MEETING OF THE MINISTERS FOR AGRICULTURE OF OECD COUNTRIES

Paris, 26th-27th March 1992

The OECD’s Committee for Agriculture will meet at Ministerial level on 26th and 27th March at OECD headquarters in Paris. This will be the first such meeting since 1982. The meeting will be chaired by M. Karl-Erik Olsson, Minister for Agriculture of Sweden.

Ministers will discuss the following issues:

-- The state of agricultural reform. This will give an opportunity to assess the very limited progress made towards reform of agricultural policies in view of the recommendations made in 1987 - and reiterated each year since - by the OECD Council at Ministerial level. The question will be raised of the nature of the obstacles encountered and ways and means to overcome them;

-- Future directions for agriculture: an integrated approach. It is necessary to define an approach capable of integrating both government policies and the actions of the economic operators concerned in a certain number of key fields, in particular structural reform, trade liberalisation, environment protection and rural development;

-- Developments in non-OECD regions: implications for OECD agriculture. Ministers will reflect on the major changes taking place in non-Member countries (in Central and Eastern European countries, as well as in developing countries) and on ways to facilitate the transition of the agro-food sector in these countries towards the market economy.

Ministers from the "Partners in Transition" countries (Hungary, Poland, Czech and Slovak Federal Republic) will meet Ministers from OECD Member countries on 26th March at 4.30 p.m.
A final press conference will be held on Friday 27th March at about 5 p.m. at OECD, 2 rue André Pascal, Paris 16ème, when a press communiqué will be issued.

A press room will be available for journalists during the conference.

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