

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE  
OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

**ANNUAL  
REPORT  
1978**



Brussels

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## Preface

It is said that 1979 will be the year of the Community and that 1978 has been the year of preparation for its revival.

I should describe the coming year as the turning point for the Community.

We are in the grip of a world crisis and none of the areas affected has yet succeeded in getting the better of it, tackling its causes or finding ways of overcoming today's grave economic and social imbalances. If the Community does not take a positive step towards integration and make a combined effort to think and act in European terms, we may lose all momentum and find ourselves powerless in the teeth of the crisis. Indeed, we may lose so much ground that our achievements could start to disintegrate.

We must never be afraid to say that nationalism and protectionism exist in our countries as well as elsewhere. We must never be afraid to warn that the crisis could get worse.

I see my first two months of Chairman in 1978 in the following light. The Economic and Social Committee has helped to revive a European Community in which the *national governments are resolved (a) to coordinate their efforts in pursuit of stability and economic recovery, especially in their relations with the developing countries and in connection with the drafting of a new Convention of Lomé and (b) to get employment rising again so that the figure of more than six million jobless in the Community falls back or at least stops increasing. But there are grounds for fearing that the situation may deteriorate dramatically, given the cutbacks in output in crisis-stricken industries together with the impact of the investment which will have to be poured into sectors reeling under the effects of stiffer international competition from countries with, for instance, lower credit and labour costs.*

I would not want to appear too optimistic about the results but I have been following in my predecessors' footsteps by making every endeavour over the last two months to see that the Economic and Social Committee not only delivers a good quantity of Opinions and delivers them on time (although this is important), but above all produces a quality product.

All our Opinions, but I shall mention a few in particular, may be considered to constitute a positive contribution towards *reviving the European Community (also*

in terms of quality) and effectively creating a new Europe or, as I have put it elsewhere, 'Europe 2'. I would single out our Opinions on the European Monetary System and its impact on the common agricultural policy, albeit brief and drawn up under the urgency procedure, the Opinion on the economic situation (once again the Workers' Group voted *en bloc* against the Opinion), the Opinion on the cultural sector and the Opinion approving Greek entry into the Community (which was delivered in time for the Commission to take it into account before the conclusion of the negotiations) and the Opinion on the industrial restructuring programme.

Over the last two months work has been in progress on the revision (for the time being in part only) of the Rules of Procedure. Soon, however, the Rules will have to be completely revamped as regards Committee proceedings, priorities, influence of individual members in their capacity as representatives of Groups and economic and social interests, and publicity of proceedings.

Another important aspect which we must continue to keep in view is the impact of our Opinions on Commission proposals and Council decisions.

Lastly, we must review and strengthen our collaboration with the European Parliament, which will find our work and our representativeness invaluable once it is directly elected.

Even in this short period of two months the Committee has strengthened its links with outside institutions and public opinion. Indeed, a constant effort is being made to set up a fruitful dialogue with the Community Institutions and the public at large.

What with the accession of new Member States and relations with the developing countries and the other major world areas, we shall be actively making contacts and encouraging initiatives which are designed to provide us with the data we need in order to understand conditions in areas outside the Community. This is necessary if we are to be able to produce good work.

In a modern democracy, which is pluralistic (not only on the political plane) and characterized by parliamentary sovereignty, the representatives of economic and social interest groups must be seen as *active participants*.

There is a long way to go before this will come about. Sometimes the truth of this axiom is accepted only hesitantly, if at all, but we must not be discouraged. The Economic and Social Committee exists to contribute, by playing its allotted role, towards building a European Community which will progressively grow into a strong cultural, economic and social reality, capable of making its influence felt on the world stage.

Fabrizia Baduel Glorioso  
Chairman



It may well be that in the distant future the year 1978 will have proved itself as a turning point in the history of the European Community. While 1975 and 1976 were the years of the recession and 1977 the year for holding on, the present year can, in Community terms, be described as one generating hope and confidence. This does not mean that the Community's problems are in any way solved or even reduced: unemployment, inflation, structural change in industry, food surpluses, are still with us.

But the determination of the member governments and the ever-growing conviction among the citizens of Europe that these problems must be tackled jointly within the Community gained significant impetus. The evidence is that the most far-reaching decision has been taken: to set up the European monetary system, to create a European currency unit, to set in motion the idea of transferring resources from the strong to the weak. For years, these targets have been set as distant goals: now, we have moved towards making them reality. Despite the hesitations and the bargaining on the safeguards which are bound to continue for some time, a step on the road towards greater European integration has been taken.

The Economic and Social Committee has been making and is making its contribution which is acknowledged. The Committee's place as the fifth institution of the Community, although officially it does not have that rank, is no longer challenged. Indicative of this influence was the composition of the 'Committee of wise men' proposed in the first instance to study the problems the Community will face with the enlargement. It was to consist of the Presidents of the following institutions: Council of Ministers, Commission, European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee. Although this proposal was later abandoned in place of quite a different formula, the role accorded to the Committee remains significant.

This year's annual report of the Committee's activities is a description of how the economic and social groupings in the Member States have contributed to the Community's progress—how they have influenced its legislative procedure. The steady growth of the Committee's influence and volume of work over the years was marked in 1978 by the celebrations of its 20th anniversary in May. It was an apt occasion to recall its more modest beginnings, the early years when it met for a few plenary sessions and produced less than a dozen opinions per year, and compare them to the stage of development the Committee has now reached. It was also a reminder of the important tasks which face the European Communities in the near future. In completing these tasks the Committee has an important role and must make a practical contribution to Community decision-making. Today, these decisions are particularly difficult to make, but they cannot be put off. The six million unemployed—at a time when inflation is still excessively high—is a symptom of the grave crisis with which Europe is stricken. It is clear to all that in order for the economy to gain renewed impetus our starting point must be the introduction of a European currency and the creation of an area of monetary stability within an acceptable social framework. But that is not enough. The policy of structural reform and conversion which are prerequisites for economic recovery requires a broad agreement on objectives and a willingness to pull together. In this endeavour the economic and social forces of Europe will make their weight felt.

Basil de Ferranti,  
outgoing President



## Role and influence of the Economic and Social Committee

### XXth ANNIVERSARY

There were a number of major Committee events in the year under review. One of the highlights was the formal session of 30 May 1978, marking the twentieth anniversary of the Committee's establishment.

The distinguished audience at the formal session included Mr Geens, Belgian Minister of France, and Mr Spitaels, Belgian Minister for Social Affairs, Presidents of the Institutions, members of the Commission, the Heads of the Permanent Representations of the Member States of the Community, Ambassadors from the associated African, Caribbean and Pacific States, Secretaries-General of the European Institutions and the Presidents and the Secretaries-General of the national Economic and Social Councils, as well as the Presidents and Secretaries-General of numerous European and national interest groups.

The speeches were interspersed with a programme of music by Pachelbel, Corette, Vivaldi, von Malder, Elgar and Beethoven provided by the Solistes de Liège and the Choirs of the European Community, directed by Jean Jakus.

Silver and bronze medals were presented to those Committee members who had been in office since 1958, to the former Chairmen, to the former Secretary-General and to staff members with twenty years' service in the Committee.

The opportunity was used to review the Committee's track record and pinpoint its current role.

In a statement, the Committee Chairman, Mr Basil de Ferranti declared that the conviction on which the Committee was founded was that the organized economic and social forces which make up the European Community, the 'constituencies' of the Committee, should be able to press their views through an institution of their own. Political democracy and the freedom that is won through the ballot box was the first bulwark of our European society. But economic and social democracy, in the modern world, was also necessary. We look forward to the further strengthening of this remarkable Assembly.

The 144 members of the Committee, seated here as individuals in their personal capacities, would be lost without the extensive and elaborate support given by the organizations in the Community and in the Member States, he said. Just reading a list of these organizations helps to build up a mental picture of what representation entails in an economic and social democracy. It does not add up to a machine for decision-making. Ours are organizations of people representing many millions of people and reflecting the wide range of their fears and ambitions. Our job as counsellors is to bring people together and establish those personal relationships which is the only way to ensure that there is a two-way flow of communications between you and Brussels.

The President of the Council, Mr S. Auken, said that over the last few years the Community had changed. This was due in part to the broadening of its activities where many new fields opened to it, such as environment, education or energy. On the other hand, current world problems such as inflation or unemployment directly influenced the Community. If the Community had changed, so had the work of the Committee. The Council was making greater use of the optional consultation procedure. This was in itself some sign of the importance which the Council attaches to the Committee's advice and of the value it places on the Committee's Opinions. Another indication of the Council's great appreciation was to be found in the recognition of the Committee's right to issue Opinions on its own initiative. With this provision, which had been used skilfully, the Committee possessed all the instruments needed to play its part as the consultative forum. As to the coming years, it seemed that the Committee would have a very substantial part to play, because of the nature of the challenges now facing the Community as a whole. The Committee, combining as it does, a wide range of skills and interests, was well placed to provide the Community institutions with the advice, encouragement and stimulation which they will need to match up to these problems.

The Commission's representative said that the importance of the Committee had grown steadily since its inauguration in 1958, and especially since the first summit conference of heads of state and government in Paris in October 1972. The Committee's Opinions had often been of great value to the Commission, for instance the annual Opinion on the Social Situation, the importance of which had grown in recent years with the increasing gravity of social issues, which were reaching into other areas of Community policy: in the first place there was the issue of mounting unemployment, particularly among young people, and, secondly the issue of inflation and the consequent increasingly unequal distribution of income and wealth. The Commission looked forward to a continuation of the constructive cooperation of the past.

The Committee's relations with the Parliament are of special importance. The Parliament's representative recalled that unlike those countries in which an Economic and Social Council may give advice to the Parliament, the Committee does not act as an advisory body to the European Parliament. Nonetheless, since their inauguration twenty years ago, both Parliament and the Committee have been prepared to exchange information on their work and links have slowly but steadily been forged between the two institutions. In recent years a pragmatic relationship had been established which took two forms. First, a more balanced distribution of the Committee's documents to members of Parliament had been ensured. Second, evidence was taken from Committee Rapporteurs on certain of its Opinions at the request of the appropriate Committees of the European Parliament.

As to the definition of the relationship between the two institutions, it could be said that Parliament is a forum for the exchange of political views on all issues connected with the activities of the Community. The Committee provided a platform for leaders from the economic and social sphere who are directly interested in the formulation and application of common policies affecting their field of activity. This led to the conclusion that the specialist consultative function of the Committee is complementary to the generalist, supervisory and consultative functions of Parliament.

## REAPPOINTMENT OF THE COMMITTEE

The expiry of the fifth four-year term was another milestone. On 19 September the Council appointed 45 new members and confirmed 99 in office. The inaugural session of the sixth term was held half way through October. Mrs Fabrizia Baduel Glorioso was elected chairman for the next two years. This was the first time that a woman had been given the chair of a Community institution.

In her inaugural address, Mrs Fabrizia Baduel Glorioso said:

'In front of us lie two difficult years. In order to ensure its very survival, the Community is going to have to tackle three issues at the same time:

- (1) the problem of strengthening the Community internally;
- (2) the accession of three new Member States;
- (3) the renewal of the Lomé Convention and, on a more general plane, relations with the Mediterranean and developing countries.

The political decisions which have already been made, but which have to be put into effect in a short space of time are an inheritance which has to be dealt with and put to the man in the street when the European Parliament is elected by direct suffrage in June 1979.

In my view, rather than presenting the electorate with a review of the past, the political parties ought to submit detailed programmes as to how the second-stage Community (Europe 2?) should be made up, with the prime objective of bringing Europe out of the crisis.

These deadlines mean that we are going to have to think about giving our Committee a more active and incisive role. I say *active* because we should continue to debate and express our views on the wide range of topics on which we are consulted or which we take up on our own initiative. But our work must also be *incisive*. Opinions must be delivered quickly; our links with the European Parliament must be strengthened, our links with the Council and our more traditional relations with the Commission must also be improved so as to ensure that due account is taken of our Opinions.

Arrangements for questioning the Commission on specific matters could perhaps prompt the Community Institutions to pay more heed to our Opinions in general and to the contribution which we, as representatives of the European economic and social interest groups, make towards Community decision-making.

The Committee is an important pillar of democracy (as witness the fact that similar bodies exist in almost all the Member States) and of our conception of democracy, and democracy is, after all, a condition for Community membership. The Commission must be a parliamentary, pluralistic democracy. A pluralism which goes beyond the existence of more than one political force, also entails participation of economic and social interest groups'.

## RELATIONS WITH THE INSTITUTIONS

The Committee continued its endeavours to establish even closer links with the Commission and the Council. These two bodies evinced increasing interest in the documents produced by the Committee. There were many signs of this.

For instance, a large number of Commission members attended plenary meetings of the Committee. In chronological order:

- Mr Davignon attended the debate on the Green Paper, i. e. on worker participation and industrial democracy;
- Mr Vredeling attended the debate on the employment situation;
- Mr Jenkins attended the debate on the economic situation, Mr Davignon the debate on product liability and
- Mr Ortolí attended the debate on the European Monetary System.

The Council also devoted attention to the Committee's activities, as witness the presence at Committee plenary sessions of the Danish President-in-Office, Mr Svend Auken, Minister of Labour, and the German President-in-Office, Mr Otto Schlecht, State Secretary at the Ministry of Economic Affairs.

## EXTERNAL RELATIONS

A great deal of work was done in connection with the applications for Community membership. Several studies were compiled, and a number of visits were made. In March the Chairman went to Spain and set up contacts with organizations representing local economic and social interests, and with members of the Spanish government—including the Minister responsible for negotiations with the Community, and the Ministers for Agriculture, Trade, Industry and Labour.

The Study Group set up to consider Spanish entry went to Madrid in June. It met representatives of Spanish employers' and union organizations, and the Minister responsible for negotiations with the Community.

In June, Mr Louet, Director-General, read a paper to a symposium on the European Communities held at the Diplomatic School in Madrid. He also met representatives of the government, including the Minister of Labour.

The problems of Greek entry were also dealt with. A special Study Group of the Section for External Relations paid a fact-finding visit to Greece from 17 to 24 March 1978.

In Salonika, the Study Group met the Minister for Northern Greece. In Athens it met the *Minister in charge of relations with the European Communities*, the Minister of Labour, the Minister for Agriculture and top civil servants from other ministries. The Study Group also had meetings with representatives of the employers', trade union and agricultural organizations.

Following a request from the Chairman of the EEC-Greece Joint Parliamentary Committee, a *delegation from the Committee* met a delegation of Greek employers' and workers' representatives in Thessalonica.

The Greek delegation included the Chairmen of the Greek General Confederation of Labour and the *Panhellenic Confederation of Agricultural Cooperative Unions*, the Vice-Chairman of the Federation of Greek Industries and the Chairman of the *Greek Confederation of Smaller Businesses and Master Craftsmen*.

On 27 June, the Committee was represented at the Athens ceremony at which a Greek Economic and Social Policy Council was officially set up in the presence of the Greek Prime Minister, several representatives of the Community and other public figures. The Council, which is a body similar to the Committee, is composed of 50 members (13 representatives of workers, 13 representatives of the farming community, 19 representatives of employers and representatives of the professions, and 5 experts). Its Chairman is the Minister for Coordination. The Council has a purely consultative function and its job is (a) to examine social and economic problems submitted to it by the Government, (b) to make recommendations and (c) to deliver Opinions.

The Committee sent a message which was read out at the beginning of the meeting by the Minister for Coordination.

On the eve of renewal of the Lomé Convention, the centre of attention shifted to Africa. The Committee's Chairman made an official visit to Kenya and Zambia from 6 to 15 February 1978. In Kenya he had talks with the Ministers of Finance, Commerce and Industry and Labour. In Zambia he was received by President Kaunda and met the Minister of Economic and Technical Cooperation, who is also Chairman of the ACP Council of Ministers. Meetings also took place in both countries with representatives of business, professional and trade union organizations, and the Chairman visited a number of development projects being carried out with the help of loans from the Community.

In February a Committee delegation made a fact-finding trip to Mali and Togo. The delegation was headed by the Chairman of the Committee's Section for External Relations. It met high-ranking government personalities and representatives of economic and social interest groups in the two countries.

The delegation visited a number of industrial, agricultural and port projects receiving financial and technical assistance from the Community. It was received by the President of the Republic of Togo.

The delegation then went to Ghana and Cameroon. In Accra, it was welcomed by the Commissioner for Economic Planning and had talks with leading figures from the trade union confederation, the national chamber of trade, the employers'

association, the association of consumer cooperatives and the association of Ghanaian industrialists. Discussion centred around the economic and social situation in Ghana and the implementation of the Lomé Convention. During their stay in Accra, members of the delegation met the Secretary-General of OUSA (Organisation de l'Unité Syndicale Africaine).

In Douala, the delegation met representatives of the chamber of trade. In Yaoundé, it took part in searching discussions with a delegation from the Cameroon Economic and Social Council, the Prime Minister, the Minister for Social Affairs, and the Deputy Minister for the National Plan and Economic Affairs. In addition, a working meeting was held at the Yaoundé Chamber of Agriculture.

The contacts which the delegation had with the authorities and representatives of socio-economic circles gave it a useful insight into the impact of EEC/ACP cooperation on economic and social development in the four countries visited, and into the changes and suggestions which they would like to see adopted in the new Lomé Convention.

Needless to say, the Community Member States were not overlooked either. In keeping with established practice, the Committee Chairman paid a number of official visits to the Member States. In connection with a study on regional problems in Ireland the Chairman had talks with the Government Ministers, and employers, trade unionists and consumer organizations.

The Chairman was received by the Irish Head of State and the Minister of Foreign Affairs. In the course of a visit to the Derry/Donegal Border area, the Section for Regional Development held a meeting in Derry City to finalize its recommendations on cross-border communications in the area.

The Section for Protection of the Environment held a meeting in Sardinia to finalize its Opinions on atmospheric pollutants and micropollutants in water.

Study Group meetings were held in Reims, Copenhagen, Frankfurt and Glasgow.

## LINKS WITH NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCILS

Over the years the Committee has established useful, close contacts with its counterparts in the Member States. The Committee's twentieth anniversary celebrations provided the Presidents and Secretaries-General of the Economic and Social Councils in the Member States with the opportunity to meet together in Brussels on 31 May. The meeting was arranged by the ESC Chairman.

The meeting was informal and was largely given over to discussing the specific role played by each Council in the national context.

This first meeting illustrated the value of regular meetings between leading officials of the various Councils so that all concerned could keep more up to date with the development of economic and social consultation at national level. In those Member States where consultation is on an official footing, reforms are being carried out. Member States which have no body similar to the ESC have



discussed the possibility of establishing one and trade and professional interest groups have even made proposals to this effect.

Although the Economic and Social Councils operate basically at national level, their work, by its very nature, often impinges upon the Community and international spheres.

This has led to the formation of pragmatic links between the Committee and some national Councils. These have involved reciprocal hearings of Rapporteurs and joint Bureau meetings.

All the leading figures present at the first meeting, which was also attended by representatives from those Member States which have not yet set up an Economic and Social Council, welcomed the initiative taken and expressed the hope that it was the first of many regular meetings to exchange information on trends in the various Member States.

The Committee's role *vis-a-vis* a directly-elected European Parliament was also discussed.

