

EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT 1995



ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE
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EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE

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Preface

1995 was a year of intense activity for the Economic and Social Committee, with other European bodies recognizing the Committee's role and potential. Both Commission President, Jacques Santer, and the President of the European Parliament, Klaus Hänsch, affirmed how important the opinions of the authentic representatives of the Member States' socio-occupational groups were, underscoring the need to give greater consideration on how to utilize the Committee's work more fully in the task of building up the European Union.

The Committee has more than risen to the challenge, issuing an Own-initiative Opinion, 'The 1996 Intergovernmental Conference — the role of the Economic and Social Committee' outlining the moves needed to reinforce the ESC's brief within this Conference framework.

Against this backdrop, Felipe Gonzalez, President-in-Office of the European Council, met the ESC President and Vice-Presidents, and the Presidents of the three Groups, for a briefing on the objectives being pursued by the Economic and Social Committee as a body representing the European public through the medium of the socio-occupational associations. Visits such as these from the Heads of Government who will be represented at the IGC took place throughout the year and are set to continue in 1996.

The Economic and Social Committee has also made strides towards publicizing its activities more actively. A number of major initiatives will enhance the ESC's work in the time ahead. These include:

- (i) the decision taken by the Internal Market Council on 6 June 1995 which welcomed moves to make the ESC a permanent monitoring centre for the single market.
- (ii) The Barcelona Euro-Mediterranean Conference held on 27 and 28 November 1995 asked the Economic and Social Committee to be proactive in establishing links with its Mediterranean counterparts. On the basis of this request, an ESC delegation took part in the Euromed Civil Forum held, also in Barcelona, from 29 November to 1 December. In the same spirit, the ESC was also represented at a Euro-Mediterranean summit of economic and social committees held in Madrid on 12 and 13 December.

A Forum on Long-term Socioeconomic Forecasting was launched at a seminar held in Barcelona from 9 to 11 June 1995. Three seminars on specific issues — in Vienna, Rome and London — are designed to pave the way for the Forum, which is due to take place in Brussels in May.

Finally, 1995 saw the ESC make a positive and effective contribution to the implementation of the legislative programme and marked the launch of the new areas of work heralded by former Commission President Jacques Delors. Not only that, the role and influence of the socio-occupational organizations has now been fully recognized. For the Economic and Social Committee, this scenario augurs well for the future, with high hopes that strengthening the ESC machinery will feature on the agenda for the revision of the Treaties in 1996 and 1997.

Carlos Ferrer
President

CHAPTER I

Presence and influence of the Economic and Social Committee

1. CONSULTATIVE ROLE OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE

During the reference period, the Economic and Social Committee produced 158 items of consultative work: 125 Opinions followed referrals from the Commission or the Council; 31 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. PREPARATION OF THE 1996 INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE

Following the entry into force of the Treaty on European Union, the ESC has held wide-ranging discussions on its aims as an advisory body, on how it may best advance its role, and also on strengthening the links that it maintains between the process of European integration and citizens' groups.

The Committee will continue this consideration of its aims in the short and longer term in order to make changes to — and heighten — its representativeness. The goal of its assessment will be to help tackle the major issues facing European society, including job creation, in order to further the European social model and reshape society by fully involving citizens' groups in the European venture.

At its 330th Plenary Session of 22 and 23 November 1995, the Economic and Social Committee adopted, by a large majority, with two abstentions, the Opinion on 'The 1996 Intergovernmental Conference: the role of the Economic and Social Committee'. The Rapporteur was Mrs Cassina.

At the 12 April 1995 meeting of the European Parliament Committee on Institutional Affairs, chaired by first Vice-Chairman Mr Mendez de Vigo, there was an exchange of views with Mr Carlos Ferrer, President of the Economic and Social Committee, on the preparation of the 1996 Intergovernmental Conference. Mr Ferrer made an introductory speech in which he stressed the importance of consultation as a means of involving EU citizens and providing them with a forum in which to take up the challenges posed by the European venture.

He expressed his wish for the ESC to be involved in the pre-legislative phase, and to increase its links with the European Parliament — as suggested in two resolutions from 1981 and 1991. To this end, he stated the case for increased cooperation between the Rapporteurs of the two institutions, and suggested that the European Parliament should seek the Opinion of the ESC on certain subjects.

Moreover, he pointed out that according to legislative rationale, the ESC should be consulted by the European Parliament in the co-decision procedure.

Mr Ferrer also asked for the ESC's role as Observatory for the single market — carried out at the request of the European Parliament — to be given institutional status. He particularly requested that the ESC should be given the status of a European institution, since it fulfilled the task and played the role of one.

On 3 May 1995, Mr Ferrer had a meeting in Brussels with Mr Marcelino Oreja, European Commissioner with responsibility for institutional affairs and preparation of the 1996 IGC.

On 2 June in Messina, Mr Ferrer attended the ceremony to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Messina Conference, and took part in setting up the 1996 IGC Reflection Group.

3. CHANGES IN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Following the accession, on 1 January 1995, of Austria, Finland and Sweden, the number of ESC members rose to 222. On 23 January 1995, the Council of the European Union appointed the following new members:

AUSTRIA

Mrs Eva Belabed (Group II)
Mr Wolfgang Burkhard (Group I)
Mr Thomas Delapina (Group II)
Mr Harald Ettl (Group III)
Mr Johann Farnleitner (Group I)
Mr Ferdinand Maier (Group I)
Mrs Anne-Marie Sigmund (Group III)
Mr Klaus Stöllnberger (Group I)
Mr Rudolf Strasser (Group III)
Mr Ernst Tüchler (Group II)
Mr Heinz Vogler (Group II)
Mr Gustav Zöhrer (Group II)

FINLAND

Mr Filip Hamro-Drotz (Group I)
Mr Seppo Ilmari Kallio (Group III)
Mrs Tuulikki Kannisto (Group II)
Mr Jorma Uolevi Kontio (Group I)
Mr Eero Lehti (Group III)
Mr Markku Matti Lemmetty (Group II)
Mr Martti Olavi Reuna (Group II)
Mr Sampsa Juhani Saralehto (Group III)
Mrs Ulla Birgitta Sirkeinen (Group I)

SWEDEN

Mr Lars Olof Kritz (Group I)
Mr Sture Erik Lindmark (Group I)
Mr Anders Lönnberg (Group II)
Mrs Christina Lundh (Group III)
Mr Staffan Mats Wilhelm Nilsson (Group III)
Mr Lars Allan Nyberg (Group II)
Mr Erland Olauson (Group II)
Mr Jan Erik Anders Olsson (Group III)
Mrs Aina Margareta Regnell (Group I)
Mrs Turid Ström (Group III)
Mrs Christina Wahrolin (Group III)
Mr Uno Westerlund (Group II)

During the period covered by this Annual Report, the Council of the European Union appointed the following members of the Economic Social Committee:

Mr Malosse (Group I - F), to replace Mr Roger Seguy, who had resigned;

Mr Michael Kubenz (Group I - D) to replace Mr Achim Denkhaus, deceased.

4. ESC-EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RELATIONS

Throughout 1995, there was increasing contact and exchanges of information on preparatory work between the Presidents and Chairmen, Rapporteurs and the respective Secretariats of ESC Sections and European Parliament (EP) Committees.

As in previous years, the ESC General 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 EP Plenary Session activities.

The 327th Plenary Session of the Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities was held in Brussels on 5 and 6 July 1995, and chaired by Mr Carlos Ferrer. The 6 July meeting of the session was marked by a statement by Mr Klaus Hänsch, President of the European Parliament, on the Intergovernmental Conference and relations between the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee. During the session, Mr Hänsch said:

'I should like to begin by thanking you for your invitation to attend this meeting and for this opportunity to address the Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities. You rightly drew attention, Mr President, to the Committee's importance for political activity and, in particular, for the EU's legislative process. I see my visit as an expression of Parliament's readiness, and indeed need, for cooperation with the ESC. Moreover, far from being merely a desirable objective, Parliament regards the strengthening of the advisory role of your institution, your organ, as one of the essential reforms to be carried out under the revision of the Maastricht Treaty.'

Some of the most important contacts the President, Mr Ferrer, had with the European Parliament include:

- (i) Brussels, 23 January, statement at a hearing of the Temporary Committee on Employment;
- (ii) Brussels, 22 March, meeting with Mr Klaus Hänsch, President of the European Parliament;
- (iii) Brussels, 28 March, meeting with Mr José María Gil-Delgado, Vice-President of the European Parliament, Mr Iñigo Méndez de Vigo and Mr José Ignacio Salafrance Sánchez Neyra, Members of the European Parliament;
- (iv) Brussels, 24 April, meeting with Mr Jean-Louis Bourlanges, Member of the European Parliament;
- (v) Brussels, 25 April, discussion with Mr David Martin, Member of the European Parliament;
- (vi) Brussels, 20 June, meeting with Mr Klaus Hänsch, President of the European Parliament;
- (vii) Brussels, 20 June, discussion with Mrs Christa Randzio-Plath, Member of Parliament and Chairman of the Subcommittee on Monetary Affairs;
- (viii) Brussels, 11 January, the Section for Transport and Communications heard a speech by Mr Paul Cornelissen, Chairman of the EP Committee on Transport and Tourism;
- (ix) 7 February, the meeting of the Section for Energy, Nuclear Questions and Research was attended by Mr Gordon Adam, first Vice-Chairman of the EP Committee on Research, Technological Development and Energy;
- (x) 1 March, the Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services heard a statement by Mr Karl von Wogau, Chairman of the European Parliament's Economic, Monetary and Industrial Policy Committee, on current work of interest to both institutions;
- (xi) 8 May, Brussels, the Economic and Social Committee took part in an 'open day' to commemorate the 45th anniversary of the declaration by Robert Schuman, organized by the European Parliament as part of the celebrations to mark the 50th anniversary of the end of the war.

5. ESC-COUNCIL RELATIONS

French Presidency (first half of 1995)

Mr Alain Lamassoure, French Minister with special responsibility for European Affairs and acting President of the Council for the first six months of 1995, presented the French Presidency's programme to the Economic and Social Committee at the Plenary Session held in Brussels on 25 and 26 January.

On 23 June 1995, ESC President Mr Ferrer met Mr Jacques Chirac, President of the French Republic and of the European Council.

Spanish Presidency (second half of 1995)

Mr Carlos Westendorp, Spanish Secretary of State for European Affairs and acting President of the Council for the second half of 1995, presented the Spanish Presidency's programme at the ESC Plenary Session held in Brussels on 13 September 1995.

Mr José Antonio Griñan, Minister for Labour and Social Security and acting President of the Council, outlined the Spanish Presidency's programme on employment on 14 September in Brussels.

On 7 September 1995, Mr Luis María Atienza Serna, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food of the Kingdom of Spain and President of the Agriculture and Fisheries Councils, addressed the Section for Agriculture and Fisheries on current problems facing the common agricultural policy and the common fisheries policy.

On 20 November, Mr Carlos Ferrer, accompanied by the Vice-Presidents, the Group Presidents and the Secretary-General, Mr Nothomb, was received by the Spanish Prime Minister, Mr Felipe González, at Moncloa Palace in Madrid.

The talks focused on the concerns of the socio-economic sectors represented in the ESC (unemployment, the need to increase competitiveness without jeopardizing the European social model, the need to involve the citizen in the Union's goals) and also on the future role of the Committee against the backdrop of the 1996 Intergovernmental Conference.

Mr González gave his support to the ESC's objectives and to the wider utilization of the Committee's potential. After the meeting, Mr Ferrer spoke to the press. In particular, he underlined the importance of dialogue and concerted action on the part of all the social partners in order to enhance competitiveness in a way that creates jobs; he also stressed that the social model had to be adapted if it were to survive.

6. ESC-COMMISSION RELATIONS

In 1995, working relations and cooperation with Commission departments were, as in previous years, excellent. Special reference should be made to the attendance of Commission President Mr Santer who presented the new Commission's annual programme at the Committee's 323rd Plenary Session on 23 February 1995. The new President of the Commission said:

'I trust that over the coming years we will work together confidently and successfully in the service of the Union and its citizens.

I am convinced that yours will be an essential constructive contribution. The Members of your Committee are men and women from the world of work who are genuine representatives of their professional and social interest groups.

What gives your judgments particular weight is the depth and width of your backgrounds as business leaders, trade unionists and representatives of the professions. You are genuinely close to the citizens, in the best sense of the term. That is why your consultative role is of particular importance to the new Commission. The organizations, associations and trade unions to which you belong are the pillars of civil society in Europe.

In many ways you embody what is most original about the 'European model', which is based first and foremost on concerted action between the social partners.

Your contributions and judgments are always permeated with an independence of judgment and an acute sensitivity to a wide range of social and professional interests. Unfortunately, the general public has not always appreciated the real worth of the ESC. Indeed, both European Parliament and Commission Rapporteurs very frequently take on board the Committee's best ideas while failing to recognize their source. This lack of recognition, in my view, must be addressed. We should therefore work out together how to put your contributions to the work of the Union to better use and ensure that all those involved are informed.'

On 18 January 1995, the President of the Economic and Social Committee met the President-elect of the European Commission, Jacques Santer, and the outgoing President, Jacques Delors, in Strasbourg.

Mr Ferrer had a detailed discussion with Mr Santer on the challenges confronting the European Union in the new phase it was entering. He congratulated Mr Santer on his speech to the European Parliament and expressed

satisfaction at their common assessment of priority issues, in particular the need for an economically powerful Europe and the problems of growth and employment.

Mr Santer gave a warm welcome to Mr Ferrer's proposal that the ESC should contribute to the deliberations planned in preparation for the Intergovernmental Conference. Concurrently he told Mr Ferrer that he intended to step up cooperation between the Commission and the ESC.

Mr Ferrer then met Mr Delors, whom he thanked on behalf of the ESC. He expressed his appreciation of the interest Mr Delors had taken in the social and economic groupings which the ESC represented and expressed his hope that Mr Delors' unique experience would be placed at the service of a stronger and broader Europe. He reminded Mr Delors that he would always be welcome at the ESC and that its forum would always be open to him.

The following Commissioners also attended ESC plenary sessions:

- 23 February: Mr Flynn, in connection with the presentation of the Commission programme;
- 30 March: Mr de Silguy, for the adoption of the Opinion on the Annual Economic Report 1995;
- 1 June: Mr Van Miert, in connection with the adoption of the Opinion on the use of cable television networks;
- 26 September: Mr Flynn, at the plenary session on employment.

Several Members of the Commission also attended ESC Section meetings:

- 2 March: Mr Fischler (Section for Agriculture and Fisheries);
- 8 March: Mr Kinnock (Section for Transport and Communications);
- 10 April: Mr Flynn (Section for Social, Family, Educational and Cultural Affairs);
- 2 May: Mrs Bonino (Section for Protection of the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Affairs);
- 4 May: Mrs Bonino (Section for Agriculture and Fisheries);
- 20 June: Mrs Wulf-Mathies (Section for Regional Development and Town and Country Planning);
- 22 June: Mr Papoutsis (Section for Energy, Nuclear Questions and Research).

7. GROUPS OF VISITORS AND PUBLIC EVENTS OF EUROPEAN INTEREST

Groups of visitors

During the reference period, the Committee organized the following information visits:

<i>EU Members States</i>	<i>Number of groups</i>	<i>Number of visitors</i>
Austria	7	189
Belgium	-	-
Denmark	21	597
Germany	46	1 374
Finland	20	421
France	31	843
Greece	2	90
Ireland	-	-
Italy	6	122
Luxembourg	-	-
Netherlands	5	254
Portugal	5	160
Spain	18	505
Sweden	12	166
United Kingdom	40	1 236
<i>Total Member States</i>	<i>213</i>	<i>5 957</i>
<i>Non-EU States</i>		
ACP	2	32
Argentina	1	10
Chile	1	10
Jordan	1	15
Malta	2	35
Mexico	1	10
Non-EU Mediterranean countries	2	35
Norway	2	36
Poland	1	40
Russia	1	12
Senegal	1	12
Slovakia	1	10
Turkey	1	11
United States	8	170
Zimbabwe	1	4
<i>Total non-EU States</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>442</i>
<i>Grand total</i>	<i>239</i>	<i>6 399</i>

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

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| 30-31 January 1995 | Conference on education in their national languages and cultures for children of Euro-migrants (at the ESC). |
| 14 February 1995 | Seminar on SMEs organized by the Wallonia Region — Huy (Belgium). |
| 24-26 February 1995 | G7 Summit on the Global Information Society, European Parliament, Brussels. |
| 6-9 March 1995 | 6th Works Council Forum, Paris. |
| 29 March 1995 | Annual ESC reception (Palais d'Egmont, Brussels) in honour of the new Member States. |
| 3-4 May 1995 | Citizens' Europe Conference, Galway, Ireland. |
| 8 May 1995 | European Parliament Open Day, Brussels, to commemorate the 45th anniversary of the declaration by Robert Schumann. |
| 9-12 May 1995 | 8th European Trades Union Congress, Palais du Heysel, Brussels. |
| 18-19 May 1995 | Meeting of the representatives of the Economic and Social Interest Groups of the Countries of Central and Eastern Europe and of the European Union, Committee building. |
| 26-27 June 1995 | European Council in Cannes, France. |
| 21-22 September 1995 | European Trade Union Institute, European Trade Union Confederation, Brussels. |
| 27 September 1995 | Forum: Single Market 1996, Centre Borschette, Brussels. |
| 9-10 October 1995 | Citizens' Europe Conference, Seville, Spain |
| 7-9 November 1995 | 3rd Conference, Employment Week, Palais des Congrès, Brussels. |

- 4-6 December 1995 Directoria 95, cooperation exchange for preparing pilot projects, organized by the Commission Directorate-General for Regional Policy and Cohesion, supported by the European Parliament, and attended by numerous European networks (Pyramides, Brussels).
- 7-8 December 1995 19th Annual Meeting of the representatives of ACP/EU Economic and Social Interest Groups (Centre Borschette, Brussels).
- 15-16 December 1995 European Council in Madrid, Spain.

ESC relations with EU Economic and Social Councils and similar Member State institutions

During the reference period, key meetings were:

- 19 January 1995 Brussels, following an initiative from the French, Spanish and Belgian Economic and Social Councils. The aim was to boost cooperation between the regional ESCs and the Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities.
- 27 February 1995 Visit by the French Economic and Social Council to the ESC premises. Discussions centred on the World Trade Organization and the World Development Summit.
- 26-27 May 1995 IVth International Meeting of Economic and Social Councils in Lisbon. The meeting focused on youth unemployment in the European Union, and the status of Members.
- 25-26 October 1995 National Economic and Social Councils attended the ESC plenary session, which focused mainly on employment.
- 9-10 November 1995 Lisbon, annual meeting of the Presidents and Secretaries-General of the Economic and Social Councils of the European Union, on the subject of local development initiatives.
- 12-13 December 1995 Madrid, meeting of the Economic and Social Councils and similar institutions of the Member States and of the Mediterranean basin. The aim was to look into economic and social partner follow-up to the Barcelona Ministerial Conference of 27-28 November 1995.

Publications

Forum: Internal Market (FR/EN/DE).

17th annual meeting of the representatives of ACP/EU Economic and Social Interest Groups (FR/EN).

Rules of procedure (11 languages).

ESC memorandum (11 languages).

Vademecum 94/96.

The Citizens' Europe Conference, Galway (FR/EN).

Proposals for employment (11 languages).

Local development initiatives (FR/EN/D/ESP/IT/PT).

1996 Intergovernmental Conference: the role of the ESC (11 languages).

The Citizens' Europe Conference, Seville (ESP/EN).

Europe 2000 + (FR/EN/D).

Ten issues of the ESC Bulletin (nine languages).

These publications may be obtained on written request from the Public Relations Division, free of charge and while stocks last. This division also organizes group visits and ESC participation in public events of European interest.

The Committee's work

1. AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND FISHERIES

Common agricultural policy

Prices for agricultural products 1995/96

'The Committee endorses the Commission's view that over the last two years CAP reforms in the sectors concerned have, by and large, been successful. ... For the time being, therefore, there is no need to call for major changes to the rules adopted in May 1992 since under them the objectives of the reform (curbing production, increasing farm incomes, etc.) have, by and large, been achieved.'

This declaration in the introduction to the Opinion on proposals on the 1995/96 prices for agricultural products was markedly less critical — albeit taking account of the favourable context for agriculture over the past two years — than the Committee had been in 1991 and 1992 during the discussions on the principles and criteria for the application of the CAP. This is thus a significant juncture in the dialogue between the Committee and the other institutions on agricultural policy, which prefaces a detailed ESC document analysing and duly making proposals on the basis of the results of the first three years of operation of the reform.

Having resulted in an unavoidable reduction in the 1995/96 price package, this led the ESC to stress the need to keep agricultural producers in a position to meet the challenge posed by the planned accession of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the stronger partnership sought with countries of the Mediterranean basin. Scope for action is however somewhat constrained by the reform in progress and by the application of the Uruguay Round agreement on agriculture.

The Committee was convinced that the agricultural price policy is fundamental to many functions (primarily that of ensuring fair incomes for all those working within the sector) and that therefore, within the constraints imposed by the reform or agreed by the EU at international level, it must be accurately calibrated. It therefore seems appropriate to make a number of suggestions complementary to or modifying the Commission's proposals for individual products, notably:

- (i) no change in the number and amount of the monthly increments for the intervention prices for cereals and rice, which are intended to guarantee the orderly and steady marketing of cereals;
- (ii) the retention of the target price, as its abolition might be the first step towards dismantling the cereals support regime;
- (iii) no reduction in the current level of the storage costs refund for sugar;
- (iv) a sustained and serious campaign to promote olive oil consumption;
- (v) the introduction of a minimum-level-of-humidity threshold, whereupon fodder producers become eligible for maximum dehydration aid;
- (vi) an increase in maximum guaranteed quantities (MGQ) in order to boost cotton growing, a sector in which the EU is still far from self-sufficient;
- (vii) no reduction in the current level of the hutter intervention price, as this cannot be justified by the current state of the market;
- (viii) an increase from 60 to 80% in the advance on the special premium for male cattle;
- (ix) greater flexibility in the administration of the premium system for sheepmeat and goatmeat in Greece, Italy, Portugal and Spain;
- (x) a re-examination of the premiums paid to tobacco producers to ensure that they rise in line with labour costs.

Reform of the common organization of the market in wine

Following the responses by the ESC, the European Parliament and European socio-professional bodies to its 1994 communication on the subject, the Commission drew up concrete proposals for reforming the wine CMO.

The thrust of the new document, which generally treads the same ground as its precursor, above all in proposing the introduction of a quota system into the wine sector, can be summarized as follows:

- (a) An annually decreasing reference quantity would be fixed for Community production, with the aim of reaching market equilibrium, estimated at 139 million hectolitres, by the year 2000. This quantity

would be divided among the Member States in proportion to the average production of their best three crops from the last four vintages (1989/90 to 1992/93). For each vintage, the Member State would be obliged to distil the surplus over the reference quantity. Quality wine produced in specified regions, for which there are fixed maximum yields per hectare above which the denomination cannot be used, could be excluded from distillation by Member States, but they would still be counted for the purposes of calculating the initial quotas.

- (b) Member States, in conjunction with local authorities, should draw up regional adjustment programmes with a maximum lifespan of six years. These should incorporate plans for setting aside land, with a correct choice and careful management of the areas subject to grubbing up, and a reduction of potential production over six years. These programmes could also include plans over a maximum of four years that would control production by setting maximum yields, picking prior to maturity, missing certain vintages, and abandoning agronomic practices intended to increase production.
- (c) The creation of three wine-growing zones and an increase in the natural minimum alcoholic strengths for generalized addition of sucrose:
 - (i) Zone N (northern Europe) with a natural minimum strength of 6% by vol., maximum increase of 2% by vol. and a maximum final strength of 12%;
 - (ii) Zone M (central Europe) with a natural minimum strength of 8% by vol., maximum increase of 1.5% by vol. and a maximum final strength of 12.5%;
 - (iii) Zone S (southern Europe) with a natural minimum strength of 9% by vol., maximum increase of 1% by vol. and a maximum final strength of 13.5%.

In line with its earlier Opinion, the Committee opposed the new proposal, which was largely the same as its precursor despite the considerable objections, and even outright condemnation, it had occasioned from practically all the bodies involved in the sector.

The Committee felt that the proposed quota system with reference quantities would uniquely disadvantage EU producers; another solution should therefore be sought by making market guidance a central plank of the new regulation, by clearly separating market and socio-structural policy, and by measures adapted to the varying needs of different wine-producing regions.

Regarding the rules governing oenological practice, the Committee rejected the Commission's suggestion that the number of wine-growing zones should be reduced from seven to three or that there should be a levelling-out of natural minimum alcoholic strengths and oenological practices.

Instead, the Committee favoured a subdivision of wine-growing areas on the basis of objective criteria and the minimum use of oenological practices, which should only be permitted to compensate for inadequate rainfall or other climatic conditions for a given vintage.

The Committee also rejected the Commission's repeated proposal to extend the use of chaptalization to the whole of the EU, and remained firm in the belief that it should only be permitted in areas where it was traditionally practised before the establishment of the European wine market organization.

Reform of the common organization of the market in sugar

The ESC approved the Commission proposal, which does not radically alter the principles on which the organization of sugar production has been based since 1968, and which gives producers and processors legal certainty as called for by the Committee on a number of occasions.

This was strongly supported by the fact that the quota system and self-financing arrangements for the common organization of the market in sugar had been wholly satisfactory, guiding production and promoting employment, and the survival and development of affected rural areas, without making any serious demands on the budget.

