

Report of the

# **FIFTEENTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR EUROPE**

---

**Istanbul, Turkey, 28 April - 2 May 1986**



**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS**

*FAO Member Nations in the European Region  
(as of 2 May 1986)*

Albania	Greece	Norway
Austria	Hungary	Poland
Belgium	Iceland	Portugal
Bulgaria	Ireland	Romania
Cyprus	Israel	Spain
Czechoslovakia	Italy	Sweden
Denmark	Luxembourg	Switzerland
Finland	Malta	Turkey
France	Netherlands	United Kingdom
Germany, Federal Republic of		Yugoslavia

*Date and place of FAO Regional Conferences for Europe*

First	— Rome, Italy, 10-15 October 1949
Second	— Rome, Italy, 10-15 October 1960
Third	— Rome, Italy, 8-13 October 1962
Fourth	— Salzburg, Austria, 26-31 October 1964
Fifth	— Seville, Spain, 5-11 October 1966
Sixth	— St. Julian's, Malta, 28-31 October 1968
Seventh	— Budapest, Hungary, 21-25 September 1970
Eighth	— Munich, Germany, Fed. Rep. of, 18-23 September 1972
Ninth	— Lausanne, Switzerland, 7-12 October 1974
Tenth	— Bucharest, Romania, 20-25 September 1976
Eleventh	— Lisbon, Portugal, 2-7 October 1978
Twelfth	— Athens, Greece, 22-27 September 1980
Thirteenth	— Sofia, Bulgaria, 4-8 October 1982
Fourteenth	— Reykjavik, Iceland, 17-21 September 1984
Fifteenth	— Istanbul, Turkey, 28 April - 2 May 1986

ERC/86/REP

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FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR EUROPE

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FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Rome, 1986



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FIFTEENTH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR EUROPE

Istanbul, Turkey, 28 April - 2 May 1986

SUMMARY OF MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS

FAO Programme in the Region

For the attention of FAO

The Conference:

1. suggested that an analytical chapter on the most important outcome of the FAO activities in the Region be added to the report on the FAO Programme in Europe (para. 34)
2. noted that coordination of FAO activities in Europe with those of other international organizations was quite extensive though there was need for further improvement in some cases, and suggested that some activities of the Joint ECA/FAO Agriculture and Timber Division could be merged with activities carried out by the FAO Regional Office for Europe (para. 35)
3. advocated an increasing orientation towards field activities including pilot projects (para. 36)
4. supported the concept of the European Cooperative Research Networks and expressed satisfaction for the evaluation being carried out under the auspices of ECA (para. 37)
5. agreed that efforts should continue to phase out those networks which have achieved their targeted results and have them replaced by new ones (para. 39)
6. suggested that more attention be given to water management problems (para. 42)
7. underlined the need for strengthening Foot-and-Mouth Disease Control and Prevention (para. 43)
8. expressed the view that the Working Party on Women and the Agricultural Family in Rural Development and the FAO/ECE Working Party on Agrarian Structure and Farm Rationalization should hold joint meetings in order to enhance the integration and influence of women in general agricultural policy formulation (para. 47)
9. recommended that European forestry matters related to protection from air pollution and fire be a major agenda item for the next Regional Conference (para. 45)

10. requested that, within the framework of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC), further efforts be made to harmonize European standards in cooperation with the ECE Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce (para. 48)

#### Development of Aquaculture in Europe

##### For the attention of Governments

The Conference:

11. considered that available training opportunities needed to be re-examined and that additional emphasis should be given to training programmes for extension (para. 52)
12. noted the need for collaborative research on reduction of nutrient losses, on conservation of fish genetic resources, on artificial reproduction and on the control of communicable diseases of farmed fish and shellfish (para. 55)
13. supported proposals for conducting inter-governmental consultations on governmental, regional and local planning in support of aquaculture, trade problems and effluent standards (para. 56)
14. recommended adoption of the Code of Practice on Introduction of Exotic Species prepared by the FAO European Inland Fisheries Advisory Committee (EIFAC) and the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (para. 56)

##### For the attention of FAO

The Conference:

15. suggested that the European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission (EIFAC) consider means of implementing collective actions to strengthen the aquaculture sector in Europe and refer its recommendations, through the Director-General, to the relevant FAO, inter-governmental or other multilateral bodies for implementation (para. 51)
16. stressed that a directory of training opportunities, including concise description of their content, would be timely and welcome (para. 53)
17. urged continued funding of the UNDP/Italy/FAO Mediterranean Regional Aquaculture Programme (MEDRAP) (para. 57)
18. took note of the offer of the delegation of Czechoslovakia to host the Fifteenth Session of EIFAC (para. 58)

Crop Protection Policies in Relation to Food Safety and  
Environmental Control in Europe

For the Attention of Governments

The Conference:

19. supported the work of the Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues, the FAO/UNEP collaborative action on the appraisal and monitoring of the impact of pesticides on environment, the development and application of integrated pest management programmes and the application and observance of the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides (para. 60)
20. stressed the need for Member Governments to inform the FAO Secretariat regarding the implementation of the Code (para. 63)
21. stressed the significance of the further development and application of integrated pest management programmes in order to achieve more efficient and reduced use of pesticides (para. 64)

For the attention of FAO

The Conference:

22. stressed the need for regional cooperation in the area of crop protection and requested FAO to provide the necessary catalytic role and coordinating support to collaborative actions in this field (para. 60)
23. suggested that FAO should promote the development of appropriate test methodologies and criteria for the evaluation of the environmental safety of pesticides (para. 62)
24. noted the steps planned by the FAO Secretariat for monitoring effective implementation of the Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides, including the formal transmission of the Code to Member Governments (para. 63)

Representation of the Region on the Consultative Group on  
International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)

For the attention of FAO

The Conference:

25. suggested that FAO might assist in the organization of meetings which could intensify dissemination of research results carried out under the auspices of the CGIAR (para. 67)
26. elected Poland to represent the Region on CGIAR for the four-year period 1987-90 (para. 68)

Date and Place of the Sixteenth Regional Conference for Europe

For the attention of FAO

The Conference:

27. requested the Director-General of FAO to determine the date and place of the Sixteenth Regional Conference for Europe after consultation with the Government of Poland and other Member Governments of the Region (para. 71)

## INTRODUCTION

### Organization of the Conference

1. The Fifteenth FAO Regional Conference for Europe, organized in cooperation with the UN Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), was held in Istanbul, Turkey, at the Hotel Sheraton, from 28 April to 2 May 1986, at the kind invitation of the Government of the Republic of Turkey.
2. Delegations from twenty-eight Member Nations of the European Region participated in the Conference. Two Member Nations from another region sent observers. The Conference was also attended by representatives of the United Nations system and observers of inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations.
3. The full list of participants is given in Appendix B.

