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Preface

For the Economic and Social Committee, 1985 was marked by two major features: the economic situation — especially the continuing rise in unemployment — and the Community's attempts to make institutional reforms.

Although growth in 1985 was relatively satisfactory, unemployment was still over 11%. This trend, with its dominant features of long-term and youth unemployment — not to mention the 'new poverty' — is totally unsatisfactory and unacceptable. We cannot expect a significant reduction in unemployment, even during the next few years, unless Member States change their present economic policies. If productive capacity expands as predicted by 2% per year, employment would only rise by 0.5% which would merely absorb the anticipated increase in the working population.

What should be done now? The response must come on two different levels. First, since there is no common economic policy, it is crucial that the national governments adopt the necessary measures to bring one into being.

Second, the Community institutions, whose main role is to guide and coordinate, also have certain financial resources at their disposal which, although not sufficient to deal with the whole problem, can be profitably tapped by way of the European Regional Fund, the Social Fund, the 'New Community Instrument' and the operations of the European Investment Bank.

In terms of the macro-economy, it is of crucial importance that investments increase — particularly those which create jobs. They are an essential prerequisite for more growth and a higher level of employment. However, although economic growth is a basic requirement, it is not on its own sufficient to solve the unemployment problem.

According to calculations by the Commission for a lasting rise of 1% in GNP growth, investment would have to increase by 5%; in other words, even to increase growth from 2% to 3% would require investment to be equivalent to the highest level in the early 1970s.

The aim should therefore be to make growth result in more employment opportunities, so that the rise in the employment level per percentage point of growth is higher than in the past.

Every opportunity should be taken to restructure national budgets in favour of further public investment. In the past few years, investment in many sectors in some Member States has come to a complete standstill. Environmental protection measures are also worth mentioning here.

Increasing public investment would also help increase capacity utilization in the weak building trade, which would be particularly effective in creating new jobs. It is, however, extremely important that such measures for increasing public investment in the Community be coordinated and adopted simultaneously in all Member States.

There would then be no danger of measures adopted in one Member State having no practical effect on the employment level because of increased imports from another Member State. Moreover, it has been shown that the multiplier effect of investments is greater if such programmes are carried out simultaneously.

The European Community itself should provide a further boost to the economy. A major step would be to speed up the completion of the European internal market by removing those obstacles which still hamper the free movement of goods, capital and services.

For this project to succeed, it is also necessary to adjust the Community's infrastructures which have hitherto been geared to national requirements, to the needs and conditions of an integrated European internal market.

Our thoughts should turn above all to investments in transport and telecommunications. But given the extent of the unemployment problem, it will also be essential to reorganize and reduce working hours. Here, it is of course mainly the two sides of industry who will be called on to tackle the problem within the framework of free collective bargaining. In its opinion on the economic situation the Committee once again emphasized how the two sides could hold constructive discussions.

In anticipation of the institutional reforms, the ESC followed the preparations and proceedings of the intergovernmental conference in December 1985 with great attention. For the first time in the history of the ESC, the Chairman was able to present in person the Committee's main positions on the issues of the day to the President of the Council. In July, the following summary of these positions had been sent to the Luxembourg Minister for Foreign Affairs:

- (i) more use of the majority principle in the Council of Ministers;
- (ii) closer involvement of the European Parliament in Community legislation;
- (iii) due integration of the Economic and Social Committee's advisory role into the Community's institutional structure. This means, among other things, that the

Committee's activities should be orientated towards the European Parliament, as well as the Commission and the Council.

It is too soon as yet to assess the results of the summit. Although the expectations of the Economic and Social Committee may not have been realized, a certain dynamism *which has been missing for many years is now quite evident in the decision-making processes of the Community.* Now that the negotiations for the accession of Spain and Portugal have also been successfully completed, a framework has been established for making a fresh start. It will be the Committee's main concern in the future to see that this fresh start is followed through with maximum success.

Gerd MUHR
Chairman

Role and influence of the Economic and Social Committee

The Economic and Social Committee saw its role given increased recognition in 1985. On the eve of the European Council in December, a Committee delegation made up of the Chairman, Mr Gerd Muhr, and the Secretary-General, Mr Roger Louet, was received by the Luxembourg Prime Minister, Mr Santer, who was President of the Council at the time. As part of the wide-ranging consultations on the revision of the Treaties, and particularly on the completion of the internal market, the Luxembourg Presidency sought the Committee's views as the institution representing the key interest groups in the European Community. The meeting broke new ground, in that it was the first time that the Committee had been sounded out just before a European Council. The reaffirmation of the Committee's role at the intergovernmental meeting owed much to the unstinting efforts of the Committee Chairman, the Vice-Chairmen, the Secretary-General, the Members and the Secretariat.

In particular, Mr Muhr assured the European Communities' Ad Hoc Committee on Institutional Affairs (the Dooge Committee) that the major European economic and social interest groups would give European Union their full support. At the hearing of 31 January 1985 in Brussels he declared: 'We firmly advocate fuller and deeper integration of our economies, social systems and societies within a European Union based on political solidarity and increasingly closer integration between our peoples (...).

We believe, like the European Parliament (...), that it is essential to imbue the European venture with a new dynamism via the European Union.

This dynamism must have a two-fold impact: it must foster the expansion of existing policies and the framing of new policies. It requires a new institutional balance designed ultimately to improve the synchronization of the Community's legislative process.'

When speaking to the Ad Hoc Committee on a People's Europe (the Adonnino Committee), Mr Muhr declared that the committee had the full support of the major economic and social groups in Europe. He concluded his speech with these words: 'On behalf of the Economic and Social Committee, I would like to stress that we have consistently worked for a people's Europe in our proposals regarding freedom of movement for persons, goods and services in the EEC; consumer protection and information; the quality of life in the face of dangers from industry, transport and the environ-

ment; increased rights for entrepreneurs and workers in the Community; a European dimension to information policy; and the ECU as a European currency.

We have the impression that the real difficulty lies in the inertia of some of the national bureaucracies which determine the rate of progress of the Council of Ministers.

We believe, however, that progress towards Community-wide, sensible solutions can be made by the political representatives of the peoples of Europe, meeting in the European Parliament, and by the representatives of the socio-economic groups, meeting in the ESC. Much greater use should be made of these opportunities.'

Another event marking 1985 was the official accession to the Community of Spain and Portugal.

The Committee was pleased at the success of the accession negotiations. Mr Muhr declared that 'enlargement to include Spain and Portugal is a political necessity, and failure of the negotiations would have seriously undermined the credibility of the Community. The Community cannot and must not evade its historic task of strengthening democracy in Western Europe . . . This further enlargement is a historic moment for the Community. The problems which posed a threat to the Community's very existence only a short time ago have now been cleared up. This should enable the political leaders to turn their minds again to the future development of the Community for the first time in more than ten years, and should pave the way for a Community that will be attractive to the next generation.'

During 1985, the Economic and Social Committee strengthened its links with the other institutions, particularly the Commission, the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers.

Several EC Commissioners attended ESC Plenary Sessions, and the Commission President, Mr Jacques Delors, took part in the debate on the Committee's information report on the European Monetary System in February, during which he stressed the importance of reactivating the social dialogue with these words: 'It is essential to mobilize the general public through your Committee, whose influence should be increased, and hammer out outline compromise agreements between employers and unions at Community level, which will give fresh momentum to social policy.'

Speaking to the Committee's April Plenary Session, the President of the European Parliament, Mr Pierre Pflimlin, declared: 'I personally attach great importance to relations between the Institutions . . . in particular, a way of strengthening cooperation between the Committee and the Parliament must be found.' He concluded: 'I am speaking to the socio-economic organizations of the Community and of our countries, who have long been aware that the development of the Community will be in their interest. I hope that in 1985 the Economic and Social Committee will be a driving force for the unification of Europe.'

The May Plenary Session was attended by Mr Gianni de Michelis, the Italian Minister for Social Questions and Employment and President-in-Office of the EC Council of Ministers, who said that absolute priority should be given to dealing with unemploy-

ment. He called upon the European Commission to take effective measures to overcome economic recession at last. The role of the Economic and Social Committee meant that it could give added impetus and support to the execution of this task; indeed, it was important for consultations with socio-economic interest groups to remain at the centre of decision-making.

In December, the Committee welcomed Mr Goebbels, State Secretary at the Luxembourg Ministry of Foreign Affairs and President-in-Office of the EC Council of Ministers, who gave an account of the conclusions reached by the European Council. He stressed that the Economic and Social Committee had not been forgotten during the review of the Treaties. In future the ESC would be consulted on the external market, the cohesion of the Community, the environment, social policy, research and technology.

During the year, the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen made a number of official visits. Committee working parties met several times away from ESC headquarters, and contacts were made with various socio-economic organizations.

The Chairman paid official visits to Rome in March, to Madrid and Lisbon in October, and to the United States in November. In Rome, the delegation headed by Mr Muhr had talks with government authorities, focusing in particular on the accession of Portugal and Spain and integrated Mediterranean programmes.

In Madrid, the ESC delegation had numerous contacts during its official visit with both members of the government and with representatives of occupational interest groups.

In Lisbon, the delegation was received by President Eanes and had talks with Prime Minister Mario Soares. It also met representatives of employers, the unions and farmers. Immediately after this official visit, the ESC Chairman and the Secretary-General, Mr Roger Louet, attended the annual meeting of the Chairmen and General Secretaries of National Economic and Social Councils.

Another delegation led by Mr Muhr visited Washington from 18 to 23 November to improve relations between the main industrial, business and trade union organizations in America and Europe. It met members of Congress, high officials from the state, agriculture, labour and commerce departments, and top-level representatives of the National Association of Manufacturers, the United States Chamber of Commerce, the Small Business Administration, the AFL-CIO Trade Union Confederation, and the American Enterprise Institute.

Mr Muhr also led a Committee delegation to the Europe 2000 Symposium organized by the European Parliament in Strasbourg on 7 October.

On 8 May there was a joint session of delegations from the ESC and the Consultative Committee of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) as part of the ceremonies in Vienna to mark EFTA's 25th anniversary.

This joint meeting — the 12th of its kind — discussed the state of relations between the EC and EFTA one year after the Luxembourg declaration which pledged greater cooperation and free trade between the Member States of the two organizations. It examined the situation regarding non-tariff barriers, rules of origin and customs formalities, and also heard what was being done in the field of EC-EFTA scientific and technological cooperation, especially in relation to the new technologies. The ESC delegation was led by the Chairman and by Mr Maurice Zinkin (United Kingdom — Employers Group), Chairman of the Section for External Relations.

From 18 to 20 September, the Committee was host to the annual meeting of the economic and social partners of the European Community and the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) States.

Those taking part included the Committee Vice-Chairman, Mr Emo Capodilista, representing the Committee Chairman, Mr G. Zandzou and Mr G. Bersani, Co-Chairman of the Joint Committee of the ACP/EEC Consultative Assembly, Mr L. Natali, Vice-President of the EC Commission, His Excellency Mr Z. Mongo So'o, Chairman of the ACP Ambassadors' Committee, Mr E. W. Carrington, acting Secretary-General of the Group of the ACP States, Mr I. Fong Poen, Minister for Transport and Industry of the Republic of Suriname and Chairman of the ACP Council, and His Excellency Mr J. Weyland, Chairman of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

Three reports were presented by the Economic and Social Committee: 'How to develop the trade and industry of ACP States' (by Mr Hans-Werner Staratzke — FR of Germany — Employers Group), 'The role of Community farmers, women and small-scale and commercial fishing in the rural development of the ACP States' (Mr Guy Vasseur — France — Various Interests Group) and 'Ways and means of enhancing the human, social and cultural dimension of Lomé III' (Mr André Soulat — France — Workers Group).

Finally, Mr Noordwal (Netherlands — Employers), also a Committee Vice-Chairman, visited Kuala Lumpur to meet business representatives from the Asean and EEC countries.

The discussions held at the Asean Business Council on 28 November were concerned mainly with economic issues in general and with the results of the recent EEC-Asean ministerial meeting in Bangkok.

Work of the Committee

1. AGRICULTURAL POLICY

Farm prices

In reflection of the complex problems of agriculture and the many and varied interests involved at a time of serious economic and social difficulties, the Committee has decided to refrain in 1985 from adopting an opinion on the Commission's proposals fixing farm prices for 1985/86.

None the less, the Section for Agriculture had adopted (by 26 votes to 12, with 3 abstentions) an opinion which essentially took note of the reasons prompting the Commission to put forward extremely cautious proposals but stressed the need to reconcile the necessity of both reducing surpluses and protecting farm earnings – an objective which should be attained by employing other devices than farm prices. In particular, the Section questioned the measures proposed by the Commission for the dairy and cereals sectors. In the case of dairy products, the Section was opposed to an increase in the target price and advocated greater flexibility in the application of quotas, abolition of the co-responsibility levy and incentives to voluntary production cuts. For cereals, the Section underlined the need for an overhaul of the current system of guarantee thresholds and for effective restrictions on imports of substitute products.

After studying the Section's opinion, the Plenary Committee adopted a set of amendments which, since they substantially altered the Section's standpoint on key areas, made it impossible to secure the majority required for adoption of the opinion (which was rejected by 52 votes against, 42 for and 9 abstentions).

Prospects for the common agricultural policy (CAP)

The Committee's opinion on this subject was adopted by a large majority. There were two votes against and three abstentions. The Committee regretted that the Commission had not provided any data on the positive or negative results of the measures it had recently taken regarding the CAP, or any figures on the impact of its suggestions. But the Committee did recognize the need for a new strategy which:

- (i) reviewed agricultural policy as a whole;

- (ii) aimed to overcome regional imbalances;
- (iii) recognized the need for intervention to provide new activities and support for the incomes of surplus employees;
- (iv) took account of the requirements of economic rationalization;
- (v) made better use of the opportunities on the EEC's domestic market;
- (vi) allowed a reasonable place for agricultural exports among the EEC'S overall exports;
- (vii) acknowledged the importance of exports of processed goods;
- (viii) took account of consumer demand for quality products;
- (ix) paid due regard to the social and human balance in agricultural and rural areas;
- (x) safeguarded family farms and jobs in agriculture; and
- (xi) sought to protect the environment.

However, this would require a policy of economic austerity, and the resulting changes would have serious social consequences.

The money provided by the EAGGF should be used differently and more efficiently.

The Committee therefore called for:

- (i) a re-assignment of budget appropriations to achieve a balanced product mix;
- (ii) a better distribution of incomes to maintain vital farming jobs in many EEC regions;
- (iii) effective measures to contain and then reduce production costs; and
- (iv) a stronger regional policy, with the promotion of multi-sector development programmes.

Fisheries

Supplementing the work started in April 1983, on 7 February 1985 the Section for Agriculture adopted (with no dissenting votes and only 3 abstentions) an information report on the state and medium-term future of fisheries policy. The purpose of this report is to remedy the lack — which has above all been deplored by social and occupational organizations in the fisheries sector — of a document giving a photographic picture of the various aspects of the situation in the fisheries sector in EEC

Member States and exploring this sector's future outlook in the light of enlargement of the Community to include Spain and Portugal.

This report starts with a detailed account of current regulations in the Community fisheries sector and goes on to examine Community policy on markets, structures, social measures, credit, aids and research. It then tackles the special problems of the EEC's Mediterranean countries, the French Overseas Departments, Greenland and the LDCs. Particular attention is given to the measures proposed in the integrated Mediterranean programmes for the fisheries sector in Greece, Italy and France.

The last part of the report looks at the problems raised by the accession of Spain and Portugal, detailing the views of the Community, the Spaniards and the Portuguese.

This document — compiled in close liaison between experts of social and occupational organizations in the Ten and the new Community partners — was the subject of a press conference giving it full coverage and has been widely circulated to shipowners, fishermen, trade unions and entrepreneurs in the fisheries sector as well as to political and administrative authorities. Several universities, both in and outside Europe, have requested a copy of this Report for information and documentation purposes. On 27 February 1985, in the light of the report, the Committee adopted by a substantial majority (2 dissenting votes and 1 abstention) an own-initiative opinion containing specific proposals on ways of improving Community rules governing this sector.

The Committee urges that certain goals should be more clearly defined, especially as regards:

- (a) temporary reduction of catch capacity, by increasing temporary laying-up premiums and extending them to take account of the cost to fishermen;
- (b) introduction of effective incentives to encourage the setting-up of Community undertakings and the promotion of joint ventures all over the world;
- (c) the creation of artificial offshore structures by means of a substantial boost in planned investment.

The Committee also stresses the need to provide more incentives for research, which so far has not kept pace with the Community's requirements.

Continuing its survey of structural policy, the Committee finds it important for the Community to implement a Mediterranean policy swiftly, together with agreements on fishing and stock management with all non-member countries. The need for these measures is heightened by Spanish accession, which will make the Community an even more dominant force in the Mediterranean region. On market policy, the Committee calls particularly for:

- (a) extension of the products covered by a price system to include varieties which are important for the Mediterranean countries;
- (b) improvement and extension of the carry-over premium;

- (c) a solution to the problem caused by the disparity in some Member States between reference prices and actual market prices of some varieties;
- (d) improvement of some of the provisions concerning the criteria for recognition of producers' organizations, representative markets, the situation of products after first sale, etc.

The Committee notes that social policy in the fisheries sector has not attracted any special attention on the part of either the Commission or the Council. It therefore urges the Commission, as soon as the social situation in the Community fisheries sector has been ascertained and analysed, to make proposals which the Council can adopt in accordance with Articles 117 and 118 of the Treaty.

Lastly, the Committee notes that Community-wide studies, in conjunction with representatives of the shipowners and fishermen, could help clarify the employment problems of the sector, as well as the job implications of the new regulations on structural policy, more especially Regulation No 2908/73 on restructuring and modernization of vessels.

Integrated Mediterranean programmes

On 30 May 1985 the Committee adopted an opinion on the latest Commission proposals for a Regulation instituting integrated Mediterranean programmes. Though the Committee was pleased to see that the Commission had taken account of many of the recommendations made in its earlier opinions, it regretted the drastic cut in the original appropriation – exacerbated by the justified extension of IMPs to cover the overall development of the Mediterranean regions, as opposed to just their rural areas – thereby crushing the legitimate expectations which the initial Commission proposals had rightly raised in the regions concerned.

The Committee regrets this cut and hopes that this will not jeopardize the fundamental objectives which led the Commission to propose the IMPs, i.e. to enable the Mediterranean regions of the present Community to catch up structurally, economically and socially, and to bring about the adjustment of these regions to the new conditions which will be created with the accession of Spain and Portugal.

The Committee stresses the need – now more essential than ever – to ensure that representatives of local and regional social groups and occupational organizations are adequately involved at both Community and national level in the planned cooperation between national and Community authorities, particularly through their participation in the Steering Committees envisaged for each programme; another aim should be to foster development in the Mediterranean countries by setting up more small and medium-sized businesses.

CAP: Impact on farm workers

In connection with the Committee's deliberations on the future of the CAP, the Section for Agriculture was instructed to draw up an information report on the effects of

developments in the CAP on the situation of workers in the agricultural and agro-food sectors.

The Section takes as its starting-point the fact that the agricultural sector alone employs around one million workers in the Community (excluding Greece).

This figure, to which should be added the workforce of the agro-food sector, represents roughly 10% of the total number of people working in agriculture.

The changes and new guidelines introduced over the last few years in the market regimes for a number of products (milk, wine, fruit and vegetables, olive oil, beef and veal, cereals) have had detrimental side-effects on employment in both farming and processing. Yet no tangible, definitive assessment has been made of this situation.

To date the Community has not adopted any measures to mitigate or offset the adverse effects on these groups.

On the other hand, action in the form of either national aid schemes or Community measures has been taken to help farmers.

After careful scrutiny of the specific problems of farm workers, the Section came to the conclusion that approximately three million employees in agriculture and first-stage food processing are affected — albeit in different ways — by agro-economic and agro-political trends. Here the Community Institutions have a special responsibility for the social situation of these groups of employees and should therefore set up the necessary machinery for solving any social problems that arise.

