

Conclusions of the Dublin European Council: extract concerning convergence and budgetary questions (29 and 30 November 1979)

Caption: At the Dublin European Council held on 29 and 30 November 1979, the Heads of State or Government consider in depth the problem of the British contribution to the Community budget.

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Dublin European Council (29 and 30 November 1979)

Conclusions of the Presidency

[...]

Convergence and budgetary questions

The European Council held an exchange of views on convergence and budgetary questions. They reaffirmed the conclusions reached at their meetings in Brussels' and Paris' that achievement of the convergence of economic performances requires measures for which the Member States concerned are primarily responsible, that Community policies can and must play a supporting role within the framework of increased solidarity and that steps must be taken to strengthen the economic potential of the less prosperous countries of the Community.

To these ends the European Council expressed its determination to promote the adoption of measures to improve the working of Community policies, to reinforce those policies most likely to favour the harmonious growth of the economies of the Member States and to reduce the disparities between these economies. They further declared the need, particularly with a view to the enlargement of the Community and necessary provisions for Mediterranean agriculture, to strengthen Community action in the structural field.

The European Council has carried out a thorough examination of the problem of the British contribution to the Community budget.

It was agreed that the Commission's proposals concerning the adaptation of the financial mechanism could constitute a useful basis for a solution which would respect Community achievement and solidarity. This solution should not result in raising the 1% VAT ceiling.

In addition, the Commission is requested to pursue the examination of proposals for developing supplementary Community measures within the United Kingdom which will contribute to greater economic convergence; and which will also lead to a greater participation by the United Kingdom in Community expenditure.

The Commission is asked to make proposals which will enable the Council of Ministers to pursue the search for appropriate solutions to be reached at the next meeting of the European Council. The President of the Council will convene the European Council as soon as the conditions for such a meeting have been fulfilled.

The European Council recognized the need to reach rapid Community solutions to the problems of fisheries, energy and organization of the market in sheepmeat within the framework of the principles laid down in the Treaty.

[...]