### Opening Ceremony

4. In welcoming the Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey, H.E. Turgut Üzal, to the official inauguration of the Fifteenth FAO Regional Conference for Europe, the Director-General of FAO, Mr Edouard Saouma, also welcomed delegates and observers. He thanked the Government of Turkey for having invited the Conference to Istanbul and expressed his gratitude for its generous hospitality. The holding of this Conference, as well as of the recent FAO Regional Conference for the Near East, in Istanbul confirmed the age-old vocation of this city, and indeed of Turkey, as a bridge between cultures. The Director-General also paid tribute to the impressive recovery of the Turkish economy in recent years.
5. The Prime Minister, H.E. Turgut Üzal, expressed the intention of his country to play an active role in international relations and, in this context, to strengthen its fruitful relations with FAO. Turkey evaluated favourably the work of this organization under the dedicated leadership of its Director-General and regarded it as a privilege to host two Regional Conferences in the same year. The Prime Minister saw reasons for some optimism regarding the current world food situation but observed, at the same time, the persistence of structural imbalances in a longer perspective. Some improvements in economic conditions in the industrialized countries were emerging; however, causes of concern for the developing countries persisted. Developing countries continued to suffer, in particular, from the negative effects of protectionism in industrialized countries, notably through depressed international price levels for agricultural products. Turkey therefore looked forward with much interest to the forthcoming GATT negotiations and was hoping for a much-needed step forward towards a freer play of the market forces in agricultural trade.
6. The Prime Minister underlined the positive attitude of his country towards foreign investments since the transfer of technology that accompanied such investments provided an impetus for agro-industrial development. Turkey was in favour of an intensified international collaboration on all aspects of agricultural development, irrespective of different socio-economic systems. To this end, the Prime Minister referred particularly to the special role of FAO and of the UN/ECE in east-west cooperation in Europe.

### Election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen

7. The Conference elected unanimously Mr Hüsnü Doğan, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Affairs of Turkey, as Chairman.
8. Mr Hüsnü Doğan expressed his thanks to the Conference for having elected him as Chairman, and asked for nominations to be submitted for the election of Vice-Chairmen.
9. The following were unanimously elected as Vice-Chairmen:

Mr M. TOMAN	Minister of Agriculture and Food of Czechoslovakia
Mr J. HELGASON	Minister of Agriculture of Iceland
Mr G. HAIDEN	Federal Minister of Agriculture and Forestry of Austria
Mr W. von GELDERN	Parliamentary State Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Forestry of the Federal Republic of Germany

### Statement by the Chairman

10. The elected Chairman of the Conference, Mr Hüsnü Doğan, highlighted the fundamentally different problems confronting the two regions which held their FAO Regional Conferences in Istanbul in this same year. Whereas the Near East had to deal with food shortages, Europe was plagued by surpluses as a consequence of ever-rising agricultural productivity. These problems were interrelated, however, since a long-term solution to the world food problem required a levelling of the existing discrepancies through transfer of resources and know-how.

11. The Chairman was pleased to note a growing awareness of the influence of agricultural policies on international trade in agricultural products, and expressed the hope that this awareness would convince governments to refrain from the use of protectionist practices. He stressed that more agricultural research was needed to support agricultural policies. FAO was a very useful forum for promoting international exchange in these areas. The Chairman then turned to the special items for discussion on the agenda of the Conference. Aquaculture could make an important contribution to protein supplies. The side effects of the increasing use of chemicals for crop protection were of primary concern in European countries. The general debate on the food and agricultural situation in Europe provided grounds for a better mutual understanding of agricultural policies amongst member countries of the region. The Chairman saw an increasing emergence of points of common interest between eastern and western Europe. In this sense, he expressed the wish that this Conference might provide a new impetus to agricultural cooperation among the member countries of the region.

### Adoption of the Agenda

12. The Conference adopted the Agenda, which is reproduced in Appendix A.

## SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

### Statement by the Director-General

13. In his statement, the Director-General pointed out that this was the second FAO Regional Conference to be held in the city of Istanbul in one month. He stressed the contrast between these two conferences, one concerned with the shortages and poverty of the South and the other with the food surpluses of the North. This contrast was a useful reminder, however, that the problems of agricultural Europe were inseparable from those of the poorest and hungriest countries of the world.

14. He elaborated somewhat on two questions of major importance, i.e. FAO's possibilities for assisting in the search for solutions to at least some of the problems of European agriculture, and ways and means for promoting enhanced cooperation between FAO and Europe to confront the problems of the Third World.

15. In dealing with the first question, the Director-General referred to the fact that agricultural production in Europe tended to exceed market demand. Though he recognized that European farmers needed to be guaranteed a decent position in society, he stressed costly support systems and the adoption of protectionist stances. Improved trade and more frequent exchanges of views on agricultural policies might remedy these problems, but communications were frequently hampered between the major partners in Europe, i.e. the EEC, the CMEA and the EFTA. To this end, FAO was pleased to offer its Regional Conference as a unique opportunity for top-level European agricultural authorities to meet. Apart from the regular and extensive coordination work done by the FAO research networks, past Regional Conferences had also adopted important resolutions on, e.g. forestry, pollution or fisheries. The present Conference would consider two major problems, i.e. the highly promising, but still new, development of aquaculture in Europe, and the side-effects of agro-chemicals. The relevance of the latter subject had been heightened by the adoption, at the last FAO Conference, of the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides. Europe had exercised much initiative in drawing up this Code.

