



Ref. A084/2983

PRIME MINISTER  

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Cabinet: Community Affairs

The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary will report on the Development Council on 6 November, at which the United Kingdom was represented by the Minister for Overseas Development. Discussion focussed mainly on the famine in Ethiopia and other East African countries. The Council passed a resolution welcoming the allocation of 32 mecu of aid, but concern was expressed about the need for greater co-ordination of the relief measures and about the need to cater for the medium and longer term.

2. The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary may also give a brief progress report on the discussions about budget discipline. Some progress was made at this week's meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and there is now a reasonable prospect of an agreement being endorsed by the Finance Council on 12 November.

3. In the absence of a Department of Trade and Industry Minister, there will be no formal report on the Research Council on 6 November, at which the United Kingdom was represented by the Minister for Information Technology. In fact, this was a low key Council which mandated the Presidency and the Commission to have bilateral discussions on eight research and development programmes on which decisions are due to be taken at the next Council on 19 December.

4. The Transport Council will meet on 8 November, the Finance Council on 12 November, the Foreign Affairs and Agriculture Councils on 12-13 November, and the Energy Council on 13 November.

RIA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

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