

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE
OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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Preface

Over the past 12 months we have seen the rising curve of unemployment within the European Community move relentlessly upward, threatening not only the individual economic lives of people and their families, but the very fabric of our democratic societies. We have repeatedly expressed our concern and proposed remedies. Unemployment is not only an affront to the dignity of the human person but it is also a continuing threat to our democratic institutions.

The gap between rich and poor has grown wider and poverty has continued to be a way of life for millions over large areas of the Third World and even within this European Community, as the pilot studies into poverty under the Social Fund have shown. More and more businesses, too, big and small, in industry and agriculture, have gone to the wall and the disparities between the economically well-off regions of the Community and those of the underdeveloped peripheral areas have widened and intensified. Those are the major lengthening economic shadows that darken the future.

These problems are not only obstacles in the path towards European unity but in the seriousness of their nature and the magnitude of their extent they pose a threat to the very bases of our democracies. To remove that threat is the essence of the work which confronts the European Community.

We must offer practical and immediate proposals to overcome the socio-economic problems of Europe and their consequent social malaise which is intensifying throughout the whole Community.

It is in this spirit that this Committee has adopted an opinion on the prospects for the Community's policies in the 1980s. We have drawn attention to the economic and social crisis which threatens to thwart even the present measure of European Community cooperation. No Member State is capable of solving, on its own, all the problems which confront it, in the context of the present economic and social crisis. Only policies emanating from the Community as an entity can provide the necessary framework within which Europe can offer a currently acceptable standard of living to all its citizens. This can be achieved through the effective measure of new common policies

which must be accompanied by a sense of social justice and an acceptable quality of life.

In our opinion on 'prospects for the 1980s', we clearly state that European union, economic recovery in Europe and the re-establishment of full employment should be the main political and economic goals for the Community in the next decade. In view of the challenges with which it is confronted, the Community must put into effect a coherent nucleus of priority economic and social policies which call for both the restoration of mutual confidence between the Member States and the Community and, at a political level, for solidarity with Community measures carried out by joint institutions and internal resources, measures which can no longer be carried out by the Member States alone. The Committee particularly stressed the need for the expansion and development of industrial, social and agricultural policies; of action on energy and research, land planning and regional policy, transport and consumer affairs, and on the environment.

In all these areas the Committee recommended more direct action on the part of the Community and that all of these policies should be progressively incorporated into a multiannual legislative programme.

An ambitious programme, giving effect to such new policies, cannot be carried out in full without additional funds. While there is scope for developing different elements of the common agricultural policy in a more harmonious manner, at the same time and in the overall interest of the European Community, new policies and programmes cannot be adequately funded by decreasing the funds now available for implementing the common agricultural policy. This policy is one of the cornerstones of the European edifice and to undermine it would be to undermine the very basis of the Community.

As far as the Committee's relations with other institutions of the Community are concerned, we can look back upon 1981 with satisfaction. Indeed, the European Parliament has of its own volition decided to put these relations on a wider and more systematic basis, a decision which is the fruit of efforts which have spanned a number of years. Also our interaction on the Council of Ministers has improved considerably since the Committee of Permanent Representatives agreed this year on introducing the practice of hearing the rapporteurs of our opinions on an *ad hoc* basis at the level of the Council's working groups.

So, while the year has been one full of difficulties for all the categories represented in the Committee, we have shown the will and have adopted methods to overcome the problems in joint efforts; we have also improved the Committee's effectiveness and efficiency.

Tomás ROSEINGRAVE
Chairman

Role and influence of the Economic and Social Committee

The work of the Economic and Social Committee reflects the situation in the Community. At the present time the Community is facing serious problems and is undergoing a period of radical change. Questions of an urgent nature are arising and solutions will have to be found in the very near future. The major problems are the Community budget, the necessary adjustments to the common agricultural policy, the general economic situation, and, in particular, the situation on the labour market — characterized by an increasing level of unemployment — and the prospect of a further enlargement of the Community.

As is well known, the EEC institutions, especially the Commission and the Council of Ministers, have taken steps to find solutions to the abovementioned problems, in particular within the framework of the 'mandate of 30 May 1980'.

Prospects for the 1980s

Clearly, the Economic and Social Committee could not stand aside as these important matters for the future of the Community were being discussed. The economic and social interest groups represented at the Committee therefore decided to make a timely contribution to the debate on the future of the Community by issuing an own-initiative opinion on the matter. As this opinion is tantamount to a declaration of political principles by the Committee, extensive quotes from the document are reproduced below.

The Committee endeavours to set out the response of the Community to the challenges which it will have to face in the 1980s.

This response should take the form of proper policies for the Community and greater convergence between national economic and social policies.

Getting the Community's economy moving again and providing more jobs are considered by the Committee to be the chief aims on the economic and social front.

Accordingly, Europe must mobilize all the resources at its disposal (in technology, inventive capacity, labour and capital) to give a new impetus to economic activity. It must therefore fight inflation, strengthen the Community market and make its industries and the other sectors of its economy (e.g. distribution network, services, tourist industry, agriculture) more competitive.

In addition, the Community must remain the expression of a Europe which has a sufficient sense of solidarity to offer a satisfactory standard of living to all its citizens with an eye to safeguarding and, if possible, improving present levels of prosperity.

The Committee hopes that these objectives will be part of the political objectives of European Union which are to be developed during the 1980s.

In this context, it places emphasis on the strengthening and development of the following policies:

Industrial policy

This should be aimed at development and the completion of the internal market and should include the abolition of all types of barriers, a more open public purchasing policy and the elimination of investment bottlenecks in certain industries.

Absolute priority must be given to framing a selective policy for private and public investments likely to create favourable conditions for an economic recovery.

This action must be part of a 'grand design' embracing various Community measures and taking account of the initiatives of the Member States. This grand design will focus on manufacturing industry and, in particular, on small and medium-sized businesses which are very innovative and consequently have a job-creating potential.

In particularly promising areas, such as energy production, energy saving, the environment, data processing and communications, micro-electronics and, in certain Member States, building, stress must be laid on speeding up both Community research and the financing of certain pilot schemes.

In order to ease the reorganization and running-down of certain industries, the Community should draw on existing schemes, e.g. its special retraining assistance for the redundant, the relaxation of the rules on competition as laid down in the Treaties and the progressive limitation of State aids.

External economic relations

The Community must pursue an outward-looking trade policy and policy of cooperation with the rest of the world without, however, losing sight of its own interests.

In order to facilitate the access of European industry to the markets in other industrialized countries the Community should provide European exporters with specific back-up information. EEC delegations overseas should be equipped to provide a constant stream of industrial, technological and scientific information on local investment trends and technical developments.

Social policy

The Community's social policy in the 1980s must be made operational through appropriate regulating decisions and the mobilization of adequate financial resources. It must include wide-ranging consultations between the Community institutions and the two sides of industry organized at European level.

There should therefore be European 'guideline-directives' laying down the general goals to be achieved which would be implemented at national or sectoral level in accordance with normal procedures. 'Concerted actions' at European level between the two sides of industry on their own initiative and backed up by the Commission should lead to the conclusion of negotiated 'framework agreements'.

There should be more basic and specialist training schemes for young people and more retraining schemes for certain categories of workers. This would reduce unemployment and help towards the introduction of new production methods and new technologies.

In this context, European solidarity must be developed by strengthening the role of the European Social Fund. Intervention by the ESF must also cover the retraining of workers in ailing sectors and the training of highly-skilled workers for certain advanced technologies.

Ways must be found of permitting real worker mobility between sectors and within the Community. Illegal immigration must be stopped.

In order to utilize available labour more efficiently, there should be a proper stocktaking of 'available work'. A European 'framework agreement' should form the basis for the gradual reduction in annual working hours, it being left to the different Member States and economic sectors to decide on the means to be used (e.g. reducing the working week, giving longer holidays, re-arranging shift work, etc.).

Among other measures to be taken in the 1980s, the Committee mentions the strengthening of worker information, consultation and participation in

firms and measures to help families, old people and the disabled, which often have an encouraging effect on Member States' legislation.

The Community's social policy must be developed hand in hand with its other priority policies.

Energy and research policy

The Community should hasten the formulation of a common energy policy.

The Community must concentrate on drafting a programme for advanced research with the aim of systematically developing traditional and alternative sources of energy on its own territory (solar, geothermal, winds, tides and bioenergy) and promoting energy conservation.

As in the past, the Community's research programme must cover:

- (i) energy,
- (ii) certain aspects of the environment and recreation,
- (iii) raw materials,
- (iv) agriculture,
- (v) certain industrial sectors.

Physical planning and regional policy

Special attention will have to be paid to closing the gap between regions at the centre of the EEC and those on the periphery.

The Community must reorientate its regional policy. The emphasis will have to be placed on development programmes for coordinating the funding of individual projects in specific regions more effectively and on a concentration of aid in the least well-off regions; the European Regional Development Fund must be provided with adequate resources.

Truly Community measures of the integrated-action type must be made possible by boosting the non-quota section of the ERDF and bringing in other Community financial instruments.

Transport and communications policy

The geographical expansion of the Community means that the Community must play a bigger role in improving transit routes and links with the outlying regions, as a complement to the development of existing infrastructures.

Quality of life

Following the Community's initial guidelines as regards the environment and nature conservation, certain Community research programmes to promote environmental protection must be implemented in the years to come, thereby helping to harmonize production conditions and terms of competition.

The exchange of information on a European scale on cultural and leisure activities could subsequently form the basis of a Community research programme in this field.

Agricultural policy

The common agricultural policy must be pursued in harmony with all other policies and must comply with the general aims of Community policies.

The Community must, as in the past, abide by the three principles on which the different market organizations are based, namely:

- (i) single markets and prices;
- (ii) financial solidarity; and
- (iii) Community preference.

The common agricultural policy must be compatible with Article 110 of the Treaty, which aims at the harmonious development of world trade. In addition, in accordance with what was agreed at the Conference of Stresa, equilibrium between supply and demand must be a major objective.

The different elements of the common agricultural policy must be developed in a more harmonious manner. In addition to markets and prices policy, social, commercial and structural aspects must be given more attention in the future.

There should be a detailed study of the effects which result from the different market organizations. The maintenance of an appropriate standard of living for farmers must not rule out measures designed to improve the management of certain markets.

The Community must take more account of the international dimensions of the common agricultural policy by progressively bringing in a policy for exporting farm produce in accordance with the Community's own interest and the legitimate interest of other exporters.

Information policy

Community decisions must be communicated to the mass media as an expression of Community policy, together with the necessary explanations.

To achieve this aim, there is a need for a high degree of consistency in the presentation of information. The Community needs to have its own 'house style' which can be easily recognized by any European, whatever the Member State he or she belongs to.

Planning of Community policies

A multiannual programme of legislation embracing all the Community policies sketched out above, should provide the subject-matter for a proposal from the European Commission, a wide-ranging political debate in the European Parliament, and an in-depth discussion between the economic and social interest groups represented at the Economic and Social Committee.

However, most of the policies listed above will only be fully effective if they are given substantial financial backing by the Community; the money must also be used more effectively and expenditure must provide a greater return.

The ESC therefore wonders whether a limitation of the Community's income to a ceiling of 1% of national VAT receipts is compatible in the medium term with the development of new EEC policies, or whether it would not be more logical to put no obstacles in the way of the development of Community policies in areas where they may be more effective than national policies.

Relations with the EEC institutions

In accordance with the basic guidelines set out above the Committee endeavoured to strengthen its role in the institutional framework of the Community in the year under review. As the Committee traditionally has a very satisfactory working relationship with the Commission — as demonstrated, amongst other things, by the participation of a large number of members of the Commission at ESC plenary sessions and section meetings — efforts were mainly concentrated on improving links with the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers. As regards relations with the former body, special attention should be drawn to a Resolution adopted by a large majority of Committee members on the links between the two institutions. One of the former chairmen of the Committee, Mrs Fabrizia Baduel Glorioso, played a major part in the elaboration of this Resolution. Since 1975 there has been a progressive improvement in the process of informing the European Parliament about the work of the Economic and Social Committee. This improvement has been brought about, in particular, by the fact that ESC rapporteurs are being invited ever more frequently to appear before the various bodies of the European Parliament and by the desire expressed by the President of the European Parliament, Mrs Simone Veil, on the occasion of the first visit by a holder of that office to the ESC, in July 1980, that there should be closer collaboration between the Parliament and the Committee with a view to bringing about an improvement in the quality and speeding up the preparation of Community work, without jeopardizing the independence of the two institutions. In view of these considerations the Parliament made the following proposals:

- (i) Members of the European Parliament should be kept informed of ESC opinions and studies on matters which come within the scope of their own fields of responsibility;
- (ii) there should be a consolidation of the process of hearing rapporteurs in respect of matters coming within the competence of ESC sections and EP committees, with the agreement of the respective chairmen; special attention should be paid to the problems arising with regard to deadlines for the submission of documents;
- (iii) in future members of the EP should be asked to play an active role in the special initiatives taken by the ESC so as to enable more account to be taken of the relations between both sides of industry and the anxieties and views of these groups in the work of the Parliament;
- (iv) the President of the EP and the ESC Chairman should agree on an annual programme of contacts and consultations in order to strengthen cooperation between the two bodies.

Considerable progress was also achieved in the development of relations between the Committee and the Council of Ministers. For years the Committee has been endeavouring to improve the method of monitoring the impact of its work on the Council. Letters were exchanged between the Committee's Chairman and the Chairman of the Committee of Permanent Representatives on this matter and it became clear that some progress had been made in closing the gap between the two sides. The Committee's desire that its opinions be presented to the working groups at the Council by the ESC rapporteurs was realized on an experimental basis in the case of the opinions on the Directive on the protection of workers from exposure to asbestos, the new regional policy guidelines and priorities and the harmonization of taxes on tobacco. A number of adjustments of a practical nature have been made in the internal organization of the Committee. In this respect attention should be drawn in particular to the gradual implementation of the solution to the problem of alternates.

External relations

Numerous visits and other forms of contact were made by Committee members during the year 1981. In addition to the official visits made by the Committee's Chairman, members participated at various gatherings in Belgium, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Ireland, Italy and the Netherlands. Special attention should be drawn to two fact-finding visits to Japan and the USA. In May the Committee's Chairman was at the head of a small delegation which had a meeting in Tokyo with representatives of the Japanese Government and workers' and employers' organizations. Talks were held with, amongst others, the Minister of Labour, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, the Secretary of State for Economic Planning and the Government's Trade Commissioner.

In October the Committee's Chairman visited the USA in order to make a thorough survey of relations between the USA and the EEC and the effects of the policies being pursued by the former country on the economic situation in the EEC. The Committee's delegation paid particular attention to monetary, budgetary and investment policy, including American investment in EEC countries. Other matters considered included labour market trends, measures to combat unemployment, energy policy objectives, cooperation between the EEC and the USA in the field of research, and current trade relations. During his visit the Committee's Chairman, Mr Roseingrave, met representatives of the US Government and the presidents of the leading employers' and workers' organizations. He made a point of drawing the attention of the Americans to the concern felt by economic and social interest groups in the EEC over the possible effects of a continuation of the American monetary policy which was putting pressure on interest rates and exchange rates in the EEC countries. At the same time the Committee's delegation was able to obtain a better insight into the views of the new American Government and the most important interest groups in the USA on relations between the USA and the EEC.

Finally, mention should be made of relations between the Committee and economic and social councils in the EEC Member States and international organizations, such as the International Labour Office. In addition to the bilateral contacts, the annual meeting of the chairmen and secretaries-general of the national economic and social councils and the ESC took place in October in The Hague.

Work of the Committee

1. AGRICULTURAL POLICY

Farm prices

In February 1981 the Commission submitted proposals for farm prices for 1981/82. Recommended increases ranged from 4% to 12%, depending on the particular product, and presupposed the general principle that producers should share the financial responsibility so that the rise in EAGGF expenditure could be curbed.

In 1980 farm incomes throughout the Nine fell on average by approximately 9% in real terms while production costs continued to grow. The Committee therefore felt that common prices for 1981/82 should be high enough to check the slump in farm incomes. The Committee felt that increases above and beyond the Commission proposals would be within the justifiable restraints imposed by the budget, especially as a substantial reduction in EAGGF expenditure is on the cards because of (a) foreseeable trends on agricultural markets and (b) the streamlining of expenditure, especially in the sugar and dairy sectors.

To give its conclusions a sound foundation, the Committee was particularly careful in scrutinizing EAGGF financing. Pruning EAGGF aid might well increase the strain on national budgets. For instance, the cost of unemployment benefit would spiral if more and more farmers were forced by prices and incomes structures to give up farming or shed labour. On co-responsibility, the Committee has argued repeatedly for many years that producers should share the cost of reducing surpluses so as to balance supply and demand. It was therefore willing to examine any Commission proposal along these lines. The Committee agreed with the Commission about the need to restore, as soon as possible, the unity of the agricultural markets, which has been undermined in recent years by the divergent economic and financial policies of the Member States. However, positive MCAs would have to be phased out without harming the producers concerned.