It is for this reason that the Committee invited the Commission and Council to carry out a detailed study of the implications for employment and society of reducing or abolishing the national aid to beet-growers in Italy, given the characteristics of sugar production there and its location, for the most part, in disadvantaged areas of the country.

Reform of the common organization of the market in fruit and vegetables

The Committee endorsed the analysis of the situation in the EU fruit and vegetable sector contained in the Commission communication and welcomed the indications given regarding the Commission's aims for the reform of the CMO in the sector.

As a key element of agricultural activity in the Union, particularly in the south, the Committee felt that the fruit and vegetable sector is worthy of attention in line with that paid to the other major products of the south (olive oil, wine, tobacco, cotton and cereals) which, as well as being the mainstay of the agricultural, cultural and social traditions of Europe, are necessary for sustaining and developing southern rural areas.

In this spirit, the Committee's Opinion on the communication expressed the hope that sufficient funding would be made available to ensure the economic vitality of the sector, the improvement of producer organizations and extension of their coverage, while taking into consideration individual regional characteristics and, in particular, the average size of farms in the sector.

Following its communication, the Commission presented its concrete proposals for the reform of the CMO in fresh and processed fruit and vegetables. These comprised a new role for producer organizations (the cornerstone of the CMO), classification of products, inter-branch organizations and agreements, intervention arrangements, trade with third countries and national and Community checks.

The Committee felt, however, that the proposals were not consistent with the communication, and had failed to take into account the observations made by organizations within the sector. The Committee singled out for criticism the Commission's failure to pay heed to the economic, social and environmental consequences of applying the planned measures to the market, which might lead to the collapse of an inherently delicate sector.

Conversely, the Committee supported the aim of strengthening the producer organizations and their confederations, which were instruments for the defence of the rights of both producers and consumers, the latter benefiting from guaranteed levels of quality and price and the maintenance of a market which had frequently been in surplus in the past. With this in mind, the Committee reiterated the need for producer organizations and their confederations to receive ample financial support from the EAGGF for their management, their spread throughout the Union, and their work in support, standardization and product marketing.

Reform of the common organization of the market in rice

While accepting that the Commission's reform proposals for the CMO in rice broadly follow the rationale which underpinned the reform of the CMO for other cereals, the Committee pointed out that the treatment of the two production sectors was unequal, with rice producers being penalized not merely by the reduction in customs tariffs but further by agreements with the ACP States and OCT.

The Committee therefore considered that the proposal should incorporate a redesigned method of calculating the compensatory aid taking account of changing patterns of consumption and of the enlargement of the Community. Furthermore it recommended revising the proposed penalties for overshooting the national maximum guaranteed areas and reinforcing the quality policy which offers incentives to grow the Indica subspecies where agronomically possible, while safeguarding the specific production of Japonica rice.

This would help safeguard typical highly specialized production patterns across diverse regions of the EU. Reduced production would have social and employment consequences for many — principally family-run — businesses.

Common organization of the market in bananas

The Committee, once again taking up the tricky question of the banana CMO which came into force on 1 July 1993, noted the success of the mechanism, which has enabled the coexistence of all the commercial operators in the Union. In this light, the Committee approved the proposal to simplify the CMO, with, however, certain provisos:

- (i) to facilitate the administration and accounting of the tariff quota, the three-function (operator, holder of an import licence and importer) system should be retained for the marketing of Community and ACP bananas;
- (ii) internal and external conflicts should be included in the concept of *force majeure* for the purposes of determining the adoption of measures to protect market continuity;
- (iii) the temporary reallocation of traditional and non-traditional quantities of ACP bananas for reasons other than *force majeure* should also be possible between two ACP countries in different geographical areas.

Furthermore, the Committee expressed its opposition to the exclusion of fig bananas from the banana CMO and their incorporation into the fruit and vegetables CMO.

Common agricultural policy — miscellaneous

The Committee endorsed the following measures aimed at revising legislation in view of the enlargement of the European Union to include Sweden, Finland and Austria:

- (i) amendments to the intervention thresholds for apples, tomatoes, cauliflowers and peaches;
- (ii) amendments to the maximum guaranteed quantities of dried fodder on the basis of national guaranteed quantities for the new Member States;
- (iii) an amendment to the import quota for bananas;
- (iv) the extension of the quota system for potato starch production to the new Member States.

The Committee also approved Commission initiatives on:

- (i) retaining the existing system for aid to cotton producers;
- (ii) increases in the premiums for ewes and female goats in Greece and Italy;
- (iii) terminological changes to the Directive on the circulation of feed materials.

However, the Committee recommended that the Commission should review the proposal intended to remove the barriers to application of the Directive on feedingstuff regulations (and its amendments) given the needs of the single market. Although the Committee fully concurs with the Commission's aims, it feels that the proposal should have laid more stress on reducing the bureaucratic complexity (and the resulting costs) in certain Member States.

Employment in agriculture

In an Own-initiative Opinion included in the work for the October 1995 plenary session dedicated to employment, the Committee took up the matter of the repercussions of the reform of the common agricultural policy on employment and on the social situation of farmworkers in the EU with particular emphasis on the situation of women in agriculture.

The Committee wanted to draw the attention of the Community authorities to the fact that the fall in common prices and the sizeable reduction of production imposed on European Union farmers by CAP reform and the GATT Uruguay Round Agreements have had a decisive effect on employment in agriculture and in the rural areas of the Union.

The job losses, which affect mainly farm labourers but also self-employed farmers, will occur firstly in the sectors which have hitherto been heavily subsidized, with knock-on effects in the sectors which supply, or depend upon, agriculture.

Job-creation is the key to survival for rural areas in the Union. Top priority must be given to combating unemployment. Safeguarding and creating jobs in rural areas requires that the possibilities afforded by agricultural policy be mixed with labour, economic, social, regional and environmental policy measures with a view to putting urban and rural areas or different economic sectors, on an equal footing. Accordingly, policy instruments such as the Structural Funds should be constantly reviewed so as also to make full use of the major employment potential of rural areas.

New labour market opportunities and possible sources of income could be created by:

- (i) improving the infrastructure of rural areas (which is also one of the most important prerequisites for the other proposed measures);
- (ii) rewarding special environmental achievements in farming over and above the normal obligations;
- (iii) supporting agriculture based on sustainability and ecological considerations (e.g. organic farming);
- (iv) developing the regional marketing and processing of agricultural produce into high-quality foodstuffs;

- (v) promoting the cultivation of agricultural and forestry products to provide renewable raw materials for use in technology and energy production (e.g. by means of tax incentives);
- (vi) implementing large-scale reforestation programmes in regions where agriculture is no longer viable; programmes to combat forest fires;
- (vii) improving the condition and care of woodland;
- (viii) making use of the opportunities afforded by biotechnology;
- (ix) developing rural tourism;
- (x) developing service-sector jobs in rural areas (ranging from nature conservation and upkeep of roads to the use of information technologies, e.g. in 'teleworking');
- (xi) large-scale promotion of skills-acquisition measures.

In the context of promotion of employment in farming and the rural world, the ESC called upon the Commission and the Council to recognize the occupational status of women farmers, and to give support to the establishment of social services in the areas of care for children and the elderly, transport, health, stand-in services, women's employment promotion and enterprise consultation centres.

Common fisheries policy

The last decade's exceptional rise in fishing effort and the ever more worrying incidence of marine pollution mean that particular attention needs to be paid to conserving and managing fisheries resources, as urged by the 1982 UN Convention on the law of the sea.

The geographical position of the EU allied to the extension of fishing limits to 200 miles give it a presence in all of the world's oceans. The consequent central role in managing fish stocks means that its fisheries policy has to have the structure and the resources to carry out what is required of it.

The Committee was able to consider this problem on several occasions during 1995, when it dealt with the technical measures and controls to be applied to fishing carried out in the Baltic, the Belts and the Sound and with the NAFO pilot observer scheme. It also drew up a specific Own-initiative Opinion.

The Committee recognized the undoubted value of the measures currently operating (TACs, boxes, closed seasons and technical measures for increasing selectivity or reducing catch) but felt that they were often over-cautious and applied too late.

On this note, the Committee felt that it was necessary to ban the use of drift nets (at least in Community waters), that the effects on young fish populations of fishing for fish meal ought to be studied and that a more rational approach was needed to the allocation of TACs. In general, however, the ESC feels that more research by the Community institutions is needed for a more profound knowledge of the inter-relationships in the fisheries sector.

Equally important in this context is the reduction in the numbers of fishermen, which must however be accompanied by fleet modernization measures and particularly by appropriate socioeconomic measures to allow workers in the sector to face retirement with dignity.

Conservation and the management of fishing resources mean on the one hand that the EU is obliged to take a more active role on the international stage, with agreements aimed at sustainable use of resources by all the contracting parties, and simple and clearly applied control measures on the other.

The Committee feels that this implies the allocation of sufficient funding, taking account of the imbalances and other difficulties of the different regions of the EU.

Lastly, in the context of the common fisheries policy, the ESC endorsed the harmonization of the parameters for the application of the FIG to take account of the new method of measuring vessel tonnage and the establishment of a compensation system 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.

2. TRANSPORT AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY

One of the highlights of the EU's work on transport was the publication of the legislative Commission programme for transport, particularly the common transport policy action programme 1995-2000, which sets out the broad lines of Community policy in this field along with a timetable for implementation.

In its Opinion on the subject, the Committee warmly welcomes the increasing attention given by the Commission to the need for a common transport policy and is encouraged by the further developments in this regard detailed in the CTP action programme 1995-2000. However, it feels that a number of longstanding issues remain to be addressed.

As regards the CTP action programme 1995-2000, the Committee supports actions and policies announced therein, but profoundly regrets the failure of

the action programme to highlight the fundamental aspect of job creation. The Committee has regretted the job losses which have occurred due to changing demands and operating practices in certain transport operations, but it is encouraged by the actual and potential creation of new jobs occasioned by new technologies and expanded services due to the continually increasing demand for the movement of goods and expanded passenger services.

In the Committee's view, the action programme would be strengthened if it distinguished and emphasized the job creation potential flowing from changes in working time as well as job creation from the likely growth of the sector promoted by the completion of the single market.

Making further use of its right of initiative, the Committee adopted another two general Opinions, one on 'Infrastructure costs in the road freight transport sector as a basis for comparison with other transport modes' (Rapporteur: Mr Kielman) and the other on 'Telematics applications for transport in Europe' (Rapporteurs: Mr Denkhaus and Mr Kielman).

In the first of these Opinions, the Committee felt that it was desirable for infrastructure and external costs to be fully allocated to the different modes in a fair, uniform manner. Internalization of these costs could help the transport modes to achieve optimum infrastructure use and ensure an optimum modal split. The corresponding administrative work should be kept to a minimum.

The concept of infrastructure costs should be defined in such a way as to provide a basis for a comparison of the infrastructure costs of different transport modes; there are a number of problems relating to the determination of infrastructure and external costs and their allocation to the transport modes:

- (i) the methodology used to determine these costs;
- (ii) the acquisition of the necessary data;
- (iii) the need for agreement on the constituent elements of infrastructure and external costs;
- (iv) the need for countries to operate a system of compensation as long as the direct allocation of costs to the individual user is not (technically) possible.

In the second Opinion — a response to the Commission communication on the subject¹ — the Committee noted that existing telecommunications technologies with Europe-wide standards have already proved excellent for specific telematics applications in transport, and emphasized the need to create the political framework and develop the Europe-wide preconditions necessary for the implementation of the system, which could then be left as far as possible to the private sector.

¹ COM(94) 469 final.

The Committee felt that the development of trans-European transport networks provides a good opportunity to clarify goals and establish a political framework and the conditions necessary for using telematics in transport, which are undoubtedly an important investment for the future of Europe.

Air transport

Civil aviation in Europe

(Rapporteur: Mr Moreland)

The Commission communication on the way forward for civil aviation in Europe analyses the situation and suggests a number of solutions aimed essentially at improving efficiency and reducing costs so that the sector can benefit from all the economic advantages afforded by a truly single air transport market.

The Committee felt that the Commission's overall response was inadequate to meet the challenge of working in a 'consumer driven market'. It felt that, in particular, the Commission and the Member States must work to ensure existing legislation operates to meet their objectives and that the problems of both inadequate airport capacity and air-traffic management systems are addressed vigorously.

The Committee also felt that:

- (i) the Commission must ensure State aid is limited to reconstruction and to where a public service obligation is established and does not prejudice the workings of the internal market;
- (ii) the Commission must work with the Council on a common external policy on the basis of Article 84;
- (iii) more detailed attention needs to be given to the issue of safety;
- (iv) urgent attention needs to be given to the high charges on airport and *en route* charges;
- (v) the Commission should make a clear statement that no extra tax burdens on the industry will be proposed;
- (vi) the recommendations relating to social issues are too vague: the liberalization process has been under way long enough to allow a first report to be drawn up on its social impact;
- (vii) in order to achieve a 'consumer-driven market', customers individually must be put in a position to make properly informed choices based on information at the point of sale.

Groundhandling services
(Rapporteur: Mr von Schwerin)

As a follow-up to a consultation document submitted in 1992,¹ the Commission sent the ESC a draft directive intended to define Community rules which will allow effective application to the groundhandling market of the general principles laid down in the Treaty, introduce detailed rules in support of the principles of liberalization of air transport and make costs more transparent by keeping the accounts and funding for handling activities separate.

While welcoming in principle the Commission's efforts to ensure rapid, functional handling at European airports, especially for passengers and freight, the Committee drew attention in its Opinion to:

- (i) the need to make a technical distinction between the land side and the air side, where the individual areas of activity should be listed in detail;
- (ii) the fact that the proposal lacks clear definitions in many respects. In particular, it will be necessary initially to establish business transparency with a view to defining the subsequent measures to be taken;
- (iii) the danger that safety, environmental and employment concerns are not heeded, with users' and passengers' interests suffering as a result.

The Committee also criticized the Directive's complete failure to consider the social consequences.

In view of the wealth of unanswered questions and objections to the Commission's approach, implementation of the Directive by July 1996 in the interests of all parties does not make much sense.

Sea and inland waterway transport

National boatmasters' certificates for inland waterway transport
(Rapporteur: Mr Colombo)

While broadly endorsing the draft Directive which aimed at laying down common harmonized conditions for obtaining a national boatmaster's certificate for inland waterway transport, the Committee urged the Commission to take steps to ensure the timely mutual recognition and harmonization of certificates in general, including those required to sail sea-going vessels and pleasure craft.

¹ SEC(93) 1896 final; ESC Opinion, OJ C 393, 31.12.1994, p. 110.

Safety management of RO-RO passenger vessels

(Rapporteur: Mr Whitworth)

The Committee wholeheartedly supported the Commission's proposal to make the ISM Code (International Management Code for the Safe Operation of Ships and for Pollution Prevention) mandatory for passenger ferries with effect from 1 July 1996 (two years earlier than originally foreseen). The ESC felt that any derogation from this requirement should be kept to an absolute minimum and confined to small companies operating domestic services in sheltered waters for short periods.

Freedom to provide services in the transport of goods and passengers by inland waterway

(Rapporteur: Mr Whitworth)

The Committee approved the draft Regulation laying down Community rules for access to transport services between Member States which ensure that the principle of freedom to provide services applies in law to all international transport links within the EU.

This measure became necessary after enlargement of the Union because of bilateral agreements concluded between two Member States and Austria.

Structural improvements in inland waterway transport

(Rapporteur working alone: Mr Eulen)

The purpose of the Commission document was to amend Regulation (EEC) No 1101/89 so as to provide the legal basis for allocating ECU 5 million to structural improvement measures in inland waterway transport in 1995 and for providing for the possibility of Community co-financing as part of the total structural improvement package for 1996-98.

While the Committee welcomed the provision of Community funds, it recognized the need to change the nature and scope of the structural improvements, which so far have mainly been financed by the sector.

In the context of a liberalized market, full solidarity between the funds would seem to be essential but this will also touch on the question of the redistribution of public funds between Member States in connection with their inland shipping fleets. The Committee assumed that compensation between funds would be by agreement and the future of the scrapping schemes themselves would not in principle be jeopardized by any conflicts.

Supporting measures/inland waterway transport
(Rapporteur: Mr Pompen)

The Committee endorses the tenor of the Commission proposals which are aimed at promoting the inland waterway transport sector by introducing greater flexibility, a better balance between supply and demand and pricing based on market forces.

More particularly, the Committee approves the principle of co-financing by the EU, providing it remains within the budget set for the period up to 1999 and endorses the other principles of solidarity which underlie the proposal.

In view of the importance of inland waterway transport for transport in Europe, steps must be taken to ensure that the general level of infrastructure provision in inland waterway transport does not fall below that of road or rail transport.

Finally, it must be made clear that the restructuring of inland waterway transport will be completed on 1 January 2000. A situation must be avoided where a 'permanent latent crisis' is assumed to exist necessitating periodic financial support from the Member States and the EU. Once these measures have been implemented, the proper operation of a free, modern and profitable inland waterway transport sector will be primarily a matter for the industry itself and its carriers.

In order to ensure that any imbalances in inland waterway transport after 2000 can be promptly and effectively tackled, the Committee feels that the following rules should remain in force:

- (a) further development of the Commission's intended market observation system;
- (b) the formation of a reserve fund for emergency measures, financed by the sector;
- (c) the application of the existing scrapping arrangements and old-for-new rules in unforeseen crisis situations;
- (d) the possibility of strengthening the position of (small) operators by means of trade groups.

Other work

The Committee has also begun work on an important Commission communication entitled 'The development of short sea shipping in Europe: prospects and challenges' (Rapporteur: Mrs Bredima-Savopoulou), which will be reviewed in the 1996 Annual Report.

Rail transport

Transport of dangerous goods by rail

(Rapporteur: Mr Giesecke)

Following similar measures taken on the transport of dangerous goods by road, which the Committee had already commented on,¹ the Commission proposal aimed to extend the RID² rules to national transport in order to solve the problems arising from the multiplicity and diversity of the various national laws applicable to the transport of dangerous goods by rail, particularly those concerning safety, and from the existence of bilateral or multilateral agreement between Member States or with third countries.

The Committee Opinion welcomed the Commission proposal but expressed the hope that, by analogy with the legislation on the transport of dangerous goods by road, the Commission would soon present a draft directive on the monitoring of the transport of dangerous goods by rail. The ESC also urged the Commission to table, without delay, the draft directive on the transport of dangerous goods by inland waterway which was still awaited and which would facilitate multimodal transport considerably.

Finally, given that the restructuring described by the Commission (Directive 91/440/EEC) will involve differing responsibilities for firms responsible for operation and for those responsible for track, the Committee took the view that these distinct responsibilities should be mentioned and defined in the Directive.

Road transport

Recording equipment in road transport

(Rapporteur: Mr Green)

The purpose of the draft Regulation was to revise existing Community legislation on tachographs,³ which dated from 1985, by adding an electronic 'black box' which records relevant data on a driver's smart card.

While recognizing that it was essential to step up checks on road transport if infringements were to be detected and existing rules more effectively enforced, the Committee Opinion expressed regret that individual Member States interpreted the current rules in different ways, recommending that the

¹ ESC Opinion on the proposal for a Council Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States with regard to the transport of dangerous goods by road (OJ C 195, 18.7.1994, p. 15).

² Annex I to Appendix B of the Convention concerning International Carriage by Rail (COTIF).

³ Regulation 3821/85 (OJ L 370, 31.12.1985, p. 8); ESC Opinions OJ C 104, 25.4.1985, p. 8 and OJ C 303, 25.11.1985, p. 29.

rules on driving and rest periods be streamlined when the proposal was being implemented so as to facilitate greater practicability and effectiveness.

The Committee also:

- (i) suggested the use of a driver's card (smart card) which seems to be a vital component in tightening up checks;
- (ii) recommended the speedy introduction of field trials in order to assess the scale of the practical administrative burden and to ascertain whether control and safety requirements were met;
- (iii) called on the Commission to work for a change in the AETR Convention to ensure that non-EU vehicles meet the same control equipment requirements as EU vehicles.

Vehicles hired without drivers

(Rapporteur: Mr De Norre)

The draft Commission directive was essentially intended to remove two remaining restrictions on the hire of vehicles without drivers by:

- introducing the freedom to hire vehicles in any Member State to carry out transport of goods between Member States, and
- abolishing the distinction between own account and transport for hire or reward.

While supporting the Commission's objective, the Committee felt that the proposal made only a partial contribution to the aim of harmonizing and liberalizing the market in vehicles hired for the carriage of goods by road; and recommended harmonization of monitoring arrangements in this area, as otherwise unfair forms of competition would flourish.

Other work

In two other Opinions on road transport, the Committee very much welcomed the Commission's proposals to:

- (i) introduce a new Community model driving licence in credit card format (Rapporteur working alone: Mr Donovan);
- (ii) consolidate Directive 77/143/EEC on roadworthiness tests for motor vehicles, including control of speed limitation devices (Rapporteur working alone: Mr Donovan).

Telecommunications

The Committee's work on telecommunications focused mainly on a whole series of legislation aimed at implementing the policy of liberalization of the European telecommunications market initiated by Directive 90/388 and confirmed by several Commission communications and Council Regulations.

The Committee was also asked to give its views on the 'Common rules for the development of Community postal services' (Rapporteur: Mr Farnleitner) and will issue an Opinion on the subject early next year.

Green Paper on the liberalization of telecommunications infrastructure (Rapporteur: Mr von Schwerin)

The Commission document, which constitutes Part II of the Green Paper on the liberalization of telecommunications infrastructure and cable TV networks,¹ examined the important problems involved in establishing a regulatory framework to ensure full competition in the telecommunications sector.

The Committee Opinion recognized that liberalization of telecommunications infrastructure is extremely important if Europe is to continue to modernize economically and socially but expressed the view that liberalized markets must be regulated in social, economic and technical terms in order to prevent undesirable developments. This involves a comprehensive universal service which takes account of the development of society in Europe.

The Committee felt that the interests of citizens must take priority alongside technical and commercial interests. This is the only way that a modern, progressive telecommunications policy will find broad acceptance in Europe and that Europe's economic position will be strengthened in future.

The Committee proposed setting up a panel of experts to examine the effects of liberalization on the employment situation, with the purpose of cataloguing the social consequences and proposing solutions.

Application of open network provision (ONP) to voice telephony (Rapporteur: Mr Green)

The draft directive introduced as part of the policy of open network provision established in Council Directive 90/387/EEC² — incorporated the key provisions of the Directive proposed by the Commission in September 1992,³ which was rejected by the European Parliament, mainly on account of the problem of comitology.

¹ COM(94) 440 final.

² OJ L 192, 27.7.1990, p.1.

³ COM(92) 247 final, OJ C 263, 12.10.1992, p. 20; ESC Opinion (CES 1342/92), OJ C 19, 25.1.1993, p. 126.

The Committee agreed with the Commission that there was a need for a Directive on ONP for voice telephony and that a minimum set of pan-European service aspects should be defined and should be supported by important service providers.

Trans-European telecommunications networks
(Rapporteur: Mr von Schwerin)

The Committee basically endorses the Commission document setting out an approach and measures to stimulate the development of the information society in Europe although it has a number of comments to make.

The Committee thinks that the proposed projects should attach special importance to social, cultural, educational and environmental issues. In these areas in particular, a universal network serving as many of Europe's citizens as possible is very important. Emphasis should be placed in this connection on the creation of intelligent infrastructure but also on the full protection of the data transferred.

The Committee feels that the trans-European networks mark a further step towards the social and economic modernization of Europe and that it will not be possible to find the requisite funds for investment unless:

- European firms form strong alliances which can operate on the world market as global players, and
- the principle of reciprocity is applied in world trade.

Mobile and personal communications
(Rapporteur: Mr Mobbs)

The Committee welcomes the Commission proposal as liberalization of mobile and personal communication services is one of the major outstanding activities of the Commission's overall strategy to achieve full liberalization of telecommunication services by 1 January 1998.

However, the Committee would like to express to the Commission its concern that competition of the market in telecommunications services be developed in an orderly manner and with regard to social consequences. Therefore, it is of the view that the 'benchmark' date of 1 January 1996 should be kept and that those Member States who do have difficulty in meeting that date should have the benefit of derogations.

Opening up the telecommunications market
(Rapporteur: Mr Mobbs)

In general, the Committee is pleased that the Commission proposal for full liberalization is proceeding. However, it would like to express its concern that

competition in the market of telecommunications services be developed in an orderly manner and with regard to social consequences. In this context, it is awaiting with interest a Commission report on the consequences for employment resulting from liberalization of the telecommunications sector.

Regarding NRAs, the Committee recommends that the Commission lays down a common set of guidelines with an appeal procedure.

The Committee also recommends that, to avoid confusion and the risk of varying interpretations of the often amended text of Directive 90/388, the Commission should produce a consolidated text as a matter of urgency.

3. SOCIAL, FAMILY, EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Recognition of qualifications

Three Opinions were devoted to this key sector of the Community's activity.

The Committee first of all welcomed the communication on the recognition of qualifications for academic and professional purposes. The Opinion nonetheless noted with regret that the Commission document does not make a sufficiently broad assessment of the current situation concerning mobility and mutual recognition of, for example, vocationally qualified and skilled workers. Confining the current exercise to the academic and higher professional areas is too restrictive to benefit professional and occupational groups at every level. What is missing is a coherent perspective which, for instance, takes into consideration current and prospective measures related to comparability work on vocational qualifications for skilled workers undertaken by the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop), as well as relating to two general directives on mutual recognition for professional and occupational purposes.

The Communication also fails to define the role of the social partners and other social and economic actors at national level in the implementation of current and proposed mutual recognition measures.