The following bodies were represented at the meeting:

- (i) the Belgian Central Council for the Economy;
- (ii) the Belgian National Labour Council;
- (iii) the French Economic and Social Council;
- (iv) the National Economic and Social Council of Ireland;
- (v) the Italian National Council for Economy and Labour;
- (vi) the Luxembourg Economic and Social Council;
- (vii) the Dutch Social and Economic Council;
- (viii) the National Economic Development Council (UK).

Shortly before this meeting, the Committee hosted a joint meeting between the Bureau of the French Economic and Social Council and an ESC delegation. In March the President of the Italian National Council for Economy and Labour (CNEL) also visited the Committee.

## INTERNAL ORGANIZATION

In July, the Secretary-General, Mr Delfini, retired after 18 years' service with the Committee. At a reception to mark the event, the Committee Chairman paid tribute to Mr Delfini's efforts to enhance the Committee's status and his efficiency and competence in directing the Secretariat. M. Delfini was succeeded on 22 December 1978 by Mr Roger Louet, who had been Director-General since 1 September 1973.

## CONCLUSION

The Committee had an extremely heavy workload in 1978. At its 10 Plenary Sessions the Committee adopted a total of 121 Opinions and Studies, including 17 which it had decided to produce on its own initiative. Further details are given in the next Chapter.



## Work of the Committee

### 1. AGRICULTURAL POLICY

During 1978 the Commission produced a number of proposals and other documents that were used by the Committee as a base for an Opinion on the development of the Community's Mediterranean regions and their agricultural problems.

The Committee began by noting that no comprehensive analysis had been made of the economic and social situation in the Community's Mediterranean regions in support of the Commission's proposed Mediterranean policy. Such an oversight was all the more regrettable because it made it impossible to deal properly with the problems connected with Community enlargement. Although the Committee welcomed the Commission's first round of proposals, which were concerned solely with agriculture, it felt that they were not enough to correct the imbalances in the *Mediterranean regions and put farmers in a confident frame of mind* about enlargement; the agricultural measures had to be supplemented rapidly by an overall programme covering all economic sectors.

The various visits by Committee delegations to Greece, Spain and Portugal gave a good idea of the diversity and scale of the agricultural problems facing both the applicant countries and the Community, particularly the latter's Mediterranean regions. They also brought out the need for an overall approach to these problems.

In its Opinion the Committee particularly stressed:

- The need for sustained, in-depth measures—which might entail very gradual changes—to secure improvements in the standard of living and adjustments in the administrative set-up of the applicant countries;
- The importance of agricultural restructuring and reconversion measures. The Committee felt that the success, and indeed the feasibility, of these was contingent on back-up measures being taken to promote general economic growth in the Mediterranean regions. Such measures had to make use of the various instruments available to the Community, namely the ERDF, the EIB, the Social Fund and the EAGGF;

- The importance of organizing common markets. As well as discipline and organization on the part of the farmers themselves, this would require the setting-up of appropriate national, regional and local links in the numerous areas where they were lacking;
- The need to compile a comprehensive list of all the problems facing the Mediterranean regions of the Member States and the applicant countries and determine the cost of possible remedies. Such action was the most appropriate step to take at the moment. There was a particularly urgent need for a detailed study of the present and potential levels of output and consumption of the main products involved, especially olive oil, wine, citrus fruits and other fruit and vegetables.

The Committee concluded by stating that it was convinced that piecemeal measures would only shift the problems elsewhere. It believed that a major economic and social programme was required to restore a balance throughout the Community and make any future enlargement a success.

The Commission's proposal to raise farm prices by an average of only 2% or so for the 1978/79 marketing year was not entirely accepted by the Committee. Such a small increase, which came on top of one of 3% adopted by the Council the year before, had received particularly strong support from the consumers' group. But after some fairly animated discussions the Committee finally decided by a small majority to recommend an average increase of 4.2%, which was considered to be the lowest figure obtainable by using the 'objective method'. The Committee had expressed its support for the method on several occasions in the past and it did not feel that there was any justification for diverging from the method's findings to such an extent.

The Committee also made a number of comments on the situation on the various markets and on the Commission's price proposals for individual products. It encouraged the Commission to continue its efforts to do away with the monetary compensatory amounts as soon as possible.

During the year the Commission submitted proposals aimed at amending three Directives on restructuring agriculture, and the Committee took the opportunity to comment on farm restructuring policy generally. The Committee felt that the changes proposed by the Commission were too weak and took insufficient account of economic and social developments in the Community over the past five years. This was particularly regrettable because restructuring policy was a vital component in determining living and working conditions, particularly those of farmers, in the poorer regions of the Community. Policy should be directed towards encouraging farms that could be viable, and account should be taken of the income needs of farmers who had no possibilities of developing their farms or of finding sources of income outside agriculture, and who therefore could not work on their farms full-time. Such cases could have been covered in the development plan envisaged by the Commission. The Committee concluded by saying that much more money should be set aside for European structural policy, which so far had not had the funds needed to take proper action against the problems in the Community.

The problems of the sea fishing industry were often in the news throughout the Community and the Economic and Social Committee, like the other institutions of the Community, had to deal with various Commission proposals designed to alleviate any difficulties arising from the general adoption of 200-mile fishing zones.

The Committee generally supported the Commission, particularly the proposals to set up a rational system of managing fish stocks and reduce fishery activities to an acceptable level. It felt that quotas for the main breeds of fish were unavoidable and were in both the fishermen's and the consumers' interest. There was an obligation to conserve, and as far as possible re-build, the Community's fisheries potential. Such measures would mean a big cutback in the Community's fishing activities, and the impact of this on jobs did not leave the Committee indifferent. The Committee called for stronger measures to help workers forced out of a job and emphasized on several occasions how regrettable it was that, for basically political reasons, the Council of Ministers had not taken the steps that were urgently needed in both the deep-sea and inshore fishing industries at the proper time.

*In December 1977 the Commission submitted a proposal to formally legalize the United Kingdom Milk Marketing Boards. This subject aroused great interest in the Committee. The Committee pointed out that UK consumption levels of milk and dairy products were being attained in the other Member States too, and recognized the effectiveness of the Milk Marketing Boards in boosting milk production and consumption. Such a distribution system should not be called into question. But the Committee felt that the Commission's proposals in the form in which they were presented were unacceptable because they left unanswered a host of serious questions, particularly ones concerning Community competition law. The Committee called upon the Commission to review its proposals, suggesting that it simply bring the Milk Marketing Boards into line with Community law and remove any possibilities of milk and dairy products being prevented from circulating freely in the Community.*

The decision taken by the Council on 20 June 1978 to a certain extent allayed the main concerns expressed by the Committee.

On several occasions in the past the Committee has been moved to comment on the lack of a real common forestry policy and during the year it brought out an Opinion on the future of forestry in the Community. Although forests are not among the products listed in Annex II to the Treaty, the Committee did not feel that the legal problems that this implied were such as to prevent a common forestry policy from being worked out and put into effect. The Committee called upon Community and national authorities to recognize the importance of the role that forestry could play in Community agriculture and the EEC economy and pointed out that apart from a few isolated measures, such as a proposal on planting trees in the Community's dry Mediterranean zones, no overall EEC measure had been contemplated to date.

Among the measures proposed by the Committee with a view to developing forestry in the Community were:

- a substantial strengthening of the laws governing the protection of forests and individual trees;

- a guaranteed, reasonable income for farmers who agree to take up forestry;
- information for owners of private forests to help them make better use of their properties; and
- measures to promote research and disseminate knowledge.

In addition to this, any forestry policy to be worked out should consider the state of forest-based industries and rapidly establish a foundation for cooperation with wood-producing countries outside the EEC. Provision should be made for a common fund so that the necessary work could be carried out, and the resultant policy should cover all the regions of the Community.

Until such time as a common forestry policy as envisaged by the Committee was implemented, the Commission should give the Member States some idea of what basic guidelines were to be followed by national forestry policies. This could be done by issuing a recommendation, for instance.

The Commission's amended proposal for organizing a common alcohol market touched off some very heated debates within the Committee, but in spite of the number of different views expressed the final Opinion was adopted by quite a large majority (62 votes to 31, with 9 abstentions). The Committee endorsed the principle of an organized common alcohol market, arguing that the absence of a Community set of rules would inevitably plunge the alcohol market into a state of anarchy which would be highly disadvantageous to producers of agricultural and synthetic alcohol, to industrial users of alcohol and ultimately to consumers. But care should be taken to ensure that a policy based on recognized agricultural imperatives should be as compatible as possible with the requirements of the industrial sector and with the interests of consumers. The Committee felt that the new proposal fulfilled this twofold requirement more than the first proposal, which came out in March 1972, but it still proposed a number of changes, the most important of which can be summed up as follows.

As far as molasses alcohol was concerned, the Committee was not convinced that the measures proposed by the Commission were in keeping with the actual market situation, where steps were needed both to prevent molasses alcohol from being ousted from the market and to prevent it from swamping the market. Instead of the target price for molasses alcohol being tied to that of synthetic alcohol the Committee thought that it should be based on the target price for other agricultural products, particularly cereals. The Committee was not in favour of all molasses alcohol coming under the system of target and guaranteed quantities but in view of the demand for alcohol in what the Commission has designated 'reserved sectors' a guaranteed quantity, as yet undetermined, could be reserved for molasses alcohol made from Community-produced molasses. But even if improvements were made producers of molasses alcohol would find themselves in a situation where certain sacrifices would have to be made. These sacrifices should be shared by other types of alcohol whose raw materials were in a position comparable to that of molasses.

As far as the 'reserved sectors' were concerned, the Committee did not think that the extension proposed by the Commission was justified. It was dead against a ban on the use of cheaper alternatives when these were chemically

indistinguishable and of the same quality and were clearly labelled. The Committee also found it unacceptable that certain sectors should be reserved for alcohol of agricultural origin simply to ensure a market for agricultural products, *without consumers' interests being protected.*

The Committee's view on this point differed markedly from the Opinion of the Section for Agriculture. It had been pushed through by a very small majority after consumer pressure.

The Committee had serious reservations about the intervention contribution formula recommended by the Commission. It wondered why an organized alcohol market should be self-financing, unlike most other organized markets, and, moreover, by means of a levy that basically affected products not included in Annex II to the EEC Treaty. The overall financial responsibility for the alcohol market should be borne collectively by the Community, and so the market should be financed through the EAGGF.

Turning to taxation, the Committee first of all pointed out that taxes already placed a heavy burden on alcohol of agricultural origin in the Member States. By their very nature, alcohol and products containing alcohol were a field in which there was a wholesome distortion of competition between one country and another and between one product and another. If such a situation continued, this would definitely make it more difficult to manage the Community alcohol market smoothly. If, therefore, one was not to doom to failure any form of organized alcohol market whatsoever, it was essential to align taxes on alcoholic drinks, so that there might be a balance.

The Committee also analysed the problems posed by the possible accession of Greece, Spain and Portugal, all of whom produce large quantities of alcohol much more cheaply than the present EEC countries. The Committee felt that before these countries joined it was vital for the rules governing a Community alcohol market to be clearly laid down, if only to allow the applicant countries to know exactly where they stood and what adjustments they would need to make.

The Committee felt that whatever steps were taken the Council had to make political choices and lay down priorities. It was essential for the Member States to show without delay that they really intended to reach a compromise, which would of course be the foundation of any Community policy concerning the alcohol market.

Commission proposals concerning the wine sector abounded in the period covered by this report. The Committee scrutinized these proposals carefully, especially those concerned with balance on the wine market, which the Commission made in the variety of proposals concerning the Community's Mediterranean agricultural areas and in the Action Programme 1979—1985 for the *Progressive Establishment of Balance on the Market in Wine.*

The Committee's view is that, if the wine market is to be made more evenly balanced in the short term, concrete action must be taken on two fronts:

(a) On the production side

- measures to remove the imbalance between supply and demand must be encouraged;
- there must be a system of permanent and automatic intervention, which caters for consumer needs and provides a price level for table wines of recognized quality that is sufficiently high to ensure that the producers enjoy a degree of protection comparable to that of producers of other major Community agricultural products;

(b) On the consumption side

- indirect taxes and duties must be reduced and aligned throughout the EEC.

The introduction of a permanent intervention system capable of supporting market prices at an adequate level would obviate the need for a minimum price. Indeed the machinery recommended by the Committee would avert the sort of serious crisis that has prompted the Commission's proposal to introduce a minimum price. In any event, the Committee considers that more details should be provided about the preliminary intervention measures having to be taken before any minimum price is applied. Having said this, the Committee does not reject the possibility of eventually falling back on a minimum price system, although it stresses that for such a system to be efficient the following principles should be followed:

- (i) a crisis situation should be defined as one where the market price is less than 90% of the guide price;
- (ii) distillation should be begun when the market price is 90% of the guide price;
- (iii) long-term storage contracts guaranteeing payment during the period of crisis should be taken out.

On the subject of concentrated musts and rectified concentrated musts, the Committee emphasizes the benefits of permanent encouragement for the use of concentrated musts to enrich wines, since such a process has the advantage of using vine-based products and thus helping the general balance of the wine market.

It also feels that the aid for must use should be supplemented by permanent machinery to encourage the long-term stockpiling of concentrated musts. Such machinery would be independent of that for stockpiling wine. A scheme of this kind would ensure that right from the beginning of each marketing year there would be an adequate stock of prepared products ready for use.

## 2. TRANSPORT POLICY

After a rather long period of inactivity, the question of a common transport policy came to the forefront once again at the meeting of the Council just before the beginning of the year (20 and 21 December 1977). Attention continued to be given to this subject throughout the year, by both the Commission (initiatory work) and the Council (decision-making).



In the period under review there were two meetings of the Council of Transport Ministers (12 June and 23 November). At the meetings a further series of important decisions were taken. The Committee was involved to a considerable extent in the preparatory work leading up to these decisions.

Mention should also be made of the meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers on 2 May and the meeting of the Council of Environment Ministers on 30 May. Transport issues, such as safety in international shipping and the *Amoco Cadiz* incident, were discussed at these meetings and solutions were put forward. Once again the Committee was involved in the preparatory work leading up to the decisions taken at the Council meetings.

For a long time now the range of subjects dealt with has extended far beyond the more usual forms of transport (road, rail and inland waterway) covered by Article 75 of the EEC Treaty. Air transport and, in particular, sea transport (Article 84 of the EEC Treaty) occupied a considerable amount of the time of the Committee and the Council.

In this respect particular attention should be drawn to the growing interest of the Community bodies in maritime transport policy. This can be put down to the increasing international involvement of the Community and the necessities imposed upon the Community from outside.

A growing share of international shipping business is going to non-EEC countries. This represents an economic threat of increasingly serious proportions, which has inevitably led to problems in the field of maritime safety (such as the *Amoco Cadiz* incident), standards on ships, and relations with non-EEC shipping countries, the IMCO and the UN (UN Liner Code).

In these fields, too, the Committee was a prime mover in initiating Community action during the period under review.

Mention should be made in this respect of the Committee's Opinions on the following subjects: the UN Liner Code, UN Resolution No 212, the activities of non-EEC countries in liner shipping (which led to Council Decision No 78/774/EEC of 19 September), and, in particular, maritime safety (which dealt, *inter alia*, with the *Amoco Cadiz* incident), and the demands made by the Committee with regard to this latter subject. Measures proposed by the Committee in these fields were either adapted or taken into consideration by the Community's decision-making bodies.

Much of the Committee's work in the shipping field was concerned with flags of convenience, flag-discrimination in international shipping and the emergence of third countries in the field of shipping. The Committee has drawn up a comprehensive study on these subjects which is very near completion upon which it will be forwarded directly to the Commission and the Council. In the field of shipping, as in other fields, the Committee is entering into wide-ranging contact with the European Parliament which will in future make greater use of help from the Committee, as a body of experts and advisors, before issuing Opinions of a political nature.

During the period under review twenty Opinions on transport matters were drawn up by the Committee and prepared by the Section for Transport and Communications.

Twelve of these were mandatory consultations (Article 75 of the EEC Treaty, seven were, in the Council's view, optional consultations (being based on Article 84 (2) of the EEC Treaty), and one of the Opinions was drawn up on the Committee's own initiative. Four of these Opinions were still in preparation on 31 December.

The most important of these Opinions were those dealing with:

- (i) maritime safety;
- (ii) combined road/rail transport;
- (iii) Community quotas for road transport.

In all of the fields dealt with by the Section for Transport and Communications, including East-West transport—on the subject of which the Committee submitted a comprehensive study at the end of 1977—the Committee was able to exert an influence on the work of the Council and the Commission and make them aware of the standpoints of the interest groups represented at the Committee. The Council did not, however, always follow the proposals made in the Committee's Opinions in all respects, as demonstrated by the action taken on the question of quotas. Both the Commission and the Committee called for a 20% increase but the Council followed a minority proposal expressed by the Committee and decided upon a 10% increase.

### 3. SOCIAL POLICY

In its annual Opinion on the social situation in the Community the Committee drew particular attention to the persistence of adverse trends in employment and called for a proper analysis of their causes. Some of the trends noted, the Committee said, were a threat to the pluralistic and democratic societies that made up the Community. A proper investigation into their causes would make it easier to determine the remedies needed and take appropriate and timely action to prevent the gaps between social groups from widening and advance the upward alignment of social conditions.

After stressing the lack of coordination of national economic and social policies and the lack of political will in the Member States, the Committee mentioned cases where moves had been made, not only in the social sector but also in such areas as economic and monetary policy, industrial policy, regional policy, agricultural policy and external relations. However, very often the only action taken had been simply to issue a declaration and any measures adopted had not always been in keeping with the gravity of the situation.

The Committee emphasized the need for a Community approach to measures to help jobs and investments and called for a closer correlation between employment objectives and financial aid for companies, plan for industrial restructuring, reconversion and development, programmes for forestry, agriculture and food production and the growth of the service industries.

The Committee also said that the Community's social policy instruments should be better coordinated and mentioned various measures that might improve the situation on the labour market.

The Committee examined the Community's action programme concerning such matters as hygiene, safety at work, workers' health and job up-grading. In its view, special priority should be given to providing greater protection for workers. The *main objective was to provide more humane working conditions for production-line workers*. This would have very real benefits for society as a whole.

But the real headache was the increase in unemployment. The European Social Fund should be used to support vocational training programmes for unemployed young people and encourage employers to hire young people for newly-created jobs.

While it supported the Commission's planned short-term measures, the Committee was convinced that the real answer was to mount a long-term attack on the root causes of youth unemployment by encouraging proper training and vocational guidance.

The Committee also issued an Opinion on part-time work. It stated that basically part-time work should not be considered as an alternative to a policy of creating more jobs but as a means of responding to the aspirations and needs of certain sections of the community.

Another Committee Opinion dealt with illegal immigrants and undeclared jobs. The Commission's draft directive had been substantially amended following the Committee's first Opinion on the matter, especially the passages on safeguarding the rights of illegal immigrant workers, employers' obligations, collaboration between the various economic and social groups involved and the provision of information in the labour-exporting countries.

The Committee approved the extension of Community social security schemes for wage-earners to cover self-employed migrants and recommended that all the texts on social security for migrant workers be codified. The Committee also made various comments and the Commission subsequently amended its proposals to meet most of the Committee's requirements.

The Committee also endorsed the proposal on Community arrangements to improve workers' protection in the event of their employer becoming insolvent. The Committee pointed out that better financial protection was in the interest not only of the workers concerned but of their firms and the economy in general.

The Committee Opinion on Community action in the cultural sector broadly endorsed the bulk of the Commission proposals which were chiefly concerned to solve the economic and social problems in this area.

