential features of this compromise, which constitutes amendments to the original Commission proposal, are given below:

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Unless otherwise mentioned, the Commission proposals are accepted <sup>(1)</sup>

I. CEREALS

1. Co-responsibility levy and land set-aside premium

- The co-responsibility levy is set at 5% and the national contributions to the set-aside premium are optional up to a maximum of the national premium under the existing five-year scheme.

2. Set-aside

- The special land set-aside scheme for 1991/1992 is seen as an interim measure leading to the new arrangements which will be drawn up in the context of the reform of the CAP.

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(1) The Council will decide on proposal No 3 (Council Regulation (EEC) No .... fixing the prices applicable to cereals) and proposal No 52 (Council Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 790/89 as regards aid in the nut and locust bean sector) after it receives the European Parliament's Opinion scheduled for its June 1991 part-session. At the same time it will decide on the level of aid for durum wheat.

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- The areas covered by this special land set-aside scheme will therefore be eligible for the new arrangements which will follow thereupon.
- For farmers involved in the five-year scheme, reimbursement of that part of the basic co-responsibility levy which exceeds the rate applied in 1990/1991.
- For regions legally exempt from the five-year scheme, setting of a ceiling of 20% of the area per holding for participation in the land set-aside scheme.
- Two possibilities are open for participation in the land set-aside scheme:
  - (a) either submission of the crop plan before 31 July 1991, subsequently followed by a request for participation in the scheme
  - (b) or submission of the 1991 crop plan at the same time as a request for participation in the scheme before 15 December 1991.

The monitoring procedures (Commission competence) will include, with a view to targeting on-the-spot monitoring, use of remote sensing equipment and/or a plausibility check on the basis of binding administrative documents already available in national administrations.

As a consequence of the change of the date mentioned under (a), the Commission may, for control reasons, exclude certain minor crops from the system.

- To preserve the environment, farmers should be required to maintain vegetative cover. For the farmers who do not wish to accept or do not comply with this condition, the set-aside aid should be abated by 10%. Member States shall also apply other environmental rules appropriate to their individual circumstances.

The environmental requirements that land set aside should have vegetative cover is replaced in regions where, for climatic reasons, this is impracticable, by other more appropriate measures in line with those envisaged for the five-year set-aside scheme under Article 4 of Regulation (EEC) No 1272/88, adapted as appropriate for the conditions of a one-year scheme. The regions concerned shall be determined by the Commission under the Management Committee procedure.

#### Set-aside in the five new German Länder

Subject to satisfactory verification, land which has been included in the national set-aside scheme in the new German Länder and which has been used for products which are supported by the common organization of the market may be included in the one-year set-aside scheme.

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- Durum wheat

The Commission will study the question of whether this year's exceptional harvest conditions in Greece for durum wheat justify a special measure under Article 8 of Regulation 2727/75.

II. RICE

- Intervention price: retention of the current price
- The STM for Portugal is applicable for the whole season
- Given the transitional problems in Portugal, the Council asked the Commission to submit a proposal providing for the opening of intervention in Portugal as from the beginning of the 1991/1992 marketing year.



### III. SUGAR

#### 1. Prices

- The proposed price reduction is cancelled.
  
- As a consequence, the proposed dismantling amount for the basic price for sugar beet in Spain is set at 2 070 ECT/t in 1991/1992 with no change in the amount originally proposed for the following year.
  
- Amend Article 8 of the Commission proposal concerning Spain by including in that Article the conditions for calculating the accession compensatory amount during the next two marketing years.

The Commission will further examine the problems confronting the Spanish sugar industry and, if appropriate, will submit proposals to complete or replace the transitional flat-rate element by a suitable structural scheme.

#### 2. ACP sugar (establishment, for the 1989/1990, 1990/1991 and 1991/1992 marketing years, of general rules for marketing preferential sugar in the Community)

In approving the proposal for a Regulation submitted by the Commission (8342/90), the Council confirms its fundamental position, reiterated on several occasions, that compliance must be ensured with the strict parallelism between Community sugar prices and the guaranteed prices for preferential sugar imported into the Community from ACP producer countries and India.

It stresses the exceptional nature of the financing of the structural measures thus adopted and adds that in future it will no longer be able to agree to expenditure of this nature being charged to the EAGGF-Guarantee Section.

#### IV. OILSEEDS

##### 1. Prices and bonuses

- The proposed price reductions of 3% are reduced to 1,5%
- The double zero bonus is retained at half its current level and the proposed malus is eliminated.

##### 2. Future arrangements

- With a view to reforming the present oilseed arrangements, in particular in order to bring them into line with the GATT Panel's conclusions, the Commission undertakes to submit its proposals before 31 July 1991 and the Council pledges to take a decision by 31 October 1991.

- The Council notes the Commission's commitment to the effect that the interim measures which the Commission will take, if necessary, in the context of the powers for which provision is made in Article 4 of the Regulation amending Regulation No 136/66/EEC (rapeseed and sunflower seed) and Article 4 of the Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 1491/85 (soya beans) will be limited to what is strictly necessary to prevent disturbance of the market and that these interim measures will be without prejudice to the Council decisions on the future arrangements.

3. Intervention opening dates for sunflower seed: maintenance of the dates currently applicable, the Commission having specified that the beginning of payments will be calculated as from 1 November.

4. Methods of rapeseed analysis

The Council notes that the Commission intends to update its approach for the analysis of glucosinolates in the light of the most recent available results for analysis methods.

As already announced, the Community reference method will be the HPLC method provided for in Regulation No 1864/90.

However, batches of rapeseed which have been analysed by approved XRF establishments and which achieve a level of 30 micromoles or less will be considered to be of 00 quality; batches that do not achieve this level may be checked again using the HPLC method.

5. Definition of 00 rapeseed

The Council calls on the Commission to make its position clear before 30 July 1991 on the quality rule applicable to 00 rapeseed from 1992/1993.

6. High erucic acid rapeseed

High erucic acid rapeseed grown under contract for industrial use will continue to receive the same aid as single-zero rapeseed.

7. Soya beans

Aid: retention of the present system (deletion of the proposed amendment to Article 2(2) of Regulation No 1491/85 and Article 2(1) of Regulation No 2194/85).