Reform of the common agricultural policy (CAP)

1981 will be remembered for the far-reaching plans for reforming the CAP mooted by the Community authorities and the farming organizations. In May 1980 the Committee, anxious to make its contribution to this debate, instructed its Section for Agriculture to compile an information report embracing the viewpoints of all groups represented on the Committee on the major issues raised by the CAP. This report, which was discussed in plenary session on 8 January 1981, was forwarded to the relevant Community institutions. Following up this clear analysis of the various viewpoints within its ranks, the Committee decided in March to exercise its right of own initiative and to issue an opinion embodying its proposals for reforming the CAP.

After referring to the fundamental principles of the CAP and the considerable measure of approval these still met with, the Committee pointed out that the major innovation proposed by the Commission from the standpoint of the reform of the common agricultural policy — which had now become a matter of urgency — was that production targets be set. While it approved the Commission's approach, the Committee drew attention to the main factors which would have to be taken into consideration, if the strategy were to be implemented to good effect. Production costs would have to be related to the structural characteristics of Community agriculture, the individual regions of the EEC would have to concentrate on products which were suited to the local soil and climatic conditions, price levels would have to be guaranteed in domestic markets and there would have to be long-term guidelines for world markets. This last factor was the vital prerequisite for a workable export policy for agricultural produce, which entailed agreements establishing minimum and maximum prices, levels of reserve stocks and possibly quotas to prevent undesirable fluctuations in the market. This strategy should allow for any quantities specified in outline agreements under which firm sales were likely to result. Export subsidies were acceptable in cases where they were designed to build up the Community's position on export markets — with the caveat that in the poorest developing countries it would be more appropriate to help with the development of local production. No strategy for agricultural produce could be considered in isolation from the growth of the processing industry and the supplies and exports on which the existence of this industry depended. A well-balanced policy to this end would have beneficial effects in a number of areas and particularly in the field of employment. Furthermore, special attention should be devoted to the food aid policy, which might perhaps be backed up by long-term soft loans.

With respect to production targets, the Community should make a major effort to develop new outlets. What the Community now needed, especially for the products in surplus, was a marketing policy of its own. The Community would have to put greater emphasis on scientific and market research, the provision of technical and economic advice, and the directions in which productivity could most profitably be increased. These factors were vital for the success of any marketing and production policy.

When tackling the problems raised by production surpluses account would have to be taken of the export market and the need to ensure an adequate income for farmers.

The Committee again pointed to the need to implement a common policy for forestry and to improve the lot of the disadvantaged regions of the Community (in particular the Mediterranean areas) with the aid of other policies and funds. It approved the Commission proposals which aimed to avoid the danger of discrimination between farmers in the Mediterranean areas and those in other areas of the Community. In the case of marginal farms, the Committee approved the Commission proposal to grant direct income payments: however, it was important that any scheme should lay down Community-wide criteria for the Member States to follow.

The Committee emphasized the importance (i) of managing markets in the closest possible consultation with the professional organizations concerned, (ii) of proper control over the implementation of policy by the Member States, and (iii) of a commercial speed and transparency of decision.

The Committee closed by stressing the need to control the cost of the CAP. Only if this were achieved would the CAP regain the place in public affection it held in the 1960s and the climate be created for other common policies.

Agricultural aspects of Spanish membership

In the light of the initial findings of the Agriculture Section's study of the agricultural implications of Spain's entry, the Committee decided in April 1981 to issue an own-initiative opinion on this crucial issue for the Community's future. While preparing this opinion, which was adopted by a substantial majority at the September plenary session, the Section maintained constant liaison and exchanged information with the Spanish farming organizations. Its report systematically surveys the potential problems and also reflects the views of Spanish farmers.

In the preamble to its opinion, the Committee makes it clear that Spain's forthcoming accession is now beyond all doubt. The Committee — like the Ten collectively and individually — has repeatedly expressed strong support for enlargement. Now the terms of Spain's membership have to be worked out jointly, bearing in mind that this commitment by both the Community and Spain testifies to a political resolve that must be respected and acted upon. Further, the governments concerned must realize that they will have to shoulder the financial and other responsibilities resulting from Spanish membership. A constructive and receptive approach is therefore required on both sides, combined with the determination to make enlargement work.

Spain must obviously accept the present Community structures, and in particular the strict compliance with the basic principles of the CAP must be regarded as self-evident and non-negotiable. Though common prices will have

to be phased in, there can be no delay in implementing Community preferences and alignment with the rules governing production and marketing. To ensure market balance in sectors where the Community was in surplus or virtually self-sufficient, the Committee urged producers to comply more strictly with production rules and advocated more effective monitoring of standardization in certain sectors. Demand in the Community would have to be stimulated and a determined effort made to conquer external markets. However, the danger of a 'substitution effect' could not be overlooked. When Spain joined, some exports which currently went elsewhere might be switched to the Community. This would compromise the exports of non-EEC Mediterranean countries on the Community market. To counteract this, the Committee suggested that, first and foremost, the Community strengthen and reorientate its cooperation schemes to help the third countries concerned to boost their output of crops for which there is a mounting demand in the Community and which are difficult to grow here.

The Community must be prepared to accept the financial consequences of enlargement by raising the ceiling on its own resources as soon as the need is felt. Under no circumstances must farmers in the least-favoured regions of the Community be left to foot the bill.

Lastly, since certain markets are particularly likely to be affected by Spain's entry, the Committee called for various measures in the fruit and vegetable sector. These included complementarity between the various regions of the EEC, tightening-up of Community preferences, strict application and monitoring of quality standards, organization of producers along economic lines, more effective methods of managing the common market and a substantial increase in the number of products subject to reference prices. As regards wine, Spain must ban new plantings and abolish the practice of *coupage* between red and white wines. The Community would have to formalize existing measures and extend them throughout its territory, and remove barriers to consumption. Olive-oil production must be considered as part of an overall oils and fats policy taking account of the economic and social importance of olive oil in the enlarged Community.

Veterinary matters

The Committee issued an opinion on the proposals concerning the use of substances with a hormonal action in livestock. The Committee recognized the urgent need for Community rules on the use of substances with a hormonal or thyrostatic action. The legal instrument proposed — namely a regulation — avoids the creation of a legal vacuum by ensuring prompt implementation and the immediate adjustment of existing national rules. Recognizing the potential practical difficulties, the Committee recommends as follows: (a) checks should preferably concentrate on animals on the hoof, at their home farm or transit pen; (b) imports from non-member countries must be subject to the same stringent rules as Community meat, and (c) the proposed provisions should be applicable to all 'food' animals, including reserve game and fish.

As there was reasonable doubt about the possibility of distinguishing between natural and artificial hormones, all legal loopholes must be closed off. Supplementary provisions governing the use of natural hormones authorized for therapeutic purposes would therefore have to come into force at the same time as the regulation.

Lastly, the Committee opposed any automatic levy to cover expenditure connected with checks and tests.

Fisheries

The Community took a keen interest in sea fisheries throughout the year.

It warmly welcomed the Commission's proposals for changes in the common organization of the fishery markets. Broadly speaking, it endorsed the proposed aid for those producers' organizations who are the mainstay of the entire fisheries regime. It strongly favoured strengthening the position of members of such organizations to ensure that they were not at a disadvantage compared with non-members.

The Committee welcomed the fact that, in determining the guide price which underpins all other price fixing and compensatory payments under the fisheries market regime, new criteria such as the need to stabilize prices, maintain producers' incomes and consider the consumer's interests are to be applied in addition to the existing yardstick (average of prices over the three previous fishing seasons). It expressed reservations about the method used for calculating the withdrawal price but was pleased that, in contrast to the present rigid adherence to the official withdrawal price, it is now proposed to allow producers' organizations to reduce this price by up to 10% without forfeiting their right to reimbursement.

The Committee supported the principle of graduated compensatory payments though it pointed out that application would be far from easy in some areas. The Committee felt that the proposed free-at-frontier price would not protect producers. A minimum import price below which fish would not be allowed to enter the Community would be more effective and, above all, significantly clearer.

The Commission has proposed that certain measures are to be financed out of the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF) only where the fishing quota for the particular group of stocks in the Member State in question has not been used up. The Committee rejected this proposal on the grounds that it would hit the producers' organizations hard as they have no way of persuading non-members to exhaust the overall fishing quotas.

2. TRANSPORT POLICY

In the period under report the Committee issued a total of 15 opinions on transport policy (previous annual average: seven). To mention only the most

important, it examined Commission proposals on priorities in the transport sector up to the end of 1983, the enforcement of safety standards in Community ports, preventing marine pollution, a Commission memorandum on structural measures, a consultation procedure for relations and agreements with third countries, and amendments to the proposed Regulation on a system for observing the markets, measures to promote combined transport, container safety, international air transport, railways policy in the 1980s and the annual increase in the Community quota for the carriage of goods by road.

During this period the Committee managed to chalk up a major success: the '40 t solution' for the weight and dimensions of commercial vehicles which it had proposed in its January 1980 opinion was adopted by the Commission and forwarded to the Council in the form of an amendment to its original proposal. The Committee hopes that the Council will finally come to a decision on this question (which has been under discussion since 1962) during a forthcoming meeting. The European Parliament has also recently endorsed the Committee's views.¹

The Committee is also pleased to note that in September 1981 the Commission put forward proposals for a concerted action project on shore-based maritime navigation systems. It was in fact in March 1981, in opinions on shipping safety, maritime pollution and the enforcement of safety standards in Community ports, that the Committee renewed its appeal for Community action to safeguard shipping and sea traffic. Already in an own-initiative opinion of April 1979 on flags of convenience it had called for the introduction of a technical inspection system for ships.

In its opinion of March 1981 the Committee expressed the hope that the Commission's proposed Directive on the enforcement, in respect of shipping using Community ports, of international standards for shipping safety and pollution prevention would be applied in a sufficiently systematic and coordinated manner to prevent 'ports of convenience', in which technical standards were enforced less strictly than in other Community ports, being added to the 'flags of convenience' pilloried often enough by the Committee. The Committee wanted to see all the Member States ratify the international legal instruments referred to in the draft Directive. In the Committee's view it was also necessary to introduce a control system, above all for the Channel, which would extend to ships of less than 500 grt. The Committee had misgivings about the use of classification societies to check on the above-mentioned standards. According to the Committee it was essential that the Member States bore direct responsibility for the implementation of the Directive in their territory.

The Committee adopted two opinions in connection with the problems surrounding the Council's work on priorities in the transport sector up to the end of 1983. The first came at the end of February in the hope of influencing the

¹ At the meeting of the Council of Ministers on 15 December 1981, no decision was reached.

March meeting of transport ministers. In its opinion the Committee acknowledged that several areas of transport policy would have to be given special attention in the coming years: transport infrastructure, improvements to the railways, air transport, safety and improved profitability in merchant shipping (including inland navigation), the reduction of barriers to intra-Community transport, improved efficiency and working conditions in road transport and inland waterway navigation.

However, the Committee considered that the far-reaching and enduring changes which were taking place in the economic situation of the Community — current account deficits, due mainly to the cost of imported oil, stagnant growth rates, rising unemployment, a mounting public debt, etc. — were bound to have repercussions on the Community's transport programme over the next few years.

The Committee therefore recommended that the programme proposed by the Commission for the next three years should be regarded both as a vehicle for previous programmes and as a blueprint which took account of the pressing needs of the present situation.

Following the Council's Resolution of 26 March 1981, which fell far short of the suggestions put forward by the Commission, the European Parliament and the ESC, the Committee's Section for Transport and Communications and the Parliament's Committee on Transport held a joint meeting on 23 April 1981 at which they did not conceal their considerable disappointment over the fact that the Council had been unable to take a binding decision. The Committee incorporated the results of this joint meeting in an opinion issued on 30 April 1981, in which it reiterated the urgent need to bring the Community's transport policy out of the stagnation phase, particularly in the light of the changed economic situation and the energy crisis. The Committee again insisted that to this end clear guidelines and a plan for a genuine Community transport policy should be drawn up. The Council would have to express clearly its desire to implement this plan by stages within a foreseeable time.

The Committee indicated its readiness to cooperate in this work with all the means at its disposal and to issue an opinion containing specific proposals as soon as possible.¹

In its opinion on proposals for a Council Directive and Regulation on measures to promote combined transport the Committee adopted a mainly favourable stance. Such an initiative was eminently suited to helping rationalize transport and save energy.

At the beginning of the year the Committee gave its views on a proposal for a Council Directive on the harmonized application of the International Convention for Safe Containers in the European Economic Community.

¹ The Committee resumed its work on this subject in October.

The Committee did not think that there was a need for a Community Directive at the present time because past experience had shown that a very high degree of safety was assured in container transport. The Committee feared therefore that adoption of the Community Directive would entail considerable cost disadvantages for container-owners. Consequently it recommended that no further action be taken on the proposal until all the problems concerning uniform implementation of the Convention for Safe Containers throughout the world had been solved at IMCO level. The Council also adopted this view.

At the beginning of the year the Committee also issued an opinion on an important Commission Memorandum on the role of the Community in the development of transport infrastructure. In this connection it also took note of a working paper on the so-called 'bottlenecks'. The Committee took the view that a coordinated approach at Community level to develop transport infrastructure was entirely to be welcomed.

In the Committee's view the criteria for Community involvement should ensure that the projects selected resulted in a net addition to Community infrastructure and that Community spending was not offset or diluted by reductions in national spending. The Committee also drew attention to the importance of a Community infrastructure policy in regional development.

The Committee, while aware that current economic and financial problems within the Community, including difficulties in regard to supply and cost of energy, must be taken into account in formulating a common policy in this field, none the less considered that an infrastructure policy was of such importance as to warrant special consideration even in the present circumstances. In the short term, in view of the Community's present financial difficulties, the Committee considered that more use should be made of existing instruments such as the Regional Fund to promote an improvement in common transport infrastructure.

In the medium and long term the full or potential support for Community involvement in infrastructure could not be properly realized unless adequate funds were provided by the Community.

The 1980 Committee opinion which discussed the Commission's Memorandum on the contributions of the European Community to the development of air transport, was followed up in 1981 by the discussion of another Commission document based on Article 84(2) of the EEC Treaty — the proposal for a Council Regulation concerning the authorization of scheduled interregional air services for the transport of passengers, mail and cargo between Member States. The close link between this new proposal and the common transport policy was underlined by the Committee, which considered that interregional air transport had to be regarded as an integral part of the Community's transport policy. In addition, the principles of flexibility and transparency had to be observed, more than anything else, in interregional air transport. However, the main issue in the eyes of the Committee was whether the Commission document or existing bilateral agreements should be used as the basis for expanding interregional air transport, which was expressly recognized to be in

need of improvement and development. The Committee suggested in this connection that the proposed legislation should take the form of a directive rather than a regulation as the Commission was proposing. This would enable the Member States to take account of their regional problems and work out flexible solutions.

Another important point dealt with was air safety and the working conditions of the personnel employed in interregional air transport. On this point the Committee thought that air safety standards had to be maintained at all times. In addition, workers and airlines should not be adversely affected by any action taken. In order to ensure that this was so, the Commission proposal should be backed up by a social Regulation for the air transport sector, which should be adopted by the Council as soon as possible.

In another important opinion the Committee discussed three Commission papers on a rail policy for the 1980s. These papers contained concrete proposals for enabling the railways to break even by 1990. The Committee gave its general approval to the proposals, though with the proviso that the break-even goal should be achieved in stages. Because of the railways' huge deficits and the precarious state of the economy such a goal could not be achieved in one fell swoop.

As in previous years, the Committee was again consulted in 1981 on the annual increase in the Community road haulage licensing quota. For years now views within the Committee have been divided on this subject. Once again, opposition to any quota increase came in particular from the representatives of the railways' interests and the supporters of an overall blueprint for transport which is to be drawn up shortly by the Commission and will have to take overriding objectives into account. These members thought that the proposed increase was not in tune with the economic situation and also did not give sufficient consideration to measures to conserve energy. In addition, other transport modes' surplus capacity should be used, they thought, before steps were taken to create more capacity in the road haulage sector. The Committee as a whole did not concur with this view, however, and endorsed the Commission proposal, which had the backing of statistics and would not create surplus capacity or even extra capacity, but would merely ensure that better use would be made of existing capacity and that profitability would be increased.

The Committee also gave its approval to a Commission proposal which was designed to free containers of 20 feet or more and swap-bodies with no supports from all quota restrictions and licensing requirements.

Finally, a Commission proposal for concerted action by the European Community in the field of shore-based maritime navigation aid systems received the Committee's approval on condition that work was not duplicated, Community funds were used effectively and sparingly and cooperation with international organizations and the Member States was stepped up in order to enhance safety at sea and avoid marine pollution.

3. SOCIAL POLICY

Protection of workers

In the past, the Committee has called for rules and standards for the protection of workers and the general population against ionizing radiation. This has been followed up by rules and standards for protection against non-ionizing radiation. In the opinion on health protection of workers against the dangers of microwave radiation, the Committee states clearly that microwaves can be harmful to the human body. The increasing use of such radiation (for example the use of microwave ovens) makes it necessary to draw up appropriate rules and standards to ensure that people are protected.

The Committee distinguishes in this opinion between closed systems and open ones (for example: radar equipment). As fairly large areas are affected by this, the problem is to protect the general public as well as operating personnel. The Committee also points to the medical application of microwave radiation. This raises problems of protection at work, in this case for the doctor and medical technicians. It must also be ensured that the patient is protected from excessive doses of microwave radiation. The Committee stressed that suitable funds must be made available in order to finance research projects in the Community and that this Directive concerning microwave radiation should include a measure making it obligatory to supply information on the effects of any exposure to microwave radiation which has damaged health.

