



EUROPE INFORMATION

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THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND YUGOSLAVIA

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Joint Declaration signed in Belgrade on 2 December 1976 at the end of the official visit by Mr. Van der Stoel, then President of the Council of the European Communities, and Mr. F.O. Gundelach, Member of the Commission, constitutes the charter of relations between Yugoslavia and the Community.

In the Declaration Yugoslavia expressed its wish to strengthen its cooperation links with the Community on the basis of equality between the two Parties and Yugoslavia's special position as a non-aligned Mediterranean country which is a member of the Group of 77.

The Cooperation Agreement between Yugoslavia and the Community, signed on 2 April 1980, meets these requirements.

2. COMMUNITY-YUGOSLAVIA RELATIONS: Background

Relations date back to the non-preferential Agreement signed in Brussels in 1970, which expired on 30 April 1973. This was succeeded by a second five-year Agreement signed in 1973, which was in force up to 30 September 1978 and was then tacitly extended. Under the terms of this Agreement the two parties accorded each other most-favoured-nation treatment. The EC-Yugoslavia Joint Committee was an important feature of the Agreement, which contained a future developments clause that enabled Yugoslavia and the Community to develop economic cooperation as an element complementary to trade in areas of mutual interest.

The two parties decided to implement the future developments clause by setting up two subcommittees, one for agriculture and one for industry, with the task of gathering information required for the development of economic cooperation in areas of common interest and examining projects to develop such cooperation on the markets of the Community and Yugoslavia and also on the markets of other countries.

From 1974 onwards relations between the Community and Yugoslavia were intensified at the level of ministerial meetings and the Joint Committee.

At a ministerial level meeting of the Joint Committee in Brussels on 29 March 1977, the Yugoslav and Community Delegations noted the need for negotiations to be undertaken aimed at concluding a new agreement covering a wider field of application to replace the then existing Agreement.

This new agreement was to facilitate among other things a more dynamic development of trade and to encourage new forms of cooperation covering the areas cited in the Joint Declaration.

The final phase of the negotiations culminated with the initialling of the Cooperation Agreement on 25 February 1980.

3. EC-YUGOSLAVIA COOPERATION AGREEMENT

This Agreement, which has been concluded for an unlimited period, is the only one of its kind. The cooperation instituted by the Agreement is comprehensive.

The Agreement does not affect Yugoslavia's place on the list of beneficiaries of the Community's Generalized Scheme of Preference (GSP) ⁽¹⁾.

Up to and including 1980, Yugoslavia had been a major beneficiary under the GSP established by the Community on 1 July 1971. In 1979 and 1980, use of the scheme was worth ECU 563 905 000 and ECU 466 788 000 respectively to Yugoslavia. From 1981 onwards the situation changed and Yugoslavia has made less use of the GSP since the Cooperation Agreement provides for more advantageous bilateral arrangements.

The Cooperation Agreement breaks new ground and by taking in a number of new sectors, cooperation goes considerably further than the other Mediterranean agreements.

It enables Yugoslavia and the European Community to give concrete expression to the Belgrade Joint Declaration by providing them with the means of strengthening, deepening and diversifying their cooperation links.

The Agreement also stipulates that the two parties are to devote particular attention to cooperation activities to promote the free zone established between Italy and Yugoslavia by the Osimo Agreements, which is of major importance for the development of economic relations between the Community and Yugoslavia.

Cooperation has expanded under the Agreement and on 10 December 1987 the European Community and Yugoslavia signed:

- i) an Additional Protocol of economic adaptation to the EEC-Yugoslavia Cooperation Agreement establishing new trade arrangements;

(1) This scheme consists in complete freedom from customs duty for all industrial products - subject to certain quantitative limits - and partial exemption, in most cases, for certain processed agricultural products.

- ii) a second Protocol on financial cooperation between the Community and Yugoslavia;
- iii) a Protocol of technical adaptation to the Cooperation Agreement consequent on the accession of Spain and Portugal to the Community;
- iv) a Protocol to the ECSC-Yugoslavia Agreement consequent on the accession of Spain and Portugal.