The Commission should concentrate attention on the following points:

- (a) the drawing-up of a comprehensive report on the social situation of farm workers;
- (b) the framing of a separate programme for adjustment aid for farm and food industry workers, including:
 - (i) support for further training and retraining,
 - (ii) the creation of alternative jobs, and
 - (iii) arrangements for early retirement;
- (c) the improvement of health protection in agriculture through closer cooperation between national social security bodies and a standardized EEC Regulation on safety at work and accident prevention;
- (d) in view of the new technological demands, the adoption of suitable measures, such as detailed guidelines for vocational training, the encouragement of em-

ployment the whole year round in place of seasonal working, the use of environmental protection measures to provide employment, the promotion of discussion and cooperation between employers and trade unions.

In view of the importance of this issue, the Committee reserves the right to express its views in detail in an own-initiative opinion to be drawn up during the coming year.

2. TRANSPORT POLICY

General

The Committee was asked to deliver 12 transport opinions in 1985, two of them carried over from 1984. Eleven of the proposals had been referred to the Committee by the Council, one by the Commission. Eight of these opinions were completed by the end of the year. In addition, the Committee also adopted an interim opinion on maritime transport and an additional, own-initiative opinion on social regulations in the road haulage industry. This meant that 10 opinions altogether were adopted and four opinions [maritime transport, the simplification of border formalities, and the conditions under which (a) road haulage carriers and (b) inland waterway carriers may operate in another Member State (cabotage)] were still in progress at the end of the year.

Consultative work

Air transport policy

On 15 March 1984 the Commission presented its 'Second Memorandum' on a common air transport policy. The memorandum contained a number of new ideas. According to information received by the Committee the Commission was now seeking to develop the objectives of its first 1979 memorandum and propose an overall framework for a common air transport policy in the interests of consumers, the airlines and their employees. The Commission's new approach is accordingly based largely on the structure of the present regulatory system with its mix of bilateral agreements and arrangements between governments and cooperation between the airlines. Changes are, however, called for to produce a more flexible system, allowing competition greater play in order (a) to make the airlines more efficient, (b) to enable efficient, innovative airlines to make a profit, (c) to stimulate growth and thereby create jobs, and (d) to provide a service more in tune with passengers' requirements.

In its opinion the Committee to all intents and purposes welcomes the objectives set by the Commission. The Committee also welcomes the fact that the memorandum and its annexes do not propose deregulation along American lines. At the same time the Committee regrets that the Commission has not paid adequate attention to recommendations made by the ESC in previous opinions, even if the memorandum is a step in the direction of a common air transport policy. The Committee further believes that the memorandum gives insufficient attention to the social problems which might arise from greater flexibility. A common air transport policy must at all events serve to

both safeguard existing jobs and create new ones. The present regulatory framework should therefore not be radically altered without justification.

In the view of the Committee the application of rules on competition to air transport involves a number of highly complex issues. Because of this there are divergent views within the Committee on the way to set about introducing a common air transport policy. The reason for this is that there are already many positive aspects in the present system.

Some liberalization of the markets, however, is essential if a really large internal market is to be created in the interests of Europe. Market forces must therefore be given greater scope than before, though not to the detriment of transport safety. The Committee believes that a larger air transport market will also benefit other economic sectors such as tourism, hotels and industry. The Committee therefore came to the conclusion that more commercial freedom might benefit users and, hopefully, employees as well.

Maritime transport policy

In March 1985 the Commission submitted to the Council a memorandum entitled 'Progress towards a common transport policy — maritime transport'. Annexed to the memorandum were six draft Regulations. In view of the particular importance of the proposals dealt with in Annexes 1, 2, 5 and 6, the Council urged the Committee to deliver opinions by November 1985 at the latest. The Committee was able to comply with this request although sterling efforts were needed because the material was extremely complicated and controversial, as negotiations in the Transport Ministers' meeting of 14 November 1985 had shown. Approval of the four proposals considered to be of priority importance had to be postponed until the following Council meeting.

The proposals concern draft Regulations in the following four areas: coordinated action to safeguard free access to cargoes in ocean trades (Annex II.1); application of the principle of freedom to provide services to maritime transport (Annex II.2); detailed rules for the application of Articles 85 and 86 of the Treaty to maritime transport (Annex II.5); and unfair pricing practices in maritime transport (Annex II.6).

In examining the proposals the Committee started out from the following facts presented by the Commission by way of an introduction to its document: The European Community is the largest leading trading area in the world. Its trade with non-EC countries in 1982 represented 21% by value of world imports and 20% of world exports. About 95% of the total quantity of EC trade with non-EC countries and about 30% of intra-Community traffic (Community of Ten) is carried by sea. These proportions are likely to increase after the entry of Spain and Portugal. With the exception of Belgium, the fleets of EEC Member States have declined by more than 20% since 1980. By contrast, the fleets of many non-Community countries, particularly non-OECD countries in the Far East, as well as flag of convenience and Comecon countries, have over the same period increased in size, resulting in serious overcapacity. These developments have coincided with a decline in world trade beginning in

1979/80 and an erosion of the competitive position of fleets of EEC Member States. The Community's shipbuilding industry has also suffered as a result.

Despite these circumstances the Community finds it hard to categorically come out in favour of either the free market economy or protectionism. This is because not all Member States have similar interests in this area. In the view of the Economic and Social Committee the only possible approach is a balanced, pragmatic one, with selective defensive measures being applied where the basic viability of the shipping industry is seriously undermined and jobs face the axe.

With regard to the proposal concerning coordinated action to safeguard free access to cargoes in ocean trades, the Committee believes that the provisions should be extended to cover all sectors of shipping. The draft Regulation, which clearly seems to have been written with the liner sector primarily in mind, should therefore also be extended to passenger and cruise shipping, offshore and towage, etc. The Committee therefore proposes that the relevant changes be made to the Commission proposal. Other changes proposed by the Committee include action against OECD and non-Community countries which restrict access of shipping companies of Member States; the introduction of non-discriminatory shipping clauses in any EC trade or other agreements with third countries and groups of countries; Commission action to ensure the monitoring of developments in cargo reservation, provisions whereby individual Member States can take action where the Commission fails to follow up a request for coordinated action; and last but not least the possibility of extending countermeasures to the exports of third country goods and services to the EC.

With regard to the application of the principle of freedom to provide services to sea transport, the Committee notes that the adoption of the Commission proposal would be in conformity with the judgement of the European Court on common transport policy delivered on 22 May 1985 and could be of help in promoting the establishment of a common internal market. The Committee recognizes that there is also a parallel requirement to promote improved working conditions and an improved standard of living for workers, so as to make possible their harmonization while the improvement is being maintained. This is particularly difficult because many varying national and sectoral interests will all have to be balanced.

The Committee regrets that the Commission has only considered the nationality of the operator offering services rather than considering also the nationality of the service itself, i.e. the flag of the vessel.

The Committee is also highly concerned that whilst the Regulation provides for Member States not to be excluded from trades within the Community as well as from trades with third countries, individual Member States would be allowed to continue excluding non-Community shipping, thereby producing quantitative and qualitative differences in competition in the trades of the various Member States.

The Committee recognizes the need for a Regulation applying the competition articles of the Treaty, as spelt out in Annex II.5. It nevertheless regrets that the Commission appears not to have taken full account of the Committee's opinion delivered in 1983. The Committee therefore vigorously reaffirms its view that liner conferences should

be granted an exemption under Article 85 (3) of the EEC Treaty. With regard to the legal basis for this Regulation, the Committee stands by its view that there should be a dual legal basis, namely Articles 84 (2) and 87.

The Committee further believes that the Regulation should treat any passenger or combined passenger/freight conferences in the same way as ordinary freight conferences. Tramp vessel services and bulk transport should however be excluded and redefined in accordance with concrete proposals submitted by the Committee. Further Committee proposals concern clarifications regarding the criteria under which Articles 85 (3) and 86 of the EEC Treaty would be applied.

The Committee finally welcomes the proposal on unfair pricing practices in maritime transport (Annex II.6) as a useful endeavour to provide Community machinery with which to combat dumping and other unfair pricing practices by carriers of non-EC countries, on similar lines to the existing machinery, with respect to the import of goods from third countries (Regulations Nos 2176/84 and 2641/84).

The Committee regrets however that the Regulation only applies to liner shipping and believes that the Council should give urgent consideration to extending it to other shipping sectors also.

Other Committee proposals concern the expansion of the definition of 'foreign shipowners' to embrace shipowners who are able to compete on an unfair basis as a result of a high level of direct and/or indirect subsidies, measures to be taken against the operators of ships flying the flag of countries which allow shipping companies to avoid social and economic responsibilities since those companies thereby gain an unfair economic advantage, a broader definition of 'Community shipowners' to embrace the operation of vessels under Member States' national employment practices in either of the following two categories: (a) operation of vessels by shipping companies which have their management head office and their effective control in a Member State, and (b) operations of vessels flying the flag of a Member State.

With regard to the filing of complaints, the Committee believes that the right should not be confined to one party, namely Community shipowners. Representatives of seafarers should also be allowed to bring complaints, in accordance with Regulation No 2176/84 which states that this right relates to 'a Community industry' which has suffered harm. Other proposals concern the definition of the term 'unfair practices' and a more flexible article on sanctions.

Finally, the Committee continued its examination of Annexes II.3 and II.4 as well as the general part of the memorandum. This will be the subject of a second opinion, probably to be issued in the first half of 1986.

Shipping safety

In a further opinion adopted at the end of October, the Committee gave its views on the proposal for a Council Decision amending Decision 82/887/EEC adopting a concerted action project for the European Economic Community in the field of shore-

based marine navigation aid systems. This involves extending the deadline for the completion of the COST 301 research programme and providing it with the extra money it needs.

In its opinion of November 1981 the Committee had already welcomed measures to improve shipping flows and thereby reduce the danger of collisions and groundings, improve safety at sea, and prevent sea and coastal pollution. The Committee nevertheless unreservedly maintains its reservations expressed in 1981 about the fact that the work carried out under the COST 301 programme would probably overlap with the activities of the International Maritime Organization, which comes under the auspices of the UN.

Rail, road and inland waterway transport

Harmonization of social regulations in road transport: Amendments to Regulations Nos 543/69 and 1473/70

The aim of the Regulations was to put the different modes of inland transport on the same competitive footing, improve road safety and working conditions, and improve the monitoring of drivers' working hours and periods of rest by the introduction of recording equipment. Despite a number of positive results, the practical application of these Regulations has not been free from problems in the past. The Commission thinks that this may be due to the inflexibility of the Regulations and differences between national administrative procedures in applying Community legislation and checking its implementation.

The Commission proposal therefore aimed to simplify the Regulations, make working hours and rest periods more flexible, achieve social progress, make enforcement more effective, and tighten up the system of measures for penalties.

The Council requested an opinion in April 1984 and when the Committee began work it found itself facing an insoluble problem. Representatives of employers and workers in the road haulage industry (also represented in the Committee) had had a number of working sessions at Commission level before the proposals had been drafted but had been unable to reach an agreement. The early meetings of Committee bodies also revealed an irreconcilable struggle between two opposing views, i.e. those put forward by employers' representatives and those put forward by workers' representatives. It is therefore to the credit of the rapporteur and Chairmen of the Section and Study Groups that an opinion could be finally adopted unanimously by the Committee.

Given this significant 'compromise', the rapporteur of the Committee was able to give oral evidence to the Transport Committee of the European Parliament and persuade it to eventually adopt a resolution in the same vein. In representations made by the Chairmen of the Transport Sections of both the Economic and Social Committee and the European Parliament to the Italian and also Luxembourg Presidents of the Council, and in further talks on both sides with the Commissioner responsible for transport,

it appeared that the Committee's opinion was a practical solution capable of leading to regulations acceptable to both employers and workers.

The line taken by the Committee can be summarized as follows: daily and weekly driving periods, an average of 9 and 45 hours respectively; daily and weekly rest periods, 12 and 48 hours respectively, with the possibility of reducing the weekly rest period to 40 hours at home and 24 hours away from home. Compensation for reduced rest must be taken in the form of an extension of the weekly or daily rest period. In the case of reduced rest away from home, compensation must be taken in the form of a corresponding extension of the weekly rest period; in the case of reduced rest at home, compensation may be taken in the form of an extended daily rest period, with the extension consisting of blocks of not less than 4 successive hours. Compensation must be taken within a 4-week reference period.

Road haulage employers and workers represented in the Committee recognize that exceptions might be necessary where specific activities are concerned, particularly in the case of international road haulage. In such cases the daily driving period can be increased to 10 hours and the daily rest period reduced to 8 hours. In the view of the Committee the detailed application of these regulations will have to be worked out in negotiations between employers and workers.

A special regulation will have to be adopted for passenger transport, taking into account the particular features of this area of transport (e.g. coach traffic, etc.). The Committee is finally opposed to the lifting of the ban on piecework. Removal of the ban would jeopardize road safety and would not be in the interests of workers in this sector. The Committee believes that flexibility and social progress are more likely to be achieved with its own proposed amendments than with the Commission proposal.

The Committee opinion was adopted in February 1985 and reiterated in an additional opinion adopted in September 1985. At its meeting held on 14 November 1985 the Council unanimously amended the Commission proposal. This unfortunately meant that not all of the proposals made by the Committee were taken on board.

Operation of the market/access to the market/tariff-conditions of transport/ Community quota

In October the Commission submitted a proposal for a Regulation on Community quotas in the light of the accession of Spain and Portugal. The Regulation fixed the Community road transport quota for Spain and Portugal from 1 January 1986 and allowed for a further increase in the quotas of the Community of Ten in view of the increase in road transport as a result of enlargement.

In its opinion of November 1985 the Committee reiterated its earlier views that an automatic increase in the Community quota was not based on economically reliable data. The Committee feels that the Commission proposal can only be justified by the enlargement of the Community. The Commission's methods of calculating authorizations should also be reviewed in the future.

The Council accepted this Committee proposal at its November Session.

Seaports/Hinterland transports

At the end of 1984 the Commission submitted to the Council three different proposals in the above area: an amendment of the first Council Directive of 23 July 1962 on the establishment of common rules; an amendment of EEC Regulation No 3568/83 on the liberalization of the rate-fixing system for carriage to or from a Community seaport of goods imported or exported by sea; and a proposal for a Directive on the organization of markets in this area.

The Commission assumes in its document that the conditions under which the EC seaports compete with each other vary from one port to another. The Commission wishes to change this situation by removing quotas for the carriage in question and ensuring that rate-fixing is on a free-market basis. To achieve this, the Commission is proposing the three pieces of separate legislation.

In its opinion of October 1985 the Committee acknowledges the Commission's concern to hasten the harmonization of transport policies in the Community, and takes the view that the Commission proposals can contribute to greater consistency and integration potential in the Community transport sector. At the same time, however, the Committee has considerable doubts as to whether all the necessary measures are available to nip in the bud any possible negative effects of the proposals. Its agreement in principle is therefore subject to some reservations. The Committee also regrets that it is not explained how the proposed changes fit into a longer-term approach to the harmonization and liberalization of market and competition conditions in the Member States. Secondly, the Commission proposals would have the effect of creating additional fragmented transport markets in most of the seaport regions of the Member States. Finally, the Committee feels that the 'corridor approach' aimed at by the Commission entails serious problems of delimitation. Among other things this applies to the question of defining 'seaports' (functional rather than geographical definition), the question of including or excluding external trade and traffic within the Community, the demarcation between favoured hinterland transport, other hinterland transport, loco-transport and hinterland transport which does not relate to seaports (inland transport between seaport regions and the hinterland).

Revised Mannheim Convention on the Navigation of the Rhine

Additional Protocol No 2 to the Revised Convention for the Navigation of the Rhine seeks, in connection with the Rhine-Main-Danube canal, to protect the fleets of the contracting States (Belgium, France, Germany, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Switzerland) from outside competition on the Rhine Navigation market. Traffic on the Rhine is restricted to vessels belonging to the Rhine Navigation. Vessels must substantiate this right by means of an appropriate document issued by the relevant authorities. The Central Commission for the Navigation, which acts as guardian of the Mannheim Convention, has drawn up implementing provisions to lay down the conditions for issue of the abovementioned document. These implementing provisions

must be translated into Community law since operations on the Rhine come under the common transport policy. This is the reason for the Commission proposal which was generally approved by the Committee in April. The Committee nevertheless had certain reservations because the provisions of the Commission proposal were not completely identical with the CCR's implementing Regulation, and so differences of interpretation could not be precluded. The CCR's implementing provisions should therefore be incorporated word-for-word and in their entirety in the Council Regulation.

Combined transport

The Commission proposal, on which the Committee delivered a by and large favourable opinion in October, deals with four different areas: expansion of the scope of Community rules for inland-waterway combined transport; extension of the liberalization zone around inland waterway ports for initial and final road sections of combined inland waterway transport operations (from 50 km to 150 km); facilitation of the final road-haulage operations in own-account combined transport; and finally certain exemptions from the ban on movement applicable to conventional road transport.

The Committee believes that the proposed extension should be limited to 100 km to avoid too drastic a change. The Committee also believes that the extension of combined transport must not be brought about by making fundamental changes to the definition of own-account transport at the expense of professional hauliers. Finally, as far as the fourth area is concerned, the Committee believes that this completely ignores reality since most firms are closed on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays, i.e. the days on which there is a desire to lift the ban on movements.

Infrastructure

Broad outlines of a medium-term transport infrastructure policy

The Commission asked the Committee for an opinion on this document at the beginning of the year. This resulted in a fruitful exchange of information with Commission departments and will hopefully be reflected in concrete Commission proposals.

The Committee reemphasized that the launching of a common transport infrastructure policy was long overdue and consequently supports all initiatives which further such a policy.

Cooperation with Community bodies and other European organizations

Council

In 1985 the Council took part in several working meetings of the Committee (Ministers Signorile and Schlechter). There were also meetings between representatives of the Section for Transport and Communications and successive Council Presidencies.

European Parliament

Cooperation with the EP's Transport Committee could be strengthened although a common stand was taken in the fields of social regulations (evidence provided by the ESC rapporteur to the EP's Transport Committee and a common press conference) and the maritime transport memorandum (participation of the Chairman and rapporteur of the Transport Committee).

Commission

The Commission regularly takes part in Committee meetings and has discussed the new prospects for a European transport policy, particularly in the light of the Court of Justice's judgment of 22 May 1985. Representatives of the EP also took part in this meeting.

Hearings

In 1984 the Committee held a hearing on the air transport memorandum with 22 European representative organizations. This came in useful when the Committee opinion was drawn up in September 1985. Several press conferences were also held on the subject and the Committee's opinion, which was produced in brochure form, was very favourably received by the press.

3. SOCIAL POLICY

Social developments in the Community in 1984

The Committee noted that unemployment in the Community continued to rise in 1984 to reach an average 12.7 million, 11% of the workforce, despite lower inflation and public expenditure, higher productivity and profits and the maintenance of wage restraint.

The Committee drew attention to the pressures on persons dependent on social security, the trends in some countries towards greater inequality and marginalization, and to the emergence of poverty associated with long-term unemployment.

Negotiated agreements on wages and working conditions were positively noted, whilst concern was expressed with some of the tendencies implicit in the economic policy approach set forward in 1984 by the Commission, preference being instead for the first and second social action programmes' approach. In this context, the Section reiterated the importance of the interdependence between economic and social policy.

Seven conclusions were drawn:

1. Social cohesion and solidarity are essential elements of a policy for sustained qualitative economic growth.
2. The maintenance of collective social responsibility and the development of collective agreements and consultations are part of the consensual framework needed to create jobs.
3. The preconditions set out, in last year's Opinion, for an effective EC social strategy are still valid, i.e.,
 - (i) the positive 'multiplier' effects of concerted action,
 - (ii) adequate EC 'own resources',
 - (iii) an effective EC policy decision-making machinery,
 - (iv) EC policy instruments.
4. A 'multilateral' approach is needed, combining:
 - (i) supply side initiatives with sustained demand and a selective boost directed at job creation and social need;
 - (ii) new positive approaches towards enterprise with the maintenance of social protection standards and collective bargaining methods and greater co-responsibility;
 - (iii) technological transition with proper information, consultation and monitoring procedures, plus training;
 - (iv) an assessment of tax on enterprise with consideration of rates of return, profits and investment in employment creation;
 - (v) the job-creative role of SME's along with selective, targeted social insurance aid.
5. In addition to the need to maintain proper support to the unemployed, standards of support for the old, the handicapped and other vulnerable groups outside the employment system must be vigilantly maintained.
6. There is an urgent need to develop a set of targets and parameters, relating to broad EC social policy objectives, which are quantifiable and carry the same weight as comparable measures of EC economic development.
7. EC economic and social policy must move step by step together. Policies for economic efficiency must be matched by concern for the well-being of those less able to protect themselves in this age of radical transition.