As far as asbestos is concerned, the Committee has already pointed out that all types of asbestos are carcinogenic. This was, for example, done in the own-initiative study on health and environmental hazards arising from the use of asbestos. Work and work-related activities constitute the most direct and important source of exposure. Asbestos fibres are also widely found in the general environment, especially in urban areas. The opinion points out that, according to the latest scientific findings, it is not possible to lay down safe exposure levels for the harmful properties of asbestos. Even a very low dose can cause cancer.

In its opinion on exposure to agents at work: asbestos, the Committee endorses the Commission's view that asbestos should be replaced by suitable and safer substitutes. Substitution could create jobs in some sectors. Taking into account the danger of blue asbestos (crocidolite), the Committee considers that the use of this material should be prohibited. It suggests that the same transitional period as that already proposed (i.e. 31 December 1983) be observed.

The Committee requested in this opinion that the Directive should include an article on the right of workers to withdraw labour if they have justified reasons for suspecting that there is a serious threat to their life or health. Furthermore, provisions should be added, requiring the employer to notify workers immediately if any defects are detected in the protective equipment.

Medical record-keeping, and surveillance of, for example, asbestos workers could be improved by setting up a comprehensive European cancer register. The Committee furthermore stated in this opinion that asbestos products should be marked not only to show that they contain asbestos but also to indicate that exposure to asbestos may cause cancer.

Situation and problems of the handicapped

In this own-initiative opinion the Committee pointed out that there are deeply-rooted prejudices and discriminations against the approximately 27 million disabled within the European Community. The Committee highlighted in this opinion (a) preventive measures in the framework of primary and secondary prevention; (b) the links between poverty and handicap; (c) the problems of handicapped children, who are increasing in number; (d) the problems of elderly disabled persons; (e) medical, educational and vocational rehabilitation; (f) community services; (g) financial needs of disabled people; and (h) financing Community initiatives for disabled people.

This opinion, which is addressed to the Council and the Commission, intends to draw the attention of Member States to specific actions which the Committee believes necessary to realize the aims as set out in the Charter for the 1980s (Rehabilitation International) within the Community during 1981 and the coming years.

The Committee emphasized that a change in mental attitudes is necessary if the sufferings of disabled people are to be alleviated. It is essential that disabled people should participate in working out the arrangements to meet their requirements and not just be passive recipients of services.

The Committee has made clear that life and good health are the most precious human possessions and that the risks to which workers are exposed at their place of work must be controlled and eliminated wherever possible. The Committee pointed out furthermore that poverty itself is a major cause of handicap. This has already been noted in the higher incidence of perinatal and neonatal mortality and infant mortality among the poor. There is also an inescapable higher risk of handicap amongst people who undertake manual employment throughout their life. Successful rehabilitation, emphasized the Committee, demands the coordination of all relevant phases of rehabilitation and cooperation between all the medical and paramedical professionals and, most important, the 'rehabilitée' and his family.

Social developments

In this year's annual opinion on the social situation in the Community, the ESC emphasizes how the economic and social spheres are interlinked, and reiterates its disquiet at the deterioration in the social situation, and at increasing unemployment in particular (there were more than 9 million unemployed in August 1981).

Employment is the central theme of the opinion and in the relevant chapter the ESC reaffirms that access to work is a basic human right; it also deals with the serious consequences (social, personal, family, etc.) of millions of people being out of work in the Community.

The ESC calls for greater Community and social solidarity in dealing with this situation, and calls for a drastic overhaul of the economic and social policies pursued so far. It also asks that greater emphasis be laid on the social aspect of Community policies.

The ESC thinks that solutions to unemployment lie above all in the identification and support of job-creation schemes, encouragement of mobility and initiative, reorganization of the annual volume of work, job creation in sectors where social requirements have not been met, etc.

In the chapter on social security, the ESC reiterates that the social security system is an achievement that must be preserved and developed. The ESC also comments on the demographic situation, sickness insurance, social security and social services for the elderly, as well as on family allowances and family policy.

In conclusion, the ESC makes a number of recommendations to help improve the social situation in the Community. These include a request that (a) a new social action programme be drawn up, (b) the social policy budget be increased and (c) cooperation between the two sides of European industry be given new impetus.

Social aspects in the sea fishing sector

Though it gives general approval to the steps taken by the Commission to rough out a medium-term social policy for the fishing industry, covering vocational training, employment, safety and health at work, accident prevention and working conditions, The ESC opinion criticizes:

- (i) the absence of a coherent fisheries policy and the economic and social risks inherent therein;
- (ii) the inadequacy and vagueness of the financial aids;
- (iii) the schedule for implementing the proposed guidelines.

The opinion also stresses that structural and social policies must go hand in hand in the fishing industry and that the need for medium and long-term solutions in the economic and social spheres must not be allowed to push aside the short-term remedies which are so desperately needed.

The European Social Fund

In its opinion on the Commission proposal to extend the higher rate of ESC aid to Greece, the ESC requested that these arrangements should apply to

the entire country, including the Athens and Thessalonika areas which the Commission originally proposed to exclude.

Since it was necessary to promote a better regional distribution of vocational training facilities in Greece, the proposal to debar Athens and Thessalonika from the higher rate of grant would significantly reduce Greece's chances — for the time being — of benefiting from the higher rate, because a large proportion of the facilities in question are located in these two areas.

The ESC did, however, point out that the proposed solution was temporary, and requested that the geographical scope of the higher rate should be examined afresh in the light of the initial results of the experiment, and against the background of the imminent review of the basic rules governing the European Social Fund.

4. ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL POLICY

In the economic and financial sphere, the Committee delivered opinions during the course of 1981 on the short-term and the medium-term economic situation affecting the Community, as well as opinions on proposals on tobacco tax harmonization and on the prospectus to be published when securities are offered for sale to the public.

Whilst the political content of the 'economic situation' opinions attracted more widespread interest and, hence, more fervent debate in the Committee's plenary session than did the opinions on the tax and financial/institutional matters, the contribution the Committee made in the latter cases was in no way less.

Tax harmonization

In its opinion on the Commission's proposal for a Council Directive laying down the provisions for the third stage in the process of harmonizing taxes on cigarettes, the Committee takes issue with the Commission's basic approach. The Committee firmly believes that the Commission is mistaken in attempting to achieve the same ratio between the specific and the *ad valorem* elements of taxation in all Member States. It believes rather that the Council should harmonize the element of *ad valorem* taxation.

Pursuing this line, the Committee simply proposes that 'At the final stage of harmonization of structures the combined rate of proportional taxation (that is to say, the sum of the rates of the proportional excise duty and the turnover tax calculated on the retail selling price) shall be the same on cigarettes in all Member States...'

However, in order that a final solution be found which is compatible with this proposal, the Committee urges that a full social and economic study be

made, taking into account the interests of businesses concerned with supplying cigarettes to the market (tobacco farmers, cigarette manufacturers, importers and distributors), the pattern and volume of employment in these activities, the interests of consumers and the interests of governments for whom tobacco taxation is a major source of revenue.

The Committee made an oral presentation of this opinion to Coreper.

The market in stocks and shares

As regards the Commission's proposal for a Directive on company prospectuses, the Committee was less critical, but did nevertheless have some constructive comments to make. It agreed on the desirability of companies having to publish a prospectus in the event of a bid for or the sale of stocks and shares not quoted officially on a Community Stock Exchange. It favours the equivalence of guarantees that such a standardized prospectus will offer to investors. It feels that such a directive would strengthen the confidence of investors in stocks and shares, thus contributing to the smooth operation and development of their market.

Nevertheless, it thinks first of all that the creation of a capital market is impeded by exchange controls rather than by the non-harmonization of national regulations governing the issue of securities by unlisted companies. It recognizes, however, that the proposed harmonization may help towards the setting-up of a European capital market.

Short-term economic policy

On economic policy as such, the Committee traditionally produces two opinions on the economic situation in the Community. The first opinion, given mid-year, is an own-initiative opinion whilst the second is in response to a Council referral of a specific Commission document, namely the Annual Economic Report produced in the autumn. The Committee considers its first opinion to be its major statement on economic policy.

In its mid-year opinion on the economic situation in the Community, which was subsequently printed in brochure form to be distributed widely amongst professional organizations throughout the Community, the Committee faced up squarely to the current issues such as: Are urgent measures to reduce unemployment compatible with policies aimed at reducing rates of inflation in the Member States? Are steps proposed to reduce working time relevant to the present economic situation in which the social partners are calling for measures to be taken to encourage investments and increase Member States' competitiveness?

The opinion dealt with the nature of the current economic recession, with the constraints on the implementation of policy measures, with the ways of stepping up productivity — of capital as well as people — and with the meaning of social consensus.

The Committee ended this mid-year opinion, addressed as it was to the Commission as well as to the Council, by saying that the depth and seriousness of the recession makes a European policy dealing fundamentally and coherently with the Community's structural and cyclical problems vitally necessary. The Commission of the European Communities should propose to the Community institutions such a policy. It would aim at achieving a satisfactory level of growth, a better quality of life, and closer relationships with the developing countries.

Such a policy should embrace:

- (i) urgent measures to reduce unemployment; Community policy should favour a reduction in working time while respecting the methods and practices for collective bargaining in the individual Member States;
- (ii) a systematic drive to promote energy-conserving production processes and, by the same token, the establishment of a common industrial and energy policy;
- (iii) selective measures including financial instruments to encourage investments which create jobs, increase international competitiveness or promote innovation;
- (iv) protection of the poorest against the consequences of the recession;
- (v) a proper priority for certain forms of collective consumption, notably public transport and low-cost housing;
- (vi) the restoration of profitability;
- (vii) a reduction in rates of interest;
- (viii) some agreement on limits for charges on industry.

Such a policy would require a proper balance between the fight against inflation on the one hand, and the need for an increase in investment and the expansion of employment on the other. It should not assume that the recession is attributable exclusively to wage pressures and the increased oil bill; there are also many deep-seated structural causes.

Were such a total Community policy formulated, it would give Europe a chance of returning to full employment combined with social progress and a closer solidarity with the developing countries.

It was significant that the Members of the Committee voted almost unanimously for the opinion, despite the well-known differences among the Members in their approach to the fundamental problems which beset our societies. This means that it has the full support of the two sides of industry and of the other interest groups represented in the Committee.

Towards the end of the year, the Committee was asked by the Council for its opinion on the draft Annual Economic Report, and on the draft fifth medium-term economic policy programme.

When consulted by the Council on the draft Annual Economic Report for 1981 and the economic policy guidelines for 1982, the Committee was pleased to see that there was a great deal in common between the views it had itself expressed in its own-initiative mid-year opinion and those now put forward by the Commission in its Annual Economic Report. The Commission, too, was putting forward proposals, for instance, for more vocational training, for a return to profitability, for higher investment, and for a more vigorous energy policy.

The Committee insisted on the fact that unemployment must be the predominant preoccupation of policy-makers and therefore central to all policy-making.

Referring to the complex relationships that exist between, for instance, inflation, rates of interest, balance of payments, investment, competitiveness and, of course, unemployment, the Committee emphasized that the interactions differ from Member State to Member State. It comes out, therefore, with a pragmatic non-doctrinal approach to economic policy-making in the Community. The Section's report accompanying the opinion has an interesting appendix on the economic situation in the United Kingdom. This report concluded that the real cure for the UK's economic ills can be found only in industry itself, whether the requirement is more entrepreneurship, more productivity bargains, better industrial relationships, higher skills, more sophisticated products, more efficient use of capital, or better pay and higher standards for production engineers.

5. REGIONAL POLICY

In the field of regional policy, 1981 has to be regarded as a year of transition in which EC aid for regional development has continued to be carried along by the momentum established by the revised Regulation of February 1979, pending the submission of new legal provisions governing the work of the ERDF.

With these provisions in view, the Commission first drew up, in July 1981, its periodic report on the economic and social situation of the regions of the Community, a working document which provided the data enabling the Commission to draw up the new regional policy guidelines and priorities. The Commission decided to ask the Committee for an opinion on the latter document. The Commission also had to take account of the overall requirements and options arising from the mandate of 30 May 1980 in which regional policy has to fit in with other EC policies.

The third stage in the Commission's proceedings was the submission of a proposal for the revision of the ERDF Regulation, which the Committee is currently considering.

Revision of the ERDF

In April 1981 the Committee made a major contribution to the work of the Commission by drawing up an opinion in which it set out the views of the economic and social interest groups in the Community on the way in which the ERDF Regulation should be revised so as to create an effective and appropriate regional policy. The Committee thus had the opportunity of informing the Commission of its standpoint whilst the Commission's work was still at the research and planning stage.

The Committee's opinion, which was adopted by a large majority at its plenary session, made a number of recommendations and criticisms, including the following:

- (i) the quota-free section of the ERDF should be increased and the operation of this section improved, if possible as part of an overall increase in the endowment of the ERDF;
- (ii) decisions on these operations should no longer require a unanimous vote;
- (iii) the coordination of EC financial and political instruments should be intensified;
- (iv) there should be wider and improved involvement of the representatives of the local authorities and both sides of industry in the elaboration and implementation of regional policy;
- (v) the process of creating new jobs in the short term should be speeded up by the use of new types of measures;
- (vi) aid should be concentrated on the least-favoured areas by adopting 'a more adult approach to Community solidarity';
- (vii) there should be joint financing of 'investment expenditure programmes' rather than individual projects;
- (viii) there should be incentives for grouping investment projects involving small businesses;
- (ix) the information set out in national programmes should be improved and aligned;
- (x) the importance of the principle of additionality should be stressed, as it was being undermined or circumvented by some Member States, thereby cancelling out the benefits which could accrue from the ERDF;
- (xi) measures would have to be sought to curb such abuses and the necessary proposals put forward.

Integrated operations

A start was made on this wide-ranging study in 1980. Fact-finding missions were made to Naples and Belfast, which are at the current time the only areas where the new concept of 'integrated operations' is actually being implemented. These visits extended the scope of the study and provided on-the-spot information. The Section's aim is to determine the value of these new operations and the criteria for their future use.

The Section is thus continuing its work on this subject and will submit its overall study on the matter at the beginning of 1982. There will be a number of specific appendices to the study dealing with Naples, Belfast, regions either with a population largely employed in the agricultural sector or with a high density of SMEs.

In 1981 the Section for Regional Development renewed its now traditional contacts with the Regional Policy Committee by inviting the Committee's Chairman, Mr Noè, to its meeting on 22 May in order to provide members with an overall insight into the work of the Committee.

Contacts have also been maintained during the year with the Consultative Committee of Local and Regional Institutions in the Member States of the Community.

When the Commission asked it to issue an opinion on its communication on new regional policy guidelines and priorities, which had to be seen against the background of the mandate of 30 May, the Committee had an opportunity to enlarge upon the subjects covered in its own-initiative opinion of 29 April 1981, in particular the part which SMEs would be required to play in developing the less-favoured regions.

The Committee adopted its opinion on the sixth annual report on the activities of the ERDF in 1980. This Report is submitted to it systematically, in accordance with the Regulation, and the Committee issues an own-initiative opinion, which has now become a regular feature.

The Section will also continue the work it has already begun on the periodic report on the situation of the regions by drafting an additional opinion which will form a sequel to the opinion on guidelines and priorities. The purpose of the additional opinion is to improve the presentation of subsequent reports (to appear at intervals of 2¹/₂ years) by means of precise, detailed recommendations.

6. INDUSTRIAL POLICY

In 1981 the Committee completed its work on the construction sector. Its own-initiative opinion on the subject was the logical follow-up to the colloquy organized in 1980, in conjunction with the Commission, to investigate what contribution this sector could make to economic growth in the Community.

In this opinion the Committee took the view that an upsurge of construction activity would now be welcome, particularly because:

- (i) this industry is labour-intensive (fight against unemployment);
- (ii) it entails few imports (good for the trade balance);
- (iii) signs of housing shortages are appearing in some Member States.

A construction policy should be part and parcel of the EEC's overall strategy for overcoming the unemployment problem. In particular, the young should be encouraged to enter the industry — instead of shying away from it as they currently seem to be doing. This should be achieved through vocational training geared to new technologies and through the improvement of working conditions. The Community should also examine problems connected with the employment of European workers by EEC firms in non-member countries.

Housing and infrastructure needs, especially in the less developed countries (LDCs), are immense. The EEC must help Community firms satisfy these needs and must make its presence felt more strongly on the world market, notably by:

- (i) encouraging cooperation abroad by Community-based firms;
- (ii) drawing up 'standard clauses', which could become a Community reference for foreign clients;
- (iii) framing Community rules to form a coherent set of tested technical specifications for potential clients.

One of the major objectives of common action in the field of financing should be to ensure a sufficiently continuous flow of orders, thereby obviating the unfortunate repercussions of stop-go policies on construction. What this basically means is that Member States will have to cooperate on general economic policy.

The Committee is now waiting for the Commission to put forward practical proposals for stimulating construction in the light of the above opinion.