3.1 Economic cooperation

The Agreement covers a wide field of sectors of which the most important ones are described below.

In the field of energy, Community and Yugoslav undertakings are encouraged to participate in research, production, and processing programmes in connection with Yugoslavia's energy resources. In this context, a seminar between EC and Yugoslav experts on energy planning was held in Belgrade on 25-28 March, 1986.

Following numerous further contacts and visits a very extensive programme of cooperation will be finalised in the course of 1988. The main points of the programme will probably be:

- an exchange of information and assistance on energy policy;
- cooperation in the field of energy planning;
- cooperation in the field of energy saving;
- cooperation involving the exchange of experts, professional training and courses.

The aim of cooperation in agriculture is to step up the exchange of information on the main lines of the respective agricultural policies and to seek ways of achieving complementarity.

On March 12, 1985, an EC-Yugoslavia working group was founded on cooperation in agricultural research. Under its auspices, EC and Yugoslav scientists exchange research in various seminars and missions of information visits. The main centres of interest are research in:

- regional and Mediterranean problems;
- land and water potential avoiding ecological damage;
- increasing crop and animal productivity;
- market analysis;
- products from Yugoslav resources which have a comparative advantage for export to the EC.

A number of well-structured cooperation activities are organised each year within this framework.

About thirty Yugoslav research workers have participated each year in a series of seminars or with groups of researchers in the framework of various Community research projects concerning animal production, plant life, Mediterranean agriculture, the use of the soil and waters and energy in agriculture. Scientific conferences are also organised in Yugoslavia with the participation of Community professors. Moreover, important information concerning the coordination of agronomic research is regularly transmitted to the competent Yugoslav bodies. A workshop on the selection and production of maize organised jointly with the Maize Institute of Zemun is scheduled for October 1988.

Another programme which is developing successfully is the tripartite cooperation EEC/YU/Centre International des Hautes Etudes Agronomiques Méditerranéennes (CIHEAM).

In the transport sector, the aim of cooperation is to bring about improvements in transport services and traffic taking into account the special importance of transit traffic through Yugoslavia for both parties. Negotiations between the EC and Yugoslavia began in early 1988 with a view to finding solutions to the problems concerning transit across Yugoslavia and related matters.

Provision is also made for promoting cooperation in the environmental and fisheries sectors. In the field of environment, the Community participated in preparing and financing a pilot project in the port of Rijeka. This involved the purchase of a boat for the purpose of testing oil residues in ports. In 1988, it is intended to launch an ambitious programme in this sector which will consist essentially in joint coordinated efforts to preserve and improve the environment more effectively.

In the field of tourism, the cooperation envisages the exchange of information through seminars and missions of experts. The EC is assisting Yugoslavia in setting up a computerized information system in this area.

The objective of the EC-Yugoslavia Working Group in the field of statistics is to overcome the incompatibilities between the methods used and to find a method which is acceptable to both sides, through, inter alia, harmonization in the tariff nomenclature. The use of statistical data based on a harmonized nomenclature would facilitate the management of the Cooperation Agreement. Moreover, on 25 October 1985, a permanent link was inaugurated between the Yugoslav Federal Statistical Office and the Community's data bases.

A workshop of about 200 people was organised on 5/6 May 1988 in Belgrade on Statistical Cooperation concerning the present situation, the prospects for development and improvement and new technologies. The workshop clarified the current state of cooperation and identified new directions for future cooperation, especially in the fields of national accounting, agriculture and transport.

In the field of industrial cooperation, both parties have undertaken to promote all form of industrial cooperation by organizing contacts between their economic operators. Activities in this field were initiated by the organization in March 1983 of a Business Week in Belgrade which brought together representatives of 400 firms from the Community and Yugoslavia.

