

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE
OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

**ANNUAL
REPORT
1974**



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PREFACE

This is the second annual report of the Economic and Social Committee. Like the first number—published in the final year of the last term of office—it is intended to give all those interested in the Committee—and particularly trade unions, trade associations and professional organizations—a clearer picture of the Committee's work and role.

The year covered by the present report, 1974, saw the renewal of the Committee's membership for the fifth term of office (1974-1978) and the election of a new Chairman, two Vice-Chairmen and Bureau.

On the organization side, the Committee has continued its efforts to improve its internal organization. At the same time it has been trying to strengthen its role in the institutional machinery of the Communities and become in full measure what it was always intended to be: the specific meeting place for European organizations, a centre of economic and social debate, a place for conferring together and comparison of viewpoints, and a vehicle for information and education.

The success of these efforts is evidenced by the new sense of purpose which has emerged in the Committee itself, and which the current crisis has confirmed. This has been encouraged by the greatly increased freedom of action which was finally granted to the Committee at the 1972 summit conference.

At that conference the Heads of Government clearly declared their intention 'to ensure the increasing participation of labour and management in the economic and social decisions of the Community'. The subsequent recognition of the Committee's right to advise on its own initiative was undoubtedly the biggest step forward our Committee has made in recent years. To enable the Committee to work more efficiently following this enhancement of its status, a new version of its Rules of Procedure has now been introduced.

Finally, the Committee is now entitled to have all its Opinions published in the Official Journal of the European Communities, including those which it has elected to draw up on its own initiative.

All these changes, and particularly the recognition of the right to consider and advise on any matter connected with the work of the Community without being expressly consulted, have important consequences for the Committee. It can now pick out subjects of special interest on which it wishes to take a public stand, it can make suggestions about certain Commission programmes while they are still on the drawing board and it can undertake a general appraisal of the state of the Community.

Here special mention must be made of two Opinions adopted in 1974 which stand out as landmarks in the Committee's discussion of progress towards European integration and which voiced the concern felt by the representatives of trade unions, business and other groups of the population about the grave setbacks which are being encountered. They are the Opinion on 'The place and role of the ESC in the institutional machinery of the Communities in the context of a possible evolution thereof', adopted in March, and that on 'The situation in the Community', adopted in July. An alarm note was also sounded when the annual report on the economic situation in the Community was debated in October.

It is worth pausing a moment over these important Opinions and debates. There is general agreement on the nature of the ills afflicting the Community, though of course differences of opinion as to the therapy. No-one disputes that the Community has major achievements to its credit, even if progress might be thought too little in some fields, for example the social one. The Community as a whole has broadly benefited from integration. The creation of a huge market out of previous national markets has been a spur to economic activity, trade and consumption. In the political sphere, the six- and later nine-member Community has been a powerful force for stability.

But persistent internal weaknesses make the Community vulnerable: the lack of unity on the energy front, delays in the implementation of economic and monetary union, gaps in the common transport policy, insufficient progress in the social field, procrastination in introducing the regional policy, lack of imagination and concrete proposals on how to curb inflation, the danger of increasing unemployment and of the worsening disparities. The various summit conferences which were called to get the Community moving again brought more disappointments than improvements. Starved of information, public opinion has gradually become estranged from the European idea. As a result, Member States turn in upon themselves, even though they realize that there can be no national cure to ills which are on a world scale.

In the Opinion it adopted in March, the Committee placed special emphasis on the imbalance in the distribution of powers between the various parts of the Community's institutional machinery. The final communiqué of the Paris Summit Conference in October 1972 had called for improvements in the decision-making procedures and functioning of the institutions in order to make them more effective. It had also asked the institutions to draw up a report on European union. The Opinion on the institutional place and role, which the Committee produced on its own initiative, was meant as the Committee's initial contribution to the discussion of a future union.

In its Opinion the Committee called for democratization of the workings of the institutions, including supervision of the executive by the European Parliament and direct election of members of the European Parliament. Here it must be stressed that the Committee has never had the slightest intention of taking Parliament's place or encroaching on its prerogatives. On the contrary, it sees its role, in a democratically balanced process of decision making, as an advisory body on economic and social matters which serves both the Council and the Parliament. This would make for a more rational allocation of responsibilities, and the political choices would normally be made by an elected body truly representing the people of Europe.

In addition, the Committee advocated a strengthening of the initiatory function of the Commission and majority decisions in the Council, and called for a synchronization of the decision-making process in the relevant bodies, so that the Commission's, Economic and Social Committee's, European Parliament's and Council's functions of making proposals, advising and taking decisions may be carried out in that order and with full knowledge of the facts. Finally, the Committee reaffirmed its determination to discharge to the full its advisory role, and to develop that role, in particular by voicing the views of the various socio-economic groupings within the Community on major current objectives in respect of which they had not been consulted.

The debates on the two general policy Opinions which the Committee decided on its own initiative to draw up were attended by the Commission and Council Presidents respectively. The Presidents were thus given a first-hand account of the anxieties and wishes of the various sections of the population, and cannot have failed to be impressed by the members' remarks and the consensus which was reached.

The Chairman of the Committee has endeavoured to transmit this awareness of the clouds hanging over Europe's future to the political leaders and members of unions, employers' and other organizations he has met on his visits to European capitals. In general he has found *understanding, if not agreement*. Although no marked improvement in policy has taken place, and the pressures of national problems continue to push the belief in Europe into the background, the Committee has never despaired of helping to induce such a change of heart some day in the future.

Unlike national governments, which at times of crisis tend to go their own separate ways, the members of the ESC have, if anything, increased their cohesion when faced with a common danger, though without giving up any independence of views. The Committee launched a further appeal to the leaders of the Community at the recent summit conference, when it warned them of the crisis of confidence in Europe coming on top of the critical economic and social situation. The concerns of the supreme Community authorities, it maintained, *did not coincide with those of the various sections of the Community's population as represented on the Committee*. It then appealed for Community solidarity to undertake concrete measures in a number of priority areas, namely energy, the fight against inflation, maintenance of a high level of *employment and safeguarding earnings*, and called for closer association of the European Parliament and the Committee in the work of the other institutions.

Thus, the ESC has devoted a considerable part of its efforts and activity over the past year to the crucial aim of bringing Europe back on to the path of reason and good sense and enabling it to at last answer the challenge before it and recover its cohesion and strength.

Alfons LAPPAS, Retiring Chairman

Henri CANONGE, Chairman

CHAPTER I

THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE'S IMPACT

The *Economic and Social Committee's* activities during the past year must be assessed against the background of general developments in the Community. It was, in retrospect, a period of high hopes and deep disappointments.

One of the key aims agreed at the 1969 Hague Summit Conference—the enlargement of the Community—was achieved at the start of 1973 after protracted, tough negotiations. For the Economic and Social Committee enlargement meant an opportunity to welcome new members and the task, accomplished with exemplary smoothness, of arranging for their participation in its work.

It seemed at first that good progress was being made on the second objective, closer integration of the Community. Initial steps were taken towards economic and monetary union, and at the Paris Summit Conference of October 1972 the prospect even emerged of political union by the end of the present decade.

Unfortunately, last year's events have shown the fragility of these supposedly irreversible achievements. A succession of major setbacks temporarily paralyzed the institutions of the Community and brought them to the verge of a life-or-death crisis. No fundamental solution has yet been found for the problems facing the Community, but psychologically the situation has taken a turn for the better, and the future can be viewed with less concern.

The activity of the Economic and Social Committee was very closely tied up with this pattern of events. Following the Paris Summit Conference, at which it was stated for the first time that the social integration of Europe was just as important an objective as economic integration, the Committee brought out a number of documents connected with the practical implementation of the Summit's resolutions, the most noteworthy one being its *Opinion on the Community's Social Action Programme*. Of lasting importance is the Summit's decision that labour and management should be involved more closely in Community decision-making. The Committee's work on the projected economic and monetary union should also be mentioned.

When the Community crisis reached its peak at the beginning of 1974 the Committee, as almost the only Community body still working normally, made its contribution towards safeguarding past achievements and getting European integration moving once more by appealing to employers, trade unions, other economic and social groups and the public at large. Its attitude to the crisis was not just a momentary reaction to events, but also an expression of the sense of responsibility felt by the social partners represented on the Committee for the objectives of European integration.

The appeal which the Committee Chairman addressed to the Heads of Governments attending the Paris Summit Conference in December 1974 should also be viewed in this light. The Chairman's letter spoke of the need for concrete measures to combat and begin to remedy the employment situation and inflation in the Community. In addition, the Committee expressed its disappointment about the fact that Member States' governments had so far failed to progress beyond statements of intent on such fundamental issues as energy and regional policy. The appeal concluded by stating that past Community achievements could only be safeguarded by additional progress.

The period under review was marked by the expiry in August of the Committee members' four-year term of office. Mr Alfons Lappas' period as Chairman—a post to which he had been elected in September 1972—also came to a close at the same time.

After the Council had appointed the members for the Committee's fifth term of office in mid-September, the Committee elected its new Bureau and set up its new sections at the September plenary session. The new Committee Chairman, elected by an overwhelming majority, is Mr Henri Canonge, who has been a Committee member since 1958 and had been a Vice-Chairman since 1972. The new Vice-Chairmen are Mr Louis Ameye (Belgium—Employers' Group) and Mr John Carroll (Ireland—Workers' Group).

The new Chairman's inaugural speech was dominated by two themes, the continuity of the Committee's work and the strengthening of its internal structure.

The effectiveness of the Committee depends on its place in the institutional machinery. In the past its development was 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 bodies. In particular, the Committee felt that it was seriously handicapped by the fact that it could not deliver Opinions on its own initiative but only when consulted by the Council or the Commission. The Committee's sustained efforts over a number of years to bring about a change in this situation were finally crowned with success. The Committee has already exercised its new-won right on numerous occasions. 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, the renewal or extension of association agreements with countries which have special relations with certain Member States, and the employment situation in the Community.

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. However this analysis is hampered by the fact that neither the Treaties nor the laws based on them make it compulsory for the Council or Commission to keep the Committee informed of the action taken on its Opinions. On the other hand it was only natural that the Committee should attach great importance to this question, for the only way in which the real impact of Opinions can be assessed is by having a feed-back of information. 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. The Committee made it clear to the Commission that periodic reports, which in certain cases could be amplified, would be extremely desirable and useful. The Commission welcomed this proposal and the General Secretariats of the two organizations have in the meantime taken concrete measures.