The Council agrees that, within the limits of traditional plantings (i.e. areas planted under contract in 1990), the level of support for soya beans in Spain for 1991/1992 should be the same as in the rest of the Community.

V. PROTEIN CROPS

Peas and field beans

- The proposed price reductions of 3% are reduced to 1,5%
- Retention of the monthly increases for minimum prices

Dried fodder

- The 20% aid reduction is to be made over two years, with a 10% reduction in 1991/1992.
- The Commission will examine the possibility of aligning the Spanish price on the Community price and will, if appropriate, submit a proposal accordingly.

VI. TEXTILES

1. Textile flax and hemp

- No change in aid levels.

2. Cotton

The Council calls on the Commission, in the context of the upcoming revision of the stabilizer for cotton, to see what measures would be appropriate for protecting producers against the very substantial price fluctuations between one season and the next, without thereby jeopardizing the economic effectiveness of the system.

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VII. WINE

1. The amendments made by the Special Committee on Agriculture are confirmed.
2. The "support" distillation price is kept at 82% of the guide price for wine of type AI.
3. Extension until 31 December 1991 of the derogation for the total acidity content of Spanish wines (Commission competence).
4. Eiswein: The Council calls on the Commission to propose the inclusion of wine described as "Eiswein" in the category of wine admitted with a maximum SO<sub>2</sub> content of 400 mg/litre.
5. Examination of the measures appropriate for making the intervention arrangements applicable to Portugal as from 1 September 1991 will be actively pursued in the Management Committee, without prejudice to such definitive arrangements as may be adopted subsequently in the context of the wine sector reform.

In this connection the Commission stated that it intended to introduce simplified management of the wine market in Portugal. The essential measures would involve voluntary distillation at the same price in ecus as had applied during the 1990/1991 marketing year, together with appropriate application of the measures to improve quality.

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6. Grubbing-up arrangements in Portugal

The grubbing-up arrangements for which provision is made in Regulation (EEC) No 1422/88 are extended to Portugal as from the 1991/1992 marketing year, on the understanding that the abandonment premium will be the same as that presently granted in Portugal in accordance with Regulation No 2239/86.

7. Storage contract arrangements for wine:

Possibility for the 1990/1991 marketing year of a partial release of the quantity under contract before the end of the nine-month period. With a view to defining the arrangements for long-term storage contracts for the 1991/1992 marketing year, the Commission will re-assess the operation of this derogation.

8. Interspecific varieties (varieties not covered by the species "vitis vinifera"):

In the context of the wine sector reform, the Commission will study the possibility of including interspecific varieties in the list of varieties declared suitable for production of quality wines psr.

### VIII. FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

- Inter-trade arrangements: the Council calls on the Commission to submit to it a proposal on inter-trade arrangements in the fruit and vegetables sector before 31 December 1991.

### IX. TOBACCO

#### 1. Prices and premiums

The proposed reductions in prices and premiums are reduced by 4 percentage points.

#### 2. Inter-trade arrangements

The Council considers that a system of inter-trade agreements, including in particular the possibility of extension of the rules of these agreements to all operators in the raw tobacco sector, represents an essential factor for ensuring proper management of the tobacco sector.

It calls on the Commission to study this matter with the greatest care with a view to submitting an appropriate proposal to the Council as soon as possible, and no later than 30 September 1991.



X. SEEDS

- Inclusion of "Festulolium" seed on the list of species eligible for Community aid.

XI. PIGMEAT

The Commission is looking at the possibility of introducing arrangements in the pigmeat sector that would allow, on a non-discriminatory basis, more selective application of the private storage aid system when market conditions so justify.

XII. SHEEPMEAT

The Council and the Commission confirm that the definition of eligible ewe will be decided on in the context of the reform of the sheepmeat arrangements which the Commission intends to propose as soon as possible. If the Council is unable to take a decision on the reform proposal by 1 October 1991, the present definition of eligible ewe will continue to apply to the premiums to be paid under the 1992 marketing year.

XIII. MILK

The following suggestions are submitted assuming the quota arrangements are to be extended.

1. SLOM

The Council adopts the Regulation given in the Annex to 6222/91.

2. Reduction in the milk quotas and SLOM

For the 1991/1992 period

- (a) a 2% reduction in the global guaranteed quantities.
- (b) appropriate management at the level of individual reference quantities in order to ensure compliance with the global guaranteed quantities thus reduced and, where necessary, to make provision for reference quantities for SLOM producers.
- (c) Simultaneous introduction of a voluntary buying-up scheme. The quantities bought under this scheme will pass into national reserves. This increase in the national reserves will be available for the purpose of returning in whole or in part to individual producers such quantities as may have been reduced pursuant to subparagraph (b) above, in order to resolve the SLOM problem and, where possible, to help resolve the specific problems of priority producers, in particular producers in the less-favoured areas and small producers.

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- (d) The cost of a quota buying-up scheme up to a level of 3% of the global guaranteed quantities in each Member State would be financed by the Community at a rate of ECU 0,10/kg over a period of 5 years payable as from the 1993 budget (i.e. as from Autumn 1992). Member States which can buy up 3% at a lower rate may set this lower rate and employ the saving to buy up more than 3% and to use the additional quantity to feed their national reserves.
  
- (e) The compensation of ECU 0,10/kg with Community funding is paid for reductions in individual reference quantities in 1991/1992. In Member States where the full 3% purchase is not reached, the saving may be used to compensate producers whose individual reference quantities remain reduced for a further 4 years.
  
- (f) The arrangements set out above comprise the Community contribution to the solution of the SLOM problem. If necessary, Member States may at their own expense purchase additional quantities, compensate for additional linear reductions and supplement the ECU 0,10/kg.

The Council noted the Commission's intention of allocating the quantity available for SLOM producers in the Community reserve in accordance with the same proportions as under SLOM I.

For the period after 1991/1992

The Council and the Commission agree that should a reduction of 2% in national quotas prove insufficient fully to re-establish a balanced market, further measures will be adopted in the context of the reform of the CAP.

