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INFORMATION MEMO

ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE ON SOCIAL POLICY IN TRANSPORT

A Round Table Conference on the subject of social policy in transport, organized by the Commission of the EEC, will be held in Brussels from 10 to 12 December.

The main purpose of this conference is to provide the Commission with information which will help in working out the measures of social harmonization required under the common transport policy. It must take due account of the special aspects of transport and of the general objectives of the Community's social policy.

The conference will be advisory in character and should enable the Commission to learn the views held by both sides of the transport industry on the objectives, the methods and the timing of harmonization, and on its basic content.

The conference should therefore

- (i) provide guidance and clarification concerning the social measures to be taken in transport, especially with regard to the subjects referred to in the Memorandum and, more recently, in the action programme for the common transport policy;
- (ii) provide, where necessary, information on problems in transport by rail, road or inland waterways to which no special reference is made in the action programme, and to indicate the importance and urgency of these problems;
- (iii) provide guidance on the attitude and perhaps the measures to be taken in the social field with regard to transport operations from or to a non-member country;
- (iv) make it possible to establish a time-table for the social measures that are to be taken.

With these objectives in view the conference, in addition to taking due account of the special aspects of transport, the general objectives of the Community's social policy and the harmonization of social systems, should bear in mind the following points:

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- (i) The competitive position of carriers, since the common transport policy is based on the principle of competition; this in turn requires the alignment of starting positions for the various forms of transport and for individual enterprises within one form of transport in the various Member States;
- (ii) The economic situation of carriers;
- (iii) The differences in size, organization and management of enterprises in each form of transport, and the existence of a large number of individual and family firms in certain branches of the industry;
- (iv) The public utility element inherent in certain transport operations;
- (v) The incidence of social factors on costs, in view of the tariff limitations imposed on carriers;
- (vi) The gradual integration of transport in the Community, both as regards international traffic and the admission of non-resident carriers to transport operations within a Member State;
- (vii) Progress in methods and technology, rationalization and increased productivity in the various branches of transport;
- (viii) The priority to be given to the correction of any situation which differs significantly from the generally accepted social standards.

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Three subjects will be dealt with during the conference:

A. Harmonization and co-ordination of working conditions

Main rapporteur: Prof. Dr. André DEVREKER (Belgium), Professor in the Faculty of Law (Transport) of the University of Ghent

Associate

rapporteurs:

Employers: M. Marcel BOCKEN (Belgium), Assistant Director of Personnel, Belgian Railways;
 M. Robert SCHEFFER (France), Administrative Director, CNFR; M. L. DEVREUX (Belgium),
 M. Raymond PORTMAN (France);
 Workers: M. F. MARNET (Belgium, CGSP);
 M. E. LEOLINI (Italy, FILTAT); M. H. DIERS (Germany, OTV); M. A.M. MOLENAAR (Netherlands).

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Discussion of this subject will throw light upon the working conditions that are to be harmonized.

The following points will be studied in respect of each of the three forms of transport:

- (i) The number and composition of teams in the various transport categories;
- (ii) Working hours, rest and overtime arrangements.

In the case of road transport there will be discussion of the problem of the maximum number of hours of uninterrupted driving and the maximum number of hours of driving in any one day.

For inland waterways transport special attention will be given to the problem of the maximum number of hours on duty per day, to the maximum number of hours of uninterrupted work at the helm, and to the protection of women workers.

There will be discussion of the working conditions to be co-ordinated, including overtime arrangements and the main principles which should apply to working hours and rest.

Under this heading a study will also be made of the methods for the gradual establishment of comparable working conditions in the three forms of transport, and the line to be taken in the work of harmonization and co-ordination.

B. Vocational training and employment

Main rapporteur: M. Hugo PETER (Germany), Director of "Rhein", the vocational training establishment for inland waterways navigation

Associate rapporteurs: M. Daniel MACE (France), Secretary General of the Union des Fédérations de Transports,
M. Maurice NICKMILDER (France), CFTC

The following matters will be discussed: vocational training policy and programmes, harmonization and mutual recognition of diplomas and certificates, exchange of apprentices, training of teaching staff, and the harmonization of provisions on vocational fitness. Further, a list will be drawn up of vocational training requirements and programmes.

The following will also be discussed: vocational re-training and further training, and special questions concerning the organization of schooling for children of crews working on inland waterways.

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C. Industrial health and safety at work -- social services

Main rapporteur: Maître Arnaldo MESSINA (Italy)

Associate rapporteurs: Dr. SIEGLAFF (Germany), Federal German Railways,
M. Rudolf BÜHLER (Germany), GDED

The following problems will be discussed:

- (i) Harmonization of minimum standards of physical fitness;
- (ii) Establishment of minimum industrial health and safety rules;
- (iii) Establishment of rules on accommodation and meals;
- (iv) Organization of social services.

The following will take part in the conference: Government experts from the Member States, experts from the international organizations of transport entrepreneurs and workers represented at Community level.

The Commission has also invited observers to attend from:

- (i) The High Authority of the ECSC and the Euratom Commission;
- (ii) The Council of Ministers and the Permanent Representatives;
- (iii) The Secretariats of the trade organizations concerned which are established at the Community level;
- (iv) The Committee on Transport and the Social Committee of the European Parliament;
- (v) The Transport and Social Affairs Section of the Economic and Social Committee;
- (vi) Representatives of other international organizations, such as the ILO, the Council of Europe, the OECD and the Central Commission for the Navigation of the Rhine.

The opening session will take place at the Palais des Congrès in Brussels at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, 10 December 1963.