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COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES  
GENERAL SECRETARIAT

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PRESS RELEASE

5034/81 (Presse 24)

690th Council meeting

- Agriculture -

Brussels, 23-24 February 1981

President:

Mr Gerrit BRAKS,  
Minister for Agriculture  
of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

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

Belgium:

Mr Albert LAVENS                      Minister for Agriculture and  
Small Firms and Traders

Denmark:

Mr Bjoern WESTH                      Minister for Agriculture

Germany:

Mr Joseph ERTL                      Federal Minister for Food,  
Agriculture and Forestry

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

Greece:

Mr Athanase CANELLOPOULOS          Minister for Agriculture

France:

Mr Pierre MEHAIGNERIE                  Minister for Agriculture

Mr Michel DEBATISSE                  State Secretary responsible to  
the Prime Minister for the  
agricultural and foodstuffs  
industries

Mr Jacques FOUCHIER                  State Secretary,  
Ministry of Agriculture

Ireland:

Mr Ray MacSHARRY                      Minister for Agriculture

Italy:

Mr Giuseppe BARTOLOMEI

Minister for Agriculture and  
Forestry

Mr Fabio FABBRI

State Secretary,  
Ministry of Agriculture

Luxembourg:

Mr Camille NEY

Minister for Agriculture,  
Viticulture, Water and  
Forestry

Netherlands:

Mr Gerrit BRAKS

Minister for Agriculture

United Kingdom:

Mr Peter WALKER

Minister for Agriculture,  
Fisheries and Food

Mr Alick BUCHANAN-SMITH

Minister of State,  
Ministry of Agriculture,  
Fisheries and Food

Commission:

Mr Christopher TUGENDHAT

Vice-President

Mr Poul DALSGER

Member

The Council paid tribute to the late Finn Olaf GUNDELACH, Vice-President, who held the agriculture portfolio in the Commission from 1977 to 1981, for his devotion to European integration; it welcomed his successor, Poul DALSGER, former Minister for Agriculture of the Kingdom of Denmark, who had recently taken up the position and was attending the Council for the first time in his new capacity as the Commission Member responsible for the common agricultural policy.

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The Council also agreed to convene its next meeting for 16 March, to set aside 23 March if necessary, and, taking into account the Opinion of the European Parliament, expected at the end of Parliament's extraordinary sitting on 24 and 25 March, to set the agricultural prices for the 1981/1982 marketing year at a meeting scheduled for 30 and 31 March.

1981/1982 AGRICULTURAL PRICES AND RELATED MEASURES

The Council held an initial exchange of views on the Commission's agricultural prices proposals for the 1981/1982 marketing year and related measures; this enabled delegations to voice their initial political and technical reactions regarding the general outlines of the proposals.

Concluding the discussion, the President noted that the exchange of views had demonstrated the complexity of the issues dealt with, and he instructed the Special Committee on Agriculture to pin-point and examine urgently the most difficult points, so that the Council could concentrate on these topics in particular at its next meeting.

IMPORTANT PROBLEMS STILL OUTSTANDING:

Sugar. - New Zealand butter - Structures - Estimates for beef and veal

Following extensive discussions on a number of agricultural dossiers still outstanding, nine delegations expressed a consensus with regard to:

- a package of measures on agricultural structures;
- the arrangements to be applied to butter imports from New Zealand;
- estimates for beef and veal.

In addition, they expressed agreement in principle with regard to the guidelines on the future rules for the market in sugars.

The Italian delegation reserved its position and will make its attitude known by 10 March at the latest.

In the event of this delegation not associating itself with the consensus referred to above, the whole dossier will be re-examined by the Council at its meeting on 16 March.

In the meantime the Council has adopted a Regulation extending until 31 March 1981 the special arrangements for the importation of New Zealand butter into the Community.

POULTRYMEAT

After a short discussion the Council agreed on an amendment to the standard amounts and the coefficients used for calculating the levy and the sluice-gate price for poultrymeat (turkeys, geese and ducks), and on the Regulation on the Common Customs Tariff.

AUBERGINES FROM THE FRENCH ANTILLES

After a discussion on aid for aubergines from the French Antilles, the main purpose of which was to facilitate transport of the aubergines and to promote the diversification of agricultural production in the region, the Council agreed to instruct the Special Committee on Agriculture to study the subject in greater detail.

GREEK OLIVE OIL

Taking the view that an error made when the conversion rate for the drachma was fixed in December 1980 needed correcting, the Council fixed the intervention price for olive oil for the 1980/1981 marketing year at 170.80 ECU/100 kg (a figure which included the January monthly increase) instead of 167.70 ECU/100 kg.

MISCELLANEOUS STATEMENTS AND REPORTS

The Council took note of the following statements, accompanied where appropriate by the Commission's replies and observations from other delegations:

- grant of national aid in France (United Kingdom delegation);
- aid for heated greenhouses (United Kingdom delegation);
- progress of the Commission's work on the poultrymeat proposals (United Kingdom delegation).

The Council also took note of an interim report from the Commission on work in connection with a Community scale for grading the carcasses of adult bovine animals.



## VARIOUS DECISIONS

### Relations with the ACP States

The Council adopted in the official languages of the Communities the decision of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers on the inclusion of Zimbabwe on the list of land-locked ACP States.

### Relations with Israel

The Council decided to sign the Protocols adapting the EEC-Israel Agreement and the ECSC-Israel Agreement following the accession of Greece to the European Communities. Pending the entry into force of these Protocols, it adopted autonomous measures to take account of the accession of Greece.

### Other decisions

The Council took note of the ninth financial report of the EAGGF, Guarantee and Guidance Section, 1979.

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

- the Decision authorizing the Commission to participate in the negotiation of an International Convention on the Harmonization of Controls at Frontiers;
- the Decision concerning the Euratom/United States Co-operation Agreements;
- the Regulation amending Regulations (EEC) Nos 1893/79, 2592/79 and 649/80 introducing the registration of crude oil and petroleum product imports into the Community (extension of the Regulations on crude oil until 31 December 1981 and of the Regulation on petroleum products until 30 June 1981).

Customs union

The Council also adopted the Directive on the harmonization of procedures for the export of goods.

Common rules for the import of goods into the Community were laid down in 1979, and this Directive now harmonizes the rules to be followed for the export of goods from the Community. The purpose is:

- to ensure uniform application of common policies on goods exported to third countries and especially of measures adopted under the common agricultural policy;
- to eliminate distortions of treatment as between Community commercial operators resulting at present from the application of rules which vary according to the Member States in which they carry out the formalities for exporting their goods to third countries.

Like the Directive on the import of goods, this Directive makes provision in title II for a set of simplified procedures to be introduced by national administrations in order to take account of developments in customs techniques and in particular the ever-growing use of data processing.

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