

## Aide-mémoire from the representation of Ireland to the European Communities (Brussels, 12 November 1968)

**Caption:** On 12 November 1968, the Representation of Ireland to the European Communities submits an aide-mémoire to the European Commission outlining the position of the Irish authorities on the export of cattle and beef to the Six.

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## Aide-mémoire from the Mission of Ireland (Brussels, 12 November 1968)

The Mission of Ireland to the European Communities wishes to refer to recent press reports to the effect that the Commission is carrying out an overall survey of the Community's external policy as regards trade in cattle and beef. The Mission refers further to the Council of Ministers' meeting of 4th and 5th November at which, it is understood, the possibility of trade concessions to a specified third country on these products was under discussion as a result of which the Commission has been asked to submit proposals.

In this connection, the Mission wishes to draw the attention of the Commission to the many representations, both oral and written made in the past by the Irish authorities concerning the severe decline in traditional Irish cattle and beef exports to the EC as a result of the operation of the Common Agricultural Policy. The following figures are sufficient to indicate the extent of this decline;

	1965	1966	1967	January 1967	-
June 1968					
Live cattle exports from Ireland to EEC (value, £000)				7223	3991
	1055	712	438		
Beef exports from Ireland to EEC (value £000)				5308	2179
	452	67			665

This trend was made abundantly clear at discussions on 13th September, 1968, between Irish experts and those of the Commission. The question of the concessions already existing in respect of another third country was also adverted to. The Irish side still await an official reaction from the Commission as to how the impact of the Common Agricultural Policy on Irish cattle and beef exports to the Community might be alleviated on the basis of those discussions or otherwise.

In the light of the foregoing, the Mission desires to emphasise the concern of the Irish authorities lest the interests of yet another third country should receive more favourable consideration than those of Ireland. Accordingly, the Mission would welcome the Commission's assurance that in any overall reassessment of Community foreign trade policy on cattle and beef, or in consideration of any concession to a third country, whether within or outside the existing market regulations, the Irish position will be so safeguarded that Ireland's traditional exports of cattle and beef to the Community will be restored.