Finally the Committee drafted an Opinion on frontier workers. The Opinion dealt with various aspects of the situation and associated problems, concentrating on employment, social security, taxation and exchange rates. Various measures were proposed to assist frontier workers. This Opinion will be formally adopted at the January 1979 Plenary Session.

#### 4. ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL POLICY

The Community's economic situation, the new Community loans (the Ortolí instrument), a Community approach to the international monetary disorder, the European monetary system itself, and various tax harmonization proposals were the subject of Committee Opinions and an Information Report in 1978.

When the downward movement in the value of the United States dollar worsened yet further, in December 1977, the Committee embarked on an own-initiative Opinion on what the Community should be doing to minimize the harmful effects within the Community of the present international monetary disorder, as manifested in the wide exchange rate fluctuations between Member States' currencies. At the same time, the President of the Commission, Mr Jenkins, had addressed the Committee on the subject of the Commission's renewed efforts to re-launch the Community on the road towards Monetary Union. He had urged the Committee to assist the Commission in elaborating in more detail what in today's very different circumstances—as compared to the beginning of this decade—would be the conditions and wants of an accelerated move to economic and monetary union.

The Committee considered its Opinion on the Monetary Disorder to be a first endeavour in this direction.

The Committee proposed that the resources, authority and area of responsibility of the European Monetary Cooperation Fund be increased, enabling it to become a kind of IMF at European level. It went on to suggest in the same Opinion that within the Community the alignment and coordination of economic policies become a reality, and that the decision-making procedures of the Community's Institutions (Monetary Committee, Committee of Central Bank Governors, etc.) be sharpened. It pressed for the European Unit of Account (EUA) to be used increasingly for intra-Community transactions. This Opinion was given a wide distribution amongst ministers and bankers, and the Committee received many favourable reactions to it.

At the end of November, on the eve of the European Council meeting of 4 and 5 December, which had been convened in particular to make important decisions concerning the European Monetary System, the Committee gave its Opinion on a draft enabling regulation in connection with the establishment of EMS. In its Opinion the Committee approved the setting up of a European Monetary System aimed at bringing about greater monetary stability and solidarity in the Community and at world level. The way in which such a system is organized and operates should be sufficiently flexible as to enable realistic exchange rates to be established and maintained, such rates to reflect the balance in economic relations between the participating countries.

It considered that it should give a further Opinion, covering every aspect of the European Monetary System's operation and the rules relating thereto in order, among other things, to assess the scheme's effects on the different economic and social policies of the Community, particularly the common agricultural policy. This should be done as soon as new information is forthcoming from the Commission.

Furthermore, the Committee endorsed the Commission's Proposal for a Regulation on the impact of the EMS on the common agricultural policy, which ensured that when the system came into operation, farm prices in the Member States remained unchanged in money terms. In enabling monetary compensatory amounts to be gradually phased out, the currency stability which the system promises, should improve the prospects of a return to greater EEC unity in the agricultural sector.

On the equally topical subject of the Ortolì instrument (Community borrowing and loans to promote investment), the Committee declared itself to be totally behind the Commission's proposals in general, but—like the European Parliament—the Committee took issue with the Commission regarding the relative roles of the Commission and the European Investment Bank in making the final decision on the granting of a loan. It considered that the political assessment of the loan operation as such should be up to the Commission, and that giving a mandate to the EIB, as proposed, threatened to divert the new financing instrument from its purpose. Subject to this reservation, the Committee supported the Commission's proposal, in the belief that investment projects will be facilitated which reflect the Community's priority structural objectives, and which would not, without such a facility, get off the ground.

The Committee gave two major Opinions on the economic situation in the Community in 1978. Following a now established practice, the mid-year Report and Opinion to the Council was given some months after its regular Opinion on the Commission's 1977 Annual Report. They were timed to precede by a few weeks the Commission's draft proposals on Member States' public budgets for the following year. The Committee gave its regular Opinion on the Commission's annual report on the economic situation in the Community, in November.

In 1978, as an innovation, the Committee decided to include in its Opinion and Report the findings of a Study of the economic situation in a particular country—Denmark—in mid-year, and the Federal Republic of Germany in the autumn. This was due to the increasing realization in the Committee that Community-level economic strategy and short-term guidelines, cannot be formulated without taking into account the economic and social issues facing each of the national authorities in the Member States.

Concentrating much of its mid-year economic situation Opinion on the continuing high levels of unemployment in the Community, the Committee held that labour market policies are needed since, in the short term, investment and other expansionary measures will not absorb existing levels of unemployment. It emphasized the urgency of expanding training schemes—especially in order to improve labour mobility. Work-sharing measures were considered to have an important role to play in alleviating grave unemployment problems, but such measures must be forward-looking. The Committee concluded that there is scope for further action to stimulate demand—and thus create employment—without jeopardizing the achievement of targets for the reduction of inflation.

In its November Opinion on the Commission's Annual Report on the Economic Situation in the Community, the Committee laid great emphasis on economic growth. It found the Annual Report lacking in positive guidelines that would

necessarily lead to increased growth, the Report concentrating more on the general advantages to be derived from EMS and concerted action in the field of economic policies.

The Committee was sceptical of the possibility of the Community's achieving in the foreseeable future growth figures recorded in the 1960s. The implications of this on the labour market must therefore be faced up to. It held that growth must come not only from short-term fiscal stimuli, but by a package including the introduction of EMS and measures of a restructuring nature. Growth policies were thought by the Committee to have been less than successful because foreign demand has fallen off in recent years. The Commission should put forward policies that will help resolve deficit—developing countries' debts, these imbalances having an adverse effect on world trade. A selective attitude towards growth was called for, taking into account factors such as employment, energy, the environment and the position of developing countries.

On fiscal harmonization the Committee's Opinions generally approved the Commission's proposals for a 7th and 8th VAT Directive, harmonizing respectively VAT on works of art, collectors' items, antiques and used goods, and the procedures for refunding VAT payments to taxable persons not established in the territory of the country.

During the course of the year, the Committee concluded a wide-ranging Information Report, prepared essentially for the future use of its own Members, on the subject of Fiscal Harmonization in the Community.

## 5. REGIONAL POLICY

In recent years interest in structural problems has grown apace despite the fact that the regional aspects of the economic and social situation have to some extent taken a back seat to pressing national issues such as the inflation and unemployment generated by economic stagnation. It is also becoming increasingly obvious that industry, agriculture and the regional economies need radical structural reform, both geographical and sectoral, if we are to achieve economic growth and a fairer regional, national and international share-out of resources and product on.

The Commission's draft Guidelines for a Community Regional Policy were submitted in 1977 and, the same year in anticipation of a new Fund Regulation, the Committee warmly endorsed the Commission's proposals and the steps it had taken (c.f. 1977 Annual Report). The Committee therefore became increasingly anxious when it saw in early 1978 that the Council was dragging its feet. In an effort to speed things up, the Committee issued an Opinion in February urging the Council to strengthen the common regional policy and the European Regional Fund, particularly the non-quota section.

The Committee's previous work on regional issues was mainly concerned with the common regional policy and the associated financial, legal and administrative machinery. This year the Committee broke new ground in issuing an Opinion on

the *Cross-Border Communications Study of the Derry/Donnegal area in North-Western Ireland*. The Study had been commissioned by the London and Dublin Governments with the financial support of the EC Commission. This was the first time that the Committee had turned its attention to economic and social conditions in a specific, underdeveloped Community region.

The Committee was chiefly concerned to provide a Community-level platform for local authorities and economic and social interest groups in the Study area. Committee members and officials made a number of fact-finding trips during the preliminary stages and succeeded in establishing an intensive dialogue with the *local authorities and the British and Irish Governments*.

The Committee observed that, as regards employment, living standards and industrial investment, Derry/Donnegal was near the bottom of the Community league—thanks in part to the area's geographical and economic remoteness, its *location astride the Irish Border and the chronic civil disorder in Northern Ireland*.

The Committee urged the British and Irish Administrations to push ahead with the structural improvements recommended in the Study they had commissioned. The Community was duty bound to contribute to the economic and social expansion of this *Cinderella area of the EEC* which had a cast-iron case for aid from the quota and non-quota resources of the Regional Fund.

## 6. INDUSTRIAL POLICY

In the absence of a Community masterplan for industrial policy, the Committee has continued to examine proposals submitted by the Commission in those sectors which are the most sensitive from the current and longterm economic viewpoint. The Committee has given its Opinion on the 'Proposal for a Council Directive on Community aid to shipbuilding' and on a 'Communication from the Commission to the Council on the re-organization of the Community shipbuilding industry'. In this last Opinion, the Committee stated that:

- (i) the Community should aim at maintaining a production capacity in keeping with the volume of seaborne trade;
- (ii) Community policy should encourage the production of high-technology vessels;
- (iii) the problem of vessels which do not comply with international safety standards should be dealt with vigorously and effectively.

In this connection the Committee approved a draft Regulation proposing that a framework be created to facilitate the restructuring and conversion of sectors in difficulty. This was in line with the stand taken repeatedly by the Economic and Social Committee, for example in the previously mentioned Opinion on the Reorganization of the Community Shipbuilding Industry—one of the first sectors to which the new mechanism would apply.

Since this Regulation was likely to be more and more widely applicable in the future, the Committee considered that special attention would have to be paid to

the danger of creating or aggravating distortions in competition between Community firms. In the Committee's view priority should be given to proper harmonization of national and Community aid. This should not, however, force all the Member States to set up their own aid schemes, nor tie Community aid too closely to the possibility of equivalent national aid.

Account should also be taken of the great differences between the various sectors or between different firms and the aid provided would have to take account of both general social requirements and the need to maintain the competitiveness of Community industry.

The Committee approved the Regulation in that it gave the Commission, helped by a Consultative Committee, a high degree of autonomy in considering applications and defining the procedure for granting financial aid. The Committee was aware, however, that it was the Council which decided which sectors were to be helped. The Committee also said that it would like to see the Commission seek the views of the employers and workers concerned on all the aid measures.

Whilst accepting that the main aim of the draft Regulation was to assist restructuring operations, the Committee considered that there was a need to facilitate conversion by the creation of new types of activity in all sectors, including the tertiary. The Committee was also pleased that the draft Regulation gave priority to aid for small and medium-sized enterprises.

The Committee finally noted that the credits for promoting restructuring and conversion operations (20 million EUA for the current year) were relatively small and appropriations should be increased in the light of the initial results.

1978 also saw the completion of the Committee's work on the proposal for a Directive on liability for defective products. This work was begun in November 1976 and gave rise to major problems, with the initial Opinion drafted by the Section for Industry even being rejected by the Plenary Session. The Committee's Opinion represents a happy compromise between the various conflicting viewpoints which were expressed concerning such points as the very principle of no-fault liability, the risks connected with scientific and technological development, the definition of a defective product, the concept of damage, the ceiling for compensation and the period of limitation and the liability period.

In its Opinion, the Committee stressed that a Directive in this area should:

- (a) enable effective and faster legal actions to be brought;
- (b) distribute in the least burdensome and most equitable manner the cost of damage caused to the users of defective products and the expense of ensuring the distribution of the cost of any damages;
- (c) eliminate or at least reduce the number of defective products on the market, without hampering the marketing of safe products;
- (d) not entail or maintain any distortions of competition between companies;
- (e) be continually adjusted to, in both national and international law, on liability for defective products.



Given the fact that the damage incurred by the user of a defective product could have been incurred by any other user of the product and that the system of no-fault liability is based on the principle of incorporating compensation costs in the selling price, the Committee unanimously approved the principle of no-fault liability on which the Directive is based. The Committee's approval of this principle is particularly important in view of the differences between the various Member States in this area.

But the Committee was unable to reach an agreement as regards certain important details of implementing the principle of no-fault liability, such as whether the risks connected with scientific and technological development should be covered by the Directive, as the Commission believes, or not.

Some Members believed that if these points were included, they might hamper innovations and thus handicap Community industry on the world market. Moreover, the cost of covering such an unpredictable risk could be rather high. But other Members felt that giving adequate protection to consumers and the evolution towards no-fault liability imply that such risks should be covered by the Directive, particularly as they could be insured against.

The Committee was also unable to reach a unanimous position with regard to the principle and level of the ceiling for compensation and the related distribution problems. Some Members supported the Commission's proposal of laying down a ceiling for compensation. They recommended setting a limit of 200 000 ECU for each case of death or physical injury as well as an overall limit as laid down in the Directive. In addition, an overall ceiling like the one laid down in the proposed Directive would enable victims in normal cases to be completely compensated.

Other Members felt that limiting the liability of the manufacturer would leave the victims of disasters without protection, since the amounts envisaged would not cover all the damage incurred. In such cases, there would be the problem of evenly distributing the available resources among the victims. The Commission has made no proposals on this subject.

Apart from these differences of opinion, the Committee emphasized the need, in the event a ceiling is introduced and several persons are liable, for each of those persons to be responsible for paying compensation up to the maximum of the ceiling.

The Committee was unanimous with regard to other important problems raised by the proposed Directive, such as the period of limitation and the liability period. It noted that the proposed period of limitation would enable a better administration of justice and eliminate abuses without sacrificing the interests of consumers, since the period would only commence when three conditions were met, namely when the damage, the defect and the manufacturer's identity were all known.

With regard to the liability period, the Committee accepted the 10-year period proposed by the Commission but felt there should be a more precise definition of when this period was to commence.

## **Customs harmonization**

In the area of customs harmonization, 1978 saw the drafting of an own-initiative Opinion on the 'Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on the state of the EEC Customs Union'.

With this Opinion, the Committee was able to express its views on this important aspect of the realization of the common market. In the short-term, the aim is to encourage any initiatives likely to bring about the free movement of goods within the Community, complete the programmes for the approximation and simplification of customs legislation and improve the procedures for institutional decisions on the customs union. In the longer term, it is necessary to formulate and draw up a Community customs code and undertake the alignment of penalties for infringing Community customs legislation.

Thus, while recognizing that the record of trade between the Member States from 1958 to 1976 was excellent in that it had increased more than tenfold, the Committee stressed that a lot still remained to be done. For Community companies and for individual travellers, in fact, there is practically no difference between crossing a Community frontier and crossing frontiers with other countries, since the formalities involved are just as complex and the regulations equally restrictive in both cases.

After reviewing the inadequacies of the Community customs union and of alignment in other related fields, such as taxation, monetary fluctuations and exchange controls, the Committee drew up some concrete proposals to be brought into effect in accordance with a precise timetable, namely:

- (i) without waiting for any hypothetical alignment of the national penal codes, a Community definition of infringements should be drawn up, together with a single system of penalties; practical and uniform means of redress should be made available to users;
- (ii) a single customs Management Committee should be set up to replace the present multiple committees;
- (iii) a Community customs law should be drawn up to codify the present texts and fill the many gaps in the present customs union, in order to achieve a practical, coherent body of law.

The Committee would like to see a progress report on the 1975 simplification programme drawn up each year and wanted all the documents (export, transit, import) required for a transaction between Member States to be thoroughly examined with a view to simplifying them.

The Committee also hoped that the commercial documents normally drawn up by companies would be more widely used as the basis for Community trading procedures and stressed that this process would be simplified if such documents were rationalized and aligned on a standard model.

The Committee suggested that the bond requirement for Community transit operations should be abolished.

It felt that aligning the methods of collecting VAT could greatly simplify intra-Community trade.

The Committee also discussed several specific proposals relating to customs alignment. One of these proposals concerned stores for international vessels, planes and trains.

But the Committee has, in particular, expressed a favourable opinion on a series of proposals relating to exemptions from charges or taxes for international travel and small consignments of non-commercial goods. These proposals were of special interest to Community citizens.

## 7. TECHNICAL BARRIERS

With regard to technical barriers, the Committee has been concerned in particular with the approximation of Member States' legislation in the following areas:

- (i) hot-water meters;
- (ii) the making-up by volume of certain prepackaged liquids;
- (iii) general requirements of construction and certain types of protection for electrical equipment for use in potentially explosive atmospheres;
- (iv) machine tools and portable grinding machines;
- (v) noise emitted by compressors.

## 8. EXTERNAL RELATIONS

The Economic and Social Committee has again increased its workload on the Community's external relations. It has issued Studies and Opinions on relations with State-trading countries, the Lomé Convention and its renewal and two Mediterranean countries which have applied for membership of the Community. This work supplements the Committee's 'enlargement' file, and further work will be done on the subject in 1979.

Firstly, with regard to the Community's relations with State-trading countries, the Committee found the present confusion over quantitative protection on the external frontiers of the Community regrettable. This situation is attributable to the lack of any real common commercial policy regarding these countries, which is essential if there is to be any reciprocity in relations between them and the Community.

The present lack of reciprocity is also evident in the area of the right of establishment. The Committee notes that companies exporting from State-trading countries are free to establish themselves in the Community, whereas Community companies do not have a similar right and have to go through a central foreign trade office in order to do business in State-trading countries. Moreover, Community investors do not have direct access to the marketing channels in those countries.

The Committee recognizes that these problems stem from the different economic systems in the countries in question. The same thing is true where prices are concerned. It is difficult to talk of dumping on the part of our trading partners in a context where prices are political, even though they are frequently a distortion of competition in Community markets.

In its Opinion on the Implementation of the Lomé Convention—Towards a New Convention, the Committee made a preliminary report on the implementation of the Convention between the Community and the ACP countries.

The Convention as a whole has worked well up until now, except as regards industrial cooperation which has not yet really begun.

The Committee proposed a certain number of changes to the various sections of the Convention. It requested a procedure for consultation with the economic and social interest groups in the event of problems in certain sectors involving certain sensitive products.

With regard to industrial cooperation, the Committee wanted to see a diversified industrial fabric established which would contribute to the development of the ACP countries by:

- (i) manufacturing products for local and regional markets;
- (ii) Improving export capacity;
- (iii) creating as many new jobs as possible.

The Committee also made observations on maintenance firms, encouraging and guaranteeing investments, vocational training and the transfer of technology.

The Committee believed that financial cooperation should concentrate on:

- (a) the support of regional projects, in the area of infrastructures (water!),
- (b) the development of diversified agricultural production and industrial production based on the processing of local raw materials.

The Committee called for a policy of agricultural cooperation designed to make the ACP countries self-sufficient in food production.

At the institutional level, the Committee insisted on the need for greater consultation with the various economic and social interest groups as part of the implementation of the Lomé Convention.

Lastly, the Committee drew attention to the importance of making adequate arrangements for the free movement of workers from ACP countries in the Community and their vocational training and of respecting human rights.

A second meeting between a delegation from the ESC and representatives of ACP employers and labour was held in Luxembourg on 28 September within the framework of the Joint Committee of the Consultative Assembly. On that occasion, there was a preliminary in-depth discussion on the question of textiles. It was

agreed to hold such meetings at regular intervals, as the Committee had requested in its Opinion.

When the Committee was preparing its Study on Greece, it was able to ascertain from its visits to the country that the various official and industrial organizations are in favour of Greece's becoming a member of the European Community.

The Study provided detailed statistics on population, general economics and the various sectors of industry. The Committee noted that unemployment was very low in Greece (3 to 4%), although the official statistics do not take agricultural underemployment and unemployment among young people into account.

Nevertheless, the economy as a whole is healthy, although the level of investment is still too low.

With regard to the prospects of Greek membership of the Community, the Committee emphasized the restructuring problems involved, which would require a contribution of capital and technology from the Community. At the same time, Greek membership is likely to have adverse repercussions in the Community in certain sensitive industrial sectors or for certain Mediterranean farm products.