While the contacts with the Commission can on the whole be termed quite satisfactory, a more qualified verdict must be given on those with the Council. The Committee continues to consider closer cooperation with the Council and its various bodies as one of its prime objectives. Satisfactory solutions have not yet been found for all aspects of this problem, but some success has been achieved. The most important step forward was the Council Presidency's agreement to take part in a general discussion with the full Committee at least once a year, a promise which was kept when

the French Minister of Labour, Mr Michel Durafour, attended the Committee's 122nd plenary session in July in his capacity as President in office of the Council. Other notable events were the attendance of Mrs Françoise Giroud, the French State Secretary for Women's Affairs, at the inaugural session of the Committee's fifth term of office at the end of September 1974.

As regards the attendance of qualified Council officials at Committee sessions, the members of the Permanent Representations of the Member States have been invited to attend sessions wherever possible as observers. The General Secretariat of the Council is also endeavouring to send qualified officials as observers to Committee sessions and section meetings. It now has observers present at every Committee session and the members of the Council are officially informed of the work carried out.

With regard to the action taken by the Council as a result of Committee Opinions, the Council has assured the Committee that account is taken of its Opinions at all levels of the Council's work. The Council has indicated, however, that since it is the authority which has the final say on Commission proposals, it will not be able to inform the Committee about the action taken on the latter's Opinions until it has adopted its final decisions, which are published in the Official Journal of the European Communities.

The Council has nevertheless recognized the fact that the Committee would be able to operate more efficiently if it were kept better informed about the work of the Council and the policy pursued.

The Committee has frequently pointed to the need for its work to be synchronized more closely with that of the Council. One of the Committee's suggestions was that it should be given advance notice of Council agendas, to enable it to plan its own work accordingly. Another idea the Committee put forward was to have a member of the Committee, in principle the rapporteur for an Opinion, take part in preliminary work at the Council.

The Committee also wished to have closer contacts with the Permanent Representatives' Committee.

The Council has therefore proposed that the Chairman of the Economic and Social Committee and the Chairman of the Permanent Representatives' Committee should hold informal meetings at which a general exchange of views would take place and general information would be provided to the Committee on relations with the Council.

These meetings would supplement the existing contacts between the two General Secretariats for the purpose of exchanging technical information.

The Council has laid down the following procedure for the publication of Committee Opinions:

- a) All Committee Opinions on matters which are normally dealt with in the Official Journal of the European Communities will be published for information purposes in that Journal. Publication will take place at the Committee's request, as soon as the texts are available in the official languages of the Community.
- b) Opinions will be published without annexes but with the texts of any amendments that have been rejected. Opinions will bear the signature of the Chairman of the Committee.

Another matter coming under relations with the Council is the revision of the Committee's Rules of Procedure. Without wishing to give a final verdict, it is safe to say that although not all the proposed amendments won Council acceptance, key Committee

objectives have nevertheless been achieved, marking a successful conclusion to the laborious and complex preparatory work by the ad hoc commission. Yet it should continue to be the Committee's aim to obtain complete autonomy in respect of its Rules of Procedure such as is enjoyed by other comparable bodies, and thus to shed the last of the restrictions originally placed on its work.

Under the Committee's Rules of Procedure, the Council and the Commission are the only Community institutions with which it has official relations, so its contacts with the European Parliament have been less in evidence. 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.

After the enlargement of the Community, one of the Committee's top priorities was to establish the closest possible relations with policy-makers and representatives of economic and social activities in the new Member States.

But the establishment of new contacts did not mean that relations with the six original Member States were neglected. All were officially visited by the Chairman during his term of office. Without going into details, the talks which took place during these visits with appropriate members of governments and leading representatives of employers, workers and the other categories of economic and social activity were fruitful and have helped maintain a dialogue between the Committee and the public in these countries. Special mention must be made of the media coverage these visits received, which has done much to familiarize a wider public with the Committee's role and work.

The Chairman represented the Committee on a number of visits outside the Community in 1974.

In July, Mr Lappas paid a one-week visit to the United States, which was mainly devoted to discussions on Community-US relations, with special emphasis on those aspects which affect the two sides of industry.

These talks with government representatives and other leading figures extended and strengthened the contacts established in 1973.

Mention must also be made of the Chairman's fact-finding mission to Japan and Singapore in April 1974.

All of these visits, whether to industrialized or developing countries, have brought to light the desire of the representatives of employers, trade unions and other economic and social groups for more information about the Community and have demonstrated the need for regular exchanges of information of this nature.

A first concrete step in this direction was the Section for External Relations' visit in March to Senegal and the Ivory Coast, which had been organized by the Section's Chairman. The Committee's work on relations with the associated countries of Africa and Madagascar thus acquired a new dimension, and interesting perspectives opened up for tangible contributions by the Committee with regard to the associate countries of the British Commonwealth.

The need for close cooperation with the economic and social councils which exist in most of the Member States was one of the main themes of the Chairman's official visits to the various countries. It was agreed to improve and expand existing information arrangements, and contacts between the economic and social councils and the Committee are to be extended in future at chairman level.

As in previous years the Committee devoted its attention to priority issues in fields such as economic policy and the employment situation, regional policy, social policy, industrial policy, environmental protection, energy policy and external relations. These questions and many other draft regulations and directives, which are too numerous to mention here, were discussed by the Committee at ten plenary sessions in the course of 1974. The following figures indicate the volume of work handled:

January to July 1974: 75 Opinions and 5 studies.

September to December 1974: 24 Opinions and 1 study.

Total: 99 Opinions and 6 studies.

The relatively low number of Opinions during the last quarter of 1974 is mainly due to the fact that the September plenary session was devoted to the renewal of the Economic and Social Committee.

A detailed breakdown of the various fields of activity is given in the next chapter.

CHAPTER II

THE COMMITTEE'S ACTIVITIES

1. Economic Policy

In 1973, the Committee was principally concerned with, and had expressed its views in an Opinion on, three key aspects of economic and monetary union. Unfortunately, all progress in this field was overtaken by economic developments: the end of 1973 and the beginning of 1974 saw the Community badly affected by the critical rise in the cost of energy, which accentuated the already severe inflation and balance-of-payments problems being experienced by most Member States.

The Committee responded to the Council's February 1974 decision urging the attainment of a high degree of convergence of the economic policies of Member States, by preparing an Opinion on the Commission Report on the Economic Situation in the Community at the beginning of 1974.

In this Opinion the Committee urged that priority be now given to tackling the mounting inflation and to the balancing of Member States' budgets, as well as maintaining employment opportunities and protecting those social groups hardest hit by reduction in their purchasing power.

The Committee considered inflation to be so much the root cause of the present economic disequilibrium that it instituted in mid-year a special Study devoted solely to analyzing its causes and pointing to the measures available to curb inflation at Community, as well as at national level.

The Committee's Study on inflation isolated the effect on prices of higher energy and prime raw material costs, and then proceeded to identify the other principal causes which would have to be tackled by an array of anti-inflationary measures, the choice differing from one country to another if optimum results are to be achieved. The Study clearly showed that the nature of anti-inflationary measures that are available to the Community often solve one problem only to create another.

Committee Opinions also appeared in 1974 on several highly-specialized taxation questions (raising of capital, VAT harmonization and tobacco).

Finally, towards the end of the year the Committee began work on a major Opinion on the economic situation in the Community. The draft version of the Opinion, written after the December conference of Heads of Government in Paris, concentrates on certain priorities for dealing with inflation and unemployment and tackling the problems caused by the energy situation and balance-of-payments deficits, and also deals with the investment needed to reorganize certain industries in the Community.

2. Regional Policy

In spite of the Paris summit conference's recognition of the priority to be given to a common regional policy, little progress was made. This situation was deplored by the Committee, which had on several occasions emphasized that a common regional policy would boost incomes, trade and consumption and thus be a decisive force for the growth and balance of the Community, and a means of making full use of manpower and raw-material resources, which are still badly utilized.

To try and remedy the effects which the considerable delays in the implementation of the policy were bound to have on the political and social fabric of certain regions, especially in some Member States, the Committee proposed that a European loan be launched, with priority being given to developing the least-favoured regions.

The Committee stressed, however, that this loan could only be a supplementary and not an alternative measure and would aim at filling temporarily the gap resulting from the failure to set up the Regional Development Fund.

3. Social Policy

The persistence of the economic and financial crisis has made social policy the major preoccupation of the Member States of the Community. This situation led the Committee to deliver an own-initiative Opinion on the key issue of employment.

The Committee stressed in the Opinion that no employment policy could endorse unemployment as an inevitable aspect of the economic situation. The right to work had to be safeguarded. Preconditions for satisfactory results in the employment field were (a) the creation of sufficient jobs in all the Community's regions; (b) better matching of supply and demand on the labour market by strengthening public employment services and using the most advanced techniques; and (c) focusing attention on education and training.

Monetary, commercial, technological and investment policies and policy on association with non-member countries, as well as population changes, directly impinged on the employment of all workers.

The Committee also advocated short-term measures, which were vital for safeguarding employment in the Community. The Commission's estimates pointed to a reduction in hours worked, which would be bound to entail losses of jobs and short-time working. The automobile, chemical and textile industries could be the worst hit. The flow of information to workers should be improved and the most vulnerable workers (for instance migrant workers) protected.

An Opinion was adopted also on the Commission proposal for the establishment of a European vocational training centre. One of the points made in the Opinion was that the term 'vocational training' had to be given the widest possible interpretation. On the proposed management board of the centre, the Committee, with the workers' representatives dissenting, proposed that there be a quadripartite structure consisting of four members representing each of the following: the Commission, employers, workers and other interests. The Committee also proposed that the Chairman of the Section for Social Questions should be an ex-officio member of the management board, and all its proposals on the function and working methods of the centre should be brought to the notice of the management board.

The Committee also took a stand on the proposal for a Council Directive on equal pay for men and women (Article 119 of the EEC Treaty). It stressed that all the factors used to determine remuneration or wage supplements should be subject to the general principle of Article 119, and regretted that the same could not apply to social security systems. It also felt that women should be protected by law against any discrimination and dismissal, subsequent to their bringing complaints against employers.