16. In dealing with the second question, the Director-General referred to the mutual relations between Europe and the Third World, and Africa in particular, which was selling a substantial proportion of its agricultural produce on European markets whereas, on the other hand, European surpluses were directed in considerable quantities towards Third World countries. Europe needed to accept that Third World development and market growth were major issues for European agriculture as well. This had not remained unnoticed, as Europe was presently providing large amounts of aid to the Third World. Nevertheless, the Director-General saw scope for new and unprecedented action, with particular reference to the measures required for agricultural rehabilitation of the African continent. He referred, for example, to the possibilities that might be created by new concepts regarding the European surpluses, fertilizers and tool plants operating below capacity because of lack of outlets and to the funds currently absorbed in supporting such surpluses. The crisis of the North could provide a real opportunity to come to grips with the problem of hunger in the South. FAO offered its full support to any actions and initiatives for the benefit of development of the South, and he expressed his conviction that such support would be in the long-term interests of Europe.

17. The complete text of the Director-General's statement is reproduced in Appendix D.

Statement by the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe

18. The statement by the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe was read, in his absence, by the Director of the Joint ECE/FAO Agriculture and Timber Division.

19. The complete text of the statement by the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe is reproduced in Appendix E.

Country Statements and General Debate on the Food and Agriculture Situation in Europe

20. All twenty-eight Member Nations participating in the Fifteenth FAO Regional Conference for Europe, as well as several observers, took part in the general debate. They expressed their satisfaction with the preparations for the Conference and their appreciation of the generous hospitality extended by the host country.

21. From the debate emerged full agreement with the Director-General's judgment on the growing paradox characterized by increasing commercial surpluses in the North and persistent malnutrition and under-nutrition in the developing world. Although the improved current world food situation, particularly in Africa, largely as a consequence of favourable weather, as well as the encouraging tendency of increasing food production in Asia and parts of Latin America, were noted with satisfaction, it was, however, agreed that a lasting solution to the long-term structural problems of the global food economy was still to be found. In the same context, European countries agreed with the Director-General that major rehabilitation efforts, both by countries directly concerned and the industrialized world, needed to be undertaken to prevent the re-emergence of a major food crisis like the one that had recently struck Africa. Several references were made to the critical problem of the heavy debt burden of most of the developing countries, including some from the European region, and its potentially adverse effect on the import of basic agricultural inputs and, eventually, on the performance of their food sectors. There was general agreement on the crucial importance of the transfer of resources and know-how for agricultural development from industrialized to developing countries. The role of FAO in collecting and channelling know-how to the needy countries was fully supported.

22. The issue of growing surpluses in many European countries featured prominently in the debate. With a slowly increasing or nearly saturated food demand, markets could no longer absorb these surpluses without a whole range of costly support measures. In fact, an increasing number of countries in the region had resorted to strict supply control measures, notably for milk. Some of these countries pointed out that they had, for several years now, been operating producer quotas and "co-responsibility" systems in selected branches of production and felt that they could now share their experience on the effects of such measures. It was, however, recognized that in the short- and medium-term, the supply control measures applied to the dairy and some other sectors might have spill-over effects on agricultural markets, e.g. on the beef market. Surplus tendencies were also noted in a number of other sectors.

23. It was recognized that the agricultural policies of many countries were increasingly facing the complex task of adjusting agricultural production to demand while, at the same time, assuring national food security and comparable incomes for the agricultural population. Adequate income of agricultural producers was not only important for maintaining the required levels of food production, but also for improving the sectoral and regional balance within the countries. Remote and mountain regions depended to a large extent on agriculture, forest and fisheries and required special government support. From the debate, the need for an increasingly wider and more complex agricultural policy concept became apparent. In this regard, the growing interest in the recreational and environmental components of the rural environment, in alternative (i.e. non-food) use of agricultural products, in lower input use, particularly pesticides, in non-traditional products and in the creation of non-agricultural sources of income in rural areas were highlighted.

24. A number of European countries expressed their willingness to make further efforts to adjust their agricultural production to realistic demand levels thus, inter alia, providing better chances for local production of food crops in developing countries. Regarding the exports of these countries, reference was made to STABEX and to the positive experience gained from it. Several delegations expressed the opinion that a more liberal system of international trade in agricultural commodities had to be sought, but it was also recognized that European agriculture needed some protection for various reasons, notably food security. In this regard numerous references were made to the forthcoming round of GATT negotiations and many delegates emphasized the willingness of their governments to participate actively in the negotiations with the aim of achieving a more stable and remunerative international trade in agricultural commodities.

25. Many delegates from east and south of Europe referred, however, to their efforts to accelerate food production growth so as to achieve an adequate level of self-sufficiency and improve export performance of their agriculture. They emphasized, in particular, the adverse effects of growing protectionism on their exports.

26. In the debates all delegations provided detailed reports on the performance of their agriculture since the previous Regional Conference. They elaborated objectives, results and, in many cases, future policies and programmes. On the whole, production was generally reported to be at satisfactory levels, although a number of countries had suffered from unfavourable climates, such as prolonged drought or hard winters. However, in spite of climatic difficulties, the long-term trend of steadily rising production had not weakened the strength of the underlying forces of technical progress in European agriculture.

27. Forestry problems received special attention in the statements of most delegates. Considerable and rising concern was expressed for the increasingly damaging effects of transboundary air pollution on European forest resources. There was general agreement that concerted international action was the only remedy to this situation. Some countries referred to the concrete measures they had already introduced to reduce considerably the emission of air pollutants, notably of SO<sub>2</sub>. These countries appealed to the others in the

region to follow their example since this was the only way to achieve tangible results. The negative effects of air pollution were not only confined to forests, however. Several delegates also reported on depleted fish resources in rivers and lakes as a result of pollution. FAO was called upon to continue and to intensify its activities in regard to research on the causes of forest damages and to coordinate the various national efforts in this field, together with the UN Economic Commission for Europe (ECE).