The Committee has so far only issued a preliminary Study on Spain. Its task was made easier by a visit to Madrid, which marked the beginning of a reciprocal process of information and communication between the various economic and social interest groups in the Community and in Spain.

The Study first noted the gap that still exists between Spain and Europe. But it also went on to stress the efforts Spain is now making in the area of economic recovery and in opening up towards the outside world.

In its discussion of Spain's prospects for membership in the near future, the Committee attached particular importance to the question of employment which is now becoming a serious problem in Spain, as in the Community, after two decades of strong growth. If economic stagnation were to continue, the Committee felt that the free movement of workers might cause problems which would be all the greater as Spain's work force is increasing rapidly.

The Committee Study also dealt with the 1970 Trade Agreement, which it felt must be modified to eliminate certain imbalances which are a handicap to companies exporting from the Community. The Committee believed that the institutional framework for trade between the Community and Spain should be rapidly updated to take into account the prospect of Spain's becoming a member of the Community.

As a follow-up to the three Studies on the three countries which have applied for membership in the Community, the Section for External Relations set up a file on Community enlargement. This file contains the minutes of the meetings which all the Sections have held on this subject, which is of great importance for the Community.

The Committee continued to meet with representatives of the economic and social interest groups of the EFTA countries: a meeting was held with the Section for External Relations on 14 March 1978 in Brussels.

Although no great progress was made in the GATT negotiations in the year under review, the Committee kept a watch on developments and prospects in this area and the Section for External Relations had regular meetings with the Commission.

In view of the development of negotiations between the Community and Greece, the Committee decided to deliver an Opinion on Greece's application for membership of the Community at the November Plenary Session. In this Opinion, which was approved by a large majority, the Committee endorsed and approved Greece's application for membership in the belief that it *would help to consolidate* her political, economic and social democracy. Whilst reserving the right to deliver a more detailed Opinion on the various problems of enlargement, the Committee drew attention in its Opinion to a number of major problems that were likely to be raised, namely the mutual adaptation of Greece and Community agriculture, the necessary adjustments in sensitive industries and the free movement of workers.

The Committee also delivered an Opinion on the Commission's proposals concerning the European Community's Generalized Tariff Preferences Scheme for 1979. The Committee approved the principle underlying this instrument of development policy and reiterated its earlier comments. It nevertheless requested that the Community GSP scheme become more selective as regards both countries and products. As far as the textile GSP was concerned, the Committee did not accept the Commission proposal and urged that the 1978 GSP for textiles be extended, though with some slight increases. As far as the special 'cut-offs' planned for so-called 'hybrid' products were concerned, the Committee—in order to avoid the imposition of quotas on imports—voiced doubts about the advisability of doing away with them.

After the renewal of the Committee in October 1978, the Section for External Relations continued to study relations between the Community and Spain.

Finally, the Committee recently set up a 39 member Study Group with Mr Jonker as Chairman, Mr Pfeiffer as Rapporteur, and Mr Emo Capodilista as Co-Rapporteur, to draw up an Opinion on the enlargement of the Community.

## 9. ENERGY POLICY

The Committee examined the 'Second Report on the Achievement of Community Energy Policy Objectives for 1985'. Without commenting on the figures given, it approved the Commission's line of approach, namely that:

- (i) oil imports should not exceed 500 million tonnes in 1985;
- (ii) the share of oil in gross energy consumption should be significantly reduced;
- (iii) the Community's dependence on imported energy should be limited to 50 %.

In November, the Commission published a new report on the 'Energy Objectives for 1990 and programmes of the Member States' which seemed to confirm the adoption of a more gradualist approach towards an overall Community energy policy.

## **Nuclear**

The Committee continued to concentrate heavily in this area.

It issued two Opinions on the Basic Safety Standards for the protection of the general public and workers against the dangers of ionising radiation (Rapporteur: Mr Preben Nielsen). On 1 June 1976, the Council of Ministers adopted a Directive fixing revised basic safety standards. Member States were given until 12 July 1978 to comply. In May, the Commission proposed that the time limit for compliance be extended until 12 July 1980. The Committee, on 12 July, issued an Opinion which:

- (a) pointed out that Member States had had sufficient time in which to prepare their legislation and to bring it into line, and regretted that the Directive had not been implemented on schedule;
- (b) stressed the importance in the field of radiological protection of progressively updating Community safety standards to take account of developments in international research;
- (c) reluctantly approved the extension of the deadline for compliance with the Directive of 1 June 1976 on condition that;
- (d) revisions updating that Directive were prepared in the next few months.

The Commission accepted these Committee views.

It published a new set of proposed revisions to the Standards in December. These were designed to take account of the latest recommendations issued by the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP). The revisions defined new concepts and units and provided values which took account of new metabolic data. They were also calculated in a more logical way. For the first time, they took account of the additivity of radiation to which various organs and tissues were exposed. On 20 December, the Committee endorsed these revisions as those it had requested. It gave approval in principle to a new updating procedure which would allow standards in future to be kept closely in line with the latest advances in scientific knowledge. But it insisted that the Committee's right to be consulted should be respected.

On 24, 25 and 26 January, the Commission held a second series of public debates in Brussels on nuclear energy. As at the first session, the Committee was represented on the panel which guided the discussions, while other Committee members attended as observers. In March, the Commission sent a Communication to the Council on the conclusions it had drawn from these debates. It suggested that the Economic and Social Committee was an appropriate platform for the representation of *environmental specialists'* interests. In drawing the Council's attention to this point, the Commission argued that 'the inclusion of representatives from associations for the protection of environment and the "quality of life" seemed, moreover, to be in keeping with the public opinion trends observed for some time in the Member States'.

During its April session, the Committee issued Opinions on three major nuclear policy issues—fuel reprocessing, fast breeder reactors and radioactive waste. The Committee broadly endorsed the Commission's thinking in all three areas.

The Committee believed that the Community should reprocess nuclear fuels. Given that the Community had limited indigenous resources of both fossil fuels and uranium, it considered that the Community should not follow the negative policy adopted by the United States. The Committee also believed that reprocessing offered an important contribution to waste management. In order to gain adequate experience in the reprocessing of high burn-up oxide fuels, the Committee believed that the Community should start constructing full-scale plants in order to allow sufficient time to establish an oxide reprocessing capability which would meet its future needs.

The Committee noted that the use of fast breeder reactors provided a way of consuming plutonium, thereby closing the fuel cycle. It believed that the fast breeder option should be kept open. However, the Committee believed it would be wrong to underestimate the many and difficult problems which remained before the use of FBRs could be established. It was therefore essential that the transition to the industrial use of FBRs be phased in as prudently as possible. Demonstration projects should be pursued with greater attention continuing to be paid to safety, radiological protection and environmental consideration.

The Committee noted that the satisfactory solution to the problem of radioactive waste had become crucial to the further development of nuclear energy in most of the Member States. Approving the Commission's emphasis on the management of high-activity waste, the Committee believed that reliable methods for its solidification had to be available on an industrial scale by 1990, at the latest. It considered that retrievable storage was only a temporary solution. The goal must be to bury the waste in geological formations, isolated from the biosphere, where it could remain forever. The Committee believed that responsibility for such long-term storage sites could only lie with the public authorities.

During the debate on these Opinions, the Commission stated that it would be submitting the Committee's 1977 'Nuclear Safety Code' Study as a background document to the International Nuclear Fuel Cycle Evaluation Programme (INFCE) initiated by President Carter.

## **Hydrocarbons**

Reflecting the low level of Community activity in the sector, the Committee issued only one Opinion. It dealt with changes to the Directive which currently obliged Member States to hold minimum security stocks of oil corresponding to 90 day's consumption, with an exemption of up to 15% for oil produced and consumed domestically. The Committee approved the proposal to increase the exemption from 15%, subject to a formal undertaking by the Member States concerned that they would maintain trade if difficulties occurred. But in the absence of clear criteria, the Committee could not take the stand on the new 40% exemption suggested by the Commission.

The Committee agreed that the exemption should in future be extended to all Member States, and not just the oil-producing countries, in respect of their consumption of oil produced within the Community.



## **Coal**

In July, the Committee examined an outline plan by the Commission to encourage the sale of Community steam coal to power stations. The Committee underlined the importance of measures designed to enable coal production targets to be achieved. While noting that the issue of financial aid should normally be approached with caution, the Committee considered that the proposed grant arrangements seemed to be an appropriate way of achieving this aim. It believed that the measure should be applied for a limited three-year period. The Commission subsequently published its detailed proposals for the scheme which the Committee in turn began to examine.

The Commission also published a plan to increase Community aid for coking coal from 31 million EUA to 70 million EUA. Coming under the ECSC Treaty this fell outside the Committees' specific terms of reference.

## **Energy saving and alternative sources**

On 12 June, the Council adopted two regulations providing for financial support schemes for demonstration projects. One covered projects in the field of energy-saving. The other dealt with projects to exploit alternative energy sources. Both had been endorsed by the Committee. The Commission began to implement the schemes, with the Committee examining specific aspects where it had not earlier done so.

## **Research and development**

The Council adopted the following research programmes which had earlier been endorsed by the Committee:

Programme	million EUA Cost	Duration years
Primary Raw Materials	18	3
Forecasting and Assessment in Science and Technology (FAST)	4.4	5
Exploration and Extraction of uranium	3	3

It likewise adopted a number of smaller concerted action programmes and a three-year action plan on information and documentation in science and technology which the Committee also supported.

The Committee issued favourable Opinions on new programmes on:

Programme	million EUA Cost	Duration years
Recycling of Urban Waste	13	4
Reference Materials	11.3	4
Thermal Water Reactor Safety	8.8	5
Climatology	8	5
Decommissioning of Nuclear Power Plants	6.4	5

It was preparing opinions on:

Programme	million EUA Cost	Duration years
Thermonuclear Fusion and JET	348.7	5
Fast Breeder Reactors Codes and Standards	5.8	5

During the year, the Committee also initiated a study on 'The Organization and Management of Community R & D' which it hoped to complete in 1979.

## 10. PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT—PUBLIC HEALTH—CONSUMPTION

### Environmental protection and public health

In the field of water pollution the Committee issued two Opinions: one on a proposal for a Council decision concerning organic micropollutants and the other on a proposal for a Council directive on groundwater pollution by dangerous substances.

In its Opinion on micropollutants the Committee stated that priority should be given to determining those substances which, even in small quantities, might be harmful to health.

The Opinion on groundwater pollution stressed the importance of using uniform terminology and including selenium and cyanides on the list of the most dangerous substances.

In another Opinion, on atmospheric pollution, the Committee supported a Commission proposal for a programme of research into the physico-chemical behaviour of atmospheric pollutants and said that concerted action by the Community should receive adequate funds.

The Committee also took a look at the methods used to evaluate the cost of pollution control in industry. It stated that such costs were merely one aspect of the environmental issue and were offset by the advantages resulting from a better environment. Measures taken by industry to protect the environment often saved money. On the other hand, if further cost burdens were placed on some industrial sectors and local pollution control regulations were applied rigidly, the competitive position of Community industry could be undermined, and this caused the Committee some concern.

Other Committee Opinions on chemical pollution dealt with fluorocarbons, solvents, food dyes and antioxidants used in food. In the first of these the Committee particularly stressed the dangers of using the chlorofluoromethanes F-11 and F-12 and in its Opinion on solvents it urged the Member States to incorporate Community Directives into their national law and ensure that they were really implemented. The Committee regretted that dyes which had not been banned by the Scientific Committee for Food could still be used in foodstuffs and emphasized the need for more consumer information on antioxidants used in food.

The Committee endorsed the revision of the environmental research programme and stressed the need for adequate funds to meet research needs and to ease financial restraints which had led to some measures being axed despite their ecological value. In this context the Committee had previously requested that the second programme should provide for research on noise pollution, particularly in towns and cities, at work and in recreational areas.

The Committee also welcomed ongoing Community action in medical research. It proposed that attention be directed to cancer, particularly as regards prevention, diagnosis, treatment and post-operative surveillance.

The Committee also drafted a study on the hazards of asbestos used for man and the environment.

### **Consumer protection**

In an Opinion on home study courses, the Committee called for greater protection for persons wishing to follow correspondence and audio-visual training courses.

The Committee also endorsed the 14th amendment to the Food Preservatives Directive. The Committee emphasized that the provisions on information should be adhered to when the Directive is enacted at national level.

The Committee also urged the Commission to turn its attention as soon as possible to the entire range of fruit and vegetable preservatives since some fungicides in use in the Member States fall outside the Directive.

At a more general level, the Committee is currently drafting a study on judicial and quasi-judicial measures for consumer protection. The study is in line with the findings of the seminar held in Montpellier in November 1975. The Committee stresses the need to simplify current judicial procedures in the Member States and, where appropriate, to introduce new arrangements to improve consumer access to the courts.



## **Press Relations and outside echo**

While most people in the Community know about its existence, ignorance about its powers and the way it functions is still widespread even among professional observers of the political scene. In this context the greatest handicap for the Economic and Social Committee in achieving appreciation for its activities among the general public is undoubtedly its title which immediately projects a mistaken conception. To remedy this state of affairs, one of the first tasks of the Press and Information Division is to present this institution not as a Committee but as the Consultative Assembly which it is in reality.

Despite this handicap, it can be reported that as far as the press is concerned, the Committee has received growing recognition which in turn reflects its steady growth of influence. The amount of space its activities receive in the press is small, it is true, and the frequency of references made to its existence remains unsatisfactory. Nevertheless, the Committee is mentioned much more often than before and a greater interest has been shown by Editors-in-Chief in what it does. It seems as if they have recognized in the past year that there is more to the European Community than merely the meetings of the Council of Ministers and the Commission's proposals.

There has been a sharp increase (of 40%) in the number of press clippings, radio broadcasts and TV coverage concerning the Committee received or noted in the general secretariat over the year. This compares to a rise of 25% in 1977. The average number of TV coverages has risen from one to two a month. Of course, the press clippings received or the broadcasts reported to us can in no way be near complete figures but only indicative ones. Nevertheless, they help us to gauge the kind of echo the Committee is getting in the Member States. A considerable advance has been made in France in the period under review as well as in Italy. Newspapers in Belgium, Ireland, the United Kingdom and Germany still lead the field in that order in the annual total of clippings received.

It is particularly the controversial opinions which arouse most press interest, as well as those occasions when the Committee makes original contributions to the

Community legislative procedure by feeding in new ideas or by urging action in a hitherto neglected field.

In addition, three noteworthy events in the life of the Committee have focussed press interest: they were the 20th anniversary celebrations, the renewal of the Committee and the election of Madame Baduel Glorioso as President. The fact that this decision brought for the first time a woman to the supreme function in one of the Community institutions was sufficiently spectacular to receive worthy attention in the press. Whenever the activities of the Committee are taken to the Member countries, especially at the periphery of the Community or outside it, press coverage improves considerably in comparison to their repercussion in Brussels. For obvious reasons, they become front-line news, especially when dealing with a European problem that has local impact. The meeting of the Regional Section in Londonderry and its connected visit to Donegal, coupled with its recommendations for the area, is a case in point. It was widely covered on both sides of the border (Ireland and United Kingdom) in the press, radio and television. So were the President's visit to Ireland and to Africa and the visits of study groups or delegations to Greece, Spain and Glasgow, and Nice.

The press paid a good deal of attention to the Committee's opinions on employee participation and company structure, on liability for defective products, on agricultural prices, on part-time work and on the debate concerning the Committee's plans for improving its own procedure and working methods. The Committee's proposals concerning the problems between the EEC and East European countries on transport, an own initiative opinion adopted in November 1977, continued to gain publicity in the year under review. Other subjects which also fared well were the Committee's views on Greece, on nuclear problems and protection against ionising radiation, its demands for protection against the pollution of the sea as well as underground water and aids to shipbuilding. Not surprisingly, pride of place went to the debates on the economic situation, monetary disorder and the European monetary system in which the President of the Commission, Roy Jenkins, and its Vice-President, François-Xavier Ortoli, took an active part.

The number of groups visiting the Committee has also shown a steep rise. (35%) This year 144 groups, totalling 3752 persons, were either received at the General Secretariat or met by Committee officials and given a talk on the Committee's role and its various activities. The nationalities of these groups also deserve a mention: while interest in Germany has kept steady throughout, the years after 1973 brought in mainly groups from the new Member States, UK, Denmark and Ireland. In 1978, there has been a growth of interest in France and we have received a number of groups from there. All kinds of categories were represented among the visitors to the ESC. They included farmers, managers, trade unionists, party groups, federationists, consumers, women's groupes, students, officials, journalists, and others. Not only the Member States were represented, but also visitors from Greece, Portugal, Egypt and other African countries.

The field of publications has also witnessed an upswing in the period under review. The explanatory leaflet on the Committee was produced in Greek, Spanish and Portuguese and the following pamphlets were published: The Directory of the

renewed Committee; 20th Anniversary of the ESC; Employment in Agriculture (Study); Monetary Disorder (Opinion); Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises in the Community Context (Opinion); Industrial Change and Employment (Opinion); EEC's Transport Problems with European Countries (Opinion); Youth and Unemployment—Education and Training (5 Opinions); Harmonization of Social Legislation (Documentation); Employee Participation and Company Structure (Opinion).

This compares with three publications produced in 1977.

On the whole, the picture shows an improvement. But the Committee still has captured the attention of only a small sector of public opinion. A particular field which lies fallow, and a particularly important one in the coming year, is that of the political parties which will be competing for votes in the direct elections for the European Parliament. Often highly placed persons have little knowledge of the Committee. Whatever initiatives the Secretariat General might engender, the Committee's public image will depend in the last resort on the members acting as its genuine spokesmen.





## **The Groups**

In accordance with the Treaty of Rome, the Members of the Committee are personally appointed by the Council from the 'representatives of the various categories of economic and social activity; in particular, representatives of producers, farmers, carriers, workers, dealers, craftsmen, professional occupations and representatives of general public'.

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

Group I is made up of representatives of private and public enterprises, commerce, transport, banks and insurance.

Group II comprises the representatives of the most important national trade-union organizations.

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

### **GROUP I—EMPLOYERS**

At the end of the four-year term of office Group I bade farewell to almost half its members, a greater proportion than in any other Group. At the inaugural session on 18 October 1978 sixteen new members were welcomed to the Group, among them a number of influential persons from the energy sectors, bringing the total to forty-one.

The Group Chairman, elected at the above session for the two years 1978—1980, is Mr H. W. Staratzke, assisted by two Vice-Chairmen, Mr Bernaert and Mr Masprone.

Group I members elected to the new Committee Bureau are:

Mr Renaud (Vice-Chairman of the Committee)  
Mr Ammundsen  
Mr Bernaert  
Mr Hipp  
Mr Loughrey  
Mr Masprone  
Mr Miller

Three Section Chairmen were elected from among the employer members as follows: Mr Hatry (Section for Energy and Nuclear Questions), Mr van Campen (Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services) and Mr de Precigout (Section for External Relations).

Satisfactory liaison has continued with the four Community-wide industrial and commercial organisations which are represented in the Employers' Group: UNICE, the Union of Industries of the European Community; CEEP, the European Centre for Public Enterprises; COCCEE, the Committee of Commercial Organization in the EEC; and the Permanent Conference of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of the EEC. All Group I members were invited to participate in the UNICE's 20th anniversary conference on 7 December 1978 to hear eminent speakers including the President of the Council of Ministers, Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and the President of the Commission, Mr Roy Jenkins.

