

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE
OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE
Press, information and publications division

Rue Ravenstein 2
1000 BRUSSELS

Tel. 512 3920
513 9595

Telegrams: ECOSEUR
Telex: 25983 CESEUR

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Preface

The Annual Report on the Committee's Activity in 1979 is in itself a demonstration, although necessarily brief and incomplete, of the volume of work accomplished by the Committee and its commitment over the last twelve months.

The problems, tensions and aspirations which emerged in 1979 in Europe and throughout the world were reflected in our discussions and the Opinions issued. We have tried, frequently in the midst of crises, to fulfil realistically our role as advisory body to the European Communities' decision-makers, by pointing out possible solutions and drawing attention to the inadequacies and dangers inherent in some of their proposals.

The problems peculiar to the European Communities have been compounded by the worldwide crisis, tempting us with nationalistic solutions which are not only a negation of European ideals but would also fail to solve the real problems. Loyalty to these ideals and the realization that we must show solidarity and seek common remedies have been the foundation of our approach to the problems we have dealt with step by step.

Taking a schematic view and leaving aside part of our activity, we can say that our energies have been concentrated in two areas in particular.

Firstly, we have made a thorough appraisal of the new requirements and challenges we must meet. Recommendations have been drawn up on ways of improving our working methods and enabling us to fulfil our mandate under the Treaty and the groundwork has been laid for rapid progress to be made.

Secondly — and the two themes are closely connected — we have made preparations for strengthening and improving our relations with the other Community institutions. We have received expressions of awareness and regard in this respect, and I feel sure that in 1980 our efforts to make the most of the Committee's role will be rewarded, in part as a result of the current reassessment of the machinery and procedures of the Community institutions.

I therefore note with satisfaction that the Report by the 'Three Wise Men', published at the end of 1979, stressed the need to expand the role and influence of the Economic and Social Committee. This is a further, authoritative pronouncement to encourage us in our task.

R. VANNI
Chairman

Role and influence of the Economic and Social Committee

The period covered by this Annual Report can be divided into two almost equal parts, the central feature being the change in the chairmanship of the Committee in June, when Mrs Fabrizia Baduel Glorioso was succeeded by Mr Raffaele Vanni. Mrs Baduel Glorioso, elected Chairman at the last renewal of the Committee, had stood as a candidate in the direct elections for the European Parliament and, like five other Committee members, was elected.

As soon as he was elected Chairman, Mr Vanni stressed that the Committee should concentrate its efforts on two fundamental aims which were closely intertwined namely; to improve the internal working methods of the Committee in order to make its Opinions more effective; and to strengthen the Committee's relations with the Council, the Commission and the European Parliament, which had been recently elected by universal suffrage.

At the beginning of the year the Committee set up a subcommittee to consider whether members could be provided with assistants for study group work and perhaps also Section work.

This matter was discussed at a number of meetings and was finally put before the July Plenary Session, where a number of important arguments were advanced. First of all, attention was drawn to the heavy workload that most members had in their country of origin and at the Committee. The plan for assistants was an attempt to solve the problems associated with this. The aim of the new system was to enhance not only the level of debates but also the quality and impact of Opinions by creating conditions that would enable leading figures to continue to sit on the Committee. It was true that advisory bodies had as full members the general-secretaries of the major trade unions, representatives of employers' associations and co-opted persons representing intellectual circles, but in practice those people had increasing difficulty in keeping abreast of all the work of the Committee. One therefore had to appreciate the need for arrangements that would enable every member to take an active part in the work of the Committee without neglecting their national commitments too much. Only in that way could

the Committee remain a representative body with the high-level membership essential for its important role.

It was also pointed out that the Rules of Procedure of the ECSC Consultative Committee enabled members to be represented by persons of their choice from outside that body. Numerous arguments were advanced against this. It was indicated that the Council of Ministers had stressed several times in the past that, because of the personal nature of the office of member, it was not possible to delegate that task to other persons. It was also stated that the proposed new system evaded the basic problem, namely how to make the Committee more representative. To that end the economic and social interest groups would have to take a difficult decision. They would have to choose between having themselves represented by their leading figures (thereby bestowing a certain authority on the Committee, but at the same time entailing the risk that the people in question would be able to devote only little time to Committee work) and appointing people who were not so busy but who would be liable to be no longer in direct contact with the interests they represented (which would inevitably lead to the Committee's deliberations being divorced from reality). From the organizational point of view there was a danger that the introduction of deputies could trigger a chain reaction, with the result that, initially, deliberations would be made more difficult at Section meetings, since these would soon be attended only by assistants, and, at a later stage, debates would be started afresh at Plenary Sessions by those members who had not been present at the Section meetings. Finally, the fear was expressed that the Plenary Session could be on the point of jeopardizing the role of Committee members and the role of the Committee itself.

Finally, a new version of Article 16 of the Rules of Procedure was submitted to the Plenary Session:

'Each member of the Committee shall be entitled to have an assistant who may be called upon to stand in for him when he is unable to attend meetings of the Study Group or Sections to which he belongs.

The name and qualifications of the said assistant, who shall be freely selected by the member, shall be communicated to the Committee's Bureau for its approval. The assistant's mandate shall expire at the same time as the member's two-year mandate at Section level. Each member may apply for permission to change his assistant during the aforementioned period, should the need arise. Such an application must set out the grounds on which it is based.

The assistant shall attend meetings when the need arises, at the instigation of the absent member. The latter shall notify the Chairman of the body in question accordingly, pursuant to Article 48.

The assistant may take part in the proceedings but shall not be entitled to vote.

An assistant who attends meetings in accordance with the above provisions shall be reimbursed as provided for in the rules concerning travel and subsistence expenses.

In addition, members of Sections or Study Groups may be accompanied at meetings by a technical assistant, who may take part in the proceedings but not vote. Before work is started on a question for which the participation of an assistant is desired, the name and qualifications of the assistant shall be communicated to the Chairman of the Section or Study Group for his approval.'

The vote showed that the consensus necessary for a change in the Rules of Procedure did not exist. There was a simple majority in favour but not the required absolute majority.

It therefore seemed advisable to try a new approach, in agreement with the Committee's Groups, rather than shelve the whole matter indefinitely. At the initiative of the Committee's Chairman, Mr. Vanni, a number of meetings were held in the second half of the year to identify possible solutions. The problem of working methods came to the fore at the September Plenary Session, when the Chairman of the Workers' Group stated that there was a *malaise* in the Committee. The EC Institutions in general had lost prestige, and the Committee had not been able to escape that process.

He went on to say that the Committee had to spare no effort to do its job effectively — which it would not do if its work were merely filed, without exerting any influence on decision-making. It was therefore essential to upgrade the Committee, and reform its working methods.

This statement was followed by separate meetings of the Committee's three Groups. The Bureau and the Section Chairmen attempted to reach an initial consensus on the action to be taken. The endeavours to rationalize working methods are still under way, and it is to be expected that they will yield concrete results in the near future.

This concern with reforming its internal organization did not mean that the Committee's external contacts were neglected. As in previous years, a number of Commissioners demonstrated their interest in the Committee's work by attending Plenary Sessions and a number of Section meetings. Special mention should be made in this connection of Vice-Presidents Ortolì and Natali, and Commissioners Gundelach, Giolitti, Davignon and Vredeling.

The Committee also remained in close touch with the Council, and the Plenary Session of June was attended by the President-in-Office of the Council, Mr Boulin, the then French Minister for Labour. Mr Vanni, the Committee Chairman, and his predecessor, also had a number of meetings with members of Coreper. There were also a number of official visits, during which there were discussions with members of Member State Governments. In October Mr Vanni went to Ireland, where he met President Hillery, Prime Minister Lynch and other members of the Irish Government.

In the first half of the year the Committee Chairman, Mrs Baduel Glorioso, paid official visits to Paris, Bonn, Rome and Luxembourg, meeting Prime Minister Barre in Paris, Chancellor Schmidt in Bonn, several Ministers and President Pertini in

Rome and finally, Mr Thorn, President of the Council, in Luxembourg. Visits were also made to Portugal, Spain and Greece, where talks were held with representatives of the Governments and the socio-economic organizations.

The Committee delivered an Opinion on the applications of these three countries for membership of the European Community. In its Opinion the Committee stated that the second enlargement of the European Community (from nine to twelve members) was in keeping with the preamble to the EEC Treaty in which the signatories 'call upon the other peoples of Europe who share their ideal to join in their efforts'. The Committee was of the opinion that enlargement would help to bring about political stability and strengthen democracy in southern Europe, thus consolidating the democratic system throughout Europe.

The Committee considered that the Community institutions had to make a comprehensive, in-depth study of ways in which their internal structures and administrative machinery could be adapted to the new dimension of the Community of twelve. In the enlarged Community the aim should be to have efficient and comprehensible European institutions. In other words, the Community had to be organized in such a way that it could function properly; decision-making practices that impeded application of the Treaties should be abandoned.

Greece, Portugal and Spain had to accept the existing Community provisions, including all Community objectives and policies at the particular stage they had reached at the time of accession and at the end of the transitional period.

In other words, acceding countries had to be prepared to dismantle existing trade barriers and eliminate distortions of competition; that included the withdrawal of subsidies that distorted competition.

It was also imperative that concrete progress be made in aligning, in accordance with the Treaty of Rome, the legal, economic and social conditions that formed the framework for relations between the 'Nine' and Spain. Those adjustments should then become a key element in developing a dialogue with a view to accession.

The entry of Greece, Portugal and Spain would pose far more delicate transitional problems than those arising at the time of the first enlargement as solutions would have to be found to the problem of how to integrate countries, which, in socio-economic terms, fell well behind the Community average. The transitional measures would therefore have to be such:

- (i) that the enlarged Community was not slowed down, could be consolidated and could make new progress;
- (ii) that sectoral and regional problems currently affecting the Community, and which frequently occurred in the acceding countries as well, were not aggravated after enlargement.

The question of the nature and scope of the adjustments should therefore be tackled as soon as entry negotiations began. Solutions to transitional problems would need to be sufficiently flexible.

After the transitional period, freedom of movement for workers would have to apply to workers from acceding countries without restriction. A relatively long transitional period might be needed, however, because of structural and cyclical unemployment in the Community. That applied in particular to Spain and Portugal.

The Committee also considered that basically it made more sense to bring jobs to the unemployed rather than to oblige the unemployed to emigrate in order to find work.

The new Lomé Convention was also signed in the period under review. The Committee had followed the implementation of the first Convention closely and had attempted to contribute to the development of cooperation between the Community and the ACP countries. It is one of the Committee's declared aims to further intensify its efforts in this area in future. The fact that the Chairman, Mr Vanni, attended the signing of the new Lomé Convention in October 1979 is a token of the importance the Committee attaches to this matter.

In the Community context, attempts were made to develop the Committee's relations with the other institutions and bodies. There were contacts with the Court of Justice and the European Investment Bank. The Chairman of the Monetary Committee attended a meeting of one of the Committee's Sections. Representatives of the Committee also attended several meetings of the ECSC Consultative Committee and the Committee contributed to the report of the 'Three Wise Men' on the future of the Community's institutions.

Relations with national economic and social councils were also developed. In the first half of the year there was a joint session with the National Economic and Labour Council in Rome and in the second half there was a joint session with the French Economic and Social Council.

In connection with the preparation of the Committee's Opinion on the economic situation in the Community, visits were made to France in the first half of the year and to Ireland in the second half. Mention should also be made of a number of Section meetings away from Brussels. The Section for Social Questions met in Berlin, the Section for Energy in London and the Section for Industry in Glasgow.

The Committee's relations with the European Parliament must also be reviewed. For years the Committee has been advocating a more important role for the European Parliament and looking forward to a greater measure of democracy in the Community decision-making process in the wake of the direct election of the Parliament. The Committee is deeply satisfied that these aims have now been achieved. The new position of the European Parliament may, however, have consequences for the Committee's activities. Some comments are called for in this connection.

At first glance there does not seem to be any direct connection between the direct election of the European Parliament and the future of the Economic and Social Committee. The Treaties of Rome assign different tasks to these two bod-

ies and no direct cooperation was planned. Despite the efforts made by the Committee, there was for many years no coordination of the work of the two bodies. They operated parallel to each other, on the one hand because, under the Treaties, the Committee was confined to advising the Council and the Commission, and on the other hand because of the reserved attitude of the European Parliament. It was only in recent years, particularly since the chairmanship of Henri Canonge (1974-76), that contacts of a pragmatic nature were established, leading to various Committee Rapporteurs being heard by European Parliament Committees. It cannot, however, be claimed that this practice has already become a tradition.

Even on the basis of a restrictive interpretation of the European Parliament's powers, and even if one assumes that its direct election has not changed its role, it cannot be denied that there are likely to be consequences for the Community's institutional structure at least in the medium-term. Even without any changes in the Treaties, the European Parliament's broader democratic base will mean that it will try to increase its influence. A possible starting point would be budgetary policy, in which area the European Parliament already has a certain say regarding non-compulsory expenditure. Budgetary policy, however, affords the European Parliament an opportunity to intervene in other Community policies, particularly regional policy, industrial policy, energy policy, etc. If the European Parliament increases its influence in this way, it will soon find it necessary to establish closer contacts with the relevant economic and social circles.

This raises the question of how these contacts should be established. One should first take as a basis the institutional framework of the Community, in which the Economic and Social Committee plays a special role as the forum for Community workers' and employers' organizations and their affiliated national organizations. As stated earlier, there had already been contacts between the Committee and the European Parliament before the latter's direct election.

Contacts between the Committee and the newly-elected Parliament were resumed and intensified by Mr Vanni when he became Chairman of the Committee. Mr Vanni met, on several occasions, the President of the European Parliament, Mrs Veil, and Chairmen of the Parliament's groups and committees. The fact that many members of the European Parliament are former members of the Committee is bound to facilitate closer relations between the two institutions. Some problems may, however, occur as a result of the policy of making direct contacts with socio-occupational organizations which the Parliament would appear to be following.

Such links would be quite feasible as they are in accordance with national parliamentary traditions; they are also particularly understandable in view of the fact that many members of the European Parliament come from socio-occupational organizations. There are, however, grounds for fearing that bilateral relations of this nature could prejudice decision-making in the Community as they could water down the procedures which have been elaborated so far by bringing about a proliferation of consultative bodies, thereby making the decision-making procedures increasingly more cumbersome. For this reason the European Parliament and, in particular, the Economic and Social Committee should both set out to

mould their relations in such a way as to enable the Committee to serve as a bridge between the Parliament and socio-occupational organizations and to ensure that Parliament seeks advice in the first instance from the Committee. Such a step will, however, not be possible unless the Committee first of all becomes a considerably more effective body by carrying out internal reforms to tighten up its working methods.

All the Committee's members are fully aware of the need to take such action. At the last Plenary Session of the year, Mr Vanni put forward a series of general guidelines which were adopted unanimously. The specially constituted Rules of Procedure Panel was instructed to work out precise proposals based on the abovementioned guidelines. The proposals are to be discussed at the Plenary Session in January 1980.

With the same aim in view, the Committee's Bureau will revise its standing orders in order to deal with the problems which do not require changes in the Rules of Procedure.

Chapter II

Work of the Committee

1. AGRICULTURAL POLICY

The Commission proposals on the 1979/80 farm prices inevitably gave rise to varying reactions on the part of the economic and social interest groups represented on the Economic and Social Committee. The Commission had in fact proposed a freeze on farm prices, expressed in units of account, plus measures to restore balance to the markets in surplus (milk, sugar); it had also proposed an automatic procedure for dismantling new monetary compensatory amounts. The Section for Agriculture had generally speaking been in agreement with COPA and the Committee of European Parliament in regarding the Commission proposals (with the exception of the proposals on monetary compensatory amounts) as unacceptable and had advocated an average price rise of 3%. On the initiative of consumer and workers' representatives, the Economic and Social Committee adopted an Opinion much more akin to the Commission proposal. The Opinion drew attention to the disturbing imbalances on a number of major agricultural markets and proposed that product prices on these markets should remain the same in units of account. The Committee also called on the Commission to consider whether price increases were justified for products not in surplus. Long-term measures should be considered with respect to the incomes of farmers producing products whose prices remained unchanged. By a majority of two votes the Committee adopted an amendment to the effect that the Commission's proposals on the co-responsibility levy should be approved, since the milk sector accounted for the bulk of EAGGF expenditure and there were at present no other effective measures to reduce dairy surpluses rapidly. The Committee likewise approved the Commission proposal for a reduction in the B quota of sugar. It is interesting to note that a small number of farmers' representatives voted in favour of the Committee's Opinion.

