



PRIME MINISTER

Prime Minister 1 *SI*  
 Content for this transfer of  
 responsibility to go ahead, and  
 to be announced by means of  
 the attached ?

*Yes*  
*mt*

*Wh*  
*4/3*

MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CAP REGIMES FOR TOBACCO,  
COTTON, FLAX AND HEMP AND SILKWORMS

Peter Walker and I have agreed, subject to your approval, that responsibility for the EC Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) regimes for tobacco, cotton, flax, hemp and silkworms should be transferred to the Agriculture Ministers (though general policy responsibility for these commodities is to remain with my Department). A copy of the memorandum of understanding setting out the terms of the proposed transfer is attached.

2 We believe that it is right to make this change because decisions on price fixing under the CAP are determined primarily by agricultural policy considerations, in respect of which the expertise and financial responsibility lie in MAFF. Further, it is the Agriculture Ministers who represent UK interests at EC agricultural meetings.

3 If you agree I suggest that the transfer could be announced by means of an arranged Parliamentary Answer, on the lines of the attached draft.

4 I am sending copies of this minute and of the attachments to



Peter Walker, Jim Prior, George Younger, Nicholas Edwards and to  
Sir Robert Armstrong.

PJ

P J

4 March 1982

Department of Industry



Ms Hayter  
Please type up the  
necessaries for answer on Wednesday.

TGR  
8/3

DRAFT (22.2.82) PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION AND ANSWER FOR THE  
PRIME MINISTER

Ministerial Responsibilities

Q. To ask the Prime Minister which government department has responsibility for UK participation in the Common Agricultural Policy regimes for tobacco, cotton, flax, hemp and silkworms.

A. The Agriculture Ministers (~~will~~) (have), with effect from 5 March 1982....., assume(d) responsibility for the EC Common Agricultural Policy regimes in these commodities, and ~~will~~ act as sponsor Departments for United Kingdom producers, if any. The Secretary of State for Industry will continue to have general policy responsibility for these commodities and there will be close liaison between all the Departments to ensure that full account is taken of the interests both of any UK producers and of the user industries.

[Reference: Department of Industry CT 9279]



INTER-DEPARTMENTAL MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CAP REGIMES FOR TOBACCO,  
COTTON, FLAX, HEMP AND SILKWORMS

It is proposed that responsibility for EEC Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) regimes for tobacco, cotton, flax, hemp and silk worms be transferred from the Secretary of State for Industry to the Ministers of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. The Secretary of State for Industry will, however, retain general policy responsibility for the raw materials concerned.

Background

At present the sponsorship role of the Department of Industry for the tobacco and textile industries includes the policy lead on the EEC CAP regimes for the necessary raw materials. However, since the representation of the UK interests is undertaken by the Minister of Agriculture and his staff at most EEC Agricultural meetings, etc, this is an inconvenient arrangement.

The Proposed MAFF Role

As from the agreed date MAFF will undertake:

- a. UK representation at Management Committee and Council working groups;
- b. briefing for the Special Committee on Agriculture and the Agricultural Council;
- c. preparation of explanatory memoranda; and associated matters, including answering Parliamentary questions.

MAFF will act as sponsor of domestic producers (if any) of these commodities.

A continuing and close liaison will be maintained between the departments concerned to ensure that full account is taken of the interests of the United Kingdom user industries.

Consultation

After discussion with DoI, MAFF will either consult UK industry representatives directly, or through DoI if this seems more appropriate. DoI will continue to receive copies of agendas and other documents (including briefs) for meetings where these issues are to be discussed, and all 24-hour reports; their views will be sought on new initiatives by the Commission or by other Member States. DoI will attend negotiating meetings in a back-up capacity if they consider this desirable.

Transfer of Functions

Since the function is non-statutory, a Transfer of Functions Order is not required; but an appropriate announcement will be required by means of an arranged Parliamentary Answer. This will confirm that the Agriculture Ministers will answer to Parliament on the new responsibility of their Ministries.

4 MAR 1982

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