The Committee also submitted a series of proposals for increased action by the European Social Fund. The Committee called for the income of elderly workers who had sustained a disability at work to be guaranteed during rehabilitation. It also pressed for practical steps to be taken to help re-unite the families of migrant workers.

Finally, the Committee endorsed a proposal on the creation of a committee for youth questions and a youth advisory committee, and decided to deliver a second Opinion on the states of progress in the implementation of the Social Action Programme.

4. Industrial Policy

In 1973 the Committee had drawn up on its own initiative an Opinion on the Commission's proposal for an industrial and technological policy programme (adopted by the Council in late 1973). This served the Committee as a basic document for its work on particular sectors of the Community economy in 1974.

This work included a Study on small and medium-sized undertakings in the Community and Opinions on the shipbuilding and paper industries. At present the Committee is studying the data-processing industry with particular reference to the restructuring which is taking place in the industry, its competitiveness and the coordination of State aids.

In the competition field, the Committee gave its broad approval to the Commission proposal for a system of prior notification and control of concentrations between companies above a certain size.

The Committee has continued to involve itself in the efforts to improve company law, in order to establish a domestic market offering adequate legal frameworks to any company or business wishing to set up on Community territory or to cooperate with other companies across national frontiers.

An Opinion was adopted on the proposal for a fifth company law Directive to harmonize the internal structures of companies. The Opinion puts forward a compromise solution on the key issue of the organs which are to be required of companies, proposing that the Member States be allowed to keep the system with a single board of directors alongside the two-tier system which separates management and supervisory functions. On the question of worker participation the Committee was unable to reach a majority viewpoint and had to be content with reaffirming the principles set out in its Opinion on the statute for a European company.

The Committee has now begun to study the proposal for a Regulation on the European cooperation grouping, paying particular attention to the need for legal flexibility in this statute and the counterbalancing safeguards which must be offered to the members of groupings, and their creditors and employees.

In the right of establishment field, the Committee gave its approval to the Commission proposal on life assurance.

Finally, several Opinions were adopted on questions relating to the customs union, including easier movement of certain goods and various measures to harmonize customs arrangements. These concerned goods returned to the Community, goods imported for testing, educational and scientific materials, the definition of the customs territory of the Community, and the harmonization of customs clearance procedures.

5. Environment

To create a cleaner, more humane environment for man to live in is, in the Economic and Social Committee's view, the essential aim of the Community programme on the environment. All efforts the Community has made to 'improve the quality of life' were therefore welcomed by the Committee.

Information and education to make public opinion aware of the dangers resulting from continuous, rapid deterioration of the environment, would appear to be the only long-term solution. As far as the immediate future is concerned, the Committee believes that environmental objectives could be satisfactorily served by the polluter-pays principle whereby the polluter bears the cost of making good or preventing damage to the environment.

The Committee delivered an Opinion in support of the setting up of the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions, which will be the vehicle par excellence for debating and seeking solutions to problems concerning the quality of life.

Among the more specific proposals the Committee dealt with was one on the disposal of waste oil. Here it did not fully agree with the ideas put forward by the Commission. The Committee endeavoured to achieve the same aim as the Directive using the same methods of control, but based its solution on the criteria governing the disposal of other chemical waste, namely prohibition of dumping, incentives to encourage holders of waste to reutilize this material, removal of waste by an authorized firm and, if necessary, inclusion of the cost of removal in the cost of production and, consequently, the selling price. The Committee considered that the introduction of a system incorporating all of these principles would make for a more just application of the 'polluter-pays' principle and unlike the Directive, would at the same time encourage firms to rationalize procedures for dealing with industrial waste.

The problem of waste disposal in general was tackled similarly in an Opinion on the Commission proposal on waste disposal. The Committee stressed the need to encourage not only the recycling and recovery waste, but also the use at the production stage of materials which could be recovered or recycled in the most economical way possible. The Committee also endorsed the proposal for a directive on the quality of surface water from which drinking water could be abstracted. The Committee found that although the draft Directive laid down maximum concentration levels for pollutants which were considered unnecessary or undesirable, it made no reference to the correlation between the hardness of water and the incidence of cardio-vascular disease, the Committee felt that there was further scope for investigation of this particular aspect of water quality.

Research was also required in the field of dangerous substances and preparations since the ecotoxicity resulting from their long-term use could lead to a breakdown of the ecological equilibrium.

In an Opinion on the European Programme for Consumer Information and Protection, the Committee stressed that in the interests of consumers at least as much as of other sections of society, the Community should re-examine the basic assumption that a continued increase in production and consumption is appropriate and desirable.

In this respect the Committee felt that full involvement of consumer representatives should be accepted as a matter of course. It was also the Committee's belief that the European Communities should involve consumers in planning medium- and long-term economic development.

6. Energy Policy

In its Study on the objectives and content of a common energy policy the Committee stated that given its present position on the world energy market, the Community's main aim must be to reduce its overall dependence on external supply sources.

This reduction must be accompanied by a policy to: encourage more rational utilization of energy, speed up the development of nuclear energy, develop other forms and sources of energy (solar energy, geothermal energy and nuclear fusion), and draw up new policies on cooperation with exporting countries, the other importing countries and the rest of the world.

In view of the contents of the Study, the Committee welcomed the Commission Communication entitled towards a new energy policy strategy for the European Community. It found the objectives set out in the Communication ambitious and purposeful, and noted that the Commission document re-echoed many of the ideas contained in its own Study.

The Committee regretted that the detail with which the energy policy objectives had been defined was not reflected in the means for implementation which, the Committee believed, the Commission should set out in greater detail. In addition, while urging the Council to adopt the entire body of proposals contained in the document 'Guidelines and priorities for a Community energy policy—promotion of the use of nuclear energy', the Committee stressed the importance of public confidence and the need for clearer and more intensive action to provide objective and comprehensible information on nuclear matters of the Member States: the Commission could, however, make a substantial contribution towards information of the general public, in particular by cooperating with other international organizations active in this field.

In its Opinion on the proposal for a Council Decision adopting a programme of research and education for the European Atomic Energy Community on plutonium recycling in light-water reactors, the Committee stated the view that the higher cost of using plutonium in light-water reactors rather than in fast breeders would be offset by a number of factors. Firstly, its use would take a lot of pressure off the increased demand for natural uranium. Secondly, it would give the nuclear industry in the Member States some timely experience in the safe handling of plutonium. Thirdly, it would offer a solution to the considerable problems the Community would face in storing the large quantities of plutonium which will be produced in the coming years.

The Committee also endorsed the proposal for a Council Directive creating the obligation by Member States of the EEC to maintain a minimum level of stocks of oil products and coal at electric power stations, believing that the economic consequences of any interruption in the supplies of fuels were sufficiently worrying as to justify the proposal.

The Committee pointed out however that the text of the Commission's proposal was unclear and requested that it be amended in order to ensure that the oil stocks held at power stations to meet this new requirement were *in addition* to the general obligation on Member States to maintain 90 days' stocks of petroleum products.

On the location of power stations' stocks the Committee felt that rigid insistence on stockpiling at the place of consumption may involve excessive costs and stated that the Commission should adopt a *more flexible approach on the use of public transport* to link power stations with their stockpiling sites.

In order to ensure that the objective of security is met, the Committee suggested that the stockpiling obligation should, with certain exceptions, be extended to cover all

fuels used in thermal power stations. For the same reason, the conversion of existing stations to dual-firing should be strongly encouraged and, as a long-term measure, research and development work on the storage of natural gas at natural subterranean sites should be promoted.

Following information that the Commission was preparing a large number of action programmes, on the basis of the Communication 'Towards a new strategy', the Committee decided to deliver an additional Opinion on the matter, in order to expand the proposals made in its Study on the 'Objectives and content of a common energy policy', many of which have been adopted by the Commission. In its Opinion on the 'Proposal for revision of the multiannual research programme', the Committee took the view that the multiannual programme of the Community's Joint Research Centre was a modest one, considering the work being done by individual Member States, and the size of the problems to be tackled. Indeed, it considered that research and development work had become so important that it should to an increasing extent be transferred from the national to the Community level, where it could be done on a more rational basis.

The Committee also felt that the revised programme should have included work on energy saving. Future work should concentrate on this area and on the particularly critical aspects of nuclear energy.

The Committee endorsed the proposed amendments to the programme dealing with radioactive waste disposal.

Finally, the Committee approved the proposed changes to the programmes dealing with hydrogen production, fusion reactors, the remote-sensing of earth resources, and the new activities proposed for the Community's research establishment at Petten.

7. External Relations

In this field the Committee has studied various aspects of the Community's development cooperation policy, which in 1974 was marked by the negotiations between the Community and the African, Caribbean and Pacific States.

The negotiations, which were undertaken under Protocol No 22 of the Act of Accession, were intended to set the pattern of future relations between the Community and more than forty developing countries after the expiry of the Second Yaoundé Convention, signed in July 1969. Obviously, this event was of the utmost importance for the future and for the direction of Community development cooperation policy.

In an own-initiative Opinion on the principal aspects of these negotiations, the Committee considered the changes which had taken place since 1973 in relations between the industrialized and the developing countries and stressed the need for progressive and controlled adoption of the economic structures in the Community to take account of the development needs of its partners. It was necessary to establish genuine cooperation between equal partners, so as to promote the economic independence and growth of the Associated States and ensure that the fruits of economic growth were distributed more fairly in the world.

With this object, the Committee recommended that a dialogue and contacts be established between representatives of trade unions, business and other interest

groups in the Community and the signatory states of the future association agreement be organized in appropriate bodies. The fact-finding visit made to West Africa (Niger, Senegal and Ivory Coast) by a Committee delegation in March 1974 may be regarded as a first step along this road.

The Committee also turned its attention on the Community's policy in the Mediterranean basin, another region of the world with significant development problems.

It stressed the importance of an overall policy for this region and the complementarity of interests and need for economic cooperation between the highly industrialized EEC and Mediterranean countries with their commodities and oil. The cooperation should cover more than just free trade, it should embrace also the movement of capital, financial and technical aid, technology, employment and environmental protection.

Following the Opinion of May 1973 on the approach to the multilateral negotiations in GATT, and the Opinion on the agricultural aspect of the GATT negotiations the Committee has now adopted an Opinion on the special problems faced by the developing countries connected with these negotiations.

With regard to the system of generalized tariff preferences, which is an important instrument of development cooperation, the Committee endorsed the improvements put forward by the Commission in its proposals and communications concerning the granting of generalized tariff preferences for 1975, especially those which were aimed at fairer sharing of benefits between beneficiary countries.