A press conference was held in Newcastle (UK), the rapporteur's base, in order to promote the opinion, and resulted in considerable press and media coverage.

The demographic situation in the Community

The aim of the information report drawn up by the Section for Social Questions is to analyse the demographic situation in the European Community — as characterized by the changing profile of the age pyramid; identify the causes of it, assess the consequences and suggest remedies.

After setting out and commenting on certain statistics, the Section analyses the possible causes of the fertility crisis and the economic and social implications of a continued low birth rate in most of the Member States (repercussions for public finances, economic repercussions, potential working population, sectoral effects, volume and structure of consumption, savings and investment, dependence on immigration, competitiveness, etc.).

In its conclusions the Section makes various recommendations, stressing in particular that the birth rate in the EEC countries has fallen to unprecedented levels, well below the generation replacement threshold (the deficit ranges from 15 to 40%, depending on the country). Recent trends indicate that, contrary to what was expected some years ago, there is little likelihood of any major spontaneous turnaround. If present behaviour patterns are maintained, the economic, social and political picture for Europe gives cause for concern, especially in view of the more or less automatic effects brought about by the ageing of the population. As the present demographic situation is unfavourable, and there is no indication of it getting better on its own, it is up to the public authorities, as guardians of the long-term interests of the societies in their charge, to concern themselves with the radically new factors which have led to such an imbalance and to help restore equilibrium to the age pyramid by making it easier for parents to choose what size family they want.

This information report has been widely circulated and attracted much comment from many key Community and national groups as well as the Press. In particular, it was presented and discussed by the rapporteur, Mr Burnel, at a press conference held in Paris at the French Economic and Social Council, which was very well attended and aroused a great deal of interest.

Community policy on migration

The Committee supported the aims of the Commission's Communication and welcomed the ideas contained in the explanatory memorandum, but regretted that the resolution itself was inadequate.

Referring back to the ESC own-initiative opinion ⁽¹⁾, which remained fully valid, the Committee specifically reiterated the need for concerted action on the granting of political and civic rights, on measures to combat illegal employment and illicit traffic

⁽¹⁾ Opinion on migrant workers (25 October 1984), OJ C 343, 24. 12. 1984.

in labour, and for appropriate training and retraining programmes, proper social protection, dual language teaching, a European housing fund and free choice with regard to reintegration opportunities.

Application of social security schemes

The Committee endorsed the Commission proposal amending Regulation (ECC) No 1408/71.

Consequential to the abolition of widows' pensions in Denmark, periods of employment or self-employment completed there by a deceased partner resident in another Member State needed to be treated as periods of residence completed in Denmark by the surviving spouse.

Under certain conditions, Greek teachers temporarily employed in Germany who had previously been doubly liable to pay social insurance contributions ought to be able to receive reimbursement.

There was a need to reflect in EC regulations new sex-equality provisions in United Kingdom pension legislation and to enable a more accurate pro-rata (earnings-related) calculation of UK retirement pensions on aggregate periods of insurance, employment or residence completed in another Member State.

The Committee further supported the proposed amendment to reduce and rationalize overlapping of entitlement to family benefits.

Social security protection for volunteer development workers

In this opinion, the Committee endorsed the Commissions's aim in seeking to guarantee volunteer development workers (who do not have the same status as individuals recruited by governments) equal social security cover in relation to other Community workers. The Committee's opinion also contains a number of comments on the importance of the vocational training, motivation and knowhow to be acquired by volunteers before departure. The Committee also urges that social cover should embrace not only the period of preparation and the period spent in the developing country but also an appropriate period immediately following the volunteer's return to the sending country, so as to facilitate reintegration.

Protection of workers by the proscription of specified agents and/or work activities

The Committee endorsed the present Commission proposal, subject to a clearer formulation of the title and methodology.

It therefore proposed that the title read '...Proscription of *exposure* to specified agents and/or work activities'.

Likewise the operational measures foreseen ought to 'proscribe *exposure to, and in cases where exposure cannot be avoided, to proscribe the agents...and/or work activity*' concerned.

The Committee further stressed the need to include benzidine and its salts among the agents listed, and for appropriate forms of worker information and consultation when exemptions are applied for.

Occupational cancer

In this own-initiative opinion, the Committee refers to the work conducted by other national and international organizations on this major problem and points out that cancer from occupational causes poses a hazard with the following characteristics which, in combination, make it qualitatively different from other occupational risks. These characteristics are the following: (a) there is no proof of the existence of a safe level of exposure, (b) there is usually a long latent period between exposure and the appearance and diagnosis of the disease (which by that time may be irreversible), (c) the disease is difficult to predict and often fatal, and (d) it is impossible to make predictions about the susceptibility of individuals to the risk and effect of occupational cancer.

The Committee goes on to consider in turn the classification of carcinogenic agents, consultation, information collection and dissemination, registration of medical data and risk limitation.

On the key issue of risk limitation, the Committee takes the view that if an agent/process is proved to be highly carcinogenic, exposure should be proscribed; in cases where exposure cannot be avoided, its use should be banned.

In its conclusions, the Committee calls particularly for the framing of a directive concentrating on the use of carcinogens at the workplace.

At the Commission's instigation, the rapporteur, Mr Etty, was invited to expound the Committee's viewpoint at an international conference organized in Rome on 13 and 14 June 1985. In addition, a press conference held in The Hague on 4 June awakened considerable response in the Press and among the groups concerned.

Income taxation and equal treatment for men and women

The Committee's opinion on the relevant Commission memorandum welcomes the fact that the Commission has taken action to examine, in respect of wage and salary incomes, the direct and indirect effects of income tax systems on equality of opportunity for men and women.

The Committee agrees with the Commission that discrimination against the second income earner — generally the wife — can be precluded only by separate taxation of spouses' incomes. However, it urges the Commission to extend its comparative analy-

sis to cover all types of income. On the basis of this analysis a directive on the equal treatment of men and women in income tax systems should then be drawn up. This directive should take account of the fact that equal treatment in this respect means at the very least:

- (i) individual taxation,
- (ii) fair apportionment of realistic tax concessions for dependents.

Tax measures in the cultural sector

Whilst supporting the initiative, the Committee urged the Commission to propose a common definition of the term 'cultural worker'. It also considered that a period of seven years would be appropriate for spreading the income tax calculation applicable to such workers.

On other points, the Committee warned against possible abuses in 'cultural speculation', whilst urging that tax relief be granted on expenditure on works of art in public buildings benefiting from public aid.

Application of social security schemes

The Committee supported the Commission's proposal and noted the growing significance of non-contributory benefits in the context of contemporary social and economic conditions.

Tasks of the European Social Fund

The Committee supported the Commission proposal whilst stressing the need for an increase in the Social Fund budget, close cooperation with other EC structural instruments, and maintenance of the principle of 'additionality'.

The Committee stressed the importance of helping the self-employed in the interests of discouraging all forms of moonlighting, and considered that help should be given to self-employed persons who opt to join cooperative-type schemes.

European Social Fund — effects of the accession of Spain and Portugal

The Committee noted the proposals to include Portugal and nine autonomous regions of Spain in the list of regions qualifying for increased ESF assistance.

The Committee recalled its previous pronouncements on the allocation of appropriations and the need to increase the Fund's budget. If the budget was not increased, there was a much greater risk of the money available being spread too thinly to be of any use. The Committee also stressed the need for an acceptable balance between support for priority regions and support for other regions.

In view of the exceptional circumstances represented by the accession of two new Member States, the Committee supported the proposals for 1986 only and on condition that the rate for absolute priority regions be raised to 45%. It felt that in the meantime the Fund's objectives should be clarified and its budget increased, so that it could play its part in fighting unemployment and supporting the economic recovery in a spirit of solidarity.

Community programme in education and training for technology (Comett)

The Committee opinion supported the action programme, in particular because it would further the Community's drive to make itself competitive in the long term on world markets, getting the Member States to cooperate more on technological matters.

The Committee endorsed the Commission's statement that in a highly technological age managers must not only possess specialist skills but also have a 'broad appreciation of the economic, social and cultural repercussions of technological change'.

In its specific comments, the Committee dealt with the practical procedures and objectives of university/industry cooperation, small firms' problems with respect to participation in the proposed exchange programmes and the way Comett would be implemented.

The Committee concluded by noting that the European dimension of Comett exchange programmes would promote the intensive learning of European languages.

4. ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL POLICY

The Committee's opinions on general economic policy are issued according to a set pattern: around the middle of the year the Committee delivers an opinion on the economic situation in the Community, and this is followed in the autumn by an opinion on the Commission's annual economic report. The first opinion assesses the current economic situation and fixes the economic priorities that are called for in the view of the economic and social groupings represented on the Committee. The economic policy programme proposed in this opinion forms the basis for the discussion of the appraisals and proposals contained in the Commission's annual economic report.

Each year the Committee also produces reports on the economic situation in the two countries holding the Presidency of the Council in the two successive six-month periods.

Economic situation in the Community (mid-1985)

In its assessment of the economic situation in the Community in mid-1985 the Committee noted that the economic recovery was continuing slowly.

This recovery had to be reinforced by the adoption of measures by the Member States to improve the operation of the markets in goods, services and capital.

Furthermore, the Community should strive to reduce its dependence in the world economy, thus giving it greater room for manoeuvre.

The rise in industrial investment was noted with satisfaction. Nonetheless, the Committee called for the focusing of more attention on the construction sector as well as on Community infrastructure in general and in particular transport, telecommunications, information technology, the environment, the quality of life, health care and housing. The Committee also pointed out that the Community's borrowing capacity was sufficient to finance infrastructure projects.

The Committee considered that the measures to alleviate unemployment adopted so far had been inadequate or not effective enough. It felt that measures were required at national and European Community level to speed up the economic recovery in Europe and reduce unemployment more swiftly. In the present economic crisis, dialogue between the two sides of industry on the one hand and the national governments and EEC Councils of Ministers on the other was essential if appropriate solutions were to be found.

The growth in protectionist tendencies on world markets was also viewed with great concern, and the Committee called for the rejection, wherever possible, of further export subsidies or import restrictions.

The Committee thought that the creditability of the European Monetary System (EMS) should be improved and that action should be taken to make the system more stable. An international monetary conference ought to be organized to find a remedy for international monetary disorder.

Finally, the Committee urged that measures be taken to enable small and medium-sized enterprises to adapt better in the long term to changes in the economic situation.

The Commission's annual economic report 1985/86

The Committee was pleased to note that the annual economic report 1985/86 is largely in harmony with the views it expressed in its opinion and report on the economic situation in mid-1985. This applies particularly to the emphasis which the Commission placed on the need to strive for the kind of growth that creates more employment and a policy geared not only to the supply side, but also — albeit differentiated according to Member State — to the demand side. Very important too was the recognition that the success of the proposed strategy in the medium term is largely dependent on dialogue and consensus between the two sides of industry and governments at national level and in institutions at European level.

The Committee endorsed the Commission's dual strategy, under which points of emphasis may vary from one Member State to another. This comprises a policy that, by restraining costs, creates the conditions for expansion of production capacity in ways that will mean more employment, and parallel with this a demand-supporting policy designed to prevent a decline in aggregate purchasing power and the danger of deflation. This support can be aimed at private and public investment and at consumer demand.

In the Committee's view these two policy tracks go together. The points of emphasis in policy must be evenly distributed. Restraining of costs and support for demand (both consumer demand and investment demand) must go hand in hand.

The Committee also endorsed a strategy for implementing such a policy which is based on a constructive dialogue between the two sides of industry on the one hand and the national governments and the Council of the European Community on the other. In the Committee's view, action proposed by the Commission in specific areas must be dealt with in these discussions. This applies at all events to the reduction and adaptation of working time, greater labour market flexibility with due regard being had to the social advances that have been achieved, a say for workers in the introduction of new technologies, wage differentiation under collective labour agreements, continuation of an appropriate wage trend and a more job-creating expansion of private and public investment. These subjects and the consequences for growth and the fight against unemployment should be discussed at all levels. These discussions should result in conclusions leading to the attainment of the desired results by 1990.

In addition to the cooperative growth strategy in general the Committee also dealt in this opinion with labour market policy, investment, budgetary policy and monetary policy.

Reports on the economic situation in Member States

In the first half of 1985 the Committee drew up a report on the economic situation in Italy and in the second half of the year a report on the economic situation in Luxembourg (the Member States holding the Presidency of the Council in these periods).

18th VAT Directive

The Committee welcomed the Commission proposal, the implementation of which would not only lead to further harmonization of the Member States' laws relating to turnover taxes, but would also facilitate the calculation of Community own resources.

The Committee felt that the implementation of some of the proposed measures could be brought forward and that in the interests of uniform and fair taxation alterations were required to Article 28 of the Sixth VAT Directive.

The Committee made the following recommendations in its specific comments:

- (i) the planned exemption from tax of dental technicians' services and the supply of dental prostheses should be incorporated into the 19th Directive, which should also provide for the exemption from tax of other services performed by doctors and the supply of other prostheses;
- (ii) services performed by public radio and television bodies should be exempted from tax;
- (iii) the planned exemption from tax of services performed by travel agents should be dropped;
- (iv) the taxation of admission to sporting events and services supplied by authors, artists and other performers, lawyers and other members of the liberal professions and veterinary surgeons should be brought forward to 1 January 1986;
- (v) the management of credits and credit guarantees by third parties and the safe-keeping and management of shares etc. should continue to be tax-exempt;
- (vi) harmonization of the turnover tax provisions for supplies of buildings that are not newly constructed should not be postponed indefinitely.

19th VAT Directive

The Committee welcomed the measures proposed by the Commission. It thought that it would be advisable to incorporate the currently applicable provisions of the various VAT Directives in a new Directive.

In its specific comments the Committee called for:

- (i) the proposed blanket exemption for hospital treatment to be dropped and for a distinction to continue to be made between services liable to taxation and exempted services, based on the criteria established hitherto;
- (ii) professional sport and physical education in fitness centres or similar establishments to be expressly excluded from the exemption covering the provision of services linked to sport and physical education;
- (iii) special treatment not to be accorded in respect of the supply of works of art and the provision of services by artists in order to avoid unfairness and technical problems with regard to tax collection;
- (iv) no restrictions to be placed on the right of option in respect of financial institutions which issue credit cards or similar documents.

Modification of the European Monetary System (EMS)

In its opinion the Committee approved the proposed amendment of certain articles of

the Regulation concerning the European Monetary System (EMS) and the European Monetary Cooperation Fund (EMCF).

The Committee took the view that the procedures enabling 'other holders' to use ECUs should be progressively extended and liberalized, so that the ECU could become a fully fledged international currency.

The Committee also felt that further measures should be taken to strengthen economic convergence and relaunch the process of financial integration so as to consolidate the stability, credibility and identity of the EMS.

New Community Instrument (NCI IV)

As the funds borrowed by the Commission under NCI III were virtually entirely committed, the Committee agreed that the Commission should borrow a further sum of some 1 500 million ECU (NCI IV).

The Committee opinion confirmed the views expressed in the past concerning the NCI, i.e. that the purpose of NCI loans should be to increase investments to support and improve economic growth and to combat unemployment.

The Committee approved the Commission's intent to use the NCI to support technological innovation in small firms in the Community, but it considered that NCI loans, which are sometimes accompanied by national grants, should not distort competition between companies in different Member States.

The Committee noted that small firms in the distributive trades and tourism cannot benefit from NCI loans and asked that companies in these sectors which meet the basic conditions should be able to receive NCI loans.

Finally, the Committee regretted that, unlike the Council and the Parliament, it is not kept up-to-date on NCI loan activities.

Harmonization of taxes on alcohol

The proposal for a Council Directive laying down certain rules on indirect taxes on alcoholic drinks provided that, within each Member State the same rate of VAT is to apply to beverages falling into each of the following three major categories: wine and beer, fortified wine and spirits. The second Commission proposal dealt with in the same opinion was for a uniform rate of excise duty on fortified wine and similar products.

In the light of the already scheduled general harmonization of excise rates, the Committee urged that, on approval of the two directives, the Council should affirm the partial nature of the texts and reiterate its commitment to establishing a harmonized, equitable excise system for all alcoholic drinks as soon as possible in accordance with a detailed timetable of implementation and to taking steps to reduce (where excessive) or at least hold down the levels of excise duty on alcoholic drinks.

Standardization of the VAT rate applicable to the various alcoholic drinks appeared both consistent and desirable.

However, it seemed more sensible to apply the VAT rate laid down for agricultural products to wine, beer and other fermented drinks, when this rate is lower than that applicable to non-agricultural products.

As part of the gradual tax harmonization of the entire alcoholic drinks sector, the Committee wondered whether common arrangements might usefully be introduced as soon as possible for sparkling wines, and partially fermented musts.

Contributions to the ECSC

The Committee endorsed the Commission proposal concerning the transfer of contributions from the general budget to the European Coal and Steel Community for the financing of special social measures connected with the restructuring of the coal and steel industries over the period 1984—86.

The Committee thought, however, that it would be useful to consider the proposal in conjunction with the policy for restructuring these industries and, as far as coal is concerned, in conjunction with the Community's energy policy.

In addition, the Committee considered that the problem of financing, even in the medium term, still had to be resolved, and it asked the Commission to look for a solution to this problem.

5. REGIONAL POLICY

In 1985 the Committee adopted four opinions and two information reports on various aspects of regional development.

Information report on an integrated operation for the county of Clywd (North Wales)

Integrated operations have always been a major concern of the Section for Regional Development and its work in this field has often been highly influential. Besides a 1982 study on the general concept of integrated operations, the Committee has already examined several specific cases (Lorraine, Naples, Belfast, Bayerischer Wald). In the case of Lorraine, the impulse given by the Committee was decisive as it floated the idea at a time when the French Government was opposed to it; the pressure from the local authorities was such, however, that the operation got under way two years later.

In the report on Wales the Committee examined the potential development impact of an integrated operation for Clywd. This is an underdeveloped rural area which has

been hit by the decline of a basic industry, leading to one of the highest unemployment rates in the United Kingdom. First a meeting was arranged with the local authorities in order to assess the situation.

After a detailed analysis of the situation, the report goes on to examine the various contributions already made by the Community and the development programmes currently in progress.

The report concludes by advocating an integrated programme for the eastern part of the county. Extending over several years, the programme would include the establishment of industrial parks and aid for the development of infrastructure, SMEs and tourism.

The report also dwells on problems of communication between local authorities and the transfer of funds from central government to region. It stresses that funds paid out under an integrated operation must be additional to national or regional resources.

Second periodic report on the social and economic situation and development of the regions of the Community

The opinion expresses satisfaction with the quality of this second periodic report and with the improvements made in it in response to the criticisms levelled by the ESC in 1982 in its opinion on the first report. In particular it notes that the Commission, even if it still has some way to go, has undertaken to further refine its data gathering. It has improved the calculation of GDP and corrected the unemployment indicator by weighting it in relation to the general activity rate of the region. Finally, it has replaced all its static indicators by dynamic indicators.

However, the Committee calls for the Member States to cooperate in refining and further harmonizing the data which are used to calculate the GDP in each country. The Commission is asked to investigate whether the indicator 'unemployment' might not be replaced by an indicator for the level of employment to counter the danger of inaccuracy at present arising from parttime employment and 'moonlighting'.

The opinion also once again emphasizes the possibility of applying a number of indicators introducing qualitative aspects.

Information report on national regional development aids

ERDF grants are supposed to supplement national grants, regional development depending primarily on national rather than Community aid. The Committee therefore wished to evaluate national support for regional development in order to gauge the total volume of support and the reasons for development disparities.

The work began with a series of 10 papers on support schemes in the Member States.

