

EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT 1994



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE
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EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Annual Report 1994

Brussels — 1995

Cataloguing data can be found at the end of this publication

Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, 1995

ISBN 92-830-0265-2

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Printed in Italy

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Preface

The year 1994 was marked by the implementation of the Maastricht Treaty. This strengthened the Committee's role: (a) by giving it control over its own Rules of Procedure and by legally recognizing its right of initiative, and (b) by giving it the same budgetary powers as the Court of Auditors had before it became an institution.

The Committee's scope for mandatory referrals was also increased. From now on it will be serviced by a common organizational structure shared with the Committee of the Regions.

The Treaty on European Union sets out a number of challenges, some of which are of very direct concern to the Economic and Social Committee and the legal status of its members. One of these is to redefine its advisory duties to take particular account of the political and social need to draw EU institutions and citizens closer together. Reducing the democratic deficit is unimaginable without increasing the involvement of representatives of socio-occupational organizations in the Community decision-making process.

The Economic and Social Committee's desire to participate in this process is at the centre of its concerns, and increased involvement is the aim of all its members.

Carlos Ferrer
President

CHAPTER I

Presence and influence of the Economic and Social Committee

1. THE ESC'S CONSULTATIVE ROLE

During the reference period, the Economic and Social Committee produced 146 items of consultative work: 122 Opinions followed referrals from the Commission or the Council; 22 Own-initiative Opinions and two information reports were also issued.

Detailed information on this major Committee contribution to Community activity will be found in Chapter II.

2. APPLICATION OF THE MAASTRICHT TREATY

The ESC General Secretariat carried out the preparatory work for the organization of the inaugural session of the Committee of the Regions (COR), held in Brussels on 9 and 10 March 1994. The ESC Secretariat serviced all COR meetings during the first four months of the existence of the COR, the new consultative body set up under Article 4 of the Treaty on European Union.

Protocol 16 to the Treaty on European Union lays down that the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions shall have a common organizational structure. This structure came into force on 1 January 1995.

3. THE ESC'S NEW TERM OF OFFICE

The inaugural session of the Economic and Social Committee was held on 18 October 1994, with the oldest member, Mr Kazazis, in the Chair. At this meeting, the new Committee was installed in office for its 10th four-year term-of office from 21 September 1994 to 20 September 1998.

The ESC's first task was to elect its President and two Vice-Presidents for a two-year term as laid down in its Rules of Procedure. Mr Carlos Ferrer (Spain — Employers) was elected President by 149 votes to six, with four abstentions. Mr Bent Nielsen (Denmark — Workers) and Mr André Laur (France — Various Interests) were elected Vice-Presidents.

Following his election, Mr Carlos Ferrer gave an address. Many important guests were in attendance, including Mrs Nicole Pery, Vice-President of the

European Parliament, Mr Jacques Delors, President of the European Commission, and Mr Dietrich von Kyaw, representing Coreper.

4. ESC-COUNCIL RELATIONS

Greek Presidency

Mr Alexandros Baltras, State Secretary for Trade and acting President of the Council for the first six months of 1994, presented the Greek Presidency's programme to the Economic and Social Committee at the Plenary Session held in Brussels on 26 January. This Presidency's priority was clearly established as fighting unemployment.

At a meeting of the Section for Transport and Communications held in Brussels on 11 February 1994, Mr Ioannis Haralambous, acting President of the Transport Council, made a statement on the Greek Presidency's programme.

German Presidency

Mr Günther Rexrodt, Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and acting Council President for the second half of 1994, outlined the German Presidency's programme at the ESC Plenary Session held in Brussels on 6 July.

Mr Rexrodt's presentation was followed by a wide-ranging discussion with Committee members. The Council President repeatedly stressed the importance for the Community decision-making process of the consultative role of the ESC, both now and in the future.

Mr Dietrich von Kyaw, Chairman of Coreper, represented the Council President at the inaugural working session of the 10th four-year term of office held on 20 October 1994.

At the 321st Plenary Session, held in Brussels on 21 December 1994, Mr Norbert Lammert, Parliamentary State Secretary at the German Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs, presented the conclusions of the German Presidency on behalf of the Council Presidency.

5. ESC-COMMISSION RELATIONS

In 1994, working relations and cooperation with Commission departments were, as in previous years, excellent. Special reference should be made to the attendance of the Commission President, Mr Delors, at the inaugural session of the ESC's 10th four-year term of office held in Brussels on 20 October.

The following Commissioners also attended ESC Plenary Sessions:

24 February 1994: Mr Peter Schmidhuber, for the adoption of the Opinion on the Cohesion Fund;

24 March 1994: Mr René Steichen, concerning the implementation of the reform of the CAP and agricultural prices;

23 November 1994: Mr Pádraig Flynn, for the adoption of the Opinion on the White Paper on European social policy.

Several Members of the Commission also attended ESC Section meetings:

8 June 1994: Mr Pinheiro (Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services);

14 July 1994: Mr Ruberti (Section for Energy, Nuclear Questions and Research);

28 July 1994: Mrs Scrivener (Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services).

6. ESC-EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RELATIONS

The year 1994 was marked by elections to the European Parliament (EP) and the renewal of the ESC. As a result, there was less contact or preparatory work between the presidents and chairmen, rapporteurs and the respective secretariats of the ESC Sections and the EP Committees.

The Chairman of the EP Committee on Legal Affairs and Citizens' Rights, Mr Alber, was one of several visitors to the Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services.

Several Committee members were invited to hearings and meetings organized by EP Committees.

As in previous years, the ESC Secretariat attended meetings of the Working Party on Interinstitutional Affairs, set up after the Single European Act entered into force; the Working Party's brief is to arrange and coordinate the passage of legislation between the different institutions of the Community and, in particular, work on new legislation planning procedures provided for in the Treaty on European Union.

The ESC General Secretariat has the same status as the Commission and the Council at the meetings of the Conference of Presidents of the European Parliament to discuss items connected with the planning and organization of Plenary Session activities.

EP Vice-President Pery attended the inaugural session of the ESC's 10th four-year term of office on behalf of President Hänsch. Excerpts from her speech are given below:

'The European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee must show that they are both different and complementary.

The European Parliament has always considered the ESC as a special partner in drawing up its documents and taking up positions.

By its very nature, the Economic and Social Committee represents an invaluable forum for input from the social partners at an early stage in the process.

Parliament has always recognized the fundamental role of economic and social consultation, because we value the role of the social partners and their dialogue, which is an expression of the democratization of public life.

Under the Treaty of Union, and particularly in view of the major reforms scheduled for 1996, the Parliament and the Committee will have to ensure that their respective roles are more clearly defined in order to reinforce the specific nature of their functions.

We support the notion that the Economic and Social Committee, for its part, should not merely maintain but strengthen its role as an advisory body representing trade unions' and employers' interests, thus developing its role of "advice-giver, close to the grass-roots".¹

The Parliament was instrumental in securing the adoption of several ESC budgetary applications for 1995.

7. GROUPS OF VISITORS

Over the period from 1 November 1993 to 31 October 1994, the number of visitors to the ESC was as high as in the previous year.

<i>EU Member States</i>	<i>Number of groups</i>	<i>Number of visitors</i>
Belgium	8	377
Denmark	17	458
Germany	50	1 388
Greece	6	166
Spain	9	269
France	36	1 030
Italy	6	267
Netherlands	12	502
Portugal	6	267
United Kingdom	43	1 438
Ireland	2	72
Luxembourg	—	—
<i>Total Member States</i>	<i>195</i>	<i>6 234</i>

<i>Non-EU States</i>	<i>Number of groups</i>	<i>Number of visitors</i>
Austria	19	337
Sweden	16	362
Finland	8	149
Norway	2	44
Switzerland	1	17
Czech Republic	1	47
Hungary	1	10
Slovenia	2	37
Romania	1	9
Malta	2	29
CIS	2	28
Lithuania	1	3
USA	8	208
China	1	13
Viet Nam	1	8
International	1	43
<i>Total non-EU States</i>	<i>67</i>	<i>1 344</i>
<i>Grand total</i>	<i>262</i>	<i>7 578</i>

The following figures indicate the trend in recent years:

Changes in the total number of groups of visitors between 1988 and 1994

1994	262	7 578
1993	268	7 589
1992	298	8 731
1991	282	8 272
1990	232	7 646
1989	192	6 479
1988	150	4 677

Groups of visitors to the Committee generally receive an explanation of the role and administration of the ESC within the system of Community institutions. Following this, a Committee member or official usually leads a discussion on current issues of Community interest.

Public events of European interest

The Committee had a stand providing general documentation on its role and consultative work at the following events:

23 February 1994	Annual ESC reception (held at the Hôtel de Ville, Brussels)
11 and 12 March 1994	European Conference on Relations between Consumers (Madrid)
14 to 16 March 1994	Second All-European Transport Conference (Crete)
21 March 1994	Directoria 94 — International convention for chief executives of local and regional authorities (Pyramides, Brussels)
24 and 25 March 1994	Protogora — European association for the promotion of vocational, scientific and technical training (Strasbourg)
7 to 10 April 1994	36th UGT Congress (Unión General de Trabajadores) (Madrid)
24 May 1994	Symposium on the introduction of a single currency (Brussels)
22 June 1994	Eco-Label Forum (Brussels)
29 and 30 June 1994	Citizens' Europe Conference — The elderly in society (Nogent-sur-Marne, France)
29 and 30 August 1994	Citizens' Europe Conference — ESF financial support for training and professional qualifications (Magdeburg, Germany)

ESC relations with the Economic and Social Councils of Member States and Regional Economic and Social Councils

For many years, the ESC has maintained close contacts with national and regional Economic and Social Councils in the Member States.

These contacts basically involve comparing notes, exchanging information, and meetings. They have all increased during the reference period. The key meetings were:

15 February 1994: meeting in Madrid with the Spanish Regional Economic and Social Councils

16 May 1994: meeting at the Maison de l'Europe in Paris with the Economic and Social Council of the Île-de-France Region

19 May 1994: annual meeting in Madrid of the Secretaries-General of the Economic and Social Councils of the European Union

6 June 1994: meeting in Orléans with the Economic and Social Council of the Centre Region

4 November 1994: meeting in Clermont-Ferrand with the Economic and Social Council of the Auvergne Region

16 and 17 November 1994: annual meeting in Madrid of the presidents and secretaries-general of the Economic and Social Councils of the European Union on the subject of the future of social welfare in Europe.

Publications

Proceedings of the Citizens' Europe Conference held on 27 and 28 September 1993 (DE/EN/FR)

Supplier-consumer dialogue (ES/DE/EN/FR/NL)

The role of the European Investment Bank in regional development (nine languages)

Proceedings of the 17th annual meeting with the ACP countries (EN/FR)

Proceedings of the second meeting with the AMU countries (Arab Maghreb Union) (EN/FR)

ESC brochure 1994-96 (nine languages)

Rules of Procedure (nine languages)

Proceedings of the Citizens' Europe Conference held in Nogent-sur-Marne, France (DE/EN/FR)

Proceedings of the Citizens' Europe Conference held in Magdeburg, Germany (DE/EN/FR)

The transition to economic and monetary union (DE/EN/FR)

Partnership and regional development (nine languages)

Ten issues of the ESC Bulletin (nine languages).

These publications may be obtained from the Public Relations Division, without charge and while stocks last. This Division also organizes group visits and ESC participation in public events of European interest.

CHAPTER II

Work of the Committee

1. AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES

Common agricultural policy (CAP)

Contract between agriculture and society

The Committee considers that a number of factors will affect the development prospects of EU and world agrifood markets over the coming decades. These include the CAP reform of May 1992, heralding a more systematic rural development policy; the conclusion of the GATT Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations, which inevitably has implications for EU agriculture; the demise of the State-trading regimes in Central and Eastern Europe and in the former Soviet Union; the imminent EU accession of new Member States; and the completion of the European Economic Area.

In the spirit of the Granada document drawn up in November 1992 by agricultural and Community law experts from Italian and Spanish universities, and of previous ESC Opinions on the sector's problems, the Committee decided to draw up an Own-initiative Opinion focusing on key aspects of a 'contract' between agriculture, the rural world and society in the European Union, in the new international political and economic context.

This wide-ranging Opinion, designed to prompt further discussion, argued that agricultural policy must always cater for the protection of human rights, protection of health, conservation of the environment, prudent, rational use of natural resources, and sound application of technical and biological progress. The Opinion set out objectives which EU agricultural policy should embrace in the interests of international cooperation and solidarity, with a view to banishing the spectres of famine, poverty and destitution which still haunt much of the world population.

To this end, the Committee stressed the interdependence of rural activities and of town and country, and put forward guidelines for agricultural production and

for the promotion of individuals, families and society, as well as for alerting farmers and consumers to each other's problems.

The Opinion concluded with an appeal for a European Union rooted in greater solidarity and openness than hitherto.

Reform of the common organization of the wine market

As the world's principal wine producer and consumer, and as a key player on the world market, the European Union now faces increasingly worrying signs of imbalance on the wine market. Although the situation worsened in the early 1980s following the accession of Spain and Portugal, the problem springs mainly from the obvious shortcomings of a common market organization which, since its inception in 1970, has striven to reconcile very different cultivation and production practices.

Structural measures such as grubbing-up premiums, bans on new planting and restrictions on replanting, and reduction of yields per hectare, combined with a cut in Community assistance (which has made distillation less attractive), have failed to reduce the sector's production potential. Most wines have seen a steady erosion of their market position, undermining the regional wine economy and exacerbating the disparities between EU producer regions.

Consumption has also fallen steadily, from 154 million hectolitres in 1980 to 132 million in 1991. In some countries, the situation is aggravated by the persistence of high taxes and excise duty levels which significantly raise the selling price and further discourage the consumer. At the same time, new producer countries in Eastern Europe, Latin America and Australia are gaining access to the Community market through bilateral agreements and the new GATT.

These developments, and the need to extend the CAP reform to all sectors covered by common market organizations, in order to stop farmers switching to other production areas enjoying more attractive aid arrangements, spurred the Commission to issue a communication on the development and future of wine sector policy.

The communication hinged on three main points:

- (i) Reducing production by means of multiannual regional adjustment programmes, based on grubbing-up and limitation of yields.
- (ii) Radical reform of the distillation regime, which would consist of a single voluntary distillation, retention of compulsory distillation, and distillation of by-products. The new scheme was to be backed by a strictly established national reference production, set in absolute figures, covering production of all wine (table wines, quality wines psr, other wines) and corresponding to anticipated Community utilization.

(iii) Adaptation of wine-making practices, notably as regards enrichment using sucrose. This would be achieved by establishing two wine-growing areas, differentiated according to authorized increases in natural alcoholic strength and use of sucrose enrichment.

The Committee debated the communication at some length. The Agriculture Section's study group compared notes with wine-growers and traders when it visited the Langhe area of Piedmont (northern Italy), where some of the world's most famous wines are produced. Wine-growing is the livelihood of this whole region — providing employment both in the sector itself and upstream and downstream of it — and without it the region would be faced with *ecological, environmental and social decay*.

The Committee Opinion, which was adopted by 87 votes to 16 with seven abstentions, broadly endorsed the Commission's plan to reform the common market organization. However, the Committee stressed the need to bear in mind the unique position of the wine sector, which was fundamental to the culture of an entire area. Wine-growing was also crucial to the preservation of the environment and landscape of many regions of Europe.

In the Committee's view, the cultural and social importance of wine-growing should have led the Commission to dwell more on the social side of the problem, and to devote more attention to the sector's structural and infrastructure problems and its key role in employment in many parts of the EU.

Hence, in addition to structural, market- and cultivation-related measures, the Commission should also devise steps to improve marketing and consumer information, to reduce excise duties and to cut the mass of red tape which impedes the sale of wine in some Member States.

In order to preserve wine-growing in traditional production areas, the Committee called on the Commission to analyse third-country consumption and production potential, bearing in mind that some third countries authorized yield-enhancement practices that were banned in the EU.

It would therefore be wise to assess *the likely impact* of the recent GATT agreements (in particular, tariff problems and minimum access to the Community market). It would be illogical to reform the common market organization without establishing clear arrangements with third countries. One could hardly expect Community farmers to reduce their output if this involved removing Community preference and exposing them to the international market without special safeguard clauses.

The Committee agreed that the multiannual regional adjustment programmes proposed by the Commission could help secure a rational, concerted reduction in production potential, provided that they were not overburdened with red tape.

As an instance of subsidiarity, the Committee could envisage grubbing-up schemes backed by appropriate national and Community aid. The Committee also viewed with interest the proposals for extensification of wine-growing, establishment of maximum yields for table wines, and preservation of wine-growing on hillsides.

However, the Committee was highly sceptical about the idea of national reference quantities. The proposal was reminiscent of the production quota system in other market organizations, which had proved unpopular with producers and extremely difficult to implement.

The Committee felt that the fixing of production quotas would be unnecessary if voluntary distillation were instituted at the beginning of the wine year for table wines which did not exceed the per hectare yields, and compulsory distillation for table wines exceeding the maximum per hectare yields.

The Commission proposed that the number of EU wine-growing zones be reduced from six to two, and that the minimum natural alcoholic strength in northern regions be raised to 6%. It planned to limit enrichment with sucrose and concentrated grape must (which would no longer be subsidized) to 2% by volume in northern regions and 1.5% by volume elsewhere. As was to be expected, these proposals were keenly debated by the Committee where, not for the first time, the southern producers' view that enrichment should only be allowed using grape sugar clashed with that of producers in central and northern European regions which authorized the use of beet sugar as a traditional practice.

The Committee's position on this was unequivocal, although it only concerned the Commission communication. Sucrose enrichment should not be extended throughout the EU, and should only be authorized in regions where it had been used traditionally before the establishment of the common market organization.

Young farmers and the problem of succession in agriculture

The EU Council of Agriculture Ministers met in a special session at Ioannina, Greece, on 17 May 1994 to discuss the situation of young farmers. The Committee was the only Community body to submit a contribution, in the form of an Own-initiative Opinion suggesting ways of encouraging young farmers to set up viable farms in all EU regions.

The Opinion aroused keen interest not only at the Council and Commission but also among the main press lobbies and socioeconomic organizations in the Member States. It was drafted in the wake of a hearing at which young farmers from the Twelve were able to explain their problems and suggest possible solutions.

The project, which tied in with the subjects discussed at the Citizens' Europe Conference, sought to highlight the importance of rural society for the harmo-

nious development of the EU as a whole, and the concern of the EU social partners at the drift from the land, which they feared would create serious problems and imbalances before very long.

People were leaving the countryside throughout the western world, and not just in Europe. The answer was to tackle the problem of succession by devising incentives for young people to set up in agriculture and in rural areas in general.

Various factors discouraged young people from entering the sector: the CAP's new bias towards curbing production, which was weakening the rural and agricultural fabric; the unattractive public image of farmers, fostered by the media; and the steady drop in farm incomes.

The Committee felt that action was needed on two fronts:

- (i) in the Member States, by strengthening the link between start-ups and training, facilitating transfer of ownership (through inheritance or retirement/early retirement), and encouraging young people to be more geographically, occupationally and socially mobile;
- (ii) at EU level, by tailoring Community policies to offer real employment prospects to young farmers and removing existing social, fiscal and regulatory obstacles to multi-jobbing, which is becoming increasingly common among young farmers.

The aim of all these measures would be to make farms economically viable, this being a *sine qua non* for any start-up policy.

Agricultural provident schemes

The Agriculture Section issued an information report on agricultural insurance in 1992 and last year the same Section decided to draw up a report on agricultural provident schemes within the EU. The aim was to provide a more detailed picture of schemes in the Member States, and to compare them and assess the scope for Community harmonization.

The report was adopted on 17 May 1994 at a special meeting in Verona, during an international conference convened by Enpaia, the Italian Agricultural Insurance Agency. The report was presented to over 150 experts from the 12 Member States, in the presence of some of Italy's most eminent political and academic figures, thereby confirming their appreciation of a report which is undoubtedly a milestone in the Committee's recent work.

The Section first pointed out that social protection is one of the fundamental social rights enjoyed by citizens in the European Union. Although the Community institutions have repeatedly stressed that social security arrangements remain a Member State responsibility, and that Community-level harmonization of benefits is not a realistic objective, they are nevertheless increasingly focusing

their attention on welfare and social questions. This growing interest is explained by the perception that disparities between levels of social protection in the Member States are an obstacle to the free movement of workers, to the smooth working of the free market and, consequently, to genuine European economic and social integration.

A further reason for this interest is the awareness that in all European countries the management of provident schemes has been hampered by the adverse impact of new population and employment market trends. Given these common problems, Community-wide exchanges of information, studies and thinking can contribute significantly to aligning the guideline objectives for individual Member State policies in this area, as indicated in the Council recommendation of 27 July 1992.

The problems of social protection in the farming sector have long been underestimated by the Community. For many years, the CAP focused on production and economic aspects, to the almost complete exclusion of the social dimension. The picture has changed radically in the wake of CAP reform. Prominent among the measures adopted to offset the adverse social effects of CAP reform is early retirement for farmers; this will inevitably influence national legislation in the area, and will have to accommodate the wide variations in European social protection systems.

The Section's study reveals that social insurance has now been extended to agricultural communities in all European countries. This should be seen as a positive spin-off of the progress made in building a Community Europe, which has encouraged the various countries to improve their own social security systems.

The goal of provident schemes protecting European citizens in all occupational categories — agriculture in particular — is also vital given their present or future role as consumers.

In countries which have adopted occupation-based provident schemes, extension of social insurance to farmers has occurred later than elsewhere, at a time when their numbers have fallen considerably following the rural exodus of recent decades. As a result, these schemes have immediately been confronted with serious budgetary problems, caused by the deteriorating ratios between the numbers of contributors to, and recipients of, benefits. At the same time, it should be acknowledged that as a consequence of demographic trends and employment market changes (ageing population, smaller labour force) structural financial imbalance is no longer confined to agricultural provident schemes, but is a problem shared by all social insurance schemes.

Unequal treatment in social security terms between the farming and non-farming sectors persists in almost all EU countries. While farm workers usually

receive the same benefits as other workers, in most cases — with the exception of those countries which have adopted universal social security schemes — farmers receive lower pensions than other citizens. A further significant difference lies in the fact that some types of insurance are compulsory for wage-earners but optional for the self-employed and for farmers in particular.

Meaningful inequalities of treatment between men and women have not been identified, although women can sometimes retire earlier than men and some types of insurance do not cover farmers' spouses.

In a number of countries where social insurance is funded by contributions, farming sector contributions are lower than others. This is the case, for example, in France and Italy; however, over the last few years, these two countries have introduced policies aimed at gradually closing the gap between the farming and non-farming sectors. This has led to significantly higher costs for farmers, whose contribution rates have grown faster than their incomes. Even in those countries where contributions have remained stable, the financial burden borne by farmers has been exacerbated by falling incomes.

It should be borne in mind that the agricultural sector's financial capacity, which includes the capacity to fund social provident schemes, is currently shrinking, due partly to the production limits imposed by the CAP and cuts in Community aid and support.