In March 1979 the Committee was asked to deliver an Opinion on a major package of structural proposals presented by the Commission. The proposals are part of a long-term strategy designed to overcome the disparities between the agricultural regions of the Community. The proposals had been advocated by the Committee for a number of years and were warmly welcomed. Having made a highly detailed analysis of the proposals, the Committee made many particularly inter-

esting suggestions regarding the shape of future Community policy on agricultural structures. In the view of the Committee the poor achievements of the socio-structural directives — with the exception perhaps of the directive on hill farming and farming in less prosperous areas — inevitably meant that questions were going to be raised about the selectiveness criteria used in the directives. Failures, however, should not mean a challenge to the principle of 'selectiveness'. Selectiveness after all was justified because Community aid was intended to benefit those whose needs were greatest from the point of view of farm modernization and the raising of incomes to levels comparable with those obtaining outside agriculture. It was also justified because — however much one would like to see the ceiling raised — the total volume of aid was inevitably limited. The Community's concept of a single development plan to enable farmers to achieve the 'comparable income' target in one go would not appear to be an appropriate solution. Such a linear conception of development was hardly relevant to the vast majority of the farming Community. This was why the refusal to take into consideration stage-by-stage developments was so regrettable. One of the constant concerns of the Committee was to give as many farmers as possible access to the development plan. The latter was a vital instrument for modernizing farms. The need to make existing directives more flexible without abandoning selectivity was one of the Committee's key ideas. The Commission's idea that investment aids should be suspended in certain sectors would not appear to be compatible with the gradual, continuous and essential modernization of the Community's productive machinery. It would also mean that young farmers would not be able to establish themselves in sectors where there was considered to be surplus production at present. This in turn was likely to jeopardize increased production in the future. Suspending investment aids would also ossify a large number of agricultural structures and perpetuate disparities between countries, regions and farms. Investment aids to rationalize production and reduce production costs should not therefore be suspended nor could investment aids be isolated from the overall problem of working out a price and market policy, and to establishing a trade policy towards non-member countries. Whilst it was necessary to encourage farms to increase their efficiency, measures to do so should be selective and should take into account the nature of the investments, the type of soil and the need for a more autonomous, more economical method of production.

In this respect, however, the Commission's proposal was too restrictive, for investment aids should be granted not only to farms in hill areas, less prosperous areas and areas where there was permanent pasture land, but also to farms capable of producing a considerable proportion of their feed requirements. There had often been difficulties in implementing socio-structural directives, hence the need to take a closer look at regional factors and to adjust Community directives.

The improvement of structures and the development of agriculture in certain regions had been handicapped by the absence of a proper EEC regional development policy. The Commission's fondness for integrated programmes, — as well as for development programmes designed to promote agricultural production on a regional basis — ought not however, lead to the abandonment of such a regional policy. Integrated programmes were an attractive proposition but it was important to make sure that the Guidance Section of the EAGGF only made a financial contribution to those schemes it was responsible for itself. The selection

of regions eligible for aid under integrated programmes would seem to stem more from the wish to preserve a political balance between the Member States than from an overall policy decision to correct the most flagrant imbalances with the Community. The lack of Community criteria in selecting regions seemed to be a proof of this interpretation. Thus, as far as the Committee was concerned, structural reform in agriculture called for a medium and long-term strategy; it could not merely be a reflection of current economic considerations. Nevertheless it had to be sufficiently flexible to adapt to changing economic situations and to requirements that varied in both extent and kind.

As far as new market common organizations were concerned, the Committee was asked to take a stand on the new Commission proposal on the common organization of the market in the sheepmeat sector. In the view of the Committee the common organization of the sheepmeat market should be based on the rules underlying any common organization of the market, namely:

- (i) Community preference;
- (ii) a common frontier with regard to third countries;
- (iii) a common market management;
- (iv) a common price policy;
- (v) protective measures in the event of a crisis.

This approach to the problem inevitably led the Committee to disagreeing strongly about some Commission proposals. The Committee thought in particular that:

- (i) the GATT-bound tariff on sheepmeat from third countries needed to be de-consolidated;
- (ii) the necessary price guarantee to producers should be implemented by direct premium payments since the Commission proposals limiting domestic market support to private storage aid would not be able to guarantee Community producers an adequate income solely through the free play of market forces;
- (iii) provision should be made for refunds on Community exports of live sheep and fresh or chilled sheepmeat;
- (iv) consideration should be given to the introduction of specific Community measures, e. g. a production aid for the benefit of the wool sector;
- (v) the proposal should also apply to goats.

A common market organization for alcohol has not yet been established either. For the third time since 1973, the Economic and Social Committee discussed this difficult dossier when it was asked for its comments on the Commission's proposals of 18 May 1979. As far as the Committee is concerned, it has become vital for the Council to act urgently in taking the decisions necessary for the establishment of a market organization for ethyl alcohol of agricultural origin especially as there are still barriers to the circulation of alcohol, spirits and liqueurs in the Common Market even after twenty years. In addition, marketing systems in indi-

vidual Member States are being dismantled following decisions by the Court of Justice without any Community scheme taking their place. (This leaves a disturbing vacuum.) Because Spain and Portugal are both important growers of alcohol-producing agricultural commodities, the Committee thought it was essential to rapidly bring in a common organization of the market before they became members of the Community. Despite the efforts made by the Commission, however, the Committee pointed out that in many of the circles concerned:

- (i) there was still dissent and concern about the proposed regulation;
- (ii) there was a conviction that the proposed regulation would ultimately tackle purely industrial problems in addition to basic agricultural problems arising from the need to provide outlets for distillates of alcohol products affecting major sensitive agricultural markets; this might, among other things, seriously distort competition between some of the sectors involved;
- (iii) there were doubts as to whether the coverage of agricultural interests was complete because only about one-third of the distillates of alcohol-producing agricultural raw materials were directly subject to the draft regulation.

The Committee concluded from the analysis that if no other solution were acceptable there would then, as a last resort, be a case for (i) a simplified CAP distillation scheme based on intervention in respect of sensitive agricultural raw materials and (ii) the maintenance of a market divided into two sectors, one of which being reserved for agricultural alcohol.

The Committee also had the following comments to make:

(a) The energy background

The Committee wondered whether the energy crisis had precipitated a radical change in the general conditions prevailing when the original alcohol proposals had been drawn up. It felt that, in future, large quantities of agricultural alcohol might have to be devoted to energy production. Nevertheless there was at present no reason to suppose that the basic terms of the problem had changed substantially.

(b) Scope

It was considered that processed products incorporating alcohol, and possibly other agricultural products subject to an organized market, should be covered more often by the trade arrangements applying to the regulated product which they contained. In addition, the new proposals did nothing to solve the problems of alcohol distilled from vine products or table grapes, nor those of grape brandies and spirits. These should be guaranteed security of access, as it was almost always compulsory distillation which was involved.

(c) Target prices and marketing guarantees: molasses alcohol

The Committee agreed with the compromise proposed by the Commission for molasses alcohol. The scheme generally corresponded to what the Committee had proposed earlier. Nevertheless the Committee was in favour of the target price for molasses alcohol being fixed by the Council in the light of the situation on the market.

(d) Selling prices for the pharmaceutical, perfumery and cosmetics industries

The Committee was in favour of a system whereby the price at which agricultural alcohol was sold to these industries would be fixed in the light of the market price for synthetic alcohol.

The Committee delivered several Opinions on the wine sector. However its work on the Action Programme 1979-85 for the Progressive Establishment of Balance on the Market in Wine deserves particular attention for it makes an important contribution to solving the Community's short-term problems. To achieve short-term balance on the market implies that concrete measures are taken in two areas, namely production and consumption. As far as production is concerned, there must be measures to remove the imbalance between supply and demand and there must be a system of permanent and automatic intervention, which caters for consumer needs and provides a price level for table wines of recognized quality that is sufficiently high to ensure that producers enjoy a degree of protection comparable to that of producers of other major Community agricultural products. On the consumption side, indirect taxes and duties must be reduced and aligned throughout the EEG. As far as the possibility of introducing a minimum price is concerned, the Committee finally accepted, with a great deal of caution, the mechanism proposed by the Commission. The following amendments were however proposed:

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

As far as the policy on planting was concerned, the Committee made a number of detailed proposals. The basic idea was that the Community's medium-term policy should be directed towards stability of production potential and not a systematic reduction of wine-growing potential.

2. TRANSPORT POLICY

In the period under review, the Committee's study of flags of convenience, discrimination in international shipping and the growing importance of the new shipping nations was completed with an Opinion, which was adopted at the Plenary

Session on 4 and 5 April 1979. (See the booklet entitled 'EEC Shipping Policy — Flags of Convenience', which is obtainable from the Committee's Press Division.)

This work continued the trend of recent years towards extension of the scope of transport policy beyond the traditional transport modes (road, rail and inland waterway), which have to be regulated under Article 75 of the EEC Treaty, and inclusion of air and sea transport in Community deliberations.

In its Opinion the Committee points out that for some time now grave threats have been hanging over the maritime transport industry, seafarers and also the environment, and that urgent action must be taken to avert these dangers if serious harm to the Community is to be prevented.

The Committee expects courageous action by the Community authorities to deal with the growth of flags of convenience, expatriation of vessels, flag discrimination and the expansion of shipping capacity through the emergence of more and more new shipping nations, mainly in the Third World. In the Committee's view this problem does not concern just the Community, but has a world dimension. Solutions cannot therefore be confined to the Community context but must be sought also in a wider framework.

In specific terms the Committee proposes the adoption of Community legal instruments with a view to immediate intervention.

The Committee thinks that, with regard to international action already embarked upon, the Community should, by means of directives, call upon the Member States not only to ratify without delay all the international conventions and recommendations on social and technical matters drawn up by international bodies (such as the ILO and IMCO), but also to take the steps necessary for their application, regardless of whether they have been ratified by enough States or not.

The Community should also, in the Committee's view, adopt Regulations harmonizing the living and working conditions of seafarers on vessels flying Member State flags. The Committee considers that, with regard to the code of conduct for liner conferences, the Community must make every effort to ensure — by amending the definition of 'national shipping line', if need be — that liner conference trade is in fact shared on the basis of the 40 : 40 : 20 principle advocated by the new shipping nations.

The Committee thinks that, in order to strengthen existing Community legal instruments and to remedy the shortcomings in the areas of safety and social protection, supervisory procedures should be laid down (e.g. technical inspections at Community level) and measures adopted so that sub-standard vessels can be barred from Community ports or in certain cases be fined or detained in a Community port until the necessary repairs or alterations have been made and proof of conformity with Community requirements is produced.

Another measure, in the Committee's view, could be the introduction of scrapping premiums so that sub-standard vessels are withdrawn from service in favour of more modern vessels.

In addition to the above short-term measures, the Committee proposes a number of medium-term measures at international and Community level aimed mainly at improving maritime safety and living and working conditions at sea and protecting Community interests in bilateral and multilateral agreements.

During the period under review (January-September 1979) the Section for Transport and Communications has also examined various other matters. In some cases the work is not yet complete and in others the relative significance can only be assessed in a broader context at the end of the year.

In addition, the Committee issued eight Opinions; a further two Opinions (vehicle weights, technical requirements for inland waterway vessels) were nearing completion at the end of the year. These will be dealt with in the next Annual Report, although most of the considerable work done by the Committee, especially on the question of vehicle weights, was carried out in the period covered by this Report.

Obligations of public services/aids

Seen in the context of the Community's transport policy, the purpose of which is to put the railways on a sound financial footing and make the conditions of competition transparent, the Committee welcomed the Commission's proposal (amendment of Regulation No 1191/69 to include the obligation for undertakings to apply a level of tariffs which is contrary to their commercial interests and fixed or approved by a public authority).

Similarly, the ESC welcomed a Commission proposal on the simplification of the accounting system for expenditure on infrastructure in respect of transport by rail, road and inland waterway.

The Committee had reservations about a Commission proposal adjusting capacity for the carriage of goods by road for hire or reward between Member States.

Among other things it criticized the fact that the Community quotas are raised annually without taking account of changes in the bilateral quotas, or without converting these into Community quotas. It felt that the proposed procedure for allowing Community authorities to participate in the determination of bilateral quotas could not work until such time as the market monitoring system proposed by the Commission was operational.

In its Opinion on the mandatory introduction of the procedures for ship inspection forming the subject of Resolutions of the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO), the Committee stated that the measures proposed by the Commission could in fact make a substantial contribution to improving maritime safety.

The Committee approved two Commission proposals on a trial basis: one for a more flexible use of the Community quota for the carriage of goods by road between Member States, by converting 10% of the Community authorizations into

short-term authorizations (1 authorization = 40 10-day authorizations); the other to increase by 20% for 1980 the total Community quota for the carriage of goods by road.

Towards the end of the year the Committee looked at a Commission proposal for a consultation procedure in the field of air transport. In principle it welcomed this proposal. At the moment it is also studying an extensive Memorandum on air transport policy recently submitted by the Commission. A detailed report will be given on this at a later date.

Finally the Committee adopted an Opinion on the possibilities of promoting own-account transport. It was unable to agree with the liberalization course advocated by the Commission which would be to the detriment of the hire-and-reward transport sector.

3. SOCIAL POLICY

Frontier workers

There are more than 200 000 frontier workers in the Community and about half of these workers cross the internal frontiers of the Community in order to reach their work. The problems facing these workers, who live in one country and work in another, provide a very clear pointer to a number of difficulties and bottlenecks hampering the progress towards European integration in a number of fields which have a very direct and substantial bearing on the living and working conditions of the people in these countries.

In the Committee's view the issue of frontier workers deserves very special attention in view of the many aspects involved and in view of the fact that this issue typifies in a concrete way many other problems, concerning as it does the everyday life of a large number of Community citizens for whom European integration is a matter of particular importance. The Committee therefore decided to draw up an own-initiative Opinion on this subject. In its Opinion, which was widely commented on in the circles concerned, the Committee considered the meaning of the term 'frontier worker' and endeavoured to assess the importance, define the characteristics and explain the reasons behind this labour phenomenon and foresee its future development.

After considering the various aspects of the problems facing frontier workers, the Committee put forward a number of concrete proposals for improving their situation and living and working conditions, particularly as regards employment, social security, taxation and exchange rate fluctuations.

Protection of workers

In spite of the efforts of the Member States the incidence of industrial accidents and industrial illness remains high. The Committee has considered this important issue on numerous occasions and has called for comprehensive action against this scourge which has incalculable human, social and financial consequences.

With this end in view, the Council approved, on 29 June 1978, a Resolution dealing with an EC action programme on health and safety at the workplace. In pursuance of this programme, which was supported by the Committee, the Commission submitted a Proposal for a Directive on the Protection of Workers from Harmful Exposure to Chemical, Physical and Biological Agents at Work. In its Opinion on this Draft Directive the Committee approved the aim of the document and considered that it would help speed up the coordination of existing national rules on this subject and bring them into line with the new requirements of occupational medicine, hygiene and safety.

In its Opinion the Committee also dealt with the relationship between, on the one hand, technical progress and economic growth, and, on the other hand, the protection of workers. The Committee came out clearly in favour of giving priority to protecting the health of workers.

The social situation in the Community

The Committee draws up an annual Opinion on the development of the social situation in the Community. In its latest Opinion on this subject the Committee took the opportunity to draw attention once again to its great anxiety over the seriousness and the persistent nature of the unemployment problem in the Community, particularly unemployment amongst young people and women, and to consider the main factors behind this problem.

In its Opinion the Committee called for greater convergence between the economic and social policies followed by the Member States. It also wanted to see all EC policies geared towards achieving growth, stability and higher employment levels and more constructive talks at Community level between both sides of industry on economic and social problems, both at inter-industry level and sectoral level.

Freedom of movement

The Committee issued two Opinions on social security for migrant workers in which it called, amongst other things, for a codification and a simplification of the existing provisions. The Committee also issued an Opinion supporting the second EC programme designed to promote exchanges of young workers in the Community.