Because of the economic and financial changes which had taken place since autumn 1973 in the situation of certain beneficiary countries and in that of the Community, the Committee also commented on the future shape of the system of generalized tariff preferences and how it should be applied. Among the topics which it dealt with were the criteria to be used in selecting beneficiary countries, how the responsibilities and the financial burden could be fairly shared among the donor countries, the effects of the system in the Community and in the beneficiary states, and simplification of the application of the system.

In its Opinion on the Commission's proposals for EEC food aid the Committee agreed with the Commission's programme but emphasized that the planned action should fit into the wider framework of development cooperation policy. The Committee also went into the conditions and the limits of an effective food aid policy, including the problems of allocating resources and of using the means necessary for food production in the aid-giving countries, the question of which bodies should be responsible for distributing aid and the structural improvements which were vital in the food production sector in the developing countries.

In the future, the Committee intends to examine further aspects of the Community's external policy, including trade questions and relations and cooperation with other industrialized countries or groups of countries.

8. Agricultural Policy

The main talking points at the Committee over the past year have been the updating of the common agricultural policy, market management and relating Community farming to the complex backdrop of international issues.

The Committee drew up an own-initiative Opinion on the Commission's memorandum on the CAP, and followed it up with an in-depth progress report, in the form of a study, of the agricultural policy between 1958 and 1974. The starting point for the study was a careful analysis of Article 39 of the Treaty of Rome. In these two fundamental documents the Committee aired its views on most of the issues facing Community farming, and made a large number of suggestions, based on two main contentions: firstly, the importance of the CAP on the general political level and the crucial role it has always played in the process of Community political integration; secondly, the need to strive at EEC level, in accordance with the spirit and letter of the Treaty, towards a modern farming system playing a full part in a modern European economy. The Committee was also at pains to demonstrate that to date, due to a lack of political will, agricultural policy has been the sole common policy to be accepted by the Member States. As a result a large number of its failings and shortcomings spring from the lack of similar policies covering other areas of economic and social activity. The *Opinion on the Lardinois Memorandum and the Study* which followed have attracted considerable attention.

The 1974/1975 farm price proposals were greeted with reservations at the Committee. The Committee disagreed with the reference period underlying the Commission's calculations, and felt that the proposed average increase of 7.2% fell short of that which was required in order to attain the objectives which had been fixed.

The Commission submitted its 1975/1976 farm price proposals at the end of November, and this enabled the Committee to draw up its Opinion before the end of the year. In this Opinion, the Committee dwelt on the very difficult position of Community agriculture. Measures had to be taken to improve employment, production and social advancement in farming. This being so, the socio-structural measures accompanying the price proposals (aids to young farmers, hill farming) met with the Committee's unreserved approval.

In contrast, the price proposals themselves were greeted with reservations. The Commission's data accountability network, in its present form, fails to take in a sufficient number of farms. Consequently the prices calculated on this basis are not in themselves sufficient to ensure attainment of the objectives laid down in Article 39 of the Treaty. The Committee did not explicitly take a stand on the actual price increases, although it did wonder how the Commission could argue that a rise of only 9% in the general price level would allow increase in the incomes of those who work in agriculture which is equivalent to that obtained in other sectors. The Committee also disagreed with the Commission on the questions of deducting from price increases to allow for biotechnical progress. In addition, there was criticism of the proposed price relationships on the ground that they reinforced the adverse trend which is hitting livestock products. The Committee acknowledged that the beef and veal proposals had a certain amount of merit, but considered that all the issues involved should be reappraised. Only measures based on an appropriate intervention price, appropriate stockpiling machinery and supplementary aids could resolve the difficulties affecting this sector. The Committee analysed the impact of the price proposals on consumers and concluded that the CAP machinery had shielded European consumers from the high level of world prices, although consumers did not seem to have derived any particular benefits from the drops in farmgate prices in 1973 and 1974. As far as the Committee is concerned, any improvement in market transparency and management is primarily contingent on rationalizing the relationship between production, processing and distribution.

9. Transport Policy

The common transport policy has been paralyzed by the enlargement of the Community.

The state of deadlock in this area throughout 1973 was largely due to the continuing disagreement between the founder countries of the Community and the three new members on the subject of commercial vehicles' weights and dimensions. This, however, may only be a passing phenomenon, if the ideas still being evolved by the Six can be constructively blended with the—in some respects—more liberal trends of British policy and the new economic and technological requirements of the transport industry.

The first attempt at such a compromise was the Communication from the Commission to the Council of 24 October 1973 on the development of the common transport policy. Indeed, the Communication may mark a new departure in the transport sector, for it gives top priority to the objectives laid down at the 1972 Paris summit conference, viz. rational land-use planning, social progress, improvement of the quality of life, protection of the environment and safeguarding of intangible values and assets. Apart from listing these objectives, the Commission also states its intention to establish closer ties between transport policy and other policies (regional policy, structural policy, social policy, tax policy, industrial policy and energy policy).

The common policy's new line of approach, which is wholeheartedly endorsed by the Committee, rests on the principle that action can no longer be simply based on market mechanisms. For instance it is only by making joint efforts to build up infrastructures and expand local passenger transport systems that we can ensure that car owners use public transport on a large scale. A balance must be assured between private and public transport, especially in the light of the constraints imposed by urban development and population density, by developing the infrastructures and means of public transport in agglomerations and heavily built-up areas.

In its Opinion, the Committee also stressed that

- the transport market must continue to be supervised;
- each infrastructure user should bear all the external and internal costs which he generates;
- the Community should adopt a priority programme covering adjustment of national taxation systems, charging for the use of transport infrastructures, access to the market and financial relations between States and railway undertakings.

Finally, the Committee emphasized that the links between the transport policy and other common policies should be strengthened and proposed looking into this matter in a further Opinion, which would supplement the one delivered in March 1974.

In 1974 the Committee was also called on to deliver two Opinions on bracket tariffs. It reiterated its view that special contracts should only be admissible if they covered carriage of at least 250,000 t/km over a three-month period. Furthermore, it endorsed the proposed extension of Regulation No 1174/68 for a further two years (up to 31 December 1976).

10. Technical Barriers

Among the more specific matters considered by the Committee were a number of directives to eliminate technical barriers to trade, which often involve environmental questions. In its Opinions on Community standards to reduce pollution, for example, in the atmosphere, the Committee supported the Commission's proposals while at the same time seeking an acceptable compromise between technical and economic demands and conservation of the environment. In its Opinion on the lead content of petrol the Committee recognized the difficulties which certain types of cars now on the roads would have in using petrol with a lower lead content, but it thought that suspicions that atmospheric lead pollution was a danger to health were so strong that all possible precautions should be taken to lower the concentration of lead in the atmosphere.

Other directives dealing with the standardization of technical specifications for motor vehicles and the making-up by weight or by volume of certain pre-packed products were also studied by the Committee. Work on the latter was concerned mainly with the relation between stated and actual amounts contained in prepackages.

CHAPTER III

PRESS RELATIONS AND OUTSIDE ECHO

At the end of 1973, soon after the creation of a new Directorate for Press and External Relations in the Economic and Social Committee, the aims of its press and information policy were set out as follows: to popularize the Committee's work 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 along these lines that efforts have been made towards starting out on the road to obtain an impact on the press.

To judge by the number of press cuttings received in the course of the year by the Secretariat, which are obviously far from being a complete collection, and the known times the Committee has been mentioned on radio and television—about one TV programme a month—considerable progress has been made by comparison with previous years. The service to the press has now been extended and more systematic and closer links have been established with journalists. The press has been prepared in advance of plenary sessions and press releases have been focused on the Opinions adopted. We have speeded up our communications with news agencies by using the telex, improved the quality of our publicity by engaging photographers, we have used television and radio, published articles, and derived maximum publicity from the Chairman's visits to Member States.

There has been good press coverage on the occasions when the President of the Council has attended Committee sessions. Additional interest has been generated by the discussion of topical and general policy issues under the right of initiative. The Chairman's speeches have received frequent mention in the press, and the meetings held outside Brussels have also made a good impression.

Among the Committee's Opinions which have had a wider echo was that relating to the general situation of the European Community, coupled to the Chairman's appeal for European solidarity. Other Opinions, Studies and Reports which can be considered to have had an impact were those dealing with the common agricultural policy, the economic situation of the Community, multinational companies, the fifth directive on company structures, mass dismissals, the environment and the proposal for a European loan for the regional fund. The fact that publicity was given to Sections' draft Opinions or reports, in advance of the plenary which finally adopted them, undoubtedly helped too.

The Committee Bulletin, which is now brought out by the Secretariat instead of being printed in Luxembourg, is appearing more frequently (monthly instead of three-monthly), and much more promptly. This too has not been without influence on the specialist press.

It soon became obvious that the interest in the Committee's Opinions, studies and reports on the part of the Council, the Commission and Ministries of Member States immediately showed a marked increase after these activities had been given a suitable write-up in the newspapers. And this interest is increasing steadily.

But in spite of these results which may be described as positive, and despite the efforts of certain members to popularize the Committee's activities in their respective spheres, the overall picture of the Committee's impact on the press still looks gloomy. The Bureau therefore, at its meeting in November and December, took a close look at the situation with a view to improving it.

The growing interest in the Committee activities has also been reflected in its information work. Requests for information have topped the thousand mark; more and more organizations and periodicals have requested to be placed on the mailing list of the Committee's publications. More than fifty groups of visitors, totalling some 1,200 people, were received at the Committee and, insofar as they represent important groups, will contribute to the dissemination of knowledge of its work.

The most positive aspect in the field of press and information, however, has been the willingness and desire of the Committee members themselves to contribute to a more dynamic policy in this field.

CHAPTER IV

THE GROUPS

Article 19 of the Rules of Procedure allows members of the Committee to form, on a voluntary basis, 'groups representing employers, workers and the other categories of economic and social activity'.

The Article also states that 'the role and working procedures of such groups shall be laid down by the Bureau of the Committee in provisions implementing' the Rules of Procedure.

The wording of the first paragraph of Article 19 confirms the Committee's present tripartite structure, which has established itself over the years.

At present nearly all members belong to one of three groups, representing employers (Group I), workers (Group II) and various interests (Group III).