Among the Opinions which raised particular interest for the Employers Group during the year were those on Product Liability, where a losing battle was fought for over a year to achieve a reasonable consensus of opposing views, the Green Paper on Worker Participation, the organization of the Market in Ethyl Alcohol of Agricultural origin and the Economic Situation of the Community in which special emphasis was laid on further action to stimulate demand and create employment. The Committee's work on Studies of Portugal, Spain and Greece, amplified by visits to these countries, was welcomed by the Commission; in November a Subcommittee was set up to examine the wider aspects of enlarging the Community. A Study on the Organisation and Management of Community Research and Development begun at the request of the Energy Section for completion in 1979, is also attracting considerable attention.

In February the External Relations Section Chairman, Mr Carstens, led a delegation on an instructive visit to the African countries of Ghana, Mali, Togo and the Cameroons as part of the work on the implementation of the Lomé Convention (Lomé II). On the institutional side, members of the Employers Group have been concerned at the apparently increasing number of requests for Opinions given at such short notice that the Committee has been obliged to use its emergency procedure and have asked that this be discussed with the Council and the Commission. It has been also felt that there was room for improvement in the way EC policies explained in the Member States and that care should be taken to prevent inaccurate accounts in the national media from taking root.

Employer members are very interested in the development of relations with the European Parliament and hope to see those extended in the months leading to the first direct elections.

Finally it is hoped that the efforts being made to reduce monetary instability by the creation of a European Monetary System will prove to be a real step towards European integration.

## **GROUP II—WORKERS**

Group II represents the European trade unions in the Economic and Social Committee. It has 50 members.

When the Committee was re-elected in October 1978, Mr Debunne (Belgium—FGTB) was re-elected Group Chairman. Mr Pfeiffer (Germany—DGB) and Mr Nyrup Rasmussen (Denmark—LO) were the new Vice-Chairmen.

The following Group II members now sit on the Committee Bureau:

the Committee Chairman, Mrs Baduel Glorioso (Italy—CISL)  
Mr van Greunsven (Netherlands—NVV-FNV)  
Mr Delourme (Belgium—FGTB)  
Mr Friedrichs (Germany—DGB)  
Mr Laval (France—F.O.)  
Mr Jenkins (United Kingdom—TUC)  
Mr Nyrup Rasmussen (Denmark—LO)

In addition, the Chairmen of the following Sections are members of Group II:

Mr Houthuys (Belgium—CSC) : Section for Social Questions  
Mr Hoffmann (Germany—OTV) : Section for Transport and Communications  
Mr Milne (UK—TUC) : Section for Regional Development

Throughout the persistent economic crisis, Group II has on a number of occasions, including Plenary Sessions, defended several important objectives, such as:

- (i) measures to combat unemployment (new job creation, shorter working hours);
- (ii) counter-inflation measures and the need for structural changes;
- (iii) maintaining achievements in the social sector and increasing purchasing power.

During the last term of office, the Group also repeatedly discussed the reform and improvement of the Committee's working methods. Discussions focussed on the following points:

- (a) the possibility of appointing assistants to increase the Committee's efficiency and lighten the members' workload;
- (b) the need for equal representation of employers and workers on the Committee;
- (c) the possibility of issuing divergent opinions when a compromise cannot be reached;
- (d) improving relations with the Council, the Commission and the European Parliament.

Group II will continue to pursue some of these reforms, depending on their priority and their chances of success in the short and medium term.

### GROUP III—VARIOUS INTERESTS

Group III has 53 members who represent interests other than, and even opposed to, those of the major producers and organized labour.

A large part of the Group represents occupational interests, i. e. farmers, small and medium-sized businessmen in the trade and industry sector, members of the professions, executive and administrative staff. In other words, the 'middle classes' in the sense in which the term is used in some countries. Another large grouping consists of representatives concerned with various aspects of the general interest. This grouping reflects the existence of certain movements concerned with the underlying balance of society; in the main it is composed of representatives of consumer interests, environmentalists and family organizations.

Prior to the renewal of the Committee in September 1978, the Group's Chairman was Sir John Peel, a doctor. During this period the Group tackled certain difficulties caused by the presence within its membership of two bodies of interest which often took opposing lines.

The idea that the unity of the Group could be based on the concept of the quality of life—something which all these interests defend or contribute to in one way or another—should in the normal course of events inspire Group III with a new sense of cohesion.

*The renewal of the Committee did not lead to any major changes in the overall composition and internal balance of the Group.*

The Group elected as its Chairman, Mr Manlio Gormozzi, President of the Union of Craft Industries of the EEC (UACEE), and Chairman's representative and Secretary-General of the General Italian Confederation of Crafts.

The Group's officers, and its representation in the Committee's Bureau, broadly reflect the balance between the different categories of interests represented within the Group itself.

The replacement of a third of its members is calculated to ensure the vitality and dynamism of the Group, necessary if it is to consolidate its position within the Economic and Social Committee. All the members of the Group are fully conscious of the fact that they represent interests which, despite their special features and separate structures, must voice a distinctive viewpoint.

## Chapter V

### Attendance at conferences, etc.

In 1978, as in past years, the Committee maintained contact with representative bodies in Europe by sending delegates, wherever possible, to the various conferences, etc. to which it was invited. The meetings attended by Committee representatives were as follows:

- International symposium organized by the International Centre for European Training on the theme: 'Review of present and future activities of the European Community on the eve of direct elections to the European Parliament' 9 and 10 January in Brussels
- Symposium organized by the European Union of General Medical Practitioners on the theme: 'The future role of general medicine in the EEC' 19 and 20 January in Luxembourg
- 7th Annual Economic Conference of the Confederation of Irish Industry 24 January in Dublin
- Ceremonial Session marking the 25th Anniversary of the ECSC Consultative Committee 26 January in Luxembourg
- 20th Anniversary of the Founding of the Permanent Conference of Chambers of Commerce and of Industry of the EEC 10 February in Strasbourg
- International symposium held by the National Farm Exhibition Centre on the theme: 'The world's forests' 1 to 3 March in Paris
- 'Spring Study Days' held by the European Conservative Group on the European Parliament 7 to 9 March in Baden-Baden
- Invitation to the 'Bruges Week' and discussions on the theme: 'A Community of twelve? The impact of further enlargement on the European Communities' 16 to 18 March in Bruges

- Seminar organized by the General Confederation of Italian Agriculture on the theme: 'Farmers and Europe' 6 April  
in Sorrento
  
- European symposium organized by the NCW (Dutch Federation of Christian Employers) and the UNIAPAC (International Union of Christian Managers) on the theme: 'The socio-political role of business managers in a consensus-managed economy' 6 and 7 April  
in Rotterdam
  
- International seminar of the Liaison Committee on the Transporting and Handling of Goods on the theme: 'The future of European Goods Transport' 13 April  
in Paris
  
- 42nd International Fair of Craft Trades and meeting of the Steering Committee of the Union of Master Craftsmen of the EEC 22 April  
in Milan
  
- 14th Annual Meeting of the European Association of Mass Consumption Specialities on the theme: 'Self-Medication and its Impact on Health and on Economy' 26 to 28 April  
in Dublin
  
- Inter-disciplinary meeting organized by the European Integration Association (Reg. Association) on the theme: 'The role of the social components in the European Community' 27 to 28 April  
in Brussels
  
- Conference organized by the Water Research Centre of Henley-on-Thames on the theme: 'The use of sewage sludge' April
  
- Invitation to the conference organized by the General Confederation of Small and Medium-Sized Undertakings and Employers on the theme: 'Small and Medium-Sized Undertakings and International Trade' 2 and 3 May  
in Paris
  
- Seminar of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions on the theme: 'Equality for women and the role of the ESC in connection therewith' 5 and 6 May  
in Wicklow (Ireland)
  
- Annual meeting of the German Employers Federation 22 and 23 May  
in Berlin
  
- 60th National Congress of the CNMCCA (National Confederation of Mutual Societies, Co-operatives and Agricultural Credit Organizations) on the theme: 'The 'mutual society' movement and agricultural cooperatives in France' 23 to 25 May  
in Biarritz

- Conference organized by the Organization for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises in the EEC 2 June  
in London
- International Labour Conference 12 to 16 June  
Geneva
- Inaugural session of the Annual Congress of the Europa-Union Deutschland on the theme: 'European elections—the future of democracy in Europe' 25 June  
in Kiel
- International Symposium on the Updating of Knowledge about Transport in Europe, organized by the Association for the Development of Vocational Training in Transport 27 to 30 June  
in Paris
- Colloquim ESC—Economic and Social Committee of Provence—Côte d'Azur 20 and 21 July  
Nice
- 110th Congress of the TUC 4 to 8 September  
in Brighton
- 2nd European Congress of Agricultural Economists 4 to 9 September  
in Dijon
- Meeting organized by the University of Mannheim on the theme: 'The creation of a European Institution for Consultative Committees' 9 September  
in Mannheim
- Spanish Congress on Vocational Training 25 to 29 September  
in Madrid
- Invitation to the Ceremony celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Committee of Family Organizations in the European Communities (COFACE) 2 October 1978  
in Brussels
- 26th Triennial Congress of the International Chamber of Commerce 1 to 6 October  
in Orlando  
(Florida)
- 1st European Congress of Tax Advisory Bodies organized by the European Tax Confederation 13 to 14 October  
in Strasbourg
- Invitation to the closing ceremony of the meeting organized by the Advisory Committee of Barristers of the European Community on the Professional Identity Card (free movement of lawyers) 23 October  
in Brussels
- Annual Assembly of the Pharmaceutical Group of the European Community 22 to 25 October  
in Seville

- Debate organized by the Executive Committee of the German Trade Union Federation on the theme: 'Europe—Hopes and Realities, Social Prospects for a United Europe' 4 November in Frankfurt
- Congress organized by the Giuseppe Famin Study Centre on the Commission proposals on worker participation 11 to 12 November in Faenza (Italy)
- Invitation to lunch with a delegation from The Institute of Directors, The Executive Council and the Presidents of European Institutions 14 November in Strasbourg
- Preliminary symposium organized by the National Liaison Committee for Mutual Societies, Cooperatives and Associations on the theme: 'Place of non-Profit Making Organizations in the Europe of 1980' 16 and 17 November in Brussels
- Invitation by 'European Realities of the Present-Day' to the symposium on the theme: 'What are the fundamental issues at stake in connection with elections to the European Parliament,' 1 and 2 December in Brussels
- Conference organized by UNICE (Union of Industries of the European Community) on the theme: 'Firms need Europe; Europe needs firms' 7 December in Brussels
- International symposium organized by the European League for Economic Cooperation on the theme: 'The economic revival in Europe' 14 December in Brussels
- Congress of the Dutch Trade Union Federation 18 to 20 December in Amsterdam



## Re-appointment of the Committee

On 17, 18 and 19 October 1978, the *Economic and Social Committee* held the inaugural session of its sixth four-year term of office. Representatives of the Council and the Commission were present. The meeting elected Mrs Fabrizio Baduel Glorioso as Chairman and Mr Renaud and Mr Roseingrave as Vice-Chairmen, all three to serve for a period of two years. The following were also elected as Members of the Bureau:

Mr Ammundsen	Mr Delourme	Mr Berns
Mr Bernaert	Mr Friedrichs	Mr Butler
Mr Hipp	Mr van Greunsven	Mr Chabrol
Mr Loughrey	Mr Jenkins	Mr Hennig
Mr Masprone	Mr Laval	Mr Hilkens
Mr Miller	Mr Nyrup Rasmussen	Mr Piga

The complete list of Committee Members appointed by the Council for the 1978—1982 period is given in the Appendix to the present Annual Report.



## **Internal affairs of the General Secretariat**

Following Mr Delfo Delfini's retirement on 6 July 1978, the Council of the European Communities, on the recommendation of the Committee's Bureau, appointed Mr Roger Louet Secretary-General of the Committee on 22 December 1978.

### **1. STAFF**

From an overall point of view the reorganization of the General Secretariat in 1976 enabled the Economic and Social Committee to carry out its functions. The Bureau did, however, note that some parts of the Secretariat needed strengthening and it therefore asked the budgetary authorities to approve the creation of a number of new posts, thereby raising the number of staff from 305 to 315.

The General Secretariat also engaged a small number of auxiliary and local staff.

In the field of personnel management, special attention was paid to basic and advanced training.

### **2. BUDGET**

The appropriations for the 1978 financial year were 15 751 660 EUA (1 EUA = BFR 41.3015). This represented an increase of 13.14% over the appropriations for 1977 which totalled 11 499 600 ua. (1 UA = BFR 50).

This increase in the volume of the appropriations was a direct consequence of the considerable increase in the cost of living. Much of the increase was accounted for by an increase in the appropriations for staff and for expenditure on Committee and working groups.

### 3. STRUCTURE OF THE SECRETARIAT (1978)

#### **Secretary-General**

- Chef de Cabinet
- Adviser for the external relations of the Committee
- Financial Controller
- Welfare Officer

#### **General Directorate for Information, Planning and Coordination of Consultative work, Studies and Documentation**

- Director-General
- Press, Information and Publications Division
- Studies and Documentation Division
- Translation Division
- Specialized Department for Coordination and Production of Documents

#### *Directorate A—Administration—Director*

- Personnel/Staff Regulations Division
- Specialized Financial Department
- Department for Internal Questions

#### *Directorate B—Consultative work—Director*

- Division for
  - Economic and Financial Questions
  - External Relations
- Division for
  - Social Questions
  - Protection of the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Affairs

#### *Directorate C—Consultative work—Director*

- Division for
  - Agriculture
  - Regional Development
- Division for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services
- Division for
  - Transport and Communications
  - Energy and Nuclear Questions

#### **Chairman's private office**

- Chef de Cabinet
- Group Secretariats
  - Group I: Employers
  - Group II: Workers
  - Group III: Various Interests

**List of members of the  
Economic and Social Committee  
classified by country  
their qualifications <sup>1</sup>  
and by Group <sup>2</sup>**

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<sup>1</sup> For obvious reasons we have been unable to list all the qualifications, etc. of members. Only the members' most representative functions in their respective countries are given.

<sup>2</sup> Group of Employers : I  
Group of Workers : II  
Group of Various Interests: III

## Belgium

	Group	
Léon Bernaert	I	Chairman of the Committee for Social Questions of the Belgian Business Federation (FEB/VBO)
Clément De Bievre	I	Director of the Department for Economic Affairs of the Belgian Business Federation (FEB/VBO)
Jacques De Bruyn	III	General Consultant of the Association of Belgian Banks (ABB/BVB)
Georges Debunne	II	Secretary-General of the Belgian General Federation of Labour (FGTB—ABVV)
Michel De Grave	II	Attached to the Research Department of the Confederation of Christian Trade Unions (Belgium) (CSC—ACV)
Alfred Delourme	II	Assistant General Secretary of the Belgian General Federation of Labour (FGTB—ABVV)
Victor De Ridder	III	Chairman of the Central Statistics Council and lecturer at the University of Ghent
André De Tavernier	III	Economic Adviser to the Executive of the Belgian Farmers' Union
Paul Hatry	I	Managing Director of the Belgian Oil Federation; Member of the governing body of the Belgian General Industrial Federation
Josef Houthuys	II	Chairman of the Confederation of Christian Trade Unions (Belgium) (ACV—CSC)
Alfons Margot	III	General Secretary of the National Christian Union of the Middle Classes (NCMV)
Roger Ramaekers	III	President of the Consumer Council

## Denmark

	Group	
Johannes Ammundsen	I	Danish Employers' Federation's spokesman on International Affairs
Finn Breitenstein	I	Head of Department (International Affairs) in the Danish Industrial Council Department
Karen Gredal	III	Vice President, Danish Consumers' Council
Erik Hovgaard Jakobsen	III	Head of Department in the Danish Agricultural Council (Trade and Market Policy Department)
Marichen Nielsen	III	Senior Citizens' Welfare Officer; former member of the Folketing (Danish Parliament)
Preben Nielsen	II	Economic Adviser in the Danish Trade Union Confederation (LO)
Poul Nyrup Rasmussen	II	Economic Adviser in the Danish Trade Union Confederation (LO)
Mols Sørensen	II	Member of the FTF's Business Committee, Danish Managers' Association
Kaj Strom-Hansen	I	Adviser to the Danish Wholesalers' Association

## FR of Germany

	Group	
Reinhard Blasig	I	Member of the Board of the German Federal Labour Office
Helmuth Cammann	I	Secretary-General of the Federal Association of German Banks
Dietmar Crämer	II	Head of Section, Economic Policy Department, at the Federal Council of the German Trade Union Federation (DGB)
Klaus Benedict von der Decken	III	Director at the Institute for Reactor Components of Jülich Nuclear Research Establishment GmbH
Ursula Engelen-Kefer	II	Advisor in the Social Policy Department, Federal Executive Committee of the German Trade Union Confederation (DGB)
Hermann Fredersdorf	III	Federal Deputy Chairman of the German Civil Servants' Trade Union (DBB)
Karl-Heinz Friedrichs	II	Head of the Economic Department of the Executive Committee of the Trade Union for the Metal Industry
Werner Hennig	III	Head of Division at the Head Office of German Federal Railways
Hedda Heuser	III	Executive Board Member of the German Doctors' Congress
Wolfgang Hipp	I	Assistant Secretary-General of the Federation of German Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Bonn
Karl-Heinz Hoffmann	II	Deputy-Chairman of the Federation of Public Services and Transport Workers (Central Bureau of the OTV)
Johannes M. Jaschick	III	Executive Member of the Board of the German Consumers' Association (AGV)
Henrich Kolbenschlager	III	Ex Secretary-General, Former Executive Member of the Bureau of the Confederation of German Crafts



	Group	
Gerd Muhr	II	Deputy-Chairman of the German Federation of Trade Unions (DGB)
Lothar Neumann	III	Member of the Central Committee of the German Consumers' Association
Herbert Nierhaus	II	Member of the National Executive Committee of DAG (German Employees Trade Union)
Alois Pfeiffer	II	Member of the Federal Governing Board of the German Federation of Trade Unions (DGB)
Rudolf Schnleders	I	Secretary-General to the National Federation of Farmers' Unions
Fritz Seydaack	I	Spokesman of the Managing Board of Horten AG, Dusseldorf
Hans-Werner Staratzke	I	Executive Member of the Central Committee of the Textile Industry's General Association
Käte Strobel	III	Member of the German Consumers Association (AGV)
Maria Weber	II	Deputy Chairman of the German Federation of Trade Unions (DGB)
Hans-Jürgen Wick	I	Secretary General of the 'Deutscher Raiffeisenverband e. V.'
Heinz Zunkler	I	Managing Director of the Reederei und Spedition 'Braunkohle' GmbH C Shipping and Haulage Company)

## France

	Group	
René Bonety	II	Expert of the Economic Department of the French Confederation of Labour (CFDT)
Jean Bornard	II	General Secretary of the French Christian Workers' Federation (CFTC)
Pierre Boulnois	III	Vice Chairman of the National Young Farmers' Centre (CNJA)
Roger Burnel	III	Chairman of the National Union of Family Associations (UNAF)
Gerard de Caffarelli	III	Executive Member of the National Farmers' Association (FNSEA)—President of COPA
Yves Chabrol	III	Honorary Chairman of the National Federation of Pharmacists
Yvan Charpentie	III	Chairman of the French General Confederation of Executive Staffs (CGC)
Jean-Claude Clavel	III	Assistant Director for International Affairs at the Standing Assembly of Agricultural Chambers
Jacques du Closel	I	General representative of the National Federation of Department and Multiple Stores
Jean Couture	I	President of the French Energy Institute
Georges Croese	II	Member of the Governing Board of the General Confederation of Labour (CGT)
Claude Evain	I	Delegate of the President of the National Council of the French Employers' Federation (CNPF) in charge of international relations
Léon Gingembre	III	Chairman of the Council Confederation of Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises
François Guillaume	III	Secretary-General of the National Federation of French Farmers' Associations (FNSEA)