Agricultural unemployment, meaning giving up a farming business, brings about additional, sometimes serious, social problems.

In contrast to the urban work scene, those having to give up farming are often also obliged to leave their family accommodation. The effects are therefore felt not only by the men concerned, but also by their spouses, whether they are involved in farming or not, and by their children.

In all EU countries, measures intended to restore financial balance are being adopted, with the aim of guaranteeing current levels of agricultural social benefits and, possibly, of enhancing them so as to eliminate the disparities from which farmers still suffer.

The lengthy process of separating contributory and non-contributory benefits, and of increasing the role of supplementary insurance, State-aided or otherwise, has commenced. An increasingly large part of farmers' incomes will have to be diverted from consumption and investment to additional insurance provision.

Farm prices 1994/95

The Committee Opinion took a balanced stand on the farm price proposals. The price package had traditionally been the cornerstone of Community agricultural

legislation, and was always keenly awaited by farmers because it affected both their production decisions and their income prospects.

For some sectors at least, the May 1992 CAP reform has dramatically altered matters. This was true for cereals, oilseeds, protein crops, and beef and veal, these being the products for which the reduction of guaranteed prices was offset by aid per hectare (in the case of arable crops) and headage premiums (in the case of beef and veal).

The price proposals for the products covered by the 1992 reform thus flowed automatically from earlier Council decisions which could not be called into question, in so far as they were designed to align gradually Community prices on world prices and make Community agriculture more competitive on the world markets.

Community agriculture was bound to be affected by the growing internationalization of modern agriculture. Although appropriate caution was necessary, Community agriculture was entitled to cover under a global integrated system which influenced and provided a buttress for the national farm economies.

This adjustment and reshaping of Community agriculture was leading to a polarized system in which two very different types of farm predominated:

- (i) a relatively limited number of large farms which generated a large proportion of total production and which received the bulk of farm income;
- (ii) a much larger number of small farms which because of their small size and unfavourable locations were often uncompetitive and generated only a small percentage of total production. They accounted for a lower proportion of the overall income of the sector.

Between these two extremes came the various medium-sized farms which were in the process of moving from one group to the other.

The Commission's 1994/95 proposals were very straightforward as they simply introduced the price reductions already adopted for the reform products, and froze the prices of the non-reform products.

No major issues, such as changes in market organization or agrimonetary adjustments (i.e. changes to the green rates), were proposed.

The Commission proposals displayed great financial rigour. The most worrying aspect was their failure to take even the slightest account of three basic points:

- (i) the safeguarding of farm incomes;
- (ii) the link between farming and employment, particularly at a time of serious economic recession when those leaving farming were unlikely to find new jobs elsewhere;

(iii) *the effects which the new World Trade Organization, set to replace the old GATT agreements, would have on European agriculture.*

The Committee viewed the absence of any reference to the farmers' income situation as a serious shortcoming, since this was a key element of any farm price package.

The Commission argued that it was impossible to give a full picture of the situation in 1993 because it did not have comprehensive statistics for the compensation payments related to the CAP reform.

Because of this, the Committee began its Opinion with a specific reference to the general economic situation and to the farm incomes situation. This was designed to drive home the point that the Commission proposals, coming against a backdrop of serious recession and a steady fall in farm incomes, would aggravate an already explosive situation as regards employment and farmers' pay.

The last three years have seen an overall 10% drop in farm incomes, including a 5% drop in 1992 and a 1.2% drop in 1993, according to official Eurostat figures. The Committee felt that in such an adverse situation the Commission could have been less heavy-handed and, aside from the price reductions laid down in the CAP reform, could have done its best not to exacerbate farmers' problems.

The Committee stressed that price policy had three important functions:

- (i) *it ensured food security for the Community population, i.e. sheltered it from the volatility of the world market by guaranteeing strategic self-sufficiency;*
- (ii) *it allowed farming to remain viable, because modern farming did not just entail the production of foodstuffs, but also the protection of hydrogeological balance, the environment, and the various components of the ecosystem. Farming thus had important social and economic implications;*
- (iii) *the balance and stability of the agricultural market played a key part in maintaining the employment and income levels of various groups:*
 - *upstream, in the mechanical, chemical and pharmaceutical industries which supply goods and services to farmers;*
 - *downstream, in the processing of agricultural products;*
 - *within the agricultural sector itself — not only for farmers, but also for full-time and seasonal workers.*

European agriculture in 1994 provided full-time employment for around nine million people. A further 18 million jobs were linked, either upstream or downstream, to agriculture. It was also worth pointing out that 65% of these full-time employed were men and 35% women. The female employment rate in agricul-

ture was markedly higher than in industry, and only a little lower than in the services sector. Female employment was concentrated mainly in the southern regions of the Community (but also in the south and centre of Germany), where small, family-run farms were the norm.

These considerations and concerns led the Committee to note the risk that the Commission's harsh proposals would trigger a rise in unemployment in the broader sense, by reducing the number of potential consumers, not only of farm products but also of those products necessary for farming.

The Committee stressed that the Commission proposals did nothing to encourage individual and/or joint initiatives to switch to other products. This was not intended as a criticism of the new CAP (which it would be wrong to underestimate or disregard), but of the fact that action taken in line with the principles of the new CAP seemed unambitious and dictated by a piecemeal short-term view, rather than a broad proactive one.

In conclusion, the Committee felt that some aspects of the price proposals could have been — and still could be — amended to avoid penalizing farmers excessively, given the general economic climate and the present incomes situation.

Other agricultural policy issues

- (a) In its Opinion on the Commission's discussion paper on possible developments in the policy of arable land set-aside, the Committee referred back to its Opinion of 20 October 1993, drawing attention to the main points made in the earlier Opinion.
- (i) Set-aside must not establish a permanent strait-jacket for European production levels; it must allow production to be adjusted in line with demand on Community and world markets. This was particularly true for the markets for animal feed and biofuels.
 - (ii) There should be an increase in the non-food crops.
 - (iii) Community set-aside policy must be determined in full independence.
 - (iv) The purpose of the proposed reform was to simplify the support system for certain arable crops and make it more flexible.
 - (v) The Committee was opposed to turning irrigated regional ceiling areas into specific base irrigated areas, subject to specific set-aside.
 - (vi) The proposal should refer categorically to the possibility for Member States with regional 'maize' areas to adopt a national-level 'other crops' area.
 - (vii) Article 3(6) introducing a new stabilizer linked to yield should be deleted.

- (viii) The Committee was in favour of a 'mixed' set-aside rate lying between the rotational and non-rotational rates, adjusted by a weighting.
 - (ix) In connection with voluntary set-aside (i.e. more set-aside than required to qualify for support), the Committee drew attention to the potential danger of 100% set-aside.
 - (x) The Committee opposed the general principle of transfer. It did, however, endorse the Commission's proposal to subject transfers to a 10 km restriction and called for Member States to be permitted to set a limit of less than 10 km.
 - (xi) The Committee also asked that the proposal clearly specify several sets of circumstances under which applications could be submitted for support in respect of new land. To avoid land being 'taken' from certain regions or farmers and allotted to others, transfers between 'additional eligible land' and 'ineligible land' should take place within individual holdings.
 - (xii) The Committee asked that the set-aside rate for three-year rotation be the same as that for six-year rotation, subject to verification after three years of operation. It also said that farmers who opted for a higher set-aside rate (i.e. 20% at current rates) should be free to choose the duration of set-aside and the land to which it should apply.
- (b) While the Committee broadly endorsed the Commission's proposal on organic farming methods and indications referring thereto on agricultural products and foodstuffs, it called for a few specific changes:
- (i) for organic wine, it recommended the publication of an EC list of additives and full ingredient declaration, to avoid misleading the consumer;
 - (ii) given the consumer perception of organic products, the Commission should require Member States to provide such information to the consumer where organic products were sold with additives or in mixtures with non-organic ingredients;
 - (iii) the list of regular agricultural products which may be mixed with organic ones contained such products as vegetable fats and gluten. This discouraged Community producers from making these organic products since they were of course more expensive than regular ones. The list also contained products such as honey and milk powder for which there was still no organic standard. The list therefore should be revised.
- (c) In an Opinion assessing measures to deal with beneficiaries of EAGGF-Guarantee operations, the Committee deplored the fact that, as regards measures to curb fraud — a field in which discreet action was required —

informal cooperation between the Member States was not on a sufficient scale to bring about a sizeable reduction in fraud.

The Committee trusted that the more binding regulatory framework proposed by the Commission would measure up to the task of curbing this type of fraud.

The main objective was to initiate a fraud-prevention campaign based on an 'early warning system' involving the Member States and the adoption of concrete measures once a 'warning' had been issued. The Committee recommended, in particular, that Member States' fraud departments launch an intensive campaign of preventive measures (involving, for example, increased physical inspections).

The Committee pointed out that the effectiveness of the measures would largely depend on the readiness of each Member State to identify unreliable operators without delay and to forward relevant information on these operators as soon as irregularity had been exposed in order that preventive measures could be taken in the other Member States.

- (d) The Uruguay Round Agreement on trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights (TRIPs) requires signatories to provide legal instruments in respect of geographical designations, in order to prevent (i) the use of any designation liable to mislead the consumer as to the origin of a product, and (ii) any use which constitutes unfair competition.

In an Opinion referring specifically to alcoholic drinks, the Committee expressed regret that the Commission was not showing greater stringency in transposing the TRIPs agreements in the wines and spirits sector.

- (e) Lastly, and subject to a few minor reservations, the Committee endorsed the Commission proposal to complete the harmonization of legislation on the technical characteristics of seeds marketed in the EU.

Veterinary matters and animal health

- (a) The Committee's chief initiative in this field in 1994 was undoubtedly its Opinion on the use of bovine somatotrophin (BST) in the EU. After a thorough analysis of the problem, and careful consideration of the best interests of the EU dairy sector, the Committee acknowledged that BST authorization raised a number of legitimate technical and ethical doubts.

The Committee also questioned the need for the use of hormones for increasing milk output when there was already a surplus of natural production, which weighed heavily on the Community budget.

Having assessed all the pros and cons, the Committee concluded that BST use would not constitute a positive input for either the primary or secondary

sector. Likewise, it did not constitute a significant revolution in milk production methods since milk production could be increased by other means, *inter alia* animal selection, without any major drawbacks for animal welfare or health.

Given the confirmed scepticism and concerns of Community consumers, authorization of BST and its administration to dairy cattle in the EU could significantly change consumer habits and aggravate existing market and structural imbalances in the milk, dairy products and beef and veal sectors.

BST authorization could also seriously hit the competitiveness of the European industry and the export market, since no major milk consumer or producer/exporter on the world market, with the exception of the USA had authorized its use.

Under these circumstances, the Committee recommended that the EU lend more support to research being carried out in various Member States into the effects of BST on human and animal health and the search for a method for detecting BST. The EU had an irreplaceable role to play here.

This could pave the way for giving Community consumers a genuine choice in matters of labelling, in accordance with European cultural tradition and with Community legislation on labelling. This could be a first step towards an international agreement on BST.

Thus, in view of the sector's current situation, measures adopted under the CAP, the EU's international commitments and the need for further research on this hormone, the Committee recommended maintaining the ban on the marketing of BST and its administration to dairy cows in the Community.

The ban should be extended at least until the milk quota system had come to an end, as proposed by the Commission.

Taking account of the agreements flowing from the GATT negotiations, measures should be taken on the labelling of products imported from countries which had authorized the use of BST in milk production.

- (b) Another important issue discussed by the Committee was the draft Directive concerning the protection of animals during transport.

The transport of live animals, be they for breeding, further fattening or slaughter, required prudent legislation which reconciled animal welfare and economic aspects, and was based on scientific evidence or — where this was not possible — on technically sound ideas rooted in practical experience.

The Committee thought that Community legislation in this area must first and foremost satisfy requirements of practicability and verifiability.

The welfare of animals during transport could be improved by regulating:

- (i) the space allowances required by different species of animals, including the separation of groups of the same species;
- (ii) loading density;
- (iii) the technical characteristics of vehicles and the materials used in their construction.

The Committee urged the Commission to look for ways of reducing the transport of live animals for slaughter to the strict minimum. This could be achieved by:

- (i) maintaining or creating a wide network of profitable abattoirs;
- (ii) cutting export refunds for live cattle and encouraging transport of carcasses;
- (iii) critically reassessing the ban on kosher slaughter currently in force in some Member States.

The duration of the journey must at all events be as short as possible. The Committee broadly proposed, in the light of experience, the adoption of the following:

- (i) maximum travelling time without rest and water: 6 hours;
 - (ii) maximum time without food: 12 hours;
 - (iii) ability to adjust ventilation systems according to the weather;
 - (iv) effective measures to monitor conditions of transport and compliance with travelling-time restrictions both during the journey and at the place of destination;
 - (v) standards on space allowances, loading density, the technical characteristics of vehicles and the materials to be used in their construction;
 - (vi) use of less-stressful routes; vehicles transporting live animals should have traffic priority over other transport.
- (c) The Committee endorsed the Commission's move to update and consolidate Directive 64/435/EEC on health problems affecting intra-Community trade in pigs and cattle, since the Directive had been amended over 40 times.

The Committee asked the Commission to urge the relevant national authorities to see that control measures were as effective as possible, notably by providing skilled staff and a sufficient number of inspectors and veterinarians.

- (d) The marketing of animals and meat within the EU is subject to strict health regulations. A Community system closely regulates the health conditions required of animal and meat imports from third countries. Third countries have the option of having their health and veterinary inspection requirements recognized as equivalent to those of the EU, although this only applies to products other than fresh meat and meat products.

The Commission proposed extending the recognition of equivalence to *meat and meat products*.

The Committee endorsed the proposal, as it felt that recognition of the equivalence of third-country health and veterinary inspection measures with those of the EU was the most appropriate instrument for ensuring a uniform regulatory framework, based on high standards, for meat producers worldwide.

The Committee also welcomed the wider practical effects which the proposal would have. Bilateral agreements would enable the Community to tailor its legislation more effectively to the situation in individual third countries, with the end result of simplifying trade in meat products and reducing procedural delays in marketing.

- (e) The Committee also examined a proposal laying down the principles relating to the zootechnical and genealogical conditions applicable to imports from third countries of animals, their semen, ovules and embryos.

To protect breeders in the Member States, the Committee urged that third countries should have to indicate clearly and precisely if the animals exported had been treated with hormones (natural or synthetic), even if the latter were authorized in the exporting countries, or if somatotrophin was used regularly for dairy stock. These methods could, in fact, mask a poor genetic value.

The Committee was also concerned about the scope for fraud or misuse with regard to semen, ovules and embryos exported to the Community. It felt that the Commission should provide additional safeguards, for example through systematic, regular visits by Community veterinarians to third countries. Furthermore, methods should be found of monitoring these ovules, semen and embryos, thus guaranteeing the identity of the animals, for example by setting up an *ad hoc* 'bank' or by a marking system as already used in intra-Community trade.

- (f) Lastly, the Committee approved proposals on the following:
 - (i) establishing principles for the organization of inspections in the field of animal nutrition;

- (ii) amendment of health conditions for the production and marketing of fresh meat;
- (iii) amended rules on trade in horses intended for competitions and laying down the conditions for participation therein.

Common fisheries policy

- (a) The use of large drift-nets has been a subject of discussion in Europe for more than five years because of (i) the impact of this technique on fishing grounds and confrontation between those fleets which use it and those which do not, and (ii) the ecological consequences of by-catches, most obviously marine mammals, as well as navigation problems affecting all types of vessel.

At a time when the imbalance between fishery resources and catches is leading the EU to reduce its fishing effort, the Committee considered that a destructive method such as drift-netting, which only employs a limited number of fishermen, should be outlawed; at most, it should only be permitted with nets less than 2.5 km long, within the 12-mile limit of each Member State.

- (b) The Committee shared concern about the deterioration of certain fish stocks and the need to avoid a deterioration of others. However, it reiterated the view, expressed time and again in earlier Opinions, that the maintenance and development of the fishing industry must be based on an appropriate, dynamic policy for the integrated conservation and management of resources. This depended *inter alia* on the Community having an advanced scientific database providing more detailed information about the state of fish stocks than was presently the case. Such a policy also called for full acceptance of the socioeconomic implications of the proposed objectives.

The establishment by the Council, acting upon a proposal from the Commission, of multiannual management objectives and strategies for restoring the balance of fishery resources could go some way towards making conservation measures more effective. Restoration of resource balance was a long-term objective which would depend on the interplay of a number of factors and policies. This objective was still within the capabilities of the common fisheries policy's (CFP) present management instruments, as represented by the total allowable catches (TACs) and quotas system and the control of fishing capacity (multiannual guidance programmes).

As the Committee had stated in earlier Opinions, special attention should be given to the idea of a multiannual TAC. This could undoubtedly prove an effective management tool, provided that its potential undesirable effects could be averted, particularly those relating to excessive overrunning of quotas from one year to the next.

The Committee stressed the need to determine how industrial fishing had contributed, both directly and indirectly to the present imbalance. It seemed a little illogical to proclaim the need to protect juvenile fish when industrial fishing gear was known to be particularly indiscriminate.

The proposed reductions and restrictions appeared particularly difficult to achieve in the case of demersal stocks.

For all these reasons, the Committee asked the Commission to revise its proposed management objectives and strategies for certain fisheries for the period 1994 to 1997.

- (c) The Committee considered that the proposals setting out the arrangements for monitoring compliance with the proposed new rules of access to western waters were too complex, too bureaucratic and, as they stood, impossible to enforce.

It therefore asked the Commission to reconsider them and table arrangements which could be applied Union-wide without being unnecessarily burdensome on the industry.

In its 1993 Opinion,¹ the Committee emphasized that the success of the common fisheries policy depends on its acceptance by the industry. This acceptance was contingent on fishermen believing that, irrespective of nationality, they were dealt with uniformly by the authorities. It was their belief that the rules necessary to conserve stock were not being implemented evenly across the Union. Fishery control required greater direct EU involvement. This was not reflected in the proposals.

Adequate control required that the EU and national inspection services had sufficient resources at their disposal. This was not the case at present.

Satellite surveillance might prove to be the most effective means of control as opposed to the more complex means envisaged by the Commission. The cost of the installation, as previously recommended by the Committee, should be borne by the authorities.

- (d) The Act of Accession for Spain and Portugal provides for adjustments to the transitional arrangements in the fisheries sector as of 1996.

Council Regulation (EC) No 1275/94 on adjustments to the arrangements in the fisheries chapters of the Act of Accession provides for full integration of Spain and Portugal into the common fisheries policy.

Under the terms of Regulations (EEC) No 3760/92 and No 1275/94, the conditions governing access must respect the principles of the common

¹ OJ C 108, 19.4.1993, p. 36.

fisheries policy: relative stability, no increase in fishing effort, and preservation of the balance of resources, with due account for biological, geographical and geomorphological conditions, particularly in highly sensitive areas.

The Committee was pleased to note the Commission's intention to take account of the main guidelines of the common fisheries policy and, in particular, Council Regulation (EC) No 1275/94. However, the Committee felt that the approach taken in the proposal on access conditions did not adequately meet those guidelines.

Although the Commission maintained that the proposal was less bureaucratic than the access arrangements laid down in the Spanish and Portuguese Act of Accession, the Committee feared that the new scheme could prove even more bureaucratic. This was a flagrant contradiction of the Council conclusions of June 1993, which clearly established that the CFP should be as straightforward as possible.

The Committee had already discussed various important aspects of the adjustment of the Spanish and Portuguese accession arrangements, and had stressed the need for the conditions governing access and fishing activity to respect certain principles:

- (i) recognition by all parties that historical rights no longer apply in another's territorial waters (12-mile zone);
- (ii) limited access to the exclusive economic zones (EEZs), in terms of number of vessels, areas, period of fishing activity and type of fishing;
- (iii) principle of reciprocity, alongside the need for special consideration of the EU's outermost regions such as the Azores, Madeira and the Canary Islands, where fishing is especially important and is crucial to the socioeconomic development of the population.

The Committee felt that the proposal should do more to allay these concerns.

- (e) The crisis in the fishing industry can only be resolved by resolute action on a number of fronts, of which change in the common organization of the market cannot be the most important.

The Committee welcomed the recognition given to the importance of encouraging particularly the smaller, more fragile producer organizations to improve all aspects of handling and marketing to promote quality. For the proposals to be a success, the bureaucratic procedures would have to be kept to a minimum and any grant aid would have to be paid promptly.

The Committee recognized that under Article XI of the GATT, producer organizations could no longer enjoy a margin of tolerance of up to 10% below the Community withdrawal or selling price when minimum prices

were applied to imports, and that it would be necessary for non-members of producer organizations to observe withdrawal prices. The Committee stressed that the safeguard clauses (Article 24 of Regulation (EEC) No 3759/92) needed clarifying and simplifying. An in-depth study of these clauses was urgently required, particularly in the light of the recently negotiated GATT agreement.

- (f) Lastly, the Committee approved proposals on:
- (i) characteristics of fishing vessels;
 - (ii) a Community financial contribution towards expenditure incurred by the Member States for the purpose of ensuring compliance with the Community system for the conservation and management of fishery resources;
 - (iii) a system of compensation for the additional costs incurred in the marketing of certain fishery products from the Azores, Madeira, the Canary Islands and the French department of Guiana as a result of their distant location.

2. TRANSPORT POLICY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Two major events dominated the Union's work in the field of transport in 1994: the second All-European Transport Conference and the presentation of a document on trans-European transport networks — the logical sequel to the White Paper on growth, competitiveness and employment, which stressed the need for an all-out effort on trans-European networks (TENs). The Committee made a positive contribution in both instances.

The declaration issued at the end of the second All-European Transport Conference widely reflected the position taken by the Committee in its 1993 Own-initiative Opinion (Rapporteur: Mr Bleser), especially as regards the need to develop an overall approach to transport in Europe and to set up machinery for social dialogue as part of the process of trans-European cooperation in transport matters.

Concerning trans-European transport networks, the Committee Opinion (Rapporteur: Mr von der Decken) welcomed the Commission proposal as a highly significant and forward-looking step for transport policy.

In the Committee's view, the primary task in the development of a master plan for the multimodal TEN is to establish the criteria and individual measures for interoperability between the various modes at Community level.

The following work should be given priority:

- (i) fixing of priorities within the framework of the master plan; uniform assessment of the projects from the point of view of environmental acceptability, economic viability and importance for European integration;
- (ii) immediate setting-up of institutional groups with the participation of public and private bodies to study how individual projects can best be carried out with minimum outlay and the best chances of success and what obstacles will have to be removed in the interests of the EU;
- (iii) study of the advantages and weaknesses of the present regulatory conditions with a view to creating a regulatory framework as called for in the master plan;
- (iv) development of financing formulas which include/encourage the participation of private sector bodies.

Furthermore, the Committee considered that even now, at the development stage, special emphasis must be placed on ensuring that the TEN is able to incorporate transport links with the rest of the world as far as possible and that it is open to such link-ups from the outset. For this, however, the objectives, priorities and conditions must be defined immediately.