Group I includes all the representatives of Community industry plus certain representatives of agricultural and trade associations and of the transport sector.

Group II comprises all the representatives of trade union organizations at European level, in other words the European Trade Union Confederation. In addition, two members of the French CGT have sat on Group II since November 1974.

Group III includes representatives of agriculture, small craft industries, small and medium-sized industrial and trading businesses, professional occupations, family-welfare and consumer associations, and bodies representing various interests.

The three-group structure has been consolidated by implementing provisions adopted by the Bureau, which make it possible for a group with 30 or more members to be provided with an administrative secretariat.

At present, Group I (employers) has 40 members, Group II (workers) 42 members and Group III (various interests) 51 members.

The groups' role as set out in the instructions of the Bureau is to 'participate in the preparation, organization and coordination of the work of the Committee and its constituent bodies and help supply them with information'.

The importance of the groups grew considerably during 1974. Group chairmen were regularly invited to discussions with the Committee Chairman about important administrative matters. The monthly group meetings before each plenary session have not only improved the organizational side of the preparation for plenary session debates, but have also given the groups an opportunity to prepare a common supranational position on key issues.

A further strengthening of the groups' role is now taking place in that there is a trend towards group meetings being used to prepare most of the important decisions taken by the constituent bodies of the Committee, including the Bureau.

CHAPTER V

ATTENDANCE AT CONFERENCES

As in past years, the Committee has continued in 1974 to keep up its contacts with representative European organizations by accepting as far as possible the invitations to attend functions staged by various organizations. The functions attended by the Committee were:

<i>General assembly of the European Coordination Bureau for International Youth Organizations</i>	4 and 5 February Luxembourg
<i>Exchange of views of EEC Government experts concerning small- and medium-sized businesses and small craft industries</i>	11 March Munich
<i>Colloquium organized by the French Council of State on consumer affairs</i>	15 March Paris
<i>Colloquium organized by the College of Europe at Bruges on the theme: 'Towards a Community policy on the environment'</i>	16-18 May Bruges
<i>Study sessions organized by the European Coordination Bureau for International Youth Organizations on 'Various aspects of the problem of multinationals'</i>	25-27 May Strasbourg
<i>European Trade Union Confederation symposium</i>	18-20 September Brussels
<i>European cooperative information symposium on management</i>	19-21 September Ostend
<i>23rd Congress of the International League against Unfair Competition</i>	6-10 October Rome
<i>Colloquium organized by the Institute for European Legal Studies</i>	7-9- November Liège
<i>General meeting of the Pharmaceutical Group of the European Community</i>	20-24 October Munich
<i>Conference organized by the Council of European Municipalities and the International Union of Local Authorities and concerning 'Environmental policy in the European Community'</i>	28-30 November Rome

CHAPTER VI

RE-APPOINTMENT OF THE COMMITTEE

On 7, 8 and 9 October 1974, the Committee held the inaugural session of its fifth four-year term of office. Representatives of the Council and the Commission were present. The meeting elected Mr H. Canonge as Chairman and Mr L. Ameye and Mr J.F. Carroll as Vice-Chairmen, all three to serve for a period of two years.

Out of the 133 members appointed by the Council for the 1974-1978 period, the following were new members:

Mr Bukman	Mr Nielsen
De Ridder	Noordwal
De Tavernier	Pfeiffer
Eichler	Picard
Evain	Rainero
Jaschick	Savani
Kirschen	Seydaack
Lapie	Solal-Celigny †
Laval	Staratzke
Marvier	Mrs Strobel
Militello	Mr Vigone
Neumann	

CHAPTER VII

ADMINISTRATION

1. Budget

The Committee's Budget for the 1974 financial year was 6,330,420 u.a. (1 u.a.= Bfrs 50), approximately 15% more than in 1973 (5,505,930 u.a.). The enlargement of the Community had a major influence on bringing about the increase.

The main reasons for the increase were:

- the rise in the number of staff;
- the completion of the conference rooms and putting them into service;
- the raising of the allowance paid to members in connection with their travelling and accommodation expenses; this was made necessary by the steep rise in the cost of living.

The 6,330,420 u.a. were allocated as follows: staff expenditure: 54%, operating expenditure: 23%, meetings and convening members: 16%, expenditure for interpreting at meetings: 7%.

2. Personnel

The new structure of the Secretariat fulfilled the requirements of a rational operating procedure. In view of this new structure, the Bureau decided to increase the number of posts from 252 to 284.

The 32 new posts were allocated as follows:

- Category A: 2 posts
- Category B: 6 posts
- Category C: 15 posts
- Category D: 3 posts
- Category LA: 6 posts
(Language Service)

In this way the Bureau took account not only of the general growth in the volume of work but also of the obligation to complete the engagement of staff from the three new Member States and the need to produce the vast majority of the Committee's documents in the six official languages.

3. Structure of the Secretariat of the Economic and Social Committee (1974)

CHAIRMAN
Private Office

SECRETARY-GENERAL
Private Office
— *Specialized Financial Control Department*

DIRECTORATE A

- I. *Press-Information Division*
 - Press relations
 - Dissemination of information
 - Organization of conferences
 - Compilation of the annual report
- II. *External Relations Division*
 - Relations with the Groups and the Secretariats of the Groups
 - Relations with employers' and workers' organizations
 - Relations with the other Institutions of the Communities

DIRECTORATE B

- I. *Division for Economic and Financial Questions and External Relations*
Secretariat of the two Sections
- II. *Specialized Department for Social Questions and Protection of the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Affairs*
Secretariat of the two Sections

DIRECTORATE C

- I. *Division for Agriculture and Regional Development*
Secretariat of the two Sections
- II. *Division for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services*
Secretariat of the Section
- III. *Division for Transport and Communications and Energy and Nuclear Questions*
Secretariat of the two Sections

DIRECTORATE D—ADMINISTRATION

- *Personnel/Staff Regulations Division*
- *Specialized Financial Department*
- *Specialized Department for Internal Questions, Planning and Coordination*
- *Translation Division*

4. Internal matters

From October onwards, the Committee was able to hold all its meetings in its new Europe, Ravenstein and Coudenberg conference rooms in the building annexed to the Palais des Congrès. The Committee had previously held its plenary sessions in the prestigious Palais d'Egmont building, which had been placed at its disposal free of charge by the Belgian authorities.

The work on the Europe and Ravenstein conference rooms was supervised by the appropriate Belgian authorities in collaboration with the Secretary-General. The new rooms were handed over to the Committee at a brief ceremony attended by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Chef de Cabinet at the Minister for Public Works and other senior civil servants of the Belgian Government. The fitting-out of the rooms was a total success both from the aesthetic and the technical point of view and the Committee can be proud of them.

It was a matter of urgency for the Committee to have the new conference rooms, since more than 600 meetings were held in 1974 (as against 548 in 1973).

The total number of documents relating to the Committee's work reached 12,000, more than 4,000 up on the previous year's figure.

ANNEX A

**Opinions information
reports and studies adopted in 1974**

117th plenary session of 30 and 31 January 1974

- Turnover taxes—common system of value-added tax: uniform basis of assessment
(Rapporteur: Mr Peyromaure-Debord-Broca)
- Natural yeasts and yeast residues
(Rapporteur: Mr Bourel)
- Preservatives authorized for use in foodstuffs intended for human consumption
(Rapporteur: Miss Roberts)

118th plenary session of 27 and 28 February 1974

- Control of concentrations
(Rapporteur: Mr Clark)
- Improvement of the common agricultural policy
(Commission memorandum)
(Rapporteur: Mr Bourel)
- Agricultural prices
(Rapporteur: Mr de Caffarelli)
- Agricultural aspect of the multilateral negotiations in GATT
(Rapporteur: Mr Rømer)
- Community guarantee system for private investments in third countries
(Rapporteur: Sir John Carmichael)
- Definition of liqueur wines and of certain grape musts
(Rapporteur: Mr Guillaume)
- Setting up of a Committee for Youth Questions and a Youth Advisory Committee
(Rapporteur: Mr Van Rens)
- Setting up of a general committee on safety at work and preventive action in the field of safety at work in the whole range of extractive industries
(Rapporteur: Mr Bornard)
- Foreseeable planting and replanting trends and production and utilization in the vine sector
(Rapporteur: Mr Guillaume)

119th plenary session of 27 and 28 March 1974

- The role of the Economic and Social Committee in the institutional machinery of the Communities
Consumer information and protection
(Rapporteur: Miss Roberts)
- Shipbuilding
(Rapporteur: Mr Arena)
- The economic situation of the Community at the beginning of 1974
(Rapporteur: Mr De Bièvre)

- Equal pay for men and women workers
(Rapporteur: Mrs Weber)
- Community action programme for the employment of handicapped persons in an open market economy
(Rapporteur: Sir John Peel)
- Social and occupational integration of handicapped persons
Action by the European Social Fund to assist workers moving from one Community to another
Further types of aid for workers moving from one Community country to another
Assistance from the European Social Fund to persons employed in the shipbuilding industry
(Rapporteur: Mr Fassina)
- Application of social security schemes to employed persons and their families moving within the Community
(Rapporteur: Mr Purpura)
- Development of the common transport policy
(Rapporteur: Mr Renaud)

120nd plenary session of 29 and 30 May 1974

- Employment and the changed situation in the Community
(Rapporteur: Mr Debunne)
- Protection of the interests of members and others as regards the structure of sociétés anonymes and the powers and obligations of their organs
(Rapporteur: Mr Friedrichs)
- Taking-up and pursuit of the business of direct life assurance and freedom of establishment in the business of direct life assurance
(Rapporteur: Mr De Bruyn)
- Making-up by weight or by volume of certain pre-packaged products
(Rapporteur: Mr Lecuyer)
- *Classification, packaging and labelling of dangerous substances (fifth amendment)*
(Rapporteur: Mr Kramer)
- Installation of lighting and light-signalling devices on motor vehicles and their trailers
(Rapporteur: Mr Masprone)
- Fog lights for motor vehicles
(Rapporteur: Mr Masprone)
- External projections of motor vehicles
(Rapporteur: Mr Masprone)
- Reflex reflecting devices for motor vehicles and their trailers
(Rapporteur: Mr Masprone)
- Common Customs Tariff duties on educational, scientific and cultural materials
(Rapporteur: Mr De Grave)

