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INFO ROUTINE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY POSTS

FRAME GENERAL

COREPER (AMBASSADORS) : 7 JUNE : PREPARATION FOR EUROPEAN COUNCIL

SUMMARY

1. PRESIDENCY OUTLINE THEMES FOR DISCUSSION AT THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL ON FAMILIAR LINES. MAIN SUBJECTS, EMU AND SOCIAL DIMENSION. SHORT DISCUSSIONS ENVISAGED ON DEBT AND ENVIRONMENT. CONCLUSIONS ALSO TO COVER INTERNAL MARKET (INCLUDING TAX), AUDIOVISUAL, FRONTIERS, RESEARCH, CITIZENS EUROPE AND EXTERNAL MATTERS. SOCIAL DIMENSION DISCUSSION TO BE PREPARED BY SOCIAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL ON 12 JUNE.

DETAIL

2. WESTENDORP (PRESIDENCY) SAID THAT A RATHER THAN LONGER TIME THAN USUAL WAS BEING PROVIDED FOR THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL TO PERMIT IN DEPTH DEBATE ON THE MOST IMPORTANT QUESTIONS. THE PRESIDENCY SAW THREE CATEGORIES OF SUBJECTS FOR THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL:

A. PRIORITY QUESTIONS FOR FULL DEBATE. THERE WERE TWO SUBJECTS IN THIS CATEGORY: EMU, ON THE BASIS OF THE DELORS REPORT AND THE INFORMAL MEETING OF FINANCE MINISTERS AT S'AGARO: AND THE SOCIAL DIMENSION. THE LATTER WOULD TAKE ACCOUNT OF VARIOUS ELEMENTS INCLUDING THE COMMISSION'S DRAFT CHARTER AND THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE SOCIAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL ON 12 JUNE. THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SOCIAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL HOPED HIS COLLEAGUES WOULD BE READY FOR A DEBATE ON THE SOCIAL DIMENSION IN PREPARATION FOR THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL. IN ADDITION THE COMMISSION WOULD BE PRODUCING REPORTS ON CONDITIONS OF WORK AND ON THE SOCIAL INTEGRATION OF IMMIGRANTS, WHICH WERE RELEVANT TO THIS ITEM.

B. SUBJECTS FOR SHORT DEBATE LEADING TO BRIEF CONCRETE CONCLUSIONS. IN THIS CATEGORY FELL THE QUESTION OF MIDDLE INCOME DEBT AND THE ENVIRONMENT. ON THE LATTER SUBJECT THE PRESIDENCY WOULD EXPLAIN WHAT HAD BEEN ACHIEVED AND THE COMMISSION WOULD GIVE A PRESENTATION ON THEIR PROPOSALS FOR AN ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCY.

C. SUBJECTS WHICH WOULD BE DISCUSSED ONLY IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CONCLUSIONS ON THE MORNING OF 27 JUNE. THESE WERE: THE INTERNAL MARKET (BALANCE SHEET OF WHT HAS BEEN DONE AND WHAT REMAINS TO BE DONE INCLUDING TAX QUESTIONS), AUDIOVISUAL (WORK ON THE CONFERENCE ON AN AUDIOVISUAL EUREKA), PHYSICAL FRONTIERS (TO TAKE NOTE OF THE REPORT OF THE COORDINATORS GROUP), RESEARCH (TO TAKE NOTE OF THE FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME), CITIZENS EUROPE (BALANCE SHEET AND WHAT REMAINS TO BE DONE), AND EXTERNAL MATTERS (EFTA, EASTERN COUNTRIES, URUGUAY ROUND, ACP NEGOTIATIONS AND PERHAPS OTHER POINTS).