As regards the action taken on the Committee's Opinions in the social field, it should be noted that, in its communication to the Council on work-sharing, the Commission refers on a number of occasions to some of the points made by the Committee in its Opinion on part-time working which it issued in June 1978. This Opinion has been frequently commented on in the press and by the interested parties.

In other cases the influence of the Committee's Opinions is more difficult to assess. This is particularly the case with Opinions in which the Committee gives its

support to the Commission's proposals (e. g. some of the proposals referring to social security for migrant workers) or Opinions of a general nature (such as the Opinion on the development of the social situation). The influence which the Committee brings to bear in such cases is difficult to assess with any degree of accuracy, particularly the short-term influence.

Attention should also be drawn to the fact that in some cases the Council has not yet taken final decisions on Commission proposals on which the Committee has drawn up Opinions. This applies in particular to the Draft Directives on illegal migration and illegal employment and the protection of workers in the event of the insolvency of their employer, documents which were substantially amended by the Commission after the Committee and the European Parliament had issued their Opinions.

European Social Budget

The Second European Social Budget contains projections to 1980 with regard to certain areas of social policy and statistics for 1970 and 1975. The aim behind this budget is to provide a source of information trends in expenditure in the social field and the way in which this expenditure is financed and to provide an instrument to assist in decision-making.

In its Opinion on the draft document the Committee drew attention to the improvements over the First European Social Budget and it approved the aims set out. It also made a series of comments and proposals, dealing, in particular, with the need to continue to strive to improve the comparability of the statistical data on which the national reports were based, the advisability of introducing new policy measures to deal with the worsening financial situation *vis-à-vis* the cost of social measures and on the possible repercussions of the future enlargement of the Community.

Consultation on Migration Policies vis-à-vis Third Countries

The Committee supports the Commission's broad aims in making their proposals, namely, to ensure that in dealing with workers from Third Countries, Community members should, under the Commission's guidance, increasingly apply common standards. The Committee urges prompt implementation of these provisions, on the ground that introduction of a Community labour market — constantly urged by the Committee, and accepted as an objective by all the Community Institutions — should progressively include Community responsibility for the policy on migration from Third Countries.

On treatment of all migrant workers, no matter what their origins, the Committee accepts that the objective should be to ensure them equality of treatment once they have been legally admitted for employment in the Community. There should also be a similarity of treatment of all migrant workers throughout the Community on the matters peculiar to them (e. g. reunion of families) to facilitate the attainment of these goals.

4. ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL POLICY

The world economic crisis which continues to bedevil the Community calls for a better coordination of the economic policies of the Member States. This will then pave the way for a greater convergence of economic performances themselves.

The Opinions of the Economic and Social Committee on tax harmonization and on greater convergence of national policies support this view. In addition to drawing up Reports on the state of the Irish and French economies in 1979, the ESC also delivered its half-yearly Opinion and Report on the economic situation in the Community.

Given the economic crisis it has become more and more important to strengthen the economies of the less prosperous Member States so that they too can take part in the European Monetary System (EMS).

To this end the Committee adopted an Opinion in May 1979 approving the Council proposal that interest rate subsidies in respect of loans granted through the new Community Instrument and by the European Investment Bank be financed out of the Community budget. The only proviso was that such loans should be used primarily for financing energy infrastructure programmes in accord with the Community's priority objectives. The Committee hoped that such a policy would be successful but considered that its ability to bring economic performances within the Community closer together was limited.

The economic policies of the Member States would have to be strengthened if the European Monetary System was going to be properly implemented. To this end the Committee approved the conclusions on convergence which the Presidency of the European Council drew in Paris in March 1979. The Commission was asked to prepare a proposal on the matter. The Economic and Social Committee agreed with the Presidency of the Council, maintaining that successful implementation of the EMS presupposed a greater coordination of Member States' short-term policies. The Committee nevertheless expressed the view that effective use of financial instruments in the Community would not be enough to markedly reduce disparities between national economies.

In this same Opinion the ESC considered that it was necessary to begin by spelling out the exact meaning of the word 'convergence'. In the Committee's view, the aim should not be simply to level out the economic policies of the Nine but rather to reduce disparities between Member States — disparities that adversely affected the operation of the EMS. It was also necessary to (a) promote higher growth in all sectors, (b) secure greater price stability and (c) improve the employment situation. The Committee then said that it intended to review Community policies in conjunction with the preparation of medium-term economic policy programmes and concluded that use of the Community's financial instruments would help to bring about greater convergence between the economic performances of the Member States.

The Committee finally considered that those responsible for the various funds should include in their periodical reports details of the contribution made towards convergence of economic performance.

In the middle of the year the ESC delivered an Opinion on the economic situation in the Community. This was in compliance with the practice of sending the Council a second Opinion about six months after the previous Opinion on the Annual Commission Report on the economic situation in the Community. This Opinion was accompanied by a Report containing a detailed analysis of the economic situation in the Member State whose turn it was to chair Council meetings. On this occasion it was France.

In its Opinion the Committee pointed out that the position in the Community was far from satisfactory, particularly because of the high rate of unemployment, the successive rises in oil prices, the increase in the prices of raw materials and factors making for monetary instability. The Committee was very forthright about such matters as inflation, the energy situation and means of stimulating employment. A balance had to be struck between such competing policies as economic growth, structural change, social welfare and an increase in living standards. This point was dealt with in detail in the Report of the Section for Economic and Financial Questions which maintained that the current situation called for a planned approach to socio-economic problems although it held that guidelines were more appropriate than strictures.

In its Opinion the Committee also called for a revision of economic and social objectives. Special attention should be paid to finding a balance between the traditional optimum economic growth policy on the one hand and the maximization of general living standards on the other. A balance should also be struck between economic growth policy, unavoidable structural changes and welfare policy.

In addition to demand-management measures and specific recommendations on production and the 'supply' side of the economy, the Committee felt that structural unemployment would best be mopped up by a cluster of specific measures. The possibility of work-sharing was even considered.

In the field of EEC tax harmonization, the Committee delivered an Opinion on the Proposal for a Tenth Council Directive on the Harmonization of the Laws of the Member States relating to Turnover Taxes. This supplemented a directive applying value added tax to the hiring out of moveable tangible property. The Committee pointed out in its Opinion that the Commission's draft proposals for a directive had been radically altered at Council level. The proposal for a Tenth Draft Directive dealt with specific problems concerning the concept 'place of supply of a service' as applied to the hiring out of moveable tangible property. These problems had arisen between two Member States since the adoption of the Sixth Directive. The Tenth Directive aimed to put an end to this controversy and the Commission proposal resolved the specific problem mentioned. Section discussions of the Draft Tenth Directive were centred around the concepts of 'place where the property is made available' and 'place of use'. It was finally agreed that 'place of use' was preferable to the 'place where the property is made available', although the Commission had argued that the two phrases were identical in 90% of cases. The Committee finally approved the proposal subject to the following comments:

- (i) the present problems would solve themselves if national tax rates were aligned;
- (ii) the Article of the Sixth Directive on refunds should also cover third countries;
- (iii) finally, the Committee considered that the Commission should get together again with representatives of the professional and business world to study various controversial concepts; in this way major distortions could be avoided.

The Committee also delivered an Opinion on the harmonization of systems of company taxation and of withholding taxes on dividends. The Committee was pleased that the Commission had acted on a recommendation made by the Committee in an Opinion the previous year — especially in respect of collective investment institutions (CII). The Committee was pleased to see that the Commission was now proposing to bring collective investment institutions within the scope of the (still pending) directive but regretted that the Council had failed to take the appropriate action by taking into consideration the various proposals made by the Commission in 1969. These earlier Commission proposals concerned (a) the common tax arrangements applicable to mergers, scission and contribution of assets involving companies in different Member States, and (b) as the common tax arrangements applicable to parent and subsidiary companies in different Member States. The Committee, like the Commission, urged that collective investment institutions be encouraged. This aim was clearly not achieved in the draft Council directive. The Committee also recalled to mind that the aim was to encourage saving and investment.

The Committee welcomed, in principle, the Commission's proposal for a Council directive on information to be published on a regular basis by companies whose transferable securities are admitted to official stock-exchange listing. The aim of the proposal was to reinforce the protection given to investors by obliging companies to publish half-yearly reports on their activities and to bring about a degree of uniformity in company reporting throughout the Community. However, the Committee regarded this draft directive, containing only minimum standards, as merely a first step in the process of harmonization. Its final approval would depend on the changes made to a number of Articles in the light of the following proposals:

- (i) there was an obligation on the appropriate competent authorities to ensure that companies published regular information.
- (ii) in view of the special position of credit institutions and insurance companies, the Committee considered that some of the information required to be published might affect the smooth functioning of such institutions and companies; the Committee, therefore, recommended that the approach to credit institutions and insurance companies be a pragmatic, flexible one.
- (iii) the Committee finally pointed to the need for better investor protection and considered that the Commission proposal which allowed Member States to impose on companies subject to the Directive and listed on their exchanges,

more rigorous obligations than those contained in the Directive itself, was contrary to the principle of harmonization.

In its Opinion on the Commission's Annual Economic Report 1979-80 (October 1979), the Committee criticized the Commission for not making its proposed Economic Objectives crystal clear. The Community's economic policy must give equal priority to the fight against unemployment and inflation.

The Committee responded to the Commission's strictures on income bargaining behaviour, and in particular to its assertion that the social partners have to agree — in each country in its particular setting as regards the nature of wage contracts and negotiating practices — to limit to the minimum the repercussion of energy price rises into incomes. It said that the behaviour of the two sides of industry is indeed of great importance, but that the interdependence of the two sides of industry means that Governments, generally, can only mediate. In driving out inflation Governments must use the instruments which fall within their competence, namely budgetary policy, monetary policy and social policy.

It went on to say that the inflation brought about by the recent oil-price hike must not be offset by wage moderation on the part of employees alone. In its view, the oil bill should be borne by the entire community on the basis of equitable criteria.

Consumption and, by the same token, purchasing power will have to be supported if there is going to be a recovery in investment for purposes other than rationalization.

As for wages, the Committee counts on the two sides of industry to tailor wage trends in their negotiations to the new economic reality.

The Committee wanted the Community to put more emphasis when determining its economic policies on the role of structural policies, especially with respect to the objectives which can be attained by coordination and more selective use of the various financial instruments.

Member State policies must — within a Community frame-work — be aimed at tackling the dangers associated with slow growth, namely an increase in sectoral and regional difficulties, structural unemployment, and growing difficulties with public finances and social security schemes.

The Committee hoped that in the attempt to bring about increasing convergence of policies and economic performance, the Community will put forward a number of priority recommendations of a structural character which the Member States would use after tailoring them to suit their needs. These recommendations should concern:

- (i) eliminating regional, sectoral and agricultural structural imbalances;
- (ii) stepping up and improving special measures designed to create new jobs so as to improve the balance of labour, supply and demand;

(iii) supporting consumption, namely through maintenance of purchasing power and an increase in the lowest incomes.

Because the Committee was currently taking a stand on the whole problem of working hours, it did not put forward views on the Commission's recommendations on this matter in the Opinion on the draft Annual Economic Report.

The final vote on the Committee's Opinion, brought out the disagreement between the various interests and social groups about reduction of working hours and the proposed adjustment of wage indexation schemes.

5. REGIONAL POLICY

The year under review was marked by several innovations in Community regional policy and the activities of the Section for Regional Development were intensified as a result.

The innovations concerned legislation, procedures, general activities and, above all, the conception of regional policy.

As far as legislation is concerned, the ERDF basic Regulation, in force since 1975, was revised and improved in February 1979, in the light of the experience gained. France's share was slightly increased to take account of the overseas departments and territories; accelerated financing was made possible up to 75% of the total amount of a project; finally, and most important, the new Regulation provided for a quota-free section that enables the Community to support, within a ceiling of 5% of the total appropriation, a certain number of specific measures capable of remedying the most flagrant regional imbalances.

This amendment of the legislation has of course an impact on procedures, which have been speeded up and simplified in a large number of cases, particularly for the quota-free section, certain bureaucratic formalities have been cut down and are better understood after several years' operation and an information campaign. For the first time, the 'projects' approach has been replaced by a 'programmes' approach, which gives a better overall picture of various measures and enables them to be integrated in coherent fashion.

National programmes were submitted for the first time in 1979 for the implementation of measures subject to quota and the coordination of regional policies. The new quota-free measures will also be carried out within the framework of *ad hoc* programmes that the Commission will shortly be asking the Member States to submit on the basis of the proposals it has just made for certain specific regions. In the specific case of the quota-free section there is of necessity a tendency towards selectivity, which means that larger sums are devoted to smaller geographical areas, instead of the funds being scattered according to various criteria (of which effectiveness is not the most important). This selectivity meets the wishes expressed by the Economic and Social Committee on numerous occasions.

As regards the general conception of regional policy, the new approach lies in the importance attached to it as a remedy for the disruption caused by progress of sectoral integration in other spheres, such as the CAP, competition or enlargement. Since prevention is better than cure, emphasis is also placed on greater coordination of the Community's policies and financial instruments: this approach is upheld by the Commission in line with the recommendations of the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee. The Commission, which in the past has had merely a specialized service to deal with coordination, has now introduced much more complex procedures such as the regional impact assessment, integrated operations and quota-free measures, which will give the Commission a central initiating role.

In this favourable and stimulating situation, the Committee delivered the following Opinions, (representing a five-fold increase in the number of Opinions compared with 1978):

- (a) Opinion of 22 February 1979 on the ERDF third annual report. This Opinion, which represents a continuation of the work in 1978, stresses that the size of the Fund is clearly inadequate and that the principle of 'additionality' must be respected.
- (b) Opinion of 25 October 1979 on the role and influence of local and regional authorities and socio-economic organizations in the field of the common regional policy. This was an own-initiative Opinion.

The title reflects the points raised in this Opinion, which stresses the need to involve those concerned in decision-making and the importance of a two-way flow of information, which is a precondition for better coordination.

- (c) Opinion on the endowment of the ERDF, an own-initiative Opinion drawn up under the urgency procedure by Mr Milne, Chairman of the Section, acting as Rapporteur-General.

This Opinion warns the Council against any attempt to reduce the size of the Fund.

- (d) Opinion on the ERDF fourth annual report (1978). In this own-initiative Opinion the Committee fully supports the conception of regional policy as an instrument for combating regional imbalances. It expresses satisfaction with the progress made in the coordination of Community policies and places great hopes in integrated operations and the regional impact assessment procedure.
- (e) Opinion on specific quota-free measures. An official request was made for this Opinion. The Committee considers this matter to be one of the most important in contemporary regional policy, and regrets having to draw up an Opinion under the urgency procedure by the end of the year (December 1979 Plenary Session), since these measures should mark a decisive turning point, although they represent at the moment only 5% of the ERDF budget; with the impending accession of three new Member States, the Committee considers that the function and indeed the survival of regional policy depend on

the assignment of greater powers to the Commission and a selective regrouping of measures to reduce the imbalances throughout the enlarged Community.

The Committee intends to continue its work on this subject in an additional Opinion in 1980.

- (f) The Committee also closely followed the action taken on its Opinion (1978) on the development of communications in the Londonderry/Downal border areas in the north-west of Ireland.
- (g) In conclusion, mention should be made of the work in progress, which will not be completed until next year:
 - (i) A Study on Lorraine as a possible subject for an integrated operation;
 - (ii) An Opinion on the regional programmes submitted by the nine Member States, which gives the Section an opportunity to go into the numerous problems posed by regional development, particularly in the area of energy and infrastructures, and in the implementation of procedures with all the bureaucratic and monitoring aspects involved.

6. INDUSTRIAL POLICY

The Committee considered a number of proposals on technological research. For instance, it took a stand on the textile and ceramic research programmes. In its Opinions, the Committee broadly approved the Commission's proposals; it pointed out that research is a major force for growth in the present recession, and stressed that all Member State firms must benefit equally from research findings.

In a short document, the Committee approved the Commission's selection of the shipbuilding and man-made fibre industries as sectors eligible for redevelopment and restructuring aids. The Committee will regularly be consulted on these aids.

With respect to industrial restructuring and the way it should be achieved by the Community, the Committee, in a brief Opinion to be the subject of a declaration issued in conjunction with the ECSC Consultative Committee, deplored the piecemeal nature of the action taken to date by the Community and urged the Commission to draw up a broader industrial restructuring and development programme. It called for the creation of the necessary prerequisites and asked that the appropriate budget resources be set aside, if necessary by adjusting the Community's overall budget.