The report itself pinpoints the reasons for regional development disparities, lists the

various types of support provided in the Member States, and compares 'regional' and other types of support.

The next part of the report looks at the impact of national regional support on competition policy (Articles 92 and 93 of the Rome Treaty). A number of recommendations are made on this issue and on the discretionary powers which the Member States should retain with respect to regional policy.

The interest aroused by this information report persuaded the Committee to approve the drawing up of an own-initiative opinion on the same subject.

Ninth report from the Commission to the Council — European Regional Development Fund

The Committee compliments the Commission on the clarity and the comprehensiveness of the ninth report. It sees a very clear improvement in the presentation of the current report *vis-à-vis* the earlier ones. The Committee observes that regional imbalances have again worsened and points to the fact that the outlook is scarcely hopeful given the trend in employment, on the one hand, and the prospects of the enlargement of the Community on the other hand.

If there is no increase in funding — a prospect deplored by the Committee — the effectiveness of the available funds will have to be increased by involving the regions more directly in finding solutions to their specific problems and by defining more accurately the goals to be achieved and the available sources of finance.

The ninth report demonstrates that initial steps have already been taken to achieve these objectives. The report also highlights the fact that per capita aid has sometimes been greater in the non-assisted areas than in the assisted areas. This is not a desirable state of affairs and it requires justification. Another regrettable feature revealed in the report is that nine-tenths of the aid is spent on infrastructure which is always given very preferential treatment by the Member States.

The opinion calls for a more analytical approach to regional policy with analyses being carried out both prior to and subsequent to investments with a view to ensuring maximum effectiveness. Effectiveness would be measured by the number of direct and indirect jobs created. This would mean, amongst other things, that measures taken to help small and medium-sized businesses should not directly preclude the provision of aid to larger industries, insofar as analyses show that aid to these latter industries would lead to the establishment of new SMEs.

The opinion also comes out in favour of the new approach in the form of integrated programmes, provided that these programmes are also subject to proper economic analyses and monitoring during their implementation. For this reason it welcomes the fact that a whole series of prior studies in this field are to be financed. Development models should be assessed in pilot projects which could provide useful lessons for regional development as a whole.

Proposals for Council Regulations amending non-quota Regulations

These proposed Regulations follow on from a series of measures adopted in January 1984. Their aim is to extend to certain zones the benefits of the measures already proposed for the shipbuilding and textile sectors, to broaden slightly the measure on the border areas of Ireland and Northern Ireland, and to propose a new measure for the fisheries sector. The Committee is very much in favour of these measures, which are outside the fixed quotas allocated to each Member State and enable the Commission to adopt a genuinely Community, supranational approach.

The opinion approves the proposed measures and the legal amendment to the ERDF Regulation which they necessitate.

However, with respect to the proposed measures on the border areas of Ireland and Northern Ireland — which the Committee had defended and in part instigated in its widely circulated 1983 opinion — the Committee notes that certain other measures should be considered in the near future. It refers in particular to gas supplies, which had been the subject of a recent press conference. In addition, the opinion endorses the view of the European Parliament that the non-quota measures should cover a slightly broader area.

European Regional Development Fund

The aim of the proposal was to introduce into the ERDF Regulation two new intervention 'brackets' for Spain and Portugal in view of their accession in 1986.

The Committee considers that the Commission has followed the correct procedure with respect to calculations. This procedure complies with the criteria laid down for other countries.

The Committee emphasizes the extreme importance of the associated increase in the 1986 and subsequent ERDF budgets. It trusts that the Council will adopt this measure promptly, with a real will to progress towards a coherent economic unit by reducing existing disparities.

In this connection it should not be forgotten that the increase in own resources should make it possible to put greater emphasis on the structural financial instruments.

6. INDUSTRIAL POLICY

Technical barriers

The Committee's work in this field was marked by a major opinion on the new approach to technical harmonization and standards.

The Commission's new approach arose out of the recognition that a revision of the methods and procedures regarding technical harmonization in the Community was needed in order to complete the internal market.

Using the 'general reference to standards' method, the Commission developed a general approach geared to the legislative requirements for sectors or groups of products as well as for categories of hazards, drawing up proposals for directives based on Article 100 of the EEC Treaty.

Some priority sectors or areas were chosen, in the light of both the need to make up for lost time and the desirability of profiting from what could be considered to be favourable conditions.

The Committee opinion approved the new approach, stressing that mutual recognition of certification was the key element.

It stressed, however, that the new strategy should not lead to a jettisoning of the old approach, which had achieved satisfactory standardization results in such sectors as motor vehicles, metrology and electrical products.

It invited the Commission to consider what steps to take against non-member countries which take unfair advantage of the scope for penetrating the Community market provided by intra-EEC standardization without offering reciprocity.

Also in the field of technical barriers, the Committee issued opinions on:

- (i) the sound level of motor cycles,
- (ii) the protection structures on farm tractors.

Customs harmonization

The Committee's work in this field covered various topics: customs debt, remission of import or export duties, border formalities for Community citizens, and temporary importation of goods.

Of particular importance was the opinion on the proposal for a Council Regulation (ECC) laying down measures to discourage the release for free circulation of counterfeit goods. This proposal sought to establish common rules on the procedure to be followed when applying for action to be taken by the customs authorities, the conditions governing the taking of such action, and the measures to be taken by the competent authorities with regard to goods when it has been established that they are counterfeit. International trade in counterfeit goods has posed serious problems, both for manufacturers and traders who discover that their products are being fraudulently copied, and for consumers. Many instances have shown that counterfeit goods are on the increase mainly because of the lack of effective supervision, which would prevent international trade in such products.

The Committee opinion noted that the proposal only concerned the counterfeiting of

trade marks, and therefore infringement of the rights of trade-mark owners. To achieve its declared objective, the proposal should also cover counterfeiting of designs and models registered in the Member States.

The Committee was aware that such an extension was still theoretically inadequate, as counterfeiting in the Community was widespread. However, from a practical point of view, the approach could be supported for the following reasons:

- (i) the proposal would mean new tasks for the customs authorities; a rather cautious, gradual approach was therefore to be preferred;
- (ii) goods protected by a trade mark or by a registered model or design were more easily identified;

Sulphur content of certain liquid fuels

In this last opinion, the Committee supported a draft Directive which proposed that, from 1 July 1987, the maximum permitted sulphur content of liquid fuels should be reduced from 0.5% to 0.3% by weight, and the distinction between type A and type B gas oil be abolished.

However, the Committee did ask the Commission to produce a report on the implementation of the Directive by 1 July 1989.

The report should show clearly whether the lower sulphur content had led to less pollution or whether the limit should be lowered further.

- (i) the customs authorities should not be over-burdened, given the difficulties they face when checking goods from third countries;
- (ii) increased control of goods circulating between the Member States was incompatible with abolition of the Community's internal frontiers.

General medical practice

In proposing a directive on specific training in general medical practice, the Commission's intention was that all general practitioners should have specific training to complement the basic training common to all doctors.

The training should:

- (i) be additional to basic training;
- (ii) give the right to hold a particular professional title;
- (iii) be compulsory for all doctors practising as general medical practitioners, inside or outside the social security system.

The Committee supported the aims of the proposal. It felt that the major features of the specific training were that it was to be practically rather than theoretically based, and that the provisions on part-time training and possession of an equivalent qualification should be regarded as applicable only in exceptional cases.

The aim of the Proposal was to produce a general practitioner able to offer increasingly appropriate, high-quality treatment, especially in preventive medicine. It thus seemed unlikely that specialists in other fields would be able to provide such a service; although highly skilled in their own discipline, they might not be suited to the specific duties of a family doctor.

The RACE programme and standardization in telecommunications

In its opinion on the RACE programme, the Committee generally supported the Commission's proposals on research and development in advanced communications technologies (RACE).

The Committee considered it of fundamental importance that there should be a clear definition of national and EC roles. Networks would develop in the initial stage within the EC Member States and national developments would therefore press ahead independently of EC initiatives.

The main task of 'RACE' would be one of constantly coordinating developments at national level with the objectives of the Community, in order to ensure that integration was not delayed or rendered more difficult by divergent technology. The Committee regarded the development of an integrated broadband communication (IBC) reference model as a matter of particular importance and urgency, as it would provide a clearer picture of technological data and basic conditions. This would be of value when taking national political decisions.

The Community would also have to give special emphasis to tackling the problems of standardization and interfaces in cross-frontier information exchanges. The Committee therefore underlined the importance of the work of the Special Broadband Working Party (GSLB) which, together with the CEPT, was to concentrate on drawing up recommendations for harmonizing the efforts of telecommunications operators.

The Committee urged that, right from the definition phase, the link between the users and providers of services, on the one hand, and the technological options, on the other hand, be considered in greater detail. The provision of satisfactory answers to questions such as those set out below would be a contributory factor in deciding when, to what extent and with what cost-benefit relationship the new broadband technologies could be brought into operation:

- (i) What qualitative and quantitative changes in labour market conditions are likely to be brought about by the introduction of integrated networks?
- (ii) How will the jobs concerned be changed? What are the likely social consequences? What effect will this have on training requirements?

- (iii) How can personal information and copyright be protected in a satisfactory, convincing way?
- (iv) What is the extent of the private demand for new services such as teletex, cable TV and videophones and to what preconditions is the demand subject, apart from cost?

Summing up, the Committee noted that the development and introduction of integrated broadband networks – largely based on opto-electronic technology – would be an important technological task for the next decade. The EC, given its economic structure, must be a world leader in this development. The preliminary work on the establishment of EC-wide networks should therefore be started without delay.

The Committee also issued an opinion on two proposals for directives concerning:

- (i) standardization in the field of information technology (IT) and telecommunications; and
- (ii) the mutual recognition of type approval of telecommunication terminals.

These directives are part of the Community's overall strategy in the fields of IT and telecommunications, which are recognized as being of crucial importance for Europe's economic and technological future.

In its opinion, the Committee said it realized that the measures planned would only be fully effective if the governments of all the Member States seriously intended to create a workable Community telecommunications network as quickly as possible, and if every effort was made to create a vast, Community-wide market which would ensure that European industry was competitive on world markets.

Competition policy

As in past years, the Committee issued an opinion on competition policy, when the Commission brought out its 14th report.

In its opinion, the Committee stressed that a system of healthy competition was one of the conditions to be incorporated into a clause on reciprocity during the Community's negotiations with non-EEC countries under the GATT; this would underpin the basic principle that the maintenance of fair competition would help firms to become more competitive.

The Committee reviewed the Commission's efforts in the field of competition policy, the success or failure of certain Community initiatives and the Commission's failure to act on some ESC opinions. It then turned to government aid, which the Member States are under constant pressure to provide at the present time.

The Committee pointed out that it was possible for the Commission to intervene when notification was given of such aid. Such intervention would become more and more

effective as fuller information became available about the various types of national aid. The publication of a White Paper listing all categories of aid, including general measures, would make it easier to monitor the implementation of Community policies.

The Commission was therefore asked to take any steps necessary to fulfil its obligations under Articles 92 and 93 of the EEC Treaty. In particular, it should make the whole set-up easier to understand, so that both EEC and non-EEC countries could get to know in good time of any measure or act with legal consequences and make effective use of their rights under the Treaty.

The Committee recognized that competition policy would be more effective if aids subsequently held to be unlawful or detected after failure to supply notification were refunded or recovered. Such refunds should be accompanied by a fine if the financial aid received by a beneficiary represented a substantial cash advantage.

Green Paper on television without frontiers

The Sub-Committee entrusted with preparing the ESC's debates met seven times in total, in order to study the 370-page Green Paper in detail and discuss the Commission's wide-ranging ideas on the various aspects of an integrated Community television market. The Green Paper covers a great many points, including social and employment issues, consumer policy, cultural and ethical questions and above all the economic and legal problems entailed by a single television broadcasting area in the Community.

The Sub-Committee also heard a number of outside speakers. The development of the media in Italy was considered, where public and private television companies exist side-by-side. Representatives of British organizations also spoke about the interplay between independent and public broadcasters, from the point of view of the television companies themselves, but more especially the media trade unions, consumer associations and the state supervisory bodies.

The focal point of the Sub-Committee's discussions was the question of how far it would be possible to maintain a dual system of public and independent television companies, providing a service for all types of viewers, given a European television market covering the whole continent and the worldwide broadcasting of programmes direct by satellite (DBS). In its Opinion the Economic and Social Committee presents the Commission, the other Community institutions and the Member States with a series of guidelines on this central problem which have secured the support of a majority of the Committee's members.

Another question to be answered was how advertising revenue could be distributed between public and commercial broadcasters in order to guarantee programme quality.

The ESC also addressed the difficulties, mentioned in the Green Paper, facing the European television and cinema industries. Demanding and high-quality feature films are more expensive to produce, and above all to market, than American and other

foreign entertainment series. In a separate opinion the ESC expressed its support for specific Community measures to compensate for this competitive disadvantage.

Completing the internal market

The Committee issued an opinion on the White Paper on completing the internal market, which was sent by the Commission to the European Council meeting in Milan on 28 and 29 June.

The Committee welcomed the Commission's initiative to consolidate the internal market and, while regretting the absence of a social dimension, supported the ambitious target of a fully unified internal market by 1992, as pledged by the Member States at their summit on 29 and 30 March. A summary of the opinion follows:

'This task represents not only a firm step towards unity in the European Community but is an essential prerequisite for future economic growth, employment and trading prospects in the world.

Some of the Commission's recommendations for completing the internal market by the 1992 deadline could be considered ambitious. The Committee accordingly urges the Council to reform its decision-making procedures and accept qualified-majority decision-taking.

The Committee notes that the White Paper does not put forward any practical ideas on a work programme — with a time-scale — for the realization and development of a European dimension in the social field. The White Paper should therefore be supplemented by a second paper dealing comprehensively with the social sphere. A European internal market cannot be achieved without a forward-looking European policy on economic growth and employment.

Completion of the internal market must be accompanied by a narrowing of the gap between the prosperous and less prosperous economies of the Community. Thus the opening of the market involves a clear commitment to implement accompanying structural policies (e.g. regional policy) without which some of the Member States will not be in a position to accept, and tolerate, such a high level of liberalization.'

The Committee also made a number of specific comments concerning in particular:

- (i) *The control of goods.* The Council should accept a phased timetable for increases in duty- and tax-paid allowances on goods for travellers.
- (ii) *The control of individuals.* The Committee thought that crime and drug trafficking should be tackled through closer cooperation between national authorities. Control over criminals and terrorists should be exercised in a concerted manner at the Community's external frontiers. Appropriate measures should also be taken to curb illegal immigration.

- (iii) *Technical barriers.* The Committee recommended that the Commission organize consultations enabling representatives of governments, employers, workers and consumers to contribute to the formulation of proposals for Directives by the Commission.
- (iv) *Free movement for labour and the professions.* This required coordination of immigration policies and respect for Community priority.
- (v) *Industrial cooperation.* Community industrial policies which encourage innovation, strengthen the competitive position of Western Europe and safeguard the interests of its peoples needed to be extended.
- (vi) *Application of Community law.* The Commission should investigate whether traders could be given further assistance by examining problems in the interpretation of existing regulations and making recommendations to approximate their interpretation in each Member State.
- (vii) *Competition and State aid.* The Committee recommended a rigorous policy that would allow resources to be directed towards jobcreating industries and services.
- (viii) *Removal of fiscal barriers.* Provisional measures should be adopted to minimize or eliminate the administrative burdens arising from the differences in the incidence and collection of national VAT.
- (ix) Finally, the Committee stressed the need for an extensive information and education campaign.

As part of the Community's work in connection with the White Paper on the international market, the Committee issued opinions on two particularly important proposals for directives concerning:

- (i) cross-border company mergers (10th Directive); and
- (ii) freedom of establishment and the freedom to provide services in the field of mortgage credit.

In its opinion on mergers, the Committee stressed the proposed Directive's importance as a step towards creating a uniform and permanent internal Community market.

It reaffirmed its support for the harmonization of participation rights and for giving equal weight to companies' and employees' wishes.

Although the Committee was, in principle, convinced of the need for cross-border mergers, it doubted whether a merger subject to the terms of the Directive would be carried out in practice, and feared that companies would instead make use of the existing wide variety of possibilities for cross-border activities.

In its opinion on mortgage credit, the Committee welcomed the Commission's new approach, which consisted of taking the famous *Cassis de Dijon* judgment of the

European Court of Justice as the basis for finding a solution for the mortgage credit sector.

This judgment lays down the principle that a product marketed in one EEC country in compliance with that country's regulations must be allowed to circulate on equal terms and without restriction in the other EEC countries.

The Committee gave its support because it felt that such an approach should help bring about a 'people's Europe' by providing consumers with a wider range of products.

Bearing in mind the specific nature of mortgage credit, the Committee drew the Commission's attention to:

- (i) the need to use all appropriate means of informing consumers about these new products and the background to them; and
- (ii) the technical and regulatory problems which should be solved at the same time as the draft Directive was implemented; the Committee was convinced that the Commission and the Member States would make every effort to overcome these problems.

7. EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Mediterranean policy of the enlarged Community

At the request of the Commission the Committee drew up an opinion on the Commission proposals concerning the implementation of a *Mediterranean policy* for the enlarged Community. These proposals were drawn up by the Commission following 'exploratory conversations' with a number of Mediterranean countries whose exports to the Community are likely to be heavily affected by the enlargement of the Community to include Spain and Portugal.

These conversations had revealed that there were particular problems in the agricultural and textile sectors. Significant repercussions were also feared in the food processing industry as well as in other industrial sectors where the Mediterranean countries will be faced with competition from the new Member States of the Community.

For the Committee a far-sighted Mediterranean policy should aim to reduce imbalances not only between the North and South but also within the Mediterranean basin. Its basic aim should be to utilize local human and material resources, including the utilization of such resources on the international market. Finally, it should contribute to the peace, security and stability of the Mediterranean region.

Bearing in mind these different objectives, the Committee stressed that action must be taken (a) to cushion the impact of enlargement on the Mediterranean countries; (b) to improve the operation of bilateral EEC/Mediterranean agreements which have

frequently failed to live up to expectations, e. g. as regards the trade deficit of these countries with the Community. In fact this deficit has roughly trebled in 10 years.

The Committee shared the concern felt by the Commission about the need to give non-EEC Mediterranean countries free access to the markets of the Community for products traditionally exported by them to the EEC.

On the industrial front, the Committee endorsed the Commission's comments on the need to reaffirm the principle of preferential access to the EEC market for Mediterranean industrial products and to re-establish the confidence and trust of the partner countries and investors (particularly those from the Community) in these agreements.

In addition, effective procedures for constant consultation with the partner countries had to be set up to prevent crises arising in other sensitive sectors.

The Committee highlighted the importance of industrial cooperation which should, among other things, enable minerals and basic agricultural products to be processed on the spot and offset job losses in agriculture. It must consolidate the growing complementarity between the Mediterranean countries and their traditional suppliers of industrial products.

On the agricultural front, the Committee referred specifically to the impact of enlargement on fruit and vegetables, olive oil and wine. It felt that the Commission should lose no time in drafting proposals designed to:

- (i) establish what repercussions imports from non-member Mediterranean countries would have on the production targets of the enlarged Community;
- (ii) evaluate the cost of the operation both to the Guarantee Section of the EAGGF and to development policy.

The Committee also stressed the need to encourage self-sufficiency in food (*inter alia* by investments in the agri-food industry).

Turning to the social aspect, the Committee stressed the importance of non-discrimination between workers on the basis of origin, nationality, race, religion or political beliefs. It insisted that Mediterranean migrants be given the right to join unions and that unions be given the right to negotiate collective agreements on working conditions. It also stressed the need for joint action to combat illegal unemployment, clandestine migration and manpower trafficking.

Finally, the Committee stated that the cost of the Mediterranean policy should be borne by the Community rather than by farmers, particularly those in the Mediterranean region. The relevant legislation should be framed in consultation with Spain and Portugal before the enlargement negotiations were completed.

The Committee welcomes the fact that on 25 November 1985 the Council of Ministers laid down a legislative framework and drew up a negotiating brief which clearly favoured the maintenance of traditional trading patterns.

Generalized tariff preferences scheme

This year saw a *review of the Community's GSP for the five-year period 1986-90*, on which the Committee was asked to give its views.