3. THERE WOULD ALSO BE CONCLUSIONS ON POLITICAL COOPERATION, DETAILS OF WHICH WOULD BE AVAILABLE AFTER THE CURRENT MEETING OF THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE. THE PROPOSED 'SYNTHESIS' PAPER ON EASTERN EUROPE WAS BEING PREPARED BY THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE AND BY THE COUNSELLORS' GROUP. COREPER AND THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE SHOULD HAVE A JOINT LUNCH ON 26 JUNE TO APPROVE THE PAPER. THE CHAIRMAN OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL WOULD CONTINUE HIS CONTACTS WITH COLLEAGUES AND WOULD THEN WRITE ROUND ON THE THEMES FOR DISCUSSION AND HOW HE INTENDED TO HANDLE THEM.

4. TROJAN (COMMISSION) SAID THE COMMISSION WOULD CONTRIBUTE SUCH PAPERS AS THE PRESIDENCY WISHED. THE DELORS REPORT WAS ALREADY ON THE TABLE. HE CONFIRMED THAT FACTUAL REPORTS ON CONDITIONS OF WORK AND ON THE INTEGRATION OF IMMIGRANTS WHICH HAD BEEN REQUESTED BY THE HANOVER EUROPEAN COUNCIL WERE ON THE AGENDA OF THE COMMISSION TODAY AND WOULD BE TRANSMITTED TO THE COUNCIL BEFORE 26 JUNE. THEY WOULD PROVIDE USEFUL BACKGROUND BUT WERE NOT REPORTS TO THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL AS SUCH.

5. UNGERER (GERMANY) ASKED WHETHER THERE WOULD BE A DOCUMENT ON AUDIOVISUAL QUESTIONS. WESTENDORP SAID THAT THE PRESIDENCY'S INTENTION WAS FOR THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL TO TAKE NOTE OF WHAT HAD BEEN DONE (IN PARTICULAR AT THE FIRST MEETING OF CO-ORDINATORS IN MADRID ON 5 JUNE) AND WHAT REMAINED TO BE DONE. THERE WAS NO NEED FOR A DOCUMENT. TROJAN SAID THERE WERE TWO IMPORTANT ASPECTS WHICH NEEDED TO BE CONSIDERED, THOUGH NOT NECESSARILY AT THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL: THE QUESTION OF GREATER COOPERATION WITH THE US OVER STANDARDS FOR HDTV, A DECISION ON WHICH HAD BEEN POSTPONED AT THE LAST MEETING OF THE CCIR: AND THE QUESTION, WHICH WAS MAINLY FOR THE FRENCH, OF WHICH COUNTRIES SHOULD BE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE AUDIOVISUAL CONFERENCE IN PARIS. DELORS MIGHT SAY MORE ABOUT THESE POINTS AT HIS LUNCH WITH AMBASSADORS TOMORROW.

6. ESPER LARSEN (DENMARK) ASKED WHAT CONCLUSIONS THE PRESIDENCY

ENVISAGED AT THIS EUROPEAN COUNCIL ON THE SOCIAL DIMENSION. HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE COMMISSION'S INTENTION WAS TO SEEK AGREEMENT ON THE SOCIAL CHARTER UNDER THE FRENCH PRESIDENCY. WOULD THE CONCLUSIONS OF MADRID BE GUIDELINES FOR FURTHER WORK? WESTENDORP SAID HE HAD NO INFORMATION AT THIS STAGE. THE MATTER WOULD BE DISCUSSED IN THE SOCIAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL ON 12 JUNE.

