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Secretariat

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WORKING PARTY INSTRUCTED TO KEEP UNDER REVIEW
THE RELATIONS OF THE ORGANISATION WITH OTHER
ORGANISATIONS CONCERNED WITH EUROPEAN ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION

MEASURES TO BE TAKEN FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE RESOLUTION OF 10th JULY 1954
OF THE EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON THE ORGANISATION OF
AGRICULTURAL MARKETS

DRAFT REPORT BY THE WORKING PARTY TO THE COUNCIL

1. At its meetings on 26th July and 14th September 1954, the Group of Eight examined the Resolution of 10th July 1954, of the European Conference on the Organisation of Agricultural Markets in order to determine what measures the Organisation should take to give effect to the proposals contained in this Resolution.

The purpose of the present note is to summarise these measures briefly, to state what problems might arise if they were adopted and what additional arrangements should be made to ensure the functioning, within the framework of the Organisation, of the bodies which it is proposed to set up under the Resolution.

In the first place the Council will be asked to note the general principles laid down in paragraphs 1 to 6 of the Resolution, as these will serve as a basis for working out the Organisation's programme of work dealing with agricultural matters.

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2. With regard to practical procedure, the Resolution proposes in the first place to set up, within the framework of the Organisation, a Ministerial Committee for Food and Agriculture. Such a Committee would therefore become part of the Organisation and, as such, would have to be set up by the Council in accordance with Article 15 of the Convention of 16th April 1948.

The Ministerial Committee is to consist of the Member countries which took part in the Conference and any others which may notify the Organisation their intention to take part in the Committee's work. Spain will take a full part in this work. It will be incumbent on these countries to see that they are represented by the Ministers responsible for food and agriculture; representation may therefore vary according to the nature of the questions dealt with.

The competence of the Ministerial Committee is defined by the Resolution itself: "to examine periodically the problems of Member countries relating to agriculture and food".

The Resolution also provides that the Ministerial Committee will have the power "to agree on measures to be taken by Ministers within the limits of their national competence". The Group of Eight understands, and this interpretation is confirmed by the text of the Resolution itself, that whenever "decisions binding the Governments are necessary" but which fall beyond the competence of the Ministers, the Ministerial Committee will submit proposals to the Council to this effect.

Finally, the Ministerial Committee shall "determine its rules of procedure", which will doubtless be based, in their broad lines, on the Organisation's rules of procedure which reflect the outcome of the experience acquired by the latter over several years of work.

3. The Council will also, in order to give effect to the provisions of the Resolution, have to set up a Committee of Deputies to assist the Ministerial Committee in its work. This

Committee of Deputies will have its own rules of procedure and any powers which may be delegated to it by the Ministerial Committee. When decisions have to be taken in the interval of meetings of Ministers, the Committee of Deputies may also submit proposals to the Council to this effect.

The Committee of Deputies will also replace the Food and Agriculture Technical Committee and take over all its functions; i.e. it will be responsible for formulating opinions for the Council or putting forward proposals on the agricultural aspects of this work; the Council might instruct it to carry out certain studies.

The Sub-Committees and Working Parties of the Food and Agriculture Committee will work under the Committee of Deputies; it will be for the latter to consider whether their structure can be maintained or whether it will have to be modified, and if so, under what conditions.

The Resolution provides, finally, that the Committee of Deputies shall take "appropriate measures to ensure co-operation with international governmental organisations on matters relating to food and agriculture, and ensure the necessary liaison with international non-governmental organisations concerned". This provision, which refers to bodies concerned with agricultural matters, does not exclude the possibility of other Committees in the Organisation maintaining all necessary contacts with these bodies; moreover, the Organisation's relations with bodies having a general competence, will remain subject to the directives adopted by the Council.

*Art. 10 Com.
Spricht
als Org. der Organisation*

4. With regard to the meetings of the Council provided for by the Resolution, the Council may agree straight away to hold special sessions at Ministerial level at least twice a year; these sessions will be devoted to matters relating to food and agriculture.

The Group of Eight has noted that the provisions of the 1948 Convention allow Member countries, whenever such meetings are convened, to be represented by the Ministers responsible for food and agricultural matters.

5. The application of the provisions of the Resolution concerning the Secretariat and, in particular, the appointment of a Director, should not raise any difficulties.

? The Group of Eight has noted that the provision to the effect that "the appointment of the senior members of the Secretariat should be submitted for approval by the Ministerial Committee" is based on Article 18 of the Convention which provides that "senior staff appointments shall be subject to approval by the Council". As this provision has hitherto been applied to the appointment of Directors, the Secretary-General's proposals concerning the designation of the new Director would have to be submitted for approval to the Ministerial Committee before being transmitted to the Council.

6. The Group of Eight has also examined the provisions of the Resolution concerning the participation of Spain in the agricultural work of the Organisation.

This Resolution primarily implies that Spain should be allowed freely to take part in the activities of all the bodies concerned with agriculture in the Organisation.

With regard to the Council and the various Committees of the Organisation, a procedure will have to be established which will enable Spain to follow or take part in their work when agricultural questions are involved.

Lastly, an arrangement will also have to be devised to enable Spain to accede to the Organisation's decisions on agricultural questions.

On these various points, the Group of Eight considers that the procedure for Spain's participation in the work of the Organisation should be examined jointly with the Spanish Government before it is decided by the Council.

7. With regard to the conclusion, within the framework of the Organisation, of special agreements on food and agricultural products, the Group of Eight considers that the provisions of paragraph 7 of the Resolution should purely and simply be taken over by the Council.

8. Finally, the Group of Eight considers that a problem is created by the fact that the new agricultural bodies which it is proposed to establish would be set up and would function "within the framework of the O.E.E.C."

This problem is mentioned by the Resolution when it refers to the need in principle to "take due account of the close relations existing between agriculture and the general economy".

The implementation of this principle presupposes that the work of the agricultural bodies will be co-ordinated with that of the other organs of the Organisation. The Group of Eight considers that this co-ordination could usefully be effected by the Executive Committee, since its twofold function is :

- (i) to ensure preparation of the Council's work and
- (ii) to co-ordinate the work of the different Committees of the Organisation.