

DECLARATIONS OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL

DECLARATION ON SOCIAL POLICY, CONSUMERS, ENVIRONMENT, DISTRIBUTION OF INCOME

1. The Treaty on European Union does not prevent any Member State from maintaining or introducing more stringent protection measures compatible with the EC Treaty :
 - in the field of working conditions and in social policy (Article 118 A (3) of the EC Treaty and Article 2 (5) of the Agreement on social policy concluded between the Member States of the European Community with the exception of the United Kingdom);
 - in order to attain a high level of consumer protection (Article 129 A (3) of the EC Treaty);
 - in order to pursue the objectives of protection of the environment (Article 130 T of the EC Treaty).
2. The provisions introduced by the Treaty on European Union, including the provisions on Economic and Monetary Union, permit each Member State to pursue its own policy with regard to distribution of income and maintain or improve social welfare benefits.

DECLARATION ON DEFENCE

The European Council takes note that Denmark will renounce its right to exercise the Presidency of the Union in each case involving the elaboration and the implementation of decisions and actions of the Union which have defence implications. The normal rules for replacing the President, in the case of the President being indisposed, shall apply. These rules will also apply with regard to the representation of the Union in international organisations, international conferences and with third countries.