Free movement of doctors

With reference to the amendment to the Directive on the free movement of doctors and the mutual recognition of their qualifications, the Committee challenged the Commission's right to amend or supplement certain acts of the Council, in particular the Committee recognized the need to involve the Advisory Committee on Medical Training in the procedure. The Opinion also proposed that the Council take a supplementary decision instructing the

Commission to ask the Standing Committee of European Doctors to submit a proposal on the expansion of mutual recognition arrangements for specialist medical qualifications, with the aim of improving freedom of establishment and freedom to provide services.

Profession of lawyer

In its Opinion on the proposal to facilitate practice of the profession of lawyer on a permanent basis, the Committee approved the Commission's objectives but made a number of comments and proposals on several specific items in the Commission document.

The Committee in particular questioned the five-year limit for the transitional period during which migrant lawyers are to be gradually integrated into the system of professional rules and organization of the host country until, at the end of that period, their full integration is recognized and formally confirmed.

The Opinion also expressed reservations about allowing migrant lawyers to give advice on the law of the host country from the very beginning of their time in that country, i.e. without necessarily having received any in-service training or attending additional training courses, or without any competence in that area having been assessed in any way beforehand.

Finally, with regard to the question of multidisciplinary partnerships, the Committee thinks it would be inopportune and misplaced to dodge or fudge such a complex problem using a piece of legislation with a completely different rationale and objective not directly connected with the problem. It would therefore be preferable not to deal with this issue in the Directive under examination.

Measures to help the elderly

In an Opinion on Community measures to help the elderly, the Committee recalled the proposals it made on previous occasions and noted with regret the highly fragmented nature of the measures proposed by the Commission. Moreover, the Opinion stressed that policy on the elderly must be part of a wider framework incorporating other Community activities in areas such as public health, transport and tourism.

Culture

In the Opinion on safeguarding European cultural heritage (the Raphaël programme), the Committee approved the general thrust of the Commission document. Culture finds expression in many different ways and through a variety of channels. It is a multi-faceted concept incorporating a wealth of complementarity in which freedom and respect for others are predominant features. As culture takes in a wide range of different aspects and forms of

expression, the Committee urged that 'cultural heritage' be interpreted in a broad and diversified way. In this connection, the Committee highlighted the definition adopted by Unesco.

European Agency for Health and Safety at Work

The Committee endorsed the amending regulation adjusting the European Agency for Health and Safety at Work to take account of the accession of Austria, Finland and Sweden. It was pleased that employers and workers from each Member State will now be represented on the Administrative Board but considered that double voting rights for government representatives should only apply to budgetary matters.

Business transfers

On the question of the revised Directive on 'business transfers', the Committee acknowledged that the shortcomings and loopholes of the 1977 Directive must be eliminated in order to address the needs for high levels of employment and social protection in the EU. However, the 1977 Directive must be revised without prejudice to workers' rights. Unfortunately, the Commission's proposal introduced a distinction between 'economic entity' and 'activity' of an undertaking which seemed highly ambiguous and would require further interpretation by the Court of Justice, especially as regards contracting out of services. The proposal could be interpreted as a step backwards compared to the 1977 Directive, since it would once again bring into question issues which seemed to have been already resolved from a legal point of view. In contrast with its declared aims (safeguarding employees' rights in the event of transfers of undertakings, business or parts of businesses), the proposal undermines employees' rights in this respect. Specific modifications were therefore proposed in the Opinion on this central issue.

EU/ILO relations

In its Own-initiative Opinion on EU/ILO relations, the Committee called upon the competent authorities of the EU to distance themselves from any attempt to jeopardize application of the tripartite principle in the ILO or to form regional blocs thereby destroying the organization's worldwide character. The Committee supported the endeavours to enable both EU States and all other Member States of the ILO to ratify ILO Conventions. It considered that there was a considerable discrepancy between, on the one hand, the Commission's attempt to increase its influence in the ILO and, on the other hand, the repeated calls to the Commission by the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee to draw on existing ILO standards when formulating its social policy. A large number of ILO Conventions have yet to be incorporated in EU provisions. The Committee called upon the Commission and the Council of Ministers to follow these proposals and the

decisions in similar vein adopted by the Heads of State or Government and the European Parliament. This would be far more useful than pursuing fruitless arguments over competence.

Plain language

In its Own-initiative Opinion on plain language, the Committee stressed that the debate over the Maastricht Treaty showed that the people of Europe no longer unreservedly accept the EU and that effective communication is essential if Europe is to match people's aspirations. The Commission's position needed to be expressed clearly and quickly. Plain language is essential to a more open Community. European documents should become an influence towards harmony and cohesion in Europe. In this context, differentiation can be made between 'legal' and 'political' texts. The former may be complex but nonetheless require precise definition; the latter have a message that must be clear to every citizen. The Maastricht Treaty on European Union failed on both counts. It is vital that any future revision to the Treaty be comprehensible, legally and politically.

Prevention of drug abuse

In its Own-initiative Opinion on the prevention of drug abuse, the Committee considered that while supportive of enforcement policies coordinating the pursuit of those engaged in the production, trafficking and supply of illicit drugs, equal emphasis should be given to the promotion of 'demand reduction' policies. These should include: adequately resourced treatment, rehabilitation and education programmes targeted towards those who might be inclined to consume illicit drugs and education and preventive programmes towards those groups who are vulnerable to the risk of illicit drug consumption.

The scale of the problem demanded a European-wide prevention policy and a need to change attitudes. No Member State should have to run the risk of being considered as a drug haven because of innovative action. No single region, city, local community or local school should have to worry about its reputation because it wishes to promote a pro-active drug abuse prevention policy. A coordinated preventive approach would help bring the problem out into the open, help citizens in each community to recognize their individual and collective responsibilities. The Committee considered that the European Union needed a much clearer policy and integrated drug prevention network at local, regional, national and European level ensuring cross-referencing and a structured response to drug abuse.

Equal opportunities for men and women

The Committee welcomed the basic thrust and objectives of the fourth medium-term Community action programme on equal opportunities for men and

women and stressed once again that equal opportunities must be a constant Community concern. The Commission could be proud of its legislative achievements and the Committee stressed that it is in terms of real equality before the law and in the application of law that concrete progress towards effective equality of opportunity will continue to be made. The Committee urged the Community institutions to expand their traditional consultation network by making every effort to step up discussions on women's questions with trade unions and employers' associations, and with the national bodies responsible for such matters in the Member States. It welcomed the new composition of the Advisory Committee which will consist of the Member States, the national equal opportunities bodies and the social partners but regretted that the role of non-governmental organizations in the Advisory Committee would remain that of an observer. The commendable objectives of the action programme needed to be matched by credible means, resources and methodology.

The Committee urged that the Intergovernmental Conference consider the inclusion of the principle of equality and equal treatment into the Treaty, including a provision for positive measures so as to give a firm legal base to equality. It welcomed the Commission's emphasis on promoting equality in a changing economy by encouraging women's entrepreneurship and through mechanisms of mainstreaming, studies and greater information dissemination. It fully supported the principle of gender balance in decision-making. It considered that rights should be the number one priority and the first objective of the programme, that it should be highlighted more and that more effort should be made to achieve comprehensive equal opportunity decisions applicable to all Member States with a healthy balance between legislative initiatives and other accompanying measures.

Youth unemployment

In its Own-initiative Opinion on youth unemployment, the Committee recommended setting up a wage-cost subsidy scheme for young job-seekers. The aim of the scheme should be to contribute to the creation and safeguarding of new jobs and to the implementation of a guarantee of employment for young unemployed persons by supporting newly-created jobs for the young over a limited period. Young people who have been out of a job for longer than six months and who have not started some form of training should be given the chance to gain access to the mainstream labour market by means of practical work experience. This support should continue for at least a year and cover up to 50% of the wage rates laid down by collective agreement. An unlimited contract of employment should be a prerequisite for such support. Transnational employment should merit special consideration in the scheme.

The Committee also proposed to explore the idea of a voluntary European 'community service scheme' open to all under 25-year-olds. This could be supplemented by a trainee programme with the emphasis on business

exchange experience. The starting point for such a scheme could be a kind of social partnership between the public authorities, businesses, the social partners and young volunteers in the regions in order to combine, as touched upon in the White Paper proposals, public/private partnerships, part work and part income support models. Such 'partnerships', encouraged by tax exemptions and social security schemes and involving socially useful activities, could be 'sponsored' at the European level through transnational pilot projects as in other programmes.

The Committee further suggested setting up an action programme entitled 'workplace Europe'. The purpose of this new European labour market policy initiative would be to provide young people who are preparing for a career, receiving vocational training or who have qualified with no job to go to, with the opportunity to do a traineeship leading to qualifications, of at least three months in an EU company. A coordinated procedure should be followed to identify, encourage and select commendable 'community service' pilot projects and transnational exchange schemes, both in urban and rural areas, with a view to engaging young unemployed people in a tangible, identifiable and worthwhile European-wide community project for:

- (i) environmental protection;
- (ii) urban and rural regeneration;
- (iii) restoration of cultural heritage;
- (iv) social services;
- (v) caring and service activities not properly catered for by the traditional labour market.

The proposed voluntary European 'community service scheme' and the 'workplace Europe' action programme would also require a generalized and versatile system of official diplomas recognized throughout the Union.

Working time

In its Own-initiative Opinion on working time, the Committee's conclusions were as follows

1. Reorganization and reductions of working time can offer a significant contribution to the improvement of the employment situation. The management of working time is an increasingly important issue for negotiation between employers and employees, at all levels.
2. Collective agreements also offer an opportunity to find a better balance between the interests of different groups of workers and to narrow the developing segregation between 'core' and 'peripheral' workers.

3. There is no single uniform model of reduction and reorganization of working time which the European authorities can issue by 'decree'. There is however a compelling case to promote 'made-to-measure' working time options. These 'made-to-measure' working proposals must accommodate the differentiation and diversification of individual workers' needs plus their changing 'lifetime' options with respect to the quantity of working hours and working patterns. Such proposals should also match the varied and diverse flexibility requirements of modern production and service processes, and should enhance the firm's productivity and competitiveness and the promotion of more employment.
4. It is in the mutual interest of employers and employees and to reach a balance between individual interests from both sides, and to shape the conditions for such a balance collectively. Agreements at the appropriate levels can be reached between trade unions and employers to include:
 - (i) demands for a collective reduction of working hours and more access to voluntary individual reductions in working hours;
 - (ii) demands for the adaptation and extension of business hours and a more flexible employment and scheduling of employees according to the needs of the production process or the demands of customers.
5. The gap between traditional part-time jobs and exclusively full-time jobs will be narrowed, when substantial and extensive part-time jobs with adequate living incomes become an attractive option. This might be the case if a voluntary reduction of working hours is a real option to be achieved in all sectors, at all job levels and in all sorts of jobs and professions, without damaging or jeopardizing career and educational opportunities. Another indispensable condition is equal treatment of the part-time worker.
6. The difference between the hours worked by men and women, will accordingly decline to the extent that voluntary, shorter working time for male workers becomes more accepted, and job opportunities for female part-time workers improve. This might also narrow the segregation gap. Promotion of voluntary part-time work should be directed especially towards male workers.
7. The principle of equal treatment of part-time and full-time workers, should be the starting point for 'law and practice' in the European Union. Part-time workers should receive the same protection as full-time workers. Proportional, pro rata, treatment should be given with respect to wages and financial compensations.
8. In the longer term, more varied working patterns will evolve: the 'standard working week' may disappear, but not the guiding principle of full employment and the objective that ideally every person who is willing and capa-

ble should be able to get a job in the 'size' he or she wants. In addition, the general trend to agree shorter (maximum or full-time) working hours in collective contracts will continue.

9. The reduction and reorganization of working time could have a positive effect on public finances. The rate of unemployment could decrease and the financial basis for taxes and social security funds broaden. Incentives from the public authorities, such as the removal of barriers to new working time patterns, adaptations in social security and pension schemes, and collective funding or reallocation of funds to stimulate the reorganization and reduction, would facilitate these positive results.
10. The reorganization and reduction of working time is primarily a matter in which the social partners should take the initiative, at the appropriate levels. Nevertheless the European Union and the Governments of Member States should encourage and facilitate these developments through:
 - (i) research, exchange of information and experiences, and the drafting of guidelines, as regards best practices, common principles, redundancy situations, implementation of the working time Directive;
 - (ii) encouragement of the social dialogue and collective agreements, at appropriate levels, on the reduction and reorganization of working time;
 - (iii) unequivocal legislation on equal treatment of part-time workers drawing on the 1994 ILO Convention and recommendation on part-time work coupled with the Convention's early ratification by all Member States;
 - (iv) adaptation of existing legislation, fiscal, pension and social security systems in order to remove discriminatory treatment of part-time workers and to better accommodate and possibly stimulate the variation and differentiation in working hours and patterns lifelong.

Equal treatment for men and women

The Committee welcomed the Council Directive amending Directive 86/378/EEC of 24 July 1986 on the implementation of the principle of equal treatment for men and women in occupational social security schemes. It acknowledged that the proposed Directive made for greater legal certainty and clarity and that it would help to ensure greater fairness and dispense with the need for numerous appeals and lawsuits. The Committee noted that the proposed Directive only concerned schemes for particular categories of workers (occupational schemes). It called for a clear definition of occupational schemes in relation to statutory schemes, having regard to Article 119 as interpreted by the Court. The Committee approved the proposed amendment to Article 3 of Directive 86/378/EEC under which workers' legal successors

are to be included in the scope of the new Directive. It had extremely serious reservations about Article 2 of the proposed Directive (procedures) and thought that the provisions regarding retroactivity were cumbersome and complicated. The Committee urged that consideration be given to equal treatment in the field of social security in all ongoing or future work on part-time working, youth unemployment, new forms of work and social protection provisions.

Safety, hygiene and health at work

The Committee welcomed the general direction of the Commission programme and proposed Council decision on a Community programme concerning safety, hygiene and health at work (1996-2000) and a proposal for a Council Decision adopting a programme of non-legislative measures to improve health and safety at work. It was disappointed, however, that the practical objectives of the programme were ambiguous, that the methods of action were in some instances vague and unclearly costed, and that the case for a European occupational health and safety action programme had not been convincingly stated. The Commission had drafted a mainly exploratory and explanatory programme of good intent based essentially on awareness, investigation, analysis and cooperation. It had not produced a comprehensive programme of action based on 'concrete policies and measures for the next few years', as called for by the Committee. The Commission needed to set its sights higher and achieve instead a balanced policy-mix of legislative enforcement and non-legislative actions.

Little or no mention was made of Article 118A which is the clear and uncontested Treaty provision for improving basic health and safety standards at the workplace. The Committee also particularly emphasized the key role of the Advisory Committee for Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work. It was therefore concerned that a plethora of new committees was planned in the programme and draft decision, appearing to sideline the Advisory Committee and not include the participation of the social partners.

The Committee urged the Commission to incorporate in the programme a review of the existing body of Community occupational safety and health legislation to see which major risk issues are still not addressed by specific Directives. It also underlined that consolidation of legislative texts ought to involve simplification of standards without any lowering of standards or diluting of existing requirements.

Analysis, research, cooperation and action in the field of employment

The Committee supported the proposals made by the Commission following the European Council in Essen. After having drawn attention to the fact that employment was one of the major challenges facing Europe, the Opinion put forward a number of proposals concerning access for workers to on-going

training, the role of the social partners and the level of prominence to be given to employment issues at the Intergovernmental Conference.

Social security for workers moving within the EU

The Committee endorsed the updating of Regulations 1408/71 and 574/72 but called upon the Commission to take up the task of removing the small number of shortcomings and imperfections which still hampered freedom of movement for workers and their family members.

4. ECONOMIC, FINANCIAL AND MONETARY QUESTIONS

The Committee issued an Opinion on the Commission's *Annual Report on the economic situation — 1995*. The Opinion was the ESC's contribution to the establishment of the broad guidelines of the economic policies of the Member States and of the Community provided for under the multilateral surveillance process enshrined in Article 103 of the Treaty on European Union. The Committee welcomed the fact that this year too, the Commission has asked it to deliver an Opinion on the subject, despite the fact that consultation of the Committee is no longer mandatory following amendment to the Treaty. The Committee urged that mandatory consultation of the Committee be reinstated under the institutional reform scheduled for 1996.

The Committee welcomed the positive development of the economic situation in the Community. It pointed out that the conditions for strong growth in 1995 and 1996 had not been met, *inter alia* because of the temporary nature of some of the 1 194 growth factors. Waning external demand meant that growth was dependent on a revival of internal demand. The Committee warned that there was likely to be a decline in the growth of household purchasing power, indeed purchasing power might even stagnate.

The Committee echoed the Commission in deploring the stubbornly high level of unemployment; indeed the expected level of growth was unlikely to secure a satisfactory improvement in this situation. In an Additional Opinion on employment, the Committee called for measures to tackle the weaknesses in the structure of the European economy in order to increase growth potential and thereby boost employment. The Committee called for more effective operation of the labour market and underlined the importance of supporting small and medium-sized enterprises.

Qualitative improvement is the only way to underline the competitiveness of European enterprises in the longer term: innovative industries must carve out niches for themselves on high technology markets, the Committee says. The Committee is convinced that on-going training and education are the best

ways to equip workers for these industries. Education must be better geared to the demands of industry. With a view to greater labour market flexibility the Committee called for action to reorganize working hours, insofar as this is compatible with the European social model. If success is to be achieved in this field, efforts must be made to curb currency fluctuations which endanger economic growth and employment.

The Committee also urged the governments of the Member States to take advantage of the favourable economic climate in order to restructure national budgets and bring down public debt in the medium term. Such a measure would also clear the way for a cut in long-term interest rates and in increased investment. The Committee also pointed out that budgetary adjustments must not upset the social balance. On the contrary, budgetary resources must, *inter alia*, be directed towards creating employment.

Every year the Committee also considers, as part of its work in the field of 'multilateral surveillance' (Articles 102a and 103a of the Treaty on European Union) the economic situation in one or more of the EU Member States. This year the Committee drew up a report on the economic situation in Spain.

As progress towards economic and monetary union (EMU) is now well under way, the Committee set up a permanent study group to consider the practical problems associated with the introduction of the single currency at the beginning of the third stage of EMU. It is vital that the eventual introduction of the single currency be in tune with the interests of socioeconomic interest groups in order to enable the European currency to symbolize the reality of the European Union in the daily life of its citizens.

In response to a Commission discussion paper on this subject in the spring, the Committee drew up an initial Opinion on the matter. The Committee endorsed the efforts made by the Commission to promote the introduction of the single currency but it warned against an excessive binding legislation. The Committee called for the starting dates of the projected stages leading up to EMU to be announced without delay in order to remove uncertainty on the markets. The Committee underlined the importance of involving Member States which have opt-outs. The Committee also warned against underestimating the danger of major disruption of the financial markets and called for the establishment of a sound legal infrastructure. The Committee also believed that consumer protection must be an integral part of general policy on introduction of the single currency.

In the financial field the Committee drew up an Own-initiative Opinion on derivatives and the attendant risks. Despite the high incidence of large-scale losses on the derivatives market, the Committee nonetheless endorsed the use of derivatives for covering financial risks. The Committee put forward a number of recommendations designed to secure effective risk-management in the international context and it called for improvements to be made in the mandatory provision of information at international level.

In previous years, the Committee has issued several Opinions on the operation of cross-frontier payment mechanisms. During the period under review the Committee issued two further Opinions on the matter. The Committee endorsed the Commission's proposal to issue a Directive on this subject after a number of attempts to establish self-regulation. The Commission had taken on board the bulk of the Committee's proposal and the ESC expressed satisfaction at the Commission's appreciation of its contribution in this area.

During the year under review, the Committee also addressed the question of taxation. It issued an Own-initiative Opinion on direct and indirect taxation in which it called for harmonization in this field bringing maximum benefits for employment and the economy in general. The Committee also drew attention to the danger of Member States engaging in competition over tax rates and it considered the issues of direct taxation, taxation on savings and personal and corporation tax.

The Committee also issued Opinions on the taxation of tobacco products and on VAT on agricultural products in which it endorsed proposals from the Commission to promote harmonization and the more effective operation of the internal market in this field.

Finally, the Committee issued a number of Opinions on the subject of statistics. The Committee supported the Commission's proposals to introduce comparable consumer price indexes and comparable national and regional accounts and to submit a Regulation on the structure of enterprises. While giving its general approval to the proposals, it did, however, make a number of observations.

5. REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING POLICY

The Committee was consulted on a number of subjects falling within the scope of the Section for Regional Development and Town and Country Planning. It also drew up three Own-initiative Opinions with a direct bearing on spatial planning issues, and an Opinion on local development initiatives.

The Committee welcomed the Commission proposal to grant financial assistance to Portugal for a specific programme to modernize its textile and clothing industry (OJ C 110, 21.4.1995, Rapporteur: Mr Cal), just as it had endorsed the other Community initiatives for tackling labour market problems and improving industrial flexibility. The Opinion recalled the importance of effective involvement of the regional and local authorities and the socio-economic partners in preparing, carrying out and assessing the measures, in

accordance with Article 4 of the framework regulation governing the Structural Funds.

The Committee also welcomed the Community initiative in support of peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland (OJ No C 236, 11.9.1995, Rapporteur: Mr Frerichs). It felt that the initiative would make a major contribution to the economic and social underpinning of the peace process, promote reconciliation and tolerance between the communities, and have a positive impact on the EU as a whole. The Committee laid particular emphasis on the need to involve non-governmental organizations and local socioeconomic interest groups so as to ensure the effectiveness of the initiative.

As in earlier years, the Committee issued several Opinions on tourism. These concerned the collection of statistical information in the field of tourism (OJ C 236, 11.9.1995, Rapporteur: Mr Bernabei), and the Commission's Green Paper on the role of the Union in the field of tourism (Rapporteur: Mr Regaldo, Co-Rapporteur: Mr Lustenhouwer). The Committee broadly endorsed the proposal for a harmonized information system on tourism supply and demand. However, it felt that more binding instruments than a Directive might be needed, together with common, consistent reference categories. In line with the wish expressed in this Opinion, the Committee was also consulted on the Commission's Green Paper on the role of the Union in the field of tourism. The Committee felt that measures taken so far at European level had been an inadequate response to the needs of the sector and that the lack of a specific legal basis in the EC Treaty had acted as a brake on Community initiative on tourism. Pointing out the added value which the Community could give to the development of tourism, the Committee reaffirmed the need for Community tourism policy to be given an adequate legal basis as well as a separate title in the Treaty at the 1996 Intergovernmental Conference at the latest.

In this latter — and somewhat controversial — Opinion, the Committee also called on the Commission, in agreement with the Member States and in conjunction with organizations representing enterprises, trade unions and consumers, to define the overall framework, guidelines and coordinating measures needed to ensure that the principal activities engaged in as part of EU tourism policy were effective in achieving the objectives of the Union.

As in other years, the Committee examined the Commission's periodic report on the social and economic situation and development of the regions of the Community (OJ C 236, 11.9.1995, Rapporteur: Mr Christie). This fifth report gave a detailed breakdown of the movement of regional economic indicators and identified a number of issues that would affect the regions' economic development. The Committee took the opportunity to consider the likely impact of EU enlargement and economic and monetary union on regional economic performances. It noted that the transition to EMU carried risks for

the weaker Member States and regions; by virtue of the national measures designed to satisfy the convergence criteria. The Committee restated the importance it attached to the Structural Funds and stressed that they could only serve the development needs of structurally weak regions effectively if they were complementary to effective regional policies at the national level.

Lastly, the Committee asked that the next periodic report include more analysis of the regional consequences of monetary union and enlargement.

The Committee also scrutinized the annual report on the implementation of the reform of the Structural Funds. The report presented the Funds' activities and the use of their budgetary resources in 1993, together with their contribution to achieving the priority objectives of the 1988 reform. Like earlier Opinions, the Committee Opinion (CES 1158/95, Rapporteur: Mr van Dijk) focused on the principles of additionality and concentration, the harmonization of regional policy with other EU policies, the involvement of the socio-economic partners and the coordination of national regional policies with European regional policy.

The Committee examined two other annual reports this year. These were the annual report on the Cohesion Financial Instrument 1993/94 and the supplement to the 1994 annual report on the Cohesion Fund (CES 1449/95, Rapporteur: Mr Mercé Juste). The Committee Opinion on the two reports took a positive overall view of the Commission's action in this area, and was broadly satisfied with the distribution between the transport and environment sector and between the four eligible Member States (Greece, Spain, Portugal and Ireland). The Opinion also looked at such issues as conditionality (bound up with the convergence criteria for economic and monetary union), evaluation, follow-up and monitoring, together with the economic and social impact of the projects funded.

Economic and social cohesion and the need to accelerate the development of the lagging regions are key concerns of the EU and of the Committee. The Committee endorsed the view of the Corfu European Council (June 1994) that local development initiatives offered considerable potential for creating jobs and sustainable development. This belief prompted the Committee to draw up an Own-initiative Opinion on local development initiatives and regional policy (CES 1163/95, Rapporteur: Mr Masucci).

The Committee noted that, with the same level of funding, some regions remained underdeveloped or semi-dependent while others made a successful transition to internally driven forms of development. The Opinion sought to identify the factors and players which enabled a region to develop in an integrated manner and attain a certain level of productivity and competitiveness. The Opinion also considered the instruments offered under the Community's structural policies and took a look at new sources of employment.

Local development initiatives can thus make an important contribution to cohesion, as can careful spatial planning. The Committee devoted several Opinions to this latter subject.

Indeed, spatial planning took pride of place this year, with three Opinions devoted to this important topic. The first, begun by Mr Amato during the Committee's previous term of office, concerned spatial planning and interregional cooperation in the Mediterranean area (OJ C 133, 31.5.1995, Rapporteur: Mr Cal). The Committee noted that the Mediterranean region faced serious spatial imbalances linked to the European development mode (economic globalization and increasing polarization of development towards the centre of Europe, marginalizing the Mediterranean region).