In its opinion on the proposal for a first Council Directive to approximate the laws of the Member States relating to trade marks and the proposal for a Council Regulation on Community trade marks, the Committee found that a Community trade mark law was a prerequisite for attaining one of the Treaty's objectives, namely free movement of goods. Initially it is planned to align those components of national trade mark law which have the strongest and most direct influence on free movement of goods or services and on competition within the Community, namely the conditions governing the registration and continued existence of trade marks, the rights they confer and their use, and amicable settlement of disputes.

The Committee also advocates the creation of a European internal market in marked goods. The proposed Community scheme will make it possible to obtain from a single trade marks office, under a single procedure, a trade mark valid in all Member States.

The Committee's opinion stresses that practical requirements must be catered for in all substantive law and procedural rules governing the registration and use of a Community trade mark. These rules include provisions concerning (a) the signs of which a Community trade mark may consist, (b) the rights it confers, and exhaustion of such rights, (c) lapse and invalidity, (d) infringement, (e) prohibition of dual protection by a national and a Community mark, and (f) conversion into an application for a national mark.

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The Committee also stated its views on the situation in certain ailing sectors or high-technology industries, such as the automobile sector and microelectronics. It took note of a study carried out by the Section for Industry on the situation in the textile and clothing sector and started work on an own-initiative opinion on this subject.

Competition policy

In its major own-initiative opinion on the Community's competition policy in the light of the current economic and social situation, the Committee states its firm conviction, born of experience, that in a period of such serious, persistent social and economic difficulties, all the Community's policies ought to be implemented as effectively as possible, with the maximum coordination and all reasonable speed.

All Community policies should be given new impetus without delay. This includes competition policy which has a basic, specific and vigorous role to play in a climate characterized by a change in economic relations and industrial structures, the concentration and 'multinationalization' of capital in some sectors and a shift in relations between the State and the economy.

The present economic and social situation therefore warrants particular care in the application of competition rules, which are one of the 'instruments' for attaining the aims of the Treaty of Rome. The Committee is therefore opposed to a dogmatic, theoretical approach. Competition policy must be seen in relation to the Community's activities as a whole and take account of the international perspective.

The effect of this realistic approach will be to place due emphasis on economic and social factors and vital issues such as inflation, unemployment and energy which characterize the current economic situation.

In a mixed economy effective 'transparency' of financial relations between public-sector enterprises and States is essential to avoid distorting competition. The same is true of aids.

In the chapter dealing with business practices, the Committee states that small and medium-sized businesses should receive special attention.

Steps must be taken to remove the obstacles that continue to impede inter-firm cooperation and research and innovation.

The rules concerning the 'exemption by category' of patent licence agreements could therefore be improved.

The Committee points out that information and market transparency are essential in order to protect the consumer.

In this connection, it is particularly important to supply information on prices since these are currently the consumer's main indicator of rising inflation.

The Committee is to follow up this key own-initiative opinion by further formal statements of its views on the Commission's annual competition policy reports. In response to calls by both the European Parliament and the Committee for closer involvement of the economic and social interest groups in the framing of competition policy, the Commission has agreed to consult the Committee on the annual report on competition policy. The Committee is thus seen as the forum *par excellence* for annual exchanges of views with all such groups in the Community. An *ad hoc* Study Group recently started to examine the 10th annual competition policy report and will conclude its work early in 1982.

Establishment and services

The Committee has issued opinions on the:

Proposal for a second Council Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to insurance against civil liability (COM (80) 469 final);

Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 75/362/EEC concerning the mutual recognition of diplomas, certificates and other evidence of formal qualifications in medicine, including measures to facilitate effective exercise of the right of establishment and freedom to provide services and Directive 75/363/EEC concerning the coordination of provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action in respect of activities of doctors (COM (80) 914 final);

Proposal for a Council Directive concerning the coordination of provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action in respect of certain activities in the field of pharmacy;

Proposal for a Council Directive concerning the mutual recognition of diplomas, certificates and other evidence of formal qualifications in pharmacy, including measures to facilitate the effective exercise of the right of establishment relating to certain activities in the field of pharmacy.

The Committee's opinion on the last two proposals is particularly noteworthy as it reiterates the need for a further directive (which the Commission should submit without delay) so as to provide a speedy solution to such professional problems as dispensing monopolies and geographical distribution of pharmacies.

The Committee also expressed its views on the proposal for a Council Directive amending the first Directive 73/239/EEC on the coordination of laws, regulations and administrative provisions relating to the taking-up and pursuit of the business of direct insurance other than life assurance, particularly as regards tourist assistance, and made a point of stressing the fundamental differences between the latter activity and the pursuit of insurance business in general.

The Committee accordingly requested that an *ad hoc* Directive be issued on tourist assistance.

Customs harmonization

In 1981 the Committee delivered opinions on the following:

- (i) tariff treatment — small consignments,
- (ii) tax relief — small consignments,
- (iii) definition of customs territory,
- (iv) free circulation of goods,
- (v) Community transit,
- (vi) right of appeal in customs matters,
- (vii) exemption from sureties,
- (viii) customs nomenclature.

7. TECHNICAL BARRIERS

The Committee's opinions in this field covered a wide range of subjects including:

- (i) wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors,
- (ii) measuring instruments,

- (iii) noise emitted by hydraulic and rope-operated digging equipment,
- (iv) cosmetics,
- (v) control of the biodegradability of anionic surfactants.

Most important of all, it delivered an opinion on the proposal for a Council Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to flavourings for use in foodstuffs and to source materials for their production.

Under the proposed Directive a substance or material may be used as flavouring only if it has been entered on a list of authorized substances after an independent toxicological test has established its safety. The Directive is one of a set of 'horizontal' directives concerning additives in foodstuffs (colourings, preservatives, anti-oxidants, emulsifiers, etc.) on which the Committee has already issued opinions endorsing the principle of lists of authorized substances.

In this particular case the Committee welcomed the Commission's proposal but recognized the difficulties involved in the application of this principle, largely because the classification, specification and toxicological assessment of flavourings are such complex matters. It therefore suggested that lists of authorized substances be drawn up over a period of time, starting with the groups with the greatest health implications.

Early in 1981 the Committee completed the work it had started the previous year (see 1980 Annual Report, p. 32) on the proposal for a Council Decision laying down a procedure for the provision of information in the field of technical standards and regulations. It adopted almost unanimously an opinion in favour of this draft Decision, which is a major step towards free movement of goods within the common market.

The Committee voted against the 'Proposal for a Council Directive on the approximation of laws of the Member States relating to the indication of the origin of certain textile and clothing products' on the grounds that this measure, if adopted, could impede trade in breach of the basic principles of the Treaty of Rome. Subsequent to this opinion (and a similar opinion by the European Parliament) the Commission withdrew its proposal.

Proprietary medicinal products

The Committee issued opinions on two key proposals:

- (i) a proposal for a Directive establishing a legal basis at Community level for 'parallel' imports: this Commission proposal has its roots in the Court of Justice ruling of 26 May 1976 (*De Peijper* case), to the effect that

provisions in a number of Member States which gave certain firms an exclusive right to import proprietary medicinal products from manufacturers abroad were incompatible with Article 30 *et seq.* of the Treaty;

- (ii) a proposal for a Directive introducing arrangements for mutual recognition by the Member States of national marketing authorizations for proprietary medicinal products.

Rejecting the first of these proposals concerning 'parallel' imports, the Committee took the view that:

- (i) there was no need for a directive approximating national rules in this field since the Commission could bring proceedings, under Article 169 of the Treaty, against any Member State failing to comply with the 1976 Court of Justice ruling;
- (ii) it was inadvisable for the Commission to deal in this proposal with various issues (e.g. introduction of a new criterion for refusing authorization) that had no direct link with 'parallel' imports. A general proposal would have seemed preferable for this purpose.

In contrast, the Committee welcomed the Commission proposal concerning mutual recognition of national authorizations though the Workers' Group voted against the opinion. In its declaration of minority views, appended to the opinion, this Group argued that mutual recognition of national authorizations would result in a general levelling-down of standards, to the detriment of patients' interests and public health.

8. EXTERNAL RELATIONS

The Economic and Social Committee had already welcomed the ratification and implementation of the Second ACP-EEC Lomé Convention. It was now intent on taking steps to ensure this Convention was more correctly applied.

The ESC noted, first of all, that Lomé I had not lived up to expectations. Although Lomé II was an improvement, it could not solve all the problems of the ACP countries, especially those whose economic and social situation was getting worse and worse. Unfortunately, both Conventions made practically no provision for involving economic and social interest groups in the work of implementation.

The ESC also stressed that the new Convention should not be allowed to impede cooperation between the EEC and other Third World countries. The Member States therefore had to reach the official development aid target of 0.7% of GNP as soon as possible and try and improve coordination of their own development aid and cooperation policies.

To be truly effective, the Community's development aid policy had to be properly coordinated with all its other policies and activities in the fields of econ-

omic, social and agricultural affairs. But the ACP States too had to make the best possible use of any funds provided by the EEC. A major information campaign therefore had to be mounted in both the EEC and ACP States so as to ensure that the new Convention had its full intended impact and did not just become a means of providing financial hand-outs.

As far as agricultural cooperation was concerned, the Committee thought that the implementation of the agricultural chapter of the Convention should give a new lease of life to ACP-EEC cooperation, for although 40% of the money from the European Development Fund had been spent on rural development, food shortages in most of the ACP countries had grown steadily worse.

Priority goals

The Committee felt that priority should be given to the following:

- (i) diversification of agricultural output to achieve self-sufficiency in food production;
- (ii) local processing of farm produce by expanding agro-food industries;
- (iii) a rational exploitation of forestry resources coupled with a modernization of fishery methods and equipment;
- (iv) proper management of water resources so as to help overcome the all-important problem of drought and its consequences; and
- (v) the construction of the technical and social infrastructure and facilities essential for rural development.

The Committee felt that these areas should be allocated a larger share of resources to improve the standards and effectiveness of projects undertaken.

Such goals could only be achieved if they spanned a long period and were part and parcel of a consistent national agricultural policy. Farmers would not be encouraged to increase their production of either food or export crops, unless they obtained good prices.

As the agricultural chapter also provided for food aid, the Committee recommended:

- (i) using the machinery of the CAP to help ensure stable food supplies for the ACP States, as advocated in the EEC declaration appended to the Convention; and
- (ii) coordinating food aid more satisfactorily with rural development projects.

Ways and means

The Committee considered that the most suitable ways of achieving these priority goals were:

- (i) to provide basic and advanced vocational training for farmers and their families;
- (ii) to make appropriate arrangements for supplying technical know-how and socio-economic assistance;
- (iii) to promote the use of appropriate technology in agriculture;
- (iv) to encourage and coordinate rural infrastructure schemes;
- (v) to introduce gradually a balanced, efficient and contractual economic system; and
- (vi) to foster closer cooperation between producers and the different kinds of associations and groupings which existed.

Finally, the Committee felt that the Convention's objectives in the agricultural and rural sector would be easier to achieve if farmers were encouraged to form autonomous and representative associations to ensure their own development.

A Delegation Section for External Relations visited Guinea and the Ivory Coast, as part of the programme of visits to ACP countries. This fact-finding visit enabled members to appraise progress made by the Community in the development of these areas.

An ESC Delegation also took part in the annual meeting of ACP-EEC economic and social interest groups. This meeting took place on 1 and 2 June 1981, and was attended by European and ACP representatives of the Joint Committee of the Consultative Assembly.

In line with last year's pattern, a single topic was examined. This year the subject was 'Integrated rural development'. Working documents were drawn up by the ACP Group and the EEC. The Community contribution was drafted by an ESC member.

At the end of this meeting, the Presidency of the Joint Committee of the ACP-EEC Consultative Assembly voiced its appreciation of the Committee's coordinating role, and expressed its hope that the Committee would continue its activities in this area. Because of this, the Committee has already begun investigating procedures to be implemented with a view to improving working methods for the preparation of future meetings.

The Committee is also concerned with Community food aid policy. The Committee believes that Community institutions, and in particular the Council, should make their policies more coherent by respecting the principles already drawn up by the Commission, namely:

- (i) food aid should increasingly become an instrument of Community action for rural development and food security in developing countries;
- (ii) both quantity and quality must be taken account of in food aid programmes. First and foremost the requirements of developing countries must be considered, surpluses from the common agricultural policy cannot just be palmed off on them;
- (iii) the Commission must improve its management of food aid programmes. Certain administrative provisions must be adopted straight away. These provisions put to the Council two years ago relate to the delegation of wider powers to the Commission and approval of increases in the number of staff in certain Commission departments.

In order to avoid difficult situations in the future, the Committee feels that a detailed plan of international cooperation should be worked out, and there should be stricter coordination between international bodies. The Community, as a very large importer and exporter of foodstuffs, would have a major role to play in such international cooperation. The chief aim of food aid should be to promote development in Third World countries. In this context the aim of food aid should be to complement the Community's other development initiatives designed to encourage farm production in the recipient countries.

Still in the area of development cooperation, the Committee made its traditional annual statement on the Community's generalized scheme of preferences granted in respect of imports from developing countries.

The Committee supported the Commission's 1982 proposals, which make only slight changes to the system which has been in force for the previous 12 months.

However, the Committee expressed strong reservations about (a) extending GSP benefits to State-trading countries such as the People's Republic of China and Romania and (b) further liberalization in agriculture. On this last point the Committee felt that the liberalization proposed for pineapple juice and tobacco might swell the already high cost of the common agricultural policy and hurt the interests of the Overseas Departments and Territories and the ACP countries.

Finally, the Committee urged the Commission to insert forthwith a special 'social clause' obliging beneficiary countries to comply with certain minimum labour standards laid down in ILO conventions.

In an own-initiative opinion on economic and trade relations with Japan, the Committee argues that action should be taken immediately on two fronts for a limited period: defensive action on the Community market and an offensive on the Japanese market.

As regards defensive action, the ESC points out that the monitoring of imports from Japan recently decided by the Community will serve no useful purpose unless measures are ready to be applied if there is an excessive increase in these imports.

Such contingency protection measures should be implemented at Community level. There should be prior consultation between the Member States and with the Commission on any national measures that prove necessary.

The following steps should be taken to improve the Community's position on the Japanese market:

- (i) elimination of the remaining tariff and non-tariff barriers to Community exports;
- (ii) establishment, in conjunction with Japan, of a minimum ratio for the coverage of Community imports from Japan by exports to that country. This ratio would have to be attained within a specific period, and fall-back measures should be worked out in advance to cover the eventuality of it not being attained in time;
- (iii) concerted policy of accepting Japanese investment in the Community, providing it contributes to employment and technological progress, and providing there is reciprocity.
- (iv) expansion of technology transfers in both directions. Establishment in Tokyo of a permanent industrial, technological and scientific observation post with the task of monitoring technology and investment trends in Japan;
- (v) better training in the Community, including expansion of existing short and long-term training courses.

Action should be on four fronts:

- (i) The Community should display greater political determination in its dealings with Japan.
- (ii) The Commission's standing with the Japanese authorities should be enhanced.
- (iii) There should be negotiations with Japan on specific points, determined in advance by the Member States and the Commission.
- (iv) Community measures should be agreed now, and implemented if these negotiations fail to produce satisfactory results.

The recent USA-Japan car agreement shows clearly that the Community can rely on itself when it comes to dealing with the urgent economic and trade issues in its relations with Japan. Failure to act will pave the way for uncontrolled protectionist reactions which will jeopardize both world trade and the unity of the Community market.

The Economic and Social Committee's Section for External Relations again met representatives of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) Consultative Committee, in the context of regular contacts which have been maintained since 1975. Discussions related mainly to the economic and social problems facing the different countries, with special reference to monetary and energy questions and the consequences of enlargement of the Community.

9. ENERGY POLICY

Energy

At the beginning of the year the Committee adopted its opinion on the St Geours Report 'In favour of an energy-saving society'. This opinion examines in detail the economic and social analyses carried out by the panel of experts appointed by the Commission in 1978-79 to study the implications of energy saving on the economic and social life of the Community countries.

The Committee opinion does not attempt to take a stand on the extremely large number of points raised in the St Geours Report, but limits itself to areas where the Committee felt able to contribute to the discussion. The Committee opinion stresses that the St Geours Report is not intended as a blueprint for a common energy policy or a consideration of future Community energy supplies, but rather an examination of the possibilities of dissociating energy consumption from economic growth and the side-effects of this process.

The opinion is critical of the use of the concept of 'dissociation' (the uncoupling of the link between economic growth and energy consumption) as used in the Report: it feels that the Report does not clearly distinguish between 'dissociation' and 'energy saving', and how far these relate to substitution of existing by other energy sources. The Committee's hesitation to accept that there exists a direct correlation between changes in GNP and changes in overall primary energy consumption goes back to its opinion on new lines of action by the European Community in the field of energy saving (Doc. CES 89/80) where it was stated that 'the correlation between economic growth in the Community and the increase in energy consumption is far from being acceptable as a major parameter of energy policy'.

The opinion also stresses that energy-saving potential depends to a certain extent on social, cultural and personal values, and can only be achieved in some instances by changing peoples' ways of life. Some of the potentials set out in the St Geours Report, says the Committee, may not be desirable or possible.