- Import system for carp and trout
(Rapporteur: Mr Clavel)
- Supply of agricultural products as food aid
(Rapporteur: Mr Zijlstra)
- Excise duties on mineral oils
(Rapporteur: Mr De Bièvre)
- Indirect taxes on the raising of capital
(Rapporteur: Mr De Bièvre)
- Taxes which affect the consumption of manufactured tobacco
(Rapporteur: Mr Friedrichs)
- Creation of a European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions
(Rapporteur: Mr De Grave)
- Abstraction of drinking water in the Member States
(Rapporteur: Mr Gailey)
- Protection and improvement of the environment
(Rapporteur: Mr Ramaekers)
- Carriage of goods by road between Member States
(Amendment of Regulation)
(Rapporteur: Mr Fredersdorf)
- Carriage of goods by road between Member States
(Extension of Regulation)
(Rapporteur: Mr Fredersdorf)
- 40-hour week
(Rapporteur: Miss Mackie)
- Common energy policy
(Rapporteur: Mr Delourme)

121st plenary session of 26 and 27 June 1974

- Multinational undertakings
(Rapporteur: Mr Margot)
- Social situation in the Community during 1973
(Rapporteur: Mr De Bruyn)
- Negotiations between the Community and the African, Caribbean and Pacific States
(Rapporteur: Mr Bodart)
- Provisional measures to be put into effect pending creation of the European Regional Development Fund
(Rapporteur: Mr Ventejol)
- Action by public authorities on environmental matters
(Rapporteur: Mr Ventejol)

- Priority measures for a Community energy policy—Promotion of the use of nuclear energy
(Rapporteur: Mr Schlitt)
- National aid under the common structural policy for seafishing
(Rapporteur: Miss Mackie)
- Composition of petrol—Problem of the lead content of petrol
(Rapporteuse: Miss Roberts)
- Mutual recognition of diplomas, certificates and other evidence of formal qualifications by virtue of Article 57 of the EEC Treaty
(Rapporteur: Dr Sloman)
- Health problems affecting trade in fresh poultrymeat
(Rapporteur: Mrs Evans)
- Amendments to proposals concerning testing of, publicity for and matter added to proprietary medicinal products
(Rapporteur: Mr Chabrol)
- Pure-bred breeding animals of the bovine species
(Rapporteur: Mr Wick)
- Soya beans
(Rapporteur: Mr Emo)
- Control of carnation leaf-rollers
(Rapporteur: Mr Caprio)
- Situation of small and medium-sized undertakings in the Community
(Rapporteur: Mr Kolbensschlag)
- Agricultural aspects of the Mediterranean policy of the Community
(Rapporteur: Mr Caprio)

122nd plenary session of 17 and 18 July 1974

- Situation in the Community
(Rapporteur: Mr De Bruyn)
- New energy policy strategy for the Community
(Rapporteur: Mr Delourme)
- Minimum stocks of fuel
(Rapporteur: Mr Bonomi)
- The Community's responsibilities towards developing countries and Community food aid
(Rapporteur: Mr Tasker)
- Prospectus for admission to official stock exchange quotation
(Rapporteur: Mr Camman)
- Plutonium recycling in light water reactors
(Rapporteur: Mr Schlitt)
- Taxes affecting the consumption of manufactured tobacco
(Rapporteur: Mr O'Ceallaigh)

- Disposal of waste oils
(Rapporteur: Mr De Grave)
- Textile names
(Rapporteur: Mr Rømer)
- Customs treatment applicable to goods returned to the customs territory of the Community
(Rapporteur: Mr De Grave)
- Driver-perceived noise level of agricultural or forestry tractors
(Rapporteur: Mr Masprone)
- Procedures for the release of goods for free circulation
(Rapporteur: Mr De Grave)
- Animal and plant health and animal nutrition
(Rapporteur: Mr Droulin)
- Community tariff quota (bovines)
(Rapporteur: Mr Droulin)
- Pig carcasses
(Rapporteur: Mr Guillaume)
- Forestry measures
(Rapporteur: Mr Schnieders)
- Application of social security schemes
(Rapporteur: Mr Purpura)
- Establishment of a European vocational training centre
(Rapporteur: Mrs Weber)
- Stunning of animals before slaughter
(Rapporteur: Mrs Evans)

123th plenary session: inaugural session of the Committee's fifth four-year term of office, held on 7, 8 and 9 October 1974

124th plenary session of 18 October 1974

- Annual report on the economic situation in the Community
(Rapporteur: Mr Malterre)
- Community quota for the carriage of goods by road (modifying Regulation No 2829/72)
(Rapporteur: Mr Renaud)
- Fuel contained in the fuel tanks of commercial motor vehicles
(Rapporteur: Mr Heimes)

125th plenary session of 28 November 1974

- Progress report on the common agricultural policy
(Rapporteur: Mr Bourel)
- Generalised tariff preferences
(Rapporteur: Mr Evain)
- Multi-annual research programme
(Rapporteur: Mr Schlitt)
- Sulphur content of certain liquid fuels
(Rapporteur: Mr De Bièvre)
- Research in the textile sector
(Rapporteur: Mr De Precigout)
- Waste disposal
(Rapporteur: Mr De Grave)
- Additives in animal feedstuffs (Amendment of the Directive of 23 November 1970)
(Rapporteur: Mr Wick)
- Delivery periods of imported goods
(Rapporteur: Mr De Grave)
- Goods imported for testing
(Rapporteur: Mr De Grave)
- Value of goods for customs purposes (Amendment of Regulation No 803/68)
(Rapporteur: Mr Rømer)
- Dangerous substances and preparations
(Rapporteur: Miss Roberts)

126th plenary session of 19 December 1974

- Fixing of prices
(Rapporteur: Mr Rainero)
- Rice market (Amendment of Regulation No 359/67/EEC)
(Rapporteur: Mr Rainero)
- Co-insurance (liberalisation of operations and coordination of laws, regulations and administrative provisions)
(Rapporteur: Mr De Bruyn)
- Information and documentation in science and technology
(Rapporteur: Mr De Ridder)
- Sugar market (fixing and alteration of basic quotas)
(Rapporteur: Mr Clavel)

- Financing of certain animal health measures
(Rapporteur: Mr Schnieders)
- Cocoa and chocolate products
(Rapporteur: Mr Bourel)
- Lighting and signalling on agricultural or forestry tractors
(Rapporteur: Mr Masprone)
- Reverse and speedometer
(Rapporteur: Mr Masprone)
- Safety-belt anchorages
(Rapporteur: Mr Masprone)
- Statutory plates and inscriptions for motor vehicles
(Rapporteur: Mr Masprone)

ANNEX B

**Tables indicating
the extent to which Opinions
led to proposals being amended**

Subject	Date of Consultation	By	Opinion sent	Date of Decision	Considered			Ref. No of Doc. on Opinions and action taken on them
					not at all	partially	to a large extent	
OUTWARD PROCESSING TRAFFIC	4 December 1972	Council	2 March 1973				471/2-1973	
ANNUAL ACCOUNTS AND MANAGEMENT REPORT, methods of evaluation and PUBLICATION OF THESE DOCUMENTS	8 December 1971	Council	2 March 1973				472/2-1973	
RADIO-INTERFERENCE caused by electrical household appliances, portable tools and similar equipment	26 September 1972	Council	2 March 1973				473/2-1973	
FLUORESCENT LIGHTS	26 September 1972	Council	2 March 1973				474/2-1973	
PROTECTION OF THE RHINE AGAINST POLLUTION	26 April 1972	Council	2 March 1973				475/2-1973	
HYDROCARBONS	21 September 1971	Council	2 March 1973				476/2-1973	
RECORDING EQUIPMENT IN ROAD TRANSPORT	18 December 1972	Council	2 March 1973				477/2-1973	
SLAUGHTER STATISTICS	30 May 1972	Council	2 March 1973	15 May 1973	Committee Opinion approved	Committee Opinion approved	478/2-1973	
FLORICULTURE PRODUCTS	21 October 1970	Council	2 March 1973			Commission proposal	479/2-1973	
ANIMAL FEEDINGSTUFFS (amendment of Directive of 23 November 1970)	24 July 1972	Council	2 March 1973	28 April 1973	Committee Opinion approved	Committee Opinion approved	480/2-1973	
						Commission proposal		

EUROPEAN MONETARY COOPERATION FUND	6 February 1973	Council	2 March 1973			The Council noted the suggestions put forward in the Committee's Opinion	481/2-1973
EXCISE DUTIES AND SIMILAR TAXES	22 March 1972	Council	2 March 1973				482/2-1973
SAFETY GLASS to be fitted to motor vehicles	4 October 1972	Council	3 April 1973				483/3-1973
DEVICE PROVIDING PROTECTION against unauthorized usage of motor vehicles	24 July 1972	Council	3 April 1973	17 December 1973		Committee Opinion approved Commission proposal	484/3-1973
HOMOGENEOUS STATISTICS	28 June 1972	Council	3 April 1973				485/3-1973
MOTOR VEHICLES (Protection of the driver from the steering wheel in case of impact)	11 October 1972	Council	3 April 1973			Committee Opinion approved Commission proposal	486/3-1973
Processing of goods in bond before MARKETING	24 January 1973	Council	3 April 1973				487/3-1973
CUSTOMS DUTIES	24 January 1973	Council	3 April 1973				488/3-1973
AGRICULTURAL LEVIES AND CUSTOMS DUTIES	24 January 1973	Council	3 April 1973				489/3-1973
FIXING OF FARM PRICES	23 March 1973	Council	3 April 1973			The Council noted the suggestions put forward in the Committee Opinion	490/3-1973
ECONOMIC SITUATION OF THE COMMUNITY	28 November 1972	Decision of the Bureau following Council decision of 22.3.1973	3 April 1973			The Council noted the suggestions put forward in the Committee Opinion	491/3-1973
BASIC SAFETY STANDARDS	7 August 1972	Commission	8 June 1973	10 December 1973			492/5-1973