In the wake of the successful Belgrade Business Week, other seminars followed: cooperation in third markets was the topic of the Bled seminar in June 1985; cooperation in the field of non-ferrous metals was the central theme of seminars in Sarajevo in October 1984 and in Trieste in February 1985. The diversification of agricultural exports from Yugoslavia was dealt with in seminars in Novi Sad in May 1985 and in Osijek in May 1986.

In September 1986, a delegation of Yugoslav industrialists visited Madrid and Lisbon in order to examine the possibilities for trade with the two new members of the Community. A return visit by a Spanish and Portuguese delegation took place in early 1987.

A seminar for operators in the field of medicinal herbs took place in March 1987 in Brussels.

A seminar on electronics and associated themes will be organised as soon as the new Yugoslav legislation concerning joint investments has been adopted.

Study trips in the field of marketing are also regularly organised in the different Member States in order to assist Yugoslav businessmen. Their goal is to make Yugoslav exporters more aware of the needs in the markets of the Member States. Cooperation between businessmen could greatly improve if Yugoslav enterprises could be linket with BCNET (Business Network) and this is being examined.

Cooperation in the field of science and technology has become one of the pillars of the EC-Yugoslav Agreement.

Since 1971, Yugoslavia has been a member of the "European Cooperation in the field of Scientific and Technical Research" group (COST), which operates under the auspices of the Council of the European Communities and includes, in addition to the twelve Community countries, Austria, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and Yugoslavia.

Between 1971 and 1984, Yugoslavia participated in 15 COST projects from among a possible 55, in the fields of telecommunications, transport, metallurgy, environmental protection and food technology.

Bilateral cooperation between the Community and Yugoslavia in the field of science and technology has been developed since 1984 in a working group on science and technology set up by Decision N° 3/84 of the Cooperation Council. Science and technological development are an agreed priority for both parties. This community of interest has led to a progressive strengthening of cooperation, involving financial support from the Community for Yugoslav research activities and regular exchanges of information on science policies.

Thus since 1984 the Community has co-financed 15 projects in the fields of the environment, seismology and biotechnology.

A seminar on the methodology of scientific and technological research was held in Dubrovnik in 1986. In September 1988, a workshop on advanced materials will take place in Sarajevo.

The cooperation programme for 1988 also includes the encouragement of mobility among Yugoslav scientists by means of scholarships and joint projects with the Community research institutes.

A new philosophy in research and development cooperation has been agreed and a new legal instrument will soon be signed between the two parties to give more stability to the actions undertaken in this field. From now on research projects will be drawn up together by Yugoslav and Community bodies.

In this as in other areas, the emphasis is on activities of interests and benefit to both sides. Yugoslav experts have made and are continuing to make an important contribution to the development and implementation of these projects.

In the field of the training of young managerial staff, the Commission is organising in 1988, with the assistance of the Federal Chamber and the Republican Chambers, a series of training courses in the field of the management of business.

In the veterinary field, a Convention between the Community and Yugoslavia will be signed, probably in 1988. It will cover the principal aspects of the protection of livestock, particularly concerning infectious diseases. It will be the first such Convention that the Community has signed with a third country.

Cooperation in the matter of standardisation has taken the form of exchanges of experts, the holding of information meetings and the transmission of relevant documentation concerning the new standards progressively being established by the Community with a view to completing the Internal Market in 1992.

3.2 Financial cooperation

Following the official visit to Belgrade in December 1976 of Commissioner Gundelach and the President of the Council, the Community agreed to allow Yugoslavia access to the resources of the European Investment Bank (EIB). In the period up to 1980, two loans were granted for a total of 50 mio ECU for linking the Yugoslav high voltage electrical distribution network to the Greek and Italian networks and for building part of the trans-Yugoslav highway (TYH).

This financial cooperation was incorporated in the Cooperation Agreement of 1980 and formalised by a first 5-year financial protocol which provided for loans of up to 200 mio ECU in the period 1980-1985. These funds were allocated to three projects, namely the modernisation of the road and rail networks and the extension of the electrical grid.

The EIB also granted a loan of 60 mio ECU, outside the framework of the Financial Protocol, towards the cost of the TYH which is of considerable interest to traffic between Greece and the other Community countries.