The Committee felt that the only solution was to adopt a multicentred development pattern making the Mediterranean a centre of development within a wider Euro-Mediterranean strategic area. This required an EU spatial planning policy and the drafting of a Community reference framework, with input from all the relevant authorities. The framework should lay down priorities and objectives and be endorsed by all the parties concerned, including the local, regional and national socioeconomic partners. The Committee also put forward some strategic goals and noted that, pending the establishment of the framework, the principal planning targets should be the trans-European and trans-Mediterranean networks and wider interregional cooperation.

Similar views were expressed in the Committee's two Opinions on the communication 'Europe 2000+ — Cooperation for European territorial development' (OJ C 133, 31.5.1995 and OJ C 301, 13.11.1995, Rapporteur: Mr E. Muller).

The Committee stressed that spatial planning policy should respect Member States' differing systems for allocating powers and should follow certain principles and procedures in the interests of efficacy and openness.

The Committee considered that the European spatial development perspective (ESDP), which was to be established on the basis of the communication, should be tailored to regional trends and potential and respect geographical, socioeconomic and cultural differences. Decisions should be coordinated at all levels, with due respect for the subsidiarity principle. All the relevant players should work together in partnership, and account should be taken of the qualitative aspect of spatial development.

The Committee has often highlighted the need to inform and consult the various players, and this concern surfaced again with reference to the membership and operation of the Committee on Spatial Development appointed to draw up the ESDP.

To facilitate the implementation of a spatial planning policy, the Committee also asked the relevant authorities at the 1996 Intergovernmental Conference to enshrine spatial planning policy in the Treaty.

6. INDUSTRIAL POLICY

As in 1994, the Industry Section's work largely focused on measures relating to the completion of the single market, especially the abolition of technical barriers to trade. One point of particular note is that the Single Market Observatory is now up and running, with a staff and budget of its own.

On the media front, the Section published three Opinions of considerable political importance. One dealt with the television without frontiers Directive, broaching contentious issues such as the cultural identity of Europe, programme quotas and teleshopping. The Opinion on the Green Paper on pluralism and media concentration in the single market, reiterated the views expressed in various Section Opinions over the past few years and called on the Commission to take the steps needed to create a uniform legal framework in Europe. On the extension of the MEDIA programme, the Section endorsed the proposed measures as a first step towards finding a solution but deplored the flaws in the overall assessment of the problems facing the audiovisual industry. Moreover, structural changes are made impossible by low funding and the restriction of the programme to certain sectors.

The car industry was examined from two angles. The Opinion on the group exemption Regulation looked at aspects of competition law. The harmonization of legal provisions with a view to facilitating the free movement of goods between the Member States was covered in two Opinions, one on emissions from light commercial vehicles and diesel motors and another on head-on and side-on collisions.

The Customs 2000 Opinion considered how effective and uniform application of Community law can ensure that trade both inside and outside the EU operates smoothly so that citizens and industry are treated equally by the customs authorities.

The Opinions on competition policy — a *sine qua non* for the single market — focused on technology transfer agreements (amended regulation), the opening-up of cable television networks to competition and the adjustment of the various directives on public-sector contracts to the new GATT agreement. The Committee issued a more general Opinion on the Commission's *XXIVth Annual Report on Competition Policy*. The ESC was also explicitly asked by Commissioner Van Miert to draw up an Opinion — subsequently adopted unanimously — on the review of the Community Merger Regulation at its pre-

legislative stage. Staying with competition policy, the Committee published an Opinion on aid to shipbuilding, which was all the more important in the light of the replacement of the 7th Council Directive on this issue by the OECD agreement on normal conditions of competition in the shipbuilding and ship-repair sector.

In the field of intellectual property, the Committee endorsed a draft regulation on the introduction of an additional certificate for the protection of phytopharmaceuticals. It also issued an Opinion on the regulation on Community designs or models.

The ESC also issued an Opinion on the action programme to promote the speedy and smooth establishment of the burgeoning information society. Other specific-issue Opinions on the information society are set to follow. The Committee broadly backed the Community programme to stimulate the development of a European multi-media content industry in the emerging information society (INFO 2000). However, it did propose a number of improvements to the concept and application of this programme with specific emphasis on better distribution of available funding.

The Committee has long had a particular interest in SMEs. The *Second Report of the European Observatory for SMEs* was studied in some depth, and thus became the subject of a very comprehensive, exhaustive Committee Opinion. The Third Report of the Observatory, which is of undoubted interest to SMEs, has now been published and is also the subject of an ESC Opinion.

In the sphere of industrial policy, the ESC had expressed its views on two Commission communications on the competitiveness of European industry. The communications, instigated by Commissioner Bangemann, follow the same line of thought as the White Paper on growth, competitiveness and employment and are of course of strategic importance for the future of the European Union. The Committee more than rose to the occasion, by undertaking an in-depth analysis of the issues at stake.

7. EXTERNAL RELATIONS, TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT POLICY

Status report

In the field of external relations, trade and development policy, the Committee worked assiduously to make its views known on the major tenets of European Community activities. These include:

- the Euro-Mediterranean partnership,
- relations with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe,
- partnership agreements with Russia, Ukraine and Belarus,
- relations with the United States, and
- relations with Mercosur.

The ESC also did much to influence the views and decisions of the European Union on specific issues.

In its work, the ESC recognized the increasingly close link between respect for democratic principles and human rights on the one hand and trade and cooperation on the other. In a whole range of Opinions, the Committee argued that fundamental social rights should be guaranteed in the countries and regions with which the European Union is seeking closer ties.

Although the Committee broadly endorsed the partnership and cooperation agreements with Russia, Belarus and Ukraine, its Opinion on the issue criticized the absence of the principle of social justice. The Committee also urged that the social dimension be taken into consideration in the framework agreement on trade and economic cooperation, which the European Union has just negotiated with the Mercosur countries. The same is no less true for the Euro-Mediterranean partnership, on which the ESC also drew up an Opinion, pointing out that the social dimension of the partnership cannot be viewed in isolation from its cultural dimension. This factor is particularly relevant in the struggle against racism and xenophobia. In an Additional Opinion on relations with the Middle East, the Committee recommended making the creation of jobs a *sine qua non* of stability and economic development should be a prime objective of the European Union's efforts to support the peace process.

The Committee also endorsed these principles in its Opinion on the World Summit on Social Development. Here, the ESC laid particular stress on the inseparable bond between respect for human rights and democracy on the one hand and social development on the other. This includes dialogue between employers and workers and the involvement of civil society.

In pursuance of its work on the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the Committee adopted an Opinion on relations with Albania. The Section for External Relations, Trade and Development Policy drew up an Information Report on the evaluation of the PHARE programme.

An information report looked in some depth at the complex issue of relations with the United States as a major economic and political partner. The report called for existing ties to be strengthened and for transatlantic dialogue to include fresh issues and bring together US counterparts involved in economic and social affairs.

The Committee's presence was felt at two global conferences hosted by the United Nations: the World Summit on Social Development, at which the Committee was represented as part of the European Community delegation, and the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing.

The ESC is convinced of the importance of involving socio-occupational organizations in the pre-accession strategy for the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and organized a hearing to canvass the views on the PHARE programme of representatives of such organizations from Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Bulgaria and Romania. At a meeting in Brussels, representatives of similar bodies from the Mercosur countries discussed strengthening relations between the European Union and Mercosur on the basis of the inter-regional cooperation agreement.

The Euro-Mediterranean partnership and the peace process in the Middle East

In its Opinion on the Euro-Mediterranean partnership, the Committee, subject to concrete action being taken by the Commission and the Council on its recommendations, approved the Commission's general approach to the Euro-Mediterranean partnership.

The Committee particularly appreciates the linkage of economic, political and development/security aspects and the generalized use of multilateral instruments. It views this approach as broadly consistent with the guidelines set out in its previous Opinions on the Community's Mediterranean policy.

The Committee stresses that the strictly political dimension of the partnership presupposes the preservation of the cultural identity of the societies concerned. Dialogue is also needed, with representatives of civil society as well as governments. The Committee hopes that the planned introduction of procedures for regular monitoring of compliance with undertakings on the protection of human rights can provide an objective basis to meet justified insistence that partnership aid should be conditional.

The Committee wholeheartedly endorses the Commission's view that the worrying social situation in the Mediterranean countries could be aggravated by worsening disparities caused by possible temporary adverse effects of economic anchorage to Europe. The Community's help in countering these disturbing trends therefore seems justified. The Committee also shares the Commission's conviction that the social dimension of partnership is inextricably intertwined with the cultural dimension, especially as regards action to curb racism and xenophobia by fostering greater mutual understanding.

As regards the negotiations in progress and problems in the various areas of the Mediterranean, the Committee voices concern at the fact that the accession process for Malta and Cyprus seems to be being treated as parallel to that for the Central and East European countries. It also feels that the con-

clusion of an Association Agreement with Israel must be seen in direct correlation with the EU's interest in, and commitment to, the resumption and progress of the Middle East peace process.

The Committee welcomes the holding of a Euro-Mediterranean ministerial conference in Barcelona but points out that the EU position approved by the Cannes European Council sets only one objective for the Conference, namely the preparation of a joint document on the three principal aspects of partnership, leaving vague the question of the conclusion of a multilateral agreement and so confirming the concerns expressed by the Committee.

The Committee adopted an Additional Opinion on the Middle East and considers that the European Union should concentrate its efforts on helping to reinforce public support for the peace process in the Occupied Territories and in Israel. There are important issues in the socioeconomic field, among which employment in the Occupied Territories is first and foremost.

Creation of sustainable jobs must be a major goal of the European Union's efforts and should be complemented by the employment effects of the infrastructural projects the Commission has already identified as priorities. The situation has deteriorated significantly due to the closure of the Israeli border for most Palestinian workers.

Given the scarcity of means and the cautious attitude of foreign donors at the present time, and taking into account the political necessity to produce shortly some tangible, positive results of the peace process for the populations, a limited number of strategically chosen aid projects should be selected by the parties concerned for immediate funding, even if the beneficiary cannot fully meet the donors' criteria. The EU, as the major donor, should take the initiative. The projects should alleviate some of the most pressing problems of the population, contribute significantly to the major tasks of economic reform, legislation and institution building, and/or have a high political 'visibility'.

The Committee welcomes that trade unions and employer organizations, and perhaps also other socioeconomic interest groups in and outside the EU, are multilaterally and bilaterally seeking contacts and rendering assistance to their counterparts in the Occupied Territories. It further suggests that Governments wishing to develop forms of cooperation with the Palestinian Authority, should as much as possible involve socioeconomic interest groups in their country.

The Committee wishes to underline that it is important to involve non-governmental organizations in the implementation of aid programmes.

The Committee thinks it is of great importance that the Israeli Government and the Palestinian Authority involve, from the very beginning, socioeconomic interest groups and in particular employers' and workers' organizations in the

formulation and implementation of plans for industrial zones in the Occupied Territories.

Special attention should be given to reforming and increasing vocational training in the Occupied Territories. The EU might also look into new possibilities to support the development of agriculture in the Territories.

Relations with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe

The ESC Opinion on relations between the European Union and Albania gives a number of important reasons why the EU should devote special attention to Albania. These include: Albania's geographical situation and its importance for the balance of the Balkan region; the structural fragility of the economy, which threatens the democratization process; the risks of ethnic and religious conflicts aggravated by the weakness of Albania's democracy; the risks to stability posed by the spread of Mafia and organized crime.

As regards democratization, despite the considerable strides made towards political democracy over the last three years, a number of foreign observers have identified a risk of political backsliding. The Committee recognizes that, as part of its transition to a market economy and economic democracy, Albania has liberalized its wholesale and retail prices and its foreign trade. These moves have had some adverse effects. Albania has also resolutely embraced privatization.

In the Committee's view, Albania's social transition will call for mammoth efforts on three fronts: training, collective bargaining and social policy. To this end, the country needs help to adapt its education and training system.

Despite some recent progress, the Albanian economy remains extremely fragile. Its social situation is a particular cause for concern and unemployment has rocketed. Albania is a seriously underdeveloped country and foreign aid remains vital. The effectiveness of this aid will depend on appropriate economic development decisions being taken by the Government.

Between 1991 and 1993, Albania received international aid to the tune of ECU 1 227 million (44% of which took the form of emergency aid, mainly as food aid). The EU was the chief donor. However, Albania still needs to plough massive resources into investments. The Committee therefore considers that since Albania has facets both of a Central East European country and a Mediterranean country, *it should also be included in Mediterranean policy.*

EU financial assistance, set within the wider context described above and also embracing investment, could therefore be targeted at the following: economic restructuring and sectoral development, infrastructure, EU private investment in Albania, job creation, development of human resources, decentralized cooperation, inter-regional cooperation and Balkan regional cooperation.

The Committee considers that the reinforcement of political dialogue between the EU and Albania should foster convergence on shared values, membership of a common strategic framework and the definition of common guidelines for peace and cooperation.

The establishment of social dialogue between the EU and Albania is long overdue. The Committee proposes the setting-up of a joint advisory committee of EU and Albanian socioeconomic interest groups, with a remit to promote dialogue and cooperation.

Lastly, the Committee thinks that the time has come to begin preparations for a Europe agreement similar to those concluded with other Central and East European countries.

The Committee has prepared an information report assessing the PHARE programme. As a starting point for this assessment, the ESC used the documents drawn up by the Commission together with the views of the socio-occupational organizations of the PHARE countries, who were able to express their opinions during a public hearing in Brussels on 18 and 19 May 1995.

Almost all the socio-occupational organizations from the PHARE countries attending the public hearing pointed to their limited knowledge concerning the priorities, workings and accessibility of the programmes funded by the Commission.

Most of the socio-occupational organizations also voiced concern that the PHARE programmes were concentrating on public sector enterprises in these countries, which did not benefit recently created private undertakings.

The Economic and Social Committee fully supports some of the new guidelines recommended by the Commission. It supports the new multiannual approach, and considers all action to implement the White Paper on the development and harmonization of these countries' legislation to the *acquis communautaire* to be essential, including the social aspects.

One of the most pressing problems facing the PHARE programme is inadequate staffing, obliging it to rely heavily on temporary staff. This lack of resources could be remedied either by assigning extra staff or by closer coordination between the Directorate-General for External Economic Relations and the other Commission services.

The views of the socio-occupational organizations could carry greater weight in the process of defining PHARE programme priorities and follow-up activities.

There must be greater transparency in the procedures for selecting businesses for award of contracts.

The Committee considers that regional and cross-border cooperation programmes are the most appropriate recipients of exceptional infrastructure investment under the PHARE programme. The Committee recommends establishing an environmental protection fund and setting up a PHARE information centre in each of the countries concerned. A further priority area might be represented by training programmes aimed at executives, universities and vocational training as a whole.

New impetus should be given to partnership activities aimed at EU and PHARE SMEs. The Committee also advocates a change of course in the field of technical assistance. The Committee is prepared to arrange periodic meetings with the socio-occupational organizations of the associated countries of Central and Eastern Europe to listen to their concerns and share the ESC's own experience.

Relations with Russia, Belarus and Ukraine

The Committee broadly welcomes the partnership and cooperation agreements which have now been signed with Russia, Belarus and Ukraine, but stresses that differences in the negotiating clout of the independent Republics of the CIS should play no part in the shaping of treaty relations. Any inequality of treatment would exacerbate the worrying disintegration of the CIS economic area.

The Committee unreservedly welcomes the determination of the parties to work together to strengthen the political and economic freedoms which constitute the very basis of the partnership. The Committee also shares the parties' belief in the paramount importance of the rule of law and of respect for human rights and endorses the link established by the parties between the implementation of partnership and the continuation of political and economic reforms in these countries.

The Committee is critical of the absence from the agreements of the principles of social justice. The partners should be sufficiently aware that the processes of transformation are associated with huge social upheavals. They may ultimately mean democracy and the market economy being rejected by the people because the social and human cost is seen as too high. In this context, the Section urges that the agreements speak not merely of a market economy, but of a social market economy.

The Committee attaches importance to the evolution clause under which a joint study is to be carried out in 1998 to establish whether the economic pre-conditions (e.g. basic market economy structures) have been fulfilled thus enabling negotiations to begin on the establishment of a free trade zone in these countries.

The Committee reiterates its criticism of the failure to mention the essential contacts between the economic and social groups in the countries con-

cerned. It should be possible to achieve consensus in the European Union that there is no chance at all of creating a pan-European economic area if economic and social interest groups are kept in the background. The Committee suggests that during the first revision of the agreements, the EU consider whether the time has come to institutionalize contacts between the members of the ESC and the members of corresponding bodies in the East European partner States by setting up a joint advisory committee.

The Committee welcomes the reciprocal abolition of quantitative import restrictions, without prejudice to the special rules for textiles, ECSC products and nuclear material. On customs policy, the Committee regrets that the Community has failed to agree a freeze on its partners' external tariff.

The Committee considers improvements to the rules negotiated on firms' right of establishment — in particular with regard to financial service — to be urgently needed.

The Committee welcomes the authorization of current payments connected with the bilateral movement of goods, services and persons in convertible currency. It also supports the first attempts at liberalizing capital movements.

The competition arrangements are, in the Committee's view, a weak point of the agreements. The Committee would also have welcomed more effective measures to protect intellectual, industrial and commercial property and as regards the procedure agreed for the settlement of disputes arising from application of the agreement and the listed multilateral agreements.

With regard to economic cooperation, the Committee feels that it would have been better to agree on a list of priorities from the outset, one of which should have been harmonious social development.

With regard to cooperation on prevention of illegal activities, the Committee urges the European Community to initiate the planned consultations and closer interaction with Russia rapidly and to provide technical and administrative assistance.

The Committee welcomes the framework agreements under which the partner countries are to receive technical assistance funds via the Community's TACIS programme. In order to ensure optimum use of the available funds, this technical assistance is to be coordinated closely with contributions from other sources.

Relations between the European Union and the United States

For nearly 50 years, the transatlantic relationship between the United States and Western Europe was based on a common security interest. Even though security issues are still of major importance, it should be said that the end of the Cold War has increased the importance of trade relations *vis-a-vis* military ties.

In recent years, the political situation has changed radically in the United States. The incoming President Clinton shifted the focus to a renewal of America and the domestic economy. This shift found expression in efforts to strengthen US competitiveness, through federal support for research and development and an aggressive export strategy. In addition, the changes brought about recently by the elections to Congress signal growing resistance to spending abroad and a risk of growing unilateralism in foreign and trade policy.

The political dialogue between the European Union and the United States is based on the 1990 Transatlantic Declaration, which created a framework for consultation between the two sides. The question of a Transatlantic Treaty to put relations on a new footing has been mentioned on both sides of the Atlantic but there is no likelihood of these negotiations taking place before the end of the 1996 Intergovernmental Conference.

Trade between the European Union and the United States was of the order of ECU 185 billion in 1994. In recent months, the fall of the dollar has revived Europe's concern about apparent US disinterest in the impact of exchange rate changes on the rest of the world. The Section thinks that this problem underlines the lack of international cooperation on macroeconomic and monetary issues.

Even if 95% of bilateral trade is trouble-free, a number of problems exist at the moment. Some of these are old problems such as the consequences of EU enlargement, the audiovisual sector, bovine somatotropin and hormones in beef, the rules governing trade in agricultural produce, the aircraft industry and telecommunications.

The Section's view, published in the information report adopted on 6 July 1995 is that these disputes of varying intensity which disrupt transatlantic relations from time to time are due in the main to the different approaches in the European Union and the United States with regard to the nature of the market economy and the regulation of market failure and also because of the different ways of thinking of interest groups on each side of the Atlantic. There are also differences in the EU and US approaches to commercial policy. The US has proved much more proactive than the EU in commercial diplomacy and it has also displayed a worrying tendency to resort more and more to unilateral solutions.

The Section thinks it is important for the European Union and the United States to join together in implementing a policy of proactive multilateralism. Firstly, they must cooperate in ensuring the effective implementation of WTO agreements and procedures and especially the new disputes-settlement procedure. They must also be proactive with regard to the agenda for multilateral negotiations in the decade ahead, i.e. the harmonization of the rules governing direct investment, the relations between trade and the environment and between trade and social issues, competition policy and the protection of

consumers. The United States and the European Union are also jointly responsible for trying to involve Japan fully in world trade and for finding solutions to the problems facing developing countries.

In this new post Cold War context, the Section thinks that the transatlantic dialogue ought to be extended to new groupings with commercial, social and environmental interests. For economic and social interests, and in the light of support received for this idea from the US, the Committee might consider a regular exchange of views with its US counterparts.

In recent months, the idea of a transatlantic free trade arrangement has been raised on several occasions. Considering the risks involved in entering into negotiations on such an agreement with the United States, the Section suggests a more pragmatic approach which would seek to focus on common interests. This approach would concentrate on regulatory cooperation.

This cooperation should include the consultation of interests affected by regulatory policies. The Section thinks that the Committee, by building on the transatlantic business dialogue which is being set up, could, by virtue of its membership, play a constructive and useful role in deepening relations between the European Union and the United States.

Relations between the European Union and Latin America

In a Supplementary Opinion on EU-Latin American relations, the ESC welcomes the proposed strengthening of relations between the EU and Mercosur.

In the Committee's view, all economic and social sectors in both the EU and Mercosur will benefit from the enhancement of the EU's policy towards Mercosur by the introduction of an EU-Mercosur inter-regional framework agreement on trade and economic cooperation.

The Committee considers that special attention should be paid to the institutional dimension of EU-Mercosur relations. As part of its institutional structure, Mercosur is to establish an inter-regional consultative body known as the Economic and Social Forum.

The Committee considers it desirable that, as an important element of inter-regional relations, regular, institutionalized meetings should be held between the ESC and the Forum. Strong backing was given to an initiative of this kind by the representatives of the occupational organizations invited to a hearing in September 1995.

The Opinion stresses that the process of integrating Mercosur is supported by the business community and the trade unions. While supporting the overall process of Mercosur development, the trade unions of the four countries also consider it indispensable that the social dimension of integration be developed.

The Committee wishes to express its concern that an EU-Mercosur free trade agreement should be compatible with the Union's international obligations as regards the WTO, while conforming to the norms of the CAP.

In a second Additional Opinion on relations between the European Union and Mexico, the Committee notes that this country was one of the first in Latin America to engage in a process of modernization, making its economy one of the most open in that part of the world.

Following a major economic and financial crisis in 1994, Mexico launched a recovery programme, the first fruits of which were felt at the beginning of the following year.

The Committee welcomes the Commission's proposals in favour of strengthening relations with Mexico, the cornerstone of which would be the conclusion of an agreement to consolidate existing bilateral political, economic and cooperation relations. The agreement would be based on shared interests and would aim at long-term stability.

The ESC is aware of the Mexican government's efforts to democratize the country's government apparatus, to underpin political pluralism and to implement a human rights policy. Nevertheless, certain human rights abuses have slowed this process down, highlighting the scale of the problem in Mexico.

The ESC considers it essential that a new agreement should include a firm commitment by the Mexican government to make further progress on political democratization and upholding human rights as necessary elements in overall relations between the EU and Mexico. This democratic clause would apply to both sides.

The Commission's proposals suggest that the dialogue take the form of permanent contacts at various levels between the Mexican and Community administrations, and between the various political groupings in the Mexican and European Parliaments. The Committee believes that this structure should reflect the principles of efficacy, transparency and respect for political pluralism, with economic and social operators — in the case of the EU represented by the ESC — being included in the dialogue.

Concerning trade relations, the Committee favours the negotiation between the EU and Mexico of a new agreement which would boost trade between them and have the ultimate aim of gradually building up a free-trade zone in the industrial and service sectors, accompanied by progressive liberalization of farm trade which takes account of the sensitivity of certain products and is compatible with WTO rules.

With regard to financing, the Committee calls for the current amounts allocated to financing in this field to be updated and adjusted in line with the requirements of the new agreement, with the bulk earmarked for economic cooperation. As for cooperation, the Committee shares the Commission's

approach which seeks to enhance cooperation on the basis of exchanges of information, the implementation of projects of interest to both sides and the principle of co-financing.

Relations between the European Union and South Africa — development cooperation

In its Opinion on relations between the European Union and South Africa, the Committee confirms its backing for the twofold approach adopted by the Council, namely the rapid negotiation both of a protocol to the Lomé Convention and a bilateral trade and cooperation agreement. Future cooperation must take sufficient account of the short to medium-term moral and political responsibilities towards South Africa as well as the medium to long-term reciprocal interests of equal partners. Long-term economic cooperation with the EU could provide South Africa with social and ecological guidance, smoothing its path to the world economy.

The Committee supports the planned free trade agreement which is asymmetric during the transitional phase and believes that the difficulties associated with trade in agricultural products should ease as the reductions in farm support negotiated in the Uruguay Round are implemented. South Africa has considerable development and growth potential. The framework for this must be established by means of confidence-building political and economic measures and local rules to promote and safeguard investment. Collaboration with small and medium-sized businesses (including the informal sector and emerging businesses) will, with government support, open up simple and rapid job creation opportunities. The ESC believes the importance of NGOs for the development of civil society in South Africa to be undisputed.

The Committee is glad to note that the Commission has identified the acquisition of professional and occupational skills as a priority for cooperation between the EU and South Africa. It hopes that the Member States will contribute ideas and experience.

A bilateral cooperation agreement between South Africa and the EU must be compatible with the regional development interests of SACU and SADC as well as the ACP States and the rules of the WTO. The wide-ranging political dialogue planned, which will be conducted at ministerial level and at other levels of political responsibility and democratic decision-making, is a major contribution to the further stabilization of democracy and the rule of law, human rights and the promotion of social justice and the combating of poverty and all forms of discrimination.

