

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE
OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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PREFACE

In the past members have expressed the wish for an annual report on the activities of the Economic and Social Committee. Thanks to the strengthening of the Secretariat this has now become a practical proposition, and so, at the start of this new year of 1974, we have great pleasure in presenting the first report.

On mature reflection it was decided that instead of making the report a chronological account of the proceedings of the plenary session, it would be more useful and appropriate to present it in the form of an overall survey, a general progress report.

In the report we will attempt to show the part the Committee has been playing within the Community institutional machinery, and its present place in this machinery. We will also consider the question of where and to what extent the Committee's activity has contributed to the building of Europe and influenced the course it has taken. Thus, the report will serve as a barometer and point of reference for all who have been concerned, directly or indirectly, in the Committee's activities. It will allow organizations delegating members to the Committee to appreciate the constructive and fruitful nature of their representatives' work. Finally, the report will inform public opinion on the useful role played by our Institution in the process of Community decision-making.

It is clear to any attentive observer of the European scene that Europe is, however sluggishly in some respects, on the move. This is bound to lead to major changes in inter-institutional relations. The latest economic and social events have starkly highlighted a number of worries and grievances: runaway prices, the energy crisis, the threat of layoffs, pursuit of sectional interests.

Caught up in this complex situation, people at large often feel lost, controlled like puppets and condemned to a passive role. As a result, they feel the need to assert themselves and sometimes, as a last hope of gaining a hearing, they resort to violence. Is it not fair to say that the need for self-expression and action is strong in all of us? And, on the other hand, is it not true that the transfer of responsibility for many matters to the European arena takes the individual even further away from the centres of decision?

This danger must be met by a democratization of the Community Institutions. There has to be a reappraisal of the respective roles of the Parliament, the Council, the Commission and the Court of Justice to ensure that power is not concentrated unduly and that a fair balance is struck between the functions of proposing legislation, advising, taking decisions, implementing, monitoring and applying sanctions. Within this framework the Economic and Social Committee must be a key instrument of the first importance. As the meeting-place *par excellence* between the different forces at work in our countries, it must see to it that their economic and social forces are more fully involved at the various stages before and after Community decisions.

Tangible progress has recently been made in this direction, as this report will go on to show: enlargement of the Community and the appointment of new members, bringing fresh blood into the Committee; strengthening and reorganization of the Secretariat to

help it meet new requirements; granting to the Committee of the right to take up matters on its own initiative, at any time and on any subject it chooses; minor improvements in the referral procedures of the Council and Commission. Nevertheless, much still remains to be done in the process of gaining for the Committee greater powers of intervention and influence within the institutional set-up and in the economic and social life of the Community.

A conceptual group made up of members of the Committee Bureau has begun to study ways of achieving these aims. Basing itself in particular on the decisions taken by the recent Paris and Copenhagen Summit Conferences, it tried to work out the implications these decisions have for the Economic and Social Committee. We are hopeful that this group's conclusions will open up for the Committee and its members encouraging prospects for a future in which they will feel more involved in the Community's work and in which their opinions will be given a fuller, prompt hearing. This would be a decisive step towards a Europe which is more representative of its component parts.

Alfons LAPPAS
Chairman

Henri CANONGE
Vice-Chairman

Alberto MASPRONE
Vice-Chairman

CHAPTER I

SURVEY OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE'S IMPACT

1. Within the institutional machinery of the Community

An assessment of the Economic and Social Committee's activities must begin with an examination of its role in the institutional machinery of the Communities. The Treaties (Article 4 of the EEC Treaty and Article 3 of the Euratom Treaty) provide that 'the Council and the Commission shall be assisted by an Economic and Social Committee acting in an advisory capacity'. But the special character of the Committee has more to it than this formal definition of its functions would suggest. The Committee is a link between the Community Institutions and economic and social activity in the Member States. It does not just provide the Council and Commission with information, and does not just function as a clearing house for the views and ideas of representatives of various organizations. Acting through the relevant national and Community-level organizations, the Committee makes a key contribution to explaining Community law-making to the sections of the population concerned. Being composed of leading representatives of the social partners from all branches of the economy affected by Community decisions, the Committee's activity is directed towards influencing the process of preparing those decisions so that their eventual form will be more in keeping with the interests of the mass of the population; in doing this the Committee does not confine itself to its advisory role. Its role in the economic and social field is parallel to that of the European Parliament in the political field.

The opinions of the Economic and Social Committee are the key element in the two-way flow of information. Over the past year, a total of seventy-five opinions was delivered and three studies were compiled. These documents range over the whole field of activity of the Communities, including, to name but a few examples, the common agricultural policy, regional policy, social policy, economic and monetary policy, protection of the environment and consumer affairs. Reports on major subjects covered are given in Chapter II.

The extent to which the Committee is effective depends on the place it has in the institutional machinery. In the past its development has been impeded by the fact that it was not recognized as being an institution. Recognition of this status would have entailed its being granted certain privileges enjoyed by comparable national institutions. In particular, the Committee saw a big disadvantage in the fact that it could not deliver opinions on its own initiative but only when consulted by the Council or Commission. The Committee's sustained efforts over a number of years to bring about a change in this situation were finally crowned with success in 1972; at their Summit Conference in Paris, the Heads of State or Government invited the Council and the Commission to grant the Committee a right of initiative. A revision of the Rules of Procedure was then set in hand to give this right of initiative form and substance by setting out the exact conditions for its application. The architects of the revision were fully aware of the political implications of this new departure, and among the amendments they proposed was one to ensure that the Committee can only take up matters

on its own initiative if a sufficient proportion of the Committee members concur. In the past year the Committee has already exercised its new-won right. It has delivered or started to prepare a number of 'own initiative' opinions, notably on the multilateral GATT negotiations, the problems connected with a Community technological and industrial policy programme and the renewal or extension of association agreements with countries which have special relations with certain Member States.

Another matter of fundamental importance for the Committee is the action taken by the Council and Commission on its opinions.

According to Article 189 of the EEC Treaty, Committee opinions are legal documents, but do not have binding force. This makes it all the more necessary to gauge the actual effect of the Committee's work. But this analysis is hampered by the fact that although the Committee is naturally anxious that the Council or the Commission keep it informed of the action taken on its opinions, neither the Treaties nor the Committee's rules lay down a mandatory procedure. At present the only way of assessing the real impact of its opinions is to piece together empirical information after decisions have been taken. Last year the Chairman of the Committee made a whole series of approaches to the Council and the Commission with the aim of improving liaison in this matter by establishing a systematic information procedure. It was not the Committee's intention, of course, to press the Commission to introduce the procedure used for the European Parliament, that is to say detailed accounts of how opinions have been taken into consideration. Nevertheless, the Committee thinks it extremely desirable that it be supplied with a periodic report, which in certain cases could be amplified. The Commission was very much in favour of this proposal from the Committee and the Secretaries-General of the two organizations were instructed to work out details.

This problem has also been repeatedly brought to the attention of the Council. The Chairman of the Committee and the President of the Council met several times in 1973 to discuss closer liaison between the two organs, and their secretariats have been instructed to look into the scope for a better exchange of information.

Besides these steps to improve the information position, the Committee Secretariat has for some time been compiling documentation comparing texts adopted at the various stages of the decision-making procedure, and providing a basis for assessing the impact of the Committee's work.

A statistical examination (see Annex) of the action taken on Committee opinions in 1971 and 1972 yielded the following findings. Out of the sixty-five Commission proposals on which the Committee had delivered an opinion, thirty-five have been the subject of a Council decision. The Committee had fully concurred with twenty-one, and proposed amendments to fourteen. In only two of these fourteen cases did the final decision incorporate none of the proposed amendments. Some were incorporated in seven cases, and a substantial proportion in five cases. Disregarding the proposals on which the Council has yet to take a decision — an omission which can be justified on methodological grounds, given the often large time-lag — the percentage breakage is as follows:

Opinions expressing total approval of Commission proposal	60 %
Dissenting opinions largely acted on	14.3 %
Dissenting opinions acted on in some respects	20 %
Dissenting opinions which were disregarded	5.7 %

Such a classification in purely quantitative terms does not, of course, give any indication as to the nature of the opinions. A definitive assessment would have to take account of qualitative criteria too. But for reasons of space this cannot be done with the requisite exactitude here.

If the problem of information procedures were resolved satisfactorily, the Economic and Social Committee would be able to gauge more exactly the extent to which the Council and Commission take its opinion into account — and, by the same token, judge the success of its efforts.

By the terms of its Rules of Procedure, the Council and the Commission are the only Community institutions with which the Committee has official relations, so its contact with the European Parliament has not been as evident as with the former. For some time, however, the Committee has been concerned to establish close relations with the European Parliament and has repeatedly let the Parliament know of this desire. The Committee discounts the fear expressed by some people that an extension of the Committee's privileges might limit the rights and responsibilities of the Parliament. In numerous speeches and statements, the Chairman of the Committee has expressed the Committee's unqualified support for the efforts being made to extend the powers of the European Parliament, with the object of furthering the democratization of the Community's institutional machinery.

2. Outside the institutional machinery of the Community

After the enlargement of the Community, the Committee set itself the priority goal of establishing the closest possible contacts with policy-makers and representatives of the economic and social activities in the new Member States. To this end, the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen made three official visits, the first in March to the United Kingdom, the second in May to Denmark, the third in May to Ireland.