The opinion stresses the importance of alternative sources of energy and urges the need for further investigation into economic and institutional factors, particularly in the field of energy prices and investment; it doubts the possibility of prices which reflect true replacement costs, since these costs (like marginal costs) are extremely difficult to ascertain.

The opinion concludes by supporting the majority of recommendations in the Report, though it feels that some of these recommendations are not specific enough to act as the basis for a common energy policy.

The other principal opinion during this period was an own-initiative opinion on the Commission communication to the Council entitled 'Review of energy policy objectives for 1990 and Member States' investment programmes'.

This was a follow-up from a 1979 opinion on the same subject, but the Committee deliberately avoided reiterating previous published views and looked at the specific problems in relation to the 1980 objectives and the role of the Community, especially as regards energy saving and investment policy. The opinion endorses the role of EC policy *vis-à-vis* the policies of Member States, as set out by the Commission, and is pleased by the critical comments of the Commission with regard to Member States' supply projections to 1990. It concludes by stressing points in the Commission's review to which more weight should be given, especially in regard to long-term investment programmes, energy management, costs, and renewable energy sources.

The Committee also gave wide support to the proposal to continue the thermonuclear fusion programme for the period 1982-86. This programme, which accounts for 680 million ECU — a very large part of the EC research budget — was seen as an outstanding example of scientific and technical cooperation at European level in researching a technology which could help to solve Europe's energy problems in the 21st century. The Committee stresses in its opinion the need for a wider discussion of the problems related to thermonuclear fusion, and praises the results of the exchanges of staff which have taken place between the laboratories associated with the programme.

Other energy opinions approved during the year included two proposals for amending Regulations granting financial support for demonstration projects in the field of energy saving and exploiting alternative energy sources: these received the full support of the Committee.

R&D

The Committee continues to receive feedback on its 1980 study on the organization and management of Community R&D. This document has been widely circulated in professional circles and is particularly appreciated for its review of the organization of public-sector R&D in the different Member States of the Community. It is also noteworthy that the Committee's proposal that R&D structures within the Commission itself should be simplified has in part been followed by the incorporation of the Joint Research Centre (JRC) within DG XII as from July 1981.

The only R&D programme dealt with during the period related to the development of machine translation systems. This programme, covering a period of five years, involves an expenditure of 7.7 million ECU and is intended to develop a computer-aided translation system capable of handling all languages of the Community. The Committee approved the proposal, but warned against the danger of setting expectations too high in this area. Considerable research and development will be necessary, in the Committee's view, before viable machine translation systems can be operated on a commercial or institutional basis.

Towards the end of the year the Section began a study on 'Objectives and priorities for a common R&D policy'. This study, due to be approved early in

1982, will look at the possibilities and options open to Community research and development, in the light of recent Commission thoughts on guidelines for the next few years which are likely to be discussed by the Council in 1982. The Committee study should make a useful contribution to this debate, at a time when R&D is seen as one of the possible solutions to the many economic problems which beset Europe.

10. PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT — PUBLIC HEALTH — CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Environment policy

An examination of the Community environment shows that the situation could be improved significantly in the coming years if preventive measures are taken in time. Without action, the situation may continue to deteriorate in all the Member States.

With this in mind, the ESC approved the Commission's proposal that the Community should lay down common principles for prior assessment of the environmental impact of public and private projects likely to significantly affect the environment and living conditions.

The ESC stressed that this assessment, and appropriate public consultation, should precede any planning decision or authorization by the authorities concerned.

The ESC pointed out that the contractor has to prepare the documentation for the appropriate authority when applying for planning permission either to build or to renovate or extend an existing structure. This poses a number of problems, particularly as regards the confidentiality of information, the cost involved, the time needed to obtain planning permission and the submission of alternatives to the initial plan.

The ESC feels that the present arrangements with regard to industrial secrecy do not provide adequate guarantees for the protection of confidential information supplied by the contractor since such information may be published in a neighbouring Member State under Article 7 of the Directive.

With regard to costs, the ESC has requested that the allocation of costs between the contractor and public authorities should not be left to the discretion of the Member States since competition could be distorted by inconsistencies. Delays in making decisions could push up contractors' costs.

Finally, because the contractor is obliged to present alternative plans both for the site and building procedures, it is necessary to take into account the fact that siting is influenced by various factors such as infrastructure costs, and economic, cultural and even natural constraints.

Pollution was also broached by the ESC in opinions on methods for the surveillance and monitoring of discharges from the cadmium and titanium dioxide industries into the aquatic environment. The ESC pointed out that Community measures would be even more effective if they were incorporated in the international agreements for the prevention of marine pollution.

In the same vein, the ESC also approved the setting-up of a Community information system to aid the Member States in their fight against marine pollution by hydrocarbon discharges. Such an information system would play an important role in dissuading unseaworthy tankers from docking or even approaching the coasts of Member States. The ESC thought that this system should be extended to underwater pipe-lines and oil rigs.

International cooperation is even more necessary for the protection of endangered species of flora and fauna.

The ESC believes that the protective measures contained in the Washington Convention are inadequate; stricter measures are necessary if Community wildlife is to be preserved.

The Committee also drew attention to the need for greater protection of the environment in its opinions dealing with precautions in respect of chloro-fluorocarbons and the exchange of information on atmospheric pollution in the Member States.

In the first of these opinions the Committee noted that the new Commission proposal reflected the continuity of approach that was necessary in that field, given the uncertainty of the scientific theories underlying the measures which had been taken and the need to bring those measures into line with the latest scientific and technical knowledge.

As regards atmospheric pollution, the Committee proposed that the exchange of information in that field should not merely involve intercomparisons of local and national programmes but should also promote the harmonization of the various methods of measurement so as to enable reliable checks to be carried out on air quality standards.

The Committee endorsed the general objectives of the Commission in respect of the rational control of solid wastes from containers of liquids for human consumption. Although it noted a number of shortcomings in the proposal due, in its view, to insufficient experience in that area and to the consequences of the measures recommended, the Committee recognized that, if there were no such Community initiative, national measures adopted without coordination at Community level could lead to new trade barriers or distortions of competition between Member States and industrial sectors.

Basically, the Committee insisted that no container material and no process for dealing with waste liquid containers, whether it be by recycling or refilling, should be discriminated against as a result of the emphasis placed on the idea of the 'recoverable' container. In the Committee's view, the recovery

of waste material for use in the manufacture of new containers or other products should be given priority over waste recovery for the production of energy.

From a general point of view, account had to be taken of both the need to reduce as much as possible the financial impact of the operation for consumers, manufacturers and distributors, and of considerations of consumer health and safety.

The Committee thus considered that the local authorities, who were responsible for carrying out environmental policy, should play a part in the implementation of the Community measures.

Health protection

On 14 and 15 May, the Committee organized a major symposium on genetic engineering entitled 'The safety aspects of recombinant DNA work'. It was the first such international meeting at European level to include representatives from the fields of government, science, industry, trade unions, farmers, consumers, environmentalists, religious, youth and women's groups. The meeting was first mooted in an opinion and study drawn up at the end of 1980. The symposium was chaired by Mrs Heuser who had acted as rapporteur for the Committee's recent work on the subject.

The purpose was to facilitate information exchange in an accessible language. Accordingly, no policy conclusions were drawn. The discussions were organized under six separate topics: development potential, risks and risk assessment, safety, health protection, ethics and public information.

The proceedings were published in October and aroused considerable interest, having a direct bearing on the draft Recommendation concerning the registration of recombinant DNA work and, more generally, on future Community initiatives on biological safety. The publication was forwarded to the Commission, the Council and the European Parliament.

At the end of the year, the Committee itself issued a final opinion on the Commission's proposal for a Recommendation. While the risks were now generally regarded as being small, the Committee still considered there was a need for work on risk assessment studies, training in microbiological safety, and harmonization of national safety rules. The Committee therefore concluded that it was necessary to have a Community legal instrument in the form of a directive.

Consumer policy

Any slackening of ESC activity in this field in comparison with previous years is mainly due to delays in implementing the first Community consumer programme and in adopting the second programme.

The Council only adopted the second programme on 19 May 1981, although the Commission had submitted the draft in June 1979 and the ESC issued its opinion the following December.

Nevertheless the ESC is pleased that the final version takes account of some of the ideas developed in its opinion. These include (a) steps to deal with products harmful to the consumer (tobacco and alcohol), (b) the improvement of the consumer's position as regards public and semi-public services (i.e. talks between consumers' representatives and the electricity, gas, water and transport authorities), and (c) the problems of underprivileged consumers (the elderly, the handicapped, etc.).

Furthermore, when the first programme was being implemented the ESC examined the Commission proposal on (a) toy safety and (b) foodstuffs. Regenerated cellulose film and the labelling and presentation of food received special attention.

In its opinion on toy safety, the ESC recognized the importance of the Commission's proposals to protect children. It also praised the proposal that any interested person or organization, including consumer's organizations, should be entitled to ask national authorities to check the safety of toys on the market.

The ESC has pointed out that the proposed procedure for certifying conformity, and affixing distinctive safety marks, might confuse purchasers. In addition the high additional costs would put small manufacturers, and craftsmen in particular, at a disadvantage. The Committee therefore proposes that this procedure be scrapped.

The ESC believes that toys are not only a major commercial item but also play a decisive role in the intellectual development and education of children. For this reason the ESC feels that the physical protection of children should be extended to cover the mental and even moral dangers of certain toys.

In its opinion on food packaging the Committee warmly endorsed the call for the establishment of a list of substances authorized for use in cellulose film packaging. This was necessary to avoid the health hazard of food being contaminated by toxic substances contained in packaging.

The ESC also requested the Commission to put forward a list of other authorized plastic materials. It pointed out however that although the use of several materials would prevent the accumulation of a particular toxic substance, it would increase the risk of synergy.

As regards the advertising of food products the Committee supported the Commission's desire to afford consumers better protection against misleading advertising claims. The Committee considered it necessary to stipulate that the advertiser had to bear the burden of proof in respect of the objective and measurable facts on which an advertising claim was based. That provision was set out in the draft Directive on misleading and unfair advertising. The Committee recognized, however, that such a stipulation would mean that the food sector was temporarily being made subject to much stricter conditions than those applying to the other sectors of the economy.

Chapter III

Press relations and outside echo

Public interest and support for the European Community and its ideals suffered a further decline in the year under review and was duly reflected in the press and the media of the Member States. This was noticeable in particular for the Federal Republic of Germany, where the hitherto favourable trend in the press has been checked, if not reversed. In the United Kingdom, hostility to the country's continued membership in the European Community among a percentage of the population, and taken up in 1981 by the Labour Party Conference and the Trades Union Congress, has also had its effect. Generally, the tendency towards seeking national solutions for resolving the effects of the economic recession at the expense of joint European action have resulted in slowing down the Community's activities, except perhaps in the field of external relations.

All these factors have affected reporting on the Community institutions in general and also on the activities of the Economic and Social Committee in particular. Another element which must be pointed out in this analysis is that only nine plenary sessions of the Committee were convened this year, with the consequent reduction of the material which could be put out. As a result, the Committee's echo in the press has suffered a slight decline from previous years. The breakdown of press clippings by countries shows Belgium in a leading position, followed by Italy, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Ireland and the United Kingdom, while Luxembourg, Denmark and the Netherlands continue to show unsatisfactory results. It is too early yet to assess the situation in Greece.

Despite these negative factors, there were a number of opinions and meetings which received fair attention in the press, thanks to their wide-ranging interest and topicality. The Committee's initiative in organizing special conferences on such subjects as the construction industry and genetic engineering had, apart from its intrinsic results, a far-reaching public-relations effect which will still be felt at later stages. Representatives of many organizations, associations and institutes, in themselves multipliers of information and, until

now, but vaguely aware of the Committee's functions, realized its potential by taking part in these conferences. In addition, the conferences themselves were widely reported and, as the texts of the proceedings are being published and disseminated, continue to arouse an echo.

Advantage was again taken of Committee members' willingness to act as spokesmen at press conferences, a practice which continued to bear fruit in the period under review. Among the opinions highlighted in this manner at press conferences were those on genetic engineering, chaired by Mrs Heuser, in Brussels; on titanium dioxide, by Mr Beretta, in Scarlino, Italy; on integrated operations by Messrs Blasig, Masprone and Ognibene, in Naples; on the construction industry, by Mr Evain, in Paris; on trade relations with Japan and the automobile industry, by Messrs Laval and Evain, in Brussels and Paris; on regional policy, by Mr Hall, in Belfast; on the mid-term economic situation, by Mr Zinkin, in London; on agriculture in French Overseas Territories by Messrs Clavel and De Grave in Paris; on the effects of Spain's accession on agriculture, by Mr Lauga, in Toulouse; on 'Prospects for the 1980s', by Mr Roseingrave, in Dublin; on competition, by Mr Bagliano, in Milan; and on the problems of the handicapped, by Mr Davies, in London.

Other opinions or matters affecting the Committee which obtained a good press coverage included those on the Community's enlargement, on agricultural prices, on Lomé II, on toy safety, on lorry weights and on the relations between the Committee and the European Parliament.

As usual, the President's visits to Tokyo, Madrid, Washington, Geneva and The Hague were well reported in the national and Community press. In addition, his policy speeches often won a good place in the Irish daily newspapers, as did his various activities.

The number of groups visiting the Committee and the number of visitors (4 600) as such were also slightly down from last year. Nevertheless, this form of disseminating information about the Committee's role and activities is extremely valuable when one considers who these visitors are. They included parliamentarians, lawyers, political figures, civil servants, journalists, farmers, trade unionists, managers, local government officials, members of Chambers of Commerce, representatives of women's movements, students, teachers and university professors.

The biggest numbers came from the Federal Republic of Germany, followed by the United Kingdom, France, Ireland, and Denmark. Few came from the Netherlands, Belgium, Italy and Greece and none from Luxembourg. Groups from Spain and Portugal evidently show great interest, as evidenced by their numbers. We also received visitors from Arab countries, from the West Indies, Senegal, Austria, Algeria, Turkey, Asia, Latin America and the United States of America. Committee members have frequently contributed to making these visits a success by addressing the groups and answering their questions.

Despite the limitations imposed by a tight budget, the Committee maintained its policy of giving wide distribution to its opinions, studies, reports and researches, by publishing them as booklets which are then made available to libraries, universities, journals, organizations and associations. This method allows us to reach another section of the public, often also multipliers of information, and to interest them in the subject-matter of our work. The following brochures were published in the course of the year:

- Prospects for the 1980s
- Genetic engineering
- Economic pointers for 1982
- Problems of the handicapped
- Present situation of the Community building sector
- Community competition policy
- Prevention of marine pollution
- Professional and trade union organizations in Greece
- Trade relations with Japan
- The right of initiative (second edition)
- Brochure on ESC in Greek
- New edition of the descriptive brochure on the ESC
- Directory 1981
- Annual Report 1980

As members become more and more involved in disseminating the Committee's opinions in their home countries and in asserting their role as links between the interest groups they represent on the one hand and the European Community on the other, appreciation for their work is steadily being enhanced. Only in this way can the Committee's publicity be made effective.

The Groups

GROUP I – EMPLOYERS

The Employers Group, under the chairmanship of Mr Staratzke, now numbers 46. Four Greek members were welcomed in March 1981. In October Mr Kazazis resigned on becoming a Member of the European Parliament.

Among the wide range of interests represented in Group I are those of private and public enterprise, commerce, transport, banking and insurance, wholesale and retail trade and agriculture.

Despite still being the smallest in number, Group I has again provided almost half the rapporteurs for opinions passed during the year, many of them of very considerable importance:

- Reform of the common agricultural policy
- Annual Economic Report 1981-82
- New regional policy guidelines and priorities
- Containers of liquids for human consumption
- Authorization of interregional air services
- The economic situation in the Community (mid-1981)
- Economic and commercial relations between the Community and Japan
- Community competition policy in the light of the current economic and social situation
- Revision of the ERDF Regulation
- Environment impact assessment
- Fixing of prices for agricultural products
- Development of transport infrastructure

At the end of November the presidents and secretaries-general of the European professional organizations took part in a further informal working meeting with the Chairman, Committee Bureau members and Section Chairmen belonging to Group I. This was followed by a reception for senior representatives of many of the European industrial branch federations, Group members and Committee executive staff. Similar opportunities for strengthening friendly cooperation will be arranged at regular intervals.

The Group has been working actively to speed up the reform of internal working procedures in order to increase the effectiveness of the Committee. In particular it is concerned to strengthen public relations and ensure that the unique role of the Economic and Social Committee as a forum for debate between individual members representing an unusually wide spectrum of economic and social interests is known and recognized far more generally in all Member States.

The keen involvement of Group I also led to the appointment of a co-rapporteur for the opinions on 'The automobile sector', 'Prospects for the Community's policies for the 1980s', and on the 'Vredeling proposals for the information and consultation of employees in transnational companies'.

The Employers Group has emphasized throughout its Committee work at all levels, and in speeches made before representatives of the Council of Ministers and Commissioners the need to combat unemployment and meet the challenge of increasing international competition. Means must be found of lifting obstacles to investment and capital formation in order to develop new technologies and improve productivity.

Stress has continuously been laid on the importance of completing the removal of trade barriers within the Community and of preventing dumping from outside.