The ESC draws attention to consideration of social aspects in the agreement between the EU and South Africa. Noting that labour relations will increasingly play a key role in calming the overall social climate and improving competitiveness, the Committee favours support for the social dialogue.

The Committee aims for intensive and comprehensive political dialogue with its counterpart Nedlac (National Economic Development and Labour Council) in support of the South African Government's efforts to achieve development, security and peace at home and throughout southern Africa.

Following a Council referral, the ESC published an Opinion on the Draft Council Directive on environmental measures taken by developing countries against the backdrop of sustainable development. The Committee welcomed the draft, noting that it was in line with the proposals the ESC itself had made in conjunction with the fifth Community action programme on the environment.

The role of the Economic and Social Committee in the run-up to the World Summit on Social Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women

With regard to the Commission communication relating to the World Summit on Social Development, the Committee welcomes the general thrust of the European Union's approach, i.e., that in the future international policies in the fields of economic relations, monetary relations and development must be more intimately linked to social policy objectives.

The Committee wants to highlight and support activities of the European Union aimed at encouraging, through multilateral action, international trade to contribute to social development. The EU must make a serious effort to make this a priority issue in the WTO.

In the Committee's view, one effective way to encourage governments to ratify and comply with important ILO Conventions is to give priority in granting aid and trade preferences to countries which undertake genuine and effective social development strategies.

The Committee wishes to stress the importance of the Commission's intention to help developing countries (and in particular the poorest among them) by measures which can stimulate gradual integration in the economy of the informal sector.

The Committee strongly recommends that the European Union makes a clearly defined contribution to the follow-up process of the Social Development Summit by selecting a limited number of initiatives in the field of employment creation, the fight against poverty and of social integration for coordinated, Union-wide action.

The Committee was represented in the European Community delegation to the World Summit on Social Development in March 1995.

The Committee considers that the aims and objectives of the decade — equality, development and peace — have not been fully achieved. It believes

that it is most urgent to encourage the distribution of multilateral and bilateral aid for developing countries so as to permit the establishment of action plans which can be quantified, monitored and adjusted and which contain precise objectives and a strict timetable; the aim would be to deal with problems preventing the consolidation of women's status.

Bearing in mind the Union's determination to tackle problems and face up to the current economic and social changes in the Member States, the Committee acknowledges the contribution of the White Paper on social policy, which follows on from the Green Paper; it feels that its proposals, and the favourable response to it, can be powerful instruments for forging ahead in the areas concerned, particularly in respect of a combined policy for the labour market and social issues.

The Committee hopes to see the European Union sanctioning strategic objectives at the Beijing Conference which allow women economic independence, and enable women to escape once and for all from poverty and violence, to participate in the decision-making process and to stand up to all forms of discrimination, and attach equally crucial importance to effective follow-up measures.

8. ENERGY POLICY, NUCLEAR QUESTIONS AND RESEARCH

In 1995, the number of referrals received by the Section fell. Although this might give the wrong impression that work was falling off, comparisons with 1994 are invidious since in that year, the Section was consulted on all the specific programmes falling under the fourth R&TD framework programme. With the exception of this particular area, the Section had a normal workload in 1995.

The Section took advantage of this situation to organize two hearings on topical issues: the coordination of R&TD policies and Euro-Mediterranean cooperation in the energy sector. Of the eight Opinions adopted last year, five dealt with energy, while the other three focused on research and technological development. Two of these were Own-initiative Opinions.

In November 1995, the Section received three new referrals on the following topics:

- introduction of rational planning techniques in the electricity and gas-distribution sectors,
- modification of the specific R&TD programme (1994-98) in the field of cooperation with third countries and international organizations,

- health protection of individuals against the dangers of ionizing radiation in relation to medical exposures.

Work on the above Opinions would commence in early 1996.

Energy

In this sector, efforts to adopt concrete measures to hasten the achievement of an internal energy market almost came to a halt. By contrast, efforts to improve the utilization of energy continued.

To this end, the Council consulted the Committee in January 1995 on a draft directive on the application of a number of minimum energy efficiency standards for household refrigerators and freezers. The proposal is included among the measures envisaged under the SAVE programme.

The Commission document is justified on the grounds that progress in the Member States has so far been insufficient although major decisions have already been taken at national level. The Commission document therefore proposes a range of standards and incentives designed to achieve:

- (i) a 13% reduction in the annual electricity consumption of refrigeration appliances by the year 2002;
- (ii) a 10% reduction in annual CO₂ emissions by the same year;
- (iii) an average price increase of only about 1%, with a 10% reduction in the cost of electricity consumed during the lifetime of the appliance in question;
- (iv) approximate energy savings of ECU 1 400 million per year.

In April 1995, the Committee approved the Commission proposal, although it considered that:

- (i) in addition to laying down minimum standards, encouragement should be given to making the consumer more aware of the benefits of buying energy-efficient appliances;
- (ii) measures should be taken for other household appliances;
- (iii) price increases for refrigerators and freezers and the reduction in electricity costs could have a very different financial impact on different groups of consumers in some Member States;
- (iv) industry and consumers had to be actively involved in evaluating findings.

In June 1995, the Committee adopted an Opinion on the Green Paper entitled 'For a European energy policy'. The Green Paper acknowledges the contribution made to the Commission document by the Economic and Social

Committee's Own-initiative Opinion on Community energy policy, adopted on 14 September 1994.

With the 1996 Intergovernmental Conference in mind, the Commission seeks to analyse the energy prospects for the next 20 years with the aim of defining the main thrust of a common energy policy.

In its analysis, the Commission draws up a number of policy guidelines for the future based on what it deems to be 'gaps and insufficiencies of the current position'. In its attempts to devise an energy policy for the EU, the Green Paper sets out a number of objectives which include:

- (i) the satisfaction of consumers' needs — be they individuals or enterprises — at the lowest cost while meeting the requirements of security of supply and environmental protection;
- (ii) cooperation between the decision-makers and operators of energy policy, so as to further the convergence of national and Community policies;
- (iii) the need to clarify the allocation of Member States' and EU responsibilities in energy policy;
- (iv) the pre-eminence of the free operation of the market as the main instrument of any energy policy, which implies limiting the intervention of the public authorities to the absolute minimum;
- (v) the drawing-up of a White Paper which will serve as the EU's working plan in the energy sector.

The Committee's Opinion, which was adopted on the basis of the document presented by the Commission in January 1995, was fairly critical of the proposals contained in the Green Paper. It noted a number of major omissions and errors, including:

- (i) the need to add two further objectives (economic and social cohesion and job-creation) to the three already mentioned by the Commission;
- (ii) the lack of priorities attached to the different objectives;
- (iii) the need to define new Community energy-policy principles, such principles going beyond the straightforward convergence of national and Community policies;
- (iv) a central role for economic and regulatory instruments, without defining the responsibilities and powers of the various players.

The Committee's Opinion called upon the Commission to examine its proposals with a view to formulating the White Paper and especially the need to create a coherent institutional framework in the energy sector with the 1996 IGC in mind.

In the closing months of the year, the Section was much more active with five Opinions being adopted at the October plenary, including the Own-initiative Opinion on the European Energy Charter Treaty and the Opinion on the review of Community energy legislation.

The Own-initiative Opinion on the European Energy Charter Treaty is a major landmark in the work of the Committee in that it provides an overview of developments in the field three years after the last Opinion on the matter and because it analyses the concrete implementation of the principles contained in the Charter with a view to defining future action.

The European Energy Charter Treaty is of vital importance in defining and giving direction to the general policies and economies of the EU and the other countries of Europe.

The main provisions of the Treaty may be summarized as follows:

- (i) foreign investment must be given treatment no less favourable than that accorded to domestic investors ('national treatment') and that accorded to investors of any other contracting party ('most-favoured nation treatment');
- (ii) each of the contracting parties has sovereignty over its energy resources and also the right to demarcate geographical areas within its territory for exploration and development;
- (iii) for trade in energy products, contracting parties who are not members of GATT will now enjoy GATT rights and also assume GATT obligations;
- (iv) the Treaty has its own dispute settlement machinery for disputes over all provisions except those on competition and the environment.

The Committee Opinion made a number of comments on the progress which had been made and on a number of significant questions to which this progress had given rise. In particular it:

- (i) voiced its concern about the real danger of the Treaty not being ratified, given that Russia could not complete the ratification process by the end of the year, i.e. at the end of the Duma's current term of office;
- (ii) called upon the EU Member States to make a sustained effort to bring about the active, practical identification of these countries with the aims and objects of the Energy Charter Treaty;
- (iii) noted the need, given the co-existence of two international agreements on nuclear safety, to clarify the differences between the two texts by extending the IAEA Convention to cover the full range of issues addressed by the Declaration on nuclear energy;

- (iv) envisaged the possibility of adapting the Treaty to cater for the need for good industrial relations in all enterprises and to activities to which the Treaty applies.

Involved in the streamlining and simplification of Community legislation, the Committee's October plenary session also adopted an Opinion on proposals amending Regulations in this area.

Although the Commission proposal is of limited scope (rational use of energy and the oil sector), it still makes a significant contribution by identifying Community legislation that needs to be repealed, either because it has lost all practical value or because it has been overtaken by the Community legislative process.

The Committee's Opinion examined the legislative instruments it was proposed to repeal, recommending the following:

- (i) greater clarity and precision regarding the legislative instruments to be examined, and regarding the criteria for selecting and drawing up the list;
- (ii) the inclusion in every legislative instrument, where appropriate, of provisions repealing existing legislation which has become obsolete or follows on from the new act;
- (iii) an explanation of the substantive and administrative reasons for its decision to keep legislation on the statute book, in accordance with the need for transparency of any reform of current Community legislation;
- (iv) the adoption of a new set of laws in this sector which would meet the needs of the internal market, take account of the structural changes in the oil market over the last 20 years, and tie in closely with the measures provided for under the International Energy Agency;
- (v) the introduction of appropriate instruments to enable the EU to react rapidly to any energy supply difficulty.

Finally, the Committee stressed its support for the policy of legislative reform initiated by the Commission, pointing out that it fully endorsed the Commission's intention to extend its review of Community energy legislation to sectors not covered by the present Report.

Within the same framework of implementing existing legislation, the Committee adopted an Opinion on the new proposal on notifying the Commission of investment projects of interest to the Community in the petroleum, natural gas and electricity sectors. The Committee strongly advocated the adoption of the following measures:

- (i) the extension of the deadlines for the submission of information by individuals and enterprises to Member States and by Member States to the Commission;
- (ii) a reduction of the volume of information required.

The Committee also considered that the information requested under the Regulation should comply solely with the requirements of energy-policy and equipment-manufacture planning.

The Committee recommended:

- a revision of Regulation (EEC) No 3025/72 to include the Economic and Social Committee among the recipients of the summary referred to, while respecting the principle of transparency in the procedure for obtaining information.

Nuclear questions

The Section's activities in this field have been practically at a standstill pending the initial results of the Community illustrative nuclear programmes (PINC).

Work has now started on an Opinion on the health protection of individuals against the dangers of ionizing radiation in relation to medical exposures. No new legislation in this area has been adopted. The political connotations of any such decisions go a long way to explaining the current situation.

Research

The enlargement of the EU to 15 Members presupposes not only the participation of new Members in the framework programme (1994-98) but also a major expansion of the financial resources earmarked for research and technological development policies. As a consequence of Austrian, Finnish and Swedish accession, the Commission has submitted a draft decision which provides for additional funding of some 7%, with appropriations rising from ECU 12 300 million to 13 161 million, of which 11 819 million would be spent on the EC framework programme and 1 342 million on the Euratom framework programme. The Committee approved the proposal which merely implemented, in the R&TD sector, decisions already taken under the budgetary procedure.

On 26 September, the Committee approved the Own-initiative Opinion on the coordination of R&D policies based on previous Commission and Parliament work on the implementation of Articles 130h, 130k and 130l of the Treaty.

A previous Commission communication has also spelt out the urgent need to coordinate existing Community programmes which were characterized by fragmentation of decision-making levels.

The proposed objectives of the Committee Opinion included:

- (i) the establishment of a common reference framework, for Community and national authorities with CREST, which would include industry and user representatives, basing itself on the inputs from the European Science and Technology Assembly;
- (ii) greater transparency in Community and national programmes, guaranteeing common access procedures;
- (iii) a coordinated drive to translate technology into growth and employment, the aim being to enhance economic and social cohesion and revive the jobs' market;
- (iv) the implementation of a systematic exchange of information between Member States, translated into readily accessible databases on proposed national research and innovation projects.

All these coordination measures were designed to complete and implement the actions proposed in earlier Commission documents; they highlighted the importance of strengthening enterprise policy for SMEs via the creation of a favourable legal framework. The Committee Opinion also contained a series of recommendations to make it easier to achieve these objectives.

With regard to the industrial association projects, an innovative form of coordination was proposed, consisting of an attempt to define common criteria for the inclusion of industrial association projects in a 'package deal', for formal approval by the Council and European Parliament. The focus of the coordination process would be moved to the beginning of the chain (bottom-up coordination), with new inter-DG Commission Task Forces created for each project.

In short, the Opinion sought to hasten the implementation of R&D actions within the framework programme and national programmes, assigning an important role to the protection of new technologies, the systematic exchange of information between the Member States and the improvement of transparency in Community and national regulations.

At the October plenary session; the Committee also approved the Opinion on the Proposal for a Council Decision approving amendments to the Statutes of the Joint European Torus (JET), joint undertaking.

The Committee raised no objections to the Commission's main proposal, which was that JET should be extended beyond 1996 to provide scientific and technological support for the construction of an international thermonuclear experimental reactor (ITER), as part of a quadripartite cooperation scheme between Euratom, the United States, the Russian Federation and Japan. This proposal to extend the life of the joint enterprise did not involve any change in the total expenditure allocated to implementation of the proj-

ect; there was therefore no need to adjust the funding assigned to the 1994-98 fusion programme.

The Committee also endorsed the other changes to JET Statutes, which arose from the need to bring the text into line with the other EU Treaty changes occasioned by the accession of Sweden and Finland.

This description of Section work in 1995 would not be complete without a reference to the Section's activities outside the Committee, and particularly in relation to other Community institutions. In this connection outside speakers gave talks on topics of concern to the Section. In June, the Section was addressed by Mr Papoutsis, Commissioner responsible for energy matters, and in July by Mr Contzen, Director-General of the Common Research Centre (DG XII — Science, Research and Development); in February Mr Jones, Secretary-General of the European Energy Charter addressed a Section meeting. Finally, the Commission's new Director-General for Energy, Mr De Miguel, attended the last Section meeting in 1995.

The Section was also honoured by the visit of Spanish Presidency representatives, responsible for energy and research, namely Mr La Fuente, Secretary-General for Energy, and Mr Octavio de Toledo, Secretary of State for Research. Both visits coincided with the Section meeting on 26 July 1995 and provided valuable information on the Spanish Presidency's programme in these sectors.

The Section meeting in December was attended by the new Spanish Secretary for Research and Higher Education, Mr Banda, who reported on the activities of the Spanish Presidency.

Other visits and contacts organized for Section members, included a visit to installations in Framatome in Chalon-sur-Saône (France) and a trip to Culham (United Kingdom) under the research programme on controlled nuclear fusion.

The Section President undertook a large number of official visits with a view to strengthening Section activities. Contacts were made with permanent advisors on energy and research in the 15 Member States, with the Directors-General of DG XII (Science, Research and Development) and DG XVII (Energy), with socioeconomic organizations; Section delegates also attended Conferences in Brussels and abroad (Tunisia, Cairo, etc.) on energy and research topics.

Other important external activities in 1995 included hearings held on 17 May and 19 October respectively on the Coordination of Research Policies, and Energy Cooperation in the Mediterranean. The latter hearing was attended by 13 representatives of southern and eastern Mediterranean countries, various energy experts from the permanent representations of EU Member States as

well as representatives from the EP, the Council and socioeconomic organizations.

The conclusions of this latter hearing were used as background material for the Euro-Mediterranean Conference held in Barcelona on 27 and 28 November 1995.

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

Environment

Ambient air quality

During the year, the Committee gave two related Opinions on the ambient air. The first dealt with the quality of the ambient air and the second sought to establish an exchange of information about pollution. The aim of the Commission proposal was to define a strategy which limits or prevents harmful effects of air pollution on human health and the environment.

The Committee endorsed the thrust of the draft Directive and the proposed rules subject to certain changes. It felt that the dangers and potential damage of atmospheric pollution make the issue and implementation of the Directive a matter of urgency. The Committee was pleased to note that the draft Directive provides for a programme for the adoption of air quality objectives at European level. The Committee has called for a programme of this kind, most recently in its Opinion on the integrated pollution prevention and control Directive.

Exchange of information about air pollution

The Committee welcomed the proposal as it represents an important step both in establishing effective and comparable checks on ambient air quality and in making more information available to the EU citizen. However, observations were made regarding, for instance, the list of pollutants in Annex 1 and the quantity of exchangeable data.

Protection of the Alps

The Committee supported the Commission's proposal to secure Community ratification of the Alpine Convention as quickly as possible.

The Committee took the view that a range of problems, relating particularly to farming, protection of nature and the landscape, tourism and transport, must be tackled and solved when the Convention's implementing protocols are being drawn up, taking account of the fact that ecology is a dynamic relationship between man and the environment.

Economic growth and the environment

During the year, the most important and profoundly debated Opinion in the field of the environment was the Opinion on economic growth and its impact on the environment. The Committee shared the belief put forward in the Commission's communication that the economic growth and ecologically sustainable development are not mutually exclusive and that in the long term, environmentally sustainable development is an essential precondition for growing economic prosperity.

The Committee feels that environmental taxes and charges and, more generally, ecologically-oriented taxation systems, will prove to be effective in a large number of cases in achieving significant pollution-abatement levels and reduced consumption of resources. However, there is a good reason to believe that other market-based instruments (deposit-refund systems, tradable permit systems, etc.) will be particularly effective in attaining certain specific objectives of environmental policy.

The Committee believes that given the fiscal neutrality of environmental taxes, their introduction would lead to a reform of existing tax systems in Member States. Therefore, the introduction of new environmental taxes should be accompanied by a thorough analysis of existing tax systems and the environmental distortions they create. Furthermore, the Committee believes there is a need for close ties between environmental policy and employment policy.

Finally, the Committee emphasized the need for a coherent, long-term policy strategy. Despite the need to simplify regulations, the Committee would reiterate its reluctance to interpret the use of economic instruments in the environmental field as being part of the deregulation process, since the implementation of market-based instruments demands a framework of regulatory and monitoring provisions.

Interim evaluation — Fifth environment programme

The Committee considers that the review of the action programme should provide the opportunity to enhance and clarify the body of economic and legal instruments required for implementing a Community environment policy.

The Committee urges that the environmental protection aspect be regarded as an integral part of all Community policies and, as such, be borne in mind

not just in the policies to promote growth and employment but also in international trade policy. With a view to the revision of the Treaties, the Committee calls for the co-decision procedure to be extended to cover all areas of environmental policy and the relationship between Article 100a (internal market) and Articles 130r *et seq.* (environmental policy) to be clarified.

Dangerous substances

The Committee agreed with the Commission's proposal to harmonize restrictions on the use of hexachloroethane (HCE) in order to:

- (a) avoid the creation of barriers to trade with EU States which are not party to Parcom (Convention for the Prevention of Marine Pollution from Land-Based Sources);
- (b) ensure a high level of environmental protection;
- (c) enable the Commission to fulfil its obligations arising from the Parcom Convention.

Civil protection

The Committee hopes that as well as supporting, backing up and supplementing national activities, the Community action programme in the field of civil protection will seek to inject Community added value in an area which is closely bound up with the development of a citizen's Europe.

As regards the forthcoming Treaty revision, a title on civil protection, either in the form of a separate chapter or as an adjunct to an existing chapter should be included.

Supervision and control of shipments of waste

The Committee unanimously approved the Commission's proposal (Decision II/12 of the Basic Convention) to control the shipment of waste within and outside the Community. However, the Committee is concerned with the differing interpretations which surround the classification of hazardous waste, and considers that the total export ban should apply to hazardous waste alone.

The Committee also considers that the proposal should be more flexible with regard to waste for recycling. However, both the existing Regulation and the proposal indiscriminately restrict the recovery of recycling materials, when this should only be prohibited in the case of hazardous waste which is exported for recovery without sufficient guarantees that recovery will actually be effected.

Financial instrument for the environment (LIFE)

In analysing the present proposal amending the LIFE Regulation, the Committee would stress the crucial importance of the following: adequate level of funding, long-term coherence, and a feasible strategy of sustainable development. It is also important, given the participatory approach and the principle of sharing out responsibilities under the fifth action programme, to evaluate the stimulus given to partnership schemes involving socioeconomic actors and non-governmental organizations and producing multiplier effects.

The Committee is in agreement with the general principle of reducing the number of areas of activity and defining them more carefully, but believes that the Commission's current choice is too restrictive and does not adequately highlight at least two areas where Community action is necessary and opportune (preventing and reducing atmospheric emissions and protecting soil quality).

There is a need to ensure the dissemination of know-how and information on findings of the 'demonstration projects' and 'projects setting examples'. Account must also be taken of the need to set in motion systematic procedures for monitoring and checking on the progress of financially-supported projects so as to limit, through appropriate preventive action, the failure rate.

Finally, the Committee would stress that the various financial instruments need to be closely coordinated, with uniform aims, strategies and concrete decisions, so that the Community action is not contradictory and does not lead to duplication. LIFE — even though its own financial resources are relatively modest — should play a dynamic role in stimulating and guiding all other environmental funding from a variety of Community instruments. Existing horizontal links between appropriate departments should, if necessary, be stepped up.

Quality of water intended for human consumption

The Committee endorses the Commission proposal to amend the 'drinking water Directive' which, in its view, is primarily a health-policy measure. It particularly welcomes the dropping of the incorrect and obsolete parameters, the abolition of indicative values and the adoption of rules to deal with situations where parametric values are exceeded.

The Committee hopes that the communication and new framework Directive on water policy recently announced by the Commission will effectively resolve the present obvious lack of coherence in Community legislation.

The Committee is pleased that the Commission has followed the World Health Organization recommendations but feels that the retention of a far more severe limit value for plant protection products can only be justified on precautionary grounds. The Directive should contain clear provisions for the

establishment of parametric values for individual active substances in plant protection products, and allow for a review of the lists of parameters so as to avoid the emergence of costly 'data graveyards'.

The additional costs resulting from the measures to protect and improve drinking water provided for in the draft Directive make it necessary, in the Committee's view, to carry out detailed cost-effectiveness studies.

For lead, the Committee stresses the importance of precaution but asks the Commission to investigate ways of reducing lead absorption other than the replacement of pipes and to consider programmes to aid low-income households.

The Committee basically gives its full support to the Commission's efforts to increase transparency in implementing the Directive.

Consumer protection

At the beginning of 1995, the Committee gave its Opinion on the proposal amending Council Directive 80/777/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the exploitation and marketing of natural mineral waters.

The objective was to revise the original Directive 80/777 on mineral waters in accordance with the decision of the Edinburgh Summit of December 1992 that certain EU legislation was unnecessarily detailed and needed to be rationalized.

The Committee endorsed the amended proposal for a Directive, subject to a number of specific comments. The Committee considered that reference should be made to the separation of 'undesirable constituents' in order to take account of advances in the field of toxicology. The Committee also stated that it should be mandatory in all cases for labelling of natural mineral waters to list any treatment that the water has undergone, in order to avoid any grounds for misapprehension and to guarantee fair trade. Finally, the Committee suggested that the Scientific Committee for Food should be consulted also in respect of the definition of the abovementioned 'undesirable constituents'.

In vitro diagnostic medical devices

The Committee welcomed the approach to let the implementation of the Directive remain in the hands of the Member States. The following comments were made:

- (i) the Directive should embrace all control materials, irrespective of the way in which they are used in medical laboratories;

- (ii) regarding the traceability requirement, provisions should be further tightened through the establishment of a standard by the European standards bodies CEN/Cenelec;
- (iii) it is important for users to continue to participate in any future development of the Directive;
- (iv) the 'instructions for use' should be in the language of the target country so that they could be understood by the users.

Foodstuffs

Foodstuffs intended for particular nutritional uses

The Committee unanimously approved the Commission's proposal, introducing a procedure by which temporary marketing authorization (two-year period) can be granted for products resulting from technological innovation, after consultation with the Scientific Committee for Food (SCF) to check that such innovations do not pose a risk to consumer health, thus shortening the length of time taken to allow the marketing of new innovative products while ensuring a high level of protection for the consumers.

The Committee, however, held the view that the proposal only addressed part of the problem and made some recommendations to further improve its positive impact such as the inclusion of substances other than those considered in the current framework directive (89/398/EEC) and ways of assisting the SCF to come to decisions earlier.

Prohibition of the use of certain additives in the production of certain foodstuffs

The Committee considered that there were no health grounds to justify the Commission's proposal to authorize Member States to maintain their prohibition on the use of certain additives in the production of certain foodstuffs considered traditional.

The proposal would only be acceptable to the Committee provided it was modified so:

- (i) products were labelled with three elements namely tradition, country and product name;
- (ii) products so labelled could be manufactured in any Member State;
- (iii) products not labelled with these three elements had to conform to the normal rules for additives, composition, etc.;
- (iv) Member States could not put any administrative and regulatory obstacles in the way of such products.

