EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY

Decision on Acceleration

The President of the Council of the European Economic Community has transmitted for the information of the contracting parties the text of the "Decision by the representatives of the Governments of the Member States of the European Economic Community at a meeting of the Council on the subject of the speeding up of the rate of attainment of the objectives of the Treaty". It is stated that the text of this Decision, as reproduced below, is only provisional. The final text will be published later in the "Journal Officiel" of the European Communities.


THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY, MEETING IN THE COUNCIL, CONSIDERING the provisions of the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community,

CONSIDERING the recommendation submitted by the Commission,

DECIDE

I

Article 1

1. Without prejudice to the implementation of the reductions stipulated in Article 14 of the Treaty, the Member States shall, as from 1 July 1960, apply among themselves for each product a customs duty equal to the basic duty reduced by 30 per cent.

Under Article 14 of the Treaty the reduction to be effected on 31 December 1961 will amount to no less than 10 per cent. Before 30 June 1961 the Council shall decide whether, in view of economic developments, a further reduction of 10 per cent will be possible on 31 December of the same year.
2. At the latest on 31 December 1960 the Member States of the European Economic Community shall undertake the first approximation to the common external tariff in accordance with the particulars contained in Article 23 (1a and b). The approximation will be made on the basis of the common external tariff reduced by 20 per cent, but the duties to be applied may not thereby be reduced to a level below that shown in the common external tariff.

3. The commodities on List G shall be subjected to the procedure outlined in paragraph 2 above. Nevertheless, upon request of a Member State, the Commission may decide that for the particularly sensitive commodities of List G the approximation towards the common external tariff shall be effected on the basis of the duties fixed on 2 March 1960.

Article 2

1. Without prejudice to the implementation of the reductions provided for in Article 14 of the Treaty, the Member States shall take the steps necessary to ensure the application of the measures outlined in Article 1 (1, sub-paragraph 1), (2) and (3) not later than 31 December 1960.

2. For the Federal Republic of Germany, approximation towards the common external tariff on 31 December 1960 in accordance with Article 23 of the Treaty shall not have to involve the re-absorption of more than 50 per cent of the reduction in certain duties which were made to meet certain economic developments.

Article 3

1. The various tariff reductions benefiting non-Member States shall be of a provisional nature.

2. The European Economic Community declares its readiness to discuss with the countries concerned the terms of any reciprocity which could be granted to it.

3. The Member States shall be entitled to extend the national reductions to all countries within the limits of the common external tariff, account being taken of the reciprocity granted by the non-Member States. Any extension to all countries already granted will also have to be taken into account.

4. At the tariff negotiations to be held in G.TT at the beginning of 1961, action will be taken to consolidate, wholly or in part, the 20 per cent reduction used in calculating the approximation to the common external tariff.

Article 4

Without prejudice to the provisions of the Treaty, the Member States shall, in accordance with their obligations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and with due regard to the pertinent recommendations of the International Monetary Fund, abolish as soon as possible all quantitative restrictions on the import of industrial goods.
On 31 December 1961 all Member States shall in any case abolish all quantitative restrictions on the import of industrial goods from the other Member States of the EEC.

II

AGRICULTURE

Article 5

1. The measures provided for in the Treaty but not yet implemented shall be put into effect before 31 December 1960.

2. In compliance with Article 38(4) of the Treaty, preparation of the common agricultural policy will be pressed forward with a view to speeding its implementation.

3. Subject to the particulars below, the provisions of Articles 6 and 7 shall, without prejudice to measures resulting from the application of the Treaty in the agricultural sector, enter into effect on 1 January 1961.

4. By 31 December 1960 the Council shall hold one or more sessions to consider the proposals concerning the common agricultural policy referred to in Article 43(2) of the Treaty, particularly with a view to working out a first solution on the Community level for the difficulties caused, in the agricultural and foodstuffs sectors, by different conditions of competition due to differences in general agricultural policy.

To this end the Council hereby lays down the following time-table for work on the common agricultural policy:
- submission of the Commission's final proposals before 30 June;
- first general discussion by the Council before 31 July;
- immediately after this general discussion, creation by the Council of a special committee to prepare its decisions;
- first report of the special committee to the Council before 15 October.