Company law

The Committee considered the problems raised by the proposal for an eighth Directive pursuant to Article 54(3)(g) of the EEC Treaty on the authorization of persons who vet annual company accounts.

The Committee endorsed the qualification requirements proposed by the Commission. It agreed that statutory checks of accounts should only be carried out by persons who had passed a university-level examination of ability, or an equivalent examination.

Establishment and services

The Committee started its evaluation of a number of Draft Council Directives:

- (i) proposal for a Council Directive on the coordination of laws, regulations and administrative provisions relating to insurance contracts;
- (ii) proposal for a Council Directive on the coordination of laws, regulations and administrative provisions relating to legal expenses insurance;
- (iii) proposal for a Council Directive amending, as regards credit insurance, first Directive 73/239/EEC on the coordination of laws, regulations and administrative provisions relating to the taking-up and pursuit of the business of direct insurance other than life insurance.

Work is scheduled to be completed in the first quarter of 1980.

Customs alignment

In 1979 the Committee produced an Opinion on the Multinational Programme for the Attainment of the Customs Union.

The Committee welcomed the programme as a logical follow-up to the Communication of the Commission to the Council and to the European Parliament on the State of the Customs Union of the European Economic Community. The Committee's Opinion on the Communication, issued on 30 March 1978, had specifically recommended that such a programme be drawn up, updated whenever necessary and closely monitored.

The Committee attributed major political significance to the programme. Unless the alignment of customs legislation and customs procedure was completed, it would hardly be possible to achieve the Customs Union, which was one of the most effective principles of the Common Market and the cornerstone of many Community policies.

The impending enlargement of the Community, first to ten and then in the not too distant future to twelve, was a further argument in favour of early completion of the Customs Union.

The Committee therefore welcomed the Commission's intention to improve Community legislation, in particular by:

- (i) making customs rules clearer;
- (ii) bringing together in one instrument all the provisions on a particular subject;
- (iii) drawing up a basic customs instrument (Customs Code) dealing systematically with all customs regimes.

In conclusion, the Committee urged the Member States and the Council to give very special attention to the Commission's work in the area, and adopt as soon as possible the instruments designed to implement the Customs Union.

In addition, the Committee issued Opinions on the following subjects:

- (i) the conditions under which people are authorized to draw up customs declarations;
- (ii) arrangements for temporary admission;
- (iii) Community transit;
- (iv) CCT duties for goods for blind and other handicapped persons;
- (v) exemption from the CCT for goods of an educational, scientific or cultural nature;
- (vi) amendment of the CCT Regulation;
- (vii) VAT and excise duties applicable to international passenger traffic;
- (viii) tax exemptions for goods imported within the Community in small consignments not of a commercial character;
- (ix) tax exemption for goods imported from outside the Community in small non-commercial consignments;
- (x) abolition of postal dues for presentation at customs of consignments from a Member State which are exempt from domestic import dues;
- (xi) customs treatment for goods in the personal luggage of travellers.

Work is in hand on :

- (i) proposal for a Council (EEC) Regulation making a second amendment to Regulation (EEC) No 222/77 on Community transit;
- (ii) proposal for a Council Regulation on the establishment of Community rules for customs exemptions;
- (iii) proposal for a Council Directive on the harmonization of export procedures for goods.

7. TECHNICAL BARRIERS

The Committee drew up, on its own initiative, an Opinion on the problems of trade barriers and the alignment of laws in this area.

The Committee reviewed the advantages, for industry and consumers, of the elimination of technical trade barriers. It then reviewed the drawbacks of the present procedure.

The present procedure involved numerous consultations, and two sets of technical discussions among specialists at the Commission and Council level. And because of the requirement of Council unanimity, decisions might be blocked.

As new directives were adopted, the Commission's problems increased since it was faced with the job of monitoring their implementation, and updating them.

As a partial solution, the Commission proposed an extension of its powers to issue implementing directives under Article 155. The Committee accepted this, provided:

- (i) when the Commission drafts proposals, it consults the trade interest groups concerned;
- (ii) the Committee is consulted on draft implementing directives;
- (iii) the Commission's powers are clearly defined by the outline directives.

As far as methods of alignment are concerned, the Committee once more stated its preference for the 'total alignment' method though it endorsed in certain cases the 'optional method' as long as there was a time limit and 'optional alignment' was regarded as a first step towards total alignment. As far as conformity control methods are concerned, the Committee was in favour of extending 'self-certification', especially in areas not involving safety or health and where adequate testing and checking facilities were available.

Finally, the Committee was in favour of more active cooperation between the Commission and the standard bodies. This would limit the range of regulatory functions the Commission had to perform, and greater reference to standards in the Commission's directives could help speed up the work of the standards bodies.

In conclusion, the Committee wondered whether the right time had not come to gradually introduce a number of genuine EEC-type regulations and laws. It was increasingly important to make it possible for Community Institutions to take measures in this field that served the real interests of the Community's future development.

In addition to this own-initiative Opinion, the Committee also produced an Opinion on the harmonization of Member States' legislation on the sound-emission level of lawnmowers. In this Opinion the Committee accepted the sound-emission levels proposed by the Commission but expressed a number of reservations about the methods of measurement to be used. In the view of the Committee, methods should as far as possible be simplified since the majority of lawnmower manufacturers were relatively small firms without specialized laboratories for carrying out highly scientific, complex and costly measurements. The simplified method would have to be consistent with existing methods that were widely established throughout Europe.

The Committee also delivered an Opinion on

- (i) the proposal for a Council directive on the Approximation of the Laws, Regulations and Administrative Provisions of the Member States relating to Construction Products,

and

- (ii) the proposal for a Council Resolution Laying Down a List of Priority Products to be Covered by Directives Implementing Council Directive .../EEC/... on the Approximation of the Laws, Regulations and Administrative Provisions of the Member States relating to Construction Products.

The Committee was basically interested in the new method for adopting implementing directives on the basis of Article 155. This method was accepted, but only under the conditions stipulated earlier. The Commission also proposed an amendment to its original text on the basis of Article 149 of the Treaty. This included provisions for consulting the Committee.

Finally, the Committee also carried out work on the following aspects of technical barriers:

- (i) measuring instruments and methods of metrological control;
- (ii) safety requirements for tower cranes;
- (iii) operating space, access to the driving position and to the doors and windows of wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors;
- (iv) type approval of wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors;
- (v) roll-over protection for wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors;
- (vi) towing hooks and reverse on wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors;
- (vii) lights on wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors;
- (viii) harmonization of the legislation of Member States on units of measurement, and repealing Directive No 71/354/EEC of the Council;
- (ix) approximation of the laws of the Member States on certain types of simple pressure-vessels;
- (x) approximation of the laws of the Member States on cosmetics.

8. EXTERNAL RELATIONS

The Committee rounded off its study of the Community's relations with applicant countries with a study on relations with Spain. The study hoped that the forthcoming negotiations on Spanish membership would be successful, but stressed the many problems that would arise for both Spain and the Community. It analysed sector by sector the situation of the Spanish economy, the changes that EEC membership would entail and the views of the various interest groups (industrialists, farmers, trade unionists) in Spain and the nine Member States.

The study stressed the importance to Spanish industry of foreign investment which had laid the foundations for new technologies in Spain over the last few years. It also stressed the scope and urgency of the decisions which had to be made in the agricultural sector if Spanish membership was to be achieved without major problems. Integrated modernization and redevelopment programmes covering both agriculture and other economic sectors of the EEC's Mediterranean regions should be undertaken immediately. In the social sector, the study examined recent trends in Spanish industrial relations, the progress made towards a collective bargaining policy comparable to that of the EEC countries, and the problems that had arisen after the initial success of the consensus achieved by the Moncloa Pact.

The study finally emphasized the magnitude of the immediate problems in the area of trade between the Community and Spain. On the basis of the Committee's analysis of the views of the various Community interest groups, the study considered that rapid progress had to be made towards greater reciprocity as regards market access (customs tariffs, quotas, indirect taxation and non-tariff barriers) in the period prior to Spanish membership in the EEC. The Committee regarded this as a prerequisite for the success of the accession negotiations. In any event, Spanish accession would not become effective for at least three years because of the duration of the negotiations and the necessary parliamentary ratifications. It was inconceivable that no progress would be made towards this objective during this relatively long period. The Committee felt that this period should also be used to achieve a convergence on a contractual basis of the legal, economic and social conditions governing the relations between the Nine and Spain. In other words, the Committee would urge Spain to bear in mind its aim of full Community membership in all its future decisions. It urged the Community in turn to take account of Spain's forthcoming membership in formulating its future policies.

The Committee delivered its annual Opinion on the Commission proposals concerning the Generalized Tariff Preferences Scheme as applied to imports from developing countries. The Committee approved the Commission's proposals for 1980 though it had reservations about the idea that China should be included on the list of GSP beneficiaries. The Committee understood the political reasons behind the move but said that there was not sufficient economic information available at the moment.

The Committee also began work on the extension of the Community's GSP for a Second Decade (1981-1990).

With regard to the implementation and renewal of the Lomé Convention — and the Committee's policy on development cooperation in general — the Committee undertook major work on (a) investment protection against non-economic risks, and (b) the embodiment in labour contracts and other provisions of minimum standards governing working conditions. These provisions would apply in relations between the Community and the developing countries.

The Committee continued to hold meetings with trade and professional organizations from EFTA member countries. A joint meeting was held in April between

EFTA's Consultative Committee and a big delegation from the ESC's Section for External Relations. Discussions centred on questions of common interest including non-tariff barriers to trade and, in particular, the European Monetary System.

The Committee was regularly kept up to date by Commission representatives on the conclusion and implementation of GATT negotiations (Tokyo Round). Discussions between the Commission and the Section for External Relations also covered (a) relations between the Community on the one hand and the state-trading nations plus Japan on the other, and (b) negotiations in connection with UNCTAD and the renewal of the Convention with the ACP countries.

Finally, the Committee adopted unanimously a Study on Relations between the Community and Yugoslavia.

The study was drawn up at the same time as negotiations were taking place on a new cooperation agreement between the Community and Yugoslavia. The Committee pointed to the need to take into account Yugoslavia's trade deficit with the Community in these negotiations. It also drew attention to the importance for the Community of good relations with Yugoslavia, a country which had more of the features of a developing country than of a State-trading country. The Committee therefore welcomed the fact that the Community was offering Yugoslavia similar arrangements to those offered to other 'Mediterranean' countries.

As the Committee represented economic and social interest groups in the Community, it was understandable that, given the current economic situation, the study contained a number of observations on economic and agricultural questions. The Committee called for qualified reciprocity over concessions and the introduction of safeguard mechanisms. The Committee considered that cooperation on social matters between the two parties could be very beneficial, particularly to Yugoslav migrant workers and their families who wished to settle permanently in the Community and those who wished to retain their links with their homeland and return at some future date.

9. ENERGY POLICY

Energy policy objectives

The instability threatening the oil market overshadowed the Community's energy discussions during the year. In two major opinions on the 'Community's Energy Objectives for 1990' and the 'Convergence of Policies of the Member States', the Committee regarded the economic and political risks of continuing the policy approach of the last five years as too great for the Community to run. The Committee believed that a concerted effort by the Member States at both national and Community level was needed more urgently than ever in order to make balanced economic growth possible. It called on the Community to act with all possible speed on measures to reduce dependence on imported oil. It further called on the Member States to adopt, as part of a coherent Community policy, all necessary measures to develop the Community's indigenous energy sources to the maximum, to secure vital imports and to ensure that optimal use was made of the energy available to it.

As part of such an approach, the Committee welcomed the Commission's initiatives on 'Energy Cooperation with Developing Countries'. The Committee pressed strongly for an overall coordinated approach in this area.

In particular, it was essential to have discussions with the energy-producing countries which would make a constructive contribution towards greater long-term stability on the world energy market.

Nuclear

On nuclear energy, the Committee called for a more convergent approach. It issued four opinions in the course of the year, all dealing with safety aspects. In these, the Committee endorsed the following research programmes which were close to Council adoption at the end of the year.

Programme	million EUA	Staff	Duration
Biology-health protection	68	64	1980—84
Radioactive waste	53	15	1980—84
Plutonium fuel cycle safety	20	9	1980—84
Fast breeder Reactor safety	6	3	1980—84

Following the accident at the Three Mile Island nuclear power station in Pennsylvania of 28 March 1979, the Committee, acting in close cooperation with the European Parliament, issued a Declaration on 5 April, calling for the introduction of a 'Community nuclear safety code' as suggested by the Committee in April 1977 and requesting to obtain the maximum amount of information on the accident. On 4 May, the Commission submitted an interim report to both the Parliament and the Committee. The 'Nuclear Safety Code' proposed was once again raised in the Parliament's debate on the Report on 11 May.

Oil and gas

The Committee noted that there was little policy convergence on oil and gas, a fact reflected in the absence of specific Community initiatives during the year. The Committee believed that the Member States should make particular effort on oil and gas production. In particular, it requested the lifting of legal and administrative obstacles which currently hindered both exploration and production.

Coal

The Committee warmly welcomed a scheme to encourage intra-community trade in power station coal. Non-repayable subsidies of 10 EUA would be paid on each standard tonne of coal produced each year in one Member State and delivered in

another, up to a ceiling of 10 million tonnes. The Committee believed that the plan, which would run for a limited three-year period, would make a small but useful contribution towards the achievement of the Community's coal production targets, thereby helping to ensure Community energy supplies in the long term. Regretting that the Council had not yet adopted several other energy and coal measures already before it, the Committee called for their immediate implementation in order to pave the way for an overall Community energy policy.

It was against this background that the Committee's Energy Section visited London on 19 to 21 June at the invitation of the National Coal Board and the National Union of Mineworkers. The Section was received by the Secretary of State for Energy, the Rt. Hon. David Howell and visited the Daw Mill Colliery in the Coventry area.

New energies

In the field of solar energy which appeared to be the most promising of the new, renewable sources, the Committee approved a scheme to encourage industry to invest in solar technology. Under this scheme which is now operational, the Community covers 25 to 49% of the cost of demonstration projects for solar energy applications for central heating, air conditioning, heat for industrial or agricultural applications, etc. The Committee hoped that the Community would shortly submit similar proposals to cover wave, tide and wind energy.

The Committee further endorsed a programme for 1979-83 on thermonuclear fusion costing a total of 348.7 million EUA on the Community budget. It noted that fusion offered a long-term, but still uncertain possibility of meeting a significant proportion of the community's energy requirements in the next century. Despite the cost and complexity of the technology, the Committee believed that this major research effort had to be pursued in view of its potential importance. It also pointed out that the Community must remain in a position to make a significant contribution internationally, if it was itself to benefit from international information exchange. Despite the assumption that fusion can have significant safety and environmental advantages over a nuclear fission, the Committee believed that the problems associated with it had to be discussed openly as of now in order to prevent any distrust arising from the outset.

The Committee also approved research projects on solar energy (18 million EUA), hydrogen (13 million EUA) and geothermal energy (13 million EUA). At the same time, the Committee questioned the wisdom of cutting back on hydrogen research, given its major long-term potential.

Energy saving

In approving the second four-year programme on energy conservation research, the Committee suggested the inclusion of R & D on consumer habits. It believed that this could be a fruitful area, particularly if an interdisciplinary approach embracing the social sciences was adopted. Towards the end of the year, the Com-

mittee was preparing an opinion on the 'Third Report on the Programme for Energy Saving' and the communication on 'New lines of action by the European Community in the field of energy saving'. In drawing up this opinion, account was being taken of the recommendations made in the report prepared under the chairmanship of Mr St. Geours 'Towards an energy-efficient society' which was published in mid-year.

Research and development policy

A new four-year research programme for the Community's Joint Research Centre (JRC), costing a total of 542 million EUA and requiring a staff of 2 260, was endorsed by the Committee in September. The opinion commented specifically on certain changes in emphasis in JRC's work which is to consist of 18 programmes. The Committee stressed the importance of good coordination between the work of the JRC, the indirect Community research programmes and national R&D.

Considerable progress was made in the preparation of an own-initiative study on the Organization and Management of Community R&D, with working documents being prepared on procedures used for Community R&D as well as those followed in each of the Member States. It was hoped that the study would be completed early in 1980.

10. PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT — PUBLIC HEALTH — CONSUMPTION

Environmental Policy

The Committee welcomed the Community's signing of the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats since it represents a great step forward in ensuring that wild flora and fauna are conserved in their natural habitats. Similarly, in its Opinion on the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution the Committee observed that this Convention could help to improve the exchange of information on the emission levels of the main pollutants and to stimulate new environmental initiatives within the Community.

A further preventive measure approved by the Committee was the Commission's proposed 30% reduction in the use of chlorofluorocarbons in aerosols for a transitional two-year period. The Committee feels that this measure is warranted because there is still a good deal of uncertainty in research circles about the theory that chlorofluorocarbons deplete the ozone layer around the Earth. The Committee would, therefore, like the whole subject to be carefully studied during the transitional period covered by the Decision so that the Commission can thereafter, in full knowledge of the facts, propose new measures for either regulating or — if necessary — banning CFCs.

The Committee also issued two Opinions on the protection of the aquatic environment, one on discharges of aldrin, dieldrin and endrin, the other on mercury discharged by the chlor-alkali electrolysis industry.

In the case of the 'drins' Directive, the Committee congratulated the Commission on giving priority to these substances because of their very toxic nature and approved the approach adopted by the Commission, since a total ban on the production and use of these substances would not seem to be possible at the present time. The Committee nevertheless wanted to see a ban placed on these substances as soon as possible, taking into account the research in progress on substitutes.

As far as mercuric waste is concerned, the Committee pointed out that the proportion of mercury in the environment attributable to the electrolysis sector had fallen drastically; it therefore called for similar rules to be introduced in the future in respect of other sources of mercuric waters.

The Commission had submitted two parallel Directives to combat such pollution, one laying down limit values for mercury discharges and the other defining the quality objectives for water into which mercuric waste is discharged. The Committee noted the opinion of the legal department of the Council of Ministers, according to which all Member States had to implement the Directive on limit values and the Directive on quality objectives could only be taken up by way of a derogation from the Directive on limit values.

As at the present time only one country would appear to intend to opt for this derogation, the Committee urged the Commission to issue one single Directive in future.

Consumer policy

The publication of the consumer action programme gave the Committee an opportunity to stress that the aim of such a policy is to create conditions which facilitate an improvement in the quality of life. But while the Committee endorsed the reasons for and underlying principles of the programme, it also felt that it too often assumed that the problems were the same for all consumers.

Studies should therefore be made of the differing requirements of various groups of consumers, the position of consumers in economically weak regions and the resulting policy implications. In this respect the Committee pointed out that account must be taken of economic and social developments, the most important factor here being the need for greater selectivity in consumption.

At a general level, the Committee reaffirmed the view that the approximation of consumer laws should be based on the national legislation offering the best consumer protection and where possible Community legislation should also take account of the latest ideas in the relevant field.

As regards the programme itself, the Committee made some specific proposals which it wanted to see taken into account when the programme was adopted by the Council. Finally it asked that the programme be implemented early enough for the advisory bodies, including the Committee, to have sufficient time to produce an Opinion and for the Council to be able to reach a decision within the prescribed period.

As far as implementation of the preliminary programme is concerned, the Committee has delivered an Opinion on the proposal for a directive on misleading and unfair advertising. In this Opinion the Committee approved the objectives and general rationale of the directive, which was designed to protect not only consumers and competitors but also the general public.

Aware of the vulnerability of consumers to the sheer quantity and wide range of advertising today, the Committee pointed out that the Commission should also examine other forms of advertising that, according to the preliminary programme, ran counter to the individual liberty of consumers.

The Committee also made a number of specific remarks about the directive, one of them being that comparative advertising should be authorized for a trial period of five years. The Committee further pointed out that although self-regulatory bodies were useful for settling disputes between advertisers, legal action was still the most appropriate way of defending the interests of both consumers and the general public.

Finally, the Committee drew up a study on the use of judicial and quasi-judicial means of consumer protection. In this study the Committee laid stress on the need for a simple, cheap procedure free of unnecessary formalities. The court itself should decide whether the case could be dealt with orally and the complainant should have the right to say whether he wanted to be represented or not in the proceedings.

Health protection

In the field of medical research, the Committee examined the Proposal for a Directive establishing safety measures against the conjectural risks associated with recombinant DNA work. The Committee noted that the Commission had proposed legal provisions on research for the very first time. The Committee likewise emphasized the need to harmonize voluntary safety measures in connection with genetic engineering.

Given the impact of genetic engineering on the production of certain biological substances, the Committee felt that it was very important for Member States to follow a common line, especially as far as the industrial uses of the new technology were concerned.

The Committee also said that it intended to draw up a study in future in order to tackle the problems in depth. Hearings would also be organized in conjunction with the Commission so that the views of experts from the world of science, the unions, industry and public interest groups could be aired.

Still on the subject of research, the Committee approved the proposal for a decision introducing a Community system of information on accidents in which products are involved, outside the spheres of occupational activities and road traffic. In its Opinion the Committee stressed the need both to provide adequate information on the risks attached to the use of such products and to ensure that such

products came with precise, detailed instructions on how to install and operate them.

Another Opinion adopted by the Committee was the one on the proposals for a directive relating to restrictions on the marketing and use of certain dangerous substances and preparations. In this connection the Committee requested that measures taken by Member States should be notified to the Commission without delay so that such measures could, where necessary be applied throughout the Community as rapidly as possible; otherwise stocks might be imported from countries which had not yet amended their legislation. Nor should stocks be exported to non-member countries.

The Committee also examined the proposal for a directive on the overall migration limit for the constituents of plastic material and articles intended to come into contact with foodstuffs. The Committee considered this Commission initiative to be a first stage; it should be followed up by others such as the drawing up of a positive list of plastic monomers and, at a later date, the drawing up of the same type of list for the additives used in the manufacture of plastic materials.

Finally, the Committee examined the proposal for a directive on emulsifiers, stabilizers, thickeners and gelling agents for use in foodstuffs and the proposal for a directive on health problems affecting trade in fresh poultrymeat. In connection with the first of these two Opinions, the Committee considered that criteria of purity should be laid down when additives were authorized. Additives should under no circumstances be used unless toxicological studies had first been carried out proving that they were safe. On the question of poultrymeat, the Committee stressed the need for compulsory labelling that would clearly state the refrigeration method utilized. The consumer should also be informed of the true extraneous water content of poultrymeat so that he was properly informed about the proposed quality.

Chapter III

Press relations and outside echo

It must be axiomatic that the citizen's view of the European Community as a whole can only be obtained through the reporting of the activities of its different institutions by the press. In its eyes the direct elections to the European Parliament in the course of 1979 have brought a new dynamic element into the Community's life and have thrown up a number of still unanswered questions as to its future development.

Besides this institution, now invested with a new glamour, the Economic and Social Committee, whose role as a consultative assembly representing various categories of the Community's citizens remains disguised behind a misleading title, has great difficulties in arousing press interest.

The possibilities for an international debating chamber to command such an interest are severely limited; they can be roughly divided into three categories. One possibility for straightforward reporting is the matter on which the assembly decides, namely the opinions and studies it adopts. Success in obtaining publicity for them depends on their originality, clarity and subject matter and how far they cast a fresh light on a problem that has generally been debated elsewhere. The second possibility is the debate itself, which should provide journalists with the most dramatic element of this institution's functions. In plenary sessions, they can now observe the interplay of interest groups with one another, the attitudes of different categories to Community problems as well as confrontations and compromises among them, and hear the members' speeches in full. They can quote and interview them for their national newspapers and radio stations.

It is to be regretted that so far only few journalists have taken advantage of this possibility, although it must remain the one with the greatest future press potential. One reason for this hesitation is that for the first sixteen years of its existence, the plenary sessions of the Committee were closed to journalists except on special occasions. Another is that Brussels correspondents are still unsure of the Committee's degree of effectiveness in influencing Community decisions.

The third element to be used by the press are the activities of the members on behalf of the Committee but outside its walls. These include the official visits of the President and the Secretary-General, meetings of sections and study groups away from Brussels, press conferences, missions, and actions undertaken by individual members as such and their willingness to tell the press about them.

Despite these handicaps, the echo the Committee achieves in the media shows a steadily rising trend. The number of press clippings, radio broadcasts and TV coverage concerning the Committee received or noted in the general secretariat over the year shows a rise of 27%. This compares with a rise of 25% in 1977 and one of 40% in 1978 when the election of a woman as president caused an exceptional boost. It must be understood that the press clippings received or broadcasts reported to us can in no way be near-complete figures but only indicative ones, especially as the regional newspapers and trade papers are generally ignored by the clipping agencies.

Broken down country-wise, the best results are still obtained in the Belgian press, followed by that in France, Italy, the United Kingdom, Germany and Ireland. Press echoes in Denmark, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg are extremely poor.

As far as subject matter is concerned, the Committee's opinions on maritime policy and flags of convenience, on energy policy and on agricultural measures as well as the debate on work-sharing, succeeded in focussing press interest. Reasonable coverage was also given the opinions on the enlargement of the Community, regional policy, frontier-crossing workers, unfair advertising, consumer problems and those of small and medium enterprises. The Committee was also frequently mentioned in relation to the direct elections for the European Parliament. The election of a new Committee President as well as the appointment of a new Secretary-General were well noted.

In particular, the official visits of the Presidency to Paris, Rome, Luxembourg and Ireland, the Bureau meeting in Rome, the section meetings in London and Glasgow, the study group meetings in the Scottish Highlands and Metz succeeded in attracting attention to the Committee's activities. In addition, a number of Committee members showed their readiness to meet the press in order to present opinions in whose preparation they had played an active role with excellent results.

Another aspect of information work is to maintain direct contact with people interested in our work. The number of groups who visit the Committee continues to rise at a steady rate. In 1979 there were 191 groups at the Committee, a rise of 32.5% over the preceding year. The total number of visitors showed an even greater increase, namely of 52.5% (5,673 visitors in 1979 as against 3,722 in 1978).

These groups included politicians, journalists, farmers, union officials, management representatives, chambers of commerce, regional bodies, magistrates, civil servants and local government officials and students. There were also a number of groups from Spain, Greece and Portugal as well as from the ACP countries, Israeli journalists and Egyptian Under-Secretaries of State.

The Committee's list of publications was enlarged by the following titles of opinions, studies and research papers:

Annual Report 1978, Spain, Flags of Convenience, Enlargement of the Community, the Yearbook, Financial instruments of the Community (so far in German only), Directory, Agricultural Structures (in Din A4), Consultative Committees (German only), a new brochure on the Economic and Social Committee (two editions). The lay-out of the Committee's Bulletin as well as the reproduction of photos were also improved.

Although the Committee's echo in the press is still unsatisfactory, there is far greater awareness among the Committee members of the need to reach the press. This has been voiced on several occasions in the Bureau meetings and in group meetings. It is to be hoped that a greater and more frequent involvement by members in press work and a wider use of the publications of their respective organizations will help to improve the situation in the future.

Chapter IV

The Groups

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

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

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

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

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

GROUP I – EMPLOYERS

The Employers Group, under the Chairmanship of Mr H. W. Staratzke assisted by the two Vice-Chairmen, Mr Bernaert and Mr Masprone, has provided Rapporteurs to prepare over 50 Opinions of the Committee in the course of 1979, or almost half of all the Opinions delivered. This despite the fact that Group I is the smallest of the three Groups and only returned to its full complement of 42 members in November after the replacement of Mr S. Jonker and Mr de Ferranti who had been elected to the European Parliament in June.

On the Committee Bureau the Group I membership has remained unchanged as follows:

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

The three Section Chairmen are: Mr Hatry, Section for Energy and Nuclear Questions; Mr van Campen, Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services; and Mr de Précigout, Section for External Relations.

Some of the most important projects completed this year have again been those concerned with the enlargement of the Community. Following the studies on Portugal and Greece in 1978 came a third on Spain and an Opinion on the Applications of Greece, Portugal and Spain for Membership of the European Community which dealt with the wider implications of membership and the nature and scope of adjustments to be made. Each of these four study groups had either a Group I Chairman or Rapporteur. Their work has been warmly welcomed not only by the applicant countries themselves but also by the Commission and the Council of Ministers.

The December Plenary Session adopted unanimously a Study on the Community's Relations with Yugoslavia, prepared in anticipation of the new cooperation agreement and taking into account Yugoslavia's importance once Greece becomes a Community member.

A consideration of regional differences and ways in which the Community might help in the restructuring of certain industrial sectors led to a meeting of the Industry Section in Glasgow where members visited a shipyard, an engineering company and the local Regional Council.

The last year has seen a market increase in contacts with the Commission and Council of Ministers and useful relationships with newly elected members of the European Parliament are beginning to take shape.

A regular exchange of information on subjects of common interest has continued between Group I and UNICE (Union of Industries of the European Community), CEEP (European Centre for Public Enterprises), and the Permanent Conference of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of the EEC. Since the dissolution in December 1978 of COCCEE (Committee of Commercial Organizations in the EEC) efforts have been made to reorganize the representation of the retail and wholesale sectors at European level and it is hoped that full representation will be achieved in the near future.

In all its work the Group has continued to stress the importance of maintaining and strengthening freedom of enterprise and the free market economy and has welcomed the support of the above industrial and commercial organizations.

GROUP II – THE WORKERS GROUP

Group II (Chairman: Mr Debunne) has a current strength of 48 members. It is the spokesman for the European Trade Unions at the Economic and Social Committee.

In recent years, Group II has, on various occasions, dealt with issues and taken initiatives of crucial importance for the future and development of the Committee's role. These include:

- (i) proposals to appoint assistants for the purpose of increasing the Committee's impact and lightening members' workload;
- (ii) the need for equal representation of employers and workers on the Committee;
- (iii) the possibility of issuing diverging Opinions in the event of failure to reach a compromise;
- (iv) the improvement of relations with the Community Institutions;
- (v) better use of the right of initiative;
- (vi) steps to brief the Committee better about the action taken on its Opinions;
- (vii) a better implementation of the internal procedures designed to reduce the overall workload and the simplification of working methods in order to speed work up;

Most of Group II's initiatives formed the basis of steps taken by the Committee to increase its influence. Group II members were involved in the following measures:

- (i) select Committee of Three (demarcation of the debate on the Committee's influence);
- (ii) sub-Committee on the Influence of the Committee;
- (iii) panel on the Rules of Procedure (Amendment of Article 16 on Assistants).

In the light of these initiatives the Group was unable to accept the Plenary Session decision of 17 July 1979 to shelve the introduction of assistants.

At its September 1979 meeting Group II decided to take a firmer line in the future.

In this connection, the Group Chairman, Mr Debunne, addressed the September Plenary Session pointing out the *malaise* within the Committee and stressing that all Group II's efforts to upgrade the Committee had been refected so far.

The Group therefore took the view that any further initiatives were a matter for the other two Groups.

At a special meeting on 7 November 1979, Group II noted the views expressed by the other two Groups. It undertook a more thoroughgoing analysis of the

Committee's difficulties and clarified its own views on the strategy for revamping and upgrading the Committee.

GROUP III – VARIOUS INTERESTS

Group III, which is known as the 'Various Interests Group' and has 52 members, brings together Committee members who represent interests other than those which have arisen as a result of the dialectical relationship between employer and employee. Group III numbers amongst its members farmers, self-employed workers in the craft industries and in commerce, heads of small and medium-sized businesses, members of the professions, executive staff, and representatives of family and consumer interests. A number of members have also been appointed to represent the general public.

The Committee has acquired its own particular character as a result of the fact that its members represent such a wide variety of interest groups and social categories. Reflecting as it does the views of society as a whole, the Committee is thus different from the specialized advisory bodies and the joint advisory bodies.

With its Chairman, Mr Germozzi, President of the European Association of Crafts and Small and Medium-Sized Industries and President of the Italian General Confederation of Craftsmen, giving the lead, the Group has clearly realized the significance and value which the authors of the EC Treaties attached to the Committee by listing the various social categories which are to be represented (Article 193 of the Treaty of Rome).

Group III often plays a decisive role in gathering and summarizing the views of the representatives of economic and social interest groups which constitutes the main aim of the Committee. It is natural that the members of Group III, who play intermediary roles in society, should seek to prevent confrontations between social groups, in particular by constantly drawing attention to the fact that people must take precedence over the system and the need to provide the necessary conditions for all aspects of human life. Because of this natural role played by Group III members the Committee almost always has recourse to them when appointing Rapporteurs for subjects which are delicate or of a broad political or socio-economic significance.

