

TALSMANDENS GRUPPE  
SPRECHERGRUPPE  
SPOKESMAN'S GROUP  
GROUPE DU PORTE-PAROLE  
GRUPPO DEL PORTAVOCE  
BUREAU VAN DE WOORDVOERDER

**PRESSE-MEDELSE**  
**MITTEILUNG AN DIE PRESSE**  
**PRESS-RELEASE**

**INFORMATION A LA PRESSE**  
**INFORMAZIONE ALLA STAMPA**  
**MEDEDELING AAN DE PERS**

Brussels, 24 January 1975

RESUME OF A SPEECH GIVEN BY MR P.J. LARDINOIS, MEMBER OF THE  
COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES IN CONNECTION WITH  
THE OPENING OF THE "GREEN WEEK" IN BERLIN. 23 JANUARY 1975

Mr Lardinois pronounced himself an optimist on the possibility of obtaining within a few weeks an agreement on agricultural prices for the year 1975-76. In order to reach this agreement a certain dismantling of compensatory monetary amounts would, however, be indispensable. The proposals which the European Commission had submitted to this effect constituted, according to Mr Lardinois, the key to the negotiations on agricultural prices. Their sole aim was to give the farmers of each of the Member States what was due to them following the rise in production costs in 1973 and 1974. Mr Lardinois recalled that in his view the system of compensatory monetary amounts needed to be kept in being so long as the Economic and Monetary Union had not been achieved. The Member States could apply the system of compensatory amounts at each new modification of the value of their currency. However, it would be dangerous, Mr Lardinois said, for Common Market agricultural policy to lose sight of economic facts. One such fact was that for Member States with strong currencies, the rise in production costs was less severe than in the other countries of the Community. These were the circumstances which, said Mr Lardinois, called for a "monetary operation" such as had been proposed by the European Community. Mr Lardinois spoke of the questions of agricultural policy now arising in the beef and veal and sugar sectors as examples of the difficulty of stabilising agricultural production. In the case of sugar the Community was experiencing a period of shortages whereas a few years ago it had been in surplus. The reverse was the case as regards beef and veal. He pointed out that any agricultural policy which sought to satisfy market demand had from time to time to cope with short-term surpluses. This inevitable fact was too often forgotten in these times of plenty. Structural surpluses, which alone posed real problems, remained of course to be overcome.

With regard to the problems on the market in beef and veal, Mr Lardinois recalled the Commission's proposals for special aid for producers. Such aid was necessary to restore the confidence of beef and veal producers. The income supplements provided under the special arrangements for hill farming and for farming in certain less-favoured areas would also help towards this end. For this reason, the Commission urged that the final decision on the introduction of these arrangements should be taken at the same time as a decision on prices. Mr Lardinois stated that a large proportion of the beef and veal stocks had been disposed of by means of special measures within the Community. He welcomed the fact that a further quantity had been sold at world prices in certain non-member countries, including East European countries.

While recalling that the Community imported more beef and veal from Eastern Europe than it exported to those countries, Mr Lardinois declared himself in favour of an expansion of agricultural exports from the Community to that part of Europe. The optimum development of these exports was hindered, in his opinion,

for lack of official contacts between the Community institutions and the East European countries. He added that negotiations on medium or long-term delivery contracts, for example, were preferable to dependence on national governments or certain privileged channels. It was, after all, the Community institutions which were ultimately responsible for agricultural matters, both within the Community and in external dealings.

1971 Council of Ministers

THE COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS AND THE EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES  
AGRICULTURAL MATTERS

The Council of Ministers met on 15 July 1971 in Brussels. The meeting was held in the presence of the President of the Commission, Mr. De Groot, and the President of the Council, Mr. De Groot. The Council discussed the report of the Commission on the progress of negotiations with the East European countries regarding agricultural matters. The Commission reported that negotiations had been held with the Czechoslovak Republic, the German Democratic Republic, and Poland. The Council noted that the Commission had made considerable progress in these negotiations and that it was hoped that agreements would be reached in the near future. The Council also discussed the Commission's proposals for the implementation of the agricultural policy in the Community and the need for closer cooperation with the East European countries. The Council agreed to support the Commission's proposals and to continue negotiations with the East European countries.

