
MOSCOU - Le président tatare Mintimir Chaïmiev a déclaré lundi que le Tatarstan ne signera pas le Traité de la Fédération de Russie, au surlendemain du référendum sur l’indépendance de la République qui a remporté 61,4 % de oui.

TIRANA - L’Albanie a enterré lundi 45 ans de communisme avec la victoire éclatante, officiellement confirmée, du Parti Démocratique (opposition) de M. Sali Berisha sur le Parti Socialiste (ex-communiste, au pouvoir).

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

"A meeting of agriculture ministers from 24 leading developed countries on Thursday and Friday in Paris could prove crucial in determining whether the Uruguay Round of international trade negotiations can be wrapped up by the April 15 deadline... This week’s gathering represents the first agricultural ministerial meeting of the OECD since 1982. The focus is likely to be on the proposals by Arthur Dunkel, GATT’s director general, for comprehensive reform. The main elements in Mr. Dunkel’s formula are as follows: a 20% cut in domestic supports; a 36% reduction in export subsidy payments; a 24% drop in the volume of subsidized exports. The cuts would be made over a six-year period, starting in 1993. Mr. Dunkel also wants all farm import protection measures converted into tariffs and for these to be reduced by 36% between 1993 and 1999."

FINANCIAL TIMES: Kohl sees signs of change in talks

"Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany returned yesterday from his talks with President Bush in Washington, insisting he detected clear signs of movement in GATT’s farm trade liberalisation talks. At the same time, he flatly rejected calls for Germany to put pressure on France to compromise in the fight over how far to cut the subsidies and quantities of EC farm exports. ‘We have made progress, but we have still not made the grade (necessary to reach a final agreement)’, he declared. Mr Kohl rejected suggestions that President Bush would be happy to allow the talks to drag on until after the US elections... ‘President Bush wants the GATT round to be brought to a successful conclusion by the end of April, just as President Mitterand and I and the other partners in the EC do. We must have a compromise, and that means all the participants will have to make concessions.’"

ENVIRONMENT

"As the nations of the world map a plan of action to preserve Earth’s environment, their meetings have been bogged down by the old battles between the wealthy, industrial countries of the north and the poor, underdeveloped countries of the south. The disputes are mirrored in thick stacks of papers, 20,000 pages sent in by 121 governments... The papers form the substance of discussions here and at the United Nations headquarters in New York in preparation for the UN Conference on Environment and Development, scheduled for June in Rio de Janeiro ... But UN organizers here have expressed anguish because the meetings to prepare for Rio have revived the old clashes between rich and poor, this time in
an environmental context. A UN official who has attended most planning sessions said much of the debate was confrontational, characterizing the message from developing countries as 'Give us money; you are rich; we are poor'... At the Paris-based OECD, an organization of the 24 industrialized nations that are deeply involved in environmental planning, senior officials seem as gloomy. 'People are despairing that the Rio meeting will be dominated by a North-South confrontation', said Bill Long, director of environment affairs at the organization. 'We hoped we could forget about placing blame and work on problems together'."

FINANCIAL TIMES: Brussels warns on fuel tax

BRUSSELS - "The European Community will not be able to meet its commitment to reduce carbon dioxide emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2000 without some form of the tax on fossil and other forms of energy advocated by Brussels, European Commission officials said yesterday... With a week to go before the deadline by which each of the 12 agreed to submit a programme of 'complementary measures' to cut CO2 output, only three member states Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands have done so."

AFP: La CEE veut interdire rapidement la production mondiale de CFC


AFP: Le stockage des déchets divise les Douze

BRUXELLES - Les Douze ne sont pas parvenus à se mettre d’accord lundi sur une réglementation des mouvements de déchets destinés à être stockés dans les décharges des pays membres. L’intransigeance de la France et du Royaume Uni sur ce point ont bloqué les négociations des ministres de l’environnement de la CEE et empêché l’adoption d’une réglementation communautaire sur le contrôle des transferts de déchets à l’intérieur, à la sortie et à l’entrée de la CEE. La France veut pouvoir refuser l’importation de déchets pour élimination sur son territoire. 'Nous ne voulons pas servir de décharge pour la Communauté', a affirmé le ministre français de l’Environnement Brice Lalonde, soutenu dans cette position par la Grande-Bretagne.

OECD ECONOMIES

Portugal

FINANCIAL TIMES: Inflation and trade figures better than expected

"Portugal’s trade and inflation performance is improving more quickly than previously forecast, according to Mr Jose Alberto Tavares Moreira, the central bank governor. The trade balance improved sharply in January and inflation has been slowing since the beginning of the year... At the end of February, average annualised inflation was down from 11.4 per cent for the whole of 1991 to 10.2 per cent. The trade deficit fell by almost 40 per cent in January as a result of a surge in exports, which grew by 17.4 per cent compared with January 1991. Mr Moreira told the Financial Times that improvement on both fronts demonstrated the economy was performing much better than was forecast by the OECD in its annual report on Portugal published last month."

FINANCIAL TIMES: Farmers hit by drought get grants

"The Portuguese government, faced with what could turn out to be one of the country’s most severe droughts in decades, has decided to allocate about Esc20bn (£80m) to help farmers in the most badly affected areas... The government aid, which will be partly funded by the European Community, will go mostly to farmers raising livestock and growing grain."

Germany

FINANCIAL TIMES: Kohl calls for restraint, public sector pay talks fail

"German industry set the scene for future conflict with the trade union movement yesterday by challenging the basis on which wage negociations are
conducted. Criticism of pay policy by the country’s leading employers’ association came as Chancellor Helmut Kohl warned the national economy was losing momentum and appealed for moderation in wage demands. At the same time the public sector union announced that pay talks for the 2.3m public sector workers had failed, setting the stage for arbitration proceedings. If these prove unsuccessful, the sector could face its first serious strike since 1974... Mr Kohl said that, with economic growth of 1.5 per cent expected in the west this year, the room for manoeuvre over pay had shrunk. Employers and unions had to bring wages closer into line with productivity."

THE UNITED STATES

HERALD TRIBUNE: US ‘gives up’ on the swelling deficit

"A year after White House economists forecast that the US budget would have a surplus by the mid-1990s, they are now predicting a deficit of nearly $200 billion in fiscal 1996. And congressional economists take an even dimmer view. Projections released this month by the Congressional Budget Office said this year’s federal budget deficit would be a record $362 billion and that after dropping in the next few years, deficits would soar in the second half of the decade. By 2002, the office said, the deficit could reach $423 billion."

END-OF-TEXT