Food additives other than colours and sweeteners

The Committee unanimously approved the Commission's proposal to add a new food additive 'alternatively refined carrageenin' to the positive list of food additives developed under the framework Directive 89/107/EC, now that it has been evaluated by the SCF, subject to the following changes:

- (i) find a more meaningful name for the new additive, which should be clearly different from E 407 carrageenin in order to avoid confusion. The Committee suggested 'euchema gum';
- (ii) the E number should be clearly different from that used for carrageenin, possibly E 408.

Pesticide residues in and on fruit, vegetables, cereals and foodstuffs

The Committee endorses the proposed streamlining and unification of the procedure for fixing maximum residue levels (MRLs) but recommends that this be done under a III-b type Regulatory Committee procedure (with 'counter safety-net') and that the concept of Member State of origin and destination be defined for the purpose of fixing import and temporary MRLs and facilitating the settlement of disputes between Member States.

With a view to protecting consumer health, the Committee approves the extension of the Directives' scope to dried, processed and composite products as well as to products for export to non-EC countries. Products intended for non-food uses and not covered by the Directive should, in the Committee's view, be strictly checked to ensure that they are not used as foodstuffs or animal food.

Pending the harmonization of national legislation, the Committee views the proposed procedure for settling disputes between Member States as a practical solution. In its view, it should encompass processed products.

The Committee recommends encouraging crop diversification by taking full advantage of existing research to protect smaller-scale crops against parasites and calls on the Commission to support research on pesticides presenting no human health risks and environment-friendly farm methods. Here it recommends the setting-up of an international pesticide information exchange office.

Indication of prices of consumer products

The Committee approves the proposal's aim of enhancing transparency, in the belief that healthy competition and consumer protection will benefit. For purposes of simplicity, it welcomes the breaking of the link between the obligation to indicate the unit price and 'ranges' of prepackaging. The use of

ranges should not be affected by the proposed change to the price information system.

The Committee calls for small retailers to be allowed to indicate the selling price and unit price either on the shelf or on a centralized price list displayed in an easily visible place. For the transitional period when both the national and single currencies are in operation, the Committee proposes that three prices be indicated for each product to familiarize people with the single Community currency.

The Committee wishes to see an obligation for Member States to draw up positive lists of products subject to the new requirement and for the Commission to ensure sufficient uniformity, for instance by providing a reference to the Common Customs Tariff number. In view of the difficulties experienced by small retailers, the Committee calls on the Commission to initiate information programmes specifically targeted at this group.

The Committee hopes that the Commission will find suitable ways of ensuring that the two-year deadline for adjustment to the new Directive is respected. It proposes that the Commission draw up a first report on implementation of the Directive in the first year following its publication and that the Commission involve the Committee closely in preparation of the relevant reports.

Public health

Prevention of drug addiction

The Committee approved by a majority the Commission's proposal for a Community strategy in the field of drug dependency, accepting that prevention needs effort on local, national and global level involving multi-disciplinary and multi-dimensional responses.

The Committee endorsed the Commission's initiative in this area recognizing the urgent need to support:

- (i) the evaluation of current research and practices;
- (ii) the promotion and evaluation of innovative programmes, particularly in education;
- (iii) the exchange of information and experience.

Promotion, information, education, training — public health

The Committee endorsed the need for Community action in the field of public health, and considered the move essential for disease prevention, the dissemination of health information and health education.

The Committee believed that the Commission should set up appropriate structures to encourage directly the organization and management of national and trans-national pilot schemes involving NGOs and scientific or training associations, which should have a solid, scientific underpinning, be subject to cost-benefit analysis; and, where attention should be paid to the authenticity of public information.

AIDS prevention

The Committee unanimously approved the Commission's proposals which constituted a continuation, broadening and consolidation of Community measures to reduce as far as possible the spread of certain communicable diseases, including HIV and AIDS.

The Committee considered that Community action would gain in solidarity and coherence by being extended to cover other communicable diseases; although it called for a distinction to be made between action on AIDS and action in connection with other infectious diseases.

The Committee noted, on one hand, the Commission's intention to maintain and strengthen links with NGO's; but on the other hand, it deplored both the failure of the Communication to refer to the social partners and its underestimation of the scope for action at the workplace, and asked for specific measures in that area.

The Committee wondered whether information about Community actions was being properly disseminated in the Member States and whether it was accessible to NGOs, asking for the distribution of information booklets.

The Committee stated that particular attention should be paid to 'new types of infection' and organization of *ad hoc* epidemiological surveys.

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 (see, in particular, the section on external relations), 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 its external relations expertise. The Committee is thus developing into a forum in which players from both trade and industry and from society as a whole can work together to promote enhanced European integration and external relations.

The following factors played a primary role in the process in 1995:

- (i) the development along market economy lines of the national economies of Central and Eastern Europe as part of a strategy to prepare for future accessions linked to the establishment of economic and social organizations and consultation mechanisms;
- (ii) 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, Tunisia);
- (iii) the introduction of the partnership concept into relations with Europe's neighbours (non-EU Mediterranean countries and CIS), arising from the realization that geographical proximity and the resultant interdependence are a compelling argument for common solutions;
- (iv) 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;
- (v) the adjustments needed in cooperation within the European Economic Area (EEA) in the wake of the accession of Austria, Finland and Sweden.

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, thus allowing the Committee to develop a whole new area of activity. 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 and those in the Mediterranean region.

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 and Bulgaria), the ESC has called for the setting-up of consultative committees consisting of members of the ESC and their counterparts in the associated

States. In each of the Association Agreements, it is stipulated 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.

Mr Josef Olesky, Prime Minister of the Polish Republic, in Brussels on 5 and 6 April for a series of official visits (EU, NATO, WEU), visited the Economics and Social Committee. Accompanied by four under-secretaries of State and the two Polish ambassadors in Brussels, Mr Olesky had a working lunch with Mr Ferrer, President of the ESC, and 10 members.

This rendezvous showed the interest that the highest authorities in Poland are showing in dialogue with the socioeconomic partners, not only within their own country but also with their counterparts in the Union. By common agreement, the Prime Minister and the President decided to set up structures to facilitate dialogue between the European and Polish social partners as rapidly as possible.

The Polish Tripartite Commission for Socioeconomic Affairs under the chairmanship of Mr Baczkowski, Under-Secretary of State at the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, was received on 14 September at the Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities (ESC) by the ESC Vice-President, Mr André Laur, and the President of the ESC's Section for Social Affairs, Mr John Carroll.

A working meeting was held with a delegation of members from the Social Affairs and External Relations Sections. Discussions focused on the Tripartite Commission's role in the social dialogue set-up in Poland and on the development of consultative procedures involving all economic and social interest groups.

The ESC's Rapporteurs for the various Opinions on Central and Eastern Europe presented the ESC's views and concerns regarding EU-Polish relations. The present situation in Poland and activities connected with the country's pre-membership strategy were discussed; the talks then moved on to study the development of future cooperation between the ESC and its Polish counterparts.

The following key points emerged:

- (i) a need was felt to strengthen contacts between the ESC and its Polish counterparts so that issues of mutual interest could be discussed;
- (ii) the economic and social interest groups should take advantage of the opportunities provided by Article 107 of the EU/Poland Association Agreement, which allows the Association Council to set up special committees to help it fulfil its tasks;

- (iii) such bodies should include a joint committee made up of members of the ESC and its Polish partners;
- (iv) the joint committees should promote dialogue and cooperation between the economic and social interest groups in the European Union and Poland.

This visit was preceded by talks between the heads of the Polish Tripartite Commission for socioeconomic Affairs and the President of the Section for External Relations, Mr Briesch, together with the Rapporteurs on relations with the CEECs.

Since the socio-occupational part of the Tripartite Commission comprises representatives of Polish employers and trade unions only, the Committee stressed that it was also interested in dialogue with organizations representing various interests and the farming sector, which constitute a major part of economic activity in Poland.

In the light of this request, a delegation of representatives from Polish farming organizations, chaired by Mrs Maria Zwolinska, Under-Secretary of State at the Polish Ministry of Agriculture and the Food Sector, paid a fact-finding visit to the Committee on 5 December 1995. ESC Vice-President Laur and a number of Committee members expert in agricultural policy briefed the delegation about the Committee and about cooperation in the agricultural sector between the EU and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe.

A delegation of Romania's Tripartite Secretariat for Social Dialogue accompanied by Mr Partenie (Secretary of State responsible for the social dialogue), made a fact-finding visit to Brussels between 29 May and 1 June 1995. The delegation had the opportunity to meet the Presidency and members of the Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities and attend the ESC's plenary session.

Information was given on Romania's social and economic organizations and their involvement in the political process in Romania through consultative mechanisms at presidential and government levels, as well as within the context of the social dialogue.

The essential points to emerge from discussions can be summarized as follows:

- (i) it was agreed that there was a need to strengthen contacts between the ESC and its Romanian counterparts to discuss questions of mutual interest;
- (ii) these contacts should result in a common declaration concerning Article III of the EU/Romanian Association Agreement which stipulates that the Association Council shall examine the possibility of establishing a con-

- sultative mechanism composed of members of the Community's Economic and Social Committee and their counterparts in Romania;
- (iii) the representation of socioeconomic interests in such a mixed EU/Romanian Consultative Committee should reflect all categories represented on the ESC so that consultations would be as representative and autonomous as possible;
 - (iv) in parallel with bilateral cooperation, it was intended to hold multilateral meetings in future on specific topics of concern to economic and social organizations of the European Union and countries of Central and Eastern Europe;
 - (v) Romania's Tripartite Secretariat could, even though it was more specifically geared to social dialogue in the strict sense of the word, play the role of mediator in getting cooperation going.

The information gathered on the mode of representation of all socioeconomic categories and their involvement in decision-making at European level will certainly influence the future composition of the consultative mechanisms currently taking shape in Romania.

On 17 July 1995, at the meeting of the EU/Hungary Association Council, the parties reached an agreement in principle on the establishment of a Joint Consultative Committee to promote dialogue and cooperation between the economic and social interest groups in the European Union and Hungary; this decision will be adopted formally at a later stage by written procedure.

In addition, the Committee continued the multilateral cooperation upon which it embarked in 1992, organizing a meeting with representatives from economic and social bodies from the countries of Central and Eastern Europe during the preparation of an information report to evaluate the PHARE programme. (See the section on external relations.)

African, Caribbean and Pacific States (ACP)

The ACP/EU Follow-up Committee, composed of 24 members representing economic and social interest groups of ACP countries and of the European Union, made a fact-finding visit to Trinidad and Tobago from 8 to 10 October. The information gathered during this visit focused on the specific economic and social conditions of the Caribbean region, employment promotion and the outlook for decentralized development cooperation between Caribbean and European partners. In the course of their working meeting, the Follow-up Committee members discussed issues with Mr Edwin W. Carrington, Secretary-General of Caricom, and with representatives of the main Caribbean economic and social interest groups.

The discussions focused on the participation of the economic and social interest groups in development cooperation. There was a consensus:

- (i) that the lack of widespread information on the Lomé IV Convention is a major obstacle in its proper implementation;
- (ii) that development cooperation should not be monopolized by governments, but should take the form of decentralized cooperation to a greater extent; and
- (iii) that the role of the delegations of the European Commission is of decisive importance for the success of decentralized cooperation.

The participants urged the need for:

- (i) closer involvement of civil society, by a direct approach to development projects;
- (ii) consultation and participation of economic and social interest groups in the programming of development cooperation;
- (iii) strengthening of regional indicative programmes to foster economic cooperation.

In particular, the Follow-up Committee was briefed on the opportunities open to Caricom in the pursuit of decentralized cooperation under the terms of the Lomé IV Convention and on the economic progress of small developing island States in a global economy. Employment promotion in a liberalized market was described using case studies and examples from various sectors of the economy.

The 19th annual meeting of the representatives of ACP/EU economic and social interest groups took place on 7 and 8 December 1995. The topic was the agri-food chain in the ACP countries — the role of private initiatives and of the economic and social interest groups. This meeting was held in accordance with Article 32 (2b) of the Lomé Convention and was organized by the Committee under the auspices of the ACP/EU Joint Assembly which was responsible for scheduling the meeting and determining the theme. Two introductory documents drawn up by two preparatory groups from the Committee and the ACP respectively provided a basis for discussion. A final declaration was adopted.

Among the issues touched on, this declaration stresses the role played by small producers, in conjunction with women and with farmers' associations and cooperatives, in ensuring food self-sufficiency and food security in the ACP countries, as well as the importance of supporting their action. The declaration also stresses that agriculture will have to play a greater role in the development process in the future. The participants also recognized the major function served by decentralized cooperation in the development of the ACP countries; they could not however fail to observe that the approach followed to date does not allow economic and social interest groups to play an efficiently effective or decisive role. To foster the development and mobiliza-

tion of initiatives by those working in the sector, the mechanisms for access to decentralized cooperation must be sufficiently straightforward and clear-cut to allow ACP economic and social players to implement their projects in a pragmatic fashion, tailored to their resources.

Mediterranean countries

In its December 1993 Opinion on relations between the European Union and Turkey, the Economic and Social Committee fleshed out ideas for cooperation between economic and social interest groups and recommended the establishment of a Joint Consultative Committee with equal representation for both sides. Subsequently, on 6 March 1995, the EU/Turkey Association Council noted with satisfaction that a body of this kind had been established in line with Article 27 of the Ankara Agreement. This Committee comprises 36 members, half from the Economic and Social Committee, half from Turkish economic and social interest groups. Its inaugural session was held on the ESC premises on 16 November 1995.

In his welcoming address, ESC Vice-President, Mr André Laur, recalled the origins of the Consultative Committee whose remit is to institutionalize socio-occupational dialogue and strengthen cooperation between Turkey and the EU.

Mr Hüsamettin Kavi, Chairman of the Board of Administration of the Istanbul Chamber of Commerce, representing the Turkish Union of Chambers and Exchanges (TOOB), and Mr Roger Briesch, President of the ESC's Section for External Relations, were appointed Co-Chairmen of the Consultative Committee. Following these appointments, statements were made on current EU-Turkey relations by the Turkish Ambassador to the EU, H.E. Mr Özülker and by representatives of the current EU Council Presidency and the European Commission.

A number of Turkish members of the Consultative Committee spoke on the current situation in Turkey and on the customs union question. The ensuing debate clearly showed the full support given by the Consultative Committee to any strengthening of cooperation between the EU and Turkey, and particularly the completion of the customs union. It was also clear that socio-professional dialogue could be enhanced by the activities of the Joint Consultative Committee whose task will be essentially to improve knowledge of and understanding between the EU and Turkish social partners and to maximize opportunities for mutual enrichment.

Moreover, it was recognized that the dialogue between the ESC and Turkish economic and social interest groups is of great importance within the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership and the cooperation machinery to be set up in the wake of the Euromed Conference held in Barcelona in late November 1995.

The Euro-Mediterranean Conference of Ministers in Barcelona on 27 and 28 November 1995 concluded that it would be easier to put the Euro-Mediterranean partnership into practice by *inter alia* encouraging contacts between social partners. The work programme adopted stated that 'regular contact between European bodies, including the EC Economic and Social Committee and their Mediterranean counterparts would help ensure better understanding of the major issues concerning Euro-Mediterranean partnership. To this end, the Economic and Social Committee is asked to take the initiative in setting up links with its Mediterranean counterparts'.

On the basis of this ministerial statement, an 18 strong ESC delegation, chaired by Committee President, Mr Carlos Ferrer, took part in the Euromed Civil Forum held in Barcelona from 29 November to 1 December 1995; the Forum brought together experts and social, economic and cultural players from the European Union and from 12 non-member countries around the Mediterranean.

The representatives of civil society discussed ways of establishing a mechanism for cooperation to run in parallel with political channels and to tap the potential of a range of schemes designed to strengthen Euro-Mediterranean cohesion. ESC members focused on issues such as trade without frontiers, investment, universities and research, cultural dialogue, cooperation in the media, the role of women, migration and the challenges to be faced in the fields of energy and the environment.

The conclusions reiterated the need to maintain regular contact between the economic and social partners within civil society in all the countries involved in establishing a free-trade area. It will be up to the EC Economic and Social Committee to orchestrate cooperation of this kind.

The aim of the Euro-Mediterranean Economic and Social Summit, held in Madrid on 12 and 13 December 1995, was to brief the economic and social partners on the content of the declaration adopted in Barcelona, to discuss and assess the agreements concluded and to consider the principles underlying the contribution of the social operators so as to define future relations designed to help establish an area of peace, stability, prosperity and cooperation based on dialogue and solidarity.

At the end of two days of discussions, a final declaration was adopted in which it was decided that a Euro-Mediterranean Economic and Social Summit would be held on an annual basis, during which each ESC or similar body would present a report on the developments in Euro-Mediterranean cooperation. Studies prepared jointly by two or three Councils would be presented.

In order to coordinate the work, it was agreed to set up a working group comprising the Council responsible for organizing the next Summit, the Economic

and Social Committee and one Council on the Mediterranean shore opposite the country organizing the Summit.

The EC Economic and Social Committee, in its capacity as permanent member of the working group will have to 'liaise with the 15 Member States of the Union, ensure continuity of relations with the associated Mediterranean States and relations with the Community institutions such as the ECS Commission of the European Council'.

The EC Economic and Social Committee has followed every step of the Commission's and Council's efforts to put together a Community policy *vis-à-vis* those countries bordering on the Mediterranean with which the European Community has long-standing relations and has, since 1992, organized meetings with different regions of the Mediterranean. It thus now sees the fruits of its actions to date.

The Committee also organized a hearing on energy cooperation in the Mediterranean region (see section on energy policy).

European Economic Area (EEA)

In the light of the accession to the EU of Austria, Finland and Sweden on 1 January 1995, technical adjustments of the EEA Consultative Committee (EEA-CC) to the new situation had to take place. At the EEA Council meeting, on 20 December 1994, the commitment of all parties to the EEA Agreement and its institutional structure as the viable basis for dynamic and homogenous relations was reaffirmed. Because no formal decision at political level to change the EEA-CC structure, as defined in Article 96 of the EEA Agreement, was taken, it was up to the social partners represented in the EEA-CC to take the relevant decisions.

There was full agreement that the EU and EFTA social partners should continue their cooperation within the framework of the EEA-CC, and that technical adjustments would have to be made to the Rules of Procedure, in particular concerning the size of the Committee, the frequency of the meetings and the working procedures.

At the June plenary session, Mr Cavaleiro Brandão, Mr Jenkins and Mr Laur were appointed as members of the EEA-CC (Mr Cavaleiro Brandão having been proposed as Co-President).

On 4 October 1995, the EEA-CC Bureau discussed the arrangements for future cooperation in the European Economic Area and decided on the subjects for discussion at the third EEA-CC meeting. It was agreed that the agenda should include (as well as adoption of the revised Rules of Procedure) an exchange of views on the operation of the internal market and on the problems of employment and social policy.

11. CONFERENCES

During the first half of the year, the Economic and Social Committee concentrated its efforts on the publication of the report on the Citizens' Europe conference held in Magdeburg, Germany in 1994 and the preparation of a conference in Ireland. The conference on the theme of 'The Citizens' Europe — Outlook for the west of Ireland', which followed on from the conferences held in Nogent-sur-Marne and Magdeburg, was organized in Galway, a provincial city situated on the periphery of the European Union. The aim of the conference was to debate the economic and social problems peculiar to that part of Ireland. The conference, which was held on 3 and 4 May 1995, was organized in collaboration with University College Galway and centred on three themes:

- (i) young people, employment and emigration;
- (ii) business and industry in a rural environment;
- (iii) the role of the elderly in a rural society and the aged persons rural action programme.

The conference brought together a delegation of 15 members of the Economic and Social Committee, university teachers, representatives of Galway city and the Irish Government and a large number of citizens from all social backgrounds in Ireland. This conference was characterized by the high level of determination of the participants to work together to find a solution to the problems raised at the conference, thereby underlining their positions and the role which they feel they should play in the process of building a united Europe.

After the conference in Galway, the Committee organized a conference in Seville on 9 and 10 October in collaboration with the Confederación de empresarios de Andalucía (CEA). The following themes were selected for the conference:

- (i) businesses and job-creation;
- (ii) placing the experience of senior citizens at the service of young entrepreneurs;
- (iii) social obstacles to integrating young people into employment.

Lively debates were held on these subjects, enabling the participants at the conference to identify the specific problems affecting this region and to give their views on the EU policies being applied in this field.

In addition to a delegation from the Committee, the conference was attended by MEPs, representatives of the EC Commission and a large number of rep-

representatives of economic and social interest groups. The conference also generated considerable media interest.

Opening addresses were given by Mr Nielsen, Economic and Social Committee Vice-President, Mr Otero Luna, President of the CEA, Mr Flynn, Member of the EC Commission, and Mr Marrero, member of the Junta de Andalucía responsible for labour and social questions. The closing address was given by Mr Ferrer, President of the Economic and Social Committee, flanked by Mrs Becerril, Mayoress of Seville, Mr Chavas, President of the Junta de Andalucía, and Mr Otero Luna, President of the CEA.

CHAPTER III

Relations with the media

1995 has seen the reorganization of the staff and working methods of the Press Unit.

The new team has been pursuing the following three objectives: updating the tools of the trade, developing communication with outside contacts and enhancing in-house communication.

Updating the tools of the trade

The first step involved updating all the mailing lists containing the addresses of journalists from both the mainstream and the specialized press — a *sine qua non* of efficient communication.

Developing communication with outside contacts

A number of measures have been introduced to improve communication with outside contacts:

Circulation of press releases

- (i) Some 160 press releases have been drafted, translated into each of the languages and then sent out by subject to the most appropriate target groups (for example, press releases concerning environmental issues have been dispatched to the specialized environmental press); the press response has been considerable.
- (ii) The most important press releases have been circulated to the Breydel press room at the Commission.
- (iii) Press releases are now stored in the databases of both the Commission (RAPID) and the Parliament (Epistel). RAPID and Epistel are information tools designed by the Spokesmen's Services of the European Commission and the European Parliament to facilitate rapid access to press and information documentation.
- (iv) Press releases are also circulated to the Commission's offices in all the Member States and to national and regional economic and social councils.

- (v) Since November 1995, they have also been sent by modem to press agencies equipped with this facility.

Circulation of other documents

- (i) The articles on the ESC published in the periodical *Le Monde diplomatique* in July were widely circulated to journalists, opinion-makers, members of the European Parliament, members of the Reflection Group on the 1996 Intergovernmental Conference, universities and other institutions.
- (ii) A campaign promoting the ESC has been set in motion for the benefit of journalists from the new Member States (direct mailing of documentation).
- (iii) *ESC-Info*, a bulletin designed for the mainstream press and the public at large and giving a broad outline of Committee activities, continues to be published each month.

Audiovisual communication

- (i) Audiovisual communication has been developed with the help of the Commission's technical crew and the Europe by Satellite service; at the request of the Press Unit, the Commission's audiovisual unit now produces videos for interested journalists covering the main aspects of the Committee's plenary sessions (mainly major speeches and closing press conferences).
- (ii) Since September 1995, a summary of the plenary sessions has also been transmitted throughout Europe via Europe by Satellite, a service providing information on the European institutions which can be received by anyone with a satellite dish. The equipment for receiving these broadcasts at the Committee will be installed shortly.

Press conferences and lunches

Press conferences have been held whenever the opportunity has arisen.

Enhancing in-house communication

In-house communication has been improved by the systematic dispatch of:

- (i) press releases to staff (via Tapestry);
- (ii) a new quarterly press review sent not only to members of the Bureau, but also to former members, Commission press offices and delegations abroad.

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.

The year 1995 began with feelings of anticipation as the Group awaited the final nomination by the Council of Ministers of members from the three new Member States of Austria, Finland and Sweden who would be appointed for the remainder of the 1994 to 1998 mandate. Ten members joined Group I at the end of February: from Austria, Mr Burkhard, Mr Farnleitner, Mr Maier and Mr Stöllnberger; from Finland, Mr Hamro-Drotz, Mr Kontio and Mrs Sirkeinen; from Sweden, Mr Kritz, Mr Lindmark and Mrs Regnell.

The Group now totals 68 members, six women and 62 men.

Mr Farnleitner and Mr Kritz were elected to the Committee Bureau, the number of its members having been increased from 30 to 36 under the new Rules of Procedure.

Despite some expectation that the completion of the internal market legislation would mean less work for the Committee, some 157 Opinions were adopted in 1995. Sixty-seven of these (or about 44%) were drafted by Group I rapporteurs. Once again this demonstrates the expertise and commitment of employer members.

The establishment within the ESC of an Internal Market Observatory has been further strengthened and confirmed by the adoption in October of an Opinion on the Commission's second report on the internal market. Drafted by a member of Group I with the assistance of a strong team in the study group and under the guidance of the President of the Industry Section, the Opinion clearly analyses the current situation, indicates areas of difficulty and proposes measures to overcome them. Group I will continue to support strongly all work in this area as it believes the Committee is uniquely well

placed to gather information from European socioeconomic interest groups and to filter their views through to the other institutions.

At its extraordinary meeting in November, the Group held a far-reaching debate based on a working paper drawn up by three of its members, on the role and influence of the Committee after Maastricht. The debate highlighted the Group I conviction that the Committee memorandum on the 1996 Intergovernmental Conference and the role of the ESC adopted by the Bureau in April, should be followed at a later stage by more detailed proposals, specifying, in particular, the areas where the ESC is uniquely able to contribute a consensual view on economic and social aspects of new legislation. These ideas would be further developed and a final paper would hopefully be adopted by the Group in the first half of 1996 in order that it might form part of later ESC proposals to the IGC.