5. Before 31 December 1960 the Council will review the progress made on the points referred to in paragraph 4, sub-paragraph 1.

In the light of this review the Commission shall draft such proposals as may be necessary for the execution or revision of the provisions listed in paragraph 3 above.

These proposals, which can be amended by a unanimous vote in accordance with Article 149, shall be adopted by the Council by the qualified majority stipulated in Article 148(2), sub-paragraph 2, first alternative.
Article 6

1. For the non-liberalized agricultural products the additional reduction shall amount to 5 per cent in such a way that the reduction of duties applicable amongst the Member States in accordance with Article 1, paragraph 1, shall amount to 25 per cent in relation to the basic duty.

2. The measures for the approximation to the common external tariff, to which Article 1(2) refers, will not apply to agricultural products since a common policy is envisaged for those.

Article 7

1. The global quotas opened under Article 33(1) of the Treaty shall be increased annually until the end of the first stage by 20 per cent in relation to the previous year.

2. All global quotas opened under Article 33(2) of the Treaty will for the year 1961 be set at 5.2 per cent of national production.

3. For products to which the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 above have not been applied and for products in respect of which no contract or long-term agreement has been concluded, the Member States shall be required to allow overall imports equal to the average imports for the three years before the entry into force of the Treaty, increased by 10 per cent each year for 1959 and 1960 and until the end of the first stage.

4. The measures referred to in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 shall no longer apply in cases where the Member States are already applying measures leading to a common agricultural policy which would involve the abolition of quotas and tariffs amongst them.

III

Article 8

The present Decision shall be recorded in the minutes of the session of the Council and published in the official gazette of the European Communities.

The Governments of the Member States shall, within one month, inform the Secretary-General of the Council whether under their municipal legislation special procedures are required in order to implement the present Decision; where this is the case they will inform the Secretary-General without delay when these procedures have been completed.

Brussels,
12 May 1960
ANNEX

In the course of the same session the Member States of the European Economic Community, meeting in the Council, adopted the following declarations of intention:

DECLARATION OF INTENTION CONCERNING INTERNAL ACCELERATION

The Council confirms its intention to proceed as expeditiously as possible with a more rapid implementation of the Treaty, not only so far as the customs union is concerned but concurrently in all sectors of economic integration.

The Council lays special emphasis on its desire to hasten the implementation of measures in the social field, especially in connexion with the vocational training of workers and their freedom of movement, with the application of social security provisions to those categories of workers most immediately concerned, and with equal pay for men and women workers.

The Council recalls its intention to pursue in the fields of competition, transport and the right of establishment a policy in step with developments in the other sectors of the Common Market.

The Council attaches particular importance to the economic development of the associated overseas countries and territories and will ensure that the measures necessary to enable these countries to draw the fullest benefit from their association will be taken.

The Council requests the Commission to submit to it within three months concrete proposals on these matters.

DECLARATION OF INTENTION CONCERNING EXTERNAL RELATIONS

It is in the spirit and the intention of the European Economic Community, whilst safeguarding the needs of its internal development, to pursue, vis-à-vis non-member countries and in particular vis-à-vis the other European countries, a liberal policy which takes their anxieties into account. In this respect the Council re-affirms the intentions set forth in its Decision of 24 November 1959.

The Community is ready to undertake active negotiations with all the States or groups of States who are members of the Committee on Trade Problems.

In this setting, the negotiations to be opened with the Member countries of the European Free Trade Association in particular should be directed towards maintaining and, if possible, increasing the traditional trade between the European Economic Community and the countries of the European Free Trade Association, subject always to conformity with the rules of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.
Efforts at co-operation on these lines, with a view to the reciprocal reduction of trade barriers, must respect the principles of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. It is on this basis, and without calling into question the European Economic Community's establishment of the customs union on which it is founded, that co-operation can be sought, largely in the field of tariffs.

The European Economic Community recalls its Decision of 24 November 1959, in which it proposed that a Contact Committee be set up which could be used to observe trade trends and through which the appropriate means to meet any difficulties could be found. This matter has been referred to the Committee on Trade Problems.