	Group	
André Laur	III	Vice-Chairman of the National Confederation for Farmers' Mutual Insurance, Cooperation and Credit
Antoine Laval	II	National Secretary of the French Trade Union Confederation (CGT—FO)
Jean Marvlier	III	Vice-Chairman of the National Confederation of Crafts and Trades
Charles Massableaux	II	Associate of the National Executive of the General Confederation of Labour (CGT)
Jean de Precigout	I	Honorary Chairman of the Confederation of Textile Industries: Chairman of the Standing Committee of the CNPF (French Employers Confederation)
Edmond Renaud	I	Former Chairman of the National Federation for Road Transport
Jean Rouzier	II	National Secretary of the French General Confederation of Labour—Force ouvrière (CGT—FO)
André Soulat	II	National Secretary of the French Democratic Confederation of Labour (CFDT)
Gabriel Ventejol	III	Chairman of the French Economic and Social Council
Roland Wagner	I	President of the Strasbourg Chamber of Commerce and Industry. President of the Alsace Regional Chamber of Commerce and Industry

## **Ireland**

	<b>Group</b>	
<b>John F. Carroll</b>	<b>II</b>	<b>Vice-President of Irish Transport and General Workers' Union</b>
<b>Henry J. Curlis</b>	<b>II</b>	<b>Senior Official of the General and Municipal Workers' Union</b>
<b>John N. Kenna</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>Director of Transport and Foreign Trade of the Confederation of Irish Industry</b>
<b>Patrick Lane</b>	<b>III</b>	<b>President of the Irish Farmers' Association</b>
<b>Anthony Leddy</b>	<b>III</b>	<b>President, Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers' Association</b>
<b>Patrick J. Loughrey</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>President of the Irish National Committee of the International Chamber of Commerce</b>
<b>Patrick Murphy</b>	<b>II</b>	<b>President, Federation of Rural Workers</b>
<b>Gordon A. Pearson</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>National Executive Member of the Federated Union of Employers</b>
<b>Tomás Roseingrave</b>	<b>III</b>	<b>National Director, Muintir Na Tíre (Irish Community Development Movement)</b>

## Italy

	Group	
Romolo Arena	I	Chairman of the 'Terni Societa per l'Industria e l'Elettricit�'
Fabrizia Baduel Glorioso	II	Head of the International Relations Bureau of the Italian Confederation of Trade Unions (CISL)
Edoardo Bagliano	I	Chairman of Fiat's Committee on Community Problems
Aldo Bonaccini	II	National Secretary of the Italian General Confederation of Labour (CGIL)
Umberto Ceconi	I	Assistant to the Central Director for External Relations of the ENI (National Hydrocarbons Board)—Rome
Mario Dido	II	National Secretary of the Italian General Confederation of Labour (CGIL)
Francesco Drago	II	In charge of the International Affairs Bureau of the UIL (Italian Labour Union)
Umberto Emo Capodilista	III	Member of the administrative Council of Federconsorzi (Federation of Agricultural Consortia)
Bruno Fassina	II	Executive Board Member of the Italian Confederation of Trade Unions (CISL)
Manlio Germozzi	III	Member of the Bureau and Secretary-General of the General Italian Confederation of Crafts
Enrico Kirschen	II	National Secretary of the Federation of Workers in the construction and wood-working trades (Fe. NEAL—UIL) Italian Labour Union
Alberto Masprone	I	Special Assistant for Community problems—General Confederation of Italian Industry (Confindustria)
Renato Meraviglia	II	Secretary-General of FILTA (Italian Federation of Textile and Garment Workers) a member of the CISL—Italian Confederation of Trade Unions)

	Group	
Pietro Morselli	III	Director of the International Relations Department of the Confederation of Italian Cooperatives in Rome
Renato Ognibene	III	Vice-President of the 'Confederazione Italiana Coltivatori' (Italian Farmers' Confederation)
Guido Paggi	I	Head of Division in charge of international relations of Confagricoltura (General Confederation of Italian Agriculture)
Vincenzo Piga	III	Member of the Executive Committee of the Cooperative Credit Section of the National Labour Bank
Giulio Querini	III	Professor, Faculty of Economics and Trade, University of Rome
Giovanni Rainero	III	Responsible for international agricultural relations and common agricultural policy in the National Confederation of Owner Farmers
Aldo Romoli	I	In charge of relations with international bodies at Montedison S. p. A.—Milan
Paolo Savini	I	Vice-Chairman of the Committee of Commercial Organizations of the EEC
Umberto Scalia	II	Member of the Executive Board of the Italian General Confederation of Labour (CGIL)
Raffaele Vanni	II	Secretary-General of the UIL (Italian Trade Union Federation)
Giancarlo Zoli	III	Lawyer and former Mayor of Florence

## **Luxembourg**

	<b>Group</b>	
<b>Mathias Berns</b>	<b>III</b>	<b>Secretary-General of the Central Association of Luxembourg Farmers</b>
<b>Carlo Hemmer</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>Honorary Director of the Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce. Chairman of the Board of the Luxembourg Stock Exchange</b>
<b>Marcel Glesener</b>	<b>II</b>	<b>Secretary-General of the Luxembourg Christian Trades Union Confederation</b>
<b>Raymond Rollinger</b>	<b>III</b>	<b>Director of the Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce</b>
<b>Jeannot Schneider</b>	<b>II</b>	<b>President of the Luxembourg Federation of Railway and Transport Workers, Civil Servants and Employees</b>
<b>Roger Theisen</b>	<b>II</b>	<b>Chairman of the Federation of Private Employees (FEP)</b>

## Netherlands

	Group	
C. A. Bos	III	Extraordinary lecturer at the Free University of Amsterdam
Pieter Bukman	III	Chairman Netherlands Christian Farmers' and Horticulturalists' Union
J. Ph. M. von Campen	I	Adviser to the Employers Organizations
Thomas Etty	II	International policy advisor, Dutch trade union federation (FNV)
L. N. Goris	III	Assistant Secretary of the Council for Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises
J. M. W. van Greunsvan	II	Executive Board Member of the Netherlands Catholic Trade Union Federation (NKV)
G. H. E. Hilkens	III	Secretary of the Dutch Council for Family Matters; Member of the Board for Contact with Consumers
J. A. Hubregtse	II	National Secretary of the Trade Union of Employees in Agriculture and the Foodstuffs Industry (AVB—NVV)
Sjouke Jonker	I	Consultant to the Dutch Business Confederation (VNO)
Willem Jonker	I	Board Member of Nederlands Vervoers Overley (Dutch Transport Authority)
Bartholomeus Pronk	II	International Expert with the Christian National Federation of Trade Unions in the Netherlands
P. J. G. M. van Rens	II	Expert with the Netherlands Catholic Trade Union Federation (NKV)



## United Kingdom

	Group	
David Basnett	II	General Secretary and Treasurer, National Union of General and Municipal Workers
Raymond W. Buckton	II	General Secretary, Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (ASLEF)
Richard Clive Butler	III	Deputy President of the National Farmers' Union
Mary Clark	III	Member of the National Consumer Council (UK)
Gwilym Prys Davies	III	Solicitor in private practice
Roderick L. Doble	III	Former Chief Executive and Town Clerk of the London Borough of Greenwich
Basil de Ferranti	I	Deputy Chairman of Ferranti Ltd.
John Gallacher	I	Parliamentary Secretary of the Co-operative Union Ltd.
Joseph Gormley	II	President of the National Union of Mineworkers
Sean Geoffrey Hall	III	Chairman of the Northern Ireland Fishery Harbour Authority
Thomas Jenkins	II	Assistant Secretary of the International Department of Trades Union Congress (TUC)
Francis Stephen Law	I	Part-time Director of the National Freight Corporation
Herbert Loebi	I	Director of the Glass Ceramics Ltd.
J. MacGougan	II	General Secretary of the National Union of Tailors and Garment Workers (UK)
W. G. N. Miller	I	Executive Director of Save and Prosper Group Ltd.
Charles Ernest Mills	I	Chairman and Chief Executive Gas Gathering Pipelines (North Sea) Ltd.

	Group	
James F. Milne	II	General Secretary of the Scottish Trades Union Congress (STUC)
C. Marie Patterson	II	National Woman Officer, Transport and General Workers' Union
Eirlys Roberts	III	Deputy Director of the Consumers' Association and Research Director, Research Institute for Consumer Affairs
Albert Edward Sloman	III	Vice-Chancellor, University of Essex
Douglas Williams	III	Crown Agent for Overseas Governments and Administrations
M. J. G. Wylie	I	Director of Anglo-American Asphalt Co. Ltd., Chairman of Post Office Users' Council for Scotland
Maurice Zinkin	I	Consultant, formerly Unilever Ltd. Member of the Council on International Development, Ministry of Overseas Development

**List of Opinions,  
studies and information reports  
issued during 1978**

155TH PLENARY SESSION OF 1 AND 2 FEBRUARY 1978

- *Employee Participation and Company Structure (Green Paper)*  
(Rapporteur: Mr Carroll)
- *Conversion Rates in Agriculture*  
(Rapporteur: Mr Bukman)
- *Cocoa and Chocolate Products*  
(Amending Directive 73/241/EEC)  
(Rapporteur: Mr Bourel)
- *Adjustment of Capacities in the Fisheries Sector*  
(Rapporteur: Mr Wick)
- *Aid to Shipbuilding*  
(Rapporteur: Mr Evain)
- *Driver's Seat on Tractors*  
(Rapporteur: Mr Masprone)
- *Animal Nutrition*  
(three proposals)  
(Rapporteur: Mr Wick)
- *Preserved Milk*  
(Amending Directive 76/118/EEC)  
(Rapporteur: Mr Lawton)
- *Community Regional Policy*  
(Rapporteur-General: Mr Laval)

156TH PLENARY SESSION OF 1 AND 2 MARCH 1978

- *Farm Prices 1978/1979*  
(Rapporteur: Mr Schnieders)
- *Export Refunds for Cereals and Rice*  
(Amending Regulations (EEC) 2727/75 and (EEC) 1418/76)  
(Rapporteur: Mr De Tavernier)
- *Common Organization of Rice and Cereals Markets*  
(two proposals) (Amending Regulations 2727/75 and 1418/76)  
(Rapporteur: Mr De Tavernier)
- *Shuttle Services by Coach and Bus*  
(Amending Regulation (EEC) 516/72)  
(Rapporteur: Mr Renaud)
- *Regular and Special Regular Services by Coach and Bus*  
(Amending Regulation (EEC) 517/72)  
(Rapporteur: Mr Renaud)

- Procedures for the Award of Public Works Contracts  
(Amending Directive of 26 July 1971)  
(Rapporteur: Mr De Grave)
- Fluorocarbons in the Environment  
(Rapporteur: Mr Schlitt)
- Starch Products  
(Own-Initiative Opinion)  
(Rapporteur: Mr Masprone)
- Hops for the 1977 Harvest  
(Report and Proposal)  
(Rapporteur: Mr Bernaert)
- Energy Policy Objectives for 1985 (2nd Report)  
(Rapporteur: Mr Bonomi)
- Home Study Courses  
(Rapporteur: Miss Roberts)
- Export Credit Insurance Systems  
(Own-initiative Opinion)  
(Rapporteur: Mr Miller)

157TH PLENARY SESSION OF 29 AND 30 MARCH 1978

- Statistical Surveys of Areas under Vines  
(Rapporteur: Mr Guillaume)
- Statistical Returns in Respect of Carriage of Goods, as part of Regional Statistics  
(Rapporteur: Mr Renaud)
- Navigability Licences  
(Amending Directive 76/135/EEC)  
(Rapporteur: Mr van Rens)
- Facilitation of Health and Quality Inspection in the International Carriage of Goods  
(Revised Resolution 212)  
(Rapporteur: Mr Costantini)
- Modernization of Farms  
(three proposals) (Amending Directives 72/159/EEC, 75/268/EEC and 72/160/EEC)  
Drainage Operations in the West of Ireland  
(Rapporteur: Mr Lapie)
- Products containing Ethyl Alcohol  
(Amending the Regulation)  
(Rapporteur: Mr Bourel)

- Fisheries  
(five proposals)  
(Rapporteur: Mr Wick)
- State of the Customs Union  
(Communication) (own-initiative Opinion)  
(Rapporteur: Mr Marvier)
- Education and Vocational Training for Young Workers  
(own-initiative Opinion)  
(Rapporteur: Dr Sloman)

158TH PLENARY SESSION OF 26 AND 27 APRIL 1978

- Radioactive Waste  
(Communication)  
(Rapporteur: Mr Schlitt)
- Reprocessing of Nuclear Fuels  
(Rapporteur: Sir John Peel)
- The Fast Breeder Option  
(Communication)  
(Rapporteur: Mr Friedrichs)
- Farm Prices  
(Four supplementary proposals)  
(Rapporteur: Mr Schnieders)
- Consumer Subsidy for butter  
(Rapporteur: Mr Schnieders)
- Stocks of Crude Oil  
(Amending Directive 68/414/EEC)  
(Rapporteur: Mr Bornard)
- Community Loans  
(Rapporteur: Mr Rouzier)
- Milk Marketing Board  
(two proposals)  
(Rapporteur: Mr Wick)

159TH PLENARY SESSION OF 31 MAY AND 1 JUNE 1978

- Reorganization of the Community Shipbuilding Industry  
(Communication)  
(Rapporteur: Mr Evain)

- Social Security Schemes for Employed Persons  
(two proposals)  
(Amending Regulation 1408/71)  
(Rapporteurs: Mr Purpura and Mr Pronk)
- Combating Illegal Migration and Illegal Employment  
(Rapporteur: Mr Kirschen)
- Part-Time Employment  
(own-initiative Opinion)  
(Rapporteur: Mr van Rens)
- VAT—7th Directive  
(Rapporteur: Mr Peyromaure-Debord-Broca)
- VAT—8th Directive  
(Rapporteur: Mr Peyromaure-Debord-Broca)
- Dangerous Preparations (Solvents)  
(Amending Directive 73/173/EEC)  
(Rapporteur: Mr De Grave)
- Activities of State-Trading Countries in Cargo Liner Shipping  
(own-initiative Opinion)  
(Rapporteur-General: Mr Hoffmann)
- Marine Pollution Arising from the Carriage of Oil  
(Amoco-Cadiz) (Communication)  
(Rapporteur-General: Mr Hoffmann)
- Programme of Work in Veterinary Matters—Protection of Animals  
(Rapporteur: Mr Schnieders)
- Code of Conduct for Liner Conferences  
(Rapporteur: Mr Bos)
- Normalization of the Accounts of Railway Undertakings  
(Amending Regulation No 1192/69)  
(Rapporteur: Mr Hildgen)
- Machine Tools and Portable Grinding Machines  
(Rapporteur: Mr Marvier)
- Electrical Equipment for Use in Explosive Atmospheres  
(Rapporteur: Mr Masprone)
- Hot Water Meters  
(Rapporteur: Mr Marvier)
- Atmospheric Pollutants  
(Rapporteur: Miss Roberts)
- Organic Micropollutants in Water  
(Rapporteur: Sir John Peel)

160TH PLENARY SESSION OF 20—21 JUNE 1978

- Present Economic Situation  
(Rapporteur: Mr Clark)
- Development of the Social Situation in 1977  
(Rapporteur: Mr Piga)
- International Monetary Disorder  
(Own-initiative Opinion)  
(Rapporteur: Mr Charpentie)
- Prepackaged Liquids  
(Amending Directive 75/106/EEC)  
(Rapporteur: Mr Ramaekers)
- Customs Procedure Applicable to Stores of Vessels, etc.  
(Rapporteur: Mr Marvier)
- European Social Fund in Favour of Young People  
(Rapporteur: Mr Laval)
- Safety and Health at Work  
(Rapporteur: Mr Eboil)
- Protection of Groundwater  
(Rapporteur: Mr van Campen)
- Evaluation of Cost of Pollution Control  
(Rapporteur: Mr van Campen)
- Noise Emitted by Compressors  
(Rapporteur: Mr Marvier)
- Mutual Assistance in the Field of Direct Taxation  
(Amending Directive 77/799/EEC)  
(Rapporteur: Mr Miller)
- VAT—9th Directive  
(Rapporteur: Mr Peyromaure-Debord-Broca)
- Joint-Trade Table Wine Organization  
Supplementary Provisions on the Common Organization of the Wine Market  
(Amending Regulation 816/70)  
(Rapporteur: Mr Guillaume)
- Safety in Sea Transport  
(Rapporteur-General: Mr Hoffmann)
- Relations between the Community and Greece  
(Study)  
(Rapporteur: Mr De Ridder)



161ST PLENARY SESSION—12 AND 13 JULY 1978

- Liability for Defective Products  
(Rapporteur: Mr De Grave)
- Implementation of the Lomé Convention—The Road Towards a new Convention  
(Own-initiative Opinion)  
(Rapporteur: Mr Soulat)
- Aid for Intra-Community Trade in Power-Station Coal  
(Communication)  
(Rapporteur: Mr Picard)
- Research and Development Programme on Plutonium Recycling in Light-Water Reactors (Amendment to Council Decision No 74/642)  
(Rapporteur: Mr Schlitt)
- Protection of the Health of the General Public and Workers against the Dangers of Ionizing Radiation  
(Amendment to the Directive of 1 June 1976)  
(Rapporteur: Mr Nielsen)
- The Future of Forestry in the Community (Own-initiative Opinion)  
(Rapporteur: Mr Maher)
- Mediterranean Agriculture  
(Rapporteur: Mr Clavel)
- Aid to Milk Producers in Northern Ireland  
(Rapporteur: Mr Wick)
- Seed Marketing (Amendment to Directives Nos 66/401/EEC, 66/402/EEC, 66/403 EEC, 69/208/EEC, 70/458/EEC and 70/457/EEC)  
(Rapporteur-General: Mr Wick)
- Means of Communication in the Londonderry/Donegal Frontier Area  
(Own-initiative Opinion)  
(Rapporteur-General: Mr Crémer)
- Relations between the Community and Spain (Study)  
(Rapporteur: Mr Evain)
- Relations between the Community and State-Trading Countries  
(Study)  
(Rapporteur: Mr van Campen)

162ND PLENARY SESSION—17 AND 18 OCTOBER 1978

- Development of an Agricultural Advisory Service in Italy  
(Rapporteur: Mr Rainero)
- Aid for Degerming Maize  
(Rapporteur: Mr Masprone)

- Common Customs Tariff (Amendment to Regulation No 950/68)  
(Rapporteur: Mr Marvier)
- Tariff Treatment Applicable to Goods Contained in Travellers' Personal Luggage (Amendment to Regulation No 1544/69)  
(Rapporteur-General: Mr Marvier)
- Exemption from Turnover Tax and Excise Duties on Imports in International Travel; Tax Relief on the Import of Goods in Small Consignments of a Non-Commercial Nature (Three Proposals) (Amendments to Directive No 69/169/EEC and Directive No 74/651/EEC)  
(Rapporteur-General: Mr Marvier)
- Abolition of Postal Charges for the Presentation to Customs of Goods Relieved of Internal Taxes Payable at Importation  
(Amendment to earlier Directive)  
(Rapporteur-General: Mr Marvier)
- Maintenance of Standards on Merchant Ships  
(Rapporteur-General: Mr Henning)
- Community Quota for the Carriage of Goods by Road  
(Amendment to Regulation (EEC) 3164/76)  
(Rapporteur-General: Mr Renaud)