28. A number of delegates drew the attention of the Conference to the constant heavy losses caused by frequent forest fires, which also hampered much of their long-term afforestation efforts.

29. A reference was specifically made to the connection between increasing outlays for armaments and the shortage of funds for solving the many serious food problems of the Third World, and continuous efforts to foster peace in this region and throughout the world were solicited.

30. Most speakers in the general debate made reference to the two technical topics on the agenda, i.e. development of aquaculture in Europe and crop protection policies in relation to food safety and environmental control in Europe, as well as to specific elements of FAO's programme of work in the European region. These remarks will be dealt with in more detail under the respective items of the report. There was widespread agreement on the increasing importance attached to the quality of food, including health aspects, and to environmental issues regarding the agricultural land, forests and water resources of the region.

31. Many specific points were also raised in the general debate. The need for the establishment of a Mediterranean fisheries school was highlighted. The Government of Malta offered interested countries the use of facilities for transshipment of fish and for servicing of fishing fleets operating off the west coast of Africa and in the Indian Ocean. A number of countries offered their national facilities, particularly for training purposes on a bilateral or multilateral basis.

32. The essential role of FAO in European cooperation in the vital sectors of agriculture, fisheries and forestry was reiterated. Most of the delegates expressed general support for and appreciation of the main FAO activities in the European region; research networks as a vehicle for promoting cooperation between institutions from almost all European countries and many institutions from neighbouring regions; work on rural energy; and the array of socio-economic activities. Close cooperation between FAO and the ECE through the Joint ECE/FAO Agriculture and Timber Division, which also provided for participation of non-Member Nations of the region, and with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), again through the Joint Division, continued to enjoy the full support of the member countries. General appreciation was also expressed in relation to FAO's field activities. In the same context, two countries felt that the long-term role of FAO required attention, so that the Organization could meet future challenges with increasing effectiveness.

33. Finally, it was fully agreed that the FAO Regional Conference provided a unique forum for high-level decision-makers and that it continued to contribute substantially to a better understanding of the major agricultural, fisheries and forestry issues within the European Region. In this regard, FAO was asked to consult, well in advance, with member countries on the agenda of the next Regional Conference.

FAO Programme in the Region:

FAO Activities in Europe and Programme of Work for 1986-87

34. The Conference expressed appreciation of the activities carried out during the past two years in Europe, as presented in document ERC/86/2, and of the FAO 1986-87 programme of work in Europe, as presented in document ERC/86/3. A considerable improvement was noted in the presentation of these documents. To further enhance the use of the document on past activities, the addition of an analytical chapter on the outcome of the major activities was suggested. It was also suggested that activities and projects which were terminated or completed in the period reviewed be pointed out in the report.

35. Reference was repeatedly made to the need for further adjustment of the programme to changing requirements in order to make the most efficient use of limited resources. It was noted with satisfaction that the coordination of FAO activities with those of other international organizations active in Europe was quite extensive, though there was need for improvement in some cases. A number of suggestions were made concerning further rationalization and coordination of certain of FAO's regional activities. To this end, it was suggested that certain activities of the Joint ECE/FAO Agriculture and Timber Division could be merged with activities carried out under the direct responsibility of the FAO Regional Office for Europe, e.g. in connection with the European Rural Energy Programme and by the creation of a new cooperative research network on socio-economic problems.

36. Another general observation concerned the number of regional meetings and seminars. In this context, an increasing orientation towards field activities including pilot projects was advocated.

37. The concept of the European System of Cooperative Research Networks (ESCORENA) found general support and approval. The need for careful scientific evaluation of the work and functioning of these networks was stressed, and satisfaction was expressed with the evaluation initiated by the European Commission on Agriculture (ECA).

38. Delegations reported on the positive experience of gathering together participants in the various research networks at the national level for an exchange of experience and for a more general appraisal of the work and results achieved. The involvement of research institutes in ESCORENA from non-European countries was warmly welcomed, but some caution should be exercised in this respect since sometimes the problems faced by these countries were of a different nature. Several delegations felt that the financial basis of ESCORENA could be strengthened through a trust fund system, as was the case for the Cooperative Networks on Rural Energy (CNRE).

39. There was general agreement that efforts should continue to phase out those networks which had achieved their targeted results. This would then in turn offer possibilities for the establishment of new networks. To this end, several proposals were made in the course of the debate concerning completely new activities: new networks on potatoes, protected crops, cotton, or enlarged coverage of existing networks: durum wheat, pesticides with special reference to their impact on the environment, which should cover all aspects of a deteriorating rural environment in regard to soils and water.

40. The European Rural Energy Programme (including CNRE and the UNDP/FAO project) received full support which will be continued by the participating countries. The network had initiated research on a series of selected topics which were of particular relevance to European countries, and results and experience acquired would be shared with developing countries.
41. The usefulness of the activities on remote sensing and the use of isotope and radiation techniques in agriculture was particularly highlighted. A reluctance of consumers to accept irradiated food was noted, while particular importance was attached to the work on controlling the Mediterranean fruit fly.
42. Appreciation was expressed for the work done under the joint auspices of FAO and ECE in the field of land and water development. It was suggested that more attention be paid to water management problems.
43. Foot-and-Mouth Disease Control and Prevention found approval and support. The need for strengthening these activities was underlined.
44. Regarding agricultural mechanization, some delegations called for a better adjustment of the work of the FAO/ECE Working Party on Mechanization of Agriculture. As at earlier Regional Conferences, the need for annual sessions of this Working Party was questioned.
45. Several delegations again referred particularly to the prime importance of pursuing and further intensifying international activities for protection of European forest resources from air pollution and fires. In this context, it was recommended that these forestry matters be a major agenda item for the next Regional Conference. To this end, existing regional bodies should also be used as intensively as possible, notably the Joint ECE/FAO Agriculture and Timber Division.
46. Activities on improvement of inland fisheries also received general support. Great care was called for in the introduction of new and exotic types of fish into Europe in view of the disease risks involved. An atlas of fisheries in the eastern Mediterranean was expected with interest.
47. Regarding the socio-economic activities in the region, most delegates underlined their interest in these activities, notably the role of women in development and pluriactivity. A certain overlapping in the subjects dealt with by the Working Party on Women and the Agricultural Family in Rural Development and the FAO/ECE Working Party on Agrarian Structure and Farm Rationalization was noted. The view was expressed that the organization of joint meetings of these two working parties could enhance the integration and the influence of women in general agricultural policy formulation. A greater FAO assistance for meetings of the Board of the Working Party on Women was also suggested. The Conference was informed of the organization of a Workshop on Extension Programme Planning of the International Summer School, to be held in Vienna, Austria, in July 1986, and of a Seminar on the Application of Global Management Approach to Pluriactive Families, to be held in Goslar, Federal Republic of Germany, in August 1986.
48. The work of the FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC) was supported, and it was requested that further efforts be made to harmonize European standards in cooperation with the ECE Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce.

