

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

PRESS RELEASE

8667/81 (Presse 99)

723rd Council meeting

- Fisheries -

Brussels, 27 July 1981

President: Mr Peter WALKER,
Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries
and Food
of the United Kingdom

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

Belgium:

Mr Albert LAVENS Minister for Agriculture

Denmark:

Mr Karl HJORTNAES Minister for Fisheries

Mr Jørgen HERTOFT State Secretary,
Ministry of Fisheries

Mr Lars Emil JOHANSEN Minister for Fisheries of the
Home Government of Greenland

Germany:

Mr Josef ERTL Federal Minister for Food,
Agriculture and Forestry

Mr Hans-Jürgen ROHR State Secretary,
Federal Ministry of Food,
Agriculture and Forestry

Greece:

Mr Chrysostomos KARAPIPERIS State Secretary,
Ministry of Agriculture

France:

Mr Louis LE PENSEC Minister for the Sea

Ireland:

Mr Tom FITZPATRICK Minister for Fisheries and Forestry

Italy:

Mr Calogero MANNINO Minister for Shipping

Luxembourg:

Mr Jean MISCHO Deputy Permanent Representative

Netherlands:

Mr Gerrit BRAKS Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries

United Kingdom:

Mr Peter WALKER Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Mr George YOUNGER Secretary of State for Scotland
Mr Alick BUCHANAN-SMITH Minister of State, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Commission:

Mr George CONTOGEOGIS Member

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Internal aspects

The Council noted that the Commission had just submitted to it amended proposals on TACs and new proposals on fishing quotas for 1981.

At this meeting, the Council focussed its discussions on the 1981 TACs, and quotas for herring. After a complete ban for three years in certain areas, the Commission proposed a prudent resumption of fishing for this species in the light of scientific opinion that there had been a degree of replenishment of stocks.

After detailed discussions, the Council found that it was unable to reach agreement for the time being.

It agreed to include the matter of TACs and quotas and that of an interim common measure for restructuring the inshore fishing industry and the common organization of the market in fishery products, which were also on the agenda, in the overall framework of discussions on the common fisheries policy at the next meeting scheduled for 29 September.

External aspect

The Council agreed on an exchange of letters with Norway laying down the definitive fishing arrangements for 1981 between Norway and the Community. These arrangements are the outcome of the consultations held by the Commission with Norway concerning certain common stocks in the light of the AFCEM's recommendations. The Council at the same time adopted a Regulation provisionally implementing the obligations arising from this exchange of letters.

The Council also reviewed the current situation regarding:

- the laying down for 1981 of measures for the conservation and management of fishery resources applicable to vessels registered in the Faroe Islands;
- the fishing arrangements for 1981 between the Community and the Kingdom of Sweden;
- the signing of the framework agreement and an exchange of letters between the Community and Canada.

It will return to these problems at its next meeting. In the meantime, the Council gave its approval to a one-month extension to the interim Regulation allowing Sweden to fish for ling.

Finally, the Council noted the information provided by the Commission on the progress of the negotiations or contacts on fisheries matters with a number of West African countries. It adopted the Decision concluding the Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters on the interim fishing arrangements between the Community and the Republic of Senegal (extension of the existing fishing arrangements with Senegal for three months).

OTHER DECISIONS

Fisheries

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Regulation concerning the management and control of certain catch quotas for 1981 for vessels flying the flag of a Member State and fishing in the Regulatory Area defined in the NAFO Convention.

1982 Draft Budget

The Council established the 1982 draft budget which will be forwarded to the European Parliament.

Food aid

The Council adopted the following Decisions on the granting of food aid in the form of cereals, from the 1980/1981 reserves for emergency aid and other unforeseen situations:

- 10,000 t to the people of Kampuchea via the WFP;
- 6,000 t to Madagascar;
- 2,000 t to Mauritius;
- 7,500 t to Morocco;
- 5,000 t to Niger.

The Council also decided on the supply of the following products as emergency food aid for the Afghan refugees in Pakistan via the UNHCR, from the remaining reserves for 1980:

- 3,000 t of skimmed milk powder;
- 500 t of butteroil.

Finally, the Council recorded its agreement to the supply of 5 MECU worth of exceptional food aid to Nicaragua (commodities other than cereals, milk products or sugar), made up as follows:

- 3,000 t of vegetable oil (2.5 MECU);
- 2,600 t of red beans (2.5 MECU).

Agriculture

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities:

- the Regulation amending Regulation No 79/65/EEC setting up a network for the collection of accountancy data on the incomes and business operation of agricultural holdings in the European Economic Community;
- the Decision amending, as a result of Greek accession, Decision 78/902/EEC adopting joint research programme and programmes for co-ordinating agricultural research;
- the Regulation on a special programme concerning drainage operations in the less-favoured areas of the West of Ireland;
- the Decision on the level of the interest rate subsidy, provided for by Directive 72/159/EEC on the modernization of farms, to be applied in Ireland;
- the Regulations:
 - = fixing for the 1981/1982 marketing year the guide price for unginned cotton and the quantity of cotton for which aid may be granted without production;
 - = laying down the general rules for the system of aid for cotton;
 - = laying down the minimum price for unginned cotton for the 1981/1982 marketing year;
- the Regulation laying down the general rules for the system of production aid for dried grapes and dried figs;
- the Resolution on the veterinary work programme.