In the United Kingdom, the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen had talks with Sir Geoffrey Howe, Minister for Trade and Consumer Affairs, Mr Chichester-Clark, Minister of State for Employment, and Mr Smith, Under-Secretary of State for Employment. In addition, they met representatives of associations such as the Confederation of British Industry, the Consumer's Association, the National Farmer's Union and the Trades Union Congress.

During their official visit to Denmark, they had talks with the Prime Minister, Mr Jørgensen, and the Minister of Labour, Mr Dinesen. The Chairman, Mr Lappas,

and the Vice-Chairmen, Mr Canonge and Mr Masprone, also had a series of meetings with organizations representative of economic and social activities, such as the Employers' Federation, the Confederation of Industry, the Chamber of Trade, the Trade Union Confederation and farmers' and consumers' organizations. As part of the official visit, the Committee's Bureau held an extraordinary meeting in Christiansborg Castle in Copenhagen on 3 May 1973.

Next came the official visit to Ireland. Talks were again held with members of the Government and of various organizations. The Chairman and Vice-Chairmen met the Taoiseach, Mr Cosgrave, the Tanaiste, Mr Corish, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr FitzGerald, the Minister for Industry and Commerce, Mr Keating, the Minister for Transport and Power, Mr Barry, and the Minister for Agriculture, Mr Clinton. Subsequently, they met members of the Confederation of Irish Industry, the Irish Congress of Trade Unions and various agricultural organizations.

In connection with Committee activities outside the Community, mention should principally be made of two initiatives taken by the Chairman. Firstly, he made an informatory visit in early April to various African countries associated with the Community. The talks, held in the Republic of Zaïre and the Republic of Kenya, centred around the problem of development aid with particular emphasis laid on the chances of speeding up the industrialization of the countries in question.

Following this visit, Mr Lappas stayed one week in the United States in June. This visit was mainly geared to the problems raised by relations between the Community and the United States, with special regard to the aspects of these relations which affect the two sides of industry. Among those taking part on the American government side were Mr Dent, the Secretary of Commerce, Mr Segal, Deputy Under Secretary for International Affairs in the Department of Labour, Mr Armstrong, Assistant Secretary of State for Economic and Business Affairs at the Department of State, Mr Stabler, Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Department of State and Mr Herbert Stein, Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers. On the unions and employers side mention should be made of Mr George Meany, President of the AFL-CIO, Mr Kenna, Chairman of the National Association of Manufacturers, and Mr van Meter, Director of the US Chamber of Commerce.

CHAPTER II

THE COMMITTEE'S ACTIVITIES

At the Paris Summit of Heads of State or Government of October 1972, a number of priority tasks were laid down as aims for the European Community, to be reached by the end of 1973. In the resulting pattern of policy decisions which had to be taken in the course of that year, the Economic and Social Committee has played its part by a searching examination of the Commission's proposals and by giving its opinions on each of them to the Council of Ministers. The Summit asked for action on the following subject matters: economic and monetary union, regional policy, social policy, industrial policy, environment, energy and external relations.

To deal with them, as well as with many other directives and regulations, all of which cannot – for lack of space – be mentioned here, the Economic and Social Committee held nine plenary sessions in 1973, attended by the majority of its members. (There are 144 seats on the Committee of which at present 136 are filled.) In addition, it adapted its working methods to the matter in hand by transforming its specialized sections and sub-committees into nine sections in January 1973, thus fitting the Committee's structures to the new requirements. It was in the section meetings (73 of them in the course of the year) and in the study groups and drafting groups (204 meetings) that the members, especially those appointed as rapporteurs, ably assisted by the Secretariat, accomplished these tasks.

1. Economic and Monetary Union

Following the resolution of the Council of Ministers on the step-by-step realization of economic and monetary union in the Community and the decisions taken on the subject at the Paris Summit, the Economic and Social Committee used its right of initiative to prepare an Opinion and a Report on the Communication from the Commission to the Council on three points: the progress achieved in the first stage of economic and monetary union; the allocation of powers and responsibilities among Community institutions and the Member States essential for the proper functioning of economic and monetary union, and the measures to be taken in the second stage of economic and monetary union.

In its Opinion, given in December 1973, the Committee called for an acceleration in the construction of Europe on solid foundations.

The Committee agreed with the Commission's view that progress in the first stage had been generally unsatisfactory, and put this down to the lack of political will by Member States and their refusal to allow the necessary transfer of authority to the Community's institutions as well as upheavals in the international monetary field. Under these circumstances the Committee considered it essential to avoid fixing multiple objectives to be achieved simultaneously, but rather to establish priorities in the essential spheres.

In this connection the Committee concluded that the safeguarding of achievements to date and the creation of genuine economic union would be brought about more quickly if priority was given to monetary union. The Committee noted that this would require convergence of Member States' economic policies, the harmonization of their budgetary and monetary policies, the creation of a true European capital market and the elimination of technical obstacles to trade as well as acceptance of the necessary constraints on their liberty of action by every Member State and all sections of their populations.

The Committee stressed that harmonization was not aimed at bringing about standardization of structures, a concept it considered unrealistic in view of the very wide differences in national and regional characteristics and traditions.

On the other hand, the Committee was aware that progress of economic and monetary union was likely to lead to new regional, social and sectoral disequilibrium, and emphasized the need for policies to offset these imbalances to be put into effect as soon as possible.

The Committee felt that the existence of special problems in individual Member States should not lead to deviation from common objectives, and that in the case of States with special monetary problems the appropriate monetary solution should be sought rather than the provision of financial compensation in other sectors.

The Committee stressed that as the process of economic and monetary union continued, responsibilities should gradually be transferred from national to Community institutions. The Committee therefore called for the European Parliament to be directly elected not later than at the beginning of the final stage of economic and monetary union, and for it to be more closely associated with the Community decision-making process, in particular, that it should enjoy powers of approval and control of the Community budget similar to those enjoyed by national parliaments in respect to national budgets.

Finally, the Committee firmly endorsed the Commission's view that in order to strengthen the democratic character of Community institutions, consultation with representatives of all economic and social groups in society should be intensified, particularly in the preparation of decisions.

2. Regional Policy

The introduction of a Community policy on regional development has been a matter of considerable interest to the Committee during the year, to the point that it was found necessary to set up a new specialized section to deal exclusively with this range of questions. The work carried out has consisted of a general study of the problems involved, followed by more detailed opinions on the proposals of the Commission for a regional development fund, and, towards the end of the year, on the choice of criteria to determine the regions qualifying for Community funds.

The fundamental principle which has guided the Committee's approach throughout its work, and in particular its reactions to the specific proposals of the Commission has been its agreement on the need to ensure that the available funds should not be spread so thinly as to weaken their impact on the areas most in need. This led, for instance, to the suggestion that the income criterion determining eligible regions should be substantially below the Community average and not just below the average as the Commission proposed. In following an approach which would concentrate funds on the most deprived areas, the Committee was consciously rejecting the notion of 'fair returns' and accepting that transfers of funds towards the countries with the greatest problems were necessary if these problems were to be seriously tackled.

In addition, the Committee considered that, for the funds to be concentrated in this way, the bodies set up to grant aid would be the determining factor, rather than the choice of criteria. For this reason, it asked that trade circles should be represented on these bodies.

3. Social Policy

In connection with this policy, considered by the Summit Conference to be fundamental, the Economic and Social Committee delivered an opinion on the Community's 'Draft Social Action Programme', prepared by the Commission and submitted to the Council at the end of October 1973.

In view of the complexity of this subject, the Committee diverged from its normal procedure and, on certain points, stated the various positions adopted by its members instead of giving a majority opinion.

The Committee did stress, however, that a Community social policy must pursue its own specific objectives, aimed at developing man's capacities and satisfying human needs. It must enable people to have secure jobs, to have reasonable incomes both during and after their working lives, to have protection against the vicissitudes of life, to live in a healthy environment and to participate in the shaping and continuous improvement of their own family and social lives.

An effective labour market policy calls for a coordination of the activities of the European Social Fund and of the European Regional Development Fund since regional imbalances not only endanger full employment but also reduce equality of opportunities and adversely affect the quality of people's lives. The prime objective of the Community is to ensure freedom of choice as regards place of residence, place of work and occupation. In concrete terms this means that living conditions must be virtually identical in all the regions of the Community.

The extensive migration within the Community poses almost insoluble social problems, due to the insertion of a large number of migrant workers into a foreign social environment. The Community labour market policy must therefore aim at removing the structural imbalances between supply and demand in order to eliminate the need to emigrate. Forced migration burdens society as a whole with considerable economic

and social costs and greatly interferes with the rights of the individual. In this context special consideration should also be given to opportunities for employment of the underprivileged sections of the population.

As far as vocational training is concerned, the structural differences originate from the different conditions of social, economic and technological development to be found in the Member States. To make the guarantee of completely equal education opportunities a practical reality throughout the educational and training system and to keep pace with economic development and meet the technological requirements of an industrial society, the principles listed in the study adopted by the Committee in December, and which are aimed at gradually harmonizing vocational training, must be implemented.

Job security is threatened not only by cyclical fluctuations but also by industrial, technical and organizational change. Workers must therefore also be protected against the harmful social consequences of mergers, rationalization measures and closures of undertakings. Their incomes must be safeguarded and legislation must be introduced to make recognition of the lawfulness of dismissals dependent on legally verifiable conditions.

On industrial democracy, the Committee's views were divided; certain members demanded for workers' representatives the right to control economic and social decisions at all levels: at the workshop, in the factory, in the company, and at regional, national and European level. This democratization process calls for early harmonization of company law in the Community. Other members considered that workers' participation in management did not correspond to the present state of industrial relations in certain Member States.