SELECTED ISSUES OF AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Development of Aquaculture in Europe

49. The inclusion of aquaculture on the agenda was considered to be very timely, and nearly all delegations spoke of its increasing importance. Appreciation was expressed for the comprehensive and realistic appraisal of European aquaculture contained in document ERC/86/4.

50. Each of the various problems facing the development of the sector described in the document were confirmed to be important.

51. Support was given to all of the activities suggested in its concluding paragraph, although it was generally felt that further consideration should be given to the selection of appropriate mechanisms for undertaking each of them. It was therefore suggested that the European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission (EIFAC), at its next session, be requested to consider the most appropriate means of implementing these actions; and to refer its recommendations, through the Director-General, to the relevant FAO intergovernmental or other multilateral bodies for implementation.

52. Regarding the specific activities proposed, high priority was given by the Conference to aquaculture training. Note was taken of the many training opportunities now available. It was considered, however, that some of these needed to be re-examined in terms of the real needs of the sector, and that additional emphasis should be given to training programmes for extension. Note was also made of several new training programmes being developed among member countries, and of offers by several delegates to make their facilities available to FAO as required. Several delegations also expressed their special interest in providing training appropriate to the needs of developing countries.

53. It was further stressed that a directory of training opportunities in Europe, including concise descriptions of their content, would be very timely and welcome.

54. The need for adequate standards for food products produced by culture was emphasized by several delegations, referring especially to products in international trade. Considerable emphasis was given to the development of criteria for the assessment of the impact of aquaculture on the environment, and to the establishment of agreed effluent standards for Europe. In regard to these activities, appreciation was expressed by many delegations for the past efforts of EIFAC, and of the General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean (GFCM), in the areas of water quality and of fish diseases. These bodies had been very effective in fostering collaboration and cooperation among the governments of their respective regions in the study and analysis of important aquaculture problems. Mention was made of the uses which had been found for the information provided as a result of the major symposia of EIFAC, and of its many valuable publications.

55. Mention was also made of the need for collaborative research on a number of special problems, including reduction of nutrient losses to the environment from improper feeding, preservation of the genetic resources of important cultured species, artificial reproduction of several species, especially eel and, above all, control of the increasing number of significant communicable diseases found in farmed fish and shellfish.

56. Support was expressed for conducting intergovernmental consultations on certain priority topics, including experience in governmental, regional and local planning in support of aquaculture; trade problems; effluent standards and other areas where aquaculture practice in one country strongly affected that of others. Several delegations also recommended adoption of the Code of Practice on Introduction of Exotic Species, prepared by EIFAC and the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, the second version of which had recently been sent to the governments of the region for their comments.

57. Several Mediterranean countries expressed their satisfaction for the assistance provided through the UNDP/ITALY/FAO Mediterranean Regional Aquaculture Programme (MEDRAP), and urged its continued funding. Several delegations also spoke of their collaboration with the global FAO/UNOP Aquaculture Development and Coordination Programme (ADCP) and of the importance to their own development of technical assistance received from FAO-executed national projects in the region.

58. The delegation of Czechoslovakia offered to host the Fifteenth Session of EIFAC. The offer was gratefully received by the Conference, and was referred to the Director-General for decision, along with a previously communicated offer by the Government of Sweden.

#### Crop Protection Policies in Relation to Food Safety and Environmental Control in Europe

59. The Conference, noting the continuously increasing use of pesticides in the intensive agricultural production systems in Europe, welcomed the discussion on crop protection policies, particularly in view of the increased concern about potential negative effects of pesticides on food quality and the environment. It also noted the technical shortcomings of intensive chemical control, such as the emergence of pesticide-resistant strains of pest organisms and the breakdown of natural control mechanisms.

60. The Conference agreed in general with the analysis and conclusions contained in document ERC/86/5 and endorsed the major programme and policy issues identified. These concern increased support for the work of the Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues, further collaborative action with UNEP and other agencies on the appraisal and monitoring of the impact of pesticides on the environment, the development and application of integrated pest management programmes and the application and observance of the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides. The Conference requested FAO to provide the necessary catalytic and coordinating support for the further development of the various activities. A number of delegates noted the international character of agricultural pests and their free movement across national borders. Hence pest problems were found to be usually of regional importance and therefore required a joint approach. Consequently, the Conference stressed that the area of crop protection offered excellent opportunities for regional cooperation.

61. Various delegates provided additional data to complete the overview provided in document ERC/86/5. All countries have pesticide registration legislation as well as procedures for its implementation. Various mechanisms for the monitoring of pesticide residues in food and feedstuffs are being established. In this respect, the activities of the Codex Alimentarius Commission on Pesticide Residues were given full support. The lack of reliable statistical data on pesticide use was noted.

62. The need for more intensive research to appraise the environmental effects of pesticides was emphasized. It was suggested that FAO should promote the development of appropriate test methodologies and the establishment of criteria against which the environmental safety of pesticides could be evaluated. The Conference noted, however, the complexity of the matter due to the multitude of environmental factors and interactions involved and, hence, the difficulty of adopting standard methods with a sufficiently broad applicability.