3. Intervention

Adjustment of the intervention arrangements for butter:

The intervention buying-in price will be fixed by the Commission having regard to the quantities offered and the state of the market. It will not be lower than 90% of the intervention price.

4. Skimmed milk powder in Portugal

The Commission proposal was not adopted; Portuguese prices accordingly remain unchanged.

5. Regulation No 1336/86 will be amended in order to allow the remaining financial resources also to be used to institute a programme under which all the animals in the national dairy and beef herds will be identified for a computer record system as a means of improving quality and veterinary standards in the interests of dairy producers.

6. The specific buying-in price for Ireland and Northern Ireland for butter will be removed and Regulation No 1079/77 will be amended to allow the resulting savings to be used to finance a milk quality scheme in these regions.

7. Member States may permit quota leasing commencing before 31 December 1991 for the eighth quota period.

8. Problem of the co-responsibility levy in the five new German Länder

Producers in areas which the German Government proposes be considered as less favoured areas should provisionally be exempt from the milk co-responsibility levy, it being understood that if some of these areas are not finally designated as less favoured areas, the levy will be collected for the whole period concerned from those producers whose provisional exemption is not confirmed.

9. SLOM quotas: fat content

The Commission undertakes to re-examine and amend the last indent of Article 12(1) of Commission Regulation (EEC) No 1546/88 so as to ensure that the SLOM category of producers is not unduly privileged - as regards the fat content of milk supplied or bought regarded as representative - compared with producers who have not suspended milk production.

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With respect to the fresh milk situation in Greece, the Commission stated that it was impossible to contemplate a further quota allocation as requested, although it was prepared to draw up a report and come back to the Council before the end of October 1991 with appropriate proposals if need be.

#### XIV. BEEF AND VEAL

##### 1. Adjustment of the intervention system

Normal tenders for intervention will be triggered at 84% (weighted Community market price) and 80% (regional market price).

When the Community weighted market prices for bulls or steers fall under 78% of the intervention price, safety net intervention will be opened by tender procedure and all eligible offers will be accepted when:

- in at least three Member States (or regions) representing 60% of total Community production for bulls or steers, prices fall under 75% of the intervention price,
- or when in one Member State (or region) the market price for bulls or steers falls under 72% of the intervention price.

For tender procedures (normal or safety net), offers which exceed the price paid to farmers (regional market price) by more than a reasonable margin will be regarded as ineligible. This margin will be set by the Commission on the basis of objective criteria within the framework of the Management Committee procedure.

2. Premiums

The Council considers that measures designed to encourage extensification and to reduce production are indispensable to bring about a better balance on the beef market.

The Commission undertakes to present, in the context of the reform of the CAP, before 31 July 1991 a proposal with the aim of revising the present premium system along such lines and the Council undertakes to take a decision in good time in order to allow for the application of the new premium system from the 1992/1993 marketing year.

XV. AGRIMONETARY MEASURES

The amendments to the Commission proposals are as follows:

- For the United Kingdom: elimination of the entire monetary gap  
For Greece : Dismantling of 3/4 of the monetary gap remaining after the last application of the automatic dismantling  
Alignment of the various green rates on the highest rate  
For Spain : While retaining the 1993 target (full dismantling), reduction of the real monetary gaps and smaller reduction for milk, beef and veal and cereals.  
For Germany and the Netherlands : Total elimination of the monetary gap as provided for in the Commission proposal.

XVI. EXPORT POLICY

The Council and the Commission state that the Community will pursue an active export policy within the framework of a more liberal trade system, which includes the opening of new markets established through the Uruguay Round, the European Economic Space and negotiations with Eastern European countries.

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XVII. NON-FOOD USE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

The use of agricultural products in the non-food sector may help, with other measures, to restore market balance. The measures decided upon or envisaged up to now at Community level must be supplemented in order to provide the necessary incentives for farmers to grow non-food plants and for industry to use agricultural products. The Council therefore calls upon the Commission to submit in the context of the CAP reform other proposals which will enable outlets for agricultural products to be created in the non-food sector.



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With respect to the budgetary and financial implications, the Commission stated that the Council decision on the package of prices and related measures for 1991/1992 could be financed within the budget guideline for 1991.

Account being taken of developments in the economic situation and of the management savings being made, the guideline for 1992 would be observed. The Commission accordingly considered that there was no need to hold a special Council meeting of Agriculture Ministers and Ministers for Economic Affairs and Finance.

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Pending entry into force of the measures adopted, the Council extended once again the current marketing years for milk and milk products and for beef and veal until 16 June 1991.

It also adopted Regulations

- fixing the basic price and the buying-in price for cauliflower for the period 27 May to 16 June 1991;

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- fixing the basic price and the buying-in price for tomatoes for the period 11 to 16 June 1991;
- fixing the guide price for dried fodder products for the period from 27 May to 16 June 1991;
- fixing the basic price and the buying-in price for apricots, peaches, nectarines and lemons, for the period from 1 to 16 June 1991.

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URUGUAY ROUND - AGRICULTURE

The Council heard a report from the Commission on progress to date with the Uruguay Round.

Mr MAC SHARRY in particular reported to the Council on his recent talks in Washington with Mr MADIGAN, the new United States' Agriculture Secretary, and Ambassador Carla HILLS, and on the agreement they had reached to accelerate the technical proceedings currently underway in Geneva so that talks could then resume at political level.

During the discussion which followed the Commission's report, the Council confirmed its wish to contribute to the search for a solution based on an overall approach and respecting the need to uphold the fundamental principles of the common agricultural policy on the basis of the offer established by the Community.

The Council agreed to discuss this item further at its next meeting.

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PLANT PROTECTION PRODUCTS

The Council conducted a lengthy examination of the proposal for a Directive concerning the placing of EEC-accepted plant protection products on the market.

This proposal, which appears in the Commission White Paper on the completion of the Internal Market, is intended to set up 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.

Although substantial progress has been made on this dossier, no agreement could be reached at the meeting.

The Council will resume its examination of this item at its next meeting in June.

MISCELLANEOUS DECISIONS

Other decision regarding agricultural policy

The Council adopted the Directive amending Directive 72/461/EEC on health problems affecting intra-Community trade in fresh meat and Directive 72/462/EEC on health and veterinary inspection problems upon importation of bovine, ovine and caprine animals, and swine and fresh meat or meat products from third countries.