The Committee also issued a series of important Opinions in the field of transport and telecommunications in which it gave its general approval to the Commission's approach but not without adding specific comments which the Council often accepted and incorporated in its final legislation.

1. Air transport

1.1. Ground handling services

(Rapporteur: Mr von Schwerin)

Ground handling services — which cover all the services provided at an airport for the aircraft as well as the passengers and cargo — vary from country to country and from airport to airport and do not therefore form a homogenous whole. In addition, there is little or no competition in ground handling services at numerous Community airports.

The Commission therefore decided to consult all interested parties on a document which would later form the basis for the submission of formal proposals.

The Committee was largely in agreement with the Commission on numerous points and considered it was important to make a realistic assessment of their potential consequences before any decisions were taken. In the Committee's opinion, the aim of giving priority to competition should not encroach on the interests of passengers, companies and staff.

With a draft Directive from the Commission in the pipeline, the Committee proposed at the end of an in-depth discussion and with reference to point 13 of the first consultation paper on ground handling services at airports ('unbundling') that consideration be given to the possibility of invoking Article 87 in an attempt to oblige airports to differentiate in their accounting between airport management activities and ground handling services.

2. Sea transport

2.1. Maritime consortia (Rapporteur: Mr Whitworth)

Regulation (EEC) No 479/92 empowered the Commission to enact a Regulation under Article 85(3) so as to exempt the joint operation of liner consortia from the anti-competitive prohibition contained in Article 85(1).

The ensuing draft Commission Regulation spelt out the guidelines applicable to the terms and conditions of this exemption.

The Committee welcomed the draft Regulation especially as it largely accorded with the general conclusions of the Committee's earlier Opinion on the subject.

However, the draft Regulation contained a number of inconsistencies with the provisions of Council Regulation (EEC) No 4056/86 on liner conferences and Regulation 479/92. In addition, it was felt that a number of terms used in the draft Regulation had to be defined more precisely.

2.2. European vessel reporting system (Rapporteur: Mr Colombo)

The Committee welcomed the proposed creation of a vessel reporting system to be known as Eurorep. The system was to provide coastal States with real-time information on the identity, position, route, cargo and cargo distribution of vessels, with particular reference to vessels carrying dangerous or polluting goods.

The Committee asked that the cost of acquiring and/or modernizing the equipment necessitated by Eurorep be met out of the funds scheduled for the trans-European networks, as referred to in the White Paper on growth, competitiveness and employment.

2.3. Shipping using Community ports (Rapporteur: Mr Whitworth)

The (maritime) Member States of the Union together with Finland, Sweden, Poland and Canada adopted a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in 1982 on port State control.

The Commission, acting on a request from the Council, presented a draft Directive establishing the conditions necessary to ensure a more harmonized and effective control of shipping by the State of the port. While recognizing the considerable achievements of the MoU regime, the Committee acknowledged that port State-control inspection requirements should have the force of Community law and be applied uniformly.

It was important that the port State-control regime should be sufficiently rigorous to ensure the effective application of internationally agreed standards on all vessels calling at Community ports, without at the same time penalizing those ships which were properly operated and maintained. Generally speaking the draft Directive achieved a proper balance in that respect.

2.4. Statistical returns on sea transport *(Rapporteur: Mr Kielman)*

The Committee endorsed the proposed compilation of statistics based on harmonized data for the carriage of goods and passengers by sea.

If the statistics necessary for establishing, monitoring, checking and assessing EU policy on sea transport were harmonized, they could be compared with the data available for other modes.

3. Inland waterway transport *(Rapporteur: Mr von Haus)*

In 1994, the Committee issued two Opinions (including one on its own initiative) on the subject of inland waterway transport. Mr von Haus was the rapporteur for both.

The first Opinion — on structural improvements — welcomed the Commission proposal to extend the 'old-for-new' system for a further five years.

In its Own-initiative Opinion, the Committee considered that inland waterway transport met most of the criteria for a modern mode of transport. It was cheaper, safer and more environmentally friendly than its rival.

Inland waterway transport also had considerable spare capacity — which gave it an enormous advantage bearing in mind the growth which was being generated by the internal market, the opening-up of the East and the increasing division of labour in the economy.

Combined transport involving all modes would benefit in particular.

The Committee recommended the launch of a new scrapping scheme aimed at removing 15% of the equivalent dry cargo tonnage including pusher craft and 20% of the equivalent tanker tonnage. The funds for this scheme should come from Member State budgets and the European Union.

The Committee also considered it necessary, as part of the master plan for European inland shipping, to harmonize the conditions of competition, create a common market organization and decide on guidelines for the development, modernization and financing of a trans-European inland waterway network.

Rapid abolition of the *tour de role* system was a prerequisite for a harmonized market in which all participants competed on an equal footing. As a *quid pro quo*, encouragement should be given to measures which made inland shipping more an integral part of EU combined transport.

4. Rail transport

4.1. Licensing of railways — rail infrastructure (Rapporteur: Mr Decaillon)

The Committee had a number of reservations about the two proposals on the above subjects presented by the Commission in the context of the new openings for developing rail services offered by Directive 91/440/EEC.

The interpretation of Directive 91/440/EEC posed difficulties, as the drafts under discussion in the various Member States for transposing it into national law demonstrated. These difficulties were compounded by the two new proposals. Since these proposals were not adequately based on the reality of the situation and on the work of the international bodies empowered to deal with all matters to do with interoperability, their application was under threat.

These problems of transposition and application therefore had to be solved beforehand in the general interest of rail transport development and for the sake of the environment.

The Committee called for clearer criteria, longer time-scales and the redrafting of certain texts in the light of the arguments put forward in its Opinion.

4.2. Interoperability of the high-speed train network (Rapporteur: Mr Decaillon)

The proposal provided for the establishment of a regulatory framework consisting of mandatory technical specifications for interoperability (TSI) and harmonized standards. The essential requirements for safety, health, environmental protection, consumer protection and technical compatibility were also detailed.

The Committee endorsed the Commission's proposal, but felt that a number of improvements could be made in order to:

- (i) optimize cohesion of the system, safety and the cost-benefit ratio;
- (ii) involve management and labour;
- (iii) take the passenger's needs more into consideration.

In the Committee's view, the Directive on the interoperability of the high-speed train network could become a key factor in trans-European networks.

5. Road transport

A Committee of Enquiry similar to the one which looked into the civil aviation sector was set up by the Commission to report on road freight transport in the single European market. The Committee of Enquiry's report, which listed a number of problems needing to be solved, was submitted to the Council in July 1994.

The Council subsequently called on the Commission to take a number of initiatives, to which the Committee will contribute.

5.1. Transport of dangerous goods by road (Rapporteur: Mr Giesecke)

The Committee delivered two Opinions on this subject in which it gave its basic approval to the Commission proposals while also adding a number of comments.

In its discussion of the proposal on uniform checks on dangerous goods' shipments, the Committee queried the legal form of the proposal, preferring a regulation to a directive. In its view only a regulation would ensure the rapid, uniform implementation of minimum standards.

The aim of the other proposal was to harmonize the rules governing national and international dangerous goods' shipments in the Community while at the same time ensuring a sufficiently high level of protection and safety.

The Committee welcomed the proposal and the fact that the provisions of the Agreement concerning the international carriage of dangerous goods by road (ADR) were to be extended to domestic shipments of dangerous goods.

5.2. Other work

The Committee endorsed the proposed consolidation of a number of directives on admission to the occupation of road transport operator (Rapporteurs: Mr Bleser and Mr Decaillon).

However, it rejected a large part of the proposal relating to the weights and dimensions of road vehicles over 3.5 tonnes (Rapporteur: Mr Moreland).

Under this proposal, Directive 85/3/EEC on the weights and dimensions of vehicles engaged in international transport was to be extended to national transport. At the same time, amendments were proposed so as to fall in line, wherever possible, with the majority of existing national standards. These standards varied considerably within the Community.

In addition, it was intended to replace the oft-revised text of Directive 85/3/EEC by a single consolidated text.

The Committee believed that the proposal might weaken the economic advantages enjoyed in some Member States and threaten environmental concerns in others. Consequently, it suggested that the proposal be restricted to the consolidation of existing legislation and that no further action — particularly the extension of maximum vehicle weights to national transport — be taken in the immediate future.

6. Telecommunications

6.1. Mutual recognition of licences for the provision of satellite network services (Rapporteur: Mr Mobbs)

The aim of the proposal was to establish a procedure for the mutual recognition of national authorizations issued by Member States for the establishment and operation of satellite earth station networks and/or the provision of satellite communications services.

Ultimately the total number of licences would be reduced to a single licence provided by one of the EU's national regulatory authorities, and on the basis of which mutual recognition would be granted throughout the Union.

The Committee welcomed the Commission's proposal, but did have some specific comments to make, mainly as regards the scope and scale of the discretion given to the Commission.

Furthermore, the Committee felt that the Commission's proposal failed to address the impact on the licensing of conditions for frequency allocation.

6.2. Green Paper on mobile and personal communications (Rapporteur: Mr Mobbs)

The purpose of the Commission's Green Paper was to remove the barriers impeding the further development of the sector by defining a coherent policy framework.

The global aims of the Green Paper were:

- (i) to permit the development of a Union-wide market for mobile services, equipment and terminals;
- (ii) to identify common principles, where required, for achieving this objective;
- (iii) to promote the evolution of the mobile communications market into mass personal communications services, with particular emphasis on pan-European services;

(iv) to facilitate and promote the emergence of trans-European networks and services in the sector.

The key proposals in the Green Paper were:

(i) to abolish remaining exclusive and special licences in the sector;

(ii) to remove all restrictions on the provision of mobile services;

(iii) to give mobile network operators full freedom to operate and develop their own networks;

(iv) to permit the unrestricted combined offering of services via the fixed and mobile networks;

(v) to facilitate pan-European operation and service provision.

The Committee supported the Green Paper. It recognized that it contained important proposals, a number of which may require considerable changes in some Member States in the way in which new services were offered to the public.

3. SOCIAL, FAMILY, EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Social policy — an overview

The Commission's Green Paper entitled 'European social policy — Options for the Union' focused on the concept that talking about the future and discussing what kind of European society we want is very important when Europe is in the throes of economic and political change. The aim was to stimulate debate in the Member States and to cover the full spectrum of social problems in Europe. The Committee put forward its views on various subjects tackled by the Green Paper, and emphasized that the 'harmonious and balanced development of economic activities' specified in Article 2 of the Treaty must not be jeopardized by a downward alignment of social standards. The European Union should take advantage of the possibilities opened up by the Treaty to speed up moves to establish these social standards.

The European Union Treaty must be used as a framework for strengthening negotiations between the social partners at both national and EU level. It was essential that equality of opportunity permeate all levels of social policy decision-making and education at the workplace, particularly in view of the increase in job insecurity and the increasing pressures on social security schemes. Basic training facilities and promotion of access to continuing education were vital. The education and training system should be more flexible and training adapted to ensure that the skills acquired were better tailored to labour market needs. This called for a more active role on the part of the social partners and trade

organizations. In-company training must be underpinned by, and mesh with, an effective and flexible education system capable of providing broad basic training. Negotiation between the social partners was the best way to reach the necessary agreements, particularly on the introduction of new technologies, the development of new types of work organization, and new patterns of working hours.

In its Opinion on the White Paper on European social policy, the Committee endorsed the move to draw up a social policy action programme at both EU and Member State level.

The Committee welcomed the third Commission report on the application of the Community Charter of the Fundamental Social Rights of Workers. It again regretted, however, that the Commission appeared incapable of producing a comprehensive, updated progress chart. The Committee deplored the failure to take up its proposal to involve the social partners in drawing up the report. The Commission should continue to prepare annual reports on the application of the Community Charter and refer a comprehensive 'compliance' report to the Committee. The Committee again regretted that directives on 'core' subjects for which the Social Charter was launched — atypical work, the European works committees and workers with reduced mobility — had still not been adopted in Council. It was still very much in favour of a 'social clause' being incorporated in the World Trade Organization procedures, with references to established ILO standards.

Referring to the Directive on informing and consulting employees in Community-scale undertakings, the Committee welcomed the Commission's new proposal. It was a pity that, despite frequent discussions between ETUC, UNICE and CEEP, no agreement had been reached on starting negotiations under Article 4 of the social policy Protocol. The Committee considered the adoption of this Directive to be particularly urgent. It also regarded the creation of a Community legal basis for the establishment of European committees, or of procedures for informing and consulting employees in Community-scale undertakings and groups of undertakings, as urgently necessary in order to develop further the social dimension. The Committee felt that, in the absence of agreements, the Directive needed to contain subsidiary minimum provisions for transnational information and consultation of employees. The rules laid down on the matter should be mandatory.

The Committee welcomed the provision that the Directive was to apply to Community-scale undertakings or groups of undertakings with at least 1 000 employees. The Committee also welcomed the second criterion, namely that another undertaking in the same group of undertakings must have at least 100 employees in another Member State. It did, however, ask for consideration of the possibility of employee involvement in the United Kingdom and if the first

threshold could be reduced to 500 employees. It also proposed a review of the suitability of the specified minimum numbers of employees after an appropriate period of about two years.

The Committee approved the social aspects of the *White Paper on growth, competitiveness and employment* in its Own-initiative Opinion. It did, however, say that in addition to taking new measures and amending existing legislation (both regulatory and technical) — which has proved to be limited and ineffectual — it is vital for us all to work together to combat unemployment, and to do so quickly and unselfishly. The ESC believes that action by the social partners is of paramount importance: close consultations and negotiations are the key to balanced, realistic and effective remedies. It is essential for political decision-makers to be bold — often this is a direct reflection of the political courage which ordinary citizens are capable of displaying.

Education, vocational training and youth

The Committee endorsed the specific aims of the proposal for a European Parliament and Council Decision adopting the third phase of the 'Youth for Europe' programme. It felt, however, that one of the main problems which arose in previous phases of the programme was the lack of adequate information. This is why the ESC hopes that increased funding will be made available for information during the third phase. Obtaining information on the various procedures for securing access to the youth programmes funded by the Commission should also be made easier.

There were two reasons for the Committee's endorsement of the draft Council Decision establishing an action programme to develop the European Community's vocational training policy (Leonardo da Vinci). Firstly, because it is encouraging a broad debate at national and Community level on the Community's new responsibilities in the field of training policy in the post-Maastricht era and, secondly, by consolidating the Community's basic training activities in one comprehensive programme, it can shed more light on individual projects and their overall relationship to each other. The Community's aid policy under its Social Fund should be brought into line with the objectives laid down in Article 127 of the Treaty on European Union, since the Community needs to make use of this Fund to mount an effective training policy. The social partners must make a greater contribution to training by playing a greater part in public sector activities in the Member States. The social partners, with their responsibilities with regard to qualifications, must also be involved in the support schemes. The Committee welcomes the participation of representatives of the social partners in the Advisory Committee, but they must have the same number of representatives as the governments and be given voting rights.

The Green Paper on the European dimension of education is the direct result of Article 126 of the Treaty on European Union, which assigns the Community new

responsibilities in the field of education. The Committee welcomed the Green Paper, but deplored the absence of a reference to culture. The Committee also felt that the Paper should have mentioned the considerable role which teaching can play in promoting European citizenship, from primary through to higher education. The Committee considered that the size of the budget appropriation will be a major determinant for the success of Community action, and reminded the Commission that the funds allocated must be enough to achieve the objectives. The Committee also pointed to the urgent need to promote reciprocal academic recognition of diplomas, qualifications and courses of study.

Without this, mobility is meaningless.

The Committee welcomed the Socrates programme and its extension to education at school level. It had some reservations, however, concerning the volume of funds allocated to the programme, and its highly decentralized application which could complicate the pooling of information. It also recommended that two Community languages be taught in addition to the national language, and that additional funds be provided to enable the exchange programme to be broadened to include non-EU countries.

The Committee regretted the arbitrary decision to move the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop) to Thessaloniki. There should be no deterioration in the staff-appointment procedures or in working conditions. Cedefop personnel should be able to become established EC officials. The Commission should ensure that the move takes place in the right conditions and that social security rights do not suffer.

In its Opinion, the Committee approved the Commission initiative to establish 1996 as the 'European Year of Lifelong Learning'. It, nevertheless, regretted that the social partners were not included on the Advisory Committee, and pointed out that all social forces were prime movers in a European culture of training and qualifications. The Committee felt that the budget of ECU 8 million over three years should be increased.

Health and safety at the workplace

The Committee welcomed the Commission communication on a general framework for action by the Commission in the field of safety, hygiene and health protection at work (1994-2000). The Committee expressed regret that health and safety at the workplace was not to be incorporated in the Green Paper on European social policy; it called on the Commission to submit an action programme on health and safety at work, dealing with the legislative and non-legislative measures which apply, especially to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The Committee also felt that more attention should have been given to the Advisory Committee on health and safety at work. It also asked that appropriate steps be taken to implement, consolidate, rationalize and round off the relevant legislation.

In its Opinion on workers' safety and health requirements and equipment, the Committee approved the reasons for, and aims of, the proposed Directive, including the large proportion on industrial accidents still linked to the use of work equipment, new basic requirements for certain equipment and the extension of initial and periodic inspection. The Committee, none the less, urged the Commission to simplify the general structure and presentation of the proposal, so that SMEs, in particular, might better be able to comprehend and apply the minimum safety and health requirements set out.

Action to help handicapped people

The Committee again welcomed the proposal for the continued development of the Handynet computerized information and documentation system under Helios II. The Committee welcomed the Commission's decision to study two new modules (employment/training and accessibility), taking account of the needs expressed by the disabled themselves and to consider information on job placement. In this context it requested the Member States to step up their commitment and to support various measures such as encouraging employers to recruit disabled people. The Committee drew attention to the fact that safety in design and construction were of particular importance to disabled people, and sometimes to the people who cared for them. Once again the Committee stressed the need for an urgent reappraisal of VAT and zero-rating on aids for disabled people.

The Committee pointed out that the grave situation of disabled people had to be addressed at the political level by a declaration by the Heads of State or Government, or, better still, by the incorporation of the rights of the disabled in a charter of citizens' rights both at national and European level.

The citizens' right to vote

The Committee welcomes the proposed Directive, but nevertheless considers that it is only a preliminary step towards the aim of extending universal suffrage relating to locally based powers.

The Committee hopes that the practical exercise of the rights derived from the Directive will enable those aspects of the proposal, which give rise to reservations — such as European Union citizens, under certain circumstances, not being accorded equal treatment — to be resolved.

It is not acceptable that any restrictions based on nationality should be placed on the full exercise of the political rights of any EU citizens legally registered on an electoral list and as such seeking the confidence of the electorate and entitled to stand as a candidate by virtue of universal suffrage.

It regretted discrimination between Community citizens on the grounds of nationality, as enshrined in the Treaty and confirmed by case-law. For this reason it believed that the waivers provided for in the Directive should be temporary and not continue beyond the year 2000.

Immigration and asylum policies

The Commission received ESC backing in its declared role as an 'honest broker' in efforts to put together European policies on immigration and asylum. The Committee feels, however, that it is regrettable that the progress towards European asylum and immigration policies — however praiseworthy — is essentially limited to 'defensive' aspects.

Quotas for the admission of asylum-seekers should be categorically rejected. Family reunification — whereby family members join non-EU immigrants legally resident in a Member State of the EU — should be authorized without restrictions, provided the conditions and definitions laid down in EC instruments are complied with.

The Committee considers it essential that asylum and refugee measures should identify people suffering from hardship and offer them help. Asylum-seekers should, as a matter of principle, be entitled to enter the host country and stay there temporarily. Disparate national asylum procedures and admission criteria need to be harmonized to secure reciprocal acceptance of decisions on asylum. Access to the Court of Justice of the European Communities is the guarantee that the law in question will be applied uniformly.

Substantial efforts should be made to harmonize naturalization provisions for long-stay immigrants and for immigrants' children who are born or brought up in an EU Member State. Naturalization should be made easier by allowing applicants to hold more than one nationality.

The Council of Ministers should introduce a Community instrument on European immigration and asylum policy taking account of the ESC's views and ideas. The Committee disagrees with the thrust of the Council resolution of 20 June 1994 on limitations on admission of third-country nationals to the Member States for employment.

4. ECONOMIC, FINANCIAL AND MONETARY POLICY

As every year the Committee issued an Opinion on the Annual Economic Report drawn up by the Commission. The Committee expressed the wish that priority be granted to action to boost employment, with due regard for structural adjustment requirements and the principles of prudent macroeconomic management.

Parallel to this work the Ecofin Section¹ carried out surveys into the economic situation of Member States, firstly Greece and then France.

While these 'national reports' are justified by the concept of multilateral surveillance as set out in Article 103 of the EC Treaty, Opinions on the Annual Economic Report are greatly appreciated by the Commission which requests them as part of its preparation of the 'broad guidelines of the economic policies of the Member States' referred to in the same Article. In this way the Committee participates in the Community's macroeconomic debate. It obviously regrets that these 'broad guidelines' do not fall within a mandatory procedure involving the ESC, the European Parliament and the Committee of the Regions. The Committee hopes that the institutional reforms scheduled for 1996 will allow this situation to be remedied.

On 1 and 2 June 1994 the Committee adopted three Own-initiative Opinions on the White Paper on growth, competitiveness and employment. The first of these Opinions deplored the lack of public interest in a document which was, in fact, intended to help mobilize a consensus on the demanding programmes of structural reform of the European economy and society which were necessary.

The Committee felt that priority should be attached to absorbing unemployment by means of economic growth which respected balance in key areas, and by consolidating the 'European social model' which, with certain adjustments and aided by consensus between partners, would allow obstacles to job creation to be overcome, whether these obstacles were macroeconomic factors (interest rates, for example) or microeconomic factors (indirect wage costs).

It felt that over and beyond the convergence criterion the efficiency of public spending should be examined in depth with a view to remedying the imbalance with the productive sector, which should benefit from measures targeting small and medium-sized enterprises and local economies.

It approved the action programme on non-wage labour costs advocated in the White Paper and the 'sustainable development model' proposed.

In June 1994, aware of the seriousness of the employment situation, the ESC issued a resolution advocating adoption of macroeconomic and monetary measures for non-inflationary expansion of aggregate demand in the European economy, particularly measures to promote a downward trend in interest rates.

¹ Chaired by Mr Jean Pardon, Belgium, Employers' Group.

The Committee called for implementation of the programme approved by the Brussels European Council on trans-European networks; it advocated a more purposeful political approach to relations with third countries. Moreover, it approved the White Paper's objectives in boosting the rate of macroeconomic investment and advocated:

'A Europe-wide "social pact" [which] could set out the basic conditions for an equitable, job-creating upturn in growth. This cooperation could address the problems of adjustment of arrangements for funding social security, work organization and working conditions.' (CES 805/94, 1.6.1994)

On the financial front, the Committee issued several Opinions dealing directly or indirectly with completion of the single market: the tax situation of parent companies and their subsidiaries in different Member States, transparency and performance of cross-border payments, fiscal marking of gasoil, excise duties and VAT. In these areas the Committee generally agreed with the Commission proposals, although it did not hesitate to take its own line when it felt that principles of equity and security were at stake.