63. The Conference emphasized the overall importance of the unanimous adoption of the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides by the 23rd Session of the FAO Conference. It stressed the need for member countries to inform the FAO Secretariat about the measures taken to ensure effective implementation of the Code. It noted the steps planned by the Secretariat for this, including the formal transmission of the Code to member countries and different interested parties and the development of a questionnaire to provide guidance for the monitoring of the Code.

64. The Conference stressed the significance of the further development and, in particular, of the application of integrated pest management programmes in order to achieve a more efficient and reduced use of pesticides. Various delegations described the progress made on this matter in their countries. The potential and advantages of different control strategies and measures were highlighted. These included matters such as the establishment of effective pest forecasting systems; the increased use of pest-resistant crop varieties; the further development and application of biological control measures and the introduction of cultural practices leading to an overall improvement of the plant health situation of the various crops concerned.

65. A number of delegates stressed the need to give sufficient consideration to cost/benefit aspects to ensure better acceptance by farmers of newly developed alternative crop protection programmes. In addition, it was noted that attention should be paid to the possibilities offered by recent developments in biotechnology for the development of alternative control measures.

66. The Conference was informed of one government's decision to reduce the use of pesticides in the next five years by 50 percent. This would be achieved by, among others, the application of the various elements of the integrated pest management approach. It would also include the strengthening of the agricultural extension service.

Representation of the Region on the Consultative Group  
on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)

67. Regarding this item, it was suggested that FAO might assist in the organization of meetings which could intensify the dissemination of the results of international agricultural research carried out under the auspices of the CGIAR. So far, this dissemination had been somewhat hampered by shortage of funds. In this connection, the Conference was informed that Austria had recently joined the CGIAR as one of the donor countries, with an annual contribution of US \$1 000 000.

68. The Conference elected Poland for the four-year period 1987-90.

### CONCLUDING ITEMS

#### Place and date of the Sixteenth FAO Regional Conference for Europe

69. The Minister of Agriculture and Food Economy of Poland officially invited the Sixteenth FAO Regional Conference for Europe to be held in his country in 1988.

70. The Delegate of Israel reiterated and the delegate of Italy extended the invitation to hold the Seventeenth FAO Regional Conference for Europe in their respective countries in 1990. The delegate of Italy announced that if his country were selected, the Conference would be held in the city of Venice.

71. The Director-General of FAO was requested to determine the date and place of the Sixteenth Regional Conference for Europe after consultations with the Government of Poland and other Member Governments of the region.

#### Adoption of the Report

72. With some amendments, the text of the draft report was approved by the Conference. It was recommended that future Conferences appoint either a rapporteur or a drafting committee for the preparation of the report.

#### Closure of the Conference

73. The Director-General thanked the Government of Turkey for the excellent organization of two FAO Regional Conferences in Istanbul, and for the hospitality which had been so generously offered. He paid tribute to the considerable efforts being made in Turkey to develop agriculture to meet internal demands and to export agricultural products of high quality. The Director-General also expressed his appreciation for the high level of representation which had certainly contributed to the successful outcome of the Regional Conference for Europe.

74. On behalf of the participants, the delegates of the Netherlands, the Federal Republic of Germany and Czechoslovakia expressed their thanks to the Government and the people of Turkey for the arrangements made for the Conference, as well as their appreciation for the quality of the debates. Warm thanks were also extended to the Government for the highly interesting excursion to Yalova.

75. The Chairman said that the debates and exchanges of views had been useful and constructive and would no doubt contribute to furthering mutual understanding between countries. Agreement had been reached on several important questions, and the closeness and harmony of views augured well for the future. It was to be hoped that the understanding reached at this Conference - which provided a unique meeting-point for the highest level decision-makers in agriculture - would result in action at the policy level.

76. The Chairman said that it had been an honour and a pleasure for Turkey to host the Regional Conference for Europe, and he hoped that the participants had had an enjoyable and informative stay in his country.

77. The Chairman then thanked the Director-General, his staff, the interpreters and all those who had helped to bring the Conference to such a satisfactory conclusion.

AGENDA

I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

1. Opening of the Conference
2. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairmen
3. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

II. STATEMENTS

4. Statement by the Director-General
5. Statement by the Executive Secretary, ECE
6. Country Statements and General Debate on the Food and Agriculture Situation in Europe
7. Report by the FAO Regional Representative on
  - (a) FAO Activities in the Region in 1984-85, Including Action taken on the Main Recommendations of the Fourteenth Regional Conference,
  - (b) Programme of Work and Budget for 1986-87 in the Region

III. SELECTED ISSUES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

8. Development of Aquaculture in Europe
9. Crop Protection Policies in relation to Food Safety and Environmental Control in Europe
10. Representation of the Region on the CGIAR

IV. CONCLUDING ITEMS

11. Any other business
12. Place and Date of the Sixteenth FAO Regional Conference for Europe
13. Adoption of the Report
14. Closure of the Conference



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LISTE DES DELEGUES ET OBSERVATEURS  
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Presidente	:	
Vice Chairmen	:	Miroslav TOMAN (Czechoslovakia)
Vice-Présidents	:	Jon HELGASON (Iceland)
Vicepresidentes	:	Günter HAIDEN (Austria)
	:	Wolfgang VON GELDERN (Germany, Federal Republic of)

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LIST OF DOCUMENTS

ERC/86/1	Provisional Annotated Agenda
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Statement by Mr Edouard Saouma, Director-General

Mr Chairman, Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates and Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am especially pleased that the FAO Regional Conference for Europe is meeting this year in Istanbul. The colourful and subtle personality of this city and the traditional hospitality of the Turkish people are indeed captivating. I should particularly like to thank His Excellency Hüsnü Doğan, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of Turkey, for the generous invitation and welcome extended by his Government.

The Conference Context: Crisis in both North and South

There is another reason why I am pleased that our Conference is meeting in Istanbul. Little more than one month ago I was here for another FAO Regional Conference - that of the countries of the Near East and North Africa - where we looked at some of the typical problems of the Third World crisis: insufficient food production, the debt burden, the price slump for raw materials. This Conference, however, basically concerns developed economies, many of which have had to deal with a serious problem quite foreign to the Third World: agricultural overproduction.

