COUNCIL DECISION

of 20 January 1981

on the provisional application to the Republic of Vanuatu (former Anglo-French Condominium of the New Hebrides) of the arrangements provided for in Decision 76/568/EEC on the association of the Overseas Countries and Territories with the European Economic Community

(81/23/EEC)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community,

Having regard to Council Decision 76/568/EEC of 29 June 1976 on the association of the Overseas Countries and Territories with the European Economic Community (1), as last amended by Decision 80/162/EEC (2), and in particular the second subparagraph of Article 55 (2) thereof,

Having regard to the recommendation from the Commission,

Whereas, pursuant to the second subparagraph of Article 55 (2) of Decision 76/568/EEC, the arrangements provided for therein may continue to apply provisionally, under the conditions laid down by the Council, to countries and territories which become independent;

Whereas the Anglo-French Condominium of the New Hebrides, which appears in Annex I of the said Decision, achieved independence on 30 July 1980 as the Republic of Vanuatu;

Whereas it should be decided to continue to apply provisionally to that State the arrangements provided for in Decision 76/568/EEC as well as those provided for in the new Decision which will replace it;

Whereas the Second ACP-EEC Convention is open, in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 185 thereof, to accession by countries or territories referred to in Part Four of the Treaty which have become independent; whereas such accession can take place only following a request by the State concerned and with the approval of the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers;

Whereas the Republic of Vanuatu has submitted a request for accession to the Second ACP-EEC Convention,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The arrangements laid down by Decision 76/568/EEC and those provided for by the new Decision which will replace it shall apply provisionally to the Republic of Vanuatu until the latter accedes to the Second ACP-EEC Convention.

Article 2

Questions relating to the application to the Republic of Vanuatu of Decision 76/568/EEC and of the new Decision which will replace it shall be dealt with as necessary by direct contact between the competent authorities of that State and of the Community.

Article 3

This Decision shall take effect on the day of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Communities.*

Done at Brussels, 20 January 1981.

For the Council

The President

Ch. A. van der KLAAUW

(1) OJ No L 176, 1. 7. 1976, p. 8.
(2) OJ No L 35, 12. 2. 1980, p. 26.