

Council press release on the arrangements for cooperation between the Council and the Commission (29 January 1966)

Caption: On 29 January 1966, after an extraordinary meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Six in Luxembourg, chaired by Pierre Werner, a press release is issued on the decisions taken on future relations between the Council and the European Commission with a view to bringing an end to the empty chair crisis which has paralysed Community operations since the breakdown of negotiations on the night of 30 June 1965.

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Dactylographié.

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Close cooperation between the Council and the Commission is essential for the functioning and development of the Community.

In order to improve and strengthen this cooperation at every level, the Council considers that the following practical methods should be applied, these methods to be adopted by joint agreement on the basis of Article 162 of the EEC Treaty without prejudice to the respective powers and remits of the two Institutions.

1. Before adopting a proposal of particular importance, the Commission should establish the appropriate contacts with the governments of the Member States, through the Permanent Representatives, without that procedure compromising the right to propose legislation which the Commission derives from the Treaty.

2. Proposals and all other official documents addressed by the Commission to the Council and to the Member States may not be made public until the recipients have had formal notice of them and are in possession of the texts.

The Official Journal should be adjusted so as to show clearly which acts are binding. The methods to be employed for publishing texts whose publication is required will be adopted as part of the current work on the reorganisation of the Official Journal.

3. The letters of credence of Heads of Missions of non-member states accredited to the Community will be presented jointly to the President of the Council and to the President of the Commission, meeting together for that purpose.

4. The Council and the Commission will inform each other rapidly and in full of any approaches relating to fundamental questions made to either institution by the representatives of non-member states.

5. Pursuant to Article 162, the Council and the Commission will consult each other on the advisability of, the procedure for, and the nature of, any links which the Commission might establish with international organisations pursuant to Article 229 of the Treaty.

6. Cooperation between the Council and the Commission on the Community's information policy, which was the subject of the Council's discussions on 24 September 1963, will be strengthened in such a way that the programme of the Press and Information Service will be drawn up and carried out jointly in accordance with procedures which are to be determined at a later date and which may include the establishment of an *ad hoc* body.

7. Under the financial regulations relating to the drawing up and implementation of the Communities' budgets, the Council and the Commission will determine the means for more effective control over the commitment, authorisation and implementation of Community expenditure.

Luxembourg, 29 January 1966

Majority voting procedure

I. Where, in the event of decisions which may be taken by majority vote on a proposal from the Commission, very important interests of one or more partners are at stake, the members of the Council will endeavour, within a reasonable time, to reach solutions which can be adopted by all the members of the Council while respecting their mutual interests and those of the Community, in accordance with Article 2 of the Treaty.

II. With regard to the preceding paragraph, the French Delegation considers that, where very important

interests are at stake, the discussion must be continued until unanimous agreement is reached.

III. The six delegations note that there is a difference of opinion on what should be done in the event of a failure to reach complete agreement.

IV. The six delegations nevertheless consider that that difference of opinion does not prevent the Community's work from being resumed in accordance with the normal procedure.