



E European Communities Commission

Background Report

ISEC/B25/82

20 Kensington Palace Gardens
London W8 4QQ
Telephone: 01-727 8090

June 3, 1982

FALKLAND ISLAND CRISIS : OUTLINE OF COMMUNITY ACTION

- April 2 1982: Declaration of EEC foreign ministers condemning armed intervention in Falkland Islands by Argentina. They urgently appeal to the Government of Argentina to withdraw its forces and to comply with UN Security Council resolution calling on it to withdraw its troops from the Islands and continue the search for a diplomatic solution.
- April 6 1982: Statement by Commission condemning the armed intervention of Argentina against a territory linked to the Community. The Commission expresses its solidarity with the U.K. and urges the Argentinian Government to implement Resolution 502 of the Security Council.
- April 10 1982: EEC foreign ministers announce a complete embargo on arms and military equipment destined for Argentina. They also announce that necessary measures will be undertaken to ban all EEC imports coming from Argentina, this in conformity with Article 224 or 113 of the Treaty of Rome. A decision as to when the embargo would take place would be taken after Easter.
- April 16 1982: EEC foreign ministers make an unanimous decision to suspend imports of all products originating in Argentina. The decision, which takes the form of a Regulation (Regulation 877/82) is effective from April 16 and valid until May 17 1982. The Regulation does not apply in the following cases:
- products accompanied by import documents issued before the date of its entry into force which mention Argentina as a country of origin;
 - products to be imported in execution of contracts concluded before that date;
 - products in course of shipment to the Community at that date.
- A similar decision is taken making sure that the embargo comprises also products covered by ECSC Treaty and originating in Argentina.
- April 20 1982: Informal meeting of EEC foreign ministers in Brussels on Falklands crisis. The ten agree on four conclusions:
- reaffirmation of their solidarity with the UK in the Falklands crisis;
 - confirmation of the Community's desire for full implementation of UN Security Council resolution 502 calling for withdrawal of the Argentine forces;
 - a declaration calling for a peaceful solution to the crisis;
 - strong support for Mr Haig's continuing efforts to encourage a settlement.

.../

- April 22 1982: European Parliament approves by 203 votes to 28 a resolution condemning the Argentine invasion of the islands and backing the UN demand for the withdrawal of all Argentine forces. It praises the quick action taken by the ten EEC member states to impose an embargo on imports from Argentina and recommends the EEC Commission and the Council of Ministers to review the possibility of taking further measures.
- May 12 1982: European Commission makes a formal proposal to EEC foreign ministers to extend by another month until June 17 the Community's ban on imports from Argentina if UN Security Council resolution 502 is not respected by the Argentine Government.
- European Parliament approves by 131 votes to 79 (11 abstentions) a resolution asking EEC governments to agree to maintain sanctions against Argentina if no peaceful solution to the conflict is reached by May 16, when current sanctions expire.
- May 17 1982: EEC foreign ministers agree to renew trade sanctions against Argentina for a week, i.e. till May 24. Italy and Ireland decide to opt out of the embargo but promise that they will do nothing to undermine the agreement. Denmark argues that sanctions should be left to national governments and promises to pass legislation through its parliament to extend the ban.
- May 24 1982: EEC foreign ministers decide to continue trade sanctions against Argentina indefinitely although Ireland and Italy decide to remain out of the arrangement. Denmark will operate the ban independently because of domestic opposition to maintaining it through a Community regulation. -----

Note: Although Argentina has not imposed a general ban on imports, it is thought to be using the system of import licences to discriminate against imports of certain products coming from the Community. -----

EEC - Argentine trade (1000 ECU)

<u>1980</u>		
<u>Imports to EEC</u>		<u>Exports to Argentina</u>
1 777 299	The Nine	2 220 875
483 380	Germany	905 369
213 212	France	311 206
358 307	Italy	457 100
311 709	Netherlands	131 693
111 921	Bel./Luxembourg	89 997
201 073	U.K.	288 535
2 135	Ireland	7 844
95 562	Denmark	29 131
 <u>1981 (Jan-Sept)</u> 		
311 980	Germany	700 187
171 964	France	274 329
256 695	Italy	310 692
270 590	Netherlands	94 563
94 763	Bel./Luxembourg	53 971
5 226	Ireland	9 428
53 228	Denmark	27 548