The Committee also examined the Council's Draft Resolution on priority actions to be taken in social fields; it endorsed the initiatives taken by the Commission and said it would like to be further consulted as they took shape. The Committee requested that a new priority aim be inserted in the text – compensating action for the purpose of securing full equality for every worker from a member country regarding wages and other working conditions irrespective of the country in which the work agreement was negotiated.

4. Industrial Policy

Considerable activity had been taking place in the Community on industrial questions before the Paris Summit, but the notion of a coherent Community policy for the sector as a whole led to a fresh look by the Committee at some of the problems involved. Inevitably the programme proposed by the Commission included many elements on which detailed work had already been carried out or on which proposals were made during the year. These included such subjects as company law, especially the possibility of a draft statute for a European company, the main points of principle arising in the discussions being whether the statute should be drawn up so as to associate the workers with various decisions affecting the company and, if so, how this should be done.

The Committee agreed on the principle that workers' participation should take place on three levels : through European works' advisory committees, through representation on supervisory boards of companies and through collective bargaining.

Having now started discussions on the draft fifth directive concerning the internal structure of limited companies within the Community, the section, including representatives of the new Member States, is confronted with the same kind of problems : an obligatory two-tier board system and workers' representatives on the supervisory board controlling the management of the company and having a co-decision right in some important fields.

In its opinions on the various proposals in connection with industrial policy, the Committee expressed its regret that technological progress and innovation in the Community are not given a place in an overall industrial policy in pursuance of a number of objectives. In its view, the Community should rapidly arrive at a sharper awareness of the framework of objectives to be attained in the industrial policy sphere, both in general as well as in individual sectors.

Despite the absence of a framework of this type, the Committee concurred with a number of specific proposals. A case in point is Community contracts, whose objective is to enable medium-sized businesses having considerable innovative capacities, but lacking the requisite funds to cooperate across national frontiers on the development of new products and processes.

Another aspect of the Committee's work in this general field which, like the company law in question, turned out to have important underlying social implications, was that of small- and medium-sized enterprises. The Committee towards the end of the year was completing its work on a series of proposals to improve the structural problems and competitive situation of firms in this category.

Also in the field of policy on competition, the Committee carried out considerable work on the problems of industrial concentration within the Community, with a view to giving an opinion on the Commission's proposal for notification and prior approval of mergers of companies involving activities of more than a certain minimum size.

5. Environment

On the problem of safeguarding the human environment, the Economic and Social Committee delivered *inter alia* an opinion on a draft Council resolution on a 'Community environmental programme' and on a 'proposal for a Council decision on information of the Commission on environmental matters'.

In the Committee's view, it was absolutely necessary that the Member States should provide the Commission with a permanent flow of information on their national environment laws and on any intention to amend them ; the Committee felt it was also necessary to develop a procedure for providing the Commission with continuous information on research programmes and on technical development at national level, and on the financial and economic consequences of these programmes.

The Committee has stated on numerous occasions that the Community's objectives on environmental matters must be based on the letter and spirit of Article 2 of the EEC Treaty and must serve to promote harmonious development of economic activities, a more rapid increase in the standard of living and closer relations with Member States. On this matter economic growth must, to an increasing extent, be compatible with social and human objectives and priority should be given to correcting regional, social and sectoral imbalances.

Since the Committee is aware of the economic repercussions of the implementation of the programme, it feels that provision should be made for gradual application of the quality standards, but only in cases where total reduction of pollution and nuisances cannot be achieved without excessive expense; in addition the Member States must lay down quality standards at regional level, taking account of the industrial, semi-industrial and tourist functions of the regions concerned. In any case it seems that the importance of the action programme is due to the fact that the corrective action which it implies, guarantees the achievement of the Community's objectives. The Community's tasks must consist mainly in coordinating, stimulating, guiding and – in order that the programme may be implemented – in regulating action with respect to Member States.

As regards preventive action, the application of certain scientific discoveries should not be authorized until methods have been worked out to protect the environment against any adverse effects. However, the Committee notes that nothing definite has been envisaged in this connection.

Finally the problem of monitoring application of the standards in force was raised. It was stated that only vigorous action to harmonize national legislations could allow this to be achieved satisfactorily. On this matter the absence of appropriate legal instruments is bound to hamper the adoption of measures which are necessary for the achievement of the programmes. Where these instruments do not exist, Article 235 of the EEC Treaty will have to be used.

6. Energy Policy

In its work on a Community policy in the field of energy the Economic and Social Committee highlighted the weaknesses in the Commission's study of energy problems in the period 1975-1985 and its proposals for 'necessary progress in the Community energy policy'. It was pointed out that the Community would have to place greater importance on the use of its own coal deposits and on the long-term development of nuclear energy if it were to meet the considerable and complex problems of energy supply with which it would be faced.

On the question of overall priorities, the Committee stressed the need to develop a genuine Community energy policy, beyond the limited scope of the Commission's proposals, which would guarantee secure and lasting supplies under satisfactory economic conditions, an objective which has also been endorsed by the Heads of State or Government at their Summit Conference in Paris in October 1972.

In addition, the Council of Ministers was strongly urged to make a more positive approach towards the implementation of measures necessary for the development of a common policy than the non-committal attitude which it had taken hitherto.

When the energy crisis broke out towards the end of 1973, the Committee, because of the wide spectrum of social groups, economic sectors and nationalities represented among its Members, was ideally placed to voice the general concern felt throughout Europe and to insist on the need for concrete action, at the Community level and on a Community scale, to face the problem.

This lent new importance to the Committee's study on Community energy policy which, on its own initiative, it decided to undertake in view of the urgency of the situation. Without losing sight of the need to define the long-term objectives and content of policy in this field, it became necessary to place special emphasis also on the short-term measures needed to protect the employment and standard of living of the population and to ensure the continued strength of the European economy.

7. External Relations

Exercising for the first time its right to give opinions on its own initiative, the Economic and Social Committee delivered in May 1973 an initial opinion on the multilateral trade negotiations in GATT.

During the preparation of this general opinion on the development of an overall approach to these negotiations, the Committee announced its intention to carry out a detailed examination of the various aspects of the negotiations as they progressed. In this connection, the Committee has, up to now, given particular attention to the agricultural aspects of these negotiations and the effects of implementing the system of generalized preferences.

In its initial opinion, the Committee mentioned the exceptional importance of the negotiations to the EEC, the world's largest importer and exporter, and emphasized that the Community should make demands. It referred to the objectives of the negotiations on the progressive liberalization of world trade, and the spirit in which they had been conceived, namely with a view to raising living standards and guaranteeing a high and stable level of employment.

The Commission's attention was also drawn to the fact that a reduction in tariffs would increase the effects of non-tariff barriers. It was therefore vital that during the negotiations a close link should be established between tariff and non-tariff barriers.

The Committee agreed with the Commission's views regarding safeguard clauses, according to which the object of a safeguard clause must be to enable purely transitory difficulties to be overcome and its application must be exceptional. The Committee also considered that Article XIX of the GATT should be amplified in order to make it possible to deal with clear-cut situations and enable its provisions to be applied in a selective manner.

Apart from matters relating to the developing countries, industrial customs tariffs and the powers which the Commission should have in the negotiations, the Committee also approved the view expressed in the Commission's document that the results achieved by the negotiations would be jeopardized unless a stable monetary system were set up, and stated that it did not believe that the balance-of-payments problems of the United States could be solved at trade negotiations.

With regard to the agricultural aspects, which, like all matters having a bearing on the link to be established between the trade negotiations and international monetary questions, were a focal point of the negotiations in Geneva and Tokyo, the Committee stated quite clearly that the principles of the common agricultural policy were an essential part of the Common Market and could not therefore be a matter for negotiation.

In this connection, the Committee also supported the conclusion, within the framework of a code of good conduct, of international arrangements based on balanced and mutual advantages and allowing an expansion of trade in agricultural products, with due respect for the legitimate interests of producers and consumers in all the regions and countries concerned.

Three sectors which are not mentioned specifically in the Summit's final communiqué, namely agriculture, transport and technical barriers, are nevertheless of fundamental importance to the development of the Community, and are considered by the Treaty of Rome as being of particular interest to the Economic and Social Committee.

8. Agricultural Policy

Although the common agricultural policy has been in existence for many years, the additions and improvements it requires, coupled with administrative measures, have led the Commission to put forward a considerable number of proposals which have formed an important source of activity for the Committee.

The Committee could only accept the farm price proposals for 1973-74 on condition that they were accompanied by immediate measures to ensure that the worst-off categories of producers, consumers and agricultural workers would not suffer.

The Committee asked the Commission and the Council to reconsider the method which had been used so far to determine policy on farm incomes. Following the discussion of the annual report on the agricultural situation and the report on farm incomes, the Committee suggested a number of aspects to which more thought should be given in future. These included:

- the need to review the present relationships between the prices of farm products;
- the need for a study to be made as soon as possible of the differences between the prices paid to farmers and consumer prices;

- the consequences of the increasing imbalance between milk and meat production in relation to outlets for these products;
- the effect of inflation on agriculture and the pressing need to implement a co-ordinated stabilization policy;
- the consequences of the disparities in incomes in the agricultural sphere as between countries, regions, individual holdings, production sectors and persons employed in agriculture;
- the need to speed up the modernization of agriculture, especially by increasing use of capital;
- the need to speed up integration with other common policies.