Group I is awaiting with interest the further development of a regular dialogue between the ESC and the Commission on Community competition policy.

In September the four European wholesale and retail trade organizations agreed on a common point of contact with the ESC. This enables them to benefit from the special relationship with Group I already well established with UNICE (Union of Industries of the European Community), the CEEP (European Centre for Public Enterprises), and the Permanent Conference of Chambers of Commerce, and facilitates the exchange of information.

GROUP II — WORKERS

Group II (Chairman: Mr Debunne; 54 members) represents the European trade unions on the Economic and Social Committee.

In the present grave crisis that is affecting not only the Community's economy but also the social situation, members of Group II have been called upon

at the Committee to act as rapporteur on topics of special interest to the trade-union movement, in particular:

- (i) procedures for informing and consulting the employees of transnational undertakings;
- (ii) protection of workers against asbestos;
- (iii) coordination of labour-market instruments;
- (iv) restructuring of the textile and clothing industries;
- (v) the car industry.

During the period under review Group II continued to lay stress on certain issues that are of crucial importance to workers, such as:

- (i) unemployment, inflation, purchasing power,
- (ii) reduction in working time,
- (iii) better distribution of incomes,
- (iv) new technologies,

on the basis of the principles laid down by the European Trade Union Congress, (ETUC).

Although the ESC is a body with the task of producing opinions, which means that discussion must be held between the social partners with a view to finding a common denominator, one has to note a growing divergence between the position of employers and that of workers. Statements of minority views could therefore supplant joint opinions.

In view of the importance of the issues, the Workers Group has increasingly organized extraordinary meetings of its members before section meetings and plenary session debates.

Group II notes that the Committee Bureau is consulting the Groups more, in accordance with the relevant rules, on the requests from Sections for permission to draw up own-initiative opinions. This is a step forward but does not provide a final solution.

In conclusion, Group II has been pleased to welcome, and has been strengthened by, the active participation of trade unionists from the Greek General Confederation of Labour, following the enlargement of the Community.

GROUP III – VARIOUS INTERESTS

Group III brings together under the heading 'Various Interests' 55 members of the Economic and Social Committee.

They represent activities and interests which have for centuries been an enduring feature of society, even if some, such as the consumer movement, have only recently achieved prominence. Most of them pre-date and are independent of the industrial era, though all have been influenced by it. Moreover, all the sectors in question (agriculture, small businesses, crafts, shop-keeping, the professions, cooperatives) and all the social interest groups (consumers, families) have been profoundly affected by the economic, social and sociological changes sweeping through society at the moment.

The members of Group III are aware of the grave risks involved if order is not restored to the world economy. They mean to take a full part in the important debate which is taking place between the national and Community authorities and all the economic and social interest groups in the hope of finding fair solutions to the major social and economic problems facing us.

The undogmatic attitudes and spirit of conciliation characteristic of Group III members, allied to their specific qualifications, have often been a determining factor in their selection as rapporteur for sensitive or controversial topics. Thus Group III members have acted as rapporteur for agricultural aspects of the negotiations for Spanish accession, the implementation of the Lomé II Convention and food aid, toy safety and the problems raised by DNA, medium-term economic policy and the social situation in the Community, company law, small and medium-sized enterprises and the freedom to provide services in the professions, the common transport policy and competition in air transport, the situation and problems of the disabled, energy policy objectives for 1990 and thermonuclear fusion, integrated rural development (during the meeting with the economic and social interest groups of the ACP countries). Special mention must be made of the opinion on prospects for the 1980s, for which a Group III member acted as rapporteur and Group III members provided a constructive and well-informed contribution.

All the most important contributions made by Group III representatives emphasized the need to encourage new common policies and adopt an overall approach to social policy if we are to cope with the urgent problems created by the employment situation.

Internally the Group took an active part in improving working methods and implementing reforms resulting in the introduction of alternates and minority statements.

In conclusion, the Group, with Mrs Käte Strobel as Chairman and Mr De Bruyn and Mr Morselli as Vice-Chairmen, welcomed four Greek members, two representing agriculture (Mr Chronopoulos and Mr Kolymvas), one small businesses (Mr Papadopoulos), and one general interests (Mr Georgiou).

Chapter V

Attendance at conferences

This year, the Committee received a flood of invitations to attend various conferences, seminars and meetings of one sort or another arranged by European organizations. It was not possible to accept them all, but the Chairman, other members and representatives of the secretariat between them did manage to attend the following:

- VIth European Consumers Forum organized by the European Bureau of Consumers' Unions (BEUC) on the theme 'Towards a Community food policy' 21 and 22 January in Berlin
- National Congress of the Italian section of the Council of European Municipalities 28 to 30 January in Florence
- International Conference organized by the National League of Cooperatives and Mutual Benefit Associations and the National Farmers' Association, Rome on the theme 'How can the EEC's farm policy be changed in the interests of a united Europe?' 19 and 20 February in Venice
- XXXVth Congress of the National Federation of Farmers' Unions, Paris 24 to 26 February in Versailles
- Seminar organized by the National Economic and Labour Council (CNEL), Rome on the theme 'Problems of educational and vocational guidance' 10 and 11 March in Rome
- Invitation to the opening of the 33rd International Crafts Fair 14 March in Munich

- Colloquium organized by the Greek Government on the theme 'Technical and vocational education' 17 to 20 March in Athens
- Conference of European Island Regions, organized by the Council of Europe 7 to 10 April in Tenerife/Spain
- IXth Annual Congress organized by the European Centre of Public Enterprises (CEEP), Brussels on the theme 'The public enterprise, now and in the future, in the Europe of the Community' 5 to 7 May in Athens
- 63rd National Congress of the National Confederation for Farmers' Mutual Insurance, Cooperation and Credit on the theme 'A plan for agriculture' 12 to 14 May in Strasbourg
- 2nd International Congress of the Brussels/Cologne Foreign Trade Association 14 and 15 May in Brussels
- Seminar organized by the European Environment Office, Brussels on the theme 'For a Community forestry policy' 15 and 16 May in Utrecht/The Netherlands
- International Symposium organized by the Emile Bernheim Centre of the Free University of Brussels on the theme 'Comparative advertising' 18 and 19 May in Brussels
- 17th Annual Meeting of European Proprietary Medicines Association (AESGP) 20 to 23 May in Funchal/Madeira – Portugal
- Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Strasbourg, for the purpose of attending the hearing held at the Danish Parliament on the theme 'Genetic manipulations: risks and dangers for human rights' 25 and 26 May in Copenhagen
- Annual Conference of the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union, Dublin 25 to 27 May in Killarney/Ireland
- Closing of the General Assembly of the Coordination Committee for the Textile Industries in the EEC 26 May in Brussels
- Symposium organized by the European Commission on the theme 'Transfer and exploitation of scientific and technical know-how' 10 to 12 June in Luxembourg

- General Assembly of the European Training and Promotion Centre for Farming and Rural Life (CEPFAR), Brussels 11 June in Brussels
- Congress of the PTT Workers' Federation of 'Force Ouvrière', Paris 16 and 17 June in Paris
- Xth World Congress of the International Organization of Consumers' Unions 22 to 26 June in The Hague
- Colloquium organized during the Kiel Week by the Federal Executive of the German Employees' Union, Hamburg on the theme 'Vocational training today for the Europe of tomorrow' 23 June in Kiel/ Federal Republic of Germany
- European seminar organized by the 'Länderzentrale für politische Bildung' Baden-Württemberg, Heidelberg 25 June in Heidelberg
- Conference organized by the European Trade Union Confederation on the theme 'Strategy for employment and economic recovery in Europe' 29 June in Luxembourg
- Conference organized by the Sociology Institute of the Ludwig-Maximilian University, Munich on the theme 'The interdependence of Western European countries as members of international organizations, especially from the point of view of the European Communities' structures' 8 July in Munich
- 12th Congress of the Agricultural, Horticultural and Forestry Workers' Union, Kassel 27 to 30 September in Ruhpolding/ Federal Republic of Germany
- 2nd Congress of the Dutch Trade Union Federation (FNV) 29 September to 1 October in Amsterdam
- 22nd Industrial Film Festival organized by the Twin Industrial Confederation and Union 29 September to 3 October in Turin
- Conference on Regional Policy in the Enlarged Community organized by the Portuguese Socialist Party 30 September to 2 October in Lisbon
- Opening of the UK Parliament 1 October in London

- Meeting of the European Training and Promotion Centre for Farming and Rural Life (CEPFAR) 8 October in Brussels
- Opening ceremony of the Royal Overseas Science Academy, Brussels 21 October in Brussels
- Round table discussion organized by the Europe — Third World Association 21 October in Brussels
- General Assembly of the Pharmaceutical Group of the European Community 25 to 28 October in Knokke-Heist
- Conference of Local and Regional Authorities in Europe organized by the Council of Europe 27 to 29 October in Strasbourg
- One-day seminar on Economic and Social Councils in Europe organized by the Department of Labour of the Generalidad de Catalunya 11 November in Barcelona
- Internal meeting of the German Federation of Trade Unions, Düsseldorf on the theme 'Views of the ETUC on small business' 11 and 12 November in Düsseldorf
- 2nd European training seminar organized by the European Training and Promotion Centre for Farming and Rural Life on the theme 'Training of future farm managers' 16 to 20 November in Schmittgen/Federal Republic of Germany
- National meeting of 'Familles à l'aube du 3e millénaire' organized by the National Union of Family Associations 21 November in Paris
- Colloquium organized by the Economics Faculty of the University of Catania on the theme 'Relations between the EEC and the Mediterranean countries' 26 to 28 November in Catania/Italy
- 41st National Congress of the French Christian Workers' Confederation, Paris 27 to 29 November in Lyons

Chapter VI

Appointments and resignations

The first part of the 186th plenary session, held on 25 and 26 March 1981, was devoted to a formal sitting during which the 12 new Greek members of the Committee were installed.

The sitting was attended by Mr Vijferberg, representative of the President-in-Office of the Council, Mr Contogeorgis, the Greek member of the Commission, and Mr Dimas, the Greek Minister for Coordination.

The Greek members were:

Mrs A. Bredima	Mr G. Dassis	Mr N. Kolymvas
Mr A. Blamoutsis	Mr E. Saitis	Mr I. Chronopoulos
Mr F. Kazazis	Mr I. Douros	Mr T. Georgiou
Mr R. Rizos	Mr C. Karakitsos	Mr P. Papadopoulos

During the period covered by this report, the Council appointed the following to replace Mr Bukman, Mr Christensen, Mr Gormley, Mr Walsh and Mr Croese, who had resigned:

Mr Van der Veen
Mr Bent Nielsen
Mr Boddy
Mr Jenkins
Mr Dunet

The Council will shortly be appointing the replacements for Mr Drago and Mr Kazazis, who have also resigned.

Chapter VII

Internal affairs of the General Secretariat

1. STAFF

In 1981 there were 374 established posts in the General Secretariat, a 12% increase on the preceding year. This increase was mainly due to the fact that the budgetary authorities allocated a certain number of posts for Greek nationals.

In addition the Secretariat continued to employ 12 local staff and was able to engage a limited number of auxiliary staff.

2. BUDGET

Appropriations for the 1981 financial year rose to 21 270 200 ECU, a 7% increase on the 1980 budget of 19 910 010 ECU.

This rise in the appropriations was attributable not only to the additional staff and the increase in the number of persons attending meetings following Greek accession, but also to the need to complete the work on a new meeting room and to modernize the document reproduction system, a system entailing some expenditure on staff training.

3. MEETINGS

Nine plenary sessions and 11 Bureau meetings were held during the 1981 financial year.

Numerous other meetings were held as follows:

Sections	81
Study groups	348
Three groups	91
Miscellaneous	160
Meetings of sub-groups recognized by the three Groups	111

Account must also be taken of the many groups of visitors.

4. STRUCTURE OF THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT FOR 1981

Chairman

- Cabinet
- Group Secretariats
- Financial Control

Secretary-General

- Secretariat
- Adviser
- Division for the Registry of the Assembly and the Bureau
- Studies and Research Division
- Press/Information/Publications Division
- Mail/Records/Library/Documentation

Directorate A – Consultative work

- Secretariat of the Section for Economic and Financial Questions
- Secretariat of the Section for Social Questions
- Secretariat of the Section for Protection of the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Affairs

Directorate B – Consultative work

- Secretariat of the Section for Regional Development
- Secretariat of the Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services
- Secretariat of the Section for Transport and Communications

Directorate C – Consultative work

- Secretariat of the Section for Energy and Nuclear Questions
- Secretariat of the Section for Agriculture
- Secretariat of the Section for External Relations

General Directorate for Administration, Translation and General Affairs

- Personnel Division
- Specialized Financial Service
- Translation
- Division for Document Production, Coordination and Internal Affairs

Annex A

**List of opinions,
studies and information reports
issued during 1981**

185th PLENARY SESSION OF 25 AND 26 FEBRUARY 1981

- Saint-Geours Report entitled 'In favour of an energy-efficient society'
(Rapporteur: Mr von der Decken)(CES 239/81)
- Community actions in the field of microelectronic technology (Regulation)
Recommendations on telecommunications
New information technologies (First Commission Report)
(Rapporteurs: Mr Nierhaus and Mr Zünkler)(CES 237/81)
- Use of substances with a hormonal action and those having a thyrostatic
action in domestic animals
(Rapporteur: Mr Jaschick)(CES 238/81)
- Conditions for controlling the possession, distribution and administration
to animals of certain substances with a hormonal action
(Rapporteur: Mr Jaschick)(CES 235/81)
- Control and examination of animals and meat in the Community for the
presence of residues of substances with oestrogenic, androgenic, gesta-
genic and thyrostatic effects
(Rapporteur: Mr Jaschick)(CES 236/81)
- Flavourings for use in foodstuffs and source materials for their production
(Rapporteur: Mr Ramaekers)(CES 240/81)
- Application of social security schemes to employed persons and their fami-
lies moving within the Community (Amendment of Regulation (EEC) No
1408/71 and Regulation (EEC) No 574/72 fixing the procedures for imple-
menting Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71)
(Rapporteur: Mr Ammundsen)(CES 241/81)
- Taxes, other than turnover taxes, which affect the consumption of manu-
factured tobacco
(Rapporteur: Mr Miller)(CES 242/81)
- Harmonized application of the International Convention for Safe Contain-
ers (CSC) in the European Economic Community
(Rapporteur: Mr Law)(CES 243/81)
- Community quota and the standardization of certain rules relating to auth-
orizations for the carriage of goods by road between Member States
(Amendment of Regulation (EEC) No 3164/76 and Directive 65/269/EEC)
(Rapporteur: Mr Renaud)(CES 244/81)
- Establishment of common rules for international transport (transport of
goods by road for hire or reward) and the standardization of certain rules
relating to authorizations of road transport between the Member States
(Amendment of the First Directive of 23 July 1962 and the Directive of 13
May 1965)
(Rapporteur: Mr Renaud)(CES 245/81)

- The role of the Community in the development of transport infrastructure (Commission memorandum)
(Rapporteur: Mr Kenna)(CES 246/81)
- Priorities and the timetable for decisions to be taken by the Council in the transport sector during the period up to the end of 1983 (Draft Council Resolution)
(Rapporteur: Mr Loccufier)(CES 247/81)
- Granting of financial support for demonstration projects in the field of energy saving (Amendment of Regulation No 725/79)
and laying down the maximum amount of aid to be granted as financial support for projects to exploit alternative energy sources under Regulation No 1302/78 (Amendment of Regulation No 725/79)
(Rapporteur: Mr Drago)(CES 226/81)
- Machine translation system of advanced design (EEC R&D programme)
(Rapporteur: Mr Friedrichs)(CES 227/81)
- Implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
(Rapporteur: Mrs Clark)(CES 228/81)
- Common measure to stimulate the improvement of public facilities in certain less-favoured areas of the Federal Republic of Germany
(Rapporteur: Mr Wick)(CES 229/81)
- Loans to promote investment within the Community
(Rapporteur: Mr Rouzier)(CES 230/81)
- Insurance against civil liability in respect of the use of motor vehicles (Second Directive)
(Rapporteur: Mr De Bruyn)(CES 231/81)
- Common organization of the cereals and sugar markets (Amendment of Regulations (EEC) Nos 2727/75, 3330/74 and 950/68), production refunds in the cereals and rice sectors (Amendment of Regulation (EEC) No 2742/75) and the import and export system for products processed from cereals and rice (Amendment of Regulation (EEC) No 2744/75)
(three proposals)
(Rapporteur: Mr Masprone)(CES 232/81)
- Tariff treatment applicable to goods contained in travellers' personal luggage or sent in small consignments to private individuals (Amendment of Regulations (EEC) Nos 1544/69, 2780/78 and 3060/78)
(Rapporteur: Mr Marvier)(CES 234/81)

- Common agricultural policy (Information Report of the Section for Agriculture)
(CES 761/89 fin. and appendix)