The first Financial Protocol expired on 30 June 1985. The second EEC-Yugoslavia Financial Protocol signed on 10 December 1987 provides for loans from the EIB totalling 550 mio ECU over a period of six years (from 1.7.1985 to 30.6.1991). The Protocol provides that the bulk of this amount will be used to fund projects concerning transport infrastructure of common interest, in particular the TYH, including its feeder roads, with the remainder being used to finance other development projects.

3.3 Trade Chapter

3.3.1 General aspects

In the trade field - in which Yugoslavia grants the Community most-favoured-nation treatment - the aim of the Agreement is to promote trade between the Contracting Parties,

due account being taken of their respective levels of development and the need to ensure a better balance in their trade, with a view to improving the conditions of access for Yugoslav products to the Community market.

This objective is to be achieved in stages. The duration of the first stage under the trade arrangements laid down by the Agreement was set at five years. One year before expiry of this period in 1984, the Contracting Parties opened negotiations to determine the trade arrangements that were to apply subsequently, in the light of the results of the Agreement and of the economic situation in Yugoslavia and the Community.

The amended trade régime incorporated in the additional protocols signed on 10 December 1987 entails improved access to the Community market for Yugoslav industrial goods and greater concessions for a wider range of agricultural products.

Imports of Yugoslav industrial products are free of customs duties and quantitative restrictions, subject only to a system of tariff ceilings for certain products. In addition, the Community and Yugoslavia determine in the Cooperation Council special conditions governing access to the Community market for certain products considered to be particularly sensitive.

In agriculture, the Agreement makes provision for specific tariff concessions on products of particular interest to Yugoslavia, such as morello cherries, slivovica, wine, and macedonian tobacco, and for a reduction of the levy on imports of "baby-beef" within the limits of a monthly quota.

Yugoslavia is able to introduce or increase customs duties or quantitative restrictions in so far as such measures are necessary for its industrialization and economic development.

Cooperation in the coal and steel sector is surveyed by the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC)-Yugoslavia subgroup. On the research side, EC and Yugoslav institutes, with their respective scientific research potential, work on common projects. The trade side is discussed in recurrent ECSC-Yugoslavia contact meetings.

3.3.2 The Textile Agreement

In 1982 negotiations took place between the Community and Yugoslavia on establishing new arrangements for trade in textile products. A first Additional Protocol to the Cooperation Agreement, forming an integral part of that Agreement and according with its aims and principles, was

initialled on 26 September 1982. The Protocol was different from the usual textile agreements negotiated by the Community with its other partners, notably in that it contained provisions establishing tariff arrangements.

It also differed from the previous agreements concluded with Yugoslavia in 1976 and 1977, which were concerned only with the quantitative aspects of trade and for which the legal basis was the MFA (1).

Under the arrangements for the years 1983 to 1986 inclusive, textile products originating in Yugoslavia were given broader access to the Community market than before. Thirteen products were subject to voluntary restraint.

In addition, the Community granted access for products resulting from operations carried out under the outward processing traffic (OPT) arrangements (2), thus placing Yugoslavia among the Community's major partners.

From 1983 to 1985, trade in the textile sector between Yugoslavia and the EC improved by 40%. Further improvements in trade are expected through the new Yugoslavia-EC Textile Agreement, an additional Protocol, on which agreement was reached in Brussels on 10 October 1986 and which will be valid until 31 December 1991.

Under the additional Protocol, Yugoslavia may now benefit from flexible transfers between the quotas for three main categories of Yugoslav textile exports: cotton yarn, cotton fabric and woven fabric of man made fibres. This will allow Yugoslavia to utilise fully her export possibilities, as will the introduction of automatic regional transfers among the Member States of the Community. This means that, within a certain percentage which is increased each year during the life of the Protocol, Yugoslavia may transfer any unused quota share from a given Member State to other Member States. Neither of these possibilities existed in the former Protocol.