Subject	Date of Consultation	By	Opinion sent	Date of Decision	Considered			Ref. No of Doc. on Opinions and action taken on them
					not at all	partially	to a large extent	
COSMETICS	22 November 1972	Council	8 June 1973				493/5-1973	
COMMUNITY CONTRACTS	26 September 1972	Council	8 June 1973	Proposal withdrawn and amended by Commission		x	494/5-1973	
DRIVING LICENCES	11 October 1972	Council	8 June 1973		Committee Opinion approved Commission proposal		495/5-1973	
TECHNICAL CONTROL	11 October 1972	Council	8 June 1973	Proposal amended by the Commission		x	495/5-1973	
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH	24 January 1973	Council	8 June 1973				496/5-1973	
VALUE OF GOODS IN BOND	26 September 1972	Council	8 June 1973				497/5-1973	
COMMUNITY QUOTA	27 March 1973	Council	8 June 1973		Committee Opinion approved Commission proposal		498/5-1973	
INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT	7 December 1972	Council	8 June 1973				499/5-1973	
PUBLIC SERVICE CONCEPT	24 January 1973	Council	8 June 1973				500/5-1973	
GATT	27 March 1973	ESC Bureau	8 June 1973		The Commission and the Council noted the suggestions put forward in the Committee's Opinion		501/5-1973	

AGRICULTURE IN MOUNTAIN AREAS	5 March 1973	Council	13 July 1973				502/6-1973
HYDROCARBON IMPORTS	2 November 1972	Council	13 July 1973				503/6-1973
2nd ILLUSTRATIVE NUCLEAR PROGRAMME FOR THE COMMUNITY	27 October 1972	Commission	13 July 1973		The Commission noted the suggestions put forward in the Committee's Opinion		504/6-1973
ETHYL ALCOHOL	15 March 1972	Council	13 July 1973				505/6-1973
TYPE-APPROVAL OF MOPEDS	6 February 1973	Council	13 July 1973				506/6-1973
MASS DISMISSALS	10 November 1972	Council	13 July 1973	Commission withdrew and amended proposal		x	507/6-1973
ENERGY POLICY 1975-1985 NECESSARY PROGRESS IN COMMUNITY ENERGY POLICY	2 November 1972	Council	13 July 1973			The Council noted the suggestions put forward in the Committee Opinion	508/6-1973
HYDROCARBONS	2 November 1972	Council	13 July 1973			The Committee Opinion approved the Commission proposal	509/6-1973
SOCIAL SITUATION	18 January 1973	Commission	13 July 1973			The Commission noted the suggestions put forward in the Committee's Opinion	510/6-1973
Community ENVIRONMENTAL action programme INFORMATION ON ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS	15 May 1973	Council	13 July 1973			The Council noted the suggestions made in the Committee's Opinion	511/6-1973
BREAD	24 January 1973	Council	2 October 1973				512/9-1973
PRESSURE VESSELS GAS CYLINDERS	6 February 1973	Council	2 October 1973				513/9-1973
ELECTRIC ENERGY METERS	23 March 1973	Council	2 October 1973				514/9-1973

Subject	Date of Consultation	By	Opinion sent	Date of Decision	Considered			Ref. No of Doc. on Opinions and action taken on them
					not at all	partially	to a large extent	
OENOLOGICAL PRACTICES	6 June 1973	Council	2 October 1973					515/9-1973
AIR TRANSPORT	27 September 1972	Council	2 October 1973					516/9-1973
REGULATIONS (EEC) No. 827/68, 1009/67 (EEC), 950/68 (EEC) and 2358/71 (EEC)	24 January 1973	Council	2 October 1973	13 March 1973				517/9-1973
CAPACITY CONTROL IN TRANSPORT	7 June 1972	Council	2 October 1973					518/9-1973
RULES TO BE APPLIED TO INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT	6 February 1973	Council	2 October 1973					519/9-1973
AEROSOLS	11 April 1973	Council	2 October 1973					520/9-1973
INTERFERENCE PRODUCED by radio and TV receivers	16 May 1973	Council	2 October 1973					521/9-1973
WEIGHING INSTRUMENTS	5 June 1973	Council	5 November 1973				Committee Opinion approved Commission proposal	522/10-1973
COLD WATER METERS	5 June 1973	Council	5 November 1973				Committee Opinion approved Commission proposal	523/10-1973
MEDICINAL PRODUCTS	24 January 1973	Council	5 November 1973					524/10-1973

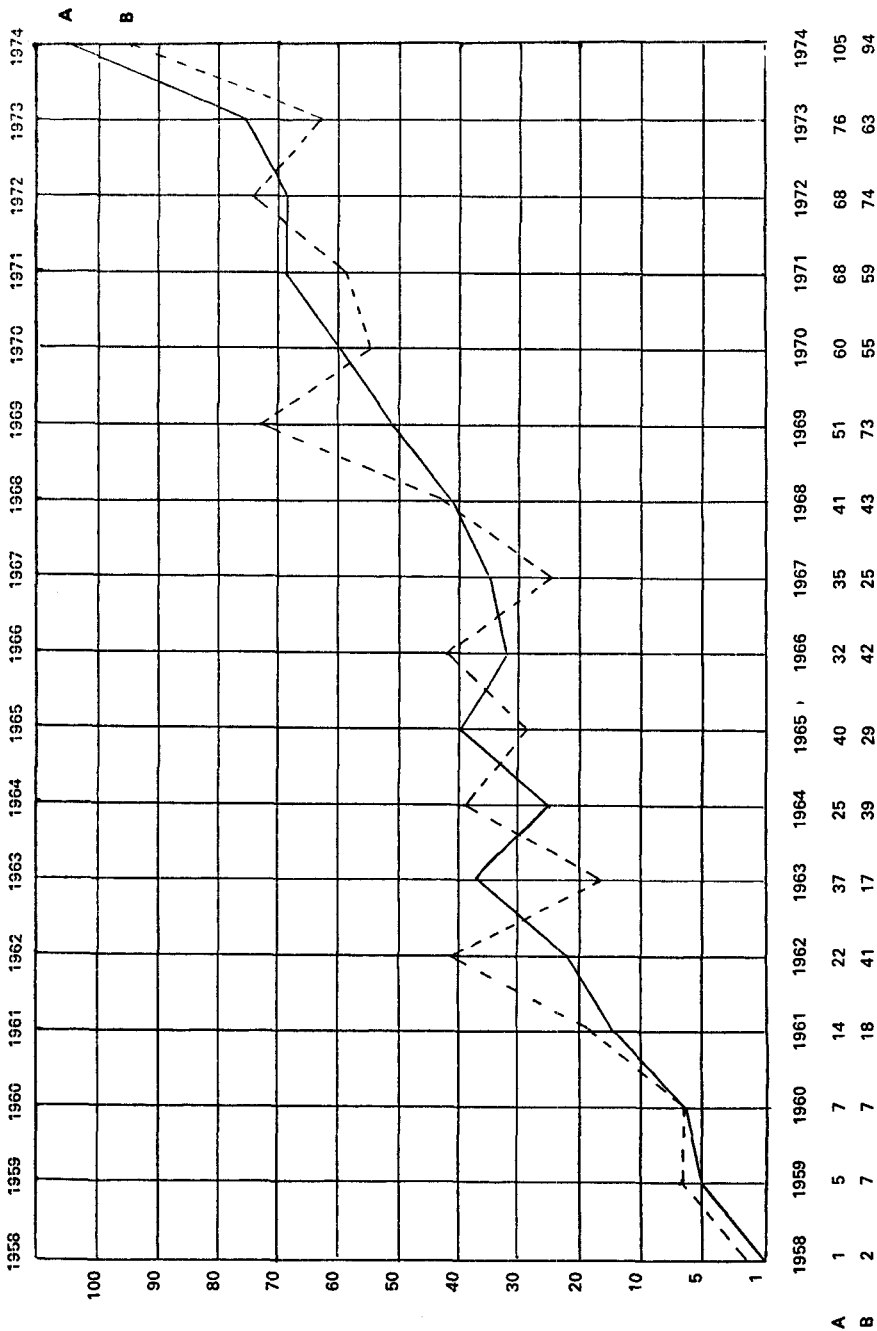
MOTOR VEHICLES (Strength of seats and anchorages)	21 June 1973	Council	5 November 1973	Commission proposal amended on 13.2.1974		x (Com.)	525/10-1973
OIL AND GAS PIPELINES	2 November 1972	Council	5 November 1973				526/10-1973
REGIONAL POLICY COMMITTEE - SETTING UP REGIONAL FUND - SPECIAL PROVISIONS	9 August 1973	Council	5 November 1973				527/10-1973
SEEDS - VINE AND FOREST REPRODUCTION MATERIALS	18 June 1973	Council	5 November 1973	27 December 1973		x	528/10-1973
ANNUAL REPORT ON THE ECONOMIC SITUATION	23 May 1973	ESC Bureau	5 November 1973	8 December 1973	The Council noted the suggestions made in the Committee Opinion		529/10-1973
TRAVELLERS' PERSONAL LUGGAGE	18 July 1973	Council	10 December 1973				530/11-1973
DEFINITION OF THE CUSTOMS' TERRITORY OF THE COMMUNITY	24 September 1973	Council	10 December 1973	27 December 1973	Committee Opinion approved		531/11-1973
SOCIAL ACTION PROGRAMME	31 October 1973	Council	10 December 1973	12 February 1974	The Council noted the suggestions made in the Committee's Opinion		532/11-1973
PRESERVATIVES (NINTH AMENDMENT)	21 June 1973	Council	10 December 1973	17 December 1973			533/11-1973
INDUSTRIAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL POLICY PROGRAMME	26 September 1973	ESC Bureau	10 December 1973				534/11-1973
PRIORITY AGRICULTURAL REGIONS - EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND	16 October 1973	Council	10 December 1973				535/11-1973
COMMUNITY ENERGY POLICY	25 September 1973	Council	10 December 1973				536/11-1973

Subject	Date of Consultation	By	Opinion sent	Date of Decision	Considered			Ref. No of Doc. on Opinions and action taken on them
					not at all	partially	to a large extent	
ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION (FIRST STAGE)	23 November 1973	Council	14 December 1973				537/12-1973	
Coffee and tea EXTRACTS	11 April 1973	Council	20 December 1973				538/12-1973	
ROAD TRANSPORT	26 September 1973	Council	20 December 1973				539/12-1973	