186th PLENARY SESSION OF 25 AND 26 MARCH 1981

- Fixing of prices for certain agricultural products and certain related measures (1981/82)
(Rapporteur: Mr Schnieders)(CES 416/81)
- Proposal for a Council Directive concerning the enforcement in respect of shipping using Community ports, of international standards for shipping safety and pollution prevention
(Rapporteur: Mr Bonety)(CES 413/81)
- Establishment of a Community information system for preventing and combating hydrocarbon pollution of the sea
(Rapporteur: Mr Doble)(CES 414/81)
- Procedure for the provision of information in the field of technical standards and regulations
(Rapporteur: Mr Évain)(CES 415/81)
- Health protection of workers and the general public against the dangers of microwave radiation
(Rapporteur: Mr von der Decken)(CES 408/81)
- Tax-free allowances applied in international travel and to imports of goods in small consignments of a non-commercial character: third countries; and
Tax reliefs to be allowed on the importation of goods in small consignments of a non-commercial character within the Community (two proposals)
(Amendment of Directives 69/169/EEC, 78/1035/EEC and 74/651/EEC)
(Rapporteur: Mr Marvier)(CES 409/81)
- Common organization of the market in fishery products
(Rapporteur: Mr Wick)(CES 410/81)
- Common organization of the market in live trees and other plants, bulbs, roots and the like, cut flowers and ornamental foliage
(Rapporteur: Mr De Tavernier)(CES 411/81)
- Setting-up of a network for the collection of accountancy data on the income and business operation of agricultural holdings in the European Economic Community
(Rapporteur: Mr de Caffarelli)(CES 412/81)

187th PLENARY SESSION OF 29 AND 30 APRIL 1981

- Community competition policy in the light of the current economic and social situation
(Rapporteur: Mr Bagliano)(CES 561/81)
- Toy safety
(Rapporteur: Mrs Strobel)(CES 558/81)
- Revision of the ERDF Regulation (own-initiative opinion)
(Rapporteur: Mr Hall)(CES 559/81)
- Assessment of the environmental effects of certain public and private projects
(Rapporteur: Mr Mills)(CES 557/81)
- Indication of the origin of certain textile and clothing products
(Rapporteur: Mrs Clark)(CES 560/81)
- Mutual recognition of diplomas, certificates and other evidence of formal qualifications of doctors, nurses responsible for general care, dentists and veterinary surgeons respectively
(Directive supplementing Directives 75/362/EEC, 77/452/EEC and 78/1026/EEC)
(Rapporteur: Mrs Heuser)(CES 556/81)
- Operations qualifying for a higher rate of intervention by the European Social Fund
(Amendment of Regulation (EEC) No 2895/77)
(Rapporteur: Mr Laval)(CES 554/81)
- Definition of the customs territory of the Community
(Rapporteur: Mr Marvier)(CES 555/81)
- Economic policy guidelines for Greece in 1981
(Commission communication to the Council in accordance with Article 2 of the Decision on Convergence of 18 February 1974)
(Rapporteur: Mr Zinkin)(CES 553/81)
- Work of the Council in the transport sector during the period up to the end of 1983
(Council Resolution)
(Rapporteur-General: Mr Hennig)(CES 562/81)

188th PLENARY SESSION OF 26 AND 27 MAY 1981

- Implementation of the Second Lomé Convention
(own-initiative opinion)
(Rapporteur: Mr Clavel)(CES 675/81)

- Proprietary medicinal products
(Amendment of Directives 65/65/EEC, 75/318/EEC and 75/319/EEC)
(Rapporteur: Mr De Bièvre)(CES 676/81)
- Social aspects in the Community sea fishing sector
(Commission communication)
(Rapporteur: Mr Murphy)(CES 668/81)
- Measuring instruments and methods of metrological control;
Clinical mercury-in-glass, maximum-reading thermometers, tyre pressure
gauges for motor vehicles; and
Instruments designed to determine the content by volume of carbon
monoxide in the exhaust gases of motor vehicles with spark ignition (four
proposals for Directives)
(Rapporteur: Mr Breitenstein)(CES 669/81)
- Installation, location, operation and identification of controls, telltales and
indicators on wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors
(Rapporteur: Mr Masprone)(CES 673/81)
- Exercise of the right of appeal in respect of customs matters
(Rapporteur: Mr Marvier)(CES 677/81)
- Procedures for the release of goods for free circulation
(Amendment of Directive 79/695/EEC)
(Rapporteur: Mr Marvier)(CES 671/81)
- System for observing the markets for the carriage of goods by rail, road
and inland waterways between the Member States (Proposal amended
under Article 149(2) of the EEC Treaty)
(Rapporteur: Mr Rouzier)(CES 672/81)
- Relations and agreements with third countries in the field of transport by
rail, road and inland waterway
(setting-up of an information and consultation procedure)
(Rapporteur: Mr Schneider)(CES 674/81)
- Community transit
(Third Amendment of Regulation (EEC) No 222/77)
(Rapporteur: Mr Marvier)(CES 670/81)
- Collective projects for the restructuring of vineyards
(Amendment of Regulation (EEC) No 458/80)
(Rapporteur: Mr Paggi)(CES 678/81)

189th PLENARY SESSION OF 1, 2 AND 3 JULY 1981

- Social development in the Community in 1980
(Rapporteur: Mr Burnel)(CES 772/81)

- Economic situation in the Community (mid-1981)
(Rapporteur: Mr Zinkin)(CES 773/81)
- Economic and commercial relations between the Community and Japan
(own-initiative opinion)
(Rapporteur: Mr Évain)(CES 768/81)
- Automobile sector
(own-initiative opinion)
(Rapporteur: Mr Laval)(CES 769/81)
- Present situation in the Community's construction sector
(own-initiative opinion)
(Rapporteur: Mr Évain)(CES 780/81)
- Situation and problems of the handicapped
(own-initiative opinion)
(Rapporteur: Mr Davies)(CES 774/81)
- Certain activities in the field of pharmacy;
Mutual recognition of diplomas, certificates and other evidence of formal
qualifications in pharmacy; and the
Draft Council Decision on the setting-up of an Advisory Committee on
Pharmaceutical Training
(two proposals for Directives and one Draft Decision)
(Rapporteur: Mr Chabrol)(CES 776/81)
- Methods for the surveillance and monitoring of the environments affected
by wastes from the titanium dioxide industry
(Rapporteur: Mr Blasig)(CES 770/81)
- Materials and articles made of regenerated cellulose film intended to come
into contact with foodstuffs
(Rapporteur: Mr Ramaekers)(CES 766/81)
- Limitation of noise emitted by hydraulic and rope-operated excavators and
by dozers and loaders
(Rapporteur: Mr Marvier)(CES 779/81)
- Mutual recognition of diplomas, certificates and other evidence of formal
qualifications in medicine
(Amendment of Directives 75/362/EEC and 75/363/EEC)
(Rapporteur: Mrs Heuser)(CES 767/81)
- Limit values for discharges of cadmium into the aquatic environment and
quality objectives for cadmium in the aquatic environment
(Rapporteur: Mr Zoli)(CES 771/81)
- Health problems affecting trade in fresh poultrymeat
(Amendment of Directive 71/118/EEC)
(Rapporteur: Mr Hilken)(CES 775/81)

- Situation regarding the production and marketing of hops (1980 harvest); and the Laying down, in respect of hops, of the amount of aid to be paid to producers for the 1980 harvest (Commission report and proposal for a Regulation) (Rapporteur-General: Mr Bernaert)(CES 777/81)
- Community list of less-favoured farming areas within the meaning of Directive 75/268/EEC (Greece) (Rapporteur-General: Mr Kolymvas)(CES 778/81)
- Structural changes in the textile and clothing sector: analysis of the situation and examination of previous and future Community measures (Study of the Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services) (Rapporteur: Mr Masucci)(CES 1202/80 fin.)

190th PLENARY SESSION OF 23 AND 24 SEPTEMBER 1981

- The Community's food aid policy (own-initiative opinion) (Rapporteur: Mr Williams)(CES 944/81)
- Agricultural aspects of the enlargement of the Community to include Spain (own-initiative opinion) (Rapporteur: Mr Lauga)(CES 955/81)
- Prospects for agriculture in French Guiana and the French Antilles within the framework of the EEC (own-initiative opinion) (Rapporteur: Mr De Grave)(CES 950/81)
- Review of energy policy objectives for 1990 and Member States' investment programmes (Commission communication) (own-initiative opinion) (Rapporteur: Mr Margot)(CES 954/81)
- Protection of workers against risks related to exposure to agents at work: asbestos (Second Directive) (Rapporteur: Mr Etty)(CES 956/81)
- Community trade marks (two proposals) (Rapporteur: Mr Broicher)(CES 952/81)
- Cosmetic products (Third Amendment of Directive 76/768/EEC) (Rapporteur: Mr Masprone)(CES 954/81)

- Methods of testing the biodegradability of anionic surfactants
(Amendment of Directive 73/405/EEC)
(Rapporteur: Mr Ramaekers)(CES 946/81)
- Summertime arrangement
(Second Directive)
(Rapporteur: Mr Renaud)(CES 949/81)
- Certain measures to promote the development of combined transport,
and the
System for the granting of aids for transport by rail, road and inland water-
way by the addition of provisions on combined transport
(Amendment of Regulation (EEC) No 1107/70)
(Rapporteur: Mr Renaud)(CES 951/81)
- Common organization of the market in wine and amendment of Regulation
(EEC) No 950/68 relating to the Common Customs Tariff
(Amendment of Regulation (EEC) No 337/79)
and the
Laying down of special provisions relating to quality wines produced in
specified regions
(Amendment of Regulation (EEC) No 338/79)(two proposals)
(Rapporteur: Mr Rainero)(CES 947/81)
- Common organization of the market in sheepmeat and goatmeat
(Amendment of Regulation (EEC) No 1837/80)
(Rapporteur: Sir Richard Butler)(CES 948/81)
- Classification, packaging and labelling of paints, varnishes, printing inks,
adhesives and similar products
(Amendment of Directive 77/728/EEC)
(Rapporteur-General: Mr Zoli)(CES 953/81)
- Coordination of the requirements for the drawing-up, scrutiny and distri-
bution of the prospectus to be published when securities are offered for
subscription or sale to the public
(Rapporteur: Mr Hemmer)(CES 957/81)

191st PLENARY SESSION OF 28 AND 29 OCTOBER 1981

- Prospects for the Community's policies in the 1980s
(own-initiative opinion)
(Rapporteur: Mr De Bruyn)(CES 1078/81)
- New regional policy guidelines and priorities
(Commission communication to the Council)
(Rapporteur: Mr Loebl)(CES 1072/81)

- Claims made in the labelling, presentation and advertising of foodstuffs for sale to the ultimate consumer
(Rapporteur: Mr Jaschick)(CES 1075/81)
- Containers of liquids for human consumption
(Rapporteur: Mr Hatry)(CES 1077/81)
- Taking-up and pursuit of the business of direct insurance other than life assurance particularly as regards tourist assistance
(Amendment of First Directive 73/239/EEC)
(Rapporteur: Mr De Bruyn)(CES 1073/81)
- Action by Member States concerning the obligations inherent in the concept of a public service in transport by rail, road and inland waterway; setting of a time limit and conditions for the achievement of financial balance by railway undertakings; and the improvement of the situation of railway undertakings and the harmonization of rules governing financial relations between such undertakings (three proposals)
(Amendment of Regulation (EEC) No 1191/69 and Decision 75/327/EEC)
(Rapporteur: Mr Hennig)(CES 1071/81)
- Fixing of the Community's Scheme of Generalized Tariff Preferences for the period 1982 to 1985 and opening of the scheme applicable in 1982
(Rapporteur: Mr Cremer)(CES 1079/81)
- Minimum standards for the protection of laying hens kept in battery cages
(Rapporteur: Mr Jakobsen)(CES 1076/81)
- Arrangements for movement within the Community of goods sent from one Member State for temporary use in one or more other Member States
(Rapporteur: Mr Broicher)(CES 1069/81)
- Coordination of the activities of the Member States and Community institutions with a view to setting up a Community inter-institutional information system; and the coordination of the actions of Member States and the Commission related to activities preparatory to a long-term programme for the use of telematics for Community information systems concerned with imports/exports and the management and financial control of agricultural market organizations
(Two proposals for Decisions)
(Rapporteur: Mr Nierhaus)(CES 1070/81)
- Authorization of scheduled interregional air services for the transport of passengers, mail and cargo between Member States
(Rapporteur-General: Mr Kenna)(CES 1074/81)

192nd PLENARY SESSION OF 25 AND 26 NOVEMBER 1981

- Reform of the common agricultural policy
(own-initiative opinion)
(Rapporteur: Mr Zinkin)(CES 1196/81)
- Commission's Annual Economic Report for 1981
(Rapporteur: Mr Zinkin)(CES 1190/81)
- Extension of Regulation (EEC) No 574/72 to self-employed persons and members of their families
(Rapporteur-General: Mr Rollinger)(CES 1192/81)
- Taxes other than turnover taxes which affect the consumption of manufactured tobacco
(Amendment of Directive 72/464/EEC)
(Rapporteur: Mr Miller)(CES 1186/81)
- Research and training programme (1982-86) in the field of controlled thermonuclear fusion
(Rapporteur: Mr von der Decken)(CES 1188/81)
- Consolidation of precautionary measures concerning chlorofluorocarbons in the environment
(Rapporteur-General: Mr Hatry)(CES 1191/81)
- Limitation of noise emissions from subsonic aircraft
(Amendment of Directive 80/51/EEC)
(Rapporteur: Mr Kenna)(CES 1187/81)
- Community quota for the carriage of goods by road
(Amendment of Regulation (EEC) No 3164/76)
(Rapporteur: Mr Renaud)(CES 1195/81)
- Concerted action in the field of shore-based maritime navigation aid systems
(Draft Decision)
(Rapporteur: Mr Bonety)(CES 1194/81)
- Establishment of common rules for certain types of combined road/rail carriage of goods between Member States
(Amendment of Directive 75/130/EEC)
(Rapporteur: Mr Schneider)(CES 1189/81)
- Organization of the markets in seeds and cereals and the amount of aid granted for seeds for the 1982/83 and 1983/84 marketing years
(Rapporteur-General: Mr Schneiders)(CES 1193/81)

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- European Regional Development Fund (Sixth Annual Report 1980)
(own-initiative opinion)
(Rapporteur: Mr Zoli)(CES 1273/81)
- Registration of recombinant deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) work
(additional opinion)
(Rapporteur: Mrs Heuser)(CES 1282/81)
- Sectoral research and development programme in the field of medical and public health research — concerted action — (1982-86)
(Rapporteur: Mrs Heuser)(CES 1281/81)
- Reciprocal exchange of information and data from networks and individual stations measuring air pollution
(Rapporteur: Mr Bernaert)(CES 1278/81)
- Research and development programme (1982-85) in the raw materials sector
(Rapporteur: Mr Mills)(CES 1274/81)
- Effect of processing on the physical properties of foodstuffs
(COST Project 90 bis)
(Rapporteur: Mr Chabrol)(CES 1275/81)
- Health problems affecting intra-Community trade in fresh meat
(Rapporteur: Mr Wick)(CES 1283/81)
- Health and veterinary inspection problems upon importation of bovine animals and swine and fresh meat from third countries
(Amendment of Directive 72/462/EEC)
(Rapporteur: Mr Wick)(CES 1280/81)
- Special aid for raw tobacco following the earthquake in Italy in November 1980
(Derogation from Article 12a of Regulation (EEC) No 727/80)
(Rapporteur: Mr Rainero)(CES 1279/81)
- Information provided by the customs authorities of the Member States concerning the classification of goods in the customs nomenclature
(Rapporteur: Mr Broicher)(CES 1277/81)
- Limitation of noise emitted by hydraulic and rope-operated excavators, and by dozers, loaders and excavator-loaders
(Rapporteur: Mr Marvier)(CES 1276/81)
- Period of validity of the derogations relating to brucellosis guarantees in trade in certain bovine animals
(Amendment of Directive 64/432/EEC)
(Rapporteur-General: Mr Wick)(CES 1285/81)

Annex B

**List of opinions
drawn up by the
Economic and Social Committee
on its own initiative
(1973-81)**

- Multilateral GATT negotiations
(Rapporteur: Mr de Precigout) May 1973
- Industrial and technological policy programme
(Rapporteur: Mr Kley) November 1973
- Progress achieved in the first stage of economic and
monetary union and measures to be taken in the
second stage December 1973
- Commission memorandum on the improvement of
the common agricultural policy
(Rapporteur: Mr Bourel) February 1974
- Agricultural aspects of the GATT negotiations
(Rapporteur: Mr Rømer) February 1974
- Role of the ESC in the institutional machinery of the
Communities
(Rapporteur: Mr De Bruyn) March 1974
- Employment and the changed situation in the EEC
(Rapporteur: Mr Debunne) May 1974
- EEC negotiations with African States, the East
Indies and the countries of the Pacific
(Rapporteur: Mr Bodart) June 1974
- Situation in the EEC
(Rapporteur: Mr De Bruyn) July 1974
- Energy for Europe — research and development
(Rapporteur: Mr Schlitt) January 1975
- EEC Mediterranean policy
(Rapporteur: Mrs Baduel Glorioso) January 1975
- Developing countries and the GATT negotiations
(Rapporteur: Mr Rømer) January 1975
- EEC data-processing policy
(Rapporteur: Mr de Ferranti) April 1975
- Education in the EEC
(Rapporteur: Dr Sloman) April 1975
- European Union
(Rapporteur: Mr De Bruyn) July 1975
- Telecommunications
(Rapporteur: Mr Roseingrave) September 1975