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Bruxelles, le 24 janvier 1975.

**RESUME D'UN DISCOURS DE MONSIEUR P.J. LARDINOIS, MEMBRE DE LA COMMISSION  
DES COMMUNAUTÉS EUROPÉENNES, A L'OCCASION DE L'OUVERTURE DE LA "SEMAINE  
VERTE" A BERLIN, LE 23 JANVIER 1975**

Monsieur Lardinois s'est déclaré optimiste quant à la possibilité d'obtenir, dans quelques semaines, un accord sur les prix agricoles pour l'année 1975/76. Pour arriver à cet accord, une certaine démobilisation des montants compensatoires monétaires sera cependant indispensable. Les propositions que la Commission Européenne a soumises à cet effet constituent, selon M. Lardinois, le point principal des négociations sur les prix agricoles. Leur seul but est de donner aux agriculteurs de chacun des pays membres ce qui leur est dû suite à l'augmentation de leurs coûts de production en 1973 et 1974. M. Lardinois a rappelé qu'à son avis les montants compensatoires monétaires devront, en tant que système, être maintenus aussi longtemps que l'Union Economique et Monétaire n'aura pas été réalisée. Les Etats membres pourront, lors de chaque nouvelle modification de la valeur de leur monnaie, appliquer le système des montants compensatoires. Il serait cependant dangereux pour le marché commun agricole, a dit M. Lardinois, de perdre de vue les réalités économiques. Celles-ci se traduisent, dans les pays membres à monnaie forte, par une augmentation des coûts à la production de loin inférieure à celle des autres pays de la Communauté. Ce sont ces circonstances qui, à l'avis de M. Lardinois, rendent nécessaire une "opération monétaire" telle que proposée par la Commission Européenne.

Evoquant les problèmes que connaît actuellement la politique agricole dans les secteurs de la viande bovine et du sucre, M. Lardinois les a pris comme exemples de la difficulté qu'il y a à stabiliser la production agricole. Pour le sucre, la Communauté passe par une situation de pénurie alors qu'elle était excédentaire il y a quelques années. La situation inverse se présente pour la viande bovine. Selon M. Lardinois, toute politique agricole qui tente d'assurer l'approvisionnement doit faire, de temps en temps, face à des excédents conjoncturels. Ce fait, inévitable, est trop souvent oublié dans notre époque d'abondance. Les excédents structurels qui sont les seuls à poser de vrais problèmes restent, bien entendu, à combattre.

Quant aux problèmes qui se posent sur le marché de la viande bovine, M. Lardinois a rappelé les propositions de la Commission prévoyant une aide spéciale aux producteurs. Cette aide est nécessaire pour rétablir la confiance des producteurs de viande bovine. Le complément de revenu qu'offre le régime spécial pour l'agriculture de montagne et de certaines zones défavorisées y contribuera également. Pour cette raison, la Commission insiste pour que la décision finale sur l'introduction de ce régime soit prise en même temps qu'une décision sur les prix. M. Lardinois a indiqué qu'une grande partie des stocks de viande bovine a pu être écoulée par des actions spéciales à l'intérieur de la Communauté. Il a déclaré qu'il n'était pas mécontent d'avoir vu une autre partie vendue aux prix mondiaux dans certains pays tiers dont des pays de l'Europe de l'Est. Tout en rappelant que la Communauté importe plus de viande bovine de l'Europe de l'Est qu'elle n'exporte vers ces pays, M. Lardinois s'est prononcé en faveur d'une expansion des exportations agricoles communautaires vers cette partie de l'Europe. Le développement optimal de ces exportations est freiné, à son avis, par l'absence de relations officielles entre les institutions communautaires et les pays de l'Europe de l'Est. Il a ajouté que des négociations ouvertes, par exemple, sur des contrats de livraison à moyen ou à long terme, sont préférables à la dépendance de gouvernements nationaux ou de certains canaux privilégiés. Ce sont, en fin de compte, les institutions communautaires qui portent la responsabilité finale dans le domaine agricole, tant à l'intérieur que vis-à-vis de l'extérieur.