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- (1) MFA = Arrangement regarding International Trade in Textiles, known as the "Multifibre Arrangement"
- (2) OPT = Outward Processing Traffic. This is a special form of industrial cooperation whereby a Community manufacturer (the principal) hands over part of the production process to a partner (subcontractor) in a non-member country. The subcontractor is sent Community semi-manufactures (fabrics), and where appropriate, the necessary technical assistance for making up finished products, which are subsequently reimported into the Community.

Moreover, the growth rates of agreed quotas for some categories of textiles and clothing from Yugoslavia are increased in the new Protocol. The EC has also removed two Community and five regional limitations. In addition, the base levels of import quotas for textile goods from Yugoslavia, including OPT, have also been considerably increased in the new Protocol.

As in all EC textile agreements, there is provision for subjecting unrestricted exports to agreed limitations, should the need arise, and consultations once certain import thresholds have been exceeded. These thresholds have been substantially raised in the new Protocol.

Tariff ceilings have been deleted for twelve categories of products. For those directly imported products which remain subject to tariff ceilings, the levels of the ceilings are increased progressively so that by the final year of application of the new Protocol they will reach the same levels as the quantitative limits themselves.

For products imported under the arrangements for outward processing traffic, the levels of the ceilings are fixed as the levels of the objectives for these operations, as from the first year of the coming into effect of the new Protocol.

These improvements in the new additional Protocol place Yugoslavia among those countries which are given the best treatment for access to Community textile markets.

3.3.3 Development and structure of trade

Trade with the Community has shown steady growth in the 18 years since formal links were first established. This trend has accelerated as far as Yugoslavia's exports are concerned since the entry into force of the commercial provisions of the Cooperation Agreement in 1980. Since that date, Yugoslavia has achieved a major reduction in its trade deficit with the Community and improved its trade coverage from 51% in 1981 to 95% in 1987.

The Community's principal exports to Yugoslavia are chemicals, machinery and manufactured goods. Yugoslav exports to the Community are mainly in the same sectors. Yugoslavia is by far the Community's most important source of manufactured products in the whole Mediterranean. No other Mediterranean country has managed to diversify its exports as successfully as Yugoslavia. Besides, Yugoslavia has a considerable surplus on tourism and workers' remittances.

Yugoslavia's agricultural exports to the Community are declining as a proportion of her total exports to the Community, though they have grown slightly in absolute terms.

	<u>TRADE BETWEEN THE EC AND YUGOSLAVIA</u>						
	(in million ECU) ⁽¹⁾						
	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984</u>	<u>1985</u>	<u>1986 (2)</u>	<u>1987 (2)</u>
EC IMPORTS	2210	2763	3586	4361	4815	4893	5076
EC EXPORTS	4365	4278	4605	5123	5914	5853	5342
BALANCE	+ 2155	+ 1515	+ 1019	+ 762	+ 1099	+ 960	+ 266
INDEX OF BALANCE	100	70	47	35	51	45	12

Source: EUROSTAT

In the seven year period (1981-1987) EC imports coming from Yugoslavia increased by 130% while EC exports to Yugoslavia rose by only 22%. The result is a decrease in the Yugoslav trade deficit with the EC of 88%.

3.4 Cooperation in Social matters

In the field of labour, the Agreement grants Yugoslav workers in EC Member States freedom from discrimination in employment conditions. All periods of insurance, employment or residence completed by Yugoslav workers in various Member States are grouped together for the purpose of pensions and annuities for old age, death, invalidity, and also for medical care. Yugoslavs working in the EC Member States may transfer freely to Yugoslavia any pensions or annuities for old age, death, industrial accidents or occupational diseases, or invalidity resulting from industrial accidents or occupational diseases.