In its Opinion on 'Savings: lines of approach for an EU policy', the Committee stressed the importance of a joint approach for remedying current inflexibilities in tax arrangements and calling for savings to be re-channelled towards the productive sector as part of a job-creating growth strategy.

Finally, the Committee issued several Opinions on the Community's development towards economic and monetary union (EMU). In this way the Committee made a major contribution to the struggle to overcome legal obstacles to the use of the ecu, to preparations for the second and then the third phase of EMU, *inter alia* in an Opinion on Community action in the field of statistics, in another on the Community's own resources and in an Own-initiative Opinion on monetary policy.

In the face of the criticism of the realism or otherwise of the Maastricht convergence criteria for the completion of the 'third phase' (including a single currency), and as a follow-up to its Opinion of October 1993 on policies to be pursued during the EMU's transitional phase, the Committee expressed its allegiance to this excellent frame of reference; compliance with these criteria, in accordance with the flexible terms of the Treaty, can and must enable Community countries to face up to the major challenges of the 21st century together and to forge a true European Union.

It urged the European Monetary Institute, in the second phase, to take steps to boost the credibility of a joint currency and to involve the public at large in a thorough debate which must come before the establishment of the single currency.

As part of a strategy for ensuring that the social partners' views are heard, the Committee has just issued a special publication containing recent Opinions on the subject of economic and monetary union, prefaced by a speech made by the EMI President, Mr Lamfalussy, to the Section on 6 December.

5. REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING POLICY

The Committee received referrals on a range of subjects including the implementation of the reform of the Structural Funds, the new Community initiatives, and the establishment of the Cohesion Fund. It also took up subjects on its own initiative, such as the partnership principle, tourism, the role of the European Investment Bank in regional development, and the problems facing the Atlantic coastal regions and the Mediterranean area. Work on the Mediterranean is still under way.

The Committee fully endorsed the setting-up, under the Maastricht Treaty, of the Cohesion Fund (OJ C 133, 16.5.1994; Rapporteur: Mr Little). The Committee urged the Commission to ensure that the Fund was in place in time to avoid any interruption in the flow of Community assistance to the regions concerned.

The Committee also considered the Community initiatives for the period 1994-99 (OJ C 295, 22.10.1994; Rapporteur: Mr Christie). These had been proposed by the Commission in the wake of its Green Paper, which the Committee had approved in 1993. The Committee applauded the efforts of the Commission to devise innovative initiatives which addressed the problems of the labour market and industrial flexibility. However, it felt that the Community initiatives should be incorporated into a wider framework of measures for tackling unemployment. The Committee also thought that the proposed funds were insufficient.

One key point advocated by the Committee was the need to involve the socioeconomic partners in all stages of the procedures. The Committee also stressed the importance of a timely evaluation of the implementation of the initiatives.

These last two points had already been raised in the Committee Opinion welcoming the Commission's fourth annual report on the implementation of the reform of the Structural Funds — 1992 (OJ C 195, 18.7.1994; Rapporteur: Mr Little).

The involvement of the socioeconomic partners is of special concern to the Committee, and led it to issue two Own-initiative Opinions on the involvement of

the socioeconomic partners in Community regional policy and the role of the public authorities in the structural policy consultations (OJ C 127, 7.5.1994 and CES 1002/94; Rapporteur: Mr Masucci).

The two Opinions were based on the new Article 4 of the framework Regulation governing the Structural Funds, which specifically provides for the involvement of the socioeconomic partners in structural policy consultations. The first Opinion assessed how far the socioeconomic partners were actually involved in the various tiers of structural policy administration in the Member States. The second Opinion looked at the attitude and role of the public authorities and outlined the situation in some of the Member States. It concluded that full application of Article 4 required three things from the public authorities: firstly, the political will to implement it; secondly, the existence of a culture of participation and social dialogue; and thirdly, the allocation of the necessary resources at all levels and the technical capacity to organize participation.

The Committee felt it very important that local authorities be regularly informed of the implementation of Article 4, and also decided to conduct a periodic review itself.

In an entirely different sphere, the Committee also decided to consider the role of the European Investment Bank in regional development (OJ C 133, 16.5.1994; Rapporteur: Mr E. Muller), in the light of the new tasks conferred on the EIB by the European Councils acting under the Maastricht Treaty. An information report gave a structured description of the institutional and operational role of the EIB, while an Own-initiative Opinion considered possible ways of improving EIB-ESC cooperation and examined the main problems which had occurred in connection with EIB loans. This major undertaking, which also helped to increase general awareness of the EIB's activities and its role in the Union process in general and in regional development in particular, brought the EIB and ESC into close contact, and their respective presidents and secretaries-general decided to continue to cooperate more actively in future.

With an eye to the inclusion of a specific tourism policy within the Treaty at the 1996 Intergovernmental Conference, the Committee decided to look at the situation in the tourism sector (CES 1021/94; Rapporteur: Mr Lustenhouwer) in the light of the action taken over the past two years and the political objectives being pursued.

The Opinion examined the role of the Commission and the actions taken in different sectors under the multiannual programme. The Committee argued that the interests of the tourism sector should be incorporated into other EU areas of activity and, in the longer term, should be given a legal basis in the forthcoming revision of the Treaties. The Committee considered this legal basis to be of crucial importance for achieving the desired objectives.

The Committee also looked at the problems of spatial planning and inter-regional cooperation, focusing on two particular areas: the Mediterranean (Rapporteur: Mr Amato) and the Atlantic arc (CES 1003/94; Rapporteur: Mr Speirs). The work was instigated by the Conference of the Peripheral Maritime Regions of the EC.

6. INDUSTRIAL POLICY

From January to September 1994, the Industry Section's work was dominated by the establishment, implementation and operation of the internal market. In addition to Opinions on technical harmonization and the abolition of technical barriers to trade, the Committee also examined the Sutherland Report and Commission follow-up documents. Following suggestions from the European Parliament and the Commission, the Committee agreed to act as observatory for the internal market, and organized a hearing on the first Commission report (1993) on the operation of the internal market. This extremely successful action should be even further improved upon; indeed the President of the Council has suggested that it become a regular event.

In the area of European industrial affairs, an Opinion was drawn up on the textile and clothing industry. After taking part in a Plenary Session in Rotterdam, the Committee continued to work with the Forum for Maritime Industry, which had been set up under the auspices of the Commission. Special attention was paid to the media — particularly to media concentration — and to the EU's audiovisual policy, the main thrust of which was presented to the Section by the Commissioner concerned.

The Committee has long been concerned with intellectual property (particularly as applied to new technology). The most recent Opinion on the subject deals with an extremely complex issue, fraught with conflicts of interests: the legal protection of designs. This Opinion was followed up by a hearing in which all parties concerned took part.

The Committee also issued Opinions on banks and financial organizations (including Opinions on the strengthening of prudential supervision, and on compensation for investors). Certain problems of specific relevance to SMEs, especially the integrated programme of Community action, were also dealt with.

Cooperatives, mutual societies and associations were also examined, and the Committee issued an Opinion on the Community action plans concerning this sector.

The Committee worked particularly hard on the Opinion on the industrial aspects of the Commission's White Paper on growth, competitiveness and employment. This, together with the Opinions on social aspects and economic

and financial aspects, constitutes the Committee's contribution to this debate, which is vital for the sustained recovery of the European economy.

1. Competition

1.1. The Committee adopted its Opinion on the XXIIIrd Report on Competition Policy — 1993'. This Opinion follows the Committee's earlier work on the subject. The Opinion on competition policy is one of the most important on the Committee's schedule, as it provides an annual opportunity for adopting a position on the application of one of the European Union's fundamental policies. Furthermore, the Commission always analyses the suggestions, criticisms and observations in the Committee's Opinion — having cooperated closely in its preparation — with great care. In the Opinion on the 23rd report, the Committee concentrates specifically on:

- (i) problems of competitiveness and employment;
- (ii) the legal, administrative, political and social environment in which businesses operate;
- (iii) the independence of industrial policy with regard to competition policy;
- (iv) the liberalization of world trade and the creation of the WTO;
- (v) the application of the principle of subsidiarity;
- (vi) merger control (on which the Committee has issued a specific Opinion);
- (vii) aid granted by Member States, by local or regional authorities or in third countries;
- (viii) a fair balance between defence rights and the protection of commercial secrets.

1.2. The Committee also dealt with the question of aid to shipbuilding. Prior to the ratification of the OECD proposals (since finalized), the Committee supported the extension until 31 January 1995 of the Directive currently in force. Referring to its earlier Opinions on the matter, the Committee has always pointed out the main problems that affect the sector worldwide: illegal aid for shipbuilding and repair yards, failure to respect shipping laws, vessels retained in service which ought to be scrapped, protectionism, failure to apply agreements on reductions in capacity, and dumping.

2. SMEs

The Commission communication on the improvement of the fiscal environment of small and medium-sized enterprises was the subject of an Opinion which gave rise to substantial follow-up work on SMEs. The Committee declared that

the problem of the tax environment needs to be dealt with in the broadest possible context, taking account of the situation and trends with regard to overall tax burdens at national, local and regional level in the Member States. More particularly, the Opinion analyses the questions of self-financing by SMEs, administrative burdens and permanent establishments and the transfer of businesses. The Committee also calls on the Commission to envisage studies, analyses and consultations in various areas concerning the fiscal environment of SMEs.

7. EXTERNAL RELATIONS, TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT POLICY

Taking stock

In the course of this year, the Committee has produced a great deal of work in matters pertaining to external relations, trade and development policy, thanks partly to the increased influence and responsibilities of the European Union in the world, and also to the fact that the Committee has stepped up considerably its relations with socio-occupational interest groups in countries associated with the European Union.

Working mainly on the basis of Own-initiative Opinions, the Committee has structured its work programme around a number of specific priorities. These priorities are based on the European Union's guidelines and actions in the area of external relations, trade and development policy and take account of the specific interests of socio-occupational interest groups and the contribution that they can make to the discussion and management of these issues.

One event which stands out during this period was the positive conclusion of the Uruguay Round agreements which, by means of their expected repercussions on growth and employment within the European Union, go beyond the bounds of trade policy alone. In its Opinion on the effects of the Uruguay Round agreements, the Committee felt that, although some results were incomplete, the outcome of the negotiations was a success; lasting success, however, depended on the signatory States applying these agreements consistently. By joining the new World Trade Organization (WTO), the partners to the negotiations were undertaking for the first time to comply with rules agreed in matters of world economic cooperation. To secure the future of the new system, the Committee called for political determination and a firm approach to trade questions.

The conclusion of the Uruguay Round agreements coincided with the development of broader regional bodies: on the one hand, the enlargement of the European Union with the conclusion of the accession negotiations for Austria, Finland, Norway and Sweden; on the other hand, ratification of the NAFTA agreements which establish an extensive free-trade area between Canada, the

USA and Mexico. For this reason, the Committee felt it appropriate to discuss the regional structure of world trade.

Following the Uruguay Round agreements and complementing GATT, the Commission submitted proposals for regulations for a 10-year scheme of generalized preferences on which the Committee issued an Opinion.

Confirming the importance it attaches to remedying the economic and social imbalances between the Western and Eastern parts of Europe and to progressive moves to bring these two parts closer together, the Economic and Social Committee looked into the transformation and renovation process taking place in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe (CEECs).

The Committee felt that the conclusion of a Europe Agreement would help Slovenia to consolidate its democratic and economic development and to further its efforts towards integration in the European Union.

An agreement of this type would also play a stabilizing role to ensure peace in the whole Balkan and Mediterranean region and would contribute to increasing gradually their economic prosperity.

The Committee completed its examination of the European Union's relations with Latin America in an Opinion which confirmed the existence of close political and cultural links between the European Union and Latin America and the importance of maintaining and boosting the European Union's presence in the region.

Trade policy

In its Opinion of 15 September 1994 on the effects of the Uruguay Round agreements, the Committee stressed that the signature of these agreements undoubtedly represented a very important step in the history of trade policy. Even if the result of the negotiations was not entirely satisfactory, the Economic and Social Committee welcomed the positive conclusion of the agreements and took the view that their implementation should encourage prospects for growth and economic recovery. In this connection, the Committee stressed the importance of rapid ratification of the agreements and the need for the 'standstill' on trade policy measures to be respected until the agreements were implemented.

The Committee welcomed the setting-up of the World Trade Organization, the greater institutional weight of which in comparison with the former GATT should make possible more transparency and effectiveness in administrative management and in the practical application of the Treaties. The ESC trusted that the secretariat of this new organization would be provided with adequate resources to perform the important tasks awaiting it.

In the Committee's view, the new rules adopted for the settlement of disputes should improve the operation of the world trading system and give all the

partners concerned greater certainty and predictability. However, the effectiveness of the new procedure continued to depend on the readiness of the most influential trading nations to comply with the decisions relating to them.

While fully understanding American demands for the opening of the Japanese market, the Committee was disturbed by the USA's unilateral action. The Committee went on to recommend that close attention be paid to the way in which the American Congress would bring its national legislation into line with its commitments to the WTO, and particularly to what would become of Sections 301 and 'Super 301'.

The agreement achieved for the farming sector in the context of the Uruguay Round aimed to increase access to markets and to reduce internal support measures and export subsidies. The Committee called upon the Commission to ensure that respect for these commitments did not cause a new imbalance on the European agricultural markets.

On trade and competition, the Committee took the view that the agreements reached in the Uruguay Round on eliminating national restrictions on trade should be supplemented by rules to prevent restrictions on competition by companies. Likewise, the Committee advocated that a set of precise rules on direct investment be enshrined in a comprehensive multilateral system of rules.

The Committee urged that a 'social clause' be included in the working programme of the World Trade Organization, which must take as a basis the conventions of the International Labour Organization to which nearly all of the world's countries belonged. It trusted that the Commission would make a positive contribution to this. The ESC also took the view that economic cooperation leads to more lasting successes than political pressures. Nevertheless, if enforcement mechanisms had to be adopted, they should still be in a multi-lateral framework.

The Committee welcomed the fact that environmental protection was expressly mentioned as an objective in the preamble to the WTO agreement. It recommended that the EU support the planned work in the appropriate forums with the aim of drawing up, worldwide, environment guidelines which were binding on national legislators and directed towards upward harmonization. It was opposed to the idea of individual States exercising unilateral trade policy pressures in order to impose their own environmental standards. However, multilateral action should be possible against individual States which do not comply with agreed levels.

The Committee drew attention to the consequences of the fact that the WTO was to be entrusted with aims other than eliminating barriers to market access. It therefore felt that special efforts to achieve a political consensus were necessary.

The Committee also gave its views on subsidies, financial services, audiovisual services, movement of persons and public procurement.

In its Opinion of 15 September on the regional structure of world trade, the Committee noted that the regionalization of world trade was a trend of several decades' standing which was compatible with increasing multilateral trade liberalization.

Furthermore, analysis showed that regional integration achieved the best results in terms of 'welfare' when:

- (i) development levels, technology and production of the partners were similar;
- (ii) integration took place against a background of liberalization, both within and outside the area;
- (iii) the parties had strong economic and political motivation, or an agreed comprehensive plan which they followed through in a consistent manner;
- (iv) there was substantial scope for economies of scale.

However, the Committee stressed that the development of world trade was not the only factor contributing to global welfare. The latter was also the result of political decisions (or indecision) about the international economy.

The European Union was undoubtedly the most advanced and successful example of integration. It seemed moreover, that with the exception of the common agricultural policy, it had had benefits not only for its Member States but also for the rest of the world.

Lessons could be learned from the European experience of the integration process and the respect of certain social policy principles. This experience should also lead the Union to open a credible debate on policy towards the CEECs and to adopt a coherent trade policy in that region. Similarly, the EU should accept its responsibility to the ACP States and less-developed countries in general, with particular attention to Africa, and ensure closer linkage of trade and cooperation policy.

The Committee recommended strengthening ties with other regions of the world, such as Latin America and Asia. It stressed the need for a clear, constructive dialogue with ASEAN and the establishment of a coherent foreign policy towards China. Furthermore, the ESC encouraged closer relations with the USA and NAFTA as a whole, and declared itself ready to play a constructive part in the process.

Finally, the Committee made a certain number of recommendations which aimed at making trade policy more transparent, promoting the role of the social partners in dialogue with other areas, and securing sufficient budgetary resources for external relations and cooperation policies.

Countries of Central and Eastern Europe

In an Additional Opinion on the European Union's relations with Slovenia, the Committee described the political development of the country since independence, and the development of the national economy on the transitional stage from a partially planned socialist economy to a market economy.

The government's reform policy had involved the introduction of a national currency, the tolar, the maintenance of that currency's stability, the adoption and implementation of the law on privatization and the adoption of liberal legislation on foreign investments.

One section of the Opinion was devoted to the economic and social groupings in Slovenia, the structure of which was still evolving: employers represented by the 'Chamber of the Economy' and a new employers' organization currently being set up; workers (highly unionized) essentially represented by four trade-union confederations; small and medium-sized enterprises, agriculture, and consumer protection.

On the basis of the country's political development towards a pluralist democracy and the rule of law, its economic policy set out above, and its efforts to come closer to the European Union through cooperation and the approximation of laws, the Economic and Social Committee approved the early opening of negotiations between the EU and Slovenia with a view to concluding a Europe Agreement.

Since the economic and social groups in Slovenia were already quite well developed and influenced decisions important for the country's economy, the Economic and Social Committee thought it useful to provide a forum for regular cooperation with the economic and social groups of the EU represented in the ESC.

The ESC therefore proposed that a Joint Consultative Committee be set up to provide an institutional framework for contacts between the ESC and Slovenian socio-occupational organizations.

In the ESC's view, the assessment of Slovenia's readiness for later membership of the European Union should be based only on its own stage of development and its successes in the reform process.

In an information report entitled 'EU/CEEC relations: horizontal problems in the energy, transport and environment sectors', the Committee put together a number of recommendations on the current situation which is hallmarked by a lack of infrastructure. Recommendations were made for:

- (i) the rational use of energy, updating tariffs, taking account, however, of income trends, and the environmental impact of installations;

- (ii) the effective development of transport infrastructure which is both environmentally and socially acceptable, balanced development of public and private transport, maintenance of acceptable working conditions;
- (iii) economic development compatible with environmental protection and development programmes taking account of regional, ethnic and cultural requirements.

These considerations led the Committee to reiterate its request for provision to be made within the 'multilateral framework for a strengthened dialogue'¹ for a joint committee of economic and social partners and for more involvement of the social partners from the CEECs in the PHARE programme.

In an Opinion on proposed Council Regulation (EEC) No 1360/90 establishing a European Training Foundation, the Committee welcomed the fact that this foundation's responsibilities were extended from countries benefiting from the PHARE programme to include countries benefiting from assistance under the TACIS programme.

Relations between the European Union and Latin America

In its Opinion on relations between the European Union and Latin America, the Committee focused on the EU's role in Latin America and on the impact of economic relations and development cooperation between the two regions (including political dialogue and cooperation in the social sphere), including the third-generation agreements and the new agenda for interregional cooperation (environment, human rights, drugs, science and technology, etc.). The Committee called on the EU to continue, through political dialogue at the annual interministerial conferences under the San José Process and the Rio Group and the two-yearly meetings between the European Parliament (EP) and the Latin American Parliament, to promote respect for human rights and take a tougher line on social rights.

The Committee put together a number of recommendations for ensuring that Member State and EU cooperation policies are coherent and complementary, for promoting European investment in Latin America and, for the Latin American countries, for making better use of the opportunities offered by the single market and the generalized system of preferences.

The Committee felt that it was essential that the EU cooperation programmes help to reinforce the links between (i) economic development and regional integration, and (ii) the defence of human and trade-union rights.

The Community's own experience of removing internal borders, economic and social cohesion, consultation of the social partners and social and economic

¹ Conclusions of the Copenhagen European Council.

regulation could perhaps be of considerable assistance to the Latin American social partners in making up their minds about the advantages and disadvantages of integration in their own region. The Committee therefore urged the Union to create opportunities for cooperation with the social partners in both regions and for an exchange of information and experience by organizing regular meetings with economic and social partners in Latin America.

North-South relations

Consulted on the proposed Council Regulation applying the multiannual scheme of generalized tariff preferences for 1995 to 1997, the Committee welcomed the proposal to undertake a thorough revision of the generalized system of preferences. This time the emphasis was on giving priority to the poorest countries. The proposal to achieve this goal, adhering to the principle of 'overall neutrality', whereby the total volume of preferential imports would remain the same but there would be a switch of emphasis in favour of the poorer countries, was considered to be a particularly positive development.

The Committee emphatically endorsed the Community's parallel moves to *simplify procedures as part of this revision*. It welcomed the fact that a graduated system of preferences linked to the sensitivity of the products in question would replace the current system which was based on quotas and tariff ceilings. It was important for the Regulation to provide for measures not only regarding the introduction of safeguard mechanisms but also their duration and periodic revision. Clear verification and decision-making rules were needed before the graduation and solidarity mechanism could be put in place. The Committee shared the Commission's view that it must be possible for preferential treatment to be totally or partially withdrawn if beneficiary countries were seen to engage in certain improper activities; the Committee welcomed the introduction of special arrangements to encourage good practice. The Committee attached considerable importance to the rules on cumulation of origin, particularly for the less-developed countries.

8. ENERGY POLICY, NUCLEAR QUESTIONS AND RESEARCH

During the first six months of the year, the Committee received a large number of referrals from the Council and/or the Commission. Although only eight Opinions were adopted during the year, the workload increased substantially since one referral covered 16 individual Opinions, each one referring to specific programmes in the fourth R&TD framework programme.

This considerable increase in activity was in clear contrast to the Commission's sluggishness in tabling new legislation, which was partly explained by the

changes in 1994 both in the Parliament and in the Commission. The planned enlargement of the Union to 15 might also have increased this atmosphere of expectancy.

Apart from its work on Treaty-based referrals, the Section for Energy, Nuclear Questions and Research drew up two Own-initiative Opinions, following the guidelines that give the Committee a leading role in the debate on new issues. These were the Opinions on (i) the amended proposals for a Directive on the internal market in electricity and natural gas, and (ii) Community energy policy.

Of the 10 Opinions adopted last year, four deal with energy, while the other six concern the research and technological development sector.

1. Energy

The Commission has consistently called for the internal market objective to be implemented in this sector. At the same time the Commission referred a memorandum to the Committee entitled 'Energy and economic and social cohesion'. This was probably an attempt to link the internal market objective with that of cohesion, as recommended in the Treaty and the declarations of various European summits.

In a bid to implant the internal market objective, the Commission, following the established decision-making process, published two new amended draft Directives on electricity and natural gas. In these, the Commission made some concessions to the arguments put forward by Parliament.

In line with the approach recommended by the Commission, the two initial proposals, introduced in February 1992, were the second of three steps planned to bring about a genuine single market in electricity and gas, while taking into account the special features of the energy sector.