The purpose of these amendments is to incorporate into the text of these Directives provisions on the authorization of certain imports originally covered by Directive 87/64/EEC of 30 December 1986 which was declared void in a judgement handed down by the Court of Justice.

Fisheries

The Council adopted a Regulation on the submission of data on the landings of fishery products in the Member States.

Iraq/Kuwait embargo

The Representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the ECSC, meeting within the Council, adopted a Decision amending Decision 90/414/ECSC preventing trade as regards Iraq and Kuwait.

This amendment incorporates in the ECSC sphere the changes made by the United Nations Security Council in Resolution 687 of 3 April to the prohibition

on the sale or supply to Iraq of commodities or products and on the import of commodities or products originating in Iraq.

In the EEC sphere, this adjustment was made on 27 March 1991.

#### Environment

The Council adopted a Directive concerning municipal waste water treatment (see Press Release 5199/91 Presse 34 of the Environment Council of 18/19.III.91).

#### Action programme on equal opportunities for women and men

The Council adopted a Resolution on the third medium-term action programme on equal opportunities for women and men (1991-1995).

This programme, which follows on from the first two (1982-1985 and 1986-1990), has as its main aim to promote the full participation of women in the labour market and to upgrade their contribution to economic and social life.

In its Resolution, the Council invites the Member States to implement the measures provided for in the programme in order to achieve the following objectives:

- ensure the implementation and, if necessary, improvement of existing legal provisions; raise the level of awareness about legal rights and obligations;
- increase the participation of women in the labour market by applying national laws and practices in an improved manner to women, by developing specific measures for equal opportunities for women and men, and by promoting women's entrepreneurship and local employment initiatives;
- improve the quality of women's employment by maximizing their potential, particularly through stepping up action relating to education, vocational training, better staff management and the use of positive action in enterprises;
- reduce barriers to women's access to, and participation in, employment, also through measures designed to reconcile the family and occupational responsibilities of both women and men;
- continue, and develop, awareness-raising initiatives which are related to the specific objectives of this programme, and improve and disseminate information on equal opportunity and equal treatment issues;
- continue to encourage an improvement in the participation of women at all levels in the media sector and to develop innovatory programmes which present a full, realistic picture of women in society;
- encourage measures designed to promote the participation of women in the decision-making process in public, economic and social life.

THE COUNCIL ALSO INVITES

THE MEMBER STATES TO:

- adopt, as required, within the framework of this programme, national, regional or local equality plans or other relevant policy measures establishing objectives that match national circumstances;
- draw up assessment reports,

BOTH SIDES OF INDUSTRY TO:

- make equal opportunities and equal treatment an element in collective bargaining, in particular by endeavouring to implement positive action programmes in undertakings and in occupational branches and sectors as part of a cohesive policy of staff management and to elicit a real commitment to in-service training and jobs for women;
- pursue and intensify the social dialogue on the issues of reconciling occupational and family responsibilities and protecting the dignity of women and men at work;
- include in collective bargaining the issues of equal remuneration (equal pay for equal work or work of equal value) and the elimination of discrimination on the basis of sex in job assessment and/or classification;
- take all necessary measures actively to promote women's representation in decision-making bodies.



THE COMMISSION TO:

- ensure that the present programme is implemented and make interim and overall assessments (at mid-term and at the end of the period) of the policy on equal opportunities and equal treatment, on the basis of the information supplied by the Member States, taking into account all action carried out by the Commission and outlining the action carried out by the Member States;
- submit the results of these assessments to the European Parliament, the Council and the Economic and Social Committee;
- integrate the objective of equal opportunities and equal treatment into the formulation and implementation of the appropriate policies and action programmes and introduce specific means of co-ordination.

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Bruxelles, le 17 mai 1991

NOTE BIO(91) 161 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX  
CC. AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE PAROLE

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CONSEIL AGRICULTURE (Bruxelles, mardi 21 mai 1991 et jours suivants)

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Le Conseil des Communautés Européennes tiendra sa 1489ème session - Agriculture - le mardi 21 mai 1991 à partir de 15h et les jours suivants au Bâtiment Charlemagne à Bruxelles, 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".
- \* Proposition de la Commission au Conseil concernant la fixation des prix des produits agricoles et certaines mesures connexes (1991-1992) (doc. COM(91)72).

### HISTORIQUE

- 4 mars 1991 : Transmission des propositions Paquet-Prix 1991/1992 de la Commission au Conseil
- 4 et 5 mars 1991 : 1er présentation du Paquet-Prix 1991/92
- 25 et 26 mars 1991 : un large tour de table a été effectué concernant chaque grand produit
- 22 et 23 avril 1991 : Troisième examen au Conseil du doc. COM(91)72 et plus particulièrement des céréales (set aside), Lait (Réduction des quotas), viande bovine (Suppression safety net et abaissement du seuil de déclenchement de l'intervention par adjudication), tabac (Réduction prix et primes) et enfin "Confessionnels" Présidence/Commission avec chaque délégation.
- La réunion du mardi 21 mai 1991 constitue donc le 4e examen du Paquet-Prix 1991/92. Quatre grands secteurs sont à l'ordre du jour.

### Céréales

- . Augmentation de la taxe de coresponsabilité céréalière de 3% à 6%
- . Mesure spéciale d'exonération de la taxe de coresponsabilité céréalière pour les producteurs qui s'engagent à geler 15 % des terres, cette réduction s'appliquant à la fois à la superficie totale cultivée et à la superficie céréalière (emblavée)

### Lait

- . Réduction de 2 % des quotas laitiers pour restaurer un certain équilibre entre l'offre et la demande.

### Viande bovine

- . Suppression du filet de sécurité (Safety Net)

. Abaissement du seuil de déclenchement de l'intervention par adjudication.

### Tabac

Réduction des primes et prix de 10 %/

\* Allocation de quotas "SLOM" (doc. COM(91)96) AMENAGEMENT du régime des quotas laitiers (SLOM 2)

Le Conseil doit procéder à l'examen de la proposition de la Commission visant à trouver une solution au problème de l'attribution de quotas aux producteurs "SLOM 2", en vue de donner suite aux arrêts de la Cour de Justice en la matière, rendus en décembre 1990.

