

Minutes of the first meeting of the Commercial Affairs Committee (29 November 1952)

Caption: Minutes of the first meeting of the Commercial Affairs Committee, held in Luxembourg on 29 November 1952. Established by the Council Decision of 10 September 1952, and given the task of considering questions related to the transitional provisions, this committee remained in office as a 'Permanent Technical Subcommittee' when the Coordination Committee (Cocor) was established. It was, therefore, the first 'Technical Committee' established within the Council.

Source: Commission des questions de politique commerciale. Compte-rendu de la première session tenue à Luxembourg le 29/11/1952, CM/CQPC (52) PV1. Luxembourg: Conseil de la Communauté européenne du charbon et de l'acier - Secrétariat, 11.12.1952. 4 p.
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Committee on Commercial Policy Questions

Minutes of the first meeting held in Luxembourg on 29.11.1952

Matters discussed

- I. Setting-up of the Committee.
- II. Appointment of a chairman.
- III. Participation by the High Authority in the Committee's activities.
- IV. Examination of matters arising under paragraph 20 of the Convention on the Transitional Provisions.
- V. Examination of matters arising under paragraph 21 of the Convention on the Transitional Provisions.

The following attended the meeting:

for Germany:

Dr Estner, 'Oberregierungsrat',
Ministry of Economic Affairs
Dr H. Mueller, First Secretary,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Mr H. U. von Schweinitz, 'Referent',
Ministry of Economic Affairs
Mr W. Roeske, Higher Executive Officer,
Ministry of Economic Affairs

for Belgium:

Mr M. Suetens, Ambassador,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mr R. Dooreman, Second Secretary,
Head of Economic Integration Plans Department,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

for France:

Mr Donne, Head of Customs Tariff Department

for Italy:

Mr Anzilotti, Director-General,
Ministry of Foreign Trade
Mr F. Bobra, First Secretary,
Italian legation in Luxembourg

for Luxembourg:

Mr P. Elvinger, Higher Executive Officer,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

for the Netherlands:

Dr H. Van Blankenstein, Director of Foreign Economic Relations,
Ministry of Economic Affairs
Mr W. K. N. Schmelzer, Head of European Coal and Steel Community Section, Directorate-General for Foreign Economic Relations,
Ministry of Economic Affairs

from the Secretariat of the Council of Ministers:

Mr Christian Calmes, Secretary
Mr De Schacht
Mr Feipel

I. Setting-up of the Committee.

The Committee had been set up by the Council in the course of its first meeting (Luxembourg, 8–10 September 1952) to 'study matters arising in relation to paragraphs 14 and 20 of the Convention on the Transitional Provisions'.

II. Appointment of a chairman.

The Committee elected the Belgian delegate Ambassador Suetens as its chairman.

III. Participation by the High Authority in the Committee's activities.

The Committee would decide in each individual case whether a representative from the High Authority should be invited to attend its proceedings as an observer.

IV. Examination of matters arising under paragraph 20 of the Convention on the Transitional Provisions.

Ambassador Suetens reported that he had carried out the task given to him by the Council, which was to represent the Member States' common interests in the negotiations to be conducted with a view to obtaining the necessary derogation from the rules of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) which will allow the Community, and more specifically the High Authority, to perform the tasks conferred on it by the Treaty and the Convention of 18 April 1952.

Ambassador Suetens submitted to the Committee the report that he intended to deliver to the Council of Ministers (see Document CM/CQPC/1, annexed hereto).

The Committee observed that the derogation obtained for member countries of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) was not sufficient to allow the common market to be established. Further negotiations must be conducted with countries which are not members of GATT and with the OEEC.

The Committee conducted an initial examination of this issue of negotiations with non-member countries of GATT. The results of those deliberations are set out in a report drawn up for the Council of Ministers (see Document CM/CQPC/(52)4, annexed hereto).

V. Examination of matters arising under paragraph 21 of the Convention on the Transitional Provisions.

The Committee decided to begin examining this issue, which the High Authority had requested be included on the agenda of the second Council meeting. That request had been accompanied by a number of proposals which the Committee noted and to which it thought it could agree. However, it observed that it had to request the Council's opinion on this subject and considered that the Committee on commercial policy questions was the body best placed to conduct the studies on the measures to be taken and on the form to be given to the notification given to the OEEC in accordance with paragraph 21 of Convention on the Transitional Provisions. These considerations were recorded in the report drawn up for the Council of Ministers (see document CM/CQPC/(52)4, annexed hereto).