New Mediterranean financial Protocols

The Council approved the main elements in the negotiating directives for the new Financial Protocols with the Maghreb and Mashreq countries and Israel, since the existing Financial Protocols with these countries are due to expire on 31 October 1981. Although a number of details remain to be clarified, the Commission could begin talks with the countries concerned without delay.

Co-operation with the EFTA countries

The Council approved the report from the Permanent Representatives Committee on co-operation with EFTA countries.

The Council also adopted, in the official languages of the Community, the Regulations on:

- the application of Decisions Nos 3/81 of the EEC/EFTA Joint Committees adding to and amending Lists A and B annexed to Protocols No 3 concerning the definition of the concept of originating products and methods of administrative co-operation;
- the application of Decisions No 1/81 of the EEC/EFTA Joint Committees, further amending Article 8 of Protocols No 3 concerning the definition of the concept of "originating products" and methods of administrative co-operation;
- the application of Decisions No 4/81 of the EEC/EFTA Joint Committees, amending, as regards products sent in small packages to private persons, Article 8 of Protocols No 3 concerning the definition of the concept of "originating products" and methods of administrative co-operation;
- the application of Decisions No 2/81 of the EEC/EFTA Joint Committees amending Protocols No 3 concerning the definition of the concept of originating products and methods of administrative co-operation to take account of the change in the international method of determining "customs value".

Relations with Portugal and the Maghreb countries

The Council recorded its agreement to the Community position concerning the implementation of the provisions on co-operation in the field of social security contained in the Co-operation Agreements concluded with the Maghreb countries and in the Additional Protocol to the Agreement concluded with the Republic of Portugal.

Research

The Council adopted, in the official languages of the Communities, the Decision adopting a 3rd plan of action (1981-1983) in the field of information and documentation.

Appointments

On a proposal from the Italian Government, the Council appointed Mr Roberto de ANTONIS, Dirigente superiore in servizio presso la Divisione VI della Direzione generale per la istruzione universitaria, Ministero della pubblica istruzione, alternate Member of the Advisory Committee on Veterinary Training, in place of Mr Mario FRITTOLI, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which runs until 17 February 1983.

On a proposal from the Italian Government, the Council also appointed Director Luigi SENTINELLI, Direttore della Divisione IV, Direzione generale per la istruzione universitaria, Ministero della pubblica istruzione, alternate member of the Advisory Committee on Medical Training in place of Professor Vito DI LEO, for the remainder of the latter's term of office, which runs until 5 April 1982.

Bruxelles, le 24 juillet 1981

NOTE BIO (81) 304 AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
CC AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPE

PREPARATION CONSEIL PECHE DU 27 JUILLET 1981 (J.CARROLL)

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Le Conseil Pêche se tiendra le lundi 27 juillet à Bruxelles. L'intention de la Présidence britannique était de limiter l'ordre du jour à un minimum de points et de laisser la négociation globale sur l'approbation de la politique commune de la pêche au Conseil des 29 et 30 septembre. Cet espoir risque d'être compromis en vue de l'intention de certaines délégations d'insister sur l'inscription des points qui les intéressent particulièrement, par exemple l'Accord Canada (Allemagne), l'Organisation de marche (Irlande).

Voici les points principaux:

TACs et quotas

La proposition modifiée de la Commission sur les TACs (total des captures permises) tient compte de l'avis scientifique le plus récent. La Commission a déjà proposé d'autoriser la pêche au hareng dans le sud de la Mer du Nord, la Manche et à l'ouest de l'Ecosse (Com(81)293) du 12 juin. Suite aux consultations avec la Norvège, la Commission propose également des augmentations des captures pour certaines autres espèces en Mer du Nord notamment pour le cabillaud, l'eglefin et le merlan.

En ce qui concerne les quotas ou la répartition des TACs entre les Etats Membres, les ajustements vers le haut sont aussi proposés. On espère que le Conseil décidera au moins des quotas hareng afin de permettre la reprise de la pêche pour cette espèce dans des zones où elle a été interdite depuis plusieurs années comme en Mer du Nord et à l'ouest de l'Ecosse.

Aide à la pêche côtière

Il s'agit de la prorogation pour 1981 de l'action interimaire en faveur de la restructuration de la pêche côtière appliquée depuis 1978. Pour le financement de ces projets (construction bateaux, aquaculture etc.) 25 MUCE sont déjà inscrits au budget 1981.

Volet externe

Le Conseil sera appelé à approuver une série d'accords ou arrangements avec certains pays tiers notamment la Norvège, le Canada, les Iles Feroe et la Suède.