In its communication to the Council concerning the GSP for 1986-90, the Commission had envisaged a scheme which was more selective as regards products and supplying countries, although the overall offer was maintained. It had also proposed the setting up of a management committee which would be consulted for any decision to be taken regarding the reimposition of duties and the redistribution of unused quotas. More specifically it stressed differentiation between beneficiary countries, the quantitative improvement of the GSP, the 'security' and transparency of the system.

Considering that the Community must continue to honour its prior commitments regarding access to the Community market for products of developing countries, the Committee was in favour of continuing the GSP for the five-year period 1986—90.

Furthermore, the Committee considered it important, both for the Community and the developing countries, to maintain and, if possible, increase the value of the GSP as an instrument of development policy for stimulating the economies of LDCs in line with their own development models, and as a commercial instrument for encouraging LDCs to participate in world trade.

It was felt, none the less, that as a matter of principle, the GSP should not be intended to be of unlimited duration and should not apply to developing countries whose per capita GNP was equal to that of any Member State of the Community. The Committee reiterated its proposal for 'cross-selectivity' (by product and by country), which it believed would work to the advantage of those countries most in need of the GSP.

Regarding the content of the scheme, the Committee proposed the exclusion of counterfeit goods, products which, on entering the Community, were subject to anti-dumping and/or anti-subsidy measures and manufactured products from countries which levied excessive export duties on the raw materials used for the manufacture of these products. It also had doubts about the advisability of granting concessions for products whose manufacture clearly did nothing to promote the development of the country of manufacture.

The Committee considered that the administration of the GSP could be facilitated by a more effective system of processing import data which would give the Commission immediate access to all the information necessary for the reimposition of customs duties once a ceiling had been reached or a quota exhausted. This reimposition should be made automatic and mandatory, which would bring a greater degree of certainty to the monitoring system and obviate the need for a management committee. The Committee still favoured the system of annual GSP reviews, which enabled the economic and social interest groups to bring to the Commission's attention any difficulties or opportunities arising in particular sectors.

Giving its views two months later on the *fixing of the GSP for 1986*, the Committee regretted that the Commission's proposals incorporated the policies set out in its

review proposal without waiting for the opinion of the ESC. The Committee was nevertheless pleased to see that the proposal for 1986 applied the principle of cross-selectivity as it had advocated.

The Committee therefore reiterated the ideas set out in its Opinion on the review of the GSP and urged that in all aspects of its external relations, and in particular through the GSP, the Community seek to encourage the observance of fair labour standards as defined by the International Labour Organization.

Relations between the Community and Latin America

The Commission's guidelines for the strengthening of relations between the Community and *Latin America* were based on the view that, given the grave crisis that is threatening political stability in Latin America, the Community should strengthen its relations with that continent. The Community's commitment so far had been only modest both in institutional terms and as regards trade and development policy. The countries in question had been disappointed by the Community, which they reproached for often being 'too critical' concerning respect of human rights and too lacking in generosity in other areas.

While welcoming the Commission's call for stronger links between the Community and Latin America, the Committee stressed that any policy towards these countries would have to take account both of the wide range of political, social and economic situations in the sub-continent and of the differing development levels. An individual or regional rather than a global approach was thus required.

The Committee felt that the accession of Spain and Portugal and the well-established relations which these countries had with Latin America would give fresh impetus to trade, economic and political relations and cooperation with Latin American countries, and provide a more sophisticated institutional framework. Over-optimism should be avoided, and the long-term aim should be cooperation rather than aid. This cooperation should focus on improving and stepping up investment — with a view to the creation of jobs — and on training as many people as possible.

Increased investment implied first and foremost a better investment climate in Latin America. The Committee thus felt that the Community should join forces with Latin American countries to create an international institutional framework which would act as a buffer against non-commercial risks. Bilateral agreements should provide for the free movement of capital (including its repatriation). These arrangements should encourage a rise in private venture capital, which would bring greater relief to the financial problems of the region than would financial aid.

The crucial problem of Latin American countries' external debt was a structural obstacle which placed an intolerable strain on the development prospects of these countries. The Committee called for stronger action in this area, under the aegis of the IMF and the World Bank, to reschedule debts. A detailed country-by-country and case-by-case analysis was needed of the origin of the debt as regards creditors, deb-

tors and items financed. The Committee warned against the disastrous effect which a threat to unilaterally suspend debt-servicing would inevitably have on the indebted countries.

In the context of industrial cooperation, the Community should try to remove the institutional obstacles to joint ventures, and to encourage the industrialization of Latin American countries and a division of labour between them, on a regional basis if appropriate.

For farm products, stabilization mechanisms could be set up on the basis of multilateral international trade agreements on prices and market shares, in order to improve export earnings and to increase production in deficit countries. As part of regional cooperation, farm production could be organized on a complementary basis to enable individual Latin American countries to use their own produce to offset food shortages in neighbouring countries.

The Committee stressed that all Community agreements with Latin American countries should include clauses on minimum labour standards and human rights. The Community should also take a firm stand with countries which flagrantly and systematically violated these rights.

The Committee favoured cultural cooperation in the broadest sense between the Community and Latin America, in addition to the present narrowly-defined cultural exchanges.

It considered that regular contacts between socio-economic interest groups in the EEC and Latin America could do much to improve relations between the two sides. The Economic and Social Committee could act as a platform for such contacts.

Lastly, the Committee felt that the strengthening of relations between the Community and Latin America presupposed a political commitment on the part of the Community. It hoped that this commitment would rapidly be transformed into appropriate action, and that the Community would use its influence in international forums so that the substantial socio-economic difficulties of the countries concerned, especially unemployment, could be tackled as effectively as possible.

Relations with socio-economic groups in non-Community countries or regional organizations

The 12th joint session of delegations from the ESC and the Consultative Committee of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) took place in Vienna in conjunction with the ceremonies to commemorate EFTA's 25th anniversary. The Co-Chairmen were Mr Jürg Zeller, Chairman of the Agenda Committee of the EFTA Consultative Committee, and Mr Maurice Zinkin, Chairman of the ESC Section for External Relations.

This joint session discussed the state of relations between the Community and EFTA one year after the Luxembourg Declaration which pledged greater cooperation and free trade between the Member States of the two areas. The situation in relation to non-tariff barriers, rules of origin and customs formalities was examined and the ses-

sion heard what had been done in the field of scientific and technological cooperation between the Community and EFTA, especially on new technologies.

During the discussions the participants called for quicker realization of a genuine internal market for industrial goods encompassing all 17 countries of the EEC and EFTA. They wanted simpler rules of origin, a single administrative document for customs formalities as soon as possible and speedier progress towards common standards. They recommended mutual recognition of testing stations and certificates, greater consultation on application of the GATT anti-dumping code, abolition of export credit subsidies in intra-European trade and a common EEC-EFTA stance on the forthcoming GATT round.

It was also felt that Western Europe could only benefit fully from the creation of a large single market if it established a research community to encourage joint research programmes, exchange arrangements enabling researchers from different countries to get to know each other and close relations between universities and industry across national boundaries and within them.

A single market and a single research community would go some way towards solving Europe's worst disease — unemployment — which, unless cured, could threaten Europe's social stability. Since such measures did not suffice in themselves, the session stressed the importance of stepping up investment, more vocational training (especially in the newer skills), easier mobility and proper consultation between the two sides of industry over the introduction of changes.

The ninth annual meeting between a delegation of the ACP-EEC Joint Committee and representatives of *ACP-EEC socio-economic organizations* was held at the ESC, in Brussels, and chaired jointly by Mr Giovanni Bersani and Mr Gange Zandsou, Co-Chairmen of the Joint Committee. This meeting was the last to be held before the Third Lomé Convention came into force. One new feature of this Convention was to make specific provision (Article 25(2b)) for 'regular contacts and consultations with representatives of economic and social sectors in the ACP States and in the Community in order to obtain their views on the attainment of the objectives of this Convention' and to require the Council of Ministers (Article 23(2h)) to 'take all necessary measures to establish ongoing contacts between the economic and social sectors in the Community and in the ACP States and to arrange regular consultations with their representatives on matters of mutual interest' with a view to 'establishing an effective dialogue between these sectors' and 'securing their contribution to the cooperation and development effort'.

This year debate focused on the role and contribution of ACP-EEC socio-economic organizations in the implementation of the various chapters of the Third Lomé Convention, with particular reference to the programming of rural and industrial development aid. The relevant reports highlighted the inextricable links between socio-economic and human factors and agricultural, industrial and commercial development. They also emphasized the need to frame practical proposals involving both sides of industry actively in practical application of Lomé concepts.

The 'Final Declaration' adopted at the close of the meeting was forwarded to the Joint Assembly, the ACP-EEC Council and the EEC Commission.

8. ENERGY AND NUCLEAR QUESTIONS

In January 1985 the Energy Section submitted to the Committee an information report entitled 'Hydrocarbons exploration and production in the Community: the need for a new impetus; the role of the Community'.

The Section has drawn attention on a number of occasions to the growing importance of the Community's potential oil and natural-gas resources. A very considerable percentage of Member States' hydrocarbon requirements is covered by the Community's own production. Responsibility for exploiting gas and oil resources in the Community rests with the Member States concerned. This situation has led to considerable disparities in the laws, regulations and administrative provisions relating to exploration, extraction and marketing rights. The Commission has not published any recent report on exploration, discoveries and future prospects. The Section stresses that these matters are of prime importance in the context of consolidating the Community's energy supplies, reducing its dependence on imported oil and gas and developing a consistent Community energy strategy.

The information report analyses the current situation in the Community with regard to exploration and the exploitation of hydrocarbons. The Section then puts forward a number of observations with regard to the conditions under which exploration and exploitation are taking place and spells out the factors which national governments should take into account when pursuing their economic and political objectives with regard to hydrocarbons.

The Section also examines the measures which have been implemented by the Community in the hydrocarbons sector and the further role which could be played by the Community. The Section proposes that a Community code of practice be drawn up on the basis of experience with the application of the various legal and tax systems and experience with regard to the allocation of exploitation rights. This code could eventually lead to a more uniform Community approach to hydrocarbon exploration and could help to lessen the burden imposed on companies by the great diversity of regulations. The Community must therefore act more as a driving force in order to bring about the introduction of more effective practices in the technical, legislative, fiscal and commercial fields and the elaboration of an overall energy strategy. The Section also urges the Community to continue to promote and support high-technology innovatory projects in the fields of hydrocarbon exploration, exploitation, transport and storage.

The Council's draft Regulation setting out a programme of support for the technological development of hydrocarbons, replacing an initial Regulation adopted in 1973, fits into this context.

The Committee is in favour of continued selective Community support for technological-development projects in the hydrocarbons sector. The first EC programme in this field helped to give the Community more secure supplies of oil, to stimulate tech-

nological development and innovation in European firms and to consolidate efforts at Community level. The Committee, none the less, asks the Commission to make certain amendments and additions to the draft Regulation. Under the proposed provisions, the Council is to be asked to approve expenditure of 200 million ECU for an initial period of five years. It would be the responsibility of the Commission to select the projects to receive community aid and decide upon the amount of aid to be awarded. The Committee, for its part, proposes that every two years there should be a review of the support programme and the various projects for which Community aid has been requested or for which such aid has been granted. In the light of this review the Council would then determine an outline sum to be set aside for aid for a period of five years. The sum could be increased or reduced depending on the review findings. The Committee feels that this procedure would bring greater continuity to the work and a better utilization of Community funds.

The development of alternative sources of energy is a vital factor in the drive to reduce the Community's dependence on imported energy, in particular oil. In the opinion which it issued in May 1985 the Committee therefore welcomes the proposals put forward by the Commission in its outline programme dealing with nuclear energy and likewise welcomes the recommendations which it made to the Member States. Nuclear energy currently provides over 25% of the electricity generated in the Community. The investment forecasts of the various Member States indicate that this figure will rise to 40% by 1995. The Commission also considers it necessary for the production capacity of nuclear-power stations to be increased still further after the year 2000.

In its opinion the Committee urges that more emphasis be placed on both the importance and the need for real political and industrial cooperation between the EC Member States in the field of nuclear energy. The Committee also wishes to highlight the fundamental importance of greater political resolution in the Community with regard to the implementation of programmes covering the various aspects of nuclear energy. The Committee also calls for a more detailed breakdown of the measures to be taken up to the year 2000 with regard to the vital issues of reprocessing, the storage of nuclear fuel and the management of radio-active waste.

The Committee goes on to stress the importance of the acceptance of nuclear energy by public opinion. Public opinion must be fully informed on all the issues relating to the nuclear industry. A plan should be drawn up for regular, updated communications in the press and on radio and television covering all information on nuclear power. The Committee regards the outline programme as inadequate when it comes to these issues.

The Committee welcomes the two demonstration programmes in the energy field covering the period 1986 to 1990. The Commission proposes that overall financial support totalling 700 million ECU be set aside for these two programmes which are designed to promote the use of new technologies with a view to achieving a more efficient use of energy and a reduction of the Community's dependence on oil. In the opinion which it issued in June 1985 the Committee states its view that these programmes should be prolonged beyond 1990, given the long-term objectives of the Community's energy policy.

The Energy Section has also drawn up an information report entitled 'Energy options: Environmental constraints and their implications for Community energy policy'. The Section started its work on this matter in 1984 after the Committee had adopted an opinion on a five-year programme for Community action in the energy field and Commission proposals for a balanced solid fuel policy. Whilst stressing how important it is for the Community to make increased use of solid fuel, particularly coal, rather than imported oil, the Committee holds the view that inadequate attention is being given to the environmental consequences of that policy. These consequences are to be seen not so much in primary energy production operations but more in the processing operations, particularly the operation of power stations, petrochemical installations and the burning of fuel by motor vehicles.

The Section considers that environmental issues constitute a major constraint for the overall plan for meeting the Community's energy requirements. Damage to the environment caused by the production, processing and utilization of energy has to be kept within tolerable limits and at an acceptable cost. A joint Community policy on energy and the environment should therefore be developed with a twofold aim namely (a) to increase R&D into the identification of the harmful effect on the environment of emissions caused by the production and utilization of energy and to increase our understanding of the mechanisms involved and the impact of these emissions and (b) to establish a selective programme for promoting R&D into non-polluting ways of producing and utilizing energy, including renewable sources of energy.

Finally, the Committee was asked by the Council to issue an opinion on the new energy objectives for 1995. In 1980 the Council had taken a decision on the energy objectives for 1990 on which the Committee had issued an opinion in November 1979. In the intervening period the Community made a considerable effort to reduce its dependence on imported sources of energy, in particular oil and gas, and to obtain greater security of supply, especially by means of a diversification of its sources of energy and a reduction in overall energy consumption. The Committee, nonetheless, considers it essential that these efforts be continued and expanded. The Committee basically agrees with the objectives put forward by the Commission, although it does make a number of observations. It was particularly pleased to see that the regional dimension of energy policy is being taken into account for the first time, thus leaving the way open for the possible introduction of special measures to assist the less-favoured regions of the Community.

Research and development

The Committee has continued and intensified its work on the definition and implementation of a 'European Technology Community'.

In its 1983 opinion on the Commission's proposal with regard to an outline programme for EC scientific and technical work in the period 1984-87, the Committee drew attention to the restrictions placed on the EC budget and pointed to the consequent need to carry out a thorough appraisal of the priority to be given to the various areas of research when the programme was revised in 1985. The own-initiative opinion adopted by the Committee in March 1985 in connection with that appraisal

pointed out that the Community had to gear its research priorities to improving competitiveness and reducing the margin between the Community and its main competitors, namely the US and Japan, in a number of fields of technology.

The Committee called for a Community research strategy to be drawn up based on four priorities: (a) the promotion of international relations as a means of strengthening the joint foundations of European research in the field of new technologies; (b) encouragement for projects which one Member State alone would either not be able to undertake or would be unable to carry out in a viable manner; (c) stimulating the development of centres of excellence at which research programmes would be carried out and (d) measures to promote the use of research as a strategic instrument for social change.

The Committee's opinion drew attention to two fundamental issues, in particular. On the one hand, there was a need to reduce the lead times for utilizing and marketing research findings and a need to achieve increased effectiveness. The Committee noted that it was at the stage of the utilization of research findings where the Community became less competitive *vis-à-vis* the US and Japan as the expenditure on research itself by the Community and the Member States was comparable in terms of GDP with the expenditure of the US and Japan. The fragmented nature of the EC market — particularly the lack of common standards — also helped to prevent the creation of a climate favourable to innovation.

The second point dealt with by the Committee concerned the impact on employment and industrial society in the Community of the introduction of new technologies. They had to be introduced in ways which were acceptable on a social and human level. Although the introduction of new technologies could eventually lead to the creation of new jobs, particularly in small businesses, the Committee drew attention to the fact that if the market failed to expand, technological progress was likely to lead to a cut-back in the labour force required to maintain levels of production. There was therefore a need to pay more attention to the creation of new products and new services which could meet new requirements at prices acceptable to the market and, at the very least, to endeavour to increase the number of new methods which could be applied to production processes.

In its initial preparatory document with regard to the revision of the outline programme for EC work in the scientific and technical fields, issued on 9 April 1985, the Commission praised the valuable contribution made by the abovementioned Committee opinion to the debate on the matter in the Community.

Shared-cost research programmes are one of the main ways of implementing EC research policy. The Community meets half of the cost of these programmes which involve collaboration between the Commission, on the one hand, and public and private undertakings and establishments carrying out research work, on the other hand. The Committee wished to investigate the effectiveness of the finance and efforts invested by the Community in these shared-cost research contracts and therefore instructed its Energy Section to draw up an Information Report which, already in its draft form, stimulated considerable interest both from the Commission and from governmental circles in the Member States.

The report is based mainly on visits made to joint contractors in the various Member States with which the Commission is carrying out shared-cost research work. The report brings together and analyses the suggestions made by the joint contractors and sets out the observations and recommendations made by the Section with regard to ways of improving the scheme which is, however, regarded as the best method of enabling Member States to attain joint research objectives. The Section puts forward a number of proposals, calling, *inter alia*, for closer links between basic research and the industrial and commercial application of the research findings. The Section also proposes the establishment in the Community of centres of excellence which would be recognized and supported by the Community.

In the memorandum entitled 'Towards a European Technology Community', dated 24 June 1985, which the Commission submitted to the European Council in Milan it referred to a number of the proposals set out in the Committee's information report.

The Section responsible for this field at the Committee has also started work on two new information reports which will be submitted in the first quarter of 1986 and deal with the importance of technological R&D for small and medium-sized businesses, Europe itself and the new technologies.

The Committee has drawn attention on a number of occasions to the need for an appropriate policy for publicizing and making available to businesses the findings of research carried out with the aid of public funds, be they national or Community funds. This is particularly important to small and medium-sized businesses as many of them do not have the financial resources necessary to carry out research programmes. This initial report will therefore have a twofold aim: on the one hand, to list and analyse the measures taken, particularly at EC level, to permit and facilitate access by small and medium-sized businesses to the new technologies and, on the other hand, to set out a number of priorities for Community action in the light of the requirements of these businesses.

The second information report is a follow-up to the Conference on new technologies organized by the Committee on 6 and 7 November 1984. The Committee instructed three of its Sections to carry out major appraisals of various aspects of the new technologies. The Section responsible for research has dealt mainly with the technological R&D policies of the Community and the Member States. The Section has paid particular attention to the research programmes currently being carried out. The Section has also been instructed to consider the proposals put forward to advance the idea of a 'Technology Community' and to make suggestions which could help the Community to consolidate its technological R&D effort and thus increase its competitiveness on the world markets.

9. PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT — PUBLIC HEALTH — CONSUMERS

Environment

As far as concerns of environmental protection, the Committee's main opinion during the year dealt with the protection of the environment in the Mediterranean Basin. The

Commission had proposed a Community plan of action (Medspa) applicable to France, Italy and Greece comprising short-term measures to allieviate immediate problems (e.g. on water, waste, land use, etc.) and long-term measures to rectify structural deficiencies.

The Committee while welcoming the proposal considered it too limited geographically; it should involve Spain and Portugal and be integrated with action in the non-Member States of the Basin.