The first of these three steps involved the adoption in 1990 of three Directives: the first two, which were adopted on 29 October 1990 and 31 May 1991 respectively, concerned the arrangements for transit between integrated electricity systems and between Community gas companies via the high-pressure system; the third was adopted on 29 June 1990 and introduced a Community procedure to improve the transparency of gas and electricity prices charged to industrial users.

The third stage, which was due to begin on 1 January 1996, was to be determined in the light of experience in the preceding stage; it was intended to strengthen the operational flexibility of the internal market in energy, involving wider third-party access to the networks, which had been planned on a limited scale for the second stage.

The Energy Council debated the Commission's proposals on 21 May and 30 November. At the second of these meetings, it adopted various conclusions

which reiterated on 25 June 1993, inviting the Commission to consider amending its proposals in the light of the aforementioned principles.

In its Opinion of 27 January 1993 the Committee was very critical of the two Commission proposals and called for their thorough revision. On 19 November 1993 the European Parliament adopted more than 200 amendments to the Commission proposals. Broadly speaking, these amendments were designed to emphasize the 'harmonization', rather than the 'liberalization' aspect of the Directives and to establish a basis of common rules valid for all the Member States, irrespective of how their market was organized.

The thrust of these amendments was outlined in the explanatory memorandum to the Commission's amended proposals. The two main amendments were as follows:

- (i) The possibility of allowing electricity and gas producers to negotiate access to the network, instead of the regulated access provided for in the initial proposals.

This scenario includes arbitration mechanisms in the event of problems in negotiating or implementing the contract, although these mechanisms could not replace the appeal procedures provided by Community law.

- (ii) The establishment within the body of the Directives of a work programme enabling the Commission to draw up, during the second phase, the harmonization proposals needed for the smooth functioning of the market, without compromising Community law.

The Commission also amended the structure of the proposals, repeating the references to public service obligations and amending the conditions governing the access of third parties to the network and the provisions that determine the criteria and authorization procedures — and at the same time simplifying them — for the production and transport of energy. The unbundling of management was dropped, although independence, at least at the level of the system operator, needed to be guaranteed.

The rules governing the operation of transmission and distribution networks were simplified. Provisions were introduced for the security of supply, environmental protection, protection of small consumers, transparency and non-discrimination, and the recognition of differences between existing national systems. A transitional period beginning on 1 July 1994 and ending on 31 December 1998 at the earliest has been established. The Committee's Opinion was issued in April 1994. A final Council decision on the new proposals has still not been taken at the time of writing.

Meanwhile, the new concept of sole purchaser entered the debate in the middle of the year. The Energy Council of 29 November only produced the briefest of guidelines for the forthcoming French Presidency.

Regarding the objective of economic and social cohesion, the Committee produced an Opinion at its September Plenary Session on a Commission memorandum, which will later be replaced by a Green Paper on possible ways of using existing programmes in the energy sector to strengthen cohesion. In its previous Opinions, the Committee had already stressed the importance of strengthening the objective of economic and social cohesion in all these activities.

The Own-initiative Opinion on energy policy, which was also adopted at the September Plenary Session, merits a separate mention. This Opinion attempted to make the Committee's position clear on new initiatives early on, and in view of the widespread conviction that the provisions affecting energy — based on policies of other sectors — lack coherence. After a general review of the issues in the sector, the Committee expressed regret that the Treaty did not include a specific chapter on energy. It put forward a draft chapter, hoping that this will be taken into consideration when the Treaty is revised in 1996.

The aim was to publicize the Committee's view several months in advance of the publication of the Commission's forthcoming Green Paper on the subject. This work marks the beginning of a new course of action which should trigger numerous initiatives and views from the institutions in the future.

This significant project was completed over several months, and included two hearings to enlist the views of experts and organizations with an interest in the energy sector. As part of the project, special attention was also paid to areas of the EU which are relatively disadvantaged. With this in mind, a study group meeting on energy problems peculiar to very remote areas was held in the Canary Islands, at the invitation of the regional government.

Finally, we come to the Opinion adopted at the September Plenary Session on the Thermie II programme. This subject affects two sectors with which the Section is concerned. Although this programme deals with the application of results of R&TD work, these results are confined to the area of renewable energies.

Thermie II follows on from Thermie I, but confines its activities to safeguarding the economic viability of new technologies. Those activities in Thermie I designed to safeguard technical viability have now been transferred to the R&TD programme which deals specifically with renewable forms of energy, and which is part of the fourth R&TD framework programme (1994-98).

The Committee was concerned that, as a result of the demonstration part of Thermie having been transferred to the renewable energy chapter of the fourth R&TD programme and the entry into force of the Maastricht Treaty, the specific non-nuclear energy research programme and the Thermie II programme were to be conducted under different Treaty Articles (Articles 130 and 235) and supervised by separate Directorates-General (XII and XVII respectively).

It was also concerned that Thermie activities would be allocated less money. Referring to the reduction in the proportion of funds allocated to renewable

energy viability projects compared with the previous programme, it stressed the importance of such sources for energy supply in the longer term.

At the end of December, the Committee received the referral on the draft European Parliament and Council Directive on energy efficiency requirements for household electric refrigerators, freezers and their combinations. This proposal forms part of the SAVE programme which has been in effect in previous years. The Committee's Opinion is expected early in 1995.

2. Research

The Section's substantially increased activities in this field occasionally coincided with the adoption of specific new R&TD programmes contained in the four-year framework programmes.

In March, the Committee received three proposals concerning the rules for the participation of undertakings, research centres and universities in the specific R&TD programmes of the European Community and of the European Atomic Energy Community, as well as the rules for the dissemination of research results *from such programmes*.

At its June Plenary Session, the Committee partly endorsed these proposals. It regretted that, in presenting these proposals, the Commission did not take advantage of the opportunity to undertake a substantial improvement in the general arrangements for participation in the specific programmes, especially the dissemination of research results. It also observed, with some reservations, that the general nature and lack of detail of the proposed rules leaves the Commission considerable freedom of movement and appraisal.

The Committee stressed that providing increased access to research programmes served no purpose unless steps were taken to simplify and speed up the procedures for submitting, selecting and managing research projects. The administrative costs connected with the preparation and follow-up of research project proposals needed to be cut back, and the Commission's lengthy payment deadlines which involved many contracting parties in expense and debt needed to be speeded up. In conclusion, the Committee proposed action on two fronts to:

- (i) provide the fullest possible information to research project participants on the rules applicable to protection of knowledge and results acquired from their research work; and
- (ii) provide participants, if they so wish, with help from patent experts, as part of *the process to protect their results*.

In 1994, the referral on the 20 specific programmes contained in the fourth framework programme was completed in an extremely short space of time. Although the referral reached the Committee on 14 April, four Opinions cover-

ing the four programmes had to be submitted to the June Plenary Session. The rapporteurs-general responded successfully to this challenge. The Opinions addressed specific programmes on:

- (i) telematics;
- (ii) technologies for cleaner and more efficient energy production and use;
- (iii) industrial and materials technologies;
- (iv) communications technologies.

The Opinion on the telematics programme was issued at the July Plenary Session. The Committee stated that, under the present circumstances, in order to boost economic recovery as quickly as possible in the EU countries, it was vital to focus on and give absolute priority to R&TD activities which could be carried out and their findings disseminated rapidly throughout the European Union and on activities that would raise the technological level of SMEs.

In this connection, the development and progressive liberalization of telematics infrastructure networks was crucially important, as highlighted in the White Paper and report of May 1994 on *Europe and the global information society*, drawn up for the European Council Summit in Corfu.

Referring to cleaner energy production techniques, the Committee stressed that a more rational use of energy was a priority matter, as opposed to the Commission's suggestion to allocate more funds to R&TD on renewable forms of energy. The Committee was also exercised by coordination between policies at a national level, international cooperation and the participation of SMEs in the programme. In conclusion, the Opinion called for a redistribution of funds allocated to the programme specifically targeting demonstration activities.

In its Opinion on industrial and materials technologies, the Committee stressed the need for flexibility in allocating financial resources among the different R&TD activities envisaged in the programme.

The final major Opinion of the past year shares the same consistent approach with the four Opinions detailed above. It dealt with the 15 other specific R&TD programmes and the general issues which they raise, and was adopted unanimously at the September Plenary Session.

Considering the short space of time available to draw up this Opinion and the scope of the project undertaken, it was undoubtedly one of the Committee's most important activities in recent years.

The Committee's general comment on programmes covered by the report focused on the Commission's efforts to increase the budget allocation of the fourth framework programme. It felt, in any case, that the programme was insufficient to reach the objectives of European R&TD which was capable of competing with other developed areas. Here again, the Committee recom-

mended coordination between the different specific programmes and programmes at a national level, and the need to involve SMEs in the research effort. The Research Council meeting on 2 December adopted the proposals regarding the final programmes which were still pending.

This description of Section work in 1994 would not be complete without a reference to its activities outside the Committee, and particularly in relation to other Community institutions. In this connection, we should emphasize the excellent welcome that has consistently been given by the European Parliament's Committee on Energy, Research and Technology both to the *rapporteurs* for the various Opinions issued by the ESC and to its Secretariat. Mr Ruberti, Commissioner with responsibility for research and technological development, continued the tradition of visits by Commissioners responsible for issues concerning the Section.

The Section was also honoured to receive representatives of the German Presidency of the Council of Ministers in the sectors of energy and research; Dr Böge, assistant director of energy issues at the Federal Ministry of Economics, and Dr Knoerich, assistant director of research at the Federal Ministry of Education and Research. Their attendance at the Section's December meeting sparked off an interesting debate on the successes of the German Presidency.

Following the initiative of the former Committee President, Mrs Tiemann, to promote contacts between the ESC and EFTA's Consultative Committee, the Secretariat continued those contacts, as it did in 1993, with the EFTA Consultative Committee's *ad hoc* group on energy. Visits made to this *ad hoc* group, and the occasional attendance of representatives from this group at Section study group meetings, were profitable.

Other visits and contacts were organized for Section members, one of the most important of which was the visit to the Sellafield nuclear processing plant in the United Kingdom.

Other important external activities included the two hearings carried out as part of the work to draw up the Opinion on energy policy. The aim of the first was to ascertain the views of seven leading players in the energy world; the second was a discussion with representatives of 13 socio-occupational organizations in the energy sector.

9. PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT, PUBLIC HEALTH AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Introduction

During the year, the Committee was extremely active on environmental proposals within the framework of the Community programme of 'sustainable development' launched in 1992-93.

Of particular importance were the Opinions on the Green Paper on remedying environmental damage, integrated pollution prevention, environmental impact assessment and major accident hazards.

Green Paper — Remedying environmental damage

This Green Paper was designed to stimulate discussion on, firstly, the usefulness of civil liability as a means for allocating responsibility for such damage, and, secondly, the possibility of remedying environmental damage not covered by civil liability.

The Committee debated the issues raised by the Green Paper, sounded out interested parties and obtained oral evidence. Its findings were then put forward as a contribution towards the drafting of relevant Community legislation.

The Committee said that tackling environmental damage solely from the legal angle is no longer enough, especially in the absence of a uniform, long-standing body of Community legislation. Action is needed in such spheres as: (1) official checks on compliance with the regulations in force, (2) the provision of detailed objective information, (3) affirmation of new ethical principles, (4) upgrading of production methods, (5) prior scientific identification of possible risks, and (6) related remedies, and the consolidation of environmental awareness.

For the present, some basic principles should be laid down, covering the following concepts:

- (i) environment and environmental damage;
- (ii) restoration and compensation;
- (iii) activities subject to a strict liability regime;
- (iv) the right to bring a legal action;
- (v) burden of proof, causal link, and possibility for the person accused of causing the damage to defend himself;
- (vi) possible role of insurance and banks;
- (vii) joint compensation systems.

This initiative could take the form of a framework Directive.

Integrated pollution prevention

In its Opinion, the Committee welcomed the proposed strategy of tackling pollution at source. Nevertheless it did not consider the Directive ready to be adopted since it was not in tune with the objectives of Article 130r of the Treaty.

Specifically, the Committee raised the following objections:

- (i) the licensing procedure envisaged as being central to environmental impact assessment is not applied evenly in the proposal;
- (ii) *emission limit values* should be established at EC level rather than at national level, and the Committee does not agree that EC levels are inconsistent with the principle of subsidiarity;
- (iii) the relationship between 'emission limit values' and 'environmental quality standards' is not clear in the proposal, nor is it clear who is to define the latter.

Public and private projects and the environment (environment impact assessment — EIA)

The Committee approved the proposal to amend the original EIA Directive (85/337/EEC) on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment.

The Committee was pleased that the amendment codified a hitherto informal interpretation in a precise and clear manner, especially as regards:

- (i) the information to be supplied by the developer;
- (ii) the right of the developer to have access to relevant information held by the *authorities*.

The proposal also had the merit of ensuring:

- (i) better control over the quality of impact assessments and the conclusions drawn for them;
- (ii) closer attention to attenuation measures;
- (iii) fewer assessments of very small projects (where they are unlikely to have any environmental impact).

Major accident hazards

The Committee supported the proposal for a new Directive on major accident hazards, amending and updating basic Directive 82/501/EEC as previously amended.

However, the Committee made the following criticisms:

- (i) previous legislation was implemented differently from one Member State to another, according to differing time-scales; such variations must not be repeated in the future;

- (ii) the quantities of dangerous substances indicated in Annex I necessitate further appraisal, since in some cases they could be too high.

The Committee was concerned that the clause in Article 4 of Directive 82/501/EEC, providing persons working on the site with information, training and equipment to ensure their safety, has been dropped in the proposed Directive; it should be reinserted.

To harmonize the type of information to be supplied to the public and to avoid disputes regarding confidentiality, the Committee requests the Commission to assess whether provision could be made for the introduction of a 'citizens' information sheet'.

Regarding the criteria for determining 'threshold quantities', an additional category should be inserted in Annex I for substances that are both carcinogenic and toxic.

Biocidal products

Biocidal products are non-agricultural pesticides such as wood preservatives, insecticides and disinfectants; the regulations concerning their marketing vary considerably and constitute barriers to trade.

The Committee agreed a proposal to harmonize legislation subject to the following:

- (i) reassess the proposed administrative procedures to ensure that the amount of paperwork and the cost thereof is not disproportionate to the objectives;
- (ii) ensure that duplication of testing is avoided;
- (iii) re-examine the 'letter of access' procedure to avoid *de facto* monopolies by single producers.

Inflammable aerosols — 15th modification

Implementation of the Montreal Protocol on the ozone layer has led to the replacement of inflammable chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) in aerosols by flammable substitutes, particularly in aerosols used for entertainment and decorative purposes. This has caused accidents, particularly to children.

The Committee approved unanimously the proposal to amend basic Directive 75/324/EEC, but drew attention to the necessity to reformulate certain products which are now sold in aerosols containing a propellant which presents no flammability risk but which will, nevertheless, be banned under the Montreal Protocol.

Dangerous substances — Codification

The Committee also approved unanimously the proposal to consolidate into one document 28 previous amendments to basic Directive 67/548/EEC on the classification, packaging and labelling of dangerous substances.

Bathing water

The Committee welcomed the principles outlined in the proposal to simplify and update Directive 76/160/EEC on the quality of bathing water. However, it, pointed out matters of practical concern and doubted whether the desired results could be achieved.

Thus, the Committee regretted that the proposed new framework Directive on the ecological quality of water, into which this proposal should fit, was not ready for examination in parallel with it.

The Committee made a number of technical observations concerning the disease salmonella, the bacteria faecal streptococci, the monitoring of micro-organisms known as enteroviruses, non-biodegradable plastics in sewage, and the concept of 'excellent quality' for water.

The Committee also commented on possibly greater costs than anticipated, the necessity of information for tourists and the impracticality of the deadlines set.

Ecological quality of water

The Committee also welcomed the proposal made in relation to the improvement of the ecological quality of water, and especially the incorporation of the principle of subsidiarity. However, it recommended certain points which should be considered by the Council.

The proposal has to be seen in the context of other relevant directives which will improve surface water quality and which represent a baseline for water protection policy.

Of concern to the Committee is the varied pace of implementation which may cause distortion in competition; that transparent mechanisms for monitoring need to be established; and that, given it is a framework Directive, the Commission should be enabled to inform the Council of any Member State's lack of diligence in implementing the Directive.

The Committee is also worried that the Commission's estimates on cost are too low, and asks that a thorough cost-benefit analysis be carried out.

Wild birds

Directive 79/409/EEC lays down general rules for the conservation of all species of wild birds in the European territory of the Member States and specifies the conditions under which they may be hunted and captured.

The interpretation of Article 7(4), which prohibits the hunting of migratory species during their return to their rearing grounds, has given rise to problems.

In order to settle the disputes as to interpretation, the Commission proposed to add an annex setting out the criteria Member States must apply in fixing the end of the hunting season for migratory species. In practice, this meant that there would not be a uniform date for the ending of the season.

The Committee in its Opinion rejected the criteria and proposed a uniform terminal date (31 January) for closure.

Consumer affairs

During the year under review, the Committee's main work under this heading concerned guarantees and after-sales service, and access to justice.

Guarantees and after-sales service

The Green Paper on guarantees for consumer goods and after-sales service dealt with the harmonization of EU legislation under the following headings:

- (i) the legal guarantee;
- (ii) the commercial guarantee;
- (iii) after-sales service.

The Committee made the following specific observations:

- (a) The legal guarantee (traditional minimum protection):
 - (i) the Committee favours phased harmonization, i.e. the drawing-up of a set of basic rules common to all Member States, which could be discussed by economic operators; once agreement was reached on a particular point, the Commission could propose legislation to give it legal force;
 - (ii) the definition of 'defect' should be re-examined;
 - (iii) the parties who are liable for a 'defect' should be more clearly defined.
- (b) The commercial guarantee (additional benefits offered by the manufacturer or vendor):

Although harmonization might cause problems for manufacturers, particularly SMEs, there is a good case for issuing guidelines in this field, which could be discussed in the new Consumer Forum, and result in the introduction of a European consumer code.

- (c) As regards after-sales, service the Committee considered the underlying problems to be the availability of spare parts. It considered it inadvisable to regulate such availability which depends on the specific nature of each product, but that, in some cases, codes of practice might be appropriate.

Access to justice

The Green Paper summarized the position to date at Member State and EU level, with particular reference to the protection of individual rights and of collective interests.

The Committee welcomed the Green Paper but urged the Commission to consider adopting the following non-exhaustive list of measures:

- (i) compilation of a list of the means available to the public for settling consumer disputes and dissemination of information thereon;
- (ii) study of the qualitative results of the pilot projects mentioned in the Green Paper; the introduction of incentives based on these results for Member States to develop mediation and conciliation services;
- (iii) establishment of a network of local offices in all Member States offering legal advice free or at reduced cost;
- (iv) consideration of the creation of voluntary legal protection insurance, covering all consumer disputes;
- (v) training programmes for those involved in the application of consumer law.

The Committee also urged the Commission to submit specific proposals on the following points:

- (i) the right of consumer associations to represent collective interests before the courts, and to be awarded compensation;
- (ii) a system of legal aid for transfrontier disputes, covering court proceedings, and prior legal advice;
- (iii) definition of common principles and procedures for settling transfrontier consumer disputes and actions for an injunction;
- (iv) definition of basic rules for the standardization of collective actions at Community level.

Home and leisure accidents

The Committee welcomed the proposal to establish a Community system of information on home and leisure accidents, thus extending Ehlass¹ from 1994 to 1997 inclusive, but made the following comments:

- (i) it is unclear how the objectives of the survey can be achieved, given that the information basis is not the same in all Member States. A preference for hospital data rather than household data is expressed;
- (ii) product safety committees should be set up in all Member States;
- (iii) the information collected should be disseminated to professional associations and manufacturers.

Foodstuffs

Extraction solvents

The Committee unanimously approved the Commission's proposal to amend Directive 88/344/EEC reinstalling cyclohexane as a temporarily acceptable extraction solvent.

Flavourings

The Committee approved the draft Regulations laying down the procedure for listing authorized flavourings for use in foodstuffs. Amongst its comments, it called for a separate proposal for smoke flavours.

Special diets

The Committee approved the proposed amendments to dietetic foodstuffs listed in Annex I to basic Directive 89/398/EEC. The Committee suggested better harmonization of the national rules on residues in respect of infant formulas and follow-on formulas.

Public health

Public health action framework

In its Opinion on the Commission communication setting out a comprehensive public health action programme — designed to meet the health objectives laid down in Article 129 of the Maastricht Treaty — the Committee made several comments of which the principal was that public health policy should be viewed

¹ European home and leisure accident surveillance system.

as health promotion based on an interdisciplinary approach, and not just disease prevention seen in a restrictive sense.

Action plan against cancer

More specifically within the framework of the public health action programme, the Committee approved a four-year (1995-99) action plan to combat cancer.

In its Opinion, the Committee made the following points:

- (i) the financial resources earmarked for the action plan are very limited (ECU 64 million);
- (ii) there should be adequate representation of socioeconomic, consumer and environmental organizations on the proposed Advisory Committee.

'Europe against AIDS' programme

The Committee also commented favourably on a proposal to continue the 'Europe against AIDS' programme through 1994.

However, the Committee noted that AIDS in the context of health and safety in the workplace, although covered by other legislation, is not included in the 'Europe against AIDS' programme; the Committee said that it should be.

The Committee said that there should be greater coordination between (i) prevention and information, (ii) research, and (iii) assistance to developing countries.

10. DELEGATIONS AND RELATIONS WITH THIRD COUNTRIES

Overview

In addition to its consultative role, which it fulfils through its Opinions and information reports, the Committee fosters cooperation with the economic and social groups of non-EU countries, so-called third countries. Besides contacts in connection with the preparation of Opinions, and numerous bilateral contacts undertaken by the Presidency, this primarily takes the form of meetings between Committee delegations and their counterparts from the partner countries.

In its Opinions the Committee lays down the broad lines along which the dialogue and cooperation will be conducted in meetings, joint advisory committees and joint working groups with third-country partners. At the same time, the store of knowledge and experience thus acquired permeates the Committee's advisory work and provides a solid foundation for the its external relations expertise.

Over the past few years, the EU's external relations have been undergoing a process of change which has boosted the importance of this area of policy. This stems in part from the introduction of a common external policy under the Maastricht Treaty and in part from radical geopolitical upheavals and realignments. The fact that the world economy is becoming ever more closely interlocked is also particularly important for the Committee in that it necessitates a permanent attention to foreign trade issues and a direct exchange of views with *third-country representatives*. Thus the Committee has become a forum for collaboration between economic and social operators with regard to further European integration and external relations.

The following factors played a primary role in this process in 1994:

- (i) the establishment of a European Economic Area with the EFTA countries and the creation of an EEA Consultative Committee;
- (ii) the transformation of the national economies of Central and Eastern Europe into market economies, and hence the need to build up economic and social organizations and consultation machinery in these countries;
- (iii) the Union's association policy, under which (not least on account of the Committee's activities in this area) the economic and social organizations are increasingly involved in cooperation in practical ways (Central and Eastern Europe, Turkey);
- (iv) the introduction of the partnership concept into relations with Europe's neighbours (non-EU Mediterranean countries and the CIS), springing from the realization that geographical proximity and the resultant interdependence are a compelling argument for common solutions;
- (v) the extension of the concept of decentralized cooperation (hence also the inclusion of the economic and social groups in cooperation) in the context of development policy.