For instance, in 1979 Group III members were Rapporteurs for the social situation in the Community, the economic situation, medium-term policy, the second Consumer Protection Programme, economic growth, agricultural structures and the influence of local authorities on regional policy. Group III also provided the Rapporteur for the question of the amendment of Article 16 of the Rules of Procedure with a view to bringing in a system of assistants. As respects the issue of assistants and the improvement of the Committee's outside impact, Group III responded to the appeal made by the Committee Chairman by adopting, at an extraordinary meeting, a document containing a series of proposals which embody an open-minded and conciliatory approach.

Chapter V

Attendance at conferences

To act effectively, the Committee must maintain close links with trade associations in Europe by attending congresses, meetings and seminars held by these bodies. Although it was not possible to accept all the invitations, the Chairman, other members and representatives of the Secretariat did manage between them to attend the following:

- Colloquium organized by the European Management Forum on the theme 'Management and Management Education in a World of Changing Expectations' 14 to 16 February in Windsor
- Meeting organized by the French branch of the European Movement 16 February in Lille
- Plenary meeting of the CEHP (European Private Hospitalization Committee) 16 February in Brussels
- Conference organized by the German Consumers' Association (AgV Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Verbraucher) and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation on the theme 'The Possibilities and Limits of a European Consumers Policy' 16 to 18 February in Bergneustadt, Germany
- Ceremony to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of COPA, COGECA and CEJA 20 February in Brussels
- Colloquium organized by 'Current European Realities' on the theme 'The ECU and Enlargement' 1 and 2 March in Brussels
- European seminar organized by the Landeszentrale für politische Bildung Baden-Württemberg on the theme 'The Southward Enlargement of the Community' 1 to 3 March in Waldbrunn, Germany

- International meeting on Economic Cooperation with Latin America organized by the Istituto Latino-Americano 5 to 7 March in Rome
- Preparatory conference for UNCTAD V organized by the International Chamber of Commerce on the theme 'Commerce and Maritime Trade: The Political Stake for the Business World' 14 to 16 March in Bath
- 31st International Arts and Crafts Fair 17 March in Munich
- Conference-debate organized by the Catholic Women Graduates Association 27 March in Brussels
- Debate of the Opinion Circle on the theme 'A Europe for Europeans' 30 March in Paris
- 33rd Congress of the National Farmers' Federation (FNSEA) 3 and 4 April in Deauville, France
- Congress of the European Traders' Union (ENSU) on the theme 'The Professional and Employers Sector — Guarantee of Freedom, Prosperity and Progress in Europe' 9 April in Rome
- Invitation to the Annual Convention of the National Theatre, Cinema, Television and Radio Section of the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union 13 April in Dublin
- Colloquium on Greece's Entry into The European Community 25 to 29 April in Athens
- 15th Annual Assembly of the European Association of Pharmaceutical Specialities 2 to 4 May in Madrid
- Women's Day organized by the French Socialist Party 5 May in Marseilles
- Colloquium organized by the Lucien Cooremans Institute for Higher Education on the External Economic Relations of Belgium 7 to 21 May in Brussels
- 13th General Assembly of European Municipalities organized by the Council of European Municipalities and with the theme 'The Commitment of Local and Regional Authorities to a New European Society' 9 to 12 May in The Hague
- European seminar organized by the Landeszentrale für politische Bildung Baden-Württemberg on the theme 'The Southward Enlargement of the European Community' 14 May in Philippsburg, Germany

- 3rd Statutory Congress of the European Trade Union Confederation 14 to 18 May in Munich
- 61st National Congress organized by the CNMCCA (National Confederation of Farmers' Mutuals, Co-operatives and Credit Institutions) on the theme 'Agricultural and Rural Development in a Competitive Economy' 15 to 17 May in Evian
- General Assembly of the European Dental Medical Practitioners' Union 15 to 17 June in Berlin
- Colloquium organized by the Institute of Health Sciences on the theme 'Europe and Social Security' 22 and 23 June in Nice
- General Assembly of SEPLIS (European Secretariat of the Liberal, Learned and Social Professions) 28 June in Brussels
- Invitation to the General Meeting of the Italian General Crafts Confederation 5 July in Rome
- 1979 International Conference organized by the University of Southampton 10 to 12 September in Southampton
- 8th Statutory Congress of the European Federation of Farmworkers' Trade Unions in the European Community 24 to 26 September in Brussels
- Seminar organized by the National Agricultural and Fruit Fair 27 to 29 September in Lerida, Spain
- Briefing organized by the European Family Food Industries Federation (FEIAF) 4 October in Brussels
- Consumers' Week organized by the German Consumers' Association (AgV — Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Verbraucher) on the theme 'Food Quality — Desire and Reality' 8 October in Bonn-Bad Godesberg
- Colloquium organized by the Mediterranean Sea Transport Institute (IMTM) and the Marseilles Chamber of Commerce and Industry on the theme 'Sea Transport in the Community Today' 10 to 12 October in Marseilles
- International colloquium organized by the European University Institute of S. Demenico di Fiesole on the theme 'Access to Justice' 15 to 18 October in Florence
- Annual General Meeting of the Pharmaceutical Group of the European Community 21 to 25 October in Lisbon

- 6th International Symposium organized by the German Convention Service (GCS) Congress Organisation on the theme 'Prospects for Smaller Firms in the 1980s' 29 to 31 October in Berlin
- 33rd Round Table organised by the Association for the Study of European Issues on the theme 'The New International Dimension of the Enlarged European Community — The Community's Relations with Latin America, the Mediterranean and the Third World' 9 and 10 November in Madrid
- International meeting organized by the Italian Society for International Organization on the theme 'The European Community and Human Rights' 9 to 11 November in Venice
- Invitation to a symposium organized by the National Association on 'The Agri-Food Industries on the eve of the Third Millenium' 14 and 15 November in Paris
- Meeting organized by the Chamber of Agriculture of Gers and Auch 19 and 20 November in the Gers department
- Formal session organized by the European Institute of Brussels 21 November in Brussels
- Colloquium organized by COFACE (Committee of Family Organisations in the European Communities) on the theme of 'Childhood' 22 and 23 November in Brussels
- Invitation to the Irish Congress of Trade Unions' seminar on 'Cross-Border Communications in the EEC'. 23 November in Londonderry
- Invitation to the Round Table organized by the European League for Economic Cooperation on 'Spanish Accession to the European Community'. 13 December in Brussels
- Invitation to the handing-over of the 'Energy Bus' presented to the EEC by the Canadian Government 17 December in Brussels
- Symposium organized by the EEC Commission, the Berlin Technical University and the Clinical Research Centre, London on 'Technical Innovation at the service of the old and the handicapped (markets and requirements)'. 19 to 21 December in Berlin

Chapter VI

Appointments and resignations

In view of the fact that Mrs Baduel Glorioso, Mr Bonaccini, Mr Didò, Mr de Fer-ranti and Mr Sj. Jonker had been elected to the European Parliament, the Council decided on 12 November to appoint the following replacements:

Mr Cavazzuti
Mr Masucci
Mr Militello
Mr Hicks-Beach
Mr Leo

Mr Walsh was appointed to replace Mr Jenkins who had resigned.

The Council will soon appoint replacements for Mr Hoffman, who was also elected to the European Parliament, and for Mr de Ridder and Mr Hubregtse who have died.

The Committee's June Session appointed Mr Vanni as Chairman for the remainder of Mrs Baduel Glorioso's term-of-office.

Mr Guillaume and Mr MacGougan tendered their resignations during the year.

Internal affairs of the General Secretariat

1. STAFF

The structure of the Secretariat was changed by the setting-up of a Directorate-General embracing the production and translation of documents on the one hand and administration on the other. A Public Relations and Press Directorate was also formed which reports directly to the Secretary-General.

The increase in the Committee's workload led to a rise in the number of posts in the establishment plan; the General Secretariat now has 325 permanent posts.

As in previous years, the General Secretariat had to make use of the services of a limited number of auxiliary and local staff. A large number of Secretariat staff attended basic and advanced training courses.

2. BUDGET

The appropriations for the financial year 1979 amounted to 16 599 400 EUA (1 EUA = BF 40.1924); the increase compared with the 1978 budget of 15 751 660 EUA (1 EUA = BF 41.3015) was 5.38%. This rise in the volume of appropriations was due largely to the considerably higher cost of living and was reflected particularly in the staff appropriations and the cost of the meetings of the Committee and its working bodies.

3. MEETINGS

Ten Plenary Sessions and twelve Bureau meetings were held in the course of the financial year 1979.

There was a very large number of meetings of the various working bodies; the figures were as follows:

Sections	84
Study Groups	339
Three Groups	76
Miscellaneous	20
Meetings of Sub-Groups recognized by the three Groups	133
There were also numerous groups of visitors	(133).

4. STRUCTURE OF THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT IN 1979

Chairman

Private Office
Group Secretariats

Secretary-General

Secretariat
Specialized Department: Assembly and Bureau Records and Library
Studies and Research Division
Financial Control

Public Relations and Press Directorate

Public Relations
Press/Information/Publications Division

Directorate A — Consultative Work

Secretariat of the Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services
Secretariat of the Sections for Economic and Financial Questions and for Social
Questions
Secretariat of the Section for Protection of the Environment, Public Health and
Consumer Affairs.

Directorate B — Consultative Work

Secretariat of the Sections for External Relations and for Agriculture
Secretariat of the Sections for Transport and Communications for Regional De-
velopment and for Energy and Nuclear Questions.

Directorate-General for the Production and Translation of Documents and for Administration

Specialized Department for Planning, Coordination and Document Production
General Affairs Division — Translation and Typing
Personnel Division
Specialized Financial Department
Department for Internal Affairs

**List of members of the
Economic and Social Committee
classified by country
their qualifications¹
and by Group²**

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

² Group of Employers : I
Group of Workers : II
Group of Various interests : III

Belgium

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

Denmark

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

Germany

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

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

France

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

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

Ireland

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

Italy

	Group	
Romolo Arena	I	Chairman of the 'Terni Societa per l'Industria e l'Elettricita'
Edoardo Bagliano	I	Chairman of Fiat's Committee on Community Problems
Gian Battista Cavazzuti	II	Italian Confederation of Trade Unions (C.I.S.L.)
Umberto Ceconi	I	Assistant to the Central Director for External Relations of the ENI (National Hydrocarbons Board) — Rome
Francesco Drago	II	In charge of the International Affairs Bureau of the U.I.L. (Italian Labour Union)
Umberto Emo Capodilista	III	Member of the administrative Council of Federconsorzi (Federation of Agricultural Consortia)
Bruno Fassina	II	Executive Board Member of the Italian Confederation of Trade Unions (CISL)
Manlio Germozzi	III	Member of the Bureau and Secretary General of the General Italian Confederation of Crafts
Enrico Kirschen	II	Member of the Central and Executive Committees of the U.I.L. (Italian Labour Union)
Alberto Masprone	I	Special Assistant for Community problems — General Confederation of Italian Industry (Confindustria)
Ettore Masucci	II	Secretary-General of the National Textile Federation of the C.G.I.L.
Renato Meraviglia	II	Secretary-General of FILTA (Italian Federation of Textile and Garment Workers) a member of the CISL — Italian Confederation of Trade Unions)
Giacinto Militello	II	National Secretary of the Italian General Confederation of Labour (CGIL)

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

Luxembourg

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

Netherlands

	Group	
C. A. Bos	III	Mayor of Katwijk, Member of the Economic and Social Council (SER)
Pieter Bukman	III	Chairman Netherlands Christian Farmers' and Horticulturalists' Union
J. Ph. M. van Campen	I	Adviser to the Employers Organizations
Thomas Etty	II	International policy adviser, Dutch trade union federation (FNV)
L. N. Goris	III	Deputy Secretary of the Council for Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises
J. M. W. van Greunsven	II	Executive Board Member of the Netherlands Catholic Trade Union Federation (NKV)
G. H. E. Hilkens	III	Secretary of the Dutch Council for Family Matters; Vice-President of the Board for Contact with Consumers
Leo C.T.A.M.	I	Consultant to the Dutch Business Confederation (VNO)
Willem Jonker	I	Board Member of Nederlands Vervoers Overley (Dutch Transport Authority)
Bartholomeus Pronk	II	International Expert with the Christian National Federation of Trade Unions in the Netherlands
P. J. G. M. van Rens	II	Expert with the Netherlands Catholic Trade Union Federation (NKV)

United Kingdom

	Group	
David Basnett	II	General Secretary and Treasurer, National Union of General and Municipal Workers
Raymond W. Buckton	II	General Secretary, Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (ASLEF)
Richard Clive Butler	III	President of the National Farmers' Union
Francis S. Chapple	II	General Secretary of the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union (EETPU)
Mary Clark	III	Member of the National Consumer Council (UK)
Gwilym Prys Davies	III	Solicitor in private practice
Roderick L. Doble	III	Former Chief Executive and Town Clerk of the London Borough of Greenwich
Michael William Hicks-Beach	I	Director of P.E. International operations Ltd.
John Gallacher	I	Parliamentary Secretary of the Co-operative Union Ltd.
Joseph Gormley	II	President of the National Union of Mineworkers
Sean Geoffrey Hall	III	Chairman of the Northern Ireland Fishery Harbour Authority
Francis Stephen Law	I	Part-time Director of the National Freight Corporation
Herbert LoebI	I	Director of the Glass Ceramics Ltd.
W. G. N. Miller	I	Executive Director of Save and Prosper Group Ltd.
Charles Ernest Mills	I	Chairman and Chief Executive Gas Gathering Pipelines (North Sea) Ltd.

	Group	
James F. Milne	II	General Secretary of the Scottish Trades Union Congress (STUC)
C. Marie Patterson	II	National Woman Officer, Transport and General Workers' Union
Eirlys Roberts	III	Deputy Director of the Consumers' Association and Research Director, Research Institute for Consumer Affairs
Albert Edward Sloman	III	Vice-Chancellor, University of Essex
Douglas Williams	III	Crown Agent for Overseas Governments and Administrations
Michael T. Walsh	II	Assistant Secretary, International Department of Trades Union Congress (TUC)
M. J. G. Wylie	I	Director of Anglo-American Asphalt Co. Ltd., Chairman of Post Office Users' Council for Scotland
Maurice Zinkin	I	Consultant, formerly Unilever Ltd. Member of the Council on International Development, Ministry of Overseas Development

**List of Opinions,
studies and information reports
issued during 1979**

165th PLENARY SESSION — 24 AND 25 JANUARY 1979

- The Problems of Frontier Workers
(Own-initiative Opinion)
(Rapporteur: Mr Delourme)
- Projects to Exploit Solar Energy and Alternative Energy Sources
(Rapporteur: Mr Ceconi)
- R & D on Codes and Standards for Fast Breeder Reactors
(Rapporteur: Mr Friedrichs)
- Accounting System for Expenditure on Transport Infrastructures
(Rapporteur: Mr Fredersdorf)
- Accidents in the Home
(Rapporteur: Mr Fassina)
- Analysis of Quality Parameters for Surface Water Intended for the Abstraction of Drinking Water
(Rapporteur: Mr Van Campen)
- Procedures for Inspecting Ships (IMCO)
(Rapporteur: Mr Hennig)
- Community Transit (Amendment to Regulation (EEC) No 222/77)
(Rapporteur-General: Mr Hipp)
- Legal and Quasi-Legal Means of Consumer Protection
(Study)
(Rapporteur: Mr Hilkens)

166th PLENARY SESSION — 21 AND 22 FEBRUARY 1979

- European Regional Development Fund — Third Annual Report (1977)
(Own-initiative Opinion)
(Rapporteur: Mr Pearson)
- Energy R & D (Second Four-Year Programme)
(Rapporteur: Mr Von der Decken)
- Aid for Intra-Community Trade in Power Station Coal
(Rapporteur: Mr Gormley)
- Community Quota for the Carriage of Goods by Road
(Amendment of Regulation (EEC) No 3164/76)
(Rapporteur: Mr Renaud)
- Adjustment of Capacity for Goods Transport
(Rapporteur: Mr Renaud)
- Pure-Bred Breeding Cattle
(Amendment of Directive 77/504/EEC)
(Rapporteur: Mr Boulnois)