Employers continue to underline the fact that the Committee's first and principal task is to furnish the Opinions asked for by the Council and the Commission, making sure that these are of the highest quality. In their view, every possible effort must be made to obtain earlier consultation by the Commission on the most important subjects and to persuade the Commission to inform the Committee of comments made by the specialized consultative committees. Group I would also support any move designed to ensure that ESC Opinions were made available early enough to be of use to European Parliament rapporteurs.

In June, at the instigation of the President, Mr Ferrer, a seminar was organized in Barcelona for a small number of ESC members and a group of high-level expert advisers, to debate future European socioeconomic prospects. These initial debates led to the publication of a second memorandum drafted by a Group I rapporteur, and were followed by workshops relating to the development of European society, economic globalization and competitiveness and the future of the social model, at which employer members also participated. The employers' group is interested in this examination of the role of the Committee and its development in the medium term and will fully contribute to the final Forum scheduled for 1996.

Mr Francois Périgot, the President of UNICE (Union of Industries of the European Community) addressed the extraordinary meeting in November, stressing his wish to encourage full cooperation with the employers' group at this crucial time in European affairs.

The Group is in constant contact with UNICE, 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 Committee of Agroalimentary Businesses), all of which receive a monthly

newsletter 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 members. The Group Secretariat also maintains links with a large number of trade and sectoral associations at European level whose advice enhances the accuracy of many of the more specifically technical Opinions.

GROUP II — WORKERS

With the accession of Austria, Finland and Sweden in January, membership of the Group increased to 79. Following discussions in the Rules of Procedure panel, for which the chair of the Group was the Rapporteur, it was agreed that membership of the Committee's Bureau should be increased by two members per Group and Tuulikki Kannisto (SAK, Finland) and Heinz Vogler (OGB, Austria) were elected in that capacity. At a special meeting in February, the Group agreed that they would carry out a wide-ranging review of the distribution of leading positions in the Committee among Group members in connection with elections for the second half of the four-year period of office.

The Group has continued to give top priority to work relating to employment and, on its proposal, the October plenary session was devoted to discussion of a group of Opinions on related issues in the presence of high level representatives of the institutions as well as a wide range of observers from economic and social organizations. Group members were Rapporteurs on Opinions which were adopted by wide majorities or unanimously relating to working time, local initiatives in regional development, and the situation of agricultural workers. Opinions on the economic situation, youth unemployment and research policy were also adopted. However, the Group subsequently expressed their deep concern that insufficient consensus had been reached for the adoption by the required two-thirds majority of a resolution based on the Opinions for transmission to the Madrid European Council, and that a substantial proportion of the employers' group had shown through their votes to prefer American approaches to employment problems rather than solutions based on the European social model supported by the majority in the ESC. During the year, members of the Group have also participated in a number of meetings on employment issues organized by the Commission and the European Parliament and pressed for vigorous action to deal with the unacceptable level of unemployment and its social consequences.

During the year, members of the Group have acted as Rapporteurs on a number of important Opinions. An Opinion critical of Commission proposals to amend the 1977 transfer of undertakings/protection of employment

Directive received wide publicity. Other major Opinions dealt with health and safety issues; trans-European networks; the legislative programme for transport; taxation; competition policy; the world summit on social development; relations with the ILO; Mediterranean policy; and relations with South Africa, Albania, and the Middle East. Other major Opinions and reports covered the information society, the Green Paper on the introduction of a single currency, reconciliation in Northern Ireland, and the economic situations in Ireland and Spain.

Members of the Group have contributed to the work of the Observatory on the Internal Market, and in the citizens' Europe initiative under which meetings with interested organizations were held in Seville and Galway. They have also participated in a series of preparatory meetings for a forthcoming 1996 Forum looking in particular at the development of European society and economic globalization.

A member of the Group was the Rapporteur for a report adopted by the Committee's Bureau in April on the 1996 Intergovernmental Conference and the role of the ESC, and of a subsequent Opinion adopted by the November plenary session setting down proposed Treaty amendments seeking to reinforce the role of the Committee. Support for that Opinion was expressed by the Executive Committee of the European Trade Union Confederation in a resolution on the IGC adopted in December. The Group was represented at a meeting with the President of the European Council in Madrid in November who demonstrated a keen knowledge of the work of the ESC and expressed his support for it.

Close relations have been kept between the Group and the ETUC and, following the ETUC Congress in May at which the Committee through its President, as well as the Group, were represented, liaison is now maintained by Erik Carlslund. The Group would wish to thank Jean Lapeyre who carried out that function up to then. Close contacts have also been kept with the European Industry Federations affiliated to the ETUC and with the ETUC institutes, which have provided Group experts on a number of occasions.

Members of the Group have continued to play a leading role in the Committee's relations with economic and social partners in countries and regional groupings outside the union, notably in ACP and EEA meetings, in newly-formed joint bodies with Turkey and Hungary, in the Barcelona Mediterranean conference, in contacts in the USA, Mercosur and ASEAN, as well as Algeria, and in hearings related to the PHARE programme and to energy policy in the Mediterranean area. Members of the Group have received visitors from a number of third countries including Poland, Romania and Chile. Such contacts are an important element in extending the influence of the European Union and of its social model.

GROUP III — VARIOUS INTERESTS

As a result of the enlargement of the European Union to include Austria, Finland and Sweden, the number of ESC members who have elected to be members of the various interests group (Group III) has increased from 63 to 74.

Eleven members from the new Member States have joined Group III as they represent the agricultural sector, small- and medium-sized enterprises, consumer organizations, non-profitmaking organizations, the professions and organizations representing disabled people. These categories are already represented in Group III, with the exception of organizations looking after the interests of handicapped people.

The decisions by these members to join Group III underline its important role within the Economic and Social Committee in bringing about closer links between European citizens and the EU institutions. In addition to the above-mentioned sectors, Group III is also the natural home for representatives of other interest groups, namely: the craft industries, ecological movements, family organizations, organizations representing the interests of women, the academic world and many other associations.

In the course of 1995, the Committee carried out more in-depth studies of its role as a representative of organized civil society, with a view to the 1996 Inter-governmental Conference. Group III has been considering this issue since the beginning of 1995. The ESC President, Mr Ferrer, also took part in the Group's work by addressing the Group at its meetings in January and March. At these meetings, and at the special annual meeting of the Group held in October 1995, the Group considered the role of the ESC.

The Group debated, in particular, the prospects for the Inter-governmental Conference and relations with the socioeconomic organizations represented at the ESC. Attention was drawn to the importance — which was again underlined — of the broad segment of civil society represented by Group III.

There is, at the present time, a growing tendency on the part of citizens to form socioeconomic interest groups and associations. In view of its particular membership, the ESC is in a position to put itself forward as the European body which represents these interest groups. The ESC comprises three groups: Group I representing employers, Group II representing workers and Group III representing various interests.

The distinctive membership of the ESC is also particularly important in view of the links between the ESC and its counterparts in the non-EU States.

The characteristic composition of the ESC, with its three Groups, is always a particularly important factor in the meetings held regularly between ESC members and representatives of socioeconomic interest groups in non-EC

States (such as Latin American States, Central and East European States, and Mediterranean States).

In view of its own specific structure, the Committee provides facilities which go beyond the usual consultative mechanisms which, where they exist, are restricted to a number of interest groups and do not take in all social groups. The message conveyed by the ESC, by virtue of its structure is that, if a genuine economic and social democracy is to be achieved, the participation of the citizen is essential.

The membership of the Economic and Social Committee, which is representing an ever-increasing number of EU citizens, has been held up as an example by the Committee's counterparts in non-EU States and in some cases has rapidly led to the involvement in later meetings of socioeconomic organizations which had not been represented at the initial meetings.

In the course of the preparatory work prior to the 19th annual meeting between representatives of ACP/EU socioeconomic interest groups, held in Brussels at the beginning of December, members of Group III drew the attention of the ACP delegates to the wide variety of socioeconomic interests represented in Group III. The ACP delegates representing various interests, for their part, were drawn almost exclusively from the agricultural sector. The theme of the 19th annual meeting was the *agri-food chain in the ACP countries: the role of private initiative and of the economic and social interest groups*. The introductory document, drawn up by the Committee's preparatory group, was prepared by a Group III member.

As a result of the wide range of activities represented by Group III, members of this Group have been invited to assume the role of Rapporteur for a broad range of Opinions. The following examples may be quoted:

- action plan to combat drugs,
- ambient air quality assessment and management,
- the way forward for civil aviation in Europe,
- farm prices,
- Europe's way to the information society — an action plan,
- free movement of doctors,
- Europe 2000 + — cooperation for European territorial development,
- actions in favour of older people,
- Fourth World Conference on Women,
- an interim evaluation of the fifth Community action programme on the environment,

- Green Paper on the practical arrangements for the introduction of the single currency,
- the economic situation in 1995 — cyclical and structural aspects of employment,
- youth unemployment,
- the single market and consumer protection: opportunities and obstacles in the internal market,
- fourth medium-term Community action programme on equal opportunities for women and men.

CHAPTER V

Internal aspects of the Secretariat

1. STAFF

The number of permanent posts in the General Secretariat in 1995 amounts to 135. In this number are included the new posts allocated in order to cope with the increased workload due to the enlargement of the European Union.

These were divided as follows:

- 48 category A posts, including one special career bracket,
- 25 category B posts,
- 62 category C posts.

In accordance with Protocol 16 to the Maastricht Treaty, the Economic and Social Committee shares with the Committee of the Regions (COR) a common organizational structure (COS). The staff employed within this structure come largely from the ESC (about 70%).

The number of posts of the COS amounts to 500 (enlargement posts included) and were divided as follows:

- 18 category A posts,
- 55 category B posts,
- 201 category C posts,
- 40 category D posts,
- 186 category LA posts.

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, 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 resolved progressively and this organizational structure to function harmoniously in the years to come.

2. BUDGET

During the budget year of 1994, the structure of the ESC budget was modified considerably.

As a consequence of the Maastricht Treaty, in particular the creation of the COR and the decision that the ESC and the COR should share a common structure, the initial budget of the ESC was split in a part ESC (Section VI — Part A) and a part common organizational structure (Section VI — Part C).

In the budget year of 1995, additional funds were allocated to the different parts of the budget to compensate the consequences of the enlargement of the European Union with Austria, Finland and Sweden.

Finally the appropriations for 1995 for part A amounted to ECU 26 683 569 and for Part C ECU 54 884 075.

3. MEETINGS

There were 10 plenary sessions and 11 Bureau meetings in 1995.

Working bodies met as follows:

Sections	76
Study groups	318
Groups I, II and III	82
Recognized sub-groups	129
Visitors' groups	212
Miscellaneous	521

4. STRUCTURE OF THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT IN 1995

Chairman and Vice-Chairmen

Private office

Group secretariats

Press unit

Secretary-General

Private office

Secretariat

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

Mail/records

Directorate-General for Operations

Delegation Unit

Directorate for Communications

- Public Relations Division
- Research and Conferences Division

Directorate A — Consultative work

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

Directorate B — Consultative work

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

5. COMMON ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Financial control division

Directorate for common organizational structure

- Security
- General coordination
- Organization and methods department
- Library/documentation
- Specialized department for printing and publishing
- Specialized department for engineering, informatics systems and telecommunications (IST)
- Specialized department for finance
- Specialized department 'rights and duties'
- Department for vocational training, competitions and in-service training
- Medical/welfare unit
- Specialized department for internal affairs

Directorate for translation and typing

- Translation divisions
- Typing pools

ANNEX A

**List of Opinions
and information reports
issued during 1995**

322nd PLENARY SESSION — 25 AND 26 JANUARY 1995

Proposed Commission Regulation on the application of Article 85(3) of the Treaty to certain categories of technology transfer agreements (Additional Opinion)

(CES 44/95)

Rapporteur: Mr John Little

Proposal for a Council Directive on the harmonization of the conditions for obtaining national boatmasters' certificates for the carriage of goods and passengers by inland waterway in the Community

(CES 45/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Sergio Colombo

Relations between the EU and the International Labour Organization (ILO) (Own-initiative)

(CES 46/95)

Rapporteur: Mrs Ursula Engelen-Kefer

Proposal for a Council Directive on the circulation of feed materials amending Directives 70/524/EEC, 74/63/EEC, 80/511/EEC, 82/471/EEC, 82/475/EEC, 91/357/EEC, 91/516/EEC, 92/87/EEC and 93/74/EEC as well as repealing Directive 77/101/EEC

(CES 47/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Kenneth J. Gardner

Proposal for a Council Directive amending Council Directive 79/373/EEC on the marketing of compound feedingstuffs

(CES 48/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Kenneth J. Gardner

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

(CES 49/95)

Rapporteur: Mr José Bento Gonçalves

Communication from the Commission and proposal for a European Parliament and Council Decision on health promotion information, education and training within the framework for action in the field of public health

(CES 50/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Sergio Colombo

The prevention of drug abuse (Own-initiative)

(CES 51 /95)

Rapporteur: Mrs Angela Guillaume

Second. Annual Report of the European Observatory for SMEs
(CES 52/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Paulo Jorge Marcelino Baptista de Andrade

Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on the development and future of Community policy in the fruit and vegetable sector

(CES 54/95)

Rapporteur: Mr José Bento Gonçalves

Relations between the European Union and Russia, Ukraine and Belarus
(Own-initiative)

(CES 55/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Jens Peter Petersen

323rd PLENARY SESSION — 22 AND 23 FEBRUARY 1995

Proposal for a Council decision on the conclusion of the Convention on the Protection of the Alps (Alpine Convention)

(CES 183/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Guiseppe Pricolo

Co-Rapporteurs: Mr Klaus Boisserée and Mr Jacques Tixier

Proposal for a Council Decision establishing a reciprocal exchange of information and data from networks and individual stations measuring ambient air pollution within the Member States

(CES 184/95)

Rapporteur: Mr José Ignacio Gafo-Fernandez

Co-Rapporteurs: Mr Klaus Boisserée and Mr Henri Dunkel

Proposal for a Council Directive on ambient air quality assessment and management

(CES 185/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Klaus Boisserée

Proposal for a European Parliament and Council Decision adopting a programme of Community action on the prevention of drug dependence within the framework for action in the field of public health (1995-2000)

(CES 186/95)

Rapporteur: Mrs Angela Guillaume

Proposal for a European Parliament and Council Regulation (EEC) on the Community design and the proposal for a European Parliament and Council Directive on the legal protection of designs (Additional Opinion)

(CES 187/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Jean Pardon

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EC) on the grant of financial assistance to Portugal for a specific programme for the modernization of the Portuguese textile and clothing industry
(CES 188/95)

Rapporteur (working on his own): Mr Vasco Cal

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EC) amending Council Regulation (EEC) No 3821/85 and Council Directive 88/599/EEC on recording equipment in road transport
(CES 189/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Bo Green

The way forward for civil aviation in Europe

(CES 190/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Robert J. Moreland

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EC) on reform of the common organization of the market in wine

(CES 191/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Adalbert Kienle

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EC) amending Regulation (EEC) Nos 1785/81 on the common organization of the markets in the sugar sector and 1010/86 laying down general rules for the production refund on certain sugar products used in the chemical industry
(CES 192/95)

Rapporteur-General: Mr Charles Pelletier

World Summit for Social Development (Own-initiative)

(CES 194/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Thomas Etty

Europe's way to the information society: an action plan communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament and to the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions)

(CES 193/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Roger Ramaekers

Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on the follow-up to the consultation process relating to the Green Paper on pluralism and media concentration in the internal market — an assessment of the need for Community action

(CES 195/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Joël Decaillon

Proposition for a European Parliament and Council Directive amending Council Directive 80/777/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the exploitation and marketing of natural mineral waters

(CES 196/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Etienne de Paul de Barchifontaine

Co-Rapporteurs: Mr Joël Decaillon and Mr Bo Green

324th PLENARY SESSION — 29 AND 30 MARCH 1995

Proposal for a Council Directive on taxes other than turnover taxes which affect the consumption of manufactured tobacco (consolidated version)
(CES 311/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Philip H. Noordwal

European system of national and regional accounts in the EC
(CES 312/95)

Rapporteur (working on his own): Mr José Bento Gonçalves

Europe 2000+ — Cooperation for European territorial development
(CES 313/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Eugène Muller

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EC) modifying Regulation (EEC) No 3928/92 establishing a NAFO pilot observer scheme applicable to Community vessels operating in the regulatory area of the North-west Atlantic Fisheries Organization
(CES 314/95)

Rapporteur: Mrs Maria Luísa Freire de Andrade Santiago

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EC) amending Council Regulation (EEC) No 3013/89 on the common organization of the market in sheepmeat and goatmeat
(CES 315/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Michael P. Strauss

Proposal for a European Parliament and Council Directive amending Directive 93/16/EEC which facilitates the free movement of doctors and provides for the mutual recognition of their diplomas, certificates and other evidence of formal qualifications, and conferring implementing powers on the Commission for the updating of certain Articles thereof
(CES 316/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Christoph Fuchs

Proposal for a Council Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the safeguarding of employees' rights in the event of transfers of undertakings, businesses or parts of businesses
(CES 317/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Giorgio Liverani

Proposal for a European Parliament and Council Decision adopting a programme of Community action on the prevention of AIDS and certain other communicable diseases within the framework for action in the field of public health
(CES 318/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Sergio Colombo

Commission Regulation on the application of Article 85(3) of the Treaty to certain categories of motor vehicle distribution and servicing agreements (Additional Opinion)

(CES 319/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Robert J. Moreland

Spatial planning and inter-regional cooperation in the Mediterranean area (Own-initiative)

(CES 320/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Vasco Cal

1995 Annual Economic Report

(CES 321/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Roger Ramaekers

325th PLENARY SESSION — 27 APRIL 1995

Economic growth and the environment: some implications for economic policy making

(CES 405/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Sergio Colombo

Co-Rapporteur: Mr Klaus Boisserée

Proposal for a European Parliament and Council Directive amending Council Directive 79/581 /EEC on consumer protection in the indication of the prices of foodstuffs as amended by Council Directive 88/314/EEC on consumer protection in the indication of the prices of non-food products

(CES 406/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Giacomo Regaldo

Proposal for a European Parliament and Council Directive amending Directive 88/77/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the measures to be taken against the emission of gaseous and particulate pollutants from diesel engines for use in vehicles

(CES 407/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Achim Denkhaus

Proposal for a European Parliament and Council Directive amending Directive 70/220/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to measures to be taken against air pollution from emissions from motor vehicles

(CES 408/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Achim Denkhaus

Proposal for a European Parliament and Council Regulation (EC) concerning the creation of a supplementary protection certificate for plant protection products.

(CES 409/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Kenneth J. Gardner

Communication from the Commission on the recognition of qualifications for academic and professional purposes

(CES 410/95)

Rapporteur: Miss Ada Maddocks

Proposal for a European Parliament and Council Directive on energy efficiency requirements for household electric refrigerators, freezers and their combinations

(CES 411/95)

Rapporteur: Mr D. H. Kielman

Commission proposals on the prices for agricultural products and on related measures (1995-96)

(CES 412/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Jean-Paul Bastian

Guidelines for an initiative in the framework of the special support programme for peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland

(CES 413/95)

Rapporteur-General: Mr Göke Frerichs

326th PLENARY SESSION — 31 MAY AND 1 JUNE 1995

Transfer of funds in the EU: transparency and quality of service

(CES 573/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Umberto Burani

Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 77/388/EEC on the common system of value added tax (taxation of agricultural outputs)

(CES 574/95)

Rapporteur working on his own: Mr Camille Giacomelli

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EC) concerning harmonized consumer price indices

(CES 575/95)

Rapporteur working on his own: Mr Giampaola Pellarini

Proposal for a European Parliament and Council Directive amending for the 16th time Council 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

(CES 576/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Nikolaos Lerios

Draft Commission Directive amending Commission Directive 90/338/EEC regarding the abolition of the restrictions on the use of cable television networks for the provision of telecommunications services

(CES 577/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Roger Ramaekers

Proposal for a Council Directive on the collection of statistical information in the field of tourism (Additional Opinion)

(CES 578/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Giannino Bernabei

Fifth periodic report on the social and economic situation and development of the regions of the community

(CES 579/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Campbell Christie

Draft notice to Member States laying down guidelines for an initiative in the framework of the special support programme for peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland (Additional Opinion)

(CES 580/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Göke Frerichs

Proposal for a Council Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States with regard to the transport of dangerous goods by rail

(CES 581/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Helmut Giesecke

Proposal for a European Parliament and Council Directive on the application of open network provision (ONP) to voice telephony

(CES 582/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Bo Green

Proposal for a Council Directive on the use of vehicles hired without drivers for the carriage of goods by road

(CES 583/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Daniel de Norre

Proposal for a Council Regulation on the safety management of RO-RO passenger vessels

(CES 584/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Francis J. Whitworth

Draft Council Regulation (EC) amending Regulation (EC) No 2062/94 establishing a European Agency for Health and Safety at Work
(CES 585/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Thomas Etty

Proposal for a Council Decision on Community support for actions in favour of older people

(CES 586/95)

Rapporteur: Mr André Laur

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EC) amending Council Regulation (EEC) No 1766/92 on the common organization of the market in cereals and Council Regulation (EC) No 1868/94 establishing a quota system in relation to the production of potato starch

(CES 587/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Antoon Stokkers

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EC) amending for the fifth time Regulation (EEC) No 1866/86 laying down certain technical measures for the conservation of fishery resources in the waters of the Baltic Sea, the Belts and the Sound

(CES 588/95)

Rapporteur: Mrs Maria Luísa Freire de Andrade Santiago

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EC) amending Regulations (EEC) No 1035/72, (EEC) No 2240/88 and (EEC) No 1121/89 as regards the intervention threshold mechanism in the fresh fruit and vegetables sector

(CES 589/95)

Rapporteur: Mr José Bento Gonçalves

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EC) amending Regulation (EC) No 3699/93 laying down the criteria and arrangements regarding Community structural assistance in the fisheries and aquaculture sector and the processing and marketing of its products

(CES 590/95)

Rapporteur-General: Mrs Maria Luísa Freire de Andrade Santiago

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EC) amending Regulation (EC) No 3699/93 laying down the criteria and arrangements regarding Community structural assistance in the fisheries and aquaculture sector and the processing and marketing of its products

(CES 591/95)

Rapporteur-General: Mrs Maria Luísa Freire de Andrade Santiago

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EC) amending Council Regulation (EC) No 603/95 on the common organization of the market in dried fodder

(CES 592/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Rudolf Strasser

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EC) adjusting, for the fifth time, the system of aid for cotton introduced by Protocol 4 annexed to the Act of Accession of Greece

(CES 593/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Vassilis Zarkinos

Dratt Council Regulation (Euratom, EC) concerning structural business statistics (Own-initiative)

(CES 594/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Vasco Cal

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EC) adapting Regulation (EEC) No 404/93 as regards the volume of the annual quota for the import of bananas into the Community following the accession of Austria, Finland and Sweden

(CES 595/95)

Rapporteur-General: Mr José Rodríguez de Azero y del Hoyo

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EC) amending Council Regulation (EC) No 2100/94 on Community plant variety rights

(CES 596/95)

Rapporteur-General: Mr Giuseppe Pricolo

Relations between the European Union and Albania (fourth Additional Own-Initiative Opinion on relations between the European Union and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe)

(CES 597/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Ettore Masucci

327th PLENARY SESSION — 5 AND 6 JULY 1995

Proposal for a European Parliament and Council Directive amending Directive 89/398/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to foodstuffs intended for particular nutritional uses

(CES 795/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Paul Verhaeghe

Co-Rapporteurs: Mr Kommer de Knecht, Mr Johannes M. Jaschick

Proposal for a European Parliament and Council Directive amending Directive 92/50/EEC relating to the coordination of procedures for the award of public service contracts, Directive 93/36/EEC coordinating procedures for the award of public supply contracts, and Directive 93/37/EEC concerning the coordination of procedures for the award of public works contracts

Proposal for a European Parliament and Council Directive amending Directive 93/38/EEC coordinating the procurement procedures of entities operating in the water, energy, transportation and telecommunication sectors (CES 796/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Michael Mobbs

Plain language (Own-initiative)
(CES 797/95)

Rapporteur working on her own: Mrs Angela Guillaume

Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council adapting Decision No 1110/94/EC concerning the fourth framework programme of the European Community activities in the field of research and technological development and demonstration (1994-98) following the accession to the European Union of the Republic of Austria, the Republic of Finland and the Kingdom of Sweden and the Proposal for a Council Decision adapting Decision 94/268/Euratom concerning a framework programme of Community activities in the field of research and training for the European Atomic Energy Community (1994-98) following the accession to the European Union of the Republic of Austria, the Republic of Finland and the Kingdom of Sweden (CES 798/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Claus-Benedict von der Decken

Proposal for a European Parliament and Council Directive to facilitate practice of the profession of lawyer on a permanent basis in a Member State other than that in which the qualification was obtained (CES 799/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Manuel Eugénio Cavaleiro Brandão

Proposal for a European Parliament and Council Directive relating to the side-impact resistance of motor vehicles and amending Directive 70/156/EEC (CES 800/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Edoardo Bagliano

Proposal for a European Parliament and Council Directive relating to the frontal impact resistance of motor vehicles and amending Directive 70/156/EEC (CES 801 /95)

Rapporteur: Mr Edoardo Bagliano

Proposal for a Council Decision 95/0026 (SYN) on the implementation of a training programme for professionals in the European audiovisual programme industry (MEDIA II — Training) (1996-2000) and on the proposal for a Council Decision 95/0027 (CNS) on a programme to promote the development and distribution of European audiovisual works (MEDIA II — Development and distribution) (1996-2000) (CES 802/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Giampaolo Pellarini

Fourth World Conference on Women (Own-initiative)
(CES 803/95)