In recent years, the European Union has begun to strengthen its political and economic ties with its eastern and southern neighbours by means of association or partnership agreements already signed or due to be signed in the future. This has opened up a new area of activity for the Committee.

Besides long-standing, regular contacts with representatives of ACP and EFTA economic and social groups and institutions, the Committee has further developed its relations with, in particular, the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the countries of the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) and Turkey.

European Economic Area (EEA)

As part of the cooperation with the EFTA Consultative Committee, the advent of a new stage in relations with the EFTA countries was initiated when the Rules of Procedure of the EEA Consultative Committee (EEA-CC) were drawn up, the

common European Economic Area having entered into force on 1 January 1994. On 8 February 1994 the first meeting of the newly formed EEA Consultative Committee was held in Brussels, providing an institutional framework for what had hitherto been informal cooperation.

The EEA Consultative Committee, which is composed of 30 members of the EFTA Consultative Committee (CSC) and 30 members of the Economic and Social Committee (ESC) of the European Communities, is one of two advisory bodies set up by the terms of the EEA Agreement (the other being a Joint Parliamentary Committee). The role of the Committee is to advise, through reports and resolutions, the EEA decision-making organs.

The meeting was co-chaired by Mrs Susanne Tiemann, President of the ESC, and Mr Erik Forsman, Chairman of the CSC. Representatives of the EU and EFTA chairmanships were present at the meeting. In their statements both the Secretary-General of the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr Yannis Kranidiotis (representing the Greek Presidency) and the Finnish Minister for Foreign Trade, Mr Pertti Salolainen (representing the Finnish Chairmanship of the EFTA Council) underlined the important advisory role the new Committee would play in the EEA framework.

Apart from settling procedural questions, the meeting tackled the priority on top of today's agenda — growth, competitiveness and employment. Both Committees had already contributed to policy-making in this area through their input to the White Paper presented by the European Union in December 1993.

At its second meeting in Helsinki in June 1994, a resolution on the basic principles of economic policy was adopted and forwarded directly via the Commission Vice-President, Mr Henning Christophersen, who was present, to the European Council meeting in Corfu and the EFTA Council of Ministers meeting in Helsinki. One of the things which it stresses is that the European economic and social model is a part of the European identity and should be preserved and strengthened. It can be maintained only in an increasingly interdependent world by reconciling high productivity, a high level of social protection, sustainable development and involvement of socioeconomic interest groups, who are ready for adjustments to improve efficiency and equity.

Structural unemployment poses an enormous problem for society; no one can remain impervious to its human, social, economic and cultural implications. The European institutions, the national governments and all the social partners, economic agents and citizens must contribute to a solution.

At an extraordinary meeting held in December 1994, the Bureau of the EEA Consultative Committee discussed the consequences of Austrian, Finnish and Swedish EU membership for future cooperation with the EFTA States which have not joined. Since the EEA Agreement still holds, the EEA-CC will continue to be the primary forum for joint working.

African, Caribbean and Pacific countries (ACP)

In December 1994, the 18th annual meeting of the representatives of ACP-EU economic and social interest groups took place under the heading 'Industrial development in the ACP countries: stocktaking and prospects'. This consultation of the economic and social partners via the ACP-EU Joint Assembly, which is organized by the ESC, is enshrined in the Lomé Convention.

A final declaration was issued on the basis of the introductory documents drawn up by two preparatory groups of ESC and ACP representatives and two days of debate. The declaration calls primarily for a balanced development policy, progress on industrial cooperation and the development of a fabric of small private industrial businesses, as well as the reinforcement of decentralized cooperation and closer involvement of the social partners in development cooperation procedures and in economic policy decision-making in the ACP States.

The year 1994 also saw the creation of a follow-up committee comprising ESC members and representatives of organizations in the ACP States, with the task of backing up implementation of the demands set out in the final declarations, particularly on decentralized cooperation, through pilot projects in some ACP countries. This Committee undertook a first fact-finding trip to Benin, where it met with government representatives, the Economic and Social Council of Benin and the Commission delegate. The discussions focused on the participation of the economic and social interest groups in development cooperation. The main points highlight the need:

- (i) to establish a National Liaison Committee in all the ACP States, consisting of a representative of the government, the delegate of the European Commission and representatives of the economic and social interest groups;
- (ii) for the Commission delegate and the National Authorizing Officer to develop information procedures for these organizations;
- (iii) to test an active approach involving the various public (Commission, national civil services and agencies, public sector enterprises) and private operators (private companies, economic and social partners and NGOs).

Mediterranean third countries

The Maghreb region was another focus of relations with third countries. Following ESC-instigated meetings in April 1992 and September 1993 between representatives of employers' organizations, trade unions, farmers' organizations and other interest groups of the Maghreb countries and the Committee in Brussels and Tunis, a working group was set up to continue the dialogue between the partners on both sides of the Mediterranean, including between the full-scale meetings.

At their first meeting in September 1994, the members of the working group were briefed by a Commission representative on the progress of negotiations on the partnership agreement between the European Union and Tunisia and Morocco and on relations with Algeria. The ensuing general discussion provided an opportunity to alert the negotiating partners to the wishes of the economic and social interest groups. Particular stress was placed on the importance of taking into account the social dimension and the participation of the economic and social partners under the proposed agreement. In addition, the most important areas for European-Maghreb cooperation were thoroughly aired from the point of view of economic and social organization. It was agreed to organize another full-scale meeting in 1995.

This cooperation was rounded off by several meetings between the Presidency and Maghreb representatives, an address by the President of the Tunisian Economic and Social Council at the ESC's Plenary Session, and, above all, by an official visit to Morocco, which had already been preceded by an official visit to Tunisia the previous year.

On the initiative of the EU-Turkey Association Council and on the basis of its December 1993 Opinion on EU-Turkey relations, the Committee held talks with representatives of Turkish economic and social organizations on establishing closer relations and institutionalizing cooperation in accordance with Article 27 of the Association Agreement; the next steps have been agreed upon.

Central and Eastern Europe

In its Opinions on the EU's relations with the associated States of Central and Eastern Europe (Poland, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Romania, Bulgaria), the ESC called for the setting-up of consultative committees consisting of members of the ESC and their counterparts in the associated States.

Each of the Association Agreements stipulates that the Association Council may set up bodies of this nature. The Committee would now like to see the Association Councils take a decision to this effect so that the joint advisory committees can start their work soon. For the Committee it is also important that express provision be made in the text of future agreements (Slovenia, Baltic Republics) for advisory committees, or similar forms of institutionalized vehicles for cooperation.

To prepare such cooperation the President paid official visits to Hungary (July 1993) and the Czech Republic (June 1994) after her predecessor, Mr Geuenich, had already paid an official visit to Poland. As a result of conversations with representatives of governments, ministries, parliaments and economic and social organizations during these visits, contacts have been intensified at ambassadorial level and by direct meetings with representatives of economic and social organizations.

Relations with Hungary have been carried furthest. Early 1994 thus saw the meeting of a contact group comprising representatives of economic and social interest groups in Hungary and the ESC under the chairmanship of the Committee President and in the presence of a representative of the Hungarian Ministry of Labour and of the Commission. The meeting examined and approved proposals for a decision of the Association Council on the establishment of a Joint Advisory Committee, as well as for the adoption of its Rules of Procedure. A draft Decision was subsequently forwarded to the Commission and Association Council so that institutionalized cooperation could get under way in the near future.

11. CONFERENCES

During 1994, the Committee continued its efforts to forge closer links between EU citizens and institutions. A full programme of events took place.

As part of these closer links, the Committee sought to identify issues of concern to consumers. In February and March 1994, a hearing was organized on guarantees and after-sales service for consumer goods and consumer access to justice. This hearing gave study group members a chance to exchange views with consumer protection experts.

In March, the Committee turned its attention to young people and in particular to 189 students in the final two years of their secondary education in Brussels. The participants were briefed about the role of the ESC in the European decision-making process and, after numerous working meetings, an ESC Plenary Session for young people was held in the Committee's hemicycle. Under the 'Citizens and the capital of Europe: involving young people' project, this role-playing exercise was sponsored by the European institutions and the Brussels-Europe Liaison Office. A 'Young people's White Paper' was drawn up on the problems of urban living.

In March, the ESC also organized a hearing on young farmers and the problem of succession in agriculture. This hearing provided a forum for young farmers from all the EU Member States, various representatives of agricultural organizations and the members of the study group responsible for drawing up the relevant ESC Opinion. The project enabled the ESC to submit its Own-initiative Opinion to the informal meeting of Agriculture Ministers studying this problem in Ioannina at the instigation of the Greek Presidency.

The Committee was involved in two important activities related to 'Citizens Europe'; firstly in June in Nogent-sur-Marne, France and then in Magdeburg, Germany in August.

The Nogent-sur-Marne event was a seminar entitled 'The elderly in society' run in conjunction with Sécurité Confort France. The aims were to promote aware-

ness, to encourage debate and to identify the role and place in society of Europe's 68 million elderly. In all, 120 people attended, including specialists in the relevant areas (sociologists, gerontologists, researchers, experts and representatives from senior citizens' associations), spokesmen from the European institutions, and local politicians. The seminar was hosted by Gérard Leclerc, the 'France 2' journalist, and the following subjects were discussed: the Social Charter on the Fundamental Rights of the Elderly, home care and other services at home, new technology, and employment and solidarity. Several of these topics produced new ideas, for instance, on homeworking, neighbourhood social services and new technology in the service of the elderly.

In August, the ESC went to Saxony-Anhalt, one of the new German *Länder*. The event took the form of a conference held in Magdeburg in conjunction with the Saxony-Anhalt Centre for Political Education and the Euro-Info/Centre, Magdeburg. The main theme was 'Saxony-Anhalt: region and integral part of the EU'. The following subjects were tackled: small business, the structure of rural life and the rising generations, and ESF financial support for training and professional qualifications. The conference was also attended by politicians, including Mr Hänsch, President of the European Parliament, Mr Höppner, Saxony-Anhalt Premier, Mr Gramke, State Minister for Economic Affairs and Technology, and Mr Rambow, Director at the Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs.

Groups of visitors

Over the period from 1 November 1993 to 31 October 1994, the number of visitors to the ESC was as high as in the previous year.

<i>EU Member States</i>	<i>Number of groups</i>	<i>Number of visitors</i>
Belgium	8	377
Denmark	17	458
Germany	50	1 388
Greece	6	166
Spain	9	269
France	36	1 030
Italy	6	267
Netherlands	12	502
Portugal	6	267
United Kingdom	43	1 438
Ireland	2	72
Luxembourg	—	—
<i>Total Member States</i>	<i>195</i>	<i>6 234</i>

<i>Applicant countries</i>	<i>Number of groups</i>	<i>Number of visitors</i>
Austria	19	337
Sweden	16	362
Finland	8	149
Norway	2	44
<i>Total applicant countries</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>892</i>

<i>Non-EU States</i>	<i>Number of groups</i>	<i>Number of visitors</i>
Switzerland	1	17
Czech Republic	1	47
Hungary	1	10
Slovenia	2	37
Romania	1	9
Malta	2	29
CIS	2	28
Lithuania	1	3
USA	8	208
China	1	13
Vietnam	1	8
International	1	43
<i>Total non-EU States</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>452</i>
<i>Grand total</i>	<i>262</i>	<i>7 578</i>

Public events of European interest

The Committee had a stand providing general documentation on its role and consultative work at the following events:

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| 23 February 1994 | Annual ESC reception (held at the Hôtel de Ville, Brussels) |
| 11 and 12 March 1994 | European Conference on Relations between Consumers (Madrid) |
| 14 to 16 March 1994 | Second All-European Transport Conference (Crete) |

21 March 1994	Directoria 94 — International convention for chief executives of local and regional authorities (Pyramides, Brussels)
24 and 25 March 1994	Protagora — European association for the promotion of vocational, scientific and technical training (Strasbourg)
7 to 10 April 1994	36th UGT Congress (Unión General de Trabajadores) (Madrid)
24 May 1994	Symposium on the introduction of a single currency (Brussels)
22 June 1994	Eco-Label Forum (Brussels)
29 and 30 June 1994	Citizens' Europe Conference — The elderly in society (Nogent-sur-Marne, France)
29 and 30 August 1994	Citizens' Europe Conference — ESF financial support for training and professional qualifications (Magdeburg, Germany)
15 to 17 November 1994	Employment Week (Palais des Congrès, Brussels)
17 November 1994	Rendezvous Europe (Palais des Congrès, Tours, France)

CHAPTER III

Relations with the media

The year 1994 saw the introduction of a new-style ESC monthly letter for the general press and the public. The title has been changed from *Committee Newsletter* to *ESC Info*, the format enlarged and the paper quality improved. The ESC can now rely on a truly journalistic product to promote its ideas and image in all EU languages.

A survey by Reuters revealed a substantial demand for information on the ESC among the clients of 'EU Briefing', a new computerized information service on EU institutional affairs launched by the agency. With the ESC's agreement, Reuters is now systematically distributing a summary of the Opinions adopted at each Plenary Session and other information on ESC activities. This provides an important back-up to the press releases distributed by the ESC.

The accredited press has mainly concentrated on the role of the ESC as a forum for debate on the introduction of the single market. The job of sounding out opinion in European socioeconomic circles via hearings on specific themes has also been closely followed, as have ESC Opinions and discussions on economic and monetary union.

The ESC has continued to boost its profile in the national and local press of Member States each time it has organized events away from Brussels (particularly those connected with the Citizens' Europe), as well as at Section and Study Group meetings in Spain, Italy, Germany, France and Ireland. In non-member countries, there has been a press relations drive in connection with official visits by the President and Vice-Presidents.

Since September, the Press Division has shifted tactics to awaken the interest of the specialist press so as to ensure broader coverage by the European media. A restricted computerized mailing list has been set up on a trial basis to target this category of publication more effectively in each Member State. Negotiations are under way for a company to set up a mailing list allowing contact with the entire specialist press throughout Europe (more than 5 000 titles).

CHAPTER IV

The Groups

GROUP I — EMPLOYERS

Representatives at a high level of private and public industry, chambers of commerce, small business, wholesale and retail trade, transport, banking and insurance and agriculture make up the membership of the Employers' Group: Group I.

At the inaugural session of the Committee on 18 October 1994, 23 new members joined the Group from all countries except Luxembourg and the Netherlands. Their arrival appreciably lowers the average age of employer members. The number of members has, however, remained the same as during the previous mandate. There are now three lady members.

At its first meeting, the Group nominated a new member, Mr Carlos Ferrer, as candidate for the Presidency of the Committee until September 1996. Mr Ferrer, who is concurrently a Vice-President of UNICE, was elected by a large majority of the Committee in Plenary Session. The following Group I members of the Committee Bureau were also elected: Mrs Johansen, Mr Petersen, Mr Kazazis, Mr Pelletier, Mr Giacomelli, Mr Pricolo, Mr Noordwal, Mr Andrade and Mr Levitt.

In June, at an extraordinary meeting called to agree on candidates to be recommended for posts in the new mandate, the Group unanimously proposed as its new President Dr Manuel Cavaleiro Brandão who was elected without opposition at the constitutive meeting. Five Vice-Presidents were also elected: Mr Bernabei, Mr Giacomelli, Mr Ghigonis, Mr Löw and Mr Whitworth.

The Group proposed the following Section Presidents all of whom were subsequently elected: Mr Pardon for Economic, Financial and Monetary Questions, Mr Gafo Fernández for Energy, Nuclear Questions and Research and Mr Connellan for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services.

Though numerically by far the smallest of the Economic and Social Committee's three Groups, Group I has regularly provided the Rapporteurs for many of the most important Opinions approved by the Committee. The wide range of

interests and expertise of its members enables Group I to contribute from practical experience to all Opinions, whether drafted in response to a request of the Council or the Commission, or at the ESC's own initiative.

The Group strongly supports the proposal of the other institutions that the Committee should accept the role of forum with the specific task of monitoring the development of the internal market.

Convinced that the freedom of trade resulting from completion of the internal market will enhance economic growth and boost employment opportunities in all regions of the Union, the Employers' Group will continue to cooperate with workers, consumers and other economic and social groupings in support of the principal goals of the Union, growth, competitiveness and employment, in order to ensure stability.

The opening of Eastern Europe has given rise to in-depth studies by the ESC of their situation and prospects for development. Group I's response here is wholehearted and practical support for EC moves to help these countries establish free market economies and to promote investment, the restructuring and creation of industries, training measures, and the protection of the environment.

Group I believes that the continuing, steady progress of all Community Member States towards economic and monetary union is essential to world trade equilibrium. In this context it acknowledges the need to make Community political decision-making processes more transparent and democratic, and welcomes all efforts to improve the coordination of work between the ESC and the European Parliament.

Institutionalization of the Economic and Social Committee's role as the appropriate forum for achieving a consensus between all socio-occupational groupings on the feasibility of Community policies is, we believe, a *sine qua non* for greater democracy. The Group was pleased that the Maastricht Treaty recognized this role by granting the ESC greater budgetary autonomy and the freedom to adopt its own Rules of Procedure and will work for an enhancement of the ESC's position in the revision of the Treaty.

The usefulness of ESC Opinions depends to a considerable degree on their technical accuracy. Group I maintains contact with a large number of trade and sectoral organizations at European level in addition to its close links with UNICE (Union of Industrial and Employers' Confederations of Europe), CEEP (European Centre of Public Enterprises), Eurochambres (European Permanent Conference of Chambers of Commerce and Industry) and four wholesale and retail organizations: Fewita (Federation of European Wholesale and International Trade Associations), CECD (European Confederation of Retailing), CLD (Liaison Committee of the European Retail Associations) and Celcaa (Liaison Com-

mittee of Agro-alimentary Businesses). All these organizations receive a monthly newsletter from the Group Secretariat immediately after each Plenary Session which keeps them up to date on all new subjects of consultation or initiative and enables them to propose experts to assist Group I Study Group members.

GROUP II — WORKERS

On the renewal of the Committee, in October, membership of the Group stood at 67 members, including 22 new members. Tom Jenkins (TUC — UK) was elected President of the Group, and Michael Geuenich (DGB — Germany) and Ettore Masucci (CGIL — Italy), Vice-Presidents. Geert Straetemans continues as Secretary to the Group, leading a small but effective team.

Bent Nielsen (LO — Denmark) was elected Vice-President of the Committee, and the other representatives of the Group in the ESC Bureau are: Josly Piette (CSC — Belgium), Michael Geuenich (DGB — Germany), Juan Molina (CCOO — Spain), Jacques Pé (FO — France), Yannis Papamichail (GSEE — Greece), Giacomina Cassina (CISL — Italy), Ieke van den Burg (FNV — Holland), Vasco Cal (CGTP — Portugal) and Campbell Christie (TUC — United Kingdom).

The three Section Presidents drawn from Group II are: René Bleser (CGT — Luxembourg), Transport and Communications; Roger Briesch (CFDT — France) External Relations; and John Carroll (ICTU — Ireland) Social Affairs.

During 1994, Group representatives took an active part in a panel, chaired by the Group's President, which reviewed the Rules of Procedure of the Committee following the enactment of the Treaty on European Union, and which extended to the Committee control over its Rules. The panel's conclusions were endorsed by the Committee in June.

The Group held an extraordinary meeting in June, at which the internal organization of the Committee, its future development in the context of the 1996 revision of the Treaty, own-initiative work, and relations with other European institutions, bodies and trade-union organizations were discussed. The Group has continued to press for the application of decisions of the ESC Bureau relating to the enhancement of the position of the Group Secretariat, and deep concern has been reiterated at continuing procrastination and obstruction which still block progress in this regard.

The Group has maintained close relations with the European Trade Union Confederation and the European Industry Committees affiliated to it, who have provided experts for a number of Opinions discussed in the Committee. Group members have represented the Committee at various meetings of these organizations. In March the ETUC Executive Committee adopted a resolution on a new stage of development for the Economic and Social Committee, recog-

nizing the place of the Committee as a prime forum for consensus-seeking and dialogue between the different social forces and representations, and setting down new avenues which, if followed, would further enhance the Committee's position. The Executive Committee also agreed a number of initiatives aimed at strengthening cooperation between the Group and the Confederation.

Combating mass unemployment remains our priority, and the Group has been supportive of ESC resolutions calling on the European Council to act positively in line with proposals of the Commission. We believe that the EU can only compete in the world on the basis of a well-trained and involved workforce which produces quality goods and services. The alternative route, through social devaluation, can only lead to disaster. In line with this view, the Group has continued to press for a strengthening of European Union action in the field of social policy, and provided rapporteurs for Opinions which were adopted in this area, notably on the Commission's Green and subsequent White Paper, on the application of the Social Chapter, on European works councils, on education and training, youth issues, and health and safety. Close interest has been paid to various aspects of industrial policy at the sectoral level, for example in transport, agriculture and fisheries, textiles, and the media, as well as in relation to the industrial aspects of the White Paper on growth, competitiveness and employment.

The Group has continued to press for the involvement of the social partners in regional policy. It also provided rapporteurs for issues concerning the environment, and immigration and asylum. The Group has followed closely the EU's external and trade policies, and has maintained its support for the incorporation of social clauses in aid and trade agreements (GATT, GSP) — positions which have been adopted by the Committee. The Group initiated discussion in the Committee on relations with the International Labour Organization.

Members of the Group have continued to play a key role in the development of the Committee's external activities (ACP, EEA, Maghreb, Turkey, Latin America, and Central and Eastern Europe) taking the view — which is supported in other EU institutions — that contacts with the socioeconomic organizations in those regions is an important element in extending the influence of the European Union, and, in particular, of its social model.

GROUP III — VARIOUS INTERESTS

The Various Interests Group is increasingly proving to be the element which gives the Committee its distinctive edge.

This stems from the Group's wide membership which ranges from producers of goods and services (farmers, craft workers, small businesses, the professions)

to consumers, the scientific and academic community, the cooperative and non-profit-making movement, family organizations and conservationists.

Group III members, in their capacity as representatives of these organizations (naturally alongside the members of the other two Groups), act as a conduit for consultation of people from different strands of society on the various Community policies and initiatives, thus enabling them to take part in the Community's decision-making process.

The wealth and range of experience and responsibilities found within the Group have led to its members being appointed as rapporteur for a large number of Opinions in the ESC's various fields of responsibility.

These include: the role of the EIB in regional development; integrated pollution prevention and control; the European dimension of education; social aspects of the White Paper on growth, competitiveness and employment; competitiveness of the European textile and clothing industry; consumer access to justice; the framework for action in the field of public health; the financial problems faced by small businesses; multiannual programme (1994-96) of work for cooperatives, mutual societies, associations and foundations; tourism; energy and economic and social cohesion; measures for dealing with certain beneficiaries of operations financed by the EAGGF Guarantee Section; regional planning and development strategies for the Atlantic coastal regions (Atlantic arc); the contract between agriculture and society; the fourth R&DT framework programme; and an information report on agricultural provident schemes in the EU.