La question est de savoir d'où doivent provenir les quantités de lait supplémentaires nécessaires pour faire face aux demandes de ces producteurs : des "quotas nationaux" ou d'une augmentation du "quota communautaire"

\* Proposition de règlement du Conseil portant, pour les campagnes de commercialisation 1989/1990, 1990/1991 et 1991/1992, établissement de règles générales en matière de commercialisation de sucre préférentiel dans la Communauté. (doc. COM(90)97)

. Proposition de règlement du Conseil établissant les règles générales relatives à l'octroi de la prime au bénéfice des producteurs de viande ovine. (doc. COM(90)269)

La Commission a, le 27 juin 1990, transmis au Conseil la proposition citée en objet et qui vise à modifier les définitions des producteurs et des exploitations, ainsi que celles des animaux éligibles à la prime prévue par le règlement (CEE) no 3013/89.

\* Uruguay Round - Volet Agricole

M. Mac Sharry fera le point de la négociation "Uruguay Round" à Genève.

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

\* Divers

- Organisation des travaux futurs.

Amitiés,

B. Dethomas

Brussels, 22 May 1991

NOTE BIO (91) 161 (suite 1) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX  
CC. AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE-PAROLE

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1489TH COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS (Tuesday, 21 May)  
(G. KIELY)

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## 1. Agricultural Prices 1991/92

Having dealt with a number of other items on the agenda the Council resumed its discussions on the 1991/92 agricultural price proposals, in restricted session.

While during the table round, Ministers did not depart to any great extent from positions previously taken at former Council meetings, the discussion did focus on the main issues i.e. the problems confronting some agricultural markets and the need for urgent action.

In contrast to the April meeting, only two Ministers again raised the question of an increase in the guideline.

The main sectoral problems addressed were those of the milk, beef and cereals sectors.

Regarding milk, many delegations recognise the need for a quota reduction although some emphasise that it should be obtained on the basis of a buy out scheme. A number of delegations could support a more significant quota reduction e.g. 5% - but spread over a number of years. Some delegations would support a weakening of intervention.

On beef, the maintenance of the "safety net" mechanism is important for a number of delegations, although they are prepared to see the actual mechanism modified.

The increase in the coresponsibility levy for cereals (+ 3%) and its link to the temporary set-aside scheme is a problem for some delegations - some argue for a price reduction instead of a coresponsibility increase. Some insist that any new set-aside incentives should also be made available to existing participants.

Commenting on the discussion Mr Mac Sharry welcomed the fact that Ministers were addressed on the fundamental issues i.e. the need for market balancing measures and the fact that all Ministers expressed the view that a serious attempt to reach a conclusion should be made this week. He emphasised however, that other difficulties remaining in the way of an agreement must not be underestimated.

2. Proposal for a Council Directive concerning the placing of EEC accepted plant protection products on the market: This proposal which dated back to 1989;

- . provides for the establishment of a positive list of active substances the use of which does not involve any danger for human or animal health;
- . recognises the power of Member States to make initial judgements regarding the local acceptability, the harmlessness, the effectiveness and the environmental impact of preparations containing the active substances on the Community list

establishes the principle of mutual recognition of national authorisations of plant protection products with the aim of this free movement and that of the plants and plant products treated. Some Member States have difficulty in accepting the proposal, because of the proposed legal basis and also because of some aspects of the proposal. The Presidency believed that a qualified majority could be found for the Presidency compromise (which has not yet been accepted by the Commission) and requested that an expert group discuss the proposal further with a view to finding an agreement at this Council.

#### Uruguay Round :-

Mr Mac Sharry informed the Council on his visit to Washington. He described the discussions as cordial and constructive and that it was agreed :

- . that the completion of the negotiations by the end of the year should continue to be the aim
- . that new EEC/US crises must be avoided
- . that the technical work should be accelerated
- . that a joint assessment at Ministerial level in July should establish the chances of reaching an agreement by year end.

He also informed the Council of the sensitivity of the oilseed question (Soya Panel) but emphasised that the Community was moving as fast as possible on bringing the oilseeds regime into line with the findings of the GATT panels. He also informed Ambassador Hills that US retaliation on this matter would be a fatal blow to the Multilateral Trade Round. In response to a question on US access for feedgrains arising from Spain and Portugal's accession to the Community, Mr Mac Sharry informed the Council that discussion will take place with the US on this matter in the near future. He pointed out however that the US had been informed that the Community saw this matter being resolved in the context of the Uruguay Round. (The present arrangements expire in Dec. 1991, having already been rolled over for 1 year).

#### A. Points. -

A.1 adopted.

Following the Ministerial dinner last night the Presidency distributed a working document\* which puts forward some suggestions where the Commission's proposals might be amended in an effort to obtain an agreement.

(\*Working document from Presidency sent by separate mail)

Regards,

  
C. STATHOPOULOS

DISK 2 PAGE 420  
MESSAGE # 129  
RCV LN 1

05/23 1205  
64215EURCOM UW

21877 COMEU B  
COMPUTER MESSAGE :

FROM : C.E.C. - G.P.P.  
TO : C.E. WASHINGTON - WASHINGTON  
REF : 1143015853 - 23-05-1991 18:05

015045

BIO B 1/10

CCE M210 ED  
/ZCZC  
/GPP46  
/GPP108  
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/ZZZZ

BRUSSELS. 23 MAY 1991

NOTE BIO (91) 161 (SUITE 2) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX  
CC. AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE PAROLE

-----  
1489TH COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS  
(G. KIELY)  
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FARM PRICES DISCUSSIONS:

THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS RESUMED THEIR DISCUSSIONS YESTERDAY (WEDNESDAY 22 MAY) ON THE AGRICULTURAL PRICES FOR 1991/92 ON THE BASIS OF A PRESIDENCY WORKING DOCUMENT. THE WORKING DOCUMENT TOOK INTO ACCOUNT MANY OF THE CONCERNS EXPRESSED BY MINISTERS IN EARLIER DISCUSSIONS.