The proposal for a directive on 'agriculture in mountain areas and in certain other poorer farming areas' was considered by the Committee to be a particularly welcome measure capable of giving the common agricultural policy a new approach and making it more 'human'.

The Committee largely endorsed the proposal, although it did suggest several amendments. These included increasing the maximum ratio of 2:3 between average farm income in underprivileged areas and average national farm income, which the Commission had put forward as a criterion for the granting of aids. The Committee also suggested that domestic solipeds and dairy cows be included on the list of livestock qualifying for compensation.

In addition, the Committee requested that the typical quality products of hill farming areas – including dairy products, cheeses and fruits – be made eligible for aids and that the provision allowing up to 50 % of income from work to be derived from non-agricultural activities be extended to all man work units involved in farm development plans.

9. Transport Policy

In the case of transport, there is widespread recognition that a coherent transport policy is an essential step on the road to the objectives which have been set for numerous other fields of which regional development is the most obvious, but by no means unique, example. Progress in formulating such a policy has been slow, however, and while towards the end of 1973 work was proceeding in the Economic and Social Committee, as in the Commission itself, on the essential principles, most of the attention during the early part of the year was devoted to discussion of proposals for regulations covering points of detail. Only one of these regulations, dealing with 'the installation of recording equipment in road transport vehicles used for the carriage of dangerous goods', was the subject of a subsequent decision by the Council and in this case the major modification proposed by the Committee, namely to advance the date of implementation from 1980 to 1975, was accepted. In its recommendations on other detailed transport questions which are still pending, it can be said that the Committee

has generally stressed the need to maintain an element of liberalization in the transport system.

A call was made for air transport to be included in the common transport policy, especially in view of the need for closer cooperation between the national airlines over commercial and technical matters, which could certainly help reduce or even eliminate the waste of Community financial resources.

10. Technical Barriers

The fact that much of the Economic and Social Committee's work during the year was related to overall policies in various fields should not be allowed to obscure the work carried out on more detailed problems, many of which were of vital importance to particular sectors in Member countries.

Many of the examples of this kind of work are in the field of the removal of technical barriers to the free movement of goods, which, in practical terms, means a harmonization of the standards permitted in the production of goods exported from one Member country to another. These standards relate in practice to such questions as the technical performance of mechanical products, safety standards for vehicle parts (e.g. car seats), the use of additives in food and beer, etc.

A good illustration of the contribution made by the Committee on a problem of this kind were the proposals concerning cosmetics, aerosols and safety glass.

For instance, the Committee suggested that, in order to reduce the health dangers which sometimes arose from using cosmetics, people handling certain products daily in the course of their work, in particular dyes and beauty products, should have to prove that they had sufficient knowledge of the precautions to be taken when working.

Similarly, in its Opinion on aerosols, the Committee deplored the multiplicity of symbols laid down for different products, corresponding to the standards imposed by the various Directives concerning them, and hoped that a single symbol would be invented for all products fulfilling EEC specifications.

Finally, the Committee strongly supported the Commission's proposal to make laminated glass windscreens compulsory on all new vehicles after 1 October 1976 which would considerably improve road safety.

In taking up these stands, the Committee did not neglect the major issues which kept cropping up in each Directive to do with the removal of technical barriers to trade; thus, there has been a trend over the years towards adopting 'total harmonization' and extending the powers of the Committees for Adjustment to Technical Progress provided for in the various Directives.

CHAPTER III

PRESS RELATIONS AND OUTSIDE ECHO

Among the institutions and bodies of the European Communities, the Economic and Social Committee undoubtedly bears the palm of being the least well known to the general public. This holds true for all the Member States. Thus the image of the European institutional structure, already markedly lacking in public appeal, is further marred by a widespread ignorance of the Economic and Social Committee's existence, its composition and its functions. Above all, its role as a consultative body acting on behalf of the economic and social groupings and of professional organizations in the Community is generally unknown.

This state of affairs has been deplored for a long time by the Committee's members and a number of measures were planned and initiated to overcome it gradually. But it is only in the course of the year under review that these measures actually came to fruition.

The most significant factor in this process was the decision of the Paris Summit to grant the Economic and Social Committee the right of initiative and thus to lessen the institutional tutelage under which it had originally been placed in this respect. Secondly, it was agreed that all the Committee's Opinions had to be published in the *Official Journal*, which had not been an obligation hitherto. The Committee's Bureau thereupon decided to create in the Secretariat a new Directorate, to deal with Press and Information, as well as with External Relations, headed by a Director-General who was duly appointed by the Council of Ministers in July 1973 and took up his duties in October. The stage was thus set for forging a new press and information policy for the Committee.

As a first and indispensable step, the Committee Members were asked, by means of a circular letter and an accompanying questionnaire, to give their own views on such a policy and on the present and future shape and content of the Committee's publications. At the time of going to press this inquiry is not yet complete, but what has emerged so far is a general agreement to adopt a more purposeful and dynamic policy than hitherto. The policy's aims can be summarized as follows: to popularize the work of the Economic and Social Committee so as to make public opinion, whose interests the Committee defends and whose involvement is therefore expected, more aware of what it is trying to achieve; to build up an audience; and to increase its standing with other European, international and national institutions.

It is also recognized that the Committee's Opinions on their own would be unable to arouse sufficient interest in the press and other mass media to be published unless the public is made aware of the stages of discussion leading up to the final adoption of the Opinion. It is in these stages that the views of the different social and economic groupings which make up the Committee's membership are aired and where the interplay of interests comes to the fore. This implies that any eventual differences or even clashes of opinions, which are after all quite normal in a body like the Economic and Social Committee, should not be covered up. They are indispensable reference-points for those who follow the Committee's proceedings closely and expect it to give authori-

tative opinions before taking decisions themselves. To hush them up would be to twist the truth, distort the free play of views on economic and social matters and in the end damage the prestige of the Committee and the members themselves.

The envisaged policy aims at drawing the members and their groups into the process of publicizing the Committee's role and activities and thus making them its actual spokesmen. This would ensure that not only the compromises, but also the different points of views which led to them, will receive attention. In particular, the members can contribute towards the overall aim of gaining greater publicity for the Committee by giving space to its activities in the journals of their respective professional organizations, such as trade magazines, professional journals and trade union papers.

The Committee members have also been requested to give their opinions on the different publications and information notes put out by the Press and Information Service with a view to improving their form and content.

A start was made on speeding up the transmission to major news agencies of press releases on the Opinions adopted by plenary sessions by the use of teleprinter and by adapting the releases to press style. The echo which the Committee obtained in the world press, which had always been distinctly modest, showed a slight improvement in the year under review. This was due in large degree to the initiative of the Chairman in paying visits in his official capacity to several countries and in using these opportunities to project the Committee's image. The Chairman's visits to the capitals of the new Member States – London, Copenhagen and Dublin – received wide coverage in the national press, radio and television. Similar results were obtained by his visits to Zaïre and Kenya, as well as by his stay in Washington.

Another effective means for drawing the attention of public opinion in the Member States to the Committee's activities proved to be the holding of meetings outside Brussels. The plenary session of November, held in Strasbourg, and the section meetings which took place in Manchester, Dublin and Sicily received due attention in the press and on television.

Throughout the year, a continuous flow of requests for information and documentation, mainly originating from professional organizations, universities research establishments and journalists, was received and dealt with by the Press and Information Service.

About twenty groups of visitors, averaging twenty to twenty-five persons each, and including civil servants, agriculturists, students, researchers, business interests and trade unionists, were received in the course of the year and addressed on the role and functioning of the Committee.

CHAPTER IV

THE GROUPS

The members of the Economic and Social Committee are divided up into different groups. This organization pattern, which was not expressly laid down in the Treaties, has developed spontaneously and pragmatically since the Committee's first year of operation. The groups have now assumed such importance that the Committee has incorporated their structure in the draft of its revised Rules of Procedure and has submitted them to the Council for approval.

What, therefore, are the groups, why were they formed and how do they work? In accordance with the Treaty of Rome, the Members of the Committee are personally appointed by the Council from the 'representatives of the various categories of economic and social activity, in particular, representatives of producers, farmers, carriers, workers, dealers, craftsmen, professional occupations and representatives of the general public'.

It is immediately clear that some of these categories have common interests and special affinities, while others have scarcely any. So it is logical for members to form groups in order to carry greater weight and to influence the Committee's final decisions as much as possible. The Committee's groups can to some extent be compared with parliamentary groups, but instead of representing political parties, they represent economic interest groups.

The Economic and Social Committee organized itself on tripartite lines. The two large organized bodies which influence the process of economic decisions in our countries today are the employers and the trade unions. In addition the large number of people who are neither employers nor workers in the strict sense constitute a third group which also, justifiably, wishes to have its say in decision-making. That is why the three large constituted groups which now 'operate' in the Economic and Social Committee are:

- the employers' group (known as group I);
- the workers' group (known as group II);
- the various interests group (known as group III).

Each group has approximately forty-five members each.

The first group consists of representatives of Community industry, members of the Union of Industries of the European Community, plus certain representatives of agricultural organizations, of chambers of commerce, of the export trade and certain transport representatives.

The second group consists essentially of trade union organizations at European level, that is, the Europe Trade Union Confederation and the European Organization of the World Confederation of Labour. In addition a certain number of members of the French

CGT (General Confederation of Labour) and of the Italian CGIL (Italian General Confederation of Labour) are also members of the Committee. It should be pointed out that up to now the British Trades Union Congress has refused to send a delegation to the Economic and Social Committee.

