

II

(Acts whose publication is not obligatory)

COUNCIL

COUNCIL DECISION

of 22 July 1974

establishing a consultation procedure for cooperation agreements between
Member States and third countries

(74/393/EEC)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN
COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European
Economic Community, and in particular Articles 113
and 235 thereof;

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission;

Having regard to the Opinion of the European Parlia-
ment⁽¹⁾;

Whereas it should be ensured that 'cooperation' agree-
ments between Member States and third countries and
any commitments and measures planned in the frame-
work of such agreements are in accordance with the
common policies, and with the common commercial
policy in particular;

Whereas it is desirable to facilitate the exchange of
information and views in the field of cooperation in
order to identify problems of common interest and, in
view of these, where appropriate to encourage coordi-
nation of the activities of Member States with regard
to the third countries concerned;

Whereas the negotiation and implementation of such
agreements should therefore be subject to a prior
consultation procedure,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

1. Member States shall inform the Commission and
the other Member States:

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 23, 8. 3. 1974, p. 9.

— of agreements relating to economic and industrial
cooperation — hereinafter referred to as coopera-
tion agreements — which they propose to negoti-
ate or renew with third countries;

— of commitments and measures which are proposed
by the authorities of the Member States concerned
as part of cooperation agreements and which may
affect the common policies, and in particular of
those which may affect trade; this exchange of
information shall be carried out where appropriate
before examination of these commitments and
measures within the inter-governmental or joint
committees set up by these agreements.

2. Member States shall forward to the Commission
and to the other Member States the texts of coopera-
tion agreements initialled with third countries.

They shall inform the Commission and the other
Member States if their authorities assume or adopt
under cooperation agreements any such commitments
or measures as are referred to in paragraph 1.

Article 2

1. If so requested by a Member State or proposed
by the Commission within eight working days of the
receipt of the information referred to in Article 1 (1),
this information shall be the subject of prior consulta-
tion with the other Member States and the Commis-
sion within three weeks of its receipt.

Where the matter is urgent, consultation shall take place without delay.

2. If so requested by a Member State or proposed by the Commission, consultation on the agreements, commitments and measures referred to in Article 1 may be instituted at any time, except in the case of matters on which consultation has already taken place and on which no new facts are available.

Article 3

The main purpose of the consultations provided for in Article 2 shall be :

- (a) to ensure that the agreements, commitments and measures referred to in Article 1 are consistent with common policies and in particular the common commercial policy;
- (b) to facilitate the exchange of information and views in order to identify problems of common interest and, in view of these, to encourage coordination, where appropriate, of the activities of the Member States with regard to the third countries concerned;
- (c) to examine the advisability of unilateral measures which could be taken by the Community in the fields covered by Article 113 of the Treaty in order to promote cooperation projects.

Article 4

1. The consultations provided for in Article 2 shall take place within a select committee composed of representatives of each Member State and of the Commission. It will be chaired by a representative from the Commission and the necessary secretarial services shall be provided by the General Secretariat of the Council.

When, however, these consultations relate to arrangements, commitments and measures in the field of credit insurance, credit guarantees and financial

credits, they shall take place within the Policy Coordination Group for Credit Insurance, Credit Guarantees and Financial Credits set up by the Council Decision of 27 September 1960 ⁽¹⁾.

The exchange of information and coordination of the activities of the Committee and the Group mentioned above shall be suitably arranged to give an overall picture of the content and functioning of cooperation agreements.

2. The Member States and the Commission shall take all measures necessary to ensure the proper functioning of the consultation procedure, and in particular to safeguard the confidential nature of the information they receive in this connection.

Article 5

Articles 1, 2 and 3 shall apply without prejudice to any special Community rules or procedures already in existence.

Article 6

Member States shall ensure in an appropriate manner that cooperation agreements which they propose to conclude or renew with third countries are on no account invoked or interpreted as affecting the obligations devolving on them by virtue of the Treaties establishing the European Communities.

Article 7

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels, 22 July 1974.

For the Council

The President

J. SAUVAGNAGUES

⁽¹⁾ OJ No 66, 27. 10. 1960, p. 1339/60.