

Council conclusions on the British contribution (30 May 1980)

Caption: On 30 May 1980, the Foreign Affairs Council reaches an agreement on the British contribution to the Community budget.

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Council conclusions of 30 May 1980 on the United Kingdom contribution to the financing of the Community budget

1. The net United Kingdom contribution for 1980 will be calculated on the basis of the present Commission estimate (1 784 MEUA). 1 175 MEUA will be deducted from this figure. This leaves a United Kingdom contribution of 609 MEUA for 1980.
2. The net United Kingdom contribution for 1981 will be calculated on the basis of the Commission estimate of 2 140 MEUA. The United Kingdom's 1980 net contribution will be increased by a percentage equal to the difference between 1 784 and 2 140 MEUA, namely 19, 9 % or 121 MEUA. The net United Kingdom contribution for 1981 therefore becomes 730 MEUA.
3. The United Kingdom contribution, based on the above calculations, is reduced for 1980 and 1981 by 2 585 MEUA (1 175 plus 1 410).
4. If the United Kingdom's actual contributions for 1980 and 1981 are higher than 1 784 and 2 140 MEUA respectively the difference will be split: for the first year 25 % will be borne by the United Kingdom and 75 % by the other eight member states. For the second year: increase from 730 to 750 MEUA to be borne in full by the United Kingdom; from 750 to 850 MEUA, 50 % to be borne by the United Kingdom and 50 % by the other eight member states; above 850 MEUA, 25 % to be borne by the United Kingdom and 75 % by the others.
5. Payments over the period 1980 to 1982 should be made by means of the adapted financial mechanism and the supplementary measures proposed by the Commission. The financial mechanism will continue to function automatically until the end of 1982.
6. The credits are entered in the budget of the following year, following the precedent of the financial mechanism.

At the request of the United Kingdom the Council can decide each year on a proposal from the Commission to make advances to permit the accelerated implementation of the supplementary measures.
7. For 1982, the Community is pledged to resolve the problem by means of structural changes (Commission mandate, to be fulfilled by the end of June 1981: the examination will concern the development of community policies, without calling into question the common financial responsibility for these policies which are financed from the Community's own resources, or the basic principles of the common agricultural policy. Taking account of the situations and interests of all member states, this examination will aim to prevent the recurrence of unacceptable situations for any of them). If this is not achieved, the Commission will make proposals along the lines of the 1980 to 1981 solution and the council will act accordingly.
8. The Council reaffirms the conclusions adopted by it (in its composition of ministers of economic affairs and finance) on 11 February 1980 (see annex to 5081/80 pv/cons 5 ecofin 9), which included reference to the 1 % VAT own resources ceiling.
9. It is important for the future well-being of the Community that day to day decisions and policy making should function effectively, particularly during the period when the review provided for in paragraph 7 is under way. With this objective in mind all member states undertake to do their best to ensure that Community decisions are taken expeditiously and in particular that decisions on agricultural price fixing are taken in time for the next marketing year.