The third group consists of representatives of agriculture, craftsmen, small and medium-sized undertakings, both in industry and trade, professional occupations, consumer associations and bodies which represent various interests.

From this review of the structure of the groups it emerges that the distribution of the members among the groups – which is carried out on a voluntary basis – is not always as simple as one would wish. Indeed it is somewhat arbitrary to distinguish between an industrialist (Group I) and a shopkeeper employing a large staff (Group III); and the representative of a consumer group could just as easily be a member of group II as of Group III. Furthermore, there are representatives of agriculture in all three groups.

Nevertheless these difficulties are negligible compared with the advantage members of the Economic and Social Committee derive from the existence of the groups. Experience has undisputedly shown that in the great majority of cases members vote according to their group, and not according to nationality; this recognition that frontiers are transcended by common interests is one way to build Europe.

The year 1973 has marked an important development in the life of the groups; these expressed their wish to strengthen their identity and consolidate their working methods both from the practical point of view and at institutional level.

Article 19 of the present Rules of Procedure stipulates that 'the members of the Committee may form groups representing employers, workers and other categories of economic and social activity'. This year the Committee has asked the Council of Ministers to amend these Rules of Procedure, *inter alia* by clarifying the rules for forming the groups and defining their work methods.

The groups officially meet once a month on the context of the plenary sessions, but they may hold extraordinary meetings when the chairman feels a special problem requires consultation of their members. This practice seems to be increasingly gaining ground at present, it means that time can be saved in subsequent discussions in section meetings and at plenary sessions.

Moreover this year an Administrative Secretariat, consisting of three Administrators (one per group) and three Secretaries, has been placed at the groups' disposal by the Secretariat of the Committee. This Secretariat provides the chairmen and members of the groups with all the assistance and information they feel are necessary to ensure the smooth running of group meetings and the continuous coordination of all the activities carried out at section level. The group Secretary is, above all, a liaison officer between the group and the Committee's Secretariat. He should, in particular, keep himself informed about the structure and powers of study groups, pass on proposals put forward by the groups in this connection to the section Secretariats, help

members at the opening of section meetings and plenary sessions, inform the group chairman of any new developments likely to concern him, facilitate relations between the members themselves, regardless of which group they belong to, and, generally speaking, adapt himself flexibly to the group members' needs.

Finally, administrators in charge of relations with the group publicize group members' external activities in so far as those may contribute to the Economic and Social Committee's prestige and influence at all possible levels.

CHAPTER V

ATTENDANCE AT CERTAIN IMPORTANT FUNCTIONS

In order to act effectively, the Committee must keep in close contact with representative European organizations. It carries out this task largely by participating in congresses, sessions, seminars, etc. held by various organizations. Although it has not been possible to accept all the invitations sent to the Committee, a large number of functions have been attended by members of the Bureau, members of the Committee and by representatives of the Secretariat.

In order to strengthen further the Committee's representation in this field, a new Secretariat Directorate was set up in 1973 to be responsible, among other things, for relations with organizations. Meetings attended by Committee representatives in 1973:

<i>Formal sitting of the European Parliament</i>	16 January, Strasbourg
<i>Second meeting of the EEC Savings Banks</i>	18 and 19 January, Brussels
<i>Seminar of the European Training and Promotion Centre for Farming and Rural Life (CEPFAR)</i>	9-13 April, Freyund, Bavaria
<i>Annual Congress of the National Confederation of Farmers' Friendly Societies, Cooperatives and Credit Institutions</i>	27 May, Deauville
<i>Congress on the environment, organized by the Giacomo Matteotti Foundation</i>	18 and 19 May, Venice
<i>Seminar on the EEC's regional policy organized by the International Union of Local Authorities</i>	13 June, Luxembourg
<i>National Congress of the CISL</i>	18-21 June, Rome
<i>Sixth Conference of the European Federation of Agricultural Trade Unions in the Community</i>	5 and 6 July, The Hague
<i>Informatory meeting of the Regional Confederation of Farmers' Friendly Societies, Cooperatives and Credit Institutions</i>	6 and 7 July, Aix-en-Provence
<i>National Congress of the 'Confartigianato' (Italian artisans' association)</i>	8 July, Rome
<i>Seminar of the 'Europa-Kolleg' Foundation</i>	5 September, Hamburg

<i>Europmi Symposium on small and medium sized businesses</i>	4 and 5 October, Brussels
<i>Proprietary Association of Europe</i>	20 October, Cannes
<i>Europmi – Autumn meeting</i>	5 November, Geneva
<i>Regional Policy Committee of the Council of European Municipalities</i>	12 and 13 November, Edinburgh
<i>Committee of Family Organizations in the European Communities</i>	1 and 2 December, Strasbourg

CHAPTER VI

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

The Plenary Assembly

In the course of 1973 a number of changes took place in the composition of the Committee. The following members resigned during the period under review :

Mr ALDERS
Mr FLANDRE
Mr GENIN
Mr RAUCAMP
Mr BALKE
Mr CALVETTI
Mr GRASMAN
Mr BOULADOUX
Mr EBRILL
Mr DOHRENDORF
Mr ROSSI
Mr van der PLOEG

The Council of the European Communities appointed the following members to replace them :

Mr van RENS
Mr DROULIN
Mr de CAFFARELLI
Mr HEIMES
Mr KLEY
Mr CROESE
Mr FIJN VAN DRAAT
Mr BONETY
Mr MENNE
Mr NANTKE
Mr O'CEALLAIGH

CHAPTER VII

REVISION OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

Early in 1972 the Economic and Social Committee, aware of developments that were favourable to the expansion of its role as a consultative body in the Community and wishing to prepare for the accession of new Member States, embarked upon a revision of its Rules of Procedure.

The plenary session, acting in accordance with Article 61 of the current Rules of Procedure, set up an 18-member group under the chairmanship of Mr M. Bouladoux (Workers – France) and with Mr J. Mamert (Various Interests – France) as its rapporteur.

The purpose of the revision was to assert the Committee's function as the pre-eminent body for the consultation of the categories of economic and social activity in the Community, to improve its internal working procedures and to give wider publicity to its findings.

During the plenary session in November 1972 the Committee adopted a document proposing amendments to the Rules of Procedure.

Besides a number of minor amendments the document proposed internal adjustments made necessary by the arrival of members representing the United Kingdom, Denmark and Ireland.

The document also proposed some major changes designed to improve the Committee's working procedures.

Among the latter we can single out the changes aimed at :

- strengthening the powers of the Committee Bureau (Article 8) and the authority of its Chairman (Articles 9 and 57) and Secretary-General (Article 56) ;
- clarifying the definition of the groups representing the categories of economic and social activity (workers, employers, various interests), and specifying their role and working procedures (Article 19) ;
- giving formal expression in the Rules of Procedure to the statement made by the Heads of State or Government meeting in Paris in October 1972 that 'the right of the Economic and Social Committee in future to advise on its own initiative on all questions affecting the Community' should be recognized ;
- guaranteeing the continuity of the Economic and Social Committee by making express provision that if renewal of the Committee is held up by the Council or the Member States, members should remain in office until their successors have been appointed (Article 55) ;

- increasing publicity of the Committee's work by providing in Article 51 that all opinions of the Committee should be published in the *Official Journal*.

The proposed amendments were submitted to the Council for approval ; after considering them, the Council had reservations about Articles 19, 55 and 57.

When it met in December 1973 the Committee confirmed its initial proposals on amendments to these Articles, and decided that if they could not be included in the new Rules of Procedure they would be put into effect, at least as far as Article 19 was concerned, by Council-approved provisions implementing the Rules of Procedure.

In conclusion, we can say that whatever the final version of the Rules of Procedure might be, this revision has brought three major advances.

The first of these concerns the part played by the Groups in the working of the Committee ; this has expanded enormously in the last two years.

Secondly, the recognition of the Committee's right to take up matters on its own initiative constitutes a major advance which enhances the Committee's prestige within the institutional machinery of Europe.

Finally, the Committee, which regards it as a matter of the utmost importance that public opinion should know more about its work, is henceforth assured of publication of all its opinions.

CHAPTER VIII

ADMINISTRATION

1. Budget

In the first two years of its existence, i.e. 1958 and 1959, the Committee's expenditure was incorporated in the budget of the Council Secretariat.

Since the 1960 financial year the Committee has enjoyed budgeting autonomy and the appropriations necessary for financing its work have been granted in a separate budget annexed to the Council section of the general budget of the European Communities. The increase in the size of these appropriations to the Committee has been regular, though relatively modest. The biggest increase over the preceding year up to 1972 was just over 20% (in 1971), the smallest 3.47% (in 1962).

The enlargement of the Community has caused the Committee's budget to grow considerably. In 1973 a budget of about 5 505 000 u.a. was necessary and this will be raised to 6 330 000 u.a. for 1974. These figures represent increases of 92% and 120% respectively over 1972 appropriations.

For the 1973 financial year the breakdown of budget funds can be summarized as follows:

	1973
– Staff expenditure	53%
– Administrative expenditure	23%
– Expenditure for meetings and convening members	16%
– Expenditure for interpreting	7%

2. Personnel

The first thing to report in connection with the running of the Economic and Social Committee's Secretariat is that on 1 March 1973 Mr DELFINI was officially appointed Secretary-General by the Council.

Following the enlargement of the Communities, the Secretariat has had to adapt its working methods to the fact that there are now six Community languages instead of four. This has necessitated an (approximately 50%) increase in translating and secretarial staff.