In addition, the Committee felt that a number of points should be given greater prominence:

- (i) the preservation of sensitive terrestrial and marine biotopes, and threatened plant and animal species, for example the monk seal and the Pyrenean bear;
- (ii) the ecological burdens imposed by tourism, including effective controls for pleasure craft;
- (iii) the development of appropriate technical equipment, for example multi-purpose aircraft to fight disasters, and brushwood clearance machinery.

The Committee also pointed out that a large number of international conventions and EEC Directives already exist which are relevant to the Mediterranean Basin and should be closely coordinated.

In addition, during the year the Committee broadly endorsed a Commission proposal to allow a more rapid implementation of a 1976 Directive on the discharge of dangerous substances into the aquatic environment.

Turning to atmospheric pollution — a matter of continuing concern — the Committee once more dealt with the problem of acid rain. The Committee has already dealt with this subject in some depth, in a main opinion in October 1983 and in a first supplementary opinion in July 1984. In a second supplementary opinion issued in February 1985 the Committee stressed that air pollution has been found to be one of the major causes of forest die-back, even though the precise reasons for this phenomenon have not been fully identified. The matter is so serious that all practicable remedial measures should be used now, without waiting for such precise identification, even though further research must continue.

The Committee proposed a number of specific actions under a variety of headings such as promotion of new non-polluting energy sources, road traffic speed limits, pollution by aircraft, incineration of household rubbish, etc.

Furthermore, Directives on air pollution already adopted should be reviewed to see whether they can be tightened up.

In the more specialized field of dangerous chemicals, the Committee approved a Commission proposal to standardize the testing of such substances throughout the Community in accordance with the OECD principles of good laboratory practice (GLP).

The Committee also examined a Commission proposal on the marketing and use of PCBs and PCTs (synthetic substances used notably in electrical appliances which can give off toxic compounds in case of fire) approving the proposal but recommending that its provisions be more strict.

Commenting on a proposal to tighten up disposal procedures for waste oils, the Committee queried the desirability of giving priority to regeneration (recycling) of such oils as these may contain poisons, and proposed even stricter standards for the burning of waste oils.

Finally, in the field of wildlife protection, the Committee approved without special comment the implementation within the Community of the Washington Convention on international trade in endangered species of wild fauna and flora.

Consumer affairs and public health

The close connection between consumer affairs and public health was particularly noticeable in respect of the opinions issued by the Committee in 1985.

Perhaps the most important opinion was that relating to the setting up of a Community surveillance system for accidents in which consumer products are involved.

While the Committee approved the proposal as a first step it did so only with significant qualifications of which the principal were:

- (i) that there is a fundamental conceptual misunderstanding in the use of the term 'consumer products'; this should be reformulated perhaps by the use of the phrase 'consumer products and features';
- (ii) that the experience of countries which already use such a system (e.g. UK and Netherlands) should be drawn on, rather than dissipate energy on developing a third system to be superimposed on the Community as a whole;
- (iii) that on the one hand dissemination of irresponsible and unsubstantiated information which could be to the detriment of manufacturers should be prevented; but that on the other hand measures should be taken to ensure that dangerous products are identified, designed or recalled as appropriate;
- (iv) that the budgetary provisions are grossly inadequate.

Another aspect of health protection was dealt with by the Committee in its opinion on a research action programme on toxicology for health protection. This will involve registering existing control facilities to avoid duplication, the functioning of poison centres and training of staff. The Committee basically endorsed the Commission's proposal.

Turning to the subject of foodstuffs, the Committee approved a Commission proposal to harmonize Community regulations on quick-frozen foodstuffs, based on a uniform temperature norm of -18°C (0°F). This should facilitate intra-Community trade in such foodstuffs which is at present hindered by technical barriers due to lack of harmonization of the relevant regulations.

The Committee added however that a satisfactory system to monitor breakdowns in the cold chain should be found and that a warning against refreezing defrosted products should be inscribed on both packaged food and refrigerators. It also asked for the application of the appropriate CEN labelling and marking standards throughout the Community.

In the field of food ingredients, the Committee, in its opinion on colorants, drew attention to the increasing public concern regarding food additives as a possible health hazard, and made a number of critical comments of a technical nature.

The Committee also endorsed with minor qualifications a proposal to establish a 'positive list' (i.e. only starches on the list are authorized) and purity criteria for chemically modified starches used in convenience foods.

On the somewhat controversial subject of the marketing of infant formulae and follow-up milks as breastmilk substitutes, the Committee expressed a preference for the adoption by the Community of the WHO Code, as distinct from the Idace Code favoured by industry, with the qualification that a voluntary code for advertising of these products should be arrived at through producer-consumer dialogue.

The Committee also issued an opinion in the field of human and animal health — one agreeing a proposal to permit the importation from non-EEC sources of animal glands, organs and bloods, required as raw material for the pharmaceutical industry.

Finally, in an opinion on several related proposals on the marketing and testing of high technology medicinal products, the Committee suggested a more simplified procedure for the authorization of the marketing of certain products if this was required in the public interest.

Press relations and outside echo

The undoubted contribution made by the Economic and Social Committee to the development of the European Community is, alas, known only to a limited number of people beyond the circle of European specialists. Throughout its existence, the press and other media which alone could present its institution to the public, have given it a very low level of coverage.

Some of the causes for this neglect are the lack of interest for the European institutional structure in general; this is proven by the latest European poll which shows that barely one citizen out of two has ever heard of the European Parliament. Further, the journalists focus their attention first on the national aspect of European legislation and then give priority to the Council, the Commission and the European Parliament. The institution's title as a Committee is misleading and its role is misunderstood in several Member States and the technical aspect of many of the Committee's opinions fails to arouse interest.

Despite these and other handicaps, a growing press echo of the Committee's activities has been achieved over the years. What is of note in the period under review is that the Committee members have become more aware of their proper responsibility for generating press interest for the Committee in their respective countries.

Mr Gerd Muhr, President of the ESC, in a speech to the plenary session held in July, drew attention to the need to improve the Committee's impact on the public and the committee's Bureau devoted a special session, on 17 December, to the subject.

It must be noted that the Committee obtains a better coverage for its activities when they are publicized in the Member States, such as visits by the President or meetings of Sections or Study Groups. In view of the constraints placed upon the Community budget in the first half of the year, many outside meetings had to be cancelled, which had its repercussions on the overall press coverage. None the less, 21 press conferences were held by the President and Committee members with positive results in projecting the Committee's image and publicizing its opinions by their rapporteurs.

The conference on new technologies, organized by the Committee in November 1984 proved to be a success also for its repercussions in the press; it was widely reported on in most member countries. So was its joint meeting with the EFTA Consultative Committee in Vienna in May 1985, as well as its opinions on the enlargement of the

Community. The fact that the Committee strongly urged all parties to keep to the original timetable of accession by 1 January 1986 and the President's visits to Madrid and Lisbon were well received by the press.

Excellent and widespread coverage was obtained on the Committee's report on the demographic situation in the Community — this report continues to be reported well after its publication, following a press conference by the rapporteur, Mr Burnel, in Paris.

Another press conference, that of Mr Mourgues also in Paris, on industrial medicine, proved popular among journalists as did a press conference by Mr Etty held in The Hague on occupational cancer.

In the transport field, the problem of lorry drivers's hours remained an item of interest in the press not only in 1984 but also in the year under review. Two further opinions brought in many articles and news reports; one, on maritime transport, obtained a great success, particularly in Greece, after a press conference given by Messrs Delourme and Bos and Mrs Bredima in Athens. One, on air transport, was well reported following press conferences by Mr Kenna.

Another report which stimulated press interest was that on fisheries, presented at a press conference by Mr Morselli. Other members also gave press conferences in the course of the year and helped to get the Committee into newspaper columns.

The number of visiting groups fell slightly compared to 1984 due to the fact that fewer rooms were available during the process of construction in the Committee building. Even so, 3 700 visitors were received here and heard lectures on the role and functioning of the institution.

By far the largest number of visitors came from Germany, followed by those from the United Kingdom, France, the Netherlands, Denmark and Ireland. Only small contingents came from the other Member States but quite a few — over 500 — from third countries, particularly the United States of America. The visitors to the Committee, a cross-section on the Community's citizens, come generally in organized groups such as students, trade unionists, managers, farmers, lawyers, journalists, representatives of political parties and of women's organizations.

In the matter of publications, the Committee published a brochure entitled 'European Union, citizens' Europe and the ESC', a contribution to the debate on reforming the Community's institutions. The voluminous study on a fisheries policy in the Community and the Committee's opinion and report on air transport were also printed as brochures. The information report entitled 'Integrated operation in Clwyd' appeared in English only. The brochure entitled 'The economic and social interest groups of Portugal' has been published in German. Other publications included a new edition of the Index (a list of all the members and sections, multilingual), the annual report 1984 (all languages) and 10 editions of the Bulletin.

Several other brochures were prepared for publication, notably those on the Economic and social situation for 1984 and 1985; Disposal of waste, Industrial medicine

and occupational cancer, as well as the report on the demographic situation. Unfortunately, owing to the damage caused to the Committee building and its printing shop by a car bomb aimed at a neighbouring building, the whole printing programme received a setback the repercussions of which will continue to be felt until the Spring of 1986.

The Groups

GROUP I — EMPLOYERS

The 43 members of the Employers Group (Group I) are representative of private and public industries, commerce, transport, banking and insurance, wholesale and retail trade and agriculture.

Their small number in comparison with the 56 in Group II and 57 in Group III means that Group I members have to take a heavier share of Section and study group work to try to achieve a reasonable proportion of votes.

During 1985 there were 10 ordinary meetings of the whole Employers Group to prepare new work and agree voting positions on opinions submitted to each plenary session, and one extraordinary meeting devoted to internal ESC matters: press and public relations, the structure of the Secretariat, and changes to the Rules of Procedure.

Clearly defined policies are essential if Group I is to be effective and to this end brief preliminary meetings of all employer members and experts in a Section or study group are also called whenever matters of political importance warrant special preparation.

Assistance from the many European and national socio-professional and sectoral organizations has been of great value to the members in their work on over 100 opinions this year. Thanks to such assistance, Group I rapporteurs have been able to draft and successfully present to plenary sessions some of the most difficult and potentially controversial opinions. The subjects they covered included the future of the common agricultural policy, liberalization of transport policy, in particular air transport, and the completion of the internal market, together with the technical details of custom harmonization, fiscal, physical and technical trade barriers.

The completion of the internal market is being given top priority by industry and employers who see support for the Commission's programme as essential to the creation of a more unified market in which inflation may be brought under control, *growth restored and new jobs created.*

This and other recent developments at Community level have thrown a special burden on to the three Sections chaired by Group I members, those for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services, for External Relations, and for Energy, Nuclear Questions and R&D.

Following the last Conference of ACP/EEC economic and social partners organized by the ESC in September 1984, consultation between economic and social sectors has been formally institutionalized in two articles of the Third Lomé Convention. A new paper on the development of trade and industry, prepared by the Group I Chairman, was approved by the 1985 Conference and will again form the basis for discussions between ACP and EEC representatives in 1986. At the inaugural meeting of the ACP/EEC joint Assembly in September 1985, an *ad hoc* group was created to give equal representation to all the occupational interests concerned. It consists of a total of 12 ACP and ESC members and associated members and will be the negotiating partner for the joint Assembly, responsible for preparing the annual meetings and reporting their conclusions. Group I nominated its Chairman to this *ad hoc* group.

The joint meeting of ESC members and a delegation of the EFTA Consultative Committee discussed a paper on scientific and technical cooperation in the field of new technology, drafted by a Group I rapporteur. This debate will continue in 1986 with practical proposals for cooperation from the EFTA side.

Contacts with the Spanish and Portuguese organizations increased towards the end of the year as their countries approached full membership of the Community. Observers also attended Group I meetings and the Group looks forward to welcoming its new colleagues as ESC members.

GROUP II — WORKERS

Group II consists of representatives from Community-based unions. At the moment, i.e. before the accession of Spain and Portugal, the Group has 57 members.

Mr van Greunsven (FNV — The Netherlands) is the Chairman. The Vice-Chairmen are Mr Bonety (CFDT — France) and Mr Vercellino (CGIL —Italy).

In an effort to have the number of rapporteurs more evenly distributed between the three Groups, Group II has managed to get a rapporteur or co-rapporteur with a trade-union background appointed for the following subjects:

- (i) Occupational cancer,
- (ii) Policies for positive action for migrant workers,
- (iii) Workers in the agricultural sector,
- (iv) Internal market, television without frontiers, telecommunication standards, Comett,
- (v) Reform of the CAP,

- (vi) European Monetary System, NCI,
- (vii) Company mergers, competition policy,
- (viii) Social regulations (road and maritime transport),
- (ix) Integrated regional programmes,
- (x) Environment research programmes.

Since the members of Group II were very concerned about the problems of workers in the agricultural sectors, particularly in connection with the reform of the common agricultural policy, they argued in favour of drafting an information report on the subject. The Committee agreed with this proposal.

In the work on completion of the internal market, Group II saw the main accent as lying on the social side and regretted that the Commission's White Paper did not include a concrete and clearly defined work schedule on the social dimension. The creation of an internal market would have to be matched by an effective policy against unemployment and more vigorous social, industrial, economic and regional measures.

Concerning the economic situation of the Community, the majority of Group II noted that the language used by the Commission in its annual report for 1985/86 was markedly different from that used in the report for the previous year. Workers would support the Commission in its efforts to stimulate economic growth, with a view to reducing unemployment in the long term. In the opinion of Group II, purchasing power had to be protected. Community measures to resuscitate economic activity would only be successful if accompanied by an ongoing discussion between the employers trade unions, the Commission and governments on the content and aims of these measures.

One of the many meetings and activities the Committee was involved in was the annual meeting with EFTA which was held in May in Vienna. The new technologies were discussed and Group II played an active role, by for instance, submitting a report on the effects of the new technologies on employment.

In September 1985, the Committee hosted the *Annual ACP/EEC Conference*. A Group II member presented an interesting paper on the human, social and cultural dimension of Lomé III and the role played by socio-economic interest groups. There was an extensive discussion on the role and contribution of ACP/EEC economic and social interest groups in implementing the Lomé Convention. Participants went on to emphasize the interaction between the aim of development on the one hand and human promotion and the recognition of fundamental human rights on the other. It was stated that any discrimination directly contradicted these aims.

At a special meeting held in early October, Group II took a close look at the proposed changes in the structure and procedures of the Committee Secretariat, partly in anticipation of the accession of the two new Member States.

Group II had a wide-ranging discussion on the number and the responsibilities of the Sections of the Committee and on the impact of its opinions. Similarly, the Group discussed how the Committee might react to topical events in, for example, the form of statements by the Chairman or by the plenary session.

Group II welcomed the accession of Spain and Portugal to the European Communities. The Group greeted the Portuguese and Spanish workers' representatives who would be taking part in the Committee's meetings as from the beginning of 1986.

GROUP III — VARIOUS INTERESTS

Group III brings together representatives of agriculture, SMEs and the craft sector, the liberal professions, family, consumer and environmental protection organizations. These socio-economic groupings are complemented by members who represent regional, scientific and cultural interests.

The consistency of intellectual approach which gives the Various Interests Group its identity is ensured by members' awareness of their special role, alongside employers and workers representatives, in reflecting within the ESC the diversity of contemporary European society.

Members of Group III have played a central part in the ESC's contribution to the debate which took place within the EC in preparation for the accession of Spain and Portugal. Thus Group III provided rapporteurs for the major opinions on Mediterranean policy, integrated Mediterranean programmes and fisheries policy.

The ESC has also been looking at the consequences of enlargement for its own organization of work. To this end Group III devoted the major part of one of its monthly meetings to a discussion of the structure and organization of the ESC. The rapporteur-general for the modification of the ESC's Rules of Procedure required in preparation for enlargement was appointed from within Group III.

Members of Group III also made effective contributions to the Committee's work in many areas. Rapporteurs from Group III were appointed for a variety of complex issues such as equality of treatment of men and women in tax matters, integrated operations, high technology medicines, transport infrastructure, the social and the economic situation in the EC, the setting of EC energy objectives for 1995 and on demography.

In 1985 the Group has continued to develop its contacts with relevant European interest groups. A two-way exchange of information takes place via Europe III, the Group's monthly newsletter for which demand has continued to increase. Experts from these groups have been used by Group III for many opinions to which they have made positive contributions.

The European interest groups were all represented at a reception in February whose aim was not only to consolidate contacts but also to allow Group III members to take

leave of the Group's long serving Secretary, Mr François Brunagel, who left the Group to become an advisor in the private office of Mr Pflimlin, President of the European Parliament.

Group III is chaired by Mrs Käte Strobel; Mr Jacques De Bruyn and Mr Pietro Morselli are the two Vice-Chairmen. The Secretariat is run by Mr Nicholas Leapman.

Participation in meetings outside the Committee

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

- Invitation to the meeting arranged by the Centre for European Policy Studies with a speech by Mr Dekker on 'Europe 1990 — an agenda for action' 11 January in Brussels
- Eighth European forum of consumers organized by the German Consumer Association and the BEUC (European Bureau of Consumers' Unions) on 'Protectionism and consumer protection' 22 January in Berlin
- Opening of the 50th International 'Green Week' in Berlin 24 January in Berlin
- Extraordinary session of the SER (Dutch Economic and Social Council) 1 February in The Hague
- Symposium organized by the European Movement on 'Europe and the challenges of the future' 8 and 9 February in Rome
- Symposium-seminar organized by the European Trade Union Confederation on the enlargement of the Community to include Spain and Portugal 11 to 13 February in Madrid
- Symposium organized by the Spanish Federal Council of the European Movement on 'Spain in the European social area' 21 and 22 February in Madrid
- Meeting of the Executive Committee of Cefpar (European Training and Promotion Centre for Farming and Rural Life) 21 February in Brussels

- Conference arranged by the North Eastern Regional Development Organization in conjunction with the Irish Gas Association on 'Natural Gas' 27 February in Dúndalk
- Inauguration of the 37th International Fair of Arts and Crafts 9 March in Munich
- Annual Congress organized by the Flemish Tourist Board on 'Our present tourist policy in Europe?'. 24 March in Brussels
- Congress of French National Federation of Farmers' Associations 27 March in Paris
- Deliberations of the jury of the European competition 'Music and poetry' 30 March in Louvain
- Meeting organized by the National Council of French Employers on 'The new American trade policy' 10 April in Paris
- First international conference organized by Euromatica and Business Briefings on 'Increasing the speed and profitability of international and national trade through the computerized interchange of trade data' 16 and 17 April in London
- Invitation to the Regional Conference organized by the Federation of Italian Mutual Aid Organizations on the 'Regional Conference of cooperative and mutual societies: origins and prospects' 21 April in Turin
- Seminar organized by the Maison de l'Europe in Brussels with the help of the Information Bureaux of the European Parliament and Commission on 'A people's Europe' 24 April in Brussels
- Meeting of the Islands' Committee (in Rhodes) organized by the EEC's Conference of Insular Regions 25 to 27 April in Rhodes
- Public conference by the German Public Employers' Federation on 'The turning point in small business policy' 6 May in Bonn-Bad Godesberg
- Joint meeting of the Economic and Social Committee and the EFTA's Consultative Committee in honour of the 25th anniversary of EFTA 8 May in Vienna
- Symposium organized by the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions on 'The economic and social consequences of shift work in the brewing industry' 9 and 10 May in Dublin

- Fifth Statutory Congress of the European Trade Union Confederation 13 to 17 May
in Assago (Italy)
- Study seminar organized by the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions on 'An investigation of activities for the unemployed' 22 and 23 May
in Dublin
- Inauguration of the Central Office of the Agricultural Mutual Credit Organization and invitation to their seminar 25 May
in Lisbon
- 21st Annual Conference of the European Proprietary Medicines Association on 'Modern trends in self-medication' 29 to 31 May
in Munich
- European seminar organized by the Brussels Institute of Sociology on 'Women and television' 3 to 5 June
in Brussels
- Symposium organized by the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions on 'The impact of new technology on experienced workers (physical and psychological stress)' 6 and 7 June
in Dublin
- Signature of the Spain/Portugal Accession Treaties 12 June
in Lisbon and Madrid
- National Development Cooperation Conference organized by Ipalmo 13 and 14 June
in Rome
- International symposium on 'The role of the teacher in health education' organized by the Commission with the support of the International Health Education Union 19 to 21 June
in Luxembourg
- Workshop on 'A people's Europe – the contribution of educational and cultural policy of Western European organizations' organized by the Bonn Institute for European Politics 20 to 22 June
in Bruges
- Conference on 'The financial integration of the European Community and mortgage credit' organized as part of the Annual General Meeting of the EEC Mortgage Federation 21 June
in Brussels
- Third Conference of Mediterranean regions concerned by integrated Mediterranean programmes 25 to 27 June
in Palermo