THE MAIN MODIFICATIONS VIS A VIS THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSALS WERE:

- THE INTRODUCTION OF A COMMUNITY FINANCED QUOTA BUY OUT SCHEME TO OBTAIN THE 20/0 QUOTA REDUCTION. QUOTAS FOR SLOW AND PERHAPS EVEN QUOTAS FOR REDISTRIBUTION TO SMALL MILK PRODUCERS AND MILK PRODUCERS IN LESS FAVOURED AREAS (THE AMOUNT OF QUOTA ELIGIBLE FOR COMMUNITY FINANCING WAS NOT SPECIFIED):
- A CLEAR SET OF OBJECTIVES REGARDING ANTERVENTION SUPPORT

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FOR BEEF TOGETHER WITH AN INCREASE IN THE INTERVENTION  
OPENING TRIGGERS BY 40/0 POINTS. PURCHASING INTO  
INTERVENTION ONLY BY TENDERING ON A MODULATED BASIS:

- REFUND OF THE SUPPLEMENTARY 30/0 CEREALS CORESPONSIBILITY  
LEVY ON CEREALS TO EXISTING SET-ASIDE PARTICIPANTS TO  
AVOID DISCRIMINATION VIS-A-VIS THE NEW TEMPORARY SCHEME.

DURING THE DISCUSSIONS MOST MINISTERS WELCOMED THE PROPOSALS.  
RECOGNISED THAT THEY COULD BE A BASIS FOR A DECISION BUT ALL  
RAISED SOME PARTICULAR PROBLEMS. THREE MINISTERS HOWEVER (DE.  
FR. IRL) DID NOT SEEM TO BE IN A POSITION TO ACCEPT ANYTHING IN  
THE PROPOSED PACKAGE AND AGAIN SUGGESTED A ROLL OVER OF THE  
MARKETING YEAR WITH NO CHANGES TOGETHER WITH AN INCREASE IN THE  
BUDGETARY GUIDELINE (FR. IRL).

FOLLOWING THE MINISTERS' INTERVENTION MR MAC SHARRY WAS VERY  
CRITICAL OF THE POSITIONS TAKEN BY MINISTERS POINTING OUT THAT  
WHILE MINISTERS ON THE ONE HAND RECOGNISED THE SERIOUS PROBLEMS  
ON THE MARKET. AND CLAIMED THEY WERE PREPARED TO DO SOMETHING TO  
RESTORE STABILITY WHEN IT CAME TO BACKING THIS UP WITH DECISIVE  
ACTION THEY WERE NOT WILLING TO DO SO.  
HE POSED THE QUESTION AS TO WHETHER MINISTERS WERE CAPABLE OR  
WILLING TO TAKE A DECISION. ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF THEIR REACTIONS  
TO PROPOSALS WHICH HAD BEEN DRAFTED TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF CONCERNS  
RAISED BY THEM EARLIER - THEREFORE HE SAW LITTLE POINT IN  
CONTINUING.

HE POINTED OUT THAT STOCKS WERE INCREASING TO CRISIS LEVEL  
(800,000 TONNES OF DAIRY PRODUCTS. 800,000 TONNES BEEF. 19 M  
TONNES OF CEREALS) MARKETS WERE DETERIORATING. FARM INCOMES WERE  
FALLING AND YET SOME MINISTERS BELIEVED THAT THE PROBLEM COULD BE

SOLVED BY SPENDING MORE MONEY - EVEN AFTER A 300/0 INCREASE IN  
EXPENDITURE IN 1991.

- 2 -

THE COUNCIL THEN HELD A SUPER RESTRICTED SESSION WHERE IT WAS  
ESTABLISHED THAT MINISTERS WERE PREPARED TO MODIFY THEIR  
POSITIONS WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF REACHING A DECISION.

ON THE BASIS OF THE PLENARY DISCUSSIONS AND THE BILATERALS THE  
PRESIDENCY WILL PUT FORWARD ANOTHER SET OF PROPOSALS TODAY.

THE COUNCIL IS EXPECTED TO RECONVENE AT 17H00 (THURSDAY 23 MAY).

REGARDS.

C. STATHOPOULOS

SENT BY SPP AT : THU MAY 23 17:17:18 CEB 1991

+++ END OF TEXT +++

DISK 2 PAGE 543  
MESSAGE # 135  
RCV LN 1

05/24 0806  
64215EURCOM UW

21877 COMEU B  
COMPUTER MESSAGE :

FROM : C.E.C. - G.P.P.  
TO : C.E. WASHINGTON - WASHINGTON  
REF : 1144022442 - 24-05-1991 14:06

015170

DG GPP BERL 1/10

CCE M210 ED  
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BRUSSELS. 24 MAY 1991

NOTE BIO (91) 161 (SUITE 3) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX  
CC. AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE PAROLE

1489TH COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS  
(G. KIELY)

AGRICULTURAL PRICE FIXING 1991/92

THE COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS RESUMED THE DISCUSSION ON  
THE 1991/92 PRICE PACKAGE ON THE BASIS OF A PRESIDENCY DOCUMENT  
AT 21.30 (THURSDAY 23).

THE PRINCIPAL POINTS IN THE PRESIDENCY'S DOCUMENT WERE:

(A) CEREALS: AN INCREASE IN THE CO-RESPONSIBILITY BUY TO 5 0/0.  
OBLIGATORY NATIONAL CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THE  
SPECIAL LAND SET-ASIDE SCHEME.

INCLUSION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT IN THE  
SET-ASIDE SCHEME.

(B) MILK: COMMUNITY FINANCING OF A QUOTA LAY-OUT SCHEME AT  
THE RATE OF 10 ECU/100 KG/YEAR FOR A PERIOD OF 5

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YEARS UP TO A MAXIMUM LEVEL OF 2.75 0/0 OF GLOBAL GUARANTEED QUANTITIES IN EACH MEMBER STATE TOGETHER WITH A CERTAIN DEGREE OF FLEXIBILITY REGARDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS SCHEME.

A COMMITMENT THAT INTERVENTION BUYING IN PRICE FOR BUTTER WILL NOT BE LESS THAN 90 0/0 OF THE INTERVENTION PRICE.