Some staff have also had to be recruited from the new Member States for administrative and planning posts in the Secretariat to ensure that each of the nine countries has a fair share of Category A officials. Overall, the number of staff has gone up from 169 in 1972 to 252 in 1973, an increase of 83.

The enlargement of the Communities also provided an opportunity for further improving the Secretariat's organization and adapting it to the new requirements. A new unit, the Directorate of General Affairs, has been formed, mainly with a view to making the Committee's role in the Communities better known to the general public.

The new Directorate has a twofold task: firstly, in the press and public relations field, it is responsible for presenting the European integration issues discussed by the Committee in a readily digestible form; secondly, it has to strengthen links with professional organizations and the other institutions of the Community.

Following the reorganization, the structure of the Committee's Secretariat is as follows:

- (a) The Secretary-General's Private Office, i.e. his personal staff; the Private Office is also responsible for secretarial services to the plenary sessions and Bureau and for relations with the Publications Office.

The Specialized Financial Control Department, which comes directly under the Secretary-General.

- (b) The Directorate of General Affairs, comprising the Specialized Press and Information Department and the External Relations Department.

- (c) Two Directorates for Studies and Advisory Work; Directorate B incorporates the secretariats of the Sections for Economic and Financial Questions, External Relations, Social Questions and Protection of the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Affairs. Directorate C comprises the secretariats of the Sections for Agriculture, Regional Development, Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services, Transport and Energy and Nuclear Questions.

- (d) The Directorate for Administration, comprising the Personnel/Staff Regulations Division, the Specialized Financial Department, the Specialized Department for Internal Questions and the Translation Division.

- (e) The Chairman of the Committee has a private secretariat; under the Rules of Procedure, the Chairman-in-Office appoints a person enjoying his particular trust to head this secretariat.

3. The Sections

On a proposal from its Bureau, the Committee decided at the beginning of 1973 to restructure its sections. Following this reorganization, the Sections elected their respective bureaux. The new sections are as follows:

- Section for Agriculture
- Section for Transport and Communications
- Section for Energy and Nuclear Questions
- Section for Economic and Financial Questions
- Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services

- Section for Social Questions
- Section for External Relations
- Section for Regional Development
- Section for Protection of the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Affairs.

4. Structure of the Economic and Social Committee

CHAIRMAN

Private office

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Private office

- *Specialized Financial Control Department*

DIRECTORATE A

- *Specialized Press and Information Department*

- . Press relations
- . Dissemination of information
- . Organization of conferences
- . Compilation of the annual report

- *External Relations Department*

- . Group Secretariats and relations with the Groups
- . Relations with professional organizations
- . Relations with the other institutions

DIRECTORATE B

- *Division*

Secretariat of the Sections

- . for Economic and Financial Questions
- . for External Relations

- *Specialized Department*

Secretariat of the Sections

- . for Social Questions
- . for Protection of the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Affairs

DIRECTORATE C

– *Division*

Secretariat of the Sections
· for Agriculture
· for Regional Development

– *Division*

Secretariat of the Section
· for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services

– *Division*

Secretariat of the Sections
· for Transport and Communications
· for Nuclear Questions and Energy

DIRECTORATE D

– *Personnel/Staff Regulations Division*

– *Specialized Financial Department*

– *Specialized Department for Internal Questions, Planning and Coordination*

– *Translation Division*

ANNEX A

List of Opinions prepared during 1973

109th plenary session of 21 and 22 February 1973

- (1) European Monetary Cooperation Fund
(Rapporteur: Mr CAMMANN)
- (2) Structure and contents of the annual accounts and the management report, the methods of evaluation and the publication of these documents
(Rapporteur: Mr LECUYER)
- (3) Excise duties and similar taxes (Several opinions)
(Rapporteur: Mr DOHRENDORF)
- (4) Protection of the Rhine against pollution
(Rapporteur: Mr BALKE)
- (5) The granting of joint undertaking status for the activities of the hydrocarbon industry
(Rapporteur: Mr ASCHOFF – deceased – Opinion presented by Mr BONOMI)
- (6) Financing publicity campaigns for live trees and other plants, bulbs, roots and the like, cut flowers and ornamental foliage
(Rapporteur: Mr CANONGE)
- (7) Arrangements for outward processing traffic
(Rapporteur: Mr DE GRAVE)
- (8) Introduction of recording equipment in road transport
(Rapporteur: Mr MOURGUES)
- (9) Additives in animal feedingstuffs
(Rapporteur: Mr WICK)
- (10) Statistical surveys of bovine stock
(Rapporteur: Mr FLANDRE)
- (11) Radio interference caused by electrical household appliances, portable tools and similar equipment
(Rapporteur: Mr LECUYER)
- (12) Fluorescent lights
(Rapporteur: Mr LECUYER)

110th plenary session of 28 and 29 March 1973

- (13) The Economic Situation in the Community
(Rapporteur: Mr MALTERRE)
- (14) Fixing of prices for certain agricultural products and certain related measures
(Rapporteur: Mr CLAVEL)
- (15) Internal equipment of motor vehicles (Protection of the driver from the steering wheel in case of impact)
(Rapporteur: Mr RENAUD)
- (16) Safety glass destined to be fitted in motor vehicles
(Rapporteur: Mr RENAUD)
- (17) The device providing protection against non-authorized usage of motor vehicles
(Rapporteur: Mr RENAUD)

- (18) Exemption from customs duties within the enlarged Community for Community goods dispatched in small non-commercial postal packages
(Rapporteur: Mr DE GRAVE)
- (19) Processing of goods in bond before they are marketed
(Rapporteur: Mr DE GRAVE)
- (20) Recovery of sums paid in error in connection with the common agricultural policy, and of agricultural levies and customs duties
(Rapporteur: Mr DE GRAVE)
- (21) Homogeneous statistics on foreign workers
(Rapporteur: Mr BODART)

111th plenary session of 23 and 24 May 1973

- (22) Multilateral negotiations in GATT
(Rapporteur: Mr de PRECIGOUT)
- (23) Common rules for international transport (carriage of goods by road for hire or reward)
(Rapporteur: Mr ILLERHAUS)
- (24) Community quota for the carriage of goods by road
(Rapporteur: Mr RENAUD)
- (25) Licences to drive a motor vehicle and technical control of motor vehicles and their trailers
(Rapporteur: Mr BODART)
- (26) Concept of public service in transport and common rules for the normalization of the accounts of railway undertakings
(Rapporteur: Mr HENNIG)
- (27) Value of goods in bond
(Rapporteur: Mr DE GRAVE)
- (28) Coordination of agricultural research
(Rapporteur: Mr de CAFFARELLI)
- (29) Cosmetics
(Rapporteur: Mr LECUYER)
- (30) Implementation of Community contracts
(Rapporteur: Mr BOUREL)
- (31) Basic safety standards for the health protection of workers and of the general public against the dangers arising from ionizing radiation
(Rapporteur: Mrs HEUSER)

112th plenary session of 26 and 27 June 1973

- (32) Community environmental action programme and the procedure for informing the Commission on environmental matters
(Rapporteur: Mr MERLI BRANDINI)
- (33) Energy Policy: Problems and Resources 1975-1985 and necessary progress in Community energy policy
(Rapporteur: Mr HOFFMANN)

- (34) The Social Situation
(Rapporteur: Mr DE BRUYN – Co-Rapporteur: Mr HENNIKER-HEATON)
- (35) Mass dismissals
(Rapporteur: Mr MUHR)
- (36) Ethyl alcohol of agricultural and of non-agricultural origin as well as certain products containing alcohol
(Rapporteur: Mr EMO)
- (37) Second Illustrative Nuclear Programme
(Rapporteur: Mr SCHLITT)
- (38) Hydrocarbon supplies
(Rapporteur: Mr BONOMI)
- (39) Imports of hydrocarbons from third countries
(Rapporteur: Mr BONOMI)
- (40) Agriculture in mountain areas and in certain other poorer farming areas
(Rapporteur: Mr EMO)
- (41) Type approval of mopeds
(Rapporteur: Mr MASPRONE)

113th plenary session of 26 and 27 September 1973

- (42) Bread
(Rapporteur: Mr BOUREL)
- (43) Agreement between the European Economic Community and certain third countries on the rules to be applied to the international carriage of passengers by bus or coach
(Rapporteur: Mr BODART)
- (44) Electrical energy meters
(Rapporteur: Mr LECUYER)
- (45) Provisions relating to oenological practices
(Rapporteur: Mr DE GRAVE)
- (46) Common measures for pressure vessels and seamless steel gas cylinders
(Rapporteur: Mr LECUYER)
- (47) Aerosols
(Rapporteur: Mr LECUYER)
- (48) Radio interference produced by radio and RV receivers
(Rapporteur: Mr LECUYER)
- (49) Control of capacity in transport
(Rapporteur: Mr RENAUD)
- (50) Common approach to air transport
(Rapporteur: Mr DE GRAVE)
- (51) Regulations No 827/68, No 1009/67, No 950/68 and No 2358/71
(Rapporteur: Mr WICK)

114th plenary session of 24 and 25 October 1973

- (52) Trans-frontier oil and gas pipelines
(Rapporteur: Mr BONOMI)

- (53) Retail sale of medicinal products by self-employed persons
(Rapporteur: Mr RAMAEKERS)
- (54) Annual report on the Economic Situation in the Community
(Rapporteur: Mr MALTERRE)
- (55) Setting up of a Committee for regional policy
 - special provisions applicable to the European Regional Development Fund,
 - setting up of the Regional Development Fund
 (Rapporteur: Mr VENTEJOL)
- (56) Marketing of vegetative propagation material of the vine and forest reproductive material : seeds
(Rapporteur: Mr WICK)
- (57) Continuous totalizing weighing machines
(Rapporteur: Mr LECUYER)
- (58) Interior fittings of motor vehicles (strength of seats and their anchorages)
(Rapporteur: Mr MASPRONE)
- (59) Cold water meters
(Rapporteur: Mr LECUYER)