I should like to point out that this sequence of two Regional Conferences in the same city is unique in the annals of FAO. But the main thing I wish to stress is the exemplary contrast between the two Conferences which calls to mind Turkey's traditional role as a bridge between civilizations (if indeed any reminder were needed), and also underscores the inescapable juxtaposition of two of the foremost contemporary realities: the southern crisis, born of shortages and poverty, and the northern crisis, due largely to uncontrolled abundance.

I should like to see this contrast as the underlying theme of our discussions. I should like it to remind us of the basic fact that the problems of agricultural Europe are inseparable from those of the poorest, hungriest countries of the world.

Mr Chairman,

One month ago, you were elected Chairman of the Regional Conference for the Near East, and now you have been chosen to chair the Regional Conference for Europe. Your Excellency, I offer you my special congratulations on this double election, which is a mark of the great prestige enjoyed by you and your country both among the southern Mediterranean countries and in Europe as well.

I should also like to welcome here today the Honourable Ministers, Heads of Delegations, Distinguished Delegates and Observers who have honoured this meeting with their presence. Since this Conference is being held in cooperation with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, I take this opportunity to greet the Commission's representative.

## The Role of FAO

Mr Chairman,

Last November, as you know, FAO commemorated its fortieth anniversary. As FAO begins its fifth decade, the world is in grave economic crisis and poverty and malnutrition are still far too common evils. FAO's new decade coincides with the onset of a profound transformation of the industrial societies and the dawn of a new technological era in agriculture and, as it approaches this new era, FAO naturally wonders what role it will be called upon to play.

I should like to step back for a moment, and examine two questions which have been much on my mind: how can FAO best tackle some of the problems of European agriculture, and how can enhanced cooperation between FAO and Europe help to confront the problems of the Third World?

### Problems of European Agriculture

We all know that European agriculture is highly diversified. Although some farmers - this is true of most of the OECD countries - use very modern methods and equipment, their production tends to exceed market demand. This is a worrying situation because it leads to costly support systems or even the adoption of protectionist stances, harmful to international trade, by the Governments concerned. Other farmers, though, are still underproductive, and frequently their contribution to food security in their own countries is only partial. This is the situation of some of the Eastern European and Mediterranean European countries.

Obvious imbalances could be remedied by improved trade, and interchange of experience could facilitate a certain amount of progress. However, this would mean more frequent exchanges of views on agricultural policies and more direct, concerted action on the part of the powers that be. These are difficult problems. The speakers in this dialogue remain firmly immured behind a wall of reticence as communications break down between the major partners in Europe - the EEC, the COMECON and the free trade zone.

FAO occupies a special place within this setting, since its Regional Conference provides the only opportunity for top-level European agricultural authorities to meet.

I am happy to see that Member Nations are quite aware of this opportunity and have made the most of it. As the first example I shall cite the research networks. Their value is by now obvious to all, and I take this opportunity to acknowledge all those countries who have made the networks possible through their support to FAO. I might also mention important resolutions, such as those adopted by previous Regional Conferences on forestry, pollution and fisheries, and all the technical meetings where experiences are exchanged. And may I, lastly, remind you of the use made of FAO's computerized documentation and statistics?

### Aquaculture

This Conference is no exception to this custom. You have before you two major problems to discuss. The first concerns the development of aquaculture in Europe. Aquaculture is a highly promising activity which could lead to

better use of coastal and inland waters for the production of animal proteins. It is still a new activity, and is particularly dependent upon increased dissemination of technology and greater collaboration in research.

#### Side-Effects of Pesticides

The second problem regards the side-effects of agro-chemicals. There is increasing concern about the possible harmful effects of pesticides on food and about environmental protection in Europe. The relevance of this subject has been heightened by the adoption at the last FAO Conference of the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides. Having exercised so much initiative in drawing up the Code, Europe ought now to be setting an example.

We are dealing here with a specific vocation; FAO has become a meeting point for exchanging views, transcending political differences and outside pressures. I am convinced that this role needs to be strengthened considerably, since progress is going to depend on meetings being more numerous, exchanges more meaningful, and discussions more thorough.

If agriculture is to take its rightful place in European economies, a broad vision of its future is called for. Exchanges need to be extended to take advantage of the complementary aspects of certain countries; production costs need to be lowered by modernizing technology; European farmers need to be guaranteed a decent position in society; a better balance between town and countryside needs to be found; and, finally, a serious effort needs to be made to protect natural resources.

As you well realize, none of this is possible without greater dialogue between all European countries, and without a meeting place acceptable to all.

#### European Agriculture and the Third World

The second of the two questions I mentioned concerns relations between European agriculture and the Third World.

The subject is an important one. The Third World, and Africa in particular, sells a substantial proportion of its agricultural produce on European markets. At the same time, European surpluses are directed in considerable quantities towards Third World countries. There is no need for me to remind you of the problems such trade entails. Third World exports are sold at unstable and unremunerative prices, and any attempt to add value prior to export is countered by raising protectionist barriers. Meanwhile, European surpluses prove increasingly difficult to market for lack of viable outlets. They therefore have to be backed by subsidies, unless distributed as food aid, when they may even compete with locally-produced commodities.

Nonetheless, the future undoubtedly depends on developing the complementary aspect of this situation, so that the right conditions are created to ensure that these potential markets grow in size and stability. As you know, considerable efforts have already been made in this area, the STABEX agreements providing a shining example. Overall achievements have, however, been patchy, and it is not hard to say why; there will be no progress until the partners can negotiate on an equal footing. The only possible solution lies in assisting the Third World to develop, in giving it the means to go

after growth, in helping it to shed its burden of debt and to assume control of its own affairs. Thus Third World development and market growth are major issues for European agriculture as well.

Of course, we all know that European countries have already demonstrated their awareness of the problem. Europe does, after all, provide large amounts of aid to the Third World. It accounts for half the total of OECD development aid, some 15 thousand million dollars annually, and to this must be added aid from Eastern European countries. Europe also channels aid through international organizations. You are certainly aware that European countries fund nearly half our Organization's Regular Budget, and that European staff members, experts and consultants play an important role in FAO. And I am sure there is no need for me to list all the projects we have undertaken with trust funds provided by European countries.