Rapporteur: Mrs Maria Teresa Costa Macedo

For a European Union energy policy
(CES 804/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Claus-Benedict von der Decken

Proposal for a Community action programme in the field of cultural heritage
(Raphael)

(CES 805/95)

Rapporteur-General: Mr Roger Burnel

328th PLENARY SESSION — 13 AND 14 SEPTEMBER 1995

Amended Proposal for a European Parliament and Council Directive on EU
credit transfers (Additional Opinion)

(CES 962/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Umberto Burani

Co-Rapporteurs: Mrs Helga Elstner and Mr Giampaolo Pellarini

Proposal for a Council Decision establishing a Community action programme
in the field of civil protection

(CES 963/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Giampaolo Pellarini

Co-Rapporteurs: Mr Giuseppe Pricolo and Countess Soscha zu Eulenberg

Proposal for a European Parliament and Council Decision adopting an action
programme for Community customs (Customs 2000)

(CES 964/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Helmut Giesecke

Europe 2000+ — Cooperation for European territorial development
(Additional Own-initiative)

(CES 965/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Eugène Muller

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EC) on common rules applicable to the
transport of goods or passengers by inland waterway between Member
States with a view to establishing freedom to provide such transport services

(CES 966/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Francis Whitworth

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EC) amending Regulation (EEC) No
1101/89 on structural improvements in inland waterway transport

(CES 967/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Eike Eulen

Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 91/439/EEC on driving licences

(CES 968/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Roy Donovan

Proposal for a Council Directive amending Council Directive 90/675/EEC laying down the principles governing the organization of veterinary checks on products entering the Community from third countries

(CES 969/95)

Rapporteur: Mr José Bento Gonçalves

Green Paper on the liberalization of telecommunications infrastructure and cable television networks — Part II

(CES 970/95)

Rapporteur: Count Alexander-Michael von Schwerin

Proposal for a Council Directive on access to the groundhandling market at Community airports

(CES 971/95)

Rapporteur: Count Alexander-Michael von Schwerin

Proposal for a European Parliament and Council Directive amending Council Directive 89/522/EEC on the coordination of certain provisions laid down by law regulation or administrative action in Member States concerning the pursuit of television broadcasting activities

(CES 972/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Roger Ramaekers

Proposal for a European Parliament and Council Decision on the maintenance of national laws prohibiting the use of certain additives in the production of certain foodstuffs

(CES 973/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Kenneth J. Gardner

Co-Rapporteurs: Mr Sergio Colombo, Mr Joop Koopman

Euro-Mediterranean partnership (Own-initiative)

(CES 974/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Carlo Ernesto Meriano

Relations between the European Union and the Middle East (Additional Opinion)

(CES 975/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Thomas Etty

The role of the Union in the field of tourism (Commission Green Paper)

(CES 976/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Giacomo Regalado

Co-Rapporteur: Mr Colin Lustenhouwer

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EC) amending Regulation (EEC) Nos 404/93 and 1035/72 on the common organization of the market in bananas and fruit and vegetables respectively, and Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87 on the tariff and statistical nomenclature and on the Common Customs Tariff (CES 977/95)

Rapporteur: Mr José Fernando Rodríguez de Azero y del Hoyo

Relations between the European Union and the United States (information report)

(CES 91/95)

Rapporteur: Mrs Ann Davison

329th PLENARY SESSION — 25 AND 26 OCTOBER 1995

Youth unemployment (Own-initiative)

(CES 1162/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Bernd Rupp

Local development initiatives and regional policy (Own-initiative)

(CES 1163/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Ettore Masucci

Coordination of research and technological development policies (Own-initiative)

(CES 1164/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Giannino Bernabei

Impact of the CAP on the employment and social situation of farmers and farmworkers in the European Union (Own-initiative)

(CES 1165/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Hans-Joachim Wilms

Co-Rapporteurs: Mr André Laur, Mrs María Luísa Santiago

Working time (Own-initiative)

(CES 1166/95)

Rapporteur: Mrs H. C. H. van den Burg

Co-Rapporteur: Mr Francis J. Whitworth

The economic situation 1995 — cyclical and structural aspects of employment (Additional Opinion)

(CES 1167/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Roger Ramaekers

Derivatives (Own-initiative)

(CES 1152/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Robert Pelletier

Proposal for a European Parliament and Council Directive on *in vitro* diagnostic medical devices and the draft decision of the EEA Joint Committee amending Annex II (Technical regulations, standards, testing and certification) to the EEA Agreement — draft Community common position
(CES 1153/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Christoph Fuchs

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EC) amending Council Regulation (EEC) No 1973/92 establishing a financial instrument for the environment (LIFE)
(CES 1154/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Sergio Colombo

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EC) amending Regulation (EEC) No 259/93 on the supervision and control of shipments of waste within, into and out of the European Community
(CES 1155/95)

Rapporteur: Mr José Ignacio Gafo-Fernandez

Co-Rapporteurs: Mr Klaus Boisserée, Mr Jacques Tixier

Proposal for a European Parliament and Council Directive amending Directive 95/2/EC of the European Parliament and the Council on food additives other than colours and sweeteners
(CES 1156/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Kenneth J. Gardner

Co-Rapporteurs: Mr Kommer de Knecht, Mr Joop Koopman

Review of the Community Merger Regulation
(CES 1157/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Jens Peter Petersen

Fifth annual report on the implementation of the reform of the Structural Funds 1993
(CES 1158/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Jan Jacob van Dijk

Infrastructure costs in the road freight transport sector as a basis for comparison with other transport modes (Own-initiative)
(CES 1159/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Dethmer H. Kielman

Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on telematics applications for transport in Europe
(CES 1160/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Dethmer H. Kielman

Proposal for a Council Decision approving amendments to the statutes of the Joint European Torus (JET), Joint Undertaking
(CES 1161/95)

Rapporteur: Mr John Lyons

Proposal for a Council Decision on a Community financial contribution towards certain expenditure incurred by the Member States in implementing the monitoring and control system applicable to the common fisheries policy (CES 1168/95)

Rapporteur-General: Mr Jesús Muñiz Guardado

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

(CES 1169/95)

Rapporteur-General: Mr Michael Strauss

Proposal for a Council Regulation repealing Regulation No 388/75/EEC on notifying the Commission of exports of crude oil and natural gas to third countries; proposal for a Council Regulation repealing Regulation No 1055/72/EEC on notifying the Commission if imports of crude oil and natural gas; proposal for a Council Regulation repealing Regulation No 1038/79/EEC on Community support for a hydrocarbon exploration project in Greenland; proposal for a Council Decision repealing recommendation 79/167/ECSC, EEC, Euratom on the reduction of energy requirements for buildings in the Community

(CES 1170/95)

Rapporteur-General: Mr Claus-Benedict von der Decken

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EC) on notifying the Commission of investment projects of interest to the Community in the petroleum, natural gas and electricity sectors

(CES 1172/95)

Rapporteur-General: Mr Jean Pardon

Proposal for a Council Decision on the Commission's activities on analysis, research, cooperation and action in the field of employment

(CES 1173/95)

Rapporteur working on his own: Mr Christoforos Koryfidis

Green Paper on the practical arrangements for the introduction of the single currency

(CES 1174/95)

Rapporteurs: Mr Umberto Burani, Mr Bernard de Bigault du Granrut, Mr Michael Geuenich

Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 86/378/EEC on the implementation of the principle of equal treatment for men and women in occupational social security schemes

(CES 1175/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Pierre Chevalier

The European Community and Mercosur: an enhanced policy (Own-initiative)

(CES 1176/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Sergio E. Santillan Cabeza

Sustainable development in tune with the environment — an interim evaluation of the fifth Community action programme on the environment (Own-initiative)

(CES 1177/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Klaus Boisserée

Energy Charter Treaty (Own-initiative)

(CES 1178/95)

Rapporteur: Mr John Lyons

Evaluation of the PHARE programme (information report)

(CES 1281/94 fin)

Rapporteur: Mr José Ignacio Gafo-Fernandez

330th PLENARY SESSION — 22 AND 23 NOVEMBER 1995

Communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: an industrial competitiveness policy for the European Union and the action programme and timetable for implementation of the action announced in the communication on an industrial competitiveness policy for the European Union

(CES 1296/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Jens Peter Petersen

Towards the information society: communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on a methodology for the implementation of information society applications; proposal for a European Parliament and Council Decision on a series of guidelines for trans-European telecommunications networks

(CES 1297/95)

Rapporteur: Count Alexander-Michael von Schwerin

Proposal for a Council Directive on the approximation of the laws relating to roadworthiness tests for motor vehicles and their trailers

(CES 1298/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Roy Donovan

Draft Council Regulation (EC) on statistical returns in respect of carriage of passengers, freight and mail by air

(CES 1299/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Robert J. Moreland

Commission communication on a programme of action concerning safety, hygiene and health at work (1996-2000); proposal for a Council Decision adopting a programme of non-legislative measures to improve health and safety at work

(CES 1300/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Richard Pickering

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EC) amending Regulation (EC) 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 and Regulation (EEC) No 574/72 laying down the procedure for implementing Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71

(CES 1301 /95)

Rapporteur working on his own: Mr Pierre Chevalier

Conservation of fishery resources and fishing rights (Own-initiative)

(CES 1302/95)

Rapporteur: Mrs Maria Luísa Santiago

Proposal for a Council Decision on the fourth medium-term Community action programme on equal opportunities for women and men (1996-2000)

(CES 1303/95)

Rapporteur: Mrs Bridin Twist

Legislative Commission programme for transport — the common transport policy action plan 1995-2000 (Own-initiative)

(CES 1304/95)

Rapporteur: Mr George Wright

Draft Commission Directive amending Directive 90/388/EEC with regard to mobile and personal communications

(CES 1305/95)

Rapporteur-General: Mr Michael Mobbs

Draft Commission Directive amending Commission Directive 90/388/EEC regarding the implementation of full competition in telecommunications markets

(CES 1308/95)

Rapporteur-General: Mr Michael Mobbs

Single market and consumer protection: opportunities and obstacles in the internal market (Own-initiative)

(CES 1309/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Francisco Ceballo Herrero

The single market in 1994 — Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council

(CES 1310/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Bruno Vever

XXIVth Report of the Commission on competition policy
(CES 1311/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Mario Sepi

The 1996 Intergovernmental Conference — the role of the Economic and Social Committee (Own-initiative)

(CES 1312/95)

Rapporteur: Mrs Giacomina Cassina

Co-Rapporteurs: Mr Manuel Cavaleiro Brandão, Mr Tom Jenkins,
Mrs Beatrice Rangoni Machiavelli

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EC) laying down certain monitoring measures applicable to fishing activities carried out in the waters of the Baltic Sea, the Belts and the Sound

(CES 1313 /95)

Rapporteur-General: Mr Seppo Ilmari Kallio

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EC) on the common organization of the market in rice

(CES 1314/95)

Rapporteur: Mrs María Luísa Santiago

Proposal for a Council Directive on the systems of chartering and pricing in national and international inland waterway transport in the Community; proposal for a Council Regulation (EC) amending Council Regulation (EEC) No 1101/89 on structural improvements in inland waterway transport; proposal for a Council Regulation (EC) amending Council Regulation (EEC) No 1107/70 on the granting of aids for transport by rail, road and inland waterway

(CES 1315/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Bernardus Pompen

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EC) amending Regulation (EEC) No 1107/70 on the granting of aids for transport by rail, road and inland waterway

(CES 1316/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Dethmer H. Kielman

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EC) on aid to shipbuilding

(CES 1317/95)

Rapporteur: Mr John Simpson

331st PLENARY SESSION — 20 AND 21 DECEMBER 1995

Proposal for a Council Directive amending Council Directive 76/895/EEC of 23 November 1976 relating to the fixing of maximum levels for pesticide residues in and on fruit and vegetables; Council Directive 86/362/EEC of 24 July 1986 on the fixing of maximum levels for pesticide residues in and on cereals; Council Directive 86/363/EEC of 24 July 1986 on the fixing of maximum levels for pesticide residues in and on foodstuffs of animal origin; and Council Directive 90/642/EEC of 27 November 1990 on the fixing of maximum levels for pesticide residues in and on certain products of plant origin, including fruit and vegetables
(CES 1447/95)

Rapporteur: Mrs María Sánchez Miguel

Third Annual Report on the European Observatory for SMEs
(CES 1448/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Flavio Pasotti

Annual Report — Cohesion Financial Instrument 1993/94 and 1994 Annual Report — Cohesion Fund — Complement
(CES 1449/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Ramón Mercé Juste

Proposal for a Council Decision concerning a multiannual programme for the promotion of energy efficiency in the European Union — SAVE II
(CES 1450/95)

Rapporteur: Mrs Giacomina Cassina

Proposal for a Council Regulation on environmental measures in developing countries in the context of sustainable development
(CES 1451/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Klaus Boisserée

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EC) on the common organization of the market in fruit and vegetables
(CES 1452/95)

Rapporteur: Mr José Bento Gonçalves

Proposal for a Council Regulation (EC) on the common organization of the market in processed fruit and vegetables
(CES 1453/95)

Rapporteur: Mr José Bento Gonçalves

Proposal for a European Parliament and Council Directive on consumer protection in the indication of the prices of products offered to consumers
(CES 1454/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Christos Folias

Commission communication to the European Parliament and the Council on a multiannual programme to stimulate the development of a European multimedia content industry and to encourage the use of multimedia content in the emerging multimedia society (INFO 2000); and the proposal for a Council Decision adopting a multiannual Community programme to stimulate the development of a European multimedia content industry and to encourage the use of multimedia content in the emerging information society (INFO 2000)

(CES 1455/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Giampaolo Pellarini

Relations between the European Union and South Africa (Own-initiative)

(CES 1456/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Albert Schunck

Direct and indirect taxation (Own-initiative)

(CES 1457/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Ronald Janssen

Proposal for a Council Directive concerning the quality of water intended for human consumption

(CES 1458/95)

Rapporteur: Mr Adalbert Kienle

Relations between the European Union and Mexico (second Additional Own-initiative)

(CES 1459/95)

Rapporteur: Mr José Isaiás Rodríguez Garcíá Caro

ANNEX B

**List of Opinions
drawn up by the Committee
on its own initiative during 1995**

Relations between the EC and the International Labour Organization (ILO) (Rapporteur: Ursula Engelen-Kefer) (CES 46/95)	January 1995
Prevention of drug abuse (Rapporteur: Angela Guillaume) (CES 51/95)	January 1995
Relations between the EU and Russia, Ukraine and Belarus (Rapporteur: Jens Peter Petersen) (CES 55/95)	January 1995
World Summit for Social Development (Rapporteur: Thomas Etty) (CES 194/95)	February 1995
Europe 2000+ — Cooperation for European territorial development (Rapporteur: Eugène Muller) (CES 313/95)	March 1995
Spatial planning and inter-regional cooperation in the Mediterranean area (Rapporteur: Vasco Cal) (CES 320/95)	March 1995
Draft Council Regulation (Euratom, EC) concerning structural business statistics (Rapporteur working without study group: Vasco Cal) (CES 594/95)	May/June 1995
Relations between the European Union and Albania (Rapporteur: Ettore Masucci) (CES 597/95)	May/June 1995
Plain language (Rapporteur working without study group: Angela Guillaume) (CES 797/95)	July 1995
Fourth World Conference on Women (Rapporteur: Maria Teresa Costa Macedo) (CES 803/95)	July 1995
Europe 2000+ — Cooperation for European territorial development (Rapporteur: Eugène Muller) (CES 965/95)	September 1995

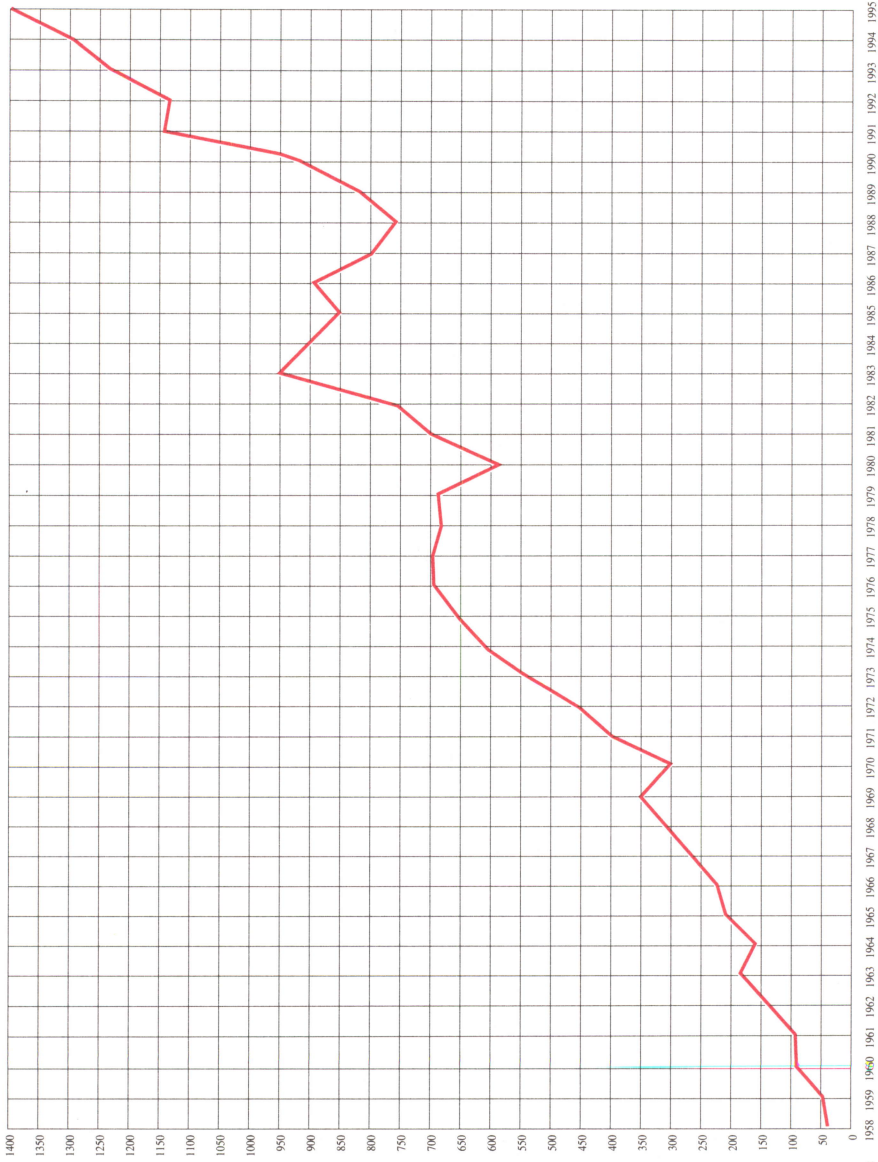
Euro-Mediterranean partnership (Rapporteur: Carlo Ernesto Meriano) (CES 974/95)	September 1995
Relations between the European Union and the Middle East (Rapporteur: Thomas Ety) (CES 975/95)	September 1995
Youth unemployment (Rapporteur: Bernd Rupp) (CES 1162/95)	October 1995
Local development initiatives and regional policy (Rapporteur: Ettore Masucci) (CES 1163/95)	October 1995
Coordination of research and technological development policies (Rapporteur: Giannino Bernabei) (CES 1164/95)	October 1995
Impact of the CAP on the employment and social situation of farmers and farmworkers in the European Union (Rapporteur: Hans-Joachim Wilms; Co-Rapporteurs: Andre Laur and Maria Luisa Santiago) (CES 1165/95)	October 1995
Working time (Rapporteur: H. V. H van den Burg; Co-Rapporteur: Francis Whitworth) (CES 1166/95)	October 1995
Derivatives (Rapporteur: Robert Pelletier) (CES 1152/95)	October 1995
Infrastructure costs in the road freight transport sector as a basis for comparison with other transport modes (Rapporteur: Dethmer H. Kielman) (CES 1159/95)	October 1995
Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on telematics applications for transport in Europe (Rapporteur: Dethmer H. Kielman) (CES 1160/95)	October 1995

The European Community and Mercosur: an enhanced policy (Rapporteur: Sergio E. Santillan Cabeza) (CES 1176/95)	October 1995
Sustainable development in tune with the environment — an interim evaluation of the fifth Community action programme on the environment (Rapporteur: Klaus Boisserée) (CES 117/95)	October 1995
Energy Charter Treaty (Rapporteur: John Lyons) (CES 1178/95)	October 1995
Conservation of fishery resources and fishing rights (Rapporteur: María Luísa Santiago) (CES 1302/95)	November 1995
Legislative Commission programme for transport — the common transport policy action plan 1995-2000 (Rapporteur: George Wright) (CES 1305/95)	November 1995
Single market and consumer protection: opportunities and obstacles in the internal market (Rapporteur: Francisco Ceballos Herrero) (CES 1309/95)	November 1995
The 1996 Intergovernmental Conference — the role of the Economic and Social Committee (Rapporteur: Giacomina Cassina; Co-Rapporteurs: Manuel Cavaleiro Brandão, Tom Jenkins and Beatrice Rangoni Machiavelli) (CES 1312/95)	November 1995
Relations between the European Union and South Africa (Rapporteur: Albert Schunk) (CES 1456/95)	December 1996
Direct and indirect taxation (Rapporteur: Ronald Janssens) (CES 1457/95)	December 1996
Relations between the European Union and Mexico (Rapporteur: José Isaiás Rodríguez García Caro) (CES 1459/95)	December 1996

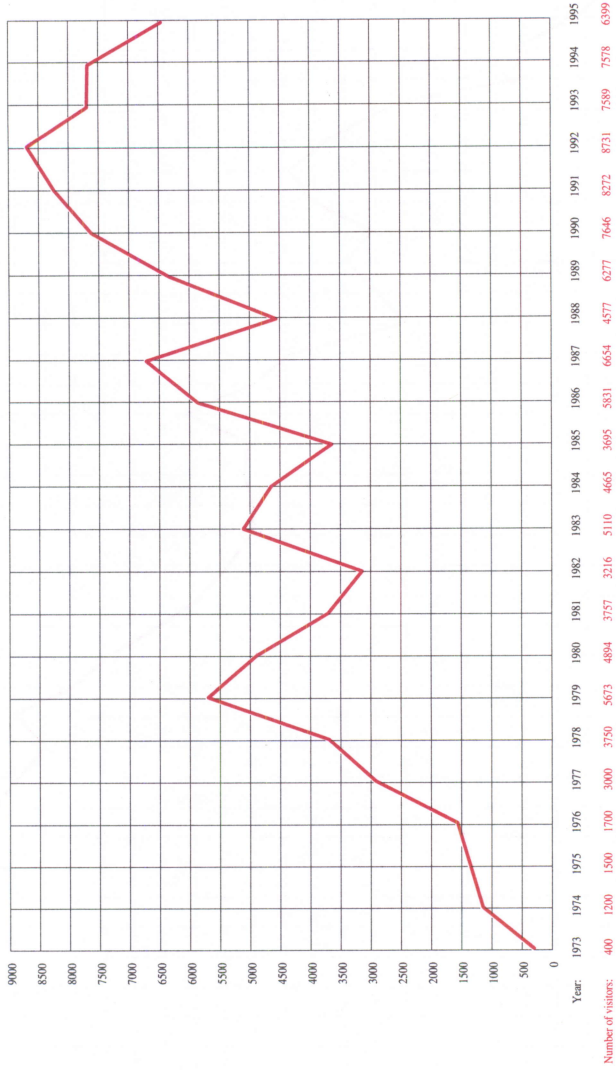
ANNEX C

Graphs

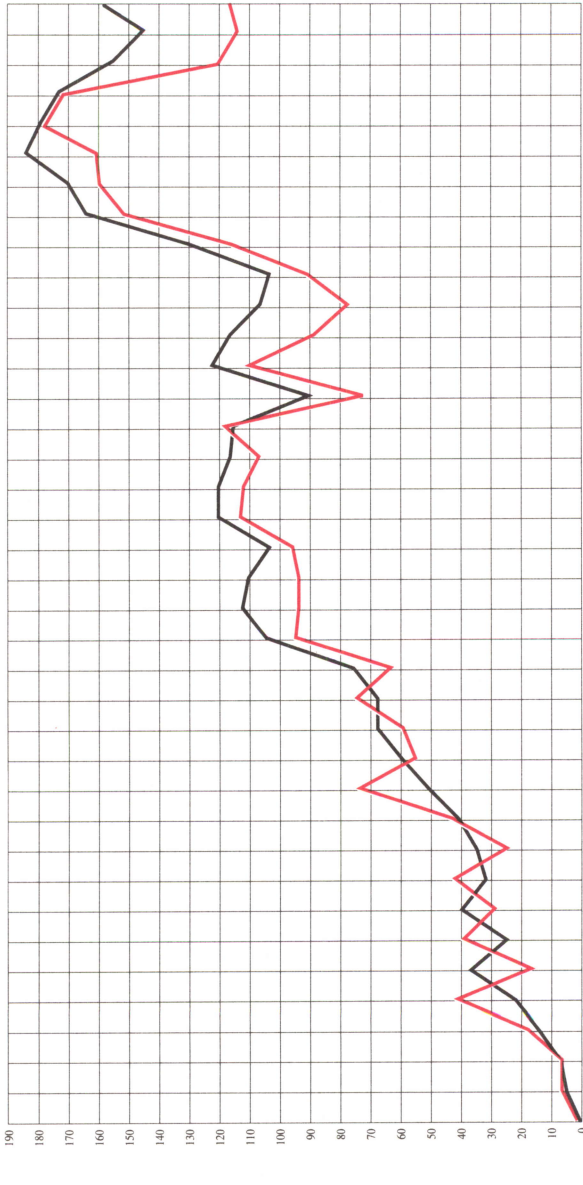
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