- Enzootic Leukosis Among Cattle
(Amendment of Directive 64/432/EEC)
(Rapporteur: Mr Clavel)
- Arrangements for Temporary Imports
(Rapporteur: Mr Marvier)
- Hazards Arising from the Use of Asbestos
(Study)
(Rapporteur: Mr Piga)

167th PLENARY SESSION — 4 AND 5 APRIL 1979

- Farm Prices for the 1979/80 Marketing Year
(Rapporteur: Mr Schnieders)
- Shipping Policy — Flags of Convenience
(Own-initiative Opinion)
(Rapporteur: Mr Rouzier)
- Misleading and Unfair Advertising
(Rapporteur: Mr Ramaekers)
- Qualifications of Persons Responsible for Auditing Company Accounts
(Eighth Company Law Directive)
(Rapporteur: Mr Friedrichs)
- Common Organization of the Market in Sheepmeat
(Rapporteur: Mr Butler)
- Common Organization of the Market in Wine
(Amendment of Regulation (EEC) No 816/70)
(Rapporteur: Mr Masprone)
- Labelling Requirements for the Energy Consumption of Domestic Appliances
and Electric Ovens
(Two directives)
(Rapporteur: Mr Hatry)
- Monetary Compensatory Amounts in the Wine Sector
(Amendment of Regulation (EEC) No 974/71)
(Rapporteur: Mr Guillaume)
- Protection of Animals During International Transport
(Implementation of Directive 77/489/EEC)
(Rapporteur: Mr Hall)
- Research and Training Programme (1979-83) in the field of Controlled Thermo-
nuclear Fusion)
(Rapporteur: Mr Friedrichs)
- Obligations of a Public Service — Transport Aid
(Amendment of Regulations (EEC) Nos 1191/69 and 1107/70)
(Rapporteur: Mr Van Rens)

- Ratification of the International Convention for Safe Containers
(Draft Recommendation)
(Rapporteur: Mr Hennig)

168th PLENARY SESSION — 22 AND 23 MAY 1979

- Energy Objectives for 1990
(Own-initiative Opinion)
(Rapporteur: Mr Margot)
- R & D Programme on the Plutonium Cycle and Safety
(Rapporteur: Mr Von der Decken)
- Management and Storage of Radioactive Waste (Indirect Action)
(Second Five-Year Programme 1980-1984)
(Rapporteur: Mr Von der Decken)
- Greater Convergence of Economic Performance
(Own-initiative Opinion)
(Rapporteur: Mr Margot)
- Plastic Materials in Contact with food
(Rapporteur: Mr Ramaekers)
- Forestry Policy (Commission Communication)
(Rapporteur: Mr Lane)
- Wine Market and Quality Wines
(Amendment of Regulations (EEC) Nos 816/70 and 817/70)
(Rapporteur: Mr De Grave)
- Balance on the Wine Market (Commission Communication)
(Rapporteur: Mr Guillaume)
- Aid to Hop Producers for the 1978 Harvest
(Rapporteur: Mr Bernaert)
- Swine Fever
(Rapporteur: Mr Wick)
- Extension of Waivers Granted To Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom
and concerning Brucellosis, Tuberculosis and Swine Fever
(Rapporteur: Mr Wick)
- Customs Declarations
(Rapporteur: Mr Marvier)
- Interest Rate Rebates on Loans for Making Structural Changes
(Own-initiative Opinion)
(Rapporteur: Mr Margot)
- Safety in Tower Cranes for Building Work
(Rapporteur: Mr Marvier)

- Type Approval of Wheeled Agricultural or Forestry Tractors
(Amendment of Directive 74/150/EEC)
(Rapporteur: Mr Masprone)
- Access to the Driver's Cab on Wheeled Agricultural and Forestry Tractors
(Rapporteur: Mr Masprone)
- Relations between the Community and Spain (Study)
(Rapporteur: Mr Evain)

169th PLENARY SESSION — 27 AND 28 JUNE 1979

- Economic Situation in the Community (Mid-1979)
(Rapporteur: Mr Goris)
- Social Situation in 1978
(Rapporteur: Mr Piga)
- Greek, Portuguese and Spanish Requests for EEC Membership
(Own-initiative Opinion)
(Rapporteur: Mr Pfeiffer)
- Social Security for Migrant Workers
(Amendment of Regulations (EEC) Nos. 1408/71 and 574/72 + appendices)
(Rapporteur: Mr Bornard)
- Exchanges of Young Workers (Second Joint Programme)
(Rapporteur: Mr Savini)
- Limits on Marketing and Using Certain Dangerous Substances and Preparations (Directive supplementing Appendix to Directive 76/769/EEC and Second Amendment of the Appendix to the Same Directive)
(Rapporteur: Mr Fassina)
- Quality and Nutritive Value of Food
(Rapporteur: Mr Loughrey)
- Edible Caseins and Caseinates
(Rapporteur: Mr Bukman)
- Common Organisation of the Market in Rice and Cereals
(Amendment of Regulations (EEC) Nos 1418/76 and 2727/75)
(Rapporteur: Mr Schnieders)
- Improving the Production and Marketing of Citrus Fruit
(Amendment of Regulation (EEC) No 2511/69)
(Rapporteur: Mr Rainero)
- Raw Perustitza and Erzegovina Tobacco
(Rapporteur: Mr Paggi)
- Aid for the Marketing and Processing of Milk Products
(Rapporteur: Mr Schnieders)

170th PLENARY SESSION — 17 AND 18 JULY 1979

- R & D in the field of textiles and clothing (Indirect Action) (Second Programme)
(Rapporteur: Mr Staratzke)
- Building Materials (Directive and Resolution)
(Rapporteur: Mr Masprone)
- Measuring Instruments and Methods of Metrological Control
(Amendment of Directive 71/316/EEC)
(Rapporteur: Mr Breitenstein)
- Noise Level of Lawn Mowers
(Rapporteur: Mr Masprone)
- Safety Measures against the Conjectural Risks Associated with Recombinant
DNA Work
(Rapporteur: Mrs Heuser)
- Chilling of Fresh Poultrymeat (Commission Report and Amendment of Direc-
tive 77/118/EEC)
(Rapporteur: Mrs Strobel)
- Health Problems in Intra-Community Trade in Fresh Meat
(Rapporteur: Mrs Strobel)
- Emulsifiers, Stabilisers, Thickeners and Gelling Agents Used in Food (Second
Amendment of Directive 74/329/EEC)
(Rapporteur: Mr De Grave)
- Cocoa and Chocolate Products
(Seventh Amendment of Directive 73/241/EEC)
(Rapporteur: Mr Zinkin)

171st PLENARY SESSION — 26 AND 27 SEPTEMBER 1979

- 1980 Generalized Tariff Preferences Scheme
(Rapporteur: Mr Cremer)
- Joint Research Centre (Multiannual Programme 1980-83)
(Rapporteur: Mr Von der Decken)
- Protection of Workers against Harmful Substances at Work
(Rapporteur: Mr Blasig)
- Application of Social Security Schemes to Migrant Workers
(Amendment of Regulations (EEC) Nos 574/72 and 1408/71)
(Rapporteur: Mr Scalia)
- R & D in the field of Biology — Health Protection
(Radiation Protection Programme)
(Five-Year Programme 1980-84)
(Rapporteur: Mr Drago)

- Application of VAT to the Hiring-out of Moveable Tangible Property (10th VAT Directive supplementing Directive 77/388/EEC)
(Rapporteur: Mr Van Campen)
- Technological Research Programme in the field of Clay Minerals and Ceramics
(Rapporteur: Mr LoebI)
- Organization of the Market in Dried Fodder (Amendment of Regulation (EEC) No 1117/78) and Flat-Rate Production Aid for Dehydrated Potatoes
(Rapporteur: Mr De Tavernier)
- Common Organization of the Market in Seeds (Amendment of Regulations (EEC) Nos 2358/71 and 950/68 and supplementing of Regulation (EEC) No 1347/78)
(Rapporteur-General: Mr Rainero)
- Marketing Aid for Aubergines
(Rapporteur-General: Mr Clavel)

172nd PLENARY SESSION — 24 AND 25 OCTOBER 1979

- Farm Structures Policy
(Rapporteur: Mr Laur)
- Role and Influence of Local and Regional Authorities and Socio-Economic Organisations (Own-initiative Opinion)
(Rapporteur: Mr Ventejol)
- Industrial Restructuring (Own-initiative Opinion)
(Rapporteur: Mr Van Campen)
- Annual Report on the Economic Situation
(Rapporteur: Mr Drago)
- Restructuring and Conversion Investments in the Shipbuilding and Textile Industries
(Rapporteur: Mr Evain)
- Securities Admitted to Official Stock Exchange Listing
(Rapporteur: Mr Miller)
- Harmonization of Company Taxation and Withholding Taxes on Dividends
(Rapporteur: Mr Fredersdorf)
- Attainment of the Customs Union (Multiannual Programme)
(Own-initiative Opinion)
(Rapporteur: Mr Marvier)
- Second European Social Budget 1976-80 (Additional Opinion)
(Rapporteur: Mr Kirschen)
- Measuring Units (Repeal of Directive 71/354/EEC)
(Rapporteur: Mr Breitenstein)

- Cooperation on Energy with the Developing Countries
(Additional Opinion)
(Commission Communication)
(Rapporteur: Mr Margot)
- Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats
(Rapporteur: Mrs Clark)
- Health Problems Affecting Trade in Fresh Poultrymeat
(Amendment of Directive 71/118/EEC)
(Rapporteur: Mr Clavel)
- Health Problems Affecting Trade in Fresh Meat and Meat Products
(Amendment of Directives 77/99/EEC and 72/461/EEC)
(Rapporteur: Mr Clavel)

173rd PLENARY SESSION — 21 NOVEMBER 1979

- European Regional Development Fund 4th Annual Report (1978)
(Rapporteur: Mr Pearson)
- Energy Objectives of the Community for 1990 and Convergence of Policies of Member States
(Rapporteur: Mr Magot)
- Consultation Procedure concerning International Action in the Field of Air Transport
(Rapporteur: Mr Zünkler)
- Special Community Aid for Small- and Medium-Sized Industrial Enterprises in Portugal
(Rapporteur: Mr Hemmer)
- Establishment of a Community System of Reliefs from Customs Duty
(Rapporteur: Mr Marvier)
- Chlorofluorocarbons in the Environment
(Rapporteur: Mr Hatry)
- Classical Swine Fever
(Rapporteur: Mr Wick)
- Tuberculosis and Brucellosis (amend. Directive 64/432/EEC)
(Rapporteur-General: Mr Wick)
- Problems of Trade Barriers and the Alignment of Laws in this Area
(Rapporteur: Mr Évain)
- Conclusion of the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution
(Rapporteur-General: Mr Hatry)

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- Second Action Programme of the European Communities with Regard to Consumers
(Rapporteur: Mr Hilkens)
- Ethyl Alcohol of Agricultural Origin
(Rapporteur: Mr Paggi)
- Quantities of Basic Products
(Rapporteur: Mr Zinkin)
- Cosmetic Products (1st Amend. Directive 76/768/EEC)
(Rapporteur: Mr Masprone)
- Simple Pressure Vessels
(Rapporteur: Mr Marvier)
- Harmonization of Procedures for the Exportation of Goods
(Rapporteur: Mr Marvier)
- Community Transit (2nd Amend. Regulation (EEC) No 222/77)
(Rapporteur: Mr Marvier)
- Mercury in the Aquatic Environment (two dirs.)
(Rapporteur: Mr van Campen)
- Aldrin, Dieldrin and Endrin in the Aquatic Environment
(two directives)
(Rapporteur: Mr van Campen)
- Protection against Plant-harming Organisms (Amend. of Dir. 77/93/EEC)
(Rapporteur: Mr Clavel)
- Processing of Farm Products
(Rapporteur: Mr Zinkin)
- Quality Liqueur Wines (two regulations)
(Rapporteur: Mr Masprone)
- Swine Fever Derogations for Denmark, Ireland and UK
(Rapporteur-General: Mr Wick)
- Relations between the Community and Yugoslavia
(Study)
(Rapporteur: Mr van Campen)
- Community Regional Development Projects under ERDF Article 13
(Rapporteur-General: Mr Pearson)



Annex C

**List of Opinions
drawn up by the
Economic and Social Committee
on its own initiative
(1973-79)**

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

- The economic and social situation of women in the European Community (Rapporteur: Mrs Evans) February 1976
- Unemployment in the EEC (Rapporteur-General: Mr Basnett) February 1976
- Regional development in the Community in 1975-77 and establishment of an EEC regional policy (Rapporteur: Mr Maher) March 1976
- Coordination of national employment policy instruments (Rapporteur: Mr Laval) March 1976
- Possibilities of developing advanced technology sectors in the EEC through a policy of liberalizing public purchasing (Rapporteur: Mr de Ferranti) May 1976
- Specific measures to relieve unemployment among the elderly, young people and women returning to gainful employment (Rapporteur: Mr Carroll) November 1976
- The Common Agricultural Policy in the International Context (Possible Consequences and Improvements) (Rapporteur-General: Mr Berns) January 1977
- How regional development helps solve unemployment and inflation by making for a more balanced distribution of the working population (Rapporteur: Mr Bornard) March 1977
- The GATT Multilateral Trade Negotiations (Additional own-initiative Opinion) (Rapporteur: Mr Evain) April 1977
- The Implementation and Development of the Community's Consumer Protection and Information Programme (Rapporteur: Mr Ramaekers) May 1977
- Transport Problems in Relations with Eastern Bloc Countries (Rapporteur: Mr Hennig) June 1977
- Direct Cooperation between the Bodies Designated by Member States to Verify Compliance with Community and National Provisions in The Wine Sector (Rapporteur: Mr Guillaume) June 1977

- Industrial Change and Employment — A Review of the Community's Industrial Policy and Future Prospects (Rapporteur: Mr Carstens) September 1977
- European Regional Development Fund — Second Annual Report (1976) (Rapporteur: Mr Loughrey) September 1977
- Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises in the Community Context (Rapporteur: Mr Kolbenschlag) November 1977
- Transport Problems in Relations with Eastern Bloc Countries (Additional own-initiative Opinion) (Rapporteur: Mr Hennig) November 1977
- Communication on the Amendment of the Common Organization of the Market in Beef and Veal, Report on the Merits of Premiums and Intervention Measures in the Beef and Veal Sector (Rapporteur: Mr Schnieders) December 1977
- Community Regional Policy Guidelines (Rapporteur: Mr Laval) January 1978
- Common Principles to be Adopted in Export Credit insurance System for Medium and Long-Term Transactions with Public and Private Buyers (Rapporteur: Mr Miller) February/March 1978
- Report on Starch Products in the Community and the Starch Production Refund (Rapporteur: Mr Masprone) February/March 1978
- State of the Customs Union of the European Economic Community (Rapporteur: Mr Marvier) End March 1978
- Education and Vocational Training for Young Workers (Rapporteur: Mr Sloman) End March 1978
- Part-Time Work (Rapporteur: Mr van Rens) May 1978
- Draft Council Decision on the Activities of Certain State-Trading Countries in Cargo Liner Shipping (Rapporteur-General: Mr Hoffmann) May 1978

- Community Stand in the Face of International Monetary Disorder
(Rapporteur: Mr Charpentie) June 1978
- Progress Made in Implementing the Lomé Convention in view of the Opening of Negotiations for a New Convention
(Rapporteur: Mr Soulat) July 1978
- The Future of Forestry in the European Community
(Rapporteur: Mr Maher) July 1978
- Means of Communication in the Londonderry/Donegal Frontier Area
(Rapporteur: Mr Cremer) July 1978
- Greek Application for Membership of the European Community
(Rapporteur-General: Mr De Ridder) November 1978
- Problems of Frontier Workers
(Rapporteur: Mr Delourme) January 1979
- 3rd ERDF Annual Report
(Rapporteur: Mr Pearson) February 1979
- New Shipping Nations, Flags of Convenience and Flag Discrimination
(Rapporteur: Mr Rouzier) April 1979
- Energy Objectives for 1990 and Member States' Programmes
(Rapporteur: Mr Margot) May 1979
- Greater Economic Policy Convergence
(Rapporteur: Mr Margot) May 1979
- Community Enlargement — Requests for Membership from Greece, Spain and Portugal
(Rapporteur: Mr Pfeiffer) June 1979
- Role and Influence of Local and Regional Authorities in framing the Common Regional Policy
(Rapporteur: Mr Ventejol) October 1979
- Industrial Restructuring in the Community
(Rapporteur: Mr van Campen) October 1979
- Multiannual Programme for achieving the Customs Union
(Rapporteur: Mr Marvier) October 1979