But is this enough? Is this all that can be done?

#### Rehabilitation of African Agriculture

I ask this in the light of the particularly difficult situation now confronting Africa. This year, I shall be discussing with African Ministers of Agriculture possible measures for the agricultural rehabilitation of the continent. One major conclusion has already emerged from the work done by FAO; Africa, strangled by debt, lacking foreign exchange and forced to make unprecedented reductions in budgets and investments, cannot hope to revive production without exceptional temporary aid. Africa needs fertilizers, pesticides, tools, vehicles, and all manner of other products.

Now compare this with the situation in most European countries. There we can see production surpluses, fertilizer and tool plants operating below capacity owing to lack of outlets, unemployed and unproductive workers drawing State benefits - a remarkable contrast indeed!

I should like you to think about this contradiction. Perhaps it may persuade us to take some new and unprecedented action. For instance, some of these surplus resources might be put to use where they are so desperately needed. It might even be possible to devise a policy whereby funds now used for supporting farm surpluses were channelled towards development instead. The crisis in the North could provide a real opportunity to get to grips with the problem of hunger in the South.

FAO would support any proposals of this kind, but they would need to have the backing of the countries most directly involved. I do not have to reiterate my conviction that such support is in the long-term interests of Europe.

#### Conclusion

Mr Chairman,

As you see, there is plenty of scope for European countries to become more actively involved in FAO. If you believe this as strongly as I do, then I hope I can count on your support to boost our effectiveness and to sharpen our response to your needs and to those of the more destitute countries.

Thank you for your attention, and I wish you every success in your work.

Statement by Mr Klaus A Sahlgren, Executive Secretary,  
of the Economic Commission for Europe

ECE values highly the close cooperation existing with FAO in activities relating to agriculture and forestry. This is evident both at the secretariat level, where there is a Joint ECE/FAO Agriculture and Timber Division in Geneva, and in the intergovernmental work where there is co-sponsorship for nearly all subsidiaries and most technical symposia and seminars of the ECE Committee on Agricultural Problems and of the ECE Timber Committee. I am determined to continue and to further develop this relationship.

It is well known that European agriculture is no longer a discreet or autonomous sector of the economy. It has become specialized, capital intensive, highly technical and integrated. Methods of agricultural production now have a direct and important impact on product quality, health and welfare, and the environment. Industrial-type production methods in agriculture are increasing throughout the region and they depend to a large extent on inputs from supply industries. This increasing interdependence between agriculture and the rest of the economy is an important factor in the rapid growth of agricultural production and has - or should have - a considerable influence on agricultural policies.

While a certain overall satisfaction can no doubt be derived from achievements in agricultural production in our region in recent years, there are also problems. Mounting oversupplies and depressed world market prices for basic agricultural commodities have put farmers in western Europe and North America in a difficult financial position. Exporting countries in eastern Europe are also adversely affected by depressed world market prices and by restriction in international trade. Rising input costs and fierce competition for the financial resources available for investment have forced the agricultural sector to seek further rationalization and increased economic efficiency. To this one can add, as the single major constraint not depending on markets and prices, adverse climatic conditions. In a sense, European agriculture has become the victim of its own progress and success. It is not surprising, therefore, that supply management in the wide sense of the word has become a major preoccupation of agricultural policies.

The ECE Committee on Agricultural Problems is of course very conscious of these problems and constraints. It has consequently been orienting its programme of work towards the future and selecting subjects which would be of interest and relevance to a maximum number of member countries.

Also, in line with the recommendations of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) - from which the ECE, as is well known, is drawing impulses and inspiration - the Committee has been encouraged to pay attention to questions relating to agrarian structure and farm rationalization, agricultural mechanization, technological and economic issues with regard to land use, soil quality and fertility, fertilizers, pollution problems, energy efficiency and rational use of water resources. Along these lines, the Committee will in the next years organize symposia on improved

irrigation practices, the utilization of micronutrients, technical solutions in cattle feeding, fish farming as an income supplement, and the impact of marketing developments on the standardization of livestock products.

I shall not at this stage go into a detailed description of the Working Party on Mechanization of Agriculture, nor of the Working Party on Agrarian Structure and Farm Rationalization - suffice it to say that they have programmes of work which deal with central or topical problems affecting the technical equipment of farms, rural development and farm management. I would also like to mention that the Committee on Agricultural Problems is continuing its efforts, together with FAO and the ECE's Conference of European Statisticians, to improve the quality and harmonization of food and agricultural statistics. As a contribution to the facilitation of international trade, the Working Party on Standardization of Perishable Produce and its subsidiary bodies remain active in the harmonization field.

Active as they are, on this same small continent, it seems to me only reasonable that the Regional Conference and the ECE Committee on Agricultural Problems as well as the ECE Timber Committee should pursue complementary if not common purposes; re-inforce and contribute to each other's activities and objectives. It is in this spirit, after all, that ECE has been proud to co-operate in the Regional Conferences for 14 years in an attempt to bring together in this august assembly all the states of Europe. It is in the very same spirit that we continue to co-operate closely and effectively with the FAO Secretariat in the ECE-joint work on agriculture and timber. I should like therefore to re-affirm the readiness of ECE, both the Governments and the Secretariat, to make a substantive as well as an organizational contribution to the success of the Regional Conference. It was with this very much in mind that I have touched here briefly today on some of the pressing agricultural problems facing our region as seen from the ECE vantage point. While I realize that they are not on the table for immediate discussion, I believe they would serve a useful purpose in complementing the agenda which this conference has before it.

In conclusion, Mr Chairman, I should like to recall that in its omnibus resolution adopted each year the Commission regularly notes with satisfaction its successful co-operation with other international organizations. I believe that the co-operation between ECE and FAO amply illustrates the Commission's sentiments and I am confident that ways can be found further to enhance those joint undertakings.



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