(C) BEEF: THE MAIN POINTS ARE:

AN INCREASE BY 4 0/0 POINTS ON THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSAL REGARDING THE COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL PRICES WHICH WOULD OPEN INTERVENTION.

THE REINTRODUCTION OF THE SAFETY NET BUT AT LEVELS WHICH ARE LOWER THAN APPLY AT PRESENT.

(D) PRICES: A GENERAL EASING OF THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSALS ON PRICES E.G. PRICE FREEZE FOR SUGAR. 1.5 0/0 PRICE REDUCTION FOR OILSEEDS AND PROTEINS. 1.6 0/0 REDUCTION IN THE GUIDE PRICE FOR WINE AND A 40/0 PRICE REDUCTION FOR THE DIFFERENT TOBACCO VARIETIES.

(E) THERE WERE ALSO NUMEROUS OTHER POINTS RAISED BY MINISTERS DURING PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS TAKEN ACCOUNT OF IN THE PRESIDENCY'S DOCUMENT. COMMENTING ON THE PRESIDENCY'S SUGGESTIONS MR MAC SHARRY POINTED OUT THAT

- MOST OF THE CONCERNS EXPRESSED BY MINISTERS HAD BEEN TAKEN ACCOUNT OF BY THE PRESIDENCY.

- THE PROPOSALS HAD EXHAUSTED THE ROOM FOR MANOEUVRE IN BUDGETARY TERMS.

- THE COST OF THE MEASURES PROPOSED WOULD BE HIGHER THAN THOSE PROPOSED BY THE COMMISSION. BUT EMPHASISED THAT THE COMMISSION WOULD ENSURE THAT THE BUDGETARY GUIDELINE WOULD BE RESPECTED IN 1991 AND IN 1992.

THE VAST MAJORITY OF MINISTERS BELIEVED THAT THE PROPOSALS CONSTITUTED A VERY SIGNIFICANT STEP FORWARD AND FELT THAT WITH SOME MODIFICATIONS AN AGREEMENT COULD BE REACHED.

A NUMBER OF MINISTERS HOWEVER FELT THAT SUFFICIENT ACCOUNT HAD NOT BEEN TAKEN OF THEIR VIEWS OR PROBLEMS.

MAIN DIFFICULTIES RAISED BY SOME MINISTERS:

- PRICE REDUCTIONS TOO SEVERE
- COMPULSORY PAYMENT OF NATIONAL ELEMENT OF SPECIAL LAND SET ASIDE SCHEME

- CEREAL CO-RESPONSIBILITY LEVY INCREASE IS TOO HIGH
- SLOM PROBLEM SHOULD BE RESOLVED WITH A COMMUNITY RESERVE
- INTERVENTION SAFETY NET TRIGGERS FOR BEEF ARE TOO LOW.

REACTING TO THE MINISTERS COMMENTS MR MAC SHARRY SAID THAT HE FELT THAT

- A LOT OF PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE
- MINISTERS KNEW THAT CERTAIN REQUESTS COULD NOT BE ACCEPTED
- REQUESTS WHICH DID NOT HAVE A BUDGETARY IMPLICATION WOULD, IF POSSIBLE, BE TAKEN ACCOUNT OF
- MINISTERS HAD TO RECOGNISE THAT THE PRESIDENCY'S PROPOSALS WERE A GENUINE AND BALANCED EFFORT TO REACH A CONCLUSION AND THAT GIVEN THE SERIOUS PROBLEMS PREVAILING ON THE AGRICULTURAL MARKETS MINISTERS WERE NOT HELPING THEIR FARMERS BY RESISTING THE MEASURES WHICH ARE NOW SO NECESSARY.

BILATERALS THEN TOOK PLACE WITH EACH OF THE MINISTERS AFTER WHICH THE PLENARY SESSION RESUMED (AT 6.30 A.M.) AND DECIDED TO EXTEND THE MARKETING YEAR TO JUNE 16 FOR MILK AND BEEF AND FIXED THE BASIC AND BUYING IN PRICE (AND GUIDE PRICE FOR DRIED FODDER) FOR A NUMBER OF PRODUCTS FOR THE PERIOD UP TO JUNE 16. (EVEN WITH AN AGREEMENT TODAY FRI 24 - THIS IS STILL NECESSARY AS THE EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS FOR MOST OF THE PRODUCTS CONCERNED EXPIRE ON SUNDAY 26 MAY AT 24.00H).

THE COUNCIL WAS THEN SUSPENDED AND WILL RESUME AT 1500H (FRI 24 MAY) AND RESUME DISCUSSIONS ON THE BASIS OF A REVISED DOCUMENT.

REGARDS,

C. STATHOPOULOS

SENT BY SPP AT : FRI MAY 24 13:20:58 CES 1991  
+++ END OF TEXT +++

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DURATION 881 SECS LISTED 1653 ???01-13-00

PAGE 563 IS NEXT

DISK 2 PAGE 524  
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05/24 0652  
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21877 COMEU B  
COMPUTER MESSAGE :

FROM : C.E.C. - G.P.P.  
TO : C.E. WASHINGTON - WASHINGTON  
REF : 1144021165 - 24-05-1991 12:52

015139

BIO

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CCE M210 AC  
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BRUXELLES, LE 24 MAI 1991

NOTE BIO (91) 165 (SUITE 2) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX  
CC. AUX MEMBRES DU SERVICE DU PORTE-PAROLE

VISITE OFFICIELLE DE MM. DELORS ET ANDRIESEN AU JAPON

PRESS CONFERENCE BY PRESIDENT DELORS

THE VISIT VICE PRESIDENT ANDRIESEN AND MYSELF PAID TO THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN CAME AT A CRUCIAL MOMENT; THE EC IS CHANGING FAST. JAPAN IS REASSESSING ITS ROLE IN A WORLD ORDER SERIOUSLY SHAKEN BY THE END OF THE COLD WAR AND BY THE GULF CRISIS, A NEW SURGE OF THE COMMERCIAL SURPLUS OF JAPAN ON THE EC MARKET JUST OCCURRED.

IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES. HOW COULD WE IMPROVE THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN JAPAN AND THE EC IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN THE THIRD SIDE OF THE TRIANGLE ?

THAT WAS THE MAIN POINT OF THE CONVERSATIONS WE HAD DURING THESE THREE DAYS.

IN ORDER TO ASSESS THE GROUND WE COVERED, I THINK WE REALISTICALLY HAVE TO START FROM A LUCID EXAMINATION OF THE OBSTACLES, ON BOTH SIDES, TO A BETTER RELATIONSHIP.

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TYPE DE DOCUMENT : BIO  
 VARIANT : 4  
 NUMERO DE DOCUMENT: BIO/91/161  
 DATE DU DOCUMENT : 91/05/27  
 TITRE : AGRICULTURAL COUNCIL OF 21-24 MAY 1991 : AGRICULTURAL  
 PRICES FOR 1991/92 : AGREEMENT  
 MOTS CLES : CONSMEET;FARMPR

The Council of Agricultural Ministers reached agreement on Friday (24 May) on the 1991/92 agricultural prices and related measures. The decision was adopted with the support of eleven Ministers (Italy voted against).

The agreement reached, includes most of the proposals put forward by the Commission, in particular those relating to the sectors experiencing most market instability, i.e milk, beef and cereals.

The conclusion of an agreement was all the more notable given the fact that the Commission's proposals were opposed unanimously by the Ministers of agriculture during the two previous Agricultural Council meetings with ten Ministers supporting a roll over of the marketing year without any changes in prices or related measures and an increase in the budget guideline (legal maximum allowable expenditure on agriculture) to take account of increased expenditure arising from German Unification.

Mr Mac Sharry maintained his position that measures were necessary, irrespective of the budgetary implications, in order to redress the serious imbalance in markets for a number of products. Despite an indication by many Ministers of a willingness to compromise, the gap between the Commission's position and that of the majority of Ministers was so great that the Council was in danger of collapse on a number of occasions. Indeed, it was not until some hours before the conclusion of the discussions that it became apparent that an agreement could possibly be reached. In the event Ministers accepted Mr Mac Sharry's argument that action was necessary now rather than postponing a decision pending the reform of the CAP and concluded a deal on the basis of the third Presidency compromise.

Mr Mac Sharry congratulated the President of the Council Mr Steichen and the Ministers for their constructive and realistic approach in adopting a package of measures which would help to improve market stability in a number of problem sectors and also ensure that spending on agriculture by the Community would respect the budgetary guideline in 1991 and 1992. The agreement he said will allow the Community to embark on the important task of reforming the CAP on the basis of proposals which he will put forward in the near future.

- 2 -

Main elements of agreed package:-

1. Milk:-

Reduction in quotas of 2%

- introduction of a Community financed quota buy-out scheme up to a level of 3% at the rate of 10 ECU/100Kg/year for five years.

The milk bought up under this scheme could be used by Member States to fulfill their obligations regarding the 2% compulsory quota reduction and their milk requirements for SLOM producers. Member States are allowed to decide the level of payment to farmers for the quota buy out scheme, the amount of milk they will buy up and the use to which they will put those bought up quantities to.

- the buying in price for butter into intervention is to be fixed by the Commission to take account of quantities offered and the state of the market. The buying-in price will not be lower than 90% of the intervention price.

2. Beef:-

Intervention through the normal tender system will now open when the Community weighted market price is equal to or less than 84% of the intervention price and the regional market price is less than 80% (present trigger levels are 88% and 84% respectively).

The intervention safety net system has been maintained but at a reduced level. All offers to intervention will be accepted if the Community weighted market prices are less than 78% (80% at present) of the intervention price when

(a) in at least three Member States (or regions) representing 60% of total Community production for bulls or steers prices fall below 75% of the intervention price or;

(b) when in one Member State (or region) the market price for bulls or steers fall below 72% of the intervention price.

The Commission will, on the basis of objective criteria establish a maximum margin by which eligible tenders to intervention may exceed the price paid to farmers.

### 3. Cereals:-

- the basic co-responsibility levy will be increased to 5% (3% at present).

- a special land set-aside scheme will be introduced as an interim measure. Producers participating in this scheme must set-aside 15% of the land given to cereals and other supported crops in 1991 when planting for the 1992 production year. Producers intending to participate in this scheme must submit crop plans by 31 July or submit plans and request participation in the scheme by 15 Dec. 1991. Participants will have the 5% levy reimbursed and also receive the Community element of the present set-aside scheme. The national contribution to the scheme is optional.

- 3 -

Farmers participating in the existing 5 year set-aside scheme will have the 2% points increase in the co-responsibility levy refunded.

### 4. Sugar:-

No price reduction.

### 5. Oilseeds:-

Price reduction of 1.5% and a reduction of 50% in the bonus for double zero oilseeds.

In order that the present oilseed regime be brought into line with the GATT panel conclusions the Commission has undertaken to present proposals to the Council by 31 July 1991 on the basis of which the Council will take a decision by 31 October 1991.

### 6. Protein crops:-

- price reduction of 1.5%
- maintain monthly increments in minimum prices
- 20% reduction in aid over two years.

### 7. Wine:-

- present guide and distillation support prices are maintained.

### 8. Tobacco:-

- prices and premiums are to be reduced by 0%, 6% and 13% - depending on the variety.

### 9. Sheepmeat:-

Basic price reduction of 2% together with an increase to 4 ECU/ewe in the supplementary ewe-premium which is granted in disadvantaged areas (present level is 1.5 ecu/ewe), - both of those conditions apply from the beginning of the 1992 marketing year.

### 10. Pigmeat:-

The Commission will examine the possibility of applying the private storage aid system more selectively.

### 11. Agri-monetary:

The monetary gap for the UK, Germany and Netherlands has been eliminated.

In the case of Greece 75% of the monetary gap has been eliminated and the number of green rates has been reduced.

For Spain, the Commission's proposal regarding the monetary gap has been maintained and the number of green rates is to be reduced.

12. It should be noted that in the absence of an opinion from the Parliament that the Council was not in a position to decide the regulations relating to cereal prices and nuts.

\* \* \*

--- Fin du document ---