115th plenary session of 28 and 29 November 1973

- (60) Draft Social Action Programme
(Rapporteur: Mr MUHR)
- (61) Technological and Industrial Policy Programme
(Rapporteur: Mr KLEY)
- (62) Community energy policy
(Rapporteur: Mr BONOMI)
- (63) Financing by the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund; regions and areas where the European Regional Development Fund could be used
(Rapporteur: Mr VENTEJOL)
- (64) Preservatives able to be used in foodstuffs for human consumption
(Rapporteur: Miss ROBERTS)
- (65) Travellers' personal luggage
(Rapporteur: Mr DE GRAVE)
- (66) Definition of the customs territory of the Community
(Rapporteur: Mr DE GRAVE)

116th plenary session of 12 and 13 December 1973

- (67) Work on economic and monetary union
(Rapporteur: Mr MAMERT)
- (68) Progress report on the first stage of economic and monetary union and on measures to be adopted for the second stage
(Rapporteur: Mr MAMERT)
- (69) Social provisions in road transport
(Rapporteur: Mr de VRIES REILINGH)
- (70) Coffee and tea extracts and their substitutes including chicory and blends based on these extracts
(Rapporteur: Mr BOUREL)

ANNEX B

**Degree of consideration given
to the Opinions of the Committee**

Subject	Date of consultation	By	Opinion sent	Date of decision	Considered			Ref. No of Document on opinions and action taken on them
					not at all	partially	to a large extent	
Certain social legislation relating to road transport	22 June 1971	Council	7 December 1971	28 February 1972	X			402/11-1971
Stocks of CRUDE OIL and/or PETROLEUM PRODUCTS	21 September 1971	Council	7 December 1971	19 December 1972			Committee Opinion approved Commission proposal	403/11-1971
FRONTIER ZONE TRAFFIC	28 September 1971	Council	7 December 1971					404/11-1971
TURNOVER TAX and excise duties applicable in INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL	28 September 1971	Council	7 December 1971	12 June 1972			Committee Opinion approved Commission proposal	405/11-1971
COMMUNITY SOCIAL PROGRAMME	4 May 1971	Commission	7 December 1971					406/11-1971
Administrative and financial PROCEDURES for the operation of the EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND	29 November 1971	Council	1 February 1972	24 April 1972		X		407/1-1972

FINANCING BY THE EAGGF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT, COMMUNITY MEASURES	16 June 1971	Council	1 February 1972				408/1-1972
WEIGHT and DIMENSIONS of Commercial road vehicles	13 July 1971	Council	1 February 1972				409/1-1972
PUBLIC SUPPLY CONTRACTS	10 May 1971	Council	1 February 1972			X	410/1-1972
COD FISHING	1 February 1972	Council	7 March 1972	19 December 1972		X	415/2-1972
NUCLEAR POWER STATIONS	21 September 1971	Council	7 March 1972			X	416/2-1972
SUGAR	1 February 1972	Council	7 March 1972				417/2-1972
INWARD PROCESSING (AMENDMENT OF ARTICLE 31)	28 September 1971	Council	7 March 1972	27 June 1972		Committee Opinion approved Commission proposal	418/2-1972
INWARD PROCESSING (AMENDMENT OF DIRECTIVE)	13 October 1971	Council	7 March 1972			Committee Opinion approved Commission proposal	419/2-1972
CABLES, CHAINS, CROCHETS	28 September 1971	Council	7 March 1972				420/2-1972

Subject	Date of Consultation	By	Opinion sent	Date of Decision	Considered			Ref. No of Document on opinion and action taken on them
					not at all	partially	to a large extent	
LINEAR MEASURES	28 September 1971	Council	7 March 1972					421/2-1972
WATERWAYS	13 October 1971	Council	7 March 1972			X		422/2-1972
SILKWORMS	27 October 1972	Council	7 March 1972	24 April 1972	X			423/2-1972
RESIDENCE FOR NATIONALS OF MEMBER STATES	27 July 1971	Council	5 May 1972	21 May 1973	Committee Opinion approved Commission proposal			424/4-1972
FILMS	21 September 1971	Council	5 May 1972					425/4-1972
Certain self-employed activities on the TAXATION SECTOR	21 September 1971	Council	5 May 1972					426/4-1972
WORK PUBLISHED IN OJ	13 December 1971	Council	30 May 1972	26 July 1972			X	427/5-1972

MARKETING OF SEEDS, OLEAGINOUS AND FIBRE PLANTS, VEGETABLES	26 April 1972	Council	30 May 1972	6 December 1972	Committee Opinion approved Commission proposal	428/5-1972
ANIMAL FEEDING- STUFFS	26 April 1972	Council	30 May 1972	20 July 1972	Committee Opinion approved Commission proposal	429/5-1972
NORMALIZATION OF THE ACCOUNTS OF RAILWAY UNDERTAKINGS	21 September 1971	Council	10 July 1972			430/6-1972
SOLVENTS	26 January 1972	Council	10 July 1972	4 June 1973	X	431/6-1972
CLASSIFICATION, PACKAGING AND LABELLING OF DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES	26 January 1972	Council	10 July 1972	21 May 1973	Committee Opinion approved Commission proposal	432/6-1972
CONFECTIONERY	13 July 1971	Council	10 July 1972			433/6-1972
DETERGENTS	31 July 1971	Council	10 July 1972			434/6-1972
FREEDOM OF ESTABLISHMENT - HAIRDRESSERS	21 September 1971	Council	10 July 1972		X	435/6-1972

Subject	Date of Consultation	By	Opinion sent	Date of Decision	Considered			Ref. No of Document on opinion and action taken on them
					not at all	partially	to a large extent	
SOCIAL SITUATION - 1971	11 February 1972	Commission	10 July 1972		The Commission has noted the suggestions put forward in the Committee's Opinion			436/6-1972
EMISSION OF POLLUTANTS	26 January 1972	Council	10 July 1972	2 August 1972	Committee Opinion approved Commission proposal			437/6-1972
Weight from 1 mg to 50 kg of ABOVE AVERAGE ACCURACY	26 January 1972	Council	10 July 1972					438/6-1972
PLASTIC TANKS	24 January 1972	Council	10 July 1972					439/6-1972
PROVISIONS - TRANSPORT AND COMPETITION LAW	26 January 1972	Council	10 July 1972		Committee Opinion approved Commission proposal			440/6-1972
ANNUAL REPORT ON THE ECONOMIC SITUATION	Decision of the Bureau on 27 June 1972		13 October 1972		The Commission has noted the suggestions put forward in the Committee's Opinion			441/9-1972

WINES AND MUSTS	18 May 1972	Council	13 October 1972				442/9-1972
FERTILIZER	26 January 1972	Council	13 October 1972				443/9-1972
TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE	10 May 1971	Council	13 October 1972				444/9-1972
DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION	10 December 1971	Commission	13 October 1972				445/9-1972
MOTOR VEHICLES	11 October 1972	Council	13 October 1972				446/9-1972
REGIONAL POLICY	28 June 1972	Council	13 October 1972				447/9-1972
ENVIRONMENT	26 April 1972	Council	13 October 1972				448/9-1972
PRE-PACKED LIQUIDS	22 March 1972	Council	13 October 1972				449/9-1972
CALIBRATED CONTAINERS	22 March 1972	Council	13 October 1972				450/9-1972
COMMUNITY TRANSIT	18 May 1972	Council	13 October 1972	19 December 1972		X	451/9-1972