#### 163RD PLENARY SESSION—29 AND 30 NOVEMBER 1978

- European Monetary System  
(Rapporteur: Mr Charpentie)
- Annual Report on the Economic Situation—1978  
(Rapporteur: Mr Goris)
- Protection of Employees in the Event of the Insolvency of their Employer  
(Rapporteur: Mr Muhr)
- Generalized Tariff Preference Scheme for 1979  
(Rapporteur: Mr Cremer)
- Common Rules for Certain Types of Combined Road/Rail Carriage of Goods  
(Amendment to Directive No 75/130/EEC)  
(Rapporteur: Mr Renaud)
- Preservatives Authorized for Use in Foodstuffs  
(14th Amendment to Directive No 64/54/EEC)  
(Rapporteur: Mr De Grave)
- Second R & D Programme—Medical and Public Health Research  
(Five Multiannual Concerted Projects)  
(Rapporteur: Mrs Heuser)

- Action Programme 1979—1985 for the Progressive Establishment of Balance on the Market in Wine (Communication)  
(Rapporteur-General: Mr Guillaume)
- Health Problems Affecting Intra-Community Trade in Fresh Meat  
(Amendment to Directive No 64/433/EEC)  
(Rapporteur: Mr Jakobsen)
- Common Customs Tariff—Materials for the Blind and Other Handicapped Persons (Draft Regulation)  
(Rapporteur: Mr Marvier)
- Common Customs Tariff—Educational, Scientific and Cultural Materials  
(Amendment to Regulation (EEC) No 1798/75)  
(Rapporteur: Mr Marvier)
- Programme on the Decommissioning of Nuclear Power Plants  
(Rapporteur: Mr Friedrichs)
- Safety of Thermal Water Reactors (Research Programme)  
(Rapporteur: Mr Bonety)
- *Standardization of Forms*—International Goods Transport by Road (Resolution No 119 (revised))  
(Rapporteur: Mr Renaud)
- Activities of Certain Third Countries in Cargo Shipping  
(Draft Decision)  
(Rapporteur: Mr Hennig)
- Fruit Juice and Certain Similar Products  
(Amendment to Directive No 75/726/EEC)  
(Rapporteur: Mr De Grave)
- Greek Application for Membership of the Community  
(Own-Initiative Opinion)  
(Rapporteur-General: Mr De Ridder)

**164TH PLENARY SESSION OF 19 AND 20 DECEMBER 1978**

- Impact of the European Monetary System (EMS) on the Common Agricultural Policy  
(Rapporteur: Mr Schnieders)
- Community action in the cultural sector  
(Communication from the Commission to the Council)  
(Rapporteur: Mr Roseingrave)
- *Industrial Restructuring and Conversion Operations*  
(Rapporteur: Mr Evain)

- Health protection of the general public and workers against the dangers of ionizing radiation  
(amending of directive)  
(Rapporteur: Mr Nielsen P.)
- Roll-over protection structures of wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors—static tests  
(Rapporteur: Mr Masprone)
- Towing hooks and reverse on wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors  
(Rapporteur: Mr Masprone)
- Lamps for wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors  
(Rapporteur: Mr Masprone)
- Brucellosis and tuberculosis in cattle—Italy  
(Rapporteur: Mr Bukman)
- Derogations granted to Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom on Brucellosis, tuberculosis and swine fever  
(Rapporteur: Mr Bukman)
- Research and development in the environmental field  
(indirect action) (review of the second multiannual R & D programme adopted by Decision No 76/311/EEC)  
(Rapporteur: Mrs Heuser)
- R & D in the field of reference materials and methods and of applied metrology  
(non-nuclear indirect action) (1979–1982)  
(decision adopting an R & D programme)  
(Rapporteur: Mr von der Decken)
- Multiannual research programme in the field of climatology  
(indirect action—1979–1983)  
(Rapporteur: Mrs Clark)
- Recycling of urban and industrial waste (secondary raw materials) (indirect action—1979–1983)  
(Rapporteur: Mr Nielsen P.)
- Marketing of straight feedingstuffs  
(Amendments to Directive No 77/101/EEC)  
(Rapporteur: Mr Paggi)

**Opinions drawn up by the  
Economic and Social Committee  
on its own initiative  
(1973—1978)**

— 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 Evain) 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



**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	Date of request for Opinion	Opinion requested by	Date of Opinion's adoption and publication	Publication of final instrument	Opinion taken into account		Publication of EP Opinion
					To a minor extent	To a large extent	
Marketing of seed potatoes	11. 7. 1978	Council	13. 7. 1978	OJ L 281 of 6. 10. 1978	The Committee Opinion approved the Commission proposal		
Driver's seat of wheeled agricultural (forestry) tractors	29. 7. 1977	Council	2. 2. 1978 OJ C 84 of 8. 4. 1978	OJ L 255 of 18. 9. 1978	X		OJ C 299 of 12. 12. 1977
Marketing of seed of forage plants, cereal seed, seed of oleaginous and fibrous plants and vegetable seed; common catalogue of agricultural plant varieties (amendment)	11. 7. 1978	Council	13. 7. 1978	OJ L 236 of 26. 8. 1978	The Committee Opinion approved the Commission proposal		
Beet seed (amendment to Directive)	31. 5. 1977	Council	23. 6. 1977 OJ C 180 of 28. 7. 1977	OJ L 16 of 20. 1. 1978 OJ L 236 of 26. 8. 1978	The Committee Opinion approved the Commission proposal		
Forage plant seeds (amendment to Directive)	31. 5. 1977	Council	23. 6. 1977 OJ C 180 of 28. 7. 1977	OJ L 16 of 20. 1. 1978 OJ L 236 of 26. 8. 1978	The Committee Opinion approved the Commission proposal		
Cereal seed (amendment to Directive)	31. 5. 1977	Council	23. 6. 1977 OJ C 180 of 28. 7. 1977	OJ L 16 of 20. 1. 1978 OJ L 236 of 26. 8. 1978	The Committee Opinion approved the Commission proposal		

Marketing of seed potatoes	31. 5. 1977	Council	23. 6. 1977 OJ C 180 of 28. 7. 1977	OJ L 261 of 14. 10. 1977 OJ L 236 of 26. 8. 1978	The Committee Opinion approved the Commission proposal	
Marketing of material for the vegetative propagation of grape vines (amendment to Directive)	31. 5. 1977	Council	23. 6. 1977 OJ C 180 of 28. 7. 1977	OJ L 16 of 20. 1. 1978 OJ L 236 of 28. 8. 1978	The Committee Opinion approved the Commission proposal	
Seeds of oleaginous and fibrous plants (amendment to Directive)	31. 5. 1977	Council	23. 6. 1977 OJ C 180 of 28. 7. 1977	OJ L 16 of 20. 1. 1978 OJ L 236 of 26. 8. 1978	The Committee Opinion approved the Commission proposal	
Freedom of establishment for dentists; mutual recognition of diplomas and certificates for practising dentistry; coordination of legislative provisions concerning self employed dentists (three proposals)	18. 3. 1969	Council	3. 12. 1969 OJ C 36 of 28. 3. 1970	OJ L 233 of 24. 8. 1978	X	
Quality of freshwater suitable for fish	11. 8. 1976	Council	24. 2. 1977 OJ C 77 of 30. 3. 1977	OJ L 222 of 14. 6. 1978	X	OJ C 30 of 7. 2. 1977
Classification and labelling of dangerous substances (pesticides)	1. 10. 1976	Council	31. 3. 1977 OJ C 114 11. 5. 1977	OJ L 206 of 29. 7. 1978	X	OJ C 30 of 7. 2. 1977
Cocoa and chocolate products for human consumption	6. 1. 1978	Council	2. 2. 1978 OJ C 84 of 8. 4. 1978	OJ L 197 of 22. 7. 1978 6th amend. OJ L 291 of 17. 10. 1978	The Committee Opinion approved the Commission proposal	

Subject	Date of request for Opinion	Opinion requested by	Date of Opinion's adoption and publication	Publication of final instrument	Opinion taken into account		Publication of EP Opinion
					To a minor extent	To a large extent	
Health protection of workers exposed to vinyl chloride monomer	2. 12. 1976	Council	29. 9. 1977 of OJ C 287 30. 11. 1977	OJ L 197 of 22. 7. 1978		X	OJ C 163 of 11. 7. 1977
Emulsifiers, stabilizers, thickeners and gelling agents used in foodstuffs (1st amend. of Directive 74/323/EEC)	20. 7. 1977	Council	24. 11. 1977 of OJ C 59 8. 3. 1978	OJ L 197 of 22. 7. 1978	X		
Derogation from Article 1 of the 6th VAT Directive (9th Directive)	31. 5. 1978	Council	21. 6. 1978 of OJ C 283 27. 11. 1978	OJ L 194 of 19. 7. 1978	X		OJ C 163 of 10. 7. 1978
I. Common organization of the markets in milk and milk products (Amendment) II. Northern Ireland Milk Marketing Board (Two Regulations)	16. 1. 1978	Council	27. 4. 1978 of OJ C 269 13. 11. 1978	OJ L 171 of 28. 6. 1978	X		
Producer groups and their unions	9. 6. 1977	Council	24. 11. 1977 of OJ C 59 8. 3. 1978	OJ L 166 of 23. 6. 1978		X	
Fluorocarbons in the environment (Resolution)	13. 9. 1977	Council	2. 3. 1978 of OJ C 101 26. 4. 1978	OJ C 133 of 7. 6. 1978		The Committee Opinion approved the Commission proposal	OJ C 6 of 2. 1. 1978

Statistical survey of areas under vines	2. 12. 1977	Council	30. 3. 1978 OJ C 181 of 31. 7. 1978	OJ L 128 of 17. 5. 1978	X	
Aid to hop producers for the 1977 harvest	20. 2. 1977	Council	2. 3. 1978 OJ C 101 of 26. 4. 1978	OJ L 116 of 28. 4. 1978	X	
Multianual R & D programme on paper and board recycling	30. 8. 1977	Council	15. 12. 1977 OJ C 59 of 8. 3. 1978	OJ L 107 of 21. 4. 1978	The Committee Opinion approved the Commission proposal	
Shipbuilding aid	18. 11. 1977	Council	2. 2. 1978 OJ C 84 of 8. 4. 1978	OJ L 98 of 11. 4. 1978	X	OJ C 36 of 13. 2. 1978
Consumer subsidy for butter (Amendment to Regulation No 880/77)	9. 3. 1976	Council	27. 4. 1978 OJ C 269 of 13. 11. 1978	OJ L 82 of 29. 3. 1978	The Committee Opinion approved the Commission proposal	
Wipers and washer systems of motor vehicles	25. 11. 1976	Council	31. 3. 1977 OJ C 114 of 11. 5. 1977	OJ L 81 of 28. 3. 1978	The Committee Opinion approved the Commission proposal	
Defrosting and demisting systems of motor vehicles	25. 11. 1976	Council	31. 3. 1977 OJ C 114 of 11. 5. 1977	OJ L 81 of 28. 3. 1978	X	
Interior fittings of motor vehicles (identification of controls, tell-tales and indicators)	25. 11. 1976	Council	31. 3. 1977 OJ C 114 of 11. 5. 1977	OJ L 81 of 28. 3. 1978	The Committee Opinion approved the Commission proposal	

Subject	Date of request for Opinion	Opinion requested by	Date of Opinion's adoption and publication	Publication of final instrument	Opinion taken into account			Publication of EP Opinion
					To a minor extent	In several respects	To a large extent	
Titanium dioxide industry	30. 7. 1975	Council	25. 2. 1976 OJ C 131 of 12. 6. 1976	OJ L 54 of 25. 2. 1978	X			OJ C 28 of 9. 2. 1978
Medical and public health research (Three Decisions)	20. 7. 1977	Council	24. 11. 1977 OJ C 59 of 8. 3. 1978	OJ L 52 of 23. 2. 1978		The Committee Opinion approved the Commission proposal		
Growth of large urban concentrations	18. 8. 1977	Council	15. 12. 1977 OJ C 59 of 8. 3. 1978	OJ L 45 of 16. 2. 1978		The Committee Opinion approved the Commission proposal		OJ C 289 of 12. 12. 1977
Articles which come into contact with foodstuffs and contain vinyl chloride monomer	21. 1. 1977	Council	31. 3. 1977 OJ C 114 of 11. 5. 1977	OJ L 44 of 15. 2. 1978		The Committee Opinion approved the Commission proposal		
Preservatives authorized for use in foodstuffs for human consumption	29. 11. 1977	Council	15. 12. 1977 OJ C 59 of 8. 3. 1978	OJ L 44 of 15. 2. 1978	X			
Antioxidants authorized for use in foodstuffs for human consumption	29. 11. 1977	Council	15. 12. 1977 OJ C 59 of 8. 3. 1978	OJ L 44 of 15. 2. 1978	X			
Colouring Matters authorized for use in foodstuffs for human consumption	29. 11. 1977	Council	15. 12. 1977 OJ C 59 of 8. 3. 1978	OJ L 44 of 15. 2. 1978	X			

Seed Marketing and the Common Catalogue of Varieties of Agricultural Plant Species (Amendment to the Directive)	31. 5. 1977	Council	23. 6. 1977 OJ C 180 of 28. 7. 1977	OJ L 16 of 20. 1. 1978	The Committee Opinion approved the Commission proposal	
Extension of derogations granted in respect of protection against Swine fever to Denmark, Ireland and the UK	2. 12. 1977	Council	15. 12. 1977 OJ C 59 of 8. 3. 1978	OJ L 16 of 20. 1. 1978	The Committee Opinion approved the Commission proposal	
Extension of derogations granted in respect of brucellosis and tuberculosis to Denmark, Ireland and the UK	11. 7. 1977	Council	27. 10. 1977 OJ C 18 of 23. 1. 1978	OJ L 15 of 19. 1. 1978	The Committee Opinion approved the Commission proposal	
Health problems affecting trade in fresh poultrymeat	4. 8. 1976	Council	16. 12. 1976 OJ C 86 of 7. 3. 1978	OJ L 15 of 19. 1. 1978	The Committee Opinion approved the Commission proposal	OJ C 283 of 13. 12. 1976
New rules on the role and operation of the European Social Fund (Four Proposals and Regulations)	7. 4. 1977	Council	28. 4. 1977 OJ C 126 of 28. 5. 1977	OJ L 337 of 27. 12. 1977		
Operations qualifying for a higher rate of intervention from the European Social Fund; European Social Fund Action to help women	10. 10. 1977	Council	27. 10. 1977 OJ C 18 of 23. 1. 1978	OJ L 337 of 27. 12. 1977		
Quality of surface fresh water	13. 5. 1976	Council	30. 9. 1976 OJ C 285 of 2. 12. 1976	OJ L 334 of 24. 12. 1977	X	OJ C 178 of 2. 8. 1976
Taking-up and pursuit of credit institutions	7. 1. 1975	Council	28. 5. 1975 OJ C 283 of 17. 11. 1975	OJ L 322 of 17. 12. 1977	X	OJ C 128 of 9. 6. 1978

Subject	Date of request for Opinion	Opinion requested by	Date of Opinion's adoption and publication	Publication of final instrument	Opinion taken into account			Publication of EP Opinion
					To a minor extent	In several respects	To a large extent	
Classification, packaging and labelling of paints, varnishes and adhesives	9. 7. 1975	Council	26. 11. 1975 OJ C 85 of 16. 2. 1976	OJ L 303 of 28. 11. 1977		X		OJ C 28 of 9. 2. 1976
Social security schemes to employed persons (amend. of Regulations Nos 1408/71 and 574/72)	14. 7. 1977	Council	27. 10. 1977 OJ C 18 of 23. 1. 1978	OJ L 302 of 26. 11. 1977	The Committee Opinion approved the Commission proposal			OJ C 266 of 7. 11. 1977
Field of vision of motor vehicle drivers	12. 1. 1976	Council	25. 5. 1976 OJ C 197 of 28. 8. 1976	OJ L 267 of 19. 10. 1977	The Committee Opinion approved the Commission proposal			OJ C 125 of 8. 6. 1976
Research Programme in the field of treatment and use of sewage sludge	24. 1. 1977	Council	28. 4. 1977 OJ C 126 of 28. 5. 1977	OJ L 267 of 19. 10. 1977 (Amended Commission proposal)	The Committee Opinion approved the Commission proposal			
Community Policy on data processing	9. 10. 1975	Council	25. 2. 1976 OJ C 131 of 12. 6. 1976	OJ L 255 of 6. 10. 1977		X		OJ C 28 of 9. 2. 1976
Rear fog lamps of motor vehicles and their trailers	13. 1. 1977	Council	31. 3. 1977 OJ C 114 of 11. 5. 1977	OJ L 220 of 29. 8. 1977	The Committee Opinion approved the Commission proposal			



Emission of Pollutants from diesel engines — Agricultural Tractors	22. 12. 1975	Council	25. 5. 1976 OJ C 197 of 23. 8. 1976	OJ L 220 of 29. 8. 1977	The Committee Opinion approved the Commission proposal	OJ C 125 of 8. 6. 1976
Safety belts	16. 1. 1975	Council	29. 5. 1975 OJ C 263 of 17. 11. 1975	OJ L 220 of 29. 8. 1977	X	OJ C 76 of 7. 4. 1975
Reversing lamps for motor vehicles and their trailers	13. 1. 1977	Council	31. 3. 1977 OJ C 114 of 11. 5. 1977	OJ L 220 of 29. 8. 1977	X	
Parking lamps for motor vehicles	13. 1. 1977	Council	31. 3. 1977 OJ C 114 of 11. 5. 1977	OJ L 220 of 29. 8. 1977	X	
Roll-over protection structures of wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors	20. 1. 1975	Council	26. 6. 1975 OJ C 263 of 17. 11. 1975	OJ L 220 of 29. 8. 1977	X	OJ C 76 of 7. 4. 1975
European Social Fund in favour of — Persons affected by employment difficulties — Persons occupied in the textile and clothing sectors — Migrant workers and handicapped persons	7. 4. 1977	Council	28. 4. 1977 OJ C 126 of 28. 5. 1977	OJ L 186 of 3. 8. 1977	The Committee Opinion approved the Commission proposal	
Mutual recognition of diplomas, certificates and other evidences of the formal qualifications of nurses and of the right of establishment and freedom to provide services, and the activities of nurses (two Directives)	25. 11. 1969	Council	23. 4. 1970 OJ C 108 of 26. 8. 1970	OJ L 176 of 15. 7. 1977	The Committee Opinion approved the Commission proposal	