- Meeting on the new technologies by IBM 27 and 28 June
in La Hulpe
- Departmental Congress of the Federation of Farmers' Associations 28 June
in Chalon-sur-Marne
(France)
- 12th Congress on 'Technology and its impact on society and education' organized by the Association for Comparative Education in Europe 1 to 5 July
in Antwerp
- Meeting organized by the European Institute for Water on water protection 2 to 5 July
in Varese
- Traditional Ommegang pageant 4 July
in Brussels
- Symposium on 'The studies on technological development and its impact on shiftwork in the steel industry' organized by the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions 11 and 12 July
in Dublin
- World Conference of the UN Decade for Women organized by the preparatory committee: activities of NGO's for the World Conference of the UN Decade for Women, 1985 15 to 26 July
in Nairobi
- General Assembly of the TUC 3 to 7 September
in Blackpool
- European parliamentary public hearing on 'Youth unemployment' organized by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe 3 and 4 September
in The Hague
- Hearing arranged by the Council of Europe's Committee on Regional Problems and Regional Planning on transport in Europe, with special reference to the establishment of a European network for high-speed trains, and to research on guided transport 9 September
in Strasbourg
- Lunch and press conference — inauguration of the 'Cercle léna' 9 and 10 September
in Chambéry (France)
- European congress hosted by the Italian Institute for the Development of Occupational Training for Workers on the experience and role of intermediary organizations concerned with the promotion of workers' production cooperation 12 to 14 September
in Castelgandolfo

- Congress of the International Confederation of Executive Stalls on 'Executive staffs and technology' 13 and 14 September in Copenhagen
- Training course in European integration organized by the Pro-Europa Catalan Employers' Federation and the Association for the Promotion of National Labour 16 September to 6 December in Barcelona
- Seminar hosted by the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions on 'Technological development and public services: influence on public and employees' 19 and 20 September in Shankill (Dublin)
- 13th Conference of the German Union for Horticultural, Agricultural and Forestry Workers 22 to 27 September in Berlin
- Joint EEC-ACP Assembly 23 to 25 September in Inverness
- Official opening of 'Europalia 85' (Spain) 24 September in Brussels
- International symposium hosted by the Trans European Policy Studies Association on 'The future of social security in the European Community' 25 to 28 September in Habay-la-Neuve (Belgium)
- Forum, hosted by the Conseil Français et Conseil Economique and the Social Group of the European Movement on 'Europe and the new communication industries' 28 September in Paris
- International symposium organized by the Latin-American Institute for Economic and Social Development (Rio de Janeiro) and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation on 'The dialogue between Europe and Brazil: relations between employers, employees and governments' 3 to 6 October in Rio de Janeiro
- Regional conference of the European Union of Workers in the Food, Hotel and Allied Industries (SETA-UITA) 7 to 9 October in Nice
- 20th Plenary Session of the Standing Conference of Local and Regional Authorities in Europe 15 to 17 October in Strasbourg
- 10th Statutory Congress of the European Federation of Farm Workers' Unions in the EC 16 to 18 October in Brussels
- Second Congress of the National Confederation of Farmers and Stockbreeders 16 October in Madrid

- Symposium organized by the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions on the 'Evaluation of the report on the interaction of workers and machinery (physical and psychological stress)' 17 and 18 October in Dublin
- International Conference on civil aviation 24 and 25 October in the Hague
- Inter-organizational congress on 'The new trade unionism', and a symposium on 'Civilization and the new technologies', organized by the French Confederation of Executive Staff (CGC) 24 and 25 October in Paris
- Seventh European Poetry Festival 26 October in Louvain
- 40th Anniversary of the National Union of Family Associations 26 October in Paris
- General Assembly of the Sheep Breeders Association of Rhône-Alpes 28 October in Lyon
- Third European Conference on the protection of farm animals organized by the European Conference Group on the Protection of Farm Animals 7 and 8 November in Brussels
- 25th Anniversary of the Consultative Committee of the Bar Associations of the EC 14 November in Brussels
- European Conference to mark, at Community level, International Youth Year, organized by the Luxembourg Government in cooperation with the Commission of the European Communities 18 to 20 November in Luxembourg
- European conference on the theme 'The role of the trade unions in the coming decade', organized by the European Centre for Labour and Society, Maastricht 20 to 22 November in Maastricht (Netherlands)
- Formal session to mark the 25th anniversary of the Standing Committee of Doctors of the EEC 21 November in Paris
- Conference organized by the European Federation of Building and Woodworkers in the EEC on the problems of the construction industry in Europe 21 and 22 November in Brussels
- Conference on the prevention of accidental poisoning in childhood, organized by the European Consumer Product Safety Association, under the auspices of the Commission of the European Communities 21 and 22 November in Brussels

- Conference on 'Pluralism, merit, planning for the future . . . legal certainty', organized by the Italian Confederation of Company Directors 22 November in Rome

- Seminar on the theme 'Consumer education', organized by the Centre for Practical Studies in International Negotiating 25 and 26 November in Geneva

- Public meeting organized by the German Committee for Cultural Cooperation in Europe with the theme 'Agricultural and environment policy as a bone of contention in Europe' 26 November in Bonn-Bad Godesberg

- Round Table on questions connected with the safety of non-nuclear dangerous products, organized by the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions, Dublin 27 to 29 November in Dublin

- Asean-EEC Business Council 28 November in Kuala Lumpur

- Reception to mark the 10th anniversary of Cedefop (European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training) 28 November in Berlin

- National Council of the FNSEA (French National Federation of Farmers' Unions) 28 November in Versailles

- International conference on the theme 'Families confronted with urbanization', organized by the International Union of Family Organizations 2 to 5 December in New Delhi

- Conference of the Interregional Trade Union Councils, organized by the European Trade Union Confederation 9 to 11 December in Barcelona

- Conference organized by the European Environment Bureau on dangerous exports from the Community to Third World countries 19 December in Brussels

Chapter VI

Renewal of the Committee

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

During 1985, the Council of the European Communities appointed the following as members of the Economic and Social Committee:

Mr Barsalou	They replaced	Mr Laur
Mr Bleser	the following members	Mr Schneider
Mrs Dore	who resigned:	Mr Eelsen
Mr Drilleaud		Mr Bornard
Mr Geuenich		Mr Pfeiffer
Miss Maddocks		Mrs Patterson
Mr Saiu		Mr Bordes-Pages
Mr Schmitz		Mr Cremer

The Council will shortly be appointing new members to replace Mr. Rainero and Mr van Rens.

Internal affairs of the General Secretariat

1. STAFF

In 1985 the General Secretariat had 405 permanent posts, including 4 posts to be occupied by temporary staff in connection with the accession of Spain and Portugal. This represented an increase of 5 posts, i.e. 1.25%, compared with 1984.

2. BUDGET

Appropriations for 1985 totalled 25856522 ECU, 3.8% up on the 1984 figure of 24910300 ECU. The budget was not adopted until June 1985 and prior to this the Committee had to work under the provisional twelfths system. Thanks, however, to detailed planning and exemptions granted by the budget authority for certain essential chapters, the Committee was able to maintain a high level of activity during the whole financial year.

3. MEETINGS

There were 10 plenary sessions and 10 Bureau meetings in 1985.

The breakdown of other meetings was as follows:

Sections	68
Study Groups	215
Groups I, II and III	98
Other	301
Meetings of sub-groups sponsored by Groups I, II and III	147
There were also many parties of visitors	95

4. STRUCTURE OF THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT 1985

Chairman

- Private office
- Group secretariats
- Financial control

Secretary-General

- Secretariat
- Adviser
- Division for the Registry, the Assembly and the Bureau
- Mail / records / library / documentation
- Press, information and publications division
- Studies and research division

Directorate A — Consultative work

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

Directorate B — Consultative work

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

Directorate C — Consultative work

- Secretariat of the Section for Energy and Nuclear Questions

- Secretariat of the Section for Agriculture
- Secretariat of the Section for External Relations

Directorate-General for Administration, Translation and General Affairs

- Secretariat
- Personnel directorate
- Specialized financial service
- Translation
- Division for document production, coordination and internal affairs

**List of opinions, studies and information reports
issued during 1985**

223rd PLENARY SESSION ON 30 AND 31 JANUARY 1985

- Implementation of a Mediterranean policy
(Rapporteur: Mr Walter Briganti) (CES 92/85)

- Improvement of the situation of railway undertakings and the harmonization of rules governing financial relations between such undertaking and States (Amendment of Decision 75/327/EEC);
Granting of aids for transport by rail, road and inland waterway (Amendment of Regulation (EEC) No 1107/70) (Two proposals)
(Rapporteur: Mr Klaus Benedict von der Decken) (CES 88/85)

- Harmonization of the laws of the Member States relating to turnover taxes — common system of value-added tax: common scheme for certain goods on which value-added tax has been finally paid and which are imported by a final consumer in one Member State from another Member State (Sixteenth Council Directive)
(Rapporteur: Mr Luigi Della Croce) (CES 94/85)

- Indirect taxes on the raising of capital
(Amendment of Directive 69/335/EEC)
(Rapporteur: Mr Walter Elkan) (CES 95/85)

- Fixing of maximum permitted levels for undesirable substances and products in feedingstuffs
(Amendment of Directive 74/63/EEC); Marketing of straight feedingstuffs
(Amendment of Directive 77/101/EEC); Marketing of compound feedingstuffs
(Amendment of Directive 79/373/EEC)
(Rapporteur: Mr Hans-Jürgen Wick) (CES 89/85)

- Public health and animal health problems affecting the importation of meat products from third countries
(Rapporteur: Mr Hans-Jürgen Wick) (CES 90/85)

- Common organization of the market in wine
(Amendment of Regulation (EEC) No 337/79);
Special provisions relating to quality wines produced in specified regions
(Amendment of Regulation (EEC) No 338/79);
Granting of temporary and permanent abandonment premiums in respect of certain areas under vines and of premiums for the renunciation of replanting
(Derogation to the scheme provided for in Regulation (EEC) No 456/80);
Granting for the 1985/86 to 1989/90 wine years of permanent abandonment premiums in respect of certain areas under vines and amendment of the proposal for a Council Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 337/79 (Four proposals)
(Rapporteur: Mr Michel De Grave) (CES 91/85)

- Hydrocarbons exploration and production in the Community: the need for a new impetus; the role of the Community (Information report)
(Rapporteur: Mr Ian Campbell) (CES 834/84 fin + Appendix)
- Integrated operation Clwyd (North Wales) (Information report)
(Rapporteur: Mr Giacomo Regaldo) (CES 474/84 fin)

224th PLENARY SESSION ON 27 AND 28 FEBRUARY 1985

- The current situation and medium-term prospects of the Community fisheries sector (Information report and own-initiative opinion)
(Rapporteur: Mr Pietro Morselli) (CES 209/85 + CES 760/84 fin)
- The European Monetary System (Information report)
(Rapporteur: Mr Francesco Drago) (CES 909/84 fin + Appendices)
- Harmonization of certain social regulations relating to road transport (amending Regulation (EEC) No 543/69);
Introduction of recording equipment in road transport (amending Regulation (EEC) No 1463/70);
Implementation of the Social Regulations in road transport (Draft recommendation)
(Rapporteur: Mr Lawrence J. Smith) (CES 206/85)
- Protection of workers by the proscription of specified agents and/or work activities (Fourth individual Directive within the meaning of Article 8 of Directive 80/1107/EEC)
(Rapporteur: Mr Edouard Brassier) (CES 207/85)
- Programme of action of the European Communities on toxicology for health protection
(Draft Council resolution)
(Rapporteur: Mr Werner Löw) (CES 204/85)
- General rules for the financing of intervention by the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund, Guarantee Section
(amending Regulation (EEC) No. 1883/78)
(Rapporteur: Mr Paul Flum) (CES 210/85)
- Restrictions on the marketing and use of certain dangerous substances and preparations
(Second PCB/PCT Directive)
(Rapporteur: Mr Nikolaos Vassilaras) (CES 203/85)
- Quick-frozen foodstuffs for human consumption
(Rapporteur: Mrs Alma Williams) (CES 211/85)

- Establishment of a Community scheme to provide forests in the Community with increased protection against fire and acid rain
(Rapporteur: Mr Rudolf Schnieders) (CES 208/85)
- Approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the permissible sound level and exhaust system of motorcycles
(amending Directive 78/1015/EEC)
(Rapporteur: Mr Alberto Masprone) (CES 205/85)

225th PLENARY SESSION ON 27 AND 28 March 1985

- Priorities for Community research initiatives: the next revision of the framework programme for Community scientific and technological activities
(Own-initiative opinion)
(Rapporteur: Mr Thomas Roseingrave) (CES 318/85)
- Tax arrangements for the carry-over of losses of undertakings
(Rapporteur-General: Mr L. N. Goris) (CES 319/85)
- Placing on the market of high-technology medicinal products, particularly those derived from biotechnology, analytical, pharmaco-toxicological and clinical standards and protocols in respect of the testing of proprietary medicinal products (amending Directive 75/318/EEC);
Testing of veterinary medicinal products (amending Directive 81/852/EEC);
Tests relating to the placing on the market of proprietary medicinal products (recommendation);
Proprietary medicinal products
(amending Directive 65/65/EEC) (Five proposals)
(Rapporteur: Mrs Käte Strobel) (CES 317/85)
- Protection of the environment in the Mediterranean Basin
(Communication from the Commission to the Council)
(Rapporteur: Mr Michel De Grave) (CES 311/85)
- Application of social-security schemes to employed persons, to self-employed persons and to members of their families moving within the Community
(amending Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71);
Procedure for implementing Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71;
(amending Regulation (EEC) No 574/72)
(Rapporteur: Mr Michael T. Fuller) (CES 310/85)
- Programme of support for technological development in the hydrocarbons' sector
(Rapporteur: Mr Ian Campbell) (CES 313/85)
- The regions of Europe (Second periodic report on the social and economic situation and development of the regions of the Community)
(Rapporteur: Mr Michael T. Fuller) (CES 312/85)

- Common measure to improve the structures of certain areas under vines in Greece and to improve the conditions under which agricultural and fisheries products are processed and marketed
(amending Regulation (EEC) No 355/77)
(Rapporteur: Mr Konstantin Chalioris) (CES 315/85)
- Restructuring of the system of agricultural surveys in Greece
(Rapporteur: Mr Stylianos Bazianas) (CES 314/85)
- Social Security for volunteer development workers
(Rapporteur: Mr André Soulat) (CES 316/85)

226th PLENARY SESSION ON 24 AND 25 APRIL 1985

- European Regional Development Fund
(Ninth report from the Commission to the Council)
(Rapporteur: Mrs Moyra Quigley) (CES 394/85)
- Repayment or remission of import or export duties
(Amending for the third time Regulation (EEC) No 1430/79)
(Rapporteur: Mr Paul Broicher) (CES 398/85)
- Entry in the accounts and terms of payment of the amounts of the import duties or export duties resulting from a customs debt
(Rapporteur: Mr Paul Broicher) (CES 396/85)
- Easing of controls and formalities applicable to nationals of the Member States when crossing intra-Community borders
(Rapporteur: Mr Bernard Mourgues) (CES 399/85)
- Technical harmonization and standards: a new approach
(Communication from the Commission to the Council and to the European Parliament)
(Rapporteur: Mr Gordon Pearson) (CES 401/85)
- Conditions for access to the arrangements under the Revised Convention for the Navigation of the Rhine relating to vessels belonging to the Rhine Navigation
(Rapporteur: Mr Roeland J. H. Fortuyn) (CES 397/85)
- Certain detailed rules for applying production refunds in the cereals and rice sector in respect of potato starch;
Common organization of the market in cereals
(amending Regulation (EEC) No 2727/75);
Common organization of the market in rice
(amending Regulation (EEC) No 1418/76);
General rules applying to production refunds in the cereals and rice sector (Four proposals)
(Rapporteur: Mr Luigi Della Croce) (CES 400/85)

- Roll-over protection structures incorporating two pillars and mounted in front of the driver's seat on narrow-tracked wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors
(Rapporteur: Mr Alberto Masprone) (CES 395/85)
- National regional development aids

(Information report)
(Rapporteur: Mr Paul Broicher) (CES 202/83 fin)

227th PLENARY SESSION ON 29 AND 30 MAY 1985

- Guidelines for a Community policy on migration
(Rapporteur: Mr George Dassis) (CES 470/85)
- Occupational cancer (Own-initiative opinion)
(Rapporteur: Mr Thomas Etty) (CES 468/85)
- Integrated Mediterranean programmes
(Rapporteur-General: Mr Louis Lauga) (CES 473/85)
- Preparatory action for R&D in advanced communications technologies for Europe (RACE)
(Report from the Commission and proposal for a Council Decision)
(Rapporteur: Mr Herbert Nierhaus) (CES 474/85)
- Community information system for the control and reduction of pollution caused by hydrocarbons discharged at sea
(amending Decision 81/971/EEC)
(Rapporteur-General: Mr Gian Carlo Zoli) (CES 475/85)
- Implementation in the Community of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
(amending Regulation (EEC) No 3626/82)
(Rapporteur: Mr Peter Storie-Pugh) (CES 469/85)
- Limit values and quality objectives for discharges of certain dangerous substances included in List I in the Annex to Directive 76/464/EEC
(Rapporteur: Mr Enrico Vercellino) (CES 477/85)
- Community surveillance system for accidents in which consumer products are involved
(Rapporteur: Mrs Alma Williams) (CES 471/85)
- Temporary importation arrangements as regards the date of its implementation
(amending Regulation (EEC) No 3599/82)
(Rapporteur-General: Mr Paul Broicher) (CES 476/85)

- Nuclear industries in the Community — Illustrative nuclear programme under Article 40 of the Euratom Treaty — 1984
(Communication from the Commission to the Council)
(Rapporteur: Mr Jean Querleux) (CES 472/85)

228th PLENARY SESSION ON 3 AND 4 JULY 1985

- Economic situation in the Community (mid-1985)
(Own-initiative opinion)
(Rapporteur: Mr L. N. Goris) (CES 590/85)
- Social developments in the Community in 1984
(Rapporteur: Mr E. Brian Roycroft) (CES 589/85)
- The demographic situation in the Community
(Information report)
(Rapporteur: Mr Roger Burnel) (CES 602/84 fin)
- Memorandum on income taxation and equal treatment for men and women
(Rapporteur: Mrs Hedda Heuser) (CES 591/85)
- Turnover taxes — Abolition of certain derogations provided for in Article 28(3) of Directive 77/388/EEC — Common system of value-added tax
(Rapporteur: Mr Paul Broicher) (CES 585/85)
- Turnover taxes — Common system of value-added tax
(19th Directive amending Directive 77/388/EEC)
(Rapporteur: Mr Paul Broicher) (CES 586/85)
- Use of ECU by 'other holders'
(Amending Article 2 of Council Regulation (EEC) No. 3181/78)
(Rapporteur: Mr Francesco Drago) (CES 588/85)
- Measures to discourage the release for free circulation of counterfeit goods
(Rapporteur: Mr Giacomo Regaldo) (CES 583/85)
- Specific training in general medical practice
(Rapporteur: Mr Fausto d'Elia) (CES 584/85)
- Promotion, by the granting of financial support, of demonstration projects relating to the exploitation of alternative energy sources and to energy saving and the substitution of hydrocarbons;
Promotion, by the granting of financial support, of pilot industrial projects and demonstration projects relating to the liquefaction and gasification of solid fuels
(Two proposals for a Council Regulation)
(Rapporteur: Mr Paul Flum) (CES 581/85)
- Modified starches intended for human consumption
(Rapporteur: Mr Maurice Zinkin) (CES 580/85)