- ERDF Funds for 1980
(Rapporteur-General: Mr Milne) October 1979
- The European Regional Development Fund — 4th Annual Report (1978) November 1979
- The Problems of Trade Barriers and the Alignment of Laws in this Area November 1979

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

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

Subject	Request	From	ESC Opinion	Decision Published	Account taken of opinion			EP Opinion
					To a minor extent	In several respects	To a large extent	
Social security of employed persons and their families (Am. to Reg. (EEC) No 574/72 setting out the impl. procedures in respect of Reg. (EEC) No 1408/71)	2. 8. 1979	Council	27. 9. 1979 OJ C 297 of 28. 11. 1979	OJ L 301 of 28. 11. 1979	The Committee Opinion approved the Commission proposal			
Type-approval of wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors (Am. to Directive 74/150/EEC)	22. 12. 1978	Council	23. 5 1979 OJ C 227 of 10. 9. 1979	OJ L 205 of 13. 8. 1979	x			
Community transit (Am. to Reg. No 222/77)	22. 12. 1978	Council	24. 1. 1979 OJ C 128 of 21. 5. 1979	OJ L 123 of 19. 5. 1979	The Committee Opinion approved the Commission proposal			
Roll-over protection structures of wheeled agricultural of forestry tractors — static tests	5. 10. 1978	Council	20. 12. 1978 OJ C 128 of 21. 5. 1979	OJ L 179 of 17. 7. 1979	The Committee Opinion approved the Commission proposal			OJ C 296 of 11. 12. 1978
Importation free of Common Customs Tariff duties of Educational, scientific and Cultural materials (Am. to Reg. (EEC) No 1798/75)	7. 8. 1978	Council	30. 11. 1978 OJ C 105 of 26. 4. 1979	OJ L 134 of 31. 5. 1979	x			OJ C 296 of 11. 12. 1978

Research and development programme in the Field of Reference materials and methods and applied metrology (non-nuclear indirect action) (1979-82)	19. 7. 1978	Council	20. 12. 1978 OJ C 128 of 21. 5. 1979	OJ L 258 of 13. 10. 1979	×	OJ C 6 of 8. 1. 1979
Health protection of the general public and workers against the dangers of ionizing radiation (Am. to Dir. 76/642/Euratom)	7. 6. 1978	Commission	13. 7. 1978 OJ C 114 of 7. 5. 1979	OJ L 83 of 3. 4. 1979	×	
Decommissioning of nuclear power plants (decision adopting a programme)	12. 5. 1978	Council	30.11. 1978 OJ C 105 of 26. 4. 1979	OJ L 83 of 3. 4. 1979	×	OJ C 6 of 8. 1. 1979
Adopting a research programme on safety in thermal water reactors	12. 5. 1978	Council	30. 11. 1978 OJ C 105 of 26. 4. 1979	OJ L 83 of 3. 4. 1979	×	OJ C 296 of 11. 12. 1978
Application of social security schemes to employed persons and their families (two regulations) (amend. Regulations No 1408/71 and No 574/72)	30. 4. 1979	Council	28. 6. 1979 OJ C 247 of 1. 10. 1979	OJ L 185 of 21. 7. 1979	The ESC approved the Commission's proposal	OJ C 140 of 5. 6. 1979
Limits on the marketing and use of certain dangerous substances and preparations (two directives)	5. 4. 1979	Council	28. 6. 1979 OJ C 247 of 1. 10. 1979	OJ L 197 of 3. 8. 1979	The ESC approved the Commission's proposal	OJ C 127 of 21. 5. 1979
Preservatives used in food (fourteenth amendment of Directive 64/54/EEC)	19. 10. 1978	Council	30. 11. 1978 OJ C 105 of 26. 4. 1979	OJ L 13 of 19. 1. 1979	×	OJ C 6 of 8. 1. 1979

Subject	Request	From	ESC Opinion	Decision Published	Account taken of opinion			EP Opinion
					To a minor extent	In several respects	To a large extent	
Towing hooks and reverse of wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors	5. 10. 1978	Council	20. 12. 1978 OJ C 128 of 21. 5. 1979	OJ L 145 of 13. 6. 1979	The ESC approved the Commission's proposal		OJ C 296 of 11. 12. 1978	
Three directives on: — Exemptions from turnover taxes and import duties for international passenger traffic (amendment); and — Tax exemptions for import of small non-commercial packages from outside the EEC (amendment of directives)	14. 9. 1978	Council	19. 10. 1978 OJ C 105 of 26. 4. 1979	OJ L 366 of 18. 12. 1978	x		OJ C 261 of 6. 11. 1978	
Label information on the energy consumption of household appliances and inclusion of electric ovens under the relevant directive	24. 8. 1978	Council	5. 4. 1979 OJ C 171 of 9. 7. 1979	OJ L 145 of 13. 6. 1979	The ESC approved the Commission's proposal		OJ C 93 of 9. 4. 1979	
Type approval of lighting and signals on wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors	24. 8. 1978	Council	20. 12. 1978 OJ C 128 of 21. 5. 1979	OJ L 145 of 13. 6. 1979	The ESC approved the Commission's proposal		OJ C 39 of 12. 2. 1979	
Import free from CCT duties of materials for the blind and other handicapped persons	7. 8. 1979	Council	30. 11. 1978 OJ C 105 of 26. 4. 1979	OJ L 134 of 31. 5. 1979	x		OJ C 296 of 11. 12. 1978	

Traffic treatment of goods in travellers' personal luggage (Amendment of Regulation (EEC) No 1544/69)	28. 7. 1978	Council	19. 10. 1978 OJ C 105 of 26. 4. 1979	OJ L 366 of 28. 12. 1978	The ESC approved the Commission's proposal	OJ C 261 of 6. 11. 1978
Common customs tariff (Amend. of Regulation No 950/68)	5. 7. 1978	Council	19. 10. 1978 OJ C 105 of 26. 4. 1979	OJ L 333 of 30. 11. 1978	The ESC approved the Commission's proposal	OJ C 261 of 6. 11. 1978
New aid for young people from the European Social Fund	20. 4. 1978	Council	21. 6. 1978 OJ C 283 of 27. 11. 1978	OJ L 361 of 23. 12. 1978	×	OJ C 131 of 5. 6. 1978 OJ C 182 of 31. 7. 1978
Misleading and unfair advertising	15. 3. 1978	Council	5. 4. 1979 OJ C 171 of 9. 7. 1979	Proposal amended by Commission	×	OJ C 310 of 23. 12. 1978
Physico-chemical behaviour of atmospheric pollutants	16. 2. 1978	Council	1. 6. 1978 OJ C 269 of 13. 11. 1978	OJ L 311 of 4. 11. 1978	The ESC approved the Commission's proposal	OJ C 108 of 8. 5. 1978
Analysis of organic micro-pollutants in water	14. 2. 1978	Council	1. 6. 1978 OJ C 269 of 13. 11. 1978	OJ L 311 of 4. 11. 1978	×	OJ C 108 of 8. 5. 1978

Subject	Request	From	ESC Opinion	Decision Published	Account taken of opinion			EP Opinion
					To a minor extent	In several respects	To a large extent	
Loans to promote investments in the Community	8. 2. 1978	Council	27. 4. 1978 OJ C 269 of 13. 11. 1978	OJ L 298 of 25. 10. 1978		×		OJ C 108 of 8. 5. 1978
Protection of groundwater against pollution caused by certain dangerous substances	8. 2. 1978	Council	21. 6. 1978 OJ C 283 of 27. 11. 1978	Proposal amended by Commission OJ C 27 of 31. 1. 1979		×		OJ C 296 of 11. 12. 1978
Methods of evaluating the cost of pollution control to industry	6. 1. 1978	Council	21. 6. 1978 OJ C 283 of 27. 11. 1978	OJ L 5 of 9. 1. 1979			The ESC approved the Commission's proposal	OJ C 131 of 5. 6. 1978
Protection for electrical equipment for use in potentially explosive atmospheres	6. 1. 1978	Council	1. 6. 1978 OJ C 269 of 13. 11. 1978	OJ L 43 of 20. 2. 1979			The ESC approved the Commission's proposal	OJ C 131 of 5. 6. 1978
Reorganization of shipbuilding	23. 12. 1977	Council	1. 6. 1978 OJ C 269 of 13. 11. 1978	Council Resolution: OJ C 229 of 27. 9. 1978			×	OJ C 182 of 31. 7. 1978

Rules for standard exchange of goods exported for repair	29. 7. 1977	Council	24. 11. 1977 OJ C 59 of 8. 3. 1978	OJ L 349 of 13. 12. 1978	×	OJ C 299 of 12. 12. 1977
Consumer protection — food prices	8. 6. 1977	Council	27. 10. 1977 OJ C 18 of 23. 1. 1978	OJ L 158 of 26. 6. 1979	×	OJ C 63 of 13. 3. 1978
Turnover taxes and excise duties applicable to international passenger traffic	19. 1. 1977	Council	31. 3. 1977 OJ C 114 of 11. 5. 1977	OJ L 366 of 28. 12. 1978	×	OJ C 133 of 6. 6. 1977
Equal treatment for men and women as regards social security	17. 1. 1977	Council	23. 6. 1977 OJ C 180 of 18. 7. 1977	Proposed Amendment by Comm. — Treaty Art.(149(2))	×	OJ C 299 of 12. 12. 1977
				OJ L 6 of 10. 1. 1979		
Product liability	5. 10. 1976	Council	13. 7. 1978 OJ C 114 of 7. 5. 1979	Proposed Amendment by Comm. OJ C 271 of 26. 10. 1979	×	OJ C 30 of 7. 2. 1977
Use of plant protection products containing certain active substances and EEC type approval of plant protection products	17. 8. 1976	Council	31. 3. 1977 OJ C 114 of 11. 5. 1977	OJ L 33 of 8. 2. 1979	×	OJ C 30 of 7. 2. 1977

Subject	Request	From	ESC Opinion	Decision Published	Account taken of opinion			EP Opinion
					To a minor extent	In several respects	To a large extent	
Protection of breeding animals	11. 5. 1976	Council	30. 6. 1976 OJ C 204 of 30. 8. 1976	OJ L 323 of 17. 11. 1978	x			OJ C 83 of 4. 4. 1977
Food labelling and presentation and advertising	8. 4. 1976	Council	30. 9. 1976 OJ C 285 of 2. 12. 1976	OJ L 33 of 8. 2. 1979		x		OJ C 178 of 2. 8. 1976
Refund of import or export duties	22. 1. 1976	Council	26. 5. 1976 OJ C 197 of 23. 8. 1976	OJ L 175 of 12. 7. 1979			x	OJ C 125 of 8. 6. 1976
Automatic check weighing machines	15. 1. 1976	Council	26. 5. 1976 OJ C 197 of 23. 8. 1976	OJ L 364 of 27. 12. 1978	x			OJ C 125 of 8. 6. 1976
Permissible noise level and exhaust of motorcycles	7. 1. 1976	Council	30. 6. 1976 OJ C 204 of 30. 8. 1976	OJ L 349 of 13. 12. 1978	x			OJ C 125 of 8. 6. 1976
Determination of the noise level of building site equipment	17. 1. 1975	Council	29. 5. 1975 OJ C 263 of 17. 11. 1975	OJ L 33 of 8. 2. 1979	x			OJ C 76 of 7. 4. 1975

Head rests on motor vehicle seats	16. 1. 1975	Council	25. 6. 1975 OJ C 263 of 17. 11. 1975	OJ L 325 of 20. 11. 1978	x	OJ C 76 of 7. 4. 1975
Lighting and signals of wheeled agricultural or forestry tractors	9. 7. 1974	Council	19. 12. 1974 OJ C 47 of 27. 2. 1975	OJ L 325 of 20. 11. 1978	The ESC approved the Commission's proposal	OJ C 5 of 8. 1. 1975
Access to the profession of direct life assurance and restrictions on freedom of establishment	3. 1. 1974 and 1. 2. 1974	Council	29. 5. 1974 OJ C 109 of 19. 9. 1974	OJ L 63 of 13. 3. 1979	x	OJ C 140 of 13. 11. 1974
Annual accounts of companies (Fourth directive)	8. 12. 1971	Council	21. 2. 1973 OJ C 39 of 7. 6. 1973	Proposed Amendment by Comm. OJ L 222 of 14. 8. 1978	x	OJ C 129 of 11. 12. 1972
Mutual recognition of veterinary surgeons' diplomas, certificates and other formal qualifications and the activities of veterinary surgeons (two directives)		Council	OJ C 60 of 14. 6. 1971	OJ L 362 of 23. 12. 1978	x	OJ C 92 of 20. 7. 1970

Annex E

Graphs

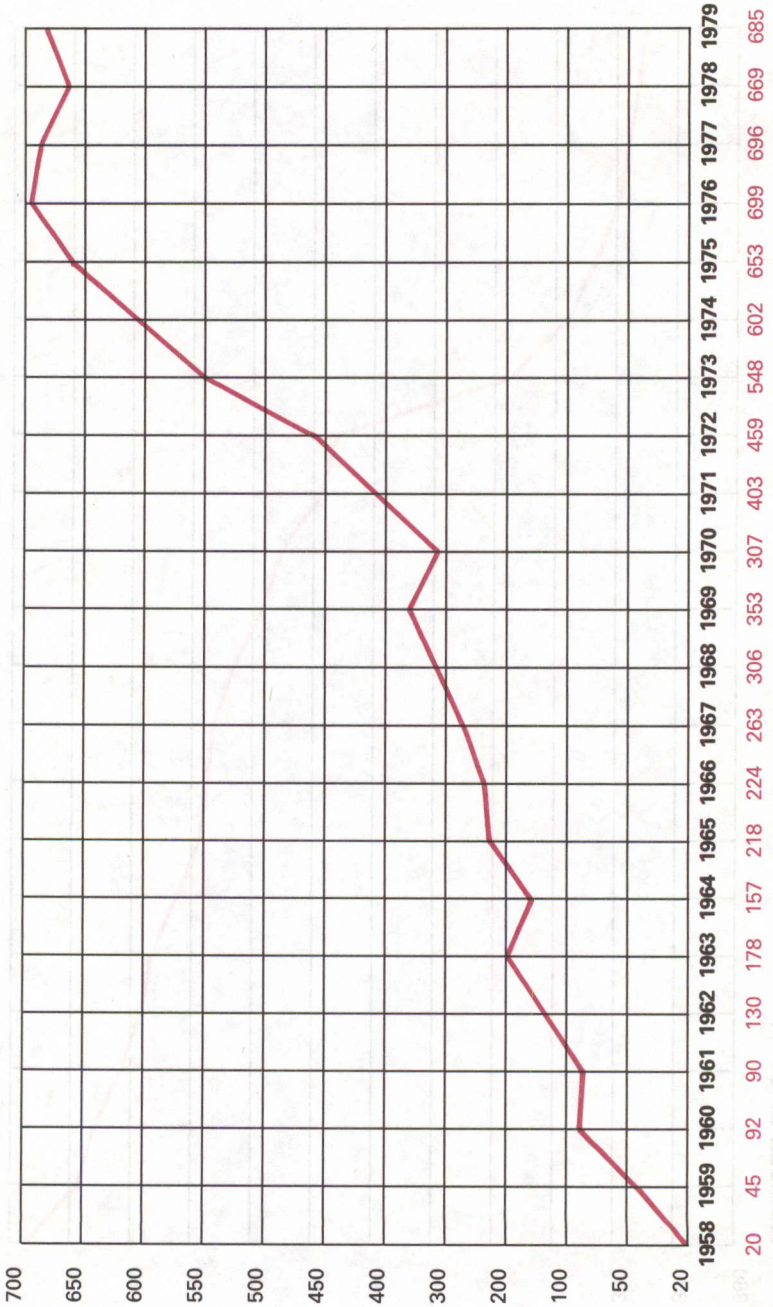
A — TEXTS PRODUCED (Opinions, information reports, studies)
B — REFERRALS



NUMBER OF STAFF



MEETINGS



MEMBER OF STATE

European Communities and Social Committee

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