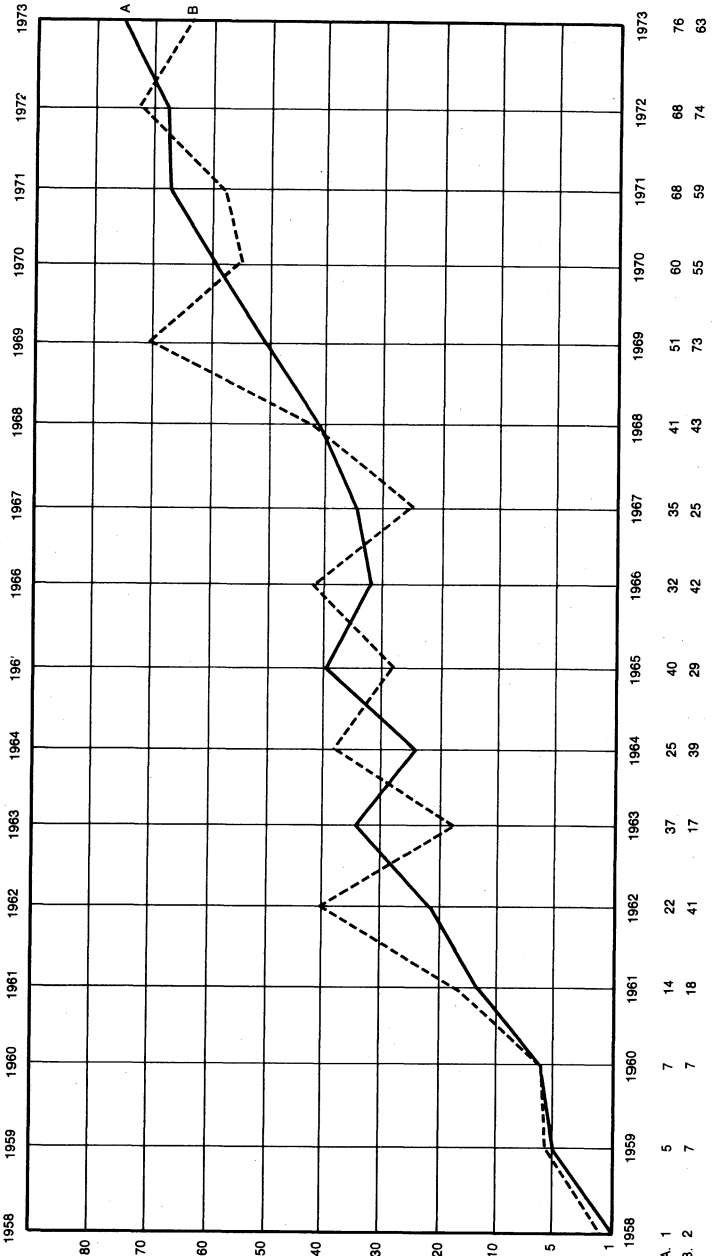
Subject	Date of Consultation	By	Opinion sent	Date of Decision	Considered			Ref. No of Document on opinion and action taken on them
					not at all	partially	to a large extent	
JOINT UNDERTAKINGS	13 October 1972	Council	13 October 1972				452/10-1972	
TRANSIT CAPACITY	7 June 1972	Council	31 October 1972	28 December 1972	Committee Opinion approved Commission proposal			453/10-1972
TECHNICAL BARRIERS	26 April 1972	Council	31 October 1972	21 May 1973		X	454/10-1972	
MARKET IN VINE PRODUCTS	24 September 1972	Council	31 October 1972	12 December 1972	Committee Opinion approved Commission proposal			455/10-1972
LEAF TOBACCO	26 September 1972	Council	31 October 1972	29 November 1972	Committee Opinion approved Commission proposal			456/10-1972
BRACKET TARIFFS SYSTEM	24 July 1972	Council	31 October 1972	28 December 1972	Committee Opinion approved Commission proposal			457/10-1972
AGRICULTURAL REFORM			31 October 1972				458/10-1972	

FRUIT AND VEGETABLES	26 September 1972	Council	31 October 1972	21 November 1972	X		459/10-1972
STATUTE OF EUROPEAN COMPANY	22 July 1970	Council	31 October 1972				460/10-1972
PASSENGER TRAFFIC	4 October 1972	Council	21 December 1972		Committee Opinion approved Commission proposal		461/11-1972
SMALL GOODS PACKAGES	4 October 1972	Council	21 December 1972		Committee Opinion approved Commission proposal		462/11-1972
CONFLICTS OF LAWS	26 April 1972	Council	21 December 1972				463/11-1972
BUSES COACHES	26 April 1972	Council	21 December 1972				464/11-1972
CITIZENS OF A MEMBER STATE EXERCISING RIGHT TO RESIDE	11 July 1972	Council	21 December 1972				465/11-1972
TARIFF SYSTEM HOVERCRAFT	22 November 1972	Council	21 December 1972		Committee Opinion approved Commission proposal		466/11-1972
STANDARDIZATION OF CERTAIN RULES REGARDING TRANSPORT AUTHORIZATIONS	2 November 1972	Council	21 December 1972	25 June 1973		X	467/11-1972

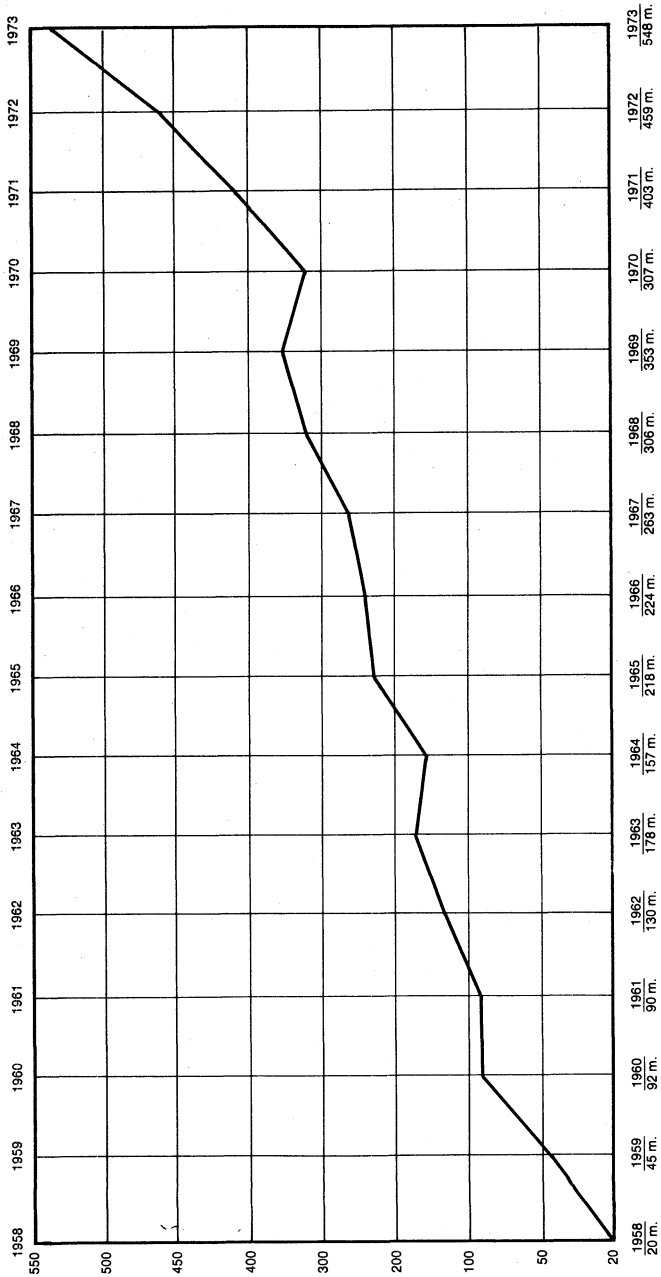
ANNEX C

Graphs

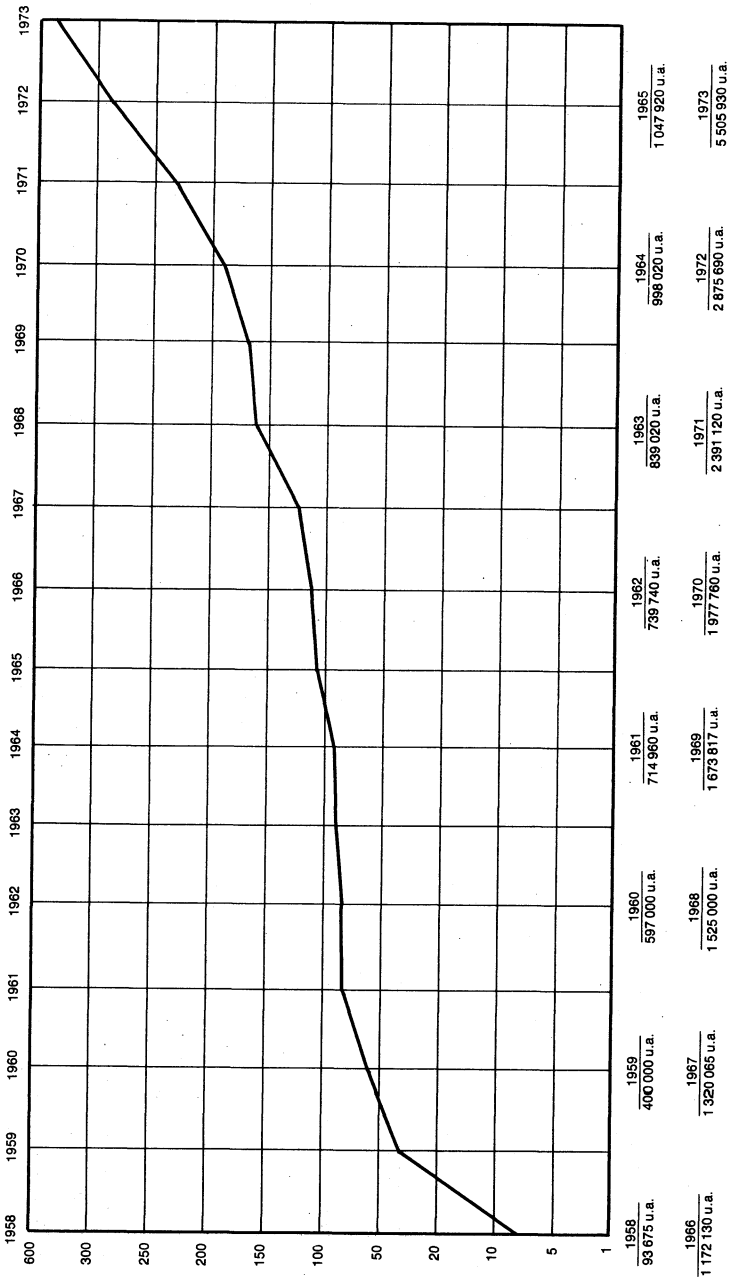
A. TEXTS PRODUCED (opinions, information reports, studies)
 B. REFERRALS



MEETINGS



BUDGETS (in u.a.) — 1 = 10.000 u.a.



NUMBER OF STAFF