AMITIES,

M.SANTARELLI COMEUR



Bruxelles, le 27 juillet 1981

NOTE BIO (81) 304 (suite 1) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
CC. AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPE

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Conseil Pêche (J.Carroll)

Le Conseil a débute a 11.05 sous la presidence de M. Walker qui a rappele a ses collegues qu'on ne s'attendait pas a des decisions majeures lors de ce Conseil mais plutot a une bonne preparation pour le prochain Conseil en automne qui aura pour objet un accord global sur la politique commune de la peche.

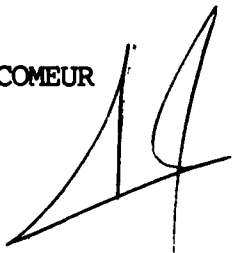
Le Conseil est en suite passe au point TACs et quotas. Du premier tour de table s'est degage un concensus incitant le Conseil a faire un grand effort afin d'arriver a un accord sur le TAC pour le hareng dans les zones en Mer du Nord et a l'ouest de l'Ecosse ou la peche au hareng a ete interdite depuis plusieurs anees.

Pour la delegation danoise les propositions de la Commission posent une difficulte importante. Tant que la proposition de reduire les prix accessoires de hareng de 10% a 7% lors de la peche au sprat reste sur la table, le Danemark ne peut accepter la reprise de la peche au hareng en Mer du Nord sur la base des quotas soumis par la Commission.

Le President a suggere de revenir a ce point dans l'apres-midi au cours de laquelle le Conseil discutera aussi le volet externe.

Amities,

M.SANTARELLI COMEUR



Bruxelles, le 28 juillet 1981

NOTE BIO (81) 304 (suite 2 et fin) AUX BUREAUX NATIONAUX
CC. AUX MEMBRES DU GROUPE

Conseil Pêche (J.CARROLL)

Le Conseil s'est terminé vers 20.00 sans pouvoir parvenir à un accord sur les TACs et les quotas pour les stocks de hareng à l'ouest de l'Ecosse et en Mer du Nord. L'absence d'une décision est un très grand danger pour les stocks de hareng s'ils sont soumis à des opérations massives de pêche non contrôlées par les Etats Membres. C'est pourquoi pour éviter une telle situation que M. Contogeorgis a fait la déclaration suivante au nom de la Commission:

"The Council has not reached an agreement on the fixing of the total allowable catches for 1981 and on the associated draft regulation fixing the conditions governing fishing operations when taking the TACs for 1981 or on the distribution among member States of certain catch possibilities in 1981 as proposed by the Commission. The Council has not yet succeeded in exercising the competence to adopt measures relating to the conservation of the resources of the sea which since 1 January 1979 has belonged fully and definitely to the Community.

For its part the Commission recalls as has been confirmed by the jurisprudence of the European Court in particular in the judgement of 5 May 1981 in Case 804/79, that the Commission has certain rights and duties under Article 155 of the Treaty. In view of the overriding public interest and as a precautionary measure, pending a final decision by the Council, the Commission therefore calls upon all member States in pursuance of their rights and duties to conduct their fishing activities in such a way as to ensure the compliance of vessels, which are flying their flag or are registered in their territory, with the Commission's existing proposals as described above.

The Commission declares its determination to use all the means in its power to ensure the respect by member States of these proposals, which it considers in the present situation as being legally binding upon the member States.

The Commission reserves the right to come back to the Council by mid-November with amended proposals if necessary."

M.Walker avait fait de nombreux appels aux Etats Membres leur demandant d'accepter les propositions de la Commission pour les prises de hareng dans les deux zones comme une mesure interimaire qui ne durera que jusqu'au prochain Conseil a la fin septembre. Ces appels etaient rejetes par la Belgique, le Danemark, la France et l'Irlande en raison de leur mecontentement a l'egard des quotas proposes pour eux.

D'autre part, le Conseil a approuve un amendement a l'arrangement peche avec la Norvege selon lequel celle-ci est autorisee a pecher 10.000 tonnes de hareng a l'ouest de l'Ecosse en echange de 55,000 tonnes de cabillaud et d'aiglefin en Mer du Nord.

Les effets de la carence du Conseil en ce qui concerne les TACs et quotas ne sont pas tout a fait clairs. Il faut dire que la prise de position de la Commission sur l'effet contraignant de ses propositions n'est pas partage par tous les Etats Membres ni par le Service Juridique du Conseil.

Les britanniques pour leur part craignent que les Etats Membres ne respectent pas l'obligation imposee par le reglement 735/80 de faire rapport deux fois par semaine sur les prises et que les stocks de hareng si laborieusement restaures au cours des dernieres annees ne soient vite epuises.

Il faut noter que la proposition de la Commission de rouvrir la peche au hareng dans le sud de la Mer du Nord ne devait pas rentrer en vigueur avant le 1er octobre. C'est, donc, uniquement la zone ouest de l'Ecosse a ce stade qui risque d'etre la scene d'incidents ou de contestations entre Etats Membres.

M. Contogeorgis a insiste sur le fait que la Commission fera le maximum afin de faire respecter ses propositions moyennant les reglements existants mais le Conseil s'est separe sur une attitude plutot sceptique a l'egard de la possibilite de controler les efforts de peche dans la situation ambigue actuelle.

AMITIES,

M.SANTARELLI COMEUB