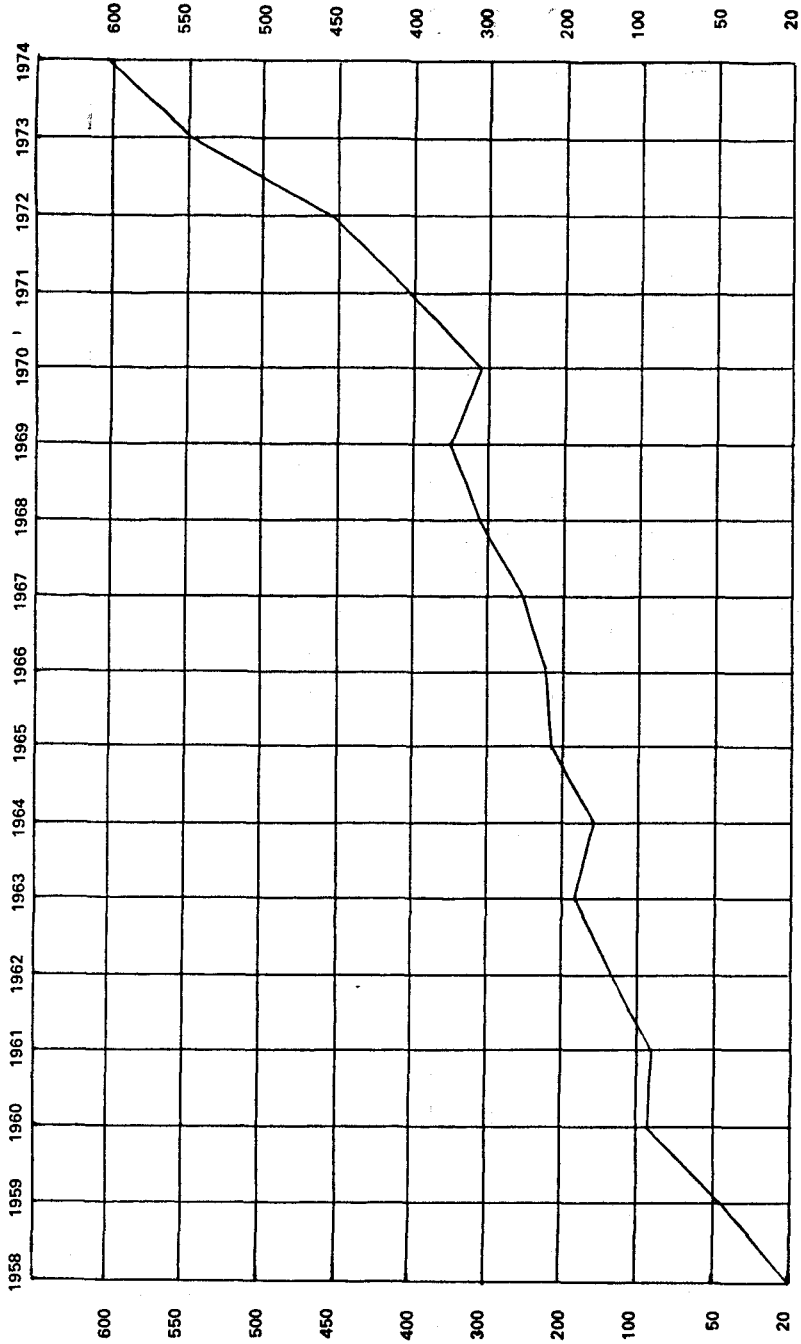
ANNEX C

Graphs

A — TEXTS PRODUCED (Opinions, information reports, studies)
 B — REFERRALS

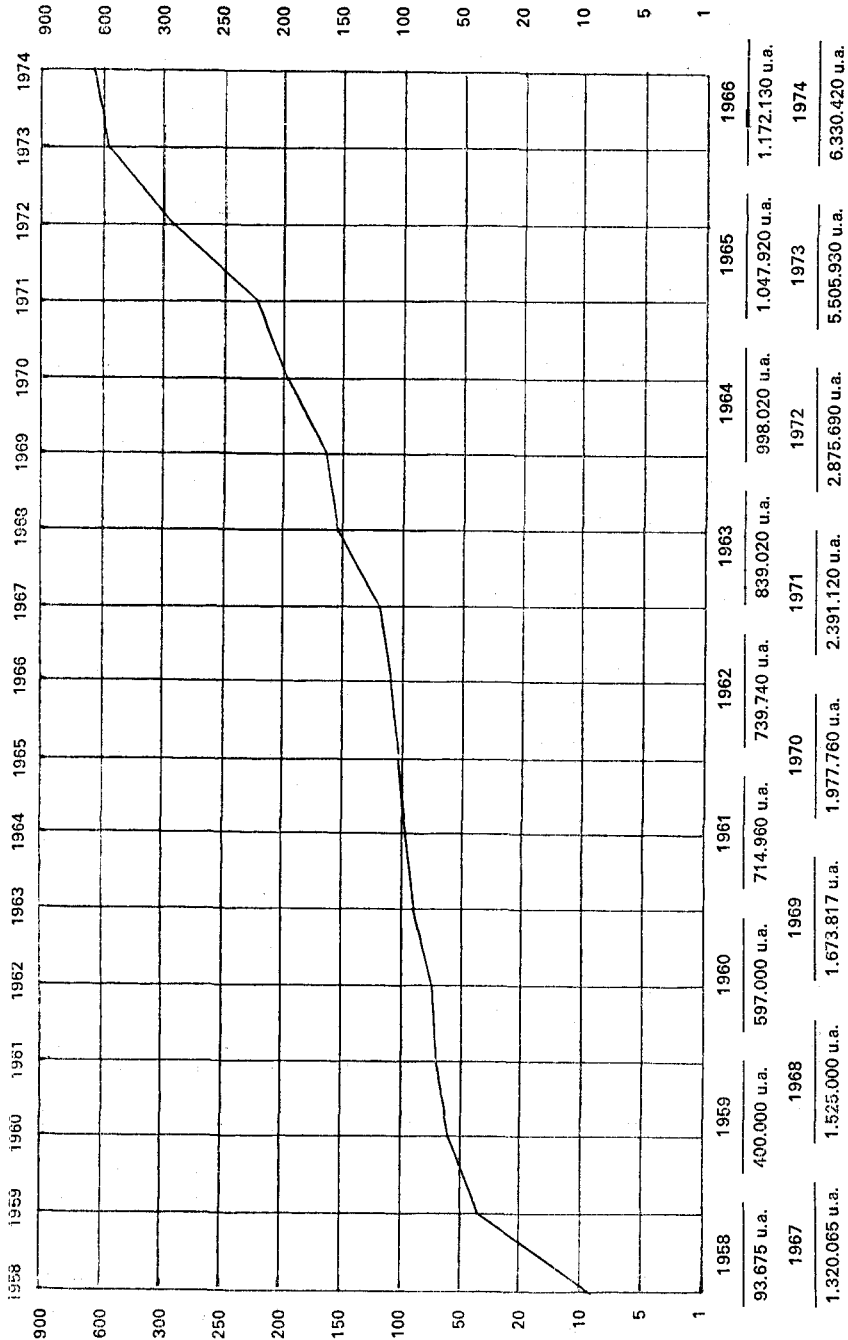


MEETINGS

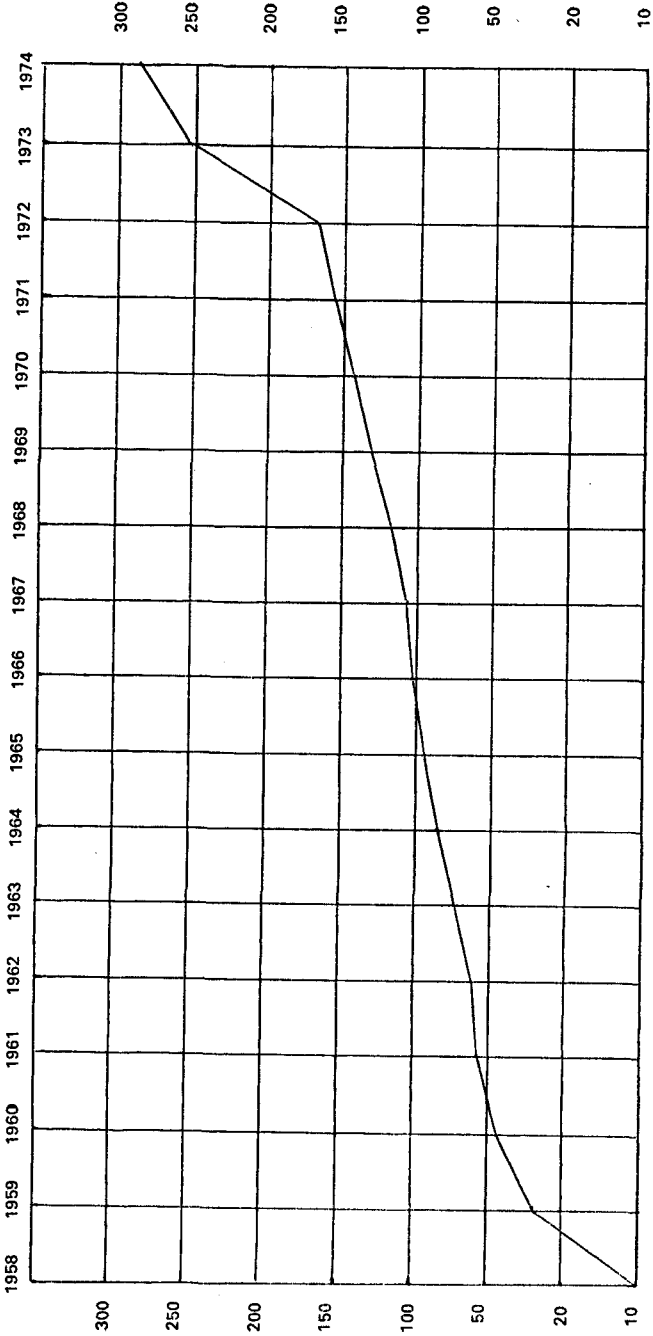


1958	20	1960	92	1962	130	1964	157	1966	224	1968	306	1970	307	1972	459	1974	602
1959	45	1961	90	1963	178	1965	218	1967	263	1969	353	1971	403	1973	548		

BUDGETS ('0,000 u.a.)



NUMBER OF STAFF



1958	10	1960	44	1962	64	1964	86	1966	101	1968	117	1970	144	1972	169	1974	284
1959	31	1961	59	1963	73	1965	94	1967	108	1969	129	1971	156	1973	252		
1960	44	1962	64	1964	86	1966	101	1968	117	1970	144	1972	169	1974	284		



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE
Press-Information Division

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