- Health problems affecting intra-Community trade in fresh meat (Amending Directive 72/461/EEC); Health and veterinary inspection problems upon importation of bovine animals and swine and fresh meat from third countries (Amending Directive 72/462/EEC) (Rapporteur: Mr Peter Storie-Pugh) (CES 582/85)

229th PLENARY SESSION ON 25 AND 26 SEPTEMBER 1985

- Civil aviation — Memorandum No 2 — Progress of work on a Community policy for air transport (Rapporteur: Mr John Kenna) (CES 782/85)
- Harmonization of certain social legislation relating to road transport (Amendment of Regulation (EEC) No 543/69) and introduction of recording equipment in road transport (Amendment of Regulation (EEC) No 1463/70) (Additional opinion) (Rapporteur: Mr Lawrence J. Smith) (CES 781/85)
- Broad outlines of a medium-term transport infrastructure (Communication from the Commission to the Council) (Rapporteur: Mr. Kurt Plank) (CES 773/85)
- Green Paper on the establishment of the common market for broadcasting, especially by satellite and cable (Own-initiative opinion) (Rapporteurs: Mr Paul Broicher, Mr Bartholomeus Pronk, Mr Roger Ramaekers) (CES 776/85)
- Community aid scheme for non-documentary cinema and television co-productions (Rapporteur: Mr Paul Broicher) (CES 777/85)
- Standardization in the field of information technologies and telecommunications and first phase of the establishment of the mutual recognition of type approval for telecommunications terminal equipment (Two proposals for Directives) (Rapporteur: Mr Herbert Nierhaus) (CES 771/85)
- Cross-border mergers of public limited companies (10th Council Directive based on Article 54 (3) (g) of the Treaty) (Rapporteur: Mr Paul Flum) (CES 780/85)
- Decision empowering the Commission to borrow under the New Community Instrument for the purpose of promoting investment within the Community (NCI IV) (Rapporteur: Mr Jean Rouzier) (CES 775/85)
- Revision of the generalized system of tariff preferences of the European Community (Communication of the Commission to the Council) (Rapporteur: Mr Gian Battista Cavazzuti) (CES 774/85)

- European Regional Development Fund (Amendment of Regulation (EEC) No 1787/84)
(Rapporteur: Mr Luigi Della Croce) (CES 770/85)
- Establishment of specific Community regional development measures in 1985 and amendment of Regulation (EEC) No 1787/84
(Rapporteur: Mr Jacques Van Melckenbeke) (CES 783/85)
- Infant formulae and follow-up milks
(Rapporteur: Mr G. H. E. Hilkens) (CES 778/85)
- Detergents (Amendment of Directive 73/404/EEC)
(Rapporteur-General: Mr Roger Ramaekers) (CES 779/85)
- Exemption from taxes of imports of small consignments of goods of a non-commercial character from third countries
(Amendment of Directive 78/1035/EEC)
(Rapporteur: Mr Enrico Kirschen) (CES 772/85)

230th PLENARY SESSION ON 30 AND 31 OCTOBER 1985

- The future of the common agricultural policy
(Rapporteur: Mr Maurice Zinkin) (CES 930/85)
- Strengthening of relations between the Community and Latin America
(Communication from the Commission)
(Rapporteur: Mrs Anna Bredima) (CES 931/85)
- Competition policy (14th Commission report)
(Rapporteur: Mr Bernard Mourgues) (CES 932/85)
- Energy options: Environmental constraints and their implications for Community energy policy (Information report)
(Rapporteur: Mr Klaus von der Decken) (CES 773/84 fin)
- EC shared-cost research, development and demonstration programmes
(Information report)
(Rapporteur: Mr John A. de Normann) (CES 423/84 fin)
- 'New Community energy objectives' (Communication from the Commission)
(Rapporteur: Mr Alfons Margot) (CES 929/85)
- Establishment of common rules for certain types of carriage of goods by road between Member States
(Carriage to or from a Community seaport of goods imported or exported by sea)
(Amendment of first Council Directive);
Rate-fixing system for carriage to or from a Community seaport of goods imported or exported by sea
(Amendment of Regulation (EEC) No 3568/85);

Organization of the markets for the carriage to or from a Community seaport of goods imported or exported by sea

(Two proposals for Directives and a proposal for a Regulation)

(Rapporteur: Mr Horst-Hermann Binnenbruck) (CES 926/85)

- Establishment of common rules for certain types of combined transport of goods between Member States (Amendment of Directive 75/130/EEC)
(Rapporteur: Mr Jean Querleux) (CES 927/85)
- Disposal of waste oils (Amendment of Directive 75/439/EEC)
(Rapporteur: Mr Werner Löw) (CES 933/85)
- Indirect taxes which affect the consumption of alcoholic drinks and the harmonization of excise duties on fortified wine and similar products (Two proposals for Directives)
(Rapporteur: Mr Renato Ognibene) (CES 934/85)
- Concerted-action project for the European Economic Community in the field of shore-based marine navigation aid systems
(Amendment of Decision 82/887/EEC)
(Rapporteur: Mr René Bonety) (CES 928/85)

231st PLENARY SESSION ON 27 AND 28 NOVEMBER 1985

- Commission's annual economic report 1985/86
(Rapporteur: Mr L. N. Goris) (CES 1022/85)
- Completing the internal market — White Paper from the Commission to the European Council (Milan, 28 and 29 June 1985)
(Rapporteur: Mr William Poeton, Co-Rapporteur: Mr Jean Rouzier) (CES 1019/85)
- Progress towards a common transport policy — Maritime transport
(Communication and proposals submitted by the Commission to the Council)
(Rapporteur: Mr Knud Mols Sørensen, Co-Rapporteur: Mrs Anna Bredima)
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to which opinions led to proposals
being amended**

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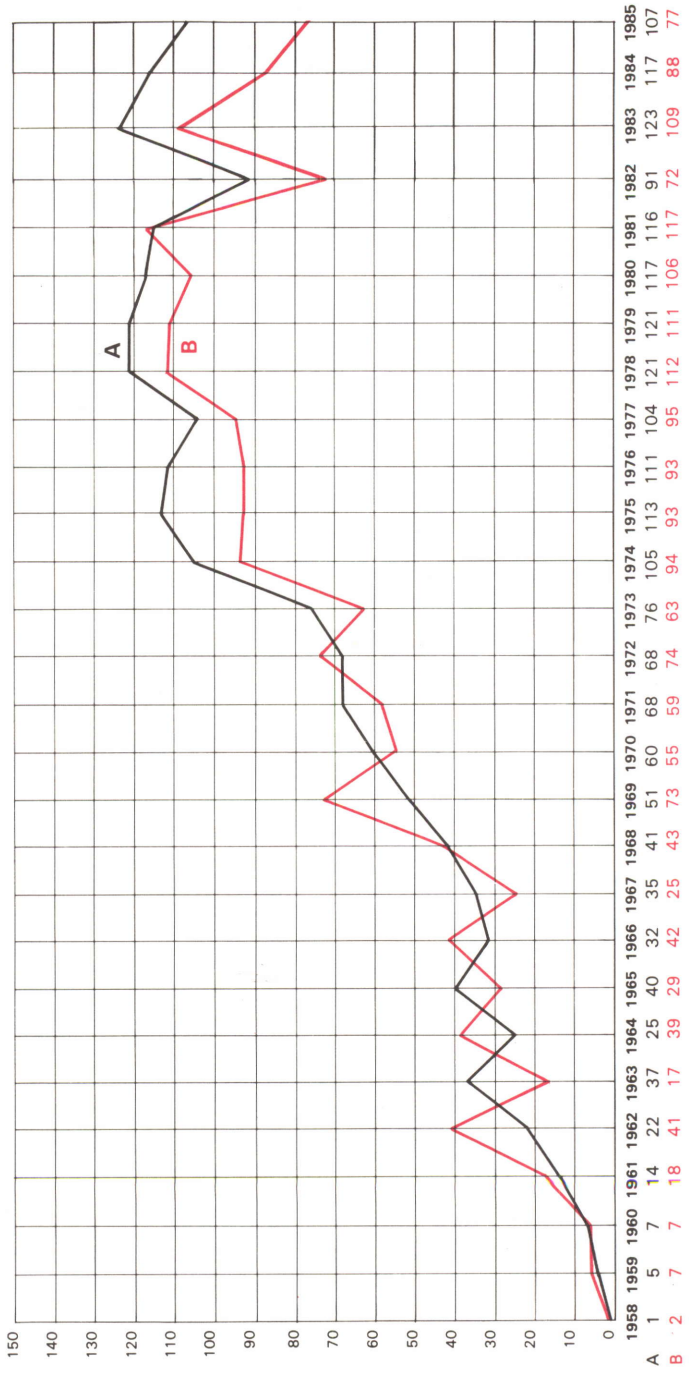
Subject	Referred on	Referred by	Committee opinion	Decision published	Opinion taken into account			EP opinion
					To a small extent	In several respects	To a large extent	
Ceramic articles (limitation of extractable quantities of lead and cadmium)	20. 1. 1975	Council	26. 6. 1979 OJ C 263, 17. 11. 1975	OJ L 277, 20. 10. 1984		X		OJ C 95, 28. 4. 1975
Radiation protection of persons undergoing medical examinations or treatment	8. 2. 1980	Commission	3. 7. 1980 OJ C 230, 8. 9. 1980	Modified			X	
				OJ L 265, 5. 10. 1984				OJ C 149, 14. 6. 1982
Definition of the customs territory of the Community	18. 11. 1980	Council	29. 4. 1981 OJ C 185, 27. 7. 1981	OJ L 197, 27. 7. 1984		X		OJ C 260, 12. 10. 1981
Permissible sound level and the exhaust system of motor vehicles (Amendment of Directive 70/157/EEC)	14. 7. 1983	Council	26. 10. 1983 OJ C 358, 31. 12. 1983	OJ L 238, 6. 9. 1984			Committee opinion endorsed Commission proposal	OJ C 172, 2. 7. 1984
Limit values and quality objectives for discharges of Hexachlorocyclohexane and in particular Lindane	2. 8. 1983	Council	25. 1. 1984 OJ C 57, 29. 2. 1984	OJ L 274, 17. 10. 1984		X		OJ C 127, 14. 5. 1984

Subject	Referred on	Referred by	Committee opinion	Decision published	Opinion taken into account			EP opinion
					To a small ex-tent	In several re-spects	To a large ex-tent	
Measures to be taken for uniform application of the nomenclature of the Common Customs Tariff (Amendment of Regulation (EEC) No 97/69)	25. 11. 1983	Council	29. 2. 1984 OJ C 103. 16. 4. 1984	OJ L 191, 19. 7. 1984			X	OJ C 77, 19. 3. 1984
General measures in the field of data processing (Amendment of Decision 79/783/EEC)	22. 12. 1983	Council	29. 2. 1984 OJ C 103. 16. 4. 1984	OJ L 308, 27. 11. 1984	Committee opinion endorsed Commission proposal			OJ C 117, 30. 4. 1984
Adoption of a Community programme for the development of the specialized information market in Europe	2. 12. 1983	Council	29. 3. 1984 OJ C 140. 28. 5. 1984	OJ L 314, 4. 12. 1984	Committee opinion endorsed Commission proposal			OJ C 117, 30. 4. 1984
Parental leave and leave for family reasons	12. 12. 1983	Council	24. 5. 1984 OJ C 206 6. 8. 1984		Amended by Commission, following Committee opinion			

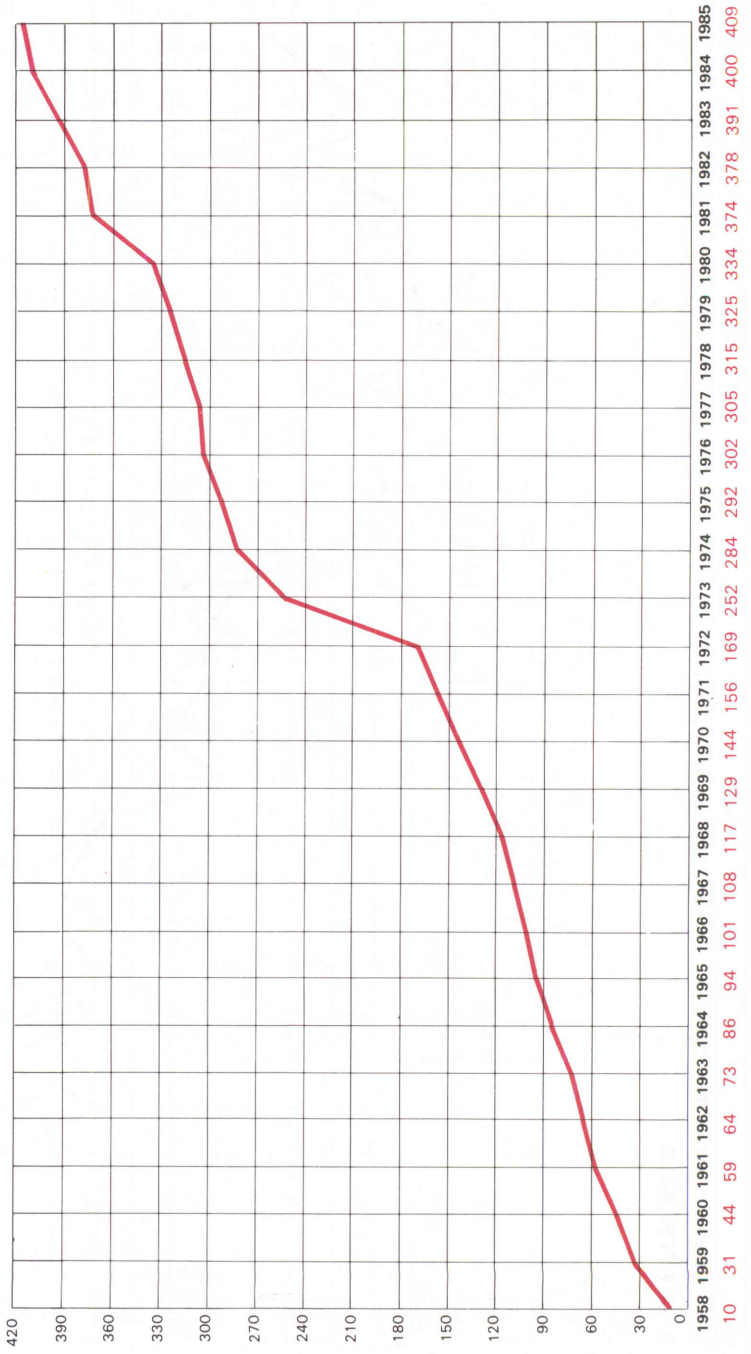
Subject	Referred on	Referred by	Committee opinion	Decision published	Opinion taken into account			EP opinion
					To a small extent	In several respects	To a large extent	
Promotion of positive action for women (draft recommendation)	8. 5. 1984	Council	21. 11. 1984 OJ C 25, 28. 1. 1985	OJ L 331, 19. 12. 1984	X		OJ C 315, 26. 11. 1984	
Third joint programme to encourage the exchange of young workers within the Community	5. 6. 1984	Council	21. 11. 1984 OJ C 25, 28. 1. 1985	OJ L 331, 19. 12. 1984	Committee opinion endorsed Commission proposal			
Specific Community action to combat poverty	10. 8. 1984	Council	21. 11. 1984 OJ C 25, 28. 1. 1985	OJ L 2, 3. 1. 1985	X		OJ C 315, 26. 11. 1984	
17th Council Directive - Exemption from value-added tax on the temporary importation of goods other than means of transport	5. 9. 1984	Council	21. 11. 1984 OJ C 25, 28. 1. 1985	OJ L 192, 24. 7. 1985	Modified			OJ C 12, 1. 1. 1985
Action to combat long-term unemployment (communication of the Commission)	2. 10. 1984	Council	21. 11. 1984 OJ C 25, 28. 1. 1985	Resolution: OJ C 2, 4. 1. 1985		X		
Programme of support for technological development in the hydrocarbons sector	6. 12. 1984	Council	27. 3. 1985 OJ C 160, 1. 7. 1985	OJ L 350, 27. 12. 1985	Modified			OJ C 175, 15. 7. 1985
Social security for volunteer development workers (draft recommendation)	7. 1. 1985	Council	27. 3. 1985 OJ C 160, 1. 7. 1985	OJ L 163, 22. 6. 1985	X		OJ C 122, 20. 5. 1985	

Graphs

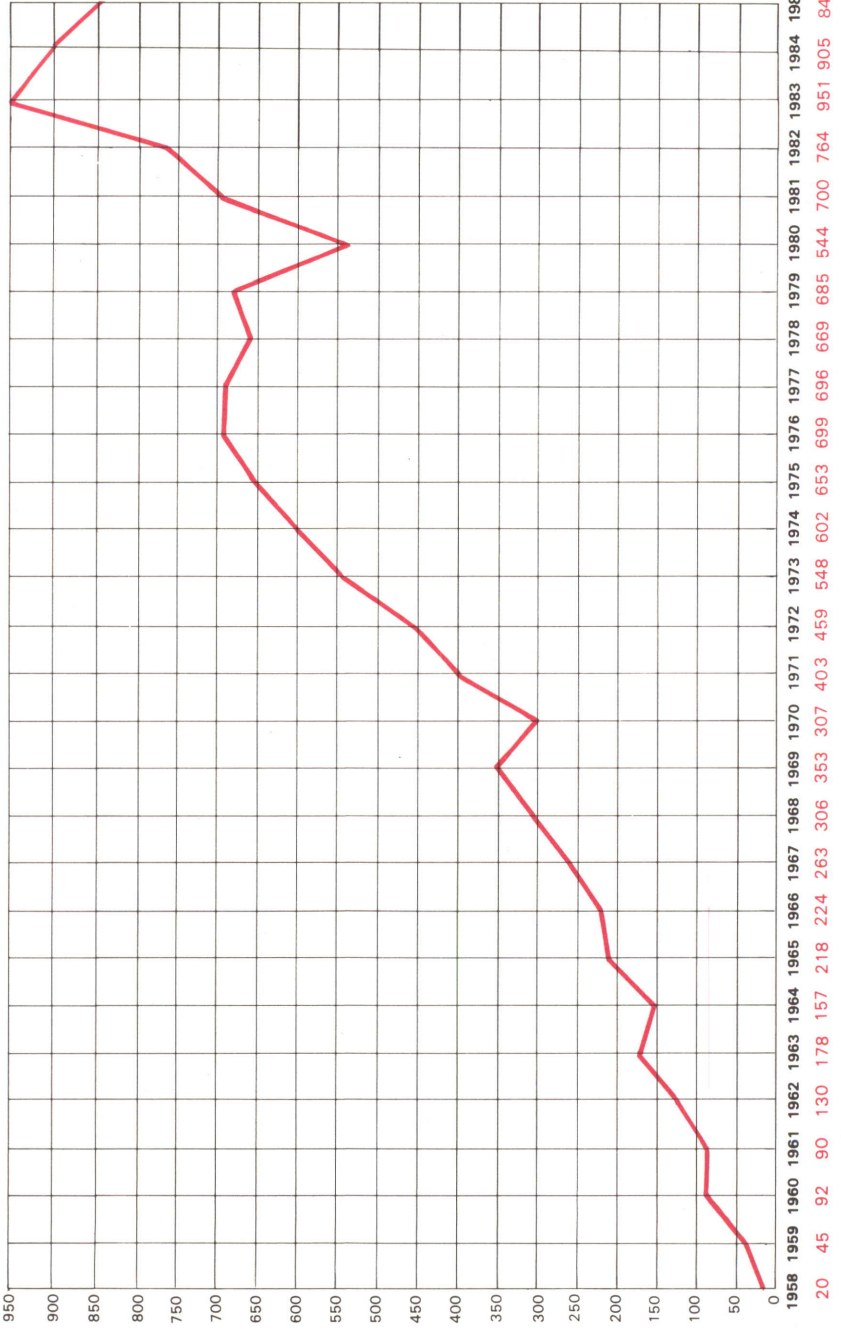
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