7. I SAID THAT THE QUESTION OF DEBT WAS IN OUR VIEW PURELY A MATTER FOR MEMBER STATES, NOT FOR THE COMMUNITY. I HOPED THAT THIS DISTINCTION WOULD BE MADE CLEAR IN ANY DOCUMENTS OR PRESENTATIONS BY THE PRESIDENCY. OTHERWISE THERE WAS A RISK OF AN INSTITUTIONAL DEBATE. WESTENDORP CONFIRMED THAT THE PRESIDENCY HAD TAKEN THIS POINT ON BOARD. I SAID THAT THE PRIME MINISTER WAS STILL REFLECTING ON WHETHER TO RAISE THE QUESTION OF FRAUD. THE OUTCOME OF THE ECOFIN DISCUSSION ON 19 JUNE WOULD BE IMPORTANT. IF WE WERE INTENDING TO RAISE IT WE WOULD INFORM THE PRESIDENCY. WESTENDORP SAID HE HOPED THAT THE ECOFIN COUNCIL WOULD REACH SATISFACTORY CONCLUSIONS ON THIS SUBJECT. COMMENTING ON THE PRESIDENCY'S THIRD CATEGORY OF SUBJECTS I SAID WE WERE AVERSE TO THE IDEA OF INCLUDING IN THE CONCLUSIONS MATTERS WHICH HAD NOT BEEN DISCUSSED AT ALL. WESTENDORP SAID THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF INCLUDING CONCLUSIONS WHICH HAD NOT BEEN DISCUSSED. THESE ITEMS WOULD BE DISCUSSED ON THE BASIS OF THE DRAFT CONCLUSIONS ON THE SECOND DAY. FINALLY I SOUGHT CONFIRMATION THAT THE DOCUMENTS ON CONDITIONS AT WORK AND SOCIAL INTEGRATION OF IMMIGRANTS WERE PURELY BACKGROUND PAPERS PROVIDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REMIT GIVEN AT HANOVER AND THAT THEY WOULD NOT BE DEALT WITH IN THE CONCLUSIONS. WESTENDORP AND TROJAN CONFIRMED THAT THIS WAS THE INTENTION.

7. CALAMIA (ITALY) SAID HE HOPED HEADS OF GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT BE ASKED TO TAKE POSITION ON MATTERS IN THE DRAFT CONCLUSIONS WHICH WERE SENSITIVE AND WHICH HAD NOT BEEN DISCUSSED BEFOREHAND. THIS WAS A DANGEROUS PROCEDURE. WESTENDORP SAID THAT THE PRESIDENCY HAD NO PROCEDURAL INNOVATIONS IN MIND.

8. NIEMAN (NETHERLANDS) ASKED WHAT GROUND DELORS WOULD COVER IN INTRODUCING THE DISCUSSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT. TROJAN SAID THERE WOULD BE NO DOCUMENTS. DELORS WOULD GIVE A SHORT INTRODUCTION WHICH WOULD COVER THE PROPOSED ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCY AND PROBABLY TROPICAL FORESTS, THOUGH THIS WOULD DEPEND ON THE COMMISSION'S DISCUSSION TODAY.

9. DE SCHOUTHEETE (BELGIUM) SAID THAT THE REPORT BY THE COORDINATORS ON FREE MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE SHOULD GO TO COREPER AND THE

FOREIGN AFFAIRS COUNCIL BEFORE GOING TO THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL.

10. MATHIAS (PORTUGAL) SAID THAT IF THE SYNTHESIS PAPER NEEDED DISCUSSION THIS SHOULD TAKE PLACE AT A SEPARATE MEETING, NOT AT LUNCH. ESPER LARSEN AGREED. WESTENDORP SAID THE DOCUMENT WOULD HAVE BEEN PREPARED WELL IN ADVANCE BY THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE ON THE ONE HAND AND BY THE COUNSELLORS GROUP ON THE OTHER. COREPER WOULD DISCUSS IT ON 15 JUNE. HE DID NOT ENVISAGE SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION OVER THE LUNCH ON 26 JUNE.

11. NIEMAN AND I ASKED WHAT THE PRESIDENCY HAD IN MIND ON THE RESEARCH FRAMEWORK. I POINTED OUT THAT THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSAL ON THE FUTURE OF THE FRAMEWORK WAS NOT DUE UNTIL THE END OF JULY. ANY CONCLUSIONS ADOPTED BY THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL WOULD HAVE TO AVOID PREJUDGING THE OUTCOME ON THIS QUESTION. WESTENDORP SAID THAT THE PRESIDENCY HAD IN MIND A VERY GENERAL CONCLUSION WHICH WOULD NOTE THE EXTENT OF WORK DONE AND ENCOURAGE THE COUNCIL TO GET ON WITH THE JOB OF CONSIDERING FUTURE OF THE FRAMEWORK.

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