During the year, much of the Group's attention focused on the work being done by the panel appointed to revise the ESC's Rules of Procedure.

Group III members, including those sitting on the panel, were systematically briefed. At its monthly meetings, the Group as a whole received regular progress reports on the panel's proceedings.

The Group's many comments were designed to ensure that the new Rules made the role and operation of the Committee as clear and effective as possible.

The Group largely devoted a special meeting to this important topic and, at the ensuing plenary debate, tabled a number of amendments on matters which it deemed of key importance.

The Group has also given unstinting attention to the ESC's role. Its discussions have always been spurred by the conviction that the Committee plays a genuinely democratic role in the interests of the entire EU.

At the many meetings with partners from outside the Community, Group III has constantly emphasized that the Committee is a paradigm of economic and social democracy, and a vehicle for the proper representation of European society.

In 1994 in particular, the Group brought this message to the proceedings of the Advisory Committee of the European Economic Area; it did so because EFTA participants at meetings with ESC delegations have tended almost exclusively to represent employers and trade unions. At the second meeting of the EEA Consultative Committee in Helsinki, Group III members, via their international and European organizations, called for participation by their EFTA opposite numbers in the small business, consumer, professions, farming, and cooperative sectors. Group III knows from experience that discussions will be more fruitful if they involve representatives of the widest possible spectrum of socio-economic organizations.

The Economic and Social Committee's four-yearly renewal also occurred in 1994.

The Various Interests Group was reconstituted at a meeting during the inaugural Committee session for the 1994-98 term of office held in October. The new Group comprises 63 members, 22 of them new to the Committee.

Beatrice Rangoni Machiavelli — who had chaired the Group over the previous four years — was re-elected Group President, Eugène Muller and Francisco Ceballo Herrero were appointed Vice-Presidents. The Group Bureau has nine further members.

The Group also appointed André Laur as a Committee Vice-President for the next two years.

The following Group III members were elected Section Presidents:

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| Manuel Ataíde Ferreira | President of the Section for Protection of the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Affairs |
| Pere Margalef Masia | President of the Section for Agriculture and Fisheries |
| Robert Moreland | President of the Section for Regional Development and Town and Country Planning. |

CHAPTER V

Internal aspects of the Secretariat

1. STAFF

The number of permanent posts in the General Secretariat remained unchanged from 1993 at 510.

These were divided as follows:

- 58 category A posts, including one special career bracket;
- 74 category B posts;
- 222 category C posts;
- 37 category D posts;
- 119 LA posts.

In accordance with Protocol 16 to the Maastricht Treaty, most of the posts mentioned above serve two institutions, the ESC and the Committee of the Regions, which are already organized around a 'common organizational structure'. The staff employed within this structure come largely from the ESC (381 out of a total of 457 officials in the structure), including 13 A grade officials (including one A2 who directs the common structure), 49 B grade, 163 C grade and all ESC staff in categories D and LA.

The ESC has thus put 74.7% of its staff at the disposal of the COR, including certain departments in their entirety: financial control, typing, finance, printing and publishing, translation and a large part of the personnel management department. These services have been reinforced by 76 posts created with the arrival of the Committee of the Regions.

The creation of the common structure is currently causing a number of problems, as yet unresolved. These include the definition of the responsibilities of each body regarding methods of organization and management of the common structure and its assets, coordination of the meeting calendars of the two institutions and the division of the workload thus created, staff management and the guarantee of a single career structure for officials, etc.

The talks currently in progress between the highest levels of the two institutions and staff representatives should permit these matters to be progressively resolved and this organizational structure to function harmoniously in the years to come.

2. BUDGET

Appropriations for 1994 totalled ECU 61 029 522, 8.9% up on the ECU 56 029 303 of 1993.

3. MEETINGS

There were 10 Plenary Sessions and 10 Bureau meetings in 1994.

Working bodies met as follows:

Sections	84
Study Groups	348
Groups I, II and III	68
Recognized sub-groups	144
Miscellaneous	421
Visitors' groups	236

4. STRUCTURE OF THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT IN 1994

Chairman and Vice-Chairmen

Private office

Group secretariats

Financial control division

Secretary-General

Private office

Secretariat

Press division

Budget unit

Directorate for the Registry of the Assembly and Bureau and for Planning

Unit for the Assembly/Bureau, legislative planning, institutional affairs, official publications and the Annual Report

Meetings planning/services for members — travel

Telex

Mail/records/library/documentation

Directorate-General for Operations

Directorate A — Consultative work

- Division for industry, commerce, crafts and services
- Division for economic, financial and monetary questions
- Division for transport and communications
- Specialized department for protection of the environment, public health and consumer affairs
- Specialized department for regional development and town and country planning

Directorate B — Consultative work

- Divisions for agriculture and fisheries
- Division for external relations, trade and development policy
- Specialized department for social, family, educational and cultural affairs
- Specialized department for energy, nuclear questions and research

Directorate for Communication

- Research and conferences division
- Public relations division
- Security unit
- Delegations unit

Directorate for Translation and for Printing and Publishing

General coordination

Translation divisions

Division for printing and publishing

- Typing pools
- Printing/distribution unit

Specialized department for engineering, informatics systems and telecommunications (IST)

Directorate for Personnel, Administration and Finance

Division for recruitment and personnel management

Specialized department for finance

Specialized department for internal affairs

Department for legal affairs, records, staff information, and servicing heads of administration meetings

Organization and methods department

Medical/welfare unit

ANNEX A

**List of Opinions
and information reports
issued during 1994**

312th PLENARY SESSION — 26 AND 27 JANUARY 1994

Proposal for a Council Directive on investor compensation schemes
(Rapporteur: Robert Pelletier) (CES 98/94)

Draft Commission Directive amending Directives 88/301/EEC and 90/388/EEC with regard to satellite communications
(Rapporteur: Herbert Nierhaus) (CES 99/94)

Proposal for a Council Directive laying down the principles relating to the zootechnical and genealogical conditions applicable to imports from third countries of animals, their semen and embryos
(Rapporteur: Georges Proumens) (CES 100/94)

Proposal for a Council Directive fixing the principles governing the organization of inspections in the field of animal nutrition
(Rapporteur: Kenneth J. Gardner) (CES 101/94)

The European Union relations with Latin America (Own-initiative Opinion)
(Rapporteur: Vasco Cal) (CES 102/94)

Proposal for a Council Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 1101/89 on structural improvements in inland waterway transport
(Rapporteur-General: Gerhard von Haus) (CES 103/94)

Involvement of the social partners in Community regional policy (Own-initiative Opinion)
(Rapporteur: Ettore Masucci; Co-Rapporteur: Dame Jocelyn Barrow)
(CES 104/94)

Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 91/628/EEC concerning the protection of animals during transport
(Rapporteur: José Luis Mayayo Bello) (CES 105/94)

313th PLENARY SESSION — 23 AND 24 FEBRUARY 1994

The role of the European Investment Bank in regional development (Own-initiative Opinion)
(Rapporteur: Eugène Muller) (CES 225/94)

Communication from the Commission to the Council and Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee: Green Paper on remedying environmental damage
(Rapporteur: Giampaolo Pellarini) (CES 226/94)

Proposal for a Council Directive amending for the 15th time Directive 76/769/EEC on the approximation of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States relating to restrictions on the marketing and use of certain dangerous substances and preparations

(Rapporteur: Georges Proumem; Co-Rapporteurs: Kommer de Knegt, Johannes Jaschick) (CES 227/94)

Proposal for a Decision of the Council and the Ministers for Health of the Member States, meeting within the Council, concerning the extension to the end of 1994 of the 1991-93 plan of action in the framework of the 'Europe against AIDS' programme

(Rapporteur: Sergio Colombo) (CES 228/94)

Proposal for a European Parliament and Council Directive relating to the classification, packaging and labelling of dangerous substances

(Rapporteur acting without a Study Group: G. H. E. Hilkens) (CES 229/94)

Proposal for a European Parliament and Council Directive amending for the second time Council Directive 88/344/EEC of 13 June 1988 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to extraction solvents used in the production of foodstuffs and food ingredients

(Rapporteur acting without a Study Group: Kenneth J. Gardner) (CES 230/94)

Commission communication to the Council on the development and future of wine sector policy (Commission discussion paper)

(Rapporteur: Adalbert Kienle) (CES 231/94)

Proposal for a Council Decision amending Decision 89/631/EEC on a Community financial contribution towards expenditure incurred by the Member States for the purpose of ensuring compliance with the Community system for the conservation and management of fishery resources

(Rapporteur: Augusto Gil Bensabat Ferraz da Silva) (CES 232/94)

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EC) establishing a system of compensation for the additional costs incurred in the marketing of certain fishery products from the Azores, Madeira, the Canary Islands and the French department of Guiana as a result of their very remote location

(Rapporteur: Augusto Gil Bensabat Ferraz da Silva) (CES 233/94)

Proposal for a Council Directive amending and updating Directive 64/432/EEC on health problems affecting intra-Community trade in bovine animals and swine

(Rapporteur: Georges Proumens) (CES 234/94)

Proposal for a Council Directive on fiscal marking of gas oils

(Rapporteur: José Ignacio Gafo Fernández) (CES 235/94)

Removing the legal obstacles to the use of the ecu (Commission White Paper addressed to the Council) (Own-initiative Opinion)
(Rapporteur acting without a Study Group: Klaus Meyer-Horn) (CES 236/94)

Cohesion Fund
(Rapporteur: John Little) (CES 237/94)

314th PLENARY SESSION — 23 AND 24 MARCH 1994

Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the use of standards for the transmission of television signals
(Rapporteur: Paul Flum) (CES 378/94)

Proposal for a Council Decision amending Council Decision 90/685/EEC concerning the implementation of an action programme to promote the development of the European audiovisual industry (MEDIA) (1991-95)
(Rapporteur: Paul Flum) (CES 379/94)

Action programme for the implementation of a European Community vocational training policy (Leonardo da Vinci)
(Rapporteur: Herbert Nierhaus) (CES 380/94)

'Youth for Europe' programme (third phase) designed to promote the development of exchanges among young people and of youth activities in the European Community
(Rapporteur: Jan Jacob van Dijk) (CES 381/94)

Possible developments in the policy of arable land set-aside (Commission discussion paper)
(Rapporteur: Charles Pelletier) (CES 382/94)

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) laying down the conditions and arrangements for approving certain establishments operating in the animal feed sector and amending Directives 70/524/EEC and 74/63/EEC
(Rapporteur: Kenneth J. Gardner) (CES 383/94)

Proposal for a Council Decision amending Decision 90/424/EEC on expenditure in the veterinary field
(Rapporteur: Erik Hovgaard Jakobsen) (CES 384/94)

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EC) amending Regulation (EEC) No 2092/91 on organic production of agricultural products and indications referring thereto on agricultural products and foodstuffs
(Rapporteur: Kenneth J. Gardner) (CES 385/94)

Proposal for a Council Directive on articles of precious metal
(Rapporteur: Konstantinos Douvis) (CES 386/94)

Green Paper on European social policy — Options for the Union (communication by Mr Flynn)

(Rapporteur: Vasco Cal) (CES 387/94)

Commission proposals on the prices for agricultural products and on related measures (1994/95)

(Rapporteur: Giuseppe Pricolo) (CES 388/94)

315th PLENARY SESSION — 27 AND 28 APRIL 1994

Proposal for a Council Regulation on Community action in the field of statistics (Rapporteur acting without a Study Group: Klaus Meyer-Horn) (CES 554/94)

Proposal for a European Parliament and Council Regulation (EC) laying down a Community procedure for flavouring substances used in foodstuffs (Rapporteur: Kenneth J. Gardner) (CES 555/94)

Proposal for a European Parliament and Council Decision establishing a procedure for the exchange of information on national measures derogating from the principle of the free movement of goods within the Community (Rapporteur: Liam Connellan) (CES 556/94)

Proposal for a European Parliament and Council Directive on textile names (Rapporteur acting without a Study Group: Alexander R. Smith) (CES 557/94)

Proposal for a European Parliament and Council Directive on certain methods for the quantitative analysis of binary textile fibre mixtures (Rapporteur acting without a Study Group: Alexander R. Smith) (CES 558/94)

Fourth annual report from the Commission on the implementation of the reform of the Structural Funds, 1992 (Rapporteur: John Little) (CES 559/94)

Proposal for a Council Directive on the approximation of the laws of Member States with regard to the transport of dangerous goods by road (Rapporteur: Helmut Giesecke) (CES 560/94)

Proposal for a Council Directive on uniform procedures for checks on the transport of dangerous goods by road (Rapporteur: Helmut Giesecke) (CES 561/94)

Draft Commission Regulation on the application of Article 85(3) of the EC Treaty to certain categories of agreements, decisions and concerted practices between liner shipping companies (consortia) (Rapporteur: Francis J. Whitworth) (CES 562/94)

Green Paper on the European dimension of education (Rapporteur: Giancarlo Pasquali) (CES 563/94)

Proposal for a European Parliament and Council Decision establishing the Community action programme Socrates
(Rapporteur: Jan Jacob van Dijk) (CES 564/94)

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EC) amending Regulation (EEC) No 337/75 establishing a European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training
(Rapporteur acting without a Study Group: Herbert Nierhaus) (CES 565/94)

Commission communication to the European Parliament and Council on Community guidelines on trans-European energy networks;
Proposal for a European Parliament and Council Decision laying down a series of guidelines on trans-European energy networks;
Proposal for a Council Decision laying down a series of measures aimed at creating a more favourable context for the development of trans-European networks in the energy sector
(Rapporteur: José Ignacio Gafo Fernández) (CES 566/94)

Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directives 66/400/EEC, 66/401/EEC, 66/402/EEC, 66/403/EEC, 69/208/EEC, 70/457/EEC and 70/458/EEC on the marketing of beet seed, fodder-plant seed, cereal seed, seed potatoes, seed of oil and fibre plants and vegetable seed and on the common catalogue of varieties of agricultural plant species
(Rapporteur: Jean-Paul Bastian) (CES 567/94)

Proposal for a Council Directive amending Council Directive 90/428/EEC of 28 June 1990 on trade in equidae intended for competitions and laying down the conditions for participation therein
(Rapporteur: Georges Proumens) (CES 568/94)

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EC) amending Regulation (EEC) No 1360/90 establishing a European Training Foundation
(Rapporteur: Eugène Muller) (CES 569/94)

Annual Economic Report for 1994
(Rapporteur: Camille Giacomelli) (CES 570/94)

Proposal for a European Parliament and Council Decision introducing a Community system of information on home and leisure accidents
(Rapporteur-General: Ada Maddocks) (CES 571/94)

Proposal for a Council Directive on integrated pollution prevention and control
(Rapporteur: Klaus Boisseree) (CES 572/94)

Young farmers and the problem of succession in agriculture (Own-initiative Opinion)
(Rapporteur: Hervé Morize) (CES 573/94)

Proposal for a Council Directive concerning the placing of biocidal products on the market

(Rapporteur: Georges Proumens) (CES 574/94)

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EC) laying down general rules for the granting of Community financial aid in the field of trans-European networks

(Rapporteur-General: Vasco Cal) (CES 575/94)

Proposal for a European Parliament and Council Directive on certain components or characteristics of two- or three-wheel motor vehicles

(Rapporteur: Edoardo Bagliano) (CES 576/94)

Amended proposal for a Council Directive concerning common rules for the internal market in electricity; Amended proposal for a Council Directive concerning common rules for the internal market in natural gas (Own-initiative Opinion)

(Rapporteur: José Ignacio Gafo Fernández) (CES 577/94)

Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 77/388/EEC and introducing new simplification measures with regard to value-added tax — scope of certain exemptions and practical arrangements for implementing them

(Rapporteur-General: Richard Müller) (CES 578/94)

General framework for action by the Commission of the European Communities in the field of safety, hygiene and health protection at work (1994-2000)

(Rapporteur: Thomas Eddy) (CES 579/94)

Relations between the European Union and Central and East European States: Slovenia (Additional Opinion) (Own-initiative Opinion)

(Rapporteur: Göke Frerichs) (CES 580/94)

316th PLENARY SESSION — 1 AND 2 JUNE 1994

Green Paper on access of consumers to justice and the settlement of consumer disputes in the single market

(Rapporteur: Manuel Cabecadas Ataíde Ferreira) (CES 742/94)

Green Paper on guarantees for consumer goods and after-sales services

(Rapporteur: Georges Proumens) (CES 743/94)

Report on the competitiveness of the European textile and clothing industry

(Rapporteur: Luis Alberto Garcia Ferrero Morales) (CES 744/94)

Proposal for a European Parliament and Council Directive on a policy for the mutual recognition of licences and other national authorizations for the provision of satellite network services and/or satellite communication services

(Rapporteur: Michael Mobbs) (CES 745/94)

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EC) on the implementation of IMO Resolution A.747(18) on the application of tonnage measurement of ballast spaces in segregated ballast oil tankers
(Rapporteur: Emmanuel Saitis) (CES 746/94)

Proposal for a Council Directive concerning the setting-up of a European vessel reporting system in the maritime zones of Community Member States
(Rapporteur: Sergio Colombo) (CES 747/94)

Amended Proposal for a Council Directive on admission to the occupation of road-haulage operator and road-passenger transport operator and mutual recognition of diplomas, certificates and other evidence of formal qualifications intended to facilitate for these operators the right to freedom of establishment in national and international transport operations
(Rapporteur: René Bleser) (CES 748/94)

Proposal for a Council Decision concerning the rules for the participation of undertakings, research centres and universities in the specific programmes of research, technological development and demonstration of the European Community;

Proposal for a Council Decision concerning the rules for the participation of undertakings, research centres and universities in the specific programmes of research and training of the European Atomic Energy Community;

Proposal for a Council Decision concerning the rules for the dissemination of the research results from the specific programmes of research, technological development and demonstration of the European Community
(Rapporteur acting without a Study Group: Giannino Bernabei) (CES 749/94)

Economic and financial aspects of the White Paper on growth, competitiveness and employment (Own-initiative Opinion)
(Rapporteur: Aldo Romoli) (CES 750/94)

Industrial aspects of the White Paper on growth, competitiveness and employment (Own-initiative Opinion)
(Rapporteur: Klaus Schmitz) (CES 751/94)

Social aspects of the White Paper on growth, competitiveness and employment (Own-initiative Opinion)
(Rapporteur: Roger Burnel) (CES 752/94)

Proposal for a Council Directive on the establishment of European committees or procedures in Community-scale undertakings and Community-scale groups of undertakings for the purposes of informing and consulting employees
(Rapporteur: Ursula Engelen-Kefer) (CES 753/94)

Third report from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee on the application of the Community Charter of the Fundamental Social Rights of Workers
(Rapporteur: Ada Maddocks) (CES 754/94)

Proposal for a Council Directive laying down maximum authorized weights and dimensions for road vehicles over 3.5 tonnes circulating within the Community
(Rapporteur: Robert J. Moreland) (CES 755/94)

Proposal for a Council Decision adopting a specific research, technological development and demonstration programme in the field of non-nuclear energy — Technologies for cleaner and more efficient energy production and use (1994-98)
(Rapporteur-General: Wilfred Aspinall) (CES 757/94)

Proposal for a Council Decision on a specific programme of research, technological development and demonstration in the area of advanced communications' technologies and services (1994-98)
(Rapporteur-General: Juan Tesoro Oliver) (CES 758/94)

Proposal for a Council Decision adopting a specific research and technological development programme in the field of industrial and materials technologies (1994-98)
(Rapporteur-General: Giovanni Barbagli) (CES 759/94)

Proposal for a Council Directive on the control of major accident hazards involving dangerous substances
(Rapporteur: Giampaolo Pellarini) (CES 760/94)

Community initiatives 1994-99
(Rapporteur: Campbell Christie) (CES 761/94)

317th PLENARY SESSION — 6 JULY 1994

Proposal for a European Parliament and Council Directive amending Council Directive 89/398/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to foodstuffs intended for particular nutritional uses
(Rapporteur: Kenneth J. Gardner Co-Rapporteurs: Johannes Jaschick, Günther Lappas) (CES 847/94)

Commission communication on the framework for action in the field of public health
(Rapporteur: Manuel Cabeçadas Ataíde Ferreira) (CES 848/94)

Proposal for a European Parliament and Council Regulation on the Community design;

Proposal for a European Parliament and Council Directive on the legal protection of designs

(Rapporteur: Jean Pardon) (CES 849/94)

Communication from the Commission on the financial problems experienced by small and medium-sized companies

(Rapporteur: C. W. M. Lustenhouwer) (CES 850/94)

Proposal for a Council Decision relating to a multiannual programme of work for cooperatives, mutual societies, associations and foundations in the Community (1994-96)

(Rapporteur: Roger Ramaekers) (CES 851/94)

Proposal for a European Parliament and Council Directive relating to cableway installations designed to carry passengers

(Rapporteur: Michael Mobbs) (CES 852/94)

Proposal for a Council Decision on a specific programme of research and technological development and demonstration in the area of telematics applications of common interest (1994-98)

(Rapporteur-General: Juan Tesoro Oliver) (CES 853/94)

Transparency and performance of cross-border payments (Own-initiative Opinion)

(Rapporteur: Klaus Meyer-Horn) (CES 854/94)

Report from the Commission to the Council on the implementation of the Merger Regulation (Additional Opinion)

(Rapporteur: Jens-Peter Petersen) (CES 855/94)

318th PLENARY SESSION — 14 AND 15 SEPTEMBER 1994

Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 85/337/EEC on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment

(Rapporteur: Enzo Beltrami) (CES 996/94)

Proposal for a Council Directive concerning the quality of bathing water

(Rapporteur: Gordon Pearson) (CES 997/94)

Proposal for a European Parliament and Council Decision adopting an action plan 1995-99 to combat cancer within the framework for action in the field of public health

(Rapporteur: Sergio Colombo) (CES 998/94)

1993 annual report on the functioning of the internal market

(Rapporteur: Liam Connellan) (CES 999/94)

Strategy options to strengthen the European programme industry in the context of the audiovisual policy of the European Union (Green Paper)
(Rapporteur: Paul Flum) (CES 1000/94)

Proposal for a European Parliament and Council Directive amending Council Directive 89/647/EEC with respect to the supervisory recognition of contracts for novation and netting agreements ('contractual netting')
(Rapporteur: Robert Pelletier) (CES 1001/94)

The role of the public authorities in the partnership (Article 4 of the framework Regulation) (Own-initiative Opinion)
(Rapporteur: Ettore Masucci; Co-Rapporteur: Dame Jocelyn Barrow)
(CES 1002/94)

Regional planning and development strategies for the Atlantic coastal regions (Atlantic arc) (Own-initiative Opinion)
(Rapporteur: Graham Speirs) (CES 1003/94)