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- (1) The exchange rate ECU/dollar varies as the various EC currencies which make up the ECU vary against the dollar. The balance of trade between the EC and Yugoslavia expressed in dollars was US\$ 2414 mio in 1981, US\$ 1485 mio in 1982, US\$ 907 mio in 1983, US\$ 602 mio in 1984, US\$ 835 mio in 1985, US\$ 941 mio in 1986 and US\$ 306 mio in 1987.
- (2) The figures for 1986 and 1987 include Yugoslavia's trade with Spain and Portugal following the accession of these two countries to the Community. The contribution of Spain and Portugal to the EC's total trade with Yugoslavia, however, did not exceed 1% in either year.

The Agreement is supplemented by an exchange of letters providing for exchange of views between the Yugoslav authorities and the Member States on the situation of Yugoslav workers in the Community, notably the social and cultural aspects.

4. COOPERATION BETWEEN YUGOSLAVIA AND THE EC IN THE FIELD OF INFORMATION

The most important operation in this field to inform Yugoslav economic operators about the implementation of the Cooperation Agreement signed on 2 April 1980, was a series of information seminars organized during the second half of 1980, in Yugoslavia's six republics and its two autonomous provinces.

4.1 The EC at International Fairs in Yugoslavia

The Community's participation in the Zagreb International Fair from 14-23 September 1979, marked the beginning of a new Community activity in Yugoslavia. A major information campaign was mounted for the occasion, backed by the joint participation of the Member States and the Commission. The next EC participation at International Fairs in Yugoslavia was in Novi Sad, in 1983. Since then there has been a continuous EC presence at fairs in Yugoslavia, organized by the Commission's Delegation in Belgrade.

Since 1983, the Delegation has made annual appearances at fairs in Zagreb (in September), Novi Sad (May), Skopje (June) and Belgrade (the International Book Fair in October).

The EC presence at the fairs consists of an information stand where booklets and leaflets are handed out, a round table discussion between EC and Yugoslav representatives and businessmen, joint television interviews and other press contacts.

5. INSTITUTIONAL ASPECTS OF THE COOPERATION AGREEMENT

The Agreement provides for the establishment of a Cooperation Council to ensure that the Agreement's aims are attained and that it functions properly. Special provisions have been included to give the Cooperation Council a particular role. One of its functions is to implement unique cooperation procedures which will enable the contracting parties to find joint solutions to any problems which might arise, and so that economic and trade cooperation can develop in accordance with the Agreement, notwithstanding the difficult international economic situation.

The Cooperation Council met in May 1983, June 1984, June 1985, May 1986, July 1986 and December 1987.

(At Yugoslavia's request, an extraordinary session of the Yugoslavia-EC Cooperation Council was held on 15 May 1986, brought about by the Chernobyl radioactivity catastrophe and the Community's subsequent decision to suspend the import of food products from Yugoslavia for health reasons. The suspension decision was lifted on 30 May 1986, and was replaced by a radioactivity tolerance control.)

To back up the Yugoslavia-EC Cooperation Council, a working group was established which had its first meeting on 14-16 October 1985 and has since met at least once a year. Its aim is to monitor implementation of the Agreement. Each year it draws up a memorandum concerning the various fields of economic cooperation. Subgroups have been formed in the areas of statistics, science and technology, and agricultural research.

1987 saw a marked strengthening of EC-Yugoslav relations especially at the political level, as reflected in the visit the President of the Commission, Mr. Jacques Delors, in late July. This led in particular to the adoption by the Cooperation Council on 14 December of a far-reaching Resolution on future relations between the EC and Yugoslavia in which the two sides agreed to engage in a process of reflexion about their future relations with a view to developing still further cooperation between them. The Resolution also requires the working group referred to in the previous paragraph to meet at the political as well as the technical level, in order to carry forward this process of reflexion. As a result of this new impetus, the working group will meet twice at the political level and at least twice at the technical level in 1988.

6. PERMANENT REPRESENTATIONS

Yugoslavia has had a Mission accredited to the Commission in Brussels since 1968 and the Commission opened a Delegation in Belgrade at the end of 1980.

Both Missions are working to ensure the day-to-day functioning of the Cooperation Agreement, to achieve a better understanding of mutual problems and to extend and develop the already fruitful collaboration between the EC and Yugoslavia.

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