Subject	Date of request for Opinion	Opinion requested by	Date of Opinion's adoption and publication	Publication of final instrument	Opinion taken into account			Publication of EP Opinion
					To a minor extent	In several respects	To a large extent	
Coffee extracts and chicory extracts	11. 4. 1973	Council	13. 12. 1973 OJ C 37 of 1. 4. 1974	OJ L 172 of 12. 7. 1977	X			
Towing hooks on motor vehicles	21. 1. 1975	Council	23. 4. 1975 OJ C 248 of 29. 10. 1975	OJ L 145 of 13. 6. 1977	X			OJ C 76 of 7. 4. 1975
European Community action programme on the environment	9. 4. 1976	Council	30. 9. 1976 OJ C 281 of 27. 11. 1976	OJ L 139 of 13. 6. 1977			X	OJ C 178 of 2. 8. 1976
Type-approval of motor vehicles and their trailers	20. 1. 1977	Council	31. 3. 1977 OJ C 114 of 11. 5. 1977	OJ L 81 of 28. 3. 1978 (OJ L 168 of 28. 6. 1978)	X			
Taximeters	17. 7. 1975	Council	26. 11. 1975 OJ C 35 of 16. 2. 1976	OJ L 26 of 31. 1. 1977			X	OJ C 7 of 12. 1. 1976
Insurance agent and broker (ex group 630 SIC)	26. 1. 1971	Council	29. 9. 1971 OJ C 113 of 9. 11. 1971	OJ L 26 of 31. 1. 1977			X	

Electrical energy meters	29. 3. 1973	Council	26. 9. 1973 OJ C 101 of 23. 11. 1973	OJ L 338 of 4. 12. 1976	X		
Radio interference caused by electrical household appliances, portable tools and similar equipment	26. 9. 1972	Council	22. 2. 1973 OJ C 52 of 5. 7. 1973	OJ L 336 of 4. 12. 1976	The Committee Opinion approved the Commission proposal		
Alcoholometers, alcohol hydrometers and alcohol tables	4. 12. 1974	Council	23. 4. 1975 OJ C 248 of 29. 10. 1975	OJ L 262 of 27. 9. 1976	The Committee Opinion approved the Commission proposal		OJ C 76 of 7. 4. 1975
Rear registration plate lamps for motor vehicles	14. 1. 1975	Council	23. 4. 1975 OJ C 248 of 29. 10. 1975	OJ L 262 of 27. 9. 1976	X		OJ C 76 of 7. 4. 1975
Direction indicator lamps for motor vehicles and their trailers		Council	26. 10. 1966 OJ C 224 of 5. 12. 1966	OJ L 262 of 27. 9. 1976	The Committee Opinion approved the Commission proposal		
Passenger seats for wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors		Council	25. 1. 1967 OJ C 42 of 7. 3. 1967	OJ L 262 of 27. 9. 1976	X		
Clinical thermometers		Council	25. 1. 1966 OJ C 30 of 22. 2. 1967	OJ L 262 of 27. 9. 1976	The Committee Opinion approved the Commission proposal		
Motor-vehicle headlamps	16. 1. 1975	Council	23. 4. 1975 OJ C 255 of 7. 11. 1975	OJ L 262 of 27. 9. 1976	X		OJ C 76 of 7. 4. 1975

Subject	Date of request for Opinion	Opinion requested by	Date of Opinion's adoption and publication	Publication of final Instrument	Opinion taken into account		Publication of EP Opinion
					To a minor extent	To a large extent	
Priority Projects in data processing	25. 3. 1975	Council	29. 5. 1975 OJ C 263 of 17. 11. 1975	OJ L 223 of 16. 8. 1976	X		OJ C 239 of 20. 10. 1975
Deferred payment of import duties, of export duties	14. 8. 1975	Council	30. 10. 1975 OJ C 15 of 22. 1. 1976	OJ L 146 of 2. 6. 1978	X		OJ C 7 of 12. 1. 1976
Oil, natural gas and electricity — Investment projects (Amendment of Regulation 1056/72)	14. 8. 1975	Council	27. 11. 1975 OJ C 35 of 16. 2. 1976	OJ L 140 of 28. 5. 1976	X		OJ C 280 of 8. 12. 1975
Preservatives in human food (11th Amendment)	19. 6. 1975	Council	26. 11. 1975 OJ C 35 of 16. 2. 1976	OJ L 126 of 14. 5. 1976		The Committee Opinion approved the Commission proposal	OJ C 257 of 10. 11. 1975
Biology — health protection	7. 8. 1975	Council	30. 10. 1975 OJ C 15 of 22. 1. 1976	OJ L 74 of 20. 3. 1976		The Committee Opinion approved the Commission proposal	OJ C 280 of 8. 12. 1975
Research on reference materials and methods	30. 7. 1975	Council	26. 11. 1975 OJ C 35 of 16. 2. 1976	OJ L 74 of 20. 3. 1976		The Committee Opinion approved the Commission proposal	OJ C 280 of 8. 12. 1975
Environmental research Programme	1. 8. 1975	Council	26. 11. 1975 OJ C 35 of 16. 2. 1976	OJ L 74 of 20. 3. 1976		The Committee Opinion approved the Commission proposal	OJ C 280 of 8. 12. 1975

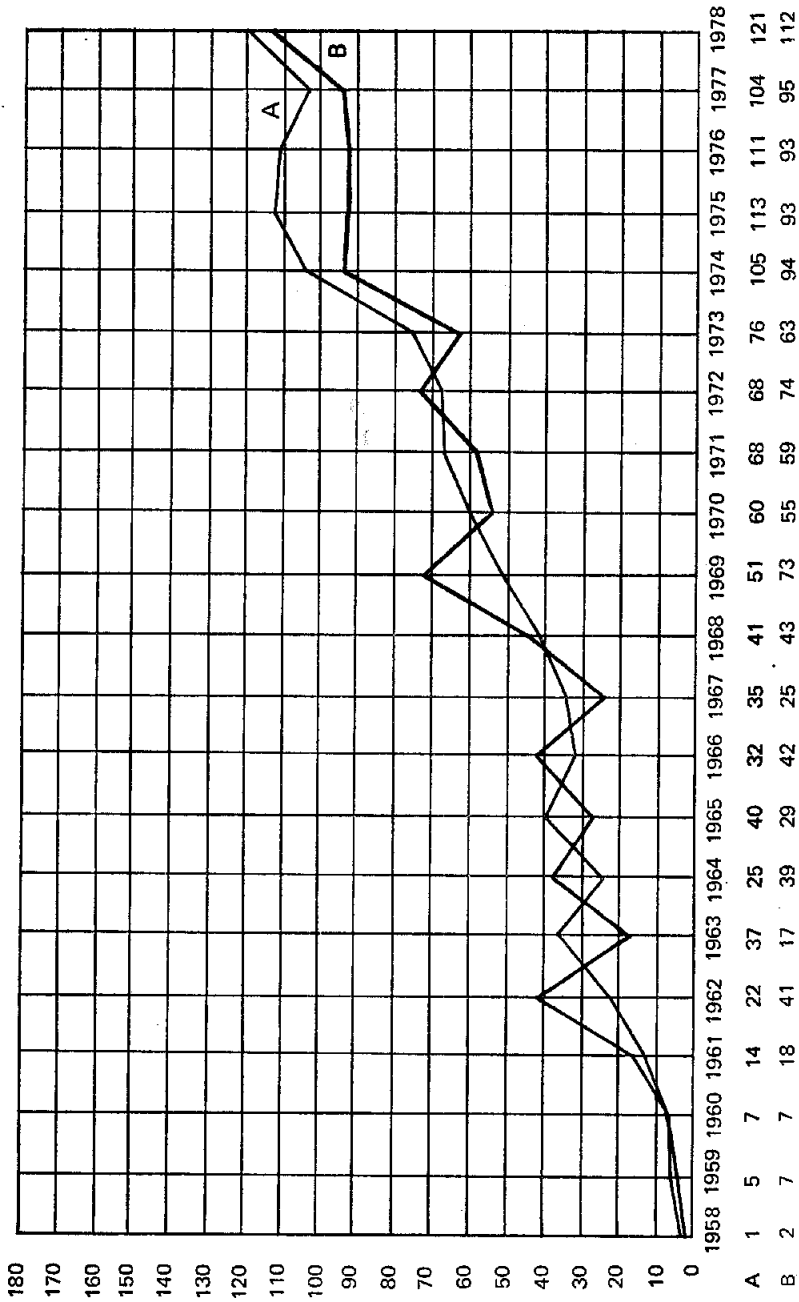
Extension of trade union rights	23. 9. 1975	Council	30. 10. 1975 OJ C 12 of 17. 1. 1976	OJ L 39 of 14. 2. 1976	The Committee Opinion approved the Commission proposal	OJ C 280 of 8. 12. 1975
European inventory of sources of information on the environment	20. 3. 1975	Council	29. 5. 1975 OJ C 263 of 17. 11. 1975	OJ L 31 of 5. 2. 1976	The Committee Opinion approved the Commission proposal	OJ C 157 of 14. 7. 1975
Equal treatment for men and women as regards social security	17. 1. 1977	Council	23. 6. 1977 OJ C 180 of 18. 7. 1977	Proposal amended by Commission Treaty Art. 149 (2)	X	
Inshore fishing	10. 12. 1975	Council	25. 5. 1976 OJ C 197 of 23. 8. 1976		X	OJ C 125 of 8. 6. 1976
Liberalization of public purchasing	17. 7. 1975	ESC Bureau	25. 5. 1976 OJ C 197 of 23. 8. 1976	(Opinion issued on Committee's own initiative)	X	
Weights of from 1 mg. to 50 kg. of higher than average precision	26. 1. 1972	Council	29. 6. 1972	OJ L 84 of 28. 3. 1974	The Committee Opinion approved the Commission proposal	
Protection of participants in home study courses	26. 8. 1977	Council	2. 3. 1978 OJ C 101 of 26. 4. 1978		X	OJ C 80 of 13. 3. 1975



*Annex E*

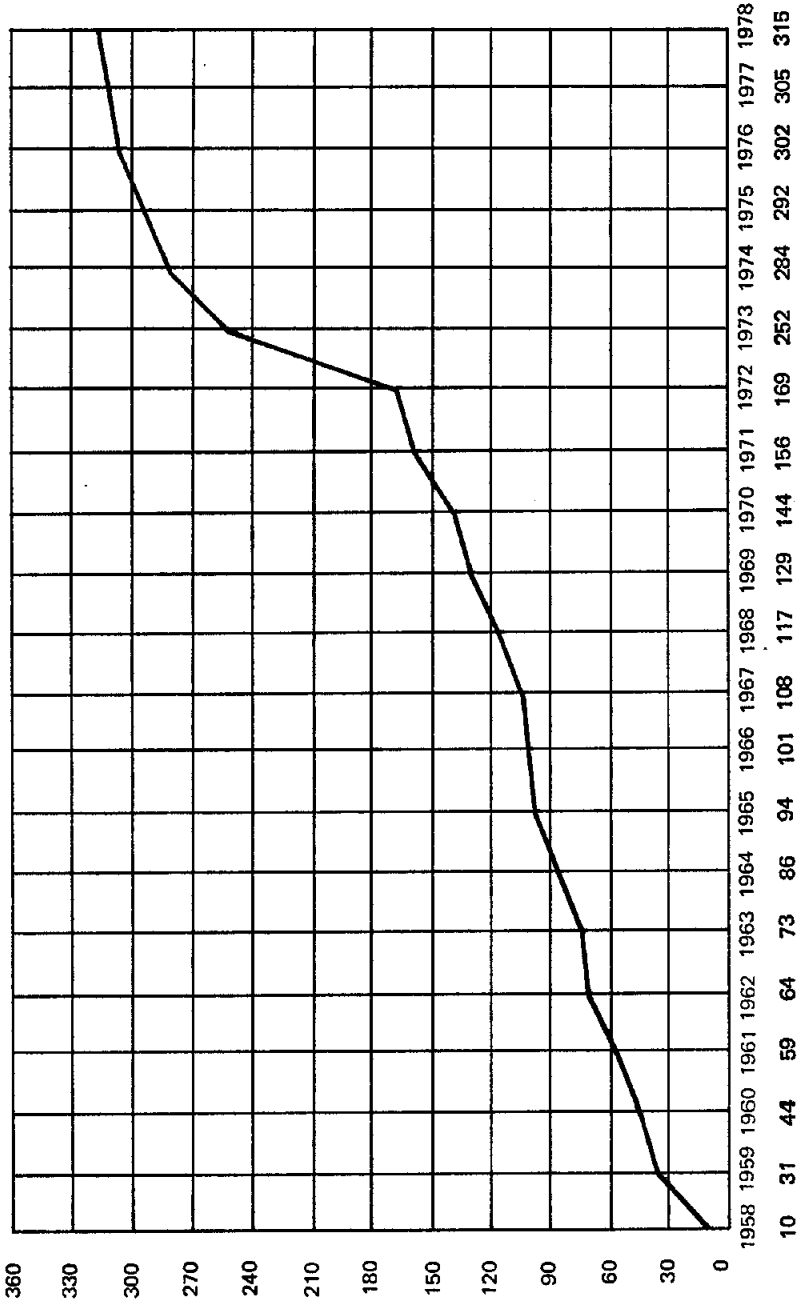
**Graphs**

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





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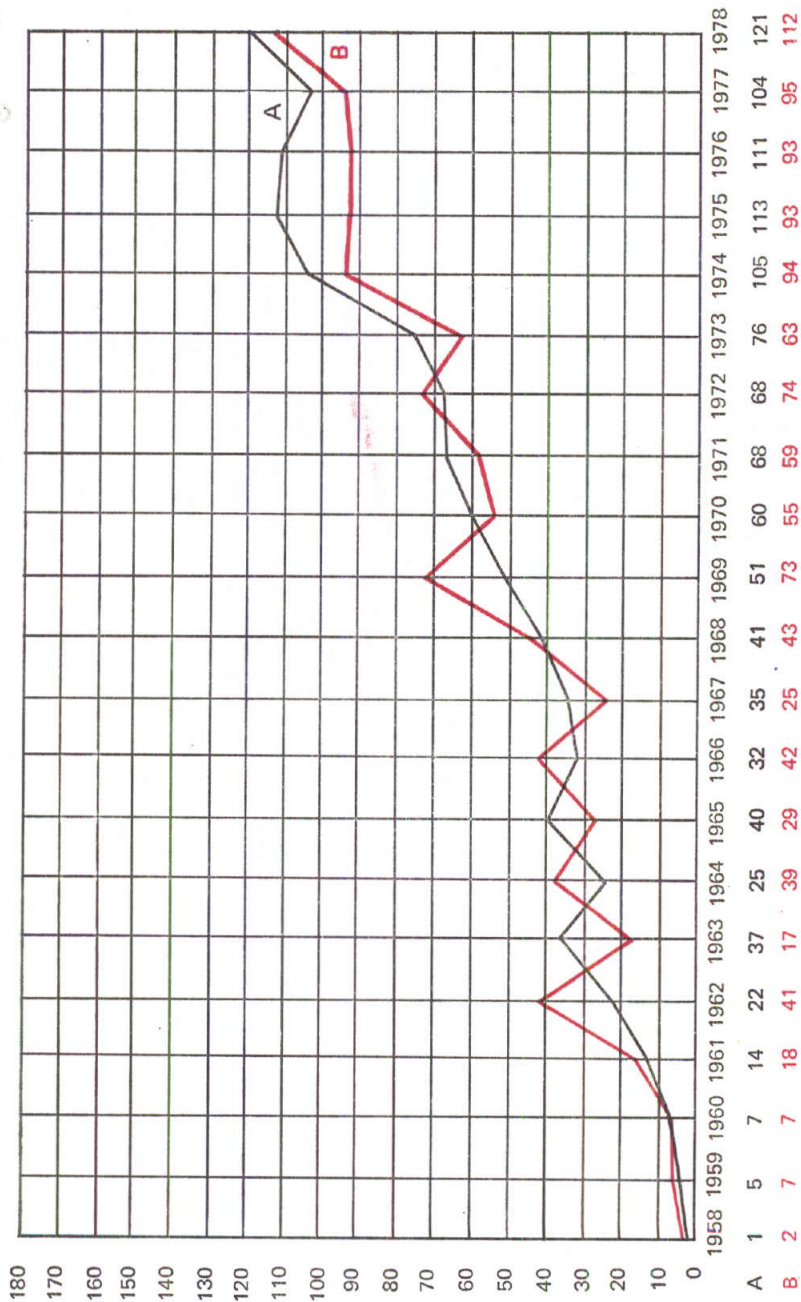
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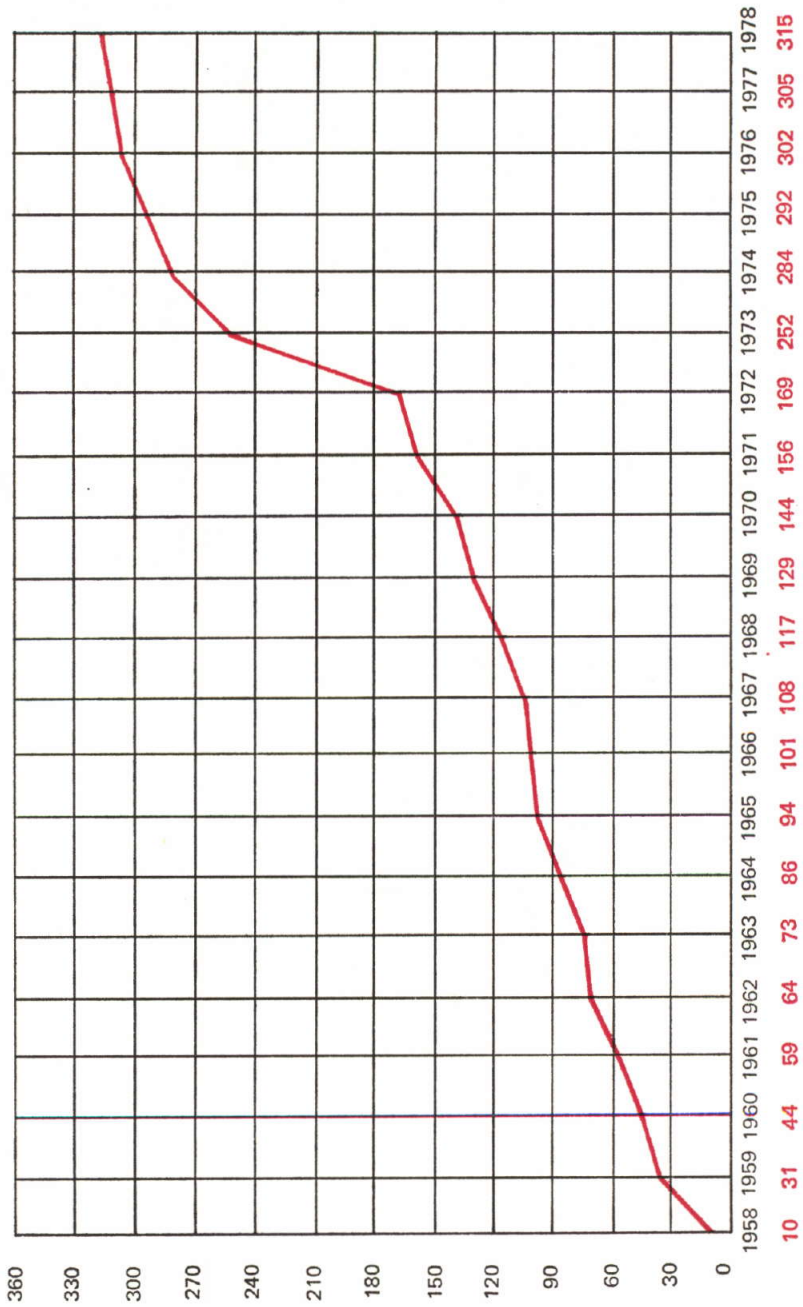
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