- The economic and social situation of women in the European Community (Rapporteur: Mrs Evans) February 1976
- Unemployment in the EEC (Rapporteur-General: Mr Basnett) February 1976
- Regional development in the Community in 1975-77 and establishment of an EEC regional policy (Rapporteur: Mr Maher) March 1976
- Coordination of national employment policy instruments (Rapporteur: Mr Laval) March 1976
- Possibilities of developing advanced technology sectors in the EEC through a policy of liberalizing public purchasing (Rapporteur: Mr de Ferranti) May 1976
- Specific measures to relieve unemployment among the elderly, young people and women returning to gainful employment (Rapporteur: Mr Carroll) November 1976
- The common agricultural policy in the international context (possible consequences and improvements) (Rapporteur-General: Mr Berns) January 1977
- How regional development helps solve unemployment and inflation by making for a more balanced distribution of the working population (Rapporteur: Mr Bornard) March 1977
- The GATT multilateral trade negotiations (additional own-initiative opinion) (Rapporteur: Mr Évain) April 1977
- The implementation and development of the Community's consumer protection and information programme (Rapporteur: Mr Ramaekers) May 1977
- Transport problems in relations with Eastern bloc countries (Rapporteur: Mr Hennig) June 1977
- Direct cooperation between the bodies designated by Member States to verify compliance with Community and national provisions in the wine sector (Rapporteur: Mr Guillaume) June 1977

- Industrial change and employment — A review of the Community's industrial policy and future prospects
(Rapporteur: Mr Carstens) September 1977
- European Regional Development Fund (Second Annual Report 1976)
(Rapporteur: Mr Loughrey) September 1977
- Small- and medium-sized enterprises in the Community context
(Rapporteur: Mr Kolbenschlag) November 1977
- Transport problems in relations with Eastern bloc countries
(additional own-initiative opinion)
(Rapporteur: Mr Hennig) November 1977
- Communication on the amendment of the common organization of the market in beef and veal, report on the merits of premiums and intervention measures in the beef and veal sector
(Rapporteur: Mr Schnieders) December 1977
- Community regional policy guidelines
(Rapporteur: Mr Laval) January 1978
- Common principles to be adopted in export credit insurance system for medium and long-term transactions with public and private buyers
(Rapporteur: Mr Miller) February/March 1978
- Report on starch products in the Community and the starch production refund
(Rapporteur: Mr Masprone) February/March 1978
- State of the Customs Union of the European Economic Community
(Rapporteur: Mr Marvier) End March 1978
- Education and vocational training for young workers
(Rapporteur: Mr Sloman) End March 1978
- Part-time work
(Rapporteur: Mr van Rens) May 1978
- Draft Council Decision on the activities of certain State-trading countries in cargo liner shipping
(Rapporteur-General: Mr Hoffmann) May 1978

- Community stand in the face of international monetary disorder
(Rapporteur: Mr Charpentie) June 1978
- Progress made in implementing the Lomé Convention in view of the opening of negotiations for a new convention
(Rapporteur: Mr Soulat) July 1978
- The future of forestry in the European Community
(Rapporteur: Mr Maher) July 1978
- Means of communication in the Londonderry/Donegal frontier area
(Rapporteur: Mr Cremer) July 1978
- Greek application for membership of the European Community
(Rapporteur-General: Mr De Ridder) November 1978
- Problems of frontier workers
(Rapporteur: Mr Delourme) January 1979
- Third ERDF Annual Report
(Rapporteur: Mr Pearson) February 1979
- New shipping nations, flags of convenience and flag discrimination
(Rapporteur: Mr Rouzier) April 1979
- Energy objectives for 1990 and Member States' programmes
(Rapporteur: Mr Margot) May 1979
- Greater economic policy convergence
(Rapporteur: Mr Margot) May 1979
- Community enlargement — Requests for membership from Greece, Spain and Portugal
(Rapporteur: Mr Pfeiffer) June 1979
- Role and influence of local and regional authorities in framing the common regional policy
(Rapporteur: Mr Ventejol) October 1979
- Industrial restructuring in the Community
(Rapporteur: Mr van Campen) October 1979
- Multiannual programme for achieving the Customs Union
(Rapporteur: Mr Marvier) October 1979

- ERDF Funds for 1980
(Rapporteur-General: Mr Milne) October 1979
- The European Regional Development Fund (Fourth Annual Report 1978) November 1979
- The problems of trade barriers and the alignment of laws in this area November 1979
- Report on some structural aspects of growth
(Rapporteur: Mr Querini) February 1980
- Regional programmes
(Rapporteur: Mr Hall) April 1980
- Use of medicine and its effects on public health
(Rapporteur: Mr De Grave) April 1980
- The report on European institutions
(Rapporteur-General: Mr Friedrichs) May 1980
- Development cooperation policy and the economic and social consequences of the application of certain international standards governing working conditions
(Rapporteur: Mr Soulat) July 1980
- Distribution of the total catch possibilities of stocks or groups of stocks occurring in the Community fishing zone
(Rapporteur: Mr Leo) November 1980
- Community accession to the European Convention on Human Rights
(Rapporteur: Mr Williams) December 1980
- Protection of investment in less-developed countries
(Rapporteur: Mr Breitenstein) December 1980
- European Regional Development Fund (Fifth Annual Report 1979)
(Rapporteur: Mr Curlis) December 1980
- The Community competition policy in the light of the current economic and social situation
(Rapporteur: Mr Bagliano) April 1981
- Revision of the ERDF Regulation
(Rapporteur: Mr Hall) April 1981

- Implementation of the Second Lomé Convention
(Rapporteur: Mr Clavel) May 1981
- Economic and commercial relations between the
Community and Japan July 1981
(Rapporteur: Mr Évain)
- The automobile sector July 1981
(Rapporteur: Mr Laval)
- The present situation in the Community's construc-
tion sector and the most appropriate measures by
which the EEC can promote growth and employment
in this sector July 1981
(Rapporteur: Mr Évain)
- The situation and problems of the handicapped July 1981
(Rapporteur: Mr Davies)
- The Community's food aid policy September 1981
(Rapporteur: Mr Williams)
- The agricultural aspects of the enlargement of the
Community to include Spain September 1981
(Rapporteur: Mr Lauga)
- Review of energy policy objectives for 1990 and
Member States' investment programmes September 1981
(Communication from the Commission)
(Rapporteur: Mr Margot)
- Prospects for the Communities' policies in the
1980s October 1981
(Rapporteur: Mr De Bruyn)
- Reform of the common agricultural policy November 1981
(Rapporteur: Mr Zinkin)
- European Regional Development Fund (Sixth Annual
Report 1980) December 1981
(Rapporteur: Mr Zoli)

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

These tables, which cover more than the year under review, update the follow-up given to the Committee opinions. In view of the fact that there is a certain time-lag between the adoption of an opinion and the Council Decision, the present tables are meant to complete the Committee's previous annual reports.

Subject	Request	From	ESC opinion	Decision published	Account taken of opinion			EP opinion
					little	some	lot	
Environment protection and climatology (indirect and concerted actions 1981-85)/sectoral research and development programme in the field of environment)	14. 7. 1981	Council	11.12.1981 OJ C 353 of 31.12.1980	OJ L 101 of 11. 4. 1981	The Committee's opinion approved the Commission propo- posal			OJ C 28 of 9. 2. 1981
Operations qualifying for a higher rate of intervention by the European Social Fund (amendment of Regulation (EEC) No 2985/77)	11. 3. 1981	Council	30. 4. 1981 OJ C 185 of 27. 7. 1981	Greece: OJ L 194 of 17. 7. 1981			X	OJ C 144 of 15. 6. 1981
Calf birth grants in Italy (fixing of prices for certain agricultural products and certain related measures 1981/82)	23. 2. 1981	Council	26. 3. 1981 OJ C 159 of 29. 6. 1981	OJ L 188 of 30. 4. 1981			X	OJ C 90 of 21. 4. 1981
Application of social security schemes to employed persons and their families moving within the Community (Amendment of Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71 and Regulation (EEC) No 574/72 fixing the procedure for implementing Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71)	4. 11. 1980	Council	26. 2. 1981 OJ C 138 of 9. 6. 1981	OJ L 275 of 29. 9. 1981	The Committee's opinion approved the Commission propo- posal			

Annual Economic Report 1980-81	20.10.1980	Council	20.11.1980 OJ C 348 of 31.12.1980	OJ L 375 of 31.12. 1980	X		OJ C 327 of 15.12. 1980
Establishment of a European Regional Development Fund (Amendment of Regulation (EEC) No 724/75)	17.10.1980	Council	20.11.1980 OJ C 348 of 31.12.1980	OJ L 349 of 31.12. 1980	X		
Aid to shipbuilding	7. 10. 1980	Council	11.12.1980 OJ C 353 of 31.12.1980	OJ L 137 of 23. 5. 1981	X		OJ C 28 of 9. 2. 1981
Financial aid from the Community for the eradication of African swine fever in Sardinia	8. 9. 1980	Council	30.10.1980 OJ C 331 of 17.12.1980	OJ L 325 of 1. 12. 1980	The Committee's opinion approved the Commission propo- sal		OJ C 291 of 10. 11. 1980
Colouring matters authorized for use in foodstuffs intended for human consumption (Seventh Amendment to Council Directive of 23.10.1962)	13. 8. 1980	Council	31. 1. 1980 OJ C 113 of 7. 5. 1980	OJ L 43 of 14. 2. 1981	X		OJ C 147 of 16. 6. 1980
Preservatives for use in foodstuffs intended for human consumption (Fifth Amendment to Directive 64/54/EEC)	6. 8. 1980	Council	20.11.1980 OJ C 348 of 31.12.1980	OJ L 101 of 11. 4. 1981	The Committee's opinion approved the Commission propo- sal		OJ C 327 of 15. 12. 1980

Subject	Request	From	ESC opinion	Decision published	Account taken of opinion			EP opinion
					Commission	Committee	Parliament	
Determination of import duties on mixtures and sets (agricultural products)	14. 7. 1980	Council	20.11.1980 OJ C 348 of 31.12.1980	OJ L 349 of 23.12.1980	The Commission proposal	The Committee's opinion approved the Commission proposal	OJ C 291 of 10. 11. 1980	
Scientific and technical training implemented by means of advanced training courses and grants (EC programme)	3. 6. 1980	Council	25.9.1980 OJ C 300 of 18.11.1980	OJ L 101 of 11. 4. 1981	The Commission proposal	The Committee's opinion approved the Commission proposal	OJ C 300 of 18. 11. 1980	
Community financial measures for the eradication of classical swine fever and the control of classical swine fever (three proposals)	27. 5. 1980	Council	25.9.1980 OJ C 300 of 18.11.1980	OJ L 325 of 1. 12. 1980	X		OJ C 72 of 24. 3. 1980 OJ C 175 of 14. 7. 1980 OJ C 291 of 10. 11. 1980	
Swine vesicular disease and classical swine fever as well as prolongation of certain derogations granted to Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom with regard to swine fever (four proposals) (Amendment of Directives 64/432/EEC, 72/461/EEC and 80/215/EEC)	27. 5. 1980	Council	25. 9. 1980 OJ C 300 of 18.11.1980	OJ L 325 of 1. 12. 1980	The Commission proposal	The Committee's opinion approved the Commission proposal	OJ C 175 of 14. 7. 1980	

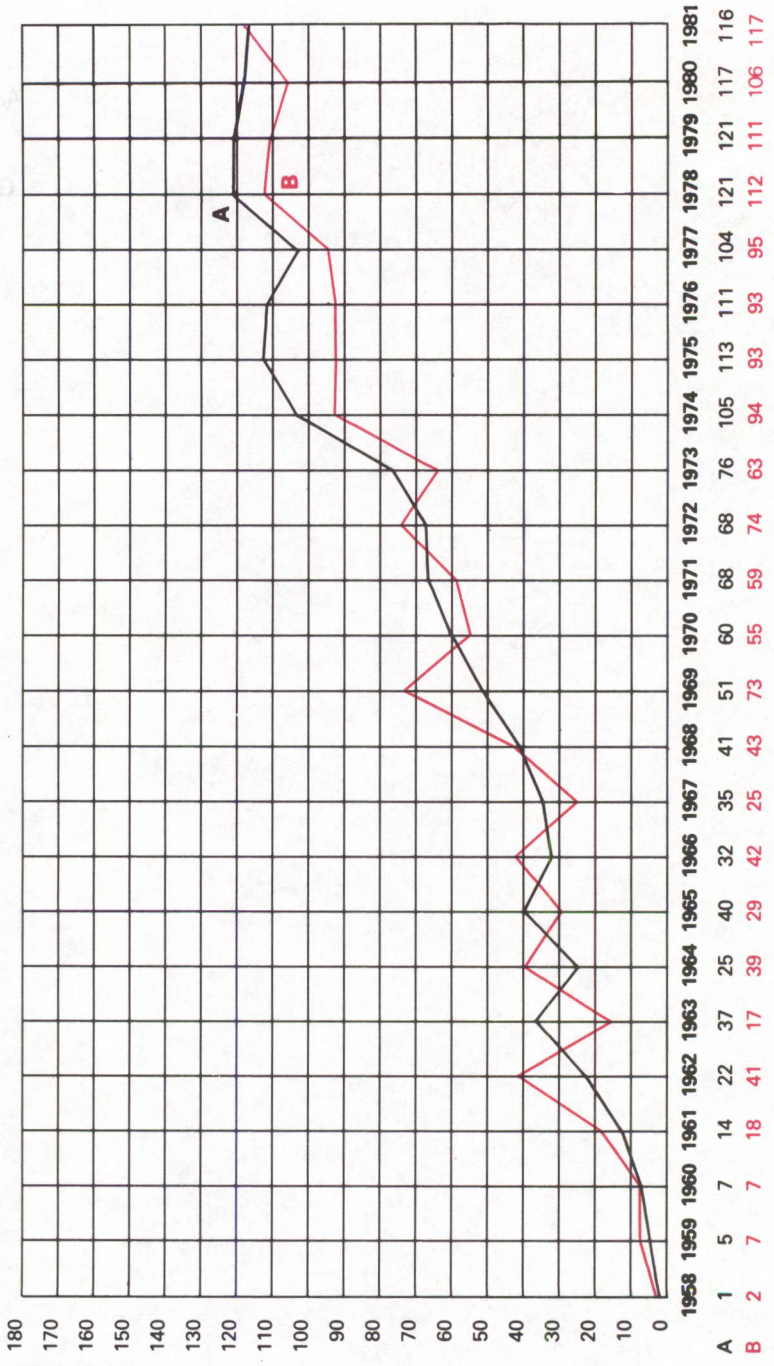
Common rules for imports of whale products	20. 5. 1980	Council	25.9.1980 OJ C 300 of 18.11.1980	OJ L 39 of 12. 2. 1981	The Committee's opinion approved the Commission propo- posal	OJ C 291 of 10. 11. 1981
						X
I. Fuel consumption of motor vehicles	29. 1. 1980	Council	27. 3. 1980 OJ C 182 of 21. 7. 1980	OJ L 375 of 31.12.1980	X	
II. Engine power of motor vehicles (two Directives)						
Specific Community regional development projects under Article 13 of the ERDF Regulation	26.10.1979	Council	12.12.1979 OJ C 83 of 2. 4. 1980	OJ L 271 of 15.10.1980	X	OJ C 85 of 8. 4. 1980
Quantities of basic products (Common Customs Tariff)	21. 9. 1979	Council	12.12.1979 OJ C 83 of 2. 4. 1980	OJ L 323 of 29.11.1980	X	OJ C 85 of 8. 4. 1980
Processing of agricultural products	8. 8. 1979	Council	12.12.1979 OJ C 83 of 2. 4. 1980	OJ L 323 of 29.11.1980	The Committee's Opinion approved the Commission pro- posal	OJ C 34 of 11. 2. 1980
Conditions designed to render and keep the territory of the Community free from classical swine fever	26. 7. 1979	Council	21.11.1979 OJ C 72 of 24. 3. 1980	OJ L 325 of 1. 12. 1980	X	OJ C 72 of 24. 3. 1980

Subject	Request	From	ESC opinion	Decision published	Account taken of opinion			EP opinion
					title	source	date	
Application of social security schemes to employed persons and their families moving within the Community (Regulation and Annexes)	13. 1. 1978	Council	1. 6. 1978 OJ C 239 of 13.11.1978	OJ L 143 of 29. 5. 1981	X			OJ C 131 of 5. 6. 1978
Enzootic leucosis among cattle	7. 12. 1978	Council	22. 2. 1979 OJ C 133 of 28. 5. 1979	OJ L 325 of 1. 12. 1980	X			OJ C 140 of 5. 6. 1979
Type approval of motor vehicles and their trailers	20. 1. 1977	Council	31. 3. 1977 OJ C 114 of 11. 5. 1977	Amendment OJ L 375 of 31.12.1980	X			
				OJ L 81 of 28. 3. 1978 (OJ L 168 of 26. 6. 1978)	X			OJ C 118 of 16. 5. 1977

Annex D

Graphs

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



NUMBER OF STAFF



MEETINGS





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