CROP PROSPECTS FOR THE MAIN SUMMER FRUITS AND TOMATOES IN 1994

At its 21st Session held on 27th-29th June 1994, at the Château de la Muette, Paris, the Group on Fruit and Vegetables of the OECD Working Party on Agricultural Policies and Markets of the Committee for Agriculture examined, inter alia, the crop prospects for the main species of stone fruit (peaches, nectarines and apricots), summer pears and tomatoes in Member countries in the Northern Hemisphere.

The Group also examined the preliminary prospects for apples and autumn and winter pears.

On the basis of information supplied by producing Member countries, the prospects may be summarised as follows, product by product.

1. **Summer Fruits**

In the European zone, overall production of summer fruit should be superior to that of last year. This should be the case for summer pears (except in Spain and in Switzerland where production should decrease by 30% and 10%, respectively), nectarines and apricots (except in Portugal and in Greece where apricot production should diminish), whereas peach production should remain stable. Moreover, regarding peaches and apricots, the very early arrival of the Spanish harvest should avoid competition problems at the start of the marketing season with producing countries situated more to the north of Europe.

In Canada, production should decrease slightly.
The situation in the major producing countries is as follows:
2. **Tomatoes**

Overall production of tomatoes in the European zone should remain stable compared with last year. This would be the case especially in France and Greece while it would decrease in the Netherlands (-14%) whereas it would increase in Portugal (+45%), in Spain (+11%) and increase slightly in Italy (+5%).

In Canada, production should increase slightly, reaching 575 000 tonnes.

The situation in the major producing countries is as follows:
3. **Apples and Autumn and Winter Pears**

Apple production forecasts for 1994 vary from one country to another in the European zone. In the Netherlands and Portugal production will probably be less than last year (-30 to -40% for Portugal, largely because of unfavourable climatic conditions during the flowering season). In Finland and France, production should equal last year’s level. Production should increase in Switzerland compared with last year (+20%), as well as in Greece (where a record harvest is projected - up to 379 000 tonnes) and in Hungary (where a positive effect is taking place on production due not only to good climatic factors but also to progressive privatisation of orchards).

Pear production should be at least equal to that of last year, which was relatively low.