Proposal for a Council Directive concerning the enforcement, in respect of shipping using Community ports and sailing in the waters under the jurisdiction of the Member States, of international standards for ship safety, pollution prevention and shipboard living and working conditions
(Rapporteur: Francis J. Whitworth) (CES 1004/94)

Proposal for a Council Directive on the licensing of railway undertakings;
Proposal for a Council Directive on the allocation of railway infrastructure capacity and the charging of infrastructure fees
(Rapporteur: Jöel Decaillon) (CES 1005/94)

Inland waterway transport (Own-initiative Opinion)
(Rapporteur: Gerhard von Haus) (CES 1006/94)

Towards the personal communications environment: Green Paper on a common approach in the field of mobile and personal communications in the European Union
(Rapporteur: Michael Mobbs) (CES 1007/94)

Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on immigration and asylum policies
(Rapporteur: Paul Flum) (CES 1008/94)

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EC) amending Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71 on the application of social security schemes to employed persons, to self-employed persons and to members of their families moving within the Community, Regulation (EEC) No 574/72 laying down the procedure for implementing Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71, Regulation (EEC) No 1247/92 amending Regula-

tion (EEC) No 1408/71 and Regulation (EEC) No 1945/93 amending Regulation (EEC) No 1247/92

(Rapporteur: Gordon Pearson; Co-Rapporteurs: André Laur, Jan Jacob van Dijk) (CES 1009/94)

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EC) concerning a Community programme providing financial support for the promotion of European energy technology 1995-98 (Thermie II)

(Rapporteur: Neville Beale) (CES 1010/94)

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EC) on measures to be taken in dealing with certain beneficiaries of operations financed by the Guarantee Section of the EAGGF

(Rapporteur: Jean-Paul Bastian) (CES 1011/94)

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EC) amending Regulation (EEC) No 2930/86 defining the characteristics of fishing vessels

(Rapporteur: Gerard McGarry) (CES 1012/94)

Contract between agriculture and society (Own-initiative Opinion)

(Rapporteur: Etienne de Paul de Barchifontaine) (CES 1013/94)

Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds

(Rapporteur: Hans-Jürgen Wick) (CES 1014/94)

Community energy policy (Own-initiative Opinion)

(Rapporteur: José Ignacio Gafo Fernández; Co-Rapporteurs: Giuseppe Frandi, Klaus-Benedict von der Decken) (CES 1016/94)

Ground handling services (consultation paper)

(Rapporteur: A. M. von Schwerin) (CES 1017/94)

Savings: Lines of approach for an EU policy (Own-initiative Opinion)

(Rapporteur: François Perrin-Pelletier) (CES 1018/94)

Proposals for Council Decisions concerning the specific programmes for implementing the fourth European Community framework programme for research, technological development and demonstration activities (1994-98);

Proposals for Council Decisions concerning the specific programmes for implementing the European Community framework programme for Community research and training activities for the European Atomic Energy Community (1994-98)

(Rapporteur: Klaus-Benedict von der Decken) (CES 1019/94)

Communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee on energy and economic and social cohesion

(Rapporteur: Giovanni Barbagli) (CES 1020/94)

Tourism (Own-initiative Opinion)

(Rapporteur: C. W. M. Lustenhouwer) (CES 1021/94)

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EC) amending for the 16th time Regulation (EEC) No 3094/86 laying down certain technical measures for the conservation of fishery resources

(Rapporteur: Jesús Muñiz Guardado) (CES 1022/94)

Use of bovine somatotrophin in the European Union (Own-initiative Opinion)

(Rapporteur: Augusto Gil Bensabat Ferraz da Silva) (CES 1023/94)

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EC) fixing management objectives and strategies for certain fisheries or groups of fisheries for the period 1994-97

(Rapporteur: Augusto Gil Bensabat Ferraz da Silva) (CES 1024/94)

Proposal for a Council Directive laying down detailed arrangements for the exercise of the right to vote and to stand as a candidate in municipal elections by citizens of the Union residing in a Member State of which they are not nationals (Own-initiative Opinion)

(Rapporteur: Augusto Gil Bensabat Ferraz da Silva) (CES 1026/94)

The regional structure of world trade (Own-initiative Opinion)

(Rapporteur: Giacomina Cassina) (CES 1027/94)

The effects of the Uruguay Round agreements (Additional Opinion)

(Rapporteur: Helmut Giesecke; Co-Rapporteur: Charles Pelletier)

(CES 1028/94)

Monetary policy (Own-initiative Opinion)

(Rapporteur: Klaus Meyer-Horn) (CES 1029/94)

Integrated programme in favour of SMEs and the craft sector

(Rapporteur-General: C. W. M. Lustenhouwer) (CES 1030/94)

Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on the European Union automobile industry

(Rapporteur: Edoardo Bagliano) (CES 1071/94)

Agricultural provident schemes within the European Union (information report)

(Rapporteur: Giovanni Mantovani) (CES 1153/93 fin)

319th PLENARY SESSION — 20 OCTOBER 1994

Proposal for a Council Directive amending Council Directive 92/12/EEC of 25 February 1992 on the general arrangements for products subject to excise duty and on the holding, movement and monitoring of such products, Council Directive 92/81/EEC of 19 October 1992 on the harmonization of the structures

of excise duties on mineral oils and Council Directive 92/82/EEC of 19 October 1992 on the approximation of the rates of excise duties on mineral oils (Rapporteur-General: José Ignacio Gafo Fernández) (CES 1158/94)

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EC) applying a three-year scheme of generalized tariff preferences (1995-97) in respect of certain industrial products originating in developing countries;

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EC) extending into 1995 the application of Regulations (EEC) No 3833/90, (EEC) No 3835/90 and (EEC) No 3900/91 applying generalized tariff preferences in respect of certain agricultural products originating in developing countries

(Rapporteur-General: Helmut Giesecke) (CES 1159/94)

320th PLENARY SESSION — 23 AND 24 NOVEMBER 1994

Proposal for a Council Directive on statistical returns in respect of carriage of goods and passengers by sea

(Rapporteur: D. H. Kielman) (CES 1296/94)

Proposal for a Council Directive on the interoperability of the European high-speed train network

(Rapporteur: Jöel Decaillon) (CES 1297/94)

Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 89/655/EEC on the minimum safety and health requirements for the use of work equipment by workers at work

(Rapporteur: Giorgio Liverani) (CES 1298/94)

Proposal for a European Parliament and Council Decision establishing 1996 as the European Year of Lifelong Learning

(Rapporteur: Jan Jacob van Dijk) (CES 1299/94)

Draft Council Decision concerning the conclusion on behalf of the European Community, as regards matters within its competence, of the agreements reached in the Uruguay Round multilateral negotiations (1986-94)

(Rapporteur: Helmut Giesecke; Co-Rapporteurs: Vasco Cal, Charles Pelletier) (CES 1300/94)

Proposal for a Council Directive amending Council Directive 64/433/EEC on health conditions for the production and marketing of fresh meat

(Rapporteur-General: Johannes Jaschick) (CES 1301/94)

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EC) amending Council Regulation (EEC) No 2847/93 of 12 October 1993 establishing a control system applicable to the common fisheries policy

(Rapporteur-General: Michael P. Strauss) (CES 1302/94)

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EC) amending Regulation (EEC) No 3759/92 on the common organization of the market in fishery products and aquaculture

(Rapporteur-General: Michael P. Strauss) (CES 1303/94)

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EC) establishing the rules for access to certain Community fishing areas and resources

(Rapporteur-General: Maria Luisa Freire de Andrade Santiago) (CES 1304/94)

Proposal for a European Parliament and Council Decision on Community guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network

(Rapporteur: Klaus-Benedict von der Decken; Co-Rapporteurs: Jöel Decaillon, Robert J. Moreland, Francis J. Whitworth) (CES 1305/94)

Proposal for a Council Decision concerning the continued development of the Handynet system within the framework of Decision 93/136/EEC establishing a third Community action programme to assist disabled people (Helios II, 1993-96)

(Rapporteur-General: Dame Jocelyn Barrow) (CES 1306/94)

White Paper on European social policy — a way forward for the Union

(Rapporteur: Vasco Cal) (CES 1307/94)

Proposal for a Council Decision establishing rules for the recognition of third-country health and veterinary inspection measures for fresh meat and meat products as equivalent to those applied to Community production, and for the conditions to be met for importation into the Community and amending Council Directive 72/462/EEC on health and veterinary inspection problems upon importation of bovine, ovine and caprine animals and swine, fresh meat and meat products from third countries

(Rapporteur-General: Giuseppe Pricolo) (CES 1308/94)

Proposal for a Parliament and Council Regulation amending Council Regulation (EEC) No 1576/89 laying down general rules on the definition, description and presentation of spirit drinks and Council Regulation (EEC) No 1601/91 laying down general rules on the definition, description and presentation of aromatized wines, aromatized wine-based drinks and aromatized wine-product cocktails following the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations

(Rapporteur-General: José Luis Mayayo Bello) (CES 1309/94)

Communication concerning the application of the Agreement on social policy presented by the Commission to the Council and to the European Parliament

(Rapporteur: Jan Jacob van Dijk) (CES 1310/94)

321st PLENARY SESSION — 21 DECEMBER 1994

Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 77/388/EEC and determining the scope of Article 14(1)(d) as regards exemption from value-added tax on the final importation of certain goods

(Rapporteur: Ronald Janssen) (CES 1401/94)

Proposal for a Council Decision amending Council Decision 91/115/EEC establishing a Committee on monetary financial and balance-of-payments statistics

(Rapporteur acting without a Study Group: Roy Donovan) (CES 1402/94)

Commission communication to the Council and the European Parliament on the improvement of the fiscal environment of small and medium-sized enterprises

(Rapporteur: Eugène Muller) (CES 1403/94)

'XXIIIrd Report on Competition Policy — 1993'

(Rapporteur: Manuel Cabeçadas Ataíde Ferreira) (CES 1404/94)

Proposal for a Council Directive amending Council Directive 90/684/EEC on aid to shipbuilding

(Rapporteur: John Simpson) (CES 1405/94)

Proposal for a Council Directive concerning the ecological quality of water

(Rapporteur: Kenneth J. Gardner) (CES 1407/94)

ANNEX B

**List of Opinions
drawn up by the Committee
on its own initiative
during 1994**

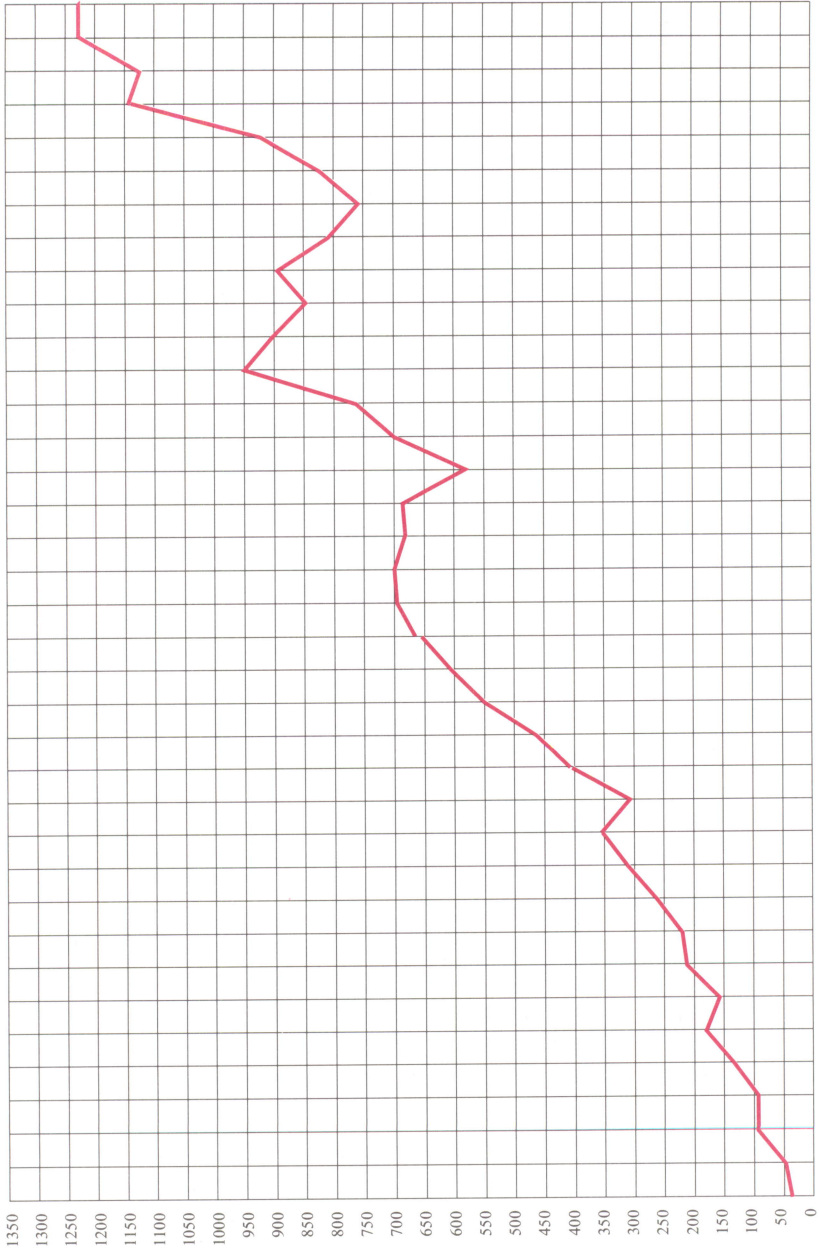
The European Union's relations with Latin America (Rapporteur: Vasco Cal) (CES 102/94)	January 1994
Involvement of the social partners in Community regional policy (Rapporteur: Ettore Masucci Co-Rapporteur: Dame Jocelyn Barrow) (CES 104/94)	January 1994
The role of the European Investment Bank in regional development (Rapporteur: Eugène Muller) (CES 225/94)	February 1994
Removing the legal obstacles to the use of the ecu — White Paper from the Commission to the Council (Rapporteur: Klaus Meyer-Horn) (CES 236/94)	February 1994
Young farmers and the problem of succession in agriculture (Rapporteur: Hervé Morize) (CES 573/94)	April 1994
Amended proposal for a Council Directive concerning common rules for the internal market in electricity; Amended proposal for a Council Directive concerning common rules for the internal market in natural gas (Rapporteur: José Ignacio Gafo Fernández) (CES 577/94)	April 1994
Relations between the European Union and Central and East European States: Slovenia (Additional Opinion) (Rapporteur: Göke Frerichs) (CES 580/94)	April 1994
Economic and financial aspects of the White Paper on growth, competitiveness and employment (Rapporteur: Aldo Romoli) (CES 750/94)	June 1994
Industrial aspects of the Commission's White Paper on growth, competitiveness and employment (Rapporteur: Klaus Schmitz) (CES 751/94)	June 1994
Social aspects of the White Paper on growth, competitiveness and employment (Rapporteur: Roger Burnel) (CES 752/94)	June 1994
Transparency and performance of cross-border payments (Rapporteur: Klaus Meyer-Horn) (CES 854/94)	July 1994
The role of the public authorities in the partnership (Article 4 of the framework Regulation) (Rapporteur: Ettore Masucci; Co-Rapporteur: Dame Jocelyn Barrow) (CES 1002/94)	September 1994

Regional planning and development strategies for the Atlantic coastal regions (Atlantic arc) (Rapporteur: Graham Speirs) (CES 1003/94)	September 1994
Inland waterway transport (Rapporteur: Gerhard von Haus) (CES 1006/94)	September 1994
Contract between agriculture and society (Rapporteur: Etienne de Paul de Barchifontaine) (CES 1013/94)	September 1994
Community energy policy (Rapporteur: José Ignacio Gafo Fernández; Co-Rapporteurs: Giuseppe Frandi, Klaus-Benedict von der Decken) (CES 1016/94)	September 1994
Savings: Lines of approach for an EU policy (Rapporteur: François Perrin-Pelletier) (CES 1018/94)	September 1994
Tourism (Rapporteur: C. W. M. Lustenhouwer) (CES 1021/94)	September 1994
Use of bovine somatotrophin in the European Union (Rapporteur: Augusto Gil Bensabat Ferraz da Silva) (CES 1023/94)	September 1994
Proposal for a Council Directive laying down detailed arrangements for the exercise of the right to vote and to stand as a candidate in municipal elections by citizens of the Union residing in a Member State of which they are not nationals (Rapporteur: Augusto Gil Bensabat Ferraz da Silva) (CES 1026/94)	September 1994
<i>The regional structure of world trade</i> (Rapporteur: Giacomina Cassina) (CES 1027/94)	September 1994
Monetary policy (Rapporteur: Klaus Meyer-Horn) (CES 1029/94)	September 1994

ANNEX C

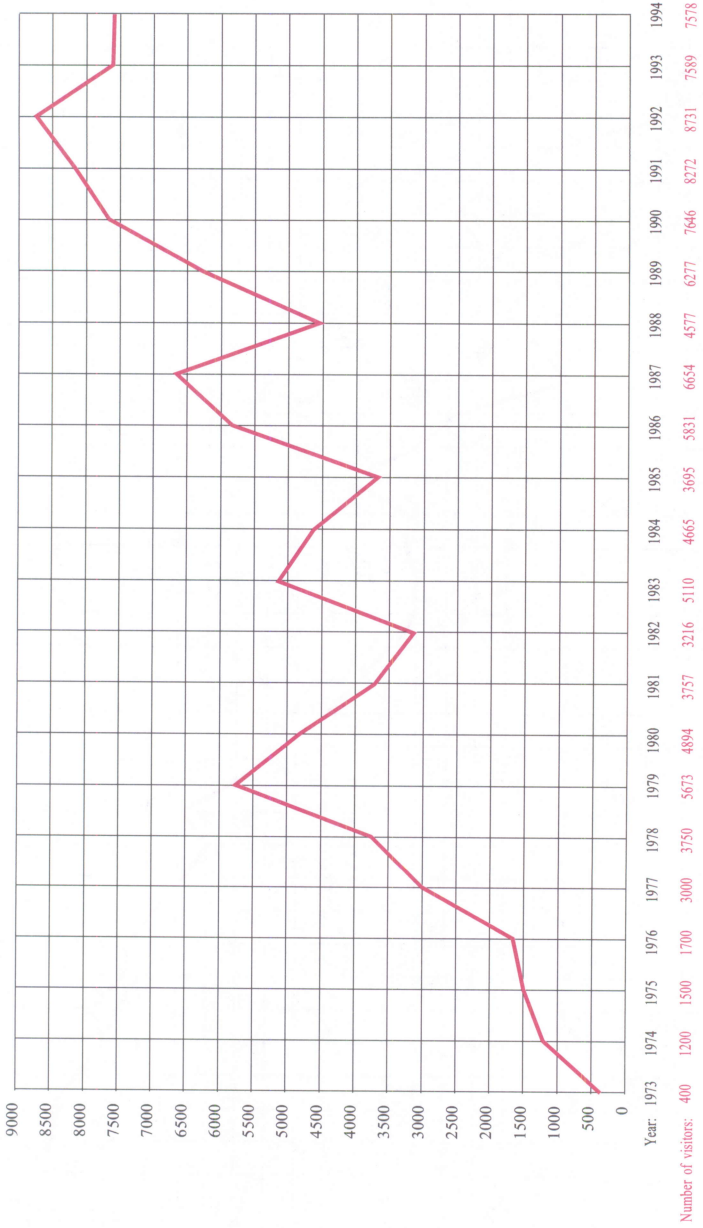
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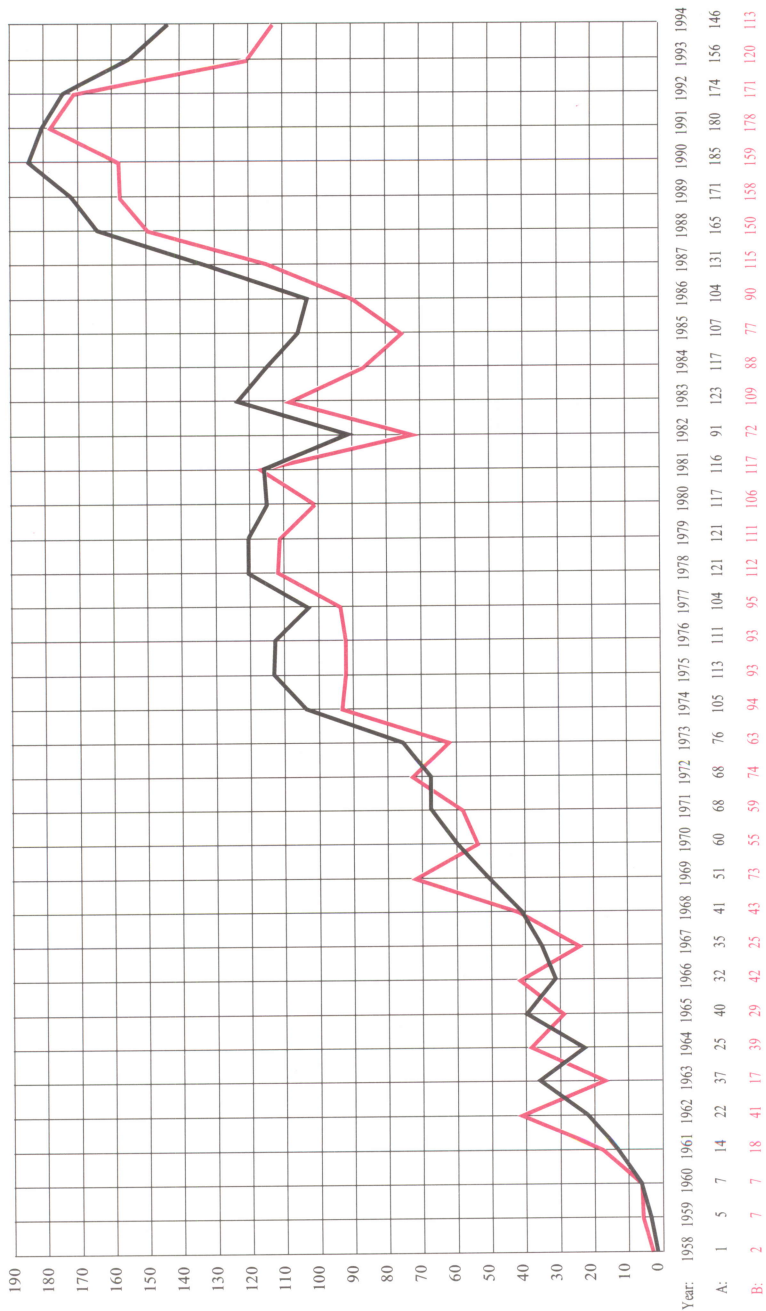


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European Communities — Economic and Social Committee

Annual Report 1994

Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities

1995 — 118 pp. — 14.8 x 21 cm

ISBN 92-830-0265-2

Price (excluding VAT) in Luxembourg: ECU 25

This annual report covers the Economic and Social Committee's work in 1994. It looks in particular at the Committee's influence within the Community's decision-making process, the Committee's image in the media and the role played by the groups represented on the Economic and Social Committee. The report concludes with a number of lists and graphs.

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